

Visionâ€”not just geographyâ€”unite associations

April 28, 2008

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. But change is nothing new for associations, he explained.

Around the State: Three Texas missionaries appointed

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- Five people with Texas ties were among the 92 missionaries appointed by the International Mission Board in an April 9 ceremony at First Church in Sunnyvale.

Younger leaving Broadway

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FORT WORTH (ABP)—Brett Younger, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, survived a vote to fire him last month but is leaving the church anyway—to become associate professor of preaching at Mercer University’s McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta.

Future Focus Committee named

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DALLAS—A committee has been formed to study the long-range future of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Stephen Hatfield, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lewisville, and Andy Pittman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lufkin, will jointly chair the committee.

Hispanic gathering stresses

unity

April 28, 2008

Baldemar Borrego (left) and Rolando Lopez spoke at a regional meeting of the Hispanic Baptist Convocation of the Laity in San Antonio.

SAN ANTONIO—Unity and equipping Christians for evangelism and discipleship took the spotlight at a regional Hispanic Baptist Convocation of the Laity gathering in San Antonio.

Baldemar Borrego, president of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas, stressed the importance of promoting unity among Hispanic Baptists.

“We are one brotherhood,” Borrego said. He emphasized depending on God for the individual, inner change necessary to “make a difference in the city.”

Showing God’s love to Mexican orphans

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Jillian Daniels from the University of North Texas plays with a group in children in Reynosa, Mexico, during a spring break ministry trip.

Beach Reach volunteers make positive impact on South Padre

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SOUTH PADRE ISLAND—During Spring Break, more than 50,000 college students from across the nation travel to South Padre Island to party, drink incredible amounts of alcohol, have sex and indulge in worldly passions.

But this spring break, 375 Christian students came from universities and colleges from Texas, Arizona, Arkansas, Minnesota, and Missouri to bring the light of the gospel into that darkness.

The students hoped to share their faith with spring break vacationers through servant evangelism. They served free pancakes each morning at Island Baptist Church and every night in front of a bar, gave free van rides around the island every night, spent time with students on the beach every afternoon, handed out free sunscreen and prayed in the all-night prayer room during a weeklong Beach Reach event.

Capacity crowd at Congreso

called to “higher life”

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BELTON—Nearly 3,000 teens and young adults gathered on the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor campus Easter weekend, setting record attendance for Congreso, a gathering of Hispanic Texas Baptists.

“This is the biggest Congreso we have ever had,” said Angie Tello, Baptist General Convention of Texas Hispanic evangelism events coordinator. “I’m a little surprised that so many teenagers spent their Easter vacation here, but it shows just how dedicated today’s youth are to the Lord.”

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

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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. (Photo by Analiz Gonzalez/Buckner)

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.”

Buckner makes history in Peru

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Buckner International made history in Peru when eight Peruvian children were placed with the country’s first foster families. (Photo/ANDINA/Carlos Lezama)

Ministering at the “Mardis Gras of the North”

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A missions team from the BSM at Texas A&M University debarks from a plane in Alaska, where they worked at the Iditarod.