

# **Prayer the focus of slumber party slated at My Father's House, Lubbock, next month\_82304**

August 20, 2004

Posted: 8/20/04

## **Prayer the focus of slumber party slated at My Father's House, Lubbock, next month**

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

LUBBOCK-Girls know slumber is the last thing that happens at slumber parties. Shirley Madden hopes prayer is the first thing that happens at the one she has planned.

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# **Interfaith coalition urges United Nations, United States to intervene in Sudan\_82304**

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## **Interfaith coalition urges United Nations, United States to intervene in Sudan**

**By Kevin Eckstrom**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—An unusually broad coalition of Jewish, Muslim, Catholic and evangelical groups has come together to urge intervention by the United States and the United Nations in war-torn Sudan.

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## **Veteran youth minister offers stable presence in teens'**

# **lives\_82304**

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## **Veteran youth minister offers stable presence in teens' lives**

**By Terri Jo Ryan**

*Special to the Baptist Standard*

WACO—Youth ministry used to be as gangly as the teenagers it served—a mere steppingstone for fresh-faced seminarians on the way to a “real job” as a senior pastor.

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## **Church-going evangelical men least likely to abuse families, research says\_82304**

August 20, 2004

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# Church-going evangelical men least likely to abuse families, research says

By **Jonah D. King**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)-The more they attend church, the less likely evangelical husbands and fathers will physically abuse their spouses and children, says author and University of Virginia sociologist W. Bradford Wilcox.

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## Around the State\_82304

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### **VBS Trip**

Forty-eight members of First Church in Gresham traveled to Zapata and San Ygnacio to lead a Vacation Bible School. More than 230 children and adults enrolled in the VBS conducted by the Gresham church, as well as Zapata churches First Church, Iglesia Nueva Vida and Iglesia Nueva Esperanza. While there, men and youth from the church helped build a parsonage for Iglesia Nueva Esperanza.

Through the generosity of a Gresham merchant, the church also gave away 33 bicycles. The churches also gave clothing away. This is the sixth year of a partnership between the churches. Mack Caffey is pastor of First Church in Zapata, Raul Hernandez is pastor of Iglesia Nueva Vida, Pastor Reyes is pastor of Iglesia Nueva Esperanza and Roy Thoene is pastor of First Church in Gresham.

# Around the State

- ◆ Of the five new inductees into the Southern Baptist Church Business Administration Association Hall of Fame, four served Texas churches. **J.W. Fortner** was church business administrator at Trinity Church in San Antonio 33 years. He also was named church business administrator of the year in 1992. **Lewis Fitts** served several churches, including First Church in Wichita Falls, the church from which he retired. He was named top church administrator in 1995. **Bill English** was church administrator at First Church in Wichita Falls eight years and was one of the honoring organization's first participants. **Walter Matthews**, honored posthumously, served First Church in Austin many years.
  - ◆ FOCUS and Refuge, Houston Baptist University's ministry outreach music groups, have joined together to release a self-titled CD. Students **Anival Aleman, Kim Daniels, Robin Gillmore, Blake Jackson, Breanna Richardson, Jody Smith, Jenny Chunn, Shauna Couri, Carrie Lelsz, Brett Mosher** and **J.J. Worthen** worked on the recording six months. For more information on the groups or the CD, call (281) 649-3224.
  - ◆ Hardin-Simmons University has announced two staff changes. **Aaron Ashford** is the director of the new Center for Multicultural Affairs, which is designed to increase awareness of diversity on campus. **Bethany Howell** has joined the university as a communications assistant. She had been working as hometown news coordinator in the media relations office.
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# **BaptistWay Series for Sept. 5: When you suffer, remember, you always have a prayer\_82304**

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**BaptistWay Series for Sept. 5**

## **When you suffer, remember, you always have a prayer**

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

**By Todd Still**

*Truett Theological Seminary, Waco*

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## **Minister steps off baseball playing field and into evangelistic harvest field\_82304**

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# Minister steps off baseball playing field and into evangelistic harvest field

**By Leann Callaway**

*Special to the Baptist Standard*

SUGAR LAND—After being offered a contract with the Texas Rangers, Kyle Byrd struggled with the choice between a career in professional baseball or the pursuit of God's call on his life to ministry.

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## Astros' chaplain sees star athletes as 'somebody's kids'\_82304

August 20, 2004

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## Astros' chaplain sees star athletes as 'somebody's kids'

**By Toby Druin**

*Editor Emeritus*

HOUSTON—Gene Pemberton joined the Houston Astros staff in 1994 to help

his old friend, Astros owner Drayton McLane Jr., in community development.

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# **Life threw her a curve, but young athlete now safe at home\_82304**

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## **Life threw her a curve, but young athlete now safe at home**

**By Miranda Bradley**

*Texas Baptist Children's Home & Family Services*

ROUND ROCK-Eighteen-year-old Patricia Gutierrez has been thrown curve balls her entire life. But this summer she threw a pitch of her own-at a Round Rock Express baseball game.

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# Pitcher Andy Pettitte: Close to home\_82304

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## Pitcher Andy Pettitte: Close to home



Andy Pettitte  
(Photo Courtesy of  
Houston Astros)

Andy Pettitte stunned the baseball world last December, when he left the New York Yankees after nine seasons, six American League pennants and four World Series titles to pitch for the Houston Astros—for less money. He reportedly turned down a three-year, \$39 million offer from the Yankees to

pitch for the Astros for \$31.5 million for three years.

He made the decision, he said, to be closer to his family-wife Laura and their three children, Joshua, Jared and Lexy-who live in nearby Deer Park, where Pettitte grew up and was a star high school athlete. Pettitte was 21-8 with the Yankees last season but has struggled with arm problems this year with the Astros. Going into the second week of August, he was 6-4 and had been on the disabled list twice.

Interviewed following a loss to the Arizona Diamondbacks in which he gave up two home runs and left because of a sore arm, Pettitte said he was sorry for his team that he had not been able to perform as well as he, the team and fans had expected. He is scheduled for elbow surgery this week that will mean the end of his pitching this season.

**Q.**

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**From northern Mexico to northern Bryan, volunteers unite to reach the Brazos Valley\_82304**

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As part of the Reach Brazos Valley missions emphasis, volunteers from Mexico joined churches and ministries in Bryan. Above, left,, children make crafts during the Kids Quest Bible study, while girls study the Bible in a park at right.

## **From northern Mexico to northern Bryan, volunteers unite to reach the Brazos Valley**

BRYAN-Volunteers from a Baptist church in Piedras Negras, Mexico, spent six days meeting needs and sharing their faith in the Valley-not the Rio Grande Valley, but the Brazos Valley.

Primera Iglesia Bautista in Piedras Negras worked alongside four Bryan churches and a Bryan-based community ministry as part of the Reach Brazos Valley missions emphasis.

Leaders of the Bryan churches and Save Our Streets Ministries wanted to combine efforts to share the gospel with their closest neighbors—people living in areas immediately surrounding their north Bryan churches.



A local man is getting his teeth cleaned by one of the health team volunteers.

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## Baptist Briefs\_82304

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### Baptist Briefs

**SBC president begins bus tour.** Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch will launch a nationwide bus tour Aug. 29 from First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., where he is pastor. He will travel about 20,000 miles, visiting churches in all 50 states to encourage Southern Baptists to evangelize and reach a goal of 1 million baptisms. The tour

includes three Texas stops Sept. 10-7 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Dallas, 10 a.m. at the SBC Annuity Board offices in Dallas and 12 noon at First Baptist Church in Denton. The format for each stop will be for Welch to make some opening remarks before joining church members in door-to-door visits within the community.

**CBF adds staff.** Rick Bennett, pastoral educator at First Baptist Church in Orangeburg, S.C., has joined the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship staff as associate coordinator of faith formation, working primarily in resource development. He also will manage the Fellowship's partnership with "Companions in Christ" and Upper Room Ministries to enhance and strengthen the Spiritual Formation Network.

**Historian seeks information.** Charles Deweese, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist History and Heritage Society, is compiling a list of churches that have had female deacon chairs for his book, "Women Deacons: 400 Years of Baptist Service." If a Texas Baptist church has-or at one time had-a woman serve as deacon chair, Deweese wants to include it. He needs the church's name and address, the year in which the church's deacon body first elected a woman as chair and information about how many women have served in that capacity. Contact Deweese at [cdeweese@tnbaptist.org](mailto:cdeweese@tnbaptist.org) or write to the Baptist History and Heritage Society, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024-0728.