

September 21, 2004
Vol. 178, No. 37

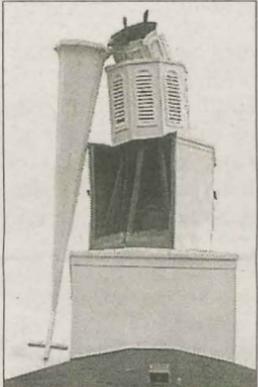
FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
NAMB's FamilyNet cuts budget in half, lays off 19 workers. *Page 2.*

Kentucky
The Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in November will feature workshops to help church leaders. *Page 3.*

Editorial
Disaster relief volunteers offer hope amid life's storms. *Page 5.*

Paducah
Ten churches sponsor outdoor worship festival. *Page 7.*

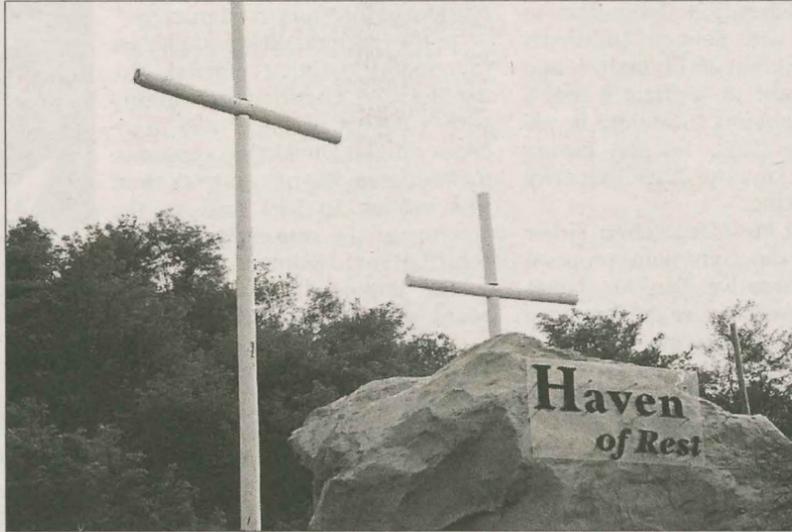


Double whammy
Churches in one Florida town endure eyes of two hurricanes. *Page 9.*

Nation
Millions attend See You at the Pole events. *Page 10.*

Issues
Bush & Kerry take different approaches on faith matters. *Page 13.*

E. Kentucky ministry reaches out to inmates' families



CHRISTIAN WELCOME Crosses mark the entrance for Haven of Rest, a ministry in Inez for visitors of family in prison at the Big Sandy Federal Penitentiary. The six-room guest house is scheduled to open Oct. 1 (Photo by Ken Walker)

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Inez—When Eileen Mullins visited her son at a central Kentucky prison in 1996, her heart broke when she saw many poor families struggling just to get there.

Inside the visitation room, some family members couldn't afford food from vending machines. Others slept in their cars.

Initially, Mullins dreamed of moving to the area to help them. Instead, God directed her to start a ministry providing free food and shelter for prisoners' families in her own backyard.

In 1998, officials announced plans to build the Big Sandy Federal Penitentiary just south of Inez.

"I cried and danced and prayed," said Mullins, wife of retired Kentucky Baptist pastor Carl Mullins.

"God said, 'Here's your ministry.'"

Since then, the construction of the 3,400-square-foot lodge and nearby six-room guest house has been nothing short of miraculous.

An Inez businessman donated a 2.9 acre tract of land and countless church groups and other volunteers did most of the construction.

Mullins estimates that free labor and donated supplies enabled her to complete a \$250,000 facility for about \$70,000.

The lodge will be open to overnight guests as well as visitors wanting a break during the day.

It includes rocking chairs on a porch that spans the front of the building. Inside are a 28-by-28-foot great room, 20-by-20 kitchen, dining room, chapel and two handicapped-accessible restrooms.

See Inez ministry reaching ... *Page 6*

Poll: Half of U.S. thinks church & state too separate

Richmond, Va. (RNS)—About half of Americans consider freedom of religion to be a top legal guarantee but a similar percentage think separation of church and state has become too severe or is not necessary in this country, a new survey indicates.

Asked which legal guarantee other than freedom of speech is most important, 52 percent of Americans cited freedom of religion, reported the Council for America's First Freedom. The nonprofit organization, which is dedicated to promoting religious liberty, released the results of its survey last week.

Nineteen percent of respondents chose freedom of the press, 16 percent said right to bear arms and 10 percent said freedom of assembly.

Asked how they regard the separation of church and state, 49 percent said it was important to keep religion and government separated. Another 29 percent said church-state separation has become "too severe and needs to be less strictly interpreted" while 20 percent said "there is really no need to separate church and state" in the country today.

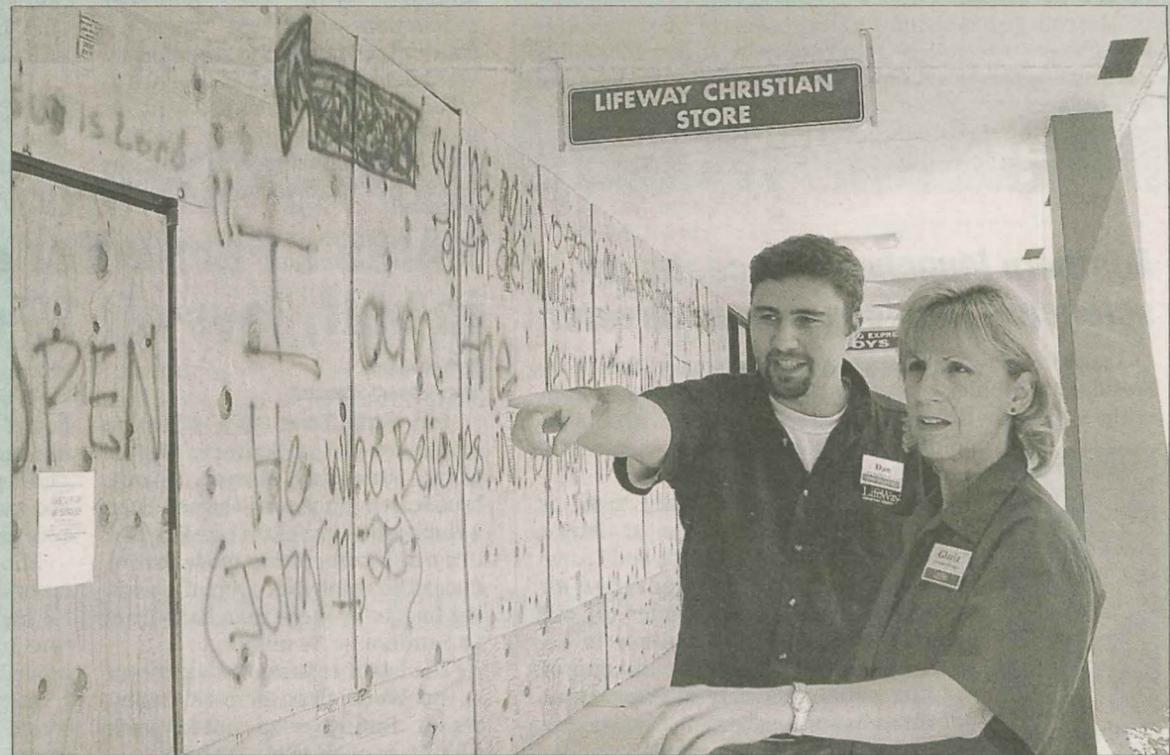
Stephen Elliott, executive director of the council, said the survey prompted mixed feelings for him.

"The results are at the same time heartening and disquieting," he said. "They show a public that holds religious liberty as among our most prized freedoms, yet, in an apparent contradiction, is ambivalent about the constitutional tenet that keeps church and state separate."

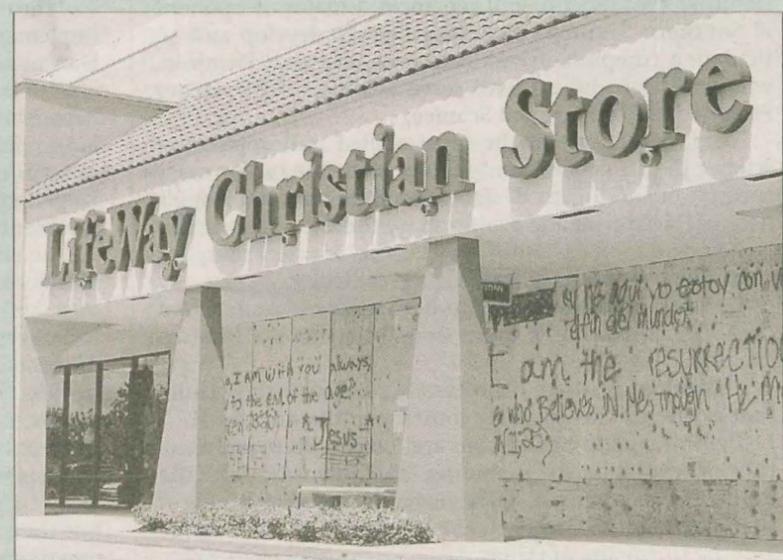
The telephone survey was conducted by polling 500 men and 500 women during the week of Aug. 9. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, September 22.

Graffiti with hope



Before Hurricane Frances arrived, employees of the LifeWay Christian Store in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., installed protective plywood and painted Matthew 28:20 in English and Spanish: "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Gloria Nicholson, assistant manager at LifeWay Christian Store in Fort Lauderdale, and employee Dan Houlihan take note of new encouraging messages that customers added. "The verses are just so perfect for the times," Houlihan said. "Everybody's all up and rattled, so they like it." (Florida Baptist Witness photos by Joni Hannigan) **Inside: Kentucky volunteers dispatched to Alabama after Hurricane Ivan, page 8.**



Tenn. college seeks to elect own trustees

By Lonnie Wilkey
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

Nashville (ABP)—Belmont University trustees have given leaders of the Tennessee Baptist Convention a proposed covenant that would take away the convention's current responsibility of electing trustees for the university.

The state convention Executive Board's education committee responded Sept. 13 by unanimously

voting to invite Belmont trustees to meet with the committee "for the purpose of mutually clarifying the implications of the proposed covenant of affiliation" between the two entities.

The TBC Executive Board met in executive session the next day to discuss the Belmont proposal. Board members adopted a motion to "affirm the Education Committee in discussion with Belmont University in the resolution of this matter" and for the board to "initiate a prayer vigil for Belmont University beginning today (Sept. 14) and lasting until the January 2005 Executive Board meeting."

Belmont President Robert Fisher presented the covenant proposal to TBC Executive Director James Porch one week before the Executive Board's Sept. 14 meeting.

One reason for the new covenant, cited in its preamble, is "the challenge of maintaining excellence in education at affordable prices for students." The preamble notes that in fiscal year 2004 the TBC allocation of \$2,337,514 will comprise 2.79 percent of Belmont's total revenue.

Fisher said the covenant proposal was in response to a May request from a convention committee that asked each institution to rewrite its program statement in the form of a covenant.

Belmont University has been affiliated with the Tennessee convention since 1951 when the convention purchased the former Ward-Belmont College property. The school has grown from 136 students in 1951 to approximately 4,000 in 2004. Convention records show the school has received more than \$53

million in Cooperative Program funds since 1951.

The covenant notes that the convention's bylaws state that Belmont and other TBC-related institutions "are autonomous nonprofit corporations, neither owned nor operated by the convention," with governance of the institutions being "vested in their respective boards of trustees or directors in all matters."

In the covenant, Belmont pledges to remain "a Christ-centered, student-focused Christian community with a Baptist heritage" and to increase annual scholarship assistance for Tennessee Baptist students from \$1.4 million to \$2.3 million, the amount of the convention's yearly contribution to Belmont.

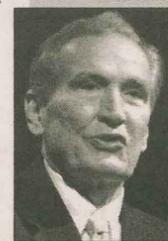
The covenant adds that "the board of trustees of Belmont has determined that it is in the best interests of Belmont University to include non-Baptist Christians on its governing board." At least 60 percent of Belmont's trustees will be members of Tennessee Baptist churches, while the remaining 40 percent will be "committed active Christians."

The TBC Executive Board action requested "that no recommendations or motions be made concerning Belmont University until the January 2005 Executive Board meeting, with the exception of recommendations and actions to continue and enhance a good faith relationship between the Executive Board and Belmont University."

Porch emphasized that "at this point, Belmont University has not made a decision to disassociate itself or realign itself in any way with the Tennessee Baptist Convention."

Adrian Rogers, longtime SBC leader, to retire from pastorate

Cordova, Tenn. (ABP)—Adrian Rogers, a prominent pastor and Southern Baptist Convention leader, announced he will retire in six months from the church he has led for 32 years.



Rogers

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., a suburb of Memphis, announced his plans

to the congregation Sept. 12, his 73rd birthday.

He noted that during the six months a search committee will seek his successor.

"I've got a short list of men I think would make fine candidates," Rogers said at a press conference. "I'm not going to hand-select the man who'll follow me, but I'll stand close by to make sure there aren't any mistakes."

Bellevue, with more than 28,000 members, is one of the largest Southern Baptist congregations in the nation. And Rogers is one of the most recognizable names in SBC life. He was three times elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention—the first in 1979, launching a succession of conservative presidents that took control of the denomination and reshaped it around biblical inerrancy and conservative social values.

He is seen nationwide on his "Love Worth Finding" broadcasts, which can be seen on more than 14,000 television and cable TV outlets and heard on nearly 2,000 radio stations and translators.

Rogers suffered a heart attack in January 2002 and underwent successful bypass surgery. But he said his health was not "a factor in this decision. I thank God for my recovery and growing vitality and hope for many good years ahead."

He emphasized that he is retiring only as pastor of Bellevue. "I will not retire from the ministry until I draw my last breath."

Rogers reportedly plans to continue his broadcast ministry, which is a separate entity from the church. He also plans to continue the recently established Adrian Rogers Pastor Training Institute and to teach at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in nearby Germantown, Tenn., which he helped found.

Born in West Palm Beach, Fla., Rogers was pastor of First Baptist Church in Merritt Island, Fla., before moving to the Memphis church in 1972. Under Rogers' leadership, the congregation moved from its downtown location to the current 377-acre campus in Cordova.

College case reaches Ga. high court

Rome, Ga.—The Georgia Supreme Court is the next step in the legal battle between the Georgia Baptist Convention and Shorter College over the college's intent to separate itself from the convention.

The state's high court has agreed to hear the college's appeal of an earlier court decision in favor of the Georgia Baptist Convention, according to the court clerk's office Sept. 14.

In another development, Shorter's president announced his resignation Sept. 16. Ed Schrader, president of Shorter since 2000, has accepted the presidency of Brenau University, a women's college in Gainesville, Ga., effective Jan. 1.

In an e-mail resignation to Shorter's board of trustees, faculty and staff, Schrader acknowledged that his ability "to range far and wide with potential constituents, student recruits, and donors is dramatically hampered by the battle scars from our struggle."

A state appeals court ruled March 17 that Shorter College's dissolution and reorganization that created a self-perpetuating board of trustees last year "cannot stand" without the GBC's approval. The state Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case in January.

The college transferred its assets to a new foundation in April 2003. The new entity was named Shorter College Inc.

The college has claimed in recent years that the convention has put the college's accreditation at risk by unduly influencing trustees. Convention leaders charge Schrader and trustees with trying to remove the Georgia Baptist Convention as the rightful owner of the college.

Based on reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press

Southern launches new center for science & theology, names director

Louisville (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler announced Sept. 16 the establishment of the Center for Science and Theology along with the appointment of philosopher of science William Dembski as its first director.



Dembski

Dembski has served since 1999 as associate research professor at Baylor University's Institute for Faith and Learning. He also serves as a senior fellow for the Discovery Institute's Center for the Renewal of Science and Culture in Seattle, Wash., and is executive director of the International Society of Complexity, Information and Design.

Mohler said the new center, under Dembski's leadership, will represent a major component of Southern Seminary's commitment to develop and articulate a comprehensive Christian worldview. Dembski, who will begin June 1, will serve as the Carl F.H. Henry Professor of Theology and Science.

Dembski "is one of the most skilled philosophers of science in this generation," Mohler said. "He is a primary theorist of intelligent design as well as a primary opponent of Darwinism and evolutionary theory. ... His name is well-known in the scientific world. This is a new thing for a theological seminary and it is a great thing."

Dembski said he desires to help students understand how science should be understood in terms of Christian theology.

"Theology is where my ultimate passion is and I think that is where I can uniquely contribute," he noted.

Dembski, a mathematician and philosopher, is the author of several books, including "Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science & Theology." He previously taught at Northwestern University, the University of Notre Dame and the University of Dallas.

NAMB's FamilyNet cuts budget in half, lays off 19 employees

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Fort Worth, Texas (ABP)—Nineteen employees of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's broadcasting network learned Sept. 9 their jobs were eliminated as part of a major cost-cutting move that reduces the FamilyNet annual operating budget by more than half—from \$8.5 million to \$4 million.

The layoff reduces the workforce in Fort Worth from 66 to 47 employees at FamilyNet, a not-for-profit subsidiary of NAMB.

"The financial cuts we have implemented will result in a very lean network, but one that will be able to live within its revenues and have the opportunity to expand both distribution and programming as revenues grow," said Randy Singer, special assistant to NAMB's president.

The eliminated salaries and benefits account for \$2.5 million in savings, and the remaining \$2 million in budget reductions come primarily from cutting contract workers, freelancers and promotional expenses, said Marty King, director of convention relations at the board.

Responsibilities for tasks previously performed by people who lost their jobs will be reassigned to remaining employees, transferred to NAMB staff in Alpharetta, Ga., or

eliminated altogether.

While the cuts were "across the board" at the network, King noted in particular that production of radio programming and television documentaries "are not a part of the core programming focus."

For now, supervision of those tasks has been transferred from FamilyNet to NAMB, and their future has not yet been determined, he said.

Affected staff at FamilyNet received severance packages based on prior job responsibilities and length of service.

FamilyNet is a 24-hour television network that airs more than 50 hours of original programs each week to a potential audience of more than 32 million households.

About two years ago, NAMB announced it was reorganizing FamilyNet to allow the network greater organizational independence and to make it more accountable for its own future. The board committed to subsidize the network \$9 million with the objective of it becoming self-sustaining in three years.

The mission board "cannot provide additional help to FamilyNet beyond the amounts specified in the three-year business plan at a time when NAMB is unable to fill missionary positions in the field," Singer said.

Workshops added to KBC annual meeting format

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—A new series of breakout workshops during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in November is designed to help Kentucky Baptists “connect” with the key issues facing their churches.

The 167th annual meeting, Nov. 16-17 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, will introduce a new emphasis for the convention’s future called “Kentucky Baptists Connect.”

This meeting will depart from the typical annual meeting schedule with a variety of features designed to highlight the statewide emphasis that will continue until 2010.

The Wednesday morning session has been revamped to include the presentation of new research on reaching unchurched people in Kentucky. The session also will include six breakout workshops featuring national presenters and a closing service with Baptist leadership speaker Charles Lowery.

Kentucky Baptists Connect encourages Kentucky Baptist churches to engage in evangelism, missions, leadership training, church growth, networking and relationships with Baptist agencies and institutions. The emphasis grew out of the report of a special Mission Study Committee that examined the work of the convention and established ambitious objectives and goals.

Connection kick-off celebration

The Kentucky Baptists Connect theme will permeate the annual meeting, including agency reports, KBC President Eugene Siler’s address and the convention sermon by Ric Frazier, pastor of First Baptist Church of Louisa.

A special service to launch Kentucky Baptists Connect will be held Tuesday evening. Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, and Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington, will serve as worship lead-

Workshop topics include worship, missions

Missions opportunities, new outreach strategies and meaningful worship are among the topics to be addressed during workshops at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The Wednesday morning workshops Nov. 16 are designed to educate and equip Kentucky Baptist churches in a variety of topics.

The workshops and leaders described are:

■ **Baptism Trends and Recommended Strategies** by Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Rainer will present an analysis of Kentucky Baptist baptismal trends from 1984-2004 and recommend strategies to help churches more effectively share the gospel in their communities.

■ **Trading Spaces Through Missions Involvement** by Nate Adams, vice president for mobilization

and media at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. Adams will introduce church leaders to a variety of missions options.

■ **Traction or Friction: Emerging Leaders in Changing Culture** by Gene Wilkes, author and pastor of Legacy Church in Plano, Texas. Wilkes’ workshop will focus on developing emerging leaders. Participants also will receive a copy of Wilkes’ book, “Paul on Leadership: Servant Leadership in a Ministry of Transition.”

■ **The Ten Commandments of Media Relations** by Karen Prunte, vice president and Midwest managing director for Spaeth Communications. Prunte, who regularly serves as a media coach for business executives, will offer pastors special insight on getting their messages across effectively to secular audiences.

■ **Worship for Emerging Generations** by Rod Ellis, contemporary

music consultant for the KBC worship and music department, and Tog Goodson, minister of music for Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville. Ellis and Goodson will lead a workshop that focuses on leading meaningful worship for the emerging generations.

■ **Opening the Arms of Your Church: Effectively Assimilating New Members** by Ken Lupton a church consultant with LifeWay Christian Resources. Lupton will focus on using membership classes to effectively assimilate new people into the church so that they become active.

Space is limited for some workshops.

Kentucky Baptists can register in advance for a workshop choice at www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting.

Messengers and visitors to the annual meeting also can register on site for workshops that are not already full.

ers for the service. The service will include video and music to help participants better understand Kentucky Baptists Connect.

Business matters

Kentucky Baptists also will address business during the annual meeting including the election of officers and the approval of budget goals for 2005-2006.

Two candidates have been announced for president of the KBC: Rusty Ellison, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, and Hershael York, professor of Christian preaching and associate dean of ministry and proclamation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Ellison has previously served as president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, the camp and conference ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. York also serves as pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in

Frankfort.

Kentucky Baptist messengers will vote on a constitution change recommended by the Mission Study Committee and first presented by the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws at the 2003 annual meeting. The change would allow Kentucky Baptist colleges to have some trustees who are not members of Baptist churches.

Three-quarters of the trustees would be required to be members of Kentucky Baptist Convention churches. Other trustees would have to be professing Christians who are “in harmony with historic Baptist beliefs.” All trustees would be required to have an “intentional commitment” to keep the college affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The changes to the Wednesday morning session mark the most dramatic adjustment of the meeting’s format in several years

and reflect an effort to ensure the meeting is relevant and useful to Kentucky Baptists, especially busy pastors and staff.

Survey, workshops, Lowery

During the first part of the session, messengers will be among the first to hear results of a recently completed Barna Research Group study. The research is designed to help Kentucky churches as they plan strategies for reaching people in their communities.

The Wednesday morning session will conclude with a message by Charles Lowery, president and CEO of Lowery Institute for Excellence, Inc., a non-profit educational organization. Lowery, a former Baptist pastor in New Mexico, uses humor to inspire and educate both religious and secular audiences.

For more information about the KBC annual meeting, visit www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting.

Annual meeting in Louisville to kick off ‘Connect’ emphasis

By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention

A five-year-long effort aimed at reinvigorating baptisms, church growth and other key growth indicators will launch at the annual convention of Kentucky Baptists Nov. 16-17 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

“Kentucky Baptists Connect: Connecting All People to Jesus Christ” has set such goals as 125,000 baptisms and starting 125 new churches and ministries by Jan. 1, 2010.

“This will help churches to discover and focus on their God-given mission,” KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said of the statewide evangelism and spiritual growth campaign.

“Every church and association is needed to create a spiritual climate where the Holy Spirit has freedom to work in a region and the entire state,” he added.

The effort will launch Tuesday evening, Nov. 16. After music,

testimonies and inspirational messages, churches will be offered an opportunity to say, “We want to be a part,” according to Steve Thompson, assistant executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

“We hope churches want to participate,” Thompson says. “Our goal is not to help the KBC, but to help churches be more effective in ministry, discipleship, and training new and current leaders.”

Mackey calls the Connect emphasis “the best way for Kentucky Baptists to carry out our local and state responsibilities in Acts 1:8 ... and to strengthen the foundations for world missions.”

One goal, to increase networking between the KBC and church leaders, already is under way with the naming of four church development strategists. Alan Witham, French Harmon, Jim McGee and Ronnie Sivells are working to encourage church starts in four regions. They also are working with existing

congregations in their region to promote mentoring and fellowship.

The other main goals include:

■ **Evangelism.** Encourage churches to increase baptisms by one per year by Jan. 1, 2010, baptizing 125,000 converts and retaining at least 80 percent of all new members.

■ **Missions.** Start 75 churches, including 25 “high impact” churches. Leaders also hope to see 500 new evangelistic points of outreach focused on unreached people groups, such as multi-housing units.

■ **Leader training.** Train 1,000 leaders with an emphasis on emerging leaders, equip 1,000 church leaders to provide authentic worship experiences for young people, and train 500 leaders to begin or strengthen men’s and women’s ministries.

■ **Strengthen churches.** Lead Kentucky Baptist churches to start 5,000 Bible study units, equip 1,000 pastors for small group and Sunday school development, and help 250 churches in church development

and growth.

■ **Strengthen relationships with agencies and institutions.** Network Kentucky Baptist colleges with each other and the convention to increase effectiveness, strengthen Baptist Student Unions and better support students called to vocational ministry.

Thompson said this might be the most ambitious set of goals ever established by convention members.

In recent years, the assistant executive director said baptisms have averaged 16,000 to 18,000 a year. Connect’s yearly goal of 25,000 is nearly 40 percent higher than 18,000.

“If we’re even moderately successful in reaching these goals, it will change us dramatically,” Thompson said. “It should make a difference in the spiritual climate in our churches if we can get people in a mindset of growth and reaching people. It will certainly have an impact in the lives of those who are reached.”

The changes to the Wednesday morning session mark the most dramatic adjustment of the meeting’s format in several years.

“If we’re even moderately successful in reaching these goals, it will change us dramatically,”

Steve Thompson, assistant executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253
(USPS 679-380)

TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

JANET McINTOSH
Marketing & Business
Manager

*Earnestly contend for
the faith which was once
for all delivered to the
saints.—Jude 3*

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$12.19 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$9.75 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (888) 254-5729, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters from subscribers on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or fax or by e-mail to: wesrec@earthlink.net

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors:
Chairman **Bill Thurman**,
Lexington;
Vice Chairman **Linda Polley**,
Elizabethtown;
Secretary **Mike Harmon**,
Princeton;
Skip Alexander,
Campbellsville;
Dan Francis, Erlanger;
David Harmon-Vaugh,
Louisville;
Ken James, London;
Don Mantooh, Morehead;
Bill Marshall, Louisville;
Floyd Price, Prestonsburg;
Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville;
Marc Whitt, Richmond.

Listen to God

Some of the ungodly statements in your column, like the ones by Paul L. Whiteley Sr., in the Sept. 7 edition, absolutely demand a response.

He says, "God is not pulling for either George W. Bush or John Kerry ... (but) gives us the freedom to make right or wrong choices" (although I must ask how one would define "right" and "wrong" choices if God isn't "pulling" in any particular direction).

That's funny because God has always favored one candidate over another. No, God isn't a Democrat or a Republican, but He certainly favored the righteous Abel over the wicked Cain! He certainly favored Moses over Pharaoh! How about the Old Testament kings who "did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord" as opposed to those who "did what was right in the eyes of the Lord"?

How about Solomon or his rebellious half-brother Adonijah (1 Kings 1)? Daniel or the other Per-

sian administrators who opposed him? Jesus or the spiritual/political parties of the Pharisees, Sadducees and Herodians? Emperor Constantine (a Christian who granted religious freedom to the church from three centuries of bloody terror) or the next genocidal demoniac waiting



in line to grab the throne of Rome? Luther or the popes? Will God be for or against the candidate know as the antiChrist? (Gosh, that's a hard one!)

If God just "gives us the freedom to make right and wrong choices," then why did the disciples pray as to which of the two candidates God would have them to fill the vacancy of Judas, and why did He answer (Acts 1:21-26)? Why did God specifically show Samuel which of Jesse's eight sons He wanted anointed as Israel's next king?

No, you don't need Jerry Falwell to tell you who to vote for, but you do need God to tell you—and if you listen, He will!

Rob Cornett
Clearfield

Elections? God cares

Paul Whiteley of Louisville suggests that God is not interested in who is running this country. I submit that according to the Word of God, God not only is interested but also installs all leaders all across the world to their positions.

In Romans 13:1-2, we read that God puts into place every authority on earth—good and bad—to be the instruments in carrying out His plan and purpose. The question is: Will whoever God places in office reflect where our nation stands?

So does God care? Yes, He cares. God is never a spectator of events here on earth; God is the orchestrator. And time will tell with the events that unfold if "In God We Trust" is still the true motto of our nation.

I will vote for Bush out of conviction, but if Sen. Kerry wins, I will obey the Scriptures and pray for him as hard as I pray for President Bush. God cares—and so must we.

Matthew R. Perry
Lexington

Five things to do five years before retirement

By Don McLeod

Dallas (BP)—People work a lifetime so they can enjoy their retirement years. Here are five things to consider if you are within five years of retirement:

1. Study up on retirement issues. Plan a trip to your local library and check out a few books dealing with retirement issues. Talk to some of your friends who have retired to get their input on retirement issues. Make sure you understand the basics of Social Security and Medicare. Visit the Social Security Web site at www.ssa.gov.

2. Develop a written financial inventory. Make a list of all of your financial assets including bank accounts, retirement accounts, investment accounts, the value of your home, cars, etc. Include

the current value of the asset and where it is located. Information about your lawyer, accountant, insurance agent and financial consultant also should be included.

3. Check your asset allocation. You should check your asset allocation on a regular basis but especially as you move closer to retirement. Do you have a mix of stocks and bonds that is appropriate for someone close to retirement? Adjust your allocation if needed.

4. Contribute as much as you can to your retirement accounts. Because of recent tax law changes, employees with a 403(b) or 401(k) can now contribute 100 percent of their taxable income up to \$13,000 (or \$16,000 if

they are age 50 or above). IRA limits currently are \$3,000 (or \$3,500 for those people age 50 or older).

5. Talk with your spouse about retirement. Retirement is a major change in life, so spend time discussing retirement with your spouse. Do you plan to stay in the same location and in the same house? Will you need to cut back on your expenses? Do you plan to work on a part-time basis? Do you plan to do volunteer missions? What hobbies or activities do you want to do together? If you want to travel, where do you want to go?

Retirement can be a wonderful stage of life. However, it is important to plan to retire to something, not just from something. Planning can make all the difference!

Don McLeod is an area director in the church retirement marketing department at GuideStone Financial Resources

State missions reaches out to 'friends'

"Friend to Friend" is the theme for the Season of Prayer for State Missions and Eliza Broadus Offering emphasis Sept. 19-26.

Kentucky Baptists have grown in their financial support of state missions through the Eliza Broadus Offering for several years. The gifts through Aug. 31, 2004, reached a new annual record of \$897,648.

Gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering are very important for state missions in Kentucky. The promotion each year focuses on selected ministries but the strongest support is for state missions through the Kentucky Baptist Convention and especially the partnership with associations.

More than 35 associational missions programs are strongly funded through the offering, enabling the programs to be full-time and more effective in local missions. We are grateful for the strong partnership.

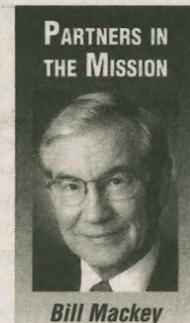
Most KBC ministries could not be as effective without this strong support of associational directors of missions. Ministries such as Hispan-

ic ministry, new work, disaster relief, international student ministry, missions education and awareness, partnership missions, leader training, benevolent ministries and others could not be as effective without local leaders to coordinate and lead.

Randy Jones, our state missions director, along with other Mission Board staff team leaders, provides coordination for these state mission ministries and works closely with associations in strategy development and transitions with leadership.

David Aker, KBC mountain missions director, has done excellent work in coordinating mountain mission ministries. Assisted by Teresa Parrett, a Mission Service Corps missionary, hundreds of volunteers have come each summer to help with various ministries. Aker takes initiative in developing creative ministries and partnerships. Recently, many of these have related to economic development.

Exciting ministries are developing in Red River Association that



Bill Mackey

are made possible by Eliza Broadus funds that help support full-time Director of Missions Jack Fletcher. In partnership with Christian County Association, where Larry Baker is director of missions, and Little Bethel Association, where Bob Morrison serves as director of missions, great ministries are developing to assist this five-county area which is among the most unreached in North America.

Randy Jones and David Aker are also leaders in the Appalachian Regional Ministries council, which coordinates the mountain work in 10 states. Many volunteers are coming to Kentucky due to ARM.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union has challenged Kentucky Baptists to be a friend to missions by learning, giving, praying and going. Your personal participation and gifts will enable workers and ministries to meet the incredible needs where 65 to 75 percent of the people are unreached.

I am grateful for the partnership with Kentucky WMU. By participation, praying and giving, you can be a great friend to an unreached person in Kentucky!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

CHURCH

Budget challenges require increased stewardship focus

By Doug Strader

We have just completed the 2003-04 Cooperative Program budget year in Kentucky. The new Kentucky Baptist Convention budget year began Sept. 1.

Those of you who keep up with the progress of CP receipts know that we did not reach our original budget goal

this year. We did, however, set a record in giving and exceeded the KBC's revised CP budget.

Budget challenges are not just an issue in Kentucky; many Baptist state conventions face similar concerns. If Kentucky Baptists are to remain strong in missions support, we must emphasize the Cooperative Program and make it a priority in our churches.

Part of the challenge can be attributed to the economics of our day—job loss, stock market decline and other factors that cause undesignated receipts to decline in our churches. Another factor is the lack of stewardship education in many of our churches. The builder generation is dying out and the boomers, busters, X-ers and other are not picking up the gauntlet.

What can churches do to help alleviate the situation?

■ Pastors can begin to take seriously the biblical teachings of total stewardship preaching and teaching. If you study the teachings of Jesus, you will find that He has much to say about the believer's relationship to his or her possessions.

■ Ministers of education, youth ministers, children's ministers and Sunday school leaders need to place a strong emphasis on financial stewardship education.

■ Stewardship committees and budget committees need to take their assigned responsibility seriously and keep financial stewardship matters before the congregation on a year-round basis.

■ New Christians need to be taught from the beginning of their Christian life that God expects His children to be faithful stewards of their money and possessions.

■ All Christians need to prayerfully seek God's will in their lives in relation to their possessions.

It has taken the church many years to get to the place where we now find ourselves, and it will take some time to get to where we need to be. The time to begin that process is now.

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville

Tired of the same old marital conflicts? Try these 10 steps

Q: My wife and I cannot talk about anything anymore without arguing. I am sick of it. It has gotten to the point that I don't even want to be around her. I am not sure what to do about this. I dread coming home and facing another fight. Do all couples have this problem or is it just us?

Conflict is a normal part of any marriage. How it is handled greatly differs. Most couples bring two different approaches, one from each family of origin, to the task of dealing with conflict.

MARRIAGE

There are many skills necessary for a strong marriage. Conflict resolution is one of those. The great thing is that skills are learned. So you and your wife can learn new skills to change the way you handle conflict.

David Olson, in his well-researched work for Life Innovations marriage enrichment resources, provides 10 clear steps for resolving conflict:

1. Set a time and place for discussion.
2. Define the problem or issue of disagreement.
3. Ask how each of you contributes to the problem?
4. List past attempts to resolve the issue that were not successful.
5. Brainstorm. List all possible solutions.
6. Discuss and evaluate these possible solutions.
7. Agree on one solution to try.
8. Agree on how each individual will work toward this solution.
9. Set up another meeting. Discuss your progress.
10. Reward each other as you each contribute toward the solution.

Pray about your desire to make significant changes in your marriage. Ask God to begin changing you and helping you become an instrument of peace. Choose a time to speak with your wife when the two of you are not in conflict. Present these steps to her, declaring you are willing to change because you love her and want a better marriage for both of you. Pursue each step in its proper order.

Remember when married couples attempt to break bad habits and create healthier ones, it takes time and careful repetition before it feels natural and becomes the new norm.—Valerie Vincent

Q: During the recent anniversary of Sept. 11, I grew nervous as I recalled the planes crashing into the World Trade Center and Pentagon. With all the violence, hostage taking and terrorism around the world, what can I do to protect my two teenagers in high school?

First, remember that what you see reported in the news can leave you with a distorted view of everyday reality. Most of what goes on every day is not violent. Terrorism and hostage taking, while occurring at an alarming rate, are not the norm. Carefully monitor your daily news consumption so you remain informed but avoid becoming paranoid and overly anxious as a result of news saturation.

PARENTING

Second, find a way to volunteer in your children's school. Not only will this enable you to observe firsthand what is going on, your presence can help contribute to a healthy Christian subculture in the school. As you get to know administrators, teachers, staff and students, you will recognize that you have allies in keeping your children safe and secure.

Finally, let me encourage you to pray daily for your teenagers. We never know how much is averted because of the prayers of faithful men and women. As you continue talking to God, make sure that you are talking regularly with your children so that you know what is going on with them both inside their school and inside their hearts—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. E-mail: dgarrard@smbclouisville.org.

James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org.

Valerie Vincent, Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: vhdvmin@msn.com.

Scott Wigginton, associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University. E-mail: sewigginton@campbellsville.edu.

Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@earthlink.net.



Volunteers offer hope amid life's storms

Disasters, by their very nature, typically are chaotic and unpredictable. The triple punch of hurricanes Charley, Frances and Ivan has multiplied that level of chaos in Florida and other states across the Southeast—both for storm victims and relief workers.

Since Charley's landfall in Florida Aug. 13, residents have faced almost nonstop turmoil. In response, Baptist disaster relief workers from Kentucky and more than two dozen other states have worked to provide hot meals, chainsaw crews and mud-out efforts to help get storm victims back on their feet.

Prior to this week's relief ministry in the wake of Hurricane Ivan, more than 4,000 Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers had prepared more than one million meals and completed an estimated 4,000 clean-up projects since mid-August.

But the past month's relief efforts have presented an unusual challenge even for seasoned relief workers. The familiar yellow caps and jackets that identify Southern Baptist relief workers typically are visible in a major disaster zone within a matter of hours and remain a comforting presence for area residents until life gradually begins to return to normal.

This time around, however, several relief teams have had to evacuate their posts in the face of oncoming storms.

Kentucky Baptist relief teams spent two weeks working in Fort Myers, Fla., after Hurricane Charley. But before their work was done, they were instructed to pack up their equipment and evacuate to Perry, Ga., to wait out Hurricane Frances.

After that storm, they were assigned to relief efforts in Punta Gorda, Fla. But even before some of the feeding units could get unpacked, they were sent back to Georgia until Ivan had blown through. This past weekend, the weary workers were assigned to relief duty in Alabama, hopefully to prepare meals

and do clean-up work until the immediate needs in the area are met.

Noting that the initial evacuation "was the first time we've ever had to evacuate an area," Kentucky Baptist disaster relief director Larry Koch said, "To do it twice has really taken a toll on us."

Despite the challenges, "the good part is we've had some real positive experiences in ministering to people," Koch added. He said team members prepared more than 55,000 meals and were involved in about 45 clean-up projects before their first evacuation.

As volunteers seek to share the presence of Christ in storm-ravaged communities through comfort, encouragement and the basic necessities of life, Baptist relief officials across the nation have agreed to relax their training requirements this time around.

In addition to urging trained disaster relief workers to respond to the widespread needs, leaders are inviting untrained volunteers to join the effort. Koch said first-time workers can help prepare meals, repair roofs, do mud-out work and other projects. "We'll pair them up with experienced people to show them what we do and how to do it safely," he said, "and then let them do what they can do."

Individuals interested in volunteering for current relief projects can call the Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission office at (888) 254-5720 or Larry Koch at (502) 649-6566. Churches and associations also can contact Koch's office to get information about hosting future disaster relief training sessions.

Anyone who would like to make financial contributions to disaster relief can send checks designated for "KBC disaster relief" to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Dept. 5088, Box 740041, Louisville, KY 40201-9976.

Together, Baptist volunteers, financial supporters and prayer partners can provide much-needed help and hope amid life's devastating storms.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

A Christian film critic's conundrum

By Phil Boatwright

Kansas City, Mo. (BP)—I was once reprimanded by a reader for suggesting "Casablanca" as a video alternative because the Humphrey Bogart character owned a bar. I remember my consternation over the fact that this man had dismissed this classic romantic adventure that salutes love, self-sacrifice, honor and patriotism because the story was set in a nightclub.

Still, there is validity to that reader's misgivings. In their frustration with Hollywood's common sense-pummeling content, many in the Christian community have become suspicious or ambivalent whenever a filmmaker does incorporate spiritual truths. We are in an age when obscenity and profanity are acceptable movie dialogue (in nearly every movie), blasphemy regularly garners a laugh, sexuality has progressed from exploitative to downright hedonistic and violent visuals now constitute "style."

Movies' mixed messages

It's nearly impossible to find a film that doesn't contain something objectionable. "Laws of Attraction," for example, was a romantic comedy earlier this year about two feuding divorce lawyers who, after an alcohol-fueled night on the town, found themselves married. The film took a profound stance, a clear defense, if you will, for lasting commitments. In a culture that promotes the quick

disposal of friendships and marriages at the first hint of dissatisfaction, here was a movie that declared love is worth fighting for.

Alas, not messages in the film were other spiritually uplifting. We heard God's name followed by a curse. And on two separate occasions, the leads awakened together in bed, both times so inebriated that they were unaware of how they got there.

FIRST PERSON

True, one drunken blackout set up the story's premise, but when the couple got that drunk twice, it simply appeared as if they shared a drinking problem.

The most endearing films nourish the spirit as well as entertain. Sadly, film often is used to pander to our baser instincts.

Mankind's disobedient nature uses any means it can to disconnect itself from the Creator, including the use of the cinema and television. What's more, Satan has used the medium to elevate mankind's rebellious nature while downplaying the importance of our needed relationship with the Creator.

But Satan didn't author this storytelling medium. Rather, God allowed man to discover the power of visual art forms. And in his finest moments, man has used the medium to edify as well as entertain. Film has even been used to glorify the Creator. In "Ben Hur," for instance, a once-embittered warrior played by Charlton Heston, reflects on his

conversion: "And I felt His voice take the sword out of my hand."

Secular filmmakers occasionally stumble upon insights that can give us Christians a more in-depth perspective concerning biblical teachings, one that strengthens our understanding of God's Word.

"Where do we draw the line?"

Movies can combine the ultimate expressions of joy and sadness, of nobility and fear, of love and hate, of passion and romance, and of hope and faith. They are modern man's medium for relating parables to the masses.

The question is: Where do we draw the line? Ah, there's the rub. While the entertainment mediums can be a positive element in the life of modern man, we must guard against the media's anti-biblical pull. Tinseltown's jesters can amuse us, but we must remember that the truth lies in God's Word, seldom in Hollywood's product. Discernment is essential. We need to be able to separate the wheat from the chaff. Therefore, we must know His Word.

Great films, like any art form, help teach us about the nature of man. By studying Scripture, however, we gain an understanding of the nature of God. The Bible is a guidepost for living a lifestyle that keeps us in harmony with the Heavenly Father and with our fellow man.

Is your Bible dusty?

Phil Boatwright is a film reviewer and editor of The Movie Reporter, on the Web at www.moviereporter.com

Inez ministry reaching out to federal prison visitors

Continued from page 1

The opening date for Haven of Rest has been postponed more than once, the latest because duct work on the guest house wasn't finished.

Mullins is scheduled to welcome guests to Haven of Rest on Oct. 1, but she already plans to add a caretaker's cottage and a two-story dormitory to accommodate more families.

She said the opening delays haven't upset her.

"When it's ready, it'll be ready," said Mullins, a member of First Baptist Church of Inez. "The prison chaplain told me the word on the yard is there will be no problem getting the word out to families. We will be listed on the prison Web site."

Tom Biddle, director of missions for Enterprise Baptist Association

and a member of the lodge's advisory board, said Haven of Rest is a unique ministry.

While the association hasn't "rallied around" the facility yet, Biddle thinks more churches will get involved after it opens.

He also likes its inter-denominational flavor: "Baptists have taken the lead, but are stretched with other ministries. We couldn't have done this on our own. It helps to let others get involved."

"Eileen can hear God's voice"

June Rice, Mullins' Mission Service Corps mentor who has been part of the ministry from the beginning, said her involvement has strengthened her faith.

"God told Eileen the money would come in little increments and sure enough it has," said Rice, who maintains Haven of Rest's donation records. Rice said money comes in donations as small as \$2, and none larger than \$2,000.

"It has given me so much of a boost to know God is in control and that He did tell Eileen to do this," Rice said. "I'm firmly convinced Eileen can hear God's voice."

In addition to donations of labor, materials and furnishings, last year two women started a thrift store to raise funds for ongoing operations.

Heaven's Treasures is located in nearby Warfield. It is operated by Bonnie Triplett, a member of War-

field United Methodist Church, and Louise Pack, who attends Mountain Cathedral—part of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.)

Pack said Triplett first suggested opening a store six months after they met Mullins at a nursing home and learned about her ministry.

Selling everything from clothing to furniture, household items and books, last year the store generated \$12,500 for Haven of Rest. Mullins estimates continuing operations will cost between \$17,000 and \$19,000 a year.

"We've been excited about it because God called us to do it," said Pack, a Martin County native who returned several years ago after living in several other states. "When I first heard about it, I thought, 'Oh, I've got to do something to help.'"

For Mullins, the ministry is the culmination of a journey that began with her son's arrest for manslaughter after shooting his wife during a bitter, divorce-related argument.

Fighting satan's whisper

Prior to that, Mullins said, she always struggled with the meaning of Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

Mullins had wondered if she could say "everything" could be used for good. After her son's ar-

rest, she said the devil whispered, "Now do you believe Romans 8:28?"

"I fell on my face before God and said, 'You'll have to give me the faith that good will come from this and You will be glorified,'" Mullins recalled.

The day they dropped their son off at prison and drove away, Mullins said she sensed the Holy Spirit say, "You and I share something special now because you understand what I felt when my Son went to Calvary. I had to turn my back too."

"I felt healing from the top of my head to my toes," Mullins said of that message.

Now focused on using her tragedy to serve others, she expects to finish the caretaker's cottage next spring.

Mullins also is eager to build another dorm, saying she already has a supply of metal on hand for the framing.

But one of her primary goals for Haven of Rest isn't how large it grows, but that the ministry will draw people closer to God.

"It took me a long time to see that God wants us to minister to others, but it's a two-way thing," Mullins said.

"He wants praise, worship and an intimate relationship with us. That's more important than ministry. We get so busy with ministry we neglect our relationship with Him."

HAVEN OF REST Mission Service Corps volunteers Linda Otterback (left) and Frank Plewinski relax on the porch at Haven of Rest during a break. The two participated in the quarterly prayer meeting sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions growth team. The mid-summer session was held there during the retreat facility's final construction phase. (Photo by Ken Walker)



Signs

An event for Youth.



2nd Annual Youth Conference from
Cooperative Youth Ministries
of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship
Friday - Sunday, November 12 - 14
Immanuel Baptist Church
Frankfort, Kentucky

Join us for this fun weekend where we
will uncover signs of God all around us!

Register by Friday, October 15th and save \$5/youth!

\$40/youth includes three meals, recreation, Bible study, parties, worship, mission activities, and a long-sleeved T-shirt. Make checks payable to: KBF, 225 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy., Suite 205, Louisville, KY 40222-4929. Registration after October 15 is \$45. Questions? (502) 426-1931



Reserve a room at Holiday Inn,
Capital Plaza, 405 Wilkinson Blvd.,
Frankfort, Ky. (502) 227-5100.
Only \$67 per 4-person room!
Ask for the Immanuel Baptist
Church Youth Conference.

CELEBRATE THE

MISSION

Celebrating the Movement of God in Missions
Throughout Kentucky and the World!

Ministry Centers
Mission Education
International Missions
Lay People as Proclaimers
Restorative Ministry
Recreational Ministry
Disaster/Relief Construction
Youth Opportunities
Seniors on Mission
Families on Mission

**Friday & Saturday
October 1 & 2, 2004**
Executive West Hotel, Louisville

Friday 7:00-10:00 p.m.
(registration begins at 6:00, no advanced registration required)
Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Who Should Attend?
Those who would like to begin or expand a missions ministry in their congregation and celebrate the movement of God in missions.

Ministry-specific Breakout Sessions
Experienced practitioners will lead guided discussions designed to provide information, resources and a chance to network with others involved in specific ministries.

Do Not Miss the Exciting Option for Fathers & Sons!!!
An overnight Father/Son primitive camping trip for boys, grades 1-10, will be held at 1414 Yager Lane in LaGrange on Friday evening through Saturday afternoon.

A fee of \$15 covers meeting facility, materials, a hospitality room and continental breakfast on Saturday morning.



KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Baptist Men on Mission Department
P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433
502/244-6489 or 888/254-5720

www.kybaptist.org/celebratethemission

Paducah churches host outdoor worship festival

By Keith Todd
State Correspondent

Paducah—Paducah's River of Life Festival was not what organizers Lisa Davis and Sidney Crowell expected. It was more.

What started with the two women and some divine inspiration grew to involve more than 200 volunteers, ten churches and 75 musicians.

The Christian festival ran two nights at Paducah's Dolly McNutt Plaza, then moved for a full day of activities at the Paducah Riverfront stage on Sept. 11. The event attracted crowds ranging from about 300 on Thursday to more than 1,000 at the concluding service led by evangelist Brady Weldon.

The festival included face painting for kids, a patriotic remembrance by Christian entertainer Eric Horner, a concert by Jason Morant, more than a dozen area Christian bands and other performers with some preaching thrown in.

The pre-festival got its start with Lisa Davis and her vision of area churches uniting for a regional revival service. After discussing it with other members of Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield, she concluded the idea could work if she applied herself and got additional volunteers.

The Mary Kay cosmetics consultant decided in March to clear her schedule and see what could be done. When she called to cancel some meetings, her Mary Kay director, Sidney Crowell, was curious about why Davis was backing out on some commitments.



ORGANIZERS Sidney Crowell (left) and Lisa Davis use radios to communicate with some of the 200 volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make the three-day festival possible.

"Lisa and I had been working together for some time," Crowell said. "I knew if Lisa was canceling most of our meetings she must have had something significant come up."

Surprised by response

When Davis explained her vision for an area-wide revival, Crowell said she nearly dropped her phone. For several months Crowell, a member of Paducah's First Baptist Church, also had been praying about organizing an event and had even contacted evangelist Tre' Faulkner.

The two women started meeting. They say they are amazed at how things fell together.

During an early meeting, when they weren't sure if the idea would pan out, they got a caller who had dialed a wrong number, asking if "Faith" was there.

"We both had goose bumps," Davis recalled



It was one of many small reassurances they said they received while planning the event.

"We got donations from dozens of people who heard about what we were doing and wanted to help financially," Davis said. "We don't even know where they found out about what we were doing. This was long before we had any publicity."

Support grew to include ten churches, the Family Research Council and others. They also marshaled a voter registration campaign and recruited food vendors so people could come straight from work.

During the three nights, organizers recorded 14 professions of faith and dozens of rededications.

Revival anniversary

Davis and Crowell said they didn't realize while planning that the event coincided with the 100th anniversary of a major revival awakening that swept the western Kentucky area in 1904 and 1905.

Kevin McCallon, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah, said the 1905 revival was such an exceptional movement of God, it will be difficult to replicate.

"In 1905, Pastor, John Cheek developed a desire for God to do a great work in this area," McCallon explained. "He and members of First Baptist Church started regularly to glorify God. Other local churches joined the effort. They held morning, mid-day, afternoon and evening meetings for prayer and preaching the gospel."

In a two-month period the 1905 groundswell resulted in more than 1,000 professions of faith, adding a significant number of members to several Paducah area churches.

"People were boldly going into bars, into all kinds of places, where people needed to hear the gospel. It wasn't just in the churches, it was a Christian influence in the entire community," McCallon noted.

McCallon said that with continued events like the festival and enough prayer support, God could move with the same power the Paducah area experienced 100 years ago.

Crowell and Davis said they believe the River of Life Festival will be the start of something larger. They already have contacted evangelist Franklin Graham about coming to Western Kentucky. A representative for Franklin Graham encouraged them recruit more churches in an effort to get Graham to speak in the area in the next year or two.

River of Life Festival sponsoring churches included Antioch Baptist Church of LaCenter, Paducah First Baptist Church, Hardmoney Baptist Church, Trace Creek Baptist Church, Heartland Worship Center, Grace Church International, New Covenant Church of Paducah, Community Christian Church in Metropolis, Christ Temple and Abundant Life Worship Center in Calvert City.

EVENING CONCERT

A crowd estimated at 1,000 visited Paducah's Riverfront Stage for the final night of the River of Life Festival Sept. 9-11. Organizers of the three-day revival and the evening festival hope the event will lead to a regional revival that could bring evangelist Franklin Graham to Western Kentucky. (Photos by Keith Todd)



1983 MC-9 47-passenger ♦ Very nice ♦ \$27,500
1-800-760-0805 ♦ www.masterbussales.com

Explore Your Creativity at

Creative Ministries Workshop 101

Don't Forget

Register Now!

WORKSHOPS

will be offered for youth, adults and adult leaders.

OCTOBER 16, 2004

Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville, Kentucky.

NOVEMBER 20, 2004

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

For more information, contact: Creative Ministries Department, KBC

502-245-4101 or toll free 888-254-5714 (In KY)

Tom Smoot, Director: tom.smoot@kybaptist.org

Jay Parker, Ministry Assistant: jay.parker@kybaptist.org

www.kybaptist.org/cm101

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES
Manufacturers of Lights and Baptistries Steeple
www.BUIchurch.com
1-800-446-7400
P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, Virginia 24541

NAMB offers low-interest loans to damaged SBC churches

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board will provide low-interest loans quickly to Southern Baptist churches damaged by Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Ivan, as well as other natural disasters.

Disaster relief loans up to \$10,000 will be available to SBC churches for repair of church facilities, replacement of equipment or materials, or to cover expenses while a church is displaced, said Karl Dietz, director of NAMB's church finance team.

"No requirements will be required the first year of the seven-year loans, and the interest rate will be one percentage point less than NAMB's current preferred loan rate," Dietz said.

To qualify for a disaster relief loan, a church must:

■ Own the damaged facility.

■ Be a cooperating Southern Baptist church as verified by the local association or state convention.

■ Be a valid legal corporation able to provide evidence concerning who is authorized to borrow money on the church's behalf.

The new loan program is not limited to the 80-plus Florida Baptist churches damaged in recent hurricanes, officials added.

"It's difficult for a church without a roof or flooded classrooms to fulfill its vision to be a worldwide mission center," NAMB President Bob Reccord said.

Ivan the terrible



WIPED OUT A beachfront home on Orange Beach, Ala., was damaged by Hurricane Ivan last week. (Mobile Register photo by Mike Kittrell)

Kentucky relief workers could be in Alabama three weeks or more

Bay Minette, Ala.—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers could be needed in Alabama for three weeks or longer after Hurricane Ivan tore down trees and power lines throughout that state last week.

"One lady said the power company told her it would be three to seven weeks before she got electricity," said Larry Koch, director of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's men on mission department.

"There's lots of cleanup work to do too," he added.

One team of Kentucky volunteers and their mobile kitchen arrived at First Baptist Church of Bay Minette Saturday and immediately began cooking, Koch said.

"There's lots of trees down and we don't have any electricity, so we're working off generators."

That day, volunteers cooked 400 meals for area residents, but quickly found that wasn't enough, he said.

"From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., there was not a break in the (feeding) line," he said, estimating they cooked 2,700 meals that day. "We kept cooking and cooking and cooking."

A second kitchen has set up in Brewton, Ala., early this week.

"We just need a continuous flow of volunteers because we're trying to work two kitchens plus cleanup," he said. "A greater need than that is prayer for the victims and our crew."

Volunteers are asked to call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's men on mission department office at (888) 254-5720 before traveling so organizers can coordinate volunteers for their maximum benefit.

Workers active since mid-August

The first wave of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers arrived Friday, Sept. 17, only a day after Hurricane Ivan made landfall about 2:50 a.m. Sept. 16.

Throughout the weekend, disaster relief teams from across the country, including mobile kitchen and shower units and chainsaw and recovery teams, arrived at staging sites throughout Alabama's Gulf Shores region as well as the Florida Panhandle, according to Randy Creamer, manager of the

North American Mission Board's disaster relief operations center near Atlanta.

The U.S. death toll from Ivan, which made landfall with 130 mph winds, has risen to at least 52.

Southern Baptist volunteers in disaster relief responses typically prepare most of the meals distributed by the Red Cross. Southern Baptists are the third-largest disaster relief agency in the country behind the Red Cross and Salvation Army, with more than 28,000 trained volunteers on call for local, state and national emergencies.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief operations have been active in one phase or another, practically around-the-clock, since mid-August when Hurricane Charley belted southwestern Florida, followed by Hurricane Frances' assault on the state's eastern coast.

Combined from reporting by News Director David Winfrey and Lee Weeks and Keith Hinson for the SBC North American Mission Board

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION 2004 MESSENGER CARDS

ATTENTION PASTORS:

Messenger cards for voting privileges at the KBC are available **upon request** from the KBC Executive Office. Avoid long lines at the convention—request your messenger cards now.

Please make your requests to:

Kentucky Baptist Convention
PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433
Attn: Wanda Karolyi

Phone: (888) 254-5712, ext. 254

Wanda.Karolyi@kybaptist.org

Deadline: November 3, 2004

advertisement

**JOIN OTHER BAPTISTS ON THIS
2-WEEK VACATION DEPARTING APRIL 2, 2005**

Arizona & California Golden West Tour

Fly from your closest major airport to Los Angeles. Meet "your man" at the baggage claim center for your hotel transfer. Tour includes 14 nights in quality hotels, baggage handling, airport transfers, and escorted motor coach sightseeing. Visit Barstow Station; Primm, Nevada; Las Vegas City Tour (no overnight); Laughlin, Nevada on the Colorado River; Grand Canyon; Painted Desert; Flagstaff, AZ; scenic drive south through Oak Creek Canyon and "Red Rock Country" including Sedona; and have two days in Phoenix, AZ. Next take a scenic drive to San Diego with a lunch stop in Yuma, Arizona. In San Diego your city tour includes Mission Bay, Balboa Park, Coronado Island Mission San Diego de Alcalá, and more! On your free day in San Diego optional tours include either Tijuana, Mexico or the San Diego Zoo. Both tours include a narrated cruise of San Diego Harbor. On your scenic drive back to Los Angeles stops include the Mission of San Juan Capistrano and the breathtaking Crystal Cathedral! Also included is the Your Man Tours city tour of L.A., Hollywood and Beverly Hills. Price, per person, based on double occupancy is \$948 including all taxes. Add \$400 for airfare from Louisville, Lexington, Cincinnati, Evansville, or Nashville. Space is limited on our bus. Family and friends are welcome. \$100 deposits are now due. **For your brochure with a day-to-day itinerary, information and reservations call:**

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-736-7300

Providing carefree vacations since 1967!

Long Run Baptist Association in Partnership
with Kentucky Baptist Convention

Spiritual Warfare

with
Dr. Chuck Lawless

**Thursday,
September 30, 2004
6:30-9:00 p.m.**

Legacy Center
The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
2825 Lexington Road, Louisville

Cost \$4 (includes dessert buffet)

This workshop will focus on the effect spiritual warfare has on discipleship in your church.

To register, call the Long Run office at
502-635-2601

Registration Deadline: September 22

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

At hurricanes' intersection, city ponders God's ways

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Lake Wales, Fla. (ABP)—You could forgive residents of Lake Wales if they feel persecuted, having endured two powerful hurricanes in three weeks' time.

The tiny town in central Florida bears a dubious geographical distinction: It was the crossing point for the paths of both Hurricane Frances and Hurricane Charley.

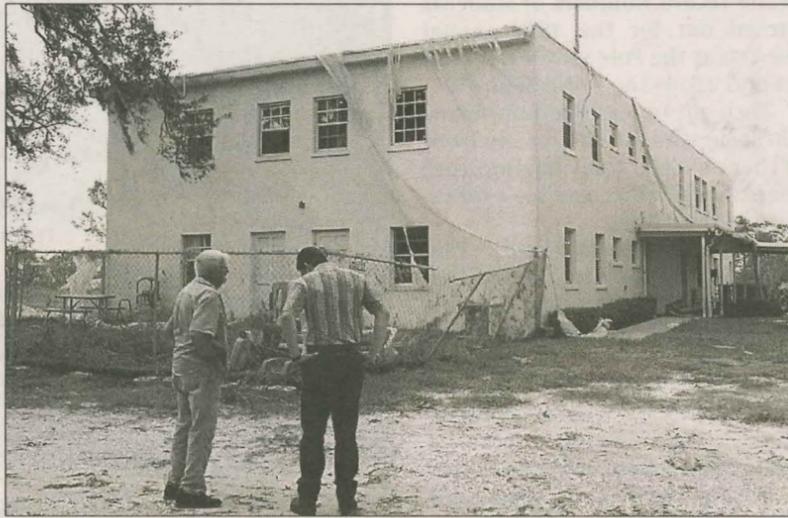
First Baptist Church of Lake Wales, one of the largest congregations in the county, took a double hit first from Charley, one of the country's most powerful hurricanes, followed by Frances, one of its largest.

"We were at ground zero for both," said Pastor Jeff McCormick. The church lost its steeple and part of its roof to Charley Aug. 13, along with other damage. Then Frances "ripped through most of our temporary roofing" Sept. 5, drenching the sanctuary with its six inches of rain, he said.

"Now we're staring down another one," McCormick added before Ivan, the strongest storm to hit the Caribbean in a decade, skirted to the west of the city.

Before Ivan arrived, Baptist disaster relief workers suspended their work in Florida, evacuating 100 relief units and diverting another 25 that were headed to the state.

Since mid-August, more than



INSPECTING DAMAGE Pastor Maylon Smith (right) and church member Charlie Moore survey the education building of Westside Baptist Church of Lake Wales, Fla., struck by hurricanes Charley and Frances. (ABP photo by Lindsay Bergstrom)

4,000 Baptist disaster relief volunteers from 25-plus states have prepared more than a million hot meals and completed 4,000 tree-removal and clean-up projects.

Weary Floridians

This unusually potent storm season, likely the worst in 40 years, has weary Floridians wondering when the destruction will stop—and why they are the target of nature's fury.

Maylon Smith became pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Lake Wales—his first senior pastorate—in June. Within three months, his

small church was hit by the destructive duo of Charley and Frances. The two-story education building, which included the church offices, is a total loss, Smith said. Five rooms leak in his parsonage across the street from the church. And now there are leaks in the sanctuary building.

But Smith said he doesn't doubt either his family's decision to move from Souderton, Penn., or the will of God.

"Certainly there are a lot of questions," Smith said. "Why is it that two storms came through Lake Wales? But when you question His

providence, you end up frustrated."

Still, sitting in his makeshift office, now set up in a room behind the sanctuary, Smith conceded with a note of weariness, "It's been a long haul."

"Just the buildings"

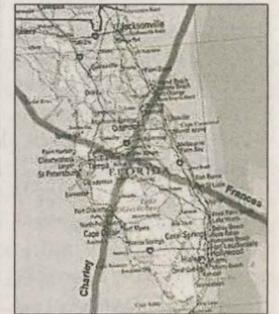
About a mile away in downtown, Pastor McCormick of First Baptist and Barry Hooten, minister of education and administration, are dealing with contractors beginning a second round of repairs to the sanctuary roof. The soaked carpet from the sanctuary is piled outside and the remaining contents are covered with tarps.

Worship will be held in the fellowship hall for now. "It could be worse," Hooten said. "We are able to rearrange. Our church is not damaged, just the buildings."

The home of virtually every church member has been damaged in some way, McCormick said, but their faith has not.

"We don't feel singled out by God," he continued. "The Scripture says He sends the rain on the just and the unjust."

Because of First Baptist's visibility in the community and role in the cleanup, the church attracted a lot of media attention. "We've been really pleased with how they portrayed us," the pastor said. "They portrayed us as the neighbor we want to be."



"When you question His providence, you end up frustrated."

Maylon Smith, pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Lake Wales, Fla.

Preaching Workshop

internet • homiletical education • writing • speaking • ministerial counseling • media

Enhance your *speaking, teaching, and writing* skills.

Dr. Cleophus LaRue

Princeton Theological Seminary
Francis Landey Patton Chair of Homiletics

Monday, October 18, 2004

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Consolidated Baptist Church
1625 Russell Cave Rd.
Lexington, KY

Send name, address and check to:

Dr. Eric Fruge

Georgetown College • 400 East College Street • Georgetown, KY 40324

Payable to: The Marshall Center for Christian Ministry

Registration (includes lunch): \$35 per person

Limited to 40 participants

featuring

Dr. Cleophus LaRue



Sponsored by

The Marshall Center for Christian Ministry

GEORGETOWN

C O L L E G E

NATIONAL NOTES

Warren marks 'Purpose-Driven Life' anniversary with tour. Rick Warren, author of the best-selling "The Purpose-Driven Life," launched a tour last week to mark the two-year anniversary of the book's release. The Purpose-Driven Life has averaged selling nearly 800,000 copies a month since its release 24 months ago, making it the best-selling hardback nonfiction trade book in history and a mainstay on numerous best-seller lists. During his 12-day tour, Warren will speak to a variety of East Coast audiences including a visit to the Pentagon, West Point and NBC television's "Today" show. "No one is more amazed than I am that this book has been so widely received and continues to sell," said Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Southern California. "It's both astonishing and humbling."

Network: Paul Crouch did not have gay encounter. Trinity Broadcasting Network has denied allegations that its president, Paul Crouch, was involved in a homosexual encounter and says he will remain at the helm of his California ministry. The Los Angeles Times published a story Sept. 12 about legal wranglings involving Crouch and accuser Enoch Lonnie Ford since the late 1990s. Ford met Crouch at a drug treatment center affiliated with the network in 1991 and later worked for the ministry. In a follow-up story, the newspaper reported that the ministry has received unsolicited support from Christian leaders, including Doug Wead, who served as an adviser to former President George H.W. Bush; author Josh McDowell; and singer Pat Boone.

National Baptist leader re-elected. Delegates to the annual meeting of the National Baptist Convention USA recently handed a second five-year presidential term to the Philadelphia pastor who pulled the church out of scandal left by his predecessor. William Shaw, who was re-elected Sept. 9, pledged to continue to rehabilitate the convention. His predecessor, Henry Lyons, served nearly five years in prison for grand theft and racketeering. Shaw, 70, ran on his record, which included paying off a debt of nearly \$3 million on the convention's headquarters in Nashville and instituting new financial controls.

Millions attend See You at the Pole events

Nashville (BP)—Initial reports indicate record numbers of students turned out for the 15th annual See You at the Pole prayer rallies at schools across the world Sept. 15.

They got up early to join fellow Christian students at 7 a.m. in front of their schools, many hoping other peers would notice and see a difference in their lives.

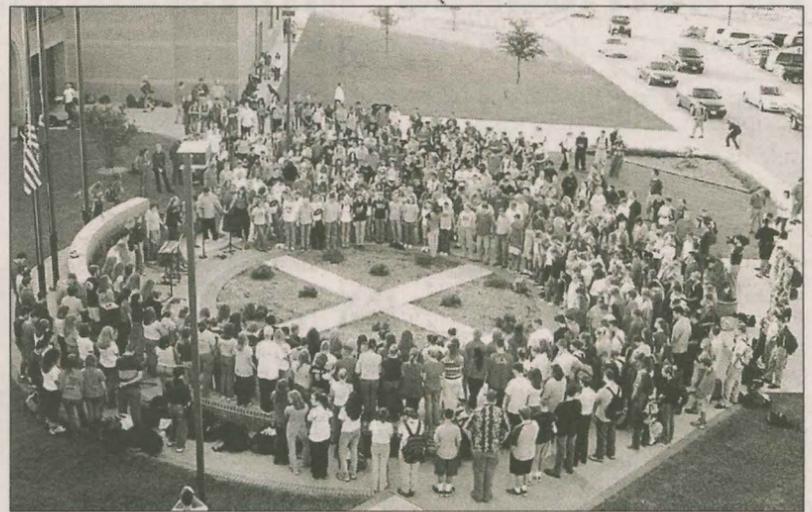
"It's to witness to friends," Lauren Liggett of Carthage Senior High School in Joplin, Mo., told The Joplin Globe about why she gathered at the flagpole.

"All of us really want to see our school go out and win the world for Christ," Jamie Gibson, a senior at Joplin High School, told The Globe.

During the past 14 years, millions of teenagers worldwide have circled flagpoles for See You at the Pole, taking the opportunity to pray for their friends, their schools, their countries and prominent issues in the world today. Some pray silently, some aloud. Most sing worship songs as well.

"Ascend: Clean Hands. Pure Heart" was the theme for this year's rally, based on Psalm 24:3-4, which explains that only those with "clean hands and a pure heart" may enter into God's presence, describing that place as "the hill of the Lord" or "His holy place."

See You at the Pole began with a group of students in the Fort Worth suburb of Burleson, Texas, and has grown into a worldwide movement



CIRCLING FOR PRAYER Millions of students worldwide gathered around school flagpoles Sept. 15 to pray during the 15th annual See You at the Pole. (BP photo courtesy of National Network of Youth Ministries)

coordinated by the San Diego-based National Network of Youth Ministries.

Final totals for this year's participation are not available yet, but last year the event drew more than 2 million teens in all 50 states and on six continents.

The See You at the Pole Web site, www.syatp.com, established a forum for reporting rally results.

More than 250 students gathered at Burleson High School to pray, according to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Many wore T-shirts that read, "Get Clean, Get Pure, Get Climbing. See You at the Pole 2004."

"I hope people will see that we are different and, hopefully, we'll see a change at the school," Galan Hughes, the student leader at the Burleson meeting, told the Star-Telegram.

Doug Clark, a national spokesman for See You at the Pole, told the Star-Telegram the remarkable turnout at rallies through the years is a credit to God.

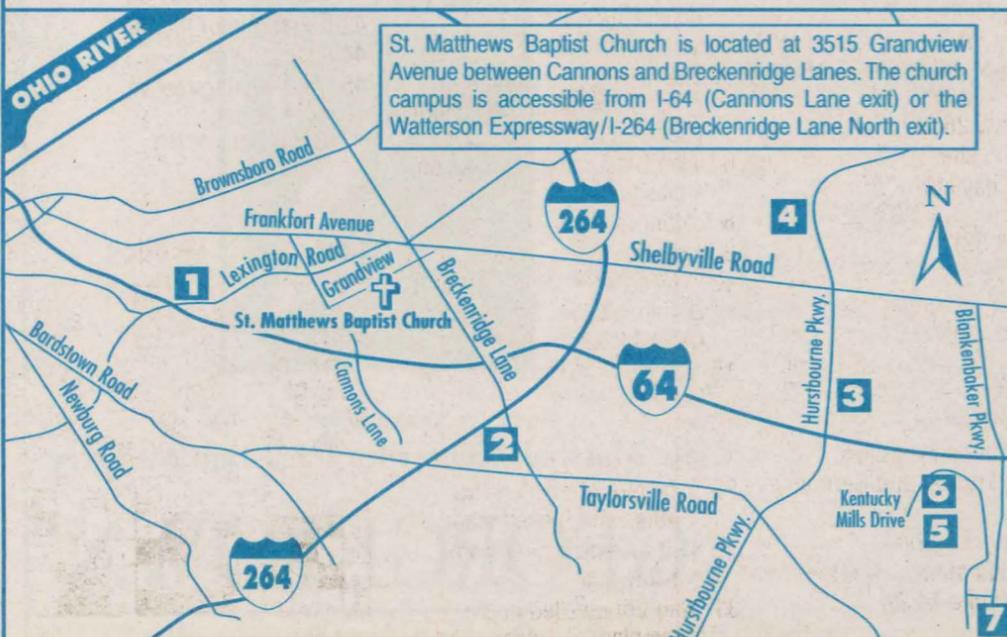
"The only explanation is that God wants to raise up students to pray because I don't think we can humanly create an event to get students out of bed that early in the morning," he said.

2004 KBC Annual Meeting November 16-17

St. Matthews Baptist Church
Louisville, Kentucky

Make plans now to attend!

KENTUCKY BAPTISTS
Connect
Connecting All People To Jesus Christ



St. Matthews Baptist Church is located at 3515 Grandview Avenue between Cannons and Breckenridge Lanes. The church campus is accessible from I-64 (Cannons Lane exit) or the Watterson Expressway/I-264 (Breckenridge Lane North exit).

Accommodations

Rates do not include the current 13.95% hotel tax. Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates. Most blocked rooms are non-smoking.

Southern Seminary Campus 1.9 miles from St. Matthews

1 Legacy Center
2825 Lexington Road
Toll free 1.877.444.SBTS or 502.736.0600
\$65 (mini suite); \$75 (double suite)
Free breakfast
Free guest transportation
Access to campus health facilities
Reservation deadline: October 18

Watterson Expressway (I-264): Breckenridge Lane exit 2.3 miles from St. Matthews

2 Breckinridge Inn
2800 Breckenridge Lane
502.456.5050
\$62 (singles, doubles)
Free continental breakfast buffet
Indoor pool/whirlpool/fitness room
Close to other restaurants
Reservation deadline: October 15

I-64: Hurstbourne Parkway/Middletown exit 5.4 miles from St. Matthews; follow Hurstbourne Parkway north to hotels

3 AmeriSuites Louisville / East
6.4 miles from church
701 South Hurstbourne Parkway
502.426.0119
\$85 (kings, doubles)
Free breakfast buffet
Fitness center/heated outdoor pool
Next to Barnes & Noble
Close to other restaurants
Reservation deadline: November 1

4 Embassy Suites Hotel Louisville East
6 miles from church, using North Hurstbourne Parkway and Shelbyville Road
9940 Corporate Campus Drive
502.426.9191
\$109 (kings, doubles)
Free cooked-to-order breakfast, buffet options
Close to other restaurants
Indoor pool/whirlpool/fitness center
Reservation deadline: October 15

I-64: Blankenbaker Parkway South Exit 6.5 miles from St. Matthews to exit; all hotels are adjacent to I-64

5 Best Western Signature Inn
1301 Kentucky Mills Drive
502.267.8100
\$63 (kings, 2 queens)
Free deluxe breakfast
Walking distance to Cracker Barrel
Pool/fitness center
Reservation deadline: November 1

6 Country Inn & Suites
1241 Kentucky Mills Drive
502.261.9434
\$84 (singles, doubles); \$94 (suites, office suites)
Free deluxe breakfast
Walking distance to Cracker Barrel
Indoor pool/fitness center
Reservation deadline: October 15

7 Comfort Suites Louisville East
1850 Resource Way
502.266.6509
\$59 (singles, doubles)
Free continental breakfast
Close to restaurants
Indoor pool/spa/fitness center
Reservation deadline: November 1



For more information, contact Denise H. Withers by phone: 502.254.4731 or 888.254.5713 or e-mail: Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org.

The Billy Graham school

Southern Seminary's school celebrates 10th anniversary

The Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth is part of the fabric of the overall mission of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Graham school is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

According to Seminary President Albert Mohler, it has functioned as a catalyst for the evangelistic vision and Great Commission passion throughout the entire seminary community. It has a clear and obvious focus on Great Commission ministries and practical or applied ministry training. The school now claims over a thousand graduates, including commissioned missionaries serving all over the world, church planters engaged in front-line ministry and a multitude of pastors leading churches with Great Commission vision.

The Graham school was born out of the vision of President Mohler for a new school that would reflect both the historical Southern Baptist passion for missions and evangelism and prepare the church for the unique challenges of ministry in the 21st

century. It's the only school of any kind that bears the name of the famed and beloved evangelist.

Thom Rainer, the founding and current dean of the Graham school, is recognized as an expert in the field of evangelism and church growth. According to Dr. Mohler, under Dr. Rainer's leadership, the school is setting the pace for the world of theological education as it has developed innovative programs that combine modern approaches to global communications and impact with the never-changing eternal power of the gospel. In looking to the future, Dr. Rainer has pledged to continue to strive to be the best Great Commission training school in theological education.

If you want to be a part of evangelist Billy Graham's legacy of connecting all people to Jesus Christ, let me encourage you to call Laurie Valentine or me to discover how (see toll-free number below).

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; (888) 254-5701; www.kybaptistfoundation.org

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

COLLECT FOR THE CHILDREN KBHC Food Round-Up!



It's Food Round-Up time!

Help us provide for the abused and neglected youth in Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's care across the state, both on our campuses and in our foster homes. Your donations of grocery gift cards, food and personal care items are greatly needed for the coming year.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Collect non-perishable food items, personal care items, and grocery gift cards to major retailers such as Kroger or Wal-Mart this month and deliver these items to your nearest pick-up point between Oct. 4-8.



Find a list of pick-up points and other helpful hints at www.kbhc.org. Or call us at 1-800-456-1386.



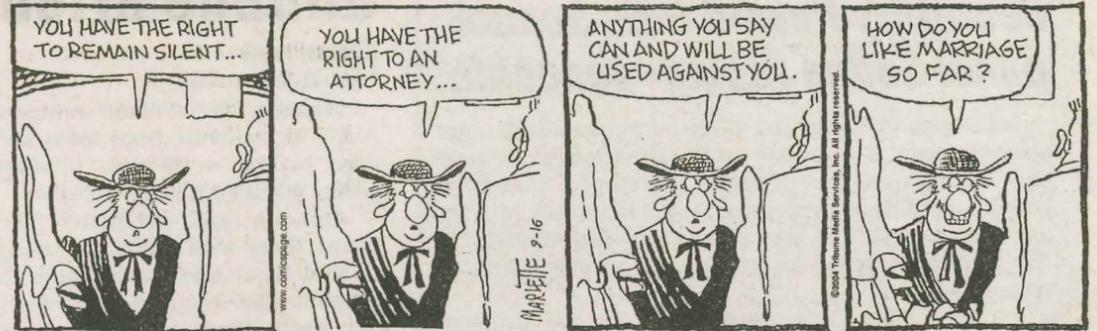
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
Life-Changing Ministries for Children & Families

For more information: 1-800-456-1386 or www.kbhc.org



LifeWay BUS SALES
Buses provided for LifeWay by
Carpenter Bus Sales
1-800-370-6180 • carpenterbus.com

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "There sat a certain man at Lystra, ___ in his feet" (Acts 14:8)
- 7 Recurring chills
- 10 "When her branch is yet tender ... ye know that summer is ___" (Mark 13:28)
- 11 At the age of (abbr.)
- 13 Naaman's illness (2 Kings 5)
- 14 Mischievous child
- 16 Study of art or science (pl. suffix)
- 18 Football position (abbr.)
- 19 Detail for a duffer
- 20 Stir up
- 21 Angry
- 22 Chicago's Lake Shore, for one (abbr.)
- 23 First name in life preservers?
- 24 ___ upmanship
- 25 ___ Bravo
- 26 Possessive pronoun
- 27 "___, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines" (Psalm 83:7)
- 30 Accountant's abbr.
- 32 In what state Churchill Downs is found (abbr.)
- 33 "___ said unto Samuel, Go, lie down" (1 Samuel 3:9)
- 35 What ___ ... ? (worrywart's favorite question)
- 36 Small drink
- 38 "I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the ___" (Matthew 26:29)
- 40 Sacrifice site
- 41 "Yesterday at the seventh hour the ___ left him" (John 4:52)
- 42 As stated
- 43 "But the wise took ___ in their vessels" (Matthew 25:4)
- 44 "Resist the devil, and he will ___ from you" (James 4:7)
- 45 Female deer (pl.)
- 46 Organization including Britain, France, and Germany (abbr.)
- 47 Bring legal action
- 48 "A certain man ... had the ___" (Luke 14:2)
- 49 Egress

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12		
		13					14	15
16	17			18			19	
20				21				22
23			24				25	
26				27	28	29		30
			31		32		33	34
35			36		37		38	39
		40				41		
42			43			44		
			45			46		47
48						49		

Down

- 1 "Himself took our ___, and bare our sicknesses" (Matthew 8:17)
- 2 "Come unto ___, all ye that labour" (Matthew 11:28)
- 3 "And many taken with ___, and that were lame, were healed" (Acts 8:7)
- 4 Rock worth mining
- 5 "The man took a golden ___ of half a shekel weight" (Genesis 24:22)
- 6 Describing a modern take on a classical style
- 8 Trotting, for one
- 9 Nero, for one
- 12 "They ... fled unto ___ and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia" (Acts 14:6)
- 15 "A merry heart doeth good like a ___" (Proverbs 17:22)
- 17 ___ of many colors
- 28 Tournament privilege for number-one ranked team
- 29 Built to keep a river from overflowing
- 31 "And Lot dwelled in the ___ of the plain" (Genesis 13:12)
- 34 "Forsake not the Levite as long as thou ___" (Deuteronomy 12:19)
- 36 Rugged sailboat
- 37 Paralysis
- 39 "Which some professing have ___ concerning the faith" (1 Timothy 6:21)
- 41 Coming in of the tide
- 44 Assessment
- 45 "And whatsoever ye ___ in word or deed" (Colossians 3:17)

Last week's solution

1	E	D	O	M	I	T	E	S	6	A	C	T	S
2	P	A	N	G	N	A	S	H	9	O			
3	H	A	T	T	I	E	O	11	S	O	U	L	
4	O	H	Q	12	C	U	P	13	O	I			
5	D	14	C	U	T	T	O	15	S	A	T		
6	17	U	Z	18	I	E	W	O	E	23	U	R	
7	21	T	I	22	T	I	H	E	25	A			
8	24	O	N	25	Y	E	R	26	C	R	Y		
9	27	N	U	28	I	R	A	29	F	I			
10	32	G	R	33	N	34	F	A	C	E			
11	U	P	35	G	E	R	A	36	I	L	B		
12	E	37	Y	A	38	L	E	F	T	U			
13	S	H	E	E	P								

© 1999 Barbour Publishing

Secretary Powell tells Senate panel Sudan facing 'genocide'

Washington (ABP)—In the Bush administration's most powerful statement to date on the situation in the troubled Sudanese province of Darfur, Secretary of State Colin Powell told a Senate committee Sept. 9 that black Africans are being subjected to "genocide" in the region—and that the Arab-controlled government in Khartoum shares responsibility.

Citing a State Department report on the situation released the same day, Powell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "genocide has been committed in Darfur" and that the government of Sudan and Arab militias the government has supported in the region "bear responsibility."

The crisis began in early 2003, when some black African militias in Darfur attacked Sudan's Arab-controlled government to protest long-standing inequities between black Sudanese and the Arab power structure.

The government responded by arming Arab militias, collectively known by the Arabic name "Janjaweed." The groups have, according to several human-rights and governmental organizations, terrorized black Darfur residents by carrying out a campaign of murder, rape, destruction of crops and forced displacement of whole villages.

As a result, according to the U.S. Agency for International Development, nearly a million black Sudanese are at risk of death from starvation and disease due to tight quarters in refugee camps and the militias blocking relief shipments of food and medicine. According to various estimates, between 30,000 and 100,000 people already have died as a result of the conflict.

Hundreds of thousands more, according to the United Nations, have been driven from their homes to other parts of Darfur and into neighboring countries. Many of those are housed in refugee camps with deplorable sanitary conditions, and hundreds daily are succumbing to hunger and disease.

In March 2003, Powell designated Sudan as a "country of particular concern" for the government's ongoing violations of religious freedom.

It is among several countries often cited by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom as violating the religious freedoms of its citizens.

Sudanese 'lost boy' killed in Louisville

By Peter Smith
Louisville Courier-Journal

Louisville (ABP)—When refugees arrive in Louisville from lands ravaged by war or famine, it often seems the worst is behind them.

Agencies and volunteers surround them with attention—trying to find them jobs, enroll them in schools, place them in apartments and teach them everything from how to use a bank to how to work their electric stove.

But in recent days, refugees and those who help them have been facing a sobering fact—despite all efforts, even a place of refuge isn't always safe.

Members of Louisville's refugee community were stunned by the recent shooting death of James Kuch Mangui, a Sudanese refugee who had arrived in the United States three years ago.

Highland Baptist Church had sponsored Mangui and three other Sudanese men and had arranged housing for them.

Tragedy impacts community

"It's tragic for anybody, but particularly (for) some of the refugees after what they've gone through to get to this country," said Larey Correll, job development manager at Kentucky Refugee Ministries, which arranged Mangui's arrival in Louisville. "They're starting all over again and boom—it's over."

Mangui, 24, died hours after he was shot in a courtyard at an apartment complex in south Louisville, where he was visiting.

Police say they are still investigating and are releasing few details about the shooting.

Apartment property manager Monsy DeJesus said she believes Mangui died in a case of mistaken identity when he came to the complex to visit a Sudanese friend. A car accident that involved a third Sudanese man may have been the motive for the shooting, she said.

More than 300 people crowded into Highland Baptist Church for the funeral, singing hymns in English and in Dinka and praising Mangui as a free-spirited yet ambitious man who had worked hard to learn job skills and make his way in this country.

They were known as the "Lost Boys" because they made a harrowing trek as children from war-ravaged Sudan, spending years in refugee camps in East Africa before coming to America. Numerous churches sponsored small groups of the men, helping them learn basic skills, find housing and receive job training.

Mangui's ordeal began in 1986 at age 7, when he was separated from his family during Sudan's civil war. He fled the country on foot with other boys and lived 13 years in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya before coming to Louisville with about 125 other Sudanese men in 2001.

Although Mangui had recently grown distant from those at the church and was making friends in other circles, church members also knew him as an upbeat, optimistic man who worked hard to earn his general educational development certificate and job training, and had been working at Norton Hospital transporting patients.

"He was so kind and just a tremendous human being who simply wanted to make the most of his life,"

said Joe Phelps, pastor of Highland Baptist Church. "They've been traumatized and terrorized in Sudan, and they come over here hoping to be in a place of safety and don't realize it's not nearly as safe as they think."

A 20-year civil war has raged in Sudan, displacing more than 5 million people by the end of last year, according to the U.S. Committee for Refugees. A growing refugee crisis in the nation's western Darfur region has attracted world attention in recent months.

Area residents anxious

Edgardo Mansilla, executive director of the Americana Community Center, said area residents are anxious to learn more about Mangui's murder.

The center regularly provides orientation classes for newcomers to this country, from English courses to classes on how to contact police or navigate the school system.

Mansilla said some refugees and immigrants can get involved in crime, but "most of them are working hard and trying to be part of society."

Those helping refugees say they can advise them on steps to avoid violent crime and financial scams but that they ultimately can't shelter refugees if they want them to lead independent lives.

"You tell them, 'Do this, don't do this,' (but) they have to find out for themselves sometimes," Correll said. "You explain something to them, and they can't relate to that situation. ... We're trying to develop this self-sufficiency and empowerment."

'I'm changing, Mom. I can tell that I'm changing'

Student's phone conversation reflects primary ministry goal at Oneida

By Michael Spencer
Assistant to the President

It was just a crumb of a student's phone conversation, overheard by a houseparent and shared during a time of staff prayer. Of course, it's encouraging to us, because we know that the vast majority of our students come to us with many needed changes on the agenda. It always is an encouragement to hear a student tell his or her family that positive changes are happening.

We know that thousands of Kentucky Baptists and many other friends are praying and giving with those positive changes in mind. To influence young people toward Christ and toward their best potential has been the mission of Oneida since James Anderson Burns began this work at the turn of the previous century. It was Barkley Moore's passion to see young people have the opportunity to know the life-changing power of Christ and of education.

You see, God designed young people to change. It's part of the energy and design of growing up. It's not good to stay immature. God meant for children to change into teenagers, and for teenagers to become young men and women. Of course, God meant for those good and healthy changes to occur in an environment that helps positive changes happen. He meant for parents and other adults to play a guiding, modeling role in bringing about change. God meant for His Spirit, His truth and His gospel to be the guiding power in the changes of growing up.

Many of our young people didn't have those blessings before coming to us. Their families might not have provided stable, loving environments. Perhaps they did not have positive role models around them. There may have been an absence of boundaries, and as a result, they may have lingered too long in some poor decisions typical of unsupervised young people.

At Oneida, these young people are in an environment where God-designed, God-desired changes can happen. Loving houseparents are there every day and all through the night. Teachers and coaches challenge students to achieve and discover their potential. Peers who have succeeded in the Oneida program are good influences. Chapel preachers and Christian friends help students see the change only Jesus can make.

Of course, not every student is a success story, and not every sort of change is a positive one. Failure and bad choices can be part of the Oneida journey as well. One of the real miracles at OBI is how often a bad choice will become the beginning of a good change, because OBI puts discipline in the larger picture of helping students change for the better, rather than just enduring punishment.

We need your support and prayers as we take part in the great adventure of seeing young lives change. Working together with God and working with His precious children, we've seen amazing changes in both the short-term and for the longer journey. For all of those changes, to God alone be the glory.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; www.oneidaschool.org; e-mail: president@oneidaschool.org



W.F. Underwood

Do the work of an evangelist

Don Mathis fulfills calling in the work of evangelism

In his home at age 13, Don Mathis was saved through the witness of an older sister. He was baptized at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in the northern part of Christian County.

How did that beginning lead into a ministry God has blessed as a local pastor, state and national denominational leader and evangelist?

"They didn't tell me I wasn't supposed to be at church every time the door opened," Don said. "I had an excellent Royal Ambassador leader who taught us the Scripture and about missions. I

lived a few blocks from my pastor and became very close to him. God used all that in calling me. I never had any idea to be anything other than a pastor, and still consider that to be the highest."

His calling as a pastor supports his work as an evangelist. "At the core of my being I am a pastor; I preach like a pastor, I feel like a pastor," Don stated. "The ministries God gave me outside that have been to help and encourage local pastors. I see my task as an evangelist to help and encourage the pastors. My first mission is to

encourage him and to leave the church and his ministry a little better than I found it, if I possibly can."

Don was a single pastor for a few years and in his second church met Sharon, the daughter of a retired pastor. They've been married 36 years. Their son, Donnie, is completing a PhD at Southern Seminary and teaches as an instructor. Their daughter, Laura Beth, and her husband live in Winchester and are active members of Central Baptist Church.

The annual evangelism ministry of this former Kentucky Baptist Convention president includes about 40 revivals, two area-wide crusades, teaching one week at Clear Creek, weekend Bible conferences on Revelation and men's accountability meetings.

"I don't enjoy being away from home but I enjoy preaching," Don said. "My basic calling is to preach."

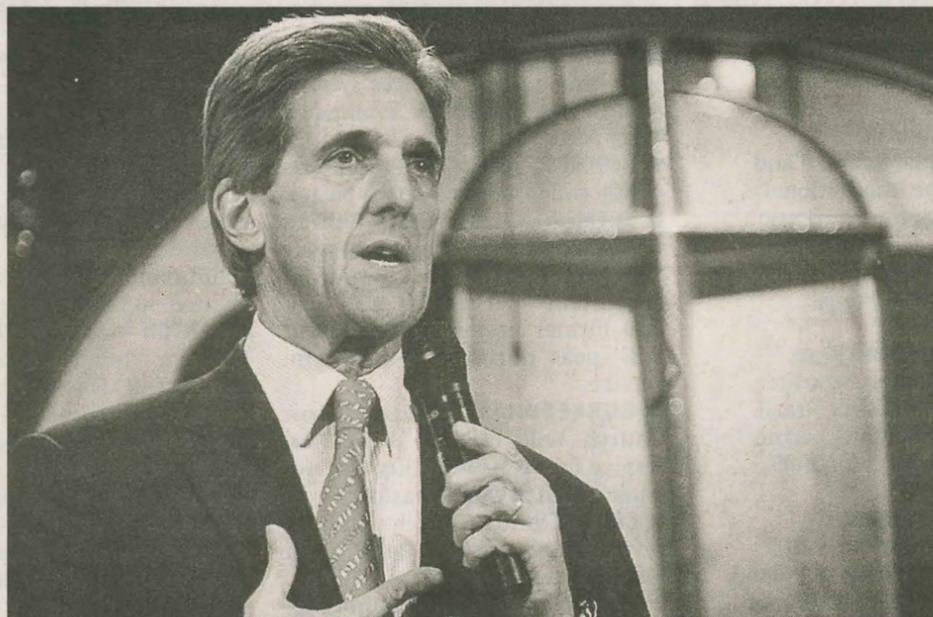
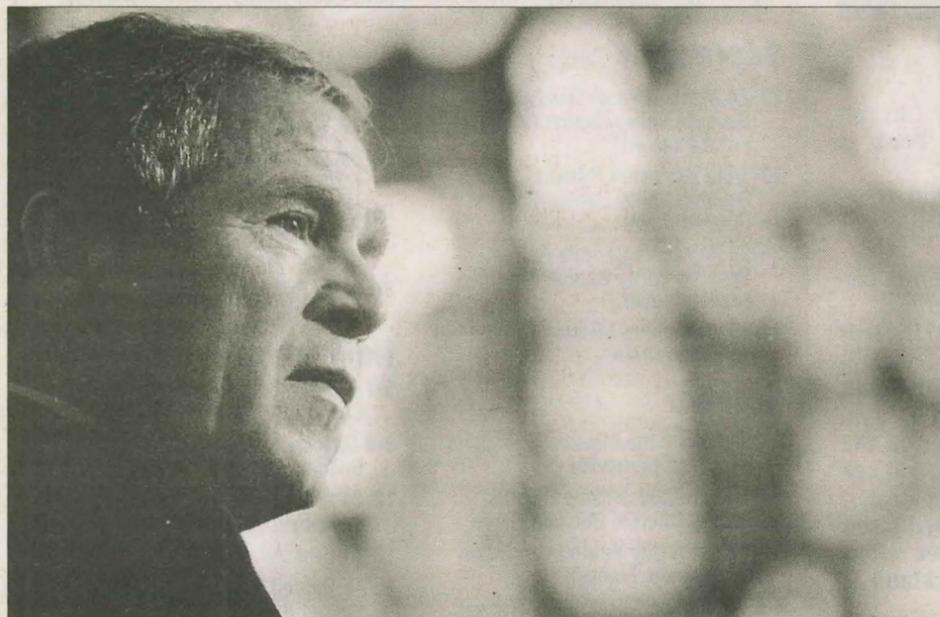
Contact Don Mathis at his Web site: www.donmathis.faithweb.com.



Bill Whittaker

Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, KY 40977; (606) 337-3196

Faith & presidential politics



BULLY PULPITS President Bush, shown at Union Bethel African Methodist Church in New Orleans, says he cannot separate his faith from his job as president. Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry, shown at Second Ebenezer Baptist Church in Detroit, says that if elected he will try to keep his personal faith separate from the public decisions he makes. (RNS photo of Bush by John McCusker; Associated Press photo of Kerry by Charles Krupa)

Bush, Kerry differ greatly on integrating religion & public life

By Mark O'Keefe
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—One candidate is from the Bible Belt and likes to tell the story of how God redeemed him from a life of destructive drinking, which made him a better husband and public servant for such a time as this.

The other hails from the Northeast, where religion is a more private matter. While he won't wear his on his sleeve, he says, his faith shapes his values and his values animate his actions.

President Bush, a United Methodist, and Sen. John Kerry, a Roman Catholic, both consider faith a vital part of their lives.

But how do the presidential candidates' personal beliefs inform their public policy when it comes to gay marriage, federal budget priorities, the war in Iraq and a host of other issues with moral components? In this regard, the two men could hardly be more different.

Not only does Kerry passionately call for separation of church and state, he makes no personal claim to divine guidance in his decision-making and advocates far less presidential piety than Bush displays.

Kerry's private faith

"I personally would not choose—though I'm a person of faith—to insert it as much as the president does," Kerry told *The Ladies Home Journal* in August 2003. "I think it crosses a line, and it sort of squeezes the diversity that the presidency is supposed to embrace. It creates a discomfort level."

On a similar note, Kerry told reporters in April, "I fully intend to continue to practice my religion as separately from what I do with respect to my public life, and that's the way it ought to be in America."

Kerry, whose paternal grandparents were born Jewish and converted to Catholicism, says this separation is a constitutional requirement established by the founders to protect people of all faiths or no faith. He also sees it as a guard against arrogance in the name of God.

"I don't want to claim that God is on our side," he said in his speech at the Democratic National Convention. "As Abraham Lincoln told us, I want to pray humbly that we are on God's side."

Bush's public evangelicalism

Unlike Kerry, whose Catholicism has been a lifelong journey since infant baptism, Bush experienced a profound and sudden change when he embraced Christianity and quit drinking in a classic adult, evangelical conversion.

It has carried into his political life.

The president told CNN's Larry King, "I don't see how you can separate your faith as a person from the job of being president."

And when Radio and Television Ireland asked Bush in June if he believes the hand of God guides him in the war on terrorism, Bush said, "My relationship with God is a very personal relationship and I turn to the good Lord for strength and I turn to the good Lord for guidance."

"He's the commander in chief, not the

pastor in chief," James Towey, director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, said in an interview.

"But I don't think President Bush thinks he can compartmentalize his life so that when he steps in the Oval Office, God somehow isn't there," Towey added. "That would be an illusion."

In most non-Islamic countries, it would be unusual for politicians to make repeated references to religion. But not in the United States.

When Bush frames the war on terrorism as a battle between good and evil, he draws upon a long historical tradition.

Ever since 17th-century Puritan leader John Winthrop compared America with the biblical "shining city on a hill," presidential candidates from both parties have used that metaphor to argue that America has been singled out as special.

The Sept. 11 attacks gave Bush ample opportunity to expand on that theme. The day of the attacks, Bush said the United States was targeted "because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world." He promised that "no one will keep that light from shining."

Addressing this year's Republican National Convention, Bush justified the invasion of Iraq and removal of Saddam Hussein with a favorite maxim: "Freedom is not America's gift to the world, it is the Almighty God's gift to every man and woman in this world."

Towey said Bush's faith is evident on the job. Away from the public and the media, the president has been seen with his head bowed, apparently in silent prayer, before giving a speech.

Impact on hot-button issues

Yet what is Christian humility to Bush supporters is self-righteousness to some of his critics, especially when Bush applies his faith to hot-button social issues.

Consider same-sex marriage. Bush opposes it, arguing in this year's State of the Union address that "the same moral tradition that defines marriage (as the union of a man and a woman) also teaches that each individual has dignity and value in God's sight."

Kerry is far more cautious.

"I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman," Kerry said at a March

campaign stop in Tougaloo, Miss. "But I believe it's important in the United States of America that we recognize that we have a Constitution which has an equal protection clause."

A similar dynamic is at work in the areas of abortion rights and federal funding for research on new embryonic stem cells.

Bush opposes both, explaining to "March for Life" participants in January that "all life is sacred and worthy of protection."

Kerry supports abortion rights and stem cell research in defiance of the official teachings of his own church. He addressed the dichotomy in a July interview with the *Telegraph Herald of Dubuque, Iowa*:

"I don't like abortion. I believe life does begin at conception." But, he added, "I can't take my Catholic belief, my article of faith, and legislate it on a Protestant or a Jew or an atheist" because "we have separation of church and state in the United States of America."

Like many Democrats, Kerry is more comfortable applying religious principles to what he considers issues of social justice in the federal budget.

John Podesta, former chief of staff to President Clinton, said Kerry speaks with "a moral perspective instead of an overtly religious perspective," in the tradition of another Catholic senator from Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy.

Reflecting geography, traditions

Northeastern Kerry and Texan Bush not only reflect the religious sensibilities of their political parties and geographic regions, they see the presidency through the lenses of their particular faith traditions, said John Green, director of the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron.

Bush, influenced by his evangelical Christianity, seeks moral clarity, Green said, while Kerry, as a Catholic, finds ambiguity.

Bush makes a decision and he sticks to that decision and that fits with the certainty of his faith, said Green, a leading scholar of religion and politics.

"The fact of the matter is that President Bush is not into nuance," Green said. "On the other hand, Sen. Kerry is very nuanced. He does really see multiple sides of an argument and looks at them closely before making a decision."

Faith-based drives registering voters on left & right

Washington (RNS)—As states' voter registration deadlines approach, conservative and liberal religious groups are working to reach potential supporters.

While voter registration drives are not new, faith-based groups are out with more intensity and better organization this year than they have been in recent elections, scholars and activists say.

The Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has been conducting a voter registration drive using a Web site and 65-foot tractor trailer touring the country.

For the first time in its history, the

American Tract Society added a registration kit to its publications this year.

And Colorado-based conservative Christian group Focus on the Family has mailed out voter registration kits—1.5 million of them—to supporters.

But conservative Christians aren't the only people rallying supporters and scouring the streets for potential voters.

In Minnesota, the Joint Legislative Religious Coalition has been working with the progressive National Council of Churches' "Let Thunder Roll" campaign to register poor people in districts with low voter turnout.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following projects, missionaries and volunteers in Poland, Brazil and the International Baptist Convention in Europe, where Kentucky Baptists have partnerships:

Scott and Joyce Pittman, who are in Teresina, Brazil, developing partnership projects for 2005.

Give thanks with workers in Czestochowa, Poland, for the salvation of a girl who comes regularly to their coffee house.

Follow up from last weekend's evangelism and discipleship campaign in Chiapeta, in Brazil's southernmost state of Rio Grande do Sul.

Follow up after distributing 6,000 "Jesus" videos in three African languages to former residents of West Africa. More than 100 men have expressed an interest in knowing more about Jesus.

Baptist workers in Greece who will be following up the ministry done during the Olympics evangelism efforts.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALBANY**—Stony Point Church will hold revival services Oct. 3-6 with **Joe Mobley** as evangelist. **Terry Settles** is pastor.

■ **BEDFORD**—Antioch Church recently called **Travis Tyler** as pastor.

■ **BREMEN**—New Harmony Church will celebrate its 70th anniversary Sept. 26. **Firm Foundation** from Owensboro will sing at 9:30 a.m. and former pastor **Duncan Smith** will speak during the 10:30 a.m. service.

■ **BURKESVILLE**—Grace Union Church will hold a dedication service for its new facility Oct. 10, 1 p.m. **Todd Bryant** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Canton Church will hold revival services Oct. 24-27 with **Mike Rust** as evangelist.

Oak Grove Church will hold revival services Sept. 26-29 with **Ted Denny** as evangelist. **Darvin Stom** will lead music.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church ordained **David Akers** to the gospel ministry Sept. 19.

Saloma Church will hold fall revival services Oct. 15-16, 7 p.m., and Oct. 17, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., with **Paul Badgett**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, as evangelist. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **CERULEAN**—Cerulean Church will hold revival services Oct. 24-27 with **Eddie Nation** as evangelist.

■ **COVINGTON**—Latoria Church will host a Fall Festival Oct. 2, noon-4 p.m. For information, call **Sandy Arnold** at (859) 283-5414.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church will hold revival services Oct. 3-6 with **Don Deel** as evangelist.

■ **FORT MITCHELL**—Fort Mitchell Church will celebrate its 80th anniversary Oct. 23-24 with the theme, "We Are God's Family."

■ **FRANKFORT**—First Church recently called **Daniel Glaze** as minister-in-residence and **Clay Lester**, a student at Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, as youth minister.

■ **GLENDALE**—Gilead Church will hold a neighborhood block party at the gazebo in Glendale Sept. 25, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., featuring the **Hillbilly Harvesters**. Gilead also will hold homecoming with dinner on the grounds Sept. 26 with

former pastor **Bob DeFoor** as guest speaker.

■ **HENDERSON**—Audubon Church recently called **Brantley Boaz** as minister of music.

Calvary Missionary Church recently called **Chris May** as minister of music.

Immanuel Temple recently celebrated 90 years of ministry.

■ **KENTON**—Kenton Church will hold a homecoming celebration Oct. 3. Former pastor **Frank Kuriger** will speak in the 11 a.m. service, followed by dinner on the grounds and a 1 p.m. musical celebration. **Steve Watkins** is pastor.

■ **KEVIL**—First Church called **Jason Walker** as youth minister effective Sept. 1. **Stewart Strickland** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Slate Lick Church recently called **John Hampton** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Fern Creek Church recently ordained **Judy Couch** to the gospel ministry.

Hillview Church recently called **Johnnie Bailey** as pastor.

Kenwood Church recently called **Mike Smith** as interim pastor.

Operation Christmas Child will hold its 2004 kickoff luncheon for the Louisville area Oct. 1 at Lake Forest Country Club. **Kevin Ezell**, senior pastor of Highview Church, will be the guest speaker. For information, call (502) 266-9243.

Parkland Church recently ordained **Gary Posey** as a deacon. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—Park Avenue Missionary Church will hold revival services Oct. 3, 10:40 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Oct. 4-6, 7 p.m., with **Randall Rogers** as evangelist.

■ **RICHMOND**—Hays Fork Church will hold a homecoming celebration Oct. 10, 10:30 a.m., with **Ronnie "Butch" Pennington** as guest speaker. **The Gray Hawks Boys** will provide special music.

■ **SOMERSET**—Beacon Hill Church recently called **Kevin Milburn** as discipleship and evangelism pastor. He previously was pastor of New Hope Church in Harrodsburg. **John Mark Toby** is pastor of Beacon Hill Church.

Camp celebrates 50 years of ministry

Trapp—Boones Creek Baptist Camp celebrated 50 years of ministry Sept. 11 with a reunion and fish fry that attracted more than 450 participants.

"Connecting" is an important catchphrase in our convention right now, and that's what I see the camp as doing," said Jim Smith, director of missions for Boones Creek Baptist Association. "For 50 years it has provided a tremendous ministry in reaching young people and connecting them to others with Christian values. And even though times are different now than they were 30 and 40 years ago, I think there is a great future for the camp."

The evening's activities featured two time-honored camp traditions, a Rally 'Round the Flaggpole and a campfire service. The program also included a moment of silence in re-

membrance of Sept. 11, 2001.

"We have been so blessed with this amazing turnout and outpouring from the people who love the camp and believe it should live on for another 50 years," said Becky Duvall Abney, camp director. "This is a pivotal time for Boones Creek Camp and this event has helped us raise awareness of all the good it has done and can do in the future."

Abney's father, Cova Duvall, was presented with a plaque for his leadership in building the camp back in 1954, along with Lloyd Mahanes who died in July and Marie Pace who has served as head dietician at the camp since it began.

While Boones Creek Camp primarily is known as a Christian summer camp for boys and girls, it also serves as a year-round retreat center.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

23-24 Men's Chorale Retreat, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

23 Wind Orchestra Retreat, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

24-25 Women's Chorale Retreat, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

24-25 Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek.

October

1-2 Celebrate the Mission, Executive Inn West, Louisville.

1-3 Focus-2004, Hillvue Heights Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

8-11 Soak A City Youth Evangelism Conference, Franklin.

8-9 Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.

15-16 Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.

16 Creative Ministries Workshop 101, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville.

18 Senior Adult Choir Festival-West, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

22-23 Youth on Mission Night, TBA.

25 Senior Adult Choir Festival-East, Porter Memorial, Lexington.

28-29 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, First Baptist Church, Murray.

30 Pass, Punt, Kick, Campbellsville University.

November

5-7 International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.

8-9 Daycare Orientation, Baptist Building, Middletown.

12-14 All State Junior High Choir, Campbellsville University.

12-14 Crossover KY, Louisville.

15 KY Baptist Music Conference, Baptist Building, Middletown.

16-17 KBC Annual Meeting, Louisville, St. Matthews Baptist Church.

20 Creative Ministries Workshop 101, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

For more information, call (888) 266-6477 or visit www.kybaptist.org



CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Bestselling books by Christian author, Glenn Mollette. *Silent Struggler: A Caregiver's Personal Story*; *Spiritual Chocolate: Inspirational Delights for the Heart*. All books available at Barnesandnoble.com.

FOR SALE: 23-volume set *Pulpit Commentary*, edited by Excell. \$275. Call Paulleta Dick, (502) 491-0212 or 245-4101.

SEEKING: Part-time interim music director for Fort Mitchell Baptist Church. Experience in leading blended worship services. Able to work with choir and praise teams. Forward resumés to: Personnel Committee, Fort Mitchell Baptist Church, 2323 Dixie Highway, Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017. No phone calls please.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Crescent Springs Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Crescent Springs Baptist Church, 627 Buttermilk Parkway, Crescent Springs, KY 41017, Attn: Doris Perry.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/worship leader for a Southern Baptist congregation that engages in a blended style of worship. Seminary degree preferred and at least five years of local church experience required. Submit resumé to: Minister of Music Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, 720 West Seventh St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240. Resumés will be received until Oct. 15, 2004.

SEEKING: The Lynn Association of Baptist Churches is now accepting resumés for the position of director of missions. Please submit resumés or inquiries to Rev. Kelvin Edwards, 2368 Aetna Grove Church Road, Summersville, KY 42782. (270) 324-2920.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth and recreation. Seeking a spiritually mature, dynamic and creative individual. Experience and formal training are preferred. Resumés accepted through Oct. 15. Please send resumés to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Send resumé and references to: Liberty Baptist Church, c/o Joy Fletcher, PO Box 208, Russell Springs, KY 42642. (270) 866-5525.

SEEKING: Full-time youth/recreation minister for First Baptist Church, Fulton, Ky. Seminary degree preferred. Send resumés to: Personnel Committee, Fulton First Baptist Church, PO Box 1140, Fulton, KY 42041.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to students for Southern Baptist church. Experience and/or seminary degree a plus. Send to MSSC, 814 Dotson Memorial Baptist Church, Maryville, TN 37801. Target date for receiving resumés is Sept. 30, 2004.

SEEKING: Resumés are being accepted from individuals interested in full-time staff position: minister of music/minister of music and education. Send resumés to: Staff Selection Committee, First Baptist Church, 306 West Main, Richmond, MO 64085.

SERVICE: America's fastest-growing Christian long distance company. 3.9 cents/minute; no monthly fees; no codes or restrictions; 6 second billing; 250,000 happy customers. Toll-free: (866) 587-8346 or www.covenantphoneservice.com. Home agents needed.

Missionary finds serving impacts volunteers as much as recipients

By Carmon Keith
SBC North American Mission Board

Oakland, Calif.—Miguel came to the Telegraph Ministry Center in Oakland looking for food.

He explained that his disability check was a little short and he didn't have enough money to buy groceries.

"I heard you give away food," Miguel told Southern Baptist missionary Steve Weaver, who directs the center.

Miguel, like so many others, had reached out for help, and Weaver was ready to give it.

Noticing that Miguel wore an Army jacket, Weaver asked him if he had served in the military. "Yes, 22 years," Miguel said. "I then worked for the San Francisco police department, but had to take disability."

During their conversation, Weaver also learned that Miguel was fluent in five languages, and that gave him an idea.

"Miguel," Weaver began, "maybe today God just wanted you to have a bag of food. But, I just had someone come in who I couldn't communicate with because I didn't know his language. Would you be willing to volunteer here and use your language skills to help the ministry?"

Miguel began to cry.

"I thought when I became blind that my life was over, and now you are asking me to help."

A degenerative eye disease had taken away Miguel's vision, but not his desire to help others.

Miguel's first day as a volunteer was the day before Thanksgiving, an unusually hectic day. When Weaver drove him home, he wondered if Miguel would come back. But the next week, Miguel returned to the center.

When asked what he had thought of that first day, Miguel's reply was, "I had just been sitting in my room dying and I come down here and I feel alive."

Miguel is still a faithful volunteer in the ministry of Telegraph Center.

The importance of volunteers

Weaver understands the value of volunteers.

The Indiana native and graduate of the Naval Academy began working as a volunteer at the center in 1999 before being appointed as a career missionary and director of the center.

While a student at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary near San Francisco, Weaver became an associate pastor for outreach ministries in a local church. It was in the course of that role that he learned about Telegraph Baptist Center.

"I decided to get personally involved in a soup kitchen ministry to determine if it was something I wanted our adults at church to be involved in," Weaver recalled.

"I would volunteer, learn

how to do social ministry, and bring that back to the church. Telegraph was nearby, but I had never heard of it. One day, my pastor came to me and said we needed to help the interim director, who happened to be a fellow church staff member."

On his first day as a volunteer, Steve was impressed with the ministry, and God gave him a vision of what the center could be in the future.

Even though he didn't meet the experience requirements, Weaver applied for the director's job.



Steve Weaver

"I shared with them

how God prepared my life for this opportunity. When they asked me where I saw myself in five years, I said, "This is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life." Shortly after, I learned I had gotten the job. Several months later, I was appointed as a missionary."

Misconceptions about visitors

Weaver said he quickly learned he had misconceptions about the people who visit Baptist centers for help.

"I thought that the reason people didn't have jobs was that they were lazy and that the reason they had no money was that they were irresponsible," he admitted.

"I had to repent of that belief. Most of the people we serve are good people who've hit on hard times. We have seniors who have worked hard all their lives but have limited Social Security benefits and can't get by on that. We have single parent households that are often in crisis. We have people who need to learn skills in order to find a job."

The center offers food and referral services. "Most important, we pray and minister to them as Christ would," Weaver said.

"We share the gospel, and we see lives transformed. We want people to know that God wants them to be whole—in a job, in a healthy family and in a relationship with Him."

Such was the case with Miguel. "Miguel's message to us that he was dying in his room, but at the center he experiences life is the message for everyone who is considering investing their life into ministry."

"When we get a chance to serve, in whatever capacity, it makes our faith come alive," he added.

Weaver said he initially thought the center would change lives through groceries and stories about Jesus.

"But the real powerful way God has changed lives that has been unexpected to me is when Christians come here and get a chance to give someone a cup of cold water in Jesus' name and you see their own lives radically changed."

Lessons on the Lake



Teachers find change of venue boosts Sunday school attendance

By Greg Garrison
Religion News Service

Pell City Ala. (RNS)—As the pontoon boat bobbed back and forth on the ripples of Logan Martin Lake, Sunday school teacher Teresa Harris stood to begin her Bible lesson.

First she reached into a picnic basket and began passing out hot sausage biscuits. Teenagers reached into coolers for cans of soda.

Then Harris began discussing the theology of Methodist founder John Wesley, and his view of God's creation. She talked about Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

"They had one-on-one conversations with God like we're having today," she said. "God provided everything they needed."

After the first sin, the relationship of God to Adam and Eve changed, she said. "They had to provide for themselves," she said. "God said, 'No more.'"

As herons flew against the backdrop of a cloudless sky, students ranging from 11 to 16 years old swiveled quietly in the boat seats, eating their biscuits, sipping their sodas and absorbing the Bible lesson of the day.

For the month of August, Sunday school has been a lot more enjoyable experience, they say.

"It's a lot more relaxed environment," said Nathan Smith, 16. "It's kind of a fun thing instead of formal church."

Answering a dip in attendance

One of the boat drivers, Robert Rhodes, said summer attendance at Pell City First United Methodist Church's youth Sunday school had been disappointing in June and July. He offered his boat for a change of venue. Harris, who usually teaches Sunday school for students in grades nine through 12, dubbed it "Lessons on the Lake." She and Joey Hutto, who leads junior high Sunday school, take turns teaching.

The idea caught on, with other church members who live on the lake offering their assistance.

"Once it got out we may need more boats, a lot of people volunteered," Rhodes said.

As many as 22 kids now show up for Sunday school on the lake, which began Aug. 1.

"I do think it enhances the

classes," Harris said. "We have a lot more time to talk. It's hard to deny God when you're sitting there looking at a beautiful lake and all the surroundings."

The youth seem to be attentive to the message while enjoying the setting, she said. "The lake's a lot of fun, but the lesson's the real core of it," Harris added.

Keeping Sunday school attendance high in the summer can be a challenge, since youth have vacations and summer camps competing for their time, Harris said. That makes it hard on Sunday school teachers.

"You never know what's happening," Harris said. "You don't know how many to prepare for."

A full morning

The youth taking part in "Lessons on the Lake" are asked to attend the lakeside worship service at Chapel in the Pines, which Pell City-area churches co-sponsor to cater to people spending their weekends at the lake.

Nestled among pine trees, Chapel in the Pines consists of wood benches and a small stage with the lake as a backdrop. The Pell City Methodist youth meet at their church and are transported to the lake for the half-hour service and Sunday school session.

After service, they board their boats, float on the lake during their lesson, then return to dock by 10:30 a.m. They make it back to Pell City First United Methodist Church in time for the 11 a.m. service.

Harris said she contacted the parents of all the youth in the church to get their approval for taking them out in boats. "The parents have been very supportive. Everyone was very enthusiastic about it."

Sunday school lessons on the lake recently ended, since Logan Martin is designated as a flood control lake and its level is lowered in the fall and winter. As the lakes get shallow, it becomes more dangerous to navigate.

"We hope we can go through mid-September," Harris said.

The Sunday school teachers will have to come up with other ideas for the fall to keep student interest high.

"I think it will be tough to top this," Harris said.

BISCUITS & BIBLE STUDY

Pell City First United Methodist Church holds Sunday school on Logan Martin Lake. Teresa Harris (standing) conducts lessons in a pontoon boat while students sip soft drinks and munch on biscuits. (RNS photo by Jerry Ayres)

