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Leadership now bottleneck for disaster relief

Louisville—More than 2,000 Kentucky Baptists have trained for disaster relief work since Hurricane Katrina, but a lack of trained leaders is keeping many volunteers from going and working, officials said.

"We could probably have 100 people out every week (doing cleanup work) if we had enough blue caps," said Larry Koch, director of disaster relief for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Blue caps" is the phase used to describe team leaders, who wear blue caps so they can be found easily among yellow cap-wearing volunteers.

Throughout the hurricane-affected area, churches list hundreds of local residents seeking help cleaning mud from their homes or fallen trees from their yards.

The magnitude of two hurricanes in the Gulf Coast has motivated Kentuckians to want to help, but KBC officials say they cannot send everyone who wants to go because there simply aren't enough leaders.

"I will not send a bunch of people out to do something they've never done before ... because it's a dangerous situation," Koch said.

Leaders must be trained and certified volunteers with on-site experience in either chainsaw cleanup, mud-out or kitchen work, Koch said.

The need for leaders isn't limited to Kentucky, said Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. NAMB coordinates disaster relief for multi-state responses.

"This is obviously stretching us as much as it is other organizations," he said. "We've got to be prepared to go deeper, and that includes deepening our leadership base."

Burton said he hopes to recruit the newly retired boomers, many of whom have military or management experience and who are searching to make a significant contribution.

"The talent base is there. The challenge is identifying them, getting them trained and then getting them engaged."

For more information about leadership training, contact the KBC's Baptist men on mission department at (502) 489-3527 or toll-free in Kentucky (866) 489-3527.

Dirty work



POWER WASH Volunteers from Louisville-area churches spent about a day cleaning out the mud and debris and then washing and disinfecting this Biloxi, Miss., house that was flooded during Hurricane Katrina. This trip was the first for Long Run Baptist Association's cleanup trailer. (Photo by David Winfrey)

You couldn't pay teams for work they do for free

By David Winfrey
News Director

Biloxi—When Al Jones heard a team of volunteers was coming to help him remove the mud and destroyed furniture from his flood-damaged home, he really wasn't expecting too much.

"I wondered if they really knew how to take out sheetrock," said Jones, a retired doctor whose home beside an inlet in Biloxi, Miss., was flooded above the first-floor ceiling by Hurricane Katrina.

But what he saw during the work day impressed him so much

that he said he's thinking of becoming a volunteer himself.

"They dispersed like a covey of quail and they've been working ever since," he said at the end of the day. "The physical work they did was beyond anything I ever expected," he added. "These boys know what they're doing."

Boys and girls, men and women from throughout Kentucky are traveling to Louisiana and Mississippi to help remove mud and other debris from homes that were flooded by rains and storm surge associated with Hurricane Katrina.

They call it "mud out," but that's probably the nicest term for the muck and garbage that fills homes when flood waters rise.

Often, sewer lines back up, pouring raw refuse into basements. In areas near the coast, the storm surge can leave dead, decaying fish in the muddy mixture.

"It is a nasty job, especially if there's a lot of mud there," said Jim Carpenter, missions strategist for Long Run Baptist Association in Louisville, who recently returned from working in Biloxi.

□ See *Teams don't hesitate ... Page 8*

Louisville event emphasizes Christ as mediator

By David Winfrey & Ken Walker
News Director & State Correspondent

Louisville—Tibebu Alemayhu said he first realized the need for more Christians to practice reconciliation when his partner in ministry tried to steal Alemayhu's relief and development ministry center.

Alemayhu, who was working in his native country of Ethiopia in 1997, said he was surprised to find that even appealing to the man's church and minister resulted in a non-Christian recommendation: Take the man to court.

Alemayhu, who ultimately turned over the ministry to the government rather than have it stolen, said the Holy Spirit used this "darkest part of my ministry" to convince him of the need to become involved in Christian peacemaking.

He moved to the United States

to study peacemaking in seminary, only to find he soon had an opportunity to put his new skills to work. In 2000, Ethiopia and Eritrea went to war.

The war overseas was leading to fights and dissension among Ethiopians and Eritreans in America, he said.

So he began hosting leadership development conferences that focused on reconciliation. When the first was successful, he conducted six others in the U.S. and Canada.

"God willing, we will be conducting the major one (soon) in Ethiopia," he said.

Christian peacemaking is tough and often requires atypical approaches to problems and difficulties, Alemayhu said, but it often is a prerequisite for any society or

□ See *International event ... Page 3*



RECONCILIATION John David Gomez of Medford, Ore., speaks at the Reconciliation Networks of Our World conference in Louisville last week.

N.C. convention to study relationships with six entities

Asheboro, N.C. (ABP)—The five colleges and universities that relate to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina have asked the convention to study its relationships with the schools.

Campbell University, Chowan College, Gardner-Webb University, Mars Hill College and Wingate University asked in concert Sept. 27.

Meanwhile, the North Carolina Baptist Foundation asked the convention's executive committee to evaluate the foundation's relationship with the convention, while the North Carolina Baptist Retirement Homes asked that its earlier request for a new relationship be tabled.

The executive committee approved all of the requests during the convention's board of directors meeting Sept. 27-28.

Leaders of the convention-related entities reacted with concern after convention officials denied some of their recommendations for trustees or directors.

According to committee on nominations members, trustee candidates were excluded because their churches were affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists or not affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Neither affiliation is part of official trustee selection criteria.

SBC's 'Everyone Can' baptism emphasis gets under way

Nashville (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's "Everyone Can" Kingdom Challenge for Evangelism officially got under way Oct. 1.

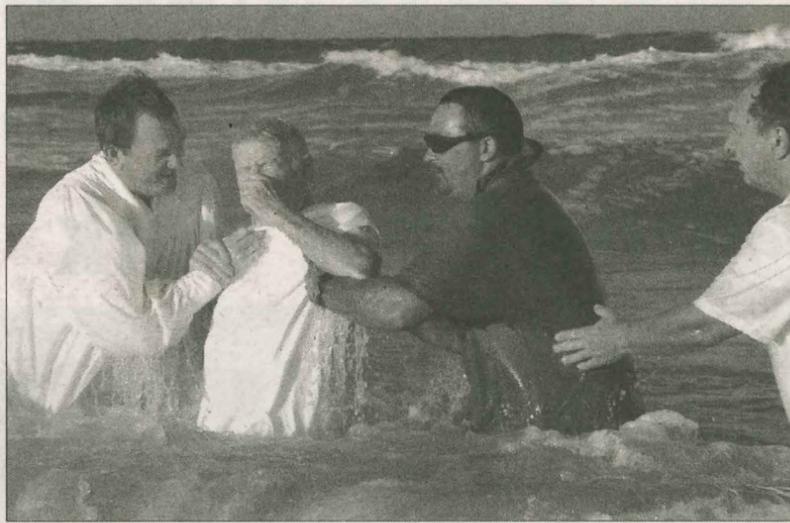
The denominational effort to witness to, win and baptize 1 million people in one year is the brainchild of Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch. He has spent much of past year traveling the country to promote the effort launched this past June at the SBC annual meeting in Nashville.

John Britt, who was baptized at First Baptist Church of Kirbyville, Texas, at 12:01 a.m. Oct. 1, likely was the first person baptized during the "Everyone Can" emphasis. Although he had been attending church, bouts with alcohol and a destructive lifestyle kept him from surrendering fully to Christ, he said.

He said his wife, Lynn, a member of Kirbyville First Baptist, helped him find a church that truly cared.

"I'm not turning back"

"I've tried to go to church in the past, but I'd always done it for the wrong reasons," he said. "I found a church and they have ... shown me the right way and they took me in. I took that first step and I'm not turning back."



OCEAN BAPTISM Ben Wightman, 83, is baptized in the Atlantic Ocean Oct. 1 as part of the kickoff to the Southern Baptist Convention's "Everyone Can" effort to baptize 1 million people in one year. Wightman is a member of First Baptist Church in Palm Coast, Fla. (BP photo by Norm Miller)

Charles Burchett, the church's pastor, performed the baptism.

Welch said he is confident the 1 million goal can be reached.

"If each of our 43,500 churches would baptize at least two converts per month, we'd break the 1 million mark easily," he said. "That would be more than a million hell-bound souls turned heavenward."

Welch also issued a call in July for all Baptist associations across the nation to hold two associational baptism rallies between Oct. 1, 2005, and Sept. 30, 2006.

Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., led a baptism rally for Halifax Baptist Association Oct. 1 to help kick off the "Everyone Can" effort. Twenty-two

people from 12 churches in Florida were baptized in the Atlantic Ocean during the rally.

Welch predicts victory

"I believe we are on our way to victory," Welch said after the rally. "My prayer is that God will bless these efforts, and His people called Southern Baptists will catch this wave of baptisms today and ride it 'til we reach 1 million."

"It's not for the sake of numbers," noted Charles Mims, pastor of South Peninsula Baptist Church in Daytona Beach. "It's for the sake of bringing a million new people to know Christ."

Along with the associational baptism rallies, Welch has suggested three dates on which churches nationwide might want to emphasize baptism as a show of unity. The first date is Nov. 27, the second is Easter Sunday next year, and the third is the following Sept. 30, which will mark the end of the yearlong emphasis.

Welch has invited churches to report their baptism numbers on a weekly, biweekly or monthly basis by calling (877) 289-3590. For more information, visit www.everyonecan.net.

CP contributions push SBC hurricane relief to \$12.5 million

Nashville (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention will channel almost \$12.5 million to hurricane relief efforts thanks to a September surge in Cooperative Program giving.

SBC Executive Committee members voted Sept. 19 to earmark for relief efforts all gifts to earmark above the denomination's national CP budget goal.

At the time, SBC leaders estimated the budget overage would reach \$7 million. But when the final numbers were tallied for the 2004-05 fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, giving stood at \$12,496,728.55 above budget.

The Executive Committee action designated half of the overage to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to help rebuild the flood-

damaged campus and help faculty and students recover from losses. One-fourth will go to the state Baptist conventions in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama which were most affected by Hurricane Katrina and one-fourth to the Southern Baptist North American Southern Board to support the extensive hurricane disaster relief operations.

The committee also voted that the same formula be followed with beyond-the-budget receipts for the CP allocation budget during the first quarter (October through December) of the current fiscal year.

The Cooperative Program is separate from the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Fund which channels 100 percent of donations received to disaster relief efforts.

National CP receipts for 2004-05 totaled \$195,948,422.55, an increase of more than \$6 million, or 3.20 percent, over the previous year. The increase marks the 11th time in 12 years that gifts have outpaced the previous year.

Executive Committee President Morris Chapman said Southern Baptists' CP contributions have been essential to the success of SBC disaster relief operations.

"The Cooperative Program supports a permanent disaster relief organization and because of this funding stability, Southern Baptists have been able to respond immediately and comprehensively to disaster relief needs, now and in the past, without one missionary having to return from the field or one student

will be turned away from any of our seminaries," he said. "Southern Baptist disaster teams were the first on the ground following these back-to-back hurricanes."

Designated giving for fiscal year 2004-05 totaled \$189,729,833.87, which was more than \$700,000, or 0.38 percent, above the previous year's designated giving.

Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Southern, Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund and other special gifts.

Combined, CP giving and designated gifts of \$385,678,256.42 for the year were up \$6.8 million, or 1.80 percent, above the previous year.

CBF leaders propose restoring 'Jesus' reference to governing document

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Atlanta (ABP)—Leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship have proposed a preamble to the organization's constitution, restoring explicit references to Jesus Christ and the Great Commission deleted in July.

The proposal, approved by the CBF Coordinating Council's legal committee and advisory council, will be presented to the full council this week in Atlanta.

Leaders hope the move will quiet critics both within the Fellowship and beyond who complained when references to Jesus were deleted from the earlier document.

The recommended preamble states: "As a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches, we celebrate our faith in the One Triune God. We gladly declare our allegiance to Jesus Christ as Lord and to His gospel as we seek to be the continuing presence of Christ in this world. Our passion is to obey the Great Command-

ment (Matthew 22:34-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) of our Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to uphold the power of the Holy Spirit, and to practice as we partner with one another and other Christians."

Previous action sparks objections

At its June 30-July 1 general assembly in Grapevine, Texas, CBF participants voted to approve revisions to the group's governing documents, but not before several participants objected that the revised constitution and bylaws omitted explicit references to Jesus and His Great Commission—the command to share the gospel and make disciples.

The approved constitution says the Fellowship's purpose is "to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission."

Previously, the purpose statement mentioned bringing together Baptists and calling out God's gifts in individuals "in order that the gospel of Jesus Christ

will be spread throughout the world in glad obedience to the Great Commission."

The general assembly defeated two motions to send the purpose statement back to the Coordinating Council after leaders insisted commitments to Christ and the Great Commission were implied.

Almost immediately after the vote, some Southern Baptist Convention leaders criticized the action. They pointed out many moderate Baptists previously had critiqued the SBC for removing a reference in the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement to Jesus Christ as the criterion for biblical interpretation. They also cited it as evidence of lack of commitment to evangelism within the CBF.

Ironically, the SBC's constitution does not mention Jesus either.

Jay Robison, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington, said a preamble that declares "our allegiance to Jesus Christ as Lord and to His gospel" is "much closer" to CBF's previous purpose

statement. "Certainly this is much better than what they had," said Robison, who was among CBF participants who expressed concern about the omission last summer.

During the general assembly, Robison proposed that the revised constitution and bylaws be sent back to committee.

After Robison's motion failed during the general assembly, Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church, proposed referring only the article about the organization's purpose back to committee. That motion also failed.

Wording "sounds really good"

But DeFoor said the proposed preamble "sounds really good to me."

"I know the heart of those folks," he said. "I know their commitment to Christ and to evangelism. I think they just need to make it explicit. ... I think it's a good statement and very representative of the heart of what CBF is really about."

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

York urges pastors: Avoid 'dead, dull, dry preaching'

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Prestonsburg—Declaring that the biblical text, sermon preparation and delivery are three keys to effective preaching, Kentucky Baptist Convention President Hershael York urged fellow ministers to avoid “dead, dull, dry preaching.”

York, professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, is leading a series of Kentucky Baptist Convention-sponsored conferences this month on “Preaching with Power: Biblical Preaching for Pastors.”

York's first conference, held Oct. 8 at Lancer Baptist Church near Prestonsburg, attracted 15 area ministers. The next two workshops will be Oct. 15 at New Vision Baptist Church in Mayfield and Oct. 22 at Junction City First Baptist Church near Danville.

Drawing primarily from his book, “Preaching with Bold Assurance: A Solid and Bold Approach to Engaging Exposition,” York addressed such workshop topics as “Building Sermons that Are Both Biblical and Relevant” and “The Kind of Man God Uses, the Ministry God Blesses.”

Acknowledging that “I don't know everything about preaching,” York told workshop participants, “Preaching is like sanctification—you never really arrive.”

York said he is “completely biased” toward exposition as the most effective way to present bibli-



PREACHING CONFERENCE Hershael York speaks to pastors in Prestonsburg during the “Preaching with Power” conference, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. “Preaching is like sanctification—you never really arrive,” he said. Two more conferences will be held Oct. 15 and 22. (Photo by Trennis Henderson)

cal, relevant sermons.

“Exposition is any preaching that has as its goal to explain the author's intent in a particular passage and to apply it to the hearer's life,” he added.

Describing “five commitments of an expositor,” he said expository preaching includes:

A commitment to a high view of Scripture. “If you don't see the Scripture as the Word of God, you really won't be interested in showing it's meaning to people, will you?” he asked. “I've got nothing to say apart from the Word of God. People didn't show up to hear my opinion.”

A commitment to the profitability of all Scripture. “Most of our

preaching avoids tough passages,” he warned. “When we do that, we tell our people that some parts of the Bible don't matter, and I think that's wrong. They will handle the Word the way they see you handle the Word.”

A commitment to the nature of preaching. “Preaching is the ability to say, ‘Thus saith the Lord,’” York noted. “My preaching is going to be completely rooted in the text of the Bible.”

A commitment to thinking. “If you're going to be an expositor, you're going to have to be a clear, hard thinker,” he said, noting that expositors must explore what Scripture means, how to apply it and how people perceive the message.

“It's all about what God can do in the hearts of people.”

A commitment to authorial intent. “If we limit ourselves to the author's intent, it takes away a lot of bad preaching,” York suggested. “If we're going to be expositors, we've got to be committed to that.”

York said one his goals for the conferences is “to do something for small-church and bivocational pastors” by offering “a skill set that helps them be more effective in their preaching as well as an excitement about their preaching.”

He said he also is seeking to help “bring the resources of Southern Seminary closer to Kentucky Baptists and bring the resources of the Kentucky Baptist Convention to the people.”

Tom Biddle, director of missions for Enterprise Baptist Association, affirmed the Saturday conference format to help involve bivocational pastors “who can't get away during the week.”

“This is their opportunity to get some practical sermon preparation,” he added.

Tom Hall, pastor of Westview Baptist Church in Frankfort, said the workshop helped him “find ways to better communicate the sermons I prepare, making sure I bring it around from textual to everyday application.”

For information about the Oct. 15 and 22 workshops, contact the KBC communications department at (502) 489-3578 or toll-free at (866) 489-3478 or visit www.kybaptist.org/preaching.

“I've got nothing to say apart from the Word of God. People didn't show up to hear my opinion.”

KBC President
Hershael York

International event shares stories of reconciliation in Christ

Continued from page 1

people group to grow and advance. “Without peace, there will be no relief and development.”

Alemayhu's experience was one of scores of stories told last week in Louisville as part of the triennial meeting of Reconciliation Networks of Our World.

The grassroots, international, non-denominational body seeks to show Christians and the world that reconciliation is possible through Christ, according to Lincoln Bingham and Les Hollon, two Louisville pastors who were co-hosts for the event.

“It's about the body of Christ, with world representation, trying to remove some suspicions about Christianity and about Christ by the kind of unity we bring to an assembly like this,” said Lincoln Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

More than forgiveness

“At the heart of the New Testament is the ministry of reconciliation made possible by Christ,” added Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church.

More than forgiveness, in which the recipient might never know he has been forgiven, reconciliation involves restoring relationships.

“The word in the New Testament means to bring back together what God had created to be together,” Hollon said.

Conference speakers said the New Testament model for reconcili-

ation involves first being reconciled to God through Christ and then—as a result of that relationship—being reconciled with someone else.

“Reconciliation ... begins with individuals or groups of people to be honest of what it is that has caused their separation from each other, to tell their stories,” Hollon said. “And then, in the power of Christ, to ask for forgiveness from one another for whatever hurt they have caused each other.”

The two parties then can agree to relate differently with help from God. “How they will live and act differently as a result of their reconciliation,” Hollon said.

In addition to morning worship and evening sessions at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, speakers shared their stories at approximately 40 venues in Kentucky, including Louisville-area schools, Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore and Campbellsville University.

Hollon said the ministry of reconciliation is crucial in a world where ancient hatreds and current technology provide the ability for people groups to destroy each other.

“We live in urgent times by which the ministry of reconciliation is our world's only hope,” he said.

“The ministry of reconciliation by Christians shows a credibility by which a disbelieving world can see the difference that Christ can make as we go forward.”

During Friday night's session,

international public relations consultant Harvey Thomas recalled how the 1998 RNOW conference in Louisville inspired him to forgive a man who attacked him in 1984.

Forgiving a bomber

Thomas, who served in the mid-'80s as communications director for British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, was injured at a Brighton hotel by a bomb set by a member of the Irish Republican Army.

“I wasn't ready to forgive and hadn't even thought about it,” Thomas recalled, who said he changed his mind during the last meeting at St. Matthews Baptist.

Following through on his pledge, Thomas is now a friend of the bomber, Pat McGee. They shared a platform two years ago at a conference in Ireland and McGee has visited Thomas' home.

The Friday evening session also featured an interview with David Porter, director of the Center for Contemporary Christianity in Ireland.

Porter said the seeds of violence stem from disagreements between people over who represents legitimate authority within a nation.

“These are questions that we as Christians need to consider with great humility,” Porter said. “This is a murky world. We can't justify (violence), but our role is to get into the murk (and) bring the gospel into the violence. It's going to be dangerous.”

In addition, Porter said the

church should consider various methods in sharing the good news.

Northern Ireland probably is the most evangelized country in the world, he noted. Evangelical Christians are well represented in parliament, but the nation still has been plagued by violence, Porter added.

“Just because you have Christian politicians, it isn't an answer,” Porter said. “We have to be involved in society.”

A Palestinian illustrated one way Christians can bring more understanding in a divided country.

Shadria Qubtz is active in an organization working to reconcile her people with messianic Jews in Israel.

Qubtz is the youth coordinator for Mutalaha. The organization sponsors conferences, seminars, social service projects and activities, such as youth camps, to bring the two sides together.

Though they live in the same place, Qubtz said Palestinians and Israelis are segregated into two people groups.

“It's not easy to love when someone is your enemy, someone you've been taught to hate,” Qubtz said.

She also told of a Palestinian and an Israeli woman forming bonds as they talked about their mutual pain and loss from losing relatives amid the region's ongoing violence.

“Society makes us see each other differently, but if we look through God's eyes we're all the same,” Qubtz said. “God doesn't care if you're Palestinian or Jewish.”

“We live in urgent times by which the ministry of reconciliation is our world's only hope.”

Les Hollon, pastor of
St. Matthews Baptist
Church

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

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God, money and your faith

By Howard Dayton

Gainesville, Ga. (BP)—Some pastors shy away from talking about money. After all, they might say, the church is about spiritual matters like getting souls saved.

Absolutely—but then why do you suppose Jesus made such a big deal out of money? Many Christians are amazed to discover that He did.

The Bible has a lot to say about riches and belongings. I have researched God's Word and found more passages about money and possessions than about heaven, hell or the Second Coming. The Bible offers more than 500 verses on prayer and fewer than 500 on faith—but more than 2,350 verses on money and possessions. There is no doubt that the church should have something to say about financial matters.

Jesus said that you can't serve God if you're going to serve riches. "No one can be a slave of two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot be slaves of God and of money" (Matthew 6:24).

Every local congregation needs to provide opportunities for people to acquire biblical financial wisdom.

There are great benefits of having a congregation full of financially healthy people—but healthy doesn't have to mean wealthy. Some pastors might be hesitant to talk about biblical principles of finance and giving because they serve churches with blue collar, lower-income families. But, guess what? Giving really has little to do with amount; it has to do with heart.

In a Nov. 11, 2004, article, the Sun-Herald newspaper in south Mississippi told of an organization known as the Catalogue for Philanthropy that reported interesting statistics in its "2004 Generosity Index." The study found that people in New England states make more money but give less than other areas of the country. Southern and Midwestern states top the generosity index, with the high level of giving attributed to the practice of tithing.

Based on the average adjusted income of residents, and the value of itemized charitable donations reported in 2002 federal tax returns, Connecticut had the nation's highest average adjusted gross income at \$64,724, but its residents donated \$175 less to charity than the national average. So what's the point?

COMMENTARY

Are you 'dead weight' or pulling your weight?

By Judy Woodward Bates

Dora, Ala. (BP)—If you've ever tried sailing or kayaking, you know that getting a good wind behind you can scoot you along with much greater ease than trying to maneuver into the path of the wind.

Jesus, having had experience with boats and His fishermen disciples, knew how the wind affected a boat's progress. He understood that rowing into the wind was a struggle, while rowing with the wind made moving forward much easier.

Jesus also knew that the same thing was true of His workers. Those who were diligently working for the

Kingdom were like that favorable wind—they helped advance the message of Jesus' gospel.

But what of those who did nothing? They might not have been helping, but they certainly weren't causing any harm, were they?

Think of it this way: Four guys weighing 200 pounds each are in a boat. Three are rowing. One is doing nothing. True enough, he's not helping, but is he causing any harm? Absolutely.

His 200 pounds is dead weight. The other three guys not only have to muster enough power to pull their own bulk, they also have to

FIRST PERSON

'Journey into Worship 2' reflections

Journey into Worship 2 was an outstanding and memorable experience of learning and worship. This great event was held recently at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Dave Bullock and the dbNetwork Band were outstanding in leading worship for three sessions. Dave arrived early to provide time for prayer as well as rehearsal. The spiritual leadership of worship by Bullock and the band were no surprise to those who have participated in our annual Shepherding the Shepherd conference for pastors and their spouses.

Clay Smith, a former Kentucky pastor who is now pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter, S.C., served as the worship speaker. He had great biblical texts and outstanding application for all worship leaders including choir members, praise teams, tech people and others.

He made reference to his prayer

partners who had spent 45 minutes in prayer each day for the conference. Clay shared his own brokenness before God in the worship journey. For me, there were powerful encounters with God in each worship session.

I will be this conference will be a signature experience for the 20-year ministry of Jim Cordell as the KBC worship and music department director. Jim is concluding his formal ministry with KBC in December.

In addition to his music skills and heart for God, Jim is very organized. He has used six part-time consultants to provide excellent training and resources for the churches.

On behalf of all Kentucky Baptists, I want to say to Jim and his wonderful wife, Joyce, that we are grateful to God for his 20 years of ministry with Kentucky Baptists. By stretching in his appreciation of the diverse expressions of music by Kentucky Baptist churches, Jim has

Just this: Mississippi ranked as the poorest state in the nation but came in fifth in "giving." It consistently earns its place at a top giver because of the disparity between the income and charitable contributions of the folks in Mississippi. The average itemized filer in Mississippi reported \$4,484 in donations in 2002, beating the national average by \$1,029.

How about that—poorest state, biggest givers. It seems as though I recall someone once saying, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

What an appropriate time in the life of our nation for believers to help those generous Mississippians, and others on the Gulf Coast, get back on their feet.

What do financial issues have to do with spirituality? Well, for one thing, you don't have to be rich to be generous, and poverty isn't the cause of tightfistedness. So the spirituality part all comes down to where your heart is.

That's exactly why the church should be equipping God's people to learn, apply and teach God's financial principles.

God, money and faith—do you get the connection?

Howard Dayton is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries

put in the muscle to carry along the fourth man's weight while he does nothing.

Jesus addressed this very issue in Matthew 12:30. He told the people, "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters."

Each believer must choose his position. He can be that dead weight that expects others to carry him along as he rests on his laurels and enjoys the fruits of others' labors. Or he can be that vibrant, hard-working laborer who is on the job, on fire and moving on for the glory of God.

Believer, have you chosen your position?

Judy Woodward Bates is the author of "The Gospel Truth about Money Management"

made it possible for all churches to move forward in authentic worship.

Journey into Worship 2 also provided outstanding resource sessions in 47 varied venues.

One of the unforgettable experiences was a bonus session featuring new worship hymn writers, Stuart Townsend and Keith and Kristyn Getty. They led participants in singing selected new worship hymns and shared the biblical settings for the hymns.

When Stuart sang "In Christ Alone" during the morning worship time, his countenance seemed to reflect the glory of God. My prayer is that my countenance will reflect something of the presence and glory of God when I worship and especially when I assist in leading worship.

Recordings of sessions are available for a small fee from AP Audio in Elizabethtown. You can request an order form by e-mail at apaudio@earthlink.net or by calling (270) 268-0418 or (270) 360-0520. The order form also will be available for a time on the KBC Web site at kybaptist.org/journey2.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Katrina relief act offers window of giving opportunity

By Laurie Valentine

The Katrina Emergency Relief Act, which was signed into law Sept. 23, has made changes to the tax laws designed to encourage outright gifts of cash during the period from Aug. 28, 2005, to Dec. 31, 2005.

One of the key changes is the increase in the contribution limit for outright gifts of cash to public charities from 50 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent of AGI.

Under current law, if an individual's adjusted gross income was \$100,000 and he or she made gifts to charities totaling \$75,000 in any one year, that person could deduct only \$50,000 of those gifts (50 percent of a \$100,000 AGI) in the year the gifts were made. The excess deduction would be carried over for use in the next five tax years.

Under the temporary change made by the Katrina Relief Act, if someone made all \$75,000 of those cash gifts between Aug. 28 and Dec. 31, 2005, he or she could deduct the full \$75,000 on his or her 2005 income tax return. This change applies to all cash gifts made to any public charity, not just Hurricane Katrina-related organizations, between Aug. 28 and the end of the year.

Another change is the exemption of cash gifts to public charities made during the same timeframe from the 3 percent reduction for itemized deductions for individuals with an AGI above \$145,950.

The increase in the contribution limit provides an opportunity for a people who are at least 59-and-a-half years old and have more money in their IRAs or other qualified retirement plans than they will likely need for their retirement security. While those withdrawals will increase income, a gift of those withdrawals between Aug. 28 and Dec. 31 will be 100 percent deductible.

However, if what you withdraw to give to public charities increases your total income above \$145,950, you will have a 1 percent tax on what you withdrew, even if all of it is given to public charities.

Discuss this "window of giving opportunity" with your tax and financial advisors; it could provide you with the opportunity to leave a legacy and provide valuable support to ministries important to you.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



Use discipline rather than punishment for teenagers

Q: Now that my children are teenagers, I am rethinking how I respond to the times when they misbehave. What are appropriate punishments for teens?

Let's consider "discipline" rather than "punishment." While punishment is punitive and unpleasant, it might not teach the teenager. Discipline, however, is intended to teach, to shape thinking and behavior and to mold character.

PARENTING

Discipline should be the product of a careful reflection process. The high anxiety of the moment often makes it tempting for parents to react rather than reflect. Resist the urge to make snap decisions. Take time to think through and consult your mate or even a trusted friend.

Remember that old line from Josh McDowell, "Rules without relationships lead to rebellion." When teens know you are devoting time to the relationship, they more readily will accept disciplinary decisions. Wise parents often involve their children in helping construct consequences for poor choices. As the relationship is strengthened, teens are reminded of their ability to make good decisions and to take personal responsibility for actions.

Poor choices should be followed with consequences that typically involve the loss of privileges. Breaking curfew might result in an earlier curfew for the next evening out. Misuse of the phone might result in loss of phone privileges.

Don't forget that the goal ultimately is encouraging teens to be more like Christ. For this reason, Paul reminds parents in Ephesians 6:4 that we are not "to provoke our children to anger." Discipline should not be out of proportion to the offense.

Keep in mind the power of positive discipline. Catch your teen doing something right and reward that behavior. You likely will surprise, delight and capture their heart in the process.—Scott Wigginton

Q: I am one stressed-out woman. Some folks seem to fly through life without stress, no matter how big their life transitions. What's the deal?

Dr. Esther Sternberg, director of neural immunology at the National Institute of Mental Health, teaches that women can have more stress-free lives. Here is some of her advice along with added Scripture references:

STRESS

Prioritize, organize and make lists. Break tasks into "chewable bites." (Luke 14:28)

Work at being an optimist. You don't have to be a slave to your thoughts. When a negative thought invades your mind, correct it by substituting a more realistic, positive one. (Hebrews 12:2)

Don't procrastinate. Deal with your deadlines as soon as you can. This prevents accumulated stress later. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Believe. See things from a spiritual point of view to help you see the big picture. (Colossians 3:1)

Delegate. Are you doing chores your kids could do as part of earning their allowance? Are you serving outside your area of spiritual giftedness, taking someone else's place of service? (Exodus 18, Acts 6)

Visualize success. Mentally relive a moment where you did something well. You can do that again. (Philippians 4:13)

Schedule fun. If you're married, are you up to date on dates? Whether married or single, have you scheduled any "me time" lately? (Proverbs 17:22)

Find a quiet place or wise person who can help you get life into perspective. Go there often. (Proverbs 11:14)—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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Reconciliation: A call to be Christ-like

Reconciliation is among the most Christ-like actions followers of Jesus can pursue.

Whether it is a matter of seeking personal reconciliation to God, helping reconcile other people to Him or promoting reconciliation among nations, denominations or ethnic groups, the ministry of reconciliation is a call to active, authentic peacemaking.

The Apostle Paul declared in 2 Corinthians 5:18 that God "reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

It was Christ Himself who proclaimed, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

One group promoting reconciliation in today's troubled world is Reconciliation Networks of Our World, a global, grassroots network of Christians committed to biblical reconciliation.

According to the group's Web site, www.reconciliationnetworks.org, "In 1940, Coventry Cathedral in Coventry, England, was bombed by Nazi warplanes. After the war, a group of German youth visited Coventry seeking reconciliation with their former enemies. In the midst of God's healing work, a group of Christians also went from Coventry to Dresden, Germany, which had been bombed by the Allies. Their experience of forgiveness and renewal became a parable of reconciliation, inspiring Christians worldwide to gather in Coventry in September 1997."

Since Reconciliation '97, the interdenominational group has held international conferences in Louisville in 1998, Boston in 2000 and Atlanta in 2003. The conference returned to St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville last week for Reconciliation 2005.

St. Matthews Pastor Leslie Hollon and Lincoln Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist

Church and the Kentucky Baptist Convention's cooperative ministries consultant, served as co-hosts for the Oct. 5-8 conference. Other Kentucky Baptist leaders involved in the effort included Larry Martin, retired leader of the KBC missions growth team, who served as local convocation chairman and Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, who helped coordinate a "Women as Peacemakers" track.

During the conference, presenters from such diverse settings as India, Mexico, Northern Ireland and South Africa challenged each participant to "live as a Christian reconciler in your part of the world."

"The ministry of reconciliation is at the heart of the gospel," Hollon emphasized. "Through Christ, we have a common unity with followers of Jesus from every denomination, every continent for the common purpose of making Christ known. ... It's an offering to God."

Speaking of offerings, Jesus told His followers in Matthew 5:23-24, "If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."

When was the last time you saw a Baptist offering put on hold so someone could be reconciled to a fellow believer who had been offended? For that matter, when was the last time you saw a Baptist offering put on hold for any reason? Sincerely pursuing reconciliation in our daily lives is an issue of Christian obedience.

In nations, denominations and even local congregations often wracked by conflict and division, Christ calls His followers to the healing ministry of reconciliation. What is your response?

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Tretnis Henderson

Five words for those wanting to help

By David Hankins

Alexandria, La. (BP)—Five important words for those who want to help with the Louisiana disaster response:

Thanks. We would not have managed to this point without the unselfish support of our friends in the communities and churches of America. Your prayers, shipments of goods, volunteer time and gifts of money make it possible for us to aid the survivors and to begin to plan for the future.

I am especially appreciative of my Southern Baptist family. Thousands of Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers have been in Louisiana for weeks feeding, cleaning, communicating and comforting. Hundreds of churches have opened their doors to evacuees and have met the needs of these hurting people with love. You responded to people's needs with rapidity, flexibility and grace.

Our counterpart state conventions, Southern Baptist national entities, local churches and associations have sent staff to assist us and have provided generous amounts of relief money. Our denominational network of cooperation was quick to respond and continues to stay with us. We are grateful.

Prayer. Please don't underestimate the power of prayer. God's people are lifting our needs to His throne and He is answering. What amazing testimonies we are receiving—about everything from traffic abating to allowing for volunteers to be in place or the right supplies arriving at just the right place at just the right time. The testimony of families being united absolutely touches our hearts. God is working in response to His people praying. The best thing that could result from this tragedy is a fresh move of God. Don't stop praying. As one of my friends wrote, "I'm praying for you. Is there anything less I can do for you?"

Comfort. There is a world of hurt down here—loss of possessions, loss of livelihood, loss of homes and loss of life. The victims are endeavoring to forge ahead, but there remains a lot of grief. As you come here, be sensitive to the hurt. Go easy on the "keep a stiff upper lip" speeches. Let the people work through their sorrow. You mustn't be anxious about making everything all right. There are no simple answers. Your presence, your understanding, your listening ear, your hugs and your tears are a good start.

Solutions. We are grateful for your ideas, your energy and your resourcefulness. The Lord knows we need all the counsel we can get. However, make sure you are bringing solutions, not creating problems. We already have enough problems. Don't be one of those who insist on doing things only one way in one place, and right now. We all

remember the Boy Scout who insisted on helping the elderly lady to cross the street only to discover she didn't need to cross the street.

Don't be impatient with those who are here working. There are hundreds of Louisianans who care deeply about this serious situation. Many in our state are laboring around the clock to make proper assessments and to coordinate relief efforts. Hundreds of thousands of people already have been fed, clothed and sheltered. Through Southern Baptists' cooperative generosity, hundreds of pastors and other ministers already have received salary assistance. Long-term support is now being put in place.

One of the best solutions you can do is partner with us, release yourselves and your resources into the coordinated response and rejoice with us as we cooperatively make the maximum difference in these days for God's glory.

Perseverance. This disaster has impacted our future. There is a longing for a return to normalcy, but we are beginning to recognize we have a new normal. There will be days of joy and peace and refreshment again, but this disaster will mark us, our ministry and our world for years to come. We are glad you want to help. We need your help. We will need it for quite some time. As one of our pastors admonished: "Plan to keep your hearts warm for a long time."

David Hankins is executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention

Pastors say more small churches should consider merging

"It's a long process but it's a healthy thing that a lot of small churches should consider."

Donnie Gullion, pastor of Lynn Acres Baptist Church

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Louisville—Although they have worshipped together since April 3, Yorktown Baptist Church and Lynn Acres Baptist Church won't officially merge until this Sunday, Oct. 16.

Formerly 2.5 miles apart, the two congregations meet in Yorktown's building, but on "Charter Sunday" they will become Grace Community Baptist Church. Yorktown pastor Aaron Robb, 32, and Lynn Acres pastor Donnie Gullion, 42, will serve as co-pastors of the newly-constituted church.

"We felt it was vital to become a new entity," Robb said. "If you don't do it, it just seems like one is taking over the other. If you don't change the name, then people at the building being used will say, 'Oh, they're coming to join us.'"

"It's a long process but it's a healthy thing that a lot of small churches should consider," added Gullion. "You have a lot of small churches that used to be large, surrounded by other churches that are small."

The movement toward the new congregation started a few years ago when Robb and Gullion held informal discussions. Gullion noted the large number of small churches in the southwestern Louisville area, and said they probably could work more efficiently by joining forces.

Lynn Acres was one of those, steadily dwindling from attendance

of 65 six years ago to 40 this year. Meanwhile, Yorktown had plateaued at around 90 people each Sunday.

Lynn Acres previously pursued another merger, but on the verge of formalizing the agreement dropped it because of disagreements with leaders at the other church.

Victims of changing demographics

Gullion said Lynn Acres fell victim to changing demographics in its area, including 20 different ethnic groups.

In conducting a study of the factors affecting them, Gullion said Lynn Acres fit five of the seven criteria for declining churches, such as a changing neighborhood and increased crime rate.

"I think the church had become lethargic and felt there was nothing they could do to change the outcome," Gullion said. "We couldn't change the fact that most people around us didn't speak English."

Another factor was the large number of Baptist churches in the area. Gullion's research found that within a 3.5-mile radius of Lynn Acres there were 34 Southern Baptist churches; within two miles there were 11.

"If McDonald's did that, they'd be out of business," Gullion said. "Years ago, the idea was to build a church in walking distance of people, but today that's irrelevant."

At one time, Yorktown had been part of Lynn Acres' other merger dis-

cussion, but when that agreement fell apart Robb said they recognized God was leading the remaining two to merge.

Acknowledging it isn't easy combining two deacon bodies, Sunday schools and sets of committees, Robb said most are simply combined into "super committees."

A new nominating committee in January should select candidates for each of those groups, he noted.

Nor is it easy for two pastors to work together, but Robb said that has been one of the greatest joys.

He and Gullion have been trading places for month-long sermon series, with the other pastor then leading Sunday and Wednesday night services. "Neither of us is arrogant or on an ego trip," Robb said. "We made ourselves come to a consensus and we haven't had any major disagreements."

"I think it's a fantastic idea," Gullion said of co-pastoring. "One of the ideas behind it is needed. If you can find two people that can work together and don't have big egos, you can complement each other."

Not just a larger shrinking church

Both pastors have their eye on changing Grace Baptist's culture so that it doesn't simply become a bigger version of a plateaued church that is on its way downhill.

One of their mantras is they don't plan to stay on the same path,

Robb said, noting they have moved to a blended style of worship and are more intentional about prayer.

While most of their time has been occupied with merger details, Robb said Grace hopes to reach out to more young adults and children and build meaningful relationships.

Gullion said he hopes the new church will become more effective in discovering people's spiritual gifts and then model its ministries around those gifts.

Most churches develop a specific structure and then try to find people to fit the structure, Gullion said.

"One thing we've done is taken a survey and asked people what they like to do or would like to try," Gullion said. "A church will be more effective if it has a smaller group of ministries, but people are doing what they feel comfortable doing."

Both said that smaller, struggling churches should consider merger as a way of being better stewards of God's resources.

But Gullion recommended that leaders of the merging churches make sure they have similar organizational structures and theological approaches before doing the hard work of marriage.

"There's a lot of things you have to think about," he said. "There's a lot of churches that are too territorial and prideful."

"But if you have more people, you can relieve some people from the stress of having to do everything."

CONVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The annual Cooperative Program Goals, as well as the percentages for the division of Cooperative Program funds between Kentucky Baptist Convention causes and Southern Baptist Convention causes, are determined by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in annual session.

1. That the 2006-2007 Cooperative Program Operating Budget goal be set at \$23,562,000, a 2.0% increase (\$462,000).
2. That the percentage for the division between KBC and SBC causes remain the same as in 2005-2006: SBC = 36% KBC=64%. That this division be subject to the Mission Board's decision to apply the Financial Crisis Plan approved in 1990, which stated "In case of a financial crisis, allocations be reduced proportionately to the SBC, Kentucky Baptist institutions of Christian Education and the Mission Board staff and/or programs."
3. That the 2006-2007 Cooperative Program Challenge Budget goal remain the same as 2005-2006, \$1,300,000.
4. That 36% of any Challenge funds be distributed to SBC causes and 64% to KBC causes.

The Mission Board will recommend to the Convention in Frankfort November 14, 2005 the 2006-2007 goals and percentages.

	REVISED 2003-2004 BUDGET		APPROVED 2004-2005 BUDGET		APPROVED 2005-2006 BUDGET		PROPOSED 2006-2007 BUDGET	
I. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL								
A. OPERATIONAL BUDGET	<u>22,181,335</u>	-4.39%	<u>22,504,000</u>	1.45%	<u>23,100,000</u>	2.65%	<u>23,562,000</u>	2.0%
1. SBC CAUSES (a)	7,985,281		8,101,440		8,316,000		8,482,320	
		36.0%		36.0%		36.0%		36.0% (d)
2. KBC CAUSES (b)	14,196,054		14,402,560		14,784,000		15,079,680	
		64.0%		64.0%		64.0%		64.0% (d)
B. CHALLENGE FUNDS (c)	<u>1,300,000</u>		<u>1,300,000</u>		<u>1,300,000</u>		<u>1,300,000</u>	
1. SBC CAUSES (a)	468,000		468,000		468,000		468,000	
		36.0%		36.0%		36.0%		36.0% (d)
2. KBC CAUSES (b)	832,000		832,000		832,000		832,000	
		64.0%		64.0%		64.0%		64.0% (d)
TOTAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL	23,481,335		23,804,000		24,400,000		24,862,000	

(a) The distribution of these items is voted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

(b) The distribution of these items is voted by the Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

(c) If Challenge Goal is attained, total CP through the SBC would equal 36%.

(d) Subject to the Mission Board's decision to apply the Financial Crisis Plan approved in 1990.

Crossings for Kids

Cedarmore event targets elementary school-age kids

The first day of October was a special day, as our first Kentucky Baptist Assemblies-programmed event culminated at Cedarmore.

The camping program was called "Crossings for Kids" and targeted elementary school-age kids. The Cedarmore event was the second of these weekends, the first being a week earlier at Jonathan Creek.

Based on comments by those attending, both weekends were great successes. Planning for these weekends began more than a year ago, and countless hours went into the development and preparation for these events. I want to thank our staff at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek for their efforts and to all who attended this first-time program. I especially want to thank Scott Bidwell, who took the lead on the development. Scott's leadership and relentless pursuit to offer the best programming possible is a blessing to our ministry and to me as well.

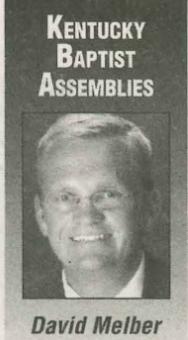
We desire our programming to connect kids and youth to Jesus. We want the programming to allow all who participate to equate fun times with Christ-centered

teaching and fellowship. We desire a partnership with churches to enhance their efforts to evangelize and disciple our young generation. Sometimes our culture will say the Bible and Jesus are limiting and therefore less than fun, but I would contend that the gospel is life and therefore should be exhilarating and attractive to all humanity.

These weekends gave our ministry great hope as we proceed with plans of new programs targeting the elementary age group. Coming next summer will be our first summer camp aimed at this group. No doubt as God opens the doors, many other events and camps will come to each location as our churches make their needs known.

While the summer of 2006 seems so far away, a great number of people already have registered for Crossings at Cedarmore and Crossings at the Creek 2006. Our registration numbers exceed 3,500 as of Sept. 30. If you plan to attend, make your reservations now, as several weeks are already full. Thanks again to all who participated in the Crossings for Kids weekend.

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



David Melber

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Kitchen measure (abbr.)
- 4 "Let her ____: against the day of my burying hath she kept this" (John 12:7)
- 9 Baden-Baden is one
- 12 Titian's medium
- 14 "I have set before thee an ____ door" (Revelation 3:8)
- 15 Possesses
- 16 Evening wrap
- 18 "The ear trieth words, as the mouth ____ meat" (Job 34:3)
- 20 Strive for dominance
- 21 Rows
- 22 Hardly worth commenting on
- 26 "Leah said a troop cometh: and she called his name ____" (Genesis 30:11)
- 27 Actor Auberjonois
- 28 "They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than ____" (2 Samuel 1:23)
- 30 Preposition
- 32 Univ. subj.
- 33 Collect collectibles
- 34 Verses to a Grecian urn
- 35 French conjunction
- 36 Diagram
- 37 Author unknown (abbr.)
- 38 Exclamation of achievement
- 39 "Thou ____ up the sum, full of wisdom" (Ezekiel 28:12)
- 41 Live like a longhorn
- 43 Leave out
- 44 Where ship is secured
- 46 Lake ____ (outdoor playground)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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44					45		46			47 48
49					50		51		52	
53					54					55

- 49 Hosp. facilities (pl.)
- 50 Affirm or attest to
- 52 Delhi "to go" garb
- 53 Born (Fr.)
- 54 African scavenger
- 55 Author Amy
- Down
- 1 Basketball blunders (abbr.)
- 2 Portraitist's command
- 3 "He was ____ with twelve yoke of oxen" (1 Kings 19:19)
- 5 KJV exclamation
- 6 Elect
- 7 Spiffy
- 8 Certain sailors
- 9 Broken piece of pottery, KJV style
- 10 Touches lightly
- 11 Tree type
- 13 Demetrius, in The Robe
- 17 The family of ____, descendants of Gad (Numbers 26:16)
- 19 Prince of Wales, and others
- 22 "I give to eat of the ____ of life" (Revelation 2:7)

- 23 Torn apart
- 24 Feminine name
- 25 Ananias and Sapphira, to name two
- 29 Bones (comb. form)
- 30 Big deals
- 31 Abraham's abode
- 33 Son of Ahab (1 Kings 22:40)
- 34 "He that ... meddleth with strife ... is like ____ (2 words) taketh a dog by the ears" (Proverbs 26:17)
- 36 Scorch
- 37 Witness Protection Program gift
- 38 Was no longer supine
- 40 Quantity (abbr.)
- 41 Former senator from Tennessee
- 42 Green monster
- 44 Door designation
- 45 Command to a horse
- 47 Mouth (pl.)
- 48 German article
- 51 TLC provider

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
L	A	M	B	A	B	E	L	T	E	A
A	R	E	A	R	A	V	E	R	A	W
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Teams don't hesitate to do dirty work for Katrina mud-out



TEARING OUT Mary England of Jeffersontown Baptist Church, removes drywall from a house in Biloxi, Miss. (Photos by David Winfrey)

Continued from page 1

"Most of the houses that we've gone into primarily have not been touched, so you have refrigerators with rotted food in them," he said. "You've got to use a mask."

The work begins when officials determine that the home can be salvaged. In Biloxi, some houses are condemned because they were moved from their foundations.

Workers remove the mud in the house, along with the carpet, cabinets, doors and any other items that have been destroyed by prolonged flooding.

Workers remove the mud in the house, along with the carpet, cabinets, doors and any other items that have been destroyed by prolonged flooding.

Debris is hauled to the front lawn, where city garbage workers eventually will remove it.

Drywall is removed throughout the house. Workers are taught to cut the drywall and insulation about a foot above the water line to get all

material that has the potential to foster mold growth.

Team leaders often must educate homeowners about the potential for mold. Pink insulation can turn black in a few days as a result of moisture. Flooded couches that look OK can have cushions that are black with mold.

Carpenter recalled one home where his team had to dispose of antique furniture that had green and orange mold on it.

"I'm not a doctor or anything, but I assume it's not the kind of mold you want to spend any time around," he said.

After removing belongings, flooring, walls and insulation, workers pressure wash every square inch of the exposed studs and foundation.

Then, workers come behind with a mild bleach solution that they spray to disinfect the surfaces.

At best, a team can complete a house in one day. Before they leave, the team offers to pray with the homeowner.

"Your God is awesome"

At one work site in Biloxi, a Hindu couple from Nepal agreed to pray with the team that included Smith and Carpenter. At one point the person praying called God awesome, Carpenter said, "and the man said, 'Yeah, your God is awesome.'"

Smith and Carpenter's team met a homeowner who had paid a business \$3,000 just to remove the carpet and drywall. The house still had mud in it and had not been disinfected.

The volunteer team finished the job and didn't charge the man anything for it.

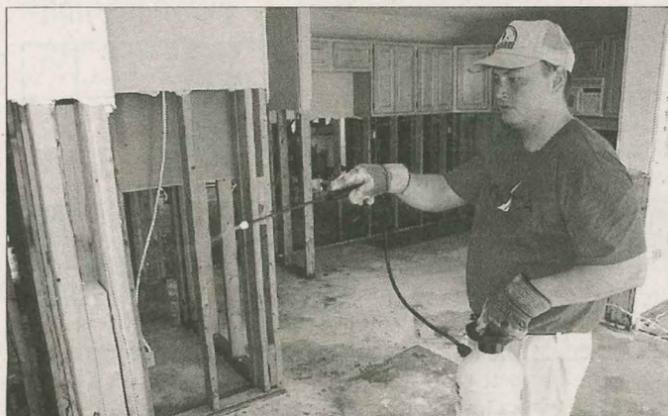
At one job site, a neighbor came up and asked what they were doing. He was dumbfounded when a volunteer replied, "If you'll drink a bottle of water with us and pray with us, we'll do it for nothing."

Bob Perkins, leader of the team from Louisville, said the team worked with little experience in mud-out work, but he quickly added that it was the best team of volunteers he's

ever worked with.

"They see the face of Jesus in each other in the way they talk to each other and to others," he said.

While the work is hard, Smith said he enjoyed the attitudes of his co-workers. "Here, nobody's concerned about (money). They're just working to get the job done," he said. "Everybody's willing to pitch in, any way they can."



DISINFECTING Eddie Smith, a volunteer from Jeffersontown Baptist Church, sprays a mild bleach solution on a house in Biloxi, Miss.

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'Lottie Moon would be very happy'

International students enhance campus environment and missions outreach

Many of our friends know that my wife, Kay, is the admissions director for our international students. For the past 50 years, Oneida Baptist Institute has been the educational home for many international students. It is often a mystery to us how some of those students find their way to OBI, while others come through Kay's obvious efforts. Often weeks and months of e-mails, phone calls and personal visits by friends and family members result in the enrollment of a new international student.

International students make up a little less than 10 percent of our total student body. They add a lot to our blend of students, and most American students are excited to attend classes or room with a student from another country. One big lesson learned by our American students is the difference in the attitude of our international students when it comes to their education. Unfortunately many—if not most—American students simply do not seem to understand the value of an education. A great deal of our time and work is directed toward encouraging our American students to put forth more effort. One of the greatest struggles our American students deal with is doing their homework. On the contrary, our international students normally are our best students. They pay attention, and rarely are there any problems getting them to do their homework.

I believe our international students are a constant reminder to our American students of the importance of an education. Not only do the international students pay attention in class, they

rarely become a discipline problem. About the only real problem they present us with is their determination to stay up late to do homework. When other students are at "free time" or doing other things, our international students are studying. When it is time to go to bed, they would much rather stay up to study. Many American students might not want to go to bed at 10 p.m., but they don't want to study either.

Last weekend we enrolled a student from China. Kay has been working with two Chinese students, but only one has been able to get here so far. When Kay came into my office to inform me of the flight plans for the arrival of our new student, she told me he would need much more financial assistance than most of our international students. Then, with a big smile she said, "But Lottie Moon would be very happy to know that we are helping a Chinese student."

Kay went to the airport at the appointed time to meet our new student. He arrived on time, but without luggage, which ended up in Chicago. It took four days and more than a dozen phone calls for Kay finally to get his luggage sent to our campus.

This young man is not a Christian and never has gone to church or any religious assembly in his life. Being on our campus will be his first exposure to any form of religion, especially Christianity. Our faculty and staff will have the unique opportunity over the next months and years to share the gospel message with this young man. Please keep him in your prayers as we seek to tell him about Jesus!

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

Reaching the next generation for Christ

Clear Creek establishes First Priority partnership

Many people think this age of political correctness doesn't allow the gospel in public high schools. They haven't heard about First Priority.

First Priority seized the opportunity opened when the U.S. Supreme Court approved equal access for student-led religious clubs in public schools. Headquartered in Nashville, the organization seeks to combine the commitment of Christian youth, parents, churches and community leaders "for the purpose of reaching and discipling the next generation for Jesus Christ."

The heart of their plan is "a network of students on each campus that are committed to reaching their school for Christ by living like Christ and sharing their faith in Christ." These campus Christians are mentored by adults from the community.

First Priority students conduct a cycle of four meetings each month. These sessions focus on what God is doing in their lives, inspire them to live fully devoted to Christ, share how they met Christ and pray for lost friends, culminating in bringing non-

Christian or unchurched friends to hear a presentation of the gospel.

Tri-States First Priority was launched Aug. 1, 1996. Since then 2,019 professions of faith have been reported; 429 this school year. Clubs are active in 55 school year in an eight-county area where Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia meet.

Some Clear Creek students work with First Priority to fulfill their required Christian service assignment. First Priority leaders describe the ministry in chapel every other year. One student each year can complete a year-long internship in a mentoring relationship with a trained and experienced First Priority leader. 2002 alumnus Paul Anglin Jr.

directs the First Priority work in the counties of Bell, Harlan and Lee, Va.

National youth leader Josh McDowell described First Priority as "the most effective and comprehensive national youth strategy I've ever seen." In the Tri-State area, 125 churches agree and provide their support. Clear Creek is grateful to join the partnership and have a part in reaching the next generation for Jesus Christ.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

'We have so many reasons to pray'

New Orleans director of missions finds many churches destroyed in visit to city

By Joe McKeever

New Orleans (BP)—I spent all day Sept. 29 with three good friends, and it was one of the worst days of my life.

We were finally able to get into New Orleans and begin the process of checking on our churches. Freddie Arnold from our associational office had secured a pass that got us past police checkpoints, and with church builder Ed Jelks and his wife, Glenda, we spent the day visiting more than 20 churches.

I've been worrying about how to tell this. We confined our visits to Orleans Parish, the portion of our city which is officially New Orleans. We drove down deserted streets with no traffic lights, with destruction on both sides, downed trees everywhere, homes boarded up, every store and every business closed. Not some and not most—every last one.

From the time we entered New Orleans at 9:30 a.m. until we moved into Metairie more than seven hours later, we did not see one place to buy a Coke or go to the restroom.

No birds were singing. One or two stray cats showed up and ran away. We saw an occasional worker cutting trees or stringing electrical lines. I think we saw a homeowner or two working in their yards, but nothing more.

The silence was eerie. This had been a major city populated by hundreds of thousands of people, but none were around that day.

Buildings with "racing stripes"

Every house and business wore racing stripes—lines to indicate where the water had risen and stopped, then lingered. The fortunate homes wore their lines low; most sported them like belts, at mid-level or even higher.

Then there were the churches. Some of them appeared to be in good shape. Ed Jelks wrote in his notes "NAD"—no appreciable damage. Those were the rare ones, like Beacon Baptist Church behind the French Quarter. Most had some damage, such as missing shingles or a couple of windows out, and many had taken a few inches of water inside.

But there also were the catastrophes, the churches with two feet or more of ugly toxic water that washed in and stayed for days or weeks—Franklin Avenue, Elysian Fields Avenue, Carrollton Avenue, First United, Lakeview and Gentilly. They were so sad I want to cry even now just thinking of it. Freddie and Ed wore their boots and explored the buildings, taking pictures and making notes. I hovered around the



PONTCHARTRAIN BAPTIST CHURCH An overturned piano sits covered with mold. (Photos courtesy of Joe McKeever)

edges and ventured a few feet inside before retreating into the sunlight.

The last two we saw were the ones that tore my heart worst. Edgewater and Pontchartrain churches

were the most depressing examples of what standing floodwater can do. Edgewater Baptist Church on Paris Avenue has a congregation made up primarily, I'm told, of seminary students and faculty, all of whom have now departed and will not be back until next fall.

But the church had mud several inches thick in the sanctuary, and windows were blown out. Standing at the front door, the stench was unbearable. I lifted my head and noticed the water level marked several inches above the door. It got that high and remained there for days. All the grass and shrubbery is brown from the deadly effects of the salt water. In the median of the boulevard in front of the church, people had parked their cars on what was surely the highest spot and safest place. The water covered their cars. A fine silt blankets each car; they are ruined forever.

I stood on the sidewalk in front of Edgewater and phoned Gary Richardson, who was pastor of that church in the 1990s while in seminary. I caught him on vacation in Orange Beach, Ala. Describing what had happened to the church, I said, "I am well aware I'm ruining your day. But I just felt that at the death of this fine lady, someone who loved her ought to know."

He said, "You called the right person."

And there was Pontchartrain Baptist Church. Margaret and I were members of that little church in 1964 when we first came to seminary. Classmate Vaughan Pruitt was pastor, and I led the singing and taught a class. Little has changed about it since then, including the size of the membership. The canal that gave way after Katrina, sending mountains of water into New Orleans and ruining entire neighborhoods, ran right beside the church



FRANKLIN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH Water surrounds the church campus shortly after the storm. (BP photo)

property. In fact, one side of the sanctuary is bent inward where the wall of water impacted it.

Inside, it was the same story: awful stench, blackened carpet, jumbled chairs and deadness. I wanted to cry.

"It's gone, dear"

We saw the beloved and be-draggled New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, locked down and guarded by a company of police. Professor Endel Lee, who had just returned from six months of Marine chaplain duty in Iraq, was there with the black-shirted law enforcement corps. What has he been doing?

"I'm working with the Coast Guard and will be for the next several weeks," he said.

Where was he living?

"In that green car over there." Kathy and the boys are evacuated, living in another state.

Mrs. Jelks wanted us to drive by the Gentilly Apartments, a complex which the seminary bought 20 years ago as living space for married students. She has friends back at home, seminarians who left their apartment just ahead of the storm and wanted us to check. Standing on the front sidewalk, she called them.

"Honey, you don't want to come back here. There's nothing left. The insulation is hanging out of ceilings, mud is everywhere, furniture is destroyed, everything is jumbled. It's gone, dear," she said.

At their request, Ed Jelks took the license plate off his friend's ruined pickup truck in the parking lot to convince State Farm the vehicle no longer needed to be insured.

In our visits on the West Bank Sept. 27, Ed and I saw churches that were up and running and ministering to their communities. Two days later, we saw church buildings that

are almost out of business. No one lives in their neighborhoods, nor will they for some time. Some houses can be gutted and rebuilt, but others will be bulldozed. The same goes for the churches. I'm a preacher and not a builder and cannot tell you which of these sad cases can be salvaged. I hope they all can, but I'll be greatly surprised if Lakeview and Gentilly and Franklin Avenue are able to save their present buildings.

Wednesday when the ministers were meeting in LaPlace, the restrooms were also used by children and workers at the day care. In the men's room, a poster featured Noah and the ark with a lovely rainbow in the background.

It read: "A rainbow is God's promise He will never flood the world." I know the Scripture and know what it means and I'm grateful for the promise. But right now, try telling that to a lot of people in New Orleans, people whose world was their neighborhood and whose world is now flooded.

We have so many reasons to pray.

Parts of New Orleans are now open to residents. So the streets, which were already jammed, are beyond crowded.

If you know of someone who drove into the city to look at their property, when they return give them a big hug and do not ask what they saw. What they saw was a corpse, death itself lying all over their property. What they felt is beyond words. Just hug them and say, "Welcome back." When they feel up to it, they'll talk. And cry. And soon, they'll decide what to do. But today, they just don't feel up to it.

Try to understand.

Joe McKeever is director of missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans. Read his post-Katrina comments on his Web site: www.joemckeever.com.

Status report

Damaged Baptist churches (estimates):

Louisiana: 333.
Mississippi: 100 completely destroyed; 400 heavily damaged.
Texas: Approximately 290 churches in area affected by Hurricane Rita.
Alabama: 101 of 104 churches in Mobile Baptist Association have some damage; at least six have extensive damage.

Kentucky Baptists' current response:

■ A feeding kitchen in Slidell, La., cooking approximately 10,000 meals per day for Red Cross distribution.

■ A feeding kitchen in Kinder, La., cooking approximately 4,000 meals per day for western Louisiana victims of Hurricane Rita.

■ Approximately 70 volunteers are working on mud-out teams in Biloxi, Miss.

■ Approximately 20 volunteers are working with a Salvation Army distribution center in Pascagoula, Miss.

■ At least 500 volunteers have served through the Kentucky Baptists Convention's disaster relief efforts.

Southern Baptists' response:

Total feeding and cleanup units activated: 342.
Volunteer days: 77,061.
Meals prepared: 6.6 million.
Cleanup jobs completed: 9,012.

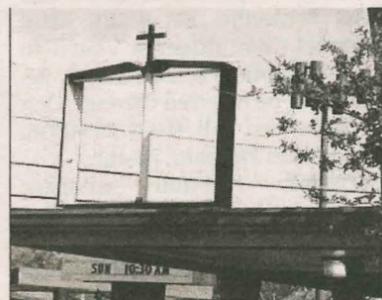
Sources: Louisiana Baptist Convention, Mississippi Baptist Convention, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Mobile Baptist Association, Kentucky Baptist Convention, North American Mission Board



SHILOAH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF KENNER Bricks blown from the annex building.



RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH



CRESCENT CITY BAPTIST CHURCH

PRAYER PARTNERS

Pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionary Baptist ministries and ministries:

Garner Baptist Church in Rush. The church has an after-school Bible club for children that meets in the school building. Pastor Gary Arrington said other schools in the area have noticed the benefit and success of the program and have invited them to provide the same type program in their schools. Pray that more adults will step forward to volunteer in this ministry opportunity. Pray also that children will come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and that through the children, families will come to know the love of Christ.

Mission Service Corps missionary Shirley Cox of Mount Vernon. Cox serves as a missions photojournalist, writing for Missions Mosaic, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, Mission Service Corps newsletter, Appalachian Regional Ministry newsletter, other Christian publications and local newspapers. She is telling the story of what God is doing through missionaries and ministries across the state. Pray for her insight and wisdom to write articles that will bless, inspire and motivate others. Pray that her writing will reveal the power and presence of God in today's world.

If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org or call (866) 489-3530.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BEREA**—Roundstone Church will hold revival services Oct. 16-19, 7 p.m., with **Darren Cupp** as evangelist. **Rick Reynolds** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Fairview Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 23. Activities will include an 11 a.m. worship service, a potluck meal and a 1:30 p.m. celebration. For more information, call (270) 465-0122. **Don Gowin** is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church will show "Left Behind—World at War" Oct. 21, 7 p.m., and Oct. 22, 3 and 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (270) 388-7693.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Elizabethtown Church will host acoustic performers **Kyle Reeder** and **Mark Evtits** in a sacred concert Oct. 29, 7 p.m. For more information, call (866) 763-6565.

■ **FRANKLIN**—Calvary Church will hold revival services Oct. 16-19 with **Bill Patterson**, former pastor of First Church of Henderson, as evangelist and **Mark Celoria** as music evangelist. **Wyman Copass** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethany Church will hold an installation service for Pastor **Chuck Fuller** Oct. 16, 2 p.m., with Kentucky Baptist Convention President **Hershael York** as guest speaker.

Buechel Park Church will host the **University of Kentucky Men's Chorus** in concert Oct. 18, 7 p.m.

Cloverleaf Church will host a gospel music concert by the **Melody Boys** quartet from Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 16, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Highland Church named **Donald Burke**, pastor of Highland from

1970-1981, as pastor emeritus. **Joe Phelps** is pastor.

Lyndon Church recently honored **William and Jane Sales** on their 50th wedding anniversary. **Jim Holladay** is pastor.

Barry Dever Sr., a member of First Church of Middletown, died Oct. 5 at age 42. He is survived by his wife, Wendy, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's preschool/children's ministry and Sunday school group, and their son, Barry Jr., as well as his parents and a sister. Memorial gifts may be made to the Barry Dever Jr. College Trust Fund in care of First Church, Middletown.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Freedom Church will hold revival services Oct. 16-19, 7 p.m., with **John McPheron** as evangelist. **Albert McKinney** is pastor.

Brindle Ridge Church will hold revival services beginning Oct. 17, 7 p.m., with **Kenneth Thompson** as evangelist. **Ron Roberts** is pastor.

■ **NEW HAVEN**—First Church will hold lay-led revival services Oct. 16 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and Oct. 17-19 at 7 p.m.

■ **PADUCAH**—Olivet Church recently ordained **Andy Crabtree** and **Ricky Emerson** as deacons and named **Elliott Cockrell** and **George Wallace** deacons emeriti. **Tommy Tucker** is pastor.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—Lancer Church recently called **Mark Taylor** as associate pastor.

■ **WALTON**—First Church will hold a "Revelation Revival" Oct. 23-26 with **Mel Poe** of Union City, Tenn., as evangelist. For more information, call (859) 485-4191. **Sheldon Hale** is pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

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

15 KBC Preaching Conference, New View 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 Student Center.

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

11-13 Crossover, Frankfort.

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

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

GuideStone offers budget resources

Dallas (BP)—As church budget committees wrestle with the tough questions of providing their staff adequate salary, insurance coverage, retirement and other benefits, GuideStone Financial Resources is offering a free resource to aid the process.

GuideStone's "Planning Financial Support" workbook includes a step-by-step budget plan as well as sample policies and forms.

The workbook cites six steps to financial support planning:

- Determine the needs.
- Establish written financial support policies.
- Provide for ministry-related expenses.
- Provide employee benefits.
- Determine personal income.
- Complete a financial support worksheet.

"The Planning Financial Support workbook is a free resource and one

of the most valuable tools available to our local churches and the pastors standing at the crossroads," said Bob Henry, head of GuideStone's church retirement marketing department. The workbook can be ordered by calling (800) 262-0511 or by visiting GuideStone's Web site at www.GuideStone.org.

Along with the workbook, another available tool is the 2004 Compensation Study compiled by 41 Southern Baptist state conventions in cooperation with GuideStone. Surveys were mailed to churches and the statistical information has been compiled and is available on GuideStone's Web site. A new survey will be conducted in 2006.

Henry said the compensation study provides "customized salary and benefit information for several positions within a church ... and provides valuable insight as a committee contemplates its options."

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

SEEKING: Full-time minister to students for Tabernacle Baptist Church, Carrollton, Ga., a congregation of 2,600 members. This minister will be responsible for ministry to students, grades 7 through college. A college degree is required, with a degree from an accredited seminary preferred. Visit our Web site: www.tabernacle.org. Resumes may be sent to: Minister to Students Search Committee, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 150 Tabernacle Drive, Carrollton, GA 30117; or e-mail to bruce.minett@tabernacle.org.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education/administration for a growing church. Candidate must have a calling to the ministry, be able to multi-task and exhibit strong leadership skills. Send resumé to Woodburn Baptist Church, PO Box 38, Woodburn, KY 42170, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time senior adult minister. Resumes should be sent by Oct. 31 to Vinton Baptist Church, PO Box 306, Vinton, VA 24179-0306.

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

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

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

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

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

SEEKING: Part-time 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: Turner Handfler, or call (270) 965-2149. turnerhandfler@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: Part-time children's ministry coordinator to work with elementary students, grades 1-5, under the supervision of the children's ministry director of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, Ky. Send resumé by Oct. 28 to Personnel Committee, Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 W Byers Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303.

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

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

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

SERVICES: Church newsletter layout. Call ChurchNewsDesign, (859) 319-1151. E-mail your information one afternoon, ChurchNewsDesign will e-mail an attractively designed newsletter the next morning. Reasonable rates. ChurchNewsDesign has experience in church staff ministry and understands how to communicate the church's message. Samples available. Access to excellent clip art.

Commandments judge Roy Moore announces run for Ala. governor

By Taylor Bright
Religion News Service

Montgomery, Ala. (RNS)—He lost his position as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court after building a solid political base; he learned kickboxing and then left for Australia after losing his first political race in Alabama when he was 35.

Roy Moore isn't an ordinary politician, and experts don't expect an ordinary race as Moore looks to be the next governor of Alabama.

"It changes the usual dynamic," said Brad Moody, a professor of political science at Auburn University Montgomery.

Moore announced Oct. 3 in Gadsden that he would run for governor, likely facing Gov. Bob Riley in the Republican primary election June 6. Two Democrats, Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley and former Gov. Don Siegelman, already are running.

Moore, 58, said last week that if elected, he has no plans to relocate the Ten Commandments monument from its new home at a church in Gadsden.

"But I'll tell you what I will do. I will defend the right of every citizen of this state—including judges, coaches, teachers, city, county and state officials—to acknowledge God as the sovereign source of law, liberty and government," he said.

Moore became a hero of religious conservatives after fighting several times to keep various replicas of the Ten Commandments on display in public buildings—first in his Etowah County courtroom and then in the rotunda of the state Supreme Court building in 2003.

Moore's refusal to remove the 2.5-ton monument against the orders of a federal judge ultimately led to the state Court of the Judiciary removing him as chief justice.

After the firing, Moore toured the country speaking about the right to acknowledge God.

To those who have criticized him as a one-issue candidate, Moore said his one issue is summed up by his campaign theme: "Return Alabama to the people."

In a theatrical campaign kickoff, he signed a giant copy of his campaign platform that calls for limiting legislators to three terms; stopping legislators from holding two state jobs, such as teachers who also are lawmakers; reducing the influence of teacher lobbyists; ending annual tax reappraisals of property; imposing new fines and penalties on businesses that employ illegal immigrants; and opposing the expansion of gambling.

Road guardian or kitsch?

Giant Jesus has residents debating art's local impact on highway safety

By Bill Sloat
Religion News Service

Middletown, Ohio (RNS)—Shake every kudzu vine across America's southern Bible belt, and no glow-in-the-dark plastic Jesus quite like Ohio's mega-messiah will ever pop out.

Nicknamed "Super Savior," the 62-foot-tall statue of Christ looms over land reclaimed from a cornfield. It dominates a once-deadly stretch of Interstate 75 in southwestern Ohio that slices through some of the state's fastest-growing counties.

There is even a new urban legend being created: Not long after a church had the roadside statue erected last summer, the highway suddenly became safe.

"There were a whole lot of folks, when I was growing up, who used to have St. Christopher on the dashboard," said Butler County Commissioner Mike Fox. "Maybe having a large statue of Jesus kind of takes care of the whole flow of traffic as it goes through."

The safer-streets story is the latest twist involving the monolith whose upraised arms have been compared to a football referee signaling a score, earning it another nickname, "Touchdown Jesus." Those hands and arms, by the way, could hold a dump truck.

To those in God's evangelical armies, the monument has become a sacred mile marker.

The less reverent view the statue as something akin to industrial-strength Christian kitsch.

In Internet chat rooms, debate has been fierce between those with an affinity for the sculpted divinity and those who question its purpose. Some of the more orthodox have protested that it violates a commandment against graven images.

Others say it promotes idolatry. There seems to be no middle ground.

Some already are crediting the giant Jesus with working a miracle of sorts. The fatal wrecks that frequently bloodied the section of I-75 where it stands, about midway between Dayton and Cincinnati, now seem to have stopped.

Indeed, there were 14 deaths over two years before the sculpture's appearance. Many crashes involved drivers crossing the median into opposing lanes of traffic.

Could the Jesus statue have calmed that storm?

Fiberglass & Styrofoam

Pastor Lawrence Bishop and his wife, Darlene, think so. They spent \$250,000 from their Solid Rock Church—a nondenominational charismatic congregation with about 3,400 members—to build the towering fiberglass and Styrofoam rendering. The statue is just north of the Monroe interchange on I-75.

Darlene Bishop said critics who complain about the amount spent on the structure are misdirected. She said the church operates a home for unwed mothers and is financially supporting an orphanage in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

"Some people ... said the money could have been taken and used to feed the poor," Mrs. Bishop said. "Well, we do feed the poor."

Because the statue is attracting wide attention for the church, it is prospering, she added. That, in turn, has moved the congregation to increase its aid for the orphans.

Lawrence Bishop said the criticism has been a blessing.

"It turns out that all publicity is good publicity," he said.

And, he says, "Since that's been



up, there hasn't been one wreck out there."

After 14 people were killed on that stretch of highway in 2000 and 2001, the state spent \$1.1 million to install a cable that runs down the median. The cable barrier is designed to stop vehicles from crossing into oncoming traffic.

Jay Hamilton, the highway agency engineer who designed the barrier, is not willing to give the giant Jesus the credit for ending the carnage.

"I honestly think that Jesus can perform miracles, but I don't think the statue was the miracle out here," he said. "It was the barrier."

SAFER ROADS? The 62-foot King of Kings statue stands at the Solid Rock Church in Monroe, Ohio. The statue weighs about 16,000 pounds and is made of wood and Styrofoam over a steel frame. Some people credit the statue with reducing traffic deaths on a previously treacherous stretch of highway. (RNS photo by David Kohl)

NAMB commissions 104 missionaries and chaplains

By Mickey Noah
SBC North American Mission Board

McDonough, Ga. (BP)—Charged with spreading the gospel of Christ throughout North America, 102 missionaries and chaplains were commissioned Oct. 2 by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a 90-minute service at Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church in McDonough, Ga., NAMB commissioned 48 married couples and six individuals. The new missionaries will serve in 27 states and five Canadian locations. Another eight hold national assignments.

All 54 missionaries—accompanied by flags representing their new states or provinces—introduced themselves to the 2,000-person congregation. Several shared their testimonies.

"Statistics show that existing Southern Baptist churches win 3.4 people for Christ per 100 resident members," said Mark Gray, who, with his wife, Esther, is a church planting strategist/consultant in North Carolina.

"However, new churches win 11.7



TRUSTING GOD Chuck Allen, executive vice president of the North American Mission Board, told 54 new missionaries Oct. 2 that "it's not what we have, but what we give back to God that counts." (NAMB photo by John Swain)

people for Christ per 100 members. So we must plant not only new churches but new kinds of churches," said Gray, who focuses on new Anglo and African-American church plantings.

Donnie Spivey, along with his wife, Sheri, are serving in Kamloops, a city of 80,000 in British Columbia. A church planter, Spivey is working

with unchurched university students and young families throughout the city.

"There are only 229 Southern Baptist churches in all of Canada," Spivey said. "Here in Georgia, you have 229 Baptist churches in the 30 miles between McDonough and Atlanta," he added to laughter.

"There's a recent movie out, called '(An) Unfinished Life', which was filmed in Kamloops," Spivey said. "Using that theme, my wife and I don't want to be sitting around the coffee table in our 80s regretting what we should have accomplished for the Lord. We don't intend to have unfinished lives."

In his charge to the new missionaries, NAMB Executive Vice President Chuck Allen told the missionaries and congregation, "Do what you can with what you have and God will never leave you where you are at or give you more than you can stand."

NAMB partners with state Baptist conventions, associations and Southern Baptist churches to support more than 5,200 missionaries in the United States and Canada.



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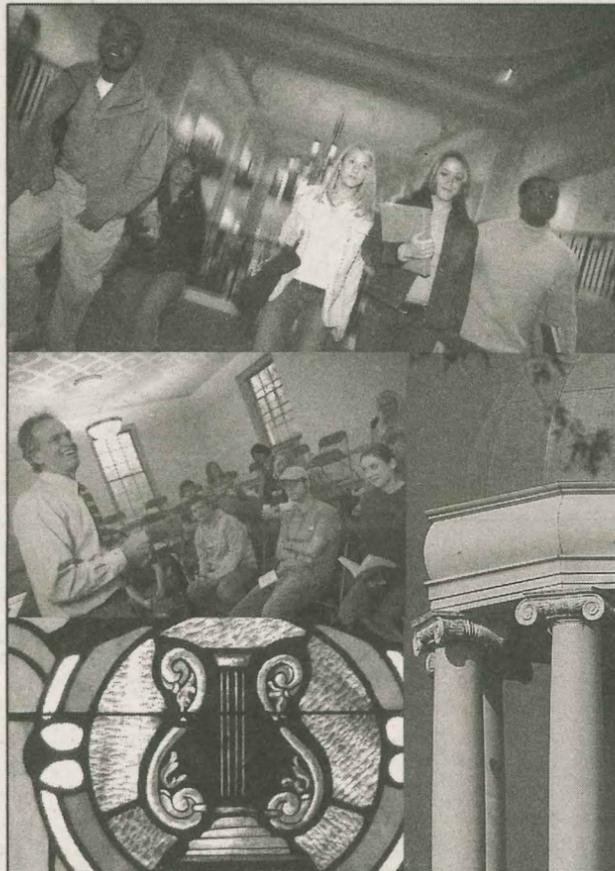
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