

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.

**What is the association
of the 21st century
going to look like?**

Should Christians use violent video games to lure teens to church?

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The game Halo 3 has some religious thematic elements, namely the good-versus-evil plot and the role of Master Chief. That's why some say it can be a valuable tool in relating to non-Christians.

Should Christians use violent

video games to lure teens to church?

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—What do warthogs, pelicans, energy swords and Spartan lasers have in common? And how do they relate to John 1:17?

They're all part of a video game called Halo 3, the top-selling video game of 2007 that pre-sold more than 1 million copies two months before it even hit stores. In the first two weeks after its release, [Halo 3](#)—the third installment of Microsoft's first-person shooter game—made more than \$300 million in sales.

BaptistWay Bible Series for April 6: What are you doing here?

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BaptistWay Bible Series for April 6

What are you doing here?

- 1 Kings 19:1-18

[By Kenneth Jordan](#)

BaptistWay Bible Series for April 13: Disturbing the bliss of deception

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BaptistWay Bible Series for April 13

Disturbing the bliss of deception

- 1 Kings 22:6-28

[By Kenneth Jordan](#)

Lubbock teen, 69-year-old woman connected through service

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Alexis Vasquez, 13, works outside the home of Antonia Ocón during her spring break. Vasquez said she discovered her love of service through Buckner. (Photos by Analiz Gonzalez/Buckner)

Lubbock teen, 69-year-old woman connected through service

By Analiz González

Buckner International

VADO, N.M.—Antonia Ocón's living room has a foot-wide hole in it. Spider webs cling to the room's corners. The floor would break if anyone jumped.

And the windows are peep holes covered by plastic.

“I spent my life picking chile, planting onions and gathering herbs for a living,” she said, stretching out sand-paper-rough hands as proof. “It was enough to help feed 10 children, but the sun gave me cancer.”



Antonia Ocón sits in a room in her home in Valdo, New Mexico. Ocón said she's suffered from skin cancer and is very grateful for the help the Buckner children are offering.

Chaplain uses cookies to bring “home sweet home” to troops in Iraq

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Chaplain uses cookies to bring 'home sweet home' to troops in Iraq

By **John Hall**

Texas Baptist Communications

BAGHDAD—For military personnel serving in Iraq, there's no place like home—even just a taste of it.

Soldiers find comfort in a coffee house run by Kari Maschhoff, a Baptist General Convention of Texas-endorsed chaplain. And they particularly like the homemade cookies they find there.

Soldiers find
comfort—and
homemade
cookies—at a
coffee house in
Iraq run by
Kari
Maschhoff, a
Baptist General
Convention of
Texas-endorsed
chaplain.

Beliefs alone not to blame when faith turns violent, scholars say

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Beliefs alone not to blame when faith turns violent, scholars say

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Every faith group has its extremists, but not all extremists turn violent. What makes the difference?

While most religious violence follows common patterns, faith seldom turns violent except in response to social oppression, say experts who study extremists.

Fundamentalist now applies to other groups that scare

us□□

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Fundamentalist now applies to 'other groups that scare us'

By Marv Knox

Editor

Were the 9/11 terrorists who flew airplanes into the Twin Towers fundamentalists?

Technically, no.

Religious violence not exclusive to Abrahamic faiths

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Religious violence not

exclusive to Abrahamic faiths

By Graham Walker & Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—The three Abrahamic faiths—Judaism, Christianity and Islam—are the most violent of the world's religions, scholars say. But all faiths can resort to violence on occasion.

A common characteristic of violence among the Abrahamic religions is radical end-times expectations. The apocalypticism of the Taiping Rebellion in China (1845-1963) was taken directly from the book of Revelation and led to more than 20 million deaths. But apocalypticism also surfaced in the syncretistic beliefs of the contemporary Aum Shinrikyo cult, which also borrowed from Revelation.

For UT students, spring break missions was Grand

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For UT students, spring break

missions was Grand

By Erin Findley

University of Texas

TUSAYAN, Ariz.—As arid terrain and life-sized cacti gave way to snow-capped mountains, students from the University of Texas Baptist Student Ministries knew they were nearing their final destination.

Far from the sun and sand familiar to spring breakers, the team of five arrived in the small town of Tusayan, Ariz., outside Grand Canyon National Park.

TCU students focus on giving during spring break

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Texas
Christian
University
Baptist
Student
Ministries
students
Alex
Pierce,
Tracie
Chambers,
Valerie
Hannon
and
Richard
Thomas
prepare
hundreds
of pounds
of
vegetables
for the
Meals on
Wheels
program in
Houston.



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TCU students focus on giving during spring break

HOUSTON—While many college students went looking for what they can get during spring break, a group of Texas Christian University Baptist Student Ministries students looked to give.



TCU student Alex Pierce.

The team of four invested their time in ministry projects and in people throughout the Houston area.

They worked with several groups that helped to provide food to hungry residents. At the End Hunger Network, they prepared hundreds of pounds of vegetables used by Meals on Wheels and other food-assistance programs.

At the Gano Street Baptist Mission Center, they stocked the food pantry and bagged and distributed food to many needy families. They also spent afternoons working with the teen and pre-teen ministries at Gano Street.

Texas State students minister in Mexico

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Students
work to
repair the
driveway at
Matamoros
Children's
Home in
Matamoros,
Mexico.

Texas State students minister in Mexico

By Josh Morgan

Texas State University

MATAMOROS, Mexico—Each spring break, the border towns of Mexico are flooded with American students searching for a week of freedom.

This year, a group from Texas visited Matamoros to share a different type of freedom.



A Texas State University student hugs a child at the Matamoros Children's Home in Mexico.

• [Watch Video Reports From Spring Break Ministry](#)

• [See Complete Spring Break Ministry Coverage Here](#)

A 21-member team from Texas State University stayed at the Matamoros Children's Home, where they ministered to the 150 children and also took part in maintenance of the home, including extending the driveway.

The team also provided an afternoon children's outreach for a church and its surrounding neighborhood 45 minutes away from the home.