

Amazon people groups remain unreachable

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Amazon people groups remain unreachable

By Shawn Hendricks

International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) —Weary travelers stand alongside a river somewhere in South America's Amazon Basin.

After three hours of trying to maneuver upstream by motorboat to a remote village, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries grudgingly accept the realization that the day's journey has ended.

A metal boat
carrying
Southern
Baptist
missionaries
cruises up
river to a
remote
village in
the Amazon
Basin.
(Photo/IMB)

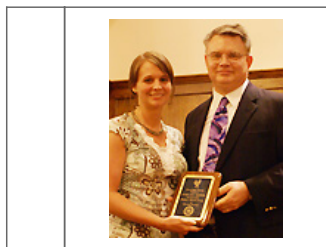
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Around the State

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Roark Scholars

presented overviews of academic papers as part of the Christian Doctrines Colloquy at Howard Payne University. Pictured are Kirk House of Gurden, Ark.; Rebekah Mullins of Wylie; Marisha Tyler of Farmington, N.M.; Jay Smith, assistant professor of Christian studies at Howard Payne; Wallace Roark, who taught Christian doctrine 23 years at Howard Payne; James Leo Garrett, emeritus distinguished professor of theology at Southwestern Seminary; Miranda Cole of Borger; Jami Lee Oliver of Buffalo; and Megan Donnelly of Saginaw. In photo at right, Oliver receives the Wallace Roark Prize in Christian doctrines for her paper on "The Doctrine of Salvation in the Works of Flannery O'Connor." Jay Smith, assistant professor of Christian studies at Howard Payne, presents the award. (Photos by Kalie Lowrie/Howard Payne University)

Around the State

- **Three people with Texas ties** were among the 92 missionaries appointed by the International Mission Board in an April 9 ceremony at First Church in Sunnyvale.

Appointees with Texas ties included David and Kimi Sams who will work in university ministry in South America. They previously served as missionaries in Puerto Rico. At the time of his appointment, Sams was administrative pastor at First Church in El Paso. They have two children—Jessika, 13, and Joshua, 6. Karla Turner will serve as a church planter in South America. A native of Freeport, she is a member of First Church in Houston.

- **East Texas Baptist University** will hold its annual writers' conference June 6-7. Twenty-six topics will be covered during the conference. The cost of attending the Saturday conference is \$70, with a \$20 discount for high school and college students. Attendance at the preconference sessions on Friday costs an additional \$25. Friday's events begin at 3:30 p.m. and Saturday begins at 8:30 a.m. The registration deadline is May 30. A writing contest also will be held, with cash prizes to be awarded for short stories and personal essays. Deadline for entries is May 16. For more information, call (903) 923-2083.

- **Sarah Moye and Betty Henry** will become the first two women to receive leadership certificates in women's ministry from the seminary extension department housed at Sabine Neches Baptist Area in a graduation ceremony May 6.
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Visionâ€”not just geographyâ€”unite associations of churches

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Vision-not just geography -unite associations of churches

By George Henson

Staff Writer

FORT WORTH—Want to know what an association looks like? Don't use a still camera, because the image and functions are constantly changing as associations try to be what the churches they serve need them to be, said Tarrant Baptist Association Director of Missions Tom Law. And to fit all the churches into the same window will take a wide-angle lens—a very wide-angle lens.

“I think the association we have been familiar with is going to change drastically over the next few years,” Law said. But change is nothing new for associations, he explained.

Autistic children enjoy art event hosted by UMHB

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Vivica Villa, age 7 of Kempner, works on a painting at the Autism in Action art day held at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. (Photos by Sarah-Jane Sanders/UMHB)

Autistic children enjoy art event hosted by UMHB

By Laura Frase

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

ELTON—For several hours on a recent Saturday, a University of Mary Hardin-Baylor gymnasium was transformed into an artists' paradise.

From pencils and paint to canvas and cardboard puzzle pieces, children

with autism expressed themselves through original artwork during an Autism in Action event, sponsored by the Student Government Association of Texas State Technical College in Waco.



University of Mary Hardin-Baylor student Annietra Oliver assists TJ Neyland, age 4 of Copperas Cove, with his painting at the Autism in Action art day held on the UMHB campus.

Books: The Problem with Evangelical Theology

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Books: The Problem with Evangelical Theology

The Problem with Evangelical Theology by Ben Witherington III
(Baylor University Press)

Ben Witherington, professor of New Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary, contends that evangelicals are, in general, biblically illiterate and tend to embrace theology that would be unknown to the early church fathers prior to St. Augustine. Instead, they often cling to their respective denominational doctrines without thoroughly examining the scriptural texts, often unwilling to do the hard work of learning the original languages and deeply studying the contexts of the writings.

Witherington illustrates by critiquing the interpretive foundations of Calvinism, Dispensationalism and Wesleyanism (his own background). This Bible study commentary makes up the main body of the book and definitely should be read with one's own open copy of the Scriptures in hand.



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

Even though Christians approach God's word with their own experiences and points of view, "when one speaks about interpreting the biblical text according to a certain tradition, one has already made certain assumptions

about what should have priority in interpretation—namely, the tradition rather than the Scripture itself,” Witherington insists.

Baptist Briefs: ABP honors BGCT

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Baptist Briefs: ABP honors BGCT

Directors of [Associated Baptist Press](#) honored the Baptist General Convention of Texas and announced a \$100,000 matching-funds challenge from a Texas Baptist family during a meeting in San Antonio. The BGCT has long been one of the major financial supporters of the independent Baptist news service. Executive Editor Greg Warner announced a \$100,000 matching-funds challenge from the Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation. The foundation has promised to match all individual donations to the news service, up to \$100,000, until the end of 2008. John and Eula Mae Baugh’s granddaughter, Jackie Moore of San Antonio, serves as an ABP director and on the Baugh Foundation board.

Scholarship application deadline soon. The [Baptist History & Heritage Society](#) is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a university or seminary student

doing research in Baptist studies. Any student interested in applying for the scholarship must submit an application packet postmarked by May 1. It should include the student's name, address, phone number and e-mail address; the name of the school, course and professor in which the student is engaged in research in Baptist historical studies; and a 250-word description of the research project. The student also must commit to prepare and submit to the Baptist History & Heritage Society, within one year of completing the research, a 3,500-word article for consideration for publication in the society's journal, Baptist History and Heritage, and/or for placement on the society's website. The student's application also must include an endorsement letter from the student's professor supporting both the student and the research project being conducted by the student.

Baby Boomer Baptist theologians tilt toward Calvinism

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Baby Boomer Baptist theologians tilt toward Calvinism

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

BROWNWOOD—Among Baptist Baby Boomer theologians, at least half of the major authors are committed to Calvinism, an influential Baptist theologian of an earlier generation has noted.

James Leo Garrett Jr., emeritus distinguished professor of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, examined 10 Baptist theologians of the Baby Boomer generation during a plenary address at Howard Payne University's Christian doctrines colloquy in Brownwood.

Jonathan Edwards

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Floral theology delineates doctrines held by Calvinists

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Floral theology delineates doctrines held by Calvinists

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Theologians past and present have used a bouquet of initials and analogies to describe Calvinist doctrine.

Historically, the Reformed Synod of Dort in the Netherlands delineated the differences between Calvinism and the teachings of James Jacobus Arminius. For the sake of simplicity—and playing on an association with the best-known Dutch flower—those teachings have been summarized through the TULIP acrostic.

Calvinism: Tiptoe through the TULIP

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Calvinism: Tiptoe through the TULIP

By Keb Camp

Managing Editor

Can Calvinist and non-Calvinist Baptists work together?

It depends, some advocates of Reformed theology say, on whether Christians on both sides are willing to tiptoe through the TULIP-the acrostic for five doctrinal points that set apart Calvinists.

Cartoon

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Spirituality plays significant part in children's happiness

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Spirituality plays significant part in children's happiness

By Ron Csillag

Religion News Service

TORONTO (RNS)—Spirituality contributes significantly to a child's overall happiness—even more so than for adults, according to a new study from the University of British Columbia.

The study tested 315 children ages 9 to 12, measuring spirituality and other factors such as temperament and social relations that can affect an individual's sense of happiness.

Erin Oquindo sorts donations at a Nashville-area drop point for Shoes for Orphan Souls, a ministry of Buckner International, for which the Vacation Bible School at her church in Franklin, Tenn., raised 261 pairs of shoes and 605 pairs of socks.

When Erin turned 10 and invited friends to her birthday party, she told them she didn't want gifts for herself, but asked them to bring shoes and socks to donate to Shoes for Orphan Souls. A recent study shows spirituality in children such as Erin contributes to their overall happiness. (BP photo/Robin Oquindo)

2nd Opinion: Facing fears & global warming

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2nd Opinion: Facing fears & global warming

With all of the pending disasters blamed on global warming blasting their way through the media, I can understand why many might fear the future climate. We are told emissions of greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide (CO₂), are destroying not only polar bears and petunias, but the planet as a whole. If we don't "stop global warming," The End will surely come.

I am a climate scientist. My research and that of many others does not lead me to be afraid for the climate's future. However, I am fearful for other reasons:

• **I fear for my science.** The truth is, our climate system is so complex that we cannot predict its state even into next month. Nonetheless, I see high-profile individuals (usually untrained in science) making claims with unwavering confidence about the climate's trajectory and a looming catastrophe.

I do not see the humility this science demands. In fact, I suspect an

anthropologist, isolated from the media, would observe this global-warming fervor as a religion complete with anointed authority figures, sacred documents, creeds, sins requiring absolution, castigation of heretics and even an apocalypse.