

palmers_92203

September 19, 2003

Posted: 9/19/03

Jonathan
Palmer
prepares
for a river
crossing in
Nicaragua.

Visiting family means missions for Mesquite teens

By George Henson

Staff Writer

Some youth spent their summer doing missions, while others visited relatives. Some may have done both. A Mesquite pair, however, accomplished both at the same time.

praise_team_92203

September 19, 2003

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Everyone's the praise team at this church

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

NEW BRAUNFELS-First Baptist Church may have the largest praise team in the world. At least the music minister thinks that way when planning worship services.

purpose_drive_92203

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'Purpose Drive Life' named top evangelical book of the year

ORLANDO, Fla. (RNS)-"The Purpose-Driven Life" by Baptist pastor Rick Warren has been named the 2003 Jordon Christian Book of the Year by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

Zondervan published the popular book by Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church, a megachurch in Lake Forest, Calif. The book offers advice on spiritual transformation and Christian living.

The book was honored during the 26th Annual Gold Medallion Book Awards

Banquet at the CBA International Convention.

reading_lists_92203

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Ministers' reading lists are diverse but include few women or blacks

By David Briggs

Religion News Service

CHICAGO (RNS)-America's clergy are reading a broad range of theologians, Bible scholars and inspirational writers, at times crossing liberal-conservative and Protestant-Catholic divides to share spiritual writers from different traditions.

restraint_92203

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95 missionaries urge restraint in preacher talk

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) -Ninety-five retired Southern Baptist missionaries who served in the Middle East and North Africa recently signed a resolution calling for U.S. Christian leaders to quit making inflammatory statements about the faith of people who live in the region.

They mailed their admonition in a letter to former Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines and Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

In a sermon Vines preached at the 2002 SBC Pastors' Conference, he called Mohammed, the founder of Islam, "a demon-possessed pedophile." He also implied Allah, the Islamic god, turns people into terrorists.

spiritual_journeys_92203

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Book offers peek at pop artists' faith

By Jason White

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-Moby praising pornography and Jesus. Johnny Cash

singing gospel songs while strung-out on drugs. P. Diddy rapping about guns and God.



stch.swing_92203

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Swing time

Zoe and Marilynn, who live at South Texas Children's Home in Beeville, share a good time on the swingset.

They and thousands of other Texas children in need of special care find help through the ministries of Texas Baptists.

Gifts to the Baptist General Convention of

Texas Cooperative Program budget support child-care ministries in Beeville, San

Antonio, Victoria,

Luling, Tyler,

Dallas, Amarillo,

Beaumont, Brenham, Corpus Christi, El Paso,

Fort Worth,

Harlingen,

Laredo,

Longview,

Lubbock, Lufkin,

McAllen,

Marshall,

Midland, Mission,

Rockwall, Orange,

Port Arthur,

Round Rock,

Silsbee, Waco and

Woodville.

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.

tbm_relief_92203

September 19, 2003

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Texas Baptist Men's disaster relief fleet expands to 35 vehicles

By Ken Camp

Texas Baptist Communications

The Texas Baptist disaster relief fleet of emergency response vehicles continues to grow with the addition of a new tool trailer and the prospect of a "rolling bunkhouse."

together_92203

September 19, 2003

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TOGETHER: Churches & BGCT focus on missions

I love worshipping in our churches, sharing fellowship and experiencing the heart for missions and evangelism that permeates our congregations.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHARLES
WADE
Executive
Director
BGCT
Executive
Board

Recently, I visited First Baptist Church of Nederland. The church reaches out to inmates at a nearby state prison, and the week before I arrived, 300 prisoners had attended a revival service. Pastor David Higgs invited me to accompany him and Sam Maggio, a Sunday School teacher who has ministered to inmates every week for more than 25 years, to baptize some of the men who had made professions of faith in Jesus. We took 10 men into the prison yard, where a large trough had been filled with water. Pastor Higgs baptized several and then asked me to assist.

It was the perfect ending to a day focused on missions, beginning with a marvelous missions emphasis in the church's morning worship service and continuing in an afternoon missions fair. Children of the church had marched in carrying flags from around the world. The pastor had introduced the parade by saying: "People from over 100 countries of the world have come to Texas. These flags represent the incredible challenge that has come to all of us who live in Texas. God has trusted these dear

people to our care ... to share the good news of Jesus with every one of them." That day, the church surpassed its Mary Hill Davis Offering goal of \$6,000, and more money was still coming in. Additionally, the church had its largest budget offering for the year, and church members gave more than \$2,000 for benevolence ministries.

trooper_92203

September 19, 2003

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Trooper learns of God's love through crash

TEXARKANA-A tragic accident almost took his life, but now Paul Sigman has a life he considers much richer.

Sigman, 28, had been enjoying a successful, if brief, career as a state trooper with the Texas Department of Public Safety. He moved to Texarkana in 2001 after graduating from a police academy and rescued a man from a burning vehicle his first week on the job. That incident, along with his everyday efforts, earned him the title Officer of the Year.



Paul and Amy Sigman, with daughter Annabelle, strengthened their faith in God through Sigman's recovery from a near-fatal automobile accident. The state trooper quotes a favorite author: "You will never know God is all you need until God is all you have."

Last year, Sigman and his wife, Amy, started attending First Baptist Church in Texarkana at the invitation of one of his co-workers.

young_dennis_92203

September 19, 2003

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Young to be nominated for BGCT second vice president

By Marv Knox

Editor

HOUSTON-Dennis Young, pastor of Missouri City Baptist Church in Missouri City, will be nominated for second vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas this fall.

sperry_92203

September 19, 2003

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NEIL SPERRY: Radio Gardener

Since 1978, gardeners in North Central Texas have gleaned their planting, weeding, spraying and harvesting information from the voice of Neil

Sperry, first over WFAA radio and since 1980 over KRLD on Saturday and Sunday mornings. He also broadcasts daily statewide over the Texas State Radio Network and will be inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame in October. His radio show, "Neil Sperry's Gardens Magazine," and a Texas gardening calendar have been judged the best communications of their kind by the Garden Writer's Association of America, and his book, "Neil Sperry's Complete Guide to Texas Gardening," has sold more than half a million copies.

A native Texan, Sperry attended Texas A&M University and has two degrees in horticulture from Ohio State University. He taught horticulture in high school two years and was a horticulture specialist with the Texas Agriculture Extension Service. He and his wife, Lynn, have three children. When he is not gardening, he is involved in a variety of hobbies, such as photography, painting Santa Clause figurines and making pens from historic woods of Texas. Proceeds from the sale of the pens go to the McKinney Education Foundation and Serenity High School. The Sperrys are members of the Lutheran Church.



Neil Sperry displays an assortment of the pens he has made from the historic woods of Texas. Among them are pens made from the Treaty Oak in Austin, a live oak at the Alamo and from a bat used by Rafael Palmeiro.

Q.

You speak of your father often on your radio program. I know he was a major influence in your career choice, but was there an event or events that solidified the decision?