

UNDER 18 PAGE

Think you have talent?

• The Central Texas Talent Search, hosted by KCEN-TV, invites all area performers to come out and showcase their skills at the Frank Mayborn Civic and Convention Center. The winner of the night's events will get the chance to audition for NBC's "America's Got Talent" producers.

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On a mission ...



Tracey Eddy, Belton Middle School teacher, plays with the Cambari tribe children during her missionary trip to Nigeria.



... a Belton teacher's trip to Nigeria

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BELTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

On Valentine's Day 2004 Temple Bible Church missionary Tracey Eddy and her family traveled to Nigeria.

This was a major change for Ms. Eddy. Nigerians live in the bush of Africa; their homes are made of cement blocks and they have little electricity. Despite the changes, the real reason she was there was for God. Ms. Eddy said her missionary group showed a Christian film, which more than 10,000 Nigerians showed up to watch.

Most were non-believers, but by the end

of the film many had Jesus in their hearts. "It was truly a miracle!" Ms. Eddy said. When we asked about the jobs she said the women have it hard. Women wake up at 5 a.m. to gather firewood and water for the day. Some have to walk up to two miles just to get water.

Then they must work in the fields all day. They live off only one meal per day. The women wear a cloth tied around their waist. They do not usually show any hair.

We were informed that in Nigeria they don't have protection like we do here. Ms. Eddy has been in many threatening situations and had belongings stolen, but most Nigerians are wonderful people. Although she loves Africa, she said we are truly privileged to live in the United States.

Ms. Eddy had this to say about the trip: "I was a missionary for T.B.C. We did many things, such as building an eye hospital and an Internet café. I also treated medical issues and taught basic math concepts and English to Nigerians."

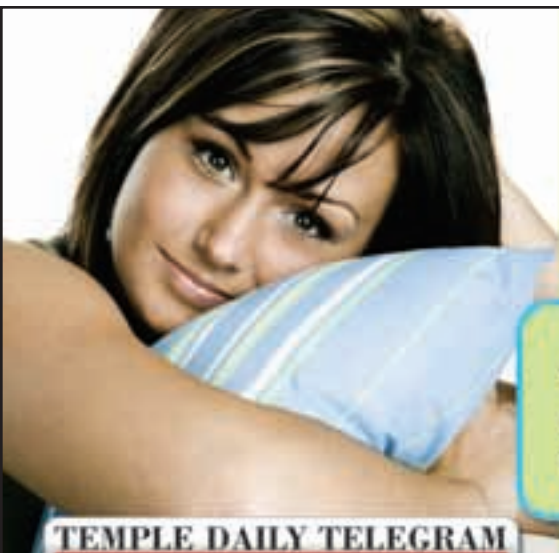
Asked about their political system, Ms. Eddy said, "They have one president and vice president like ours that serve for four years, but some people feel their elections do not always represent the true feelings of the people. Elections can lead to civil unrest."

How is the education different?
"They do not have free public education system, so many children do not go to school. Families can't afford it, and the children are needed to work."



A Fulani woman carries milk and corn on her head. Some Nigerian women travel many miles to transport food and water to their families.

Ms. Eddy gives medical help to a Nigerian woman with the help of a translator. Few Nigerians receive regular medical attention in an impoverished nation that barely has clean water.



Bored much? Get involved!

This page is all about teenagers – their interests, their activities and what they want to read. We accept stories, photos, graphics and ideas from any area teenager.

Submit your stuff to telegramteens@yahoo.com
or call Jerry Prickett at 778.4444 x225
For more info visit www.tdnnews.com/nexgen

