

Around the State: Examining Texas' religion history

September 21, 2013

The second installment in a lecture series called "Faith and Freedom in the Lone Star State: Exploring the Religious History of Texas" will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 10 at Congregation Agudath Jacob, 4925 Hillcrest Drive in Waco. The free lectures are sponsored by Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion. The lectures will be titled "Baptists and the Separation of Church and State, or Not?" presented by Blake Ellis, associate professor of history at Lone Star College-CyFair; and "Corralling Faith: The Cowboy Church in Texas," given by Marie Dallam, assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Oklahoma Honors College.

Bill O'Brien and **Keith Parks** will be honored Oct. 24 at Mission to Unreached Peoples' annual vision and award banquet. The pair will receive the organization's [Global Impact Award](#) for their leadership in directing resources toward sharing the gospel with those who had not previously



heard it.

Keith Parks and Bill O'BrienThe banquet will be held at the Marriott at Legacy Town Center in Plano at 7 p.m. Jim Denison of the Denison Forum on Truth and Culture will be the keynote speaker. O'Brien served in Indonesia 14 years as a missionary before working on the staff of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., including nine years as executive vice president. He later became the founding director of the Global Center at Samford University.

Parks also served as a missionary in Indonesia 14 years, and then became the Foreign Mission Board's Southeast Asia director in Richmond. In 1980, he became president of the board and served 12 years. He was the first Global Missions Coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship from 1993 until his retirement in 1999. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

[Wayland Baptist University](#) addressed the issue of civility in a recent chapel service. Marti Runnels, dean of the School of Fine Arts, said the theme and title of the service, "Wayland the Barbarian," was meant to make students, faculty and staff "think about things large or small that you might do that may make people think you are a little less than civil." Wayland theater students performed scenes depicting uncivilized behavior. The group addressed issues such as littering, gossiping, making fun of other beliefs, mocking people's style of worship, rudeness, disrupting class and even disrupting chapel service. Video clips of people discussing classroom behavior and workforce behavior also were used. Following the performances, Estelle Owens, dean of the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences; Otto Schacht, dean of the School of Business; and Jim Todd, dean of the School of Education, gave a faculty response, discussing their thoughts on civility.

Event

Madisonville Christian Fellowship in Madisonville will hold gospel meetings Sept. 25-27 at the Madisonville High School auditorium. Herb Reavis Jr., pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., will preach each night at 7 p.m. Wade Phillips is pastor of the Madisonville congregation.