

Singer/songwriter shares life story through music

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Charlie Hall and his band.

Singer/songwriter shares life story through music

By Leann Callaway

Special to the Baptist Standard

ARLINGTON— While leading worship at this year's Focus Conference for students and Texas Baptist Youth Ministry Conclave, [Charlie Hall](#) shared his life story through songs.

Through times of soul-searching, personal struggles and trials, Hall offered a personal message to youth and college students.

D.C. congregation gives homeless a ride to church

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D.C. congregation gives homeless a ride to church

By Beckie Supiano

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Jill Peddycord and Gary Bradley bow their heads and pray in the front seats of a white van parked outside [Metropolitan Baptist Church](#) in the nation's capital.

Peddycord asks for God's blessing as they begin the weekly rounds of Metropolitan's transportation ministry.

Christian leaders urge compassion in debate regarding

immigration

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Christian leaders urge compassion in debate regarding immigration

By Heather Donckels

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The faith community needs to help bridge the gap between immigrants and a society that often rejects them, representatives of [Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform](#) said last week.

“We call on people of faith to stand with immigrants as fellow human beings deserving of God’s love and to advocate for effective immigration policies consistent with our history as a nation,” said James Winkler, who heads the United Methodists’ Board of Church and Society.

JEZEBEL: Did the Bible’s bad girl get a bad rap?

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Did the Bible's bad girl get a bad rap?

By Heather Donckels

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Few historical characters rival Jezebel for negative stereotypes. Today, “she’s a household word for badness,” one scholar said. Culturally, she’s portrayed as a brash, sexually provocative woman wearing too much make-up, another observed.

So in her new book, author Lesley Hazleton strives to set aside stereotypes and cultural images and show whom Jezebel, one of history’s most infamous women, really was.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Confession & churches

As a minister to youth, I was perplexed by Marv Knox’s approval of a forced public confession by two teenagers ([Oct. 15](#)). I would support these young people if they chose to confess their sin publicly. But forced confession is not true confession, just as forced conversion is not true conversion.

- [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com; 250 words maximum.



“Hell is the crazy cousin that Protestants keep locking in the basement. ... A lot of people don't want to talk about hell and engage it because if there is a hell, there's a possibility they are going there.”

Greg Stier

President of Dare 2 Share Ministries,
an evangelical youth ministry in
Denver (*The Washington Times/RNS*)

“There's another church in our community that doesn't have a baptistery, and that pastor and I were talking. He has five folks. I have three. I told him we might want to wait just a little bit, and I've never had to do that.”

Brian Harris

Pastor of Rock Springs Baptist
Church in Rock Springs, S.C., on the
drought that has prevented church
members from filling up their
baptistery and delayed the baptism
of new members (*WYFF4.com/RNS*)

“When I was growing up, denominations were a big deal. I don't see that today. In our church, we have Baptists, Methodists, Jewish people—all kinds of people. I think a lot of those walls have come down.”

Joel Osteen

Houston megachurch pastor and
author (*USA Today/RNS*)

I also fear many churches would not have reacted as this church did. Instead of humble acceptance of these young people, forced confessions often create communities that reject, despise, humiliate and condemn sinners, even repentant ones.

I find it alarming that while Jesus, in John 8, refused to humiliate the woman, loving her even in her sin (“neither do I condemn you”) and yet still confronted her sin (“go and sin no more”), often our attitude is to condemn as the Pharisees did.

Churches, volunteer receive LifeCall missions recognition

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Churches, volunteer receive LifeCall missions recognition

A longtime Texas Baptist missions volunteer and five churches recently received LifeCall Missions honors.

Sue Low received the LifeCall Missions lifetime achievement award in a presentation at Hampton Road Baptist Church in DeSoto. Low, 91, began ministry in jails and prisons more than 70 years ago and continued until failing eyesight limited her abilities last year.

For many years, she made twice-weekly visits to the Lew Sterrett Justice Center in downtown Dallas—a practice she and her late husband, Asa, initiated and she continued after his death in 1996.

In 1998, the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board recognized her as Mission Service Corps volunteer of the year. She was commissioned as a Mission Service Corps volunteer in 1994 and as a LifeCall volunteer 10 years later.

Couple offers hard-to-place children a family where everyone fits right in

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Robert
and
Sheila
Lee play
with
Jazmine,
7, Nico, 6,
and Kylie,
2, in their
front
lawn. The
adoption
was
expected
to be
completed
Nov.
16—the
day
before
National
Adoption
Day.

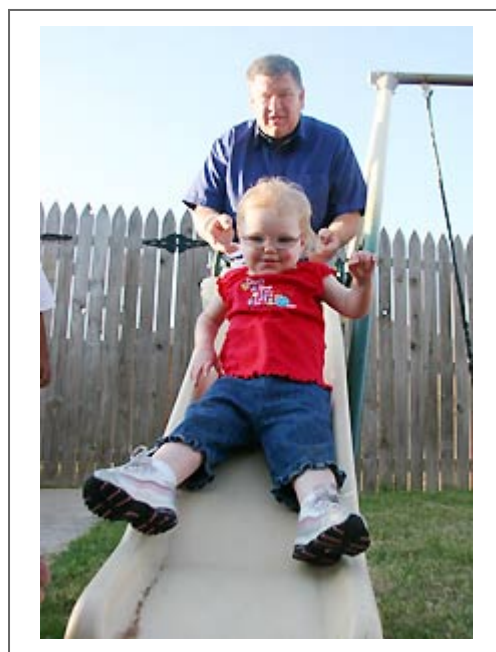
Couple offers hard-to-place children a family where everyone fits right in

By Analiz González

Buckner International

LUBBOCK—Robert and Sheila Lee waited until their four children reached their teens and 20s before starting over with a younger batch—Jazmine, 7, Nico, 6, and Kylie, 2.

The couple brought the three foster children home in March and April of 2005. The plan was to foster them through Buckner, then let them move on.



**It's a bird, it's a plane,
it's a superhero in a
burqa?**

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It's a bird, it's a plane, it's ... a superhero in a burqa?

By Beckie Supiano

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON—Move over, Fantastic Four. There's a new team of superheroes in town.

Meet Jabbar the Powerful, a Hulk-like strong man, and Noora the Light, who can create holograms. Darr the Afflicter wields powerful pain waves. One hero, The Hidden, wears a burqa.

Ministers want Ohio to become 'Political Sleaze-Free Zone'

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Ministers want Ohio to become 'Political Sleaze-Free Zone'

By David Briggs

Religion News Service

CLEVELAND (RNS)—A coalition of Ohio religious leaders is asking for the battleground swing state to be a “Political Sleaze-Free Zone” for the 2008 election.

[We Believe Ohio](#) kicked off the campaign at rallies in Columbus and Cleveland, asking candidates and political parties to promote what they stand for and refrain from attack ads.

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Terry Johnston** to Trinity Memorial Church in Marlin as associate pastor.
- **Jonathan Leftwich** to Fellowship of Plum Creek in Kyle as associate pastor from First Church in Rockport, where he was youth minister.
- **Alan Morris** to Paluxy Church in Paluxy as pastor.
- **Hal Mundine** to First Church in Sinton as interim music director.

New book probes poetry's power to stir the soul

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New book probes poetry's power to stir the soul

By Cecile S. Holmes

Religion News Service

CHICAGO (RNS)—Poetry is that unusual combination of words with the power to move, delight, nurture and transport readers beyond the here-and-now. It also can nourish our souls, according to the authors of a new book celebrating how poetry can kindle the spiritual in attentive readers.

"Poetry slows us down. It asks us to look—and look again. Poems have a way of reminding us we are part of something larger than ourselves," said Judith Valente, co-author/editor of the new volume, [*Twenty Poems to Nourish Your Soul*](#).

Neurotheology opens doors for scientific study of belief

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(Art by
Andrew
Garcia
Philips/*The
Star-Ledger*)

Neurotheology opens doors for scientific study of belief

Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—Some scientists say neurotheology—an emerging discipline that addresses the correlation between neurological and spiritual activity—proves God created the brain. Others claim “the brain created the god.”

At the root of the debate, some say, is the threat that faith could be reduced to nothing more than chemical reactions in the brain.