

WMU sets \$5.1 million offering goal

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By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Woman's Missionary Union of Texas' board of directors approved a \$5.1 million goal for the 2006 Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions.

Providential connections speed church-planting in Mexico

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The Catholic
Church in
Candelaria,
Mexico, has
been without
a priest
since 1995
but this man
faithfully
sweeps the
yard clean
and keeps
the inside in
good repair.

A Baptist
Child &
Family
Services
program has
made initial
contact with
local leaders
about
beginning a
Bible study,
and later a
church, in
the small
mountain
village.

(BCFS
photos by
Craig Bird)

Providential connections speed church-planting in Mexico

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

DURANGO, Mexico—Rob and Gloria Rolison believe God always goes before them on church-planting mission trips among unreached Indian tribes in the Mexico mountains. But occasionally, he is really way ahead of them—sometimes by almost 40 years.

Carter gathers diverse Baptist leaders

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Carter gathers diverse Baptist leaders

ATLANTA (ABP)—Leaders of Baptist conventions and organizations comprising more than 20 million adherents in North America explored “additional opportunities for fellowship and cooperation” in Atlanta April 10.

President Jimmy Carter, a lifelong Baptist lay leader and Sunday school

teacher, sponsored the gathering at the Carter Center. Bill Underwood, president-elect of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., helped recruit the participants.

Carter noted the historic nature of the meeting, which attracted a diverse array of groups. He urged participants to transcend their differences—including race, culture, geography and convention affiliation—and seek common purpose.

Around the State

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More than 450 people gathered to celebrate the opening of the Piper Children's Center on the campus of the South Texas Children's Home.

The 15,000-square-foot complex houses a play therapy center, a sponsor center, a child play area, staff offices for childcare personnel, as well as, a new commissary, clothing center, and library and learning center.

Around the State

- The College of Nursing at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor will conduct the spring community nursing symposium April 18 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The symposium is held each semester and is presented by the senior UMHB nursing students enrolled in the community health nursing course.

- Lake Lavon Baptist Encampment's senior adult retreat will be held May 15-17. The camp theme will be "Fulfilling My Destiny." Phil Briggs will be the camp pastor, and Rosemary Hoover is the Bible teacher. For more information, call (972) 736-2273.

- The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor will hold its annual Senior Saints Summit May 15-19. The conference is for people 55 or older. Participants stay on campus for four days of singing, worship, fellowship and Bible study. Russell Dilday will be the preacher, Charlie Robinson the Bible teacher, Larry Putman the worship leader, Don Newberry the banquet entertainer and Dan Gibbs the banquet emcee. For more information, call (254) 295-4606.



First Church in
Fresno recently
held a note
burning
ceremony to
commemorate
the retirement
of the church's
debt on 19
acres of land
and its
sanctuary. The
church was
started in 1997.

Pictured are
original
members Dale
Wellborn, John
Borden, Carol
Stoneham and
Carol Borden.

In the
background is
Interim Pastor
Harold Sellers
who helped
start the church
prior to his
retirement as
director of
missions of
Coastal Plains
Area.

Baptist Briefs

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Book Reviews

American Theocracy: The Peril and Politics of Radical Religion, Oil, and Borrowed Money in the 21st Century By Kevin Phillips (Viking Adult)

In *Wealth and Democracy*, maverick political and economic thinker Kevin Phillips urged readers to consider how “plutocracy”—from the Greek, meaning rule by the rich—is a fitting characterization of our nation’s governance. His point was that money has become the driving force of government in the United States.

Three years later, in his 12th book, Phillips examines another powerful political motivator—religion. This time, the richly experienced analyst approaches the subject with no irony. He bluntly calls this one American Theocracy and fills more than 400 pages with a blistering vision of the decline of the separation of church and state.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

Corts named college council president. Former Baptist college president Paul Corts has been named the fifth president of the 30-year-old Council for Christian Colleges and Universities—an association of more than 170 Christian institutions worldwide. He will assume the office in June. Corts has served as assistant attorney general for administration for the U.S. Department of Justice since 2002. Previously, he worked nearly 12 years as president of Palm Beach Atlantic University, a Florida Baptist school. Before that, he was president of Wingate University in North Carolina and held administrative and teaching positions at Oklahoma Baptist University and Western Kentucky University. His brother, Tom, recently retired as president of Samford University, an Alabama Baptist school.

Ouachita names president. Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church of Little Rock, Ark., for 16 years, has been named president-elect of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., effective May 1. Ouachita trustees unanimously elected Horne at a called meeting April 6. He was the unanimous choice of the 18-member presidential search committee. Horne served as a pastor in Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma before becoming pastor at Immanuel, where former President Bill Clinton was one of his church members. As the 15th president in Ouachita's 120-year history, Horne follows Andy Westmoreland, who begins June 1 as president of

Samford University of Birmingham, Ala. Horne completed his freshman year at Ouachita and completed his bachelor's degree at Arkansas College—now Lyon College—in Batesville, Ark., where he served on staff at First Baptist Church of Batesville. He earned a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and a doctor of ministry degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Horne and his wife, Becky, have four grown children.

Salvador headlines CBF summit on HIV/AIDS. Salvador—a popular Latino Christian music group originally from Austin—will perform a free concert at 8 p.m., June 21, in the Sidney Marcus Auditorium of the Georgia World Congress Center as a part of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's HIV/AIDS Summit, "Breaking the Silence: Compassion for an HIV Positive World."

Cartoon

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“Actually,
we hired
you as an
outreach
minister
because
you
blog.”

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

Church group focuses on fighting poverty

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Church group focuses on fighting poverty

By Kevin Eckstrom

Religion News Service

ATLANTA (RNS)—Leaders of 34 church bodies in the United States—including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship—officially launched

the broadest Christian-unity organization in American history and announced a fight against poverty as its first priority.

Healthcare crisis can be alleviated with church help

April 13, 2006

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Healthcare crisis can be alleviated with church help

By Marv Knox

Editor

SAN ANTONIO—Christ calls his followers to make a difference in the health of people, healthcare expert Camille Miller stressed during the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission's annual conference.

Small groups can influence public policy

April 13, 2006

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Small groups can influence public policy

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

SAN ANTONIO—All the tools are available to Christians who want to influence politics, said Ross Ramsey, editor of a publication on Texas government and politics.

Listen to the "deep cry" of "off-pitch" people

April 13, 2006

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Listen to the 'deep cry' of 'off-pitch' people

By Marv Knox

Editor

SAN ANTONIO—The same God who hears the perfect-pitch songs of blue whales expects Christians to hear the “deep cry” of hurting people, Bill Leonard reminded participants at the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission’s annual state-wide conference.

Christian Life Commission meeting

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Subtle racism exists, researcher says

April 13, 2006

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Subtle racism exists, researcher says

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

SAN ANTONIO—Racism still exists, even if people do not admit they are racist, a Duke University research professor told a Texas Baptist conference.