

TAKING THE PLUNGE: Beach Reach volunteers immersed in missions service

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University of
Mary Hardin-
Baylor junior

Erica

Valenta,
sophomore

Ashlie

Hudgins,
freshman

Courtnei

Habel and

senior

Aleigha Perez

walk the
beach after
watching a
baptism
service.

(UMHB Photo
by Rachael
Heffer)

TAKING THE PLUNGE: Beach Reach volunteers immersed in missions service

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND—Rock music blared as thousands of college students gathered on the beach. The crowd cheered participants in a tug-of-war contest. Alcohol flowed as freely as the ocean rolling onto the sand.



A new Christian rejoices after she is baptized.

Reza Zadeh of Fort Collins, Colo., baptized people in the Gulf of Mexico as part of Beach Reach, an outreach to Spring Breakers at South Padre Island. Beach Reach is largely a Texas Baptist effort, but volunteers come to serve from around the nation. (Photos by John Hall)

In the midst of it all, a young man who came looking to party found Christ, thanks in part to a Texas Baptist college student. They prayed together, wept and embraced each other in celebration of newfound faith.

BGCT fills four strategist positions

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BGCT fills four strategist positions

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—The [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#) Executive Board staff has filled four positions in its congregational strategists team, including the leaders of the congregational strategists and church starters.

Paul Atkinson, who was serving as interim team lead of the church starters, has been named leader of the church starting team. Tim Randolph, who has served as a congregational strategist in the Temple area, has been named leader of the congregational strategists. Randolph will continue serving as a congregational strategist as well.

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

[10 Things Every Minister Needs to Know](#) by Ronnie Floyd (New Leaf Press)

Ronnie Floyd states there is nothing like it in the entire world. He is speaking of serving in vocational ministry. In this small, but very readable, book, Floyd recounts the life lessons he has learned in more than 30 years as a pastor.

He asserts the book is for ministers of all ages and in all seasons of life. Yet he is convinced these 10 lessons transcend vocational ministry and touch other worlds as well—life, business and influence.

I would recommend the book highly to any believer, not just ministers. Floyd gives practical advice to all believers in all walks of life. He discusses the importance of being over doing. He also discusses the importance of family-building rather than ministry-building, faith, relationships, decision-making and maintaining a proper balance in life. He concludes with wisdom on how to believe God for your future.



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

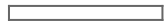
Southwestern Seminary hires fundraiser. Robert Hawley of Prosper, former regional capital resource manager for LifeWay Christian Resources, has joined the [Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) staff as associate vice president for institutional advancement. Hawley began his fund-raising career as a pastor in California when he raised support for missions endeavors. He also has been vice president of sales training and operations for a communications company in Dallas, vice president of Stephen's Children Foundation, chief administrator of the Christian Motorcyclists Association and president of Open Doors Ministry USA. Hawley holds a bachelor of arts degree from Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and a master of divinity degree from Talbot Theological Seminary in La Mirada, Calif.

Billy Graham's grandson injured in Iraq. Capt. Edward Graham, Billy Graham's grandson and evangelist Franklin Graham's youngest son, sustained shrapnel wounds to his arms, legs and back in Iraq. Graham, a 27-year-old Army Ranger and West Point graduate, did not suffer life-threatening injuries and was recovering at an undisclosed hospital, according to news reports. He is one of four children of Franklin Graham and one of 19 grandchildren of evangelist Billy Graham.

Cartoon

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"I felt
sorry
for
myself
as a
pastor
without
a youth
pastor
until I
met a
pastor
without
any
youths
to
pastor."

2nd Opinion: Program changes Texas, life by life

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2nd Opinion: Program changes Texas, life by life

I have just returned from the first presentation service for Truett Theological Seminary's Certificate Ministry Program on the seminary campus in Waco.

Ten students—men and women, black, white, Hispanics and people from all walks of life—were involved. One of our graduates is a police officer. Another one taught school for 30 years. All gave testimony of the wonderful benefits of this two-year home-study program. One week is spent in class on the Truett campus studying preaching. The other work is done at their own pace at their own home.

Carol Raulston of Whitney was the first person to complete the course. She is a mother of five children who paid for the course through a weekly deduction from her checking account. She ministers to women in crisis.

Tom Echols is a 60-year-old truck driver and bivocational pastor of Eagle's Wing Baptist Church in Crowley. With tears in his eyes, he said: "This is the first time I've ever walked across the stage for anything. I quit school 40-plus years ago to go in the Army, so I never graduated from high school. Only eternity will tell how much this certificate ministry is going to do." Tom was unable to pay for the course. He received a scholarship from Truett and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

DBU students build homes in South Carolina & South Dakota

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DBU
students
Adrienne
Anderson
(left) and
Kayla
Jones
(right)
install the
plywood
decking
for the
roof of the
Habitat
House in
Sumter,
S.C.
(Photo by
Gilda
Alvarenga)

DBU students build homes in South Carolina & South Dakota

By **Blake Killingsworth**

Dallas Baptist University

DALLAS—Forty [Dallas Baptist University](#) students loaded into six vans before daylight on a recent Saturday to participate in the school's annual [Habitat for Humanity](#) spring break mission trip.

One 21-member building crew headed east to Sumter, S.C., where the DBU team partnered for five days with students from the University of Wisconsin-Stout to work on a home for a young family with two children.

Students Minister at Spring Break

- [Beach Reach volunteers immersed in missions service](#)
- [Baylor fraternity brothers serve God in the Ozarks](#)
 - DBU students build homes in South Carolina & South Dakota
- [HBU students take local & global missions plunge](#)
- [ETBU nursing students put training into practice in Mexico](#)
- [Students find missions calling through BSM](#)
- [More than a day at the beach](#)

Too many trips to the wedding altar may trip up presidential contenders

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Too many trips to the wedding altar may trip up presidential contenders

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—When Southern Baptist public policy spokesman Richard Land sizes up the Republican presidential pack and factors in whether a candidate has been divorced, he thinks of marriage mathematics, not just morals.

“The progression from two to three ... wives is not an arithmetic progression for evangelicals; it’s exponential,” said Land, president of the [Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission](#). “Three is at least one too many.”

DOWN HOME: Pucker up for some really good news

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DOWN HOME: Pucker up for some really good news

Now, here's some useful news:

Kissing is good for you.

And I'm not making this up.

[*Heart-Healthy Living*](#) magazine puts it out there in black and white in its spring issue. "Couples who kiss often are eight times less likely to feel stressed or depressed." Ta-da!

EDITORIAL: Worse than crashing a \$1.5M Ferrari

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EDITORIAL:

Worse than crashing a \$1.5M Ferrari

Did you hear the one about the actor and the sportscar?

No joke. Comedian Eddie Griffin was practicing for a charity car race to promote his upcoming movie, *Redline*, when he lost control of a rare Ferrari Enzo and crashed it. (See the wreck on YouTube [here](#).) Griffin totalled the car. It cost \$1.5 million.

Wrap your brain around that: A \$1.5 million red sportscar, gone in a nanosecond. Can you even comprehend anything on four wheels costing \$1.5 million?



The car's owner took the wreck pretty well. *Redline* producer Daniel Sadek reflected: "I'm glad Eddie came out of the crash OK, but my dream car got destroyed. I went to my trailer for about 15 minutes, and I thought: 'There's people dying every day. A lot of worse things are happening in the world.'"

ETBU nursing students put training into practice in Mexico

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ETBU nursing students put training into practice in Mexico

By Mike Midkiff

East Texas Baptist University

MARSHALL—East Texas Baptist University Department of Nursing students took time away from the books and put their training to use, conducting free medical assessment clinics during a weeklong mission trip to Mexico.

The eight nursing students accompanied 28 students involved with the Baptist Student Ministry, traveling to Monterrey, Mexico, during spring break.

Residents
of a remote
village
outside of
Saltillo,
Mexico,
wait to
have a free
health
assessment
done by
nursing
students
from East
Texas
Baptist
University.
ETBU
nursing
students
spent time
during
spring
break to do
medical
missions in
Mexico.
(Photo
courtesy of
ETBU
Department
of Nursing)

Faith Digest

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Faith Digest

Survey says moral values weakened. Three-quarters of Americans believe moral values in America have weakened in the last 20 years, and almost half think they have significantly weakened, according to [a survey](#) released by the Media Research Center. The survey found 74 percent of American adults said they believe moral values in the United States are weaker than they were two decades ago, while 48 percent said moral values were “much weaker.” Sixty-eight percent of Americans surveyed said the media—both entertainment and news—have a detrimental effect on moral values. More specifically, 73 percent said entertainment media had a negative influence on moral values, and 54 percent said the news media do. Eighty-seven percent of Americans said they believe in God, while 36 percent agreed that people should always live by God’s principles and teachings. The study was conducted by the polling firm Fabrizio, McLaughlin & Associates and the center’s [Culture and Media Institute](#). The results were based on 1,000 surveys of American adults ages 18 and older by telephone and 1,000 surveys completed online in December. It had an overall margin of error of plus or minus 2.2 percentage points.



Wipe out malaria, first lady urges. Laura Bush congratulated religious

and community organizations involved in the fight against malaria and urged others to join in the campaign at a White House conference. She highlighted the President's Malaria Initiative, called PMI, which was launched in 2005 and aims to spend \$1.2 billion over five years to address malaria in 15 countries. The first lady cited several groups—from Catholic Relief Services to megachurch pastor Rick Warren's Saddleback Church in California—that are fighting the disease, which kills about 1 million people, many of them children, each year.