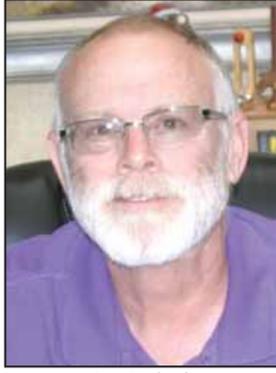


Local Christian spreads message across the globe



Don Ragland

By **JOSIE MUSICO**
Staff Writer

Don Ragland is so intent on spreading his Christian faith, he'll travel halfway across the world to share the message.

Ragland, a longtime follower of Christ who currently serves as president of the Terry County Ministerial Alliance and music minister of Calvary Baptist Church, traveled to the Ukraine Sept. 23 through Oct. 4 in an effort to convert new souls.

"It was a very enjoyable trip," he said.

Ragland traveled to Eastern Europe with a team of other followers from Michael Gott Ministries and the Singing Men of Texas music ministry group. They flew from Amarillo to Houston and then to Frankfurt, Germany before they landed in Kiev, the Ukraine's largest city.

They spent the next two weeks touring the country through a river cruise liner, visiting other cities such as Kremenchug, Dneprodzerzhinsk and Dnipropetrovsk and admiring Ukraine's beautiful landscapes of bright-green grass, trees and flowers.

"It's a beautiful country," Ragland said. "They have rows and rows of every kind of flower imaginable."

The main purpose of the trip was for much more than

sight-seeing, though, and they stopped daily for gospel concerts. Many visitors to those musical performances were not religious - until then. The group earned a total of 4,305 Christian conversions.

"The highlight of the total journey was every night or day that we gathered for a concert, just seeing people come into the door who would never come into a church before," Ragland said.

Ragland says he feels blessed to have been a part of those spiritual awakenings. He will forever be able to recall the way their eyes lit up as they came believers and how they stayed long after the concerts were over, eager to learn more about their newfound faith.

"They were just totally changed people," he said. "They were so open and wanting to learn more about Christ. They're hungry for happiness, and that happiness comes from knowing God."

High Plains Ag Conference set for Dec. in Lubbock

LUBBOCK – A wide range of agricultural topics will greet participants to this year's High Plains Ag Conference set from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 East Farm-to-Market 1294, Lubbock.

"This year's conference will address traditional crops for our area such as corn and grain sorghum, but we'll also be taking a look at strawberry production and pigweed control," said Robert Scott, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent in Lubbock County. "The topics are timely and I think it will be a day well-spent for those wanting to catch up on the latest developments in High Plains agriculture."

The program conducted by AgrLife Extension will offer five Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units – one laws and regulations, one integrated pest management and three general; and five Texas Certified Crop Adviser continuing education units – three crop management and two pest management.

The program's topics and speakers will include:

- Growing Strawberries on the High Plains Using High Tunnels, Dr. Russell Wallace, AgriLife Extension vegetable specialist, Lubbock.
- Corn Production and Drought Tolerant Varieties, Jake Becker, Texas A&M AgriLife Research assistant, Amarillo.
- Corn Producers Board Association Update, David Gibson Texas Corn Producers executive director, Lubbock.
- Sorghum And Wheat Production, Dr. Calvin Trostle, AgriLife Extension agronomist, Lubbock.
- AgriLife program updates, Scott and Mark

Brown, AgriLife Extension agents, Lubbock County.

- Pesticide Laws and Regulations, Debbie Slocum, Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide inspector.
- Pigweed Resistance and Lessons From 2012, Dr. Peter Dotray, AgriLife

Research, Lubbock.

Individual preregistration is \$35 by Dec. 3 and \$45 thereafter. The fees include lunch.

For more information and to preregister contact Scott at 806-775-1680, rj-scott@tamu.edu.

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Baby Basics program set for Nov. 15

The Parenting Cottage, a Lubbock Area United Way Partner Agency will partner with the March of Dimes and Kendrick Memorial Library in Brownfield to present "Baby Basics-The ABC's of a Healthy Pregnancy" on Thursday, November 15 at Kendrick Memorial Library in Brownfield.

Two opportunities for attendance will be available – the first presentation will be at 10 a.m. and the second presentation will be at 1 p.m.

The event is free of charge and targeted for Terry County families expecting a baby or with a newborn.

The event will feature door prizes and hands on activities for the parents as well as educational information.

Three main components will be covered in the educational program including the importance of early onset prenatal care, walking the families through changes that will occur for both parents in the nine month pregnancy and ending with the arrival of the baby and how parents can embark on a learning experience with their new baby.

Project is made possible through funding provided through the March of Dimes Community Award in partnership with the Parenting Cottage and Kendrick Memorial Library in Brownfield.

The Parenting Cottage is a Lubbock Area United Partner Agency recently celebrating its 30th anniversary.

The Parenting Cottage provides a wide range of parenting initiatives in the South Plains area targeted for families with children prenatal to kindergarten entry.

Services are currently provided in Terry County by the Parenting Cottage.

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