

September 13, 2005  
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Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, September 14

**HURRICANE KATRINA****Kentucky Baptists respond***Volunteers feed victims; churches & ministries offer evacuees housing***Clinton, Miss.**—Kentucky Baptists are opening their hearts, schedules and wallets to join in the unprecedented disaster relief response to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

As of Monday, at least 150 Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers already have traveled to Mississippi to help with feeding and cleanup crews.

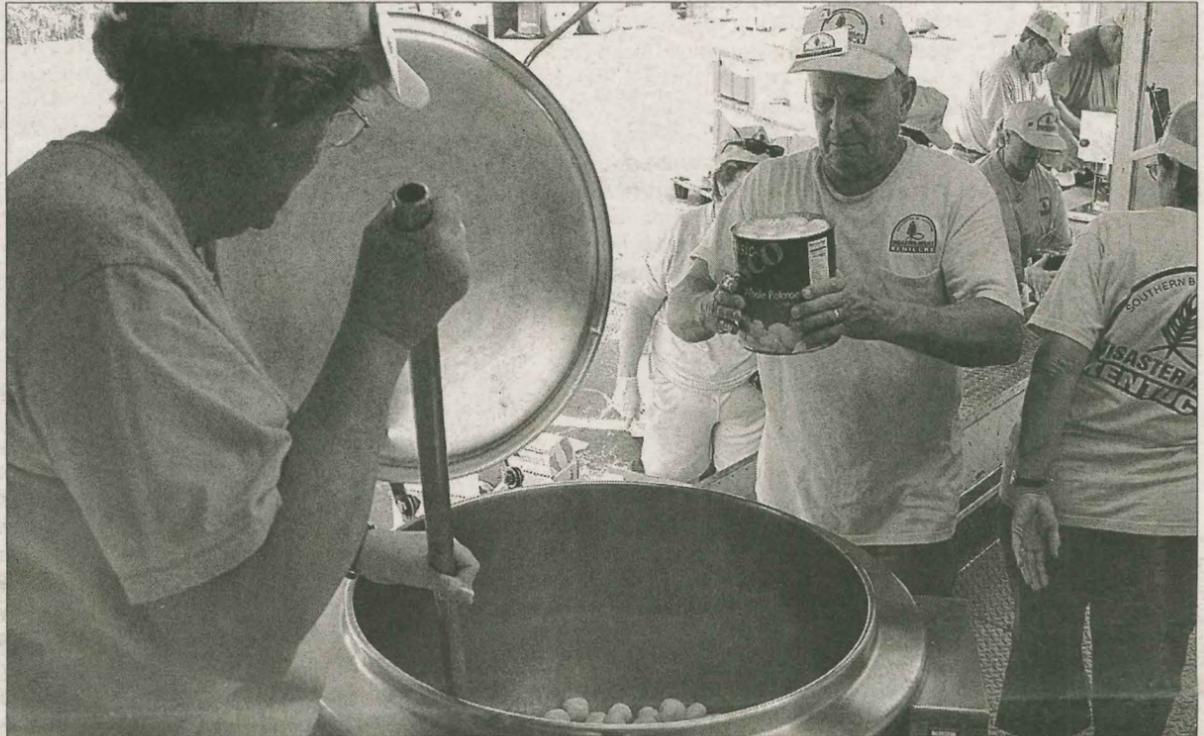
That number is expected to rise dramatically. Organizers for state disaster relief teams have been told their services could be needed for as long as 90 days, according to Larry Koch, disaster relief coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The two Kentucky kitchens in Clinton and Long Beach, Miss., are among 56 state Baptist mobile disaster relief kitchens serving in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and Texas, according to the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

NAMB coordinates the work of state disaster relief crews in cooperation with the American Red Cross.

As of late last week, more than \$80,000 had been contributed to KBC disaster relief, but that also is expected to increase as money filters through the churches to the KBC.

At least 600 Kentuckians have signed up for training to work on a disaster relief team, and that number could double by the time

**LARGE-SCALE COOKING** Pat Sigler of First Baptist Church of Kuttawa and Clifford Frazier of Cherry Hills Missionary Baptist Church in Louisa cook potatoes at the mobile kitchen in Long Beach, Miss. Currently, 56 Baptist mobile kitchens are serving approximately 300,000 meals daily in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and Texas. (KBC photo by Robert Reeves)

training is finished, according to ministry assistant Peggy Berry of the KBC men on mission department.

Churches and associations continue to call requesting training seminars so members can volunteer, she said. The first two training sessions held at the KBC building in Louisville filled, and at least ten more are scheduled throughout the commonwealth, she said.

Berry called the volunteer spirit of Kentucky Baptists to this disaster "overwhelming," adding that her

office receives at least 100 calls per day from individuals, churches and associations offering assistance.

"I think this has really broken people's hearts and they feel the need to do something," she said.

In Lexington, Immanuel Baptist Church was planning to host 100 evacuees who were scheduled to arrive by the middle of this week.

And Kentucky Baptist Assemblies could get up to 200 evacuees at both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek assembly camps, according to KBA

**Want to help?**

Please see page 3 for details on how to give or volunteer.

President David Melber.

"We don't know any significant details other than we're on the list," Melber said, adding that if evacuees arrive, the camps will need volunteers to work with the evacuees and supplies, such as toiletry kits. "We just kind of wait on a phone call."

**Will 'compassion fatigue' stem flow of assistance for victims?****By Dru Sefton**  
*Religion News Service***Washington (RNS)**—After nearly a week of following news coverage of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, Rita Hess was feeling "overwhelmed."

So much bad news. So many horrific images. Hess cried every day.

"I kept wanting to hear something good," said Hess, of Enid, Okla. "I literally went to sleep one night with the TV on hoping to wake up to good news."

By Saturday, she finally forced herself to turn off the television. She had to get away from Katrina, if only for a little while.

That's a typical reaction during and after a disaster, experts say. And a healthy one.

"I did that myself on Saturday," said Fran Norris, a research professor at Dartmouth Medical School specializing in disaster response. "You reach a point where you need to take a break."

Studies suggest excessive watching of disaster coverage "can be distressing," added Norris, who also is affiliated with the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in White River Junction, Vt.

A poll after the December 2004 Asian tsunami revealed 58 percent of Americans followed news of that disaster "very closely"—one of the largest responses in nearly 20 years of monthly indexing by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

But, "as with any crisis or disaster, people move on," said Carroll Doherty, associate director of the center in Washington, D.C. "And in some ways, normalcy returning is a good thing."

Part of that turning away from the horrors of disaster may be due to an emotional numbness that sets in.

"This tends to happen when people feel not only overwhelmed

by images but also helpless to do anything," said Susan Moeller, author of "Compassion Fatigue: How the Media Sell Disease, Famine, War and Death."

"Perhaps they've already made donations to the Red Cross or Salvation Army, already held a bake sale to raise money," said Moeller, an associate professor of journalism at University of Maryland.

That's what happened with Hess. "I've donated at my church, but I still have this feeling of needing to be doing more somehow."

Moeller said that after donating or volunteering, "it's hard to feel the information from the news you're taking in can help you do anything else."

That's about when most stories begin to fall off the front pages and leads of television reports. "It's unusual that a story will last longer than a week, even a horrific crisis," Moeller said.

September also is a difficult month for Americans to focus on any story. They're getting children to school, and returning to work from summer vacations, "parts of their lives that need increasing attention," Moeller said.

Aspects of the hurricane story that will keep them reading and viewing are those that affect them directly, experts say, such as rising gasoline prices due to refinery problems along the hard-hit Gulf Coast.

As for Hess, she recently had family over for dinner and spent the evening bug-hunting for her niece's 4H project.

"Such a pleasant distraction," she said, "to be concentrating on something as mundane as grasshoppers and bumblebees."

Then it was back to Katrina. "Ninety percent of me just can't get enough," she added, "and the other 10 percent says, 'Stop.' It's hard to watch, but hard not to."

## NAMB promotes initiatives to aid churches, evacuees

**"If this effort is to be sustained, we are going to need Southern Baptists to step up as they never have before."**

Robert Reccord, SBC North American Mission Board president

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—In response to the widespread destruction by Hurricane Katrina, Southern Baptist Convention officials announced Sept. 5 two programs to help damaged or destroyed churches recover and to help families and individuals displaced by the storm.

Robert Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, outlined the two initiatives, "Adopt a Church" and "Houses of Hope."

"We are asking healthy and blessed SBC congregations across North America to adopt SBC congregations that have been badly damaged or destroyed," Reccord said concerning the Adopt a Church plan. "This will be a commitment of anywhere between one to two years. All manner of help will be needed: mission trips, rebuilding trips, care packages, appropriate financial support and encouragement for the staff who has been through numerous challenges.

"In addition, many other creative ideas for help and encouragement are as yet to be birthed," he added. "We have already begun to work with the affected state conventions to link churches in this great Body-building effort for Kingdom growth."

Reccord emphasized that no church is too small to offer assistance and that multiple partnerships are required to assist each church in need.

No official count of affected churches was available last week as



**DEVASTATION** The sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Gulfport, Miss., was among hundreds of church facilities along the Gulf Coast damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. (BP photo by Norm Miller)

convention officials continued trying to contact pastors in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. But one unofficial estimate for Louisiana is that 300 churches either were severely damaged or completely destroyed.

The scope of the Houses of Hope initiative is expected to be massive based on the sheer number of displaced individuals in the affected states. New Orleans alone had a population of more than 500,000, and government leaders have indicated structural and environmental hazards will not allow residents to return permanently for months.

Reccord said Houses of Hope will

be one way Baptists can minister to those displaced by Katrina.

Convention officials "are asking for churches with facilities that can be converted into temporary housing for evacuees to become Houses of Hope," he explained. "Our encouragement would be to begin with an initial commitment to house evacuees for 30 days, with a subsequent review for an extension if needed and appropriate."

Houses of Hope guidelines suggest churches work together to rent an apartment or house for evacuees, use vacant missionary housing, campers, motor homes, church gymnasiums or work with

local hotels to provide housing.

Immediate needs of many evacuees are expected to include enrolling children in school, arranging medical appointments and providing for basic needs such as food.

Specific guidelines for the effort are posted on NAMB's Web site, [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net).

A number of churches throughout the nation already have stepped in to offer facilities.

"Our greatest opportunity and privilege is this: In the process of giving not only hope for today and tomorrow, hope for eternity can be shared with those to whom every church has the opportunity to minister," Reccord said. "And that is the reason for which we as Christ-followers exist."

After a church registers for Adopt a Church or Houses of Hope, information is forward to an affected state convention which will match partner churches, individuals and families.

Reccord visited Southern Baptist disaster relief sites in Baton Rouge and Covington, La., four days after Hurricane Katrina hit.

"These people have literally lost everything," Reccord said of the evacuees. "Many of them know they will never return to their homes."

"The enormity of this disaster is truly stretching resources thin," he added. "We are pouring in everything we have, but if this effort is to be sustained, we are going to need Southern Baptists to step up as they never have before."

### SBC President Bobby Welch sends out 'spiritual S.O.S.'

Gulfport, Miss. (BP)—While touring Mississippi's storm-ravaged Gulf Coast, Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch called the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina "the most grievous loss of humanity and the most horrific obliteration of property imaginable in recent history."

"In fact, you can't even imagine it," said Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla.

"Despite the best efforts of the news media, it's impossible to sense the confusion, observe the destruction, smell the stench, hear the cries, dry the tears, clothe the threadbare, as well as hug and feed the hurting and hungry unless you're here," Welch said after touring the stricken area Sept. 1-2.

"This is a disaster of biblical proportion, and it demands a biblical response—now," he declared. "How can I be more explicit? This situation is dire—it's an ongoing emergency."

"So I'm urgently calling upon and desperately pleading with our 16 million Southern Baptists and their 43,000 churches to heed the call of the gospel right now."

"The devastation is so severe and the situation is so desperate that I'm sending out a spiritual S.O.S. to Christians of all faiths to come join the ranks of our Southern Baptist disaster relief teams and other relief agencies," he added.

Affirming the work of Baptist disaster relief volunteers, Welch said, "In some places, our folks were first on the scene, but we are going to need thousands more workers in order to meet the physical needs and, more importantly, the spiritual needs of multiplied thousands of these down-trodden and displaced refugees."

"If you can't get to the Gulf, don't worry. You can find another way to minister," Welch said, noting that many Southern Baptist churches are opening their facilities for evacuees and church members are opening their homes.

"This is the kind of ministry that's so urgently needed because it points people to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," Welch emphasized. "We've done this kind of thing before, but never on this scale or for the length of time this disaster will require."

## Seminaries seek to ease sister school's burden

Atlanta—New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's main campus, still partially under water, is not expected to reopen for nearly a year, according to seminary officials.

But seminary President Chuck Kelley remains optimistic.

"God has given us the opportunity to see the true measure of His greatness in helping us overcome the most difficult situation the seminary has ever faced," Kelley declared. "We believe that God is going to provide what we need."

Part of that provision is expected to come from New Orleans Seminary's five sister Southern Baptist Convention seminaries located across the nation.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville began its efforts Aug. 30 by signing up volunteers to serve on relief teams that will be ready to go whenever they are called upon. To date, more than 300 Southern students and faculty have volunteered.

Southern also is collecting an offering for New Orleans Seminary. Thus far the seminary family has donated more than \$30,000.

Southern officials also are making the school's campus available as a refuge for displaced New Orleans students.

Among other Southern Baptist seminary responses:

■ **Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary** in Kansas City, Mo., focused on New Orleans Seminary during a previously scheduled fall Day of Prayer Aug. 31.

"Our Day of Prayer had been on the calendar for several weeks. Each semester we typically pray for the upcoming semester, our community, our students and our churches," explained Midwestern President Philip Roberts.

"But this semester, God refocused the whole Midwestern family to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary."

At least three Midwestern employees had family in the immediate area of the hurricane.

Human Resource Director Renee Walker said the emphasis on prayer throughout the day was especially comforting to her as she waited on news from family members.

■ **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary** in Wake Forest, N.C., will give financial and physical aid to New Orleans Seminary, said Southeastern President Daniel Akin.

Southeastern has established an account to be used for relief efforts for the seminary. The school collected an offering for the New Orleans school during chapel services last week.

Southeastern also plans to send a work crew to New Orleans to aid the school in repairs.

"Southeastern Seminary stands ready to assist in any way our brothers and sisters at New Orleans Seminary," Akin said. "Our heart breaks for them, and we are prepared to help them as they rebuild their world."

■ **Golden Gate Baptist Theologi-**

cal Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., will excuse students from classes to serve as disaster relief volunteers and provide aid to displaced seminary students, seminary President Jeff Iorg announced.

Iorg said the seminary will allow students who are trained in disaster relief to miss up to two weeks of class time to assist in hurricane relief efforts.

The school also offered free tuition and housing for the fall semester for displaced New Orleans Seminary students.

■ **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary** in Fort Worth, Texas, will provide assistance to New Orleans Seminary students in need of housing.

The seminary also will offer housing and clothing assistance to Southwestern alumni and displaced students in addition to fielding disaster relief teams along the Gulf Coast in cooperation with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's disaster relief ministry.

The seminary's office of church minister relations also is available to work with displaced pastors who wish to serve churches in Texas that currently have no pastor.

In addition to the SBC seminaries, Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and the White School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C., have offered to accommodate students displaced from New Orleans Seminary.

Compiled from reporting by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press



**GROUP PRAYER** Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey leads a prayer Saturday night at First Baptist Church of Whitesburg. (KBC photo by Robert Reeves)

## Pastors respond to KBC's 'Pray the Perimeter'

**Maysville**—After praying with Kentucky Baptist Convention staff at a "Pray the Perimeter" event, Truett Cocanaugh said the meeting itself was an answer to prayer.

Cocanaugh, director of missions for the Bracken Baptist Association in Maysville, said pastors had been praying that KBC leaders would visit their area to learn about the ministries and churches.

As of Monday morning, nearly 500 people had attended Pray the Perimeter events, including Sunday worship services in Whitesburg and Rush.

More than 30 prayer gatherings are scheduled as part of the weeklong tour, which began Saturday and will take KBC leaders literally around the state in a week.

"I have been personally touched by the prayer of God's people for me as executive director and the staff and work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention," KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said. "We have experienced the presence of God among his people."

Remaining stops on the tour include:

- Tuesday:**
- 8:30 a.m. in Louisville.
  - 10 a.m. (Central Time Zone) in Hardinsburg.
  - Noon in Owensboro.
  - 2:30 p.m. in Henderson.
  - 4:30 p.m. in Sturgis.
- Wednesday:**
- 7:30 a.m. in Paducah.
  - 10 a.m. in Wickliffe.
  - 11:30 a.m. in Fulton.
  - 2 p.m. in Mayfield.
  - 3:20 p.m. at Murray State University.
  - 6:30 in Murray.
- Thursday:**
- 8 a.m. in Hopkinsville.
  - 10:30 a.m. in Russellville.
  - 12:30 p.m. in Scottsville.
  - 3:15 p.m. in Tompkinsville.
  - 7 p.m. in Monticello.
- Friday:**
- 10 a.m. (Eastern Time Zone) in Williamsburg.
  - Noon in Pineville.
  - 3 p.m. in Loyall.

For more information about specific locations, visit [www.kybaptist.org/prayertour](http://www.kybaptist.org/prayertour).



**MOVING FOOD** Volunteers load boxes of breakfast food for meals at the Kentucky kitchen at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, Miss. (KBC photo by Robert Reeves)

## Katrina survivors call Ky. volunteers welcome sight

By Robert Reeves  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Long Beach, Miss.**—Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers were welcomed quite literally by prayers of thanksgiving when their caravan rolled into this hard-hit coastal city after Hurricane Katrina struck.

Linda Epley, a first-time disaster relief volunteer who is a former crisis counselor, said the local people were afraid they had been forgotten in the storm's aftermath.

"People are so grateful that we're here," said Epley, who now is youth director at Sebree First Baptist Church. "They thought people had forgotten them."

"When our caravan came in, they were lined up. Then they were hitting their knees."

Epley said that even more than food, people want human contact. After completing her own duties in the Kentucky disaster relief kitchen, she rode into the surrounding areas on a Salvation Army truck delivering the food.

Each day, she would fill her pockets with small gifts, such as rubber balls or candy, to give to the children. She also spent time hugging or listening to people.

"They are so desperate for hope," she said. "You can see it in their faces. Everyone has a story, and they want to tell it."

Emotional damage is expected to be great for survivors, Epley said, as they deal with anxiety and other post-trauma issues. She said she talked to one 8-year-old boy who had experienced standing in water up to his knees in the second floor of the house where he weathered the storm.

Epley said one of her most touching memories was victims standing in line for food who discovered friends they had not seen since the storm. "When they would see each other in the line, they would start squealing—because they were alive—and they would start hugging."

### "Blessed Frustration"

"Blessed Frustration" might become the new hymn title in this coastal town. Both words pop up frequently here among survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

The frustration has come from days of sweltering Mississippi weather without electricity; from the knowledge that homes, businesses, churches and people have been lost; and from the inability



**COLONELS' CONTRIBUTION** Glen Bastin (left), senior ambassador of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, talks to Kentucky Baptist Convention officials before presenting them a check for \$25,000 on behalf of the Colonels for disaster relief work.

of government entities to provide solid answers—about either the present or the future—in the midst of wide-scale disaster.

But "blessed" is the word used most often as people indicate a true appreciation of what it means to have survived this killer hurricane.

"These people have really been a blessing," said Donnie Farmer as he stood in line to receive meals for his family at the Southern Baptist disaster relief kitchen. Farmer and his wife live near Gulfport but were in Long Beach to assist their son whose home was totally destroyed by the storm.

He said they were just grateful to be alive after weathering the hurricane.

"You can just tell that God is in control," he said.

Blessed was also a word used by Judy Bonner, the wife of Long Beach Baptist Church pastor Charles Bonner. Judy said their family had just moved to Long Beach in April and had moved into their new house only one week before Katrina struck.

She said their home had weathered the storm without major damage and was grateful that the church building itself had suffered only roof damage and water in the sanctuary.

"God is good. All the time," she said, a sentiment that was echoed by Amanda Caruthers, whose own church—First Baptist Church of Long Beach—was destroyed by the storm.

"We are still blessed and He'll see us through," she said with a smile.

Epley said the volunteers are tired but that she is glad she came.

"If Jesus were here (on earth), He would be here (in Long Beach)," she said. "We are Him here. We are the body of Christ."

## How to help

■ **Call before you go.** Coordinators cannot stress this enough. Kentucky Baptist disaster relief teams often are unprepared to find work for volunteers who arrive unannounced, and their assistance would have been more helpful if they had waited and come later. To volunteer for a Kentucky Baptist Convention disaster relief team, call the KBC's men on missions department, (502) 489-3527 or toll-free in Kentucky (866) 489-3527

■ **Be trained.** Attend one of several upcoming training sessions for disaster relief work, if you want to go help and you have not already been trained. For more information, call the KBC men on mission department or visit [www.kybaptist.org/drtraining](http://www.kybaptist.org/drtraining). Scheduled classes include:

- Louisville, Sept. 15.
- Owensboro, Sept. 22.
- Bowling Green, Sept. 15.
- Falmouth, Sept. 27.
- Prestonsburg, Sept. 17.
- Frankfort, Sept. 29.
- Whitesburg, Sept. 17.
- Berea, Oct. 5.

■ **Be flexible.** Volunteers for Kentucky feeding and clean-up teams are expected to be needed for several weeks. Often the greatest need for volunteers comes after the first weeks, when the disaster is no longer the top item in the news.

■ **Donate money.** Money allows coordinators to buy exactly what victims and work teams need. Often spent in the affected area, the influx of disaster relief funds also helps fuel recovery in the region. Agencies collecting include:

■ **Kentucky Baptist Convention:** Contribute online by visiting [www.kybaptist.org/dr](http://www.kybaptist.org/dr); or mail a check to KBC, Dept 5088, Box 740041, Louisville, KY, 40201-9976. Make the check payable to the KBC and write "Disaster Relief—Hurricane Katrina" in the memo line.

■ **Southern Baptist Convention:** Call (888) 571-5895; or visit [www.namb.net/disasterrelief](http://www.namb.net/disasterrelief); or mail a check, payable to NAMB, to NAMB/Disaster Relief, Box 116543, Atlanta, GA 30368-6543.

■ **Baptist World Aid:** Donate online by visiting [www.bwanet.org/Support/support.htm](http://www.bwanet.org/Support/support.htm); or mail a check to Baptist World Alliance, 405 N. Washington Street, Falls Church, VA 22046. Make checks payable to Baptist World Aid and write "Baptist World Aid—Hurricane Katrina" on the memo line.

■ **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship:** Donate online by visiting [www.thefellowship.infor/landing.icm](http://www.thefellowship.infor/landing.icm); or mail a check to CBF, Box 101699, Atlanta, GA 30392. Make checks payable to CBF and write "Hurricane Relief Fund #17004" on the memo line.

■ **Samaritan's Purse:** Donate online by visiting [www.samaritanpurse.org](http://www.samaritanpurse.org); call (800) 665-2843; or mail a check to Samaritan's Purse at Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607. Make check payable to Samaritan's Purse and write "Hurricane Katrina Project" on the memo line.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Assemblies:** Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek will need volunteers and supplies if the Red Cross sends evacuees to the two Baptist camps. To learn how to help and what is needed, call Cedarmore at (502) 747-8911 or Jonathan Creek at (270) 354-8355.

## What not to do:

■ Do not head to Mississippi or Louisiana expecting to assist a Kentucky Baptist disaster relief team without first contacting the KBC's men on missions department. (See phone numbers above.)

■ Do not collect items such as food, bottled water or clothing unless you are certain that an organization has asked for it. Many groups, including KBC disaster relief are not prepared to collect and transport such items.

## KBC video available on Web

A new three-minute video detailing the response of Kentucky Baptist Convention disaster relief volunteers to Hurricane Katrina is now available on the KBC Web site.

The video includes footage from Clinton and Long Beach, Miss., where emergency kitchen units are working to feed thousands of residents impacted by the storm. The video is designed to help Kentucky Baptists see how volunteers are meeting and making a difference in the midst of the disaster by praying, going and giving.

The short video also is intended for use in church worship services to help make appeals for donations to support disaster relief efforts.

To view or download the video, visit [www.kybaptist.org/katrinavideo](http://www.kybaptist.org/katrinavideo).



## WESTERNRECORDER

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

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*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) 489-3535. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$12.50 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$10 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.

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## Show evacuees compassion &amp; respect

By Dale Hanson Bourke

Washington (RNS)—Call them displaced. Call them evacuees. You can even call them homeless. Just don't call the thousands of people who once lived in the hurricane-stricken Gulf Coast "refugees."

Technically, they are internally displaced persons, known in the parlance of international humanitarian workers by the acronym IDPs. They, like 21 million others worldwide who have been uprooted by a war or natural disaster, will be away from home for the foreseeable future. And like other IDPs and refugees (those who actually have crossed a country border while fleeing) they face issues that are common to anyone who has left home suddenly and traumatically.

As shocking as it is to see the thousands of people in our own country left with nothing, the world is dealing with a massive refugee and displaced persons problem that most Americans know little about. Like those we have seen on our own soil, the displaced persons of the world tend to be the poor and the powerless, those who must flee for their lives with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Once the threat of physical harm lessens, displaced people often experience a broad range of emotional trauma. Many are grieving the loss

of family, friends, belongings and community. On some level, all will grieve the loss of their previous identity.

"There is a myth that those who survive such traumas feel 'lucky to be alive,'" said Dean Owen, a spokesperson for World Vision, which works with displaced persons in nearly 100 countries in the world. "Often they are haunted by the loss of a loved one or the sense that they might have been able to do something to save someone else."

Identity quickly becomes more than an emotional issue. Those who fled without anything will have to painstakingly re-establish their credentials if they hope to get a job, seek official assistance or even receive proper medical care.

While the kindness of strangers is appreciated, many people will soon grow uncomfortable depending on others and finding that their choices are made for them. They will be wearing clothes that do not reflect their taste or heritage, eating food that may seem strange, and passing time in what may become a frustrating exercise in guessing.

Finding refuge with people from a similar faith community often can help create some sense of continuity and offer a common thread of spiritual experience. Around the world, houses of worship often become the

## FIRST PERSON

that might be the way all of us feel about the situation, but we should not be discouraged because this is a great opportunity for the church to respond in the Spirit of Christ.

I challenge all congregations in Kentucky to give at least one week's amount of their regular offering to Hurricane Katrina disaster relief efforts through Kentucky Baptists and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. For some churches their weekly offering aver-

age is \$100, for others it is \$150,000, but if every church participates on this level we can respond and together we will make a huge difference.

My congregation, Victory Baptist Church in Lexington, is not only sending teams to the affected areas and collecting needed supplies, but we will give one week of our offering for disaster relief. May the Lord use our money and the thousands of volunteers through His churches to spread the love of Christ!

There also has been an unprecedented outpouring of financial support. Col. Glen Bastin of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels delivered a \$25,000 matching gift for KBC disaster relief and many others have made financial gifts as well.

In writing to Immanuel Baptist Church members in Lexington, Pastor Craig Loscalzo summed up our feelings so well when he wrote that desperate times require desperate measures.

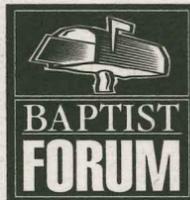
I am grateful for the gifts of Kentucky Baptists through the Cooperative Program that make these ministries possible. You can help by praying, giving to KBC disaster relief and enlisting volunteers to be trained for the long recovery and rebuilding process.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## Respond to needs

Over the last few weeks, we have experienced the most devastating natural disaster in our nation's history. Churches must respond now and be prepared for the needs that still will be prevalent a year from now.

Those needs are enormous. It would be similar to going to downtown Lexington where one person attempts to wrap his arms around Rupp Arena. At this point



## Preparing for long-term hurricane response

Along with each of you, Kay and I have watched the reports from the Gulf area with a mixture of horror, disbelief and sorrow. The entire nation will grieve for years and the people who have lost loved ones, homes, jobs, churches and so many valued personal items will have a long journey to recovery.

The Red Cross has divided assistance into three steps: the initial response, recovery and rebuilding. I am told that each step takes 10 times as long as the previous one. In this case we know that it will take years to rebuild.

I am so grateful that Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers were ready to respond. Two feeding units were staged in Memphis, Tenn., waiting for Katrina to pass so they could move to assigned areas. When the Baptist disaster relief units rolled into Long Beach, Miss., near Gulfport, people lined the streets and some fell to their knees in gratitude. These feeding units can serve up to 20,000 meals per day de-

pending on capacity.

Currently, Kentucky units are providing food in Clinton and Long Beach for thousands of people who have been affected by the storm. A clean-up unit also is now at work in Hattiesburg. Kentucky's communications unit has been serving the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's Critical Incident Command Center in Clinton.

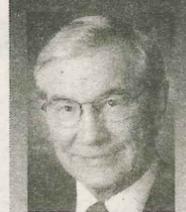
Kentucky also suffered directly from Katrina and a mud-out unit has been at work in Hopkinsville.

This is expected to be a long response and approximately 180 disaster relief volunteers are needed each week. Teams will rotate each Saturday.

At the Baptist Building, the Baptist men on mission department has been receiving hundreds of calls. Nine training sessions have been scheduled to train hundreds of additional volunteers.

The schedule of training sessions and registration information can be accessed on the KBC Web site at

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

## GIVING

## Creating flexible endowment fund can aid ministry

By Laurie Valentine

Is there a particular ministry effort you would love to support financially on an ongoing basis? Would you like to provide that support through

an endowment fund, but feel hesitant to make a single large sum gift in these days of uncertainty in the financial markets?

A "flexible endowment fund" might be the answer.

A flexible endowment fund is an arrangement under which you agree to establish an endowment fund that will, once fully-funded, generate sufficient earnings to support the program or ministry. The total amount of the principal gift to the endowment will depend on the financial support needed to run the program or ministry and how much of that support you wish to provide through the endowment fund. A timetable for completing the funding of the principal is agreed upon (usually three to five years), but there is no actual schedule of payments. When you make the principal gifts during the funding period is up to you.

In addition to your agreement to make principal gifts, you agree to provide annual "expendable" gifts to the program or ministry so that it will have the funds to operate while you complete the principal funding. The amount of the expendable gifts would be the difference between the earnings generated by the partially-funded endowment and the projected earnings the endowment will have once it is fully funded.

Here's an example: One of our Kentucky Baptist colleges sponsors an annual preschool ministry workshop. Currently, the cost of the workshop is \$5,000 per year. You agree to make principal gifts totaling \$100,000 (the amount needed to produce \$5,000, annually) to an endowment fund established for this purpose over the next five years. You also agree to make additional gifts each year, until the full \$100,000 of principal gifts has been made, in an amount equal to the difference between the earnings being distributed from the endowment fund to the college for the workshop and \$5,000.

The result: You've set up a five-year plan to create a significant endowment fund that will provide perpetual support for this program, while assuring the college has the current financial resources it needs to run the workshop until the endowment is fully funded.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



## Social interaction can help clingy friends expand horizon

**Q: I'm single, and whenever I try to meet new people in a social situation, I tend to attract just one person who clings to me. This detracts from my goal of meeting other people. What should I do?**

Lighten up the situation by suggesting to your overly attached new friend: "Let's see if each of us can meet five people we haven't met before. When the evening is over, we can reconnect and compare notes. OK? Ready, set, go!" Be sure and follow through.

### SINGLES

This can be fun and informative for each of you, and offers an opportunity to end the need for clinging. Each of you can enhance your social skills and expand your social circle through this little exercise.

Biblical wisdom is this: The one who has friends is the one who shows friendliness to others (Proverbs 18:24). The contemporary term for this is networking.

You need not be rude to the person who doesn't seem to network very well. In a positive and creative manner, suggest ways and reasons to mingle. Show empathy for any distress the person might feel about venturing out of his or her comfort zone.

A variation on this idea is to suggest to the host or hostess that they announce a mixer activity for everyone present. By offering a culture of "mix and mingle," the host can create a win-win solution that not only addresses your immediate situation, but also increases the networking opportunities for everyone present.

Look at each person you meet as someone special, made in the image of God, including your overly clingy friend. Helping others gain a similar perspective can become a gift they will treasure for a lifetime.—James Stillwell

**Q: Our two teenage sons constantly argue and compete with one another. How should we deal with this?**

Sibling rivalry often is fueled in the teen years by a number of factors, including elevated hormone levels and greater pressures to perform at school and in extracurricular activities.

### PARENTING

This need to compete with each other, while somewhat natural for males, can be exacerbated by the crazy crush of family schedules that often leave little time for one-on-one interaction with parents.

Studies have shown a direct correlation between demonstrated levels of sibling rivalry and the amount of time children spend with their parents. The greater the quantity of time spent with parents, the less competition there is between siblings. When parents' time is less available to children, rivalry increases.

Another factor fueling sibling rivalry is the need some parents feel to intervene with children any time there is a conflict. Since some sibling conflict is normal, it is important to allow the boys to settle some of their own differences. Parents who constantly intervene might unwittingly set up one child as the "villain" while the other takes the role of "innocent" or "favorite."

Much of sibling rivalry can be defused by healthy doses of one-on-one time with parents. Each parent should find ways to interact regularly with each son, affirming him for the gifts and talents you find him exercising. Since boys build relationships through doing, this will mean you need to take an active role to help maximize your sons' capacity to talk. Also consciously minimize interventions in sibling squabbles. When these get out of hand, give both boys consequences so they can learn to work together.—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

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



## Katrina relief: Why give money, not food?

By Rick Lance

Montgomery, Ala. (BP)—The scenes of destruction in Louisiana and Mississippi are harrowing, heart-rending and deeply troubling. Virtually no one could fail to be moved by the devastation of human lives and property we see in television coverage.

For many of us, the first impulse might be to ponder ways to get food, water and other staples of life to the hardest-hit areas. We intensely wish for an instantaneous way to transfer material goods to those in dire circumstances.

So why should one give money instead of food? The simple answer is access.

It's impossible for any citizen with a generous heart and a decent bank account to enter the neediest areas of the Gulf Coast. Many of the roads are blocked either by debris or for security reasons by the authorities.

But there are organizations that have access to some of the areas. Four of the major players are the Federal Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Southern Baptist disaster relief. All of these have proven track records. All of them have been recognized widely for their effectiveness in the current relief effort as well as in past disasters.

Because of this, these organizations can get food and water to storm victims more quickly than, say, a well-meaning individual who strikes out with a full load of charitable goods in a pickup truck, SUV or U-Haul.

Even in those areas such as New Orleans, it will be FEMA, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and Southern Baptists who almost certainly will gain access first.

One might ask, "Why not simply donate water, food and other staples to these organizations rather than making financial donations?"

The reason is because the kinds of containers needed for water and the types of food needed for mass

feeding sites cannot be acquired in retail stores.

As the Red Cross delivers food and Southern Baptist trained volunteers prepare and serve meals, they do so with initial supplies of food that already were in stock and ready for the current disaster. These include such items as thousands of industrial-size containers of food that can be prepared efficiently for quick serving to hungry people.

During relief efforts after Hurricane Dennis in south Alabama, disaster relief workers on one day prepared massive pots of ravioli, each cooking vessel holding several gallons of food.

Can you imagine how difficult it would be if the cooks had to sort through assorted cans of donated food to try to locate enough of one item to cook for several hundred people for a single meal? Then imagine having to repeat that with every meal to be prepared.

For those remaining in the tragically impacted Gulf Coast of Mississippi and Louisiana, it is only monetary donations that will help at this point and for many weeks to come.

Please consider giving through the disaster relief funds of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, state conventions and local associations. Each of these will use 100 percent of your donations to help storm victims.

The best part of donating in this way is that it ensures the love and message of Christ will be shared along with food and water. Each Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteer is a trained witness who can share Christ as they minister in His name.

A generous response also will ensure the food supplies are not quickly depleted and that feeding can continue as long as necessary. The need for feeding obviously will need to continue for a long, long time.

Rick Lance is executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

## Teach students how to minister

In my favorite book series and movie, "The Lord of the Rings," there is a great scene where the council gathers to decide what to do with the ring. They all know it must be destroyed but who will do it?

If you have read the book or seen the movie, you know that what ensues could aptly describe a Baptist business meeting. A young person—one no one would have considered for the job—a lowly, meek hobbit steps up and says, "I will take the ring, though I do not know the way." Then one by one, others step forward to go with him, to show him the way and to aid him on his journey.

What does all this have to do with youth ministry? All across Kentucky, students have started back to school, students harked on the next leg of their journey to adulthood. Some of these students are willing to step up and take the gospel to their friends and fellow students. Most just do not know how or are afraid to venture there alone. That is where adult leaders can help. We can show them the way and assure them they are not alone. Key elements include:

**Prayer.** The best thing we can do for our students is to pray for them. Develop a systematic approach to pray for each student in your ministry. That can be as simple as taking a blank calendar and writing a student's name on every day and then praying for each student that day of the month. For a larger group, more

than one student could be listed each day. Distribute the calendars to the church and the entire congregation can begin to pray by name for every student in your ministry.

**Community rallies.** Gather the churches in your community for a time of worship and fellowship. When leaders bring their students together to a community event, it helps the students see they are not the only Christian students in their school. There is strength in numbers as well as a built-in accountability system as they notice and are noticed by other believers. Incorporate into the service a time for students to gather by school or by grade to pray for their school.

**Campus clubs.** Picture this scene: It is 7:30 a.m. and 90-plus students are gathered in the school library for breakfast. About half of those in attendance are on the football team. After breakfast, a student stands and shares a gospel presentation. At the end of his comments, students are invited to pray to receive Christ as their Savior and Lord. A couple of students do. This scene is replayed all across Kentucky.

Whether you call them First Priority clubs, YES groups, FiSH clubs or prayer groups, a network of students on each campus committed to reaching their school for Christ by living like Christ and carrying out a plan to share their faith can make an eternal difference both in students and their campus. In Hopkins-

ville alone, more than 100 students became Christians in their schools during the 2004-2005 school year.

These groups meet during non-curricular times and are student-led, which makes them legal through the Equal Access Act that was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1984. Application of the Equal Access Act depends on three factors: that the school involved is a secondary school under state law; that the school receives money from the federal government; and that the school allows any other student club or group, not related to the school curriculum, to meet on campus. When these factors are present, school officials are required by federal law to grant official recognition and equal treatment to religious student groups, such as prayer groups and Bible clubs.

**Campus missionaries.** Steubenville Baptist Church in Monticello commissioned its students as campus missionaries. Most youth leaders teach their students that as Christians they are on mission all the time and that their mission field is their school. Students who took the challenge at Steubenville signed a covenant and meet regularly with the church staff. At these meetings they were asked who they were sharing their faith with and were held accountable as missionaries. It made the students more cognizant that they have a greater purpose in life.

Students will take the gospel message to their campus; they just need to know how to do so.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

### YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

## Ministry to evacuees: 'Every little thing we do adds up'

Richmond—When Jenny Stephens was in the fifth grade, she and her family lost all their possessions in a house fire.

"We lost everything," she recalled, "and people were so good to us."

Years later, she and her church are showing the same compassion to survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

"It's easy for me to understand where they're at because I've been there," said Stephens, part-time director of children's ministries at Eastside Baptist Church in Richmond.

She and her husband, Tim, volunteered to provide a two-story farmhouse on their property as a home for an evacuee family in need. Working in cooperation with the American Red Cross, they made the house available to a four-generation family of nine people, including grandparents, parents, two young adult mothers and their three children who had driven from New Orleans to Kentucky to escape Katrina.

Members of Eastside Baptist and other volunteers from the community pitched in to clean and ready the house for the new arrivals. The Richmond congregation is among numerous Kentucky Baptist churches ministering in a variety of ways to hurricane evacuees.

"I've sensed that every person who has contributed had an overwhelming sense that they needed to do something," noted Eastside Pastor Virgil Grant. "This is a tangible way for them to be involved."

Stephens told the family the house is theirs as long as they need it. She said the family hopes to return to New Orleans within two months.

"I don't want any credit," she emphasized. "It is all a God thing. It's about churches reaching out to people."

"It's been real humbling for us," she added. "It's like we can't do a whole lot up here, but every little thing we do adds up." —Trennis Henderson

## Disaster relief workers in Hopkinsville, too

By David Winfrey  
News Director

Hopkinsville—Nearly lost amid the nightly tragic images from Louisiana and Mississippi are the people of Hopkinsville who are suffering as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Flooding from the storm damaged at least 140 homes and nearly 50 businesses, according to Terry Shinkle, a Kentucky Baptist Convention disaster relief crew leader.

Shinkle is overseeing a skeleton crew of "mud-out" workers trying to keep up with the requests for help coming in.

"We came in here with 15 people, and now we're down to eight," Shinkle, a member of Bellview Baptist Church in Burlington, said Sept. 8. "We're hoping that more come in tomorrow."

Volunteers from Tennessee and Indiana were expected to arrive soon, he said.

"A lot of people are holding back, waiting to go down there (to Louisiana and Mississippi)," he said.

With fewer volunteers in Hopkinsville, "it slows us down to where we can't get to the jobs, so it's going to take us longer to do

the work."

Many homes had flooded basements and water standing on the first floor, he said. As a result, teams must remove mud from the basement and tear out carpet, insulation and other items that can breed dangerous mildew.

Volunteers then pressure wash concrete walls, remove flood-damaged drywall, spray an antiseptic cleanser and advise the homeowners about what items can be saved and what should be thrown away.

"There's quite a bit of damage," Shinkle said. "We're working 10-12 hours a day. ... We've got right now somewhere around 25 to 30 jobs pending, and each day we'll pick up two to three more."

Depending on the severity of the damage, a team of five volunteers can "mud-out" a house in one or two days, he said. "If we can get enough people so we can have four or five crews, then we can knock out some homes."

Shinkle admits it's sometimes discouraging that the Hopkinsville crew doesn't have more volunteers, but in the evening workers come in to the Christian County Baptist As-

sociation office, eat supper, debrief and have a devotional time.

"It kind of picks our spirits back up and we can go on. There's not too much aggravation or anything."

The real depression is among those whose homes were damaged by Katrina's flooding, he added.

"Once they see what we're doing, they get a blessing from it and it lifts their spirits to know there's somebody to help."

"That's our goal, to come into a place and help them try to get their homes back in order and then be a witness to them. And if you see a door open, then we tell them about Christ."

Homeowners often ask volunteers why they travel to a disaster site to work for free, Shinkle noted. "We just tell them the Lord loves us and we love them and when these disasters come we feel like we're getting a call from the Lord Himself."

"This is a perfect way for us to help our brothers and sisters, whether they're a Christian or not. Many times it opens the door for us to witness to them, and many times we've had people accept the Lord."

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### Teaching young leaders

#### New structure to prepare summer staff for ministry

A significant key to our ministry is the summer program staff. These staff members are young adults ranging from ages 19 to about 30. This past summer they represented three countries and approximately 20 colleges and seminaries. Interviews for the summer of 2006 will begin in about a month, and staff placement will occur by the end of January.

We will be looking to fill about 80 positions for the summer of 2006, and I suspect we will interview 250 people to fill these critical positions.

Our future will see significant shifts from past practice in our development of these staff. Our organizational structure will change greatly to develop ongoing leadership skills. While our primary stewardship focus is campers, our efforts must become more complete by seeking to develop young adult staff members while they serve with us each summer.

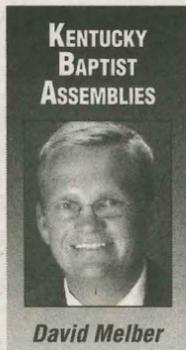
Our new structure will allow more time to be spent with these summer staff, time that will be focused on leadership develop-

ment and the many characteristics required to function effectively while in full-time positions after seminary or college. It is our hope that we can use the camp environment to help our staff attain practical skills that will make them the best possible servants, not only during the summer, but also in life.

You might already know a young adult who would be a great fit for service with the Crossings summer camp program. Please encourage young adults in your area to consider being part of a camp ministry that will see roughly 6,000 students join us next summer at our properties.

As our interviews begin, we ask for your prayers throughout this entire process. Several of our staff will be traveling many hours and spending many nights away from home to seek out the best possible staff to minister to your youth while at camp. We also greatly need your prayers as we have a tremendous stewardship with the 80 young adults, many of whom will serve in our churches in the years to come.

David Melber is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. Contact him at 3043 Beal Road, Hardin, KY 42048; phone (270) 354-8355.

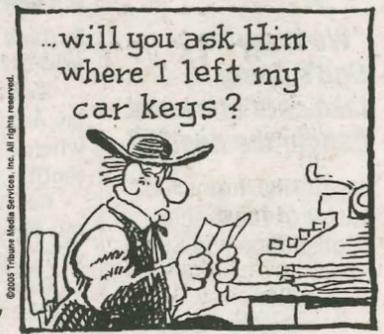


David Melber

### Kudzu

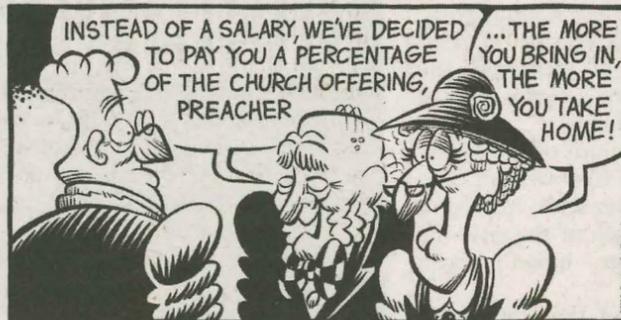


If God is all-knowing...



Doug Marlette

### For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

### Bible Crosswords

#### Across

- 1 Heavenly being (Fr.)
- 5 "\_\_\_ gave names to all cattle" (Genesis 2:20)
- 9 Get equipped
- 12 "Who shall \_\_\_ us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?" (Mark 16:3)
- 13 By the side of (prefix)
- 14 Talk baby talk
- 15 Made footprints
- 16 Arab chieftain
- 17 Classic auto
- 18 Looks at a book
- 20 Bureau
- 22 On the \_\_\_ day Jesus rose from the dead
- 24 Pronoun for an ocean liner
- 25 \_\_\_ Grande
- 26 Have a \_\_\_
- 29 Minor prophet
- 33 "So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month \_\_\_" (Nehemiah 6:15)
- 35 Like henna
- 36 "Take also of the tree of life ... and \_\_\_ forever" (Genesis 3:22)
- 37 "I am, and none \_\_\_ beside me" (Isaiah 47:8)
- 38 Ruby, and others
- 40 Born (Fr.)
- 41 "I took the little book ... and \_\_\_ it up" (Revelation 10:10)
- 43 "For I know the thoughts that I \_\_\_ toward you" (Jeremiah 29:11)
- 45 Rhombus or rectangle, for example
- 48 Dashes off
- 50 Poetic contraction
- 51 Solo for Dame Sutherland

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45	46	47				48	49				
50				51	52			53		54	55
56				57				58			
59				60				61			

- 53 "They came to the threshing-floor of \_\_\_" (Genesis 50:10)
- 56 Force to be accepted
- 57 Sacrifice
- 58 Singer McIntire
- 59 "I the Lord search the heart, I \_\_\_ the reins" (Jeremiah 17:10)
- 60 Table d'\_\_\_
- 61 High school course (abbr.)

#### Down

- 1 "Our Father which \_\_\_ in heaven" (Matthew 6:9)
- 2 Conjunction
- 3 "The light of the \_\_\_ gospel of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- 4 "Rebuke not an \_\_\_, but entreat him as a father" (1 Timothy 5:1)
- 5 Mimicked
- 6 Hoover, and others
- 7 Exodus hero
- 8 The \_\_\_ sisters of Little Women
- 9 Seaport in Israel
- 10 European deer
- 11 \_\_\_ point
- 19 Classified material
- 21 "\_\_\_ the sick, cleanse the lepers" (Matthew 10:8)

- 22 "I give to eat of the \_\_\_ of life" (Revelation 2:7)
- 23 "I set my king upon my holy \_\_\_ of Zion" (Psalm 2:6)
- 24 Flower part
- 27 Boundary
- 28 Popeye's short answer
- 30 "Thou shalt be a good \_\_\_ of Jesus Christ" (1 Timothy 4:6)
- 31 "The day cometh, that shall burn as an \_\_\_" (Malachi 4:1)
- 32 "\_\_\_ ye first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33)
- 34 \_\_\_ year
- 39 Female saint (Fr. abbr.)
- 42 "I will ... \_\_\_ thee in the way which thou shalt go" (Psalm 32:8)
- 44 "The law of his God is in his \_\_\_" (Psalm 37:31)
- 45 Kind
- 46 Understand, in a way
- 47 Arnie's \_\_\_ (golfer's gallery)
- 48 Make a \_\_\_
- 49 With "of," recently
- 52 Milne marsupial
- 54 Daughter of Zachariah (2 Kings 18:2)
- 55 Hammarskjold, to friends

### Last week's solution

1	G	I	L	D	5	H	E	L	P	9	S	T	E	
12	A	R	E	A	13	P	L	E	A	14	P	E	A	
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57	R	E	D	58	S	P	I	N	59	R	E	N	E	

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## Ashland native hosts disaster relief vols near New Orleans

**"We know that God's going to take care of us and handle the needs."**

Jay Adkins, former pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in South Shore

By David Winfrey  
News Director

Westwego, La.—Ashland native Jay Adkins wasn't around last week when his 5-year-old son lost his first tooth.

But Adkins, a pastor in metropolitan New Orleans, has been dealing with loss on a whole different level.

He's busy hosting two Georgia Baptist volunteer disaster relief teams as they begin feeding soldiers and local residents affected by Hurricane Katrina.

"We are a perfect staging area," said Adkins, 32, pastor of First Baptist Church of Westwego and a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Westwego is south of the Mississippi River from New Orleans, and because it is at sea-level—instead of below it like much of the city—the town's buildings haven't been flooded, he said.

"We're kind of the rim of the bowl that they keep talking about," said Adkins, who was pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in South Shore before moving to New Orleans to attend seminary. "Most people's homes took a pretty good hit," he said, adding that most of the damage came from fallen trees.

Still, "we have the blessing that most of the housing here did not have catastrophic damage."

The Georgia volunteers are sleeping at the church. The two kitchens are set up at the nearby Alario Center, a facility where the New Orleans Hornets often practice.

"We're housing about 40 people here at our little church," he said.

Combined, the two kitchens can cook up to 20,000 meals per day,

but, as of late last week, no method was in place to distribute that many meals, he said.

Residents have begun to trickle back into Westwego, he said, but some already are talking about relocating. "That's going to hit our churches pretty hard," he said.

But Adkins added that he remains an "eternal optimist."

"We know that God's going

to take care of us and handle the needs," he said. "But we say, 'Lord, would you kind of hurry and let us know what kind of direction you're going to go in so we'll have some peace of mind?'"

Already two churches, including one in Inez, have called offering to help replace the roof shingles blown off in the storm.

Adkins was supposed to be spend-

ing this time memorizing the book of Ecclesiastes in Hebrew in one of his classes at New Orleans Seminary.

Now his wife is staying three hours away in a camp with their two children while he helps coordinate disaster relief.

"Pass the word to pray for us. It's obviously hard right now, but we believe God's going to do great things out of this."

## Understanding Other Beliefs

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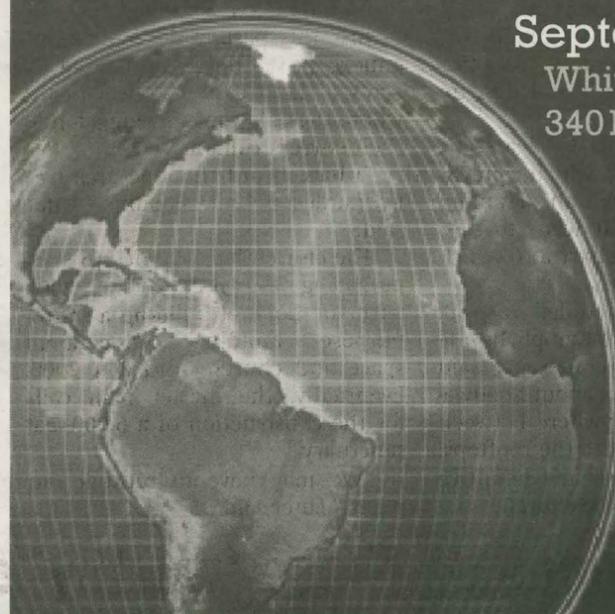
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## On the verge of tears

**Homesickness remains a common challenge the first weeks of school**

As a general rule, boys do not like to cry in front of others. Girls have a completely different emotional system, and frankly are less inhibited about shedding a tear or two in front of someone. We have seen many tears the past week or two as new students have had to deal with their emotions and being homesick. I just wish some pharmaceutical company would develop a simple little pill we could give our new students to help them get through what is, for them, the most challenging event of their lives.

During the first two or three days of school, nearly a half-dozen students made their way to my office during classes. Normally I do not allow students to come to my office during the academic day because over a period of time, they can find an unending number of things to talk about. Students are instructed to see me after school if they need to talk to me. As those half-dozen students made their way to my office the first few days of school, they all had one common concern: "I want to go home." I normally remind them that we spent several hours during orientation telling them and their loved ones that homesickness is normally the first serious problem we face.

Only on rare occasions has a student admitted to being homesick. For reasons I never have really understood, students just don't like to admit to being homesick. The reasons they give for wanting to go home sound something like this: "This place is just not for me." "This place just can't help me." "My roommates don't like me." "My mother needs me at home." "This place is just

too far from home." "Now that I have had time to think about it, my mom just can't afford for me to be here." There are many other reasons given for needing to go home, but these are some of the more common.

It is easy to determine when some students are homesick. All one has to do is look at the red eyes or the tears running down their cheeks. Others, who are a little more in control of their emotions, are just as homesick but do better at not letting people know how homesick they are. Frankly, they often are the most difficult to help. We have plenty of staff to help those with tears in their eyes, but others who might need someone to talk to often are more difficult to identify.

The good news is that homesickness is normally a "two-week" malady. Just as quickly as it comes, it seems to disappear. Adjustments begin to take place, friends are made and there is light at the end of the tunnel. With the help of parents who did not succumb to the pleas of their child and an understanding and caring staff, tears are replaced with smiles. A roommate convinces his or her homesick friend to join the volleyball team, the cross country team, the soccer team, the traveling choir, the drama department or maybe even the work crew on the farm. The understanding friend convinces the new student that working on the farm, though it is difficult, is lots of fun, too. Caring for a newborn calf or gathering up goats that won't stay in their pens is a new experience for most of our students. Homesickness, thanks be to God, doesn't last too long.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Singing pastor

**Seven-bypass heart surgery adds meaning to ministry**

Robbie Catoe describes himself as a "singing pastor." He was in the adult choir at age 14. At the campus Valentine banquet he sang to his wife, Terry.

"I'd rather sing than eat," Robbie said. "God has put something in my heart; a burning desire to share."

In his third semester he discovered something else about his heart. He went for an exam and the next day had seven-bypass heart surgery at Central Baptist Hospital. While he was out of classes for the remainder of the semester, professors individually worked with him to complete the course requirements during the summer.

After 27 years in the construction business, Robbie made the transition to prepare for the life of a pastor.

"I wish he would hurry and grow up, and decide what he's going to do," Terry recalled saying. Both of them knew God was calling to ministry. "But I was hard-headed and ran from God," Robbie said.

In the fall of 2000 they realized no contentment would come without surrender. "One of

the biggest difficulties was to give up our toy poodle," Robbie said. "Grandparents now keep him. It's funny; when we go back to South Carolina it isn't home anymore."

Terry works as a counselor at Cumberland Care in Pineville. They have two daughters, ages 11 and 6; the girls attend Page Elementary School and like living at Clear Creek. "Many times we have to call and see who they are visiting on campus," Terry said.

Recovery from surgery progressed enough that Robbie and Terry were part of a campus mission team to Juneau, Alaska, in July. The team conducted two Bible schools and completed remodeling and construction projects on church facilities.

"We've been blown away with blessings here at Clear Creek. Everybody is here for the same reason; all are lifting up Jesus," Robbie said. "I go into an office to ask a question, and they take time to pray for me. It is so good to be around Christian people."

CLEAR CREEK  
CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

## New Orleans pastor Fred Luter fighting fear with faith

By Shannon Baker  
Baptist Press

Birmingham, Ala. (BP)—New Orleans Pastor Fred Luter still doesn't know the status of his church, its members, his home or even his brother.

"It's a difficult situation to address," said Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, who is anxious to return to the city to assess the situation and to minister to families accordingly.

So far, Luter hasn't received reports of deaths from his membership. Yet, "no doubt, with the membership we have, we have lost some," he said sadly. "There's no way to tell yet because we are such a large church."

Founded in 1933, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church has swelled to more than 7,000 members since Luter became pastor in 1986, when there were only 65 members on the rolls.

At the time, Luter, the first African-American to preach the convention sermon at a Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, was challenged either to "bury or resurrect" the dying church in a changing neighborhood.

Now, nearly 20 years later, the pastor faces the same challenge, this time due to the torrential flooding after Hurricane Katrina, which appears to have virtually destroyed the community where he serves.

A self-described "street preacher from the lower Ninth Ward," an



**A PASTOR'S TEARS** Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, tells students at Southwestern Seminary that Hurricane Katrina destroyed his church buildings and scattered his 7,000 church members throughout the U.S. (Southwestern Seminary photo by Jonathan Blair)

area flooded when a flood wall broke along the Mississippi River, Luter predicts that in God's strength the city will see a whole new "resurrection" amid the death and destruction left by the storm.

That destruction, he fears, includes his church, which sprawls alongside a block on Franklin Avenue, a road that leads to New Orleans' Lake Pontchartrain, which flooded New Orleans.

Luter, who is scheduled to speak later this month at Campbellsville University's pastors' conference, said he has heard rumors about floodwater levels rising anywhere between five feet and 20 feet to the rooftops, but he hasn't received any definitive information about the church.

"We are definitely planning on rebuilding once we can get back into New Orleans," Luter said. "It's not going to be easy, but we are going to make it."

He also wants to find out if his brother Keith has survived the ordeal. Luter hasn't heard from him since Sept. 1. "My mom is so concerned; she's called me in tears," Luter said. "It has been tough."

Luter also fears that the storm destroyed his home, from which he and his wife, Elizabeth, evacuated to Birmingham, Ala., to stay with their daughter.

### Members & staff scattered

Since evacuating, they have tried to contact church staff and members, hearing that many evacuated to Houston, Dallas, Memphis and Birmingham and elsewhere.

Just this past July, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church purchased 90 acres of land east of New Orleans where they planned an extension to their current campus.

"I have heard that the area was the hardest hit with flooding," Luter said.

The church had planned to start preparing the property in 2006 with the hope of building a multi-purpose building, educational space and church offices in 2008. Eventually, the master plan calls for the construction of a 6,000-seat sanctuary.

"We may have to rethink our plans," Luter said.

Keeping a pre-existing commitment to preach a chapel message at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary last week, Luter told the students that he initially felt a personal sense of fear when the levees broke and his city flooded.

But then, he said, he sensed God rebuking his emotions and challenging his faith.

"(Jesus) looked at me and asked, 'Fred, why are you fearful? How is it that you have no faith? You've been preaching faith all these years and teaching faith all these years and telling other people to have faith. Now it's time to use some of your faith,'" Luter recounted.

Luter was not in a self-pitying frame of mind when he spoke of Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4:35-41.

Noting that storms come into everyone's lives, Luter said God is present and trustworthy regardless of the circumstances.

"I've discovered that when trouble comes your way, that when the storms of life are raging, faith is the first area that the enemy works on," he said.

Luter admitted that amid the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina he began to lose sight of all God has done in his life as "the enemy" clouded his mind with fear for the moment.

"Always remember that when the storms show up, so does the Savior," Luter said.

With additional reporting by Lauri Arnold of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

## President Bush calls for day of prayer Friday

Washington (BP)—President Bush has called for a national day of prayer and remembrance Friday.

"Throughout our history in times of testing, Americans have come together to heal and ask for strength for the tasks ahead," Bush said during remarks on hurricane relief Sept. 8. "I ask that we pray—as Americans have always prayed in times of trial—with confidence in His purpose, with hope for a brighter future and with the humility to ask God to keep us strong so that we can better serve our brothers and sisters in need."

Shirley Dobson, chairwoman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, listed several prayer requests:

■ For the safety and health of the hurricane victims.

■ That God will give the rescuers the physical and spiritual strength required to do their work.

■ For patience for those anxiously waiting to hear from family members or for word on their homes and neighborhoods.

■ For problems to be solved in peace and for order to be established in the midst of chaos.

■ For the relief organizations involved, that they will receive enough supplies and funds to address the needs before them and that they will get the supplies distributed quickly and efficiently.

■ That citizens will selflessly open their hearts and homes to the victims.

"By uniting in prayer as a nation, we can avail ourselves of the wisdom that only God provides," Dobson said. "By petitioning Him for mercy and grace, people everywhere can be a very real and necessary part of the hope and healing. Through prayer, we can access the power of God Himself."

## Giving patterns reveal focus on those 'worthy' of compassion

By Jeffrey MacDonald  
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—As Americans set new records for charitable giving in response to Hurricane Katrina, some fundraisers are seeing a principle confirmed: When those suffering are perceived as innocent victims, donors respond generously.

On the other hand, giving patterns suggest donors are losing patience with chronic problems such as poverty, in which suffering arguably is exacerbated by questionable choices.

Private donations are shrinking for homeless shelters, AIDS-related services and programs for troubled

youth, to cite just a few examples.

In religious circles and beyond, some see a troubling trend: Compassion is increasingly being reserved for those who appear to have done no wrong.

Giving patterns illustrate the contrasts. It took only 10 days after the hurricane hit the Gulf Coast for donors to exceed \$602 million for relief efforts, according to data tracked by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. Similarly, 10 days after the attacks of Sept. 11, Americans had donated \$239 million to relief efforts.

A quick glance at the big picture reveals an increasingly generous public. Total annual giving to all charities has climbed steadily from \$231 billion in 2001 to \$249 billion in 2004.

### Smaller charities struggle

But closer scrutiny reveals that giving to human service causes—including legal services, food pantries and rehabilitation for ex-convicts—has declined every year from a \$22.1 billion peak in 2001 to \$19.2 billion in 2004.

Hardest hit: small organizations, raising less than \$1 million per year, received 3.4 percent less from private donors in 2004 than in 2003, according to Giving USA 2005.

"For some reason, we're not being sympathetic to the poor and the needy as we're leaving certain people behind," says Daniel Borochoff, president of the Chicago-based American Institute of Philanthropy.

"It is harder to raise money for people who made bad choices. ...

It is hard for the charities to tell people, 'Yeah, OK, sure, these giant things get a lot of news, but you know, there's thousands of people who smoke in bed and start a fire and have to get help.'"

Historically, donors haven't dwelled on the question, "Is it your fault or not?," according to Chronicle of Philanthropy editor Stacy Palmer. But she has a hunch that donors now ask it quite often.

"I think it's increasing" as a criterion, Palmer says. "Charities need to do more to get information out about the kinds of problems people face and why they face them." Otherwise, she says, would-be donors can too easily dismiss a particular cause because it seems the clientele were wholly responsible for their own misfortune.

Religious charities say they feel the same pressure as others do to frame every cause as one on the side of innocent victims.

Virginia-based Christian Children's Fund, for instance, hasn't hesitated to serve Angolan teenagers, even though some took up arms to advance a bloody civil war, according to vice president of marketing Betty Forbes. Yet she says marketing appeals must emphasize that these teens joined militias not as free agents but under lots of outside pressure.

"You have to say that that's what happened to them," Forbes says. "They were pretty normal children, (but) they were taken out of school, they never had a childhood, they certainly didn't have any teenage years. They were fighting."

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## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist ministries:

### Loving Springs Missionary Baptist Church in Glasgow.

Mission Service Corps missionary John Edwards, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Builders, reports that Loving Springs Church, a member of the Baptist General Association of Kentucky, celebrated moving into its new worship center Sept. 11. A Carpenters for Christ building team representing five states began construction in June, working on a newly poured concrete slab. When they concluded their work 10 days later, the exterior of the building was completed as well as interior electrical, plumbing and drywall. From that point, church members and other volunteers finished the new church building.

According to Lincoln Bingham, Kentucky Baptist cooperative ministries consultant, "Loving Springs Baptist Church, pastored by a young, dedicated, energetic visionary, Rev. Shawn Sales, is now better equipped to fulfill that vision. The building of this new facility, built for a black congregation by a white Baptist mission team, reflects the power and value of cooperation by omission people."

Pray that Loving Springs Missionary Baptist Church will capture the vision of reaching its community with the love of Christ. Pray also for the congregation's involvement in ministering to more than 150 evacuees who have arrived in Glasgow in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at [Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org](mailto:Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org) or call (502) 489-4302.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CORBIN**—Lynn Camp Church is celebrating 200 years of ministry throughout September. The church also recently ordained **Eric Burke** into the gospel ministry. **Carl McCray** is pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—Visalia Church will celebrate homecoming Sept. 25, 2 p.m. For more information, call **Leroy Schmid** at (859) 356-3903.

■ **COXS CREEK**—**Catherine Lewis**, a member of Hobbs Church, died Sept. 4 at age 78. She is survived by her husband, William, pastor of Hobbs Church, a son, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

■ **FLEMINGSBURG**—Flemingsburg Church will hold revival services Sept. 25-27, 7 p.m., with **Bill Mackey**, Kentucky Baptist Convention executive director, as evangelist.

■ **FLORENCE**—Greenview Church will hold fall revival services Sept. 18 at 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Sept. 19-21, 7 p.m., with **Ron Chastain** as evangelist.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Deep Creek Church will celebrate homecoming and host a building dedication service Sept. 25. Activities will include music by **Jubilation** and lunch after the morning service. **Lewis Walter** is interim pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church ordained **Bob Bebout** to the gospel

ministry Sept. 11. He has been called as pastor of the English-language congregation of Korean First Church in Radcliff.

**Danny Haynes** recently resigned as pastor of South Jefferson Church. **Jim England** has been called as interim pastor.

■ **PINEVILLE**—Clear Creek Baptist Bible College will hold campus revival services Sept. 20-22, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., with **Ron Lynch**, founder of Life Out of Death Ministries in Matthews, N.C., as evangelist. For more information, call (606) 337-3196.

■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Scottsville Church recently honored **Ken Goforth** for serving 30 years as minister of music, **Becky Boling** for 32 years as organist and **Martha Shook** for 30 years as pianist. **Dale Darley** is pastor.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—Bethlehem Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary Sept. 18 with a 10 a.m. service, noon meal and 2 p.m. service with **Rick Shannon**, pastor of Alton Church in Lawrenceburg, as guest speaker. **Jimmy Edenfield** is pastor.

■ **WALTON**—New Banklick Church will celebrate homecoming Sept. 18 with special recognitions in the morning service, a noon meal and an afternoon concert by the **Southernaires**. For more information, call (859) 356-5538.

## Kentucky churches to host simulcast

**Nashville**—A dozen Kentucky Baptist churches are partnering with LifeWay Church Resources to host a Beth Moore conference Oct. 7-8 live via satellite.

Moore, a Christian author and Bible study leader, will lead the "Living Proof Live" conference from New York City Oct. 7, 7-9:30 p.m., and Oct. 8, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

More than 250 churches across the nation are participating as host churches. Kentucky Baptist churches scheduled to host the simulcast are:

- Bethlehem Church of Greensburg.
- Erlanger Church.
- First Church of Leitchfield.
- First Church of Princeton.

- Grapevine Church of Madisonville.

- Immanuel Church of Lexington.

- Ormsby Heights Church of Louisville.

- Severns Valley Church of Elizabethtown.

- Parkway Church of Bardstown.

- Rosedale Church of Richmond.

- Steubenville Church of Monticello.

- Worthville Church.

Other churches across the state hosting the simulcast include Christian, Church of God, Methodist and Presbyterian.

For more information, visit [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com) and type "simulcast" in the search window.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

**16-17** Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek.

**19** Interfaith Conference, White Hall Baptist Church, Richmond.

**20** Interfaith Conference, First Baptist Church, Fitzpatrick.

**24** Children in Action Missions Day Camp, Cedarmore.

**24** Minister's Wives Celebration, Parkway Baptist Church, Lexington.

**30-Oct. 1** Focus 2005, Highview Baptist Church, Louisville.

**30-Oct. 1** Journey into Worship 2, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

### October

**5-8** Reconciliation Networks of Our World, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

**8** KBC Preaching Conference, Lancer Baptist Church, Prestonsburg.

**14-15** Women On Mission/Baptist Nurses Fellowship Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.

**15** KBC Preaching Conference, New Vision Baptist Church, Mayfield.

**18** Celebrate Baptism, Hillvue Heights Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

**22** KBC Preaching Conference, First Baptist Church, Junction City.

**24-25** Senior Adult Choir Festival, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

## Claypool, former Kentucky pastor, remembered as noted theologian

**Atlanta (ABP)**—Influential preacher and theologian John Claypool died Sept. 3 in Atlanta, where he was a visiting professor of preaching at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology.

Claypool, a Kentucky native and former pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, was 74. He died at Dekalb Medical Center in Decatur of complications from treatment for multiple myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow.

"John Claypool touched our souls," said Kirby Godsey, president of Mercer University. "Amidst our wounds and our triumphs, his voice became for us the voice of God."

"He will continue to walk among us, giving light to our steps, wisdom for our hearts and hope to our souls," Godsey added. He said Claypool's "life and presence and teaching were profound and enduring gifts to the entire Mercer University community."

Claypool, a former Baptist pastor, became an Episcopal priest in 1986. He served as rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Ala.,

for nearly 14 years before retiring in 2000.

In addition to serving at Crescent Hill Church, Claypool was pastor or associate pastor of several other Baptist churches, including First Baptist Church of Decatur, Ga.; Broadway Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas; Northminster Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss.; and Second Baptist Church of Lubbock, Texas.

Claypool was a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He was the author of 11 books, including "God Is an Amateur," "Tracks of a Fellow Struggler," "Mending the Heart" and "Stories Jesus Still Tells: The Parables." He delivered the prestigious Lyman Beecher Lectures in Preaching at Yale University in 1978.

His funeral was held Sept. 9 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. He is survived by his wife, Ann; a son, John Rowan Claypool V; one grandson, John Rowan Claypool VI; and two step-children, Laura Crawford Williams and Charles Tarleton Williams III.

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**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth for First Baptist Church, London. Please send resumés to: Minister of Youth Search Committee, 804 West Fifth St., London, KY 40741; or e-mail to: [fbclondon@alltel.net](mailto:fbclondon@alltel.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister. Outgoing, creative individual to grow active youth ministry with emphasis on discipleship. Send resumés to: Youth Search Committee, Knoxville Baptist Church, 110 E Fairview, Williamstown, KY 41097.

**SEEKING:** Part-time pianist and part-time organist for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Strong accompanying skills are required for both positions. Send resumés to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee. Resumés will be received through Oct. 8. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister for children through youth for McDowell First Baptist Church—an exciting, growing, loving fellowship in Eastern Kentucky. Mail resumés and/or sermon tapes to: McDowell First Baptist Church, PO Box 241, McDowell, KY 41647, Attn: Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for Centerfield Church, a contemporary Baptist church in fast-growing Oldham County, Ky. Please reply to: Centerfield Church, 4200 S Highway 393, Crestwood, KY 40014.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth and recreation and part-time minister of children. Applicants for both positions must be spiritually mature, enthusiastic and creative. Send resumés to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee. Resumés will be received through Oct. 8. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister (paid position; grades 6-12) for Mexico Baptist Church in rural western Kentucky. Average Sunday school attendance: 135. Send resumé to MBC Youth Council, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064, Attn: Brent Highfil, or call (270) 965-2149. [turnerchandler@hotmail.com](mailto:turnerchandler@hotmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time church pianist for Hurstbourne Baptist Church. Skills would include accompanying, improvisation and sight-reading for blended worship style. Contact: Chris Kihn, minister of worship & music, 8800 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40222, or (502) 426-2444.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Petrey Memorial Baptist Church in Hazard, Ky. For more information, please visit our Web site at [www.petreymemorial.org](http://www.petreymemorial.org). Resumés, tapes/videos should be sent to: Pastor Search Committee, 141 Alto St., Hazard, KY 41701.

**SEEKING:** Minister of adult education. Florence Baptist Church (800-plus in worship) is located in the fastest growing county in Kentucky. We are in the process of relocating to 67 acres and are seeking an energetic individual to build the adult ministries of our church. Please send resumés to [peggy.romes@florencechurch.org](mailto:peggy.romes@florencechurch.org).

# A test of faith

*Heart ailment of son Trevin forced Cleveland QB Trent Dilfer to his knees*

By Mary Kay Cabot  
Religion News Service

Cleveland (RNS)—Trent Dilfer, the Cleveland Browns' new starting quarterback, sat in his son Trevin's hospital room two years ago and cried.

If you just looked at Trevin's blond head and not at the tangle of tubes sewn into his chest, it looked like he was sleeping peacefully.

On the wall near his bed sat a picture of Trevin hugging Mickey Mouse and smiling. He looked so happy and healthy, so full of life.

But the only thing keeping him alive now was the massive machine humming and whirring on the back wall. In fact, Dilfer and his wife, Cass, were faced with a heart-wrenching decision. Did they let Trevin's time run out on the machine or should they turn it off and say goodbye in a special way?

Dilfer couldn't bear the thought of either. Trevin, 5, was his only son and his ally in a house full of girls. He loved hanging around the locker room with his dad and was in Dilfer's arms after he won a Super Bowl with Baltimore following the 2000 season. At Seattle Seahawks practices, Trevin often would challenge the receivers to a race.

At home, Trevin was the peacemaker. With three sisters to protect, he always was running around yelling, "Trevin to the rescue!" And now, Dilfer—all 6-foot-4 and 225 pounds of him—was helpless to rescue this 50-pound version of himself.

Dilfer had been through some tough times before, but nothing like this. In college, he drank every day. In Tampa, he was booed relentlessly by Buccaneers fans and was released by the team in 1999, two years after making the Pro Bowl. In Baltimore, he was dumped just after winning the Super Bowl. And in Seattle, he ruptured his Achilles tendon after finally winning the starting job.

Each time, his faith—and his football—kept him from crumbling. But this was different. This time, God was asking him to let go of Trevin.

Growing up in Santa Cruz, Calif., Dilfer came from a broken home, but he had two sets of parents who loved him and kept a close eye on him. Still, he found trouble.

By his senior year in high school, Dilfer was the star quarterback and

king of the party circuit. But he was getting mostly A's in school and W's on the field, so no one suspected.

Then in his freshman year at Fresno State, he tore a biceps and sat out the season as a redshirt. With all that free time, life became one big party. School was a breeze, so not even his coaches caught on.

The summer before his sophomore season at Fresno State, in 1992, Dilfer was invited to a Fellowship of Christian Athletes camp.

## Turning his life around

Hung over and bleary-eyed, he sat and listened as a group of about 40 college athletes began to share their stories. At first, he thought, "These geeks have no clue." But soon he broke down and wept.

He became a Christian and vowed to turn his life around.

Dilfer called Cassandra, his classmate and the beautiful captain of the swim team. He told her about his conversion and she said, "I don't believe you." So he persuaded her to meet with him.

It was true, Dilfer was different. Soon, they began dating and 11 months later they were married.

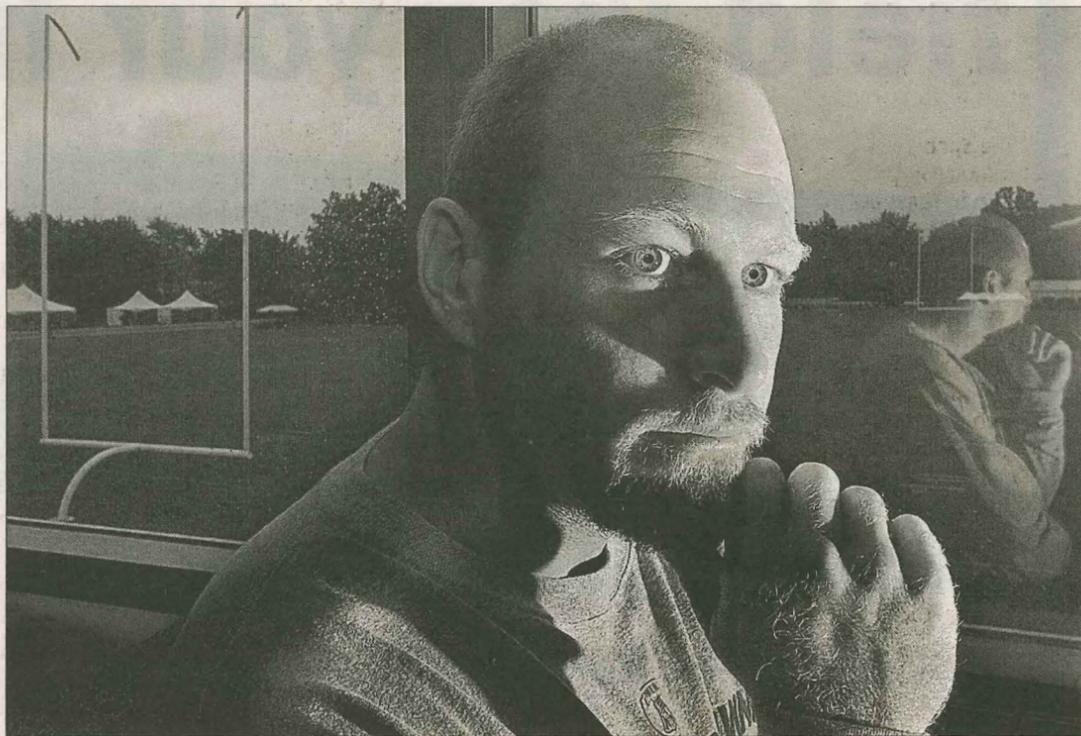
He left college after his junior season and was drafted No. 6 overall by Tampa Bay. But he had a bad rookie year and got off on the wrong foot with the fans. In 1999, two years after he became the first Bucs quarterback to make the Pro Bowl, they cut him.

He signed with Baltimore for the 2000 season and won a Super Bowl, but he didn't get any credit because the team's defense was so dominant. Two months later, the Ravens dumped him.

Still stung by the Ravens' snub, he signed with the Seahawks as a backup in 2001 and won four games in relief of injured Matt Hasselbeck. Coach Mike Holmgren re-signed Dilfer to a four-year deal in the off-season and told him, "You're my starter."

Dilfer was determined to prove the Ravens wrong. But he injured his knee in the 2002 preseason and missed the first five games. Then, after starting six games, he ruptured his Achilles tendon and missed the rest of the year.

The only good thing about the injury was that it gave him plenty



of time to spend with Cass and their four children, Madeleine, 6, Trevin, 5, Victoria, 4, and Delaney, 1.

In March 2003, the family went to Disneyland. On their second day, Trevin felt feverish and wasn't himself. A doctor diagnosed him with asthma and bronchitis.

The Dilfers cut the trip short, and Trevin seemed fine on the ride home. But the next day, Trevin was listless and couldn't speak. While Dilfer was out with the girls, Cass took Trevin to the emergency room.

Doctors thought Trevin might have hepatitis and sent him to a nearby children's hospital. But his heart failed in the ambulance. They revived him, but it failed a second time when he arrived.

Doctors sat the Dilfers down and said: "He's not going to make it, for some reason his heart won't respond. We're pumping it manually. We have no idea what's going on."

Dilfer fell to his knees and sobbed.

Doctors stabilized Trevin to open his chest and put him on a heart-lung bypass machine. Still, they warned the Dilfers, "This is a temporary fix." Trevin was moved to the hospital at Stanford University where doctors told the Dilfers that a rare virus had attacked Trevin's heart and he needed a transplant.

But it was a race against time.

Each day brought an increased risk of a bacterial infection. If Trevin developed such an infection, he'd have to be removed from the waiting list.

The next 25 days were excruciating. Cass stayed in the room for hours at a time, but Dilfer could only stay for 20 minutes or so. Once, he went to the chapel and broke down. "God, take my life, just spare my son!" Dilfer pleaded.

## A new revelation

On April 20, Dilfer and Cass attended Easter services, the first time in almost 40 days that they both were away from Trevin. But when they returned, Dilfer knew something was wrong. There were more doctors than usual, including the heads of the intensive care and cardiac units.

The next morning, Dilfer and Cass got the bad news: Trevin most likely had a systemic infection.

All this time, Dilfer and Cass trusted that God would save Trevin. But that night, Dilfer had a revelation: God would save Trevin by taking him home.

On April 24, Dilfer sent Cass to be with the girls for her birthday. While she was gone, he sat in Trevin's room and wrote him two tear-stained letters.

Two days later, Dilfer and Cass prayed and decided to take Trevin off life support. They were told the machine could only keep him alive two more weeks and he'd be in pain. Doctors and pastors assured them it was the loving and merciful thing to do.

On April 27, the family went into Trevin's room and played his favorite song—"One of These Days." The song by FFH is about dying and going to heaven.

The girls left the room, and Dilfer turned off the machine.

Three days later, the Dilfers held a celebration of Trevin's life at People's Church in Fresno.

When it came time for Seahawks camp in the summer of 2003, Dilfer, somehow, made it to camp. It was a tough season, as he backed up Hasselbeck.

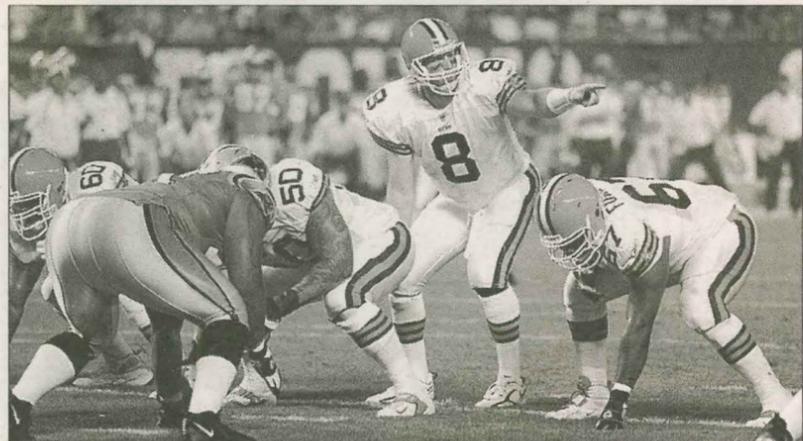
The next season, 2004, Dilfer started two games in relief of Hasselbeck and Seattle won them both. He realized that, more than ever, he needed to be on the field.

But he knew he'd have to leave the Seahawks to be a starter again. This was Hasselbeck's team now, and it was time for Dilfer to move on.

Besides, he was ready for a new challenge, another step in the healing process. What's more, his family was emotionally up for such a big move. He asked the Seahawks to trade him and soon received a call from Browns General Manager Phil Savage, his old friend from the Ravens. He called it a miracle.

He was back in the game as a starter, and now Sundays will be more special than ever. They're a chance to show off for Trevin, his best friend and his No. 1 fan.

**TRENT DILFER** Cleveland Browns' new starting quarterback Trent Dilfer poses for a portrait on a rainy day at the Browns' training facility in Berea, Ohio. (RNS photo by Mike Levy)



**READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL** Trent Dilfer, shown here in a preseason game, says the challenge of leading the Cleveland Browns is another step in the healing process for his whole family. (Photo courtesy of the Cleveland Browns)

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