

September 27, 2005
Vol. 179, No. 38

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
SBC task force urges changes in Cooperative Program strategy. *Page 2.*



Harlan
"Freedom Experience" results in professions of faith. *Page 3.*

Financial Forum
Try family budget plan to combat gas pump shock. *Page 4.*

Editorial
God's servants deserve heartfelt thanks. *Page 5.*

Resources
More churches embracing technology, survey finds. *Page 8.*

Books
Reviews include a biography of Fanny Crosby and a book about evangelism. *Page 9.*

DISASTER RELIEF

Rita expected to increase need for relief volunteers

Clinton, Miss.—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief leaders expect the need for volunteers to escalate after Hurricane Rita struck the Gulf Coast this past weekend.

Larry Koch, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief coordinator, said a feeding unit from Blood River Baptist Association currently is working in Slidell, La., and another team continues to do mud-out and chainsaw cleanup work in Biloxi, Miss.

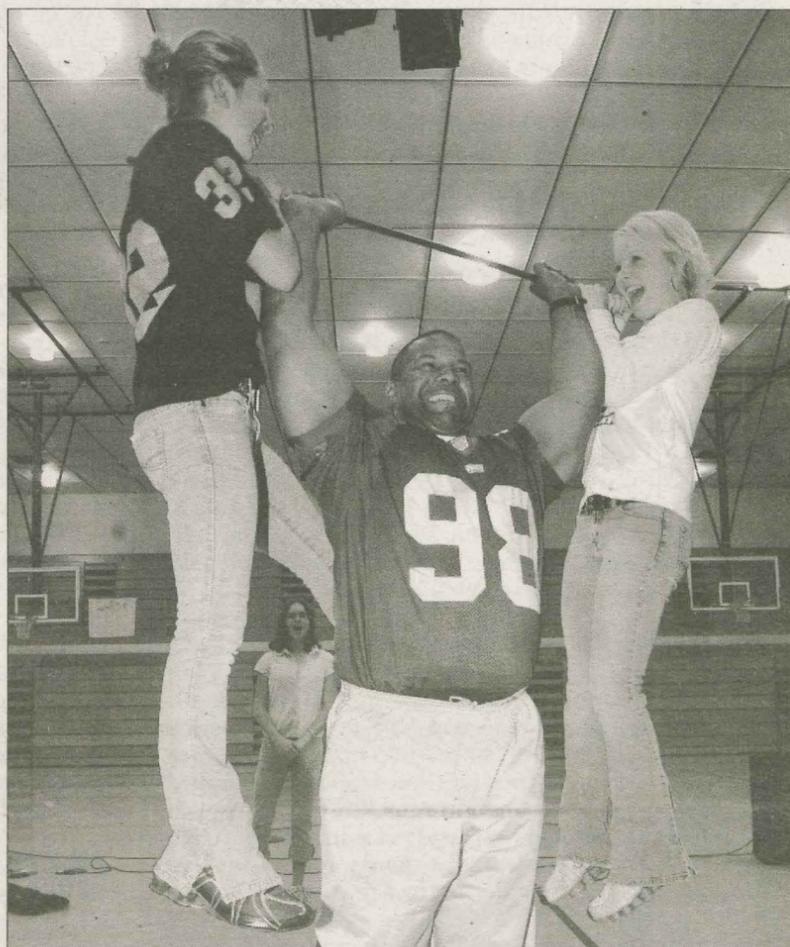
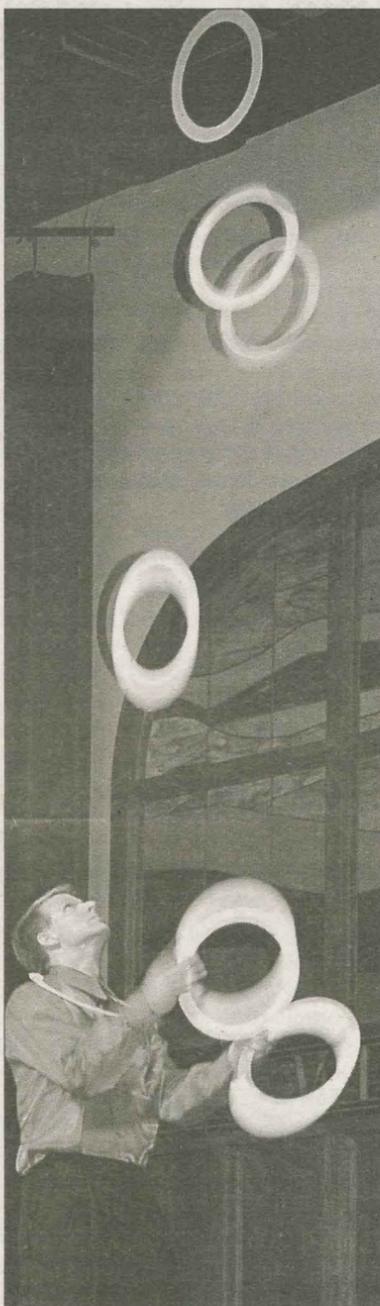
A cleanup team is on standby, ready to go to Slidell, and a feeding team that wrapped up its work last week in Clinton, Miss., is "waiting until the North American Mission Board and the Red Cross can assess where we can be useful" amid the aftermath of Hurricane Rita.

As of last Friday, 260 disaster relief units from 36 state Baptist conventions have been activated in response to Hurricane Katrina. The volunteers have completed more than 5,800 cleaning jobs and prepared more than 4.8 million meals.

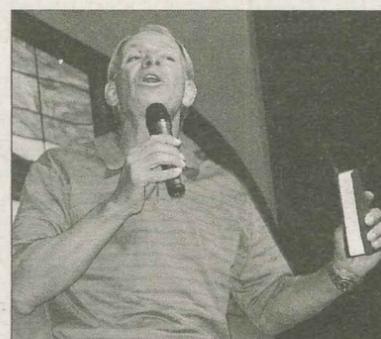
More than 360 Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers have responded, preparing nearly 190,000 meals for distribution by Red Cross workers and others.

See page 3 for a list of disaster relief volunteer training sessions.

Mountain 'celebration'



More than 140 people made first-time professions of faith as a result of "Celebration in the Cumberlands," an event hosted last week by churches in southeastern Kentucky. The nightly meetings at the University of the Cumberlands featured preaching by Jerry Pipes (right) and nightly entertainment, including feats of strength by Keith Davis and juggling by Dana Tyson. See story on page 3. (Corbin Times-Tribune photos by Bill Hansen. Tyson photo by Melany Hanrahan)



Owensboro pastor offers five ideas for growing Sunday school

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Owensboro—Dennis McFadden believes Sunday school classes that develop relationships with non-members are more likely to see their church grow.

"Getting people to develop relationships is a big part of Sunday school and church growth," said McFadden, pastor of Eaton Memorial Baptist Church. "People want to be where their friends are. I've seen people who won't leave a church, no matter what happens, because of relationships."

McFadden led recent Super Saturday workshops that examined Sunday school topics, including a five-step formula for growth.

While still in the process of implementation, McFadden said he is trying to incorporate these steps at Eaton Memorial.

The five-step formula is based on the writings of the late Arthur

Flake. A businessman, professor and pastor, Flake served as the first leader of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) in 1920.

His formula includes:
Know your possibilities. A leading source of prospective members is friends, relatives, associates and neighbors, McFadden said.

Prospects also can be identified through such means as census data, a religious canvas, telephone surveys and following up on visitors to services or special events.

McFadden said his church currently is canvassing a nearby, four-block area, using questions posed by Rick Warren in "The Purpose-Driven Life."

"Of homes where we've been able to talk to people, we identified four or five prospects," McFadden said.

Enlarge the organization. This means starting new units, which

Eaton Memorial did after completing its "40 Days of Purpose" emphasis last winter.

A women's group that originally met on Wednesday nights has become a Sunday school class, he said, and a second new group still meets at an Owensboro hospital.

Provide space and equipment. After Eaton's young adult class doubled this year, the church found it a larger space by shuffling room assignments.

If the educational space is too crowded, churches might consider having two Sunday schools instead of an expensive building campaign, McFadden said.

"As a pastor, that's an option I would look at," he added.

Enlist and train workers. Ideally, each teacher will identify an apprentice who can take the teacher's place in the future or be used to teach additional classes. But that is easier said than done.

"I think enlisting and training workers is one of the hardest steps to do," said McFadden, a veteran of 31 years in ministry. "We're trying to find new teachers, but we don't have apprentices yet."

"We're always looking for ways to train teachers," he added. "I have a big passion for making disciples. Training our teachers is part of the process."

Go after the people. After a class identifies prospects, it should follow up with personal visits, phone calls and e-mail contacts, McFadden said.

Classes also should remember the value of home fellowships and small groups where non-Christians will feel more comfortable visiting and discussing spiritual topics.

"When I look at our Sunday school I don't see a lot of non-Christians," McFadden said. "Get (them) into small groups and homes outside the church."

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, September 28

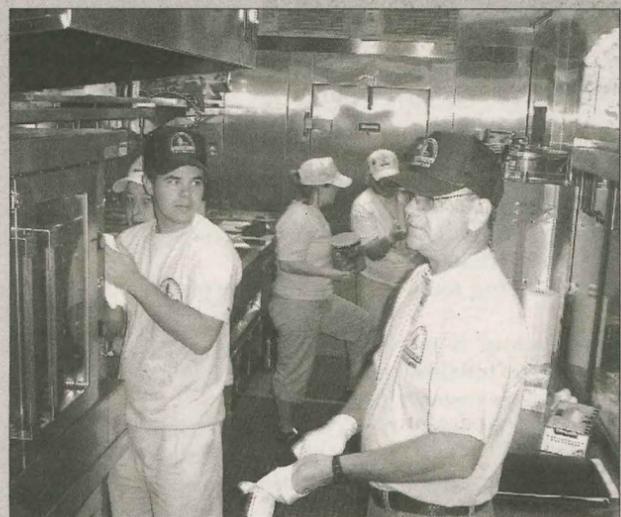
RELIEF UPDATE

NAMB offers damaged churches low-interest loans. The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board will provide low-interest loans of up to \$100,000 each to Southern Baptist Convention churches damaged by Hurricane Katrina. NAMB is designating a total of \$10 million to the disaster loan effort. Disaster relief loans are available to SBC churches for repair of church facilities, replacement of equipment or materials, or to cover expenses while a church is displaced, said Karl Dietz, director of NAMB's church finance ministry team. No interest will be charged during the first year of the loan. Years two through five, the interest rate will be NAMB's preferred rate minus 1 percent fixed. To qualify for a disaster relief loan a church must own the damaged facility, be a cooperating Southern Baptist church and have demonstrated history of supporting the Cooperative Program and other Southern Baptist mission causes.

IMB donates \$2.5 million to Katrina relief. Leaders of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board have allocated \$2.5 million from the board's contingency reserve funds for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief efforts. The funds will go to help the ministries of Baptist entities in devastated regions of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee voted Sept. 19 to briefly suspend a convention by-law in order to allow the International Mission Board to make a financial contribution to other convention entities. The IMB gift will aid relief efforts being coordinated by the North American Baptist Board and the Baptist state conventions in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. A portion also will go to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for recovery and rebuilding.

Former Katrina shelter becomes haven for Rita evacuees. As Hurricane Rita bore down on the Texas coast last week, a shelter that housed victims of Hurricane Katrina was emptied and reopened for evacuees of the new storm. Churchill Baptist Church in San Antonio, which has housed Katrina victims for three weeks, was emptied Sept. 21 and reopened for Rita evacuees. FEMA requires that refugees from separate disasters must be housed in separate facilities. Meanwhile, a shelter opened Sept. 22 at the Blossom Athletic Center in San Antonio. Baptist Child & Family Services and the Red Cross opened it as a shelter for special needs individuals and their families fleeing South Texas. An estimated 325 people found shelter in the facility with more cots being added.

Video details Baptist disaster relief efforts. Southern Baptist Convention leaders are urging pastors to download a six-minute video highlighting Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts for viewing by their congregations. The video is a collaborative effort among SBC entities that features updates from Robert Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board; SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman; and LifeWay Christian Resources President James Draper as well as a challenge from SBC President Bobby Welch to share the gospel while meeting the physical needs of hurricane survivors. The video is available for online viewing and download at www.lifeway.com/katrina. Ongoing disaster relief information is available at www.namb.net/dr.



MEAL PREPARATION Danny Heath (left), minister of music at First Baptist Church of LaPlace, La., and education minister Bob Naughton prepare to cook another meal as part of ongoing hurricane relief efforts in the New Orleans area. (BP photo by Tim McKeown)

Task force urges changes in CP strategy

Nashville (BP)—Citing churches' sharply declining percentages of Cooperative Program giving over the past 20 years, the Southern Baptist Convention's Task Force on Cooperation released a 13-point list of recommendations last week.

The eight-member task force, which was appointed five years ago, includes four SBC entity heads and four state convention executives. The group was assigned the responsibility of studying ways to improve stagnant CP growth and strengthen relations between the SBC and state conventions.

According to the report, over the last 40 years the Cooperative Program—Southern Baptists' channel for funding missions, seminaries and other ministries since 1925—has "gradually begun to vaporize as a high priority" among "many pastors, their people, and even denominational leaders."

In 1984, the report says, churches forwarded an average of 10.6 percent of their offerings to CP through their state convention. Today, that number is only 6.64 percent.

"Too many top Southern Baptist Convention leaders and officials for too many years gave scant attention or support to the Cooperative Program," the report says. "It is well known that a number of our leaders in the past generation hardly ever spoke about the Cooperative Program or promoted it. ... For the most part, their churches were poor models of Cooperative Program support.

As a result, it has been projected that thousands of pastors and churches reduced their Cooperative Program percentage of undesignated monies as they followed the example of those who led them."

A call for CP advocates

If the Cooperative Program is to grow and thrive, leaders elected to national SBC positions must come from churches committed to the Cooperative Program and must be CP advocates themselves, the report declares.

Among the task force's other recommendations:

■ Every elected SBC and state convention leader "should promote the Cooperative Program" with "vigor and intentionality on a consistent basis."

■ The Cooperative Program should "be placed at the top of every agenda" during SBC annual meetings and state convention meetings. CP also should be a top priority for "various state and national entities that receive Cooperative Program funds."

■ "Every effort" must be made to "incorporate a renewed call to biblical stewardship and the Cooperative Program."

■ The state conventions and the SBC Executive Committee must join together to provide leadership for CP promotions and expansion.

■ Southern Baptist churches should send "at least a tithe of undesignated receipts" to mission

causes through the Cooperative Program.

■ SBC entities must not pursue "financial mission support in a societal approach"—that is, by seeking donations directly from churches outside of the CP framework. "This practice is the polar opposite to the Cooperative Program and will mean the death of Southern Baptists as we have existed, especially since 1925."

■ As CP giving increases in churches, state conventions "must be challenged" to move toward a 50/50 distribution of CP funds—that is, keeping 50 percent of CP funds while forwarding 50 percent to the national body.

The report concluded that while the CP has been resilient through the years, its future is murky without a boost in cooperation and funds.

Members of the task force were: Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board; William Crews, past president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; Robert Reccord, president of the North American Baptist Board; Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee; Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention; Carlisle Driggers, executive director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention; Wyndell Jones, retired executive director of the Baptist Convention of Iowa; and Anthony Jordan, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

IMB appoints 86 workers, ratifies Elliff as VP

Pensacola, Fla. (BP)—Against the backdrop of hurricane relief efforts, trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board met Sept. 13-14 to appoint 86 new missionaries and ratify the selection of Tom Elliff as senior vice president for spiritual nurture and church relations.

Trustees assigned an additional \$5,886,222 for special needs overseas from Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts given above the \$128 million budgeted for 2005. Allocations include \$2,636,222 for additional missionary expense, \$2 million for work in 11 regions overseas, \$750,000 for training and \$500,000 to fund work in West Africa.

Finance committee chairman Ken Whitten, pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Tampa, told trustees in the opening devotion that Hurricane Katrina "has been called our

tsunami with devastation like we have never seen. But it's just another way of God communicating something to us. Do we handle it in faith or fear, in panic or peace?"

A capacity crowd filled the sanctuary of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., to witness the appointment of 86 missionaries. IMB President Jerry Rankin told the appointees they had one thing in common: "A passion to be obedient to God's call to reach a lost world for Jesus Christ."

In other action, trustees unanimously ratified the selection of Tom Elliff, longtime pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., as IMB senior vice president for spiritual nurture and church relations. He will continue as pastor in Del City until Oct. 23, and begin his new role Nov. 1.

Elliff, 61, served two terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, president of the SBC Pastors' Conference and chairman of the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life. The Elliffs were appointed as missionaries to Zimbabwe in 1981, but their missionary career was cut short by an automobile accident resulting in severe injuries to their daughter.

In his new role, Elliff will teach and nurture missionary families and encourage their spiritual growth; teach ecclesiology and Baptist doctrine to missionaries in training; and promote missions involvement among Southern Baptist pastors and churches. He also will help train and equip overseas Baptist leaders, advise in IMB mobilization efforts and mentor the board's administrative leadership team.

Kelley thanks Baptists for gifts to repair seminary

Nashville (BP)—With the chief executives of Southern Baptists' national entities standing behind him in support, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Chuck Kelley thanked Southern Baptists for their "sacrificial commitment" to repairing the hurricane-ravaged campus.

Kelley spoke to Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee members Sept. 19, minutes after a historic vote ensured that several million dollars will assist in repairing the seminary. The school was badly damaged by the flooding of Hurricane Katrina and has moved its administrative offices temporarily

to Decatur, Ga.

"I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you have done ... in helping us climb a mountain that looks awfully high right now," Kelley said.

Executive Committee members unanimously approved the use of all Cooperative Program funds received for national SBC causes above the 2004-05 budget, ending Sept. 30, for assisting in hurricane relief. Fifty percent of the extra money will go to New Orleans Seminary, 25 percent to the North American Mission Board for disaster relief and 25 percent divided among the Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama state

conventions. Officials estimated that the 2004-05 CP budget overage will yield about \$7 million.

The Executive Committee also voted to use the same formula with beyond-the-budget receipts for the Cooperative Program allocation budget during the first quarter of the new fiscal year.

Kelley thanked the entity heads for the sacrifices they are making. In most years, the extra CP money is divided among the various entities.

Estimates indicate the campus suffered between \$5 million and \$15 million in damage, Kelley said, adding that the preliminary figure does not include lost revenue.

'Celebration' fosters cooperation as well as decisions

By David Winfrey
News Director

Williamsburg—More than 200 people made spiritual decisions as a result of last week's "Celebration in the Cumberlands" revival services.

Approximately 15 area churches sponsored the four-day event, which featured music, entertainment and messages by author/speaker Jerry Pipes in the Rollins Center on the University of the Cumberlands campus.

"Our area has never embarked on such a project as large as this," said Darren Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin.

The event, which resulted in 143 first-time professions of faith, helped strengthen cooperation among churches, he added.

"Culturally, in southeast Kentucky, there can often be a lack of trust between one congregation and another," he noted. "This has shown the willingness of churches to partner."

Planners began preparing congregations for the celebration in July. Pipes led a "Building a Successful Family" one-day conference on a Saturday, and organizers held a Sunday night rally to help promote last week's celebration.

"We did this on a short time span," Gaddis said. "Normally it takes over a year to put something like this together."

Families too busy, "swallowed up"

Pipes said he begins with a family focus to help Christians understand that their faith is the most important factor for having a successful family life.

"Our families are just too busy. They've just been totally swallowed



INVITATION RESPONSE People respond to Jerry Pipes' invitation during "Celebration in the Cumberlands," a series of services held at the Rollins Center at University of the Cumberlands (Corbin Times-Tribune photo by Bill Hansen)

up by the world," he said. "They're just so on the go that they really don't have time for what's important to God."

"Consequently, almost 90 percent of our kids who grow up in an evangelical church check out by the age 18," he said. "Not only are we not winning our culture, we're not even winning our kids."

Pipes said he seeks to enroll Christian parents as decision counselors for the celebrations so that children will see their mothers and fathers applying the faith they say they have.

He added that the entertainment, as well as his engaging speaking style, are designed to encourage Christians to invite their non-Christian friends.

"I don't feel called to be a comedian or an entertainer. But my preaching mentor Howard Hen-

dricks told me it's a crime to bore people with the truth."

The celebration was modeled after a Billy Graham crusade, only on a smaller scale, Gaddis said. Local church members were trained to counsel those who responded to each night's invitation. Local churches will be given the names of those who responded for follow-up and discipleship.

Similar to Billy Graham event

Organizers followed the plan for "Operation Andrew," a method taught by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association to encourage local Christians to pray for their non-Christian friends and invite them to the nightly services.

Nightly entertainment included music by the Kingsmen and country musician Michael Peterson, juggling by Dana Tyson and feats

of strength by Keith Davis and Sean Harper, two former NFL athletes and members of the evangelistic "Power Team."

Each day, Pipes and others visited local schools to talk in public assemblies about making wise decisions. Pipes and others spoke to approximately 7,000 students during the assemblies, at which they would invite them to the evening services.

Gaddis said the school assemblies made a statement to the whole area, not just to those who attend church. "It shows that we're partnering, not just with churches, but also with the community to make the community better."

Local organizers raised approximately \$40,000 to host the event, with local businesses contributing about a quarter of the money raised, Gaddis said. Any unused money will be forwarded to the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board for hurricane disaster relief, he added.

The celebration is the first of several planned in coming years throughout the commonwealth featuring Pipes.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is working with local Baptist associations to organize the celebrations, and is underwriting some of the costs.

"They've basically provided the honorarium for Dr. Pipes to come," Gaddis explained, adding that KBC involvement was important to the success of the event.

"We're wanting to be connected with the Kentucky Baptist Convention down here, and this is an opportunity to enact Kentucky Baptists Connect, with the KBC being our partners."

Disaster relief training available

In order to participate in Kentucky Baptist disaster relief work, volunteers first must take a three-hour training course.

Already, hundreds of people have taken the training in response to Hurricane Katrina, but many more sessions are available, including:

Eddyville, Sept. 29, 6 p.m., at First Baptist Church. Call (270) 388-7693.

London, Sept. 29, 6 p.m., at Hart Baptist Church. Call (606) 862-6041, ext. 5.

Paducah, Oct. 1, 9 a.m., at Friendship Baptist Church. Call (270) 554-5717.

Williamsburg, Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m., at Main Street Baptist Church. Call (606) 549-2006.

Berea, Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m., at Bethel Baptist Church. Call (859) 986-4224.

Frankfort, Oct. 6, 6 p.m., at Forks of Elkorn Baptist Church. Call (502) 695-4893.

Springfield, Oct. 6, 6 p.m., at Temple Baptist Church. Call (270) 692-9577.

Pikeville, Oct. 8, 6 p.m., at First Baptist Church of Forest Hill. Call (606) 237-7142.

Pineville, Oct. 11, 6 p.m., at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. Call (606) 377-3196.

Mays Lick, Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m., at Mays Lick Baptist Church. Call (606) 763-6260.

Harlan-area youth respond to 'Freedom Experience' outreach

By David Winfrey
News Director

Harlan—Extreme bike stunts and illusions helped attract thousands of people recently to "Freedom Experience," a youth outreach event sponsored by Harlan area churches.

"I wanted it to be a first step back into the lives of the kids in our country," said Craig Garland, an organizer for the county-wide event.

"It's not just an event, it's a first step of getting back into the county, and it all starts with prayer."

Organizers recorded 217 spiritual decisions, including 154 people who made first-time professions of faith.



CHAOS ON WHEELS Nightly performances attracted youth to Cawood High School in Harlan for "Freedom Experience."

Nightly events featured music by a live band from Houston; bike stunts by "Chaos on Wheels," a Christian extreme team based in Minnesota; skateboard stunts by Timm Byrne of Portland, Ore.; and illusions by Brock Gill, of Columbia, Tenn.

"We were trying to find some way to get outside the walls of the church and get involved in the lives of students in our county," said Garland, a senior at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville.

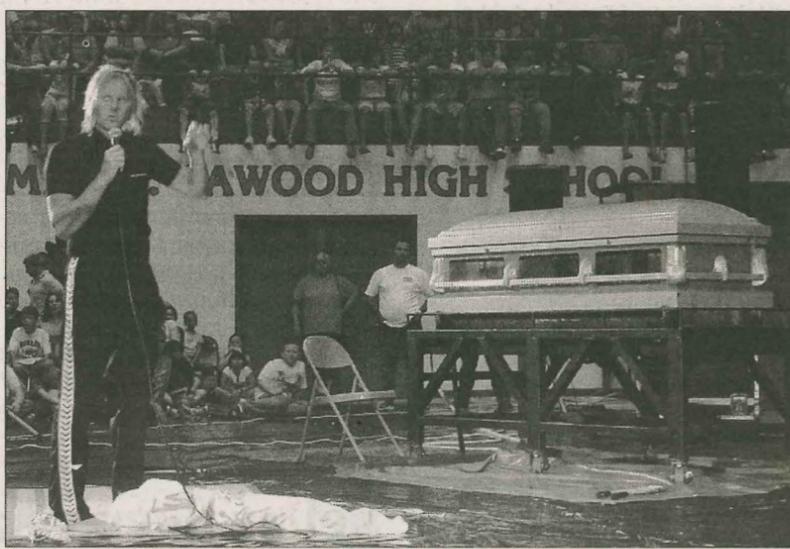
"It just seems that we're not reaching them."

To connect with unchurched youth, performers spent the days visiting every school throughout the county, holding free assemblies.

"We just talked to them about good decisions they make with their life," Garland said.

Garland estimated that 1,100 people attended the first night at Cawood High School's gym, and 1,500 attended the second night. By the third and last night, school officials familiar with the gym's capacity estimated that more than 3,000 people were attending. "We had them on the floor and everything," Garland said.

Garland said he learned about Freedom Experience from the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. When he asked some contacts at the Ken-



INVITATION Illusionist Brock Gill shares the gospel during "Freedom Experience," a youth outreach organized by several Harlan County churches. Gill shared his message after escaping from being chained inside a water-filled casket.

tucky Baptist Convention about the group, he learned that Freedom Experience was the program the KBC had used recently for regional youth evangelism conferences.

Funding and resources came slowly but surely, he added. As the project progressed, organizers secured insurance for the event as well as supplies and money for promotion.

"We just did it a day at a time. That's how God provided it," Garland said, noting that the KBC of-

ferred some financial assistance. "Different folks pitched in, and there were some churches that pitched in also."

Organizers currently are following up, making sure a local church has contacted each person who responded to the nightly invitations.

"The whole key to this was prayer," Garland said. "From the first day till it was over and even now, praying for the people who made decisions while we disciple them."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

JANET McINTOSH
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 489-3535. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$12.50 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$10 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

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

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

To give news tips: Call (502) 489-3422, toll-free (866) 489-3422 or write the editor or news director.

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

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 489-3428. Institutional columns are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

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

Katrina batters two modern myths

By **Erich Bridges**

Richmond, Va. (BP)—One of the first fatalities of Hurricane Katrina was the myth of American invincibility.

True, our national illusion of omnipotence took a major blow after the 9/11 attacks. But this time wind and water accomplished what terrorists couldn't: the near-destruction of a region, and the crippling of a significant part of the national economy.

Beyond the enormous human suffering and dislocation caused by Katrina along the Gulf Coast, experts predict its economic costs will top \$200 billion—and possibly climb far higher. Prices will rise on a whole range of goods; taxes may follow. The shortage of key products delivered via the Gulf Coast will slow the entire U.S. economy, at least in the near term. Regional oil refining, shipping, agriculture, industry and transportation all will need time to recover.

Even some Third World nations have sent us aid. That's good: We can use the help for storm victims—and we can use a little more humility as a nation.

U.S. isn't invulnerable

The United States remains the world's only superpower, but we aren't invulnerable. American Christians need that reminder as well. We live in a fallen world. We can't—and shouldn't—hide from it within "safe" physical or mental borders, which don't exist in the first place. God calls us to use all of our blessings to shine the light of His love into the dangerous darkness.

"We're all in this together," International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin reminded Southern Baptists when he announced the allocation of \$2.5 million in IMB contingency funds to aid Katrina-affected churches in the Gulf Coast area as they rebuild and minister to others. "We all share responsibility for the needs of one another. We

all share the responsibility of fulfilling the Great Commission by using every opportunity God gives us to touch a lost world."

As if to illustrate that spiritual truth, even the physical effects of Katrina extend far beyond our borders.

"Whereas the Gulf is a significant source of oil for the United States, it is a critical source of food com-

COMMENTARY

modities for much of the world," explains George Friedman, geopolitical analyst and chairman of Strategic Forecasting, Inc., a Texas-based private intelligence firm. "More than half of the (U.S.) grain and soybean harvest comes down the Mississippi River in barges to the ports of New Orleans, from whence it is redistributed around the United States or is shipped to Europe, Asia and Latin America. Certainly, the world markets have other sources of grain and foodstuffs, but the American harvest is the major source."

The global economy is amazingly resilient, but it's a more fragile patchwork than we like to contemplate. It relies far more on intricately linked, interdependent national economies than it did in the years prior to the Great Depression. And all the major national economies depend on a finite, increasingly precious resource: oil.

As another major hurricane bore down this past weekend on Texas' Gulf Coast and its oil refining infrastructure, one wonders how many Katrina-level disasters global markets can take before the economic house of cards collapses.

No one can answer that question. Let's hope we don't have to. But the question itself should humble us—as should the human folly, indifference and brutality displayed in the immediate aftermath of Katrina.

"The scrapbook of history accords but a few pages to each decade, and it is already clear the pages devoted to this one will be grisly," predicts New York Times commentator Da-

vid Brooks. "Americans have had to acknowledge dark realities that it is not in our nature to readily acknowledge: the thin veneer of civilization, the elemental violence in human nature, the lurking ferocity of the environment, the limitations on what we can plan and know, the cumbersome reactions of bureaucracies, the uncertain progress good makes over evil."

Good & evil: matters of the heart

That last item in particular—about good and evil—continues to trip up believers in another myth: the inevitability of human progress. A frustrated professor of social science fired off a letter to my local newspaper after watching in horror as the strong abandoned or abused the weak amid the rubble of Katrina's destruction.

"In my view, there has been absolutely no intellectual progress in this area for at least 50 years and perhaps for the whole century," he wrote. "When science and information are proceeding at blistering speeds in other areas, why are we blind, tethered and in perpetual darkness here?"

Answer: Because good and evil are not matters of the intellect; they are matters of the heart. And as the prophet Jeremiah told us a long time ago, the heart is "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). Perhaps one day the apostles of progress will admit it.

Humanity is fallen. Nature is fallen. The world is in darkness. We groan together as we reach for the light shining in darkness: God's saving grace and mercy expressed through His Son, Jesus Christ. That's the force empowering the thousands of Christian workers ministering to Katrina survivors—and reaching out in love to the suffering and lost of the world.

It's a force more powerful than technology, economics, "progress"—or hurricanes.

Erich Bridges is senior writer with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

Exciting ministry opportunities

In recent travel across Kentucky I have discovered some exciting opportunities.

Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, spoke during the 15th Church Anniversary Celebration for **Lone Oak First Baptist Church** in Paducah. It was exciting to hear his hope for the seminary to be open in August 2006.

The seminary and the churches have an opportunity to influence the new culture in New Orleans. Kelley hopes to see a rebuilt New Orleans that is more open to the gospel.

Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak Church, had a great day of celebration with about 1,200 people in Sunday school and many more in worship. All mission leaders and missionaries are grateful for this church's commitment to support missions through the Cooperative Program. The church gave \$184,000 in 2004-2005.

Another great opportunity is

that of giving to missions through the **Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering**. This vital offering supports missions in Kentucky, including disaster relief, international student outreach, interfaith witness, missions education, associational missions and more.

The **Pray the Perimeter** tour was one of the most significant experiences of my life and ministry. Total participation in the 31 prayer experiences was 1,373 people. I am grateful for the KBC staff members and directors of missions who helped with arrangements and enlistment.

It is difficult to put into words what we experienced. There was sobbing and open weeping at times. A pastor prayed for the youth being destroyed by the drug culture and told God he would even be willing to die for one of the youth to be saved. The impact on us was life-changing and will influence our ministries for years to come.

In August, I had the privilege of

being with **Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Princeton**, where Wayne Duncan is pastor, for the dedication of a new family life center and classroom building. Duncan and the church are excited about the opportunities to accommodate their growth.

It also was an exciting opportunity for me to participate in the annual associational meetings for **Muhlenberg and Pike Baptist associations**. Muhlenberg Association has called Ray Gilliland as its new director of missions. Pray for Pike Association as it continues the search for a director of missions.

It also was exciting to participate in the fifth anniversary homecoming at **Colson Baptist Church** where Joe Walters is pastor. It was a privilege to help start the Colson Mission and to work many days on the construction of the facility during the 1970s while I was pastor at First Baptist Church of Whitesburg. The mission was started after a mission vacation Bible school, and Colson Baptist Church maintains a strong emphasis on reaching and developing children and youth.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Sticker shock at the gas pump? Try family budget plan

By **Doug Strader**

The recent escalation of gasoline prices has played havoc with many families' income. What are families to do?



Families are answering that question in

many ways as they scramble to pay their bills without going into debt. Unfortunately for some families, they think they have no alternative except going further into debt.

There is a way to avoid more debt, but it is not easy. Even for families who have a family budget, sometimes it is difficult to operate without debt. But is by far the best way to live and serve God.

If you do not have a family budget, the recent gasoline price escalation might serve as motivation for you to adopt a family budget. What are the advantages of having and using a family budget?

■ Most families will know how much income they have each week or month. They also can know their weekly and monthly expenses.

■ If your expenses are more than your income, you must make some adjustments. You have two choices: You can spend less, or you can make more money by getting an additional job. A second job does not always solve the problem.

■ If you operate on a budget, you can be better stewards of all the resources God provides for you.

■ If you have credit card debt, you can work out a payment plan with the credit card company to pay off the debt. If you have more than one credit card debt, you can pay off the one that has the highest interest rate first and then double up on the next highest interest rate card. Or you can pay off the one that has the lowest balance and then double up on the next card with the smallest balance.

■ Once you pay off the credit cards, you can begin saving money for emergencies.

■ Living on a budget can be liberating for families rather than restrictive. It can eliminate a lot of stress for the entire family.

■ Living on a budget and being out of debt will make it possible for your family to be more faithful in tithing and giving more money to the Lord's work.

■ Living on a budget and being out of debt will give a boost to your self-esteem.

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

Jesus' example of forgiveness can help ease festering anger

Q: My father never expressed love and was always hateful and abusive to me. What am I supposed to do with my anger?

For starters, was there ever at least one moment when your father did express love to you or when he was not hateful or abusive to you? We tend to distort our thinking when we use "always" or "never" in reference to others.

FORGIVENESS

If you hold on to your anger, it likely will consume you. Letting it go is called forgiveness.

Jesus taught forgiveness as He emphasized:

■ "Love one another" is the second greatest command after "love God."

■ "Forgive one another." There are stern consequences for those who refuse to forgive.

■ Strength for forgiving can come from a caring person who understands. Jesus' teaching, "Where two or three gather together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" is in the same section as "first go ... privately" to repair a broken relationship.

Jesus also demonstrated forgiveness:

■ He forgave those who hurt him: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Consider the possibility that your dad was living out self-hatred he received as a child. Jesus acknowledged His perpetrators' lack of complete understanding.

■ Jesus saw the big picture: "For the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross." Just as Jesus made a way for forgiveness because of the joy that would result, you can work on forgiving your dad for the benefits that will occur. When you realize that the greatest beneficiary of forgiveness will be yourself, you will wonder why you waited so long.

■ Jesus not only offered forgiveness to you, He also can forgive through you. If you think forgiveness is beyond your capability, remember you "can do all things through Him who gives" you strength (Philippians 4:13).—James Stillwell

Q: Our teenage son struggles with his grades in school due to procrastination. He constantly is putting off doing assignments until the last minute and sometimes does not even turn them in. Poor grades aside, he does well on standardized tests. How can we help him?

Procrastination seems to have its roots in at least three places. First, some perfectionistic individuals put off starting an assignment because of their fear of not getting it done perfectly.

PARENTING

Their "all-or-nothing" approach dictates that something be done right. If they are not convinced they can do it perfectly, they might procrastinate. These students need to be encouraged to recognize that not everything requires perfection. Remind the student to relax a little.

While few people would label the first group as lazy, there is another group of students who do appear to be slackers. Not concerned with perfection, this group simply is intimidated by the big picture. If an assignment or project seems too big, they shrink from beginning. These students need to understand the importance of diligence—doing the little things each day that add up to accomplishment. Focus with this type of procrastinator on helping him or her break the big tasks down into small daily chunks.

Finally, there is a group that might simply lack motivation. When dealing with laziness, it is important that parents employ both natural and logical consequences. Natural consequences are what happens when the student's behavior automatically results in problems (bad grades or ineligibility for sports). Logical consequences are carefully constructed by parents in order to get the student's attention (grounding from the car or temporarily removing something the student values).—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

Valerie Vincent, Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: dr.vincent@insightbb.com.

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

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



God's servants deserve heartfelt thanks

In the midst of many churches' compassionate response to the victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it's easy to let normal activities take a back seat to the urgent human needs across the Gulf Coast.

While hurricane relief efforts should remain a top priority among all Christians, taking care of ministry needs back home also is essential.

In addition to financially supporting disaster relief efforts, don't forget to provide ongoing support of your church with your tithes and offerings. Also make certain to maintain your attendance, involvement and leadership in your congregation's ministry efforts ranging from Sunday school and worship services to community outreach and mission trips.

One other emphasis churches should make a clear priority is the annual Pastor Appreciation Month in October. Perhaps your pastor is personally involved in disaster relief ministry or has coordinated efforts to collect offerings, lead special prayer times or help arrange housing or other assistance for storm evacuees.

Rather than allowing the hectic pace of recent weeks to push Pastor Appreciation Month out of the picture, consider what your pastor and other church staff members have done in the past 12 months to help meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of people in your congregation, community and elsewhere.

Many ministers work long hours with limited financial compensation and few words of appreciation. Hundreds of pastors across Kentucky serve bivocationally, working 40 or more hours a week to provide for their family while building in time for sermon preparation, visitation and other time-consuming ministry priorities.

While leading revival services a few weeks ago at Hazel Baptist Church near Murray, I had the opportunity to spend several days with Pastor Tim Cole. As he and I visited each afternoon with church members and prospects, he shared some of the joys and challenges of serving a small-town church that averages about 120 people each Sunday morning.

As the church's only paid staff member, Tim spends several days a week visiting members who are in hospitals or nursing homes as well as shut-ins. Juggling those commitments with weekly sermon study time and other church responsibilities quickly fills his calendar.

In the midst of his busy schedule, Tim talks fondly of his nearly seven years of ministry in Hazel and his vision of the church's continued growth and success.

Another exciting ministry setting in Kentucky is Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County where my family and I are members. Averaging more than 1,300 people in three Sunday morning worship services, Crestwood is among Kentucky Baptists' largest and fastest growing churches.

Pastor Troy Dobbs leads a ministry staff that includes several full-time ministers and support staff. A "typical" week for Troy (if there is such a thing) includes 20 to 25 hours of sermon preparation as well as teaching Bible studies, supervising staff members, church visits, pastoral counseling, mentoring and personally contacting each guest who visits Crestwood Baptist.

During a recent sermon about God's call to ministry, Troy emphasized God expects ministers to "preach the Holy Bible and love His people. ... You can tell when a man of God spends time alone with God."

Tim and Troy, Hazel and Crestwood represent the broad spectrum of ministers and churches throughout the state. As October rolls around, it is fitting for church leaders and members to take time to recognize and affirm the faithful commitment and work of each church's spiritual leaders.

Whether it's a financial bonus, an extra week of vacation, a gift card to a favorite restaurant or providing the resources and time off for your pastor to participate in one of next month's disaster relief trips to aid hurricane survivors, find tangible, generous ways to express appreciation for the minister God has led to serve your congregation. Tim, Troy and hundreds of other Kentucky Baptist ministers deserve it.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

If you come to the Gulf Coast ...

By Joe McKeever

New Orleans (BP)—Several times a day I get e-mails from people informing me their church is ready and willing to come to New Orleans to help a church rebuild.

Currently, we're not even home yet. But as soon as we're open for business, we'll be ready to welcome volunteer teams as long as they understand a few things:

■ Understand that New Orleans is going to be different. No tours this time to exotic locales. No dining out in your favorite restaurants. It's all work this time.

■ Understand that this is going to be hard and dirty and you will be uncomfortable. I was told of two chainsaw crews that arrived from another state to help but turned around and went home when they discovered we had no air-conditioned accommodations for them to stay in.

■ Understand that adopting a church in the New Orleans area actually is a commitment, a covenant, between your church and the local congregation. The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board is recommending that the time period be at least one full year and perhaps two. "All manner of help will be needed," their literature says, in-

cluding "mission trips, rebuilding trips, care packages, appropriate financial support and encouragement for the staff who have been through numerous challenges."

FIRST PERSON

■ Understand that in bringing a team to help us rebuild, you will first need to send a scouting party in to look over the situation and talk to local leaders to see what your group will be doing. Then you go back and select the workers you decide will be right and assemble the materials and tools you need. The Florida Baptist Convention is asking their people who come to plan to be completely self-sufficient. Know what that means? It means, at least at first, you need to be able to prepare your own meals and everything else.

■ Understand if you sponsor a church in New Orleans, you will not have it all to yourself. That's good, of course, because the needs of every church are so huge as to be beyond the capability of most other churches to meet. So, you'll have plenty of partners. My dream is for each of our churches to be adopted by as many as a dozen churches around the country.

■ Understand that if your church decides to adopt one of our church-

es, you will not be able to come in and put in some program you found to your liking back at home. These are local churches with members and deacons and pastors, and we ask visiting teams to respect that. They will establish their own directions as the Lord shows them, and sponsors will want to come in and help them fulfill it.

■ Understand that your accommodations at first probably will be on the floor of some church's fellowship hall in sleeping bags you brought with you. Showers may be the wash basin in the bathroom on the hall. That's going to be uncomfortable for some; we surely understand. It's a serious situation down in New Orleans, and all along the Gulf Coast, to be sure. Anyone coming in to help us needs to understand this is in the nature of a sacrifice.

■ Understand that you might be working from can to can't, from dark in the morning until dark in the evening. I still recall a group from a church I served in Mississippi going to New Jersey and working for two weeks to build a complete church, and one of the men remarking to another, "I don't work this hard for money." That's the point. Do it for Jesus.

Joe McKeever is director of missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans

Graham depressed by inability to help storm victims, daughter says

Montreat, N.C. (RNS)—Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of famed evangelist Billy Graham, said her father is "a little depressed" that he can't do more to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

In a phone interview with The Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press, Lotz said her 86-year-old father wishes he could do more. He and his wife, Ruth, took in an evacuated family at their home, she added.

"Right now he is a little depressed," Lotz said. "Because of his age, he can't do anything about it. He said, 'If I was younger and strong, I'd be down there building houses.'"

Lotz, 57, speaks throughout the country at her "Just Give Me Jesus" seminars. She said the hurricane and its aftermath are "a wake-up call to the church."

"That's God Himself just working through the local church to embrace these people and give them hope and a new life. If He were here in a visible presence, He'd be right there in the muck with them, wiping away their tears."

Samaritan's Purse, the relief organization run by her brother, Franklin Graham, is pouring resources into the hurricane area. But her father only can watch the devastation from afar.

She described the legendary evangelist as "doing really well," despite ailments that forced him to end his crusades. Lotz said Billy Graham's New York City revival in June was his last, although he cautioned at the time, "Never say never."

"He may preach again, at one of my brother's crusades or some special event. But as far as putting on a Billy Graham crusade with a year and a half preparation, he won't be doing that anymore."

Lotz said she is learning powerful messages about growing older from both her ailing parents, as well as the "Christ-like character" she sees in both of them.

"My daddy's come to the point where he's passing the baton. I want to be one of the thousands that's picking up the baton, then passing it off to the next generation."

Bible curriculum revised after controversy

Washington (ABP)—A group that encourages teaching the Bible as history and literature in the public schools has revised its curriculum, incorporating many of the changes recommended by an organization it characterized as "anti-religion extremists."

The National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools issued the revision of its teaching guide, called "The Bible in History and Literature."

The council released the revisions shortly after the Texas Freedom Network issued a report contending the curriculum has serious constitutional and academic problems.

Bush proposes school vouchers for Katrina evacuee families

Washington (ABP)—In Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, President Bush may be able to push through Congress a project they have stymied for four years—a wide-ranging federal school voucher program.

The day after Bush presented hurricane-recovery efforts for the Gulf Coast Sept. 15, Education Secretary Margaret Spellings announced part of the money earmarked for schools would go to subsidizing private-school tuition for families evacuated from the region.

Spellings initially said \$488 million would be allocated for the program. New details Sept. 19 clarified that that figure was an estimate, based on the fact that 61,000 chil-

The network's report was authored by Mark Chancey, a religion professor at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Chancey concluded, among other things, that the curriculum "attempts to persuade students to adopt views that are held primarily within certain conservative Protestant circles ... and it presents Christian faith claims as history."

For example, Chancey faulted the curriculum for assuming a Protestant view of the Bible in its introduction, stating the Bible has 66 books and "two major divisions"—the Old Testament and the New Testament.

But Jews do not accept the New Testament as part of the Bible, Chancey noted. Therefore, it is accepted practice among biblical scholars to refer to the Old Testament as the "Hebrew Bible."

The Supreme Court has said the Bible may be taught in a public-school setting but only for its importance as a literary and historical document. Government promotion of any particular faith's doctrine violates the First Amendment, the court has said.

Many of Chancey's recommended changes—including substantive ones—are reflected in the latest revision.

dren in the New Orleans area had attended private schools prior to the evacuation. In reality, vouchers of up to \$7,500 per student would be available to any evacuee family.

The program would create essentially the nation's first large-scale federal voucher program. Bush has tried to create a nationwide program for vouchers to be used by parents who want to enroll their

children in private or religious schools. But, other than a small federally funded voucher program in the District of Columbia, Congress repeatedly has rebuffed such plans.

The Supreme Court ruled in 2002 that the use of government-funded vouchers in religious schools was constitutional. But polls have shown that such programs remain unpopular in most populations.



LifeWay CHURCH BUSES

Buses provided for LifeWay by
Carpenter Bus

1-800-370-6180 • carpenterbus.com

Make plans now to attend the 2005 KBC Annual Meeting in Kentucky's capital!

Frankfort Accommodations

Rates do not include the current Frankfort 4.24% hotel tax. Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates. Most blocked rooms are non-smoking.

Holiday Inn Capital Plaza

Next to the Convention Center
405 Wilkinson Boulevard

502.227.5100

\$72 (king and/or double beds)

On-site restaurant

Reservation deadline: October 14

I-64, Exit 53B

Hampton Inn

1310 U.S. Highway 127 South

502.223.7600

\$89 (1-4 persons)

Complimentary continental breakfast

Reservation deadline: October 31

I-64 & U.S. Highway 60, Exit 58

Best Western Parkside Inn

80 Chenault Drive

502.695.6111

\$79 (kings); \$69 (doubles)

Complimentary continental breakfast

Reservation deadline: October 31

Fairfield Inn & Suites

40 Chenault Drive

502.695.8881

\$89 (kings); \$79 (doubles)

Complimentary continental breakfast

Reservation deadline: October 31

The Frankfort Convention Center (405 Mero Street) is five miles from Interstate 64 and one block from the downtown business and historic district. Ample parking, with 2,000 spaces, is located in nearby garages and lots within close walking proximity. (A potential \$3 per day parking fee may apply by November.)



Strengthening Every Church

2005 KBC Annual Meeting
November 15-16
Frankfort Convention Center
Frankfort, Kentucky

KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

For more information visit www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting or contact the Communications Department by phone: 502.254.4731 or 888.254.5713 or e-mail: Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org



Serving those in need

Victims not at camps, but other ways to help exist

In recent weeks, many people have asked about our potential to house Hurricane Katrina evacuees at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore.

Shortly after the disaster struck, we contacted state and national organizations, including the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, American Red Cross and others.

To the best of my understanding we have been on the "list" as potential housing for any who would need temporary housing.

As I write this, it is Sept. 18 and we have yet to hear any specific details about people who could come to either property. At this point, it seems somewhat unlikely that we will be housing anyone, so where does that leave us? In my opinion, I think we are in a position to offer our assistance in other ways.

The situation in the Gulf Coast area likely will take years to reconcile. As you consider ways to get involved, do not be discouraged if you feel helpless at this point. Opportunities will be available long after the initial assistance is recruited and perhaps then, a shortage of volunteers might arise.

The bottom line is that thousands of people need help. Please offer your assistance now if you can. But if opportunities do not come in the way you anticipate, do not give up. Be prepared for what might be asked in the future.

We have many churches in Louisiana and Mississippi that send participants to our camps each summer. We will look at how we might serve them in the coming months. We wish to be an available resource however we can.

Now with a second hurricane bearing down on the Gulf Coast, no doubt people will face additional challenges as evacuations continue. It is impossible to imagine what is going through the minds of those who originally were evacuated to Texas and now are being moved again.

The outpouring of gifts in money and supplies has been encouraging and no doubt the name of Jesus is being proclaimed in word and deed as we speak. Let us continue to be the hands, feet, and prayer warriors for those in need.

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



David Melber

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:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "Sing unto him, sing _____ unto him" (1 Chronicles 16:9)
- 7 Father of Abraham (Luke 3:34)
- 12 Hangs one's hat
- 14 Has a fit
- 15 Mount. measure
- 16 "When even was come, he _____ down with the twelve" (Matthew 26:20)
- 17 Nicklaus's needs
- 18 "You've got _____" (computer memo)
- 20 "I have _____ thee with an ever-lasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3)
- 22 Atlantic state (abbr.)
- 23 One who requires taming
- 25 Cast out
- 26 "These _____ times have ye reproached me" (Job 19:3)
- 27 "They call their lands after their own _____" (Psalm 49:11)
- 29 Gossip (colloq.)
- 30 San _____, NM
- 32 "Manasseh ... hath made Judah also to sin with his _____" (2 Kings 21:11)
- 34 "_____ tu": how Juan would say, "It's you."
- 35 Loose
- 37 French seasoning
- 38 Before (prefix)
- 39 Tribe of Israel
- 43 Energy unit (abbr.)
- 44 Rector's residence
- 46 Raconteur's revelation
- 47 Dromedary, to Bismarck
- 49 Nicotine's no-good partner

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		
52						53		54				
55								56				

- 51 Chemical suffix
- 52 Emulate Daniel Webster
- 53 Moved, emotionally
- 55 What Naaman was (2 Kings 5:1)
- 56 "Owls shall dwell there, and _____ shall dance there" (Isaiah 13:21)
- 71 "O _____ me with thy salvation" (Psalm 106:4)
- 74 _____ and Remembrance (H Wouk novel)
- 76 Up to the time of
- 78 "Woe unto you that laught now! for ye shall _____ and weep" (Luke 6:25)
- 79 KJV verb
- 80 "I go to _____ a place for you" (John 14:2)
- 81 Conger
- 83 Through (prefix)
- 84 Israeli statesman Levi
- 86 Aeries
- 88 More wan
- 90 Hirsute
- 91 Church leader
- 92 Bassoon, and others
- 94 "With what measure ye _____, it shall be measured to you" (Matthew 7:2)
- 95 The one who _____ blood shall bear his iniquity (Leviticus 17:14, 16)
- 98 Cartographer's triumph
- 100 _____ Novosti, Russian news agency
- 104 Not left (abbr.)
- 109 Loans

Last week's solution

B	E	L		S	H	E	B	A		D	A	Y			
A	P	E		P	A	N	E	L		R	I	E			
S	I	N		N	E	R	S		M	A	I	D	S		
			13	T	I	N	E		20	L	O	V	E		
21	S	P	I	L	T		V	E	N	I	S		O	N	
26	M	U	L	E		27	B	I	N	D	S		M	A	
29	E	L	S		30	L	A	N	D	S		31	H	E	M
32	A	S		33	S	O	R	E	S		34	S	A	G	E
35	R	E	D	U	C	E	S		37	P	A	P	A	S	
			38	O	N	U	S		39	H	E	L	P		
40	41	L	E	E	K	S		42	M	E	N	T	I	O	N
45	A	N	S		46	T	R	A	I	N		48	E	R	E
49	G	E	T		50	S	O	R	R	Y		51	R	E	D

Study finds many churches rapidly adopting technology

Ventura, Calif. (ABP)—Although the church frequently is viewed as behind the times, a new study finds Protestant congregations are quickly embracing new technologies.

Since 2000, many congregations across regional, denominational and sociological categories have embraced the Internet, videography and other high-tech methods of carrying out their ministries, according to a report by the Barna Group.

For example, the survey found that 57 percent of all Protestant churches now have a Web site, up from only 34 percent in 2000. The greatest increases in that category came among mainline Protestant churches, 70 percent of which now have a presence on the Web.

The survey also determined that 62 percent of all Protestant churches use large-screen projection technology. In 2000, only 39 percent of them used large screens.

One technological area in which the study found little growth among Protestant churches was in use of electronic funds transfer, or EFT, technology for contributions. Twelve percent of congregations

use that service, up from 7 percent in 2000. However, churches in the Northeast have been much more open to the technology, with 28 percent embracing EFT.

George Barna, who directed the study, said he expects churches to embrace further technological trends in the next five years.

"As church staff and congregational leaders become more comfortable with and dependent upon new technologies for communication, they are expecting their capacity to convey messages in ways that are common in our culture," he said in a release.

"During the next half of this decade we expect increased broadband

access, podcasting and ubiquitous adoption of handheld mobile computing devices by consumers to further alter the way churches conduct ministry," he said.

The data for the study was gathered from telephone interviews with 845 senior pastors of Protestant churches around the country, conducted in June.

QUICK LEARNERS The survey found 62 percent of all Protestant churches now use large-screen projection technology, up from 39 percent in 2000. (ABP photo)



Let the pain and the sorrow
Be washed away
In the waves of his mercy
As deep cries out to deep

PREACHING WITH POWER

A Conference on Biblical Preaching for Pastors

Conference led by Dr. Hershael York, Professor of Christian Preaching at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Saturday, October 8
Lancer Baptist Church, 71 Cooley Street,
Prestonsburg, KY 41653

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.

Register Online at kybaptist.org/preaching or
call (502) 489-3578 or Toll-free (866) 489-3578

Fall break, yea!

Exciting events on campus preceded chance to get some rest and recharge

By the time you read this article, our students will be home for their annual nine-day fall break. For many, this is the first time they have been home since arriving on our campus in mid-August. The annual break is designed to give our faculty and staff a little rest after going through what many consider to be the most difficult time of the academic year, the first six weeks. Additionally, the break gives all of our students the opportunity to get off campus and spend time with their families.

Before leaving for the break, three special events took place on campus. The first was our second dessert silent auction. We held our first silent auction in January to help relief efforts for those affected by the tsunami. Needless to say, our students and staff have limited resources, so we were not really sure what to expect. As I reported in an earlier article, we were shocked when we counted \$2,000 that had been raised at the auction.

After all the destruction Hurricane Katrina caused, our students asked if we could have another silent auction to raise money for the survivors. Our faculty and staff eagerly agreed to provide the tasty dessert treats, and a date was set. The students were a little more prepared this time, so greater efforts were made to save their money and even "pool" their funds so they could be the highest bidders on some of the special sweets.

Some of our students learned from the first auction that if they really wanted a certain pie, cake, candy or brownie, it might be better to

have two or three of their best friends pool their money with them and then share the food with each other. The room was packed with bidders who just could not wait to sink their teeth into their favorite desserts. When the bidding was over we could not believe the final results. More than \$3,000 had been raised by our students and staff! Everyone was extremely pleased with the results.

Our second exciting event just before the break was the fall festival. Twice each year, once in the fall and then in the spring, we have a festival for our students. More than a dozen activities were planned, ranging from flag football and outdoor "blind-man" volleyball to wagon pulling, a pie (whipped cream) throwing event and much more.

A great deal of effort went into planning and implementing all of the activities, and it was obvious the students had a wonderful day. Cotton candy, pizza, pop and other treats were available, which made the day even more exciting. Beautiful fall decorations were provided by our FFA students, which really set the atmosphere for the day.

After a hard afternoon of having fun, the students returned to their dorms for a brief rest before returning to the athletic field for supper and more activities.

Since our students do not have opportunities to get off campus, cruise the malls or even spend time in a Wal-Mart, they really appreciate the time in a Wal-Mart, they really appreciate the time in a Wal-Mart, they really appreciate the time in a Wal-Mart. Next week I will tell you about the third exciting event just before the fall break.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

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

'Mabuhay'

A 20-year reunion in the Philippines

Visitors arriving at Aquino International Airport in Manila, Philippines, are greeted with the traditional welcome, "Mabuhay." The word foreshadowed a tremendous experience for me when I returned Sept. 2 after a 20-year absence.

The invitation came from Messiah Christian Baptist Church, organized in September 1985 while my wife and I were SBC missionaries in the Philippines. I was pastor of International Baptist Church in the Makati district of Manila.

One Sunday in 1983, Thelma Baltazar responded to the invitation and said to me, "Pastor, I love IBC and the singles ministry; but my family does not know Jesus and there is no church near them. Will you help start a church?" Shortly thereafter, I met with a few college students in a small government office, across the street from Thelma's parents' home in the northern section of metro Manila. The group grew and a student from Southern Baptist School of Theology (meeting at IBC and where I taught preaching classes) soon assumed leadership. Ed Caalim continues

as the pastor.

The congregation now meets in rented space in a building not far from that small government office. Fellowship experiences often occur on the rooftop. The church has established two other congregations and is committed to new church plants. Six former members now serve Christ in five nations.

The 20th anniversary, Sept. 11, was a festive occasion at a community center. The worship included a praise band, my sermon, testimonies and a PowerPoint review of the church's 20 years. After a lunch featuring the national dish, lechon (an entire roasted pig), everyone enjoyed special music, fellowship games

and a dramatization of the Old Testament character Jabez. Pastor Ed and Ofelia Caalim received a well-deserved recognition and knelt in commitment for God to use them to fulfill the prayer of Jabez, "Enlarge our territory."

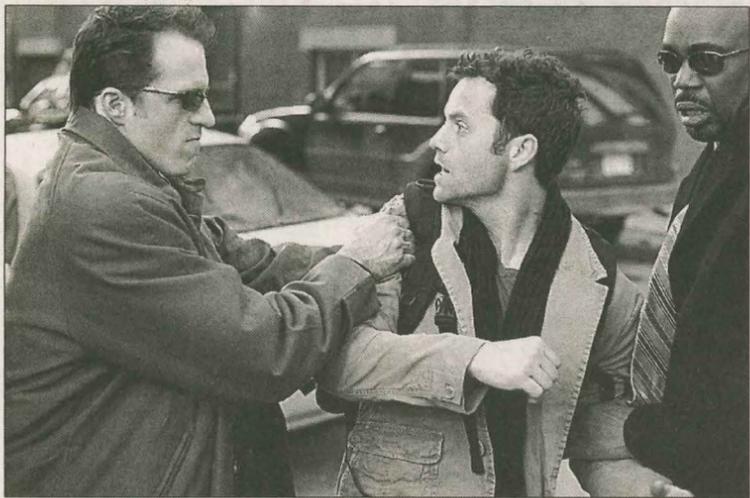
Thank you, Lord! The promise of Scripture was fulfilled again, "(My Word) shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Jeremiah 55:11).

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker



KNOWING PAINS Kirk Cameron (center) returns as journalist Buck Williams, who believes Nicolae is the Antichrist. (Photo courtesy Cloud Ten Pictures)

Film producer hopes churches will show latest 'Left Behind'

By Phil Boatwright
Baptist Press

Toronto (BP)—Peter and Paul Lalonde, executive producers of the "Left Behind" film series, are aiming to help bring back one of the great evangelistic outreaches of the 1970s and '80s—the family film night.

The Lalondes' Christian-themed film company Cloud Ten Pictures, in partnership with Sony Pictures, is distributing its newest film, "Left Behind: World at War," first through church screenings and then by DVD/video.

Peter Lalonde noted that the first time he stepped foot in a church was to see a movie.

"I went because it was Thursday night, I was broke and they were having a church film night. The movie was 'The Prodigal' and I did enjoy it. It was the pastor's 10-minute message after that scorched my heart."

Within a month, he recalled, he was attending the church's Sunday worship services and had become a Christian.

Lalonde said Cloud Ten is releasing this film first in churches so pastors can offer "the right word for the right soul."

"I don't want people walking out of a theater without those 10 minutes," Lalonde said.

He said major studios are watching to see whether the church screenings will work.

"If this takes off, ... the studios are telling us they will want to incorporate this entirely new deliv-

ery vehicle into their distribution model. But here's the gem of it all: They will have to start making movies that pastors will play in their churches."

"Left Behind: World at War," the third in the film series, is based on the last part of the book "Tribulation Force" by Left Behind authors Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins.

The film plot picks up a year and a half after millions of people have vanished off the face of the earth, and the world is now controlled by a self-proclaimed messiah named Nicolae Carpathia and his One World Government. The president of the United States, as played by Louis Gossett Jr., wholeheartedly supports Nicolae's global leadership. But after an attempt on his life, the president begins to have doubts about this new world order.

Journalist Buck Williams (Kirk Cameron from TV's "Growing Pains" fame), who became a born-again Christian toward the end of the first film, said he believes that Nicolae actually is the prophesied Antichrist. With the aid of Buck and militia spy Carolyn Miller (Jessica Steen), the president uncovers this new government's plans for genocide and quickly joins the very resistance he previously had tried to destroy.

"Left Behind: World at War" will be available for family film night viewing, Oct. 21-23. For more information, visit www.leftbehind-worldatwar.com.

Stepson gives personal glimpse of C.S. Lewis

Nashville—To many people, C.S. Lewis was a literary genius, but to Douglas Gresham, Lewis was like a father and "the finest man and the best Christian" he has ever known.

Gresham wrote "Jack's Life: The Life Story of C.S. Lewis," which traces the life and times of best-selling author C.S. Lewis. The book is slated for release in October.

Gresham was 8 years old when he met the man behind "The Chronicles of Narnia." Gresham eventually lived as Lewis' stepson in England for many years.

"I am sometimes asked what it is like living in the shadow of such a great man, and I always point out

that Jack did not leave a shadow behind him but a glow. If I am able to reflect even the slightest spark of that glow, I am more than happy to do so."

Gresham explained that the memoir is not a scholarly work filled with academic analysis, but a "simple recounting of the story of what I believe to be the extraordinary life of an extraordinary man."

Gresham calls Lewis "Jack" because that was the name Lewis preferred at a young age, in honor of a small dog that he cherished.

The book is among a series about Lewis to be released in October by Broadman & Holman.

Her Heart Can See: The Life and Hymns of Fanny J. Crosby. Edith Blumhofer. Eerdmans Publishing, 2005. 365 pages. \$20. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Before reading this book I had little appreciation for the contribution Fanny Crosby has made to religious music, much less American Christianity.

Sure I knew her name was listed in the back of most Protestant hymnals, often with notations equal to or greater than Charles Wesley and Isaac Watts. Hymns such as "To God Be the Glory," "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," "Re-deemed How I Love to Proclaim It" and "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling" are standards of American hymnody. I was even aware that she labored writing her hymn lyrics while blind.

But after reading this book I have a new appreciation for the way she helped shape the spirit of mid-19th century and 20th century American Protestantism.

Not that this was her goal, but such was the impact of this remarkable woman. It is hard for us to fathom today that a religious song writer could have the almost rock-star status that Crosby enjoyed.

Edith Blumhofer has penned a thorough, but readable, biography of Crosby. All of what you would expect is there: family background, education, marriage and family, life accomplishments, religious faith, etc. But what was unexpected, and to me the most rewarding part of the book, is how Blumhofer places Crosby in the larger context of American history, particularly American religious history. The author adeptly weaves Crosby's life into the tapestry of American religious life. In the process we see not only how the context of her lifetime affected Crosby, but also how she influenced that very context.

One walks away from this work appreciating the obstacles Crosby overcame to use what she felt was a calling from God. In a time that did not appreciate it, Crosby exhibited herself as a strong and independent woman whose exceptional talent provided her entrance into a world dominated by men. Blumhofer's book should take its place among one of the finest religious biographies of recent years. *Wayne Hager*

Holy Boldness: Practices of an Evangelical Lifestyle. Paul Dekar. Smyth & Helwys Publishers, 2004. 196 pages. \$16. ♦♦♦♦

"Sharing the gospel ... is offering to others the gift of salvation, a better life on earth, and the promise of eternal salvation. Evangelism is a sharing that invites response and aims at transformation."

At first, Paul Dekar's definition of evangelism reads like so many others. Yet within those words are certain cues that he is inviting us to an approach to sharing the gospel that moves beyond our common conceptions, such as giving our testimony, witnessing or even participating in hospitality evangelism. Evangelism is much more than selling Jesus or offering insurance against an eternity in hell. Evangelism, at its heart,

is offering the gift of life that begins now and extends into eternity.

With that in mind, Dekar contends that "evangelists must be prepared to do more than simply invite people to a feast. They must be prepared to set the table, sup together and do the cleanup work. To engage in evangelism is to offer oneself to help people along the way."

Engaging in authentic lifestyle evangelism involves cultivating, modeling and inviting others to participate in a holy life characterized by walking humbly with God, doing kindness and living justly. Three of the four sections of the book deal with these three characteristics. In each section, Dekar explores the spiritual practices involved in developing an authentic, bold life of discipleship. Each chapter concludes with a set of questions designed for personal reflection or group discussion.

Without taking anything from Dekar's worthy effort to help us see the richness of a holy life as the means to authentic evangelism, and not withstanding some pearls of insight he offers along the way, I kept wanting more. I wanted help connecting the theory of the practices of an evangelistic lifestyle with its actual practice. *Jim Holladay*

Victory in Christ. Charles Trumbull. Multnomah Publishers, 2005. 90 pages. \$9.99. ♦♦♦♦♦

This little book expresses in just a few pages the "how-to" of having victory in the Christian life.

Most if not all people who call themselves Christian want to have victory in their daily pilgrimage, but the haunting question is, "How?"

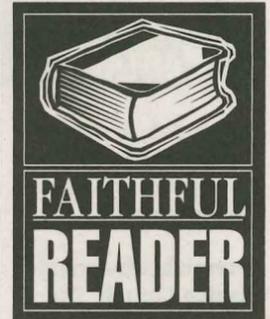
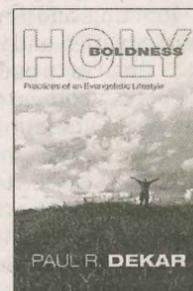
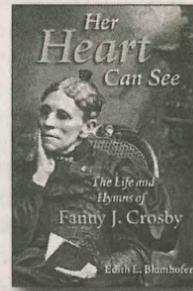
Charles Trumbull first published this book in the 1950s, and Multnomah re-released it for a new generation. Although the original book is a half-century old, it was written from Scripture and personal experience, both of which are timeless.

"Victory in Christ" is written to help people avoid a "roller coaster" Christian walk. Trumbull wants us to stop feeling victorious one day and feeling like a miserable failure the next. He wants readers to understand the meaning of grace that God provides for every believer. Trumbull wants Christians to understand what God has truly done, not what He will do.

This little book is filled with eye-opening and heart-challenging stories as well as advice on how to be victorious. The chapters are short and can be read in about an hour or so. But fully digesting and practicing the readings will take much longer.

Trumbull challenges the idea that knowing more of God's Word will bring victory. Knowledge of Scripture is important, but Trumbull notes, "We see that even these good works cannot accomplish our victory, but that simple faith in the sufficiency of God's grace is the secret." It is not what the Christian can do but what Christ already has done.

This is a good book for pastors to pass on to those who are looking to mature in their faith. *Steve Coleman*



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C.; Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville; and Steve Coleman, pastor of education and youth at New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: whager@trifluent.net; lyndonpastor@aol.com; risen4me@hotmail.com.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Jeremiah Missionary Baptist Church. The congregation recently partnered with area churches to conduct "Walk for Eternal Life" at the Isom fairgrounds. Set up similar to other "walks," this one focused on prayer for non-Christians. Church members gathered at the fairgrounds and walked the track, praying for a specific unsaved person each time around. Pastor Allen Meyers said the names of unsaved family members and friends were gathered and listed on cards prior to the walk. Pray for the area churches as they continue their prayers for and outreach to non-Christians. Pray also that believers will be bold in their witness of Christ through action, attitude and word.

Mission Service Corps missionary Harrell Riley of Princeton. Riley serves as director of HR Ministries, leading and coordinating volunteers at the federal job corps campuses in Morganfield and Greenville. The ministry touches the lives of more than 3,200 people from 40 countries each year. Leaders are in the process of constructing a ministry facility that will be used for office space, housing volunteers and summer missionaries, and storing resources for distribution. Pray for partners to support the ministry with prayer, finances and labor. Pray also for the salvation and discipleship of students to whom Riley and others minister.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BEDFORD**—Antioch Church recently called **Kevin Webb** as pastor.
 ■ **BREMEN**—Bethlehem Church will hold revival services Oct. 2, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and Oct. 3-5, 7 p.m., with Pastor **Leroy Rearden** preaching.



HURRICANE RELIEF Oneida Baptist Institute's campus ministry department sponsored a silent dessert auction Sept. 14 to raise money for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. After an hour of bidding on more than 100 desserts, the school raised \$3,052. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's disaster relief fund.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will hold fall revival services Oct. 14-16 with **Matthew Smyzer** of Louisville as evangelist. Services will be Oct. 14-15, 7 p.m., and Oct. 16, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. A potluck meal will be held Oct. 15, 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 789-0082.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Temple Church ordained **Mike Baxter, Steve Scott** and **Gary Stallings** as deacons Sept. 18.

■ **CORBIN**—Immanuel Church will host a "Beyond Belief" Parents Conference Oct. 1 led by author **Josh McDowell**. For more information, call (606) 528-4975 or visit www.ibccorbin.com. **Terry Williams** is pastor.

■ **COXS CREEK**—Coxs Creek Church ordained **Matt Hall** as a deacon Aug. 28. **Matthew Johnson** is pastor.

■ **HABIT**—Bethabara Church will celebrate its 180th anniversary Oct. 2. Activities will include morning services, a noon meal and an afternoon service featuring the **Gospel Envoys**. **Herschel Morgan** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Boone's Creek Church will host a Lifestyle Evangelism Conference Oct. 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., led by **Tim Beougher**, professor of evangelism and church growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. **Matt Perry** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Ralph Avenue Church recently called **Terry Stallard** as pastor. He previously was pastor of

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

September

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.

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.

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

Eighteen Mile Church in LaGrange.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—First Church called **Brian Baker** as youth pastor effective Sept. 19. He previously served in a similar position with First Church of Paris.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Sorgho Church ordained **John Langford** as a deacon Sept. 25.

■ **VANCEBURG**—Southern Manor Church will hold fall revival services Sept. 25, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and Sept. 26-30, 7 p.m., with **David**

Hickerson as evangelist. Musical guests will include **Roger Lewis and Saved By Grace, Garnett Pierce, Diane "Hutie" Wilson and the Sounds of Victory** and the **Southern Manor Singers**. **Al Owens** is pastor.

What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. E-mail: wesrec@earthlink.net.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Magnify Quartet—men's 4-part harmony gospel music—live musicians seek to magnify Jesus. Love offerings requested—never a fee. Call toll-free: (877) 409-3764 or (859) 393-4517. www.magnifyquartet.com.

AVAILABLE: Music evangelist. "Putting God First Ministry." Concerts, revivals, supply, interim music, etc. Seminary degree. (859) 238-2229; puttinggod1st@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: Christian and patriotic neckties; retail value: \$12-\$15; your cost: \$6; great fundraiser; postage paid. Humor book: "500 Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine" \$8. Men's suits: \$58.75. (606) 285-3051.

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 resumé to: Jeffersonton Baptist Church, 10011 Taylors Road, Jeffersonton, KY 40299, or call (502) 267-1123 for more information.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor (youth/children) immediately for Anchor Baptist Church, a traditional worship fellowship, Lexington, Ky.; Paul Sisk, pastor. Growing, five-year-old congregation in new facility. Prefer seminary degree, ordination and two years experience with youth. Evangelize, teach, disciple and counsel young people and their families in spiritual matters. Base salary: \$37,093 plus benefits and ministry expenses. Send resumé: Charlie Cook, 3212 Buckhorn Drive, Lexington, KY 40515; or Cookstuff@aol.com.

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 of music and education (associate pastor) for Fern Creek Baptist Church (SBC/CBF affiliations). Applicant must be an excellent, experienced musician, worship leader and educator and must exemplify strong spiritual maturity. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee; or e-mail to ferncreekbaptist@bellsouth.net. Resumes will be received through Oct. 31. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

SEEKING: Full-time church secretary for Fulton First Baptist Church. Position comes with a benefits package. Applicants must have computer skills including, but not limited to, Microsoft Word, FrontPage and Publisher. Applicants must have excellent people-skills and be able to operate office equipment. Applications may be picked up at the church office located at 115 Second St., Fulton, Ky.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for rural Southern Baptist church near Hodgenville, Ky. Average attendance morning worship: 35-45. Resumes may be submitted to Pastor Search Committee, 5618 Shepherdsville Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701; or to Mildred Pickerell at mpickerell@earthlink.net.

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 resumé postmarked by Oct. 31 to: Unity Baptist Church, 2320 29th St., Ashland, KY 41101, Attn: Music Search Committee.

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 resumé to Daniel Lucas, PO Box 1057, Salyersville, KY 41465; or dlalucas@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Drivers for courier/delivery company operating with Christian principles in Northern Kentucky, Louisville, Lexington, Bowling Green and Owensboro. Send resumé to PO Box 36, Owensboro, KY 42302; or steve@courierowensboro.com.

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.forksbaptist.org. Toll-free: (866) 371-5600.

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

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for East Bend Baptist Church, a rural Southern Baptist church in Boone County. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, 10060 Bell Road, Union, KY 41091. Praise God!

SEEKING: Part-time pianist and part-time organist for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Strong accompanying skills are required for both positions. Send resumé 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. Mail resumes and/or sermon tapes to: McDowell First Baptist Church, PO Box 241, McDowell, KY 41647, Attn: Search Committee.

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

Silent witness

Baseball mascot uses actions, not words, to represent Christ

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Arlington, Texas—Jim Tennison can offer only a non-verbal Christian witness when he's in uniform at his workplace, but that's not because he's timid. It's because horses don't talk.

Tennison portrays "Rangers Captain," the costumed mascot for the Texas Rangers baseball team.

"I'm an ambassador of good will for the team," he explained. As Rangers Captain, he performs at all home games and selected games on the road, and he makes public appearances on behalf of the Rangers.

When it comes to choosing which appearances he accepts and which he rejects, Tennison keeps two things in mind—his personal Christian witness and his responsibility as a representative of the Texas Rangers.

"As a mascot—a public figure out in front of kids—people automatically measure you," he said.

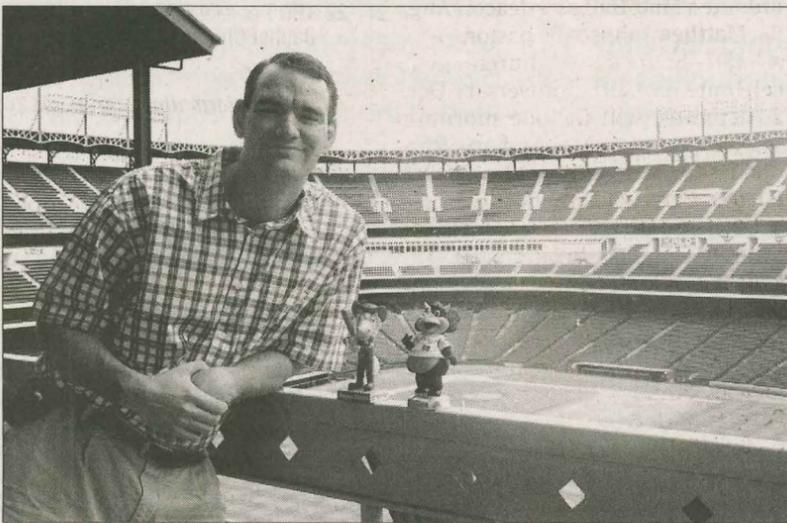
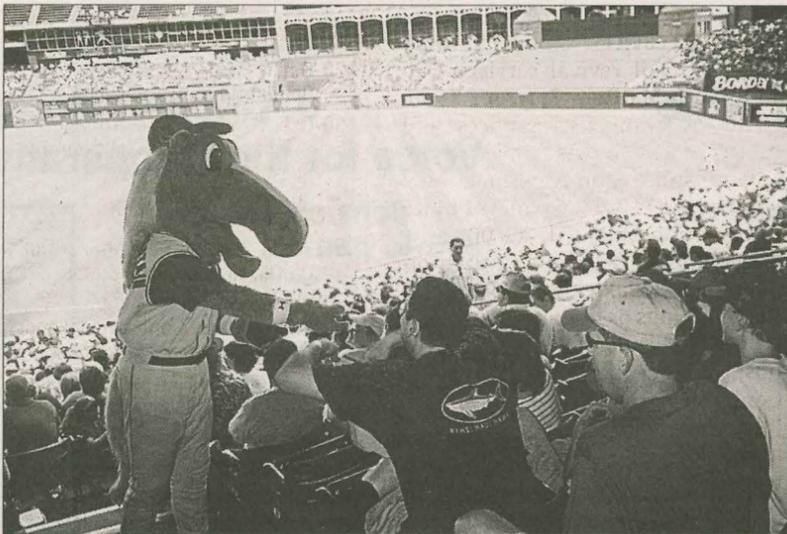
"Being a baseball team mascot can be a hot and frustrating job where ethics and morals can be overlooked since you can't talk in costume. Management wants a person they can trust to be an ambassador for the team. They want to know he won't make any lewd gestures, that he will consider what is appropriate in handling children and that he'll represent the team in deciding where to go."

When he's not wearing a horse suit in the Texas summer heat, Tennison—who holds an undergraduate business administration degree from East Texas Baptist University and a master's degree in sports administration from Mississippi State University—works in the team's front office as assistant to the promotions director.

In costume, the most direct expression of his faith Tennison can offer is occasionally signing autographs with an accompanying Scripture reference. He enjoys the opportunity to be more direct in his front-office position.

"I hope my co-workers see (Christ) in my day-to-day dealings with them," he said.

Early in his career, he only knew he wanted to work in some capacity on the business side of a baseball



EQUINE MINISTRY Jim Tennison suits up every home game for the Texas Rangers as the team mascot. "I hope my co-workers see (Christ) in my day-to-day dealings with them. (Photos courtesy of Texas Rangers Baseball Team and Ken Camp, Texas Baptist Standard)

team. His first big break came one day when he was working with the Lafayette Bayou Bullfrogs minor league team and the team mascot passed out.

"He had been the mascot for a hockey team, so he was used to working two or three days a week in an air-conditioned arena. In the Louisiana summer heat, he dropped like a fly during game six. And when he came to, he quit. That's when I was offered the job," he recalled.

From there, he moved to the Carolina Mudcats before joining the big leagues as Dinger the Dinosaur, mascot for the Colorado Rockies.

Major League Baseball mascots form a small fraternity, and Tennison became friends with Patrick Titsworth, the previous Texas Rangers mascot.

"If a schoolteacher needs a mentor, he can look down the hall," he said. "It's not that way with mascots. There are only a few of us in the business."

When Titsworth died of a heart attack during the off-season, Tennison was offered the position.

When he came to the Rangers, Tennison discovered public measurement is not limited to character issues. Standing 6 foot, 4 inches tall in stocking feet—and 6 foot, 8 inches in horse hooves—he is significantly taller than Titsworth was. In fact, the costume had to be substantially altered to fit him.

"Some people noted the Rangers mascot grew during the off-season," he said. "But let the record show that while he gained height, he lost weight. Rangers Captain is steroid-free."

Evangelicals & Jews unite for environmental 'Noah Alliance'

Madison, Wis. (RNS)—Evangelical and Jewish leaders are joining forces through a newly announced "Noah Alliance" to defend the Endangered Species Act from efforts they say will weaken it.

In a teleconference with reporters last week, including scientists and clergy, alliance members said their concern for creation is both scientifically and biblically based.

"The protection of endangered species has been a long-standing concern for scientists, conservation groups and wildlife agencies," said Calvin DeWitt, president of the Academy of Evangelical Scientists

and Ethicists and professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"And we are here to state today emphatically that protection of God's creatures, especially at-risk species, also is a profoundly religious issue."

DeWitt's academy includes almost 70 members who recently signed a statement on the "Critical Importance of Conserving Endangered Species" and who represent a range of denominations and teach at colleges across the country.

Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz, president of the Wyncote, Pa.-based Reconstructionist Rabbinical College,

said the nation's policy-makers should protect the act, signed into law in 1973, and consider religious wisdom along with scientific research.

"It is, quite simply put, that we should not destroy what we cannot create," said Ehrenkrantz, a signatory on a September statement from almost 70 rabbis and scientists.

On Sept. 20, several House members introduced the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act, which they said will fix long-standing problems with the Endangered Species Act, such as "rampant litigation" and bureaucracy.

Racin' reverends



SPEEDY Glenn Coblentz, pastor of Longnecker Mennonite Church in Winesburg, Ohio, center, won a qualifying "Faster Pastor" stock car race at Wayne County Speedway in Ohio. (RNS photo courtesy of Wayne County Speedway)

Congregations heading to race tracks for 'Faster Pastor' nights

By David Briggs
Religion News Service

Amherst, Ohio (RNS)—Pastor Jason Russ of Church of the Open Door in Elyria was closing in on the leader in a stock car race at the Lorain County Speedway west of Cleveland.

The owner of the car he was driving had encouraged him to be aggressive and not be afraid to bump into another car on the way to the winner's circle.

But he pulled back from the car driven by Greg Ball, pastor of the nearby Church on the North Coast in Lorain. "All I could see was his wife and children. There's no way I'm bumping him," Russ recalled thinking.

Ball finished first. Russ finished second. Welcome to the world of muscle-car Christianity.

In the latest mix of sports and religion, speed tracks around the country have started racing area clergy against one another in charity events. The "Faster Pastor" contests, as they are commonly called, bring church members to the track and offer their speed angels new opportunities for evangelism.

What drives men of the cloth as they balance their need for speed and victory with a faith that teaches them to turn the other cheek, or at least not run another driver into the wall?

"It's about God. It's not about me," said Coblentz, of Longnecker Mennonite Church in Winesburg. "I said, 'God, I'm going to go out there and do the best I can. ... Win, lose or draw, I give You the glory.'"

A number of tracks in the South have found success in recent years with the clergy races. The idea has spread throughout the country, as speedway owners found congregations would come out to watch their pastors behind the wheel.

At the Wayne County (Ohio) Speedway, pastors race at up to 85 mph in mini-stock cars.

Attendance doubled to about 300 adults—kids are free—on the pastor-racing nights. Churches that sell tickets to their members keep half the proceeds.

The track also collects food for area charities on the pastor race nights, with separate collection bins for each of the participating ministers. Pole position is determined by which pastor collects the most food.

Mixing sports & God

Both track officials and the pastors see the races as a way of reaching a wider audience.

Sports has engendered mixed feelings among many religious folks. Evangelists say America's love of sports offers them a platform to urge consideration of a higher playing field, but some critics worry religion is being courted cynically by an industry whose drug abuse, high injury rates and winning-at-all-costs attitude betrays the foundations of the faith being exalted.

Timothy Chandler, professor of sports studies at Kent State University, said more and more religious groups are using sports and high-profile athletes as a way to witness to their faith.

But, in sensitivity to some of the tensions involved, there also has been a movement away from the notion that God is on the winning side and a move toward offering thanks for the safety of all participants.

Kentucky Baptist Heritage

Newsletter of the Kentucky Baptist Archives Advisory Board

Bill D. Whittaker, Editor

September 30, 2005

Pioneers In A Changing Time

By Christopher Beckham
Pastor, Flemingsburg Baptist Church
Adjunct Professor of History, Morehead State University

The Civil War and Reconstruction brought about a host of changes to American society. Religion certainly experienced its share of rapid and lasting change in the aftermath. New Baptist churches sprang up in large numbers in the era because large segments of the African-American membership withdrew from their white brothers and sisters to found separate churches. Baptist churches in the era before the Civil War featured biracial church membership, but these churches also followed unfortunate and questionable practices such as segregated seating and affording little or no leadership opportunities for blacks. Thus, it is not surprising that many African-American ministers urged the founding of new African-American churches once slavery was dissolved.

The Reverend G.W. Dupee was one of those leaders. He began his ministry while a slave, but he eventually purchased his freedom and went on to become one of the leading African-American ministers of the 1800's. Dupee served as pastor of the Washington Street Baptist Church in Paducah. He was active throughout the entire Jackson Purchase, founding many churches, helped to create an African-American Baptist association and editing a newspaper called the *The Baptist Herald*. When measuring the extent of Dupee's influence, some historians have reported that Dupee alone baptized thousands of the members who composed the membership of the churches in the First District Association.¹ His leadership came at a critical time in Kentucky's religious history and he clearly had gifts for ministry suited for the times.²

Another prominent African-American leader was the Reverend Elisha W. Green.³ After his conversion, Green became a preacher and ministered in the Bluegrass areas of Paris, Maysville, and Flemingsburg extensively. He served the Bethel Baptist Church in Maysville for many years, and frequently preached revival meetings in nearby Flemingsburg. Green wrote that he had friendships among many different denominations in Flemingsburg and was allowed the use of several different church buildings to preach to African-Americans.

Green and G.W. Dupee were friends and often collaborated together to evangelize the African-American community. They, along with other notable Kentucky African-American ministers exerted key leadership in the eventful years following the Civil War.⁴

They demonstrated faithfulness and courage in their work to build up the cause of Jesus Christ in Kentucky. Their efforts in institution building show determination and resolve when the obstacles facing them were often all but overwhelming. Their stories deserve to be more widely told, and their memory should be honored by Baptists everywhere.

(Footnotes)

¹ J.H. Spencer, *A History of Kentucky Baptists from 1769-1855*, 2 vols. (Cincinnati, 1885), 661-665. Spencer gives many statistical details about the First District Association in his history.

² For more about George W. Dupee, see Christopher Beckham, "The Paradox of Religious Segregation: White and Black Baptists in Western Kentucky, 1855-1900" in *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Vol. 97, No. 3 (Summer 1999), pp.305-322.

³ Green published a memoir, *Life of the Rev. Elisha W. Green: Written by Himself* (Republican Printing Office: Maysville, KY, 1888). This book has been reproduced and is available through the Mason County, KY Museum.

⁴ See Ira ("Jack") Birdwhistell's article, "Baptists" in John C. Kleber, Editor in Chief, *The Kentucky Encyclopedia* (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1992), 49.

J. Chester Badgett Voice for the Cooperative Program

Born on January 18, 1915 to parents who were sharecropper farmers in Casey County, J. Chester Badgett accepted Jesus as a ten-year old and was baptized into Stanford Baptist Church. He was the first of his family to complete college, borrowing money and working on campus at Georgetown College. His junior year was eventful. He became pastor of Clear Creek Baptist Church and began dating Ruth W. Cloyd. He graduated in the spring of 1936 and they married on September 15.



Badgett completed master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His Old Testament major was under Kyle M. Yates.

During World War II, Badgett was pastor of Utica Baptist Church, ten miles south of Owensboro. When he left the church, they were giving fifty percent of undesignated funds to the Cooperative Program. Utica was the first church to send him to the meeting of the Southern Convention. "This proved to be a tremendous experience of growth and understanding of the world program of Southern Baptists," Badgett said. He has missed only four annual meetings since then.

In 1946 Badgett became pastor of Beaver Dam Baptist Church. The congregation was already giving fifty percent to the Cooperative Program and was still giving that amount when Badgett moved to Campbellsville Baptist Church in 1950.

He went to a church that first paid all the bills and gave half of what was left to the Cooperative Program. The church took action to adopt a percentage basis of giving. A 1962 fire that destroyed the church building tempted some members to stop mission giving for ten years to pay for the new church. Pastor Badgett challenged the church "as the first step towards receiving the Lord's help in building and paying for a new church building that we increase our gifts through the Cooperative Program by two percent." The church agreed and paid off the debt in less years than originally expected.

Campbellsville launched several new churches: Lowell Avenue, Yuma, Acton, Raikes Hill and sponsored Overson Heights church in Hodgenville.

Denominational service involved Badgett at several levels: 1963 KBC president; Foreign Mission Board trustee, serving two years as chair; New Orleans Seminary trustee, Campbellsville College Trustee. In 1980 he retired from the pastorate of Campbellsville.

Retirement years have brought a variety of ministry opportunities: Pastor of Kowloon Baptist Church in Hong Kong, Church Relations Director for Campbellsville College, Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Caracas, Venezuela, Pastor of Parkland Baptist Church, Nairobi, Kenya, Distinguished Professor at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. He wrote the 200th anniversary history of Campbellsville Baptist Church.

(Written by Bill D. Whittaker from an autobiographical narrative provided by Dr. Badgett)