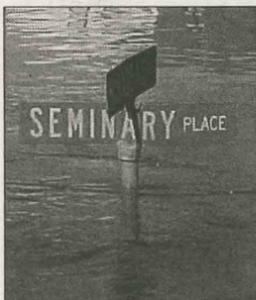


October 4, 2005
Vol. 179, No. 39

FOR THE RECORD



Baptists
Trustees vote to keep New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where it is. *Page 2.*

Kentucky
Worship conference explores creative ways to communicate gospel message. *Page 3.*

Financial Forum
Survey provides reality check for personal finances. *Page 4.*

Editorial
Casinos in Kentucky? Just say no—again. *Page 5.*

Nation
FEMA offers to reimburse churches for housing hurricane evacuees. *Page 10.*

World
Tsunami survivors still need help and hope. *Page 12.*

1,200 churches sign up to adopt Katrina-damaged congregations

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—More than 1,200 Southern Baptist churches have committed to help Baptist churches in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi whose facilities were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. New assessments also are being made in the wake of Hurricane Rita.

The Adopt A Church partnership was initiated by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board the week after Hurricane Katrina destroyed thousands of homes, businesses and churches along the Gulf Coast.

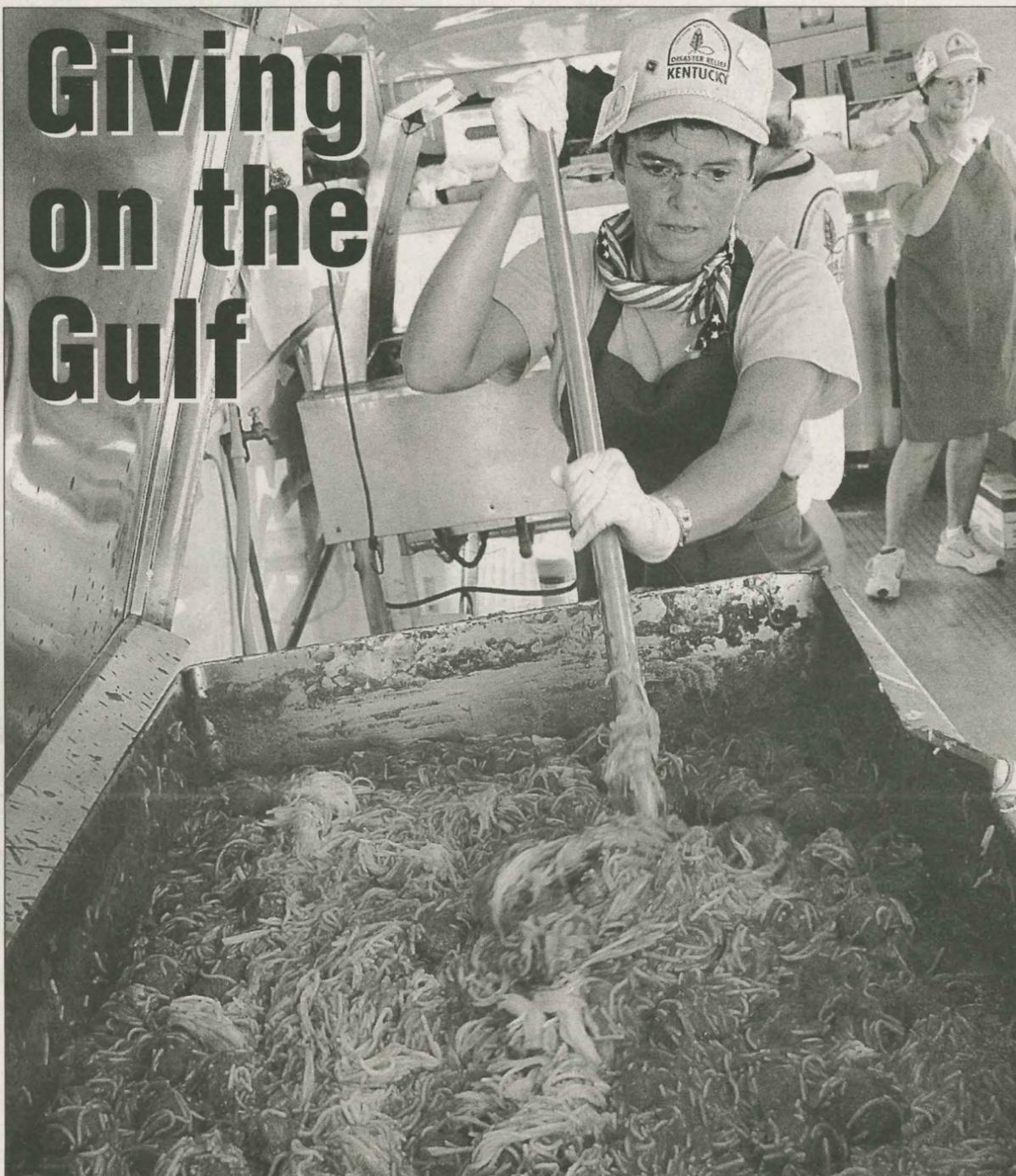
“Louisiana has identified more than 150 destroyed or damaged churches, and so far, Mississippi has identified more than 100 severely damaged churches,” said Richard Harris, NAMB vice president of church planting.

Churches from across the United States and Canada are being assigned to affected state Baptist conventions which will then match them with damaged or destroyed churches.

The Adopt A Church initiative suggests partnering churches assist affected churches by sending missions and construction teams, providing care packages and collecting a special offering.

Churches interested in participating in Adopt A Church can register online at www.namb.net or by calling (800) 462-8657.

Giving on the Gulf



Sheila Darnell, a member of First Baptist Church in Kuttawa, mixes spaghetti and meatballs for distribution in Slidell, La. From Kinder, La., to Biloxi, Miss., Kentucky Baptists are serving food, clearing fallen trees from yards and providing “mud-out” service after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Stories and photos on pages 6-8 and 13. (Photo by David Winfrey)

Paducah crusade marks 100th anniversary of 1905 awakening

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, October 5



AWAKENING 2005 Kevin McCallon, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah, preaches during the closing night of “Awakening 2005.” The four-night crusade, which involved 37 Paducah area churches, marked the 100th anniversary of a major spiritual awakening in the region.

By Keith Todd
State Correspondent

Paducah—Western Kentucky churches gathered last week to celebrate the 100th anniversary of a spiritual movement that changed the religious and cultural face of the region.

“Awakening 2005” at Paducah’s Carson Four Rivers Performing Arts Center was a cooperative effort by 37 Paducah area churches aimed at celebrating and replicating a revival that swept the region in 1905.

“We had attendance of 1,200 to 1,300 each night,” said Kevin McCallon, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah. “The congregations worked closely together to create a celebration of what happened here 100 years ago. I think as much as anything the churches cooperating together attracted newspaper, radio and television coverage that helped

promote the event much the way it attracted news coverage 100 years ago.”

What happened a century ago was so phenomenal that it could only be described as a great movement of God, McCallon noted.

“In 1905, Pastor John Cheek started an emphasis on wanting God to do a work in this area,” he explained. “Area pastors started praying regularly and meeting regularly to glorify God. They would have morning, mid-day, afternoon and evening meetings for prayer.”

Over more than two months, the 1905 spiritual groundswell resulted in more than 1,000 professions of faith in Christ. It propelled Paducah First Baptist to a prominent place in the area’s spiritual life and helped establish several other churches in the region.

□ See ‘Awakening’ highlights ... *Page 3*

Seminary trustees vote to keep school in New Orleans

By Gary Myers
Baptist Press

Atlanta (BP)—New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary trustees voted unanimously Sept. 27 to keep the seminary in New Orleans.

Trustees, meeting at the seminary's temporary administrative offices on the school's North Georgia Campus, also approved the administration's plans to restore the main campus to normal operation by August 2006.

"I am very excited about the passionate commitment of trustees to the city of New Orleans," New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley said. "After talking through the (issue), there was absolutely no reservation, no hesitation, that New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is and always will be New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary."

The trustee board met Sept. 26-27 in a special called meeting to discuss the damage to the seminary campus and explore

options for the future.

Trustees carefully weighed the question of returning to New Orleans before their vote. In the end, the board expressed a firm commitment to return to the city.

"We are compelled to rebuild the seminary in New Orleans," said Ray Moncrief, trustee chairman. "The seminary was founded there and it's a great opportunity for this seminary to have an impact on the reconstruction of the city and for the cause of Christ."

Moncrief said he hopes the seminary will play a prominent role in helping the people of New Orleans heal and recover from Hurricane Katrina. The seminary also will be needed, he said, to help re-launch and re-establish the many churches in the region.

Others agreed that the seminary must

not abandon its original mission in New Orleans.

"If Christians know anything, we ought to know how to respond in a time of crisis," said Danny Crow, a trustee from Maryland. "I think we have got to say, 'You don't run out on the poor and hungry.' You preach the gospel to the poor and you don't quit."

Trustees received detailed reports and presentations before they made their final decision. Kelley showed photographs taken shortly after city levees failed, with board members watching intently as image after image revealed damage to the homes and apartments of faculty, staff and students.

After the stark images of floodwaters on campus, Kelley showed recent photographs that reveal a dry campus—unaffected by the city's

recent re-flooding due to Hurricane Rita. Green grass is beginning to poke through the dead grass and gray sludge left after floodwaters receded, photos showed.

Trustees then listened to a report from Mike Moskau, the seminary's building contractor, about the feasibility of restoring the campus in New Orleans.

Moskau said the main academic buildings at the front of the campus received relatively minor damage from wind and roof leaks.

The majority of the seminary's damage occurred in housing units. While 60 percent of campus housing was affected by floodwater, Moskau said mold damage has not spread to second floors. No building suffered structural damage from the storm or the flood.

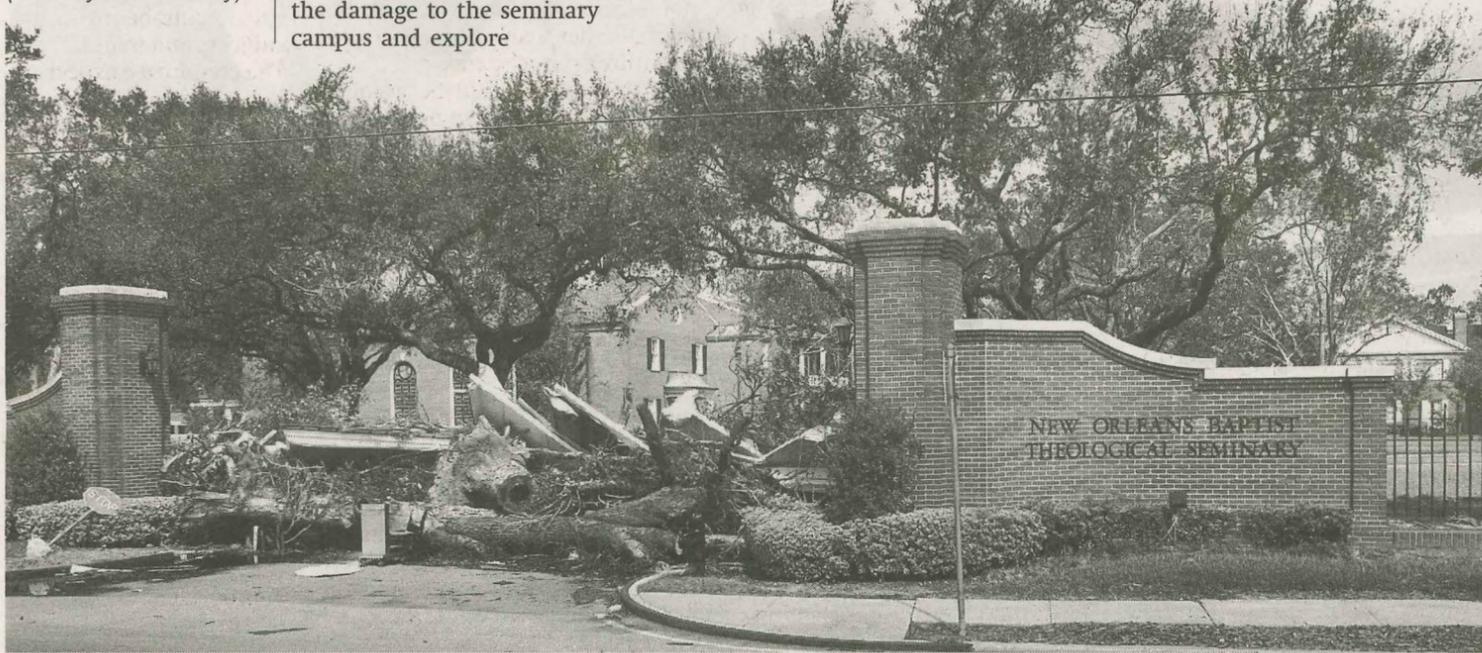
Moskau said his work crews began repairing roof damage to Leavell Chapel the week of Sept. 12. Two weeks into the repair work, the crews have sealed more than 75 percent of the roof problems on campus and Moskau expected to have all the roof damage sealed by this week.

Moskau said the initial estimate for campus restoration is \$20 million. However, insurance is expected to cover most of the cost.

Trustees discussed the risk of future hurricanes that might affect the city. They decided that staying true to the seminary's historic focus on ministry in the city should inform their decision more than future risks.

"We know New Orleans carries some risks, but it has never been a seminary of the faint of heart," Kelley said after the vote. "After all, this was the first and only storm of this magnitude in the city's 300-year existence. We are comfortable with a future in the hands of God."

FLOOD DAMAGE Debris blocks the campus entrance to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Trustees voted last week to keep the school at the same location and repair the flood-damaged campus. (Photo by David Winfrey)



SBC nears match of \$2 million grant

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—Southern Baptists are closing in on a \$2 million challenge matching grant made by Christian philanthropists Lynn and Foster Friess through the National Christian Foundation.

The Friesses issued the \$2 million challenge as a way to build support for ongoing Katrina disaster relief efforts.

So far \$1,378,000 has been given toward the match, said Robert Record, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Friess said he is impressed by the work of Southern Baptist disaster relief and thousands of volunteers. All money donated through the foundation will go directly to

Southern Baptist disaster relief ministry.

Since Hurricane Katrina's landfall in late August, 6,000 Southern Baptist volunteers from 36 state Baptist conventions have prepared more than 4.8 million meals for victims of the hurricane.

The National Christian Foundation is a nonprofit ministry established in 1982 by Ron Blue and the late Larry Burkett. It assists Christians in making financial gifts to support spreading the gospel throughout the world, according to the foundation's Web site, www.nationalchristian.com. Questions about the matching funds opportunity may be directed to disastergifts@namb.net.

GuideStone affiliates unveil new names

Dallas (BP)—Officials of GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention have announced new names for two of its affiliates.

GuideStone Capital Management is the new name for the former SBC Financial Services, Inc.; GuideStone Funds is the new name for AB Funds Trust.

GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins explained that "with the Southern Baptist Convention giving final approval to our name change

at the June 2005 convention from the Annuity Board to GuideStone Financial Resources, we were offered the opportunity to proceed with bringing our other organizations under the GuideStone umbrella."

GuideStone Capital Management serves as the investment adviser to GuideStone Funds, a family of Christian-based, socially-screened registered mutual funds. GuideStone Capital Management offers its clients investment management advisory services.

SBC Executive Committee freezes New Orleans' enrollment formula

Nashville—The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee approved a three-year freeze in the calculation of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's enrollment, allowing the school's 2003-04 enrollment figures to apply to Cooperative Program funding formulas for the next three budget years.

The Council of Seminary Presidents recommended the freeze in the school's enrollment calculation. It will allow the seminary to recover from any loss in enrollment from Hurricane Katrina.

In other action, committee members elected Kenyn Cureton as vice president for convention relations and voted to adjust the salary structure for some of its upper-level employees.

Cureton, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Lebanon, Tenn., will begin his new duties by Nov. 1. He succeeds Bill Merrell, who now serves the Executive Committee as senior executive adviser.

Cureton coauthored the 2004 iVoteValues.com Voter Resource Guide. He also produced pamphlets, bulletin inserts and other resources for the denomination's

national voter initiative.

Cureton, 42, is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He was an adjunct professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Boyce College in 2000.

The Executive Committee's vote to increase some employees' salaries came amid questions about the openness of the staff salary structure.

The vote came after a consultant's report showing that overall compensation was slightly above the midpoint of salaries at comparable organizations, but the higher-level employees were about 22 percent lower than others in similar positions.

Roger Moran, an Executive Committee member from Missouri, noted in a previous meeting that he wanted an "open book policy" regarding salaries.

"I think we have a hard time selling some of these salaries," Moran said in the most recent meeting.

Based on reporting by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press

KBC worship conference: 'Scripture is plumb line'

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Elizabethtown—Pastors and music ministers should evaluate how they facilitate worship and try new things—just not every new thing, agreed leaders at last weekend's Journey into Worship conference.

"Not everything we do in worship is acceptable to God," said Wendell Boertje, minister of music and worship for Central Baptist Church of Bearden near Knoxville, Tenn. "Scripture is your plumb line."

The two-day Kentucky Baptist Convention conference hosted by Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown provided insights to church leaders on navigating the ever-changing waters of corporate worship.

Exploring new musical styles as well as introducing drama or interpretive movement into worship services can change a church's ministry for the better, but leaders must ask themselves a few soul-searching questions before launching in a new direction, presenters noted.

"How far will you go into your culture to redeem it for Christ?" asked Jeff Smith, director of Salt and Light Ministries in Richmond, Va. "You'll have to set boundaries. ... You'll have to decide those."

Marc Richey, music technology manager at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, posed a number of questions to conference-goers:

"Does your church family have a willingness to serve sacrificially and support this ministry? Are others already covering this ministry in the vicinity and do you only want to compete with theirs?"

Any worship ministry must begin with the basics, Boertje said. He emphasized that every Christian must be a personal worshiper in addition to a participant in corporate worship.

"You can't do it in one hour," he told church leaders. "Your people must come to corporate worship as personal worshipers."

For pastors, music ministers and worship leaders, personal worship is especially important, he added. "We have to go to deep wells because a lot of people are tapping us for outflow."

Worshipping in small groups

Getting worship leaders off the platform and into small-group church settings helps keep worship at the forefront of a church ministry, Boertje said.

Music leaders should make themselves available to Sunday school teachers, youth ministers and small-group leaders to lead sessions on worship periodically, he suggested.

For example, the choir director could be a substitute Sunday school teacher, lead children and youth in worship at summer camp, or provide worship studies for small in-home groups.

Congregations "should be drinking from the saucer" because of the overflow of opportunities and information about praise and worship that are available from the church, he said.

Among several resources Boertje suggested was the book "Christian Worship" by Franklin Stegler. The Bible study curriculum "Return to Worship" by Ron Owens would be appropriate for a congregational study, he added.

"If you want your message to be heard, sing it," said Smith, who led a session titled "Telling the Old, Old Story in a New, New Way."

Citing a study by George Barna's research group, Smith said music, film and television were the "top tiers of influence" for children and youth today. "Church is at the bottom tier of influence."

Informed discussions about



RICH YOUNG 'RULER' Using a carpenter's ruler, Jeff Smith, director of Salt and Light Ministries of Richmond, Va., tells the familiar story of the man who wanted to know how to get to heaven. Smith made several shapes including an arrow pointing to heaven to drive home the scripture's message.

popular music, films and cultural icons does more than make a church leader look cool, he said. "Show a generation you care by getting immersed in their culture."

Worshipping with imagination

Putting Scripture to rap or telling a Bible story as Forrest Gump will take more preparation than index cards and underlining the quarterly, but the message will stick with the listener, Smith said. He added that there are many other imaginative ways to present scriptural truths that would require no preparation or cost beyond the norm.

His text, "Imagine That," contains such ideas as creating living "slide shows" using members of a Sunday school class.

The actors illustrate a scene, then the rest of the class members are asked to close their eyes. When they

reopen them, the next scene has been created. The slide show effect is accomplished with, literally, only the blink of an eye.

"The older we get, the less creative we are," Smith said. "It's a mindset that is undeveloped."

It is possible to reference or even imitate aspects of popular culture and not compromise the gospel message, Smith noted. Music, object lessons and visual learning are "sanctified bait," he said. "It was all God's to begin with," he told the group.

Churches starting a drama ministry should not assume that a major financial investment is required, according to Richey, a part-time consultant with the KBC's worship/music department.

Drama: Start small, keep growing

"You build a program a little at a time," he said, suggesting that an initial dramatic production might not require a constructed set, but instead relies upon props, borrowed furniture or other items.

A first effort could be a collection of skits performed over several Sundays that support the sermon series, he suggested. After a successful production, "people will start to get excited about it," he said, and productions may grow in scope.

The most common mistake churches make is overbuilding a set, Richey said. "You don't have to build a set like it's going to stand there a hundred years."

He has compiled a CD of resources on everything from set design and construction, to lighting and costumes. To request a copy, e-mail him at marc.richey@kybaptist.org

"If God's given you the vision, He's given you the people and the wherewithal to make it happen," Richey said.

For other worship resources, visit the Kentucky Baptist Convention Web site at www.kybaptist.org.

Georgetown/KBC workgroup holds initial dialogue

Louisville—Members of a joint workgroup appointed to discuss the future relationship between Georgetown College and the Kentucky Baptist Convention held their first dialogue last week.

Moderator Charles Barnes released a prepared statement after the Sept. 29 meeting. He declined to discuss details about the discussion because the group's work has not been completed.

Noting that all members but one attended the meeting, he said, "The joint committee discussed with a very good spirit a number of subjects and issues. The committee expects to have a report ready to release to Kentucky Baptists within the next few weeks."

The workgroup has been assigned the responsibility of "reviewing the working relationship, including the covenant agreement, between the college and the KBC, and to bring a report to the administrative committee, Mission Board and/or convention as appropriate."

The group was established in response to a request by Georgetown officials "for dialogue between the college and the Kentucky Baptist Convention."

In a brief interview, Barnes said he felt "very good" about the discussion between state convention leaders and representatives of Georgetown's administration and trustees.

"We had a very effective meeting," he added. "I feel good about the process."

Correction: A Sept. 13 article about Kentucky Baptists' disaster relief response after Hurricane Katrina incorrectly identified one of the people interviewed. Peggy Murphy is the ministry assistant in the KBC's Baptist men on mission department.

'Awakening' highlights 100th anniversary of Paducah revival

Continued from page 1

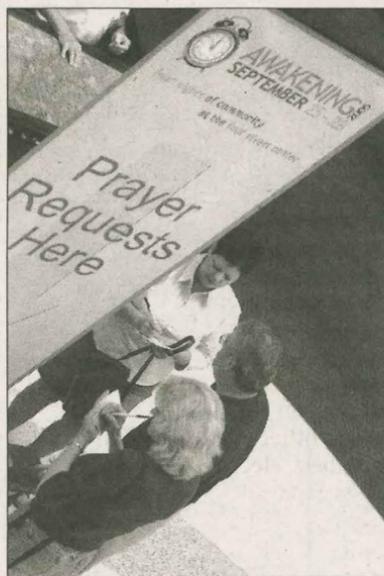
"It is part of the history of a lot of churches here," McCallon said. "It wasn't just in the churches; it was a Christian influence in the entire community."

With that history in mind, the 37 participating churches spent the final six weeks before the event in joint prayer meetings.

"We produced a 30-day prayer guide with devotionals from various pastors to help everyone prepare for this special event," McCallon said. "We had churches of every denomination. We've had prayer meetings at Broadway Methodist, at Washington Street Baptist, at St. Thomas More, Heartland Worship Center and Lone Oak Baptist; all different races, all different denominations. We wanted to see if God could use this to transform our community the way He did 100 years ago."

McCallon said the churches chose to name the event "Awakening 2005" because it fit on several levels.

"We called this 'the Awakening' because that word can apply to both non-believers and to people of faith. It also fit very well with the



PRAYER SUPPORT Joyce Bardin, Bobby Abernathy and Betty Fondaw pause to fill out prayer requests prior to the opening session of Awakening 2005. (Photo by Lance Dennee, reprinted with permission of the Paducah Sun)

historical accounts we had of the 1905 movement."

Event organizers enlisted well-known speakers from across the nation for the Sept. 25-28 event. Youth

evangelist David Nasser spoke Sunday and Monday nights and Frank Harber, pastor of First Baptist Church of Colleyville, Texas, spoke Tuesday night. Joe White, founder of Kids Across America, was scheduled to speak Wednesday night, but when bad weather grounded White's plane, McCallon filled in.

Music during Awakening 2005 ranged from the contemporary Christian group Watermark to the Crabb Family, a southern-gospel group.

Participants such as Ann Myre of Paducah indicated the event succeeded in its goal of reaching both believers and seekers.

"If you are a Christian, I think an event like this causes you to reflect on things you can do better," Myre said. "I would think if you weren't a Christian that it would reach your heart."

"If you strengthen individual Christians, that's one of the best ways to reach out to non-Christians," she added. "It's about individual contacts."

In 1905, Christians emboldened during the revival were going into bars to witness and invite people to the revival meetings. While the

2005 effort didn't go quite that far, McCallon said God was still at work.

"Each night across the street at Smiley's Christian Coffee House we had groups praying, sometimes as many as 70 people," McCallon noted. "Tuesday night we had about 30 people over there praying for the event."

"One of our prayer counselors stepped outside to make a call on his cell phone. He ran into a guy who was out there listening in on the speakers. They began a conversation. He invited the guy inside and the fellow ended up accepting Christ. Just by walking by and listening, God touched his heart and brought him inside. That's the kind of thing that has taken place and the kind of thing that is taking place. That's very much like some of the reports we had from the 1905 revival."

"We've taken the approach that God does what He wants to in His time and in His way," McCallon said. "We feel strongly that seeds have been sown and will show themselves in people's lives, in all area churches and in all areas of our society."

WESTERNRECORDER

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 Mantooh, Morehead;
Bill Marshall, Louisville;
Floyd Price, Prestonsburg;
Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

A wealth of faith among Katrina's poor

By Dale Hanson Bourke

Washington (RNS)—It was easy to feel sorry for them. The poor, displaced, battered citizens of New Orleans confronted us with the disparity of economic life in America.

But as the days turned to weeks, another subtext began to surface, showing an even greater disparity. A surprising number of the poor were, in fact, rich in spirit. Despite having little, they showed an enormous depth of spiritual understanding and a remarkable display of extravagant faith.

An elderly woman, finally pulled from her house after days of waiting, seemed surprisingly peaceful as television crews filmed her rescue. When a reporter asked if she was glad the rescuers had finally arrived she said, "Yes, I'm glad to see them. But I had the Lord with me whether anyone else showed up or not."

Unlike many of us whose wealth obscures our spiritual sight, this woman gave contemporary meaning to the Bible verse written by the Apostle Paul: "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want" (Philippians 4:12).

Another reporter asked evacuat-

ed children what they missed most. Many named a favorite toy. One little girl said, "My Bible." While some children wanted their teddy bears for comfort, this child sought solace in Scripture. It is hard to imagine how many wealthy, suburban children—even those who attend church—would cherish their Bible over their iPod.

Television interviews in shelters became spontaneous testimonials as the poor spoke with grace and confidence about a God who loved them and would show them the way in the days to come. While some still searched for relatives and wondered aloud how to rebuild their lives, few expressed ultimate hope in their government or long-term faith in humanitarian relief.

An amazing number went straight to their personal bottom line: Whatever else they received was great, but they were placing their hope and faith in God. They had lived their lives without the financial security most of us rely upon and they understood how transient it could be.

The Bible itself speaks more about the poor than the rich. It warns that wealth creates spiritual cataracts, and demonstrates that

God's economy is in direct contrast to man's. "Blessed are the poor," states the first of the Beatitudes, "for theirs is the Kingdom of God."

Yet even those of us who read the Bible regularly are apt to gloss over the discomforting parts about our comfortable lives. We don't want to believe that having credit cards and nice cars and the latest fashions take us away from God. We want to believe that God likes it when we look nice and feel secure. We feel sorry for the poor, but it rarely occurs to us that they actually might be able to see God more clearly or that our wealth contributes to our own spiritual poverty.

But after days of seeing true saints, it is clear that America is greatly divided between the haves and have-not's. Spiritually speaking, many of those who started with little and lost even that still came out ahead of the rest of us. Their theology was not based on lines of credit or insurance claims.

Many of the poorest people in this country understood what the rest of us still struggle to comprehend: Faith is not based on circumstances, and true riches cannot be washed away by storms.

Dale Hanson Bourke, a consultant to humanitarian organizations, is the author of "The Skeptic's Guide to the Global AIDS Crisis."

Where is God in the midst of tragedies?

By Henry Blackaby

Atlanta (BP)—In the midst of tragedies, every promise of God is still true. Tragedy does not remove God or change God.

He remains (Hebrews 13:8). When God says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you," (Deuteronomy 31:6; Hebrews 13:5), He means it and He never changes. Such promises of God are for such times as tragedy.

Some feel that if God really is a God of love, He would not permit any tragedies. Not so. Sin causes tragedy. Sin is real and brings death (Romans 6:23). In the midst of all

sin does to disrupt and destroy life as God intended, He has provided a way for dealing with sin and its consequences. His own presence through the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son has provided totally. His grace is sufficient, always (2 Corinthians 12:9).

The Apostle Paul, out of the depth of his life experiences, could boldly proclaim: "Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more." (Romans 5:20b). Paul also knew the incredible effect of sin on all creation, so that through nature death and destruction could prevail: "For

we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now" (Romans 8:22). We are experiencing the awesome reality of this all over the world in our day.

To leave the reality of sin, and its effects, out of our reasoning in the midst of tragedies would be foolish. It also would distort the truth of God, creating confusion and unnecessary pain and suffering.

God remains perfect love in the midst of tragedy, and His presence can and will transform everything—if we let Him.

Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God," is president of Blackaby Ministries International in Atlanta

God is at work in Kentucky

God is working in some tremendous ways in Kentucky. Let me share with you just a few of those.

During the four-day "Celebration of the Cumberland" held recently at the Rollins Center on the campus of the University of the Cumberlands, 141 people confessed their faith in Jesus Christ and 102 other decisions were recorded. Crowds grew from 1,000 to about 4,000 the last night.

Most of the professions of faith were made by youth (81) followed by children (48) and adults (12). About 7,000 students heard the presentations by the special guests, which greatly enhanced participation by unreached students.

Every Kentucky Baptist should be excited to hear these reports because everyone had a part in this powerful celebration. Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church development and evangelism team, initiated the celebration vision with the association and KBC

provided funds to assist.

Every Kentucky Baptist also was a part of the "Freedom Experience" in Harlan through the work of Joe Ball and Jay Parker of the KBC's youth ministry and Sunday school group, who assisted with publicity arrangements and participated each night.

Kentucky Baptists make possible the work of the KBC staff through Cooperative Program gifts. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for helping connect 295 people to Jesus Christ. This is a great partnership in Kingdom growth.

It was my privilege to be with Flemingsburg Baptist Church, and its pastor, Chris Beckham, for revival services recently. The church conducted the greatest concert of prayer I have ever experienced.

Perhaps the most powerful moment came Sunday night when church members gathered around their youth at the altar and prayed for them. Having been with the church three times, I could see

FIRST PERSON

STEWARDSHIP

Survey provides reality check for personal finances

By Don Spencer

Below are a series of statements. Enter a score of 1-10 to indicate your satisfaction with that aspect of your financial life. (10=Very Satisfied, 5=Moderately Satisfied and 1=Not Satisfied)



I am satisfied:

- ___ 1. With my level of giving to my church and other charitable giving.
- ___ 2. With my level of debt.
- ___ 3. With my spending habits.
- ___ 4. With the current level of my retirement savings.
- ___ 5. With my investment choices.
- ___ 6. With my current insurance coverages.
- ___ 7. With my ability to meet my financial obligations.
- ___ 8. With my savings for my children's education.
- ___ 9. With the feelings I have about my financial life.
- ___ 10. That financial issues do not cause stress in the relationships that are most important to me.
- ___ 11. With the status of my current estate plans.
- ___ 12. That I have taken advantage of ways to reduce my tax obligation.
- ___ 13. With the income potential my current job or career provides me.
- ___ 14. With the "extras" I am able to buy for myself and/or loved ones.
- ___ 15. With the way I keep my financial records.
- ___ 16. With how I respond emotionally to financial issues.
- ___ 17. With the working relationship I have with financial professionals (bank, brokers, accountant, insurance agent, etc.).

Hopefully these statements will help you identify those areas with the lowest scores where you need to give serious attention and get professional assistance where needed.

If you have a large number with low scores, avoid the tendency to avoid doing anything. Take the two or three that are the lowest and deal with those. It's likely that dealing with two or three on the list will help improve many other areas of your financial life.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department

Don't let Katrina devastation become focus for young kids

Q: How do I talk to my children about the incredible devastation of Hurricane Katrina?

Without meaning to, many well-meaning teachers, counselors and perhaps even a few parents have made Hurricane Katrina into a crisis for young children who were not directly affected by the storm—including children living in Kentucky, hundreds of miles from the storm center. Children need to know and care about what happened, but great care must be taken not to create a crisis in the lives of children when one does not exist.

Immediately after the hurricane, Life-Way Christian Resources made special Bible study resources available on their Web site to be used by children's teachers. While commendable, the truth is most of our children will not need to deal with emotional baggage as a result of the hurricane unless we as parents and adults project fears and concerns onto them.

Children naturally will be curious about the hurricane, especially after seeing reports and pictures on television and in newspapers and magazines. They will have awareness of the relief effort, especially if their church or school is involved in some tangible way. However, children should not be required to dwell on the hurricane by teachers, parents or friends.

Use Katrina and the events surrounding the storm to help your children be thankful for their home, their food and their clothes. Help them see the hurricane as an opportunity to share and help those in need. Try to help them avoid becoming traumatized by it.—David Garrard

Q: As a husband of one wife for 32 years, I want to advocate for more romance in the workplace. While workplace romance generally has a negative connotation, I think one should romance his or her spouse in their workplace. I have been doing this for years, and it has kept my marriage interesting and fun. Any suggestions for creative approaches?

That type of workplace romance is a terrific idea. Many couples spend a great deal of their waking time at work. To keep your marriage a priority and let your spouse know you are thinking about him or her when you are apart, romance in the workplace could be the answer.

Some ideas to consider include:

- Get on the Internet and order your spouse a small gift such as a favorite CD, DVD or book and have it sent to him or her at work.
- Surprise your spouse at work by bringing him or her a picnic lunch. This could be takeout from a favorite place.
- Write your spouse a letter or mail a postcard to him or her at work. What a fun surprise to see amid the regular work mail.
- Write a brief love note and put it in with your spouse's usual work gear so he or she can find it the next day.
- Leave your spouse a voice message at work that does not include the usual daily reporting or information exchange but instead focuses on the two of you as a couple and the relationship you cherish.
- How about making a tape or CD of some of your spouse's favorite songs and having it in the car ready to go when he or she leaves for work? That would be worth a smile.
- A more traditional approach might be to send flowers to your spouse at work (for guys too) or a nice plant with a note.

■ Be spontaneous and show up at your spouse's office at the end of the day suggesting a fun outing.

Romance in the workplace with your spouse can be fun, refreshing and stress relieving. The workplace is a great setting to remember your spouse and keep your marriage a priority.—Valerie Vincent

Family Forum writers are:

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

PARENTING



Casinos in Kentucky? Just say no—again

Earlier this year, I wrote an editorial titled, "Battling gambling: It's that time—again." Unfortunately, a mere eight months later, it's time to address that issue again ... again.

On the positive side, the legislation that prompted the earlier editorial never succeeded in reaching the floor of the 2005 Kentucky General Assembly. Perhaps Kentucky Baptists and other concerned citizens expressing their views to legislators helped derail expanded gambling proposals while still in the legislative committee process.

On the negative side, although nothing has changed in the many reasons to oppose casino gambling in Kentucky, gambling advocates continue to push their agenda every time a new legislative session rolls around. With the 2006 General Assembly just a couple of months away, it's not too early for gambling opponents to begin making their views known as well.

Pre-filed pro-gambling bills include BR 18 which calls for a constitutional amendment authorizing the state to operate casinos, BR 19 which would allow nine casinos across the commonwealth and BR 29 which would permit video lottery terminals across the state.

Gambling supporters claim there is more momentum across the state for expanded gambling than in recent years. Obviously, that is what you would expect them to say (and what they tend to say at the beginning of each legislative session), but those who oppose gambling's negative moral, social and economic impact must be prepared to mount one more fight—again.

As usual, the Kentucky Baptist Convention Public Affairs Committee, Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems, and Family Foundation of Kentucky are among organizations leading the effort to defeat casino gambling proposals.

Why? According to Kentucky League officials, it's a

matter of debunking lingering myths about gambling and presenting factual information about gambling's true social and personal costs.

A bulletin insert available at www.kentuckyleague.org cites five myths about gambling:

■ "The Bible has nothing to say about gambling." By contrast, it notes that gambling is contrary to biblical stewardship, violates a biblical work ethic and exploits the poor.

■ "Gambling is harmless family entertainment." The insert counters that gambling is considered a vice (an evil habit or immoral conduct) just as alcohol, drugs and prostitution are.

■ "Gambling is victimless." The Kentucky League information points out that studies show marital problems, work-related crimes, child neglect, suicide and bankruptcy typically increase in gambling-related settings.

■ "Gambling is a viable revenue source." Warning that gambling revenue exploits citizens least able to afford it, the insert cites a National Gambling Impact Study Commission report that found high school dropouts spend four times as much on gambling as college graduates do.

■ "Gambling does not contribute to addictions." The Kentucky League material states, "Reports show that as much as 7 percent of the population is addicted to gambling."

Why take one more stand against casino gambling in Kentucky? The issues of addiction, crime, bankruptcy, suicide and child neglect provide more than enough reasons to pick up the phone and let your voice be heard in Frankfort—again and again and again.

You can leave a message for legislators on the toll-free Legislative Message Line at (800) 372-7181 and contact Gov. Ernie Fletcher's office at (502) 564-2611. It's that time—again.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Youth ministry: a recipe for success

During a recent conference at First Baptist Church of Carrollton, I listened as Pastor Chris White and Youth Minister Jay Montgomery talked about how God is working through their church and in their community to reach students for Christ.

Jay began listing some of his top frustrations in youth ministry (and all youth workers have them). One was "curse words written on the elevator and on the curb." But he was quick to point out that in an evangelistic student ministry, such things are going to happen. We sometimes forget that lost students act lost.

Another frustration was "planning big events and no one shows up" or "they come and get pizza and Cokes and leave." He also wondered aloud how to answer the parent who wants to know "why a \$100 skateboard gets stolen" at a church event.

We have all been there. Challenges can range from police being called to our event to kids leaving the parking lot a mess and sliding out of the group as quickly as they come in.

But within this chaos, they have found a recipe for success. Most of what they do is transferable. Among their suggestions are:

Breakfast groups. For two and a half years Jay has met with students on Monday or Tuesday mornings for breakfast. Working with this group of guys, Jay said, is the "most solid

fruit I have seen." There are four high school guys one day and eight middle school guys the next. They meet for Bible study, prayer and accountability. The beauty of this is "being able to pour into and disciple them." This is a model that Jesus used, calling 12 out of the multitude and then three out of the 12, and pouring His life into them.

Bringvitations. Jay said youth workers did "no mailing for our last outreach event." They just distributed "bringvitations" to their students to give to other students. The quarter-page fliers—invitations to bring someone—listed the pertinent information about the event.

Create a climate for growth. Jay said this climate is accomplished when leaders "teach God's Word consistently and communicate it clearly." He said youth workers also can "use a hook" to attract students and then move them further along on their faith journey. At Carrollton, this is done with "strong relationships, Jones Soda, a game room and free food."

Total church involvement. Referring to the members of the church who were at the conference, Pastor White said, "Youth ministry here is over if the people here today quit." The deacons, Woman's Missionary Union members and parents are all involved in the ministry.

The church's deacon chairman

said the deacons' involvement "just kind of evolved." Now they "drive the church bus, cook at lunch with a bunch" of youth after church on Sundays. Deacons "also visit on GROW night and thank the parents for letting their student visit the church and invite them to come as well."

The WMU also is actively involved. One WMU member shared how they provided \$500 scholarships for college, provide scholarships for mission trips and provide new Christians with Bibles.

"After the students accept Christ and fill out a card, then they come to the WMU to get a Bible," she said. WMU members also pray regularly for the students.

One of the parents described how the parents have been involved. Parents provide donations for the game room, drive students home after events, serve as mentors and build relationships with students. "If your youth group worker or pastor doesn't care" about unsaved youth, he added, "get a new one."

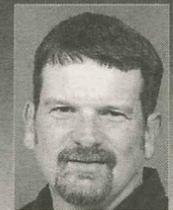
White said the entire congregation is involved in the youth ministry as church members reach "outward into niches of kids that aren't in church."

Communication is a major key, he added, making sure everyone is kept abreast of what is happening in the youth ministry.

"If your church is not behind the youth," one church leader warned, "the program will not work."

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

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

Chainsaw crew helps bear one burden for newly widowed

By David Winfrey
News Director

Slidell, La.—When Bettysue Bulkin fled her home before Hurricane Katrina, she knew she might lose her house, but she didn't plan on losing her husband.

"We thought we were just going away for a few days," said Bulkin, who traveled from Slidell, La., to the southern tip of Texas to escape Katrina.

"I didn't think I'd be burying my husband."

Bulkin's husband, Sheldon, had been fighting cancer for five years, she said.

"We thought he had more time," she said. He died during the evacuation at age 59 in a hospital in Harlingen, Texas, Mrs. Bulkin said. "I think the trip was just too hard on his heart."

When she arrived home from making arrangements at the mortuary last week, she found a truck in her driveway she hadn't expected.

Baptist volunteers from Kentucky were finishing several hours of work, cutting up three large pine trees that had fallen in her yard.

A friend or neighbor had called First Baptist Church of Slidell to request a clean-up team to help take at least one burden away.

More than 500 requests for help

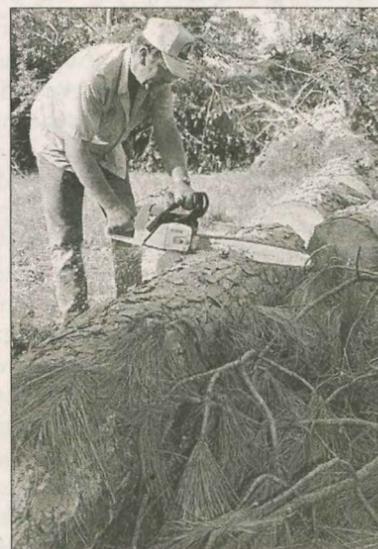
Bulkin's home was one of more than 500 that local residents had reported to First Baptist, asking for help with chainsaw cleanup for fallen trees or "mud-out" work after Hurricane Katrina.

As of last week, requests for help still were coming in, according to Kay Dean, who was logging requests and giving priority to such victims as the elderly, widows, those without insurance and those with illnesses.

Many of the needs are heart-breaking, according to volunteer coordinator Lynda Walp, a member of First Baptist Church of Slidell.

Some residents arrive on the verge of breaking down, she said. "We've tried to get psychological help when we thought it was necessary."

The work and pressures also are taking their toll on the volunteers, as the needs increase and the supply of volunteers is limited.



HOT JOB Volunteer Bud Wills was among Kentucky Baptists who labored in the heat and humidity last week to remove fallen trees from houses and yards in Slidell, La. Much cleanup work remains more than a month after Hurricane Katrina.

"I'm taking Tylenol P.M. to go to bed," Walp said.

Added Dean, "We've heard some sad tales, but we've heard some good things too."

Like last Monday, when Dean, Walp and other women taking requests for help were feeling overwhelmed. An associate pastor told them, "Ladies, we need to pray."

Shortly afterward, Kentucky Baptist George Shanks and his team

of 12 chainsaw and mud-out volunteers arrived to help.

After about four hours of work at Mrs. Bulkin's house, Shank's team was sweaty and tired from cutting up the trees and moving the limbs into a pile.

"I was supposed to be doing paperwork," said Barbara Miller, a member of Fairlane Baptist Church in Alexandria. Instead, she was sitting on the side of a pine tree trunk in 90-degree heat.

Miller, who directs the Woman's Missionary Union group at her church, noted that while many people take the training for disaster relief, not everyone who trains can respond when a tragedy occurs.

"It's a shame. They need a lot of people to do this."

Bud Wills, a member of Bethesda Community Church in Independence, operated one of the chainsaws. "I heard about the devastation on the news, and I felt like God was calling me to come down," he said.

As they packed up for the day, Mrs. Bulkin drove in and the team gathered with her in the front yard for prayer.

"We'll be back in the morning," Shanks told her.

With all that had happened, she said she still considered herself blessed because her house had some damage but was still livable.

"Thank you so much," she told volunteers. "That's one less thing to have to worry about."

PRAYER TEAM Volunteers pray with homeowner Bettysue Bulkin (second from right) after cutting up fallen trees in her back yard. (Photos by David Winfrey)



*Let us not become weary
in doing good...*

2005 Thanksgiving Offering is an important part of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's ability to take care of the abused and neglected in Kentucky.

Galatians 6:9 encourages us to not grow weary of doing good "for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

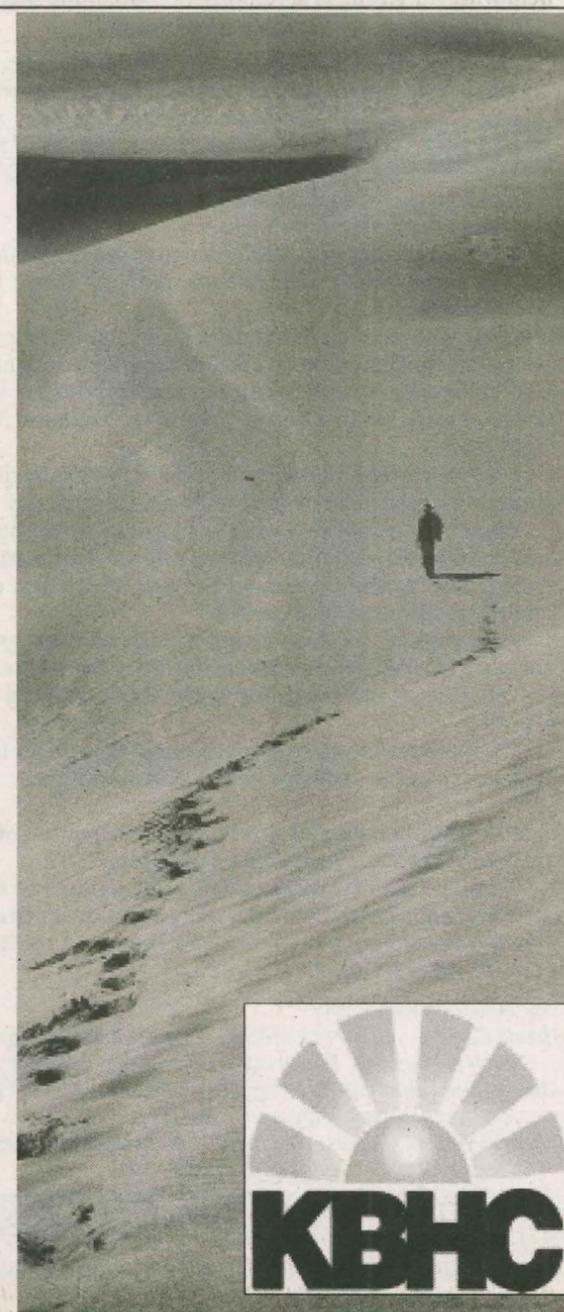
Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year the children in KBHC's care are shown the love of Christ and our prayer for their salvation and healing.

Join us. Prayerfully consider what you will give during the 2005 Thanksgiving offering at your church.

Call us. If your church has not participated in the past but would like to this year, call 245-2101 or 800-456-1386 to find out how easy it is to participate. Our speakers bureau is available to schedule a KBHC representative who will help promote your Thanksgiving offering with information about our ministry.

The children of Kentucky need us to not grow weary, but to continue the good work that began at KBHC over 135 years ago.

www.kbhc.org



Fast food, mass food

Kentucky Baptists preparing thousands of meals for Hurricane Katrina victims

By David Winfrey
News Director

Slidell, La.—Seven-thirty in the morning might sound a little early to start cooking lunch, but not if you have to make more than 5,000 meals and drive for hours to deliver them.

That's the situation facing the Kentucky Baptist feeding team working in Slidell, La., this week.

Volunteers also begin cooking supper at noon in order to get hot meals out to the neighborhoods of Hurricane Katrina victims, many of whom are cleaning up their houses, sometimes without the benefit of electricity or clean water.

"The day goes by real fast," volunteer Wendell Bowen said while watching three convection ovens full of precooked, frozen chicken strips.

The team of 30 Kentucky Baptists were cooking about 10,000 meals per day (lunch and supper), by the end of last week, with officials unsure how long the kitchen would be needed.

Kentucky Baptists have three mobile kitchens available to coordinate with the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Another one was dispatched last week to Kinder, La., to help with Hurricane Rita response.

NAMB has a cooperative agreement with the American Red Cross to cook meals during disasters.

The Red Cross, which provides the raw ingredients, takes the meals out to shelters and neighborhoods. In Slidell last week, blocked roads and clogged traffic from returning evacuees resulted in Red Cross volunteers driving for hours just to deliver food a few miles.

Baptists also often operate feeding lines at the kitchen location for whoever shows up.

That was the situation in Slidell, where a New Mexico cooking team was preparing the same menu alongside the Kentucky kitchen. Volunteers filled to-go containers from the New Mexico kitchen and handed them to motorists in a makeshift drive-through lane, where they also were offered ice, bottled water and other foods.

| Day | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner |
|------|-----------|-------|--------|
| 9/27 | ... | ... | ... |
| 9/28 | ... | ... | ... |
| 9/29 | ... | ... | ... |
| 9/30 | ... | ... | ... |
| 10/1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 10/2 | ... | ... | ... |
| 10/3 | ... | ... | ... |

DAILY MENU A calendar shows what meals will be cooked and served. When Baptist kitchens cook for the Red Cross, they have an agreement that ingredients will be waiting for them at the disaster site, according to kitchen leader James Clayton. "There's supposed to be 10,000 meals on site when we arrive."

"We can't make them fast enough," said Sherrie Bolner, a member of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, who spooned butterscotch pudding into Styrofoam boxes.

"I've been standing here for three days," she said, adding that there's no break in the line from the time volunteers begin serving lunch at 11:30 a.m. until they stop handing out suppers in the evening.

"We served till dark last night," she said. "I don't care how tired you are, you've got to keep going. People are hungry."

Physical, emotional strain

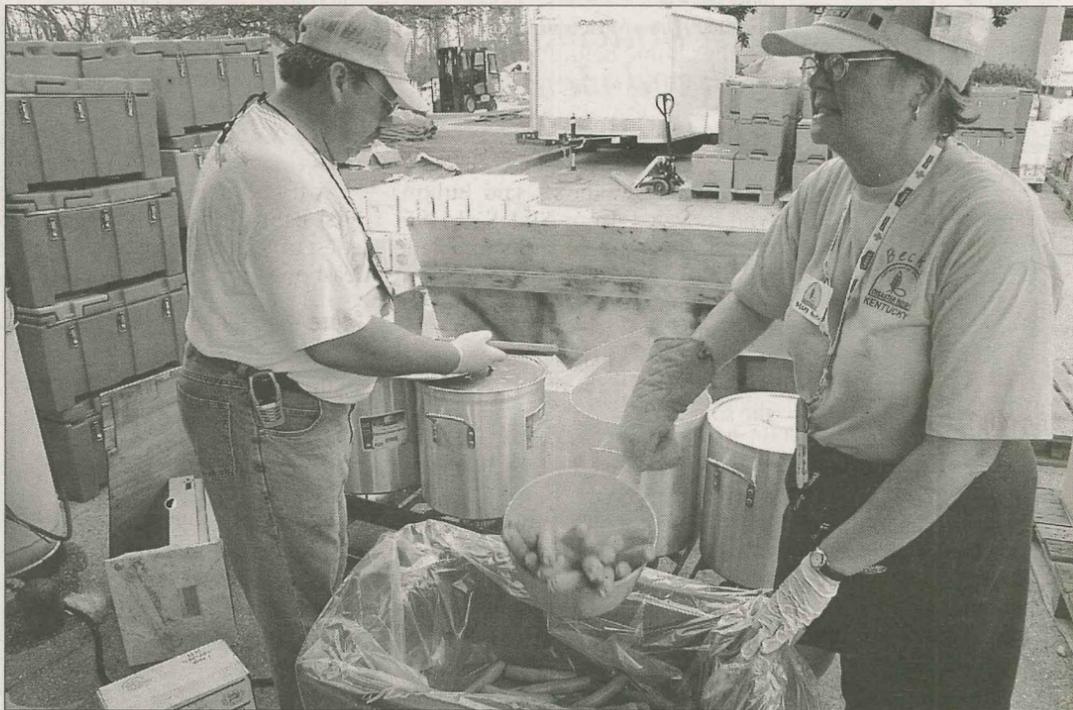
Because of the physical and emotional strain of working in a disaster area, officials don't want volunteers working more than three weeks at a job site, according to Larry Moore, the Red Cross kitchen manager in Slidell.

Moore, a retired Social Security field officer from Mansfield, Ohio, admitted he, too, was beginning to feel the burden of the surrounding devastation.

"After two weeks, the emotions come to the surface more," he said, pausing to collect himself. "I'm not like this back home."

Moore praised the work of the Baptist kitchens.

"The Red Cross could not feed the number of people we feed without the assistance of Southern Baptists," he said.



HOT DOGS Dan Hays, (above left), a member of Saloma Baptist Church in Campbellsville, and Becky Houston (right), a member of Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville, scoop hot dogs into a container. Volunteers make sure the food is cooked to 180 degrees to kill bacteria, and the insulated containers are rated to keep the food warm for more than five hours. (Photos by David Winfrey)

"They're very hard workers," he added. "They know what they're doing and they get busy doing it."

Moore and others coordinate with the kitchens each night what they will need for the next day, according to Glenda Rogers, a member of First Baptist Church of Kuttawa. "They give us a number (of meals needed) every night based on what's going on in the community."

Kitchen volunteers must keep track of what's in stock. Food arrives in refrigerated trucks that are left in the parking lot near the kitchen. Power generators create a constant sound throughout the area.

Each meal consists of a meat, a mixture of vegetables, bread and a dessert or fruit.

"You try to keep the meals as simple as you can, and yet keep it a good meal," said Charlie Simmons, a former director of missions in Mayfield.

Recipients consistently express thanks for the workers, Rogers said. She recalled a man who recently stopped by to say he had lost everything and had no money because it was the end of the month.

"He said, 'If you people hadn't been here, I wouldn't have had anything to eat,'" she recalled.

"It's just rewarding to know you got somebody through another day."



MEALS TO GO Red Cross volunteers place insulated food containers into an "emergency response vehicle" to transport them to shelters and neighborhoods. Each container holds 150-200 servings, depending on size.

Cleanliness is next to ...



Mobile kitchens might be considered roughing it, especially in disaster areas, but that doesn't mean volunteers skimp on hygiene. Each cooking utensil and container gets a thorough three-stage washing, with separate containers for hot-water washing, rinsing and a second rinse with a mild bleach solution to kill bacteria.



NON-STOP FEEDING Volunteers prepare and distribute food at First Baptist Church of Slidell, where two Baptist kitchens are set up for Hurricane Katrina relief. The Kentucky kitchen is preparing meals for the American Red Cross to distribute. The New Mexico kitchen is preparing meals for volunteers and residents who drive to the church for food and other supplies. ■ Left: Sherrie Bolner (second from left) scoops pudding into to-go containers. "It's hard work," she said. Volunteers were handing out more than 3,000 meals per day at the church at the end of last week. ■ Right: Michael Hallmark of Georgia hands bottled water to a local resident.



Disaster relief training offered

Training is required for volunteers who want to work on a Kentucky Baptist Convention disaster relief team.

Three-hour training sessions will be held at the following locations:

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

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

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

■ **Pineville**, Oct. 11, 6 p.m., at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, (606) 337-3196.

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

■ **Winchester**, Oct. 15 at Central Baptist Church, (859) 744-4328.

■ **Erlanger**, Oct. 20 at Erlanger Baptist Church, (859) 441-8884 or 653-7609.

Registration costs \$15. For more information, visit www.kybaptist.org/dr.

'It's just overwhelming'

Ky. volunteers get firsthand view of Katrina's fury

David Winfrey
News Director

Biloxi, Miss.—After several hours of cleaning a house that was flooded with mud and water by Hurricane Katrina, the team of 12 volunteers was ready for a break.

But their stroll through the neighborhood was not completely refreshing. The sight of houses leveled by the storm can be emotionally draining.

On a street by an inlet that rose substantially in the hurricane's storm surge, as team members took a walk, they kept pointing and remarking at house after house that was destroyed by the Aug. 28 storm.

The winds and flooding appeared to select homes randomly, leaving some structures standing next to others that were completely annihilated.

In the middle of a stand of pine trees, a sailboat sat on splintered lumber, several hundred yards from the water. Looking closer, one could see the top of a large SUV that was buried under the debris.

Nearby, 16 white concrete pillars stood as a monument to a house that previously stood by the water, but now was completely gone.

"It's just overwhelming, really," said Jerry Schooling, a member of Forest Park Community Church near Louisville.

"It's a life-changing experience,



WALKING TOUR Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers look at destroyed homes in Biloxi, Miss., while taking a break from cleaning mud from a flood-damaged house. (Photos by David Winfrey)

that's for sure," he added. "I guess that's why we're supposed to keep our treasures in heaven."

Schooling's wife, Kay Thompson, said she didn't know what to expect when she arrived. "When you see it on TV, you just don't realize the whole picture."

Several volunteers said television doesn't communicate the wide area, from New Orleans to Biloxi, damaged by this hurricane.

Eddie Smith, a member of Jeffersonstown Baptist Church near Louisville, said he's often seen the "thousand-yard stare" from victims over-

whelmed by the loss of their home and belongings.

"It further fortifies for me the fact that all this can be gone in a minute," he said. "If you put your faith in the objects of this world, ... that's the wrong place to put your focus."

A church wonders about future

At First Baptist Church of Biloxi, Pastor Chip Stevens has seen a mixed blessing, as ministry is performed from the church's parking lot and leaders wonder how many members will return to the community.

Outside, a cooking team from Mississippi prepared meals for the American Red Cross to deliver. At a nearby tent, a Baptist medical team from Florida administered tetanus shots and other minor medical assistance to anyone seeking it.

Inside, the church office took calls for those seeking chainsaw assistance to clean fallen trees from yards or "mud-out" help removing debris, water and ruined belongings from flood-damaged homes.

"It's a great testimony to the body of Christ," Stevens said. "Hopefully, it shows the community the love of Christ and the concern of the church for the people, desiring to minister to their needs."

At the same time, the church it-

self doesn't know how many members will return. Already, several older members and even some leaders in the church have returned to Biloxi, discovered that they had lost everything and decided to move to another part of the United States to be closer to family, he said.

And yet, the spirit of those who do come to church has been even more impressive, Stevens added.

"The worship has been better than it's ever been," he said, adding that the Hurricane has taken away all the routine gestures associated with the church service.

"People come because they want to come. Now people come in here because they really need it. They're searching," he added.

After worship, members don't want to leave, enjoying the Christian community of support, he added. "They hang around."

Sherri Bolner, a volunteer from Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, said she experienced culture shock when she arrived.

"I had no clue what I was getting myself into," she said, adding that she pushes herself to stay active working instead of focusing on the pain and sorrows.

"Sitting down and crying isn't going to help anybody, is it?" she said. "Maybe I'll do that on the way home."



TOOTHPICKS "Hurricane Katrina will be remembered as the worst natural disaster in our nation's history," Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco told a congressional committee last week.

LifeWay
CHURCH BUSES



20' to 40' Models, New & Used

- 80 Buses in Stock
- 15-46 Passenger
- Trade-Ins Welcome
- We understand the Church's unique needs

Buses are provided for LifeWay by

Carpenter
BUS SALES
Since 1953

Contact us today for friendly, helpful service

1-800-370-6180 • carpenterbus.com

"America's #1 Church Bus Dealer"

It's an exciting time to be a Kentucky Baptist!
Don't miss this year's special emphasis on
strengthening every church!

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION Annual Meeting

2005

November 15-16

Frankfort Convention Center

405 Mero Street Frankfort, Kentucky

The Frankfort Convention Center is 5 miles from Interstate 64 and 1 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

Session Schedule

Tuesday morning 8:20-Noon

Tuesday afternoon 1:30-4:35 p.m.

Tuesday evening 6:45-9 p.m.

Wednesday morning 8:35 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Tuesday Features

- Re-Creations Drama Team.
- Dynamic prayer times.
- Reports about ministry in action.
- An exhibit hall for mingling with friends.
- Relevant messages from KBC President **Hershael York**, pastor of Buck Creek Baptist Church, Frankfort; **Bill Henard**, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington; and **Jason Pettus**, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- Time of baptism.
- Special video on the dangers of expanding gambling in Kentucky.

Along with times to take care of business like... Officer elections, setting the CP budget goals and more!



RE-CREATIONS DRAMA TEAM

Pastors!

Don't miss this year's
Pastor's Conference
Monday, November 14

Two sessions:
1-4 p.m. and 6:15-9:30 p.m.

Speakers include:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Bob Pitman | Kevin Ezell |
| Russell Moore | Thurmond Coleman |
| Paul Chitwood | Bobby Welch |

Extended teaching care for a limited number of preschoolers and children (ages 6 weeks-5th grade) will be available during the sessions of the Pastors Conference and Annual Meeting. Parents must register in advance for this service by calling **Wendy Dever** at 502-489-3575 or 866-489-3575 (toll free in Kentucky).

Wednesday – Don't miss these exciting seminars!



RICHARD BLACKABY

"Spiritual Preparation for Connecting People to Christ."



REGGIE MCNEAL

"Connecting Future Generations to Jesus Christ."

ART MURPHY

"Taking Your Children's Ministry to the Next Level."



For detailed information, visit www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting

FEMA offers to repay churches for housing hurricane evacuees

"Volunteer labor is just that: volunteer. We would never ask for the government to pay for it."

Robert Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board

Washington—The Federal Emergency Management Agency has announced plans to reimburse religious groups that have provided relief to victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

While some observers describe the move as a new step in the White House's faith-based initiative, others are expressing concern over church-state separation issues.

Butch Kinerney, a spokesman for FEMA, said the government will reimburse sheltering expenses of private nonprofit organizations if they made an agreement with county or state government officials to house evacuees.

"We want to make sure that every group, religious or nonreligious, which opens its doors and opens its arms to shelter evacuees from this storm are able to get compensated for their generosity," Kinerney said in an interview with the Washington Post.

Robert Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, told the Post that Southern Baptists' disaster relief response is not contingent on government reimbursement.

"Volunteer labor is just that: volunteer," he emphasized. "We would never ask for the government to pay for it."

Reccord told Fox News, however, that "no faith organization should be penalized in a reverse discrimination situation for stepping in and helping what the government needs to have done."

Barry Lynn, executive director of the Washington-based Americans United for Separation of Church and State, issued a statement protesting FEMA's plans.

"Before millions of taxpayer dollars are turned over to churches, there must be strict accountability provisions and safeguards to protect the civil and religious liberty rights of those who need help," Lynn said.

But Robert Tuttle, a law professor at George Washington University Law School, called the reported plans "entirely an extension of the faith-based initiative."

"There's nothing that's particularly constitutionally troubling about it as long as the government is treating religious providers no different from others in that same circumstance," he said.

Tuttle, who also serves as an analyst with the Albany, N.Y.-based Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy, noted that it is unusual for individual houses of worship to be reimbursed by the government, but there is precedent for FEMA funding for religious buildings.

In 2002, President Bush ordered FEMA to change its policies so religious nonprofits could qualify for emergency relief after a natural disaster. After the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, Congress passed legislation that permitted grants to houses of worship that were damaged at that time.

The Post first reported FEMA's plan Sept. 27, noting that the program would be the first "large-scale" effort to reimburse churches involved in recovery from a natural disaster.

The funds would only be available to houses of worship that established shelters, food-distribution centers or medical clinics at the request of state or local officials, FEMA said. And only churches in the three states most affected by Katrina—Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama—would be eligible.

But for churches in those circumstances, "a wide range of costs would be available for reimbursement, including labor costs incurred in excess of normal operations, rent for the facility and delivery of essential needs like food and water," Kinerney said.

Churches routinely house evacuees or the homeless in the initial days following a natural disaster, but then turn them over to long-term Red Cross facilities soon afterward. But FEMA and the Red Cross have been stretched to the limit by two years of repeated major hurricane strikes on American shores.

Based on reporting by Religion News Service, Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press

Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

"I liked this trip so much...we're going back!"

On July 18, 2006 join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Pastor Roy Meyers on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available for those in the group who wish to participate. Pastor Meyers served for 43 years as pastor of several churches in Mississippi. Currently he is semi retired and serves as interim pastor at Double Springs Baptist Church in Starkville, Mississippi. Pastor Meyers and his wife Syble took this same trip in June of 2005 serving as Your Man Tours' Baptist Hosts. They look forward to returning next year as hosts for our Baptist group visiting the land of the midnight sun during some of summer's longer daylight hours. Your group will fly into Seattle for a night before a scenic motor coach drive to Vancouver where you'll board the five-star ms Volendam. **Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested-island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay.** After the cruise you'll start a six-night motor coach tour with daily escorted sightseeing visiting British Columbia; the Cascade Mountains; Washington; the Grand Coulee Dam; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Montana; Yellowstone (Old Faithful) and Grand Teton National Parks; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Idaho Falls, Idaho; and in Utah: the Great Salt Lake, Mormon Tabernacle, and more. You'll fly home after a night in Salt Lake City. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$1998 (per person, double occupancy), including, port charges and taxes, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, the 7-day deluxe Alaska cruise, 7 nights in quality hotels, and baggage handling. Add \$500 airfare from Lexington, Louisville, Evansville, Nashville or Knoxville..

\$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For information, reservations, brochure, and Rev. Meyers' letter call:

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

Providing carefree vacations since 1967!

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

Visit **WESTERNRECORDER.org**
for stories, advertising, news tips and more
PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Bush administration asks high court to review abortion case

Washington (BP)—The Bush administration is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to take up the issue of partial-birth abortion, providing an opportunity for observers to know within a year where the two newest members of the court stand on the issue.

The Justice Department filed the appeal Sept. 23, arguing that lower courts erred when they overturned the 2003 federal ban on partial-birth abortion, which President Bush signed into law. Abortion rights groups quickly prevented the law from taking effect by suing in federal court.

The high court considered a partial-birth abortion case in 2000 (Stenberg v. Carhart), striking down a Nebraska law that had banned the procedure. In that 5-4 ruling, the court said partial-birth abortion could only be banned if there was an exception for the health of the mother. Abortion opponents insist such an exception would leave a huge loophole and make any ban worthless. The 2003 law does include an exception for the life of the mother.

The Justice Department's appeal comes after a decision by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals striking down the 2003 law. The appeals court's decision affirmed a lower court's ruling.

United States Postal Service
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: Western Recorder
2. Publication Number: 6792-389
3. Filing Date: 9/27/05
4. Issue Frequency: Weekly except 7/4/2006 & 12/27/2005
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 50
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$10.00 & \$12.50
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer): 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, Louisville, KY 40223
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, Louisville, KY 40223
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
Publisher: Triennis Henderson, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, Louisville, KY 40223
Editor: David Winfrey, News Director, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, Louisville, KY 40223
Managing Editor: Janet McIntosh, Mktg and Business Mgr, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, Louisville, KY 40223
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a corporation, give its name and address.)
Kentucky Baptist Convocation, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, Louisville, KY 40223
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box.
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
X Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)
PS Form 3526, October 1999 (See Instructions on Reverse)

13. Publication Title: Western Recorder
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 09/27/2005

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation
Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date

| | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run) | 33,896 | 32,620 |
| b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation | | |
| (1) Paid in Advance (Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)) | 30,932 | 29,789 |
| (2) Paid in Advance (Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)) | | |
| (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution | | |
| (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS | | |
| c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)) | 30,932 | 29,789 |
| d. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means) | | |
| (1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541 | 2,764 | 2,631 |
| (2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541 | | |
| (3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS | | |
| e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means) | 100 | 100 |
| f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e) | 2,864 | 2,731 |
| g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f) | 33,796 | 32,520 |
| h. Copies not Distributed | 100 | 100 |
| i. Total (Sum of 15g and h.) | 33,896 | 32,620 |
| j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15g times 100) | 92% | 92% |

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
Publication required: Yes, I printed in the October 4, 2005 issue of this publication. Publication not required.
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: [Signature] Marketing & Business Manager 09/27/2005

18. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Instructions to Publishers
1. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
4. Item 15h, Copies not Distributed, must include (1) requested copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3) copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.
5. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
6. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
7. Item 17 must be signed.
Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.
PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)

Land urges stronger focus on religion in U.S. foreign policy

Houston (BP)—Religious persecution is increasing around the world while, ironically, Americans' sensitivity to and understanding of religious liberty is declining, according to Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Land, a member of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, spoke at Rice University's inaugural conference on religious tolerance Sept. 21.

"There is a religious dimension to every conflict in the world," Land said. He added that ethnic and religious strife is growing and replacing power or economics as primary motivators behind wars and terrorist attacks.

"Future (American) leaders must take religion seriously," he said. "Otherwise, foreign policies will fall short. Our leaders must factor religion into domestic and foreign policies" if America hopes to continue to have an impact on peace and freedom around the world.

"Religion is not the only way, or even the key factor, in explaining conflicts. Societies are complex," he added. "But we can't understand global conflicts without understanding religion, especially in areas where the great faiths intersect" such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel and the Palestinians, and Pakistan and India.

"Religious beliefs are powerful motivators," Land said. "It motivates and inspires human behavior even to the point of death."

Land appeared with Michael Cromartie, vice president at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, and senior advisor to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life in Washington, D.C. Cromartie is chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The need to account for religion in formulating U.S. foreign policy "is precisely why the International Religious Freedom Act was enacted by Congress in 1998," Cromartie said.

"IRFA promotes respect for every person to have freedom to believe or not to believe, as they want," he explained. "It articulates policy positions, which include the condemnation of violations of religious freedom, and calling for the American government to stand with abused and persecuted people around the world, regardless of their faith."

Tsunami survivors still seek help and hope

Colombo, Sri Lanka (BP)—The tsunami that roared ashore last Dec. 26 invaded the lives of millions of south Asians—stealing loved ones, scarring hearts, destroying homes and communities.

Nine months later, the television cameras are gone, but the hurt isn't. Empty arms and miles of rubble linger to keep the pain fresh.

"Every morning they wake up to that reminder," said Ned Thaxton (name changed for security reasons), a volunteer working in tsunami relief through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Governments, relief agencies and local residents have been working steadily ever since the tsunami hit, but the cleanup task alone remains daunting.

Yet some Sri Lankan tsunami survivors have captured a glimmer of renewed hope as they get back to work and move into new houses. Southern Baptists have something to do with that: To date, they've contributed more than \$16.6 million in tsunami aid through the IMB's disaster relief fund. Several missionaries temporarily relocated to affected areas and hundreds of short-term volunteers have joined them to help rebuild the area and minister to the hurting.

Still, only a small percentage of the south Asians who lost homes in the tsunami have new ones. Many survivors remain in tents pitched in camps for displaced persons, huddle between buildings in business districts or sleep amid the rubble of what once were their homes.

"The very first family we talked to was telling us that we were the

first people to come there to even ask them anything," said Bobbie Caldwell, a Southern Baptist volunteer from South Carolina. "They've been through so much, and they have two families—10 people—living in one of these little row houses."

Caldwell, an IMB trustee, joined other South Carolina volunteers as they surveyed needs and ministered in other ways in Sri Lanka.

"It is just overwhelming," she said. "I cannot imagine the force of the water coming in—and the fear."

Fear plagues survivors

It is fear that still plagues tsunami survivors more than lack of jobs or inadequate housing.

"Yesterday, two helicopters (were) going (over), and I feel disaster," said Priyani, a Sri Lankan woman. "I am always very scared when I hear the sound."

It reminds her of the choppers that flew over in the terror-filled days after the big wave hit, searching for the living and the dead.

Many south Asians share her fear. Occasional tsunami warnings send people scampering for higher ground.

While on temporary assignment in a tsunami-affected area, IMB missionary physician Doris Austen developed a brochure for local people called "Fear and the Future." It explains what causes tsunamis and how specialists predict them.

"Scientists try to estimate the risk of an earthquake," the brochure states. "But no one can say exactly when and where an earthquake will occur. So, if someone on the street tells you that an earthquake and a

tsunami are coming ... next week or next month, they don't know what they are talking about! It is wrong to cause panic by telling others something that is not true."

Fear is difficult to snuff out of hearts and minds that have yet to heal, however. And healing will take much longer than cleaning up debris and rebuilding houses—especially for those who remain reluctant to talk about the deep pain their loss has brought.

Babynona, 58, lost her husband and two children when the tsunami hit Sri Lanka's western coast. When Tennessee Baptist volunteers approached her temporary wooden house, Babynona answered all their practical questions about housing and income. When the questions moved to a more personal level, however, only tears came.

"She says she cannot talk about it," a translator explained to the volunteers.

It will take many more months and even years, but new houses eventually will replace the destroyed ones. Businesses will be rebuilt and new ones started. As for south Asian hearts, the pain may one day subside, but the scars always will be there.

"I don't think it is coincidence that for the last year or more the International Mission Board has put a special emphasis on south Asia," Caldwell said. "I don't think it's a coincidence that South Carolina Baptists entered into a three-year partnership with south Asia. And then what happens? A tsunami comes. God threw the hinges off the door for us."

Sharing the gospel crockpot-style

'Spiritual Emphasis Weeks' present opportunity for personal commitment

By Michael Spencer
Assistant to the President

This is the first year that Oneida has been entirely responsible for what we traditionally have called "revivals."

Since Oneida is an evangelistic and educational mission, not a church, we recently renamed these weeks "Spiritual Emphasis Weeks." Our fall spiritual emphasis is called "Proclamation Week," and the focus is on explaining the gospel to our students. Our spring emphasis is "Commitment Week," and the theme is making a personal response to the gospel.

"Proclamation Week" begins with training counselors to have conversations with our students about Jesus. We use a presentation called "Two Ways to Live" that gives an excellent overview of the good news of Jesus Christ from the Bible. More than 20 Oneida staff now are trained in using this presentation.

Doug Williams, pastor of Bullitt Lick Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, was our speaker for this spiritual emphasis. With a background in youth ministry and a creative edge to his messages, Doug did a superb job of explaining the biblical gospel. Ray Hagen and "Surrendering Isaac," a musical ministry from the Manchester community, led our musical worship and were excellent.

For years, students were required to attend revivals, but today they may choose whether or not they attend evangelistic events. Our staff is good at giving creative incentives for attendance, and we had excellent crowds every night. W.F.

required chapel and Sunday worship, it is good to see how many students choose to hear the Bible preached when they could do something else.

Our philosophy of evangelism is more "crockpot" than "microwave." We patiently teach the gospel. We respect the personal beliefs of our students. We do not ridicule or manipulate. Depending on the Holy Spirit, the Word of God and prayer are essential. When I see students respond, I know our counselors are taking the same patient approach.

What is the fruit of these kinds of meetings? Some evenings see public decisions; some do not. Students can come at the invitation or go to a counseling area after the service. Arrangements for baptism are made in cooperation with Oneida Baptist Church.

There is, however, another side to what we do. We recently heard from one of our Asian graduates. For the years he was with us, he showed no personal response to the gospel at all. Now, however, in his first year at college, he has sent word that he believes the Bible is from God and he is attending church to hear it taught. God is drawing that young man to Himself—in His timetable and on His schedule.

We rejoice that our ministry is centered on Christ, but we do not force Him on those who do not want Him. Our goal is to make Christ beautiful in word and deed, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will bring to Him those who have seen that beauty and want to see it in this life and the next. Pray for our April Spiritual Emphasis Week when Steve McCoy will be our speaker.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Knowing Him is enough

Middlesboro student prepares for missions

"This doesn't make sense, Lord. I'm not a man, I'm not a preacher, and I'm not a Baptist."

That was Kelly Wilder's response as she faced the decision to attend Clear Creek. "God told me to go," Kelly said. "If I didn't follow Him in this step, I realized I wouldn't know His will in other things."

Now in her fourth year, Kelly discovers repeated confirmation of God's direction. She responded to her youth minister's challenge and made a list of goals she would pursue if she had unlimited resources.

"God told me that in Him I do have unlimited resources," Kelly recalled. "Last year in Russia I saw orphanage children without shoes or shoes in horrible condition. We went to a market and bought shoes and socks for each child. As I knelt and put them on the children, I remembered writing on the list that I wanted to go to a foreign country and buy shoes for an entire people group. That orphanage was an entire people group!"

Does Kelly face any special stress attending a Baptist Bible college, and not being a Baptist?

"It's just that I'm not a member of a Baptist church," she said. "There are a few minor things we differ on that doesn't have anything to do with our salvation." She is an active member of Faith Temple Church between Middlesboro and Pineville.

Mission trips have taken Kelly to Russia, Belarus, Haiti and Alaska. Her Haiti experience revealed the next step in preparation: "The Lord directed me to get a nursing degree, after Clear Creek, so I can be a medical missionary." In Haiti she was instrumental in leading 37 children to faith in Jesus.

"My mission work has brought me closer to God, having to rely on Him for everything," Kelly said. He keeps surprising her. A church member recently presented her with the funds for another trip to Haiti and to build two small family cottages.

"On most trips I didn't know anybody. God was the only One I knew going on the trip," Kelly said. "But that was enough."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Pain & ministry



CRUSHED A two-story house sits collapsed on a truck and other belongings in a Biloxi, Miss., neighborhood. (Photos by David Winfrey)



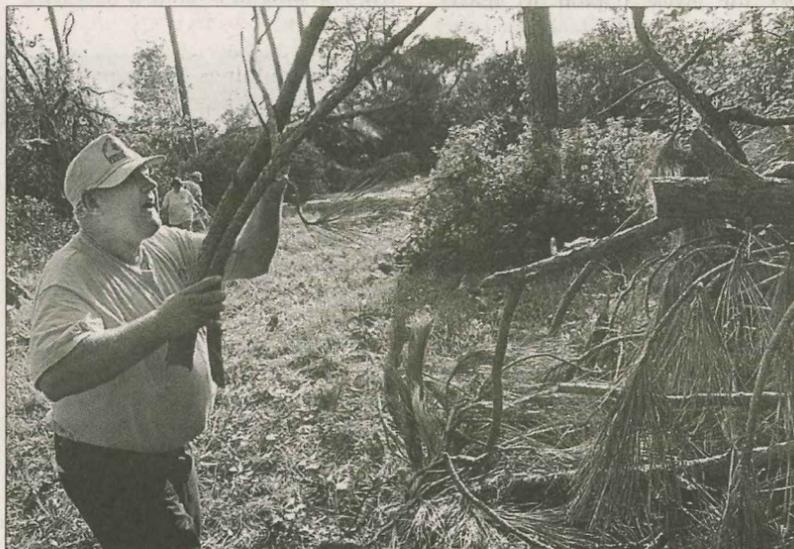
VIEWING RESULTS Crew chief Bob Perkins, a member of Jeffersontown Baptist Church near Louisville, looks at the damaged remains of his "mud-out" team pulled from a flooded house in Biloxi, Miss.



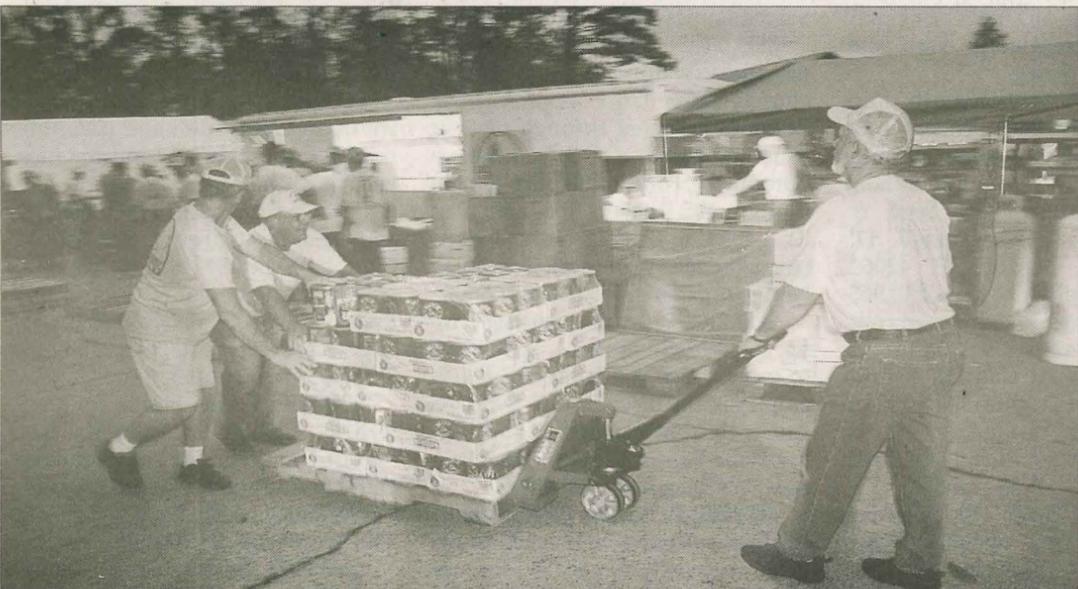
WARNING A sign warns people at First Baptist Church of Slidell, La., to avoid the debris that was pulled from the church's sanctuary and education rooms. Flooding reached at least 4 feet high in the sanctuary.



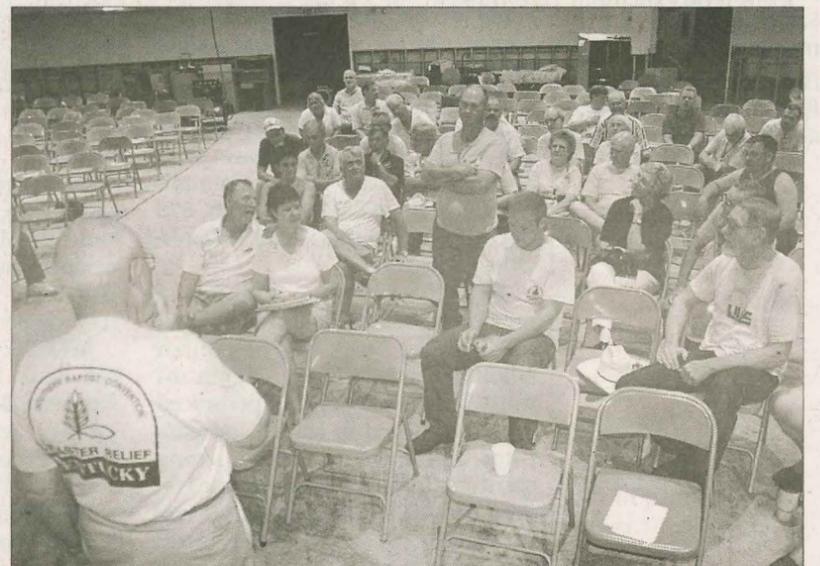
CHICKEN DINNER Jerry Houston, a member of Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville, pulls another tray of frozen, cooked chicken strips to be reheated, and Brenda Vedelli, a member of Tyrone Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg, pours barbecue sauce over the heated strips. Volunteers seek to provide simple, but flavorful meals.



CLEANUP Allan Miller, a member of Fairlane Baptist Church in Alexandria, stacks limbs at a house where his team was clearing three large pine trees that fell from Hurricane Katrina winds. As of last week, First Baptist Church of Slidell, La., alone had more than 500 requests for help with chainsaw cleanup and "mud-out" work.



MOVING INGREDIENTS Howard Ping (left) of Somerset, John Farley (center) and Doug Fritz of Ferguson move cans of beans to be cooked in the early morning. Volunteers in Slidell, La., last week started cooking lunch as early as 7:30 a.m. so Red Cross volunteers could deliver it by lunch time.



DEBRIEFING Kentucky volunteers in Slidell, La., share stories and information at a nightly debriefing session. The evening talks, which include a devotional, help volunteers cope with the pressures and tragedies they see, share the blessings they experience and remind each other of why they volunteered for disaster relief work.

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Shelly Johns

The TV game show, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?", made the phrase "That's my final answer" very popular. The contestant, only after stating the answer, would be asked by the host, "Is that your final answer?" With the final answer, much could be gained or all of the money in the contestant's "bank" could be lost.

Jesus asked many questions when He walked this earth. Yet He provides all the answers for those who receive Him.

In Matthew 22: 41-42, Jesus asked the Pharisees, "What do you think about the Christ?" In Mark 8:27, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say I am?" A couple of verses down, He got more personal and asked, "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ..."

If you were standing before God (and one day you will be), how would you answer? Remember, eternal life with God or without Him is at stake. Be certain of your final answer today. Simply trust Christ and sincerely pray:

"Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I invite you, now, to come into my heart and life. I want to trust You as my Savior and follow You as Lord of my life. In Jesus' name, amen."

Remember, "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, my Savior and Lord. That's my final answer!"

Shelly Johns is the Kentucky Baptist Convention's women's ministry/senior adult associate

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **AURORA**—Ferguson Springs Church will host its annual Heritage Day Oct. 9 at the church's original location in the Land Between the Lakes. Activities will include dinner on the grounds and an afternoon gospel music program featuring **The Messengers**. **James Keeling** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host **The Manna Quartet** in concert Oct. 30, 6 p.m. Activities will begin with a 5 p.m. potluck meal.

■ **CORBIN**—Immanuel Church will host the "Grace for the Race" men's conference Oct. 21-22 led by **Johnny Hunt**. For more information, call (606) 528-4975 or visit www.ibccorbin.com. **Terry Williams** is pastor.

■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—First Church will host a Marriage and Family Conference Oct. 15-16 featuring **Danny Akin**, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. For more information, call (606) 843-6211.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Youngers Creek Church ordained **Don Fox** as a deacon Sept. 25.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Farmdale Church called **Frank Farley Jr.** as senior pastor Sept. 18.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church hosted a benefit and worship service for hurricane victims Sept. 18. The concert, which featured Christian vocalist **Larnelle Harris**, raised more than \$13,000 for relief

efforts. **Bob DeFoor** is pastor.

■ **HICKMAN**—East Hickman Church will celebrate homecoming Oct. 9 with former pastor **Larry Purcell** as guest speaker.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Nolynn Church recently honored **Charles Edward Fultz** for 55 years of Sunday school perfect attendance at Nolynn. **Dan Flanagan** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Concord Church will hold revival services Oct. 22-25, 6:30 p.m., with **Morris Anderson** as evangelist.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Boone's Creek Church ordained **Ron Thomas** as a deacon Oct. 2. **Matt Perry** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Highland Church ordained **Lori Friestrom** to the gospel ministry Sept. 25. **Joe Phelps** is pastor.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—First Church ordained **Beecher McCarty** to the gospel ministry Sept. 18. **Floyd Price** is pastor.

■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—Friendship Church will hold revival services Oct. 17-21, 6 p.m., with **Ronnie Hampton** as evangelist.

■ **SMITHFIELD**—Smithfield Church recently called **Matt Marstaller** as minister to youth. He formerly served at Second Church of Houston.

■ **WALTON**—New Banklick Church recently celebrated homecoming and recognized **Marie Schadler** for being a member of New Banklick for 75 years.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

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

Campbellsville receives \$750,000 grant

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University recently was awarded a \$750,000 grant to fund construction of the university's School of Nursing.

The gift from the Richard D. Van Lunen Foundation is the second largest foundation grant in the school's history.

Foundation trustee Jim Ellis presented the first \$250,000 of the grant to Campbellsville President Michael Carter. The foundation supports primary and secondary Christian higher education and ministry organizations.

Campbellsville broke ground on the School of Nursing building June

10 and the Kentucky Board of Nursing officially approved the program June 16.

The 7,160-square-foot facility, scheduled to be completed this fall, will house offices, a lab and classrooms. Prerequisite classes for the nursing program will begin in the 2006 spring semester and nursing classes will begin in fall 2006.

The latest grant brings the Van Lunen Foundation's contributions to Campbellsville University to more than \$1 million. The foundation previously awarded the school a \$300,000 grant to establish the Summer Educational Experience program.

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.

BOOKS: We buy quality used Christian books. Christian Book Nook, 2116 South Preston St., Louisville, Ky. (502) 637-8881.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Jackson, Ky. Please send resumés, tapes/videos to: Pastor Search Committee, c/o Beth D. Lemons, 2205 Bays St., Jackson, KY 41339.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/associate pastor to lead blended worship service. Submit resumé w/cover to: Mike Powell, Gano Baptist Church, 113 N Bold Forbes Blvd., Georgetown, KY 40324.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for country church with approximately 150 active members. Please send resumés to: Pastor Search Committee, Good Hope Baptist Church, 678 Good Hope Church Road, Adamsville, TN 38310.

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 resumés to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee; or e-mail to ferncreekbaptist@bellsouth.net. Resumés will be received through Oct. 31. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Tusculum Hills Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn. Accepting resumés through Nov. 1; please mail to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 3056, Brentwood, TN 37027, Attn: Michael Fann.

SEEKING: Senior pastor. FBC Forsyth, Mo., is prayerfully seeking a pastor to lead our growing church which is located in the fast-growing Branson area. Our services are contemporary and our doctrine is conservative. Our 3-year-old facilities are debt-free with 60-plus acres upon which to expand. We need a great leader/communicator who can lead us to reach more people for Jesus. Candidates should send a resumé to: FBC Search Team, PO Box 74, Forsyth, MO 65653; or e-mail barbara@fbc-forsyth.org. Web site: www.fbc-forsyth.org.

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

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: 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@courierex.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SERVICES: Christian long distance at 3.9¢/minute (24/7); no monthly service charge. Toll-free: (866) 587-8346 or www.covenantphoneservice.com.

'We're still a church'

New Orleans pastors, members struggle to rebuild shattered lives

By Bruce Nolan
Religion News Service

New Orleans (RNS)—The same storm winds that shattered New Orleans neighborhoods scattered its faith communities. In the weeks after Hurricane Katrina, once-solid New Orleans churches struggled to reconstitute themselves, many worshipping in new, unfamiliar cities.

Then came Hurricane Rita, wreaking even more damage.

The rebuilding, such as it is, presents enormous challenges to displaced pastors struggling to find hundreds of church members scattered across the country.

In places such as Baton Rouge, Houston and Atlanta, displaced New Orleans pastors are locating a few scores of their former church members and holding worship services in borrowed churches or university student centers.

Many are making plans to put down temporary roots in new cities, usually with an eye toward reentering New Orleans as soon as possible.

"This is going to be a Herculean task. I've got people in 34 states—Denver, Oklahoma, Washington, you name it," said Pastor Willie Gable of Progressive Baptist Church, once a Central City church of about 400 members.

Old-fashioned word of mouth

In Houston, New Light Christian Center has devoted a portion of its Web site, www.newlight.org, to a listing of New Orleans pastors' cell phone numbers so members can find them. But that has proved to be a tool of limited usefulness.

Instead, pastors have found that the dense, thickly textured social networks that held their church members together is largely self-healing. Widely scattered church

members are finding each other and their pastors by old-fashioned word of mouth, facilitated only by cell phones and text messaging, many said.

"Church networks are very, very powerful," said Antoine Barriere, pastor of Household of Faith Full Gospel Baptist Church. "I think politicians don't understand just how efficient they are."

With Hurricane Katrina approaching Aug. 27, Barriere urged all the 1,000 members of his church to leave New Orleans. He launched word by cell phone that he and his family were headed for Houston.

When he arrived, he began to locate nearby church members and they began to locate him, he said. Word spread among church members hunkered down in Houston hotel rooms, relatives' homes and shelters that Barriere would conduct a worship service the following Sunday.

The first Sunday after the storm, about 80 members showed up for the first post-Katrina meeting of Household of Faith-in-exile, Barriere said. They prayed and sang together in Houston in the borrowed Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

By last week the service had grown to 300, he said.

Some pastors have found themselves holding services for small bands of dispersed members in different cities every week since the storm.

Like some other pastors in the National Baptist Convention USA, Charles Southall of First Emanuel Baptist Church kept a date to attend that denomination's annual convention in Atlanta the week after the storm. He located 50 or more First Emanuel members in Atlanta and worshipped with them, then

returned to Houston to minister to members surfacing there, he said.

Paul Morton of Greater St. Stephen Baptist Church, the largest in New Orleans, is steering church members in Baton Rouge, Houston and Atlanta to specific churches affiliated with Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship that Morton launched in the early 1990s.

C.S. Gordon traveled from Dallas to Baton Rouge to hold a service with members of his New Zion Baptist Church. They met in the student center at Southern University.

"I tell them, we may not be able to come together in a church building, but we're still a church," Gordon noted.

Top question: Now what?

For pastors and church members, the larger question is: Now what? What will these scattered communities look like in 30, 60 or 90 days?

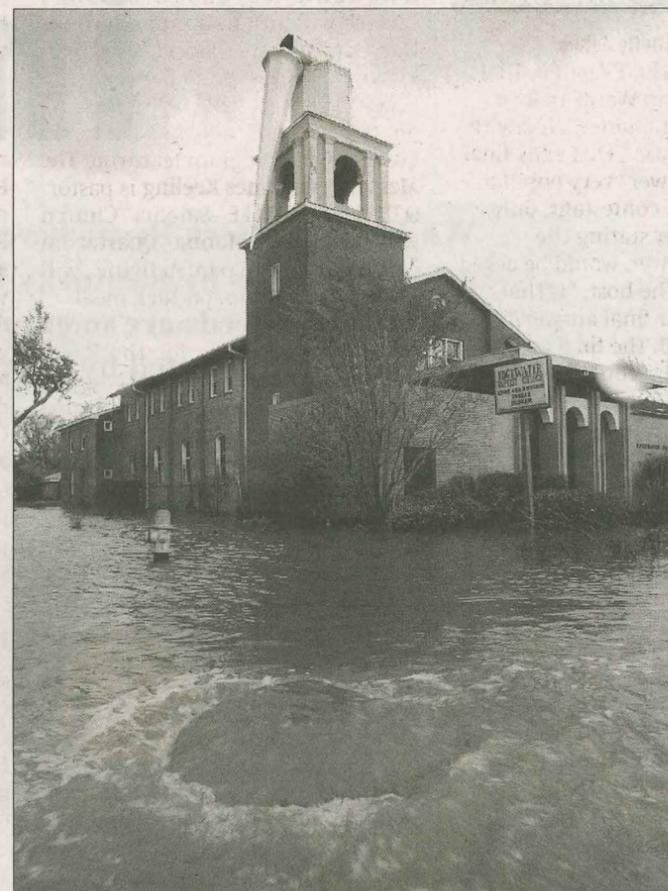
Most pastors, like Southall, Gordon and Gable, hope to stabilize their remnant churches close to New Orleans, often in Baton Rouge, building around a core of displaced members from New Orleans.

Psychologically, Southall said, the remnant church he hopes to nourish in Baton Rouge is merely a satellite location of his First Emanuel in New Orleans, which awaits his return.

Some pastors already have enrolled their children in new schools in Houston or Atlanta, and will have to reconstitute their churches as best they can while anchored where they are.

Financially, the pastors are sometimes in as much economic trouble as their displaced flocks.

"I'm poor, but not broke yet," said Gable, who left New Orleans with one suit and a few changes of casual



clothes. "I thought I'd be gone just a few days."

A month after the first hurricane, most of New Orleans remained uninhabitable and closed to its returning citizens. It was not clear when hundreds of churches, and their neighborhoods, might be ready to be reoccupied. Nor does anyone know how many families who fled will come back.

"None of us really knows who we've lost," Gordon said. "We may not know until sometime next year."

"I'm starting all over," he added. "I know most of us are."

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Water edges up to Edgewater Baptist Church in New Orleans after Hurricane Rita, reflooding a neighborhood that already had been ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. (RNS photo by John McCusker/New Orleans Times Picayune)

New Orleans pastor recounts God's provision in Katrina's aftermath

By Kathy Dean
University of Mobile

Mobile, Ala. (BP)—Up to his neck in water, trying to keep two elderly women afloat in the putrid waters flooding New Orleans, Pastor Michael Melon cried out to God, "I'm tired! I'm exhausted! I can go no further."

"I looked to my right and there, tied to a stop sign 10 yards away, was a flat-bottom Jon boat. I thought, 'The Lord has provided,'" the bivocational pastor of Coliseum Place Baptist Church, recounted.

Melon told his personal story of God's protection and provision throughout Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath during a recent visit to the University of Mobile. He and wife, Jeanne, had stopped by the Alabama Baptist-affiliated university, which was helping connect them with financial resources so their daughter Hilary could remain in school. Hilary was in the freshman Christian worldview class as her father spoke Sept. 23, tears streaming down his face.

"Everybody knew the hurricane was coming, but many were either unwilling or unable to evacuate the city," said Melon, whose small, 150-year-old inner-city church is in

the lower Garden District of New Orleans. "I chose to stay behind due to the many elderly people in my neighborhood who were unable to evacuate."

Melon sent his wife and 15-year-old son out of town, first to the University of Mobile to pick up Hilary, then on to Spartanburg, S.C., to the Melons' older daughter's home.

Meanwhile, Melon checked on several elderly neighbors and prepared his home, located a few blocks from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

On Sunday, Aug. 28, hurricane-force winds lashed at the city. By 8 a.m. Monday, the Melons' home began to take on water.

Melon huddled in the attic, holding tight to the family's dog, with the wind ripping the shingles off the roof just a few feet over his head. "I took a Sharpie pen and wrote my name and my wife's cell phone number on my body in case I turned up a floater," he said.

The water continued to rise, so Melon stuffed the dog inside his trench coat and abandoned his house in the midst of the storm, heading toward higher ground at the seminary where he found shelter for the night.

Tuesday morning after the storm, Melon swam to his house through streets filled with eight to 10 feet of water.

Gas, sewage & bodies

"The water was filled with gasoline, raw sewage, various chemicals, plus the dead bodies of humans and animals," Melon said. "I saw bodies floating by and wondered where they would spend eternity and if their loved ones would ever find them."

His home was filled with about six feet of water. He went to his neighbors' homes to see who was left behind.

"Across the street was Miss Shirley, a 70-year-old widow who spent the day and the night and the following day in neck-deep water inside her home," Melon said. He forced the door open and told Miss Shirley he would take her to higher ground. Together they went to the home of Miss Connie, a 79-year-old widow from Honduras.

"Miss Connie had crawled up into her attic," Melon said. "I called to her but could not enter the home due to the barred windows and debris." Using an ax he had brought from his house, Melon chopped a hole in Miss

Connie's roof and pulled her out.

With Miss Connie on his back and Miss Shirley hanging onto his shoulder, he pushed, swam and walked the women for four blocks, keeping their heads above water.

As the water reached his neck, Melon cried out to God and then saw the empty boat. He swam to the boat and brought it back to the two women, heaving them into the boat and pushing it to dry ground.

Two blocks from the seminary was a drug rehabilitation ministry operated by one of Melon's friends. Melon and the women made it to the site, which was dry and comparatively safe.

For the next two days, Melon paddled the boat through his neighborhood, rescuing people off their rooftops and chopping through roofs to rescue them from attics.

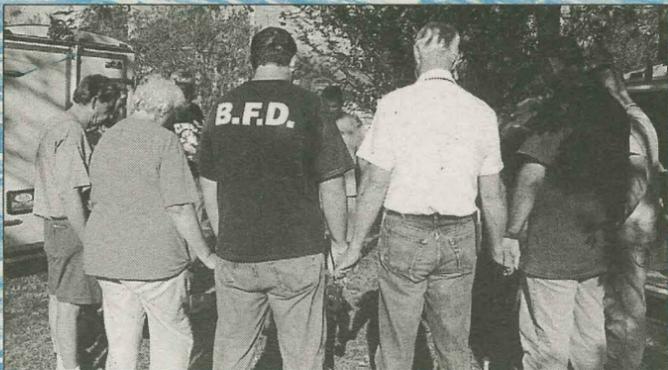
"God is the only sure anchor that we can hold onto," Melon noted. "Psalm 46 says that God is an ever-present help in times of trouble."

"This flood was indiscriminate in its destruction," he added. "It didn't matter if you were rich or poor, young or old, black, white, brown or yellow. But in the midst of this destruction, God made His provision tangible and His presence known."

Please get involved

While the Western Recorder continues to be your source for information about disaster relief ministries by Kentucky Baptists and other organizations, staying informed simply isn't enough. The needs are so great. We urge you and your church to become involved in the effort to serve those affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Opportunities include:

PRAY



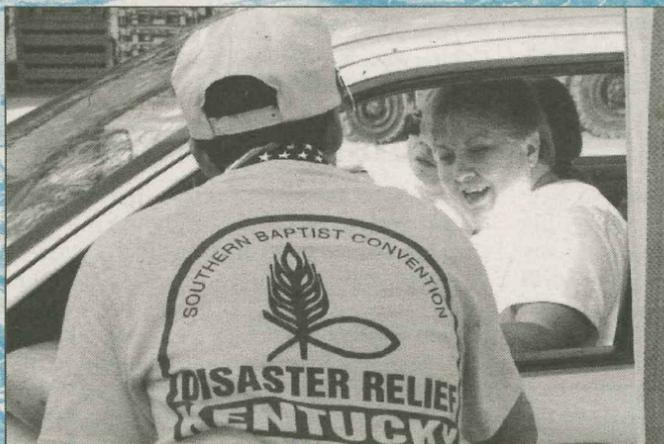
Pray for victims to find hope through Christ. Pray for volunteers to find strength in Christ. And pray for God to be glorified through all that is done.

GIVE



Financial contributions allow organizers to get needed resources, especially as those needs change. Every dollar given to Kentucky Baptist disaster relief goes toward helping victims.

GO



Train to become a disaster relief volunteer or lead your church to become involved in adopting a congregation in the affected areas. Needs will remain long after the shock of the disaster wears off, so don't think you can't be involved if you can't go right now.

This message brought to you by your friends at



PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER