November 1, 2005
Vol. 179, No. 43**FOR THE RECORD****Baptists**Southern Baptists are responding to Hurricane Wilma in Florida. *Page 2.***Kentucky**This month's KBC annual meeting in Frankfort will focus on strengthening churches. *Page 3.***Financial Forum**Do you have "income insurance?" *Page 4.***Editorial**Rosa Parks: Taking a stand by keeping her seat. *Page 5.***Churches**At least 900 churches were destroyed or paralyzed by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. *Page 6.***Ministry**Baptists continue to help tsunami and quake victims. *Page 8.***Kentucky workers serving hurricane victims in Miami**

Miami—Add Florida to the list of states where Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers are serving those affected by a hurricane.

Hurricane Wilma struck Florida on Oct. 24, causing an estimated \$10 billion in damage to the state and leaving 6 million residents without power.

Approximately 40 volunteers arrived in Miami Oct. 25, but an accident involving the food supply truck meant they had no work for the first few days on the scene, according to Larry Koch, director of disaster relief for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"It's been a difficult time for volunteers," he said. "They don't want to sit around."

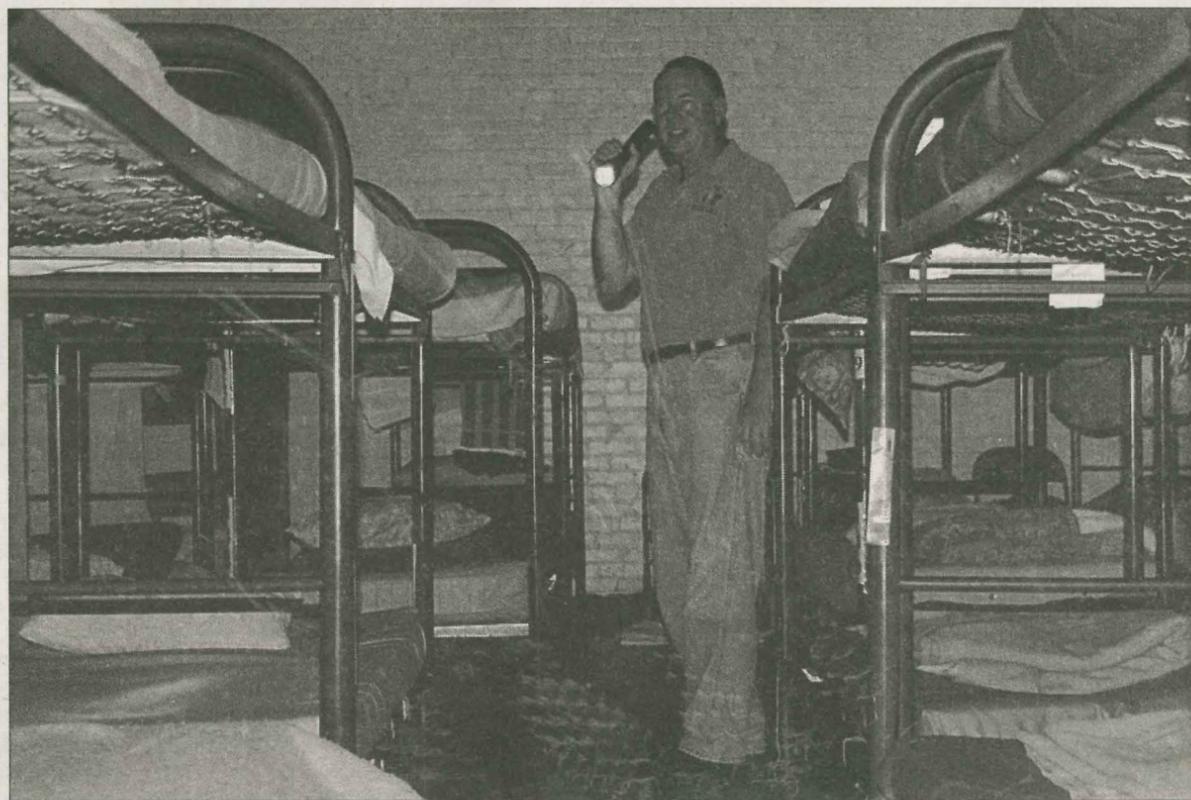
This is the third hurricane Kentucky Baptists have responded to this season.

Kentucky volunteers have been providing food and cleanup service to residents in Louisiana and Mississippi after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The mobile kitchen in Slidell, La., closed last week after workers there served more than 250,000 meals in eight weeks.

"But there's still lots of mud-out, chainsaw work to be done in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas," Koch said.

Trained disaster relief volunteers who have not been called are asked to contact the KBC men on mission office, toll-free at (886) 489-3527 if they are available to volunteer.

Spreading light**CHECKING IT OUT** Tobey Pitman, the Southern Baptist Convention's national missionary for homelessness, checks out the Brantley Mission Center, which has sat empty since Hurricane Katrina. "The first time we came back, it was to look for bodies." The center will reopen this week as a 250-bed dorm for Baptist volunteer workers. (Photo by David Winfrey)**New Orleans missionary ready to meet new needs**By David Winfrey
News Director**New Orleans**—What do you do when you run a homeless shelter and the city has evacuated all the homeless?

That's the situation facing Tobey Pitman, the Southern Baptist national missionary for homelessness and director of the Brantley Mission Center in New Orleans.

As the city rebuilds from Hurricane Katrina, Pitman is among

the many local residents who must adjust to a new sense of normal.

"We're retooling our ministry," said Pitman, 50. "We've gotten out of the homeless business temporarily because there are no homeless."

Instead, the Brantley Center reopened this week as a 250-bed dorm for Baptist volunteers coming from throughout the country to rebuild churches and homes.

"There's at least a year's work to be done," he said. "We just hope the

interest is not lost in coming to New Orleans."

Pitman and the Brantley Center, just a block away from New Orleans' famous French Quarter, have generated a lot of interest in the past two months.

Just weeks before Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, Pitman and his wife, Cathy, were profiled in Missions Mosaic, the missions magazine of Woman's Missionary Union.

□ See *Missionary revamps ... Page 6***Children's specialist bringing ideas to KBC's annual meeting**By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention**Louisville**—His two sons are grown, but Art Murphy still has a passion for rescuing children from the world's evil.

It's a passion that Murphy, founder of Arrow Ministries, hopes to share with messengers during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 15-16, at the Frankfort Convention Center.

"As a college athlete I never thought: 'I'm going to tie shoestrings and wipe noses for the rest of my life,'" said Murphy, the former children's ministry pastor at First Baptist Church of Orlando. "But there's nothing that makes me taller than when I stoop to help a child or hold a child's face in my hands, and my eyes know what to say to his eyes."



Art Murphy

During his Wednesday morning workshop at the KBC annual meeting, Murphy will discuss three components of improving a church's children's outreach:

Making it a vital part of the church. Too many congregations are stuck in a 1970s babysitting mode, Murphy contends. He points out that elevating children's ministry will affect staffing, budgeting, training and the church calendar.

But doing so is vital, insists Murphy, who started Arrow Ministries four years ago to train and equip churches and leaders for children's ministries.

He pointed out that new, growing churches feature two strengths: dynamic worship and excellent children's ministry.

Redesigning facilities. Nation-

wide, churches that are popular with youngsters employ a "Bibleland" approach and look more like a theme park than a traditional Sunday school classroom, Murphy says.

For example, a Florida church has a three-story building for children. To move about, kids can take the stairs, elevator or get spit out of Jonah's whale. Another in Dallas has a slide to reach the main children's area.

Even small churches can take steps to make their children's area exciting to kids, he added.

"Children-friendly facilities should say, 'We love kids and kids love it here,'" said Murphy, who saw more than 1,200 children accept Christ while at First Baptist.

Learning how to be child-friendly. Two leading ways Murphy recommends are using more Bible application and appreciating the

value of play.

The first means helping teachers develop ways of showing kids how to apply Bible lessons in daily life. Children need more than cramming their heads full of knowledge, Murphy says.

"The goal is not how much does a child know about Daniel, but that he leaves wanting to be Daniel," Murphy said. "We want volunteers to relax and be excited about what they're doing."

Churches also should appreciate that play is a child's "love language," Murphy said.

Today, many children need instruction in how to play, he said, because kids often sit in a room fixed on video games but never interact.

"Play needs to be a part of every church's strategy," said Murphy, who also will conduct a workshop for children's ministry leaders at □ See *Children's ministry ... Page 3*

Missionaries providing Wilma relief in Mexico

Mérida, Mexico (BP)—Southern Baptist International Mission Board personnel in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula are safe and working with local Baptist partners to bring basic relief to area residents in the form of water purifiers, rice and beans.

Hurricane Wilma pounded the Mexican coast on Oct. 22, a Category 3 storm with 125-mph winds that claimed at least eight lives in Mexico and more than a dozen in the Caribbean.

Food staples have been purchased using Southern Baptist World Hunger & Relief funds and will be warehoused in the Baptist churches in Mérida, Cancún and Playa del Carmen.

"It looks like Louisiana," missionary Doug Millar said, noting that Hurricane Wilma's slow path across the peninsula intensified the damage.

Millar and his wife, Darla, have served nine years in Cancún; they had worked in Playa del Carmen only three weeks when Wilma hit. An electric company employee told them residents could be without power for months.

"I know there are a lot of terrible things happening around the world, and people are weary of hearing about it," Millar said. "But the truth is, we're just praying that somehow God will bring some good out of disaster. So first, just pray that we can be a testimony, and that we will have the faith that God can bring something good out of bad."

To support relief work in this area, a check can be sent to the International Mission Board designated for "MAC Hurricane Relief" (MAC is an abbreviation for the Middle America and Caribbean region), P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. To give online, visit www.imb.org/worldhunger and give through the General Relief Fund. One hundred percent of the gifts will go for relief aid.

Baptist volunteers mobilize to aid weary Wilma victims

Latest hurricane is eighth storm to hit Fla. in 15 months

By Mickey Noah
Baptist Press

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—An estimated 500 Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers are working in the middle of Hurricane Wilma's devastation in South Florida, while 7,000 SBC volunteers are still serving along the Gulf Coast.

Fifteen Southern Baptist kitchen units are up and running, most of them parked on the property of Baptist churches in the hurricane-affected areas. Southern Baptists also are staffing the American Red Cross' "Spirit of America" kitchen unit at Opa Locka Airport, according to Mickey Caison, manager of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's disaster operations center.

Disaster relief workers from Kentucky as well as volunteers from as far as away as New York, Michigan and California are serving in Florida.

Ed Blackmon, an associate for the Florida Baptist Convention's Baptist Men, said Broward County was particularly hard-hit by Wilma.

Massive damage—again

"Broward County's infrastructure and power grid suffered massive damage," Blackmon said. "We're not talking about a matter of days to restore power, we're talking about weeks."

"People from around the U.S. don't realize this is Florida's most heavily populated area—with as many as 6 million citizens affected," Blackmon added.

Caison said NAMB's disaster operations center at Alpharetta, Ga.,



TOPSY-TURVY A limousine overturned by Hurricane Wilma sits on its roof in Pompano Beach, Fla. At least 15 Baptist disaster relief teams have been dispatched to Florida, where the hurricane left an estimated 6 million people without power. (RNS/Reuters photo by Brian Snyder)

has been in operation 24 hours a day for more than two months, dating back to late August when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast states of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Since then, more than 9 million meals have been prepared by Southern Baptists for hurricane victims and workers.

Although much of the disaster center's attention now is focused on Florida, "we're still maintaining our operations in the Gulf States, including Texas," Caison said.

With recovery and long-term rebuilding still in the early stages, Caison predicts that Southern Baptist volunteers will be needed for weeks to come in the Gulf States, especially with winter coming on.

At least two Baptist churches reportedly were destroyed in Florida and 23 others damaged Oct. 24 as Hurricane Wilma cut a diagonal swath across the southern tip of the state, which has weathered eight hurricanes in 15 months.

Westside Baptist Church in Boynton Beach was totally destroyed, according to director of missions John Brackin of Palm Lake Baptist Association. The sanctuary of Graham Baptist Church in Miami also was destroyed. Both churches are on Florida's east coast, where damage was worse than expected as Wilma exited into the Atlantic Ocean.

Wayside Baptist Church in Miami, which was left with a huge gaping hole after Hurricane Andrew

in 1992, again was pummeled when Wilma seriously damaged the sanctuary roof.

Two churches in the Florida Keys have reported destruction, said Sonny Pritchett, director of missions for the Florida Keys. First Baptist of Big Coppitt was flooded. Sugar Loaf on Summerland Key experienced steeple and water damage.

Disaster relief contributions may be sent to state conventions, associations or churches responding to the effort or to the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Fund. Donations to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief may be made online at www.namb.net or by calling (866) 407-6262.

With reporting by Barbara Denman of the Florida Baptist Convention

BAPTIST DIGEST

Pastor electrocuted in baptistry.

Kyle Lake, pastor of University Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, was killed by electrocution Oct. 30 while performing a baptism during a worship service. Lake was in the baptistry when the accident occurred, reportedly caused by a microphone. Lake, 33, was taken to a nearby hospital by paramedics and was pronounced dead at 11:30 a.m., according to the church's Web site. The baptismal candidate reportedly was not seriously injured. The church was founded in 1995 by worship leader and songwriter David Crowder and author Chris Seay.

Baylor downsizes board.

Baylor University regents have approved a charter change to downsize the school's governing board from 36 to 16 members. Chairman Will Davis of Austin described the vote as "not unanimous but overwhelming." The downsizing ultimately will give Baylor one of the smallest boards among nonprofit, religiously affiliated universities. Regents approved the measure to improve the "efficiency and effectiveness" of the

governing board, Davis said. Prior to the meeting, however, some opponents of the proposal characterized it as a power grab intended to silence dissenting voices on the board. Davis said the downsizing will be achieved through attrition over nine years.

Alabama conservatives disband.

Alabama Baptist Conservatives, a network of pastors organized in 1997, officially disbanded Sept. 29, saying they accomplished their goal of steering the state's Baptist convention in "a conservative direction." "The state convention has taken a stand of being loyal Southern Baptists, theological conservatives and evangelism-oriented," said John Killian, the former group's moderator. "That's what we wanted and we are there." The group—originally known as Southern Baptist Conservatives of Alabama—formed out of concern about Cooperative Baptist Fellowship activity in the state, Killian explained. While there still is an active state CBF organization in Alabama, it is involved in ministry and not pursuing political activities in the state convention.

Missouri Baptists narrow membership to exclude CBF, moderate churches

Springfield, Mo. (ABP)—Missouri Baptist Convention messengers voted last week to no longer cooperate with churches that support any organization considered to compete with the state convention or the Southern Baptist Convention.

The changes will shut out congregations that participate in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or the moderate Baptist General Convention of Missouri but make exceptions for other organizations.

Meeting Oct. 24-26 in Springfield, messengers adopted two constitutional amendments on second reading that narrow MBC membership requirements.

The first amendment changed the membership eligibility requirement from "any Baptist church in sympathy with the objects of the convention..." to "any Southern Baptist church singly aligned with the convention."

As approved, the membership article permits MBC-affiliated churches to relate to racial, ethnic, cultural and community organizations and conventions, as long as those relationships do not violate the MBC constitution and bylaws or "accepted Southern Baptist faith,

polity and practice."

An adopted amendment to the constitution's relationship article allows the MBC to determine the churches with which it will cooperate. The article had allowed the convention to decline to seat messengers. The change now allows the convention to "decline to accept or continue cooperation with a church" as well.

Messengers overwhelmingly defeated two attempts to modify the proposed constitutional changes.

One amendment attempted to eliminate the word "singly." Calling it a matter of integrity, Jim Goforth of St. Louis said the convention could not call affiliation single alignment when the constitution would allow cooperation with other organizations. "I wish we would have the courage to just name the organizations and be honest about it," he said.

Messengers also rejected an attempt by David Mason of St. Joseph to return the proposals to the committee for continuing review. He suggested consideration of the proposals be delayed until legal action currently pending between the MBC and five institutions is settled.

KBC annual meeting to focus on equipping members

By Jonathan Johnston
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Frankfort—Kentucky Baptists will be focusing on ways to strengthen their churches when they meet Nov. 15-16 in Frankfort for the 168th Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Approximately 2,000 messengers are expected to be on hand for the gathering at the Frankfort Convention Center.

The theme for the annual meeting will be "Kentucky Baptists Connect: Strengthening Every Church," continuing the Kentucky Baptists Connect emphasis which began at the 2004 annual meeting.

Kentucky Baptists Connect is a five-year initiative focused on renewing commitments to evangelism, missions, leadership training, church growth, networking, and relationships with Baptist agencies and institutions.

On Tuesday morning, Convention messengers will be asked to approve a new partnership agreement with Georgetown College. College officials recently decided to make its board self-perpetuating rather than have it elected by convention messengers. A joint workgroup with members from the college and the convention worked out the language of the new agreement.

The Tuesday morning session also will feature an address by Hershael York, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. York is a preaching professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort.

Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, will bring the annual convention sermon on Tuesday afternoon.

The elections of the president and first vice president also will take place during the Tuesday afternoon

Schedule

Tuesday morning

Motions/resolutions/miscellaneous business.
Report of special committee on Georgetown College.
KBC Mission Board staff report and recommendations.
President's Address by Hershael York.

Tuesday afternoon

Kentucky Christian higher education presentation featuring Campbellsville University, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Georgetown College & University of the Cumberlands.
Election of KBC President.
Convention sermon by Bill Henard.
Miscellaneous business.
Election of KBC First Vice President.

Tuesday evening

Election of KBC Second Vice President.
Miscellaneous business.
Election of KBC secretaries.
Special Program: Engaging and Involving New Members.

Wednesday morning

Miscellaneous business.
Committee on Resolutions.
Richard Blackaby: "Spiritual Preparation for Connecting People to Jesus Christ."
Art Murphy: "Taking Your Children's Ministry to the Next Level."
Reggie McNeal: "Connecting Future Generations to Jesus Christ."

session. Announced presidential candidates are Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, and Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

The Tuesday afternoon session also includes a report and video from the KBC's Committee on Public Affairs, which is gearing up to oppose an expected push in the Kentucky General Assembly to allow casino gambling in the state. The session also will include the launch of a special effort to help with long-term hurricane recovery efforts in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Program: Involving all members

The Tuesday evening session will feature a special program emphasizing involving new members in churches. This program also will include a celebration of baptism, drama and music. Jason Pettus, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in

Bowling Green, will preach.

The Wednesday morning session will feature three speakers who will bring seminar-style presentations.

Richard Blackaby, president of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochraine, Alberta, will speak about "Spiritual Preparation for Connecting People to Jesus Christ."

Art Murphy will speak on "Taking Your Children's Ministry to the Next Level." Murphy is the founder/president of Arrow Ministries, a national ministry to parents, churches, and children's ministry leaders.

Author and leadership specialist Reggie McNeal will speak on "Connecting Future Generations to Jesus Christ." McNeal is the director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention's leadership development office.

For more information about the annual meeting, visit www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting.

Pastors' conference

Frankfort—Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch will be among six speakers during this year's Pastors' Conference, Nov. 14 in Frankfort.

The theme for the one-day event will be "It's Still the Cross," according to conference President Robert Tarrance.

The theme is related to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's theme of Kentucky Baptists Connect, he added.

"How do we connect people to Christ except through the cross?" asked Tarrance, pastor of Green Ridge Baptist Church in Lewisburg.

Speakers during the afternoon session, starting at 1 p.m. are:

■ **Bob Pitman**, pastor of Kirbywoods Baptist Church in Memphis.

■ **Russell Moore**, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ **Kevin Ezell**, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Speakers during the evening session, starting at 6:30 p.m. are:

■ **Thurmond Coleman**, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Jeffersonton.

■ **Paul Chitwood**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington.

■ **Bobby Welch**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla.

The conference, to be held in the Frankfort Convention Center, is free, but an offering will be collected to offset costs.

Valentine, Shoulta to be nominated as KBC vice presidents

Frankfort—Two Kentucky Baptist pastors have announced they will be nominated for vice presidential positions during the Nov. 15-16 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Frankfort.

Tommy Valentine, pastor of Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville, will be nominated for first vice president by Ernest Martin, retired pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Danville.

Bill Shoulta, pastor of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, will be nominated for second vice president by Don Mantooth, pastor of First Baptist Church of Morehead.

Both men also have been endorsed by Mainstream Baptists of Kentucky.

Noting that he "was not solicited by Mainstream Baptists," Valentine said, "I don't see myself as a candidate they selected, but as a candidate they support."

"I've always been part of the KBC," he added. "We're proud of what Kentucky Baptists are doing and I think there's room at the table for all Kentucky Baptists."

Shoulta said he appreciates Mainstream Baptists' endorsement, but does not consider himself "an official candidate of Mainstream."

"I share the ideals they have to make certain there is not a certain group that controls the politics of the KBC and make sure there is a fair representation of everyone."

Valentine, pastor of Lexington Avenue Church since 1999, is a trustee of Campbellsville University, an adjunct professor at Baptist Seminary of Kentucky and a former member of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship Coordinating Council and the KBC Mission Board.

Shoulta, pastor of Melbourne Heights Church since 1991, is a member of the KBC Mission Board and a former trustee of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Children's ministry specialist bringing ideas to annual meeting

Continued from page 1

Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington Nov. 17-18. "I'm bringing to the table, 'How do you do that on Sunday morning?'"

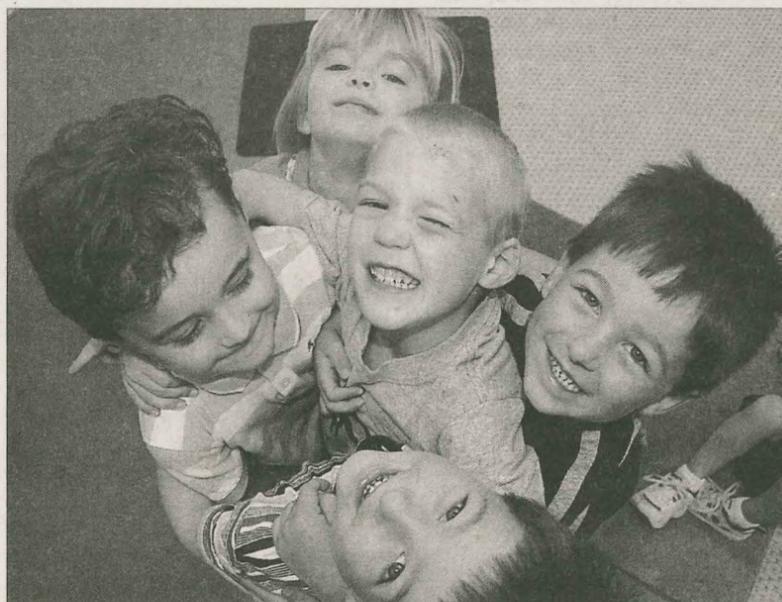
"A church that puts play in their Sunday morning program will have the same effect that McDonald's did when they put playgrounds in their restaurants. Children don't go to McDonald's to eat, they go to play."

In addition, Murphy will discuss how to attract more volunteers. Basically, he says it revolves around equipping leaders as managers instead of expecting one person to act as a Pied Piper to children.

"We've hired them to be caregivers, but the church has got to start thinking of someone that's a fellow CEO, that can lead an army," Murphy says. "Before Jethro, Moses was wearing himself and his people out."

The typical Bible Belt church should look at itself through the eyes of children and non-members, he adds. Murphy says too many churches are like a club that draws lines between "us" and "them" instead of building bridges to unbelievers.

People are attracted to churches that meet their needs more than they are to churches that only an-



swer spiritual questions they aren't asking, Murphy said.

"What attracts a child before it reaches a child?" Murphy asked. "What wins a child's trust? What makes us believable before they'll trust us?"

Murphy said he hopes Kentucky Baptists who attend his session will walk away with some practical tools and a passion for leading children to Jesus.

He said he wants Kentucky Baptists to see children differently and embrace evangelism to the family, reminding members that the church that reaches children reaches their parents.

"We can't overlook our children's or preschool ministry," Murphy says. "If a church doesn't address it, that church will not grow. A child-friendly church is a healthy, happy church. It's not just: 'What's in it for

me?' It's 'What's in it for those who follow me?'"

Part of KBC focus

Dan Garland, leader of the KBC's church development and evangelism team, said Murphy's talk is one of many ways the convention is spreading awareness of the need for more children's evangelism.

This fall the KBC is kicking off its "Lead Children to Christ" workshops, which it hopes will be held in every association by 2010.

A co-sponsor of Murphy's Nov. 17-18 conference, the KBC also is using publications, teaching and preaching to help Kentucky Baptists appreciate the importance of children's ministry, Garland says.

Research shows that 8 of 10 people who become Christians do so by age 14, meaning if churches don't reach children and teenagers it becomes progressively harder to reach people with the gospel, Garland says.

"We're in a crisis impacting the 24-and-under generation with the gospel," Garland says, noting that converting youngsters fits with the Kentucky Baptists Connect goal of increased baptisms. "We can't do it by just reaching adults."

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TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

JANET MCINTOSH
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

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How to 'get a life' in ministry

By David Brumbelow

Highlands, Texas (BP)—Years ago my dad and I, both pastors, attended an associational meeting. The speaker lamented a survey revealing that something like 75 percent of all pastors had considered leaving the ministry.

Dad commented, "The results worry me, too. I'm concerned that 25 percent of the preachers lied."

Most every pastor has considered quitting. Stress, burdens and heartache are common among professional clergy. As a young preacher I learned much from my dad about how to "get a life" while in the ministry:

Laughter is a good medicine (Proverbs 15:13; 17:22). It can cure what ails you or at least make life a little more bearable. Laughter takes the edge off difficulties. Laugh often. Joke, when appropriate, with your church members and your family. If you are a believer, you have ample good reasons to smile. Humor also enhances and illustrates your Bible teaching. Through humor a pastor can reveal the joy of the Lord. Funny situations abound; recognize and enjoy them.

Be serious about your ministry

but not too serious about yourself.

You might be an outstanding minister, but God can get along fine without you. The world does not hang on your shoulders. Dad ended a lot of stress when he prayed one day, "Lord, this is Your church, not mine. I've done all I know to do. If You want it to die, then let it die." He recognized that God ultimately was in control.

Everyone needs a diversion. Vance Havner quoted Jesus telling His disciples, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while" (Mark 6:31). Havner said, "If you don't come apart and rest, you will just come apart."

With Dad, relaxation meant fishing. He'd go wade-fishing and forget the world's cares. He complained that live shrimp (which he used for speckled-trout fishing) were way too expensive. He then concluded with a smile, "But it's cheaper than paying \$60 an hour for a psychologist." A diversion is not a waste of time; it's something you need. Being spiritual when you are physically tired is difficult. Get enough rest. Dad often joked, "Sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is to take a nap."

Fellowship with fellow ministers.

Biblical office

Wayne Hager's recent review of "Elders in Congregational Life: Rediscovering the Biblical Model for Church Leadership" contained the following statement, which is truly amazing: "For those of us who affirm the full participation of women in the life of the church, the idea of creating another office relegated to men only is not an advancement in church polity."

Regardless of what one's view is of the role of women in the church, how can anyone speak of an author in 2005 "creating" the office of elder? An office that is mentioned

over 30 times in the New Testament, an office in which Peter and John served by their own statements (1 Peter 5:1; 2 John 1; 3 John 1), can hardly be "created" nearly 2,000 years later!

This casual disregard for the Bible's plain teachings is amazing. I don't agree with all of Phil Newton's ideas about eldership myself, but a plurality of elders is the only form of church government the New Testament actually mentions, as a careful search of the related words plainly reveals.

Paul told Titus to ordain elders in every city (Titus 1:5), a rather odd statement for the inspired apostle to make if the office was non-existent.



God at work in Kentucky

It's always exciting to share about how God is at work here in Kentucky. Let me share with you just a few of my recent experiences with this.

Reconciliation Networks of Our World recently held a major international conference at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. The conference focused on how God is at work in reconciliation in various countries.

Stateside leaders included St. Matthews' pastor, Les Hollon; Larry Martin, Kentucky Baptist Convention missions consultant; and Lincoln Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church of Louisville and the KBC's cooperative ministries consultant.

It was my privilege to participate in two of the four plenary sessions, which were inspiring. It is my prayer that stories of conflict can be replaced with stories of reconciliation in families and in identified groups of believers.

I also represented KBC Mission

Board ministries during Union Baptist Association's annual meeting at Falmouth Baptist Church. It was

gratifying to hear how the churches are involved in missions and to experience their fellowship in Jesus Christ. It is obvious that Director of Missions Fred Workman is God's man to give leadership among the churches in that area.

Charles Jones, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Four Mile, invited me to speak during that church's homecoming. He has led the church to relocate from the flood zone to spacious facilities on Highway 25E. Baptist volunteers assisted in constructing the beautiful facilities.

It also was my privilege to attend one of the three preaching conferences conducted by Hershael York, this year's KBC president. The conference was a practical learning experience for all participants.

York was assisted in the conference by Adam Dooley, one of York's former students who is first vice

The old spiritual says, "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen; nobody knows but Jesus." But those in ministry often know, understand and care. Don't just seek out peers of the same age. Make friends with ministers who are older and younger than you. Late in his ministry, Dad encouraged young preachers to attend associational, state and national conventions. Sometimes these get boring and tedious. But you need the instruction; you especially need the fellowship. Laugh, cry and pray with other preachers.

Lean on your family and closest friends for your deepest emotional needs. "I would rather be known as a great husband and dad than to be known as a great preacher," Dad declared. Make your home a fine place to retreat. My mother played a vital role in this area. A church can be a loving family. But don't expect members to meet needs that only a close family or the closest of friends can meet.

Most of all, lean on Jesus. Nurture your personal relationship to the Lord. More than anyone else, Jesus understands the trouble you've seen.

David Brumbelow, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Highlands, Texas, is the author of "The Wit and Wisdom of Pastor Joe Brumbelow"

A.W. Pink's comment is telling here: "The first time I heard someone say, 'I don't agree with Paul here,' I thought it sounded like the chaff discussing the verdict of the fire."

Charles T. Buntin
Mayfield

Editor's Note: Hager's book review states that the office of elder is "one of several" biblical models for church leadership. He adds, however, that "as a Baptist, Newton addresses the problems with going to an elder office in the church." Hager's reference to "creating" the office of elder is addressing Baptist churches that don't have elders; he is not claiming the biblical office of elders doesn't exist.

president of the KBC and pastor of Red House Baptist Church in Richmond. I would encourage every pastor to read York's book on preaching, "Preaching with Bold Assurance."

It is encouraging to fellowship with a pastor and congregation where God is at work in such a special way. Carter Creek Baptist Church in Muhlenberg Association and Pastor Kevin Burden have a special relationship.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month and Carter Creek has expressed its appreciation in tangible ways. Last Christmas, the church bought a car for the pastor to enable him to travel extensively as safely as possible. Before he moved into the parsonage three years ago, the church did extensive renovation and added two rooms and a bathroom.

This may be a good time to express appreciation to your pastor. It is my prayer that pastors, staff and congregations will be able to work together over a long period of time, complementing each other's strengths and giftedness to the glory of God.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Income insurance often overlooked: Do you have any?

By Don Spencer

Almost everyone reading this article probably has medical insurance, automobile insurance and home owners' insurance. If you have a family, you probably have life insurance. Too often, folks tend to forget to insure one of their most valuable earthly assets—their earning power.

For a young adult, the odds are much higher of having a period of disability before age 65 than of dying before age 65.

The death of a family's primary "bread winner" is tragic. If a primary bread winner should suffer an extended period of disability, however, it sometimes can be even more financially devastating for a family. The least an individual can do is protect (insure) his or her earning power.

Such insurance typically is called "disability insurance" but it really is "income insurance" because it insures a certain level of income if one becomes disabled. In shopping for this insurance, there are several issues to consider:

■ How is disability defined—disability from your own occupation or any occupation?

■ Will benefits be paid for partial disability or must the disability be total?

■ Is the benefit affected by Social Security or worker's compensation benefits?

■ Is there a waiver of premium when one is disabled?

■ Are there any exclusions?

■ Is there a difference in determining disability due to illness vs. injury?

■ Are there rehabilitation benefits?

■ How long is the waiting period before benefits begin?

■ How long will disability payments continue?

■ Does coverage extend past age 65?

■ Is there an adjustment in coverage due to cost of living?

■ How does the policy treat two periods of disability for the same illness or injury?

■ Are there other enhancements to the policy?

■ How do costs compare among various policies?

■ What is the company's record of service to its customers?

There are many variations in plans available. As always, be a smart shopper. Compare several plans before making a decision. Above all, don't delay or overlook having disability insurance.

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



Job relocation: What if your spouse doesn't want to move?

Q: I just got promoted at my job and will need to relocate. My wife is adamant she does not want to move and leave our church and friends. Any ideas about how I can work this out without hurting our marriage?

Congratulations on your job promotion. I imagine you have worked hard to earn this position, and it means a great deal to you.

MARRIAGE

For many women, relationships and friendships are extremely important. Just as you have invested time and energy in doing a good job at work, it is likely your wife has invested large amounts of time and energy into these relationships.

It is natural that the two of you would have different feelings about the job relocation. Set aside a time, uninterrupted, for the two of you to talk. Be intentional about taking turns and sharing what you think about the situation, any worries or concerns either of you has, and the losses involved with such a change. Make sure to listen to your wife without interrupting to explain or convince her of the job's merits.

Because this is something you want and she does not, you bear the burden of trying to understand her perspective. Defending, explaining and arguing will not convince her and likely will be hurtful to your marriage.

Listen carefully and respectfully and invite her to be open and honest with you. Feelings that are held back can cause harm later to your relationship.

This type of exchange might need to take place on multiple occasions. The manner in which you handle this will show your wife what is most important to you. Eventually the two of you might be able to move toward assessing the advantages and disadvantages of this opportunity.

It is clear in Scripture that God has set forth relationship as having great value and importance. Make your relationship the priority as you address the differences the two of you have.—Valerie Vincent

Q: What should I teach my child about teasing?

Almost everybody teases others at some time. Virtually everyone also gets teased. Usually, we tease good-naturedly and in fun ("I kid because I care"). However, teasing often can be mean and hurtful.

PARENTING

Children will find fascinating the little-known story of Elisha being jeered and teased by some young boys as recorded in 2 Kings 2:23-24. The boys were teasing Elisha because of his physical appearance—a common cause of teasing among children.

Parents might want to temper describing the results of the teasing (after Elisha called down a curse on them, the boys were mauled by bears), but the lesson remains: Teasing can get you in trouble, so you had better be careful who you tease, and how.

Luke 6:31 says, "Treat others like you want to be treated." Read the verse together. Then ask, "How do you feel when you are teased or made fun of? How do you think others feel, including your friends, when you tease them? Do you like to be teased this way? Do you think God wants us to treat others like that?"

Ephesians 4:29 speaks specifically to how we use our words. Help your child see that God wants us to use our words in ways that are helpful, not hurtful—in ways that build others up instead of hurting their feelings. Show your child how this verse applies to teasing.

James 5:16 tells us to confess our sins to each other so that relationships can be healed. Children might need to ask forgiveness if they have teased someone in an especially mean or harmful way. Adults can help guide this process.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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

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

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

Parks: Taking a stand by keeping her seat

Who could have imagined in the racially charged days of 1955 that Rosa Parks' death half a century later would make national news headlines? Or that she would be remembered with a moment of silence during Game 3 of last week's World Series? Or that her body would lie in honor this week in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda—the first woman and second African-American to be so honored?

Parks, who died Oct. 24 at age 92, became known as the mother of the modern civil rights movement. Her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Ala., city bus in 1955 became one of the defining moments of our nation's civil rights struggle.

Her arrest sparked a yearlong bus boycott led by Martin Luther King Jr., a little-known 26-year-old Baptist minister. The rest, as they say, is history. And what rich history it is.

Parks filed a lawsuit challenging Montgomery's segregated bus service. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that the practice was unconstitutional. Eight years later, the 1964 Civil Rights Act was adopted, desegregating all public accommodations nationwide.

Despite the tremendous civil rights advances of the past 50 years, more work remains. King once described 11 a.m. on Sunday morning as "the most segregated hour in America."

While integration in schools, restaurants and on public transportation has been the law of the land for 40-plus years, many churches remain exclusively Anglo or African-American on a practical level.

As King declared, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Some churches have made tremendous strides

in being inclusive across racial, ethnic and socioeconomic lines. Many others have a long way to go.

It was a mere 10 years ago that Southern Baptist Convention messengers adopted a resolution asking African-Americans' forgiveness for racism. The resolution marked the SBC's first formal acknowledgement that racism played a role in the denomination's founding in 1845. It also noted that during the civil rights era, "Southern Baptists failed, in many cases, to support ... legitimate initiatives to secure the civil rights of African-Americans."

"We apologize to all African-Americans for condoning and/or perpetuating individual and systemic racism in our lifetime,"

the resolution states, adding that Southern Baptists "commit ourselves to eradicate racism in all its forms from Southern Baptist life and ministry."

In the midst of the civil rights movement, longtime Western Recorder editor C.R. Daley wrote frequently and eloquently about the struggle for racial equality.

"Why have we preached equality and justice for all, only to deny it to the black people?" Daley wrote in 1968. "It's high time as Baptists we recovered our historic witness to the worth of every man and the equality of opportunity for all persons of all colors."

Rosa Parks' life and death are fitting reminders of the importance of strengthening our commitment to equality, justice and acceptance for every person of every race.

"Rosa Parks' example helped touch off the civil rights movement, and transformed America for the better," President Bush reflected last week. "She will always have a special place in American history."

And that is as it should be. I thank God for Rosa Parks' courage to take a stand for racial equality and human dignity by keeping her seat.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Haunting words offer ministry challenge

Her words haunt me. "There is a difference between knowing about God and knowing God," she declared. "I learned that from you. You also taught me there is more to worship than cool songs and that warm fuzzy feeling."

Although she wasn't speaking directly to me, I am glad someone taught her those truths.

She continued, "So I am wondering, how do you experience God? I mean what's that look like when, you know, you're not 'on' at youth group or whatever. Honestly, I get the impression you're as busy as I am. I mean, it seems like you are always getting ready for Bible study or practicing chords for worship or figuring out what insane game we are going to play on Wednesday night, and that's on top of everything else you have to do in your life. Which makes me wonder: How do you make time? You know, to be with God yourself? Cause the thing is, I don't think you can take me where you're not going. I mean you can point me, I guess. But I was kinda more hoping you would lead me. Is that fair to ask?"

Who is she? She is a student from a promotional video prepared by Youth Specialties for its 2004 National Youth Workers Convention. I have shown that clip all across Kentucky to help prepare youth workers to lead students more effectively. But it hits home with me

every time.

So I raised this issue with some youth ministers recently—because, at times, I need to know the answer myself.

"In my opinion, the only way to stay fresh in ministry is to have an effective quiet time," said Jon Burdette, associate pastor at Northside Baptist Church in Mount Vernon. "If the devil can't make you bad, he'll just make you busy, and that's when my quiet time suffers—when I seem to be 'too busy.'"

"I believe one of the biggest struggles I have is getting so caught up in the work of the Lord that we neglect the Lord of the work," he added. "If I ever start feeling stressed out or burned out, I know it's either time for a vacation, or in most cases, I just need to take a look at my quiet time because it's easy to even 'go through the motions' of having a quiet time and still not really be 'plugged in' with God."

Several years ago, while we were still at Edgewood Baptist in Hopkinsville, my wife, Gina, slipped this verse on my desk, "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life" (Proverbs 4:23). That verse and the devotional thought that accompanied it were greatly needed for that time in my life.

I recently talked with Dave Levee from First Baptist Church of Hodgenville about the idea of being

"on" in front of students.

"Staying on in front of students' makes it sound like we are to fake certain things around our students," he said. "I know that there are times when we don't feel the best or we are just worn out from everything in life that we deal with, but I think that the students learn more and grow more when they see a transparent person instead of one who is 'putting on a happy face' when they are around students."

"I don't think it is a matter of how to stay 'on' in front of students," he noted, "but more of an issue of how can my running on empty be an opportunity to see who else in the ministry is going to step up and 'hold up our hands' (like the story of Moses in Exodus 17:12). I believe God uses our running-on-empty moments to make us realize that we need to step aside and let God do His work."

According to Burdette, "Our biggest excuse (as youth and adults) is 'I don't have enough time.' When my students say this, I always tell them that they are right because we will never 'have' time for God; we always have to 'make' time. It always just goes back to commitment and spiritual discipline."

As the student on the video says, "I don't think you can take me where you're not going. I mean you can point me, I guess. But I was kinda more hoping you would lead me. Is that fair to ask?"

Not only is it fair, it is crucial.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

Katrina & Rita paralyze more than 900 congregations

New Orleans (RNS)—More than 900 houses of worship on the Gulf Coast have been destroyed, seriously damaged or forced to suspend services by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, leaving many clergy without salaries.

Interviews with more than a dozen faith leaders indicate hundreds more congregations had at least minimal damage. Even as last week's Gulf Coast damage from Hurricane Wilma begins to be assessed, Christian, Jewish and Muslim groups are spearheading efforts to help congregations affected by the previous hurricanes.

One of the biggest challenges is providing salaries for clergy. That's why Baptist pastor and best-selling author Rick Warren is leading an initiative that involves 500 small groups from his Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif.

Each of them is adopting an affected church and paying the pastor's salary for at least six months.

"It's very easy to raise money for bottled water," said Warren, author of "The Purpose Driven Life."

"Nobody wants to pay the salary of a pastor," he added. "Our philosophy is help the caregiver so that they don't have to worry about themselves."

He said almost 3,800 "Purpose-Driven" churches connected to his interdenominational network are located in the region hit by Katrina or Rita. Of those, at least 500 were flooded, damaged or destroyed.

In a survey of denominations and faith groups, at least 460 Southern Baptist churches were reported destroyed, seriously damaged or not operational due to hurricanes Katrina or Rita.

Other reporting denominations included:

Assemblies of God: 30.
Progressive National Baptist Convention: 50.
Presbyterian Church (USA): 62.
United Methodist Church: 78.
National Baptist Convention of America: 100.

Missionary revamps ministry for needs in New Orleans

Continued from page 1

As a result, church WMU leaders throughout the country have prayed for and checked in on the Pitmans and the Brantley Center.

Pitman finds inspiration from the article's timing, noting that Mosaic works several months in advance on its feature articles.

"The storm did not take the Lord by surprise at all," he said. "He knew we'd need all kinds of prayer support this time of year."

Pitman, like others, hardly suspected what was to come when he evacuated Sunday, Aug. 27.

"Cathy and I have lived here 28 years, and we have never before evacuated," he noted.

The Brantley Center's staff closed the shelter on Sunday and told clients that the Superdome would be opened as a shelter of last resort.

The Pitmans traveled to the northern part of the state, expecting to be away for a few days.

"We expected a long weekend," he recalled. Instead, they were away for 10 days.

Still in New Orleans, eight employees who had nowhere else to go rode out the storm in the Brantley Center, a six-story brick building that sits on the corner of Magazine and Common.

The next day they called Pitman from a third-floor pay phone to report they were OK but concerned about rising flood waters.

"That's funny"

Pitman called Ginger Smith, a fellow missionary and former Brantley Center employee who now directs a mission center in Houston. With evacuation buses heading from New Orleans to Houston, Pitman asked Smith if she had somewhere his eight workers could stay.

"That's funny," she replied. "I've got a dorm with eight beds in it." Many of her employees left Houston when Hurricane Rita appeared headed for that city, Smith explained, but she had hoped to keep the center open.

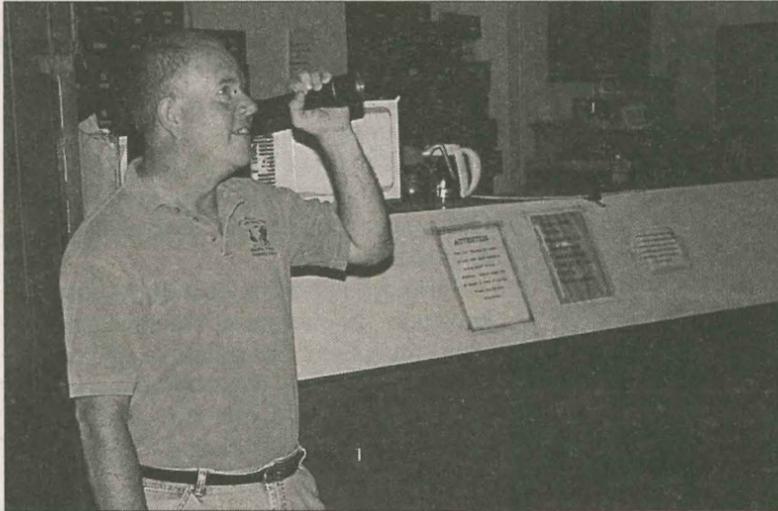
"You're sending me eight guys who know how to work in this setting."

When the Pitmans returned home to Pearl River—across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans—they found their house spared but several trees down.

Their son Andrew was not as fortunate. A newlywed, his and his wife's new home was flooded by the storm surge. Practically everything in it was destroyed. Today they still live with his mom and dad, hoping to have their home renovated by Christmas.

Last month, four weeks after the storm, Pitman returned to the center for only the second time at the request of a reporter who wanted to see the central business district.

"The first time we came back, it was to look for bodies," he noted grimly.



NEW MINISTRY Tobey Pitman, director of the Brantley Mission Center in New Orleans, inspects the homeless shelter. Starting this week, it will serve as a dorm for Baptist volunteers for cleanup and rebuilding efforts. (Photos by David Winfrey)

While winds blew out many windows in the skyscrapers, older buildings like the center fared well in the central business district. Because it is in a region with a little higher elevation, floodwaters didn't enter the Brantley Center.

The building had only three physical signs that Katrina was there; four if you count the lack of residents: The loss of power spoiled meat and other food in the walk-in refrigerator and freezer; five window panes broke; and a patch of flooring buckled near a window where water blew in.

"Not too bad, huh?" Pitman asked while looking around. "It's a testimony, really, to the old style, old world construction."

"It makes for great strength," he added, referring to the district's design, with buildings standing side-by-side with no space between external walls.

"Each one supports the other," he said. "Hmm, wonder if there's some theological implication there?"

The Brantley Center has relied on the support of Southern Baptists for

more than 75 years.

Opened in 1927, the shelter was birthed through the vision of local Baptists who sought to serve homeless men who had traveled to New Orleans in search of jobs because of the Depression.

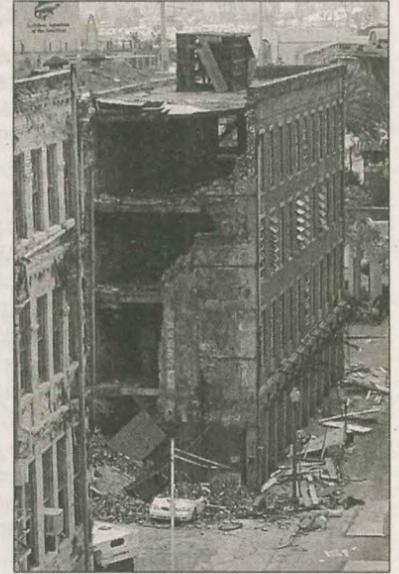
Originally housed in a rented gambling hall, the center later relocated to a hotel in the French Quarter before it moved again to its current location in 1962.

In the 1940s, it was named for Clovis Brantley, a local pastor and later a leader of the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, who became known as the "father of urban ministries."

Mobile home ministry

These days, Pitman is working on urban ministries with the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans. Together they are planning ministries for a host of new mobile home parks, recently set up by the Federal Emergency Management Agency throughout the city.

"Katrina's given us a wonderful opportunity to provide evangelistic



AFTERMATH The view from an upper floor window in the Brantley Center shows not all buildings in New Orleans' central business district survived Hurricane Katrina.

outreach as well as other kinds of social support to the residents of these parks," he said.

Pitman said he envisions chaplaincy programs and other counseling options for park residents.

"Ultimately we'd like to have Bible studies or church services as well as one-on-one evangelism opportunities."

As the national missionary for homelessness, Pitman challenges Christians to recognize that it is neither a new concept nor something to ignore.

"The Bible is full of homelessness," he said. "The first homeless people were Adam and Eve."

"God's chosen people were homeless. Many of the prophets were homeless. They wandered from place to place."

"The deepest theological point of that is that all of us (Christians) are homeless," he said. "We're longing for our eternal home."

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A sentimental stock gift

Appreciated asset gifts have benefits for giver & receiver

During my growing-up years in Grenada, Miss., my parents would give me stock in the local bank on my birthdays and at Christmas. My father advised me to reinvest, rather than to spend, the dividends. Over the subsequent years I not only followed his advice about the dividends, I also acquired additional shares on my own. Over the past 40 years, the local bank grew and was acquired by larger banks, and each time the value of the stock appreciated. As a result, the price appreciation of those shares my parents gave in the 1960s is significant.

the importance and the role of financial stewardship in my relationship to Christ and to other human beings. Most everything I know can be traced to my parents' example. The Bible was their source, and God's Holy Spirit was their strength and guide.



Barry Allen

If you have the option of giving cash or some appreciated asset, like a stock, bond, mutual fund or real estate that you have owned for at least one year, I encourage you to consider giving the appreciated asset. The advantages are: a charitable income tax deduction based upon the current market value of the asset and avoidance of all or a portion of the capital gains tax you would incur if you sold the asset and gave the cash.

Recently, my wife and I gave some of those shares to our church as part of our contribution toward this year's pledge. This is not the first time we've made a stock gift to our church, but it is the first time we've used any of the stock my parents gave me as a boy. In that sense, it's truly a sentimental stock gift.

As we move from the season of harvest to the season of giving, call Laurie Valentine or me toll-free for more information about using appreciated assets in your giving plan.

I am one of those fortunate individuals whose parents began teaching me biblical stewardship principles at an early age, and holding me accountable about

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

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "Every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not ____" (Judges 20:16)
- 5 "In their hands they shall ____ thee up lest ... thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Matthew 4:6)
- 9 Before
- 12 Duke or duchess, for example
- 13 Word in a threat
- 14 Disagreement
- 15 Tribe of Israel
- 17 "So then they that are in the flesh cannot ____ God" (Romans 8:8)
- 19 This cookie didn't crumble (it's a success)
- 21 Lets up
- 22 Outgrowth
- 25 Linking verb
- 26 Canola, for one
- 27 "Joy that was set before him, endured the ____, despising the shame" (Hebrews 12:2)
- 29 Unit of weight (abbr.)
- 31 Behold's partner
- 32 "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no ____". (John 1:47)
- 33 "They fled before the men of ____" (Joshua 7:4)
- 34 French conjunction
- 35 "This he said, not that he ____ for the poor" (John 12:6)
- 36 Consumed
- 37 With Aaron, he held up Moses' hands (Exodus 17)
- 38 "But ____ us from evil" (Matthew 6:13)
- 41 Maritime occurrence
- 43 "The third day he shall ____ again" (Matthew 20:19)
- 44 "Fallen ____ in Christ" (Christians who have already died) (1 Corinthians 15:18)
- 46 Stop on the journey from Egypt to Jordan (Numbers 33:27)
- 49 Tribe of Israel
- 50 "Hallowed be thy ____" (Matthew 6:9)
- 53 Continent
- 54 Hospital facility (abbr., pl.)
- 55 Sheet size
- 56 Ancient European

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Down

- 1 Baby lamb's cry
- 2 April addressee
- 3 Take to ____ (or defeat handily, colloq.)
- 4 Pottery remains (arch.)
- 5 "How can these things ____?" (John 3:9)
- 6 It loops the Loop (abbr.)
- 7 Serpent
- 8 "Whom will ye that I ____ unto you, Barabbas or Jesus?" (Matthew 27:17)
- 9 Wipe away
- 10 "The desert shall ... blossom as the ____" (Isaiah 35:1)
- 11 Part of the pasture populace (pl.)
- 16 Son of Peleg (Genesis 11:18)
- 18 Corn servings
- 20 Happen
- 22 "Make thee a fiery serpent and set it upon a ____" (Numbers 21:8)
- 23 Uproar
- 24 True's partner
- 28 Longer in the tooth
- 29 "It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up ____" (Psalm 127:2)
- 30 Coffin and platform
- 32 Item of clothing
- 35 Find a solution
- 36 Disinclined
- 37 What are not barred (colloq.)
- 39 Illuminated
- 40 Ishmael's half-brother
- 41 Wise man
- 42 Peter, for one
- 45 "The Lord that delivered me out of the ____ of the lion" (1 Samuel 17:37)
- 47 To be under the weather
- 48 Panama, for one
- 51 Note on the diatonic scale
- 52 Printer's measure

Last week's solution

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Missionaries say post-quake and tsunami ministries differ

Islamabad, Pakistan (BP)—The Oct. 8 earthquake that shook northern Pakistan and India has the region scrambling once again to meet enormous needs as recovery continues from the Dec. 26 tsunami that ravaged the countries of Sri Lanka, India and the Maldives.

Southern Baptist disaster relief response to the earthquake will be similar to its response to the tsunami: meeting medical needs, providing food, building temporary shelter and helping individuals generate income.

But the differences between the two disasters are vast.

"In the tsunami, most of the casualties were instant, within hours," a Southern Baptist disaster relief specialist said. "I think with the earthquake, you're going to see a significant amount of secondary injuries. Secondary injuries will be much greater from lack of shelter and exposure to the elements. The tsunami occurred in a tropical zone, so you didn't have to worry about the change of the season."

Winter snows already have blanketed the tops of the Himalayan Mountains, and Pakistani earthquake survivors say the snow will reach their villages within the next month, perhaps by this week. When the snow falls, it typically piles waist-high. The impending snows make finding shelter urgent for those who have none and limit the time-frame in which Southern Baptists can meet such needs.

Landslides continue to close mountain roads, making it even more challenging to reach some villages before winter weather arrives.

"Another significant difference: as far as the tsunami, the international response matched the need," the relief worker said. "In Pakistan, here I will say there is just a dearth of available medical personnel to respond."

While the tsunami and the earthquake have not been the only disasters in South Asia in the past year, the two catastrophes affected large numbers of people who do not know Jesus as their Savior. The greatest similarity centers on the spiritual, the Baptist relief worker said.

"Each disaster occurred at the center of lostness," he said. "This earthquake has opened the eyes of the victims and has softened their hearts. People are experiencing a great degree of grief right now. We can see God's hand at work here, just like we did in the tsunami."

Baptist work continues with tsunami victims

By Jesse Lyautey
Baptist Press

Richmond, Va. (BP)—Workers and volunteers laboring to meet the immediate needs of people affected by the tsunami that hit South Asia and the Pacific Rim in December have used more than half of the \$16.8 million given to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in response to the disaster.

Almost \$9 million donated for relief has helped individuals and families in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India and other areas rebuild their lives.

Now the IMB is moving toward long-term approaches to impact the area for Christ.

"Workers have been reassigned to different locations to help move relief work into long-term projects," said Jim Brown, International Mission Board specialist for world hunger and relief ministries. "If doors stay open, efforts to help could last years."

One hundred percent of the money earmarked for tsunami relief will go directly to help those affected by disaster. This is possible because Southern Baptist gifts through the Cooperative Program provide funds for administrative needs. Additionally, CP money and gifts through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering support IMB workers in the area.

Rebuilding homes, livelihood

Tsunami relief funds have been used to build homes and boats, repair damaged or rebuild destroyed schools and supplying drinking water, food and fishing nets.

In Thailand, more than 350



CLEANING WELL Baptist volunteer Mike Bailey (right) works to reclaim a well in Sri Lanka contaminated by salt water and debris during the Dec. 26 tsunami. Southern Baptist volunteers are still needed for clinics and construction work. (BP photo)

volunteers have used \$2 million in relief funds to build 26 homes; minister to more than 17,000 families; build 50 boats; and distribute 8,250 fishing and crab nets.

Almost \$4 million in relief funds has helped those in Indonesia obtain food and water purification; materials for boats, houses and schools; cooking and medical supplies; and livestock.

In South Asia, more than \$2.5 million has bought sewing machines, thread and needles to help start jobs; food; and school supplies. The funds also have been used to build houses and provide medical care and hydraulic brick-making machines.

"We go in wanting to meet basic

needs, and God reveals ways for longer-term access to these locations," Brown said. "In southern Thailand, the Sea Gypsy people group was hit extremely hard by the tsunami. Many of the Sea Gypsies have come to faith in Christ through the efforts of volunteers."

House churches have started where volunteers have met not only physical needs but also spiritual needs.

Volunteers and prayer partners are still needed to continue medical clinics and construction projects. For information about volunteering, visit www.going.imb.org or write to SouthAsiaVIM@wigtake.org. To give money to help tsunami survivors, visit www.worldhunger.imb.org.

The subject of marriage

Chapel sermon series this fall designed to teach students about godly families

By Michael Spencer
Assistant to the President

As the primary chapel preacher at Oneida Baptist Institute, I always look forward to that stretch of the school year between fall break and Christmas break. It allows me to preach messages in a series and to go into depth in some area that our students need to hear explained from the Bible.

This year I made an unusual decision: I am preaching messages to our students on the subject of marriage.

Of course, none of our students are married, but most will be some day. A surprising number will be married within a few years—some right after graduation. The subject of marriage is appropriate because many of our students never have been exposed to biblical teaching about marriage and they are making many decisions right now that will shape their future marriages.

Most Oneida students come from homes where broken marriages have affected their lives. An increasing number come from single-parent families or families where the student has no contact with his or her biological parents. I am grateful for all the single parents, grandparents and extended family who make a place for young people in their homes, but I am also aware of the sadness of not having a stable, Christian marriage as the foundation for a caring, dependable family environment.

Like any group of teenagers, OBI students are interested in being "couples." Even though they have no access to cars, they still love to "date" dur-

ing free time or at the campus grill. These adolescent relationships often reveal that our students are deeply affected by the brokenness of our culture, and its empty pursuit of happiness apart from God. It is a real privilege to tell our young people about marriage as a Christ-centered, God-created gift and blessing.

One of my goals is to create an "appetite" for a Christian marriage by describing the many differences Christ can make, and the superior beauty of a marriage between two people who love Jesus more than anyone else. Teaching about marriage allows me to talk about the Bridegroom of the church, the One Who loves us all the way to His Father's house—Jesus Christ.

Our students see the marriages of our faculty and staff as illustrations of what I've been teaching. They see our single staff members making choices to use their singleness to serve Christ. Because OBI is a community, we can be an influence to show our students the goodness of homes that belong to Jesus, and lives lived with Christ as Lord.

This series of messages has been well received, especially as I have talked about the kind of person a young person should be if he or she wants to have a Christian home and a Christ-centered courtship along the way. The attraction of a Christian family appeals to many young people who do not listen to most gospel messages.

Pray for us as we share Christ in every way possible with our students, and pray for this emphasis on marriage. May Christ be the Lord of many homes and marriages as a result.

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



W.F. Underwood

Father, son, grandchild

Three generations get to experience life on the Creek

The gazebo in front of the library reminds second-year student Kevin Wade of his beginning with Christ.

As a second-grade student involved in the campus Royal Ambassador chapter, a student witnessed to Kevin. "I knew the Lord wanted to meet me, and I wanted to meet Him," Kevin said. "My life changed that day in the gazebo."

Kevin's father, Fred, attended classes from 1986-91. "It was great to be here as a child. When I realize the values Mom and Dad received from Clear Creek, I praise God he brought me back to experience it myself," Kevin said.

His dad is pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Knoxville. "Their church is growing," Kevin said. "I've preached for him when he needed a supply. We help with vacation Bible school and fill in for Bible classes." During the week Kevin works part-time making home deliveries for Morgan Drug Store in Pineville.

Kevin and Lauren Box married Dec. 20, 2003. They "met" online, through a Christian chat room. Kevin was a college student in

Clarksville, Tenn. "We talked for about six or seven months. Then she moved to east Tennessee and we really met," Kevin said. "After dating for almost two years, we married. She is my best friend."

During high school, Lauren was the only member of her family attending church. Now her parents are very faithful. "It is amazing to see how God has worked," Kevin stated. "We are encouraged by two strong families. It's a little far to Kansas City, but we are always blessed to visit them."

Childhood influences motivate Kevin toward youth ministry. "Without the youth there will not be a future," Kevin said. "I'm excited about working with children, youth and young adults."

Kevin and Lauren also are excited about the birth of their first child, due in May. Kevin will graduate during the baby's preschool years, but another generation will be exposed to Clear Creek values.



Bill Whittaker

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

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION Annual Meeting

2005
November 15-16

Frankfort Convention Center
405 Mero Street
Frankfort, Kentucky

The Frankfort Convention Center is 5 miles from Interstate 64 and 1 block from the downtown business and historic district. Ample parking, with 2,000 spaces, is located in nearby garages and lots within close walking proximity. (A potential \$3 per day parking fee may apply by November.)



KENTUCKY BAPTISTS
Connect

Strengthening Every Church

Session Schedule

Tuesday morning
8:20-Noon

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

Tuesday evening
6:45-9 p.m.

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

Tuesday Features

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

**RE-CREATIONS
 DRAMA TEAM**

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

Wednesday – Don't miss these exciting seminars!



RICHARD BLACKABY
 "Spiritual Preparation for Connecting People to Christ."



REGGIE MCNEAL
 "Connecting Future Generations to Jesus Christ."



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

Pastors!

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

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

Speakers include:

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

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



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

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Greg Faulis

You and I were created to live in an unbroken relationship with God. It is in fellowship with God that we find acceptance, security and significance. Separate from Him we suffer spiritual isolation and eternal damnation.

We all have been separated from God by our sin, our rebellious spirit toward the Lord. The Bible says, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Our sin deserves God's condemning wrath, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23a). Yet there is hope for it also teaches "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23b).

Jesus is God's Son, fully God and fully man. Jesus Christ was the only person who never sinned against His heavenly Father. He paid for our sins by dying on the cross for us. He took the sin that separates us from our relationship with God and absorbed its damning consequences. His act made it possible for us to be brought back to the Lord.

That Jesus died for you is good news! But it is not enough to know this. You must receive Him by faith. Believe in Him, believe He is the Savior and accept Him as your Lord.

Pray: "Lord Jesus, I have sinned. I believe you died for my sin and that you are the Savior. I accept your salvation and I will follow you as my Lord. By your power I become a Christian. Amen."

Greg Faulis is pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BEECH CREEK**—Beech Creek Church recently called **Chad Clark** as pastor.

■ **BEECHMONT**—Beechmont Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary Nov. 13 with former pastor **James Brandon** speaking at the 11 a.m. worship service. Activities include a potluck meal and an afternoon concert by the **Reed Family** of Ripley, Tenn.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Mercer Church will hold revival services Nov. 6-10 with **Kara Blackord** as evangelist.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Vernal Grove Church will hold revival services Nov. 6, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Nov. 7-9, 7 p.m., with **Ray Gilliland** as evangelist.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Henderson Memorial Church recently honored **Luro**

Calvin on her 90th birthday. **Ron Higdon** is pastor.

■ **LEBANON**—Central Church will hold revival services Nov. 6-9, 7 p.m., with **Wyman Copass** as evangelist. **Mark Cundiff** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Anchor Church ordained **Brian Cross** to the gospel ministry Sept. 25. Cross is pastor of Bluegrass Deaf Mission, a mission of Anchor Church. **Paul Sisk** is pastor.

Victory Church recently called **Jamie Murphy** as student/discipleship pastor. **Mike James** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—South Fariston Church recently called **Jeff Jackson** as pastor. The church changed its name to Crossroads Baptist Fellowship effective Oct. 9.

Adopt An Annuitant participants receive post-hurricane aid

Dallas (BP)—As people begin to rebuild their lives in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, two dozen retired ministers and widows have qualified for emergency grants—ranging from \$500 to \$2,000—from GuideStone Financial Resources' Adopt An Annuitant program.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, GuideStone staff began contacting Adopt An Annuitant recipients to check on their situation and offer help.

"We've provided extra assistance to about 25 people," said John Ambra, GuideStone's director of development. "That support has helped them in meeting insurance deduct-

ibles, replacing lost food, cleanup assistance and replacing shingles on the roof."

One of the annuitants assisted by GuideStone's emergency financial aid was Mary Hodges of McComb, Miss. During Katrina's landfall and deluge on her home in southwest Mississippi, Hodges said she went from room to room in her house praying God would protect her property and her church.

"The Lord was with me and I did not get afraid," she said. "And not a limb fell on the house. It was miraculous."

Hodges' home received some roof damage from the winds and food in



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

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

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

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

14 Secretaries Meeting, Frankfort.

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

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

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

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Edwin Perry**, pastor emeritus of Broadway Church, died Oct. 24 at age 89. Perry, pastor of Broadway from 1949 to 1979, is survived by his wife, June, one daughter and two sons. A memorial service will be held at Broadway

Nov. 5, 10 a.m.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Nicholasville Church recently called **Allen Harrod** as pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—New Hope Church ordained **Russell Kendrick** as a deacon Sept. 30. **Wesley Noss** is pastor.

her refrigerator and freezer spoiled during the power outage in the days after Katrina.

"The check makes the difference in what I am able to eat, compared to what I could have without it," she noted.

Ambra said the Adopt An Annuitant program has been able to provide emergency grants to recipients like Hodges because of the generosity of Southern Baptists who give to the Adopt An Annuitant program.

The program provides financial support for nearly 2,500 retired Southern Baptist ministers or their widows whose income is insufficient to meet their daily needs. Qualifying

individuals receive \$200 a month and qualifying couples receive \$265 a month.

"The faithfulness of our donors is the reason we are prepared to respond in emergency situations," Ambra said. "Because of that support, we've been able to provide additional funds to help with the unexpected needs our recipients have faced, and we've had the privilege of being able to give some comfort to folks who were dealing with tough circumstances."

For more information about the Adopt An Annuitant program, visit www.GuideStone.org or call (800) 262-0511.

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

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.minnett@tabernacle.org.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister at First Baptist Mayfield. Send resumé to: Pastor Bob Swift, 118 West South Street, Mayfield, KY 42066.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for South Jefferson Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 6505 Pendleton Road, Louisville, KY 40272.

SEEKING: Pastor for Parkway Baptist Church in Hodgenville, Ky. For more information, please e-mail donnastrader@peoplepc.com. Send resumé to Parkway Baptist Church, PO Box 326, Hodgenville, KY 42748.

SEEKING: Full-time music/youth minister. Please send resumé to: Calvary Baptist Church, 21 Glory St., Irvine, KY 40336.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for conservative Southern Baptist church in eastern Kentucky. A wonderful opportunity for an energetic married couple who share our doctrinal belief and practice and willing to join us in this ministry. Resumes are being accepted through Dec. 1, 2005. Send resumé to: Yvon Allen, PSC chairman, PO Box 377, Hazard, KY 41702.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor. Ministry with emphasis on children, youth and young adults. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience. Interested candidates may e-mail resumé to fbcmorehead@hotmail.com, or mail them to: First Baptist Church of Morehead, 123 East Main St., Morehead, KY 40351, Attn: Chair, Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Youth leader for Missionary Baptist Church. Fifteen to 20 hours a week. Education or prior experience required. Send resumé to: Youth Committee, 714 Marshall Drive, Grand Rivers, KY 42045.

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

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. We need a mature, evangelistic, creative youth minister to grow a devoted youth ministry. Discipleship commitment is preferred. Some youth ministry experience is required. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Victory Memorial Baptist Church, 3805 Southern Parkway, Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: Covenant Baptist Church in Collierville, Tenn., is now accepting resumé for a full-time senior pastor. For more information, see www.covenantontheweb.org/CBC_Search.html. E-mail resumé to: general@covenantontheweb.org or mail to: Pastor Search Committee, Covenant Baptist Church, PO Box 1165, Collierville, TN 38027 by Dec. 15, 2005.

SEEKING: Full-time children's minister at First Baptist Mayfield. Send resumé to: Pastor Bob Swift, 118 West South Street, Mayfield, KY 42066.

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

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

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

'Sent to us by God'

Friends: Rosa Parks' faith affected her civil rights actions

By David White
Religion News Service

Tuskegee, Ala. (RNS)—People who knew civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks before her arrest on a Montgomery bus in 1955 remember her as a quiet seamstress whose faith in God gave her strength, confidence and authority.

"She was always very serene, very calm and quiet. But there was a fire smoldering under all of that quietness," said E.D. Nixon Jr., 77, an actor and singer whose stage name is Nick LaTour.

Nixon, son of the late E.D. Nixon, who helped organize the bus boycott that followed Parks' arrest, said Parks was a fine "Christian lady."

"I think her faith had a lot to do with her demeanor, her personality, because when you have certain beliefs, you're comfortable with a lot of situations. It gives you confidence," he said.

"She walked with authority," added Farrell Duncombe, 63, pastor of Washington Chapel AME Church in Tuskegee.

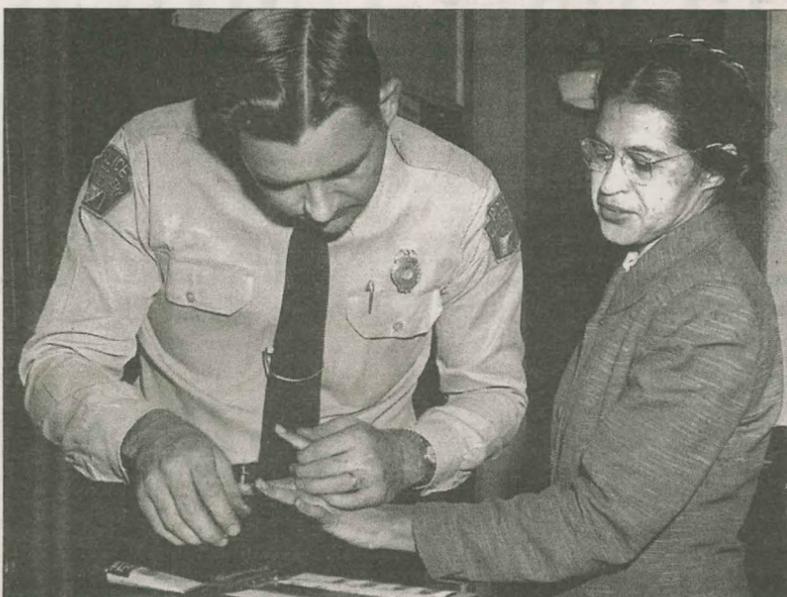
"I saw her as one who loved the Lord, one who loved people and who was not reluctant to share what she had with others." Parks was Duncombe's Sunday school teacher at St. Paul AME Church in Montgomery.

"Surely Mrs. Rosa Parks was sent to us by God, because few among us were so well prepared to play such a momentous role in history," said Coretta Scott King, widow of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

One simple act of defiance

In 1999, Time Magazine named Parks one of the 100 most important people of the 20th century. She even has an entry in an edition of Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 13 pages away from the infamous "Segregation now" remarks in former Alabama Gov. George Wallace's 1963 inauguration speech.

On the evening of Dec. 1, 1955, Parks was a 42-year-old seamstress and housekeeper in Montgomery, heading home from her job at a



CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE Rosa Parks is fingerprinted by police Lt. D.H. Lackey in Montgomery, Ala., on Feb. 22, 1956, two months after refusing to give up her seat on a bus for a white passenger. Parks' refusal and arrest led to a boycott of buses by blacks, organized by Martin Luther King Jr., which ended after the U.S. Supreme Court deemed in 1956 that all segregation was unlawful. (AP photo by Gene Herrick)

downtown department store. In defiance of a local segregationist law, she refused a city bus driver's order to get up from her seat to make room for white people who had just gotten on the bus.

Parks was arrested for disorderly conduct. On the advice of a white attorney who was a friend and in consultation with local civil-rights leaders, she agreed to challenge in court the law segregating the city's buses. Her attorneys argued that it contradicted the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education decision, which outlawed segregation in public schools. The argument eventually prevailed, and segregation in Montgomery's public accommodations was also declared unconstitutional.

"God sat with me as I remained calm and determined not to be treated with less dignity than any other citizen of Montgomery," Parks told the Montgomery Advertiser newspaper in 2000.

Her action led to the Montgomery bus boycott, which lasted 381 days and involved more than 40,000 black residents. Rather than ride the buses, the protesters walked or made use of an elaborate system of black-owned taxicab companies, carpools and station wagons pur-

chased by black congregations and dubbed "rolling churches."

The event was the first major protest of the civil rights movement, and catapulted the 26-year-old pastor of Montgomery's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church to its forefront. As a result, Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy of nonviolence steered the movement from its start.

How did such a meek woman end up breaking the back of a decades-old system of oppression?

"Rosa Parks' disobedience to an unjust law was grounded, I believe, in her instinctive understanding of a higher moral order based on the sovereignty of God and the dignity of each person made in his image," said Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. "Rosa Parks was not a theologian, but she knew the words of Amos and Jesus as well as if she had been their contemporary."

Love for 23rd Psalm

In the mid-1990s, Parks described her appreciation for the 23rd Psalm.

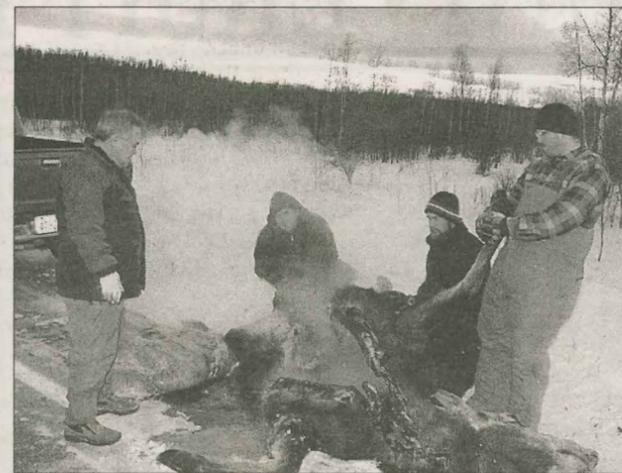
"During my school days, the 23rd Psalm was part of our devotions," Parks said. "And at church it was one of the favorite psalms that we enjoyed reading and thinking about."

"During the time of our boycott, we did much praying and we had mass meetings at the various churches, where people would come in and testify and relate their experiences," she continued. "It was very helpful that we had the churches and could gather strength from one another and encourage each other to continue the struggle throughout that long year of boycotting the buses."

"I look back on those days and remember the Spirit within us and our faith and hope that things would be better, and I still have that faith," Parks said. "When we face any obstacle, any discouragement, that faith is a strong attribute to have."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press

Roadkill recipes



DIRTY WORK Workers field dress a moose that was killed in an auto accident. The volunteers with Friendship Baptist Mission in Fairbanks, Alaska, will distribute the moose meat to area residents in need as part of their ministry.

'Gleaning' ministry provides food for low-income residents

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Fairbanks, Alaska (ABP)—Most people don't associate the words "roadkill" and "delicacy." But in Alaska, roadside remains are moose, not possum or armadillo.

And for people living on the edge of poverty, wild game offers much-needed sustenance, whether the animal is killed by a hunter or by an 18-wheeler.

"There's generally a lot of good useable meat," said Paul Harrell, a layman at Friendship Baptist Mission in Tanana Valley Baptist Association. "Trucks usually hit the moose in the front or the rear. We hope they don't hit it in the rear. That's where most of the good meat is."

As leader of his congregation's roadkill salvage and gleaning ministry, Harrell works hard to make sure the meat doesn't go to waste but helps feed native people whose diet traditionally has included wild game.

Alaska's highway patrol, in cooperation with the state's fish and game commission, maintain a list of non-profits they contact when they discover a moose that has recently been hit by a truck or other vehicle.

"We're at the top of their list because they know we'll come, day or night, and provide a quick clean-up," said Harrell, who is looking toward military retirement in the near future after 24 years active duty in the Army.

A late-night phone call sometimes means he and his coworkers might spend up to three hours in 40 degrees below zero temperatures as they field-dress a carcass. And they work on the dark roadside close to high-speed traffic.

Fighting cold temperatures and bugs

Frigid temperatures make the work difficult but help preserve the meat and keep away insects, Harrell noted. When the weather warms, he and other volunteers have other methods of repelling pests.

"We've done this at 65 degrees, and it's fine if we do it quickly," he said. "I keep a 50-50 mix of Tabasco sauce and lemon juice handy to spray down (the carcass) so the flies won't land."

Harrell has turned his garage into a butcher shop, where he hangs the meat before he grinds it and packages it for distribution.

One large moose can provide up to 350 pounds of processed ground meat, he noted.

"It's a prized meat, particularly among the native elders," he said. "Some of the elders even want parts that others don't, like the head and the liver."

Roadkill makes up only part of the church's benevolence ministry, however. Alaska's indigenous people also welcome the fresh salmon caught by sportsmen from the church, as well as the caribou they hunt and the wild blueberries they pick. The church also distributes more conventional canned goods and staples provided through an area food bank.

"Anyone who comes to ask for help, we serve," Harrell said. "We have some people who live in the woods or on the streets who come to us. It's our way to open the door for ministry. It's a real witnessing opportunity."

Quotes

"She is much more than a symbol of nonviolent protest. She is the epitome of a peacemaker."

Gary Frost, executive director of the New York Baptist Association and leader of the Southern Baptist Convention's adoption of a racial reconciliation resolution in 1995.

"In the providence of God, He used an unassuming woman named Rosa Parks as the catalyst to force Alabamians and all the people of the South to face the negative side of our culture. ... Her life caused Christians to face the gap between confession and practice."

Bob Terry, editor of the Alabama Baptist newspaper.

"It was the bus ride that ended up changing history. ... From that small act of defiance came a big act of deliverance."

Robert Anderson, immediate past president of the National African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"God used Rosa Parks as a catalyst for justice. By sitting in silence, she fulfilled the Christian role of being the salt of the earth, and we are all indebted to her for her life and work."

Mark Croston, current president of the National African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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