

# Ethics essential to a free society, lecturer insists\_40405

April 1, 2005

Posted: 4/01/05

Murphy Smith  
with Rusty  
Brooks,  
professor of  
marketing and  
holder of the  
Prince-Chavanne  
Professorship at  
HBU. (Photo by  
Martha Morrow)

## Ethics essential to a free society, lecturer insists

**By Marv Knox**

*Editor*

HOUSTON-Society will fail without ethics, an accounting professor told business students at Houston Baptist University.

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# **Bipartisan gambling opposition voiced\_40405**

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## **Bipartisan gambling opposition voiced**

**By Ferrell Foster**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

AUSTIN-Leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties spoke in unison against the expansion of gambling in Texas during a rally on the steps of the capitol.

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## **Texas Baptist Forum\_40405**

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## **Texas Baptist Forum**

### **Intentional blessing**

How wonderful it is to see God at work in his churches. The Intentional

Interim Ministry has been a great blessing to each of the churches where I have been privileged to serve. I just fall on my knees and say, "Thank you, Jesus, for all you have done."

- [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

Letters are welcomed. Send them to [marvknox@baptiststandard.com](mailto:marvknox@baptiststandard.com); 250 words maximum.



*"If you must curse, use your own name!"*

**Billboard attributed to God**

*One of nine new messages in the God Speaks campaign of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America.  
(RNS)*

*"Death is not sin's penalty, but its consequence. It is the inevitable, natural result of our rebellion against God. It is what sin produces. Sin separates us from God, and this separation leads to spiritual, physical and eternal death. As surely as a plant dies when separated from light, our souls die when separated from the Lord."*

**Jim Denison**

*Pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas ("The Word Today" daily e-mail devotional)*

*"We are a nation that is unenlightened because of religion. I do believe that. I think that religion stops people from thinking. I think it justifies crazies. ... I think religion is a neurological disorder."*

**Bill Maher**

*Comedian and talk-show host (MSNBC/The Washington Post/RNS)*

*"Then I better see a doctor."*

**Kathie Lee Gifford**

*Talk-show host, responding to Maher (Fox/The Washington Post/RNS)*

My latest assignment has been at First Baptist Church in Waxahachie. After about a year of self-study and working through the tasks of the intentional interim process, this church is poised for a phenomenal future. Indicators of FBC's vitality are seen in initiatives since the start of this year:

- ♦ A pastor-search committee has been commissioned with a clear understanding of what to look for in the next pastor; see [cpis.org](http://cpis.org) for further information.

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## **Pop culture opens doors to religious discussions on campus\_40405**

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Frodo  
(Elijah  
Wood), left,  
and Sam  
(Sean Astin)  
approach  
Mount  
Doom in  
"The Lord of  
the Rings:  
The Return  
of the King",  
part of the  
film trilogy  
inspired by  
the writings  
of J.R.R.  
Tolkien and  
a learning  
tool in a  
philosophy  
class at New  
York's  
Fordham  
University.  
(Photo by  
Pierre  
Vinet/New  
Line  
Productions)

# Pop culture opens doors to religious discussions on campus

**By Michele Melendez**

*Religion News Service*

NEW YORK (RNS)—Elves, sorcerers and hip-hop poets are steering college students to God and the meaning of life.

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## Nigerian hospital benefits from Texas Baptist volunteers\_40405

April 1, 2005

Posted: 4/01/05

## Nigerian hospital benefits from Texas Baptist volunteers

**By Ferrell Foster**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

DALLAS—Baptist Medical Centre in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, now has the clean water a hospital needs, thanks to volunteers mobilized by the Partnership for the Environment, an independent nonprofit organization related to the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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# On the Move\_40405

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## On the Move

**David Daniel** has resigned as music minister at Calvary Church in Abilene.

♦ **Jason Gish** to Canyon Creek Church in Temple as minister of education.

♦ **Truman Johnson** to First Church in Baird as pastor.

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# New opera tells tale of a West Texas Baptist preacher\_40405

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## New opera tells tale of a



# West Texas Baptist preacher

**By Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

ABILENE (ABP)—Opera and West Texas may seem like an odd combination. But to the creators of Larkspur, a new opera about a pastor's struggles during the Great Depression, it's a natural.

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## Purpose-driven author contacts former hostage\_40405

April 1, 2005

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## Purpose-driven author contacts former hostage

**By Adelle Banks**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Best-selling author Rick Warren says he's keeping in touch with the Atlanta-area woman who recently used his *The Purpose Driven Life* book to help free herself when she was held hostage.

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# **Program offers help for small-church pastors\_40405**

April 1, 2005

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## **Program offers help for small- church pastors**

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

WACO-Bivocational pastors have a new tool to use in their ongoing preparation for ministry. Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary offers a nine-course program for bivocational and small-church pastors that culminates in a certificate of ministry.

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## **Spring break means missions to many Texas Baptist**

# students\_40405

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Dallas Baptist  
University  
students work  
on a Habitat for  
Humanity  
building.  
(Photos courtesy  
of Hardin-  
Simmons  
University,  
Dallas Baptist  
University and  
Houston Baptist  
University)

## Spring break means missions to many Texas Baptist students

**By Ferrell Foster**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

Hundreds of Texas Baptist college students used their spring breaks for missions efforts again this year. Some went to distant countries; others just went down the street.

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# Texas Tidbits\_40405

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## Texas Tidbits

**Reform group honors CLC director.** Campaigns for People will honor Phil Strickland, director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Christian Life Commission, along with Mickey Jo Lawrence, former member of the Texas Ethics Commission, at a "Clean Up Texas Politics" dinner at 6 p.m. April 12 in Austin. The event will be at Hill's Café, 4700 South Congress. Tickets are \$30 per individual and \$15 per student. For more information, contact Amy Prichard Tutt at (512) 472-1007.

**TBM volunteer presumed dead after refinery fire.** A veteran Texas Baptist Men volunteer was missing and presumed dead following an explosion at a Texas City oil refinery, where he worked. Dan Hogan was unaccounted for after the March 23 blast. Hogan had been involved in nearly every aspect of Texas Baptist Men service for three decades, including disaster relief, church renewal and Royal Ambassadors.

**ETBU group visits Poland.** Faculty and staff representatives from East Texas Baptist University are slated to travel to Czystohowa, Poland, this week to visit the campus of Jan Dlugosz University. "Our hope is to establish a partnership/exchange program for faculty and students similar to the one we have with the Lanzhou University of Technology in Lanzhou,

China," said ETBU Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Sorrels.

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# **TOGETHER: Pray for the ministers in your church\_40405**

April 1, 2005

Posted: 4/01/05

## **TOGETHER: Pray for the ministers in your church**

Almost 3,000 Hispanic young people erupted in applause and celebration at Congreso when I shared the news that the Baptist General Convention of Texas has added 1,024 new congregations during the past five years. Those congregations represent the ethnic and racial diversity that is today's Texas—83 ethnic congregations, 223 African-American, 296 Anglo and 422 Hispanic.

Then I asked: "Who will be the youth ministers, the worship leaders, the future pastors of these and other new churches? They will come from the people in this room." Again they cheered.

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Executive Director  
BGCT Executive  
Board

I rejoice at what God is doing in and through our Hispanic youth. These young people want to be leaders in their churches, in their homes and in their society. They want to be great fathers and mothers, giving themselves to raising their children. And some of them will be pastors and ministers in churches for years to come.