

Western heritage churches strive for cultural relevancy

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When
Pastor Jim
Strickland
talks about
horsepower
he may
mean the
chopper he
rides or the
equine
variety.
Strickland
has served
as pastor of
the Mills
County
Cowboy
Church six
months.
(Photo by
George
Henson)

Western heritage churches strive for cultural relevancy

By George Henson

Staff Writer

GOLDTHWAITE—Quicker than a bull can take two steps out of a chute, spin to his right, kick his heels to the sky and put his nose—and maybe a cowboy—in the dirt, Western heritage churches are springing up across the state.

DOWN HOME: Love means letting those chickees fly

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DOWN HOME: Love means letting those chickees fly

So, this is why I lay awake all those nights.

Four years ago this summer, I endured Lord-knows-how-many sleepless nights. Our oldest child, Lindsay, had just graduated from high school and

was preparing to head off to college.

Seems like every time I woke up in the night that summer, I thought about Lindsay. She still was where Joanna and I reveled in her being: Home. Upstairs. Asleep. Under our roof. Right where she belonged.

EDITORIAL: Do Good Samaritans climb Everest?

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EDITORIAL: Do Good Samaritans climb Everest?

David Sharp, a 34-year-old British engineer, collapsed and died on Mount Everest last month.

The Associated Press described Sharp's death as "shocking, an apparent display of preening callousness." Sir Edmund Hillary, the first climber to conquer Everest in 1953, insisted Sharp's death was "horrifying."

Sharp reached the summit, climbing alone. But as he descended through the "death zone"—almost 28,000 feet above sea level—his lungs failed to filter enough oxygen out of the thin, frigid air, and his systems began to shut down.



Executive Committee drops 10 percent test

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Executive Committee drops 10 percent test

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee has amended a recommendation that the convention encourage the election of SBC officers “whose churches give at least 10 percent of their undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program.”

Waxahachie couple fosters love in a multitude of children

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Waxahachie couple fosters love in a multitude of children

By George Henson

Staff Writer

WAXAHACHIE—A sidewalk marks the path to the door of Don and Rhodie Rawls' home—where 65 foster children have entered a refuge of love. And as clearly as concrete marks the pathway to their home, the Rawlses believe God directed them to their ministry of love and caring for children.

Retired pastor discovers

â Blessingsâ among African orphans

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Dearing Garner,
director of
Children's
Emergency Relief
International-Africa
and Angela
Namatovu, the 27-
year-old director of
Mercy Home for
Children in the
Kampala, Uganda,
visited some of the
1.5 million
Ugandas displaced
by the long-
running war
between the Lord's
Resistance Army
and the
government.
(Photo by Trent
Stiles)

Retired pastor discovers 'Blessings' among African orphans

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

Dearing Garner found Blessings in Africa—and he expects to find ongoing blessings from assisting orphans in several African nations.

Live Oak Church's family tree grows new branches

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Baptisms by Ruben Rios (left) will help fill the new sanctuary of Iglesia Hispana in Gatesville.

Live Oak Church's family tree grows new branches

By Elizabeth Staples

Communications Intern

GATESVILLE—Live Oak Baptist Church focuses on family. And in recent years, the family has expanded.

Born Again Grillers serve heaping helping of hospitality

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Gatesville's Born Again Grillers, a community ministry in Gatesville, seeks to share Christ's love through cooking,

Born Again Grillers serve heaping helping of hospitality

By George Henson

Staff Writer

GATESVILLE—Some people say, “The way to a man’s heart is through his stomach.” David Braziel believes that adage holds true not just in romance, but also in spiritual matters.

Hispanic director committee created

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Hispanic director committee created

DALLAS—The Baptist General Convention of Texas is forming a committee to help select a director of Hispanic ministries.

The committee will help Chief Operating Officer/ Associate Executive Director Ron Gunter choose a permanent director of Hispanic ministries. Frank Palos serves as interim director.

The committee will consist of the three current officers of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas—President Alcides Guajardo, First Vice President Javier Elizondo and Second Vice President Roberto Rodriguez—plus the three officers who will be elected Hispanic Baptist Convention officers this month.

Three vie for Hispanic Baptist Convention president's post

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Three vie for Hispanic Baptist Convention president's post

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

A theology professor and two pastors will vie for the president's post at this year's Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas, June 25-27 in Arlington.

Churches impact world through ESL

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Churches impact world through ESL

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

English-as-a-Second-Language classes enable Texas Baptist churches to reach the world.

Immigration reform may boost ESL demand

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Immigration reform may boost ESL demand

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Immigration reform that requires undocumented residents to learn English in order to become citizens could send a wave of people into church-sponsored English-as-a-Second- Language programs.