

Ellis Association sends missionaries to Central America

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By George Henson

Staff Writer

WAXAHACHIE-In an effort to follow God wherever he leads, Ellis Baptist Association has sent its own missionary family to Central America.

Wayland offers international students home away from home

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Wayland offers international

students home away from home

By Teresa Young

Wayland Baptist University

PLAINVIEW-Wayland Baptist Uni-versity became temporary home this year to two freshmen from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates-probably the first representatives from that country to attend the Texas Baptist school.

Wreck gives 'invincible' athlete a new perspective

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Wreck gives 'invincible' athlete a new perspective

By Michael Stephens

ETBU Sports Information Intern

MARSHALL-"Invincible" is how Micah Huckaby described himself, and "indestructible" was the way his teammates on the East Texas Baptist University football team viewed him prior to Aug. 14, 2004-a day that would change his life forever.

Alabama appeals for racial harmony

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Alabama appeals for racial harmony

By Jennifer Davis Rash

Alabama Baptist

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (BP)-Alabama Baptists at their annual meeting endorsed a call to use the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott, beginning this month, as a way to foster racial harmony.

Tennessee weathers stormy meeting

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Tennessee weathers stormy meeting

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—Disaster served as a distraction from denominational politics for messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

Meeting at First Baptist Church in Clarksville, messengers had to seek shelter in the church's basement for more than an hour when a series of tornadoes struck the western and central parts of the state.

After they reconvened to finish the afternoon business, officials decided to cancel the evening service when weather reports predicted another round of severe storms would pass through the city.

Family Bible Series for Dec. 11: No better time to be a missionary than Christmas

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Family Bible Series for Dec. 11

No better time to be a missionary than

Christmas

- Romans 1:1-7, 13-17

By Donald Raney

Around the State

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Iglesia Nueva Vida in Zapata held a groundbreaking service for a 6,000-square-foot building. It will cost approximately \$300,000. A barbecue followed the groundbreaking ceremony. Participating in the groundbreaking were Robert Marshall, Joe Ramirez, Jane Cornelius, Pastor Mack Caffey of First Church in Zapata, Director of Missions Mike O'Neill of Coastal Bend Association and Pastor Raul Hernandez of Iglesia Nueva Vida.

Around the State

- ◆ Four students from the East Texas Baptist University School of Fine Arts competed in a regional conference of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions. **Jennifer Howell** and **Taylor Johnson** both advanced to the semifinal round with Johnson finishing fifth. **Cortney Brinker** and **Rachel Farley** also competed.
- ◆ Baylor University won the top team award for the ninth consecutive year at the Model Organization of American States. The Baylor team also took six of the 14 awards presented. Students from 22 universities assumed the roles of diplomatic representatives to the Organization of American States. Representing various countries, participants researched and debated various issues of concern to the hemisphere, such as decentralization, terrorism, privacy issues, renewable fuels and telecommunications standardization. Baylor's team represented Venezuela and Uruguay.
- ◆ *The Collegian*, Houston Baptist University's student newspaper, was a finalist in the Associated Collegiate Press' 2005 Newspaper Pacemaker competition. Finalists were selected based on excellence in coverage and content; quality of writing and reporting; leadership on the opinion page; evidence of in-depth reporting; layout/design; and photography, art and graphics. Alice Rowlands, associate professor in mass media, is the publication's adviser.



First Church in Denton ran its annual Judgement House for 11 nights. A total of 3,245 people attended. More than 600 people made spiritual decisions during the performances, including 234 professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Pictured are members of the cast portraying Jesus and angels. Jeff Williams is pastor.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

Carson-Newman College names Elliott distinguished alum. Ralph

Elliott, the Old Testament scholar whose book, *The Message of Genesis*, sparked heated controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention, will be honored by Carson-Newman College in April as a distinguished alumnus. His 1961 book, published by the Broadman Press imprint of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, viewed the first 11 chapters of Genesis as symbolic rather than historic. Elliott lost his seminary post when he refused trustee demands that he not republish the work.

Henry plans to hand off Orlando pastorate. Jim Henry—a two-term Southern Baptist Convention president—will step down as co-pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando March 31. Henry, 67, who has been pastor of the Orlando congregation since 1977, announced his plans in a letter sent to church members. In May, the church called David Uth as co-pastor, grooming him to follow Henry.

LifeWay COO announces retirement. Ted Warren, executive vice president and chief operating officer of LifeWay Christian Resources, will retire Feb. 1 after 12 years with the Southern Baptist publishing house. Warren, 58, joined LifeWay in 1994 as chief financial officer and vice president for the business services group, becoming executive vice president and COO in 1995. Before going to LifeWay, he worked 22 years in the oil and gas industry, serving in the early 1990s as president of Grace Drilling Co. and, prior to that, as executive vice president of Texas Oil & Gas Production Company.

Russia trip marks 10 years of Buckner's international ministry

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Robin Jones
(left, holding
child),
national
promotions
and
marketing
director for
Moody
Broadcasting
Network,
and Buckner
volunteer
Jana
Houston of
Tennessee
place shoes
on the feet
of a visually
impaired
child at a
Russian
orphanage.
(Photo by
Felicia
Fuller)

Russia trip marks 10 years

of Buckner's international ministry

By Felicia Fuller

Buckner Benevolences

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia-As the noonday sun beamed across the music room at a Russian orphanage, a silver-haired woman took her seat before an arc of chattering children. Unmoved by the commotion, she smiled knowingly, folded her hands in her lap and waited. At her side, translator Vladimir hushed the youngsters with a wave of his finger.

Bush calls for religious freedom in China

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Bush calls for religious freedom in China

By Jason Kane

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-Human rights activists praised President Bush's call for religious freedom during his recent visit to China, but they called the

Communist government's apparent unwillingness to make concessions discouraging.

Cartoon

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**Ezekiel
had a
teenaged
son.**

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.

Faithful called to shore up wall of separation

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Faithful called to shore up wall of separation

By Marv Knox

Editor

Although some Americans want to knock down the “wall of separation” between church and state, people of faith who understand their heritage must resist those efforts, U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards told participants at the T.B. Maston Christian Ethics Awards banquet.