

# Former inmate leads popular Bible study at state jail

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## Former inmate leads popular Bible study at state jail

**By Elizabeth Staples**

*Communications Intern*

DALLAS—Seven women at the Dawson State Jail attended the first Bible study Erlinda Silva, a former inmate at the facility, taught there. Nearly nine years later, 200 women regularly attend the Thursday night Bible study.

Silva first learned about Jesus from her bunkmate during her first night in jail. After she was released, she convinced her husband they should go to church, but the Spanish service was hard for her to understand.

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## Student missionaries discover

# love transcends cultural barriers

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Ericha Eppinger teaches students during a children's camp in Germany as part of a Go Now Missions team.

## Student missionaries discover love transcends cultural barriers

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

Christ's love translates into any language, according to student missionaries who served internationally this summer through Go Now Missions, the Baptist General Convention of Texas' student missions program.

People around the world are craving and seeking God's love—asking questions and coming to profess faith in Christ as Lord, students repeatedly reported during a debriefing session.

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# **Students start spreading the (good) news in New York**

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Texas  
A&M  
University  
at Corpus  
Christi  
student  
Adam  
Lopez  
teaches a  
young  
man using  
a  
computer  
at the  
African  
Friendship  
Center in  
New York.

## Students start spreading the (good) news in New York

**By Laura Frase**

*Communications Intern*

NEW YORK—Students hit the streets and subways of New York this summer on a mission to help meet the needs of the Big Apple.

First Baptist Church in Arlington Sunday school teacher Regina Fancher led a team of students to New York through Go Now Missions, the Baptist General Convention of Texas' student missions program.

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# **Logsdon students experience Baptist life in Europe**

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Logsdon  
Seminary  
students  
(from left)  
Nathan  
Pruett,  
Darrell  
Smith,  
Daniel  
Dotson,  
Chazley  
Dotson,  
Jaci  
Jackson  
and  
Amanda  
Cutbirth  
visit the  
Bebelplatz,  
the  
courtyard  
in front of  
the library  
at  
Humboldt  
University,  
where the  
Nazis  
burned  
20,000  
books in  
May, 1933.

# Logsdon students experience Baptist life in Europe

**By Laura Frase**

*Communications Intern*

ABILENE—While students at Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon Seminary were hunched over their desks rapidly scribbling notes, thousands of miles away, six students explored Holocaust museums, snapped pictures of castles and cathedrals, and met European Baptist leaders.

As part of the seminary's missions immersion class and "Baptists in Eastern Europe" class, students learned by spending one month traveling across Europe, examining the culture and meeting prominent Baptist leaders.

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## **MAKING REPAIRS: Auto mission rebuilds engines, troubled lives**

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Terry  
Legan  
(center)  
works  
with  
young  
men to  
rebuild  
a car  
motor.  
Legan's  
Auto  
Mission  
helps  
young  
men in  
legal  
trouble  
rebuild  
their  
lives.  
(Photos  
by  
Angela  
Best)

**MAKING REPAIRS:**  
**Auto mission rebuilds engines,**

# troubled lives

**By Laura Frase**

*Communications Intern*

HURST—Terry Legan believes no car should end up in a junkyard. Neither should a young life. Both are salvageable.

With this in mind, Legan began Auto Mission as an outlet for troubled boys because “all teenage guys are interested in cars and girls, ... and I don’t know much about girls.”



Auto Mission helps young men learn to rebuild car engines—and troubled lives.

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# Nolen to coordinate Cowboy Fellowship

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## Nolen to coordinate Cowboy Fellowship

Ron Nolen will retire Aug. 31 from the Baptist General Convention of Texas to become full-time coordinator of the Texas Fellowship of Cowboy Churches.

Nolen, 61, has served 11 years with the BGCT, most recently as director of western heritage ministries.

Since 2000, beginning with Cowboy Church of Ellis County, he has helped start 73 cowboy churches across Texas and has a goal of 250 by the end of 2010.

Those churches formed the Texas Fellowship of Cowboy Churches, and he has served as the group's volunteer coordinator since 2004.

|              |
|--------------|
| Ron<br>Nolen |
|--------------|

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# On the Move

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## On the Move

- **J.C. Baker** has resigned as pastor of First Church in Weinert.
  - **Harold Barnes** to Hamby Church in Abilene as pastor.
  - **Eric Boykin** to First Church in Campbell as pastor.
  - **Frank Brown** to First Church in Bellmead as pastor.
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## War on terror leaves refugees in limbo

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## War on terror leaves refugees in limbo

**By Peter Sachs**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Advocacy groups are pressuring Congress to take

broader action to alleviate the plight of refugees who have been caught in a tangle of new regulations designed to keep terrorists from entering the United States.

Refugee Council USA, which includes numerous faith-based organizations, estimates as many as 20,000 refugees worldwide are being denied asylum in the United States because their activities fall within broad new U.S. definitions of helping terrorist organizations.

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## **Progressive Baptists critique war in Iraq**

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## **Progressive Baptists critique war in Iraq**

**By Adelle Banks**

*Religion News Service*

CINCINNATI, Ohio (RNS)— The Progressive National Baptist Convention continued its call for an end to the war in Iraq during its annual meeting in Cincinnati, saying resources spent on the conflict are needed to address the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Delegates to the meeting held their 45th annual session in the city where the historically African-American denomination was founded.

**"This unnecessary, unwise and destructive war in Iraq is rupturing our nation, corrupting our foreign relations and disrupting our future. Iraq is now a growing cancer rapidly and deeply spreading nationally and globally."**

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# **Humor & honesty help evangelist connect with youth**

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Douglas Runkles, otherwise known as "Runks" to youth ministries across the country, shares the gospel through humor.

## Humor & honesty help evangelist connect with youth

**By Leann Callaway**

*Special to the Baptist Standard*

LEVELLAND—"Funny name, funny guy, deep message"—that's the slogan of Douglas Runkles of First Baptist Church in Levelland, better known as "Runks" to youth ministries across the country.

As a popular youth communicator, he likes to see his teenage audiences laughing so hard it hurts, because he has discovered humor serves as his best tool to connect with students. And after he captures their attention, he shifts gears to describe his own life struggles and challenge young people to trust God to overcome their struggles and addictions.



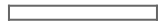
Douglas Runkles

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# Texas Tidbits

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## Texas Tidbits

**Baylor names dean for student development.** Baylor University has named Elizabeth Palacios dean of student development. In her new post, Palacios will provide leadership in campus recreation, multicultural activities and student activities. Palacios holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Baylor and earned a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin. She is a licensed professional counselor and a licensed specialist in school psychology. From 1991 to 1995, Palacios served as Baylor's coordinator of community service. She has served as an instructor in civic education at Baylor since 1991, a part-time lecturer in the department of educational psychology in the School of Education from 1995 to 2002 and

as a full-time lecturer in educational psychology since 2002.

**DBU receives \$250,000 gift.** The Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation has granted Dallas Baptist University \$250,000 toward construction of a new chapel on the DBU campus. Currently, DBU students meet in a gymnasium for chapel services, convocations and special events. The new chapel building will seat about 1,400 individuals and also will house the school's intercessory prayer ministry and offices for the Cook Graduate School of Leadership. DBU has received \$3 million from the Andersen Foundation in the last 12 years.

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## **TOGETHER: BGCT emphasizes church leadership**

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### **TOGETHER: BGCT emphasizes church leadership**

The Apostle Peter, after a lifetime of following Jesus and providing leadership among the early Christians, gives this poignant counsel to young pastors:

“I have a special concern for you church leaders. I know what it’s like to be a leader, in on Christ’s sufferings as well as the coming glory. Here’s my concern: That you care for God’s flock with all the diligence of a shepherd. Not because you have to, but because you want to please God. Not calculating what you can get out of it, but acting spontaneously. Not bossily telling others what to do, but tenderly showing them the way.

“When God, who is the best shepherd of all, comes out in the open with his rule, he’ll see that you’ve done it right and commend you lavishly. ....



Executive Director  
BGCT Executive  
Board

“So, be content with who you are, and don’t put on airs. God’s strong hand is on you; he’ll promote you at the right time. Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you” (1 Peter 4:19-5:7).