

# Adoptive parents fill empty nest, meet child's needs

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## Adoptive parents fill empty nest, meet child's needs

**By Marv Knox**

*Editor*

ABILENE—New parents Anna and Mike Chancellor's love shines brighter than all their birthday candles. And their compassion trumps conventional expectations for couples their age.

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## Around the State

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Mayor Ed Smith of Marshall and Miss East Texas Baptist University, Neely Floyd, are introduced to President Fang Jianzhuang of Guangdong Teachers College of Foreign Language and Arts in Guangzhou, China, by ETBU President Bob Riley. The two schools cooperatively signed a joint transfer agreement that details courses the Chinese students can transfer to ETBU, since the Chinese school is not a degree granting institution. The schools have exchanged faculty and staff since 1991.

# Around the State

- A one-week program at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor will afford children ages 10-16 the opportunity to learn basic Chinese conversational phrases and the Chinese writing system. The program will be held June 5-9 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Cost is \$40. For more information, call (254) 295-4556.
- The Center for Cultural and Language Studies at Baptist University of the Americas will hold its annual summer cultural immersion experience June 7-14 at the San Antonio campus and culminate with a weekend practicum in Piedras Negras, Mexico. The experience begins with classroom instruction on both the beginner and intermediate levels. Conversation experience is provided through interaction with international students at the university. Field trips around San Antonio develop knowledge and appreciation of the Hispanic culture, while interaction with a local church immerses participants in the worship and fellowship practices of the Hispanic culture. The program culminates with a weekend of living among members of a church in Piedras Negras. Cost is \$400 for the week, exclusive of housing. Members of Baptist General Convention of Texas churches receive a \$50 scholarship through the Mary Hill Davis Offering. For more information, call (210) 924-4338, ext. 202.
- The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Conservatory of Music is taking enrollment for four Kindermusik camps to be held June 26-30. The age-group breakdowns are newborn through 18 months, 18 months through 3 years old, 4- and 5-year-olds, and 6- and 7-year-olds. Some classes require an adult caregiver attend the class with the child. Prices range from \$85 to \$140 and include materials. Register in the conservatory office, Room 208 in Presser Hall, by June 2.



Students from Hardin-Simmons University joined with their counterparts from Abilene Christian University in an effort to call attention to the plight of thousands of Ugandan children kidnapped each year and forced into the rebel army. The students packed up blankets, sleeping bags and backpacks and walked to the parking lot of First Church in Abilene for the "Global Night Commute." High school and college students around the country participated in local events. About 400 people participated in Abilene.

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# **Few see church linked to spiritual growth**

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## **Few see church linked to spiritual growth**

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

DALLAS (ABP)—Almost three-fourths of Americans claim to be Christians, but fewer than one in five considers church the place to deepen their faith, a recent survey reveals.

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## **Multi-faceted immigration ministry needed**

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# Multi-faceted immigration ministry needed

By John Hall

*Texas Baptist Communications*

DALLAS—While lawmakers call for comprehensive immigration reform, Texas Baptists are creating a comprehensive ministry to immigrants.

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## Baptist Briefs

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## Baptist Briefs

**Calvinist and evangelist square off in 1st VP race.** A neo-Calvinist apparently will face off with an evangelist for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention this summer. Mark Dever, pastor of Washington's Capitol Hill Baptist Church and a popular leader among SBC Calvinists, acknowledged he would allow himself to be nominated for the post. Keith Fordham, an evangelist from Fayetteville, Ga., will be nominated for the slot by Bill Britt, president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. Fordham is the immediate past president of the conference.

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**Louisiana pastor to be SBC 2nd VP nominee.** Jay Adkins, pastor of First Baptist Church in Westwego, La., will be nominated for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention by Joed Rice, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Ashland, Ky. Adkins, 33, expects to graduate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with a master of divinity degree this month. Earlier, Kentucky pastor Bill Dodson announced he would nominate Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Calif., and Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, said he would nominate J.D. Greear, pastor of the Summit Church in Durham, N.C., for the second vice president's post.

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## Cartoon

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"We'd be  
good  
together.  
We  
share  
core  
values."

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# 2nd Opinion: God is sovereign over his sovereignty

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## 2nd Opinion: God is sovereign over his sovereignty

**By Roger Olsen**

Baptists have a habit of recycling hot theological topics. God's sovereignty and human free will is one that keeps coming around. Right now, the debate between Calvinists and Arminians is heating up again. Recently, a Baptist seminary president suggested that the Southern Baptist Convention has no room for Arminians, which should come as quite a shock to the millions of believers in free will who are loyal Southern Baptists.

What many people miss is that Calvinists and Arminians agree God is sovereign and God rules providentially over creation and predestines people to salvation. Their areas of agreement are much larger than their disagreements over specific interpretations of these biblical concepts.

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# TBM volunteers rebuild homes in Cross Plains

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Texas  
Baptist  
Men  
volunteers  
rebuild a  
Cross  
Plains  
home  
destroyed  
by a  
wildfire in  
January.

## TBM volunteers rebuild homes in Cross Plains

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

CROSS PLAINS—Texas Baptist Men Retiree Builders helped two families in West Texas rebuild their lives by rebuilding their homes.

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# **DOWN HOME: Saturday morning, with Grammar**

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## **DOWN HOME: Saturday morning, with Grammar**

Grammar and I went for a ride.

Her friends know her as Helena Moore. But to me, she's always been Grammar, my mother's mother.

Grammar lives in Fort Sumner, a farming village on the high plains of eastern New Mexico. It's far from our home in Lewisville, and I don't see Grammar nearly as often as I'd like. When my friend Stacy invited me to preach in Muleshoe, and I realized I'd be within a short drive of Fort Sumner, I extended my stay to visit Grammar.

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# **EDITORIAL: Americans AWOL in the worship wars**

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## **EDITORIAL: Americans AWOL in the worship wars**

First, the good news: A new survey conducted by the Barna Group reveals Americans have increased their behavior significantly in five of seven religious categories:

- Forty-seven percent of U.S. adults say they read their Bible at least once a week outside of church. That's the highest level since the 1980s, a 16-point climb in 11 years.
- Weekly church attendance has rebounded, from 37 percent in 1996 to 47 percent this year.



# TBM volunteer bricklayers help build church in Ethiopia

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Texas Baptist Men bricklayers build a wall of an Ethiopian Baptist church. The team worked with a Texas Baptist couple serving as volunteer missionaries.

## TBM volunteer bricklayers help build church in Ethiopia

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia—Texas Baptists joined hands across the world to help construct a church building for Ethiopian Christians.

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## **First-time parents receive help at Port Neches church**

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## **First-time parents receive help at Port Neches church**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

PORT NECHES—At First Baptist Church in Port Neches, help for first-time parents begins before children arrive.