

HBU students take local & global missions plunge

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Brittany
Myer, a
Houston
Baptist
University
student,
shares a
smile with
two
children
from
Yellowstone
Academy in
Houston.
(Photo
courtesy of
HBU)

HBU students take local & global missions plunge

Two groups of [Houston Baptist University](#) students recently stepped out of their comfort zones and into places where they could meet urgent human

needs in Christ's name.

One team spent spring break taking an "urban plunge" into Houston's Third Ward—one of the city's most impoverished areas. Another group dug wells, helped offer medical clinics and led Vacation Bible School in Nicaragua.



A village girl in
Nicaragua enjoys the
pure, clean water a new
well provides.

The inner-city missions experience, coordinated with the school's Center for Student Missions, included visiting an adult day-care center, leading a museum field trip for schoolchildren from the Third Ward and helping at the Harbor Light shelter sponsored by the Salvation Army. An inner-city church provided lodging for the students during their three days of service with nonprofit organizations in the area.

"Initially when the students arrive in these impoverished areas, they arrive with the comprehension and interpretation from what they've seen on television—the crimes, the poverty, the struggle. We immediately take them to these neighborhoods they've heard about from the news and show them around. Then, they are connected with people who live in these

neighborhoods,” said Jason Shaffer, HBU coordinator of spiritual life, community service and missions. “Students’ stereotypes and fears fade as they recognize the humanity in those that society casts aside.”

Keep “dream stealers” at bay, keynote speaker urges lay leaders & ministers

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Nearly 100
pastors,
youth and
women
ministry
leaders
and
Sunday
school
teachers at
Inspire '07
were
motivated
to
evangelize
and grow
their
churches.

The
customized
regional
event was
held at
College
Heights
Baptist
Church in
Plainview.
(Photos by
Ferrell
Foster)

Keep 'dream stealers' at bay, keynote speaker urges lay leaders & ministers

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

PLAINVIEW—Pastors and lay church leaders should “recognize those things that are dream stealers” and exercise mountain-moving faith, keynote speaker David Mahfouz told participants at Inspire '07.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas and [Caprock Plains Baptist Association](#) sponsored the inaugural Inspire event March 24 at College Heights Baptist Church.

Evangelical support for Iraq war apparently wavering

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Evangelical support for Iraq war apparently wavering

By Julie Sullivan

Religion News Service

DAMASCUS, Ore. (RNS)—Suzanne Brownlow shivers on an Oregon highway overpass as a cutting wind whips her sign: “Honk to End the War.” Her weekly demonstration is the latest turn in a fractious journey that has taken the evangelical Christian mother from protesting abortion clinics to protesting the war in Iraq.

“I feel like at least we are doing something,” Mrs. Brownlow said, waving to passersby along with her husband, Dave, and two youngest children.

Suzanne
Brownlow
and
daughters
Desi (left)
and Sierra
(center),
look at
photos of
their son
and
brother
Jared, 20,
who serves
in Iraq.

Mrs.
Brownlow
is an
evangelical
who had
supported
President
Bush but
now
strongly
opposes
the war.

(RNS
photo by
Benjamin
Brink/*The
Oregonian*)

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

God & Allah

Charles Kimball claimed Islam and Christianity worship the same God: "Allah is simply the Arab name for God" ([March 5](#)).

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com; 250 words maximum.



"As I thought of what may await me, I felt a feeling of great trust. No one raised in the kind of church environment I grew up in totally leaves behind the acrid smell of fire and brimstone, but I felt an overwhelming sense of trust in God."

Philip Yancey

Author, on awaiting news of whether injury sustained in a car crash would threaten his life, before he was released with a neck brace to be worn for 10 weeks

(www.philipyancey.com/RNS)

"There has been a great deal of talk lately about the role of religion in politics. Yet, if the religious voice were truly a factor, then 45 million Americans—and 8 million children—would not be uninsured."

Marla Feldman

Director of the Joint Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism (RNS)

"Saddam Hussein is developing at breakneck speed weapons of mass destruction he plans to use against America and her allies."

Richard Land

President of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, in 2002 (Baptist Press/ethicsdaily.com)

"My justification for the war was not based upon weapons of mass destruction."

Richard Land

In 2007 (BeliefNet/ethicsdaily.com)

This is a ploy by Muslims to encourage the widespread use of this falsehood by nonbelievers so the non-Islamic world might be tranquilized into thinking Islam is just another harmless religion, one that might some day be persuaded to convert to Christianity, if we don't antagonize them by political incorrectness.

A comparison of the characterizations of Allah in the Qur'an and Jehovah God in the Bible will reveal vastly different beings the most casual eye can easily detect.

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Amanda Bludworth** has resigned as minister of youth at Salt Creek Church in Brownwood.
- **Louis Brewer** has resigned as pastor of College View Church in Abilene.
- **Herb Bullock** to Pleasant Hill Church in Austin as pastor from High Pointe Church in Austin, where he was senior citizen's pastor.
- **Seth Carnes** has resigned as pastor of students at Southside Church in Brownwood.

More Americans exercise choice in religion

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More Americans exercise choice in religion

By Andrea Useem

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—When Aurora Turk was growing up in Mexico City, being Catholic was a given.

“It was taught to me by the nuns at school and my mother at home,” she recalled. “My whole world was Catholic.”

Students find missions calling

through BSM

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Students from
Stephen F.
Austin State
University
helped work on a
Katrina-damaged
church during
spring break.

Students find missions calling through BSM

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

NACOGDOCHES—When Ashlee Stricklin was a high school senior, Stephen F. Austin State University barely made the list of colleges she considered attending. But when she visited, she found God calling her to the campus.



Stephen F. Austin State University
pray during Beach Reach at South
Padre Island.

**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](#)

She stopped by the school's Baptist Student Ministries, where a speaker told students God brought each one of them to the BSM that night for a reason.

Two generations of Wiesers

serve as student missionaries

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Ken Wieser (left, top row), associate pastor at Heights Baptist Church in Alvin, and his wife, Judy (left, lower), never expected their three children—Kris (center, top), Jana (center, lower) and Keith (right, top)—to follow in their footsteps and serve as student missionaries with the Baptist Student Ministry at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. Keith's wife, Paige (right, lower), also served as a student missionary. (Photo courtesy of the Wieser family)

Two generations of Wiesers serve as student missionaries

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

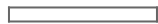
ALVIN—The Wieser family sees student missionary service as more than a family tradition. For two generations, they believe it's been God's instrument for confirming a calling to Christian service.

Ken and Judy Wieser both became involved in missions through what was then called the Baptist Student Union at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. Their three children—Keith, Jana and Kris—not only followed their parents' lead in their college choice, but also each served terms as student missionaries.

At 40 years, no break for Texas Baptist Men

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At 40 years, no break for Texas Baptist Men

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Forty years of labor ought to entitle a worker to a break. In the Old Testament, even Noah got one. But don't tell that to Texas Baptist Men volunteers. They are nailing a church back together again in Sabine Pass.

Texas Baptist Men, a missions organization affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, takes no spring break. Instead, its volunteers work to help people who lost their church building to Hurricane Rita.

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

Scholarship fund benefits HPU student workers. The Landon Carter and Edna Fay Johnson Work Scholarship Fund has been established at [Howard Payne University](#) to pay students for their on-campus work. The fund honors the memories of the Johnsons, members of First Baptist

Church in Ponca City, Okla. Mrs. Johnson graduated from Howard Payne and taught math at the school nine years.



The Ancient Treasures of the Holy Land exhibit features an ossuary (casket) that many archaeologists think contained the bones of Simon of Cyrenia.

Holy Land relics come to Texas. An [exhibit of Holy Land relics](#)—believed to be the largest ever to tour the United States—is on display at Dallas Fair Park through July 28. The 27,000-square-foot exhibit includes more than 350 relics and rare sacred texts, including many never before seen outside of Jerusalem. The display includes portions of the Leviticus and Deuteronomy Dead Sea Scrolls; the ossuary (bone box) archaeologists believe held the remains of Simon the Cyrene, who carried the cross for Jesus; a 2,000-year-old sandal found at Masada; Egyptian artifacts, some over 5,000 years old; ancient weapons, including bronze spear heads, battle axes and a sword dating as early as 2200 B.C.

Maston lectures slated at Logsdon. Allen Verhey of Duke University is the featured speaker for the T.B. Maston Christian ethics lectures April 2 and 3 at Hardin-Simmons University's [Logsdon School of Theology](#). Topics

include “Reading Scripture and Caring at the End of Life” and “Praying and Caring at the End of Life.” The lectures are free and open to the public.

TOGETHER: Jesus is the way, the truth & the life

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TOGETHER: Jesus is the way, the truth & the life

A [speech by Charles Kimball](#) at this year’s Christian Life Conference has generated a lot of discussion. Kimball, a professor at Wake Forest University in North Carolina, said Christians and Muslims “are talking about the same God.”

“There is really not much ambiguity about this. Allah is simply the Arabic word for God,” Kimball said. “The name for God in Islam, in Arabic, is Allah. This is not another god. This is the same God that Jews and Christians are talking about.”



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

This language is a bit jarring. It's not how we Baptists normally talk. Kimball was referring to the fact Christians and Muslims, as well as Jews, trace their theological heritage to the God of Abraham. He also was stating the linguistic fact that Middle Eastern Christians who speak Arabic use the word "Allah" (God) in prayers, Scripture reading and worship.

To say that the God of Christians, Jews and Muslims is the same God is a literary and historical understanding of the common origins we have in the story of Abraham. But the reality of Jesus Christ as God incarnate means that any view of God that does not look through the eyes of Jesus is going to be flawed and inadequate to provide salvation.

More than a day at the beach

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More than a day at the beach

By Jennifer Sicking

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

BELTON—Spring break was more than just a day or two at the beach for 40 University of Mary Hardin-Baylor students this year.

They and three university staff members journeyed to South Padre Island to make an impact in lives of fellow students as part of Beach Reach, an annual evangelistic outreach.