

Texas Acteen selected for national panel

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Megan Jones	Mallory Harrell	Lili Muongkhot	Erin Radomsky

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By Amy Whitfield

Woman's Missionary Union

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Woman's Missionary Union has selected Tiffany Clark, 16, of Humble Area's First Baptist Church to be a 2007 National Acteens Panelist.

Tiffany earned the honor because of her strong commitment to missions and to Acteens, a Baptist missions program for teenage girls, national WMU officials said. They also cited her exemplary leadership and involvement in her school, community and church.



Tiffany Clark

‘From the Dust’ takes music behind bars

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Yvette and
Kevin
Snow are
part of
From the
Dust, a
music
group that
ministers
in prisons
throughout
Texas.

'From the Dust' takes music behind bars

By George Henson

Staff Writer

THE COLONY—Like missionaries Paul and Silas in the New Testament, band members of the Christian band From the Dust hope taking their songs to prisons might cause inmates to ask, “What must I do to be saved?”

From the Dust grew out of a church praise band that led worship on Sunday mornings.



Kevin Snow, bass guitarist and vocalist for From the Dust.

- Watch video clips about the ministry of From the Dust [here](#) and [here](#).
- Hear their blues version of [Blessed Assurance](#).
- Listen to more music at their website, www.fromthedust.com.

Sweet tells Truett conference God is âdefragging and rebootingâ church

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Sweet tells Truett conference God is ‘defragging and rebooting’ church

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

WACO (ABP)—Deal with it, get over it or get help. That’s Leonard Sweet’s mantra when it comes to understanding Christianity’s fluid role in the postmodern world.

The Christian church is in the midst of a “perfect storm,” Sweet told a crowd at Baylor University’s Truett Theological Seminary. Such stormy weather is manifested in, among other things, postmodernism —the worldview that questions modern assumptions about certainty and progress. Modernism gave Christians a preferred status as “chaplain” to the culture. But Christians in the West no longer can expect to have that “home-court advantage,” he said.

Leonard Sweet (Photo courtesy of leonardsweet.com)
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Did the IMB â€œinvestigateâ€œ

charges? Burleson, president say no

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Did the IMB ‘investigate’ charges? Burleson, president say no

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Wade Burleson says the Southern Baptist Convention’s International Mission Board did not conduct an “investigation” into his allegations of trustee improprieties—despite some trustees’ insistence to the contrary.

“What idiot told Mr. Burleson there was no trustee investigative committee?” asked trustee Jerry Corbaley recently on his blog.

Identity conference questions SBC’s direction

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Identity conference questions SBC's direction

By Phillip Jordan

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSON, Tenn. (ABP)—The future should be bright for the Southern Baptist Convention, but it won't be if infighting continues, SBC President Frank Page insisted at a conference on Baptist identity.

Page, pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., urged Southern Baptists—who have been squabbling over narrowing doctrinal parameters and other issues—to stick together.

Gonzales touts religious-freedom initiative; others question Bush record

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Gonzales touts religious-freedom

initiative; others question Bush record

By Lonnie Wilkey & Robert Marus

Tennessee Baptist & Reflector / Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—Attorney General Alberto Gonzales chose the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's winter meeting to announce a new Justice Department focus on religious freedom.

But some Christian leaders questioned the move, as well as the Bush administration's commitment to a robust defense of the Constitution's religious protections.

CBF council reports declining revenues, adopts new budget

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CBF council reports declining revenues, adopts new budget

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DECATUR, Ga. (ABP)—Halfway through their fiscal year, leaders of the

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship learned about a significant revenue shortfall during the CBF Coordinating Council winter meeting in Decatur, Ga.

Undesignated receipts were 13.2 percent below the year-to-date budget, according to a financial summary of the six months ended Dec. 31, 2006. That budget itself had been revised downward from an earlier adopted budget.

Covenant most important Baptist event since Civil War, Allen says

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Covenant most important Baptist event since Civil War, Allen says

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DECATUR, Ga. (ABP)—Next January's "Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant" will be the most important Baptist event since before the Civil War, an emotional Jimmy Allen told Cooperative Baptist Fellowship leaders.

Allen, the last moderate to serve as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, stressed that the two Democratic former presidents leading the charge for the historic pan-Baptist gathering—Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton—want to avoid politics at the rally.

Emmanuel McCall listens as Jimmy Allen talks to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship leaders.

Archaeologists, evangelicals critique “Tomb” documentary

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Archaeologists, evangelicals critique “Tomb” documentary

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—Archaeologists, biblical scholars and Christian leaders are casting doubt on explosive claims about the life of Jesus in a new documentary from Hollywood director-producer James Cameron.

The film, called [*The Lost Tomb of Jesus*](#), presents evidence producers say could prove Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and had a son.

African Children's Choir symbolizes hope for future

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African Children's Choir symbolizes hope for future

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

ABILENE—Like most boys his age, 8-year-old David dreams about what he'll be when he grows up. This week, he wants to be an air traffic controller.

A year ago, he probably never dreamed he'd be in the United States. Born in one of the most impoverished areas of Uganda, he had little hope of getting an education.

Around the State

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As University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Christian studies faculty look on, President Jerry Bawcom; Jane and Paul Meyer, for whom the building will be named; and Henry Adrion III, chairman of the board of trustees, turned dirt at the site of the Paul and Jane Meyer Christian Studies Center, which is scheduled for completion in 2008. The 18,815-square-foot two-story building will have five classrooms, conference rooms, the dean's office, a reception area and a chapel on the first floor. The second floor will include additional classrooms, faculty offices, a reading room and lounge area for students.

Around the State

- Martin Wilson, associate pastor at La Verdad Community Church in El Paso, will offer the opening prayer for the U.S. House of Representatives March 7 in Washington D.C. He also is a U.S. Border Patrol chaplain.
- The Piecemakers, a knitting and crocheting group at Crestview Church in George-town, will send knitted and crocheted baby blankets and children's sweaters with a team of volunteers who will travel to Romania in early May. Others who want to participate can go to www.forgive490.com and click on "Blankets for Romania" for patterns and more information. Blankets should be made with soft cotton yarn and children's sweaters with wool or wool-blend yarn. Yarn donations also are being accepted.
- Ollie Finney has been named adviser of the year at Dallas Baptist University. A DBU alumna, she began serving in the college of adult education in 2000.

Anniversaries

- Gilbert Gonzales, fifth, as pastor of One Cross Three Nails Church in Lubbock, March 10.

Friends bring friends to Jesus

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Friends bring friends to Jesus

By David Coffield

Hardin-Simmons University

ABILENE—When Autumn Moran committed her life to Jesus during a recent Bible study at Hardin-Simmons University's Friendship House, nobody was happier than Danyel Rogers.

Although Moran had been reluctant, Rogers invited the young woman to the Bible study and earned her trust one step at a time.