



WESTERN RECORDER

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See Insert

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists

State convention resolutions range from CP to gay marriage. *Page 2.*

Kentucky

Disaster relief volunteers still needed in Gulf Coast area. *Page 3.*

Editorial

Thanksgiving: President Lincoln's words capture timeless truths. *Page 5.*

Ministry

College students serve Katrina victims during fall break. *Page 14.*

Nation

Saudis listed among governments limiting religious freedom. *Page 16.*



Talking turkey

Groups want to influence how Americans view Thanksgiving. *Page 17.*

KBC encouraging churches to link with Gulf Coast congregations

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Pascagoula, Miss.—These days, Pastor Johnny Beaver doesn't ignore his cell phone when it rings with a number he doesn't recognize.

Since Hurricane Katrina struck Pascagoula, Beaver, the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, has had to rely on the providence of God through the kindness of strangers to supply his every need.

Several times, calls from unknown numbers have been offers of help.

Kentucky Baptists now are launching a plan that organizers hope will keep Beaver's phone and the phones of other Gulf Coast area pastors ringing until they have recovered from the devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is calling on Kentucky Baptist churches and associations to partner with churches in three associations: Jackson in Pascagoula, Miss.; Adolphe Stagg in Houma, La.; and Carey in Lake Charles, La.

The project will focus on supporting pastors, staff and churches, said Larry Baker, director of the KBC's new work and associational missions department. Churches in the associations need help paying staff members' salaries and other bills, as well as with cleaning, repairing and even rebuilding damaged structures.

"We need to get in there doing something right now," Baker said. "We can't wait for a business meeting. They are worn out, discouraged, beat down, and they need us to come alongside them and help."

Kentucky Baptist churches or directors of missions can participate by contacting one or more of the three associations. Directors of missions and other leaders in the three associations will help match Kentucky Baptist churches with churches in need. Because the needs are so great, several supporting churches often will be assigned to help one damaged church.

"We want to avoid duplication, and having churches falling through the cracks," Baker explained. "Local leaders will know who is receiving help, and who isn't."

□ See KBC churches ... *Page 12*

Friendly? Really?



Scott Brooks Illustration

Many churches don't stack up, specialists say

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Louisville—After traveling around the commonwealth, Darryl Wilson has visited several Kentucky Baptist churches that could use a lesson or two in how to be more welcoming.

Wilson, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's adult Sunday school and discipleship group, still smarts over the lukewarm reception he received a few years ago as a guest speaker.

Although a greeter showed him and his wife to Sunday school, no one acknowledged their presence, Wilson recalled, even though he made comments during the lesson.

Not until they were leaving the classroom did one member say, "Thanks for being here."

"If I had been a guest showing up

in your Sunday school class—scared to death, like most folks are—would I come back next Sunday?" Wilson asked. "The answer is 'no,' because I didn't feel any relational connection."

But if a greeter had learned their names, introduced them to other members and accompanied them to the service, then Wilson said the church would have left a much better impression.

Being friendly to visitors and getting new members involved is a glaring weakness in Kentucky Baptist life, according to Wilson and other observers.

Paducah resident Frank Queen got an inside look at several churches while serving as interim pastor the past five years before taking a position as a hospice chaplain.

While most church members

Inside

■ Ask these 3 questions to measure your church's friendliness. *Page 6.*

■ 4-step process could help churches keep new members, KBC leaders say. *Page 7.*

■ KBC office offers list of resources. *Page 7.*

claim their congregations are friendly, too often that only means they relate well with existing members, said Queen, who has led state convention workshops on building relationships.

"Being friendly with new people is the key," Queen said.

□ See Specialist: Many ... *Page 6*

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Baptist actions address CP, gay marriage

Messengers to recent state Baptist conventions addressed issues ranging from support of the Cooperative Program to opposing gay marriage. Among major actions:

Arkansas. Messengers to the Nov. 7-9 annual meeting adopted seven resolutions, including ones opposing casino and lottery gambling, the sale of beer on college campuses and homosexual activism.

Messengers also called for their leaders to increase their support for the Cooperative Program. Every Southern Baptist and Arkansas Baptist elected leader and official should promote the Cooperative Program "with vigor and intentionality on a consistent basis," the resolution said.

Messengers also took the first step in granting agency status to the Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs, Ark. If the action is reaffirmed next year, the transition would create a board of trustees elected by the convention and permit the assembly to solicit donations from individuals and foundations.

Colorado. "Days of Glory: A Place Where the Past and the Future Meet in the Living Present" was the theme of the Colorado convention's 50th anniversary meeting Oct. 21-22.

A "Voices from the Past" celebration featured founding members of the convention and those who were part of the convention's early days. In his executive director's report, Mark Edlund said, "We are a strong conservative state convention free of division and controversy. This is the wonderful legacy we Colorado Baptists of today have been given."

Messengers adopted four resolutions, including one pledging prayer for President George Bush and elected officials as they selected the next Supreme Court justice.

Indiana. Convention messengers adopted a resolution calling on state legislators to pass a marriage amendment for a second time so that the issue can be presented to voters.

The Indiana legislature passed a marriage amendment earlier this year, completing the first step of a three-step process. It must pass again during the next elected leg-

islature before going to voters. The amendment bans "gay marriage" and prevents the "legal incidents" of marriage from being given to unmarried couples.

"Lead 'Em In" was the convention's theme, drawing a connection to the Southern Baptist Convention's yearlong "Everyone Can' Kingdom Challenge" to baptize 1 million people.

Revised convention bylaws were adopted unanimously, expanding the convention's Executive Board. A 14-member nominating committee was created so that every associational area is represented. Messengers approved a new system for electing executive board members so that every associational area has at least two board members plus additional board members based on the number of churches, up to a maximum of six board members.

Iowa. The 10th annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of Iowa returned to First Baptist Church of Winterset where the convention was founded in 1995. In addition to the 10th anniversary, messengers celebrated 50 years of Southern Baptist work in the state.

The Nov. 4-5 meeting was attended by 127 messengers and 38 guests.

Messengers approved the 2006-2010 BCI Strategy Plan, "Empowering Kingdom Growth." The plan calls for strategic objectives to "hold to one another, abide in Christ and reach out to others."

Messengers also adopted a resolution calling for each church to enlist a prayer coordinator to help strengthen the prayer life of individuals and churches.

Mississippi. Convention messengers heard testimonies from pastors of churches devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Executive Director Jim Futral presented a tribute to the tens of thousands of volunteers who have worked on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Katrina.

International Mission Board worker Carrie McDonnall, one of the featured speakers during the Nov. 1-2 meeting, recounted being ambushed by insurgents near Mosul, Iraq, while she, her husband, and

three IMB coworkers were searching for locations for water wells. Her husband and co-workers were killed, and McDonnall suffered severe wounds that have required many surgeries.

McDonnall expressed surprise that some people don't seem to understand that she would readily return to the work that nearly took her life, because of all the non-Christians in Iraq still in need of the gospel. "We must run into the darkness as Christ ran to us," she said. "May our churches rise up and run into the darkness."

Virginia. Messengers to the Baptist General Association of Virginia approved a reduced budget for 2006 during their Nov. 10-11 annual meeting.

The \$14.4 million budget for 2006 is \$300,000 lower than the current budget, which BGAV treasurer Eddie Stratton said may fall short by as much as \$500,000.

Budget committee chair Darrell Foster attributed the shortfall and reduced budget to Virginia Baptists' generous contributions to relief for victims of the South Asia tsunami and the Gulf Coast hurricanes.

"The good news is that Virginia Baptists have opened up their hearts to give to disaster relief," Foster said. "But on the other hand, our gifts to cooperative missions are significantly behind."

A signing ceremony inaugurated a mission partnership between the BGAV and the Indian Baptist Convention of Kerala, a fellowship of churches in southern India.

Messengers adopted a resolution urging "elected and military leaders to protect our military members' free expression of their faith, and also to condemn the pressuring of others to conform to any particular faith expression."

Resolutions Committee chair Jay Lawson said the resolution was prompted in part by recent controversy at the U.S. Air Force Academy and in part by concerns of Virginia Baptist chaplains who said they sometimes feel their faith statements are restricted.

Compiled from reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press

Belmont plans to cut formal ties to Tenn. convention

Brentwood, Tenn. (ABP)—Belmont University has decided not to remain affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, which helped found the school in 1952.

School officials informed convention leaders that Belmont intends to elect its own trustees—a move taken by many colleges nationwide seeking more freedom from sponsoring Baptist bodies.

Leaders from Belmont and the convention are not calling the move a severing of ties. In fact, Belmont expressed a desire to continue a "fraternal" relationship with the state convention. But after this month, the Nashville school does not expect to receive any further budget support from the state convention.

A "Resolution of Relationship" defining the new arrangement is expected to be presented to the Tennessee Baptist Convention for approval during its annual meeting this week. If messengers approve the resolution, it in effect ends all affiliate ties to Belmont.

The proposal already has been approved by the convention's education committee with some modifications. Belmont trustees were scheduled to vote on the plan Nov. 10.

Belmont's proposal comes after the Tennessee Baptist Executive Board voted in September not to accept a new covenant agreement with Belmont that would have allowed the college to elect up to 40 percent non-Baptist trustees.

Also, the state convention last year asked each of its three affiliated colleges to investigate whether its classroom instruction is consistent with Christian beliefs. Those reports are due during the Nov. 15-16 annual meeting.

In light of Belmont's departure, convention leaders drafted a new budget that reallocates the \$2.3 million previously earmarked for Belmont University. If the proposal is approved by convention messengers, the other two convention-affiliated colleges—Union University and Carson-Newman College—each will receive an additional \$500,000 and the Southern Baptist Convention will receive an increase of \$825,940. The remainder of the allocation will be divided among other Tennessee Baptist institutions.

Tennessee Baptist Convention President Roger Freeman said he believes it "is right and appropriate for a large portion of these mission funds to go to Union and Carson-Newman, Christian institutions which are seeking to strengthen their commitment to Baptist identity in biblical beliefs, Baptist leadership and Cooperative Program support."

BAPTIST DIGEST

Baptists respond to Tenn. school shooting. In the wake of a Tennessee school shooting that left an assistant high school principal dead, Campbell County Baptist Association and its churches responded with crisis intervention debriefing and prayer sessions for the community. A lone student was arrested for the Nov. 8 melee that also left the school's principal and another assistant principal seriously wounded. The surviving assistant principal, Jimmy Pierce, 56, is a member of First Baptist Church in LaFollette. Campbell County Baptist Association Director of Missions Glen Petree worked with area pastors and youth ministers to plan a joint community prayer service Nov. 13. He said at least three Baptist churches in the area opened their doors to the community to help people recover from the tragedy.

Baylor interim expected to go to Mercer. Trustees of Mercer University are poised to elect Bill Underwood, interim president of Baylor University, as president of the Baptist

school in Macon, Ga. Underwood, 49, met with several faculty and board members during a visit to Mercer Nov. 7-8. He is expected to be elected by trustees at their regularly scheduled meeting Dec. 2. Mercer president Kirby Godsey, 68, is retiring June 30. Underwood, a law professor at Baylor, was considered a leading candidate for the presidency at that school before removing his name from consideration two months ago. Baylor trustees elected Nevada educator John Lilley as president Nov. 3.

Former Arizona foundation leaders on trial.

Nearly a decade after financial irregularities first surfaced, the Baptist Foundation of Arizona's former president and legal counsel are on trial for fraud and theft. The trial of former BFA President William Crotts and legal counsel Thomas Grabinski may last through next March, according to news reports. Crotts and Grabinski are charged with three counts of fraud, 27 counts of theft and two counts of illegally conducting an enter-

prise in connection with the foundation's 1999 collapse. The BFA's board of directors terminated their employment in August of that year, a month after the state's corporation commission accused the foundation of violating the Arizona Securities Act.

LifeWay aids churches hit by Wilma.

LifeWay Christian Resources has expanded its financial assistance and resources to Southern Baptist churches affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita to include aid for churches and pastors affected by Hurricane Wilma. Traditionally, LifeWay has provided disaster assistance to churches affected by everything from natural disasters to theft and vandalism. LifeWay replaces all of the church's dated LifeWay church literature for the current quarter and the following quarter. It also offers discounts on church supplies such as hymnals, Broadman & Holman books and choir robes. Visit www.lifeway.com/katrina for more information about LifeWay's disaster relief efforts.

York seeks to 'find common ground' as KBC president

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Frankfort—One of Hershael York's aims as Kentucky Baptist Convention president has been to model how Kentucky Baptists with diverse perspectives "can find common ground and work together."

He is the first to acknowledge, however, that achieving that goal hasn't always been easy.

"There was just an awful lot of fear" among some Kentucky Baptists when he was elected KBC president last fall with a 52 percent vote.

Citing his strongly conservative credentials, York noted, "There's always been this perception out there of me, but it's not based on anything I've said or done. ... While I've tried to be honest with issues, I've tried to be gracious and Christlike and non-threatening in every discussion.

"You're painted with a brush," he pointed out. "I've tried hard not to do that the other direction. I realize I might disagree with somebody for instance on women deacons but that certainly doesn't make them a liberal. I've tried to avoid pigeonholing other people like that.

"I think you ought to be free to talk issues with people," he added. "You can be who you are without writing people off. Once you have those conversations and get to know each other, there's a lot more trust there. You can build on that."

Crouch affirms York's role

Among convention leaders who have gained an appreciation for York's straightforward approach is Georgetown College President Bill Crouch.

York and Crouch worked closely together to shape and promote the proposed new ministry partner-

ship between the KBC and Georgetown that will be presented at this week's KBC annual meeting in Frankfort.

"I think it's been a remarkable year under his leadership, certainly much more positive than I would have ever expected," Crouch said. "I think it's because of Hershael's ability to listen, to speak with commitment, but to be open to conversations.

"Hershael is not a guy who wants to exclude people from fellowship," Crouch added. "That has been a wonderful surprise and blessing for me this year."

York's year as KBC president is inextricably linked to the Georgetown/KBC proposal.

While he clearly wishes Georgetown had remained a KBC institution rather than revert to a self-perpetuating board, York said, "I don't like it, but it's the hand I'm dealt and I'm going to play it with integrity. To circumvent that, pure and simple, is wrong."

Describing the plan as "the best-case scenario given where we are," York added, "This is not a decision the KBC gets to make; this is a decision Georgetown made. ... If the KBC actually owned Georgetown College, I would have a very different perspective, but we don't.

"The 1987 covenant agreement (between Georgetown and the KBC) unequivocally gives either party the right to walk away from the covenant agreement with a four-year notice," he explained. "When we were given notice by Georgetown that they were exercising that option, what is the benefit of saying for the next four years we're going to fight over this?"

Challenging Georgetown's decision "would result in a fight in the KBC like I haven't seen in my lifetime," York cautioned. "I'm not

willing to see that happen. ... Let's make their exit sweet and part as friends. The lost world is watching and the last thing we want to do is give them another fight to behold."

Assessing York's role in crafting the transition plan, Crouch said, "I think without Hershael's leadership and spirit, we would be entering into a very difficult and contentious period with the convention. But Hershael has had the impact to turn it around where the focus is not on fighting, but the focus is on a long-term relationship in ministry and mission."

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey echoed Crouch's view.

"Hershael has helped us as Kentucky Baptists move to another level in dealing with concerns based on issues and the facts involved rather than emotional responses," Mackey said. "I believe this can be a good model for us in the future in all arenas of Baptist life."

York "doesn't try to conceal his convictions about biblical truth and issues in Baptist life," Mackey added, "but he will share them in a relational way. It has been his passion to see Kentucky Baptists work together to solve differences in the most amiable and Christlike spirit possible so that our witness for our Lord is not hindered."

Exclusivity of the gospel

In addition to the Georgetown issue, York said he has sought "to model and to demonstrate to Kentucky Baptists that you can trust conservative leadership, that we're not here to rip things up but to focus on the task as hand which is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. ... The exclusivity of the gospel of Jesus Christ to me is a line in the sand."

Among other priorities as president have been an ongoing focus on



TRAINING KBC President Hershael York leads one of three preaching conferences for small-church and bivocational pastors held recently across the state.

evangelism, practical educational opportunities for small-church and bivocational pastors and nurturing closer ties between the KBC and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he serves as a professor of Christian preaching and associate dean.

Looking to the future in KBC life, York noted, "I honestly believe we're headed for revival; I truly believe that. I'm just praying God lets it start at Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort where York is pastor.

"Wherever it starts," he added, "I think we're going to see revival. With every bit of my being, I pray it will happen."

As for his past 12 months as KBC president, York reflected, "It's been good. I'm excited, I'm encouraged. I really do think we're forging a new day, new relationships, new trust in one another, which I what I prayed would happen."

Rebuilding phase begins as Kentucky disaster relief feeding teams finish

By David Winfrey
News Director

Cleanup work continues, but Kentucky Baptist disaster relief feeding crews were expected to finish their work this week.

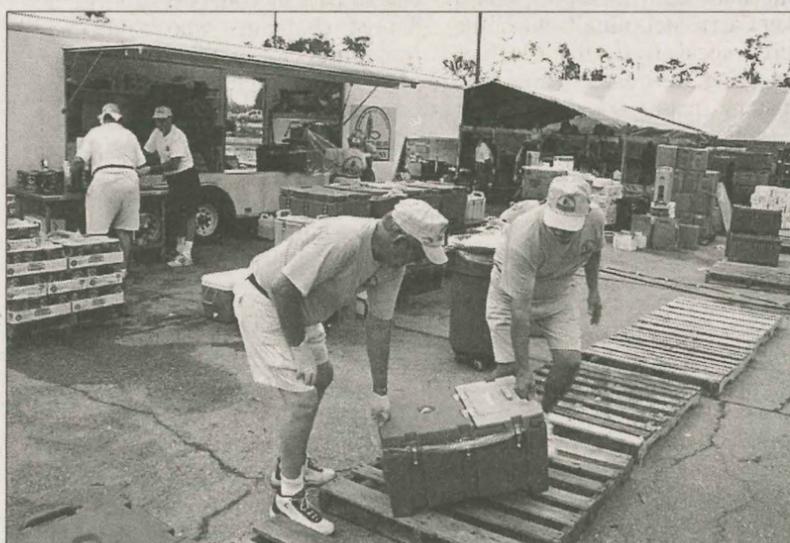
Volunteers will be needed for some time for both cleanup and rebuilding efforts, according to Peggy Murphy of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's men on mission department.

"I'm booking people through January," said Murphy, who has been coordinating volunteers since Hurricane Katrina struck Aug. 29.

In Miami, 68 Kentucky Baptists donated 586 volunteer days and prepared more than 100,000 meals in response to Hurricane Wilma, said Larry Koch, director of the KBC's disaster relief efforts.

The past three months have been tiring for Koch, who has traveled with a mobile kitchen to Clinton, Miss., and Kinder, La., in response to Hurricane Katrina before going to Miami for Wilma on Oct. 29.

The volunteers' enthusiasm often was noticed by the Red Cross employees they worked with, he said. "We had some real serious discussions about what it means to be a follower of Jesus with these



OVER 300,000 SERVED Volunteers stack a food container at the mobile kitchen in Slidell, La., earlier this fall. Kentucky disaster relief kitchens in Louisiana, Mississippi, Indiana and Miami have been busy this storm season. (Photo By David Winfrey)

people."

Koch said he's optimistic about the future of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief, especially in light of the more than 2,800 people who recently have taken training to serve as disaster relief volunteers.

"I still want to encourage the churches and associations to develop both cleanup and feeding

teams," he said.

Koch said he'd like to see a network of eight feeding teams throughout the commonwealth who are able to respond quickly to a disaster. That would take pressure from the same small group of volunteers who regularly are called on when a disaster occurs.

"We could use a cleanup team in

every association across the state," he added.

In Evansville, Ind., where a tornado caused damage last week, a mobile kitchen from Henderson was expected to finish serving food this week, according to coordinator Dallas James.

The team had served more than 12,000 meals through this past weekend, he added.

Koch estimated that Kentucky Baptist volunteers have served at least 300,000 meals since responding to Hurricane Katrina, and the number could be as high as a half-million meals.

Cleanup work continues in the Gulf Coast region, Murphy said.

Volunteer teams continue to be sent to First Baptist Church of Biloxi, Miss., and to the Jackson County Baptist Association office in Pascagoula, Miss.

Volunteers also are needed in Bay Vista, Miss., but last week Murphy said she had no volunteers available to go.

Trained disaster relief volunteers who are available are asked to contact the KBC's men on mission department at (502) 489-3527 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.

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Box 43969
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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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'Confessional Baptist'

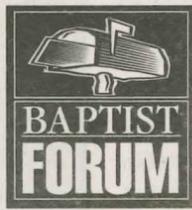
On the cover of the last book, "Apostasy" (1991), by Dale Moody, longtime theology professor at Southern Seminary, one finds a blurb by the longtime editor of the Western Recorder, Chauncey R. Daley.

He stated of Moody: "He abhors creedalism as all true Baptists have done through the centuries." Unfortunately there is no accompanying definition of "creedalism," presumably because its meaning was presumed to be self-evident. But definition is all-important.

If my friend Daley, in referring to my friend Moody, meant, as indeed he likely did, by "creedalism" the placing of creeds, confessions of faith or other forms of tradition above the authority of the Scriptures so that they can never be reformed or refined or corrected or rejected according to the Scriptures, then surely we can concur in that statement.

If, however, someone should interpret "creedalism" to mean any use of or significant role for confessions of faith in the life of Baptists so that the term becomes the conveyor of confused disdain and rejection, then we need to question such use of "creedalism." The very fact that Baptists have for their entire history

of four centuries framed and adopted confessions of faith for their own use and for declaration to others is an important consideration. Baptists may disagree as to how confessions should be used or applied; they cannot rightfully deny that they have been basic to Baptist church and denominational life.



"Confessional Baptist" is not an oxymoron; it is a Baptist truism.

James Leo Garrett, Jr.
Fort Worth, Texas

Creative ideas needed

I read with great interest the article in the Nov. 1 Western Recorder concerning "Children's specialist bringing ideas to KBC's annual meeting."

Our church is in a rural area. However, we have tried very hard to use innovative ideas for reaching the children and are recognized for our successful Wednesday night children's program.

Yet as a Sunday school teacher of 6th, 7th and 8th graders, I really struggle with the LifeWay literature. I find it does not give enough creative ideas for presenting the material in a non-lecture type atmosphere.

Many times the literature is not written in a realistic format. I have one young man who quite often will comment, "I have no idea what they

are talking about." This is a Christian young man from a Christian family who has grown up in the church.

I wish LifeWay literature would be written with more creative, realistic ways of presenting the message.

Barbara Godman
Carrollton

'Dynamic' workshop

Having covered numerous conferences, seminars and special events over the past 12 years for the Western Recorder, I took the opportunity the weekend of Oct. 22 to focus on my own marriage at "Celebrate Oneness," sponsored by Campbellsville Baptist Church.

While attendance at this one-day seminar was much smaller than the statewide events I covered in the past, it still was a dynamic, well-done event. I appreciated the honesty of the workshop leaders, who confessed they too were working through the problems that all marriages endure.

And not only did Pastor Skip Alexander show his support by attending the event, he gave time to members who helped lead the event to speak on Sunday morning.

To those Kentucky Baptists who missed this fine marriage workshop, plan now to attend a regional event next year.

Ken Walker
Louisville

What should we do when tragedy strikes?

By Henry Blackaby

Atlanta (BP)—What should Christians do when tragedy strikes? How should we respond in the midst of tragedy such as death, financial loss or marriage crises?

Several Scriptures come to my mind immediately. At the heart of them all is James 2:17: "Faith, if it does not have works, is dead." In other words, inaction or noninvolvement is not acceptable when tragedy strikes.

In 1 John 3:18, John urges, "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." The verse that precedes

this concise statement reads, "Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need (often with great tragedy), and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

FIRST PERSON

When tragedy or need is present, we must respond with real deeds of love, even as Jesus does with our lives. Paul was aware that when God saved him God put His love in him, and it was impossible for him not to love others.

Paul was aware that God Himself was working in and through and around his life. God had shaped his

life and given him a heart to love as he had been loved. He did not receive such grace of God "in vain" but responded immediately so that he was in a place where his life could make a difference to others.

This is the pattern for each of us. In the workplace, in the church, in our family and in our community we often will be confronted by tragedy. When we are, we must respond with the love of Christ to alleviate the hurt, pain and loss of others. It is a choice we make, and God is observing how we are choosing to respond. May He be pleased with what He sees.

Henry Blackaby is president of Blackaby Ministries International in Atlanta

It is time to seek the Lord

When I observe the recent destruction by hurricanes; the burning in Paris and other cities by gangs; the tornados in Evansville, Ind., and Munfordville, Ky.; terrorist attacks; political unrest; and murder of innocent people, I am reminded dramatically that it is time to seek the Lord as never before.

When I hear about the drug culture that is capturing and holding captive our youth; the immorality that pervades all levels and institutions, including the church; the greed that seems to grip so much of the corporate world; and the loss of integrity, I know it is time to seek the Lord with all my heart.

When I observe the high percentage of church members who are not engaged in the mission of our Lord, I know it is urgent to seek the Lord of the church to move upon His church for revival.

This level of engagement actually

has been quantified. I recently was in a meeting with consultants from the Gallup organization. Their research shows that there are three levels of church membership:

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

Engaged—32 percent. These members express spiritual commitment, invite others to church, give more time and money and are psychologically involved in the mission of their church.

Not Engaged—52 percent. This group will say they are satisfied with their church, are more social

than spiritual and are minimal in volunteering and giving.

Actively Disengaged—16 percent. These members belong by location more than by name, are part of the group but negative and are present but unhappy.

It has been discovered that 43 percent of the "engaged" members are fully committed spiritually, 67 percent invite people to church and 50 percent serve outside the church

FAMILY

Parents, remember your children are watching, learning

By Jeremy White

Kids learn about money from two sources: their parents and their own experiences. (Notice that I didn't say they learn much about money at school. How ironic that they go to school to learn how to earn money, but don't learn how to manage it wisely.)

When they learn from you as a parent, you either are teaching intentionally or inadvertently (from your habits they observe). Teaching intentionally is best, but most parents are too busy or feel unqualified to talk about money.

Your children might not be the best listeners, but they are excellent imitators. You don't have to say a thing to your children to pass on to them your decisions, priorities, commitments and habits. Where and how you spend money is influenced by where and how your parents spent money.

Children either will model our behavior or react to it and behave in the opposite way. For example, perhaps your father always bought a new car every year. The chances are you will do the same. Perhaps your parents always ate a Sunday meal out. You will likely do the same. Or perhaps your parents paid cash for everything. You, as a consequence, might find it difficult to use credit cards. If you tithe regularly, it's more likely your children will become regular givers.

On the other hand, it could be that when you were younger, you always were forced to wear hand-me-down clothes or clothes purchased from consignment stores. As an adult, you determine that you always will buy new clothing and that your own wardrobe will represent the latest in fashion. You might choose to react just the opposite from the example set for you.

Just as your parents had an effect on you, you are having some effect on your children. Whew! That thought can be a bit scary.

One day a father was driving with his 4-year-old daughter and beeped his car horn by mistake.

She turned and looked at him for an explanation. He said, "I did that by accident."

She replied, "I know that, Daddy."

He asked, "How'd you know?"

The girl said, "Because you didn't yell 'Jerk' afterward!"

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



How do you face the holidays after the loss of a loved one?

Q: This will be my first Thanksgiving and Christmas season since my husband died. I don't know what I'm going to do. How can I cope?

Therese Randall, in her helpful book, "How to Go on Living When Someone You Love Dies," offers these practical suggestions:

Alter, don't abandon, traditions. You might choose not to put stockings up on the mantle. You might make a brief appearance at a party rather than staying as long as you would have in the past. Do something symbolic such as burning a candle or planting a tree in memory of your loved one. Have your holiday meal at your children's home rather than your own. Plan to open gifts on Christmas Eve rather than Christmas morning. Have other widows and widowers over for a potluck meal. Recognize that what you decide for this year can be changed next year. Reach out to others. Donate in your loved one's name. Give food to the needy.

Make people aware of your limits. Don't be in the position of trying to make everyone happy. Discuss the tasks and responsibilities to be done and ask for help. Recognize that holiday distress is normal. Compromise and negotiate your plans with your family. Take time for yourself. Beware of the dangers of alcohol and fatigue. Plan your shopping ahead of time; perhaps shop online or through a catalogue.

Realize that anticipation is almost always worse than the actual day. Recognize that there will be pain no matter what you do. This is natural and right—you miss your spouse. Mix this with love for those you still have. Share positive memories of the past.

Let yourself have the cry you need. Let the memories come. Talk about them. Having fun is not betrayal; give yourself permission for joy as well as grief.

You cannot rip the days from November until January out of your calendar and pretend they're not going to happen. Take some steps now to prepare. Remember, "you can do all things through Christ who gives you strength" (Philippians 4:13).—James Stillwell

Q: How can we prepare our two sheltered teenage sons for the struggles that surely will come in this lives?

The witness of God's Word is that faithful followers of Jesus Christ are not exempt from life's trouble and storms. It is important to remind your young princes that these storms will have various sources, as illustrated through the life of the king of Israel.

Some storms can be avoided. These are the storms that arise out of the waters of sin and disobedience. King David experienced a storm related to his sin of adultery with Bathsheba. Godly sorrow and repentance led to forgiveness, yet David still had to deal with the consequences of his sin.

Some storms cannot be avoided. These storms rise out of the waters of the sins of others and the parasitic effects of sin on God's creation.

Earlier in his life, the Bible tells us that David suffered due to the jealous sin of King Saul. David also knew the struggles that daily living brought in both love and work.

In October of 1991, "the perfect storm" occurred when three weather systems collided off the coast of Nova Scotia to create a storm of such singular ferocity that the waves were more than 100 feet high. A small fishing boat, the Andrea Gail, was caught in the dark, watery heart of this storm, its six-member crew never to be heard from again.

Remind your teenagers that life's circumstances will create situations that will seem at times like "the perfect storm." As these times occur, they need to remember that the perfect storm will never occur for a believer without the perfect Savior in the boat.—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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

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

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

Lincoln's words capture timeless truths

How will you celebrate Thanksgiving 2005? Will you joyfully gather your brood for a traditional Thanksgiving feast? What blessings has God poured out on you and your family this year?

In honor of resilient hurricane survivors, soldiers separated from their loved ones, grief-stricken families and other heartaches, perhaps this is a fitting time to reflect on the words of President Abraham Lincoln as he proclaimed a national day of Thanksgiving amid the dark days of the Civil War:

"The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

"In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

"Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe had enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased,

notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

"No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, Who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

"It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every

part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father Who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union."—President Abraham Lincoln, Oct. 3, 1863

May God graciously bless you and your loved ones as you celebrate a happy and hopeful Thanksgiving 2005.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson



The spiritual side of 'The Man in Black'

By Dave Urbanski

El Cajon, Calif. (RNS)—"Walk the Line," the much-anticipated biopic on Johnny Cash's early career—and his initial romance with wife June Carter Cash—is scheduled for release Nov. 18.

As "Walk the Line" depicts Cash's life only through the late 1960s, moviegoers will not get a glimpse of the intense spiritual revival Cash experienced soon after his marriage to June—a turnaround of the soul that informed and sustained him in significant ways for the rest of his life.

"Walk the Line" understandably keeps things focused on a specific portion of Cash's life. Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon have been getting high marks for their portrayals as Johnny and June.

But unless one reads carefully between the lines—or in this case, watches carefully between the frames—"Walk the Line" viewers can miss the spirituality that affected Cash even during his early career, even in the midst of his family problems, road fever and life-threatening struggles with substance abuse. All of the latter are elements the film depicts with a no-holds-barred attitude.

"I had the advantage of making a movie about a man who was an artist himself, and an artist of the shadows, in the sense that he understood life's loneliness and life's mistakes, and that people make them. In that sense, he wasn't interested in hiding them," direc-

tor James Mangold told Associated Press.

"He was much more concerned about protecting others than himself. The thing he would always say to me was, 'I don't care if I look bad. Just don't make other, innocent people look bad, because they were my mistakes.'"

So if you watch "Walk the Line," it might help to keep several things in mind.

First, the influence of Cash's Christian upbringing cannot be minimized. His family was dirt poor, but his house was filled with the sounds of gospel music and spirituals. In fact, it was Cash's original intent to break into music by singing gospel, and while Sam Phillips wouldn't let him, Cash recorded several gospel/hymn records shortly after leaving Sun Records.

Second, Cash's older brother Jack—who died after a grisly table saw accident—had a profound spiritual influence on Johnny. Jack was Johnny's all-time hero, a stronger, more spiritually mature Cash, in every way a protector.

"When we were kids he tried to turn me from the way of death to the way of life, to steer me toward the light, and since he died his words and his example have been like signposts for me," Cash wrote in his autobiography. "The most important question in many of the conundrums and crises of my life has been, 'Which is Jack's way? Which direction would he have taken?'"

Even during his lowest moments of drug abuse and failing health, Cash believed Jack's voice was always audible in his soul—a kind of virtuous fly in the ruinous ointment Cash continually spread on himself during his early career.

Third, while life on the road—and the substances that artificially sustained its hectic pace—almost killed Cash, the "Man in Black" still struggled with his professional choices in relation to his spiritual center. During Cash's notorious, wildcat early days, he saw a show by Sonny James—a musician and a Christian. After the gig, Cash asked for some direction.

"Sonny, I know you're a Christian, and so am I," Cash recalled in his autobiography. "I know I was meant to be in the music and entertainment world, but how do you live a Christian life in this business?"

James had this to say: "John, the way I do it is by being what I am. I am not just an entertainer who became a Christian. I am a Christian who chose to be an entertainer. I am first a Christian."

Clearly, Cash struggled as a Christian and an entertainer early in his career—and often the latter won the battles. But the ties of a deep-down, core faith in God and the love that June expressed to Johnny in his darkest moments ultimately were what pulled Cash from the clutches of an early death and into the light of renewed spirit, life and career.

Dave Urbanski, senior developmental editor for Youth Specialties in El Cajon, Calif., is the author of "The Man Comes Around: The Spiritual Journey of Johnny Cash"

Specialists: Many churches not as friendly as they think

Barry Sneed said churches must become "missional," meaning they conduct the same kind of outwardly-focused activities that missionaries do overseas.

Continued from page 1

"We have to reach out," Queen added. "We don't do that. It's not a normal thing. We have to be taught."

Barry Sneed, a regional director for LifeWay Christian Resources, said that with more than 70 percent of Southern Baptist churches plateaued or declining, the problem is obvious.

The denomination has been mission-minded, but Sneed said its affiliated churches must become "missional," meaning they conduct the same kind of outwardly-focused activities that missionaries do overseas.

"It takes consistency and being intentional," said Sneed, who helped design and write several books on assimilation. "We've found that a lot of churches are good at strategy development but they're not very good at strategy implementation."

"You can have good intentions but how will you make it happen?" Sneed asked. "Have you built in accountability to make that happen?"

Multiple points of contact

Queen points to First Baptist Church of Orlando as a good example of a welcoming church; he and his wife visited it several years ago while on vacation.

By the time they reached Sunday school, half a dozen people had greeted them by name. After class, a young couple invited the Queens to sit with them in the service.

Sneed said there are several avenues that can help congregations adopt a more welcoming posture.

Among them are classes for new or prospective members and improving discipleship so new members understand their gifts and place in the church.

Another is strengthening small groups, whether that is through Sunday school or other types of fellowships.

"You may have somebody come do the 'look and see' if there's something special about worship," Sneed



said. "But they won't stay unless they connect. No matter how good or bad it is, they're not going to find their place in the worship service. It's all about connecting."

Wilson said he thinks churches should shrink Sunday school class sizes. A class of 10 members offers a manageable number for two-way relationships, he said, but at 20 there are too many people for everyone to know each other.

"New classes tend to engage new people," Wilson said. "Most existing classes tend to maintain current relationships."

The common blind spot

As for congregations that mistakenly think they're friendly, Wilson said people develop a blind spot as they interact with familiar faces.

Because they typically are friendly with members and pat each other on the back, many fail to grasp their failure to project that same warmth to visitors and newcomers, he said.

"Trust is definitely an issue," Wilson said of building relationships. "We don't know them, don't trust them and they don't trust us. A (good) greeting process helps build that trust."

Wilson calls Sunday school the best vehicle for implementing follow-up, because large numbers in a church service make it tough to get to know visitors.

In addition to greeters in Sunday school, he suggests assigning members to invite guests in services to Bible study.

Keeping accurate class registration and attendance records, es-

tablishing care groups and regular social fellowships also improve outreach, Wilson said.

"Take seriously the registration of guests, keep track of members and follow up on guests," Wilson urged.

"Ask them, 'How was the visit? Were there things we could improve? Can I pray for you? Is there a relationship I can develop with you?'"

Care groups can contact newcomers and existing members. Wilson said this requires a team so no one person has to call more than six people.

Welcoming new leadership

However, no matter how welcoming a church, it must be willing to allow newcomers full participation in congregational life, Queen said.

As an interim pastor, Queen said it became obvious which churches were serious about growing.

"I've watched churches that aren't going to grow because they want new people there but they don't want them to take a role in decision-making," Queen said. "They say: 'We'll make the decisions; this is the way we've always done it.'"

"It kills a church," Queen warned. "They lose their focus on why people are there."

Considering the large number of congregations that need to improve their assimilation procedures, though, the question is: Why don't more do it?

"I ask myself that every day," said Sneed, who also directs LifeWay's church consulting practice. "I think churches and church practices are in such flux ... that pastors and church staffs miss the target. They're looking for the next silver bullet."

Church leaders are to help people discover their spiritual gifts and purposes, encourage them to serve and establish accountability to keep the process moving, Sneed said.

"Some do it well," he noted. "Others don't."

Strategist offers pop quiz for leaders to gauge church friendliness

By David Winfrey
News Director

Planning, relationships and retention are three key indicators that church leaders should look at when studying whether their church truly is friendly to visitors, according to a former KBC specialist who's studied the topic.

Too few churches develop plans to attract and keep new members, said Rodney Lynch, former discipleship and assimilation strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Guests ought to feel like, 'The church really desires me to be a part of the family,'" Lynch said.

Lynch outlined three key areas churches should study to see if they are visitor-focused and visitor-friendly:

Intentional planning. Does your church have a process for welcoming visitors and making them feel at home?

"How would you feel if you came into a church for the first time and nobody spoke to you?" Lynch asked. "What process do you have to wel-

come people when a new person comes on your campus for the first time?"

Plans can involve a welcome station, visitors' parking spaces and a strategy for members to help visitors find their Sunday school room or the sanctuary.

Churches also should have a follow-up strategy to contact visitors after their visit so that they begin to build relationships, Lynch said.

"What is your process to welcome and connect with that guest for the first 48 to 72 hours after that first visit?" Lynch asked.

"We're finding out that the guest has to get to know the pastor and two or three key leaders within the first few weeks" in order for them to want to stay involved in the church, he said.

Relationship building. Are new members building friendships and becoming involved in small group Bible studies and church ministries?

"How are we involving people in relationships?" Lynch asked.

"Assimilation" is the term for the

activity of involving members into the activities of an organization. For churches, that often means making friends and taking part in the activities of the church, he said.

"Assimilation's got to be a priority, and we're not making it a priority."

Church members must be encouraged to recognize the needs people bring when they visit a church, Lynch said.

"They're not coming just to find a friendly church, but to find friends and friendships that go beyond the church setting."

Research by Barna Research Group has found that new members who don't take part in small group Bible studies and ministries and who don't establish friendships with several other members tend to stop attending, Lynch said.

Retention. Are visitors coming back? Do new members disappear out the back door shortly after they join through the front door?

Lynch encourages pastors to see whether the last five families to visit

still attend. A review of membership records for the past two years will show whether members have continued to stay involved, he added.

Another measure is the number of visitors attending the church, he said. "It's hard to keep guests if they're not coming," he said. "The church has to do evangelism and assimilation at the same time."

Welcoming is the duty of every member, Lynch noted. "They need to look at the church through the eyes of the guest."

At the same time, some churches have "first responder" teams that develop the church's strategy toward visitors and make sure contacts are made during church services and during the weeks afterward.

He added that pastors set the tone for whether churches are focused on welcoming visitors.

Pastors should communicate regularly to members and to other church leaders the importance of welcoming and connecting with visitors, he added. "The pastor sets the tone of caring."

"What is your process to welcome and connect with that guest for the first 48 to 72 hours after that first visit?"

Rodney Lynch, former discipleship and assimilation strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

KBC promotes 4-step plan to retain new members

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—From 1999 to 2004, Kentucky Baptist churches added more than 61,000 people to their rolls.

But when the roll is called on most Sunday mornings, many of those 61,000 just don't show.

Despite adding tens of thousands during that five-year period, worship attendance for Kentucky Baptist churches grew by a scant 753 people, and Sunday school attendance actually saw a net decrease of 2,583 people.

Most Kentucky Baptist churches have no strategy for connecting and involving new members in ministry, according to Darryl Wilson, KBC adult Sunday school and discipleship group director. As a result, he said, churches are losing members nearly as quickly as they gain them.

"We've contributed to that 81 percent of Kentuckians who are dechurched," says Wilson, referring to the 2004 study of the unchurched in Kentucky by Barna Group that revealed that 81 percent of unchurched Kentuckians have attended church in the past, but no longer attend. "They've joined the church, but they are no longer attending."

Wilson and other KBC leaders are encouraging Kentucky Baptist churches to adopt four principles to help retain and involve new members: clearly defining expectations

that members be active in the life of the church; inviting members to become involved in ministry; an emphasis on the importance of relationships; and involvement in a small group.

The four principles emerged from group research as well as recommendations offered by Thom Rainer, new president of LifeWay Christian Resources and former dean of the school of missions, evangelism and church growth at

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"These principles are easily communicated, easy to understand, easy to do, and they will work," Wilson says.

In a study of 1,700 churches, Rainer has found that congregations that use these four principles retain at least 80 percent of their new members for at least five years, Wilson says.

Wilson and Rainer define the four principles as:

Expectation. Churches should communicate expectations for members, Wilson says.

One way is through an orientation class for new members. Orientation should help familiarize new members with the church, as well as expectations for new members, including participation, tithing, ministry involvement and more.

Ministry involvement. New members should be connected quickly with a ministry within the church, according to Rainer.

"If more than six months lapses between the points of new membership to ministry involvement, the person will likely be already moving toward inactivity in the life of the church," Rainer said in an article that appeared on ChurchesToday.com.

Churches might want to include spiritual gifts assessments in the new member orientation class, Wilson suggests, and then place new members in ministries based on their giftedness.

Relationships. Not surprisingly, people who don't feel connected to other people within the church don't remain connected to the church for long, Rainer says.

Relationship-building begins with the first visit, Wilson adds. Greeters should be assigned and trained for both the worship service, and for individual Sunday school classes.

Sunday school classes should be intentionally open and welcoming,

Resources available

Beginning this week at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Frankfort, Darryl Wilson and other members of a KBC assimilation work group are distributing CDs and DVDs featuring resources promoting four principles of assimilation.

Among the resources being promoted:

■ **"Membership Matters,"** a book by Chuck Lawless that resulted from a national study of growing churches.

■ **"The Inviting Church,"** a book by Roy Oswald. Based on research by the Alban Institute, the book includes a self-study designed to help church leaders gauge their assimilation efforts and analyze visitors' perceptions of the church.

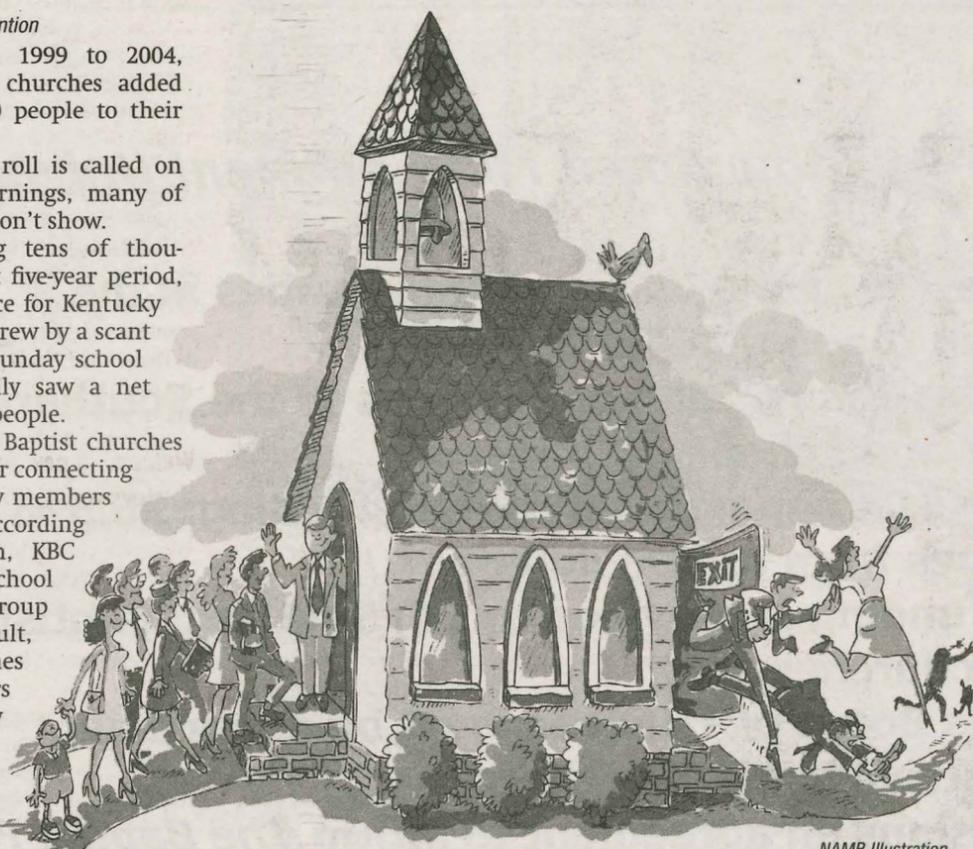
■ **"Survival Kit for New Christians,"** a popular handbook used by many churches to help new Christians deal with the pressures that arise in the Christian life.

■ **"Taking the Next Step,"** a handbook that offers an orientation for new church members.

In addition, Wilson is offering a two-hour workshop for churches and associations to help church leaders with assimilation in Sunday school.

From name tags and fellowship to prayer partners and care groups, the workshop helps church leaders evaluate 18 aspects of their Sunday school program to see how well they are helping assimilate new members.

To get a resource disc or for more information about the workshop, contact the KBC adult Sunday school/discipleship department at (502) 489-3572 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3572.



NAMB Illustration

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Wilson says. Name tags for everyone—members and visitors—make it easier for people to get acquainted. Class greeters should make sure introductions are made all around and that visitors can find the rest-room, nursery, sanctuary or any other area of the church where they might need to go.

Greeters also might want to offer to sit with visitors during worship services.

"A few will be intimidated, but 99 out of 100 visitors want us to initiate friendliness," Wilson explains. "They didn't show up Sunday morning because they were bored, they showed up because they were hungry for relationships."

Small group involvement. New members who are involved in small groups—a ministry team, choir, discipleship group or Sunday school class—are less likely to leave a church, even if they experience a season of discouragement, Rainer says.

The most common small group for involving and connecting new members is the Sunday school class.

"Care groups help us to arrange relationships, so folks don't fall through the cracks," Wilson says.

Small group leaders, particularly those leading Sunday school and discipleship groups, should be aware of "insiders and outsiders," Wilson advises.

Simple actions, like moving from a lecture format to a discussion format, can help people within the group build relationships. Arranging classrooms in a large circle, rather than in rows or around tables, also helps.

Groups should be kept to manageable sizes, typically around 10 people.

"In a group of 10, you have 45 two-way relationships, but in a group of 20, you have 190 two-way relationships," explains Wilson. "We can only handle about 100 relationships, maximum."



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Missionary found perfect ministry for her experience

By Shirley Cox
State Correspondent

Berea—If you ask Mission Service Corps missionary Marie Wing about her call to missions, she probably will say it happened accidentally.

In 2003, she was attending a July 4th celebration in Franklin, when she met Kentucky Baptist Mission Service Corps Director Eric Allen.

During their conversation, he mentioned the need for someone to manage a food warehouse in Berea.

Instantly, Marie realized she was a perfect fit.

A 45-year veteran of the wholesale grocery business, Wing already was planning to move to Berea to live near her brother after Wing's husband had died the previous December.

"I knew about food inventory and was familiar with how a food warehouse should be run and the overall picture of how things are done," she said.

"I had not planned to do anything. I felt the Lord had opened up this ministry for me."

Since November 2003, Marie, 68, has operated a 7,000-square-foot food warehouse in Berea that has distributed approximately 400,000 pounds of food to 44 ministry centers throughout Eastern Kentucky.

The food warehouse ministry began with a partnership between Bates Creek Baptist Association in Richmond and Rockcastle Baptist



HANDS-ON WORKER Marie Wing, a Mission Service Corps missionary, directs a food warehouse in Berea that distributes food to ministry centers throughout Eastern Kentucky.

Association in Mt. Vernon. In addition to providing financial support, members of both associations, along with representatives from Eastern Kentucky, make up a board that provides direction to the ministry.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention also provided financial support when the ministry began.

Food donations from churches and other groups from several states have stocked the warehouse. Periodically KBC men on mission Director Randy Foster transports truckloads

of spaghetti sauce from Owensboro to the warehouse in Berea.

When large donations arrive, Wing climbs onto a forklift and unloads the pallets herself.

"In May 2005, we received a 22,000-pound donation of potatoes from Rochester, N.Y.," she said. "I unloaded the potatoes with a forklift and then loaded the 50-pound bags by hand onto the trucks that arrived from the food ministry centers. Once in a while my brother helps me run the forklift."

In addition, churches and groups in the immediate area of the warehouse have participated in the ministry.

Whitehall Baptist Church in Richmond bought 2 x 4's and installed shelving for a food pantry.

In May, a U. S. Postal Carrier food

drive brought in enough canned food to stock the pantry shelves.

Two churches in Madison County donated hygiene kits packaged with New Testaments. Pleasant View Baptist Church in Waynesburg donated reading glasses with the scripture verse, "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Recognizing the need

Among all this activity, Wing and her puppy Duke have settled into her home in Berea, just a hundred yards from her brother and sister.

Wing, who served as a volunteer firefighter for fire departments in Panama and Gerry, N.Y., for several years, returns each year to help plan, organize and cook for a benefit for a volunteer fire department in New York.

But she said she has found new purpose in life by "just being able to help the needy."

The poverty and hunger in Eastern Kentucky became startlingly real to her when she visited the area, Wing added.

"Last October, I went ... to a five-year anniversary celebration at God's Appalachian Partnership at McDowell, Ky., and we went into one of the hollows. I had never been into an area where they had no electricity and still use gallon jugs to get water from a spring," she said.

But Wing said meeting the physical needs of the people in Eastern Kentucky is not the most important aspect of the food ministry.

"The people who distribute the food that I give them also give away the plan of salvation," she said. "The people are also fed spiritually."

For more information

The food warehouse in Berea is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, call the warehouse at (859) 228-0572 or via e-mail at emwing0537@aol.com.

For information about Mission Service Corps opportunities, contact Eric Allen toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3530 or via e-mail at eric.allen@kybaptist.org.

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 2006 Unexpired term: Donnie Gosser (L) Elizabethtown; 2009 terms [11]: J. Chester Badgett (P) Campbellsville; Steve Branscum (L) Russell Springs; Howard Kent Cooper (L) Jamestown; Jana Gore (L) Elizabethtown; O. D. Hawkins (L) Owenton; John Keith (L) Hodgenville; J. Cordell Maddox (L) Jefferson City, TN; David K. Morris (L) Warsaw; Jay Robison (P) Lexington; Malinda Smith (L) Danville; Leon Wilson (M) Oklahoma City, OK

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 2008 Unexpired term: John Hughes (L) Danville; 2009 terms [6]: Bobby Barnes (P) Falmouth; Frances Gambrel (L) Corbin; Lyndell Graven (L) Bowling Green; Timothy Langford (L) Hickman; Ellis Payne (P) White Plains; Ronnie Pennington (P) Richmond

Georgetown College (Trustees)
 2009 terms [7]: Richard Gaines (P) Lexington; Martha Hagan (L) Lexington; James E. Hargrove (L) Lexington; David C. Jones (L) Louisville; Karen Kay King (L) Mt. Vernon; John Ward (L) Hebron; Richard Ward (L) Lexington

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies (Trustees)
 2009 terms [3]: Paul Douglas (L) Paducah; Rick Long (M) Frankfort; Charles E. Wallace (L) Crestwood

Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors)
 2006 Unexpired term: Morris Norfleet (L) Nancy; 2009 terms [4]: Michael J. Melloan (L) Owensboro; William B. Owen (L) Lexington; James A. Sigler (L) Paducah; William M. Walters (L) Richmond

Western Recorder (Directors)
 2009 terms [3]: Linda Polley (L) Elizabethtown; Floyd Price (P) Prestonsburg; Rodney Travis (P) Hopkinsville

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (Directors)

2007 Unexpired term: Earl L. Calhoun (L) Hopkinsville; 2009 terms [6]: J. Richard Carlton (L) Lexington; Elena Jill Hammond (L) Pikeville; Joyce M. Smith (L) Louisville; Thomas S. Sparks (L) Lexington; A. Bailey Taylor (L) Shepherdsville; James R. Wood (L) Frankfort

Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems (Trustees)

2008 terms [5]: Skip Alexander (P) Campbellsville; Kendall Collins (P) Owenton; Mark Shelton (P) Burkesville; John E. Smith (P) Upton; Douglas Wesley (P) Danville

Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees)

2006 Unexpired term: Bruce Davidson (L) Manchester; 2009 terms [6]: Marvin Cress (L) Garrard; Kenneth Ray (L) Leitchfield; Wayne Roberts (L) Manchester; Martha Faye Smith (L) Albany; Wanda Whited (L) London; Bettie Wright (L) Barlow

University of the Cumberland (Trustees)

2009 terms [7]: William Adcock (MM) Somerset; Frank Atkins (L) Williamsburg; Phillip Armstrong (L) Stone Mountain, GA; Don Ellison (L) Williamsburg; Bill Gullett (L) Hendersonville, TN; Tony Hancock (P) Lexington; Roland Mullins (L) Mt. Vernon

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At-Large (Region 5): 2007 term - Rick Robbins (Erlanger)

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Laurel River (Region 8): 2008 term - Johnny Jervis (London)

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Little Bethel (Region 2): 2008 term - Jerry Gifford (Madisonville)

Little River (Region 1): 2006 unx term - Mike Jones (Cadiz)

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Long Run (Region 4): 2008 term - Mark Payton (Louisville)

Long Run (Region 4): 2008 term - Jennifer Ringstaff (Louisville)

Long Run (Region 4): 2008 term - Greg Smith (Louisville)

Long Run (Region 4): 2008 term - Ralph Stephens (Louisville)

Mercer (Region 6): 2008 term - Brian Burkhead (Harrodsburg)

Muhlenberg (Region 2): 2008 term - Gary McAbee (Greenville)

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Nelson (Region 3): 2007 unx term - Ann Stout (Mt. Washington)

Northern KY (Region 5): 2008 term - Randy Wallace (Independence)

Northern KY (Region 5): 2008 term - Martha Pike (Villa Hills)

Northern KY (Region 5): 2008 term - Rob Roy (Ft. Thomas)

Ohio County (Region 2): 2008 term - Eddie Duke (Beaver Dam)

Ohio River (Region 1): 2006 unx term - Joe Baker (Fredonia)

Ohio Valley (Region 1): 2006 unx term - Noble Cobb (Sturgis)

Pike (Region 8): 2008 term - Sam Crawford (Pikeville)

Pulaski (Region 7): 2008 term - Kevin Milburn (Somerset)

Severns Valley (Region 3): 2008 term - Craig Perkins (Hodgenville)

South District (Region 6): 2008 term - Everett Thomas Priddy (Lancaster)

S. Union/Mt. Zion (Region 7): 2008 term - Bill Wright (Williamsburg)

Tates Creek (Region 6): 2008 term - Joe Kays (Richmond)

Taylor County (Region 7): 2008 term - James E. Jones (Campbellsville)

Three Forks (Region 8): 2008 term - Tony Brown (Whitesburg)

Upper Cumberland (Region 8): 2008 term - Dallas Messer (Kenvir)

Warren (Region 3): 2008 term - Mark Baldauff (Bowling Green)

West KY (Region 1): 2008 term - Mike Alexander (Fulton)

West Union (Region 1): 2008 term - Huell Tilley (LaCenter)

Whites Run (Region 1): 2006 unx term - Travis Laney (Carrollton)

Preacher of 2006 Annual Sermon: Steve Ayers (Bowling Green)

Alternate: Terry Lester (London)

Recommended by Committee on Nominations:

Committee Members: Ronny Raines (Chairperson), Rick Lucas (Vice-Chairperson), Harlan Avera, LuAnn Baker, Steve Boyd, Joe Causey, Donna Colegrove, Bob DeFoor, Kenneth Dick, Troy Dobbs, Terry Garvin, Kevin Hash, Bill Henard, Chris Kihn, Larry Noe, Bob Norman, Chip Pendleton, John Ramsey, Aaron Reed, Gary Shockley, Jim Simmons, Bob Swift and Terry Wilder
Ex Officio Members: Executive Director, Bill Mackey and Convention President, Hershael York

2005 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

◆ **Committee on Arrangements** - 2008 terms - Jamie Baker (Marion) and Farrell Isenberg (Owensboro)

◆ **Committee on Constitution & Bylaws** - 2008 terms - Ken Holden (Georgetown), Larry Pursiful (Louisville) and Stan Williams (Ashland)

◆ **Committee on Credentials** - 2006 unexpired term - Gordon McDowell (Magnolia); 2008 terms - Floyd Paris (Ashland), Wendell Ray (Murray) and Ray Woodie (Glasgow)

◆ **Committee on Nominations** - 2007 terms unless noted otherwise:
Region 1: Johnnie Davis (Princeton) and Carl Nelson (Kuttawa)

Region 2: David Nelson (Owensboro); 2006 unexpired term: Jeff Coursey (Henderson)

Region 3: Don Mathis (Bowling Green) and George Smith (Hodgenville)

Region 4: Gene Wright (Shelbyville)

Region 5: Herb Booth (Burlington) and Bob Young (Carrollton)

Region 6: Al Gisler (Nicholasville); 2006 unexpired term: Tommy Pinkston (Harrodsburg)

Region 7: Kevin Denton (Horse Cave)

Region 8: James Castlen (Hazard) and Floyd Price (Prestonsburg)

◆ **Committee on Order of Business** - 2008 terms - Charles Barnes (Louisville) and Richard Carver (Morganfield)

◆ **Committee on Public Affairs** - 2008 terms - David Beck (Louisville), Todd Gray (Oak Grove) and James Jones (Campbellsville); 2006 unexpired term: John Chowning (Campbellsville)

◆ **Committee on Resolutions** - 2007 terms - Steve James (Owensboro) and Mike Rice (Ashland)

Persons to Report - 2006

◆ **Cooperative Program:** John East (Salem); Alternate - Dorothy Crace (Ashland)

◆ **International Mission Board:** Betty Smith (Rineyville); Alternate - Ken Cummins (Salem)

◆ **North American Mission Board:** Mike Rust (Cadiz); Alternate - Jim Smith (Ravenna)

◆ **Obituaries:** Wallace York (Princeton); Alternate - Laverne Butler (Lexington)

Recommended by Committee on Committees:

Committee Members: Peggy Snowden (Chairperson), Tommy Purvis (Vice-Chairperson), Billy Compton, John Dunaway, Ed Erwin, Ric Frazier, Alice Kerr and Lester Watson
Ex Officio Members: Executive Director, Bill Mackey and Convention President, Hershael York

Familiar Faces

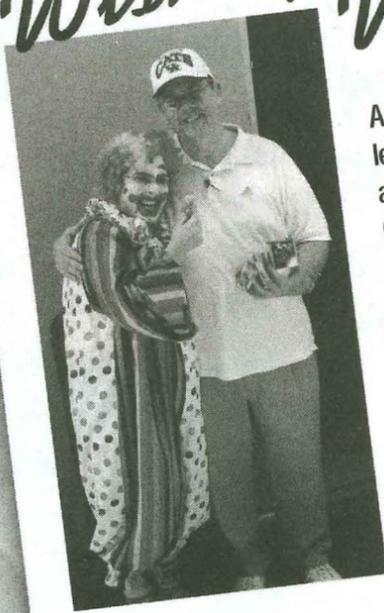


Through our partnerships, Kentucky Baptists have dozens of opportunities each year to work all over the world through short-term mission trips.

In this special section, you'll read great stories about ordinary Kentucky Baptists carrying the Gospel to extraordinary places.

Extraordinary Places

Wish You Were Here!



As the director of Partnership Missions, I have the pleasure of leading Kentucky Baptists to be on mission here at home and around the world. I love to hear – and tell! – stories of how God is working through short-term missions volunteers.

In this special scrapbook, I've pulled together just a few remarkable stories to share with you. My prayer is that you will be touched when you see how God is using your friends and neighbors from right here in Kentucky to touch lives around the world. You'll see folks on many different types of missions: medical, construction, evangelism, and even just clowning around!

At left: Ross Bauscher, KBC, Director of Partnership Missions with Terrie Hall, Campbellsville.

Familiar Faces

Building the Kingdom

A team of 14 from First Baptist Church, Monticello ministered in Northern Brazil in July 2005. The team helped finish work on a new church building in Alto Longa and hosted a vacation Bible school for local children.



Matthew Webb and the members of Monticello First Baptist carefully lay brick for a new church building in Alto Longa, Brazil. During the first service in the new building, 30 people stepped up and responded to the altar call at the end of the service.



BRAZIL Fun in the Sun

Through partnerships in two areas of Brazil – the Federal District, which includes the capitol Brasilia, and Piaui, in Northern Brazil – Kentucky Baptists have been able to further the cause of Christ in the largest nation in South America. If variety is the spice of life, our Brazilian partnership is spicy indeed! Volunteers have helped with construction projects, medical missions, Vacation Bible school, and outreach of every kind.

Son Burst, a creative ministry team comprised of college students, spent July 1-14, 2005 in Teresina, Brazil, sharing the Good News creatively. The team performed as many as three times per day in schools, a local university, parks, churches and the local "Micarina" festival. Team members included Jennifer Harrington, a member of Crestwood Baptist Church and a student at University of Louisville; Adam Kilchenman, a member of House of Christian Worship in Louisville and a student at Cumberland College; Brandon Rose, a member of Union City Baptist Church in Richmond and a student at Eastern Kentucky University; Lacey Ryan, a member of New Bethel Baptist Church in Verona and a student at EKV; Luke Woodward, a member of Community Baptist Fellowship in Mayfield and a student at the University of Kentucky; and Bill Noe, U of L campus minister and team leader.

The team especially enjoyed the opportunity to encourage local believers and work alongside Joyce and Scott Pittman, International Mission Board missionaries who live and serve in Teresina, Brazil.

"Working with Joyce and Scott Pittman in Teresina was an incredible experience for our team," said Bill Noe, campus minister for the University of Louisville and the leader of the Son Burst team. "It is great to know that the Pittmans and other Brazilian Christians remain in Teresina to follow-up on the contacts our team made!"

Mission of Mercy

The flight to Brazil was just the beginning of the travel adventures for a medical missions team that served in Teresina, Brazil from August 15-26, 2005. A total of 17 Kentucky Baptists from eight different associations boarded this bus which is outfitted with medical equipment.



Dr. Mike Pope, a dentist from Somerset Ky., works on a patient in the mobile medical unit.



Medi sharing of a l



Bill Noe, two Brazilian friends, Lacy Ryan, Adam Kilchenman, Luke Woodward, another Brazilian friend, Brandon Rose and Jennifer Harrington prepare to say good-bye after the team's stay in Brazil.

Joyce and Scott Pittman, International Mission Board missionaries



Lacey Ryan and Adam Kilchenman of Sun Burst share a moment with two Brazilian children after a puppet performance. "We were given open invitations to share the gospel in so many settings, all through the use of creative ministries," says Bill Noe.



Mission teams sometimes have the most profound impact on the interpreter that work with them. Sometimes the interpreters are young believers who encouraged in their faith sometimes the interpreters become believers through the witness of mission volunteers.

Faces... Extraordinary Places

Upcoming Mission Opportunities in Brazil

Location	Date	Project Type
Teresina	1/16-2/7/06	Brazilian Baptist National Convention
Teresina	3/27-4/6/06?	Prayer Walking Team - WMU
Parnaiba	4/24-5/4/06?	Simultaneous Revivals
Outside Teresina	6/5-6/15/06	Medical
Teresina	6/5-6/15/06	Evangelism - Church Start
Teresina	6/19-6/29/06	Evangelism - Church Start
Teresina	6/19-6/29/06	Evangelism
Teresina	7/17-7/27/06	Church Plant - Phase 1 - Medical
Teresina	7/31-8/10/06	Church Plant - Phase 2 - Evangelism
Outside Teresina	7/31-8/10/06	Evangelism - Church Start
Teresina	8/14-8/24/06	Church Plant - Phase 3 - Discipleship
Outside Teresina	8/14-8/24/06	Evangelism - Church Start
Outside Teresina	8/28-9/7/06	Evangelism - Church Start

Federal District

Theological College	January	Sidewalk
Osafya City	March	Chapel
Alvorada Park	April	Medical
Setor City	May	VBS & Evangelistic Revival
Fercal City	June	Chapel
Aguas Lindas City	July	VBS & Evangelistic Revival
Paranoa City	August	Medical
Arinos City	October	Chapel
Baptist Convention	November	Congress for Pastors, Church Leaders & Lay men/women

International Baptist Convention

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is involved in an exciting partnership with the International Baptist Convention, a fellowship of 66 English-language churches and missions scattered across Europe and the Middle East. Kentucky Baptist volunteers, through a wide variety of partnership projects, are encouraging Baptists around the world as they minister in their communities.

Each summer, Kentucky Baptist mission volunteers journey to Interlaken, Switzerland for the annual meeting of the International Baptist Convention. The volunteers care for the children of IBC church leaders, freeing parents to attend meetings and worship. The volunteers literally become the arms of Jesus, providing love and comfort to precious children. At other times throughout the year, teams travel to individual churches, leading worship, ministering to children and more.



Upcoming Mission Opportunities with the IBC

Location	Date	Project Type
Interlaken, Switzerland	July 5-14	Extended Teaching Care
Rome, Italy	April 26-May 1	Ladies Conference
Bremen, Germany	May 3-9	Ladies Conference
Berlin, Germany	May 10-17	Praise/Worship for Singles Conf.
Berlin, Germany	May 16-23	Park Evangelism and Weekend Revival
Berlin, Germany	Week before Easter	Vacation Bible School
Azores, Portugal	TBA	Family Conference Camp
Dusseldorf, Germany	May 16-23	Church Retreat-Caring for Children
Copenhagen, Denmark	TBA	Worship Leader to do Intern
Emirates Bapt. Ch, Dubai	TBA	Experiencing God Weekend
Hoensbroek, The Netherlands	TBA	Interim Pastor
The Netherlands	TBA	VBS, Training Workshop, Experiencing God or other discipleship training, family life seminar, prayer walking
Belgium	TBA	Many Requests
Landerson, France	Aug 31-Sept 7	IBC Family Conference

Other Upcoming Mission Opportunities

Location	Date	Project Type
Malta	July 10-21	Children's Festival Outreach
Malta	Dates Flexible	Adopt A Village/Prayer Walk/Literature Distribution/Evangelism
Wroclaw, Poland	Open	City Evangelism
Wroclaw, Poland	Open	Construction
Wroclaw, Poland	Open	English Camp
Glogow, Poland	Open	VBS/Children's Ministry
Glogow, Poland	Open	Construction
Opole, Poland	Open	Evangelism/Outreach
Lubin, Poland	Open	Coffee House Ministry
Olawa, Poland	Open	Construction/Evangelism



...sometimes the most profound interpreters are the interpreters with them. The interpreters are believers who are led in their faith; the interpreters are believers through the messengers of mission.

...encouraging Baptists around the world!



Closer To Home...

Kentucky Baptists have had a partnership with Baptists in New England for nearly a decade. During that time, Kentucky Baptists have worked alongside brothers and sisters in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts to reach out to the nearly 10 million people in the region who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

We're also pleased to announce that our work through Appalachian Regional Ministries and Mississippi River Ministries will now be coordinated through the Partnership Missions Department. **Get Involved!** Check out the projects listed to the right. More project listings are available online:

www.arministry.org

www.riverministry.com

Upcoming Mission Opportunities Closer to Home

Location	Date	Project Type
Irishtown Baptist Mission, Lexington, KY	year-round	Basketball Camps, Soccer Camps, Music Camp, Creative Arts Camp, BYBC, Block Parties, Prayer Walking, and Children and Youth Activities.
Wheelwright Baptist Center Wheelwright, KY	during school year	light construction, Adult Sign Language volunteers, volunteers for weekend activities for children and youth; teach life skills classes for adults; sorting clothes and household items.
God's Appalachian Partnership	year-round	Food, Personal Items, Clothing, Youth, Drama, Music, Worship
Freedra Harris Center, Elkhorn City, KY	summer	Vacation Bible School, Sports Camps
Owsley County Ministry First Baptist Church of Booneville, KY	year-round	Remodeling, VBS, Bible Studies, Youth Ministry, Home Repairs, Items for Distribution
Family Development Center Winchester, KY	year-round	Construction, Backyard Bible Clubs, VBS, Prayerwalking, Assisting in Food Pantry and Clothing Closet, Block Parties
Mountain Missions Development Corp. Berea, KY	year-round	Construction, Food, Clothing, Variety of Needs
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, KY	year-round	Construction, Food, Clothing, Mission Project Opportunities
The Berea Health Ministry, Berea, KY	year-round	doctors, nurses, other medical personnel
God's Love From a Diaper Bag, Jenkins, KY	year-round	Bible Study, Diapers, Baby Items, Clothing, Food, Construction
West Kentucky Baptist Assoc., Clinton, KY	summer	Back Yard Bible Club & Vacation Bible School
Bright Life Farms, Princeton, KY	year-round	construction
Columbus-Belmont State Park	summer	campground outreach
Bright Life Farms, Princeton, KY	year-round	houseparents
Hillcrest Camp Dev., Cave-In-Rock, Ill.	year-round	camp development, mission projects
Mississippi-Ohio Valley Evangelism	spring/summer/fall	Backyard Bible Club, Vacation Bible School, construction, church renovation
Mississippi-Ohio Valley Evangelism	year-round	programs for Job Corps participants
West Kentucky Baptist Associational Library	year-round	cataloging
River Town Ministries, Hickman	year-round	sort clothing for ministry centers

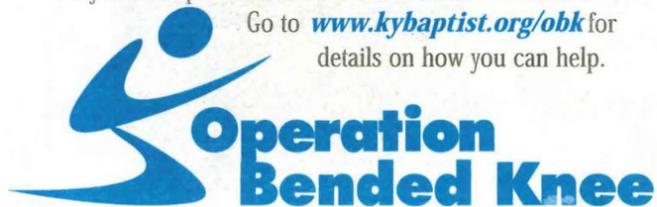
Become a Prayer Partner!

Be an intercessor for the Kentucky Baptist partnerships! We are seeking individuals, Sunday School classes, mission groups, churches and associations who will commit to praying faithfully for the countries, projects and participants involved in our partnerships. If you commit now to interceding regularly for partnerships, we'll send you regular mail or e-mail updates.



Pray for our partners and for our mission volunteers.

Go to www.kybaptist.org/obk for details on how you can help.



Volunteer Requirements

To be a partnership missions volunteer, you must:

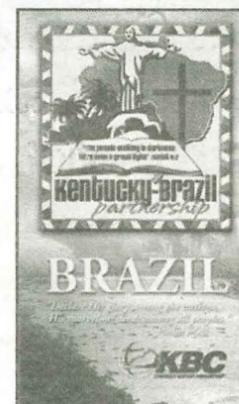
- Be a member of a Southern Baptist church.
- Demonstrate Christian values and conduct, including abstaining from the use of tobacco and alcohol.
- Be able to share your faith verbally.
- Be physically able to perform the duties of your project, including walking reasonable distances and carrying your own baggage.
- Be between the ages of 16 and 69 if participating in an international trip. If you are older than 69, you must have medical clearance from your physician.
- Be flexible! Situations and assignments can change without notice.
- Apply to be a Partnership Missions volunteer. You can download the simple, two-page application now at www.kybaptist.org/partnership or call (866) 489-3415 toll free in Kentucky to request an application by mail or fax.
- Participate in a Partnership Missions orientation scheduled by the Partnership Missions office.

See For Yourself!

Call (866) 489-3415 toll free in Kentucky to request your free copy of:

Kentucky Baptists
Touching the
World: EUROPE

Kentucky Baptists
Touching the
World: BRAZIL



Partnership Missions Orientations

March 18, April 29, May 20, June 3, July 22 and August 19

Team Leader Training - September 15-16

This publication is made possible by the Cooperative Program.



www.kybaptist.org/partnership

The Partnership Missions Department works in relationship to the missions goals of Kentucky Baptists Connect.



KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Partnership Missions

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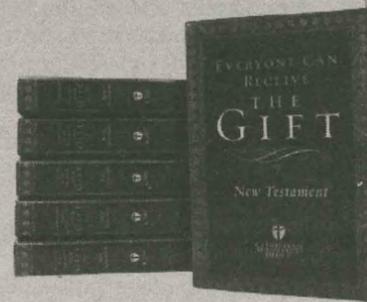
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KBC churches asked to link with Gulf Coast congregations

Continued from page 1

After Kentucky Baptist churches or associations have been matched with a church in one of the three associations, they are asked to let the KBC new work and associational missions office know of their partnership by calling (502) 489-3528 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3528.

It would also be helpful for Kentucky Baptist churches to alert their own association as well, Baker added.

Calvary Baptist Church, a member of Jackson Baptist Association, is further along the road to recovery than many, thanks to the help of Baptist groups and others.

After Hurricane Katrina struck on Aug. 29, disaster relief teams from Kentucky and beyond have come to Beaver's aid, cleaning and repairing damage to Beaver's home and church. A friend of the family let Beaver, his wife, Candie, and his 12-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter use their trailer while the Beavers' home is being cleaned and repaired.

Thanks to the hard work of disaster relief volunteers, the Beavers expect to be back in their home by Thanksgiving.

Lake Gregory Community Church



STARK SANCTUARY Water damaged the sanctuary of Calvary Baptist Church in Pascagoula, Miss., forcing the removal of carpeting and furniture. At least 460 Baptist churches were reported destroyed or seriously damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. (KBC photos by Larry Brannin)

in Crestline, Calif., is paying Beaver's salary through the end of the year, something his own flock—scattered by the storm, many unlikely to return—is unable to do right now.

The local Chevron refinery completely renovated the church's 40-year-old daycare center, which had been destroyed along with the rest of the church by the 3½-foot storm surge that swept through it. The center, which takes up one wing of the church, reopened in mid-October and is serving 70 children.

"That's the kind of stuff that's happened to us since this storm," Beaver said.

Lots of work remains

But even with all the blessings, much more remains to be done at Calvary Baptist Church and throughout the Gulf Coast.

The most crucial help for many of the churches is budget support. Many church members have been displaced by the hurricane, and those who remain often have lost jobs or income. As a result, churches receive little money from tithes and offerings.

Along with the financial toll, churches have lost key leaders, and even more importantly, significant personal relationships.

Beaver has lost one-third of his

congregation, which had an attendance of approximately 140 in worship service before Hurricane Katrina. He expects that one-quarter of his congregation will not return to Pascagoula.

"It hurts tremendously. Some of the folks I was very, very close to," said Beaver, who has served the church for two and a half years. "Some of these were leaders in the church. It hurts because a part of you has been ripped away."

Baker and others fear that the



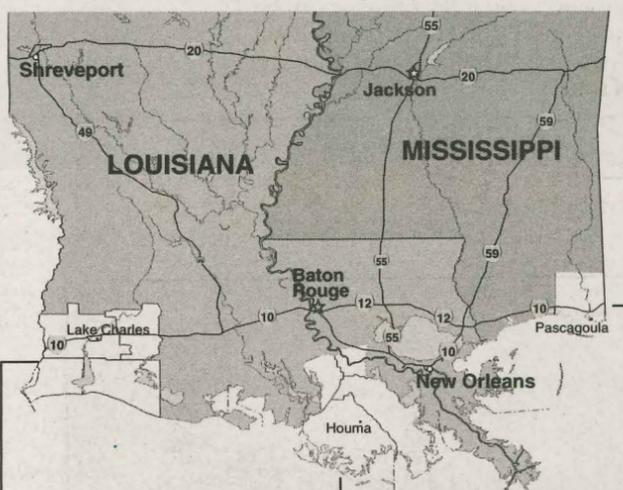
FACT FINDING Representatives of the Kentucky Baptist Convention talk with Johnny Beaver (second from left), pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, and Charles Rogers (center), director of missions for Jackson Baptist Association in Pascagoula, Miss. The association is one of three in the Gulf Coast area where the KBC has established partnerships for rebuilding and recovery.

loss of financial support, leadership and friendships will take a great toll on pastors and church staff.

The potential loss of pastoral leadership would come at a crucial time for the Gulf Coast, Baker said. The hurricane's devastation has left many people searching for answers and seeking God.

The strong response of Baptist disaster relief teams has raised awareness of Baptist churches, Baker said, but local church leaders must be available and equipped to minister.

"This emphasis is on getting churches up and running so they may continue to reach the lost and minister to members,"



Kentucky Baptist churches are being encouraged to form partnership relationships with churches in one of three associations affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita:

■ **Carey Baptist Association**, Lake Charles, La., (337) 626-8364; www.careyassoc.org.

The association has 64 congregations in the three parishes it encompasses, according to Director of Missions J.P. Miles.

Of those, 4 buildings were completely lost, 10 suffered significant damage and 10 others suffered some damage.

■ **Adolphe Stagg Baptist Association**, Houma, La. (985) 868-7352.

At least 10 of the association's 32 churches and missions were damaged by the two hurricanes, according to vice moderator Bob Eastwood. The association has been without a director of missions since January.

■ **Jackson Baptist Association**, Pascagoula, Miss., (228) 769-7102.

The association's 43 churches in Jackson County, about 60 miles from the where the eye of the storm passed. Of those, 28 church buildings were severely damaged, including 10 that were flooded and lost most of their furnishings, according to DOM Charles Rogers.

"All the churches are going to suffer from a budget perspective and all churches are going to lose members that are going to move away and not come back," Rogers said. "It's a pretty devastating situation here."

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81640, 2/04

Locals: Hurricane relief workers, be ready for tough conditions

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Bay St. Louis, Miss.—Kentucky Baptists who plan to help storm-battered Gulf Coast communities should be prepared to witness devastation, according to the associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis.

"Everyone who comes down says, 'I've seen it on TV, but it's not the same until you see it'" in person, Brian Rushing said. "All of the beachfront homes and homes within the first two blocks of the beach are absolutely flattened. We've got people still living in tents."

Located approximately 40 miles west of Biloxi, the town of 8,200 residents is staggering under the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

Eight weeks after the storm, grocery stores had yet to reopen, with the Red Cross still serving up to 7,000 meals a day, Rushing said.

First Baptist sustained extensive damage from Katrina, which left two feet of water in its fellowship hall and sanctuary. About four and a half feet covered its adjoining offices and educational space.

Besides ripping out its carpeting and pews, First Baptist lost its library, music and office equipment, choir robes, nursery supplies and steeple. Most of its roof is covered by blue tarps.

Church leaders still don't know the monetary extent of the damages, since an insurance adjuster



DRY DOCKED A boat sits on the yard of a house in Biloxi. (University of the Cumberland photo by Jeff Meadors)

just visited two weeks ago.

Such issues are why help from outside churches has done so much to cheer the congregation's spirits.

Recently, Rushing counted volunteers from eight different states coming in one week, including members of a church that shipped five new air conditioning units to cool the building.

Churches often the only help

"We've just been blessed by all the volunteers," Rushing said. "The teams have been phenomenal. It gives people hope, a little bit of encouragement and shows them what it means to be a Christian and love other people."

"We've heard over and over again (from residents), 'If it weren't for the church, we wouldn't have any help,'" he added.

The help isn't all going to First Baptist, either. The church started accepting work orders from any

resident who needed help with mudding out or cleaning up homes and clearing trees and debris.

It had completed more than 150 of the first 300 orders last week, but more requests arrive daily as word circulates in the community.

Similar devastation exists in Pascagoula, home to one of three Baptist associations who will receive help from partnerships with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"We're hearing that 70 percent of the population was affected by the storm, whether storm or roof damage or trees falling on houses," said Tom Miller, associate missions director for Jackson County Baptist Association.

Twenty-eight of the association's 43 churches suffered storm damage, with 10 of those getting water as deep as six feet in their buildings.

About 70 percent of the association's churches have 100 or fewer members, and officials fear overwhelming clean-up costs will force a couple of smaller congregations to close.

Miller praised the response from Kentucky Baptists and others.

"It gives us a great deal of encouragement and emotional energy to go on," Miller said. "The fact that people care and come and assist in demolition and repair work gives you a boost."

The association has processed more than 3,000 volunteers in seven weeks, with the helpers cleaning



mud and debris out of 600 homes.

Despite the help, many needs remain. For example, Four Mile Creek Baptist Church in nearby Escatawpa—where Miller is interim pastor—went three weeks without receiving an offering. When collections resumed, they were only 25 percent of pre-storm levels.

Despite the struggles, Miller said Kentucky Baptists who come to Pascagoula can expect warm greetings.

"They can expect to find open arms and people ready to receive them, to help them with the rebuilding process," Miller said. "Skilled labor is at a premium. Qualified, licensed electricians, plumbers and folks like that can be crew leaders. And the city will allow them to work off a license from out of state."

CONDEMNED A house sits vacant from storm damage in Bay St. Louis, Miss. Disaster relief workers often say they didn't realize the extent of damage caused by the hurricanes until they visited the area. (Photo courtesy of Crestwood Baptist Church)

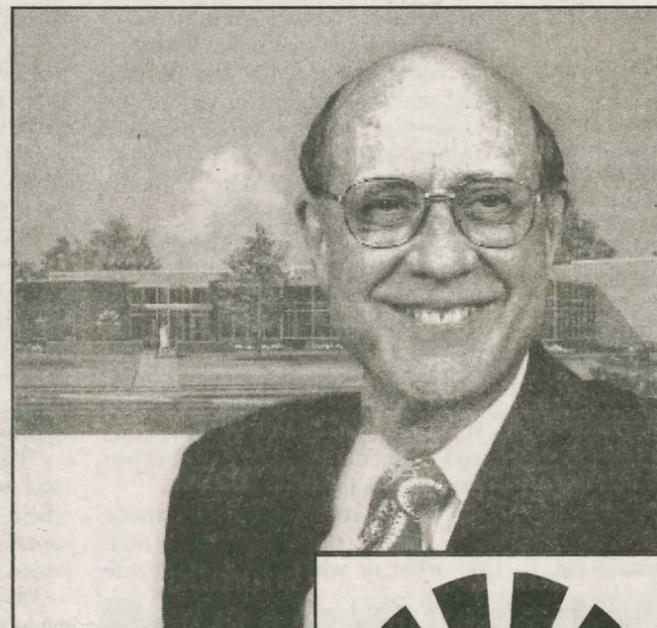
KBHC Pays Tribute to Eldred M. Taylor

Eldred Taylor has been called a visionary, a father in ministry, a saint. The descriptor he likes best, however, is that of servant.

Eldred's long history in Kentucky Baptist life is evidence of his desire to serve God in whatever manner called, from that of pastor to executive director of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

I scream, you scream, we all scream for Ice Cream!

Please join us for an Ice Cream Social at Gabriel's restaurant to learn more about the new Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children Ministry Support Center to be named in Eldred M. Taylor's honor Tuesday night at 8:30pm.



Come by and see the KBHC booth at the Convention!

Students spend fall breaks helping Katrina victims

"You would see a car that was barely running come through the line, and then sitting right behind it you would see a Jaguar."

Georgetown student Missy Shaner

By David Winfrey
News Director

New Orleans—Students from all three Kentucky Baptist liberal arts colleges recently took part in disaster relief ministries for residents of the Gulf Coast affected by recent hurricanes.

All three schools also are planning future trips for students later this year, according to officials and campus ministers from Campbellsville University, University of the Cumberlands and Georgetown College.

"They know there is so much more to be done, and they feel a sense of duty to the people they helped in New Orleans," said Derek Ball, associate campus minister at Georgetown.

A team of 18 Georgetown students worked in the Algiers community of New Orleans, packaging meal boxes for residents at a mobile Baptist feeding kitchen and distributing toiletries, water, ice and other items. Displaced residents drove through the church parking lot and students would give them the meals and supplies.

Students also greeted and prayed with local victims. The site was open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and volunteers serviced an average of 63 cars per hour, students said.

The volunteers heard a variety of stories, including tales of one person trapped on the Interstate 10 bridge for two days and families split up during their evacuation.

Students said they found local residents to be surprisingly optimistic and appreciative for the volunteers' work.

"I was amazed that the people we helped were so incredibly thankful for something as simple as bleach or being prayed with and listened to," said Missy Shaner, a junior from Louisville. "In the big scheme of things, what we did was very small, but it needed to be done, and the people were truly grateful."

Ashley Webb, a Georgetown junior from Harrodsburg, said the trip put the crisis in perspective.

"This didn't just affect the poor people of New Orleans, but the rich and all in between, as well. You would see a car that was barely running come through the line, and then sitting right behind it you would see a Jaguar."

"Seeing tragedy like this made me realize that it doesn't matter what or who I have in my life



SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTION Georgetown College sophomores Ashley Hatcher (left) and Peta Niehaus direct displaced New Orleans residents to needed supplies. Eighteen Georgetown students traveled to Louisiana during fall break to take part in hurricane relief efforts.

because it could all be gone in an instant," Webb added. "But if I have the hope and faith in God, as many of the survivors have, I know I'm going to be OK."

Georgetown campus ministry organizers are working with Calvary Baptist Church of New Orleans to schedule another visit to the area during spring break.

"Mud out" in Pascagoula

Campbellsville's campus ministry organized a trip during fall break that sent 40 students to the area, according to Campus Minister Ed Pavy.

The volunteers helped with chainsaw and "mud out" cleanup work in Pascagoula, Gulf Port and Folsom, La.

"Every site location had a chance to talk with homeowners and got to share the gospel with them or their motivation for being a part of that."

Campbellsville ministry organizers anticipate sending teams during Christmas break and spring break, Pavy said. "The needs will certainly be there through the summer."

After they returned, six students took the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief training to help prepare student response to the Gulf Coast area as well as being able to respond to local disasters.

"That will be kind of a core group that will spearhead and coordinate when other students want to respond to something like what happened in Louisiana and Mississippi."

Pavy said the experience taught students the temporary nature of possessions.

"We put so much stock into things, and things just got blown away," Pavy noted.

"When all that gets swept away, you're left with your relationships and whatever is inside of you that

helps you get through that. And, hopefully, that's a relationship with Jesus Christ."

Seeing destruction in Biloxi

Last month, 22 students from University of the Cumberlands traveled to Biloxi to help with cleanup efforts, according to David Honeycutt, director of the school's Mountain Outreach student ministry.

Student Brad Bell of Monticello said students were awed by the mag-

nitude of destruction.

"You just see desolation of a place that you knew was so beautiful," he said. Bell said the work reminded students that witnessing about one's faith often requires more than words.

"Sometimes evangelism isn't simply just going and sharing the gospel, it's being the hands and feet of Jesus," said Bell, who's also serving as youth minister at First Baptist Church of Williamsburg. "And in that, people see your good works and it points them to your Father in heaven."

All 22 students received KBC disaster relief training before making the trek, Honeycutt said. They worked with other Kentucky Baptist volunteers stationed at First Baptist Church of Biloxi.

Keith Inman, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's collegiate ministry team, said Baptist campus ministries at colleges throughout the commonwealth also are taking part in disaster relief work.

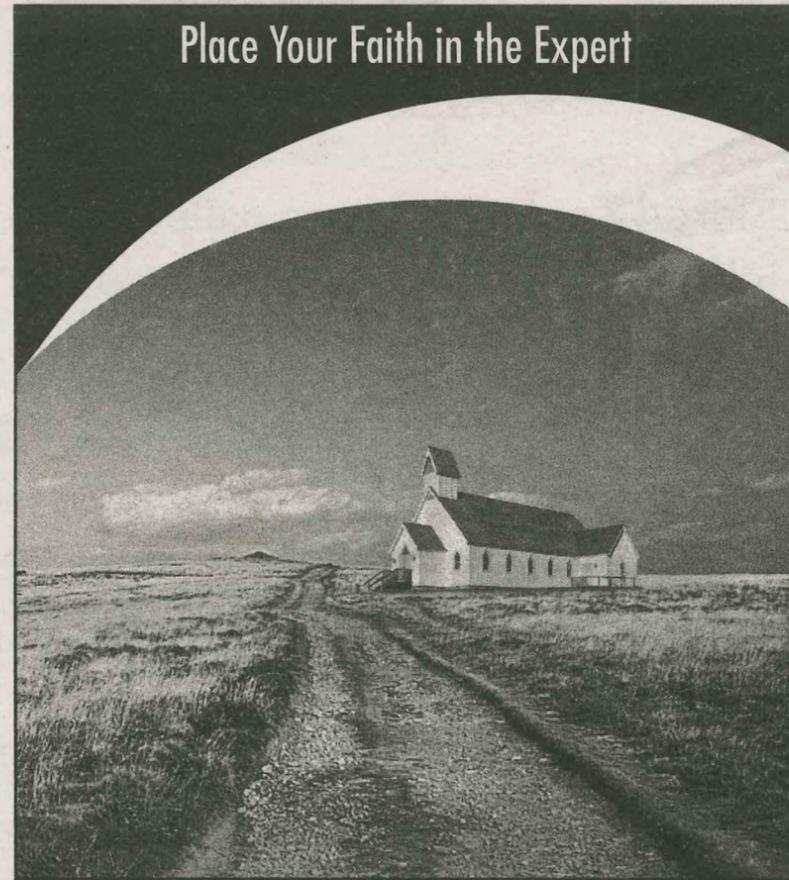
"Almost all of our full-time campus ministers have organized trips to the gulf. Some have already gone during fall break, others during Christmas break," Inman said. "The majority will be going during spring break. I anticipate this to continue during the next calendar year."

With additional reporting by Carl Roberts of University of the Cumberlands and Jim Durham of Georgetown College

CLEANUP ■ Left: Nic Hervey, a Campbellsville University freshman, uses a chain saw to clear timber from a home in Folsom, La. Forty Campbellsville students traveled to Louisiana for ministry during fall break. (Campbellsville University photo by Micah Drushal) ■ Right: University of the Cumberlands students mud-out a home in Biloxi, Miss. Twenty-two Cumberland students took part in the mission trip.



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NATIONAL NOTES

Groups say ruling undermines parental rights. In what has become something of a regular ritual, conservative groups are expressing outrage at a ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals—this one involving parents' rights and sex education. The three-judge panel ruled that parents have "no constitutional right to prevent the public schools from providing information on (the subject of sex) to their students in any forum or manner they select." Elementary school parents had filed a lawsuit against the Palmdale School District in Los Angeles after their children came home from school complaining about having been asked troubling questions regarding sex during a school-administered survey.

Court considers use of hallucinogenic tea. Lawyers for a small Christian sect asked the U.S. Supreme Court Nov. 1 to allow the importation of a hallucinogenic tea from Brazil, a move that government officials say violates federal drug laws. The justices seemed skeptical that the government has a compelling reason to ban the sacramental hoasca tea, which is used by the 140 members of the O Centro Espirita Beneficiente Uniao de Vegetal, mostly in New Mexico. A 1993 law, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, compels the government to allow religious practice unless it has a compelling interest not to. Supporters of the sect say the case has wide implications for the ability of all religious groups to practice their faith without risk of government interference.

Software inserts Bible verses into documents. Pastors, Sunday school teachers and other writers who regularly type Scripture verses now have a software option that can do the work for them. EZWord, a new tool from Southern Baptist LifeWay Christian Resources, allows users to quickly view and insert biblical texts in a computer program even if only the verse reference is given. For more information, visit www.ezword.com.

Bush backs religious objector of union dues. The Bush administration has challenged Ohio's labor contract with 36,000 public employees, arguing in federal court in Columbus that the state violated religious freedoms by refusing to let an employee opt out of paying union dues because he disagrees with the union's stand on abortion and gay rights. The case could have national implications. The issue: whether Ohio compels nonunion workers to finance organizations with which they disagree on religious grounds. In 1988, the Supreme Court ruled unions could not use money collected from nonunion workers for political activities those workers opposed.

Texas marriage amendment passes. Texas voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment Nov. 8 defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. By a two-to-one margin, voters approved Proposition 2, which bolstered the state's ban on same-sex marriage by writing it into the constitution and prohibited Texas from "creating or recognizing any legal status identical or similar to marriage." Proponents maintained the amendment was needed to prevent homosexual couples who marry in another state and move to Texas from challenging the existing law. Opponents insisted the language was too broad and could be used to invalidate agreements between gay partners regarding medical treatment and other personal matters.

Methodists reinforce policy on homosexuality. An openly gay United Methodist minister lost her bid to return to the pulpit Oct. 31 when the church's highest court upheld her conviction on charges of being a "self-avowed practicing" lesbian. And, in a separate decision that could have even wider implications, the church's Judicial Council said gays and lesbians have no automatic right to church membership and upheld the power of local pastors to turn them away.

Count your many blessings, name them one by one

Volunteers bless us by providing a variety of services for Oneida's ministry

We all have our favorite hymns and find ourselves humming the tune to a favorite song from time to time. One of my favorite hymns is "Count Your Blessings." I enjoy this hymn because I need to be reminded of God's love and provision for this ministry and for me personally. I am so routinely showered with His blessings that I have a tendency to miss several along the way.

I have been reminded this week of the blessing of volunteers. On Monday two faithful volunteers began their three-day trip back to Arizona. They arrive each spring and leave in the fall. Bill and Marla have been helping us as volunteers since their retirement. Bill is our "go-fer." He cheerfully spends his days traveling up and down our mountain roads to get a host of items we need. Beginning early in the morning when most retired people like to sleep in a little later, he hits the roads to Manchester, London, Corbin, Somerset, Lexington, well, you get the idea. Marla is a wonderful helper in our craft shop. She brings a lot of skills and experience to our craft program. The craft items are sold in our craft shop to provide funds for our scholarship program. Marla recently completed a cookbook in honor of another volunteer, Donna Atto.

Then on Tuesday, we took a wonderful friend from California to the Lexington airport. Bob and his wife, Pat, have been coming once or twice a year for the past several years. They normally stay for a month each time and gladly pay their expenses to fly from California to Kentucky. Bob is a retired farmer and comes every fall to help with the harvesting of our corn and other farm

chores. The past few years they also have come for a month in the spring to help with the spring planting. Pat is a big help in the craft shop and is willing to help in other places when we have a need. Pat was not able to come this fall, but I am sure we will see her next spring.

Finally, this morning two dear friends left to go back home to Ohio. Paul and Sharon first started coming with their church. Paul is retired and offered his services whenever needed. We gave him a call to help on some special occasions, and he and Sharon gladly came. Over a period of time, their one-week stays began to be two and three weeks. Last year they were here most of the summer, living in their camper in our campground. This year they arrived in April and just now are going back home. Paul is a wonderful helper on the farm and is willing to do just about anything. Like Bill and Bob, he does not seem to mind getting up early every morning to help with the farm chores. Sharon, like Pat and Marla, helps in the craft shop. Needless to say, Paul and the other men could not spend the many hours they do helping us if their wives were not supportive and understanding.

All six of these special friends are typical of the much larger group of volunteers who help us throughout the year. They represent one of God's special blessings to this ministry. Every time I hum the tune to "Count Your Blessings," I think of our volunteers. Saying they are wonderful friends just does not adequately express how we love and appreciate the hundreds of volunteers who help us every year.

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



W.F. Underwood

Panel keeps Saudi government on list of religious persecutors

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—The U.S. State Department again included Saudi Arabia on its list of nations designated as "a country of particular concern" regarding religious freedom.

In its annual international religious freedom report, released Nov. 8, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also redesignated Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Vietnam as countries where "particularly severe violations" continue to occur.

"The sad truth, which this report exposes, is that many millions of religious believers continue to suffer for the belief or practice of their faith, and many governments refuse to recognize or protect this right," wrote John Hanford, the U.S. ambassador at large for religious freedom, in an introduction to the report.

The seventh report, which includes the period from July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, identified countries where there are barriers to international religious freedom, cited nations where there was improvement in protecting religious liberty and detailed U.S. efforts to advance religious freedom across the globe.

The report said that in Saudi Arabia, "religious freedom is not recognized or protected under the country's laws, and basic religious freedoms are denied to all but those who adhere to the state-sanctioned version of Sunni Islam."

A key U.S. ally, Saudi Arabia has objected in the past to its inclusion

in the report.

Factors cited in the report about other "countries of particular concern" include:

Burma: Continuing anti-Muslim violence and prohibition on non-Buddhist groups building new places of worship.

China: Detention and arrest of religious leaders and adherents, including Falun Gong members, and "increased government scrutiny" of underground Christian groups, Muslim Uighurs and Tibetan Buddhists.

Eritrea: Harassment and detention of Pentecostal and other evangelical groups and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Iran: Religious minorities, such as Sunni Muslims, Baha'is, Jews and Christians, reported imprisonment and discrimination based on their faith.

North Korea: "Religious freedom does not exist" and repression of unauthorized religious groups continues.

Sudan: Restrictions placed on non-Muslims, non-Arab Muslims and Muslims from groups not linked with the ruling party.

Vietnam: Restrictions on clergy and organized activities of religious groups.



Integrating faith with Tae Kwon Do

West Virginia student teaches martial arts

Second-year student G.P. Simmons has 14 years of involvement with Tae Kwon Do, the Korean martial arts. He was surprised that it would become part of his Clear Creek experience.

"I started it to keep in shape, and to gain more discipline in my life," G.P. said. "At Clear Creek I met (Academic Dean) Dr. Hester, who was teaching Tae Kwon Do, and he asked me to help him." The class meets weekly during the school term, with attendance as high as 15. Participants are age 5 to the 50s. Dr. Hester completed a green belt while in seminary. Encouraged by a Clear Creek student from Korea, he reached the black belt three years ago.

G.P. defined the black belt as "about 10 steps from a beginner." He's now working toward the second-degree black belt.

"Dr. Hester has integrated faith into our instruction," G.P. said. "Biblical principles are ingrained into all we do. The tenets of Tae Kwon Do are perseverance, integrity, self-control, respect for authority and courage. We relate Scripture to these tenets."

While working in a parts store, G.P. had a good friend die as a result of wrong lifestyle choices. "That convicted me," he said. "I knew I would end up like him if I didn't change. I was saved in a Methodist church where my wife attended. We became Baptists in 1998."

The call to ministry came about five years later; he was 34 and worked as a truck mechanic. "I struggled with the call for five years and finally surrendered," G.P. said.

At Riverside Baptist Church, G.P. teaches young adults. "It's not much different here than West Virginia, with the mountains and country folks," he said.

"We have more opportunity here; the nearest family in West Virginia was over a mile away." His wife, Jenny, works part-time at the campus child development center and home schools 13-year-old Brady.

"I was out of school for 20 years, and was really scared about coming to Clear Creek," G.P. said. "The professors and other students have really helped me."

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



Bill Whittaker

Talking turkey

Groups want to influence how Americans view Thanksgiving

By Jeffrey MacDonald
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—There's a battle of perspectives going on over the Thanksgiving table, and the turkey isn't even thawed yet.

Groups with different views about the holiday's meaning are publishing and distributing readings, or reflections, designed to educate Americans about their vision of the upcoming holiday.

To look closely at these reflections is to see distinct worldviews aiming to define what the holiday—and the nation—are all about.

The efforts to define Thanksgiving's deepest meaning, one dining room table at a time, mirror larger, sometimes political, agendas to shape how Americans understand their country as one nation under God.

Thanksgiving "has a series of possibilities that are built into the institution," says anthropologist Bradd Shore, director of the Center for Myth and Ritual in American Life at Emory University in Atlanta. "It's about America, it has the Pilgrims, it has thanking God, it has turkey."

He said the suggested reflections are "an attempt to renegotiate a holiday that was ambiguously religious."

If groups can get enough people to accept their vision of Thanksgiving, he notes, "then you've changed the culture."

That's exactly what Barbara Rainey, an evangelical Christian, says she had in mind when she authored "Thanksgiving: A Time to Remember," a 2002 reflection that takes about 45 minutes to read or hear on a newly released compact disc.

Rainey worried that schoolchildren weren't hearing about the faith that had inspired pilgrims to reach the New World, she says.

So she begins the book by characterizing Thanksgiving as "both distinctly Christian and exclusively American, a holiday for celebrating

faith, family and freedom."

"Children growing up in America don't really understand our Christian heritage," says Rainey, who is married to Dennis Rainey, president of Family Life, a \$43 million evangelical ministry in Little Rock, Ark.

"I just want to see Americans become more grateful for the privileges we have because we may not have them always, and the surest

way to lose them is to lose understanding of where (this freedom) came from and why we have it, and to realize that being a free people is a great gift."

Other evangelicals share a similar goal.

Colorado-based Focus on the Family posts five Thanksgiving-related reflections on its Web site this month.

Another kind of reflection

On the other hand, the American Jewish Committee and 10 other organizations are offering another type of reflection, on the immigrant history of America, emphasizing human rather than divine agency.

This 20-page reflection, downloadable from the American Jewish Committee's Web site, tells the stories of eight contemporary immigrants who found refuge and opportunity in America.

It contends preservation of this tradition rests squarely on human shoulders.

"We are the stewards of America," the text says. "In America, each of us is entitled to a place at the table."

But it notes those rights haven't always been protected.

"Not every journey was easy," the text reads. "The first arrivals sometimes shunned those who followed. Not every journey was voluntary. The first African slaves landed in Jamestown a year before the Pilgrims settled in Plymouth. Not every journey was righteous. Native Americans were devastated by a new nation's need to conquer,

tax-free.

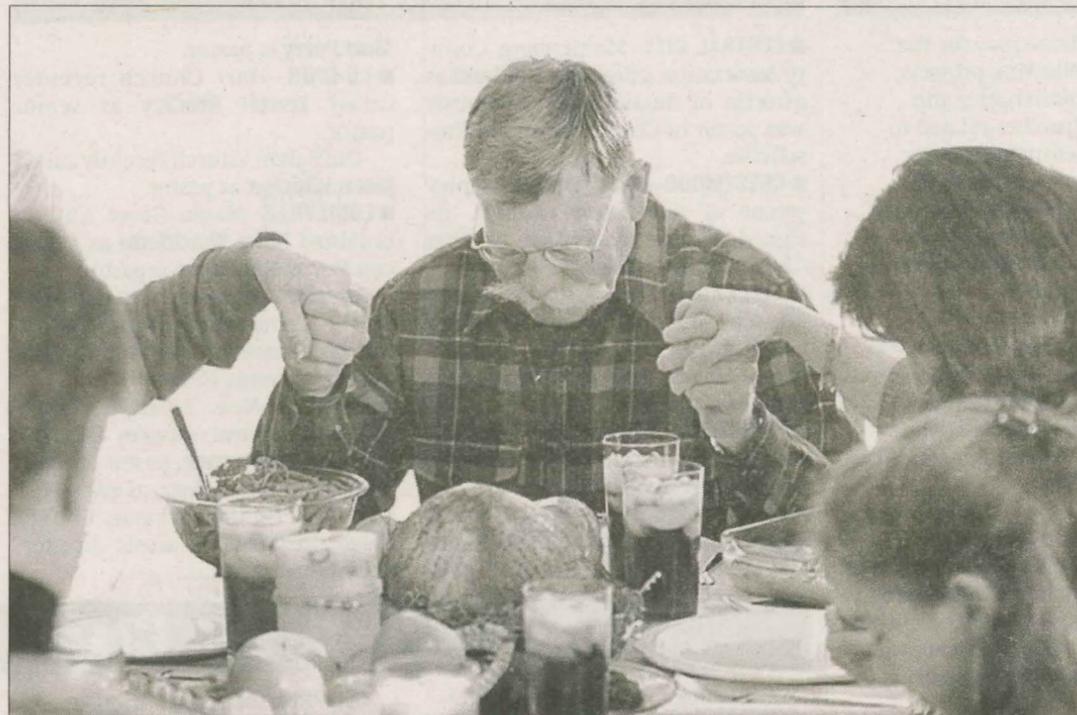
The IRS notified the church of the investigation in a letter that cited an Oct. 31, 2004, sermon by Regas called "If Jesus Debated Senator Kerry and President Bush." Church leaders say they have done nothing wrong.

"There's much more at stake than All Saints in this" investigation, Bacon said.

"I think it's a defining moment about religious freedom in the United States."

IRS officials would not confirm the investigation because of what they called confidentiality concerns during an ongoing probe.

The agency's regulations prohibit churches from participat-



cultivate and build."

The American Jewish Committee says its reflection is ideal for inter-faith gatherings and is appropriate for a Thanksgiving celebration that is evolving for many Americans.

Indians: Reject pilgrim "myths"

Meanwhile, in its reflection, United American Indians of New England (UAIN) is even more critical of American history.

"What we're protesting is the whole mythology of Pilgrims and this whole fantasy that's presented as history," says UAIN co-leader Mahtowin Munro.

It's a fantasy, says Munro, "that the Europeans came over here and the native people somehow welcomed them with open arms and were treated very fairly by the Pilgrims."

"It doesn't tell a true history of this country. It certainly doesn't tell a true history what happened to us. It certainly doesn't talk about things like genocide," which she says resulted from battles between European settlers and natives in the 17th century.

Still, others see a nation inextricably tied to God.

Among them is Ken Masugi, a senior fellow at the conservative Claremont Institute in Claremont, Calif. In the most recent of his

annual written statements on the meaning of Thanksgiving, he argues presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln established the tradition to be "a holy day, a day for prayer and recognition of Almighty God's authority over man."

A nation that remembers its permanent relationship with God, he says, will be happier, healthier and less inclined to seek financial benefits from government.

"Thanksgiving is something everyone understands, but we have lost touch with its highest meaning," Masugi says. "What we are as a nation relies on a recognition of something transcendent, and that something is religious. ... Without an appreciation of our dependence on the divine, I think we're lost as a people. Trying to find satisfaction purely in the material world is a hopeless chase."

To straighten the nation's course, he recommends doing what he does at Thanksgiving: reading aloud from Lincoln's proclamation of 1863, which offers thanks for "gracious gifts of the Most High God" and ends by offering "humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience."

It's as relevant today, he says, as it was then.

Church fighting IRS investigation of sermon about Jesus' politics

Pasadena, Calif. (RNS)—An Episcopal Church says it will fight to keep its tax-exempt status in light of an Internal Revenue Service investigation into a politically charged sermon.

Ed Bacon, rector of All Saints Church, said Nov. 7 that the church learned of the investigation in June, and he made it public in services Nov. 6 because the IRS appears to be close to a decision on the matter.

The investigation was triggered by a sermon delivered by Rector Emeritus George Regas.

While many churches deal with politics in general from the pulpit, they are prohibited from making endorsements if they wish to stay

ing in any political campaign on behalf of one candidate. Endorsements, donations or statements made on behalf of a church also are not allowed. Even a debate or forum that shows a preference for or against a particular candidate could violate regulations, according to IRS guidelines.

In his sermon, Regas speculated what Jesus would say to Bush and Democratic candidate John Kerry on subjects including poverty, violence and war.

In his introduction, Regas said he did not intend to tell people how to vote, but at one point, Regas imagined the words Jesus would have for Bush: "Mr. President, your doctrine of a pre-emptive war is a failed doctrine. Forcibly changing the regime of an enemy that posed no imminent threat has led to disaster."

Bacon said the IRS asked for supporting documents in its letter, which the church provided. Then the agency offered a deal: If the church would say it violated regulations and promise to comply in the future, the IRS would drop its investigation. The church replied that it had not broken any regulations. All Saints Episcopal Church started in 1892 with a small gathering of parishioners in a home. Now, about 3,500 people attend the socially liberal church every week.

The IRS offered a deal, but the church insists it did nothing wrong.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following projects, missionaries and churches related to Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Baptists in Brazil and the International Baptist Convention in Europe:

■ Project coordinators who are seeking to schedule and fill projects in all partnership areas for 2006.

■ Bob and Nancy Walden, coordinators of the "On Bended Knee" prayer ministry, as they coordinate the prayer ministry for missions.

■ Thank God for the nine residents of Teresina, Brazil, who became Christians through the ministry of a team of volunteers from Hopkinsville last month. Pray for workers in Teresina who continue to do follow up from the vacation Bible school and other work the volunteer team helped conduct.

■ House group training in Thessalonica, Greece, that God would raise new, dedicated leaders.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Muhlenberg County Association called **Ray Gilliland** as director of missions. He previously was pastor of Center Church in Russellville.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—**Troy Dobbs**, senior pastor of Crestwood Church, resigned to become pastor of First Church of Merritt Island, Fla.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Sevens Valley Church held a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 23 at the church's future site on 1100 Ring Road. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Community Church ordained **John Cornelius** as a deacon Oct. 23. **Tim Hobbs** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Boone's Creek Church will host **Rachael Lampa** and **Kendall Payne** in concert Nov. 16, 7 p.m.

Matt Perry is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Hart Church recently called **Terrell Bradley** as senior pastor.

Old Salem Church recently called **Jason Whicker** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Maple Grove Church ordained **Mike Shacklette** as a deacon Nov. 6. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

Laurice Rogers has been endorsed by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as a pastoral counselor at Life Care Counseling Center.

■ **MAYFIELD**—New Liberty Church will hold revival services Dec. 4-7 with **Faris Sahawneh**, pastor of Hardmoney Church in Boaz, as evangelist and **Greg Pruitt**, Hickman County Judge Executive, as music director. **Aubert Rose** is pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

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

December

12-13 Mission Board, Baptist Building, Louisville.

January

12-14 Shepherding the Shepherd, Radisson Hotel, Lexington.

19 Pastor/Staff Forum, Southside Baptist Church, Princeton.

24 Pastor/Staff Forum, Victory Baptist Church, Lexington.

27-28 Preschool/Children's Ministry Meeting, Lakeside Baptist Church, Louisville.

27-28 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Severns Valley Association Office, Elizabethtown.

30-31 Theophotic Prayer Counseling Training Seminar, Campbellsville Baptist Church.

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

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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: Children's/education minister for First Baptist Church, Fernandina Beach, Fla. (Amelia Island). Located in a growing community with a deep history steeped in tradition, we are seeking a minister with a vision for the future and an appreciation of our past. Minimum requirement: a seminary degree in children/education ministry. Resumés to: Children/Education Minister Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 416 Alachua St., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034.

SEEKING: Clear Creek Baptist Bible College announces an opening on the faculty for the 2006 fall semester. This is a full-time position to teach pastoral care and ministry courses. This individual also may lead the Christian service activities of the college. Academic credentials to teach courses in counseling and psychology are required. Candidates with a terminal degree are strongly preferred. Five years full-time ministry experience in a Southern Baptist-related ministry is required. Publishing record and/or college level teaching experience would be helpful. Rank and salary to be determined by experience and educational background. Send credentials including a statement of faith and educational philosophy to the academic dean, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977. E-mail may be sent to mhester@cbbc.edu. Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention with a mission "to provide educational preparation for adults called of God into Christian service."

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Must read music, have good people-skills. Call (859) 351-7653.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth and recreation and part-time minister of children. Applicants for both positions must be spiritually mature, enthusiastic and creative. Send resumés to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee. Resumés will be received through Nov. 18. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister for church with about 125 active members. If interested, please contact the church office at (502) 223-8364.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for New Clover Creek Baptist Church in Hardinsburg, Ky. Send resumés to: Pastor Search Committee, Chuck Taul, 2781 South Highway 259, Harned, KY 40144. E-mail: dhchevy@kUNET.org.

SEEKING: Part-time pianist and part-time organist for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Strong accompanying skills are required for both positions. Send resumés to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee. Resumés will be received through Nov. 18. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor needed for a small, traditional, 12-year-old Southern Baptist church in a fast-growing suburban area 20 miles south of Salt Lake City, Utah. Great growth possibility. Please send resumés to: Pastor Search Committee Chairman Myron Adams, 2228 East 7110 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84121.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of adult education and discipleship for First Baptist Church, Morristown, Tenn. Must have passion for Sunday school and reaching/discipling adults. Qualifications include several years of stable full-time ministry experience in administration of a growing adult education program in a larger church setting, formal advanced education and good relational skills. FBCM averages about 750 in Sunday school attendance. If you sense God's calling, please e-mail search@fbcMorristown.com; or mail to: Educational Search, FBC Morristown, PO Box 1394, Morristown, TN 37816.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of students for Gano Baptist Church, Georgetown, Ky. This minister will be responsible for student ministries grades K through 12, with an emphasis on youth, grades 7 through 12. Resumés may be sent to: Minister of Students Search Committee, Gano Baptist Church, 212 Bevins Lane, Georgetown, KY 40324; or e-mail to ganopastor@aol.com.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor for Deep Creek Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Ky. Please send resumés to Buddy Logue, Pastor Search Committee, 627 Greenwood Drive, Harrodsburg, KY 40330. For more information, call (859) 734-7622.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth. Send resumé to Cloverdale Baptist Church, 4401 Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40216, Attn: Paul Bewley.

SEEKING: Associate pastor/worship leader. Theologically conservative Southern Baptist church seeks man to lead blended worship. Must exude love for Jesus and have a servant's heart. Send resumé to: FBC, 106 West Oak St., West Frankfort, IL 62896. (618) 932-2105. Fax: (618) 932-2106. rkarrroll@verizon.net.

SEEKING: Full-time worship leader for First Baptist Church in beautiful, historic Carter County. Music degree from college or seminary required. Experience in contemporary/traditional. Must also have good people-skills. Send resumé to: Music Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 212 East F Street, Elizabethtown, TN 37643.

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

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and education (associate pastor) for Fern Creek Baptist Church (SBC/CBF affiliations). Applicant must be an excellent and experienced musician, worship leader and educator and must exemplify strong spiritual maturity. Send resumés to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee; or e-mail to ferncreekbaptist@bellsouth.net. Resumés will be received through Nov. 18. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

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

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

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

SEEKING: Part-time 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 resumés to: Personnel Committee, Victory Memorial Baptist Church, 3805 Southern Parkway, Louisville, KY 40214.

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Strongman leans on Jesus

'You can be strong and believe in the Lord,' says pastor & popular trainer

By David Briggs
Religion News Service

Cleveland (RNS)—Walk into Pastor John Black's storefront church, Jesus Speaks Ministries, and there is nothing unusual about the faded carpet or the mix of old upholstered chairs in the simple sanctuary.

What stands out is the pastor, a 54-year-old tree trunk of power, his arms bursting out of a short-sleeve white shirt as he goes over his sermon notes.

This is powerlifter John Black, the man who alone and with Black's Powerlifting Team has won several national and international titles. The John Black who Men's Journal magazine in 2004 named to its dream team of personal trainers across the nation. The John Black who celebrities from Bruce Springsteen to big-name wrestlers such as Ric Flair, Triple H and The Undertaker have chosen to work out with when they are in town.

In a culture obsessed with physical fitness, you might imagine Black would be in Southern California, operating an exclusive gym, serving as a personal trainer to the stars and making exercise videos.

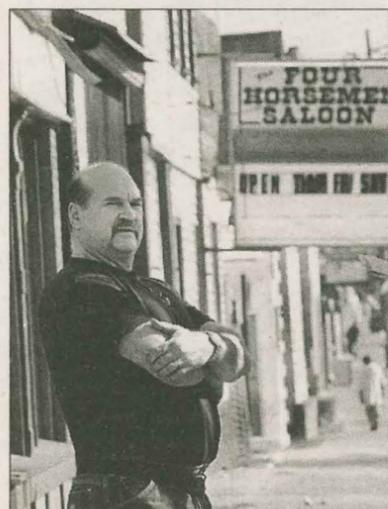
But if God called others to travel the world spreading the gospel, Black's calling has been to spend his life on the West Side of Cleveland.

His storefront church is below his well-known gym, Black's Health World. He lives around the corner, and his mother still lives a block and a half away.

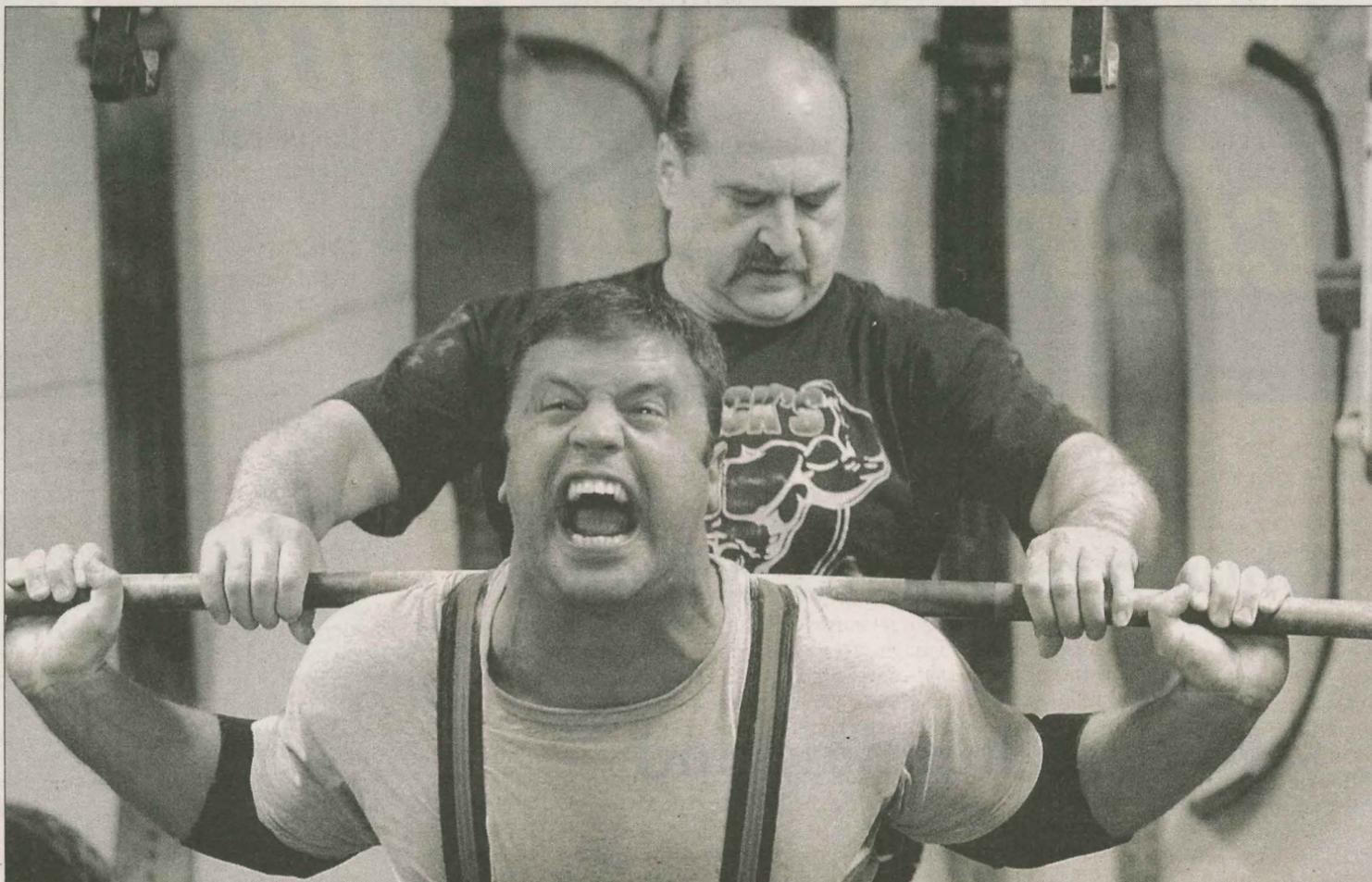
On this Sunday, one of the strongest men in the world is open about his struggle to keep going. His mother's house needs repairs.

He declared bankruptcy last year. And it gets harder each year to keep open a gym in a Cleveland neighborhood in the face of competition from downtown health clubs and new gyms built by municipalities.

Maybe a gym from the West Side,



STRUGGLING Acclaim hasn't brought success for John Black, a world-famous powerlifter and physical trainer for such celebrities as musician Bruce Springsteen and pro wrestler Ric Flair. "Every day, I've been trying to figure out how to pay my bills."



Pastor John Black (top) assists a powerlifter at Black's Health World in Cleveland. His storefront church, Jesus Speaks Ministries, sits below the gym. (RNS photos by Lynn Ischay)

who survived gang fights, tough-man competitions and having his body crushed under more than 700 pounds of weight, could fall into despair. But not a Christian, he tells worshippers this Sunday morning.

"We have to keep a song in our heart. We have to know the Spirit of God will see us through these times," Black says.

His voice rises in authority as he reads a Scripture passage telling how ancient believers went into battle singing and praising God.

Black pauses, takes off his glasses and looks over his modest flock. What he is about to say is the core of his own approach to faith and life.

"That's how we have to go into battle, church."

Praising a God he didn't know

At age 20, Black devoted himself to weight lifting, putting together the beginnings of a powerlifting team that would become legendary both for its prowess and its intensity at meets.

One day in the late 1970s, coming home from an Ohio meet with both a team title and first place in the individual lifts—all the honors he had coveted—he started to thank God.

"An emptiness came over me," Black recalled.

He was thanking Someone he didn't know.

From his first spiritual epiphany, there was no magical transition to his present life. Moments of pain and loss, not triumph, led him into active ministry.

In the early 1980s, after losing a wallet full of cash, Black made a promise to God: If he got his wallet back, he would start going to a men's program at People's United Methodist Church, called Ten Brave Christians. The wallet, with nothing missing, was waiting for him when he got home. A young Christian

man, who refused any reward but prayer, had returned it.

Black went on to work at several positions at People's Church, from youth director to trustee.

In 1982, Black was lifting 722 pounds at a national meet in Portland, Ore., when his knee gave out, and the weight crushed his chest and tore the kneecap on his right leg. He could have been killed. He ended up in a wheelchair for months.

Yet he said he "hit the floor thanking God" and rededicated his life to Christ.

From the wheelchair, he would start a coffeehouse for youth on the grounds of People's Church.

In 1992, Black began working with a storefront pastor, Gordon Fine Jr., and became ordained in the Association of International Gospel Assemblies. Fine left the church in 1994, and Black took over as pastor of the church that is now Jesus Speaks.

Black's prowess as a powerlifter has gotten him and his team into prisons from Attica to Grafton, and he still visits juvenile detention homes. They begin with prayer and feats of strength and then talk about the gospel.

The message is "you can be strong and believe in the Lord."

Struggling to pay the bills

At Jesus Speaks, the congregation is working on plans for a Kids Church and a Youth for Christ ministry.

But it is a hard road.

Some youths tell him to get real when he suggests taking an entry-level job and working their way up. In the drug trade, they can earn from \$500 a week to \$500 a day.

What gives him the credibility to talk with children is not only that he has been there—as a gym member—

but that he still struggles to make a living for his family. Reputation and tradition alone cannot keep a business going when so many communities are opening up gleaming gyms.

When Jesus called the Apostle Paul, Black earnestly tells a visitor, it was not to a life of glory. In Acts 9, Jesus instead says He will show Paul "all that he must suffer for My sake."

"I have suffered a lot," Black says. "Every day, I've been trying to figure out how to pay my bills."

Walk up the wide steps leading to Black's Health World and you enter into a place where tradition trumps time, a sea of black iron and gray steel on top of a hardwood floor burn.

Beyond a sign declaring "Through this door walk the strongest powerlifters in the world," several huge men lift some serious weight.

In Black's view, running a gym and leading a congregation make for a perfect fit.

But he says all his titles and the recognition in his field as a personal trainer are subservient to his ministry.

It is not that he doesn't want a better material life.

In his Sunday sermon, he is honest with his congregation that he would like to have financial security for his wife and children, to be free of the day-to-day worries about money and health insurance that are themselves a tremendous weight on the spirit.

"God's Word says, I will never leave you or forsake you. ... Let me tell you something church, God does hear our prayers," he assures his congregation.

"I don't feel I've gotten the answer I've been looking for yet. But I believe God will give me the answer," Black says. "C'mon, I'll pray for you. You pray for me."

