

Superheroes offer insights into human nature, social observers say_20705

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Superheroes offer insights into human nature, social observers say

WASHINGTON (RNS)-When he was growing up, Mike Mignola had two great loves-monster movies and superheroes. So when Dark Horse Comics offered him the chance to write and illustrate his own comic book, Mignola decided to combine the two.

The result is Hellboy, a wisecracking, good-hearted, old-fashioned superhero with one problem: He's a red-skinned, cloven-hoofed demon summoned by the Nazis to bring about the end of the world. When the Nazis' plans are foiled, the then-infant Hellboy is taken in and raised by human beings. He forsakes his demon heritage and pledges to fight for good.

But can he really escape his destiny? Mignola, who has been writing Hellboy comics since 1993, isn't sure.

Texas Tidbits_20705

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Texas Tidbits

DBU to launch leadership studies doctoral program. Dallas Baptist University will launch a doctor of philosophy program in leadership studies next fall through its recently renamed Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership and Christian Education. Karen Bullock is academic director of the new doctoral program.

UMHB offers Spanish for Christian workers. The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor will offer a course for Christian workers in conversational Spanish, June 1-30. The introductory course presents the basic structures of Spanish, with vocabulary especially adapted to Christian witness. It includes extensive use of Scripture and dialogues geared to common witnessing situations, a conversational approach with alternating class presentations and lab practice. Cost is \$1,000, which includes tuition, fees and books. The course is equivalent to two semester hours of Spanish. University housing is available for an additional \$285 per person. To register, contact Judy Arnold at (254) 295-4631 or e-mail jarnold@umhb.edu.

ETBU sets Tiger Day. East Texas Baptist University will hold its annual Tiger Day preview event for prospective students and their families March 5. For more information, or to register, visit the school's website at

www.etbu.edu or call (800) 804-ETBU.

TOGETHER: Vision demands a new spirit of unity_20705

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TOGETHER: Vision demands a new spirit of unity

As President Bush delivered his State of the Union address, an Iraqi woman lifted her ink-stained finger in appreciation to the president and Congress. She had voted in her first free election a few days earlier. Moments later, the parents of a slain American soldier from Pflugerville stood to receive heartfelt gratitude from the crowd.

When the Iraqi woman turned around to thank the mother of the soldier who had given his life in Iraq, they fell into each other's arms in a tight and emotional embrace. One was a mother whose heart was broken but proud of her son. The other was an Iraqi woman amazed that she and her people had been able to vote freely and to begin the long journey toward a democratic society. Our hearts went out to that mother and father and to the young woman who would never know the names of all the men and women, American and Iraqi, who have been wounded or died so she and her fellow citizens could live in freedom.



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Is there anything for which you would be willing to lay down your life? Listen to Jesus. He never advocated taking another's life, but he did lay down his own. And he invited those who would follow him to take up their cross as well. A cross is where people die. But Jesus promised, "Whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it" (Mark 8:34-35). The Apostle Paul pleaded: "I urge you ... to offer your bodies as living sacrifices. ... Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:1-2).

The first wave: Texas Baptist volunteers return from Sri Lanka_20705

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Tsunamis
that hit
South
Asia left
families
grieving,
children
orphaned
and
hundreds
of
thousands
homeless.
The first
wave of
Texas
Baptist
Men
volunteers
returned
from a
relief
mission in
Sri Lanka.
(Photo by
Rex
Campbell)

THE FIRST WAVE:

Texas Baptist volunteers return from Sri Lanka

By **John Hall**

Texas Baptist Communications

Sri Lanka looks like the aftermath of a fatal "car wreck." The bodies are gone, but the devastation remains a vivid reminder of the pain caused by a series of tsunamis that slammed the island nation, volunteers with the first wave of Texas Baptist Men relief reported.

Hungarian Baptist Aid sets pace in global disaster relief_20705

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Hungarian Baptist Aid sets pace in global disaster relief

By **Tony Cartledge**

North Carolina Biblical Recorder

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (ABP)-Americans might not think of Hungarians as

being in the forefront of international relief efforts, but a relatively young Hungarian organization is a pacesetter in worldwide disaster relief.

Baptist relief focuses on new homes, pure water_20705

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Baptist relief focuses on new homes, pure water

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Now that Texas Baptist volunteers have learned how best to meet the needs of Sri Lankans, their disaster relief efforts are pushing forward with constructing homes and cleaning water wells.

Waco church marks 10 years on cutting edge_20705

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David Crowder
and band
perform during
worship at
University
Baptist church
in Waco. (Photo
by Jerry Larson/
Waco Tribune-
Herald)



By Terri Jo Ryan

Special to the Baptist Standard

WACO—Chris Seay once told Mother Jones, a countercultural political magazine, he had been laid up in a hospital bed with appendicitis and a raging fever when God spoke to him. And the divine instructions were precise: Open a church for 20-somethings in Waco on Jan. 15, 1995.

Black Baptist leaders speak to social and political issues_20705

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Black Baptist leaders speak to social and political issues

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Leaders of four historically black Baptist denominations closed a landmark joint meeting by issuing a statement on several social and political issues affecting the African-American community.

Sri Lankan sign asks, "Is there any hope for refugees like

us?_12405

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Sri Lankan sign asks, “Is there any hope for refugees like us?”

By Tony Cartledge

North Carolina Biblical Recorder

GALLE, Sri Lanka (ABP)—On the waterfront in Galle City, a road runs parallel to the beach, but there are no cabanas and beach chairs to be seen. Large, colorful shrimp boats lean together on the curb, ripped from their moorings and swept ashore by the infamous tsunami of Dec. 26. Across the street, a long city block has been turned to rubble.

BaptistWay Bible Series for Jan. 30: Jesus told stories that his listeners might see_12405

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BaptistWay Bible Series for Jan. 30

Jesus told stories that his listeners might see

Matthew 13:24-43

By Todd Still

Truett Seminary, Waco

BaptistWay Bible Series for Feb. 6: Believers are to come with a childlike faith_20605

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BaptistWay Bible Series for Feb. 6

Believers are to come with a childlike faith

Matthew 18:1-14

By Todd Still

Truett Seminary, Waco

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Feb. 6: Be prepared for the return of Jesus Christ_20705

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Feb. 6

Be prepared for the return of Jesus Christ

Luke 21

By Pakon Chan

Chinese Baptist Church, Arlington