

Cancer survivor, age 4, throws out first pitch

April 28, 2008

Payton Chumbley, age 4, threw out the ceremonial first pitch at a recent Howard Payne University and University of Mary Hardin-Baylor baseball game.

Texas WMU celebrates Jesus during annual meeting

April 28, 2008

Cheryl Segura Gochis, former national and state Acteens panelist, uses a cell phone as a teaching tool during the Texas WMU annual meeting.

WACO—Woman's Missionary Union of Texas gathered to "Celebrate Jesus" during its annual meeting April 18-19.

In a meeting that featured seminars encouraging people to share their faith

and be involved in mission work, testimonies from missionaries and sessions on prayer, leaders encouraged Texas Baptist women to celebrate Christ's work around the globe.

On the Move

April 28, 2008

Reports of changes in staff positions from Texas churches:

- **Martin Akins** to First Church in Bedford as pastor from First Church in Hobbs, N.M.
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Mission Lubbock fights hunger, delivers hope

April 28, 2008

LUBBOCK—When people think of Lubbock, they think of unending cotton fields, hearty dust storms, flat plains and Texas Tech football. Few think of people like Cheryl Tannery.

Tannery, who raised three boys as a single mom, is just one of thousands of people in the Lubbock area who have been stricken by poverty and experienced hunger firsthand. But Mission Lubbock has stepped in to help rebuild the lives of people in need by providing food, clothing and furniture

and showing hope that only can come from Christ.

Youth ranch accepts 75 children from FLDS compound

April 28, 2008

LULING—Seventy-five children removed from a polygamist sect's ranch have been placed with Baptist Children's Home Youth Ranch near Luling.

Autistic children enjoy art event hosted by UMHB

April 28, 2008

Vivica Villa, age 7 of Kempner, works on a painting at the Autism in Action art day held at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

BELTON—For several hours on a recent Saturday, a University of Mary Hardin-Baylor gymnasium was transformed into an artists' paradise. From pencils and paint to canvas and cardboard puzzle pieces, children with

autism expressed themselves through original artwork during an Autism in Action event, sponsored by the Student Government Association of Texas State Technical College in Waco.

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

April 28, 2008

- 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

April 28, 2008

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.

âFuture Focus Committeeâ named

April 28, 2008

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

April 28, 2008

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