

Steven Curtis Chapman and family view adoption as the 'visible gospel'_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05



Singer
Steven
Curtis
Chapman
kisses one
of his
adopted
daughters.
Chapman
and his
wife, Mary
Beth, have
adopted
three girls
from
China in
recent
years,
doubling
the
number of
children
in the
family.

Steven Curtis Chapman and family view adoption as the 'visible gospel'

By Shannon Baker

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Award-winning Christian songwriter and recording artist Steven Curtis Chapman remembers his “aha moment,” when the gospel of Jesus Christ became amazingly clear to him.

Christian Life Commission will retain familiar name_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05

Christian Life Commission will retain familiar name

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—The Christian Life Commission gets to keep the name it has carried for nearly 55 years, the committee drafting new bylaws for the Baptist General Convention of Texas has decided.

Former Texas pastor finds Hong Kong a fertile field for evangelism_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05

Former Texas pastor finds Hong Kong a fertile field for evangelism

By Orville Scott

Special to the Baptist Standard

Harry Lucenay, former pastor of First Baptist churches of Longview and San Antonio, said he witnessed and preached to more non-Christians in his first year as pastor of Kowloon International Baptist Church of Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong, than during 30 years as a pastor in the United States.

Did God send tsunamis to

punish persecutors of Christians?_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05

Did God send tsunamis to punish persecutors of Christians?

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS-*Experiencing God* author Henry Blackaby believes the tsunamis that hit South Asia were God's punishment of an area where Christians have experienced particularly intense persecution. But some missions experts with links to the region question both his theology and his assertions about persecution.

Cybercolumn by Brett Younger: My season on the brink_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/02/05

Younger
with his
Youth
League
ball
players.

CYBERCOLUMN: My season on the brink

By Brett Younger

“We don’t have a coach for your son Caleb’s team. I don’t know what we’re going to do. I guess children better get used to being rejected, but this isn’t that hard. The coach only has to be at one practice and one game a week. You’d think someone would think these kids are worth two hours. It makes me want to cry.”

The 19th century Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard suggested that there are moments that call for a “leap of faith,” but this may have been more of a “look before you make a leap of stupidity” moment.

Around the State_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05

First Church in
Mixon held a
ground-breaking
ceremony for a
6,000-square-foot
worship center.

Participating
were Pastor Joe
Ballard, Music
Minister Mark
Beck, Youth
Minister Joseph
Orozco, Planning
and Building
Committee
Chairman
Preston Lindsey,
committee
secretary Marli
Pike, Sue
Lindsey, Bill
Lacy, W.A. Pike
and architect
Natham Mims.

Around the State

✘ Two Texas Acteens have been named to the 2005 National Acteens Panel. **Abby Baldrige** is a member of Rocky Point Church in Stephenville, and **Martha Sicking** is a member of First Church in Bay City. In addition, several Texans also have been selected by the Woman's

Missionary Union as Top Teens of 2005. Included were **Shannon Burdett** of First Church in Midland, **Ashley Nash** of Freeman Heights Church in Garland, **Elizabeth Santamaria** of Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza in Houston and **Kimberly Zimmer** of First Church in Kingwood.

☒ Houston Baptist University will host an open house for prospective students and their families Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Mabee Theater. For more information, call (281) 649-3211.

☒ A single adult retreat sponsored by San Jacinto Baptist Association will be held Feb. 25-26 at Lake Tomahawk Baptist Encampment in Livingston. Open to singles of all ages, the cost is \$35. **Donna Schmoyer** of First Church in Houston will be the retreat leader. Send registration to the association at P.O. Box 1533, Baytown 77522-1533. For more information, call (281) 422-3604.

BGCT clears hurdle toward BWA membership_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05

BGCT clears hurdle toward BWA membership

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

The North American Baptist Fellowship—one of six regional bodies in the Baptist World Alliance—voted in January to accept the Baptist General Convention of Texas as a member.

Book Reviews_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05

Book Reviews

Who Can You Trust? Overcoming Betrayal and Fear

by Howard E. Butt Jr. (WaterBrook Press)

Whether we're talking husbands and wives, clergy and congregations, or co-workers and bosses, trust issues challenge every human relationship. For a culture that seems to live so easily at the extremes of cynicism and gullibility, Howard Butt provides a careful and much-needed reflection on the “narrow way” of trust and even timely mistrust.

Baptist Briefs_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05

Baptist Briefs

Baptist Heritage sermon contest announced. Feb. 15 is the deadline for submitting Baptist heritage sermon manuscripts for a competition sponsored by the Baptist History & Heritage Society and the H. Franklin Paschall Chair of biblical studies and preaching at Belmont University. Awards include \$400 for first prize, \$300 for second prize and \$200 for third prize. For contest guidelines, visit www.baptisthistory.org or e-mail Pam Durso at pdurso@tnbaptist.org.

CBF chaplain tapped for national committee. George Pickle, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's associate coordinator for chaplaincy and pastoral counseling, recently was elected a member-at-large on the executive committee of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces. The national conference is the leading organization for military chaplain endorsers and is the organization that relates directly to each chief of chaplains and their staffs of all branches of the armed forces.

Christian educators focus on engaging culture. "Equipping the Church to Engage the Culture" is the theme of the Baptist Association of Christian Educators' 50th anniversary celebration Feb. 24-26 at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga. George Gallup Jr., chairman of the George H. Gallup International Institute in Princeton, N.J.; Michael Lindsay, speaker and consultant on the role of religion in public life; and

Sue Mallory, author of "The Equipping Church," will be featured speakers.
For more information, visit www.baptisteducators.org.

BUA volunteers share gospel in four Latin American countries_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05



BUA students and members of a local churches in Guayaquil, Ecuador, spent the pre-dawn hours on Christmas morning giving hot chocolate and sandwiches to homeless people, including a man living in a cardboard box. A group of boys in Ecuador listen to the gospel, presented by students from Baptist University of the Americas.

(Photo courtesy of Baptist University of the Americas)

BUA volunteers share gospel in four Latin American countries

By Craig Bird

Baptist University of the Americas

SAN ANTONIO-Students at Baptist University of the Americas take the "Americas" part of their school's name seriously.

Cartoon_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05

We're reaching heavenward to change a lightbulb, so we built this Tower of Bible."

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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.

Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Tears tell tale of love_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05

CYBERCOLUMN: Tears tell tale of love

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, thinking of tears. Tears fall between the ears; they fall in the midst of years.

Just recently, I watched CNN detail a train wreck in Los Angeles. A suicidal man parked his SUV on the railroad track in an apparent suicide attempt. He fled his vehicle at the last minute. The parked vehicle derailed a train.