

# Around the State

February 16, 2007

Posted: 2/16/07



The  
Houston  
Baptist  
University  
Choral  
Union took  
center stage  
at Houston's  
Jones Hall  
for the  
Performing  
Arts during  
a  
performance  
of "Credo"  
by Krzysztof  
Penderecki  
last month.

The  
performance  
was the  
culmination  
of more  
than two  
and a half  
years'  
preparation.

## Around the State

- **The College of Christian Studies** at the University of Mary-Hardin

Baylor presents its winter lectures series "The Formation of a Christian Mind" Feb. 21-23. Todd Still, associate professor of Christian Scriptures at Truett Theological Seminary, will be the featured speaker. The series of five lectures will be held at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, and 11 a.m. Friday.

- **Richard Russell**, assistant professor of English at Baylor University, will receive the 2007 Achievement Award for New Scholars in Humanities and Fine Arts from the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools Feb. 25 at the organization's annual meeting.
- **Barbara Bush**, former first lady of the United States, will be the guest speaker for the McLane Lecture at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Feb. 26. Attendance will be by invitation only.
- **The Dallas Baptist University** baseball team has been ranked the top NCAA Division I independent team in the country by Baseball America heading into the 2007 season. The Patriots are looking to secure their first-ever NCAA Division I tournament bid. They play the No. 1 team overall Feb. 20 when they travel to Houston to take on the Rice Owls.

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**Baylor regents OK**  
**athletic/academic complex**

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# **Baylor regents OK athletic/academic complex**

WACO (ABP)—[Baylor University](#)'s board of regents has approved a plan that will begin integrating athletics into academic campus life at the school.

On Feb. 8, Baylor's regents unanimously approved a \$34 million plan to build an on-campus athletics facility and academic center.

It will mark the first time the athletics department and football-training grounds are located on Baylor's main campus.

The new site will be called the Alwin and Dorothy Highers Athletics Complex and the Simpson Athletics and Academic Center. Its focus is a 96,300-square-foot main building that will sit next to the school's Mayborn Museum Complex and other athletic facilities near the Brazos River.

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# **BGCT sponsors inaugural Inspire 2007 training event to encourage leaders**

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# BGCT sponsors inaugural Inspire '07 training event to encourage leaders

The [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#) will launch its inaugural [Inspire '07](#) event March 24 at College Heights Baptist Church in Plainview.

The one-day training opportunity for church staff, leaders and members will encourage discussion, learning and ex-change of ministry, evangelism and missions ideas.

David Mahfouz, pastor of First Baptist Church in Port Neches, will be the keynote speaker.

Sunday school training workshops include pre-school, children, youth, adults and general sessions. Eleven specialty workshops include creative church leadership, blended worship, transitional churches, small-group ministry, single-parent ministry, women's ministry and lifestyle evangelism.

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## Book Reviews

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## Book Reviews

[Grave Risk](#) by Hannah Alexander (Steeple Hill Café)

In *Grave Risk*, Christy Award-winning author Hannah Alexander weaves an

intriguing tale that keeps the pages turning.

The title aptly describes nurse Jill Cooper, who finds herself at risk, both of great danger and of death when her much-loved, retired high school principal Edith Potts dies of a heart attack and revered shopkeeper and former science teacher Cecil Martin succumbs to a fall. Jill senses the deaths aren't as the sheriff believes, especially when Edith's nephew drops should-have-been-destroyed school records on her porch.

The logo for "Off the Bookshelf" features the words "Off the" in a small, red, sans-serif font stacked vertically to the left of the word "Bookshelf" in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below "Bookshelf" is the tagline "What's everyone reading anyway?" in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

Off the **Bookshelf**  
What's everyone reading anyway?

What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to [books@baptiststandard.com](mailto:books@baptiststandard.com).

To complicate matters, two of Jill's former sweethearts suddenly appear in the small town. Can Jill solve the mystery and bring the truth of the past to light before she meets her end?

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## **Baptist Briefs**

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# Baptist Briefs

**Baptists among mission workers killed in Honduras.** Three Americans on a mission trip in Honduras were killed in a truck crash Feb. 6. Ten other people were injured when the truck flipped on a remote mountain road, authorities said. Two of the deceased—45-year-old Perry Goad and 58-year-old Richard Mason Jr., both of Cartersville, Ga.—belonged to Tabernacle Baptist Church in Cartersville. Martha Fuller, 66, from Newnan, Ga., also was killed in the accident, which happened near the village of Mal Pais. Fuller was a member of Newnan First United Methodist Church. The weeklong trip included a group of 28 people traveling with Honduras Outreach, Inc., a Georgia-based, nondenominational charity that has sent North American volunteers to the Agalta Valley in Honduras the past 18 years. The volunteers— up to 1,000 a year—often spent time constructing roads, routing electricity and implementing running water in the remote villages there.

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**Bush receives SBC religious liberty award.** President Bush received a Southern Baptist award for his advocacy of religious freedom in a recent presentation at the White House. Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, presented the John Leland Religious Liberty Award to Bush in the Oval Office. The commission gave the award to the president for "courageously defending the right of all people to exercise freely their religious faith," according to the framed citation.

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## Cartoon

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“Look on  
the bright  
side: At  
least we  
all  
brought  
our  
permission  
slips.”

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Baptist churches, in Texas, the BGCT, the nation and around the world.

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# 2nd Opinion: Confront and prevent child abuse

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## 2nd Opinion: Confront and prevent child abuse

**By Denton Lotz**

Jesus taught us, "Whoever receives one in my name receives me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:5-6). He also admonished, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them; for to such belong the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

Baptists always have affirmed children. A Baptist deacon, William Fox, began the Sunday School Society in 1785 to remedy the horrors of the Industrial Revolution, which forced children as young as 10 years old to work underground in mines 12 hours a day, six days a week.

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Today, the situation of children worldwide has become worse. In October 2006, the United Nations released [The UN Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children](#). After reading this document, Christians and other men and women of good will should become angry and energized to work to stop child abuse.

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# Definition of “evangelical” debated

February 16, 2007

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## Definition of ‘evangelical’ debated

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

DALLAS (ABP)—One out of every four adults who call themselves “evangelical” is not a “born-again” Christian, according to a recent report from the [Barna Group](#). And that’s just the beginning of the confusion surrounding the term “evangelical.”

For instance, some political pundits tend to qualify evangelicals mainly as people who vote against abortion rights and gay marriage. Many Roman Catholics think they’re evangelical. Most Mormons don’t.

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# **DOWN HOME: A birthday present from Dr. Bob**

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## **DOWN HOME: A birthday present from Dr. Bob**

After a few months of working up the nerve, I finally accepted the 50th birthday present my doctor arranged for me.

Call it a cleansing experience.

Back in the good ol' days—like when I was 49—Dr. Bob seemed content to ascertain my health by examining the outside of me. Oh, he wanted samples of my blood to send off to the lab, all right. But mostly, he just poked and prodded, and peered into my ears, up my nose and down my throat.

But now, just because I moved beyond the Big 5-0, Dr. Bob seems to believe he needs to actually see what's going on inside of me. Since I literally trust him with my life, I pretty much do what he says to do. And thank God for medical science, none of this involves scalpels and stitches. So far.

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# EDITORIAL: The Executive Board's crucial agenda

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## EDITORIAL: The Executive Board's crucial agenda

The eyes of Texas Baptists will be upon the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board Feb. 26-27. We'll watch to see if the board resolves three key issues:

- **Church-starting scandal.**

In a called meeting Oct. 31, Executive Board directors received a report on [misappropriation of church-starting funds](#) in the Rio Grande Valley. It told a terrible tale. Texas Baptists spent \$1.3 million to start 258 churches and only have five churches to show for it. Staff disregarded their own policies. The convention wasted six years promoting a church-starting scheme that failed miserably. Even after the FBI inquired, board leaders failed to get to the bottom of things.



Independent investigators made seven suggestions for fixing the problem: (1) Review and revise church-starting guidelines, (2) gather accurate, accessible information about new-church mortality rates, (3) integrate recordkeeping between program areas, (4) institute better internal controls over disbursements and hire an internal auditor, (5) give the accounting department authority to control and design the reporting system, (6) respond immediately to allegations of impropriety and (7) trust but verify.

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## **El Paso couple train Ethiopian medical personnel**

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Don  
Meier of  
First  
Baptist  
Church  
in El  
Paso  
sees a  
patient  
at the  
Black  
Lion  
Hospital  
in Addis  
Ababa,  
Ethiopia.

## El Paso couple train Ethiopian medical personnel

**By Carla Wynn**

*Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia—In overcrowded outpatient clinics in [Ethiopia](#), patients wait many hours to see medical personnel. When their needs are too complex, they're often referred to Black Lion Hospital, where Ethiopians travel often hundreds of miles for treatment. And thanks to a Texas couple, more Ethiopians might see healing happen.

Don and Patsy Meier of [First Baptist Church in El Paso](#) recently went to Addis Ababa, where they helped introduced new and more effective

medical procedures to personnel at Black Lion Hospital.



Patsy Meier helps train hospital personnel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.