

September 20, 2005
Vol. 179, No. 37

FOR THE RECORD

Katrina
SBC leaders propose up to \$13 million for hurricane relief. *Page 2.*

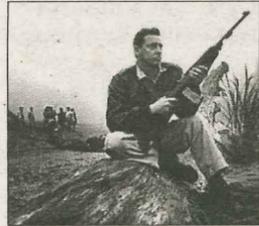
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CP gifts exceed budget but below previous year's total. *Page 3.*

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Movie
Fifty-year-old story of slain missionaries coming to video and big screen. *Page 13.*

Poll: Pastors change jobs for reasons other than God's call

By David Winfrey
News Director

Nashville—Ministers transferring to another church are more likely to move because they want to lead a larger church or live in a different type of community than because they sense God's call to relocate, according to a recent study.

And many pastors question whether their peers are staying long enough at their ministry positions, according to the survey, conducted by Ellison Research for Facts & Trends magazine.

The typical Protestant senior pastor has served at three churches during his or her career, Ellison Research reported.

Asked their reason for moving to a position at a different church:

- 27 percent said they had made a move to serve in a different type of community.

- 20 percent said they were moving to a higher position.

- 16 percent said they wanted to move to a larger church.

- 12 percent said they sensed they were following God's call.

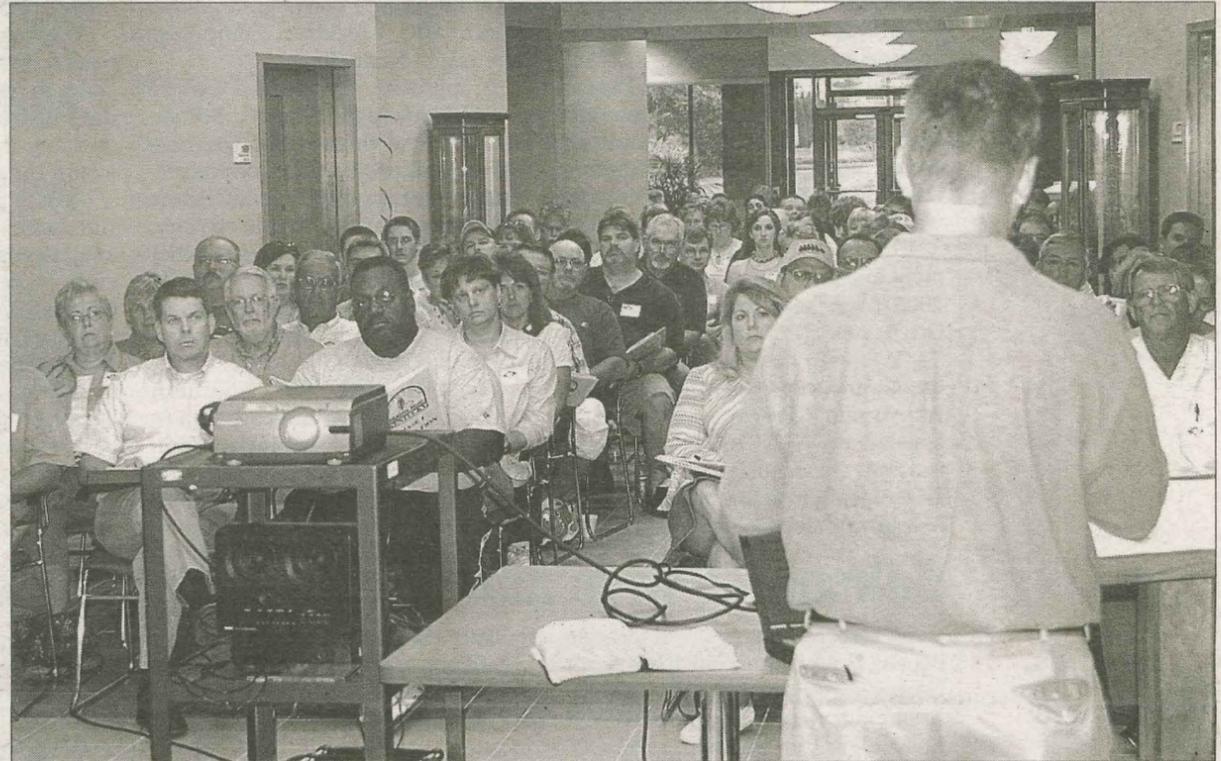
- 10 percent said they were fired or asked to leave their previous ministry position.

Among typical senior pastors, 31 percent are in their first position as a senior pastor, 24 percent have been pastored.

□ See Poll: Pastors think ... *Page 30*

HURRICANE KATRINA

Training for tragedy



FULL CLASS Gary King talks to a hallway full of students during a training session for those who want to be disaster relief volunteers. Hundreds of Kentucky Baptists have signed up for the training sessions as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina. For a list of upcoming training sessions, see page 7. (KBC photo by Robert Reeves)

Kentuckians flock to disaster relief volunteer training

By David Winfrey
News Director

Taylorsville—Sylvia McCarty had thought about training to become a disaster relief volunteer, but other activities previously conflicted with the class times.

But this time was different.

"With the numerous disasters that Hurricane Katrina brought on, I just knew it was time for me to step up to the plate," said

McCarty, a member of Fisherville Baptist Church.

McCarty is among the more than 600 Kentucky Baptists who have trained to become disaster relief volunteers as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention, churches and associations have hosted at least 16 training classes, and as many as 1,500 people ultimately might be trained for

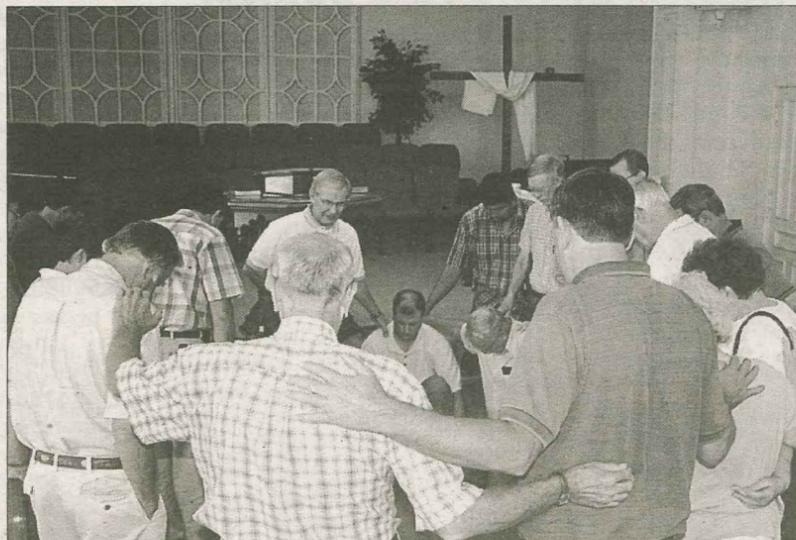
Want to help?

■ Please see page 7 for details on how to give, volunteer or keep your church informed.

disaster relief work as a result of the outpouring of people interested in helping.

Many people calling the KBC's ☐ See *Kentuckians train for ... Page 7*

2,200-mile 'Pray the Perimeter' tour circles state with prayer



PRAYER CIRCLE Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey (center) leads a prayer for ministers during a "Pray the Perimeter" tour stop at First Baptist Church of Carrollton. The weeklong prayer tour featured 30 stops from the mountains of Eastern Kentucky to the Mississippi River.

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Carrollton—Logging more than 2,200 miles in seven days, Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders conducted a statewide prayer marathon Sept. 10-16.

Dubbed "Pray the Perimeter," the prayer tour featured 30 stops in Kentucky Baptist associations located along the commonwealth's borders. Prayer services were held in churches, associational offices, restaurants and even in a Wal-Mart parking lot in Russellville.

Traveling by van, KBC leaders made a loop around the state from Whitesburg in Eastern Kentucky to Wickliffe on the Mississippi River and back east to Loyall in Harlan County. Among stops along the way were Pikeville, Northern Kentucky, Louisville, Owensboro and Paducah as well as the Baptist Campus Min-

istry center at Murray State University and a South Union-Mount Zion Baptist Association gathering on the campus of Cumberland College in Williamsburg.

The prayer emphasis was the brainchild of KBC evangelism leader Dan Garland who had heard a missionary couple share about praying the perimeter of the closed nation they were seeking to reach with the gospel.

"I think it's God-ordained," Garland said. "There's a real value in the fact that we've come to the people, calling them to prayer."

"I think we've struck a chord with Kentucky Baptists that we may have missed in the past," he added. "There's a sense of desperation that forces people to pray. All of our programming and everything else we have hasn't done it."

☐ See *2,200-mile 'Pray ... Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, September 21

Hurricane relief

SBC leaders propose up to \$13 million in assistance

Nashville (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention leaders have proposed up to \$13 million in Hurricane Katrina relief funds.

Trustees of LifeWay Christian Resources authorized the entity's executive leadership to use \$6 million in reserve funds to assist Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts.

In a related move, Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, announced Sept. 12 a recommendation to redirect up to \$7 million beyond-the-budget SBC receipts to relief efforts.

LifeWay President James Draper recommended the \$6 million gift to the board's executive committee, which brought the matter before the full board last week. The vote was unanimous.

The funding will begin immediately and continue throughout the 2006 fiscal year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2005, through Sept. 30, 2006.

"We will disperse these funds based on specific identified needs," Draper said. "The expectation is that assistance will go to the state conventions in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, to states assisting in handling evacuees, and possibly to

the North American Mission Board and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary."

Chapman announced that the Southern Baptist Convention's 43,000 churches met the Cooperative Program allocation budget for 2004-05 on Sept. 12.

He said he will recommend that all CP gifts between Sept. 12 and the end of the SBC's fiscal year, Sept. 30, go directly to disaster relief. That proposal will be considered at this week's SBC Executive Committee meeting in Nashville.

If approved, the receipts will be put to work in three ways: 50 percent for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, which suffered extensive damage from the hurricane and subsequent flooding in the city; 25 percent for NAMB's disaster relief efforts; and 25 percent for relief ministry by the state Baptist conventions in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

An estimated 925 Southern Baptist churches in the three states were destroyed or severely damaged. NAMB is coordinating the SBC's relief efforts across the region. More than 5,000 volunteers are on site,

feeding the hungry and working with other groups to provide housing and other basic needs.

Chapman said he will recommend that the same formula be followed with beyond-the-budget receipts for the CP allocation budget during the first quarter of the new fiscal year.

"Because of the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists have been able to respond swiftly and generously," Chapman said.

LifeWay officials continue to work with scores of churches in the three states to restore damaged libraries at deep to restore and to replace at no cost any dated LifeWay curriculum lost in the storm.

"We're partners in ministry with the state conventions of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, but even more important, we're their friends," Draper said. "When their churches hurt, we hurt, and with these donations we simply wanted to provide a tangible sign that we are beside them and standing beside them."

Affected Southern Baptist churches can call LifeWay's disaster assistance line at (800) 357-7029.

Belmont plan to add non-Baptist trustees rejected

Brentwood, Tenn. (ABP)—Tennessee Baptist leaders rejected a proposal last week from Belmont University to allow up to 40 percent of the Nashville school's trustees to be non-Baptists.

Currently all trustees must be members of churches affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention and be approved by convention messengers. The proposal was part of a covenant agreement rejected by the convention's Executive Board on a secret-ballot vote of 44-29.

Belmont President Bob Fisher said he is disappointed in the outcome. "Moving forward, Belmont's board of trustees will evaluate the message they believe is embedded in the vote and decide if there is anything else we can do to try to maintain this relationship," he told the Tennessee Baptist and Reflector.

Belmont trustees said adding non-Baptist Christians would have made the board more representative of the school's increasingly diverse nature.

Joe Stacker, chairman of the convention's education committee, told board members it "is a right direction for the university at this time."

"As a matter of conscience," he added, "I have a problem with an organization which only gives 3 percent support having total control of said institution."

Belmont, which has 4,300 students, receives about \$2.3 million a year from the convention, representing about 2.8 percent of its revenue. Under the rejected plan, Belmont would have spent all convention funds on aid for Tennessee Baptist students.

Trent Bullock, a member of

the education committee, argued against the committee's proposal. "We have sufficient and qualified members of TBC churches" who could serve as trustees, he said.

Executive Board members did approve covenant agreements submitted by eight other TBC entities, including Carson-Newman College and Union University. The covenants, if adopted by messengers at the TBC annual meeting in November, will replace existing program statements.

Last November, messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention asked the education committee to investigate what is taught at those three TBC-related colleges. The action came in response to an allegation by a current Carson-Newman student that the college teaches the Bible has errors and contradictions.

Baylor delays vote on president

Waco, Texas (ABP)—Contrary to expectations, Baylor University regents emerged from their Sept. 9 meeting without a new president for the 160-year-old Baptist school, and Interim President Bill Underwood announced he had removed his name as a candidate for the permanent president's position.

"I had never wanted to be the long-term president of Baylor University," Underwood said. "It's not a position I ever coveted."

Regents selected Underwood, a 49-year-old Baylor law professor, to become interim president June 1. He succeeded embattled President Robert Sloan, who stepped down to become university chancellor.

Although the university released no names prior to the regents' meeting, sources said Linda Livingstone, 45-year-old dean of the school of business and associate professor of management at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., was the expected nominee. She previously was associate dean of graduate programs at Baylor University's Hankamer School of Business.

Prior to the meeting, Livingstone reportedly was informed the board would not take any action at its Sept. 9 meeting.

Proposal calls for Louisiana paper to shift to Executive Board control

Alexandria, La. (ABP)—Fourteen weeks after rejecting the idea, trustees of the Baptist Message of Louisiana voted 6-1 Aug. 30 to dissolve their board and move the newspaper under the control of the the Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board.

Convention leaders also set the stage for John Yeats, editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, to become editor of the Baptist Message Jan. 1 after current editor Lynn Clayton retires.

Yeats, who also is Southern Baptist Convention recording secretary, is scheduled to be elected LBC director of communications at the September meeting of the state Executive Board. In that role, he would become editor of the Baptist Message if the transfer is approved.

In May the newspaper's trustees

voted 8-4 against moving the newspaper under convention control. But after hearing from Yeats and debating the proposal in executive session, they supported the transfer.

While Louisiana Baptists do not want a "public relations rag" but a genuine news publication, Yeats said bringing the paper under the Executive Board would be a wise use of resources.

Prior to the vote, trustees asked Clayton, the retiring editor, if he had any comments. "One, my opinion has not changed from the (May) meeting," he said. "Two, the search committee and the board have not sought my input prior to this point, so I will respect that and decline to speak."

To take effect, the proposal must be approved by two-thirds of convention messengers in November.

Land assesses Baptist view of religious liberty

Fort Worth, Texas (BP)—The historic Baptist concept of religious freedom expressed in the First Amendment is under attack from the American judiciary, Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, declared Sept. 9.

Land was the keynote speaker at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's first Baptist Distinctives Conference, a two-day event that examined "The First Freedom" of religious liberty.

"The greatest threat to religious freedom in America are secular fundamentalists who want to ghettoize religious faith and make the wall of separation between church and state a prison wall keeping religious voices out of political discourse," Land warned.

Presenting his paper, "The Role of Religious Liberty in the Founding and Development of America," to more than 300 participants, Land said America has been, is and always will be a "very religious" country.

"This drives post-modernists crazy because they think that as a country evolves, religious dedication should fade," he noted. "Religious liberty is the unique Baptist contribution to the Reformation."

Land traced the history of Anabaptists and Baptists to explain how they came to cherish—and even die for—the idea that government should not interfere with the people's right to believe, or not believe, and practice, or not practice, whatever faith they chose.

He explained that as successful as the Protestant Reformation was in taking "church" back to the "primitive" New Testament model, magisterial reformers such as Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin were never "quite able to separate church from state."

Land said Baptists always have believed that the state must be separated from the church largely because the state always "pollutes and corrupts the church."

He said Thomas Jefferson affirmed that idea in 1802 when he wrote a letter to the Danbury Baptist Association saying that "their legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, thus building a wall of separation between church and state."

But Land said the Supreme Court's modern application of that doctrine "is twisted" because Jefferson meant for the First Amendment to protect the church from the state, but not vice versa.

"The restrictions of the First Amendment are on the government," Land said. "They are not on people of faith."

Kentucky CP gifts outpace budget, dip below past year

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists' 2004-05 Cooperative Program gifts exceeded the budget by 2 percent but fell 0.5 percent below the previous year's receipts.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's fiscal year, which ended Aug. 31, posted CP receipts of \$22,944,405, topping budget projections by \$440,405. The total was \$126,329 behind the previous year's record CP gifts of \$23,070,734.

The year-end total marks the third time in four years that Kentucky Baptist CP gifts fell slightly below the previous year's receipts. But an income jump of 5.8 percent in 2003-04 has helped maintain an average annual income growth of 1 percent.

"We are obviously a little disappointed that we had a decline this past year from the previous year in total gifts to missions," said KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey, "but we are hopeful for this year."

The current budget goal of \$23.1 million, approved last fall by KBC messengers, will require an increase of less than \$160,000 over last year's receipts.

Study focuses on CP

Citing the work of a Cooperative Program Study Committee established in May by the KBC Mission Board, Mackey said he hopes the committee "will assist with renewed emphasis on the Cooperative Program as the primary means of supporting missions in Kentucky and around the world."

Kentucky CP giving



The 20-member study committee, chaired by Dan Ferguson, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is scheduled to report to the Mission Board in December.

As the state convention's five-year Kentucky Baptists Connect strategy unfolds, Mackey said, "It is my hope our churches will catch a vision for reaching people and connecting all people to Jesus Christ."

"It's my conviction that we need to strengthen the foundation for

world missions and that foundation is the local church," he added. "When I talk about strengthening the local church, it is always in view of carrying out the Great Commission here and around the world."

Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC business services team, described the 2004-05 fiscal year as "a pretty flat year."

Noting that all of the KBC's special offerings declined from the previous year, he added, "All of these numbers are in the negative, but they're only slightly in the negative."

Special offerings flat

Among major offering receipts for the past year:

■ Gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions declined 0.1 percent to \$3,822,160. That followed a 13.5 percent increase the previous year.

■ Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions contributions decreased 0.5 percent to \$1,753,712. The previous year's receipts increased 10.2 percent.

■ Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions receipts dipped 1 percent to \$888,745 after posting a 3.5 percent gain in 2003-04.

"I think it is important to look at giving trends over several years," emphasized Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. "Though giving was slightly behind this year that has just closed, it is still ahead of two years ago."

One giving area that did experience a significant decline was

Restricted Kentucky Only receipts, a designation for churches that choose to channel funds only to state convention work. After topping \$500,000 in 2002-03, RKO receipts fell 2.4 percent in 2003-04 and 8.1 percent in 2004-05.

Last year's total of \$451,431 was the lowest RKO amount received since the 1999-2000 fiscal year. Noting that "there is some concern about RKO gifts," Ashby said his office is conducting an analysis to seek to determine giving patterns and reasons for the decline.

As the 2005-06 budget year gets under way, Bolton said it is vital for Kentucky Baptists to realize that gifts to the Cooperative Program and annual mission offerings help undergird such Baptist ministry efforts as disaster relief responses to Hurricane Katrina and last year's tsunami.

Citing "the phenomenal outpouring of concern for those affected by Hurricane Katrina," Bolton said CP and special mission offerings "provide the foundational support which places our missionaries and Baptist ministries in place before disaster strikes."

As an example, she said, "a Kentucky Baptist disaster relief team was in Memphis ready to go in as soon as Katrina had passed through because CP and Eliza Broadus Offering giving already had provided for that ministry to be in place."

Southern Baptists' ongoing aid to tsunami victims is another example of ministries already in place as a result of CP and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funding, she added.

2,200-mile 'Pray the Perimeter' tour circles state with prayer

Continued from page 1

Garland and other convention staff members led participants to pray for spiritual renewal and revival and for churches to share the gospel with everyone in their community. Each stop also featured a time of prayer for pastors and other ministers present.

The tour also was designed to encourage churches to organize prayerwalks in their communities and for associations to pray the perimeters of their areas.

In addition to pastors and church staff members, Garland said he was impressed that hundreds of laypeople participated in the morning, afternoon and evening prayer gatherings.

"They're hungry, I think, for prayer," he said. "Prayer unites us. It's a common language everybody speaks."

Chris White, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton, was among the host pastors along the prayer tour route. Welcoming state convention leaders into his church's stately 154-year-old sanctuary for a Monday afternoon prayer session, he affirmed the "connectedness" of fellow Baptists gathering to pray together.

"When we talk about prayer, we're walking through the very streets we're praying for," he reflected. Citing urgent spiritual needs in his community and elsewhere, White added, "Prayer uttered in the streets you live on has a bit more of



TOUR STOP Joy Bolton (right), executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, prays with Myrna Holloway (left) of Cove Hill Baptist Church and Deb Lewellyn of First Baptist Church of Carrollton during last week's "Pray the Perimeter" tour across the state.

a ragged edge."

Bob Young, director of missions for White's Run Baptist Association, said his association includes only 10 congregations, most of which are led by bivocational pastors.

Affirming the impact of convention leaders visiting his association to pray, Young said, "It shows that they genuinely care for the churches and people out in the state."

"From a spiritual aspect, the people attending want revival," Young added. He said he hopes participants will "go back to their churches and express the need of more concentrated, consistent time in prayer, especially praying for the

lostness of our county."

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said he was grateful for the response of Kentucky Baptists throughout the state. Five days into the seven-day journey, "we've had well over 1,000 people who have participated," he said.

"There are a lot of people out there who have a heart for God and for mission work and for the local church," Mackey noted. "They have expressed a sense of desperation, a heart cry for youth and children."

Citing concerns for young people using drugs and alcohol; non-Christian relatives, friends and neighbors; and a need for spiritual

awakening, Mackey said several participants prayed "for God to intervene to bring renewal, awakening and revival."

Describing the prayer tour as "a great source of encouragement," Mackey said, "I think it has helped get us all on the same page in clarifying our understanding that prayer is essential to all that we're doing."

Tom Biddle, director of missions for Enterprise Baptist Association, said the prayer tour's "human touch makes a big difference. People are seeing everything in the church begins with prayer."

Don Phelps, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sturgis, hosted the prayer stop for Ohio Valley Baptist Association. Noting that "prayer always precedes revival," he said the prayer tour is a tangible way to highlight the significance of prayer.

"To circle the whole state in prayer takes it to a whole different level," he added.

Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, was among Kentucky Baptist leaders who participated in the weeklong tour.

"We tend to spend a lot of time talking about prayer rather than praying," she acknowledged. "This trip is not to talk about praying but to pray, and people are responding to that."

"There is a power in getting out and praying with groups like this that you can't duplicate in any other way."

Despite slight declines in giving three of the past four years, Kentucky Baptists' Cooperative Program gifts have maintained a modest average annual growth of 1 percent.

"Prayer unites us. It's a common language everybody speaks."

Dan Garland, KBC church development and evangelism team leader

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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 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 exemption, 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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Seeing the heart of Jesus in action

By Marc Daniels

Hendersonville, Tenn. (BP)—It isn't easy being a refugee from New Orleans. My family and I actually prefer the term evacuee. (We tell our kids that you can't spell "evacuation" without "vacation.")

Even though we are blessed to have a home to return to, we still be overwhelmed with all sorts of emotions. The fear of losing everything, the relief of knowing that loved ones are safe and the anxiety of an unknown future have all been gnawing at us—chipping away at our strength and stability.

Then everything changed when I got to see the heart of Jesus in action. While staying in a motel in a small town in northwest Louisiana, I heard that a local church was looking for pastors to help counsel evacuees. I went as a displaced pastor. It turned out that they didn't need help from me, but I sure needed them.

While its pastor was on a mission trip in Uganda, Calvary Baptist Church had been housing 50 hurricane evacuees. Members had been feeding and ministering to displaced families for the entire week. What was so amazing to me

was the way this church had seen a crisis and responded immediately, doing whatever it took. While I was there, they were relocating their displaced families to Sunday school classrooms because the family life center's air conditioners broke. When I asked Buster, the associate pastor, what they would do about Sunday school, he said, "Brother, this is Sunday school!"

Truly, I was seeing the heart of Jesus in action.

But that was just the beginning. Later that evening a large group of people jammed into the town hall of Many, La. There were city and parish officials, business owners, bank representatives, teachers, social workers, FEMA representatives, pastors and laypeople from just about every church in Sabine Parish. The meeting was to coordinate all the shelters around the parish and find a home for every evacuee. At 10 p.m., 500 more weary evacuees from New Orleans would be arriving and needing a place to stay and people to care for them. Another 1,000 would arrive just days later. What would be the town's response?

I saw the heart of Jesus in that room. Every church was ready and

we'd go. The small white church was so friendly—friends' kids everywhere. Boring? Not a bit.

Today, I teach the senior ladies. To think this Sunday school class boring? Not likely. I find when the teacher studies all week and asks our Lord for His guidance, by the time class starts we all are ready to share the Word. We always run out of time it seems. The Bible is so alive and speaking loudly.

When I showed this paper to our pastor, he said, "You are older. These are young folks. We must make church interesting."

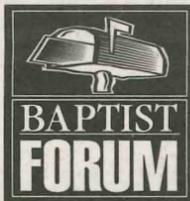
I understood his thoughts but

Church boring? No

The front page article in the Aug. 30 issue of the Western Recorder sparked a deep chord in my heart and I wanted to say "Church? 'Boring'," but "Church boring?" Not where I come from!

I am 73 years old. Church was the first place in public I went and it was there my parents walked to the altar and presented their baby girl born on Passover and called Rachel.

Church? Well in the '30s we were poor but we didn't know it. Dad just hooked up the mules to our wagon and off to church in our Sunday best



'Pray the Perimeter' exceeds expectations

"Pray the Perimeter" exceeded my expectations as a wonderful opportunity to pray with Kentucky Baptists. Five other Kentucky Baptist leaders and I traveled more than 2,200 miles Sept. 10-16 to meet with and pray with pastors and lay leaders.

Gathering each prayer during, we spent time thanking God, confessing sins, praying for the unsaved and asking God for revival and spiritual awakening. A focused time was spent praying for pastors, their families and church staff members.

Associations also were encouraged to consider praying around their perimeters and churches were encouraged to pray walk their churches. Pastors in Graves County Baptist Association had just completed praying around their association's perimeter a few days before we arrived.

I was impressed with the number of laypeople who participated and their commitment to prayer. In the small-group prayer times during the

first four days, I recorded a list of 30 names of unsaved people for whom they are concerned.

We heard a heart cry for children and youth who are unreached. So many youth seem to be captured by the drug culture and alcohol abuse.

There also was a heart cry for revival and spiritual awakening. Everyone seemed to recognize that we need to seek God for divine intervention in our lives, families, ministries and churches. There have been times as participants have prayed for unsaved family members and for their churches to experience healing and renewed effectiveness.

Paducah-area churches soon will celebrate the 100th anniversary of a great revival in 1905. We prayed that the revival spirit of that day might spring forth again.

We also prayed that pastors and their families would be protected from evil and that they would love God and His Word.

One special time of prayer oc-

curring at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers where a large cross has been erected in a park. At that stop, we had the privilege of praying with missionaries who were present for an "On Mission Celebration" in West Union Baptist Association.

We also prayed for disaster relief efforts and those who lost loved ones and/or were dislocated by Hurricane Katrina.

It has been encouraging to pray with God's people who have a heart to pray. It is my prayer that associations and churches will continue a strong prayer emphasis.

In fact, I hope this is the beginning of a greater prayer movement in Kentucky. When Kentucky Baptists unite in a concert of prayer, I am confident we will be surprised and pleased with how God responds.

Please remember to pray for state missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Baptists now being promoted by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. Many ministries in Kentucky, including Kentucky Baptist disaster relief, depend on your gifts.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

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FAMILY

Ears of corn help teach lessons about investing

By Jeremy White

Fields of corn nearing harvest time remind us of the benefits and risks of investing—while also providing an excellent teaching example for children:



Obtain a full ear of corn. Guess how many kernels are on it. Then count the number of kernels. (It's quicker to multiply the kernels in one row going across by the number of rows encircling the ear.) Most ears have approximately 600 to 660 kernels. Only an accounting nerd would know that, right?

Then, consider that each stalk of corn usually has two ears of corn on it. How many plants to make more than 1,200 kernels? Answer: One.

What a powerful multiplication effect. But it's not a guaranteed result. What are some bad things that could have happened to the corn while growing and prevented so many good kernels? Not enough rain, animals eating the corn, pests damaging the leaves or corn, or storms blowing down the stalks.

What would happen if the farmer was sold, every bit of his corn this year and didn't save any seeds to plant next year?

Even if you're not a farmer, this word picture still applies to you. Your "harvest" initially is the paycheck you bring home. You have sowed effort, skills and time. It's important to save some of that money to "plant" other crops. You don't want to "eat your seed corn." By investing, you hope to yield a greater harvest—especially if you lose your "harvest" at your job.

Galatians 6:7 declares, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." This verse reminds us of the four laws of the harvest that apply to investing, life and spiritual matters:

1. You reap more than you sow. A multiplying effect is possible.

2. You reap after you sow. Patience and time are necessary. Results are longer term, not immediate.

3. You reap the same character and nature of what you sow. If you plant corn, you reap corn, not tomatoes.

4. You reap only if you sow. Some effort and risk must be expended. Nothing comes automatically. It's a conditional promise: If you sow, you will reap.

Jeremy White, a certified public accountant, is a partner with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah

How should parents address growing Texas Hold'em craze?

Q: Should I let my child play Texas Hold'em?

Texas Hold'em burst on the scene in recent years as part of a renewed interest in the game of poker. The craze has been fueled in part by the ESPN sports network, which has begun televising poker competitions. Children watching ball games see commercials for the poker tournaments, along with ads for ESPN's glitzy, gambling-based drama, "Tilt." Stores have begun selling Texas Hold'em sets, complete with chips and chip trays. These and other factors have helped popularize poker in general, and Texas Hold'em in particular.

Children are not exempt from the trends of popular culture—especially trends that get so much media play. I recently attended a party for a 6th grader and the theme was Texas Hold'em. Last summer, I found children playing the game during free time at summer camp.

The problem lies not with the game, but with the gambling that typically accompanies it. Unfortunately, innocent and fun games, including Texas Hold'em, often function as entry-level gambling, especially for children.

The games themselves are harmless, so find out if your child can enjoy the game without gambling on it. If you must have stakes, play for something worthless, like matchsticks or toothpicks, but not money—not even pennies.

Use the poker craze to talk to your child about the true nature and dangers of gambling. Teach your children the value of working for what they want, and the importance of delayed gratification and self-control. Balance the glitz and glamour of the commercials and the come-ons with stories of ruined lives and broken promises.—David Garrard

Q: A man I've been out with a few times says he wants to marry me. We're both in our 60s. He also keeps pressuring me to have sex with him before marriage even though I refuse. I really don't think I want to marry him, especially since he's just coming out of his second divorce. What do you suggest?

What are you refusing to see about this man, this relationship and about yourself? Of course it matters whether or not you have sexual relations with someone who is putting pressure on you, no matter what your age.

You do not have to say "yes" to sex—or marriage—just because someone asks you to. Practice your "no" with a trusted friend with whom you can discuss these issues. You can say "no" to something that is less than God's best when you have a stronger "yes" inside.

Are you in a church where true community is experienced? Deep Christian fellowship with friends is better than a too-quick relationship with someone of the opposite sex. Until you find the person with whom you want to share real community for the rest of your life, take the opportunity to immerse yourself in a Christian community expressed in a local church. Find a church where you can connect with others in a safe way and at a deep level.

The fact that the man has just divorced his second wife might tell you something about his patterns. It also should tell you something about the lack of time he has given himself to heal. Women tend to grieve; men tend to replace. Ask yourself the hard questions about patterns: What is different about this relationship from his previous two marriages? What is similar?

When something looks good but you know it is not God's best, remember that even the devil can appear as an angel of light. Find a community of believers where you can live life to its fullest. In God's time, in God's way, God might have a marriage for you in that mix. Don't settle for anything less than God's best.—James Stillwell

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PARENTING



'Pray the Perimeter': A call to commitment

With much of the state and nation focused on Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and gas prices hovering near \$3 a gallon, last week might not have seemed like the best time for Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders to travel across the state on a 2,200-mile prayer tour.

But the tour's focus and timing proved to be providential as KBC leaders prayed with hundreds of ministers and laypeople about such pressing issues as the physical and spiritual needs of Katrina survivors as well as the urgency of revival and renewal throughout the commonwealth.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey; Dan Garland, leader of the KBC church development and evangelism team; and Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union were among several state convention leaders who led the Sept. 10-16 "Pray the Perimeter" tour. Participants from Whitesburg to Wickliffe and dozens of stops in between gathered to pray for a variety of needs.

In addition to praying together, Kentucky Baptists were encouraged to organize prayerwalks for their local congregations as well as to pray the perimeters of their associations.

"Kentucky Baptists are a people who respond to prayer," Garland emphasized. "We're getting in on what God is already doing. ... We're hearing a brokenness over families and communities."

Bolton noted that participants "have focused on praying for the lost by name, praying for spiritual awakening in our state, praying to be what God wants us to be as His witnesses."

Tony Rose, pastor of LaGrange Baptist Church, was among the host pastors during the weeklong prayer tour.

The potential impact of Kentucky Baptists coming

together specifically for prayer "is immeasurable," he pointed out. "Prayer is what churches talk a lot about and do little of. Anything the Kentucky Baptist Convention can do to get churches praying seriously is significant."

"The issue of praying together creates a fellowship in the Spirit that is unique," Rose added. "It's touching the grassroots people."

During one of the "Pray the Perimeter" prayer services, Mackey told participants, "There's a sense in which God has been going before us. We believe God is stirring the hearts of His people."

"I believe Kentucky Baptists basically are a people of prayer and a people of mission," he emphasized. "I believe Jesus wants to pour out His Spirit upon His people and that will make all the difference in the world."

As Kentucky Baptists intentionally focus on prayer in response to "Pray the Perimeter," "Kentucky Baptists Connect" and other ministry emphases, it is important to remember that a call to prayer begins with a clear biblical mandate.

"Pray without ceasing," 1 Thessalonians 5:17 instructs believers. James 5:16 assures us that "the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

Whether you are praying personally for spiritual renewal, for friends and family members to become Christians or for the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of Katrina survivors, "Pray the Perimeter" is a timely reminder to join with others in your family, church and association to expand the circle of prayer for the sake of God's Kingdom.

Hopefully, "Pray the Perimeter" won't simply be a one-week prayer effort, but a call to deeper spiritual commitment among grassroots Kentucky Baptists.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Baptist volunteers are making a difference

By Robert Reccord

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—My heart is full as I reflect on my trip to Baton Rouge and Covington, La., to see what our Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers are doing and what they need. Everywhere my wife, Cheryl, and I went, the volunteers were there, in their bright yellow shirts and hats and even brighter smiles.

In spite of the almost overwhelming grief and heartache all around them, those disaster relief volunteers were lifting people's spirits as they provided the most basic needs to the hurting.

As I feared, victims seemed in a daze—their trauma is so great. Many had lost everything or were separated from family members or felt they were without hope. And yet I could tell that the changed lives and caring hearts with which the disaster relief volunteers were serving them was making a difference.

It's a subtle thing, but you can see it in their eyes, hear it in their voices, observe it in their posture. The volunteers would share an encouraging word while serving a plate of hot, nutritious food, and a grief-stricken evacuee would brighten and stand a bit taller. You sensed they knew they were being treated with the love of God.

A warm smile is so uplifting, a gentle pat is so welcome—especially when the recipient feels broken and lost. These disaster relief volunteers are doing vital work, the effective combination of ministry and evangelism. And, as I told my wife,

they're the happiest people I know. They're telling people they minister to about the God they serve. Everyone who has ever contributed to Southern Baptist disaster relief (and 100 percent of every dollar goes directly to disaster relief efforts) should take comfort in knowing the difference we're making among an enormous population that needs a cup of water in Jesus' name.

All of the people we met were special, but some made an indelible impression such as Pastor Steve Trammel of Florida Boulevard Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. Steve and his staff are young, enthusiastic guys who seemed to be everywhere—encouraging workers, helping evacuees—and not the least bit concerned that their church was being turned upside down with a feeding unit spread all over the parking lot. A member of the Oklahoma Baptist disaster relief team said to me: "If you want a model of how a church should respond in a situation like this, just take a look at these folks."

I ran into Sam Porter, director of disaster relief for Oklahoma Baptists. Sam has a big, expansive smile and a heart to match. He was busy as usual, spreading his special brand of joy by passing out hugs—and blessing people who needed them.

In Covington, we caught up with Freddie Arnold, one of our church planting missionaries in New Orleans. He was wearing a blue hat, which means he's a disaster relief supervisor. Freddie said his crew had requested "the very toughest

jobs" and I could see they got their wish: They were wielding chainsaws on trees that had cut houses in half, plus they were operating feeding and shower units.

As we talked amid the devastation and activity, I discovered Freddie's own house was under 18 feet of water, yet here he was helping others no worse off than himself. "Look," he said, "I have my faith, my wife, my health. God looks after me. Where else would I be than right here helping others?" In short, Freddie didn't have much materially, but he was giving it all away.

A volunteer from Tennessee was clearing an area where trees were scattered like matchsticks. A family whose home had been destroyed by the trees asked him why he did this. He answered: "I'd do anything to bring people one step closer to Jesus Christ. What an honor it is to help people who can't help themselves."

A tender-hearted Mississippi College student told us he was reluctant to return to campus this week because "I have so many opportunities here to tell people about Jesus."

And a woman operating a mobile kitchen and clothes closet said: "I just want these people to feel so good and loved." Several men showed us with pride the shower units they had built. As you read this, people are using them to bathe for the first time in many days.

Thanks to all of you who pray faithfully and give generously, so that the work of Southern Baptist disaster relief can be accomplished. We are making a difference.

Robert Reccord is president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

COMMENTARY

'Embrace the cross,' Draper urges in final trustee address

By Chris Turner
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—James Draper reflected on his 14 years as president of LifeWay Christian Resources but closed his final trustee meeting with a challenge to those leading LifeWay's future, including president-elect Thom Rainer.

Speaking to Rainer, trustees and LifeWay employees, Draper said, "Whatever you endeavor to do from this point forward as individuals and as an organization, embrace the cross. LifeWay's impact in the future is limitless if you will daily embrace the cross."

Draper, president of LifeWay since 1991, will retire Feb. 1, 2006.

He said it was "personally satisfying" that the trustee board "selected a man the quality of Thom Rainer to succeed me."

Draper briefly reflected on some of the "highlights God has blessed us with in these 14 years." Some of those included the completion of the Holman Christian Standard Bible, the growth in overall corporate revenue, the doubling of the number of LifeWay Christian Stores and renovations at LifeWay Ridgcrest and LifeWay Glorieta Conference Centers.

But in the wake of such accomplishment, Draper said it is humbling "to see God at work in our midst. Let us touch not the glory due Him, collectively acknowledging we are simply instruments in the Master's hand."

15 challenges

Draper challenged "the stewards of LifeWay" to "take this organization to new heights" and issued 15 challenges that LifeWay should master in the coming years to realize maximum Kingdom impact. Draper said LifeWay must:

■ Be a catalyst for spiritual revival in America and especially among Southern Baptists.

■ Make prayer an even greater priority as the foundation for strategic planning if LifeWay is to provide culturally relevant resources.

■ Be more aggressive in presenting its resources to churches, knowing they have options.

■ Create resources that help churches confidently engage the culture.

■ Become much more flexible, especially in positions of leadership, in releasing employees to pursue unconventional ideas to reward their creativity.

■ Continue hiring the best and brightest to maintain a world-class staff, recognizing there are gifted, committed people available.

■ Transfer the SBC's and LifeWay's vision and values to the next generation.

■ Buttress the local church in even more supportive ways while building relationships with individuals.

■ Strengthen LifeWay's relationships with state conventions and associations.

■ Have a role in strengthening non-geographic networks, especially over the Internet.

■ Be prudent in alliances and not yield to those whose positions on issues would paralyze LifeWay, compromising its biblical heritage in a compromising world.

■ Engage in a serious capital fund raising effort in order to fund ministry opportunities beyond the operating budget.

■ Avoid every appearance of impropriety.

■ Respect employees by remembering that employees have lives apart from LifeWay.

■ Have employees who deepen their commitments to personal holiness.

"LifeWay is an incredible organization," Draper said, "but it has room to grow to accomplish even greater things for God's glory."

Expressing his deepest appreciation for Jesus Christ, Draper said Jesus "took a once skinny kid from a country church in Texas around the world and gave that kid a firsthand look at His activity in the world. I could never have scripted this life as He has given me."

LifeWay trustees unanimously elect Thom Rainer to head SBC agency

Nashville (BP)—Thom Rainer, elected president of LifeWay Christian Resources Sept. 9, said passions that will drive his leadership include evangelism, denominational memory and relevancy.

As president-elect, Rainer will begin working alongside LifeWay President James Draper Oct. 17 and will become president upon Draper's retirement Feb. 1, 2006.

Search committee chairman Rick Evans, pastor of Dalraida Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., said Rainer "will provide the kind of leadership that will enable us to be the leading producer of Christian materials for years to come."

Rainer, 50, is dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. A graduate of the University of Alabama and Southern Seminary, he was pastor of churches in Alabama, Florida, Kentucky and Indiana before joining Southern in 1994 as founding dean of the Billy Graham School.

Rainer has served as a church consultant and church growth

conference speaker for several years. He is the author of 16 books, including "Surprising Insights from the Unchurched," "The Unchurched Next Door" and "Breakout Churches."

Rainer also is founder, president and CEO of The Rainer Group, a church and denominational consultant organizations.

Responding to the trustees' vote, Rainer said the passions that will drive his leadership at LifeWay include:

Evangelism. "The Southern Baptist Convention is a denomination of fierce love for missions and evangelism," Rainer said, noting that "LifeWay must be at the forefront of a great renewal for evangelism in our denomination and beyond."

Denominational memory. Affirming "that which defines who we are as a people called Southern Baptists," Rainer said, "Doctrine is not a word from which we should hide."

Relevancy. LifeWay must understand the culture and help the church connect in a relevant way for the purpose of evangelism, he said.



Thom Rainer

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Lawless to head Graham school

Louisville (BP)—Chuck Lawless, senior associate dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, has been named the Graham school's new dean. He succeeds founding dean Thom Rainer who was elected president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Southern Seminary President Al Mohler described Lawless as "a leader—one that has given us a model of the kind of leadership upon which institutions are built."

"I have no doubt whatsoever that this is the man God would give us to lead the Billy Graham school into its next phase," Mohler added.

Lawless, a member of Southern's faculty since 1996, has served as the Graham school's senior associate dean since 2002.

"My first goal is to keep building on the foundation that is already in place," Lawless said. "Dr. Rainer has given us the vision to be the finest Great Commission school ever built and we will continue to move in that direction."

Lawless is a graduate of Cumberland College in Williamsburg and Southern Seminary. He is the author of several books including "Membership Matters" and "Disciplined Warriors: Growing Healthy Churches that Are Equipped for Spiritual Warfare."

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KBC offers 'ministers-only' relief trips

By Jonathan Johnston
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist pastors, ministerial staff and associational directors of missions can help the victims of Hurricane Katrina as they volunteer for one of two trips planned by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's mission service and ministries department.

Participants will serve and minister with KBC disaster relief volunteers to meet the needs of people affected by the hurricane.

The groups will join other disaster relief volunteers already serving the affected areas. Because teams often are moved around during a large-scale disaster, officials aren't certain where they will be located.

Mission team volunteers could be asked to serve in a variety of ways, including working on feeding teams, mud-out work or chainsaw clean-up.

Disaster relief volunteers currently are working in Clinton, Miss., and recently concluded work in Long Beach, Miss.

Eric Allen, director of the KBC's mission service and ministries department, said he hopes the trips help Kentucky Baptist pastors and staff build relationships with

churches and communities in the affected areas. He also hopes the trips will build relationships among participants.

Both nine-day mission trips will require participants to be away from their churches for two Sundays.

The first trip, Oct. 1-9, will be limited to 30 volunteers. Volunteers will leave by van Saturday, Oct. 1, at 8 a.m. from Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green. After a week of work, the team will travel home on Sunday, Oct. 9.

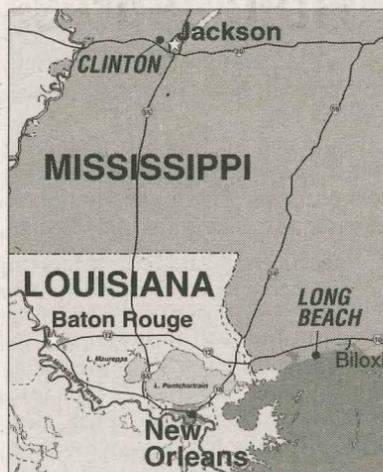
The second trip, Oct. 8-16, will be limited to 40 volunteers. The team will depart Saturday, Oct. 8, at 8 a.m. from Hillvue Heights Church and return home Sunday, Oct. 16.

Cost, equipment & training

Participants will be asked to pay for their meals traveling to and from the site and some fuel costs.

Each team member also must bring his or her own bedding, pillow, cot or air mattress, toiletries, Bible, work gloves and clothes, and sleeping clothes. Men and women could be staying in the same space.

Team members are strongly encouraged to attend the three-hour orientation and training offered by the Baptist Men on Mission depart-



ment. The cost of the training is \$15. (To find a training location, see "How to help" column on this page.)

Any Kentucky Baptist pastor or church staff member willing to go can register by e-mailing Karen Johnson in the mission service and ministries team office at karen.johnson@kybaptist.org or by registering online at www.kybaptist.org/ministersonmission.

The KBC also needs help transporting the two teams. Participants willing to loan their church vans are asked to call (502) 489-3530, or toll-free in Kentucky (866) 489-3530.

Kentuckians train for volunteer relief work

Continued from page 1

men on mission department wanting to help have learned that they must take the three-hour class before they can go as an official Kentucky disaster relief volunteer.

Trainer Truett Cocanougher said volunteers going into a disaster site must be prepared physically, emotionally and spiritually for all that they will encounter.

"They need an appreciation of the enormity of the task and the real blessing they can be by participating," said Cocanougher, who also serves as director of missions for Bracken Baptist Association in Mays Lick.

"There's no way you can be totally prepared for whatever you're going to see," he added.

"These are folks (victims) who are undergoing a tremendous trauma," he said. "In some cases, we'll be there the first time they come back to see what's there."

Cocanougher said he teaches volunteers to be sensitive, patient and listening with disaster victims, who sometimes might direct their anger, frustration or despair at the

ones who offer help.

Learning to be flexible

Disaster relief trainer Gary King said he often begins his classes by asking students to move forward to the front of the classroom.

"I'm doing this to see how flexible you are," he'll say.

"Cooperation is the big thing," King said. "Volunteers don't sometimes realize that you might not agree with the chain of command, but on site is not the place to address that."

To prepare volunteers emotionally, trainers encourage workers to take part in nightly devotional and debriefing times. Otherwise, they risk becoming a "hidden victim."

"The helper may become a victim if they don't debrief and unload," Cocanougher said.

"If they don't, they will internalize the misery of the people they're helping, and there's the danger of depression and despair on our part," he added. "It is emotionally as well as physically exhausting."

Cocanougher said he tells volunteers to not be surprised if they



HARD WORK Trainers say disaster relief volunteers must be prepared physically, emotionally and spiritually for the work. (KBC photo by Robert Reeves)

find their faith strengthened by victims who are spiritually prepared for a trauma.

"It's amazing. In listening, God speaks through these people who are enduring this struggle for survival," he said. "God's already there."

McCarty, whose church is planning to send a 15-member team to do Katrina relief, said the training hit the mark for what volunteers need to know.

"I do counseling for a living, and I know that you need to meet their physical needs before you meet their emotional needs," she said.

"It just made me proud to be a Southern Baptist," she added. "We can say a lot, but until we go outside those walls, we're really not ministering. It's inward at church but He commands us to go out."

King agrees. He said he hopes the increase in volunteers will spur Kentucky Baptists to look for opportunities to help local families who encounter tragedies and disasters.

"It doesn't set real good with folks when you'll go to Mississippi and you won't go across the street."

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. Scheduled classes include:

- Madisonville, Sept. 22.
- Falmouth, Sept. 27.
- Eddyville, Sept. 29.
- Williamsburg, Oct. 4.
- Berea, Oct. 5.
- Pikeville, Oct. 8.

■ **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; 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; 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; 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/givng.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; 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 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. The video is designed to help Kentucky Baptists see how volunteers are meeting needs and making a difference for victims 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.



Attitude assessment

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief training manual includes the following personal "attitude survey" to help potential volunteers determine whether they would be effective workers:

■ "Do I have a servant's heart or am I thinking about my needs much of the time?"

■ "Am I willing to take directions from others, or am I resentful of demands made on me?"

■ "Am I willing to work wherever needed, or am I inflexible?"

■ "Do I know how to be part of the team, or do I need to be in charge?"

■ "Am I going to help people in need, or do I have a personal agenda?"

"You've got to decide, 'What is my purpose?'" said Truett Cocanougher, director of missions for Bracken Baptist Association, who helps train disaster relief volunteers.

"If you're trying to satisfy your own curiosity, I think you need to stay home."

Day of prayer focuses on Katrina victims, need for unity

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington—President Bush joined worship from a Sept. 16 that featured prayers for victims of Hurricane Katrina and promoted national unity.

Bishop T.D. Jakes, a Dallas megachurch pastor, preached a sermon at the Washington National Cathedral that tied the rebuilding of now-submerged bridge spans to the need for better relations among the nation's disparate groups.

"Until we love enough to trade places with the poor, the disenfranchised ... and yes, even minorities

in this country, then healing will never be real and it will never be complete," said Jakes, who focused on the biblical parable of the Good Samaritan.

Bush had set aside the day as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of Hurricane Katrina and had called on houses of worship nationwide to mark the special day with observances. As religious leaders across the country joined in that call to prayer at the cathedral and elsewhere, the president spoke of prayer for "a holy rest for the ones who died." Bush also offered thanks for those who have reached out to help people in need.

"Across the country, Americans saw the hungry and gave them something to eat, saw the thirsty and gave them something to drink, saw strangers and invited them in," the president said, echoing the Gospel of Matthew.

"Blessed are those who mourn"

He was joined by an imam, a rabbi, an archbishop and other clergy who have been touched by the ravages of Katrina from a distance and at close range.

Archbishop Alfred Hughes of New Orleans read from the Gospel of Matthew, saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the

kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted."

Both the president and the clergy sounded the themes of overcoming past inequities, even as the rebuilding begins.

"The task will measure our unity as a people," Bush said. "Americans of every race and religion were touched by this storm, yet some of the greatest hardship fell upon citizens already facing lives of struggle: the elderly, the vulnerable and the poor. ... As we rebuild homes and businesses, we will renew our promise as a land of equality and decency."

As we rebuild homes and businesses, we will renew our promise as a land of equality and decency.

President George W. Bush

Massachusetts legislators decisively reject gay-marriage ban

Boston (RNS)—The Massachusetts legislature has voted overwhelmingly to reject a measure that sought to overturn the state Supreme Judicial Court's historic ruling allowing gay marriages.

After a low-key debate, the House and the Senate voted 157-39 Sept. 15 to defeat a proposed constitutional amendment that defined marriage as the union of one man and one woman but established civil unions for gays.

The amendment had once been seen as a compromise, since it would have denied gays the full legal protection of marriage but would at the same time give their relation-

ships some legal protection as civil unions. But after the state's attorney general certified a new proposed ballot question on marriage for 2008, the compromise's fragile political alliance fell apart.

At least one conservative Christian group, The Massachusetts Family Institute, hailed the decision, hoping the 2008 ballot question would preclude both gay marriage and civil unions.

But gay activists were even happier, knowing same-sex marriage likely would remain legal for at least three years. They erupted in cheers in the House gallery after the vote, held during a joint meeting of the

branches called a constitutional convention.

Last week's session displayed little of the intensity of constitutional conventions last year when legislators voted 105-92 to approve the amendment. The amendment needed the support of at least 101 legislators to move to the statewide ballot in November 2006. The vote means there will be no referendum on gay marriage next year.

One of the legislature's staunchest gay-marriage opponents, Democratic Rep. Philip Travis, said he would continue his opposition.

Travis and others—including Republican Gov. Mitt Romney, who

is widely believed to be prepping for the 2008 presidential race—still support an amendment that would ban gay marriage outright.

But Massachusetts law requires two successive sessions of the legislature to approve any constitutional amendment before it is sent to voters for final approval. That means any gay-marriage ban would come before voters in 2008 at the earliest.

Massachusetts is the first state to allow gays to marry and so far remains the only state to legally permit the practice.

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press

Any gay-marriage ban would come before voters in 2008 at the earliest.

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Appeal expected as judge rejects 'under God,' again

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Sacramento, Calif. (RNS)—A federal judge in California ruled last week that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional, deciding a case that had been refiled by an atheist whose previous challenge to the term "under God" reached the Supreme Court.

Judge Lawrence Karlton of the U.S. District Court in Sacramento came to much the same conclusion as the higher 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals did in 2002 in a decision that was widely criticized.

Observers already are predicting the pledge case could soon land back at the nation's highest court, which never issued a definitive ruling on its merits when it heard the case last year.

"The court concludes that it is bound by the 9th Circuit's previous determination that the school district's policy with regard to the pledge is an unconstitutional violation of the children's right to be free from a coercive requirement to affirm God," Karlton ruled.

The case was brought by Michael Newdow, an atheist whose daughter attends school in the Elk Grove (Calif.) Unified School District, and two other sets of atheist parents with minor children in the same district. Karlton ruled that Newdow "lacks prudential standing" in the case but found that the other parents did have standing.

The standing issue is what led Newdow to refile the case. In June 2004, the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed Newdow's earlier case, saying that he did not have proper parental standing.

Newdow could not immediately be reached for comment. Newdow has joint legal custody with the child's mother, but the mother has

said her daughter is a Christian who has no objection to the pledge.

Last week's court ruling prompted a swift response from defenders of the pledge, including the Washington-based Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which had sought a dismissal of the new case.

"To protect the right for every child to say the pledge, we will immediately appeal this decision to the 9th Circuit," said Derek Gaubatz, director of litigation for the Becket Fund, in a statement.

The 2002 ruling by the 9th Circuit prompted an outcry from the general public, and the Bush administration asked the nation's highest court to keep the pledge constitutional.

Judge: Phrase "marginalizing"

In the last footnote in his 30-page decision, Karlton continued the line of reasoning that had been used by the 9th Circuit.

"As preposterous as it might seem, given the lack of boundaries, a case could be made for substituting 'under Christ' for 'under God' in the pledge," he said, "thus marginalizing not only atheists and agnostics, as the present form of the pledge does, but also Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Confucians, Sikhs, Hindus and other religious adherents who not only are citizens of this nation, but in fact reside in this judicial district."

Other groups long concerned about keeping the pledge constitutional issued statements criticizing the decision.

Mathew Staver, president and general counsel of the Florida-based Liberty Counsel, called the ruling "dismaying" and Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the Washington-based American Center for Law and Justice, called it "legally flawed."

Last week's court ruling prompted a swift response from defenders of the pledge.



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WESTERNRECORDER

PREACHING WITH POWER

A Conference on Biblical Preaching for Pastors

Conference led by Dr. Hershael York,
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Saturday, October 8

Lancer Baptist Church, 71 Cooley Street,
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Saturday, Oct. 15

New Vision Baptist Church,
610 Macedonia Rd., Mayfield, KY 42066

Saturday, Oct. 22

Junction City First Baptist Church,
3860 US 127 South, Danville, KY 40422

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at each location.

Registration - 9:30 a.m.

\$15 per person covers lunch and all materials.

Registration Deadline is the Thursday before each event.

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DEADLINE: NOV. 4, 2005

Poll: Pastors think peers change churches too much

Continued from page 1

tor of two churches, 16 percent have been with three churches and 29 percent have been with four or more churches.

Southern Baptists are about twice as likely as the average minister to have left a church because

they felt God was calling them to a different church (24 percent). But the most common reason for a job change is still a desire to minister in a different region or type of community (30 percent).

Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research, said the study shows that

most pastors change churches for the same reasons as other professionals.

"Most pastors have not changed jobs simply because they felt God was calling them to a different church."

Among Protestant pastors who are part of a denomination, 19 percent are assigned positions by their denomination. Such assignments are most prevalent among Methodists, but not exclusively.

Current pastorate: 8.2 years

For Protestant pastors who are free to choose their ministry positions, the average length of service at their current church is 8.2 years. For pastors assigned to their churches, the average current tenure is nearly 4.9 years.

Pastors who are assigned to churches were even more likely to say they stay too short at a church. Seventy-three percent of assigned pastors said the average pastor's stay at a church is either a little too short or much too short.

Baptist pastors reported serving at their current church an average of 7.6 years, shorter than their peers who were Lutheran (8.9 years) or Pentecostal (10 years), but slightly longer than Presbyterians (7.2 years).

Most clergy said pastors don't spend long enough at one church. Only 31 percent of all pastors sur-

veyed said the average pastor in their denomination spends enough years at one church.

Meanwhile, 33 percent said they believe the average tenure is "a little too short," and 26 percent said the average tenure for a senior pastor is "much too short."

Sellers said denominations should take a long look at how long their clergy are staying at each pastorate.

"Individual ministers also need to consider that issue as they look at the possibility of taking a new job," he said.

The survey of 870 ministers included pastors in all 50 states who currently lead churches and has a margin of error within 3.2 percentage points.

The survey results will be published in the September/October issue of Facts & Trends magazine, a publication of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

For more information about the survey, visit www.ellisonresearch.com.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

Reasons for Pastor's Job Change:	Southern Baptist	Other Baptist	Methodist	Lutheran	Pentecostal	Presbyterian	All Others
Wanted to serve in a different type of community	30%	17%	28%	49%	21%	32%	35%
Moved to a higher position	19	20	27	12	21	16	23
Wanted to move to a larger church	22	12	30	20	7	23	14
Left to plant a new church	12	17	1	15	31	2	22
Denomination transferred you	--	2	80	2	14	--	6
God's call	24	14	2	7	14	17	7
Better pay or benefits	15	10	12	15	6	14	14
Released from job/asked to leave	12	8	4	9	10	10	16
Switched denominations	6	5	15	6	6	11	11
Wanted to move to a smaller church	3	5	4	4	4	4	3
Church shut down	1	2	1	2	2	2	2
Other reason	22	16	6	33	17	16	17

KBHC Food Round-Up!

September is time to collect for the children!

Help us provide meals for the abused and neglected youth in Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's care across the state. Your donations of money or grocery gift cards will provide food for hundreds of children in the coming year.

Monetary Donations & Grocery Gift Cards make it easy to support KBHC's Food Round-Up without overloading our storage facilities.

How It Works -- Collect monetary donations or gift cards at your church and civic organization throughout September. Special envelopes have been provided for churches or other groups mailing large quantities of gift cards. Any gifts of non-perishable food items or personal care items must be delivered to specified drop-off locations.

Round 'Em Up! -- Deliver donated items or gift cards to your nearest pick-up point between October 3 - 7. Pick-ups will take place October 10 - 14 or mail your donation or gift card directly to KBHC.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
10200 Linn Station Road, Suite 200
Louisville, KY 40223

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

For more information or a list of drop-off locations call 1-800-456-1386 or www.kbhc.org



Justin is moving on

Proud parents pray Proverbs influences older son's steps

Our older son, Justin, graduated from college on Mother's Day, moved to Florida for an internship with a major hotel and now has his first full-time job with another hotel in Florida.

As I was preparing to send him copies of his important documents, I began to reflect upon the past 24 years of his life.

It seems like yesterday Larie and I were deciding what to name our first child. On the day after he was born, we gave him his name, which means upright. It implies an uncompromising adherence to high moral principles and to virtues like truthfulness, fairness, honesty and conscientiousness.

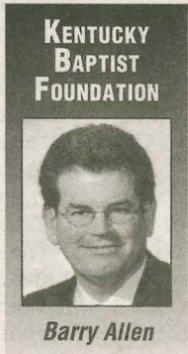
These virtues, in the context of a faith in Jesus Christ, were the criteria by which we pledged to rear him. We took seriously the advice in Proverbs 22:6 to "teach your children right from wrong, and when they are grown, they will still do right."

On his 18th birthday, we reminded him of the wisdom of Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In

all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall make straight your paths."

Upon graduation, we urged him to continue to seek God's will for his life, and for his life to be characterized by this truth: "The great use of one's life is to spend it for something that will outlast one's life." We advised him always to remember (a) "He will make a living by what he gets, but he will make a life by what he gives others," (b) "Success is measured by contribution, not by acquisition" and (c) "He will be rich according to what and who he is, not according to what he has."

We are proud of his accomplishments; we have assured him of our never-ending love; we have asked him to let us share in the experiences of his life and to have the privilege of providing him advice and counsel, when needed. Lead on, O King Eternal!



KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Barry Allen

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation; PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; (866) 489-3533; www.kybaptistfoundation.org

Hawaiian Born Pastor to Host 19-Day Hawaii Cruise

Christian Group will have Daily Devotions on Board Ship

"Aloha! My name is David Burgess. I am a native born Hawaiian and have been in the Lutheran Ministry since 1981. This will be the 12th Your Man Tours Hawaiian Vacation I've hosted. YMT does a terrific job specializing in Hawaii. And now I am especially excited to be your host and Christian spiritual director on this Holland America Line deluxe Hawaiian Cruise, offered exclusively through Your Man Tours. We'll have daily devotions while on board ship, and I look forward to our meetings where I can add my insight and knowledge about the islands. Come home with me to Hawaii for an experience of a lifetime!" Plan ahead and take advantage of this "early bird" special. Depart September 24, 2006; fly into Seattle/Vancouver; and board your 5-STAR deluxe cruise ship the *ms Ryndam*. Ports include Victoria on Vancouver Island, B.C.; Hilo, Hawaii; Kona, Hawaii; Honolulu, Oahu; Nawiliwili, Kauai; and Lahaina, the old whaling capital of Maui. You'll have the opportunity on optional shore excursions to visit an orchid nursery; view the molten lava flows at Volcanoes National Park; walk the black sand beaches; watch Hawaiian cowboys ride and rope; visit Diamond Head, Waikiki, and the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor; enjoy the Polynesian Cultural Center; take a riverboat to the romantic Fern Grotto; visit Waimea Canyon, the Grand Canyon of the South Pacific; and on Maui visit Haleakala Crater or take the heavenly road to Hana. You'll then sail across the big blue beautiful Pacific to Los Angeles and fly home October 12. Prices (per person, double occupancy) start at only \$1799 for inside staterooms; \$2199 for outside ocean view staterooms; and \$3099 for larger outside staterooms with private balcony. Add \$329 port charges, taxes, gov't fees, & service charge. Add \$500 for airfare from Lexington or Louisville, KY; Evansville, IN; Nashville or Knoxville, TN.

Family & friends welcome. \$100 deposits are now due for this price.

For information, reservations, letter from Pastor Burgess & brochure call:

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Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 ___ capto (singing style)
- 4 Queen of ___
- 9 "The ___ of the Lord is at hand" (Joel 1:15)
- 12 Mirror
- 13 Instrument board
- 14 "The wheat and the ___ were not smitten" (Exodus 9:32)
- 15 "Blessed is the man that walketh not ... nor standeth in the way of ___" (Psalm 1:1)
- 17 "They that dwell in my house, and my ___, count me for a stranger" (Job 19:15)
- 19 Prong
- 20 "___ not sleep, lest thou come to poverty" (Proverbs 20:13)
- 21 Milk that doesn't require tears
- 23 "Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his ___" (Genesis 25:28)
- 26 Stubborn sort
- 27 Holds; restrains
- 28 One of the Kettles
- 29 Golfer Ernie
- 30 Alights
- 31 "And beneath upon the ___ of it (ephod) thou shalt make pomegranates of blue" (Exodus 28:33)
- 32 Simile syntax
- 33 Skin afflictions
- 34 Wise man
- 35 Shrinks
- 37 Fathers, familiarly
- 38 Burden

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13							14	
15			16					17	18			
		19					20					
21	22					23					24	25
26					27						28	
29				30							31	
32			33							34		
35		36						37				
		38						39				
40	41					42					43	44
45				46	47					48		
49				50						51		

- 39 ___ meet (a spouse)
- 40 Onionlike vegetables
- 42 "I will ___ the lovingkindnesses of the Lord" (Isaiah 63:7)
- 45 Reply (abbr.)
- 46 "___ up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6)
- 48 Before
- 49 Understand, really
- 50 Popular Parker Bros. game
- 51 Saw ___
- 20 Loans money
- 21 Smudge
- 22 ___ rate
- 23 Climbing vegetation
- 24 Greek letter
- 25 "Rather rejoice, because your ___ are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20)
- 27 Reveals, as one's soul
- 30 "His meat was ___ and wild honey" (Matthew 3:4)
- 31 More satisfied
- 33 "The stone ___ into his forehead" (1 Samuel 17:49)
- 34 "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with ___" (Colossians 4:6)
- 36 KJV verb
- 37 "He had agreed with the labourers for a ___ a day" (Matthew 20:2)
- 39 Bequeathed one
- 40 Fall behind
- 41 Compass direction
- 42 Scratch or stain, for example
- 43 It runs in veins
- 44 Masculine nickname
- 47 Right-hand page (abbr.)

Down

- 1 ___-relief (sculpture technique)
- 2 Upon; over (prefix)
- 3 Old World legumes
- 4 Exhausted
- 5 Rabbit's relative
- 6 Naval rank (abbr.)
- 7 Exist
- 8 What Aaron's rod yielded (Numbers 17)
- 9 Takes away moisture
- 10 First ___
- 11 Affirmative
- 16 Blue or White
- 18 Hertz competitor

Last week's solution

1	A	N	G	E	5	A	D	A	M	9	A	R	M
12	R	O	L	L	13	P	A	R	A	14	C	O	O
15	T	R	O	D	16	E	M	I	R	17	R	E	O
18	R	E	A	D	S	20	C	H	E	S	T		
22	T	H	I	R	D	24	S	H	E				
25	R	I	O	26	S	E	A	T	29	A	M	O	S
33	E	L	L	34	D	Y	E	36	L	I	V	E	
37	E	L	S	E	38	G	E	M	S	39	N	E	E
41	A	T	E	42	G	A	T	43	T	H	I	N	K
45	S	H	A	P	E	48	F	L	E	E	S		
50	O	E	R	51	A	R	I	A	53	A	T	A	D
56	R	A	M	57	C	O	S	T	58	R	E	B	A
59	T	R	Y	60	H	O	T	E	61	T	R	I	G

Iraqi Christians cautious about new constitution

The second sentence in the constitution's latest draft states: "Islam is the official religion of the state and a basic source of legislation: No law can be passed that contradicts the undisputed rules of Islam."

By Erich Bridges
SBC International Mission Board

Baghdad, Iraq (BP)—The draft constitution Iraqis will vote on Oct. 15 resembles the buffet at your local cafeteria: There's something for nearly every taste, but mixing it all together promises unpredictable results.

That goes double where religion is concerned, according to some analysts. Even if the constitution is adopted with strong guarantees of religious freedom for all, Iraqi Christians say, it won't protect the rights of religious minorities unless majority Muslim groups respect those guarantees.

"The government cannot guarantee what the local community refuses to allow," a spokesman for Iraqi evangelical Christians said recently.

"Society and the (Muslim) religious communities do not yet grant us freedom to worship as we see fit, but only within their context. Even if there are statements about free-

dom of worship in the constitution, the local community will interpret what is honorable worship and behavior."

After weeks of bargaining and delays, Shiite and Kurdish political leaders bypassed objections from minority Sunni negotiators and formally presented the constitution to Iraq's National Assembly Aug. 28. The assembly didn't adopt it, however; that decision will be up to the people.

Mixed messages

Because of the rush to draft the constitution, ongoing disputes about multiple issues and failure to get the Sunni Muslim minority fully on board during negotiations, "there is a good chance it will fail in the public referendum," the Christian spokesman said. If voters ratify the document, Iraqi judges will have to interpret its mixed messages about religious freedom.

For example, the second sentence in the main body of the constitu-

tion's latest draft states: "Islam is the official religion of the state and a basic source of legislation: No law can be passed that contradicts the undisputed rules of Islam."

But the third sentence adds: "No law can be passed that contradicts the principles of democracy."

By way of clarification, the fourth sentence asserts: "No law can be passed that contradicts the rights and basic freedoms outlined in this constitution"—which contains no fewer than 138 articles.

Considering the chaos and constant threats of death under which the constitutional drafters worked, some advocates of religious freedom cautiously admire what they have achieved. The Bush administration, which has pushed along the constitutional process from the beginning, congratulated the drafters and strongly supports the final document. Others warn the constitution as written could set the stage for an Iran-style Islamic theocracy in Iraq.

Many members of Iraq's tra-

ditional Chaldean and Assyrian Christian communities already have voted with their feet—leaving Iraq in the wake of social chaos and repeated attacks by Sunni insurgents and Shiite Muslim fundamentalists. About 750,000 Christians reportedly remain in Iraq, down from 1 million before the war.

Christianity viewed as "foreign"

Regardless of the outcome of the constitutional referendum, Iraqi believers anticipate both more—and less—opposition to Christianity. Despite its ancient roots in Iraq, the faith is now tied to "foreigners" and Western cultures by its opponents, which will make life for believers even more difficult.

But a "broader Christian expression is present in the country, and that will make opposition more difficult," the spokesman explained. "Iraq under a government selected by the population will be more interested in world opinion than the Iraq led by a dictator."

Christians sentenced for allowing Muslims to attend Sunday school

Jakarta, Indonesia (RNS)—Three Indonesian women who ran a Christian Sunday school program were convicted and sentenced Sept. 1 to three years in prison for allowing Muslim children to attend their school.

The judges cited the Child Protection Act of 2002, which forbids "deception, lies or enticement" of children that might lead to their conversion.

The program, called "Happy Sunday," was operated from the

homes of the three women, Rebekka Zakaria, Eti Pangesti and Ratna Bangun. Launched in September 2003, the program's purpose was to provide Christian education for Christian students. As it grew in popularity, though, the women admitted some Muslim students who had verbal consent from their parents.

According to media reports, none of the Muslim students converted to Christianity, and the teachers sent home any students who did not have parental permission to attend.

The women were arrested in May after their school was closed by the Muslim Clerics Council. According to the human rights organization Jubilee Campaign USA, based in Fairfax, Va., the Clerics Council and other Muslim groups shut down 35 churches in August and at least 60 in the past year.

Religious freedom experts worry that the conviction signifies a shift in the attitude toward religious minorities in Indonesia, which is home to the world's largest Muslim

population.

"It's especially troubling and worrisome since it occurred in Indonesia, a country long known for its relative religious freedom," Paul Marshall, a senior fellow at Freedom House's Center for Religious Freedom, told Compass Direct, a Christian news organization that monitors religious freedom around the world.

"If it signifies the future direction of the country, the consequences will be terrible," he said.

So much extra

Staff members consistently go the extra mile to serve the needs of students

By Michael Spencer
Assistant to the President

An absolute basic aspect of Oneida's ministry is the contribution of staff to what we offer our students. Without staff willing to give of themselves, we simply are buildings in a beautiful setting.

Any one of our staff could make more money and receive more worldly rewards by being anywhere else, so a sense of God's call to be at Oneida is at the heart of every staff member's ministry here. Students frequently ask, "Why are you here?" as if staff members are serving out a sentence of community service hours. The universal answer always is, "Because this is where God wants me to be." In most cases, "And I love what I do!" is the next sentence.

Of course, every staff member has a job he or she came here to pursue, but the amazing fact about the Oneida Baptist Institute staff is how many of them go far above and beyond their assigned jobs to do other ministries. Many of these ministries are vital, involve no significant compensation and take considerable time and effort to carry out.

For example, though Oneida is blessed with wonderful house parents, many of our staff members volunteer to work in the dormitory offices, allowing house parents to spend more time with the students and not just in the office. Other staff are on call to take students to the emergency room in Manchester. Some are trained as emergency medical technicians, and are on-call 24 hours a day.

OBI staff constantly train as bus drivers. Their compensation compared to public school bus drivers is modest. Where would OBI be without bus drivers? Being an hour or two from most of our destinations means bus drivers travel many miles and long hours.

No OBI staff are full-time coaches. All of our coaches have other positions, and the hours devoted to coaching are a labor of love. Again, very modest compensation is provided, but every one of our coaches gives a full-time effort to our students. The opportunity to have Christian coaches is a special blessing to our students.

It would take many columns to describe the countless extras our staff provides—Baptist campus ministry sponsors, drama directors, creative ministries leaders, musical accompanists, cheerleading sponsors, chaperones and much more.

Why does our staff do so much extra, from driving a bus to teaching a small-group Bible study? They know the meaning of a life well lived in the service of Christ, and they are finding their joy in life serving Jesus by serving His students at His school in the mountains.

Perhaps you know someone who could serve at Oneida, and find the joy they've never found in another vocation. We need a trained high school art teacher these days, but every day we need staff of all kinds to do the work of the ministry of Oneida Baptist Institute. Contact President W.F. Underwood for information about OBI staff opportunities. A great blessing is here for those who serve the Lord with gladness.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Tanning snake hides

Student works way through school handling snakes

Third-year student Randy Campbell has had his share of jokes about being a "snake handler." He works with his father in the country's only major supplier of tanned eastern diamondback rattlesnake hides.

"My dad has pickup sites across the south where people bring rattlesnakes. When those freezers get full, he makes the rounds," Randy said. "We've tanned hides for about 15 years for companies like Tony Lama. We recently had an order to deliver 3,000 inches of hides." That's a lot of snakes.

Randy grew up in a Christian home and accepted the call to ministry immediately. "It started at a young age, with some little signals from God that added up," Randy said. "At the age of 18, on a Sunday morning, God tugged on my heart to call into ministry."

The call came after a year at Tennessee Tech, anticipating an engineering degree. "I just knew then I had to make some drastic changes; one of them was coming to Clear Creek," Randy said. "It was recommended by a church friend. We looked at a long list of

colleges and narrowed it down. We visited another college, but when we arrived at Clear Creek I knew this was the place. It was a big change from a school of over 4,000 students, but I'm around younger students in Kelly Hall. I like the location, it is very nice here."

The Clear Creek experience has confirmed Randy's calling to be a pastor. He is a resident assistant in Kelly Hall, responsible for a weekly meeting with residents. He leads devotions, assists the dormitory director and does a weekly room check.

His parents live in Tennessee, about a three-hour drive away. His home church, First Baptist of Livingston, Tenn., has a growing ministry helping people deepen their life in Christ. Randy is an assistant Bible teacher for his mother's adult class and his sister's middle school class.

During summer break he went with a church mission team to Jamaica. The team did construction work on the pastor's home and worked in an orphanage. He's excited about ministering in different ways in a different culture.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Showing faith in action

Documentary tells riveting story of missionaries' outreach to violent tribe

By Jerry Pierce
Baptist Press

Dallas (BP)—The Waodani Indians of Ecuador were killing six of every 10 of their tribesmen when American missionaries entered their isolated community in January 1956. Anthropologists say the tribe, identified then as the Aucas, had one of the most violent cultures ever documented and was headed toward extinction.

Missionary pilot Nate Saint had located the tribe in circling the Amazon Basin jungle. Wishing to establish contact, Saint hoped a slow, circular flying pattern would allow him to stabilize a long rope and basket dropped from the airplane down to the tribe.

A difficult maneuver, it worked, and for 11 weeks in late 1955, Saint and fellow missionaries Jim Elliot, Peter Fleming, Ed McCully and Roger Youderian lowered gifts to the Waodani.

When the Waodani returned the favor by sending a bird up in the basket, the missionaries sensed opportunity.

On Jan. 7, 1956, the five men left their young wives at base camp and landed their plane on a sandbar near the Waodani, making face-to-face contact for the first time.

The next day, the tribesmen speared them dead.

Worldwide attention

The killings made worldwide news at the time. Life magazine devoted a spread to the story on Jan. 30, 1956, and a 1957 book, "The Gates of Splendor," brought the story to millions of readers from the Christian perspective of Elisabeth Elliot, who was widowed by the killings.

Almost 50 years later, the tale—with updated material chronicling the tribe's radical



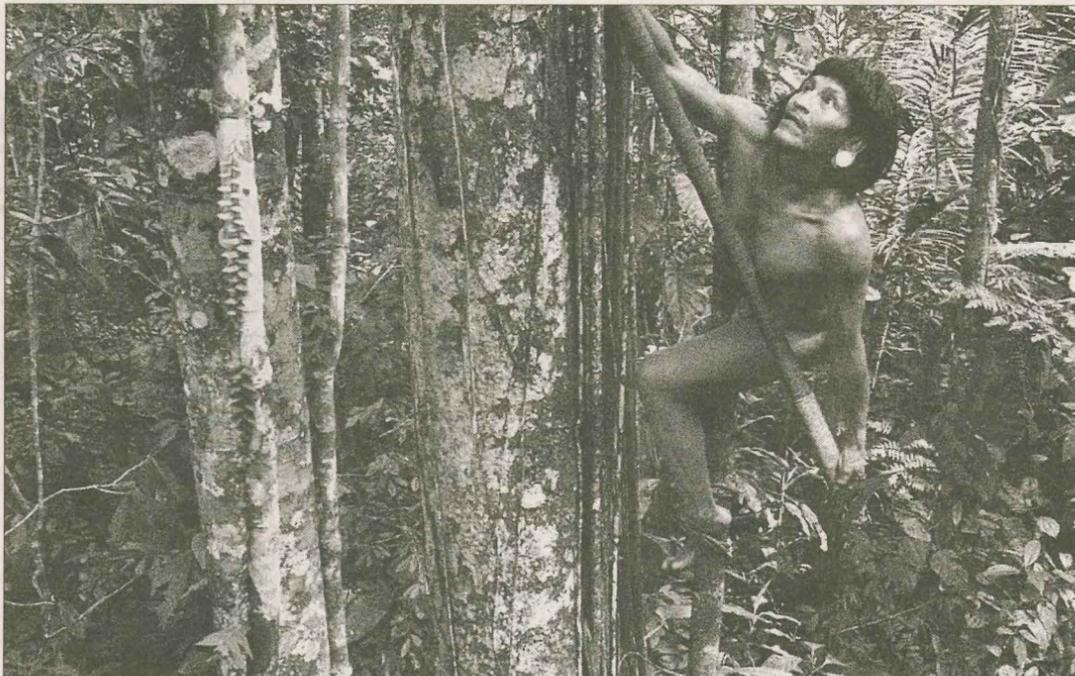
FRIENDS THROUGH FAITH Steve Saint (right), is the son of missionary pilot Nate Saint, who was killed by Waodani Indians, including Mincaye (left). Saint helped narrate "Beyond the Gates of Splendor"

change—has been retold in a 40-minute documentary, "Beyond the Gates of Splendor," available free of charge to churches, schools and para-church organizations.

A full-length, 90-minute version of the documentary debuted on the big screen in a handful of cities this year and will be available in retail stores on DVD in September, said Randy Swanson, a spokesman for Every Tribe Entertainment (www.everytribe.com), the company that produced it.

The documentary precedes a full-length theatrical movie, "End of the Spear," which is in final production and will debut in theaters in early 2006 near the 50th anniversary of the killings, Swanson said.

The documentary focuses on the missionaries and their families, the Waodani tribesmen and the unlikely story of courage and redemption when two of the missionaries' widows and one of the missionaries' sisters—and—years later—the son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren of Nate Saint settle



among the tribe.

Described by its producer, Kevin McAfee, as a "pre-evangelism" tool, the documentary profiles the Waodani from the perspectives of two anthropologists who studied the tribe. The film also probes the backgrounds, motivations and dreams of the missionaries and their families before and after the killings through recovered 16 mm home movies, still photos and interviews with widows, family members and members of the search crew.

Two of the killers, Mincaye and Kimo, became Christians and are featured in the documentary via interviews with translators, who relate Mincaye's humorous observations about American culture after Mincaye visited the United States in the late 1990s with Steve Saint, whose father Mincaye murdered.

Food for thought

The home movies help document several of the missionaries' time together at Wheaton College, their courtships and a Christmas celebration just before the murders at the missionaries' home base down river.

McAfee, a member of the Oklahoma City-area Council Road Baptist Church in Bethany, said during a Dallas screening that the film aims to give insights into the missionaries as they sought to reach the Waodani—food for thought that perhaps can be discussed over coffee afterward, he said.

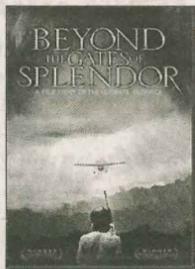
McAfee also is musical director of the film. His work ranges from dramatic orchestral sounds to Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Sweet Home, Alabama" during one of the documentary's lighter moments.

Beyond the Gates of Splendor received the Crystal Heart Award at the Heartland Film Festival and "Audience Favorite" at the Palm Beach Film Festival.

In producing its first full-length project, Every Tribe hired McAfee along with Bill Ewing, a former vice president at Columbia Tri-Star, to be company president, and Jim Hannon, a Cannes Film Festival award-winner, as a writer and director.

Churches can order "Beyond the Gates of Splendor" by calling (800) 695-9847 or by visiting www.everytribe.com.

HUNTING A Waodani tribesman carries his blowgun into a tree to hunt. Anthropologists say the tribe was among the most violent cultures ever documented when five missionaries made contact. (Photos courtesy of Bearing Fruit Communication)



BEYOND FORGIVENESS Barbara Youderian, wife of slain missionary Roger Youderian, and children are shown amid a backdrop of the Equadorian jungle in a photo that merged two pictures from the movie poster of "Beyond the Gates of Splendor." The 90-minute documentary will be available on DVD or VHS Oct. 4.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Pray for the following work and people involved in Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Baptists in Brazil and the International Baptist Convention in Europe:

■ Give thanks for two medical teams in August who saw their work make an impact in the city of Lagoinha, Brazil. They saw 788 patients and filled 1,136 prescriptions as well as did home visits, school visits, worship services and other types of evangelism.

■ A volunteer mission team doing evangelism work this week in a town about two hours from Teresina, Brazil.

■ Follow-up from all the Kentucky teams that have traveled to Brazil this year.

■ Missionaries John and Tina Butts and their two children as they arrive in Teresina for their new work assignment this month.

■ Laurie Martin as she coordinates 2006 projects with the International Baptist Convention.

■ Dawn Wellman who is coordinating Poland projects for 2006.

■ Kentucky Baptist partnership missions associate Calvin Wilkins, who is recuperating from a blood clot in his leg.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CORBIN**—Andrew Mahans recently resigned as youth minister at First Church. Tom Allen is pastor.

■ **HABIT**—Bethabara Church will hold revival services Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 with Don Mathis of Bowling Green as evangelist. Herschel Morgan is pastor.

■ **HEBRON**—Tony Pursley, minister of music at Hebron Church, recently resigned to attend seminary.

■ **HENDERSON**—Watson Lane Church recently called Randall Hurt as pastor.

■ **JUNCTION CITY**—First Church dedicated its multi-purpose facility with activities Sept. 17 and 18. Dale Denton is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Trevor Barton, pastor of Hawk Creek Church, was ordained to the gospel ministry Aug. 21.

New Salem Church will celebrate its 116th homecoming Oct. 2. Activities include a morning of singing beginning at 10:45 a.m. followed by a fellowship meal. Dennis Hammons is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Highland Church ordained Beth Hedges, Stephanie Hall, Bill Mosier and Marilyn Sanders as deacons Sept. 11. Joe Phelps is pastor.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—Richland Church will hold revival services Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Sept. 26-28, 7 p.m., with Curtis McGee as evangelist.

■ **MARTIN**—First Church recently called Bill Campbell as interim pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Aubert Rose, pastor of New Liberty Church, has announced plans to retire Dec. 31. Rose, who has been in the ministry 55 years, was pastor of New Liberty Church in the 1950s and returned as pastor in 2001. He also has been pastor of nine other churches in five states. He will be available for preaching engagements after he retires.

■ **PRINCETON**—Southside Church recently called Delton Beall as pastor.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Salem Church recently called John and Ginnie Dryden as ministers of youth and children.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—New Hope Church will hold revival services Oct. 2-5, 7 p.m., with Corey Abney, pastor of Kings Church in Mount Washington, as evangelist.

■ **WACO**—Bethlehem Church ordained Larry David Freeman, pastor of Gilead Church in Richmond, to the gospel ministry July 24. Mark McGuire is pastor of Bethlehem Church.

■ **WARFIELD**—Warfield Church recently called Jennings West as pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Mossy Gap Church recently called Jim Ball as interim pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

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.

27-28 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Big Creek Baptist Church, Hazard.

28-29 Regional Baptist Bivocational Ministers Association, Baptist Building, Louisville.

November

4-6 International Student Weekend, Cave City Convention Center.

11-13 All-State Jr. High Choir, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.

11-13 Crossover, Frankfort.

14 Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, First Baptist Church, Frankfort.

14 Secretaries Meeting, Frankfort.

15-16 Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center, Frankfort.

19 Christian Women in Ministry State Leadership Forum, Baptist Building, Louisville.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit www.kybaptist.org



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SEEKING: Full-time pastor. First Baptist Church of La Plata, Md., is seeking an energetic man, called of God to the ministry, who will lead our congregation as we seek spiritual growth and the will of God for our church—someone to provide inspiration and guidance as we spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in our community. FBC La Plata is located in a rapidly changing and growing suburban community south of Washington, DC. Applicants should be of good Christian character as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; adhere to doctrine set forth by "The Baptist Faith and Message" currently adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention; have previous pastoral experience leading evangelistic growth in a fast-growing, affluent community located near a big city; have advanced education related to the ministry. Qualified applicants should send their resumes to: Neal Wilsey, pulpit committee chairman, 4636 Duley Drive, White Plains, MD 20695-3113. E-mail: fbsearch@comcast.net. Resumes postmarked by Oct. 31, 2005, will receive first consideration.

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: Full-time minister of music for SBC church for choral and instrumental programs for all ages. Required: College degree in music plus five years experience. Send resume postmarked by Oct. 31 to: Unity Baptist Church, 2320 29th St., Ashland, KY 41101, Attn: Music Search Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister for large east-end church. Primary attention will be to develop a quality youth ministry. Education and experience in Christian education related to youth ministries is desired. Send resume to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Middletown United Methodist Church, 11902 Old Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40243.

SEEKING: Part-time worship leader to lead choirs and praise team for New Salem Baptist in London. Approx. 15 hours per week with compensation of \$6,000 per year. Forward resume and tapes to: PO Box 275, London, KY 40744. newsalempastor@alltel.net.

SEEKING: Minister of music for Jeffersonton Baptist Church. Responsibilities include planning worship, directing adult and children's choirs and handbells. Only minutes from seminary. Send resume to: Jeffersonton Baptist Church, 10011 Taylorsville Road, Jeffersonton, KY 40299, or call (502) 267-1123 for more information.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor/music minister for a growing church (attendance approx. 750). Resumes accepted through mail or e-mail by deadline of Oct. 21. Search Committee, Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church, 495 Duckers Road, Midway, KY 40347. E-mail: Forks.Baptist@verizon.net. Web site: www.forks baptist.org. Toll-free: (866) 371-5600.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to young families for church in Lexington, Ky. Phone: (859) 881-1956. E-mail: jbhensley@peoplepc.com.

SEEKING: Full-time worship leader for Licking River Baptist Church. If interested, please send your resume to Daniel Lucas, PO Box 1057, Salyersville, KY 41465; or dlalucas@gmail.com.

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 pianist and part-time organist for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Strong accompanying skills are required for both positions. Send resumes to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee. Resumes 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. Top resumes and/or sermon tapes to: McDowell First Baptist Church, PO Box 241, McDowell, KY 41647, Attn: Search Committee.

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

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 resumes to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee. Resumes will be received through Oct. 8. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

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

SEEKING: Full-time minister to youth and children for First Baptist Church, Martin, Tenn. This individual reports directly to the pastor. FBC maintains active ministries to senior high, middle school and Kindergarten-5th grade. FBC is a multi-generational church in a northwest Tennessee university setting. The church embraces the BF&M and all ministries are biblically-based. Seminary training and prior experience required. Submit resumes to: rsoldham@fbcmartin.org or FBC, PO Box 289, Martin, TN 38237.

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Workshop leader lists three keys for effective worship

Sumter, S.C.—Clay Smith still remembers the power of that Sunday evening worship service several years ago at Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter, S.C.

The church had just voted to relocate. Smith was preaching on Moses, particularly about the “rod of Moses becoming the rod of God.” He asked several men to go to the new property, cut some limbs and sticks from trees there, and place them at the front of the worship center.

Smith then challenged the people to come forward as they felt led, indicating their faith that God was going to use them and their gifts to lead the church to a whole new place.

The altar was soon flooded.

“I will never forget the response at the invitation time when I challenged the people to come forward. ... (People) not only came and took a stick, but many of them took those sticks home, mounted them, varnished them and they became a way that people remembered the significant worship we had before the Lord,” Smith recalled.

Leaders contribute to such powerful times of worship through preparation, communication and participation, Smith said.

Smith, pastor of Alice Drive

since 1994, will share his insights on worship at Journey Into Worship 2, scheduled for Sept. 30–Oct. 1 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Under Smith’s care, Alice Drive has grown more than 300 percent. More than 500 people have professed faith in Christ through Alice Drive’s ministry during Smith’s tenure.

The growth of the church is powered by the church’s commitment to worship, he said.

“When the people of Alice Drive come together to worship God it is a time where all the ropes of the church cross and knot, but we are gathered as a community,” explained Smith, who previously was pastor of Finchville Baptist Church and Southside Baptist Church in Louisville.

“Our spiritual leaders have opportunity to speak directly into the hearts of people, and we together are able to lift up our voice to the Lord to cry for His help and to sing His praise,” he said.

“So worship at Alice Drive is very much the energy engine which helps us to tap into the overwhelming power of God.”

Preparation

As pastor, Smith is committed

to preparing his own heart for worship.

“If God has not been speaking to the leader and if the leader has not been open to God, worship turns from an experience to a performance,” Smith cautions.

As they prepare, leaders also must be ready to give control over to God, he said.

“Oddly enough, I was preaching once on stewardship and a lady came out after the service and told me it was the best sermon on marriage she had ever heard,” says Smith. “I wanted to correct her, but I realized God had spoken to her. ... Who was I to tell God He had spoken wrongly?”

Communication

Smith also said that as leaders prepare, they must communicate with each other. Pastor and worship leaders should meet weekly to discuss Sunday services.

“I have, in the past, not met regularly with the worship leader and the result was disjointed worship. While the worship leader and I did prepare, we did not prepare together. So our focus was very scattered and very diffused,” Smith said. “Unfortunately, too many pastors and worship leaders devalue this time, and they have not worked to build a

trust so that they can bounce ideas off each other.”

Pastors and worship leaders must take the time to communicate clearly with one another and learn to trust each other, he said. Building such a relationship takes time, but is essential in fostering an atmosphere where worship can flow from the heart.

Participation

Leaders also must be worshippers themselves if they expect congregations to follow, Smith said.

“As a pastor, the best thing I can do to help create that atmosphere is to (participate in) worship myself—by participating in congregational worship and by making sure that no message I preach (has) not first been worked through in my own life at some level.”

“I think leaders really help worshippers when they are really worshipping themselves,” Smith continued. “People in our congregations ... can tell when a person is singing to glorify God, or when a person is preaching to point people to God, and when they are (singing or preaching) for the attention of the limelight they receive.”

For more information about Journey into Worship, go to www.kybaptist.org/journey2.

“As a pastor, the best thing I can do to help create that atmosphere is to (participate in) worship myself.”

Clay Smith, pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter, S.C.

Program teaches Christians how to influence Hollywood from inside

By Sarah Price Brown
Religion News Service

Los Angeles (RNS)—It’s hip to be spiritual in Hollywood these days, as long as you’re not religious.

The way the fashionable set see it: Scientology and Kabbalah are in, Christianity is out.

But a new program to train Christians to be film and television executives is trying to reverse the trend.

“We’re not here to fix Hollywood as much as we’re here to fix the church,” said Barbara Nicolosi, executive director of Act One, which runs a three-month program that places Christians in entertainment internships and hosts lectures by industry professionals.

Some of the first films ever made played in churches in the early 20th century. But over time, religious leaders began to associate movies with immorality, sex and violence. And Hollywood became a place where people of faith would not go, Nicolosi said.

Today, not only do many Christians shun Tinseltown, but “there’s absolute bigotry in Hollywood toward Christianity,” Nicolosi said.

“Christianity’ is a political moniker in Hollywood,” she said. “It means you voted for George Bush, you hate gays, and you’re fanatic about fetuses. ... It doesn’t mean that in 95 percent of the rest of the world, but (it does) in this town.”

Training decision-makers

In 1999, Nicolosi, a nun-turned-movie executive, helped found Act One to cultivate aspiring Christian screenwriters. Over six years, she has recruited 300 Christians to Hollywood, teaching them how to write movies based on Christian moral values, such as the “sacredness of human life,” the idea that “good and

evil are not equal” and the notion that “you’re never forced to choose something evil,” she said.

Realizing that it would not be enough for Christians to write screenplays if no one made them into movies, Nicolosi launched the executive program to train would-be Hollywood decision-makers.

Out of about 60 applicants, Act One chose 15 students to participate in its first executive seminar in Los Angeles. By day, participants go to work at internships at movie studios, production companies and talent agencies. By night, students learn about story development, finance and budgeting, leadership and ethics from visiting speakers who work in the entertainment industry.

“I feel much stronger being here,” said Jonathan Strong, 29, an executive program student who interned at a talent agency. “I don’t feel alone.”

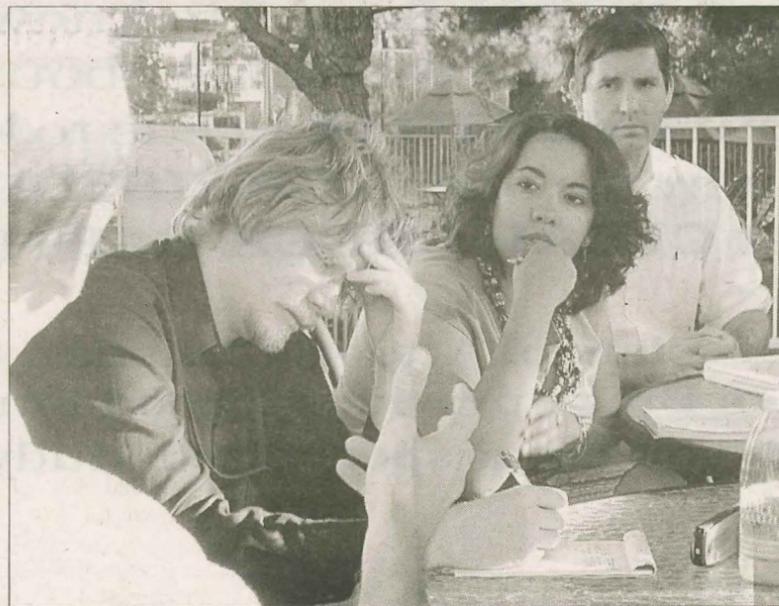
The importance of understanding the business of film and television is a central theme of the Act One program, and the idea has taken hold in at least one student.

“I was unwilling to compromise when I came in here, because I’d been so intent on being a martyr,” said Todd Burns, 25, who said he had been called by God to make movies in Hollywood.

Before Act One, Burns had been producing movies for Christian evangelist Billy Graham. Now, Burns is interning at a production company that makes horror movies.

So Burns makes horror movies. But, he said, he makes them “less bad” than they would be if he were not involved.

The box office success of “The Passion of the Christ,” Mel Gibson’s 2004 epic about Jesus’ trial and



PITCHING SCRIPTS Joe Tarantino, far left, and John Petkovich, far right, students in the Act One screenwriting program, practice pitching a script idea to David Denson and Monica Jimenez-Grillo, who are students in Act One’s executive program. Act One sponsors three-months internships in Hollywood for aspiring Christian filmmakers and directors. (RNS photo by Rob Kirbyson)

crucifixion that became one of the highest-grossing films ever made, showed industry executives the upside of appealing to a religious audience.

“Passion” influence, good & bad

Now, it is not uncommon for producers around town to talk about bringing in the “Passion dollars” by drawing an audience of religious viewers who typically do not go to the movies but who went to see “Passion,” Nicolosi said.

“Now is a good moment for the Church to be waking up,” Nicolosi said.

On the downside, she said, “The Passion” instilled in many Christians false hopes of becoming the next Mel Gibson. Instead of learning

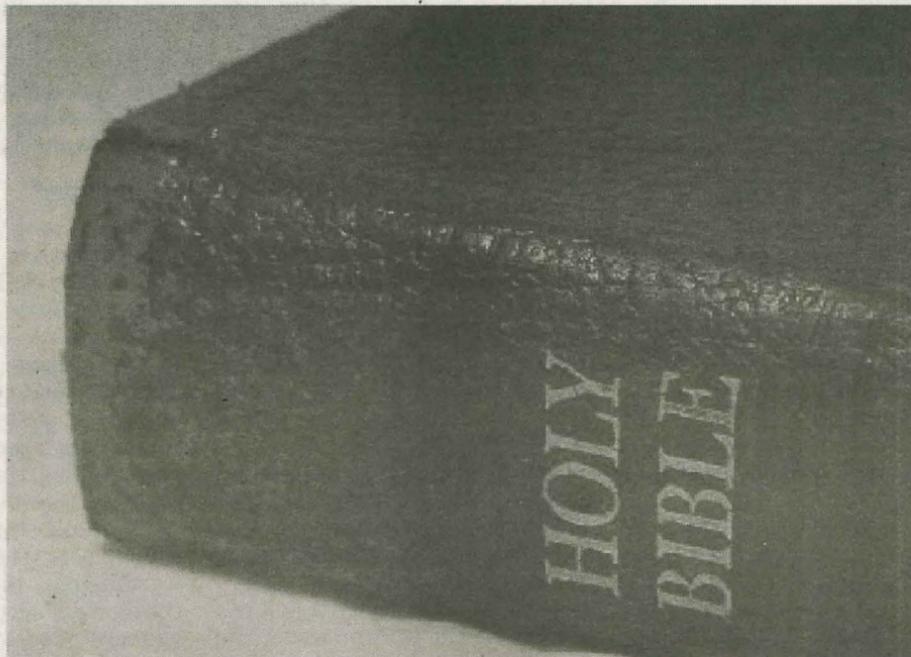
the nuts and bolts of the filmmaking business, amateurs are trying to make their own movies, said Nicolosi, who herself is collaborating on a Christian-themed screenplay with “Passion” screenwriter, Benedict Fitzgerald.

Nicolosi is now planning a program to teach pastors aesthetic principles, so religious officials can commission quality artwork.

The church should get involved in Hollywood, Nicolosi said, because movies and television influence how people think.

“The biggest conversation now about meaning, what makes human life distinct and valuable, is being had in the culture,” she said. “And we’ve been missing from that debate.”

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