

Ministry students gain extra tuition assistance_41805

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Ministry students gain extra tuition assistance

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

SAN ANTONIO—Ministry students at Baptist General Convention of Texas universities and seminaries will get more tuition help next year, thanks to action by the BGCT Christian Education Coordinating Board.

Armageddon now?_41805

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Armageddon now?

By Cecile Holmes

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-Tim LaHaye believes it is yet to come. Hank Hanegraaff thinks some of it may have already happened during Christianity's first century.

Around the State_41805

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Ruth Bryson, a member of the Wise Old Women (WoW) widows group at The Heights Church in Richardson, helps some of children involved in the church's Wednesday night "Boot Camp" program tie knots to make a blanket for Bulgarian orphans. A group from the church traveled to Bulgaria this month to deliver the blankets to the orphanages and participate in other missions activities. The group will also fit the children with shoes and socks.

Around the State

- ◆ The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor performance studies and computer graphics design faculty have produced two original short films with UMHB students and Austin independent film professionals. The films, *Once Upon a Fairytail* and *Map Thieves*, will premiere at 2 p.m. April 23 at the Cove Theatre in Copperas Cove.

- ◆ The **John Powell Clayton** Collection of religious studies and philosophy books will be dedicated at Hardin-Simmons University April 30 at 2 p.m. Clayton willed nearly 3,000 publications to his alma mater, and the material is a centerpiece of the new Duffy Theological Center in the Richardson Library.

- ◆ Baylor University alumnus **Steven Stucky** has won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for music. Stucky, who is a professor of music at Cornell University, is believed to be the first Baylor alumnus awarded a Pulitzer. He won the prize for his *Second Concerto for Orchestra*, which was premiered by the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

- ◆ **Becky Casey** has joined the Hardin-Simmons University Academic Advising Center as coordinator for students with disabilities and assistant director of career services.

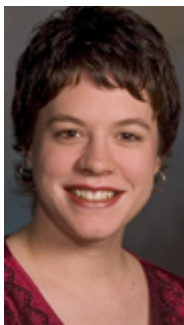
- ◆ Howard Payne University has begun construction on an eight-unit apartment complex that will accommodate 32 residents. Each unit will be equipped with a full kitchen, washer and dryer. The complex is scheduled to be ready for occupancy in August.

- ◆ The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor yearbook staff has been recognized with an award of excellence for design and content of the *Bluebonnet*.

♦ **Patricia** and **Jerrell Isbell** will be recognized for their work as volunteers at Baptist Memorials Center and Sagecrest Alzheimer's Care Center in San Angelo. The Texas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging will honor them May 23 in Austin at the association's annual meeting.

♦ The Tarrant County Bivo-cational/Smaller Church Ministers and Wives Association has elected **Willard Cook** of Park Temple Church in Fort Worth as president. Vice presidents are **Kevin Weathers** of Grace Bible Fellowship, **Charles Levine** of Terrace Acres Church and **Tom Fatka** of Samuels Avenue Church.

Appointments

			
Jeff and Lori Loomis		Randy and Angela Stoda	

♦ Two couples with Texas ties were appointed by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. **Jeff** and **Lori Loomis** will plant churches in the Pacific Rim. Both are graduates of Houston Baptist University, where he also worked as an admissions counselor. He also was youth minister at Hull Church in Hull and Bellaire Central Church in Bellaire. He was minister of students and family at First Church in Liberty. She was an administrative assistant at Bayshore Church in La Porte. The Loomises have served in the Pacific Rim since 2002 as International Service Corps volunteers. They have one son, **Cade**, born in January. **Randy** and **Angela Stoda** will start churches in central and eastern Europe. Both worked with Mission Arlington in Arlington, he as a

pastor and transportation coordinator and she as Spanish coordinator.

Anniversaries

- ♦ **Jeff Waldo**, 15th, as associate pastor for discipleship and family ministries at University Church in Houston, March 1.
- ♦ **Roy Martin**, 10th, as minister of music/youth at Broadview Church in Lubbock, March 5.
- ♦ **Cecil Harper**, 15th, as pastor of First Church in Breckenridge, April 1.
- ♦ **L.V. Harvey**, 20th, as pastor of Ebenezer Church in Bay City, April 4.
- ♦ **Gary Wood**, 20th, as pastor of music of North Side Church in Weatherford, April 10.
- ♦ **Steve Wilson**, fifth, as minister of youth and activities at First Church in Center, April 15.



Cranes Mill Church on Canyon Lake recently celebrated the completed payment of a \$180,000 Baptist Church Loan Corporation loan for remodeling and construction of an addition to the church facility. The church repaid the loan in less than half the 15-year term. Participants in the ceremony included Les Hughes, chairman of the "Possible with God" committee that led the early repayment, and Charlene Perdue, widow of the church's former pastor. Jerry Becknal is pastor.

- ♦ **Luis Estrada**, fifth, as pastor of Iglesia Estrella de Belen in Corpus Christi, April 16.
- ♦ **Larry Grayson**, 10th, as associate pastor/music and worship at First Church in Lewisville, April 16.
- ♦ Central Church in Pam-pa, 75th, April 16-17. **C.W. Parker Jr.** is pastor.
- ♦ First Church in Clifton, 125th, April 17. **Jerry Smith** is pastor.
- ♦ First Church in Kopperl, 130th, May 1. Former pastors and staff will

be present. Lunch will follow the morning service. For more information, call (254) 889-3579.

Events

♦ Forestburg Church in Forestburg will hold a seminar titled "Understanding Islam" April 22 at 7 p.m. The free two-hour seminar will cover topics such as the importance of understanding Islam, Islam's work in the United States, differences and similarities between Islam and Christianity and how to reach Muslims for Christ. The seminar will be led by **Samuel Shahid**, president and executive director of Good News for the Crescent World in Arlington and professor of missions at Southwestern Theological Seminary. For more information, call (940) 964-2470. **Stewart Holloway** is pastor.

♦ First Church in Devers will hold a gumbo cookoff and gospel singing event April 23. The gumbo judging will be conducted at 5 p.m., with the meal to begin at 5:30. The concert will begin at 6:30. Musicians to perform are the **New Psalms Quartet, Won Way, That Other Trio** and **Sam Craig**. For more information, call (936) 549-7653. **Harry McDaniel** is pastor.

♦ First Church in Paris will dedicate a state historical marker April 24 at 4:30 p.m. The ceremony also will include the placement of a time capsule behind the church cornerstone. **Randall Perry** is pastor.

Deaths

♦ **Charles Thrasher**, 74, March 9 in Carrollton. Ordained to the ministry at Melwood Church in Brownwood in 1956, he was pastor of Pleasant Valley Church in Jonesboro, Emmanuel Church in Comanche, Calvary Church in Hamilton, Calvary Church in Seagoville, Kessler Park Church in Dallas, Hillcrest Park Church in Arlington, First Church in

Borger, First Church in Levelland and First Church in O'Donnell, where he retired in 1995. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Martha Joe; daughters, Judy Thrasher and Ruth Sifford; son, Charles; sister Lela Troy; and four granddaughters.

♦ **Reginald Bridges**, 79, March 28 in Lubbock. Bridges was the first chaplain at the Lubbock State School and served there 22 years. He also was a pastor 20 years and was associate director of Lubbock Association. He was a consultant for the Mission Service Corps for West Texas. At the time of his death, he was pastor of Parkway Drive Church in Lubbock. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Verlyne; son, Lowell; daughters, Renee Fikes, Christy Taylor and Cheryl Shaw; brother, Doye; sister, Neldene Matusevich; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

♦ **Ned King**, 85, April 1 in Dallas. An insurance executive, King was a deacon at First church in Dallas for many years and taught the King's Men Sunday school class for more than 50 years. He also served on the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, the *Baptist Standard* board of directors and the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Edith; son, David; and sister, Carmen Cook.

Ordained

- ♦ **Taylor Sandlin** to the ministry at First Church in Marlin.
- ♦ **Chris Wigley** to the ministry at First Church in Littlefield.
- ♦ **Steven Gaither** to the ministry at First Church in George West.
- ♦ **Troy Carter** to the ministry at Rockett Church in Red Oak.
- ♦ **Jason Diggs** to the ministry at Elmwood Church in Abilene.

- ♦ **Matt Parker** to the ministry at Sagemont Church in Houston.
- ♦ **Jerry McPeck** as a deacon at Meadowbrook Church in Rockdale.
- ♦ **Randall Aaron, Roger Bradshaw, Mike Coursey** and **Wade Stanford** as deacons at First Church in Millsap.
- ♦ **Kirby Warnock, George Karlen, Patricia Fournoy, Pat Harding, Linda Wilkerson, Rob Collins, Linda Bell, Ervin Gunter, Jim Barber, Charles Anderson, Dan Roseveare** and **Kathy Anderson** as deacons at Cliff Temple Church in Dallas.

Revivals

- ♦ Correction: **Lamar Church, Wichita Falls**; April 10-13; evangelist, Don Cass; pastor, Terry Bowman.
- ♦ **Union Grove Church, Gladewater**; April 24-27; evangelists, the Calvary Singers; pastor, Ken Moore.
- ♦ **First Church, Taft**; April 24-27; evangelist, Buckner Fanning; music, Tommy Lyons; pastor, David Vernon.
- ♦ **Calvary Church, Cuero**; April 24-27; evangelist, Jon Gillis; music, Marcos and Sue Gohlke; pastor, Bill Gleason.
- ♦ **First Church, Poolville**; April 28-May 1; evangelist, Mike Martin; pastor, Chris-topher Keefer.

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.

‘Blue Like Jazz’ author emphasizes relationship, not packaged programs_41805

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'Blue Like Jazz' author emphasizes relationships, not packaged programs

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

If Christians are going to reach nonbelievers with the gospel, they are going to have to get involved in non-Christians' "messy lives," author Donald Miller insists. And believers are going to have to let nonbelievers in their lives, which may not be so tidy either.

Book Reviews_41805

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Book Reviews

The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church by Reggie McNeal (Jossey-Bass)

This former Texas pastor and now director of leadership development for the South Carolina Baptist Convention writes straightforwardly and with great insight about changes the church is facing in these days.

Rarely do you find in one volume such interesting and sometimes-scary assessments about the way our culture is changing and the church's response or lack of it.

Baptist Briefs_41805

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CBF receives \$5 million gift. Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions received a \$5 million gift from a donor who chose to remain anonymous. The majority of the funds will go to field personnel salaries, benefits, equipment and training, with additional designated funds for expanding HIV/AIDS initiatives and Partners in Hope, the CBF rural poverty initiative. The remaining \$300,000 will go to the Asian response fund for tsunami relief.

Wellness Walk/Run set for SBC. GuideStone Financial Resources—formerly the Southern Baptist Annuity Board—will sponsor the third annual Living at Your Best Wellness Walk/Run June 21 during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn. Warm-up will begin at 6:15 a.m. for the one-mile and 5K courses for both runners and walkers. Start times will begin at 6:30 a.m. and will be staggered for runners and walkers. Interested individuals can register online at www.GuideStone.org or by calling (800) 262-0511.

Judge in Schiavo case leaves his church. George Greer, the Florida judge who ordered Terri Schiavo's feeding tube removed, resigned his membership from Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Fla., after receiving a letter from the church's pastor, Willy Rice. According to the St. Petersburg Times, Rice wrote that, although he was "not asking (Greer) to do this," that resigning his membership nonetheless "would seem the logical and, I would say, biblical course" given Greer's inactive status in the congregation and his publicly stated disagreements with church decisions. The pastor's letter to Greer came after a profile of the judge appeared in the paper. In it, Greer noted that, although he had been very active in the congregation in the past, tensions over the Schiavo issue and others had caused him to stop attending services and contributing financially to the church in the fall of 2003.

Waco pastor leads church to

embrace ethnic diversity_41805

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Members
of
Brookview
Baptist
Church in
Waco join
hands in
worship
and
ministry,
without
regard to
race.
(Photo by
George
Henson)

Waco pastor leads church to embrace ethnic diversity

By George Henson

Staff Writer

WACO-Brookview Baptist Church in Waco is finding the key to its growth lies in reaching out to everyone in the community, regardless of race.

Homes needed for Angels from Abroad_41805

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Homes needed for Angels from Abroad

"Angels" are looking to land in two Texas homes, according to Buckner International Adoption.

The adoption service is looking for Christian families to host two remaining sibling sets from Russia for its second installment of Angels from Abroad.

Introduced last year, the program allows adoption-minded couples and singles to host orphaned children ages 7 to 14 during their two-week vacation in Dallas June 4-20.

TOP: Dima, 11, and sister Kristina, 10; BELOW: Kostya, 12, and sister Elonara, 8, are Angels from Abroad who need host families.



Buckner needs adoptive parents for brothers_41805

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Buckner needs adoptive parents for brothers

Two young brothers now in foster care need adoptive families, according to workers with Buckner Children and Family Services of Northeast Texas.

“Brandon and Justin have been in care for a long while,” reported Callie Reneau, Buckner foster care supervisor. “They each need an adoptive family soon.”

Brandon, 9, is energetic and, according to his foster mom, loves books.

	
Brandon	Justin

Cartoon_41805

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Altar call waiting

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.

2nd Opinion: Texas Baptists

urged to pray May 5_41805

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2nd Opinion:

Texas Baptists urged to pray May 5

By Albert Reyes

I recently had the privilege of speaking to the fifth annual Ethnic Worker's Summit, hosted by the Ethnic America Network in Irving. This network is comprised of ministers from more than 60 denominations across the United States. I was asked to speak on the subject of collaboration.

I started my presentation by reviewing three major reasons collaboration is needed at this time in our history. First, our context requires it. Given the multiple shifts taking place in our society, no one individual or organization is capable of seizing all the opportunities for the gospel in their context. Second, our constituencies expect it. The people we work with in our churches are business professionals, health-care professionals, educators, engineers and laborers who already practice collaboration in the workplace. Collaboration is not a new topic or practice for them. Third, our collective worldview predisposes us toward collaboration. Non-Western cultures tend to value cooperation more than competition.

DOWN HOME: Apartness is a part of raising child_41805

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DOWN HOME: Apartness is a part of raising children

One of the most difficult, yet fascinating, aspects of parenthood is dealing with the apartness of it all.

That's probably why I loved our daughters' infancy and preschool years so much.

Yes, parenting babies and young children is tedious and time-consuming. It's a 24/7 job. Most of it is manual labor.