



WESTERN RECORDER

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WMU Kentucky Notes



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Poll finds religious influence declining in American society

Washington (RNS)—A solid majority of Americans believe that the earth is getting warmer, that religion's influence on society is waning and that the U.S. is a Christian nation, according to a new poll released last week.

The poll, a joint effort of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, shows Americans' attitudes toward a host of issues touching on faith and public policy.

Politicians in Washington might note that only 26 percent of Americans see the Democratic Party as "friendly to religion." But the number of Americans—particularly white evangelical Protestants—who view the Republican party as friendly to religion has fallen from 55 percent last year to 47 percent today, according to the Pew poll. Less than half of the population (44 percent) holds a favorable view of Christian conservatives.

Meanwhile, 69 percent of Americans say liberals have gone too far in trying to keep religion out of schools and government. At the same time, 49 percent believe conservative Christians have gone too far in trying to impose their religious values on the country, up 4 percent since 2005.

More Americans (32 percent) think of themselves as "liberal or progressive Christians," than identify as white evangelical Christians (24 percent).

But evangelicals remain more cohesive, according to the pollsters, because members "share core religious beliefs as well as crystalized and consistently conservative political attitudes."

Finally, 79 percent of Americans believe there is solid evidence that the earth is getting warmer.

One year later



NEW HOMES Thirty new brightly painted homes line a street in the Upper Ninth Ward of New Orleans. David Crosby, pastor of First Baptist Church in New Orleans, calls the site "the most hopeful place in New Orleans." (Photo by Gary Myers)

Much work remains in hurricane-battered coast

By Adam Miller
Baptist Press

Gulfport, Miss. (BP)—One year after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma devastated the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast region, Baptist Disaster Relief leaders are looking back at the ministry accomplished—and settling in for the daunting task still ahead.

More than 60,000 homes and 160 churches were damaged or destroyed along the Mississippi coast. Approximately 1,500 people were killed in New Orleans, and countless others were left homeless.

Southern Baptists rolled in just

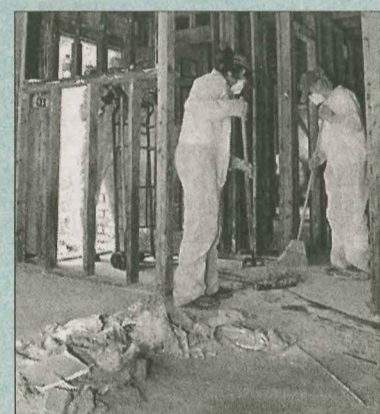
hours after Hurricane Katrina hit, bringing with them a convoy of relief—and an eternal hope rising above earthly circumstances.

In all, Southern Baptist volunteers from 41 state conventions prepared more than 14 million hot meals, purified 21,595 gallons of water and completed 16,973 cleanup and recovery jobs.

But much work still remains.

In New Orleans, Southern Baptists are sponsoring Operation NOAH (New Orleans Area Homes) Rebuild, an effort to make 1,000 homes livable again and to restore numerous churches.

□ See Baptists plan ... *Page 9*



CLEANUP Volunteers for Operation New Orleans Area Homes Rebuild clean a house damaged by Katrina.

Pastor's exit highlights ethical dilemma over some perks

By Hannah Elliott
Associated Baptist Press

Colleyville, Texas (ABP)—A Texas pastor resigned earlier this month amid allegations of an improper real estate deal, illustrating the fine line ministers often walk when offered benefits from well-meaning church members.

Historically, many pastors have received, in good conscience, payments of food, housing, furniture and services.

Most people agree these in-kind donations—even small luxuries like rounds of golf and free suits—help support the pastor and his ministry.

But sometimes, even within legal bounds, the ethical line between kindness and extravagance is blurred. Some pastors get coun-

try club memberships, free condo use, and even stock tips from members. Others, like Frank Harber, get lucrative deals on real estate.

Harber, pastor of First Baptist Church of Colleyville, Texas, resigned Aug. 18 amid questions about the propriety of a land purchase.

Harber recently bought an almost one-acre lot in a gated community at well below market value, according to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Land in the ritzy neighborhood routinely sells for \$200,000 or more per lot, but Harber paid just \$25,000, according to public records.

The sale was shrouded by a series of questionable transactions that involved two other churches.

Developer John Fegan, a mem-

ber of the Colleyville church, helped donate the land to the Trail to Heaven Cowboy Church, which is affiliated with First Baptist Church of Celina. Raymond Horne, pastor of the Celina church, said the donors told him the land was worth only \$25,000 and that they already had arranged a buyer for the land.

That buyer, ultimately, was Harber.

Horne declined to comment for this story, but he told the Star-Telegram he felt "taken advantage of."

After the sale, Colleyville church member Tony Johann, who works in the same land development company as Fegan, signed the deed and helped begin construction of a 5,120-square-foot, million-dollar home for the Harber family, the

Star-Telegram reported.

Donald Schmeltekopf, Baylor University's provost emeritus who works as director of its Center for Ministry Effectiveness and Educational Leadership, said Harber's situation crossed definite ethical boundaries.

"At the ethical level, this is clearly a case of collusion," he said. "In a situation like this, it sure does stink. And is not the kind of thing that anybody should be doing from an ethical standpoint."

Schmeltekopf said he always advises young pastors to discuss with trusted church members or advisors questionable gifts before accepting them. Had Harber and his aides done the same, he said, it might have changed the outcome.

□ See Pastor's exit ... *Page 10*

"We're distributing aid to anyone who has need, regardless of their faith."

Southern Baptist relief consultant

Baptists expand aid to Israel and Lebanon

By Don Graham
Baptist Press

Beirut, Lebanon (BP)—As the United Nations mobilizes troops to maintain a fragile ceasefire, Southern Baptists are stepping up relief efforts in Lebanon and Israel, funneling more than a half-million dollars in aid into the war-torn region.

Damage from air raids and rocket attacks has flattened homes and leveled buildings, leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless. Some spend hours sifting through ash-colored rubble, trying to salvage any trace of their former lives. Most of the devastation is concentrated in southern Lebanon, an area recently visited by a Southern Baptist medical assessment team.

"They've got no possessions left; there is not a single chair that's intact," a Christian medical worker said. "Everything is smashed and covered with concrete. The smell of dead bodies, either human or animal, is prevalent in these communities."

So far, Baptist partners in both nations have distributed \$100,000 worth of supplies—food, water, temporary latrines and showers, medicine and cleaning supplies—to people displaced by the fighting.

"We never show any kind of favoritism," a Southern Baptist relief consultant said. "We're distributing aid to anyone who has need, regardless of their faith."

Overlooked needs

An additional \$250,000 has been earmarked to provide more of the same, as well as blankets and portable heaters for the region's rapidly approaching winter.

Food supplies are especially critical, which is why Southern Baptists also have purchased more than 250,000 cans of tuna. High in protein, tuna was an obvious choice because it's already part of the Middle Eastern diet, the consultant said. The cans are slated to be shipped to Lebanon before the end of October.

At a cost of \$300,000, the tuna bumps the total amount of Southern Baptist aid to those affected by the conflict to \$650,000. Though the sum might appear to be a drop in the bucket compared to the \$230 million pledged by the United



RUBBLE A Lebanese woman sits amid the rubble of a building that was destroyed during the recent conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in a southern suburb of Beirut. (RNS/Reuters photo by Eric Gaillard)

States, it will be used to minister to areas outside large population centers, which often are neglected in times of turmoil.

"In a major crisis like this, you always have a lot of governmental agencies as well as large aid organizations that provide resources," the consultant explained. "Sometimes, however, these resources never get to the people who really need the help. That's why it's often advantageous to come in a little later, allowing us to see more clearly and to minister to needs that have been overlooked or neglected."

"The main difference between other aid work and ours is that we're not only there to provide assistance," he noted, "but also to walk side by side with them, developing personal relationships while listening to them and ministering to their physical, emotional and spiritual pain."

International partnership

Baptist partners in Lebanon and Israel are playing a key role in the relief process, getting supplies into the hands of people who need them.

"We are fortunate in having tremendous Lebanese and Israeli Baptist partners to work with," the consultant said. "They know where a lot of the needs are, and they're going to be able to minister to greater depths of the culture than

any group from the outside."

As stability returns to the region, the consultant hopes teams of Southern Baptist volunteers soon will be able to travel to Lebanon and Israel to assist Baptist partners there. Plans for medical teams already are in the works. But the consultant cautioned that volunteer safety is never guaranteed, which is why he believes potential volunteers must possess a "keen sense of spiritual discernment" and feel a clear calling from God to go.

The consultant added that those unable to volunteer can contribute to the relief effort by praying for those displaced by the war and for the Baptist partners working to share the love of Christ with them.

"Pray for us and pray for the people who so desperately need to know about the Savior," a Christian worker urged. "There is no peace we can ever find outside Him."

Southern Baptists also are encouraged to continue giving to the SBC's world hunger and general relief funds.

Above all, the consultant emphasized that the ultimate goal of Baptists' relief work in Lebanon and Israel is to glorify God and be living examples of His love.

"People always ask questions, which gives us an obvious opportunity to share with them why we are here, and God does it every time," he said. "God always opens doors."

KBC among groups honored for church planting

Ridgecrest, N.C. (BP)—The Kentucky Baptist Convention was among several conventions recognized this month by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board for church starting efforts.

The awards were presented during NAMB's recent "Mission Celebration" at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina.

Fifteen conventions were recognized with national church planting awards for their church starts from 1999 through 2005. The KBC reported 270 church starts during the six-year period.

Other conventions honored for the most church starts were:

- Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1,924 starts.
- Florida Baptist Convention, 1,014.

- California Southern Baptist Convention, 849.

- Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, 750.

- Illinois Baptist State Association, 426.

- Louisiana Baptist Convention, 425.

- Colorado Baptist General Convention, 285.

Conventions honored for the highest percentage increase in church starts were:

- Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, 157 percent increase.

- Colorado Baptist General Convention, 120 percent.

- Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, 117 percent.

- Nevada Baptist Convention, 113 percent.

- Baptist Convention of New England, 93 percent.

- Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, 81 percent.

- Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, 56 percent.

- State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, 51 percent.

Conventions honored for double-digit increases in baptisms during 2004-05 were:

- California Southern Baptist Convention, 44 percent.

- Baptist Convention of New York, 27 percent.

- Montana Southern Baptist Convention, 15 percent.

- Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-Baptist Jersey, 12 percent.

- Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, 12 percent.

- Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, 10 percent.

- West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, 10 percent.

Mother of Baptist students fears return to Africa

By Teresa Young
Associated Baptist Press

Plainview, Texas (ABP)—Fedha Mohamed Elyas has visited her children in the United States before and returned home to Africa with no problems. But this time, she's afraid to go home.

Elyas is a resident of the Comoros Islands, off the southeastern coast of Africa. She professes faith in Jesus Christ, which puts her in a tiny minority in her native land—and perhaps in danger.

The country, which is 98 percent Muslim, already has a reputation as not being open to other faiths. But the recent election of a new ruler has produced a much more hostile environment for Christians. Many already have been imprisoned, fined and tortured, Elyas said, and she has no reason to believe she will receive any different treatment. Friends report her house has been searched while she has been gone and the Comorian government now has her name on a list of Christians.

She first visited Plainview, Texas, last summer to see her son, Daniel, then a senior at Wayland Baptist University, and a daughter, Maureen, a sophomore. She returned in the spring to see Daniel receive his diploma from WBU and planned to stay for a few months. But news from home has left her afraid to return.

Under the rule of Islamic fundamentalist Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi since May, the Comoros Islands currently are ranked 15th on the Open Doors list of the 50 worst persecuting countries in the world.

The government does "not give you liberty to preach or worship," she said. "People would come to my house, which is far from town, to worship. Someone would stand outside so if they saw anyone coming, we could hide the Bibles."

Elyas, who was raised in the Muslim tradition, became a Christian in 1996. Family members immediately turned their backs on her. But she has been an outspoken leader among Christians in the Comoros.

Since she is a diabetic who controls her condition with diet and exercise, Elyas and others believe a prison sentence would be almost a death sentence. In prisons in the Comoros, all basic necessities such as food and clothing are provided by the family, not the state. Christians attempting to bring food run the risk of being arrested themselves.

Elyas hopes to apply for political asylum in the U.S. and wait out the political storm in her own country. She intends to return there as soon as conditions are safer.

Minister offers attitude inventory for worship leaders

By Dannah Prather
Partnership Editions Editor

Lexington—Creative ministries, such as praise bands, puppets and drama teams, do much more for churches and Christians than provide a few minutes of “performance” on Sundays.

According to Dave Levee, minister of youth and recreation for First Baptist Church of Hodgenville, the arts provide venues for evangelism, discipleship and Christian service.

A former member of Plumb Line, a band that opened for such Christian artists as Salvador and the Katinas, Levee told middle and high school students gathered at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington that when he joins a church staff, one of his top priorities is to form a youth praise band.

“It’s about students impacting students,” he explained.

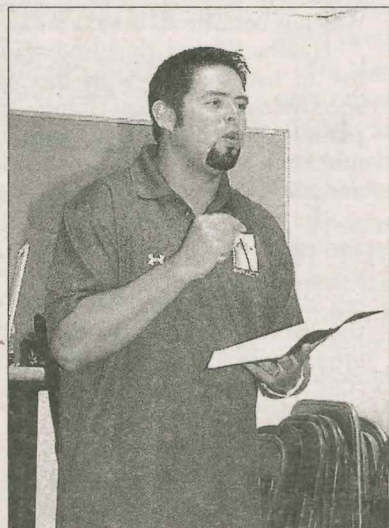
A lack of natural talent or experience in music or drama should not hinder anyone from participating, he said. “If you’re a little bit willing, you’re 100 percent qualified.”

His session, “It’s Not About You,” was part of the first-ever student/youth track offered at the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s Super Saturday training event.

Through creative ministries, student leaders can involve newcomers to the church, or perhaps those familiar but shy faces in their youth group.

As students involve their peers in music, drama and other activities, they open doors for spiritual discussions, helping others grow in their relationships with God.

“I guarantee you that your friends would rather learn about



HIGH IMPACT MINISTRIES Dave Levee, minister of youth and recreation at First Baptist Church of Hodgenville, encourages students to see their worship teams as more than performance. “It’s about students impacting students.” (Photos by Dannah Prather)

God from you than me,” Levee said.

In addition to evangelism and discipleship, students should think of worship through creative ministries as an act of practical service to glorify God. Referencing Psalm 100, he said Scripture equates worship with service.

“If you’re outside painting a house for someone, guess what that is?” he asked. “It’s worship. ... Worship is so much more than singing and so much more than creative ministries.”

Each student attending Levee’s session was a current or former member of a praise team or other creative ministry. He said whether they sang, played an instrument



or used puppets, dowels or their hands, they should take a personal inventory before attempting to lead others into an attitude of praise to God.

His suggestions:

■ **Take a good look inside.** Examining one’s personal motives for involvement in creative ministries could make the difference between offering God worship or noise, Levee said.

Improved self-esteem is an acceptable secondary goal for participating in creative ministries, he added. “That’s a positive thing,” he said, adding that through participation, many students discover talents and confidence they never knew they possessed.

■ **Find your focus.** “This is where

we get rid of self,” Levee said. “Study Scriptures on how to become selfless.” He encouraged students to focus on the ever-present “audience of One. ... Every practice is a performance for God.”

■ **Start praying.** Students should ask God which specific ministry He wants them to serve in.

■ **Become a daily worshiper.** For students to become effective worship leaders, he said, they must be faithful in daily prayer and Bible reading as personal expressions of worship.

■ **Pursue excellence.** A willingness to serve is the most important requirement, Levee said, but students still should strive through practice to improve. “Technical efficiency aids others in worship.”

DUST OF THE RABBI?

Jeff Fuson, student minister for Crestwood Baptist Church, uses baby powder to simulate the gift of wisdom Jewish students thought could be obtained by literally walking in their teacher’s footsteps. Fuson was among speakers at the first-ever Super Saturday student/youth track, which drew more than 70 middle and high school students to Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington Aug. 19. Fuson’s first message of the day encouraged students to be “gate stormers” in God’s Kingdom. He reminded them that being a committed Christian “is not a jihad against other people. ... You love people into the Kingdom of God.”

Students encouraged to be prepared to share faith with friends

By Dannah Prather
Partnership Editions Editor

Lexington—Christians who live a lifestyle of faith naturally find opportunities to tell others about the source of their hope, a Lexington youth minister recently told students.

According to Nick Pendley, they just can’t help sharing their faith.

Pendley, middle school minister for Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, said that such a lifestyle offers a lesson to all believers.

“It will be much harder to find opportunities (to talk about one’s faith) if we’re not looking for them,” Pendley told the students at the recent Super Saturday leadership training conference at Lexington’s Porter Memorial Baptist Church.

Citing 1 Peter 3, Pendley said believers are to be prepared to tell others why they have hope and peace, even when life gets difficult.

“Your life is lived in a way that looks different (to the unchurched),” he said. A Christian’s goal should be to attain a level of peace “so people can even ask: ‘What is different about you?’”

Pendley’s session, “Engaging Your Friends with the Gospel,” was part of the first-ever Super Saturday student/youth track. He began by asking students to define “gospel” and then encouraged them to grasp



GIRL TALK Ashlee Pendley (center) encourages students in her Super Saturday session to be aware of how God has gifted them for ministry. The Lexington teacher and former missionary led the girls’ session of “Learning from Your Own Uniqueness.” Her husband, Nick, led the boys’ session. Kentucky Baptist Convention Youth Strategist Joe Ball said all Super Saturday sites in 2007 will offer a youth track.

a concise definition of the “good news.”

Youth who have gone to church all their lives often adopt the incorrect mindset that they must obey God in order to be accepted by Him, Pendley said.

The “good news” of Jesus Christ sends a different message: “We are accepted, so we obey,” he said. “It’s not about changing your life (first). You can be a youth group leader and not be a Christian,” he added.

The first step in becoming prepared to share one’s faith is the

believer’s testimony, Pendley said. “Think through it, even write down your testimony in a way you can give it in about a minute.”

Spiritual “incubator”

Next, he said, Christians should form a partnership with a fellow Christian. “Find an accountability partner for evangelistic purposes,” he said. This person is permitted to “ask you hard questions about your relationship with God and the sin in your life. They also can help you be intentional about engaging your

friends.”

Pendley said his accountability partner once asked him whom Pendley had in his spiritual “incubator.” “(He wanted to know) who do I have in my life that I have some sort of influence on ... and someone I need to find opportunities to share the gospel with.”

Asking students to take a quick mental inventory of their circles of influence, Pendley challenged them to find someone for their spiritual incubators. “You don’t want to be in a Christian subculture so much that you can’t name a non-Christian in your life.”

Christians should be “intentional with their social life,” he said, encouraging them to widen their circle of friends to include peers who may not be Christians or who may be unchurched.

“Sharing doesn’t mean just inviting people to church,” Pendley said. For a peer who never, or rarely, attends church, they may find it intimidating or boring. “Work with your youth pastor to choose an event to invite your friends to,” he suggested.

Developing a positive Christian lifestyle and an awareness of others will open many doors to share the gospel, he said. “You have the opportunity to be missionaries in your own communities.”

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

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Can God beat cancer?

By Mike Blaylock

Mobile, Ala. (BP)—Can God beat cancer? I sat with a man at a cancer treatment center recently who asked me that question.

His wife died less than a year ago from ovarian cancer. Shortly after her death he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. His prognosis is not good.

Eighteen months ago, after some unexplained weight loss, I went to see my doctor. A CT-scan revealed that I had stage IV colon cancer that had spread to my liver. The oncologist told us that it was as bad as it gets. He would later say that without treatment, I had only a few weeks to live.

I immediately started chemotherapy treatments. The cancer began to respond and, after 11 months of chemo, I had surgery to remove the affected part of the colon and a process called radio frequency ablation to kill the 25-plus tumors on my liver. While recovering from the procedure in the hospital, we were elated to get the news that the doctors could find no trace of cancer. But two months later another CT-scan revealed the cancer has returned. I am taking chemotherapy

as I write this.

So how did I answer my friend from the treatment center? Can God beat cancer? Most definitely! Is that His plan for my life? I really don't know.

Here is what I do know: Cancer will not take one day from my life that God intends me to have, and treatment will not add one extra day to my life. Psalm 139:16 says that all my days were ordained before I was born. That gives me great perspective. God has a plan for me, and when my days are at an end I will go to my heavenly home, cancer or no cancer.

I also know that I can trust God. His knowledge and His thoughts are far greater than mine. So I chose to trust that.

When I was young, my aunt always kept a puzzle going in her family room. It was one of those with a ton of pieces, and they were always hard. The key to getting the puzzle finished was seeing the picture on the box.

God sees the picture on the box in my life. I see the pieces. I trust what He sees. His plan might be to receive glory from a miraculous

FIRST PERSON

Support Sunday school

I am 80 years old and have been preaching since I was 23. I just finished my fourth interim at Higher Ground Baptist Church in Wingo, June 30.

I've taken off some time before beginning the next chapter of ministry, and my wife and I have visited eight churches—seven Southern Baptist and one United Methodist (my wife's home church)—in the past eight weeks, and only once have we heard "Sunday school" mentioned from a pulpit and that only to give the attendance. Amazing!

Why would we totally ignore the one thing God has used (Sunday

school) to reach more people and disciple them than anything else we've ever done?

Evangelistic Sunday schools that enlisted the lost in small group Bible studies and prepared them for salvation, coupled with great preaching and music, saw many come to Christ and the churches. The saved who attended the classes grew in grace and were disciplined. It's what God used to make our convention the largest evangelical body in the nation in the 20th century. Why abandon it in the 21st?

It is biblical: Exodus 18 and Acts 2. It still works when you work it. Just take a look at Saddleback Church in California where Pastor Rick Warren



Impact '06 Crusade plans under way

Don James, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Louisville, is excited about the Spencer County "Impact '06 Crusade," Sept. 29-Oct. 1, in the Spencer County High School football stadium. If all Christians in the area get as excited as Don, the crusade is sure to be a great success.

The evangelist will be David Moerschel, a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate with a ministry based near Charlotte, N.C. He has a definite call from God and uses a crusade preparation process similar to that used by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

To learn more about Moerschel and find links to some of the great musical groups who will participate, visit www.DavidMoerschel.org. The Web page for the Impact '06 Crusade can be found at www.impactcrusade.org.

Preparation for the crusade has been in process for about 12 months. Christian Life and Witness classes

have been conducted for members from the 35 sponsoring churches. Most of the churches are Baptist, but nine churches are from other denominations.

Most of the church members who are trained are requested to serve as counselors each night for those who respond to the invitation. Additional counselors always are needed.

One of the major objectives for those who are trained is to become a personal witness to friends and neighbors, and to bring them to the crusade services. The Christian Life and Witness classes are designed to help participants experience spiritual revival, which overflows to people around them.

Every church member can participate in the crusade by bringing a friend or neighbor. I can attest to the fact that one of the greatest thrills of your life will be seeing a person you have shared with come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Publicity is important for a

healing in my life, or His plan might be to mold and shape my family, my staff and others through my death. I am not smart enough to know which is best. He is.

Finally, I know that God wants me to live my life with the perspective that every day counts. The psalmist prayed that God would remind him that our time here is brief and life is fleeing away (Psalm 39:4).

The truth is that we all are dying and every day is precious. I want to make mine count. I want to spend my days making a difference in the lives of those God has placed around me. "Law & Order" and "CSI" just don't seem so important anymore.

These days it is always crowded at the cancer center. It seems that cancer affects the lives of nearly everyone in one way or another. However, it is not bigger than God. God can and does beat cancer. More importantly, He uses something as ugly and awful as cancer to accomplish His will in the lives of people everywhere.

He is in charge. He has a plan. I am good with that.

Mike Blaylock, vice president for campus affairs at the University of Mobile in Alabama, is the author of "An Unexpected Journey: Traveling Through a Valley Called Cancer"

says that nearly all their converts and new members come through their small groups.

I wonder what would happen if next Sunday all our pastors stepped into their pulpits and announced as leaders of their churches that we are going to give priority to building Great Commission evangelistic Sunday schools?

I know one thing would happen: We would stop crying about baptisms being down and so many churches not growing. The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Super Saturday conferences, if attended by leaders and implemented in the churches, would be an excellent place and time to start.

Aubert Rose
Mayfield

crusade, but most people attend because someone cared enough to bring them. The publicity serves to create awareness in the communities and encourages Christians to get involved.

In addition to the counselors, workers are needed to assist with arrangements, prayer, budget, publicity, parking, ushering, greeting, music, hospitality and special emphases such as youth, children and special guest groups.

Prayer is essential for the crusade to be effective, and I am requesting all Kentucky Baptists to pray for the pastors and church leaders as they make preparations locally. Also, pray for the evangelist, the crusade team, and for the community to participate in order to experience the blessings of God.

Although your church might not be a sponsor, you still can plan to take a group and encourage your group members to bring friends who need Christ. One of the advantages of an outdoor crusade is that people will attend who might never come to a church building.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Clip this column and send it to a college student

By Jeremy White

As fall approaches and campuses awaken, college students should pack some financial wisdom along with their iPods, wardrobe and posters. Perhaps parents can cut out this article and send to their sons or daughters at college.

Parents often are the ones more concerned about financial matters than students are. I'm reminded of the old joke, "I spent \$50,000 for my kid's education and all I got was a quarterback."

College can be an exciting launching time, but it also can create some hangovers—and not just from ill-advised parties. Many students experience financial hangovers that last beyond their college years.

Here are some common financial traps and pitfalls in which college students often find themselves:

■ **Falling prey to credit card marketing traps.** Credit cards themselves are not evil, but they can provide an addictive way to live beyond your means.

■ **Spending too much money on pizza and other consumption items.** That first year of college, particularly, can be one when you run out of money after the first month and have three months to go in the semester. Protect your waistline and your financial resources.

■ **Becoming too dependent on student loans.** Student loans might be a "lesser-evil" type of borrowing because they can enhance your ability to earn more in the future. However, too much reliance on them can create a burden for your future. It might be better to extend your college education so you can work and save more money.

■ **Majoring in studies that have little career prospects.** Why spend (or borrow) \$40,000 on an education, but not be able to find a suitable job because your field is so limited? How many job opportunities will a graduate degree in Egyptian literature provide? Will the jazz history major provide a living for a future family?

■ **Buying too much car too soon.** During your college years you should focus on improving your earnings ability for the future and minimizing debt. Resist the offers by car companies and your own feelings of deserving it now.

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



12-part test shows difference between love and infatuation

Q: Our 20-year-old son has just met a girl and already is talking about marriage. He did not date much in high school, and he seems to be convinced that her liking him means love and marriage. Are there any resources to help him get a grip?

Chip Ingram's book, "Love, Sex and Lasting Relationships," has a helpful chapter with 12 tests that assess whether one is truly in love or simply in infatuation. His 12 tests include:

The test of time. Ingram differentiates infatuation and love, declaring two people grow into love over time, but can fall into infatuation.

The test of knowledge. Love is an outgrowth of full awareness of the qualities and characteristics of one another and seeks to make the dreams and desires of the one loved a reality.

The test of focus. Ingram points out that infatuation is self-focused. Love is focused on meeting the needs of the other person.

The test of singularity. Infatuation, says Ingram, is all about chemicals. The result can be multiple attractions to the opposite sex.

The test of security. With this test, Ingram states, "Genuine love requires and fosters a sense of security and feelings of trust."

The test of work. Love is choosing to work on the relationship and to work toward the benefit of your partner.

The test of problem solving. Ingram emphasizes that people in love address problems and work together to resolve them.

The test of distance. Being in the constant presence of each other might keep a fire burning, but distance can reveal what is truly in one's heart.

The test of physical attraction. Physical attraction has an important role in a loving relationship. With infatuation, it is the primary focus.

The test of affection. With infatuation, affection is expressed too early in the relationship and gives a false sense of closeness.

The test of stability. With real love comes stability and commitment. Infatuation flexes like trees in the wind.

The test of delayed gratification. With true love there is not an irrepressible drive to satisfy oneself but a willingness to wait and careful preparation for marriage.—Valerie Vincent

Q: It seems like our family is constantly sidetracked from daily priorities by the TV, Internet, iPods and other distractions. How can we overcome this?

Dr. Edward Hallowell coined the term "gammelsmerch" to describe the force that distracts the mind or steals it away from what it is doing or, even more importantly, what it ought to be doing. Hallowell elaborates on the idea in his 2006 book, "Crazybusy."

As a medical doctor specializing in how the brain works, Hallowell believes that modern life has developed into a "state of constant frenzy that is sapping us of creativity, humanity, mental well-being and the ability to focus on what truly matters." The implications for children and families are enormous.

Adults who constantly are taking calls on cell phones, working at the computer or channel surfing the television can have difficulty focusing on their family. Children who constantly are playing video games or listening to music on iPods disconnect from those around them, including parents and siblings.

When everyone lives in their own little world, family relationships and interaction suffer. Make a conscious effort to share a family meal, a conversation or an activity without being interrupted in ways that defeat the importance of spending meaningful time together.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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

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

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



Want answers? Start by asking questions

"Who are the people in your community who have never been reached by your church?"

Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, posed that question during a recent Super Saturday workshop aimed at pastors, church staff members and directors of missions.

Mackey explained that such questions are part of the "Reaching Kentucky" Bible study series that highlights the state convention's Kentucky Baptists Connect ministry strategy.

Asking probing questions—and discovering the answers—is a vital part of effective ministry. As churches identify unchurched people and seek to minister to them, Mackey noted, "We believe if we teach the Word and preach the Word, some will believe it."

But Mackey's question wasn't the only one raised during this year's Super Saturday training event at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. In addition to Kentucky Baptist ministers, scores of Bible study leaders, Sunday school directors, youth and children's teachers, musicians, Woman's Missionary Union workers, discipleship leaders, prayer coordinators and others gathered for the one-day leadership training conference.

Besides the Aug. 19 event in Lexington, sessions were held Aug. 26 in Bowling Green and Prestonsburg. Super Saturday conferences will be held Sept. 9 at Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset and Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah and Sept. 16 at Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County.

Why should church leaders from throughout the commonwealth make a point to attend one of the regional training events?

While there are plenty of answers available on issues ranging from evangelism and discipleship to stewardship and worship, the starting point involves the thought-provoking questions many workshop leaders ask participants. For example:

"What are you doing every Sunday to make sure your visitors return?" That question, posed by KBC

church development and evangelism coordinator French Harmon, detailed the need for churches to develop intentional strategies for welcoming and involving guests. "We are existing for the people who aren't here yet," Harmon declared. "Intentional planning for guests will get them to come back."

"How are you connecting to your community?" Emphasizing the importance of churches discovering the needs of their communities, KBC church development strategist Glen Cummins said congregations can make a spiritual impact through servant evangelism projects. "It's going out into the world and showing a little bit of what Christ is like," he explained.

"What are we doing personally to help people move closer to the day they will receive Jesus Christ as their Savior?" Alan Witham, also a church development strategist, said every Christian should seek specific ways to connect with non-Christians. "We need to meet people where they are, not where we think they should be," he urged. "Before we start talking to people about God, we need to talk to God about those people."

"How much time do you invest in sharing the greatest thing that's ever happened to you?" Noting that people tend to talk about things that are most important to them, Jeff Crabtree, minister of education at Central Baptist Church in Corbin, encouraged believers to tell others about their personal salvation experience. He said church leaders should set the example through "public practice of witnessing and reaching the lost."

So what are you waiting for? If you haven't attended Super Saturday yet, there's still time. It's a great place to discover valuable ministry answers—and questions.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

One constant in New Orleans: change

By Joe McKeever

New Orleans (BP)—Last September, on the first Sunday back from evacuation, Pastor Tony Merida told the congregation of Kenner's First Baptist Church, "If you don't like change, you've come at a bad time."

The single constant in metro New Orleans over this past year has been change. Everything is different—the population, the businesses, the scenery, the atmosphere, the politics, everything.

Every church has changed. Some have disappeared off the earth, losing their buildings and entire neighborhoods. Others that remained high and dry have lost members. A number of pastors have relocated; several new ministers have arrived.

Every neighborhood has changed, as longtime residents relocated out of the area from necessity or for jobs, family or peace of mind. New citizens have arrived, particularly thousands of foreigners eager to assist in rebuilding the city.

Every resident of the city has changed. You cannot live here and deal with the massive devastation of your beloved hometown and remain unmoved. There's a soul-sadness reflected in the eyes of almost everyone you meet, even those trying to drown their pain in a bar, stifle it in a casino, smother it in a fancy restaurant or deny it in the doctor's office.

The other day, Calvary Baptist Church Pastor Keith Manuel called

on the cell phone while my wife and I were doing business in the bank. "I'm writing an article on what our pastors are experiencing right now," he said. We spoke of the burden of seeing your membership diminish, your neighborhood in flux and your key leaders being transferred out.

"Depression is a real problem," I said to him. My wife was over-hearing the conversation and said, "One more thing. There's nothing pretty anymore. You have to drive a hundred miles to see some inspiring scenery."

The crime rate disappeared for a few months, then returned with a vengeance. Almost every governing council on every level has struggled with infighting and divided purposes. The news arriving in our homes through daily papers and the electronic media has been all-Katrina, all the time. Only now, one year after the storm, are owners of devastated homes beginning to learn how to apply for the substantial financial help that Congress voted last January.

On one level, it's to the point where when an outsider begins a phone conversation with, "How are you doing?" we wonder if he's trying to pick a fight. Better not to ask.

And yet, it's not all bad. A thousand inspiring things are happening. On every side we get reminders that God is here and at work.

God's people have created their own floods of healing for New Orleans—pouring into the city from

every state in the union, deluging us with encouragement and financial gifts, breeching the barriers of race and prejudice and fears with their loving labors and uplifting witness. Since last Aug. 29, there has not been a single day—not one—when teams of disaster relief workers and church volunteers could not be found in this city, serving Christ by doing whatever the situation called for.

Before the storm, our Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans counted 140 churches and missions. Immediately following, we were able to find only 35 operating. These days, the number hovers around 85. Some are gone forever; some will return as soon as their neighborhood comes back.

A number of our churches are merging. In a few cases, as the diminished congregations gather in a restored fellowship hall, they share two pastors of different races.

Before the storm, our monthly pastors' conference might draw 15 or 20 participants for an hour. Since last September, we have met every Wednesday morning for two to three hours, with attendance varying from 40 to 125.

A one-year anniversary for New Orleans does not mean the end of anything. It's not even halftime, to use a sports analogy. It might, however, be the end of the first quarter.

We Southern Baptists in New Orleans are going forth with confidence, glad to be part of a winning team.

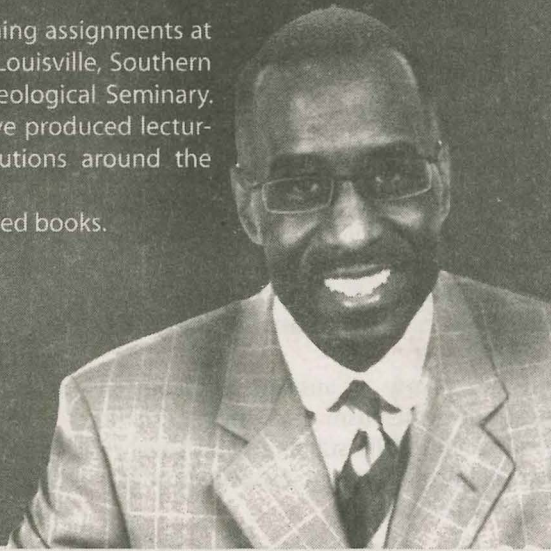
Joe McKeever is director of missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans

The Fifth Annual
Pastors and Church Leaders Conference
"Transforming A New Generation - A Journey of Faith"
September 28-29, 2006

Featured Preacher:

Dr. Kevin W. Cosby

- Since 1979, Rev. Dr. Kevin W. Cosby has served as Senior Pastor of St. Stephen Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Due greatly to his practical and dynamic Bible teachings, the church has grown from 500 to approximately 10,000 members.
- Dr. Cosby was named the 13th President of Simmons College of KY - an appointment befitting his credentials. Cosby earned a Bachelor's degree from Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, KY, a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.
- Dr. Cosby, assumed administrative and teaching assignments at Kentucky State University, the University of Louisville, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and University of Louisville. Additionally, his exceptional oratory skills have produced lecturing engagements at universities and institutions around the world including Harvard University.
- Dr. Cosby is the author of four highly-acclaimed books.



General Sessions:

Thursday 3:00 p.m. - First Session
"Transforming a New Generation Around the World"

Thursday 8:00 p.m. - Second Session
"Being Transformed by a New Generation from Around the World"

Friday 10:00 a.m. - Third Session
"Transforming A New Generation Here at Home Through Your Ministry"

Breakout Sessions:

September 28 at 5:00 p.m.
September 29 at 8:00 a.m.

Continuing Education Units Credit Hours: 1.5

Other Featured Participants:



Dr. Joseph Owens
Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky.;
Campbellsville University Board of Trustees Member



Dr. Paul Chitwood
President, Kentucky Baptist Convention;
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Mt. Washington, Ky.



Dr. Frieda Gebert
Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Music,
Campbellsville University



Dr. John Hurtgen
Dean, School of Theology,
Campbellsville University

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Want to make adult Sunday school more meaningful?

Pastor urges teachers to make lessons more personal and current

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Lexington—Adult Bible study teachers should rely on the Holy Spirit's direction to help them know what methods are effective, said the pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Richmond.

Speaking at a Super Saturday workshop Aug. 19, Virgil Grant referred to the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19.

He reminded the audience that the prophet heard from God in a small whisper.

"We already know what we should be doing,"

Grant said, encouraging teachers to listen more closely for such

guidance. "We have a vision of what we want to accomplish in small groups, but we let life get in the way of our vision."

While seeking God's direction, the pastor of Eastside said there are six steps that teachers can take to make their teaching more meaningful:

1. Make it personal. This requires that a teacher builds relationships and knows the needs of his or her class members.

Many people resist using icebreakers to get members talking, but Grant noted that a lot of life takes place from Sunday to Sunday.

"The reason we do these little activities is if you get people talking in groups of two or three, they'll get through the activity in 60 seconds and start talking about life," said Grant, who leads three small groups each week.

"They share with each other, and pretty soon everyone knows about it," he said. "You have to know what's going on in people's lives."

2. Make it real. People won't grasp how the Bible applies to them unless a teacher draws parallels between Scripture and daily life in their community, Grant said.

Too often, teachers want to open the Bible and start feeding their class when they should start by feeding themselves, the pastor added.

"First, we should open it and feed ourselves; get it in our hearts," Grant

said. "When our lives intersect with biblical truth, we can make it real: 'Let me tell you about this verse and what happened in my life.' People can't argue with a testimony."

3. Make it current. Noting that study materials often are prepared three years in advance, the workshop leader said teachers should be informed about such topics as the Middle East, terrorism and other events to relate lessons to current news.

"Tomorrow, it might be nice to read the paper before you go into your small group," Grant said. "If nothing else, you'll know how to pray."

4. Make it positive. Grant asked the group what thoughts they had when they heard the word "Christian."

Workshop attendees replied with such words as faith, belief, Christlike, love, hope, compassion and good neighbor.

But when he asked what people outside church might say, attendees suggested such terms as rigid, strict, brainwashed, judgmental or complacent.

"It should be all these things," Grant said, pointing to the first list. Then, gesturing at the second, he asked, "But have we not to a degree made it this way?"

"A lot of times people look at Christianity as something negative because we're so negative," Grant said. "We can step up for God in a very positive way. I can tell someone they're living in sin, but I can do it in such a way they know I still love them."

5. Make it relational. Grant referred to his earlier comments on using icebreakers and personal contacts to build relationships.

6. Make it comfortable. Grant said this includes asking questions in such a way that people don't feel threatened and taking steps to be hospitable.

"Spend \$5 a week and have doughnuts and some coffee or juice," he said. "There's something about holding a doughnut and a cup of juice that makes people comfortable."

Super Saturday leadership training workshops are scheduled for Paducah and Somerset Sept. 9 and Crestwood Sept. 16. For more information, visit kybaptist.org/supersaturday.

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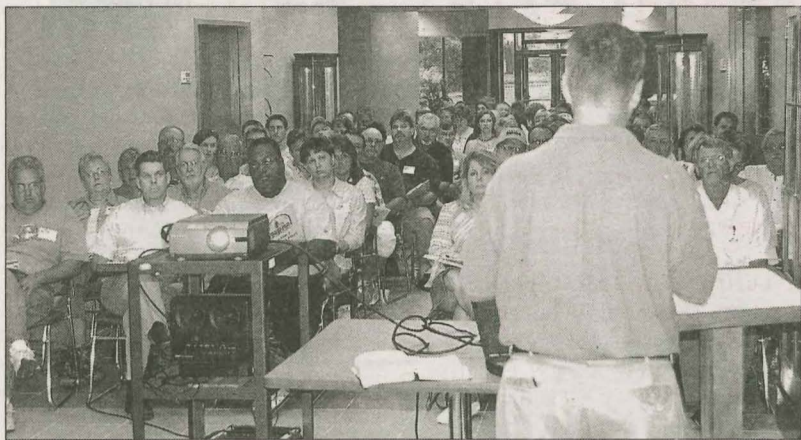
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Kentucky disaster relief still feels Katrina's impact



VOLUNTEER TRAINING Kentucky Baptists go through disaster relief training last fall. Thousands of people signed up to help after Hurricane Katrina.

By David Winfrey
News Director

The Gulf Coast isn't the only area feeling the impact of Hurricane Katrina.

Kentucky Baptists' disaster relief program has seen significant changes in the past year, fueled by an increased interest throughout the commonwealth.

"It has opened the eyes of a lot of people to the opportunity for ministry," said Larry Koch, director of disaster relief for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's men on mission department.

"People who thought they

couldn't do anything now see that they can get involved as individuals, churches and associations," he said.

John Edwards, director of Kentucky Baptist Builders, agrees.

Many Kentucky Baptists got outside their comfort zones to clean houses, serve meals and rebuild damaged homes said Edwards, who served as a coordinator in Pascagoula, Miss., one of three areas that Kentucky Baptists partnered with for long-term ministry efforts.

"These people have come up to the plate and done a great job."

Before Katrina, Kentucky Baptists had a roster of approximately 3,000 trained disaster relief workers. Still, work schedules and family commitments often prevent many volunteers from traveling in a day's notice.

Since Katrina, thousands of Kentucky Baptists have expressed interest in serving through disaster relief. More than 3,500 people have taken training in order to go serve.

As a result, Koch said, several associations have formed cleanup units that can both travel for needs and help with local emergencies.

To sponsor such a unit, a church or association will buy a trailer and equip it with chainsaws, shovels, a pressure washer, brooms, mops and cleaning supplies.

"Before Katrina, we had probably five or six cleanup units," Koch said. "Now we have close to 20."

Kentucky Baptists also have added three shower units and upgraded their communications unit to include ham radio operation for situations when cell phone towers are down or unavailable.

Kentucky Baptists have long been involved in disaster relief, particularly feeding and cleanup work. Disaster relief officials note that Katrina gives Kentucky Baptists an opportunity to take part in rebuilding. That takes longer, but it also allows volunteers to schedule their time of service further in advance.

These days, Kentucky Baptists are turning their attention to a focused effort to rebuild New Orleans. Kentucky has agreed to take responsibility for one of the 27 regions, working with area churches to rebuild homes and strengthen local churches.

For more information about Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, call (502) 489-3527, or toll-free (866) 489-3527.

Habitat official among victims of Comair crash

Lexington—A Habitat for Humanity official headed to the Gulf Coast was among 49 people killed in an early morning plane crash Aug. 27 in Lexington.

The fiery crash just after 6 a.m. on Sunday occurred after the plane reportedly turned onto the wrong runway at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport and was unable to take off safely on the shorter runway.

Co-pilot James Polehinke, the lone survivor of the Comair Flight 5191 crash, remained in critical condition Aug. 28 at the University of Kentucky Hospital in Lexington.

Many of the crash victims reportedly were from central Kentucky. Gov. Ernie Fletcher ordered flags at all state office buildings flown at half-staff.

Pat Smith of Lexington, a member of Habitat for Humanity International's board of directors, was on his way to Mississippi for the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Mary Shearer, executive director of the Louisville Habitat chapter told the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Smith, 58, was planning to aid in constructing the first 13 houses that Kentucky Habitat teams are building in the coastal area of Mississippi hit one year ago by Katrina, Shearer said.

United Way of the Bluegrass has set up a fund to aid victims' families. Donations can be sent to 5191 Care Fund, 2480 Fortune Drive, Lexington, KY 40509.

Connecting Advent Preaching With Life's Experiences

A Preaching Workshop led by Dr. Ron Higdon

Special sidebar on the pros and cons of an Intentional Interim

Sponsored by the Marshall Center for Ministry of Georgetown College

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September 25, 2006

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

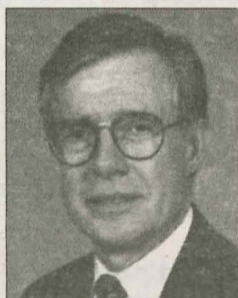
(9:30 a.m. coffee/tea fellowship)

Broadway Baptist Church

4000 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, Ky.

Cost for the workshop: \$25

(Includes lunch)



Dr. Ron Higdon

Ron Higdon is a retired pastor of Broadway Baptist Church (20 years) and former adjunct professor at Southern Seminary, Boyce Bible School and the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Higdon is a Certified Intentional Interim Specialist and currently is serving in his 3rd intentional interim position as pastor of Highland Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas.

To register, contact Rebecca Abbott at Georgetown College: (502) 863-8390

Or e-mail: rebecca_abbott@georgetowncollege.edu

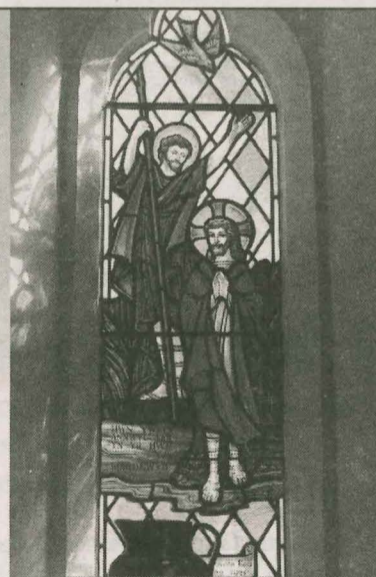
Who are Baptists? What does it mean to be a Baptist?

Would you like to know more about the origins of Baptists, Baptist developments, and its theological emphases? Do you wonder what relationship Baptist identity has to a church's theology, to your church's theology?

Register for a 4-week online study of Baptist Identity.

Each session is highly interactive and provides opportunities for online discussion with the facilitator and other study participants. The facilitator, Jon Messer, is the Education Coordinator for the Virginia Baptist Historical Society.

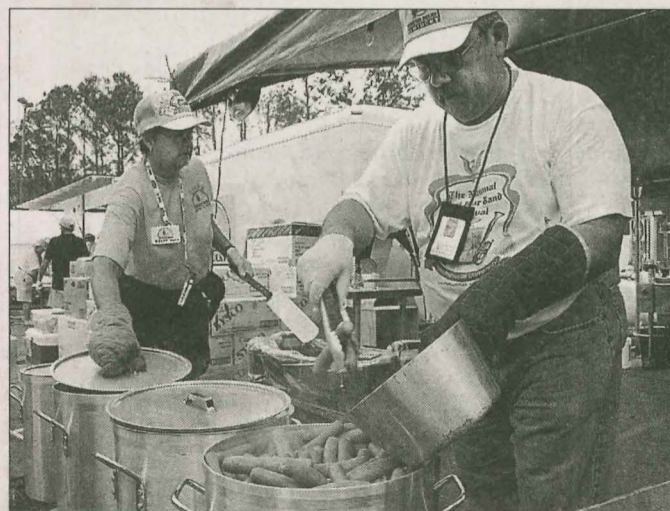
Registration is \$150 (Scholarships are available to cover 50% of registration fee). Study dates: September 11 - October 8, 2006.



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FEEDING TEAM Volunteers cook hotdogs and other items in Slidell, La., shortly after Hurricane Katrina. More than 3,500 people signed up for disaster relief training after the hurricane.

For information, visit www.btsr.edu/scm, or call 1-888-339-2877.

Despite challenges, many pastors staying put

By Hannah Elliott
Associated Baptist Press

New Orleans (ABP)—These days, the liveliest things found in some parts of New Orleans are the weeds exploding from once-manicured medians, lawns and parks.

A year after Hurricane Katrina, many neighborhoods are still largely devoid of human beings.

Despite that, Joe McKeever sees hope in the devastated Crescent City. "We have a saying: This is a good time to be Baptist in New Orleans," said McKeever, executive director of the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans.

Baptist disaster relief teams that converged on the heavily Catholic area were often the first religious presence many New Orleanians saw after Katrina.

"In fact, ... people would call into the radio stations during the storm and say, 'Well, my church is locked up tighter than a drum and we can't find the priest, but those (expletive) Baptists were all over the place!'" McKeever said.

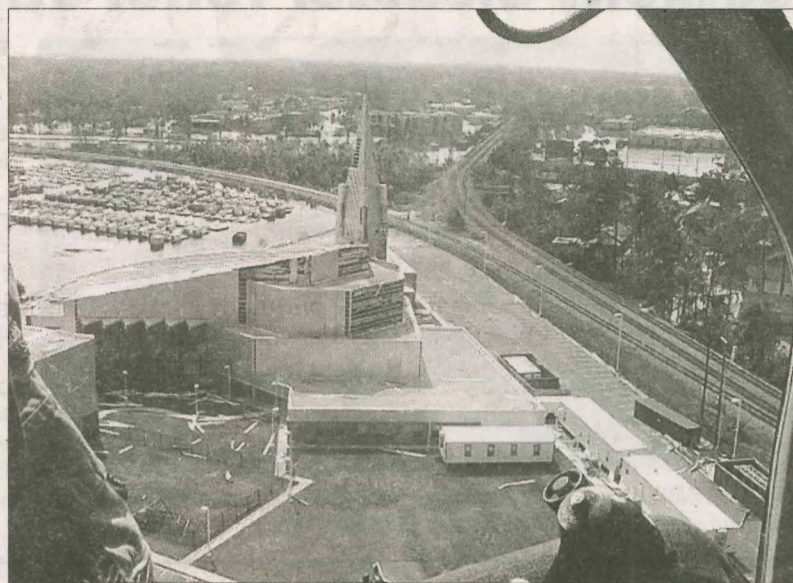
The Baptist presence has continued in New Orleans' long-term recovery efforts, and Katrina's aftermath has brought both ruin and rebirth to many area churches. Nonetheless, it continues to be a tough row to hoe for McKeever and the congregations and city he serves.

A visit to the August monthly meeting for the association's pastors reveals that every pastor has a story.

Jose Mathews, founder and pastor of Discipleship Baptist Church in the heavily flooded New Orleans East area, said his church and parsonage took on more than six feet of water.

"Most of my congregation were renters, and they're spread abroad, and they've vowed not to come back," he said.

Jerry Garvey, pastor of One Faith



REACHING OUT First Baptist Church, as seen shortly after Katrina struck New Orleans, is among the congregations committed to making a difference in the city.

Baptist Church in New Orleans, has not yet been allowed to move back.

His devastated congregation is still meeting—but they're doing it in Texas. Nonetheless, he said he drives back weekly to maintain a connection to the city.

"It's my understanding ... that the Lord wants me here," he said.

But where God wants Garvey can be a depressing place. Many pastors are concerned about a recent crime wave that included several murders in the city's devastated Treme and Central City neighborhoods.

Officials say less than half of New Orleans' pre-Katrina population of 450,000 has returned home, but its per-capita murder rate is on pace to exceed pre-Katrina figures.

Despite the challenges and discouragement, McKeever said there are signs of Kingdom-building going on in the city.

When he first took the job of executive director in 2004, "I discovered ... that our churches are so isolated that we're not a team here. It's every man for himself," he said. "I

said I don't frankly know what God's going to do to reverse this. Then God sent a hurricane along and shut the city down and sent all the pastors home."

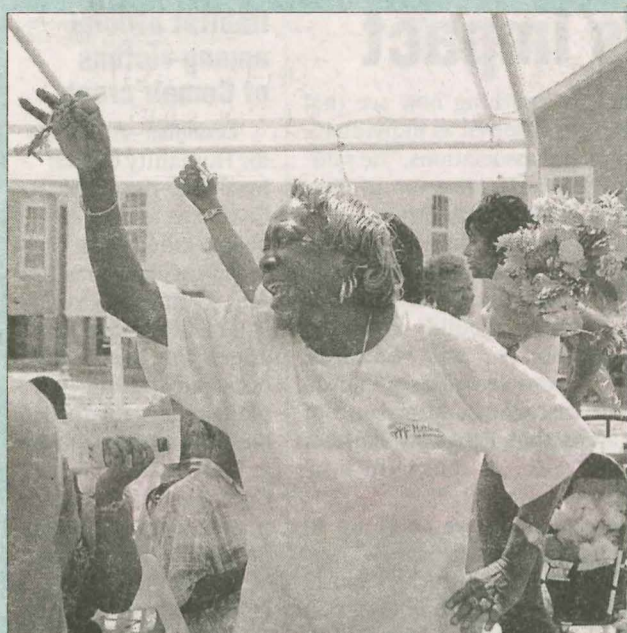
The association went from approximately 140 member churches before the storm to 35 operating a few weeks after Katrina. Now, he said, that number is up to about 80 operating church. Still, many of the former congregations will likely not rebound.

"Every one of the churches has gone through, is going through, some sort of radical change," he said.

Occasionally that change is positive.

Hopeview Baptist Church has decided to combine with nearby Suburban Baptist Church. One is mostly white and the other is mostly black.

"Before the storm, it was all chiefs looking out for individual entities," said Jefferey Friend, co-pastor of the new venture. "Now it's about Kingdom building rather than building our own individual kingdom."



THANKFUL HOMEOWNERS New residents of the Baptist Crossroads community shout for joy as they receive the keys to their new homes during a dedication service. Baptists and Habitat for Humanity built 30 homes this summer in the Upper Ninth Ward. (BP photo by Gary Myers)

Baptists celebrate 30 homes built with Habitat for Humanity

By Gary Myers
Baptist Press

New Orleans (BP)—Holding their keys high for all to see, 30 New Orleans families celebrated the joy of home ownership Aug. 19.

The brightly painted new homes in the Upper Ninth Ward—part of the Baptist Crossroads Project—and the smiles of the new owners offered a message of hope in the battered city just days before the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

Habitat for Humanity and Southern Baptists in New Orleans teamed up to make the statement—"New Orleans is coming back."

"This is ... an investment of our blood, our sweat and our tears as an endowment to hard-working families in this community to lift them to a new level of economic stability and give them a stake in the community," said David Crosby, pastor of First Baptist Church in New Orleans.

Project envisioned before Katrina

The dedication ceremony was the culmination of a two-year journey. The idea of building homes in the city's Upper Ninth Ward first came to Crosby in 2004—long before Katrina.

During a 2004 prayer breakfast, Crosby heard Mayor Ray Nagin say that "home ownership is the most important factor in lifting a family out of poverty." The idea rang true to Crosby, who prayed for God's guidance.

With God's leading, Crosby said, First Baptist Church pursued the idea of building 40 new homes in the name of Christ.

Crosby and the Baptist Crossroads Foundation planned to announce the ambitious plan in a press conference with Mayor Nagin in September 2005. Katrina hit just weeks before the announcement could be made. The city suddenly faced even more housing needs. First Baptist Church immediately began ministering to the needs of the city—providing food and gutting homes.

But instead of putting off the Baptist Crossroads Project, Crosby and Jim Pate of New Orleans Habitat for Humanity continued with the plan.

On June 5, construction began. During the summer, 2,500 volunteers—mostly Baptist, mostly teenagers—created a new community of bright blue, pink, green, purple and orange houses.

The Baptist Crossroads Project did not meet the goal of building 40 homes in the summer of 2006, but the project was still a success, according to those involved in the project. God is getting the credit for the work and people are coming to know Christ, they note.

The project will continue. The remaining 10 homes scheduled for this summer will be completed during the 2007 spring break. And the Baptist Crossroads Foundation plans to make homebuilding an annual affair. Their goal: 160 additional homes by 2008—a strong witness to a hurting city.

KATRINA
One Year Later

Me? Called to ministry? Are you serious? What does that mean?

Do you ever ask yourself, "What do I have to offer to the ministry of my church?" or "How does my specific ministry fit into the big picture of my church's mission?" Would you like to study and interact with others who are asking the same questions?

If so, register for a 4-week online study of the Biblical Basis for Ministry.

Each session is highly interactive and provides opportunities for online discussion with the facilitator and other study participants. The facilitator, Ted Lewis, is the pastor of Mt. Nebo Church, in Portsmouth, VA.

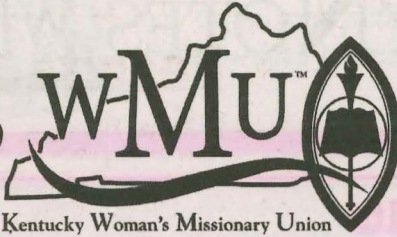
Registration is \$150 (Scholarships are available to cover 50% of registration fee). Study dates: October 23 - November 19, 2006.



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KENTUCKYNOTES WMU™



Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
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 Supplement to Western Recorder

Funding for this publication made possible through contributions to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program

Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions

2006-07 Goal:
\$1,000,000

2005-06 Offering Report
\$855,280
received through 8/10/06

Fall 2006

be Utterly Amazed

Season of Prayer for State Missions
and
Eliza Broadus Offering

September 2006

Offering Goal:
\$1,000,000

Contact Kentucky WMU for the 2006 state missions DVD, teaching materials, posters, offering envelopes, and promotional ideas.
502-489-3534 or toll-free: 866-489-3534

Read about Eastern Kentucky Ministries, Baptist Campus Ministry, and Crisis Pregnancy Ministries in the September 5 issue of the Western Recorder.

A Personal Word

Kentucky missions has been in the spotlight this year. Both the July and August issues of *Missions Mosaic* included articles about Kentucky missions. We are "utterly amazed" at how God is using *Mosaic* along with our 2006 Be Utterly Amazed state missions materials to raise awareness of missions needs in Kentucky.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

In addition, Kentucky WMU was nominated for a 2006 "We Care Award" from Republic Bank. Just to be nominated is an honor. Over the summer, bank officers interviewed all nominees to determine the winners in several categories. During our interview, I was asked to describe something that we do that shows the community that we care. I told the bank officer about our state missions emphasis and the materials that we produce. I tried to help him understand that the work of Kentucky WMU is not what our nine staff members do, but rather, what thousands of you do across our state. Then I shared with him about what happened during World Missions Unlimited as an example.

As all of you in WMU know, our state missions materials are designed to encourage you to pray, give, and get personally involved in Kentucky missions. To kick off our 2006 state missions emphasis, we asked participants in World Missions Unlimited to bring school supplies to be used in eastern Kentucky ministries. It was a sight to see, especially when Sharon Gilliland from Muhlenberg Association, brought a pickup truck filled with backpacks and school supplies. By Saturday morning, boxes and bags of supplies filled a large space in the foyer of Westport Road Baptist Church.

After volunteers sorted the supplies, we filled two vans (with the seats taken out) to the ceiling with the donations. More came in after the event. Others have taken donations directly to the warehouse in Berea which distributes materials to 42 ministry centers across eastern Kentucky.

By working together, praying and giving, what God will do through us in missions will be utterly amazing. Our Eliza Broadus Offering goal is \$1,000,000. Every dollar has been earmarked for a vital ministry in Kentucky. I encourage you to watch the 2006 DVD. Each segment will help you know more about how the offering is used for missions.

For all of you internet users, I invite you to read my weekly "blog." Blog is short for weblog. Each week, and sometimes more than once a week, I write about things that are happening in missions. Just visit my page at: www.kywmu.org/discoveringjoy. You can read the articles and post comments. I welcome your comments and suggestions for topics. The Kentucky WMU web site is also a place to come for information and copies of flyers and registration materials for all upcoming events. Just visit us at www.kywmu.org.



Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

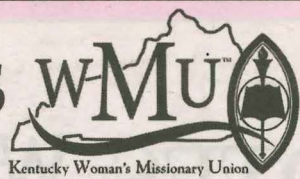
Monday, November 6, 2006

Theme - "Seeing with New Eyes: God's Mercy"

See God's mercy with new eyes as you join your heart in prayer with your Baptist sisters around the world. Participate in a Day of Prayer observance in your association or hold one at your church. The Baptist Women's Union of Latin America has prepared the program for this year's Day of Prayer. Materials are available from Kentucky WMU or www.bwanet.org/Women. Click on "Day of Prayer" to read about the emphasis and download a copy of the program and prayer requests.

The Day of Prayer offering is divided between the continental unions and the Women's Department of the BWA. WMU is a part of the North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU). Your offering will be used for projects in North America and around the world. For more information about NABWU, go to www.nabwu.org. The NABWU web site also has a Day of Prayer page with special helps for planning the 2006 Day of Prayer, including a powerpoint presentation available for download.

Note: The 2007 NABWU Assembly will be held in Arlington, Virginia, September 19-22, 2007. Make plans to attend next year!



WMU Directors



With our new emphasis underway, there are so many opportunities to Live the Call. Fall is a great time to think about and carry out new, innovative approaches to mission education and mission action.

- Be creative with your MissionsLINK project. What is a ministry that is missing in your community? Is there something that is simple and often overlooked? Is there a project that people just won't do, yet needs to be done?

- Have a reception to honor the memory of Eliza Broadus. Have a display highlighting the life of our state missions leader.

- Hold a churchwide World Crafts party to emphasize international Project HELP: Poverty. The World Crafts event planner is a great resource for planning and having a successful event.

- Have a 7-cent World Hunger dinner.

- Women on Mission and/or Acteens could volunteer childcare services for Sunday mornings to give the regular childcare workers an opportunity to attend service.

- Host a church staff breakfast during clergy appreciation week. Give the staff a gift that will be a daily reminder of WMU and its age level organizations. GA's could make baked goodies, cards or a craft. Mission Friends could prepare a song to sing for staff. (Make sure to ask your minister of music/song leader for time on Sunday morning.)

- On the World Day of Prayer have a location in your church available for 24 hours. Use the Prayer Path kit to help establish stations for prayer using the World Day of Prayer guide.

- Leave surprise packages on the doorstep of someone you know who may have a need and may not ask for help.

- Co-sponsor an event with other groups in the church, such as Sunday School, Women's Ministry or Activities/Recreation. Do something with a missions flair!

Please do not forget to return your WMU church leadership forms to the Kentucky WMU office. This is our best link to you and keeping you and your leaders informed.

On another note: Does all of your WMU team receive *Missions Mosaic*? If not, it is a great resource for them. Why not make it an annual gift for them? It will enhance the Joy of Missions!

—Wanda Walker

Adults

Over the past couple of years, reality TV has been plastered in front of us. What would a reality show based on adults and mission education look like? Would it be full of excitement and always on the go? Would it be boring and repetitive? Would the participants move beyond the four walls of the church? Would it be risky?

Be encouraged to do some things outside your comfort zone! Be open to take a risk and try a new way to reach adults with mission education and mission experiences. We can do some things the same and not take a risk; however, we may miss the opportunity to reach the unchurched people groups. The diversity of culture has opened the way for expanding our minds, open our hearts and be creative to share



the gospel with everyone.

Where would we be if Lottie Moon had not taken a risk? How would the work Martha Myers or Nannie Helen Burroughs have been if they had not been willing to take a risk and follow Christ's leading?

Got moms of preschoolers? There is a mission group. How about crafters? Sound like a mission project in the making. Parents of sports kids? Take the time at practice and games to have mission education and mission involvement right there on the sidelines.

As we begin a new emphasis, let us "Live the Call" in new and exciting ways.

A final thought...

Do you feel scattered and yet not "scattered"? Does that statement seem to be confusing and make



you think too much? The fall retreats for women may be just what you need! If you have not yet registered for the fall retreat at Jonathan Creek, September 15-16, or Cedarmore, October 13-14, it may not be too late. Give us a call and check on the latest availability. There will be incredible scattered leaders for the weekend. Dawn Phillips, Illinois WMU president, will be our keynote speaker at Jonathan Creek and Debra Berry, national WMU adult ministry consultant, will be at Cedarmore. Re-experience camp days as there will be singing around the campfire and s'mores. "So those who were scattered went on their way proclaiming the message of the good news." (Acts 8:4)

—Wanda Walker

Youth

This was a great summer for Acteens! At Jonathan Creek, about 80 girls and leaders made a Splash at Acteens Splash. Son Bound, the BCM sports team, led games and workshops. Jenny, a representative to Central Asia, spoke about the ways God is working with the people with whom she lives. Jenny also spoke at Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest during the week set aside for girls in grades 6-10. More than 60 young women attended the week and served in ministry projects throughout Shelby County.

The Activator prayerwalking team to Slovenia had a wonderful experience. We highly recommend a trip to Slovenia. The country is beautiful, the food is awesome and the people are kind. Maybe you haven't heard of Slovenia. It has only been an independent country for 15 years and yet it traces its history to the Golden age of Greece. Cultural Catholic Christianity runs deep in Slovenia, but it doesn't



play a large role in the everyday lives of the people. There are only 1,000 evangelical Christians and 150 Baptists in the country.



2006 Kentucky Activator Team to Slovenia
Front row, left to right: Brianna Clark (Owenton), Ashley VanWinkle (Harrodsburg) and Ashlea Duncan (Utica). Back row, left to right: Tina Nicely (Whitesville), Crystal Marksberry (Utica) and LaRaine Dail (Louisville).

It is not too early to plan for Blume next summer. Blume, formerly known as the National Acteens Convention, will take place July 10-13 in Kansas City, Mo. Registration is \$149 per person and opens October 1. Make your room reservations at the Hotel Phillips. They are not having official blocks of rooms by state. However, I've told Adventure Travel that Kentucky would like to have 75 rooms in that hotel and they are going to try to honor that. The agent in charge suggested that we get our registrations in as soon as possible after the deadline in order to be in the same hotel. If you aren't sure how many people to register on October 1, you could register part of your group and then add on later. This way we will all be in the same hotel.

All Acteens leaders will receive a letter of information about Blume in early September. It will cover other details such as transportation and the Kentucky party on Tuesday night.

—LaRaine Dail

Preschool and Children

For MISSION FRIENDS Leaders —



As a Mission Friends teacher, you are "living the call" as you teach preschoolers about Jesus and His mission. *Start, Share and First Steps in Missions* are essential tools that will enable you to provide developmentally appropriate activities for each child. The *2006-2007 WMU Year Book* contains information that is helpful in planning for the year in Mission Friends.

September is the time you will want to involve preschoolers in the Season of Prayer and Offering for State Missions. The study material for preschoolers focuses on ministries in Eastern Kentucky and is available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office.

Plan now to introduce preschoolers to missions in Nigeria through the *International Missions 2006 Preschool Teaching Guide*. The unit contains activities and stories and can be taught during a churchwide study in December or during any regular class for preschoolers.

For GIRLS IN ACTION and CHILDREN IN ACTION Leaders —

Welcome to the Treasure Quest! During the 2006-07 church year, members of GA and CiA will explore the many treasures of God's world as they discover that true treasure lies in a life of obedience to God, as demonstrated in the lives of missionaries and missions volunteers. Be a prepared leader for the adventure by:

- Using the *2006-2007 WMU Year Book* to help you know, month by month, what is in store for Girls in Action or Children in Action.

- Becoming familiar with the curriculum. (*Aware* for GA leaders and *Missions MatchFile* for Children in Action leaders.) Read the leader section carefully each month for additional information.

- Involving children in learning about poverty and how they can help fight poverty through Project HELP.

- Encouraging your "adventurers" to participate in the World Hunger Sunday in October.

- Involving all children in your church in the 2006 State Missions Emphasis in September and the International Missions Emphasis in December.

- Discovering more information about Girls in Action at www.gapassport.com or Children in Action at www.wmucia.com.

For CiA Agents ONLY —



Members of Children in Action are invited to come to the Children in Action Missions Day Camp on Saturday, September 23, 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Cedar Crest (located on the grounds of Cedarmore). Children in Action is WMU's coed organization for boys and girls in grades 1-6. Children will meet missionaries, make new friends, learn about God and His creation, participate in a ministry project, play games and lots more. The cost is \$10 per person. Contact Kentucky WMU for more information.

—Brenda Price

President's Perspective

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to represent all of you at the Mission Celebration in Greensboro, North Carolina in June. Some of the highlights were:

- Being part of a group of about 1,000 (mostly women) like-minded people worshipping and hearing about missions.



Pat Reaves
Kentucky WMU
president

- Seeing Eileen Mullins, the Director of Haven of Rest, receive the Dellanna West O'Brien Award. This award is for a Baptist woman who demonstrates Christian leadership for other women, her community and world. I also enjoyed

attending the dessert party in Eileen's honor.

- Witnessing the Southern Baptist Convention affirming WMU.

In June I "went to camp" for part of a day at Cedar Crest. While meeting with some of the camp committee, we heard great reports from Cedar Crest and Jonathan Creek. What an amazing job the staff has done this summer with our Mission Adventure Camps. I went during the Acteen week and was able to go to a ministry site in Shelbyville in the afternoon. My granddaughter Faith and I worked together in a thrift store—sorting and straightening. It was special being able to spend time with Faith. She and her friend from church really enjoyed the whole week. Start planning now to make sure the girls and boys from your church get to experience camp next year. Also be on the watch for older teen girls and college students that could minister as they serve on camp staff. Let Stacy know of girls you think might be interested. A BIG thanks to Stacy and her staff at Cedar Crest and to Brenda and LaRaine and staff at Jonathan Creek for a job well done this summer!

A new year is beginning in WMU. Live the Call will be our theme for the next two years. Whether you are a new or an experienced leader in WMU, thank you for choosing to Live the Call by serving through WMU. At the WMU Board Meeting in Harrodsburg in April, I reminded the board members and WMU staff of Esther 4:14 which says: "Who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" God has called us together at this time for service to Him—let's answer that call!

If I can help you in any way, please let me know.

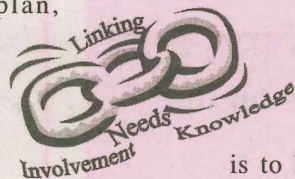
Walk worthy . . .

Working together,

—Pat Reaves

Project Help: Poverty & Missions LINK

The goal of Missions LINK, the Kentucky WMU expansion plan,



is to help churches in Linking Involvement, Needs, and Knowledge for Missions. Poverty is a

need found in every community and every country of the world. WMU will incorporate poverty issues into its magazines and curriculum throughout the year. Two great resources to help churches link knowledge of needs with the desire to be involved in hands-on ministry are: *Breaking the Cycle: Issues Affecting Poverty* and *What Does It Mean to Be Poor?*

These are available for purchase from WMU.

Every church is challenged to plan an Operation Missions LINK ministry project on September 16 or sometime during the month. Look around your community or across our state. What poverty needs do you see? Pray about how you could help.



Additional poverty resources are available at: www.wmu.com/getinvolved/ministry/Project_HELP.

Giving for the Future of Kentucky WMU

We are grateful for your financial gifts in support of Kentucky WMU. Gifts to the **Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund** (3/1/06 - 5/31/06) include:

In Honor Of:

Cathy Chinn
Cathy Chinn
Mary Pat Price & Sally Deen
Cathy Chinn & Frankie Johnson
Cathy Chinn
Sally Deen's 100th Birthday
Sally Deen & Cathy Chinn
Cathy Chinn
Pat Reaves
Irma Woodrow
Cathy Chinn
Cathy Brandon
Anna Mary Byrdwell
Cathy Chinn
Jack & Mary Geurin
Lancaster Baptist WMU
Cathy Chinn

In Memory Of:

Arch Pendergrass
Joyce Thompson
Iva Randell Parkey
Joyce Thompson
Christine Mitts
Joyce Thompson
Margaret Byrd
Jane Kent
Jane Kent
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Special Gifts

Smithfield Baptist Church, Anne Martin Baptist Women Group
Laurel River Baptist Association
Shelby Association WMU
WMU Foundation
Boone's Creek Baptist Association WMU

Donor:

Joy Bolton
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Ruth Hinkle
Dianne Hurt
Frankie Johnson
Anna White
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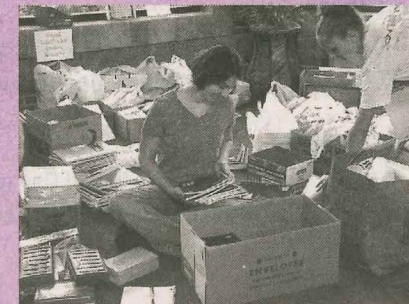
Brenda Price
Linda Hart
Vera Richardson
Dr. & Mrs. Bill Mackey
Shirley Rhoton
Judy Wilhelm
Pat Key
Shirley Taliafero
FBC Paducah WMU
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Horace Hambrick
Myrna Deweese
Mr. & Mrs. W.W. Arnett
Louise Sandidge
Laurie Valentine
Mary Ratliff

World Missions Unlimited

In July, over 200 people participated in World Missions Unlimited at Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville. A variety of special interest and leadership training workshops were offered to prepare church WMU and Baptist Men on Mission leaders for the year ahead in missions education and involvement. Twenty-one Hispanic women participated in the Hispanic WMU track led by Dianne Daniels, multicultural ministry consultant for national WMU, Birmingham, Ala.

Featured speakers included NAMB missionary Bill Barker, Director of the Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM) and Larry Koch, Disaster Relief Associate with Baptist Men on Mission at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

School supplies totaling over 4000 items were collected during the event and given to meet the needs of children and youth in Eastern Kentucky.



Donated supplies Angel Cannel and Rebeca Gardner sort school supplies for Eastern Kentucky.

Calling All WMU Members

Join us for the 2006 Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting
First Baptist Church, Bowling Green
Tuesday & Wednesday, November 14-15, 2006

Each session includes great music, preaching, testimonies, and reports on the mission work of Kentucky Baptists.

Of special note for WMU:

- * Tuesday evening, November 14, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Cooperative Program Celebration, including the WMU report

Join us as we celebrate what God is doing around the world through the Cooperative Program. WMU members young and old, women and men, girls and boys, will be recognized during the WMU report. You are invited to wear a WMU shirt, partnership missions shirt, or other clothing that reflects your involvement in missions and WMU. Children and youth are especially invited to attend. GAs, RAs, and Children in Action members may wear shirts, badges, etc. showing their involvement in missions.

- * Wednesday morning, November 15, 2006
9:10 - 10:35 a.m. Conference Option
"Women Leading With Integrity and Godly Vision"
Led by Shelly Johns and Wanda Walker

Women offer a myriad of gifts and talents as leaders. Come gain insight into leading with integrity and from a Godly vision, allowing unity in diversity.

For directions and more information about the
Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, go to www.kybaptist.org.

WINTER REGIONAL RETREAT ❄️

LIVE THE CALL
What it Means to Walk
Worthy of the Lord

**Laurel Lake
Baptist Camp
Corbin, KY**

January 26-27, 2007



For more information,
refer to the brochure in the
fall mailing or call
Kentucky WMU.

Calendar

September

- 9 Super Saturday, Lone Oak FBC, Paducah
Super Saturday, Beacon Hill BC, Somerset
- 15-16 Women On Mission/BNF Retreat,
Jonathan Creek
- 16 Super Saturday, Crestwood BC, Crestwood
- 17-24 Season of Prayer for State Missions &
Eliza Broadus Offering
- 23 Children in Action Missions Day Camp,
Cedar Crest
- 27-10/1 WMU Conference/Missions Weekender,
Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, NC

October

- 13-14 Women on Mission/BNF Retreat, Cedarmore
- 27-29 KY WMU Executive Board Meeting, Cedarmore

November

- 6 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
- 14-15 KBC Annual Meeting, FBC, Bowling Green

December

- 3-10 Season of Prayer for International Missions &
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

2006 Camp Report

Mission Adventure Campers at Cedar Crest took a "Missions Expedition" to Brazil, Kenya, South Asia, Ukraine and New Orleans as they studied how missionaries are making a difference in the world. Each week, campers were privileged to meet and learn from a missionary. Campers were also introduced to



equestrian ministries in Kentucky. Each cabin decorated stuffed horses that will be donated to the toy ministry in Elkhorn Association. Campers in grades 6-10 participated in mission projects in nearby Shelbyville. In addition to mis-

sions study, campers enjoyed horseback riding, swimming, Bible study, recreation, daily quiet time and much more!

This year was a first for coed campers in grades 3-6! Girls and boys participated in an express camp with their church chaperones. Many Children in Action, Girls in Action, and Royal Ambassador groups attended.

Cedar Crest hosted three Mother-Daughter Overnights this summer. Girls in grades 1-3 experienced missions camping with their moms.

Meanwhile at Jonathan Creek,



Kentucky WMU hosted three events in one weekend. Campers from across the state attended the Mother/ Daughter Overnight (1-3 grades), GA Overnight (4-6 grades) and Acteens Splash (7-12 grades). Campers met missionaries, had special interest groups and enjoyed the lakefront activities.

Throughout the camping season, 793 campers made a "Missions Expedition" to Cedar Crest and 402 attended Jonathan Creek. Make plans now to be a part of next summer's mission adventure!



Katrina vols help Baptists make inroads in New Orleans

By Hannah Elliott
Associated Baptist Press

New Orleans (ABP)—After serving the homeless for decades in New Orleans, Southern Baptist missionary Tobey Pitman finally is paving significant inroads with leaders and homeowners in this predominantly Catholic region.

That's not to say he hasn't had success with his Brantley Mission Center for the homeless. But since Hurricane Katrina hit, Pitman has led volunteers to help storm victims



Tobey Pitman

in ways other groups—religious or otherwise—have not.

And that has made all the difference.

"Baptists have arrived," said Pitman, a native of Texas who moved to New Orleans years ago to attend seminary and never left.

"We've given carefully for so many years. But since the hurricane, we've given wholeheartedly. Homeowners tell me that if it weren't for church groups, nothing would be different."

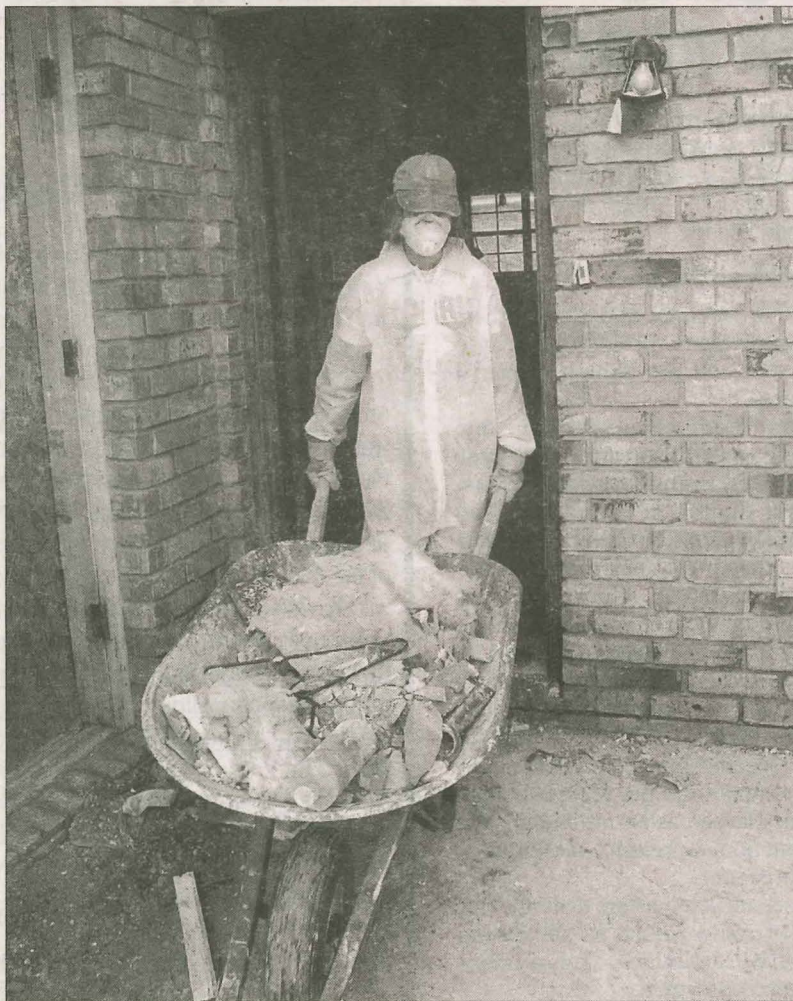
Pitman currently directs Operation NOAH Rebuild, a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board project that coordinates, houses, feeds and debriefs volunteers who come from throughout the country to help rebuild New Orleans.

NOAH leaders plan to rehabilitate 1,000 homes and 20 churches during the next two years. NAMB is funding the Southern Baptist project, which has received positive feedback from homeowners and municipal leaders.

"You're nobody in New Orleans if you're a Baptist person, but

if you're a Catholic, you've got it made," Pitman said. "Baptists have been here for many years trying to earn our place at the table and (contribute) input and value in the eyes of the city."

Cathy Pitman, Tobey's wife and co-worker, said that while municipal committees spend time attempting



OPERATION NOAH A volunteer for the Southern Baptist rebuilding effort in New Orleans cleans debris from a house that was flooded by Hurricane Katrina. Baptists say this heavily Catholic town is more receptive to Baptists after their response to the problems caused by Katrina a year ago.

to cut through bureaucracy and inefficiency, church-led groups have demonstrated the love of God in tangible ways.

"When our city wasn't there, the churches were there to help."

A significant manifestation of that servant-attitude is NOAH's Volunteer Village—three floors in the downtown World Trade Center that serve as a base camp for the hundreds of volunteers who shuffle through the city each week. The village opened for operations in early July and immediately housed more than 800 people working on 46 different projects throughout the city.

The formerly empty space consists of large, windowed rooms with wooden bunks and specially made shower stalls lining the walls.

Its central location, complete with industrial-sized kitchen and parking, make it ideal for volunteers working throughout the city.

Bargain-priced housing

Pitman secured the space from a businessman who originally planned to use it as a hostel for construction workers. When few workers showed up, he sold Pitman the beds, showers, linens and other living accoutrements.

Baptist workers pay \$20 a night for a bed, three meals a day, parking

spaces, insurance and construction badges. Not bad, considering parking alone in the French Quarter costs as much as \$27 a night.

While the village acts as the main home for volunteers, it by no means stands alone. Operation NOAH Rebuild has 13 staff members who support the effort through the office, construction, warehouse and chaplain divisions. Pitman said he expects eventually to hire more than 20 people to work on the project.

"Operation NOAH is designed to be a model," Pitman said. "For more than 40 years, Southern Baptists have done disaster relief. This is not disaster relief anymore; this is rebuilding. We're trying to develop a model in New Orleans that can be transplanted to other areas as well."

A model "missions laboratory"

Pitman thinks New Orleans is as good a city as any in which to start the project. He called it a "missions laboratory" that contains "any kind of need you're looking for."

In his change of focus from the homeless center to NOAH, Pitman said, he simply waited for the city's biggest spiritual need "to come to the surface."

Most volunteers leave the city surprised at the extent of the damage and promising to come back. "I have yet to have a person leave without saying, 'Wow, when I saw this on TV, I couldn't smell it.'"

Other challenges Pitman's staff face include maintaining energy to coordinate hundreds of people on a daily schedule, relating to the many churches in New Orleans who lost buildings and members, and impacting the city with "very important spiritual things ... to do in the name of Christ to see lives changed."

As work crews continue to cycle through Volunteer Village, another hurricane season is under way—so far quietly.

How dangerous the season becomes could determine how fall and winter reconstruction efforts fare, Pitman said. But this year's hurricanes is a subject people have learned simply to avoid.

"Mum's the word," he said.

Skilled workers needed

New Orleans—If you can wield a hammer, Operation NOAH Rebuild can use you.

But if you can wire a house, the Southern Baptist ministry really wants to hear from you.

"Tradesmen are so valuable to our rebuilds," said Tobey Pitman, director of Operation New Orleans Area Homes Rebuild.

Needs include skilled electricians, and certified plumbers, whose work must be done before drywall and flooring can be installed.

For more information, call (504) 362-4604 or toll-free (877) 934-0808, e-mail noah@namb.net or visit namb.net/noah.

Baptists plan lots more work for hurricane-battered Gulf Coast

Continued from page 1

In Mississippi, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and several state Baptist conventions are working together to rebuild 3,000 homes.

And people are coming to Christ who might never have come to church, according to local Baptist leaders.

"We already are seeing God use this to open doors and reach people in ways we would have never dreamed possible," said Jim Didlake, director of disaster relief operations for Mississippi Baptists.

Tobey Pitman, project coordinator for Operation NOAH Rebuild, sees unfolding opportunities in New Orleans that will have a physical as

well as spiritual impact on the city for years to come.

At each rebuild site, volunteers prayerwalk the area. Chaplains join local pastors in ministering to residents, and churches are crossing denominational lines to help each other meet needs in the city.

"People I talk to today still say you can tell a difference in the city," Pitman said. "Our people have been able to meet and walk with the hurting people in New Orleans trying to meet needs. The churches that are still standing have been amazing. This has opened up new avenues of ministry that I don't think they've dreamed of."

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has involved more than 15,000 volunteers in relief and recovery efforts that now have transitioned into a massive rebuilding campaign.

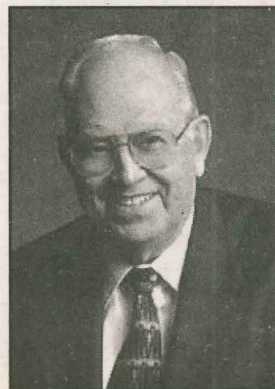
Baptist leaders say ministry opportunities opened up after Katrina

because Southern Baptists responded so well in the beginning, according to Jim Burton, NAMB's director of volunteer mobilization.

"People are looking to us and counting on us. I've heard this from Homeland Security, the American Red Cross and others," Burton said. "It's an issue of stewardship. When God gives you a call upon your life, you want to be a good steward of that opportunity so God will unfold other opportunities."

Burton said last year's Gulf Coast storms were one more shining example of how God has used partnerships among Southern Baptists to accomplish remarkable things.

"Other organizations have said to me, 'Man, I wish I could get that many volunteers with a few phone calls.' We can do that because our state Baptist conventions have created an incredible network of volunteers."



Author & Speaker
Dr. T.W. Hunt

September 15, 16 & 17

First Baptist Church Mt. Washington
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Mt. Washington, Kentucky

Friday & Saturday 6:30 pm

Sunday Morning Worship
8:15, 9:35 & 11:00 am

Pastor's exit highlights ethical dilemma of perks

"It's incumbent upon pastors to practice discernment about the kind of gift and the size of the gift."

Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics

Continued from page 1

Instead, when Colleyville church members caught wind of the transaction, some voiced concern about the terms of the deal.

Others, like church member Joe Deupree, had previously questioned church finances and been ousted from the church for it, he said.

"People began to be suspicious (about church finances) because they were not allowed to see things," he told Associated Baptist Press. "There had been rumors for quite a while that our pastor was going to be getting a new house."

That lack of disclosure can be a fatal flaw for church leadership, according to ethicist Robert Parham. Parham is executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics, located in Nashville.

Legal doesn't mean ethical

A gift or deal between church leaders might be legal, he said, but that doesn't mean it's ethical. "I believe it's always good for pastors to disclose (benefits and gifts) to an accountability group, whether that's a finance committee or a personnel committee," he said.

A lack of disclosure among church leaders was one reason why First Baptist of Colleyville suffered. Locals were taken by surprise when they learned about Harber's real estate deal, and some of them didn't like it.

Reaction to Harber's Aug. 18 resignation has been "mixed," said Michael Ray, the executive pastor at First Baptist of Colleyville.

While most people felt "brokenhearted" to see Harber leave, Ray said, they have supported his decision and wish the best for his family.

"I think that I can speak for the congregation when I say that we're optimistic God will move us forward as a congregation," Ray told ABP. "We want to be about the business of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. That will be our focus."

Many church members have publicly supported Harber, writing letters to the editor at the Star-Telegram and other local news outlets.

First Baptist member Teri Randall Brown, for instance, wrote that the scandal was caused by "bitter people digging up everything they can to destroy this very effective evangelistic pastor and his reputation."

"How sad that buying a home, which should be a happy event for that family, has been turned into a gossip column news wave," she wrote.

Deupree thinks otherwise. A member of the 2,753-member church since 1969, he and a group of about 50 people began questioning church policy and finances.

He said they were "stonewalled" when they requested information regarding a proposed church relocation and a building project on an unnamed 40-acre plot outside of Colleyville.

After the dissidents were rebuffed in their efforts to obtain member lists and construction budget plans, they consulted a lawyer about their

right to the information.

Later they were locked out of the church in February, and Deupree was asked to resign as a Sunday school teacher.

Exiled from church

Then Deupree and three others received letters forbidding them to "set foot" on the church property, he said.

But Deupree's research into church records uncovered a June 6 property transfer involving First Baptist Church of Celina and Trail to Heaven Cowboy Church. For Deupree, that previously hidden transaction crossed an ethical boundary when it comes to pastoral benefits.

"If they had deeded it right to Frank Harber, I would have had no problem," he said. But donations to non-profit entities like churches have specific Internal Revenue Service stipulations and requirements.

For Harber, as an individual, the transaction represents tax evasion, Deupree said.

Parham said pastors dealing with money issues must be discerning and have an ethical commitment that exceeds legality.

"Pastors certainly have the right to accept gifts from church members, but accepting gifts may not be the right thing to do," he said.

"It's incumbent upon pastors to practice discernment about the kind of gift and the size of the gift and the potential of the gift to drain the preaching and teaching of its prophetic witness."

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On June 19, 2007, join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Rev. Billy Williams on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Rev. Williams, now retired, has served as a Baptist Minister for 47 years. For 23 years he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gautier, MS. He and his wife Rebecca have cruised Alaska's inside passage twice before. Once in 2005 as a Your Man Tours Baptist Chaplain on this same vacation package. They look forward to returning as your hosts visiting the land of the midnight sun during the year's longest daylight hours. Your group will fly into Seattle for a night before a scenic motor coach drive to Vancouver where you'll board the five-star ms Zaandam. **Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested island and glacier carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay.** After the cruise you'll start a six-night motor coach tour with daily escorted sightseeing visiting British Columbia; the Cascade Mountains; Washington; the Grand Coulee Dam; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Montana; two days at Yellowstone (Old Faithful) National Park, West Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Park; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and in Utah: the Great Salt Lake, Mormon Tabernacle, and more. You'll fly home after a night in Salt Lake City. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$2248 (per person, double occupancy). Included is round trip airfare, port charges and taxes, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, the 7-day deluxe Alaska cruise, 7 nights in quality hotels, transfers, and baggage handling.

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The joy I get

Author finds surprising motivation for big donors

In his book, "Mega Gifts," Jerald Panus reported on his interviews of 30 individuals and couples who had made charitable contributions of \$1 million or more. He cited the motivations of those mega givers.

Among the top five reasons for giving common to all of them was the sheer joy each experienced from giving.

At first I was struck by that finding. We tend to think people make mega gifts primarily for tax purposes. However, tax motivation was toward the bottom of the list of reasons these mega givers gave.

Upon reflection, I realized I should not have been surprised. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 the apostle Paul reminded the church of God in Corinth that "God loves a cheerful giver."

The entire 9th chapter of 2 Corinthians is about how we should give as Christian stewards—that is—the proper attitude toward giving. You cannot be right with God spiritually and wrong with God financially. I encourage you to take the time prayerfully to read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. You will dis-

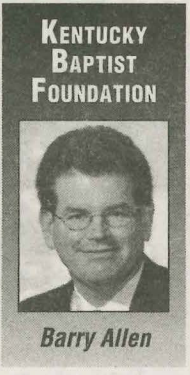
cover in verse 6 giving is like planting seeds. The farmer who is stingy in the planting will reap a meager harvest while the farmer who is generous in planting can expect a good harvest. So, we should give generously.

In verse 7 you will discover we should give thoughtfully. God expects us to give not out of impulse but after thoughtful, prayerful consideration and out of conviction.

In the remaining verses you will get the sense we should give thankfully. Gratitude to God is the great motivating factor for giving. We should not give grudgingly or reluctantly or because we are afraid the Lord will punish us if we don't give. Instead, we should give cheerfully out of gratitude to God for all His blessings.

I like what one mega giver said, "I give because of the deep sense of joy I get. I don't know what philanthropy looks like, but I know how it feels." How much truer that is when the Lord and His work are the objects of the giving!

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



KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION

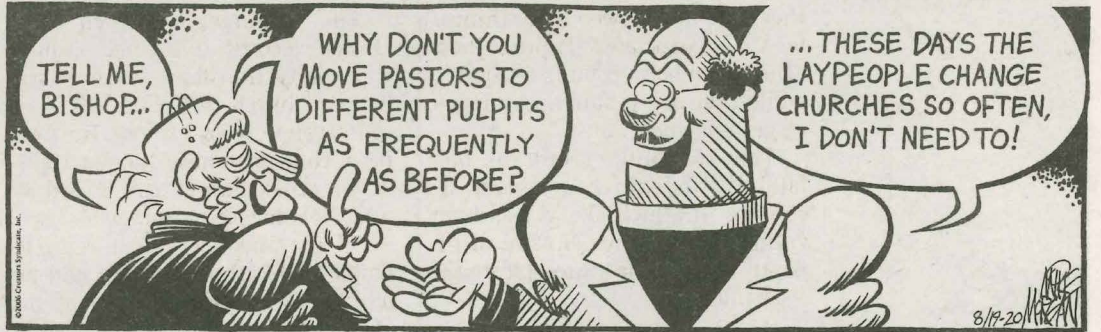
Barry Allen

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and ____ (Genesis 1:22)
- 8 Without, Fr.
- 12 What Samuel does to Saul to show he'll be Israel's king
- 13 Clothing that covers the back
- 14 The prodigal son almost ate their food (Luke 15:16)
- 15 "____ not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne" (Matthew 5:34)
- 17 A metal burned by fire (Numbers 31:22-23)
- 18 Eleven, Romans num.
- 20 "I am Alpha and the Omega, beginning and the ____" (Revelation 22:13)
- 21 Ma's husband
- 22 To trap
- 24 Gideon saw men lapping water like this animal (Judges 7:5)
- 26 Address abbreviation
- 27 A rough rock where the eagle dwells (Job 39:27-28)
- 29 At the end of the world we will hear about these and rumors of these (Matthew 24:6)
- 32 Large feline
- 34 Dover is the capital of this state, abbr.
- 35 A soft, lustrous fabric made by worms
- 38 Hebrew custom of allowing the poor to follow the reapers and gather grain
- 40 Jesus said not to speak these kind of words (Matthew 12:36)
- 41 The initials of the man who came up with the theory of relativity
- 42 After eight days, Jesus was circumcised and ____ (Luke 2:21)

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14						15	16				
17				18	19		20			21	
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26				27			28		29		30
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40					41			42		43	44
45					46			47			
48				49				50			51
52			53			54	55				56
			57						58		

- 45 Negative
- 46 Tensile strength, abbr.
- 47 To direct the course
- 48 Gideon hoped this would be wet, then dry
- 50 Exclamation of surprise
- 51 A name for Mother
- 52 Ourselves
- 53 Homonym of sew
- 54 A tall pasture grass
- 56 A printer's measure
- 57 A Levitical city in the hill country of Judah (Joshua 15:51)
- 58 Briefly lowers the head
- 11 Produces hot, moist air
- 13 "God ... shall ____ his angel" (Genesis 24:7)
- 16 Us
- 19 Supply with water by artificial means
- 23 If we wait upon the Lord, we will mount up with wings like these birds
- 25 Seventh son of Jacob, firstborn of Zilpah (Genesis 30:11)
- 28 Word to make a horse turn to the right
- 30 What Christ did for us
- 31 Everything
- 33 "The Son of man came ... to give his life a ____" (Matthew 20:28)
- 35 Marked by sin
- 36 "Little children, keep yourselves from ____" (1 John 5:21)
- 37 City in south Judah, conquered by Joshua in the northern campaign (Joshua 12:22)
- 39 Prophet during the reigns of David and Solomon
- 43 Myself
- 44 Persian coins (Ezra 2:69)
- 49 The sound of a dove
- 54 The opposite of stop
- 55 The article that precedes words beginning with a vowel

Down

- 1 Ruler, lord, teacher (Matthew 8:19)
- 2 To reverse the winding
- 3 When you wear the armor of God, you should have your ____ girt with truth (Ephesians 6:14)
- 4 A soft metal
- 5 Not exact
- 6 Two cups, abbr.
- 7 Life support system, abbr.
- 8 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the ____ of death" (Psalms 23:4)
- 9 Jesus spoke of the fowls of the ____ (Matthew 6:26)
- 10 Not rated, abbr.

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	L	A	R	D	
11	H	O	P	E	12	V	A	L	L	E	Y	E
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18	D	S	19	P	I	L	E	20	A	S	21	T
22	O	E	R	23	N	E	R	24	D	25	A	H
27	W	E	V	E	R	29	N	E	V	E	R	
33	A	S	A	34	E	X	O	T	I	C	35	D
36	O	A	T	S	37	D	I	H	S	38	C	W
39	I	O	T	40	Y	E	N	42	A	C	R	E
44	L	G	R	45	S	E	A	T	S	48	E	L
49	R	E	N	T	51	T	E	N	T	52	E	L
54	B	E	T	T	E	R	S	56	A	S	P	S
58	U	G	H	59	P	A	S	T	U	R	E	S

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Guys singing

Oneida is helping young males learn what it means to be a Christian man

By Michael Spencer
Assistant to the President

In addition to preaching to our students two to three times a week, I often lead some of our traditional worship at the 9 a.m. gathering on Sundays. Last Sunday I heard something wonderful as we sang "All Creatures of Our God and King."

I heard our young men singing. Loudly. "Alleluias," in particular. It was wonderful.

David Murrow has written a book called "Why Men Hate Going to Church." He points out many examples of how contemporary church and worship are shaped more around the personalities and preferences of women and children than those of men.

I believe he is substantially right, and I've tried to look at our worship at Oneida Baptist Institute with an eye on how to make our young men feel more included and welcome.

For example, on a recent song, I changed the words from "Precious Jesus ... we're so glad that you've redeemed us ..." to "Mighty Jesus ... we're so glad that you've redeemed us ..." The young men applauded, and sang with gusto. (The girls did, as well.)

I reminded our young people that we have a mighty Savior who overcame evil, Satan, death, the grave, sin and the demonic realm to save us. He removed our chains and gave us freedom from slavery. He is precious ... but I think our young men should hear that He also is a mighty Savior.

One of the aspects of Oneida that is most

used by God to change lives is the relationship between young men and male staff members. Those of us who work with young men realize we often are dealing with students from single parent families led by mothers. These moms are doing their best, but they would be the first to tell you that a young man needs a masculine influence.

So the interactions between men and young men in work programs, classes, worship, sports and dorm life are vital in teaching young men what it means to be a man, and what it means to be a Christian man.

For many young men, this means a different way of life. Self-discipline, humility, service to others and thinking of others before self are new behaviors.

And singing in worship is a new way of life as well. Once a young man senses that God has given him a voice

to sing—in fact a voice to lead worship in his family and church—he will grow in enthusiasm for becoming the man God designed him to be.

It's our privilege to be part of this process. Pray for us as we seek to influence our culture by influencing students with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

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

A heart for discipleship

North Carolina student prepares to disciple others

Time management is essential for North Carolina student Cindy Sidden. She's a full-time student; her husband, Gary, is a student; she's the mother of three children—Amber, 12, Katy, 11, and Grace, 7; she works in the library; and the family is active in a local church.

Cindy didn't grow up in a Christian home; an aunt and uncle took her to church. Her conversion at age 11 remains a vivid memory. "The preacher spoke about (how) salvation was not by our works, we need Jesus as Lord," she said. "He spoke about hell, and I knew he was telling the truth. I wanted Jesus with me and to go to heaven."

Unfortunately, no one in the church helped her grow as a disciple when she was young. "I realized I needed to live every day for Christ," Cindy said. "My praying grandmother was a major encouragement." Gary was not a Christian when they married, but a praying and witnessing church helped lead him to faith. "Then we were both disciplined," she said. "Our heart for ministry now is in discipleship; believers must live

for Him."

The campus "workshop" program provides a library job for Cindy. "I enjoy the job and appreciate the opportunity," she said. "Mrs. Cummings (director of library services) is gracious to let me study during slack times. I've always loved to read, and my computer skills have increased."

With an interest in counseling, Cindy is enrolled in the Christian service degree track, a study option that permits transfer of counseling courses offered at other colleges. She saw God's calling of her husband before he did. "She prayed for me," Gary said. "I stopped running and realized with the

call came the responsibility for training." He attended Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute near Asheville, N.C., for two years. Moving to Clear Creek was more difficult; they never had lived away from their families.

"Most of my family are now Christians," Cindy said. "Our children like it here, and the public school they attend has many Christians. As disciples, we want to make a difference wherever we are."

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

CLEAR CREEK
CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Companies that sanitize DVDs closing after losing lawsuit

Salt Lake City (BP)—Two companies that “sanitize” DVD movies of objectionable content have chosen to close their businesses instead of appealing a federal judge’s ruling against them.

CleanFilms and CleanFlicks had found a market among Christian and conservative families in recent years by renting and selling R, PG-13 and PG rated movies with the profanity, nudity, sexual dialogue and graphic violence removed.

The Utah-based companies maintained they were within legal boundaries under the “fair use” doctrine because they maintained a 1-to-1 ratio on movies; for each DVD they rented or sold, an original version of the same title was purchased.

But Hollywood studios and directors filed suit. Last month, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Matsch ruled the companies were “illegitimate” and violating copyright law, and that their actions caused “irreparable injury to the creative artistic expression in the copyrighted movies.”

The ruling leaves ClearPlay—a Utah-based company that produces a DVD player with filters to edit movies—as the only option left for families wanting cleaner movies. The ruling doesn’t apply

to ClearPlay, whose product is significantly different from the other companies.

Troy Romero, an attorney who represented CleanFilms and CleanFlicks, said three factors led his clients not to appeal: financial costs of an appeal; the time involved; and the judge’s “strongly worded” ruling.

“There is a huge cost that’s associated with fighting the studios and directors,” Romero said. “They’re Hollywood, and my clients are small, little privately owned companies. The projection was that it could take somewhere between four to six years to get this ultimately resolved. That’s a huge amount of time and uncertainty.”

Although Romero could not comment because of confidentiality, CleanFilms and CleanFlicks apparently reached an agreement with the studios and directors that allowed them to sell their remaining inventory of DVDs.

Although the judge ordered the companies to hand over their inventory, both CleanFilms and CleanFlicks are having going out of business sales through their Web sites. According to a letter sent to customers, the businesses can no longer rent or sell DVDs after Aug. 31.

Hemphill’s book leads 30-day journey to Kingdom-focused money management

Nashville (BP)—Studies show that:

- Americans spend \$1.20 for every dollar they earn.
- The U.S. population has \$600 billion in credit card debt, or \$8,300 per family.

- Americans are saving at a level of only about 2.2 percent.

- Americans’ giving through the local church is at an all-time low of just 2.6 percent.

Maybe it’s time for a different approach.

Ken Hemphill has written “Making Change: A Transformational Guide to Christian Money Management,” a 30-day study of biblical stewardship, personal money management and cooperative giving for world missions.

Hemphill, national strategist for the Southern Baptist Convention’s “Empowering Kingdom Growth” emphasis, said he hopes the book has a liberating impact on families and churches.

“Some studies indicate that less than 25 percent of the persons who attend church give anything to the church for Kingdom advance,” Hemphill said.

“Those who do give only give 2.5 percent of their income through the church,” he added. “Can you imagine what would happen if half of our people begin to tithe? The average church budget would be multiplied by a factor of eight.

If Christians understood that God

had placed all resources on earth to be used according to His principles, life would be greatly altered, he said.

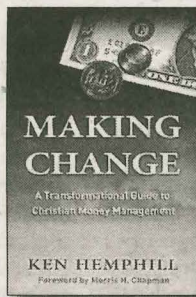
“First, it gives us the assurance that He will provide sufficient resources for the meeting of our need and the advancing of His Kingdom. Second, it affirms that we must discover and put into practice the principles He established for the use of His resources.

“Third, it assures us that sufficient resources exist to reach the nations. The King designed everything with that goal in mind,” Hemphill added. “Fourth, it reminds us that we will be held accountable for the use of the King’s resources.”

The book is organized as a six-week study with readings for five days a week on topics such as God’s design for managing money; the purpose of money; earning, spending, saving, investing; and good reasons to be a giver.

“We must be both honest and candid—we are not committed to reaching the world until we are willing to allow God to provide the resources through us,” Hemphill writes.

A 40-day Making Change workbook will be available from LifeWay Christian Resources next spring for use individually and in church groups.



Tailor-Made Marriage: When Your Lives Aren’t One Size Fits All.
Marita Littauer & Chuck Noon. Kregel Publications, 2005. 288 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

A lot of marriage self-help books sit on the shelves of secular and religious bookstores. In most, the author has come up with some “great” new model for marriage which they guarantee will transform your marriage.

As Littauer and Noon (a married couple) point out, not every marriage is the same, so how can one model of marriage help work for everyone? In addition, many of the books focus on what might be considered a traditional or model marriage. But what is a model for some is completely foreign to others. What do these people do in seeking help?

The reality is one model cannot work for everyone. What is needed, according to the authors, is a “new script” and this book is their contribution.

The attempt to fill the gap is admirable and to a large degree successful. Topics discussed include personal, financial, career, ex-spouse, and step-family issues. The authors have taken the unique approach of consulting 16 professional consultants to offer their opinions for each topic. For the most part, the contributors also break free from the “Ozzie and Harriet” model of marriage, but occasionally a suggestion rings more “one-size fits all” than not.

When I finished the book, I felt it tended to deal more with the wife’s perspective in the marriage than the husband’s. The authors also describe individuals using a personality-typing that was not familiar to me. I had to keep flipping to the back of the book to be sure I remembered the personality characteristics correctly. Each chapter also ends with “homework” assignments for couples.

I find much to commend in this book. It is a good book for individual or group study. *Wayne Hager*

Church Marketing 101: Preparing Your Church for Greater Growth.
Richard Reising. Baker Books, 2006. 206 pages. \$16.99. ♦♦♦♦

Richard Reising is founder and president of Artistry Marketing, a Dallas-based marketing firm that helps churches and ministries increase their effectiveness through strategic marketing, design and technology. In this book, he speaks from both knowledge and experience.

The book challenges church leaders to think outside the traditional “advertising” campaigns that local churches often conduct.

Reising asks church leaders to consider: Who is the target market? What is the church selling? How is the church doing in reaching its target market?

The book reads like a guidebook on how to do marketing for the local church or ministry. The chapters

lead the reader through the thought process of what marketing is and what it is not, as well as how to start the process.

The chapter on branding causes leaders to think about how their congregation presents itself to the community.

“When was the last time you mistook a McDonald’s coffee cup for a Starbucks? You haven’t. They have their own branding, their own look, their own color scheme, their own style, their own atmospheres and cultures—they have been successful in communicating them to the public,” Reising writes.

The essence of creating a brand is being deliberate, he adds. “The cornerstone of being deliberate is knowing who you are and where you are going.”

This book will pay for itself the first time it is followed. *Steve Coleman*

The Suburban Christian: Finding Spiritual Vitality in the Land of Plenty.
Albert Hsu. InterVarsity Press, 2006. 220 pages. \$15. ♦♦♦

Albert Hsu is a self-confessed suburbanite, having grown up and lived most of his life in the suburbs.

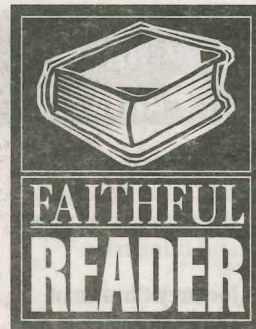
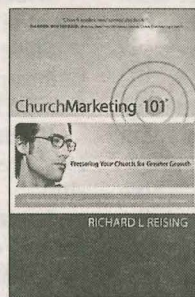
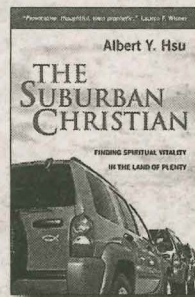
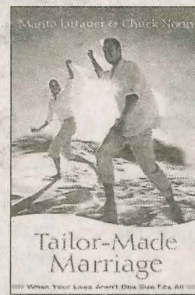
As such, he knows well the context of suburban life and the peril it presents to churches and Christians. At the same time, he wants to offer a positive word about suburbia, but he winds up presenting Christian spirituality as a challenging alternative to the values and soul suffocating aspects of suburbia.

The book opens with an astounding observation: “The suburban life is a spiritual quest.” According to Hsu, whether one moved to the suburbs or grew up in them, “suburban living (is) a ... pilgrimage.” People move to the suburbs because they are looking for something. In one sense, it is a journey toward a land of promise, a search for utopia.

And therein lies the challenge to authentic spirituality, at least to genuine Christian discipleship. Suburban values, which Hsu maintains have permeated most, if not all, of American culture, often are at odds with the vision of the human community revealed in Jesus Christ.

Hsu offers some interesting and revealing insights into the history and nature of suburban living. He points out how things that we take for granted have shaped not only our physical landscape, but our social, emotional and spiritual ones as well. Even without his prescriptions for nurturing our spirituality, these offer a lot to ponder.

Hsu’s advice on nurturing spiritual vitality are anything but shallow. They strike right at the heart of much that those of us who live in the suburbs hold dear, even if we are not aware of it. Though I am not sure he sees it this way, it seems that if all the Christians living in the suburbs followed the path he outlines, suburbia as we know it would collapse. *Jim Holladay*



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

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Journey Church of Union. Journey is a Kentucky Baptist "high impact" church start in Boone County that will launch Sept. 24 under the leadership of Pastor Mike Osborne. Sponsored by Erlanger Baptist Church, Journey will make full use of performance and graphic arts in worship and will offer music targeted to young people. There is a major need for such a church in this densely populated area of Northern Kentucky where only 11 percent of people attend a church, mosque or synagogue each weekend. Pray for people to respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ on Journey's first Sunday. Pray that all the practical details related to the launch, such as equipment and volunteers, will come together. Pray that God will provide a permanent place of worship when Journey's 90-day contract with a local middle school expires.

Mission Service Corps Missionary Jana Cooper of Lexington. Cooper serves as an intern with the Baptist Campus Ministry at the University of Kentucky. She helps new campus minister Daniel Berry with evangelism, discipleship and special events. Cooper seeks to serve as a bridge between the students and the campus ministry, with an emphasis on the incoming freshmen. Pray that many new students will accept Christ this year through the ministry of the BCM. Pray that God will give new direction and vision as Cooper and Berry work together to develop strategies and initiatives for sharing Christ with thousands of students on the UK campus.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI
COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALMO**—Spring Creek Church will celebrate homecoming Sept. 17, 11 a.m.
■ **BAGDAD**—Bagdad Church recently called **Kyle Wiley** as pastor.
■ **BRONSTON**—Quinton Church recently called **Jimmy Dishman** as pastor.
■ **COLD SPRING**—First Church recently called **Ronny Raines** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Northside Church in Elizabethtown.
■ **CORBIN**—First Church recently called **Michael Robinson**, associate professor of philosophy and religion at the University of the Cumberland, as interim pastor.
■ **LEXINGTON**—Anchor Church recently called **Carl Peters** as associate pastor for music, worship and discipleship.

Master's Church recently called **Marc McLean** as youth pastor.

Elkhorn Association recently called **Don Reed** as executive director. He currently is pastor of First Church of Paris.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Jim Cordell**, interim minister of music at Fern Creek Church, recently resigned due to injuries sustained in an accident.

Dan Lane recently resigned as associate pastor of music at Lyndon Church. **Jim Holladay** is pastor.

Maple Grove Church will host missionary **Janet Morrison** Sept. 3. Morrison is a registered nurse who serves several countries in Africa by assisting with research and treatment of children with AIDS. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

■ **MORNING VIEW**—Piner Church recently called **B.J. Donahue** as associate pastor/youth.

■ **RINEYVILLE**—Rineyville Church recently called **Travis Vaughan** as student minister. He previously was minister of youth at Immanuel

Spotlight on ...

Taylorsville



An interdenominational "Impact '06 Crusade" will be held Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at Spencer County High School with **David Merschel** as evangelist. Musical guests will include **Pantana, Praise 8, Mile7 and Jade Sholty. Cameron Mills**, former University of Kentucky basketball player, will share his testimony. Approximately 40 churches from eight denominations are supporting the crusade. For more information, visit www.impactcrusade.org or call (502) 477-2177.

Church in Elizabethtown.

■ **SCIENCE HILL**—Northside Church will celebrate homecoming Sept. 17, 10:45 a.m., with **Richard Skidmore** as guest speaker.

■ **SOMERSET**—First Church will hold revival services Sept. 17-20, 7 p.m., with **Paul Bureson** of Vital Truth Ministries as evangelist. Bureson also will lead a study of the "Tabernacle in the Wilderness" each day at noon. For more information, call (606) 678-5106. **Bill Haynes** is pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—**Todd Probus** recently resigned as associate minister of discipleship and youth at Versailles Church. **John Brandon** is pastor.

■ **WADDY**—Waddy Church recently called **Tex Selph** as pastor.

■ **WALTON**—First Church recently called **Marcus Daly** as minister of youth and education.

Stinson named dean of Southern's leadership, church ministry school

Louisville (BP)—Randy Stinson has been named the new dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's School of Leadership and Church Ministry, according to seminary President Al Mohler.

Stinson, who has served since 2001 as executive director of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, succeeds former dean Brad Waggoner who joined the staff of LifeWay Christian Resources in July.

Mohler announced Stinson's appointment during Southern's fall convocation Aug. 22.

Mohler also installed three professors into endowed chairs and introduced nine new faculty members.

Seminary officials also commemorated the 150th anniversary of James P. Boyce's 1856 lecture, "Three Changes in Theological Education," which set forth the principles on which Southern was founded three years later. Boyce was Southern Seminary's founding president.

Faculty members named to endowed professorships include:

Gary Bredfeldt, Gaines S. Dobbins Professor of Leadership and Church Ministry.

Thomas Schreiner, James Buchanan Harrison Professor of New Testament Interpretation.

Mark Seifrid, Mildred and Ernest Hogan Professor of New Testament Interpretation.

New faculty members for Southern Seminary and Boyce College include:

Robert Cheong, assistant professor of biblical counseling.

Steve Halla, assistant professor of philosophy and director of the Center for Theology and the Arts.

Brian Payne, instructor of expository preaching and pastoral leadership.

Jeremy Pierre, director of the writing center at Boyce College.

Thom Rainer, distinguished professor of evangelism and church growth.

Peter Richards, associate professor of theology and law and director of the Center for Theology and Law.

Kevin Smith, assistant professor of church history.

Michael Wilder, assistant professor of leadership and church ministry.

Kurt Wise, professor of theology and science and director of the Center for Theology and Science.

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

September

- 9 Super Saturday, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, and Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
15-16 Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek.
16 Super Saturday, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.
18-21 FAITH Clinic, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville.
18-19 Kentucky Baptist Ministers Golf Tournament, Cherry Blossom Golf Course, Georgetown.
23 Children in Action Day Camp, Cedar Crest.
25 Discipleship/Assimilation, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
29-30 FOCUS 2006, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

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

October

- 5-7 Ministers in Transition, Louisville.
6-7 Celebrate the Mission, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
9 Senior Adult Choir—West, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.
13-14 Women On Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.
14 101 Workshop, Union Baptist Church, Union.
16 Senior Adult Choir—East, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.
27-28 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEEDED: Stackable chairs for new, growing church. If you can help, please call Kevin Whitt at (502) 845-2233.

SEEKING: Full-time music/youth pastor for a Southern Baptist church in Salyersville, Ky. Please send resumé to dalucas@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to Bellfield Baptist Church, 9980 Highway 136 E, Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time youth director (grades 6-12) for Highlands Baptist in Lexington. Mail resumé to Mary Dixon, Highlands Baptist Church, 2032 Parallel Road, Lexington, KY 40511.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor/minister of education for First Baptist Church of Festus-Crystal City, Mo. Applicant must agree to 2000 Baptist Faith & Message; bachelor's degree preferred minimum. Salary \$50,000. Send resumé and references to 107 Truman Blvd., Crystal City, MO 63019; or e-mail: tbaker5@sbcglobal.net by Sept. 12.

SEEKING: Experienced senior pastor for Red House Baptist Church. We are a missions-minded SB congregation with 478 average worship attendance. We are doctrinally based in God's Word, supporting the Cooperative Program and the Baptist Faith & Message. A strong commitment to missions, discipleship, evangelism, education, outreach and spiritual growth is essential. Resumés to Pastor Search Team, 2301 Red House Road, Richmond, KY 40475; or e-mail: rhbc@redhousebc.com. Visit www.redhousebaptistchurch.org.

SEEKING: Full-time music minister, Oakland Avenue Baptist Church, Catlettsburg, Ky. Responsibilities: coordinate all music programs including multiple worship services, adult choir, youth/children choirs, praise team and seasonal programs. Salary based on education and experience. Send resumé and VCR/DVD (if available) by Oct. 1 to: Mike Billups, c/o Oakland Avenue Baptist Church, 3265 Oakland Avenue, Catlettsburg, KY 41129.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor, Southern Baptist church. Resumés to: PSC, Gardenside Baptist, 1667 Alexandria Drive, Lexington, KY 40504; or submit electronically to gbcpastorsearch@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Caneyville Missionary Baptist Church. For information, call (270) 879-9761 or send resumé to Caneyville Baptist Church, c/o Norma Forsythe, 7421 Bowling Green Road, Caneyville, KY 42721-9749.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for small church in Berea. Prefer individual with some pastoral experience, but will consider any individual who truly loves God. Resumés should be sent to: Pastor Search Committee, 273 Mount Vernon Road, Berea, KY 40403. Call (859) 986-9249 or e-mail bhi2730@yahoo.com for more information.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of students for a dynamic, growing student ministry. This individual will work with middle and senior high students (6th-12th grades), their families and adult volunteers. They will be responsible to plan, promote and implement an exciting and balanced ministry, leading students to worship, serve, grow and share. Bachelor's degree required; seminary preferred. Please send resumé to First Baptist Church, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065; Attn: Mark George.

SEEKING: Minister to preschool/children with good relational, planning and creativity skills who will take church to the next level. While the ideal would be full-time, an energetic part-time minister with recent experience may well accomplish as much as a full-time minister. The community is growing and the percentage of preschool/children in Bible study is 45 (average in SS is 40). Parents and workers will interview candidates and make recommendations to the personnel committee. If interested, submit resumé to First Baptist Church, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065. Upon resumé review, candidates will be contacted for date and time of interviews.

Reaching the rough crowd

South Dakota bike rally outreach not for faint of heart

By Jerry Higgins
Baptist Press

Sturgis, S.D. (BP)—When the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally comes to this small town (population: 6,700) in South Dakota, the 300,000 visiting motorcycle enthusiasts nearly double the state's population.

"It's a scary type of event," said Garvon Golden, evangelism director for the Dakota Baptist Convention.

"If you're not familiar with biker folks and their mentality, it can be threatening," he added. "I lived in Sturgis for five and a half years. The motorcycle rally was the kind of event which was hard to put your arms around and put together something relevant to touch people."

A lot of ministry efforts at earlier rallies were smaller, service-oriented projects designed to allow bikers to run into Christians, Golden noted.

"It was more servant-based evangelism and not direct intentional evangelism," he said.

With a leap of faith, the Dakota convention ventured to this year's Aug. 7-13 rally.

Through the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, Dakota convention leaders linked up with Ronnie Hill, a Texas evangelist who has shared the gospel at a wide range of venues, from small county fairs to the Calgary Stampede and NASCAR racetracks.

Hill and Dakota convention Executive Director Jim Hamilton agreed that witnessing at the Sturgis rally would take some "out of the box" thought.

"I came from an alcoholic biker background, was saved at 23, and spent 25 years as a minister," Hamilton noted. "I still have a soft spot for ministry to people in that kind of lifestyle."

Hill has some experience with motorcycles. At a NASCAR race in Bristol, Tenn., he gave away a mo-



RALLY OUTREACH Amid a sea of motorcycles in Sturgis, S.D., Dakota Baptists set up a booth and offered a chance to win a motorcycle to everyone who would listen to a gospel presentation. (BP photos)

torcycle as a way to get people's attention.

Race fans had to sit through a three-minute gospel presentation in order to fill out the raffle ticket. "I had a Harley bike as a prize and 760 people got saved," Hill recounted.

"This was my first trip to Sturgis. I always wanted to go there, but didn't have any connections."

Cussed out

The Dakota ministry tried the same approach by renting a vendors' spot in downtown Sturgis for their raffle during the rally. "I trained people to do what I did and they did a great job," Hill said.

"You just have to get in there and present the gospel. Did people cuss us out in Sturgis? Yes. That just made us give more presentations and more people were saved. I get tired of people saying evangelism only works in the Bible Belt. It works everywhere. We just have to do what God tells us to do."



HEART TO HEART Texas evangelist Ronnie Hill witnesses to a couple of bikers. The evangelism team shared the gospel with 2,900 people at the rally.

Hamilton and his staff raised nearly \$30,000 to host the ministry. They got financial support from NAMB, as well as the South Carolina, Florida and Alaska state conventions.

A motorcycle dealer in Sioux Falls, S.D., gave them a deal on a limited-edition Harley.

The Dakota team shared testimonies with 2,900 people, 718 of whom said they prayed to receive Christ and marked a box on the registration card indicating their decision.

The cards have been sent to NAMB, which will forward the contacts to churches near their homes for follow-up.

"We had a big crowd stand around when the raffle was announced and a 50-ish woman from Pueblo, Colo., won," Golden said. "She's already made arrangements to come to Rapid City to pick it up."

A new Christian from Hazen, N.D., came to work at the rally for a couple of days, Golden noted.

"The first man who came up to him was from Hazen, a town of about 1,800 people. The man shared

how low he was. They made an appointment to go fishing. He didn't make a decision there, but who knows what will happen?"

"How do you put a price on one soul?" Hamilton asked. "The Dakotas never saw this kind of harvest in one week. Few places in the United States see that kind of harvest. God really blessed the effort."

Next year: Mechanical bull

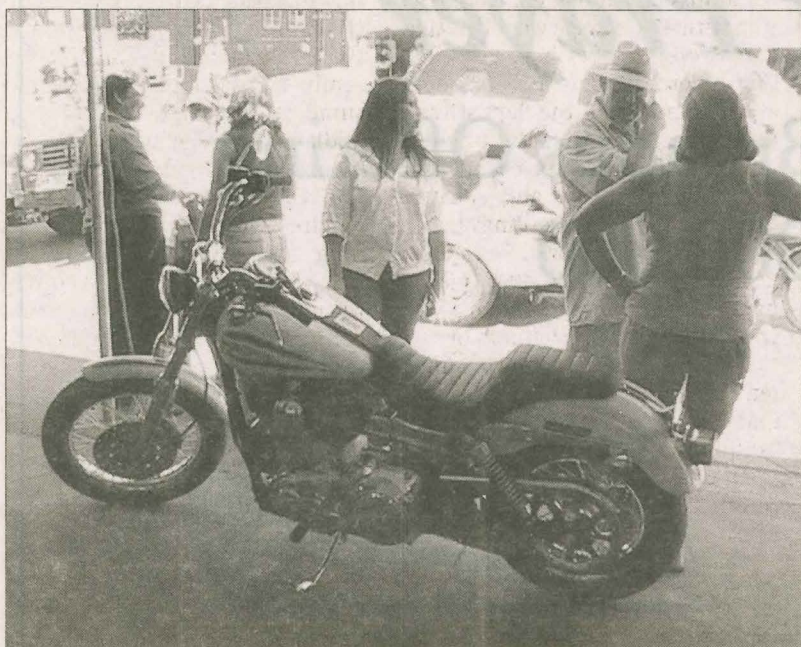
The convention intends to ask Hill to return for a similar outreach next year, Golden said, and the ministry will expand to two booths. One booth will have an electronic bull and leaders hope to give away another motorcycle in the other.

"This is not your grandma's ministry. Not everyone wants to come to downtown Sturgis and deal with bikers," Hamilton said. "God is pushing us to be on the cutting edge to reach people. This pushed people way out of their comfort zone to talk to strangers, especially with people dressed up like bikers."

"God demands us to be obedient and we were. And He blessed our efforts."

"This is not your grandma's ministry. ... God is pushing us to be on the cutting edge to reach people."

Jim Hamilton, executive director of the Dakota Baptist Convention



RAFFLE PRIZE A new Harley Davidson motorcycle helped attract rally attendees to the Dakota Baptist Convention's booth in downtown Sturgis, S.D.

be utterly
Amazed



*Be utterly amazed. For I am going to do
something in your days that you would not believe.*

Habakkuk 1:5b NIV

2006 Season of Prayer

for State Missions & Eliza Broadus Offering
Offering Goal; \$1,000,000

