

September 9, 2008  
Vol. 182, No. 36**FOR THE RECORD****Baptists**Johnny Hunt focused on challenges facing 'shaken' Southern Baptist Convention. *Page 2.***Kentucky**Eliza Broadus Offering surplus earmarked for evangelism, Crossover Louisville 2009. *Page 3.***Kentucky**Study: Kentucky Baptist church plants surpass national average in survivability. *Page 3.***Financial Forum**Get to know the new rules for charitable cash deductions. *Page 4.***Guest Editorial**Kentucky, Korean WMU partnership focused on prayer. *Page 5.***Resources**Howerton: Small groups can be effective in discipleship. *Page 6.***World**Kentucky Baptists among groups feeding Georgian refugees. *Page 8.***Disaster response**

Linda Ross of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville (right) talks with New Orleans evacuee Delphia Kennedy last week at the Red Cross shelter inside the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. (KBC photo by Larry Brannin)

**Gulf Coast residents flee hurricane, find shelter in Louisville**By Drew Nichter  
News Director**Louisville**—Joe Miles was not taking any chances.

With Hurricane Gustav bearing down on his New Orleans home, Miles rounded up his girlfriend, daughter and two young grandchildren and headed for the airport in the early morning hours of Aug. 31. That afternoon, he and his family touched down in Louisville and were shuttled to an evacuation shelter at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.

Miles was one of nearly 1,500

evacuees from the Gulf Coast who found themselves in Louisville last week at one of more than a dozen American Red Cross shelters across the Southeastern and Midwestern United States.

Once the city of New Orleans gave notice that residents could return, the Louisville shelter was officially closed as the last of the evacuees were flown home Sept. 6.

Kentucky Baptists lent a hand at the Louisville shelter, working behind the scenes helping to feed displaced residents. Disaster relief teams from the Kentucky Baptist

Convention served tens of thousands of meals beginning on Labor Day until the final meal was cooked last weekend. The KBC team, along with Christian Appalachian Project, also provided shower units for evacuees.

Harold Smith, who was in charge of the KBC operation with his wife, Karen, said that 25-30 volunteers were on site each day helping to feed the evacuees. Despite the circumstances for being there, Smith insisted the volunteers were eager and willing to serve.

□ See *Kentucky Baptists ... Page 6***Warren insists that 'new breed' of evangelicals are not liberal**By Mark Kelly  
Baptist Press**Lake Forest, Calif. (BP)**—"New breed" evangelicals have been misunderstood by the media, Rick Warren told a Wall Street Journal reporter after last month's forum that Saddleback Church hosted with presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain.

"The leader of the fourth-largest church in the U.S. is supposed to be part of a 'new breed' of evangelicals, according to the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post and dozens of other publications," wrote Naomi Schaefer Riley in the Journal's Aug. 23 edition. "New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof paid him what Mr. Kristof might consider the ultimate compliment earlier this year, referring to Mr. Warren as an 'evan-

gelical liberals can love."

Reporters, however, mistakenly assume that "new breed" Christians who care about the environment and poverty do not care as much about traditional religious right issues such as abortion, Warren insisted.

"I don't just care that the little girl is born," Warren told Riley. "Is she going to be born in poverty? Is she going to be born with AIDS because her mom has AIDS? Is she going to never get an education?"

Warren also told the reporter that many evangelicals are tired of the "combativeness" associated with the religious right. "A lot of people hear (about a broader agenda) and they think, 'Oh, evangelicals are giving up on believing that life begins at conception,'" he said. "They're not

giving up on that at all."

Warren also noted that the political significance of the "evangelical left"—which has been the focus of a lot of reporting in the mainstream secular media—is minimal: "This big," he says, holding his thumb and forefinger about an inch apart, "according to the article."

Riley's commentary noted that many reporters mistakenly presume that concern about social issues automatically makes a person a political liberal.

"The media assume that when religious people express interest in the problems of poverty and disease, they must have taken a left turn politically," Riley wrote. "But one can be interested in solving such problems without believing that government is the solution."

**Survey: Alaskans less religious than most Americans****Washington (RNS)**—While Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin's staunch evangelical conservatism may appeal to her party's Christian base, the Alaska governor's home state ranks among the nation's least religious.

According to the Pew Forum on Religion &amp; Public Life, Alaskans are less likely to believe in God, pray or attend religious services than the national average, and most residents share a libertarian view that the government should be less involved in issues of morality.

Just 37 percent of Alaskans say religion is "very important" in their lives, compared to 56 percent of Americans nationwide. Only 22 percent of the state's respondents attend religious services at least once a week—17 points lower than the national average. Nearly half of Alaskans say they "seldom" or "never" attend services.

Only residents of New Hampshire and Vermont said religion was less important.

The study's findings place Alaska in line with other states in the Pacific Northwest, including Washington and Oregon, which both boast high numbers of unaffiliated residents.

Mark Silk, a professor of religion in public life at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., said the high numbers of unaffiliated Alaskans reflect the region's "frontier" mentality.

"All of these areas are places with lots of wilderness, and essentially people headed into them not only leaving behind, but wanting to leave behind, prior associations," Silk noted.

## Hunt focused on tough challenges facing 'shaken' SBC

**"I feel like in the last few years God's really kind of shaken us to the core. He's knocked a little bit of the strut out of us."**

Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt

By Mark Kelly  
Baptist Press

Woodstock, Ga. (BP)—In his first 75 days as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Johnny Hunt has met with more than 500 Southern Baptist leaders, discussing ways to tackle challenges facing the SBC—issues such as baptism-less churches, declining membership and a generation of pastors disconnected from the broader fellowship of churches.

"There seems to be a major consensus on where we are. Every leader has basically said we need to stop the bleeding in terms of declining membership," Hunt told Baptist Press. "They've all agreed we're doing less than a good job of leading people to Christ."

Southern Baptists have been given a wakeup call and a strategy must be hammered out to meet the challenges, he added.

"I feel like in the last few years God's really kind of shaken us to the core. He's knocked a little bit of the strut out of us," said Hunt, senior pastor of the 16,000-member First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga. "We can think, 'We're the largest. We're this. We're that.' But when you read major articles that say things like, 'We have joined the mainline denominations,' I don't like that."

### Addressing baptisms

One of Hunt's priorities in the early days of his presidency has been to consult with leadership at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board about ways to help pastors of the nearly 11,000 churches that have reported no baptisms.

"We have had some very creative thinking as to what we can do to help those guys and at the same time challenge our own lives, our own churches: Are we being very intentional evangelistically?" Hunt acknowledged.

After Hunt meets with Southern Baptist International Mission Board leadership this month, he said he hopes to have a clear strategy for helping Southern Baptists share the gospel with all of North America and every people group in the world.



**PRAYING FOR CHANGE** Johnny Hunt, shown here shortly after his election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in June, said he believes God has "kind of shaken us to the core" in recent years. (BP photo)

"We are trying to make a difference with our neighbors, but we also must be faithful to keep our eyes on the nations," he noted. "When you have hundreds and hundreds of unengaged people groups, you've got to have a plan to get someone there."

All the talking and planning in the world will not make a difference, however, if it is not driven by a passion for God and His Kingdom, Hunt declared.

"Every meeting I have been in, we still go back to the core, the lowest common denominator, and that is Southern Baptists are in dire need of a fresh encounter with God," he said. No matter what the next evangelism initiative may be, "I can't do anything with it if I'm not personally revived or touched by God and renewed in my own personal walk."

Hunt called it "perfect timing" that the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and NAMB are sponsoring the 40/40 Prayer Vigil, a call to Southern Baptists to pray for spiritual revival and national renewal from Sept. 24 to Nov. 2.

"I really like the 40/40 Prayer Vigil because ... it begins with personal revival," he noted. "I need personal revival, then we need church revival. We need revival among our church leadership. And then it continues to move farther out to where it begins to make a difference in our nation."

### Lack of caring?

The SBC president acknowledged that his heart is heavy that attendance at the SBC annual meeting is so low, compared to turnouts during the years conservatives were campaigning to pull SBC entities back to their doctrinal roots.

"When there are six candidates being nominated as president of the convention and 20 percent of the messengers that had registered did not vote for the presidency, we have almost gotten where the majority don't care," Hunt said. "I'm just not impressed if we spend years talking about the victory we won in the conservative resurgence if every time we talk about it we have to turn around and look at our numbers and say, 'Wow, why will so many gather to talk about what we believe and not rally around a united cause of what we're going to do as a result of what we believe?'"

"I plan to do a major challenge for us to trust God for a Great Commission resurgence," he added. "We've got to do something with what we claim we won or what we claim we confess."

Another top priority is to connect with a younger generation of pastors and help them catch a vision for what Southern Baptist cooperative missions is all about, Hunt said.

"I'm really stressing that seminary presidents entertain the idea of giving credit for seminary students to be at the convention," he explained. "If we hope to get the next generation there, we better get them now. Why are we waiting until they get a church?"

One strategy for accomplishing that is to find low-cost accommodations for seminarians and young pastors whose budgets cannot pay for expensive hotel rooms in the city, Hunt pointed out. Toward that end,

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will open its campus housing to those groups when the SBC meets in Louisville next year.

Hunt said he also wants to create an annual meeting program that will appeal more to church leaders who want to be part of something that makes a real difference in people's lives.

"It's got to feel different. Guys who are disconnected will have to see a change when they come back," he noted. "I know we've got to do business, but this past year there was a time where there was 25 minutes allotted for business and we didn't need it. Well, as president, as long as I keep us on time, that's 25 minutes I can use."

The president has asked convention leaders to prepare dynamic multimedia packages that tell great stories about how Cooperative Program ministries are making a difference in lives across North America and around the world.

"I want us to do something that shows the Cooperative Program in action, not just say that it funds something," he emphasized. "I want to say, 'There it is working for the Lord again, for His Kingdom.' I want people to leave saying, 'Man, I am thrilled to be a part of that. I can't wait to tell our people.'"

Hunt's concern for engaging young pastors who are disconnected from the broad fellowship of the SBC is reflected in his own ministry, the annual Timothy Barnabas Conference, which, for the last 16 years, has been used to mentor young leaders.

"Younger pastors with a heart to make a difference want to get to guys who are making a difference," he noted.

Hunt said he was motivated to start the Timothy Barnabas ministry by some advice given to him by longtime Southern Baptist leader Jimmy Draper. It is advice Hunt said he believes more Southern Baptist pastors need to take to heart.

"Jimmy Draper challenged me, 'There's a generation out there, watching you, listening,'" Hunt recalled. "He said, 'Bring them with you.'"

## NAMB sells off former broadcast facilities

Fort Worth, Texas (ABP)—The last vestige of a Southern Baptist Convention broadcast ministry that once garnered an Emmy Award has been sold.

Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake Energy Co. purchased the 87,966-square-foot building that housed the former Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, Texas.

The SBC began its broadcast ministry—the SBC Radio Commission—with "The Baptist Hour" in Atlanta in 1941. In 1955, the operation was moved to Texas and its programming expanded.

The commission produced a variety of content, including the children's animated series, "JOT." In 1989, the agency earned an Emmy for the documentary, "China: Walls and Bridges."

The commission developed the American Christian Television System in the mid-1980s in an effort to increase market exposure. Soaring costs forced the commission to merge ACTS with another network. The SBC dropped out of participation in 2003.

In 1991, the commission purchased Family-

Net from Baptist minister and then-Liberty University President Jerry Falwell.

A major SBC reorganization, implemented in 1997, merged the RTVC with the denomination's Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board to create the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. NAMB shifted some of RTVC's work, primarily radio programming, to its Atlanta-area headquarters.

As a not-for-profit organization that relied primarily on SBC funding, the broadcast ministry struggled financially throughout most of its existence. NAMB streamlined the operation in 2004, reducing staff and cutting the budget by more than half. It cut radio production completely the following year.

Last year, the convention sold FamilyNet—the final broadcast operation—to In Touch Ministries. That organization was founded by former SBC president Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta.

According to its Web site, Chesapeake Energy Co. is the third-largest producer of natural gas in the United States.

## Seminary trims landscaping costs with help from 400 hungry goats

Mill Valley, Calif. (BP)—Four hundred goats descended on the grassy hillsides of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary this summer, trimming the grass as well as the seminary's landscaping costs.

"We save approximately \$5,000 in labor and materials by contracting with Goats-R-Us," said Robert Dvorak, the seminary's facilities management director.

Other potential costs for Golden Gate Seminary include possible injuries from using mowers and weed trimmers on the steep terrain, as well as possible poison oak infections, both of which could incur medical treatment and loss of work time.

The goats, which dined for three weeks on the steeper areas of the campus in Mill Valley, Calif., have been annual visitors at the Bay Area seminary for the past five years.

Golden Gate also is swapping several of its gasoline-powered carts for four electric vehicles. "We hope to dispose of at least three of our gasoline vehicles," Dvorak noted. "For one particularly old truck, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is paying us \$650 to retire it."

Other "green" methods that Golden Gate employs is the use of "Orange Spray," an environmentally friendly alternative for a chemical termite spray; a recycling program that includes florescent bulbs, batteries, used oil and old paint; and upgrades to some of its boiler rooms to more efficient gas burners and pumps.

"We appreciate the opportunities for the seminary to be responsible environmental stewards of this beautiful spot in Marin County," Golden Gate Seminary President Jeff Iorg said.

## Eliza Broadus Offering surplus earmarked for evangelism

By Karen Owen  
State Correspondent

Louisville—For years, Kentucky Baptist leaders have tried to raise \$1 million dollars for state missions in a single Eliza Broadus Offering. This fiscal year they made it—plus another \$105,722. Now they have the joyful task of figuring out how to spend that extra money.

The final decision will not be announced until November, but Kentucky Women's Missionary Union Executive Director Joy Bolton said the WMU's Executive Board already has voted to invest that surplus in evangelism.

"We want to be very strategic," Bolton noted. "We are carefully considering all of the requests that we have received."

Crossover Louisville 2009 will be a major beneficiary of the funds.

The annual evangelism effort is held in the host city just before the Southern Baptist Convention meets each year. It will come to Louisville next June for the convention's 150th annual meeting.

Crossover is a partnership of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, state convention and local associations, according to Ross Bauscher, team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism growth team.

For Crossover Louisville, officials plan to plant new churches, do some projects with Baptist Builders and Kentucky Changers, hold block parties, and coordinate prayer walking, door-to-door evangelism and some servant evangelism or acts of kindness.

Convention leaders also plan to have Hispanic and Asian Baptist

groups in Louisville to help reach different ethnic groups. Louisville has from 70 to 123 people groups, different observers estimate, Bauscher noted. "We've got the world coming to us."

Crossover Indianapolis this year resulted in 759 professions of faith, he pointed out. Volunteers from 18 states helped out. World Changers renovated 12 houses for the occasion and at least nine new churches were organized.

Kentucky Baptists can sign up for Crossover activities at [www.crossovelouisville.com](http://www.crossovelouisville.com).

The big push for the Eliza Broadus offering is in September each year, but money is collected from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31.

"We have put that goal out there to reach the million-dollar level for the state missions offering for several years," Bolton said. In 2006-2007, the offering brought in about \$992,694, she added.

The offering is sponsored by Kentucky WMU, which decides how to allocate the money in consultation with KBC staff and Executive Director Bill Mackey.

This year, state convention leaders asked that the coverage from 2006-2007 be used for evangelism, especially Crossover, Bolton explained.

The Kentucky WMU Executive Board already has agreed to this and will announce specific use of the overage funds in early November.

"I really do want God to get the credit" for this year's success, Bolton emphasized.

The only tangible things WMU leaders said they think might have helped Eliza Broadus reach the \$1

### This year's EBO to help support VBS

By Karen Owen  
State Correspondent

Louisville—The annual Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions starting this month will help an institution near and dear to many Baptist hearts: vacation Bible school.

A portion of the offering will be used to help churches that could not otherwise manage to have Bible school.

"Kentucky Baptists are a convention of small churches," said Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. "And we have a higher than national average of bivocational pastors. To do Bible school is a real challenge for them."

About 26 percent of the baptisms in Baptist churches are a direct result of VBS, said Marilyn Goodwin, a consultant in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's preschool and children's ministry department. "VBS is the single largest outreach event for most churches."

At least 25,574 of the Southern Baptist Convention's 42,000 churches reported holding vacation Bible school last year, according to LifeWay Christian Resources.

More than 2 million children were enrolled in a Southern Baptist Bible school in 2006. That

amounts to nearly one out of every 16 youths between ages 5 and 12, LifeWay noted.

More than 94,000 people accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior through VBS that year, Goodwin pointed out. More than 39,000 people were enrolled in Sunday school as a direct result of VBS.

"A lot of people will let their children come to VBS even if they don't attend church," she added.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention had an initiative this year to help several churches that have not held vacation Bible school, Goodwin explained. In some cases, the KBC provided the resources. In others, it provided workers to staff the Bible school or helped with follow up.

Some of the churches were new church starts, while others did not have the money to finance a Bible school, Goodwin noted. "Most of them were small churches."

The churches that received help were located in Somerset, Louisville and Booneville, among other places.

No statistics are available yet on the results, Goodwin said. Congregations are still turning in their information. Some will not actually hold their Bible schools until fall break, she added.

million mark this time were increased help from convention staff and recent KBC presidents in promoting the offering and sending a DVD with more promotional material to church pastors, not just WMU directors, she said.

WMU is gearing up now for the 2008-2009 Eliza Broadus Offering. "We're excited about starting a new offering," Bolton said. The theme this year will be "Celebrate God's Love." The goal will be \$1,052,008, she noted. "We hope we'll exceed it again."

WMU was inspired to set the odd number by First Baptist Church of Owensboro, which had great results with a Lottie Moon Offering goal of \$99,999.99. "It caught people's attention," Bolton said.

Part of that money will go to helping stage vacation Bible schools at churches that have never had VBS or have not held one in a while, she pointed out.

"We know more professions of faith come out of vacation Bible schools than any one thing we do," Bolton noted.

## KBC church plants surpass national average in survivability study

By Erin Roach  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Nashville—Kentucky Baptist church plants averaged higher attendance throughout their first three years and were more likely to have a sponsoring church compared to a national study of church plants from multiple denominations.

The study of Kentucky churches, conducted this year by LifeWay Research, examined 132 churches planted since 2000 and determined the survivability of 72 of those congregations. Among them, only three church plants were confirmed to have closed.

"This study highlights important factors present in healthy new churches in Kentucky," said Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research. "Among those factors unique to Kentucky that are associated with higher attendance are using mailers for promotion, meeting in a visible location, receiving demographic analysis on the community and conducting a discipleship group for church members."

On average, 10 more people attended weekly worship at Kentucky Baptist church plants compared to those of other denominations. By the third year, those churches averaged 80 people in worship, according to the study. Since the majority of church plants surveyed for the study began in 2005 or later, much of the statistics are based on three-

year trends.

New Kentucky Baptist churches also had higher baptism rates, which were uniquely associated in Kentucky with using door hangers and road signs in promoting the church plants. By the third year, new churches averaged 13 baptisms.

LifeWay found that the KBC "deviates from the national average in dramatic ways" in terms of more mature churches sponsoring the planted churches.

"Not only does KBC have a higher proportion of church plants with sponsoring churches than the national average, but they also provide much more assistance at all levels," the study noted.

About 70 percent of KBC church plants had a sponsoring church, and 80 percent of those sponsoring churches provided funding to the church plant, researchers found. In addition to having sponsoring churches early on, data indicated that compared to the national average, a greater proportion of KBC churches are financially self-sufficient each year.

### Necessary networking

The study also revealed that Kentucky Baptists need to improve in their use of denominational assistance. KBC church plants appeared to access mentoring, peer networks and training somewhat lower than the national average,

LifeWay indicated.

To strengthen that statistic, the KBC recently hosted a meeting of about 15 church planters to develop a network, according to Larry Baker, KBC's new work and associational missions department director.

Such networks are beneficial, he said, because they allow church planting peers to help each other address challenges.

"When they're dealing with different kinds of problems, probably some of the church planters have already gone through those problems and are able to give some suggestions about ways that they might be able to deal with those issues," Baker noted.

At the meeting, KBC staff distributed a list of who was present along with their e-mail addresses and telephone numbers so the church planters could keep in touch.

Baker also authored "Planting with Passion" ([www.PlantingWithPassion.com](http://www.PlantingWithPassion.com)), an online blog dedicated to church planting issues. The site serves as an online network for church planters across Kentucky.

The KBC continues to offer training for church planters, including Basic Training courses, as well as Super Saturday tracks and scholarships to attend relevant conferences not sponsored by the state convention, Baker said.

Another area where Kentucky could stand to improve, according

to LifeWay, is in planting churches where the need is greatest. About 18 percent of KBC churches were planted in communities where 10 percent or less of the residents are evangelical Christians. Baker said that in nearly every county in the state, 80 percent of the people do not attend church on any given Sunday.

"Our strategy is to go wherever we can penetrate the pockets of unreached people," he emphasized.

Baker also stressed the importance of church planting in Kentucky. "With the number of churches declining and plateaued, one of the most effective ways to reach Kentucky is by starting new churches," he suggested. "Also, there are great numbers of ethnic people who are moving into Kentucky now ... New churches are needed to reach these ethnic groups. Our urban areas are also way behind in the ratio of churches to the population."

"We need church planting because of the generations that our churches don't seem to be reaching anymore—especially the 19 to 39 year olds," Baker added. "Some churches do things a little differently and can actually reach out to those generations. The main reason for planting new churches, though, is because the population has gained much faster than church growth, and the only way we're going to make up the difference is to plant new churches."

## WESTERN RECORDER

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Louisville, KY 40253  
(USPS 679-380)

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 489-3535; toll-free (866) 489-3535. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

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## Fixer-upper or move-in ready?

By Howard Dayton

Gainesville, Ga. (BP)—Is it financially wiser to buy a home that is a fixer-upper or one that is move-in ready? That depends, because obviously the answer won't be the same for all situations.

For example, if you are handy with a hammer and super with a saw, then congratulations, you may be a candidate for buying a fixer-upper house.

However, if you think a "benchmark" is what happens when your furniture sits too long on the rug, or that "drywall" simply means there are no leaks in the roof, then maybe you'd better look at a home that's move-in ready.

Generally speaking, those interested in fixer-uppers are willing to invest some sweat equity in order to make a profit and then move on. If that doesn't sound attractive to you, chances are that you're the sort of person who would rather just move into a reasonably ready house.

But, wait a minute. It could be that you're not financially prepared to do either one. You see, your first decision probably should be whether to rent or try to buy a house. Most people see no point in paying rent when you could be accumulating equity. However, if you were to "overbuy" a house—even a fixer-upper—your debts might accumulate faster than you could accumulate equity.

It all hinges on your budget. If you have the money to make a down payment and you can afford the monthly payments, it's probably wiser to purchase.

The No. 1 cause of financial difficulty, especially for young couples, is purchasing a home more expensive than they can afford. And that kind of financial stress provides the fuel that can result in broken relationships.

So the first question is, "Do you have a down payment?" The second one is, "Can you afford the month-

ly payment with income from only one family member?" Those two requirements are very important, because many people buy or build a house and then try to stretch their income to fit the house, rather than starting with their income and finding a house that fits.

And remember this: An unexpected illness or pregnancy might make it impossible for one of the wage earners to work. In that case, how does that high monthly mortgage get paid?

The Bible says, "Complete your outdoor work, and prepare your field; afterwards, build your house" (Proverbs 24:27). So, don't get your priorities out of order.

You should consider a number of suggestions when buying a house:

- Be realistic and start small.
- Location, location, location.
- Today, the flood of foreclosures provides a lot of houses that are both in need of repair and those ready to move in. That scenario also means there are lots of scam artists out there, ready to take advantage of you.
- Be careful of foreclosures. Seek legal advice and think twice before signing anything.
- People in foreclosure are vulnerable. The Bible has much to say about taking advantage of those who are vulnerable or in some sort of crisis—such as the distress of a foreclosure. Psalm 41:1 says: "Happy is one who cares for the poor; the LORD will save him in a day of adversity."
- Be willing to keep your first house five or six years and put lots of love and labor into it and you'll build equity.
- If you are trading up, buy a house that's no larger than you need with payments you can afford.
- Free up some of your surplus funds each month to repay the mortgage principal in order to pay the mortgage off as quickly as possible.

## COMMENTARY

## The important work of associations

This is the time of year when many Baptist associations in Kentucky are having annual meetings. These meetings are wonderful times to fellowship with other believers, learn about Baptist missions and ministries, be inspired by testimonies of those who are involved in life-changing ministries, worship together and renew the vision for reaching people for Christ.

I believe associations are essential in Baptist life and worthy of our involvement. They are the denominational entity that is closest to the local church, and most strategies are conducted in close partnership with local associations.

Associations are important because they can work with churches in meeting local needs that one church might not be able to meet on its own. Churches working together can accomplish all that God blesses.

The local association director of missions is often the person who is most aware of the needs of local pastors and churches. He is generally in

the best position to recommend local, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Southern Baptist Convention or other resources that will meet those needs.

Associations provide great support for world missions by encouraging churches to support missions offerings and the Co-operative Program. Associations regularly conduct "On Mission Celebrations," which bring missions and missionaries to local churches. KBC institutions and agencies also look to the associations to assist in promoting their ministries among the churches.

Another important function of the association is the collection of data for the Annual Church Profile. The association forwards information provided by the churches to the state convention and LifeWay Christian Resources. This vital data helps the association, KBC and SBC determine the best ways to meet needs in the churches.

Associations also provide training for church leaders. One of the most popular events is the associ-

sible. However, if you're thinking of paying off your mortgage early, be careful that you don't sacrifice everything to do so. There may be other things that are higher priorities for your family. Only you and your spouse can make this decision together, and you should use no more than a percentage (not all) of your surplus funds if you do decide to pay off your home early.

You would be wise to use no more than 40 percent of your net spendable income (what's left after tithes and taxes) on housing—this includes mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, utilities and telephone bill, and maintenance on the house.

When housing expenses reach 45 to 50 percent or more of your net spendable income, the likelihood is that you're a candidate for serious financial difficulty. Couples who purchase homes far more expensive than they can afford might not only lose the homes but also have their marriages threatened by the resulting stress.

Each family should learn God's principles and guidelines for buying a home and then make the decision based on what God specifically reveals to them about the lifestyle they are to lead. Many of us could easily downsize our housing situation and still have very nice, comfortable, affordable homes.

About 10 years ago, two staff members of Crown Financial Ministries built debt-free homes. They were able to do it because their spouses were totally committed to the concept, and they had the resolve to put in a lot of sweat equity. It can be a very difficult road to take and they did without some things for the short term, but now they are enjoying the freedom of living in a debt-free home. It works.

So, what's best for you—a fixer-upper or a home that is move-in ready? Be sure that your decision—the steps you take—are God-directed steps.

Howard Dayton is co-founder of Crown Financial Ministries and host of Crown's radio program, "Money Matters."

ational vacation Bible school clinic led by local leaders who have received training through the state convention. More than 350 workers are needed to conduct these VBS clinics each year.

Church planting is a key to reaching unreached people groups, especially Hispanics, other ethnic groups and generational groups. Associations play a key role in identifying these groups and determining the best locations for new churches.

The focus on evangelism is essential in the local association. The Glenmary Research Center has revealed that 41 counties in Kentucky are 70 percent unreached for Christ. Only 33.5 percent of the people in Kentucky are church members and only 12.1 percent attend on average.

The North American Mission Board has a plan for "saturation evangelism" to get the gospel into every home in America. This emphasis would not be possible without local associations.

I am grateful for all of our Kentucky associations and pray for their work daily. Please join me in that and plan to be involved in your local association.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## STEWARDSHIP

## Get to know new rules for charitable cash deductions

By Laurie Valentine

New proposed tax regulations flesh out recent tax law changes to the rules on how to report and substantiate charitable cash gifts to assure they will qualify for the federal income tax deduction. Failure to follow these rules will result in a loss of your charitable deduction.

No charitable income tax deduction is allowed for a gift in the form of cash, check, gift card, electronic funds transfer, online payment or payroll deduction unless the giver has a bank record of the gift or a written communication from the charity showing the giver's name, the contribution date and the gift amount. Bank record includes a bank statement, electronic funds transfer receipt, cancelled check, scanned image of both sides of a cancelled check obtained from a bank Web site, or a credit card statement.

If the amount of your cash gift is \$250 or more, additional substantiation is required. You also must have written acknowledgement from the charity in hand before you file your income tax return. If your return is audited you will have to show the receipt.

You will be treated as meeting the substantiation rules for payroll deduction gifts if you have at the time you file your income tax return:

- A pay stub, Form W-2, wage and tax statement or other employer-furnished document showing the amount withheld during the calendar year as contributions to the charity.

- And a pledge card with the charity's name on it.

You do not have to have a bank record to deduct non-reimbursed expenses of less than \$250 you incur while rendering volunteer service to a charity. To deduct out-of-pocket expenses of \$250 or more a volunteer must have a receipt from the charity that contains:

- A description of the volunteer's services.

- A statement of whether or not the charity provided any goods or services in exchange for the non-reimbursed expenses.

- A description and good faith estimate of any goods and services provided.

- And if the only goods and services provided consist solely of intangible religious benefits, the receipt must state that.

Make sure you have the necessary documentation.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



## Children can learn respect for God by following parents' lead

**Q: How can I teach my children to have respect for God?**

In the Old Testament, it was considered wrong to even speak the name of God aloud. Today, we often tend toward a familiarity in addressing and thinking about God that can be dangerous. We run the risk of making God our buddy and perhaps sacrificing some of the respect we should have for Him. God does not want us responding to Him out of fear, but God does want and deserve our respect—a truth our children need to learn.

One way to get our minds around this idea may be to think about how we want our own children to relate to us. I do not want my children to fear me, but I do want them to respect me. As such, there have been times when I have had to remind them, "You don't talk to me like that." The same holds true in our relationship with God.

Set a good example for your children in how you address God and in how you talk about God. Combine the casualness that characterizes any genuine relationship with an attitude of respect and reverence. Look for ways to emphasize the holiness, grandeur and greatness of God to your children. Call attention to the magnificence of creation and the mysteries of life. Demand an atmosphere of respect during prayer. Although prayers can and should be conversational, they also should be more serious than silly. Correct inappropriate casualness or familiarity when it occurs. Finally, do not allow God's name to be used in vain.

Teach your children the tension that should exist in our understanding of God and of our relationship with Him—a blending of respect with intimacy, all bound together with God's great, unconditional love.—David Garrard

**Q: My husband is really stressed out about his new job and I am worried about his health. He comes home and he cannot let go of his work problems. I try to help him but he just gets frustrated with me. I pray for him and his job but do not know what else to offer.**

Problems at work keep the mind occupied. These thoughts can produce emotional responses of worry and fear. The body releases stress chemicals to alert the body, causing heart rate and breathing to quicken. Many physical symptoms in the body result from high levels of stress: headaches, digestion, stomach discomfort, blood pressure, aches and pains.

If changing his job is not an option, then learning to cope with it has to be. Acquiring skills of relaxation will help him learn to recognize his body's signals for stress.

Here are some relaxation tips:

- Pay attention to your breathing. If you are breathing hard and fast, slow your breathing. There are many guides on how to engage in deep, abdominal breathing to change what is happening in the body.

- Pay attention to your muscles. If there are areas in your body that are tight, there is a technique called progressive muscle relaxation to help relax muscle groups.

- Pay attention to your thoughts. The art of visualization helps the mind refocus on a setting or experience that is pleasant and relaxing. The Apostle Paul gave instructions on directing our thoughts in positive ways. Visualization will help change how you are feeling.

Additional helps include massage, reading Scripture that offers encouragement and hope, and prayer that is meditative in nature. There are times in life when we are unable to put into words what we are experiencing, and the Holy Spirit will communicate our moans and groans on our behalf.

Some work situations are high stress and in order to cope, we have to be intentional to incorporate physical, mental, emotional and spiritual care into our days.—Valerie Vincent

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### PARENTING



## Korean WMU partnership focused on prayer

In 2006, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union entered into a three-year partnership with Korea WMU to encourage missions education and provide prayer support for evangelism in both South and North Korea. During the partnership, we have welcomed guests from Korea who have attended Kentucky WMU annual meetings, visited our offices and camps, and observed missions education in churches. Through the visits of Kentucky teams to Korea, we have been able to encourage their WMU and assist them with outreach through English camps.

My first trip to Korea in 2006 was a vision trip to learn more about the work of Korean Baptists. Last month, we made a second trip to Korea to help Kentucky WMU grow in our understanding of the country's needs and take the partnership to a new level in prayer.

Because of the growth of Christianity in South Korea, Southern Baptists now have a few missionaries serving there. (Korea is about 25 percent Christian and the International Mission Board is focused on sending missionaries to places that are 2 percent or less evangelized.) Yet a missionary who hosted us during part of our trip shared three reasons why volunteers still are needed in Korea:

- There are few Christian missionaries being appointed to Korea by any organization, but there are Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Buddhist and Muslim missionaries going in great numbers.

- Americans are generally loved and safe in Korea.

- Americans can open a door for the gospel that Koreans cannot.

English currently is a great opportunity for evangelism. Short-term volunteers can teach English in churches and other settings. Kentucky WMU sent a team to Korea last month to lead English camps in rural Korean churches. In one of the camps, there were more than 20 professions of faith.

In addition to reasons cited by our missionary for volunteering in Korea, I would add that Korean Baptists also are sending missionaries, often to places where American missionaries cannot go. What we do to strengthen Korean Baptist work will potentially be felt around the world.

From the beginning of our partnership, we have

prayed for North Korea. My understanding of how to pray is based on prayer requests gathered by another organization. But on this recent trip, we traveled into North Korea for a day tour of Kaesong.

As we traveled, we saw soldiers at points along the way. We were not allowed to take any pictures from the bus, only at the designated stops. From the bus we could see houses, various unidentified buildings and monuments, but saw few cars or businesses. Our guides at each stop were friendly and eager to tell us about their country. We could ask questions but did not have an opportunity to engage in significant conversations.

We drove through beautiful farm land and mountains that had little development. People live in small villages. Much of Kaesong's

small population work either in the surrounding agricultural area or in the joint industrial area just north of the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea. This area is modern because of the investment of South Korean companies. But as soon as you leave, the change is evident.

Upon returning from Kaesong, I explored Korea's history, which dates back thousands of years. The history we are more familiar with began in the 20th century when Korea came under Japanese colonial rule. With the defeat of Japan at the end of World War II, the United Nations developed plans for a trustee administration of Korea by the Soviet Union and the United States—but the plan never developed.

In 1948, a communist government was established in the north and a democratic government in the south. Each side wished to reunite Korea under their system. Unresolved tensions came to a head when North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950. Many American soldiers fought in the Korean Conflict from 1950-1953. An armistice agreement was eventually established but technically the countries still are at war.

Please pray for North Korea and for peaceful reunification. Pray for greater contact with other countries and for economic development. Pray for the spread of the gospel and for protection of believers there. Pray for the day that all Korean people know the One True God and His son, Jesus Christ.

Joy Bolton is executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

### GUEST EDITORIAL



Joy Bolton

## Evacuation brings unexpected blessing

By Gary Myers

**New Orleans (BP)**—As I prepared to evacuate from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary campus ahead of Hurricane Gustav, I would not have guessed that I would later describe the experience as an unexpected blessing.

When the prospect of an evacuation began to look probable Aug. 27, one question came to mind: What about the international students at the University of New Orleans?

My wife, Kimberly, began serving as the international student coordinator for Baptist Collegiate Ministries at UNO last year. The Hurricane Gustav evacuation would be our first since Hurricane Katrina and our first since she began working with BCM. We had a new concern that we didn't have during that last evacuation.

Kimberly found that UNO did have a plan to evacuate a limited number of students. They faced a long bus ride and unknown conditions at the evacuation site. Kimberly decided to offer another option for a few students.

Kimberly called her uncle in Hickory, Miss., and arranged to stay at his vacation cabin. He was excited at the opportunity to be a blessing to international students. Next, she contacted several students and

offered to help them evacuate. Before long, seven students were planning to evacuate with us—four from China, two from Burkina Faso and one from Bulgaria. Four of these students attend church with us at First Baptist Church of New Orleans. Another has often attended BCM events. The remaining two are new to UNO.

Instead of trying to carry all our possessions, we filled our cars with precious people from around the world. We tried to follow Jesus' command to show love to our neighbors (Luke 10:36-37). We take to heart the Great Commandments of Jesus: love God and love others (Matthew 22:37-39).

Often, when Kimberly and I have attempted to minister in Jesus' name, we have received an even greater blessing than those to whom we have ministered. This time was no different. What we meant as blessing to these seven students has turned into an unexpected blessing for our family.

The Brand family, which includes my wife's mother, went above and beyond Christian duty to show us love and hospitality. Their church, Hickory Baptist, showered us with food and attention. On Wednesday, the Baptist Student Union at East Central Community College in De-

catur, Miss., invited us to share in their noon meal. These fine Christians represented their Savior Jesus Christ well in our time of need.

Our biggest blessing has been the opportunity to spend time with these students. We anxiously watched Hurricane Gustav coverage together and cheered together when the worst of the storm missed New Orleans. We've played card games, board games and Nintendo together. We've had many meals together. We even found time to go fishing.

As we experienced "life on hold" together for nearly a week, there has been much laughter. We have become closer friends. This forced retreat from our busy schedules has been a good experience. Jonathan, my 7-year-old son, has had the time of his life. We found that life shouldn't be put on hold during an evacuation.

Kimberly and I have had several hurricane evacuations during our seven years of coastal living. It has never been anything but stressful—until now. This is the first time our evacuation has been marked by joy.

Since Katrina, the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) has become one of my favorite passages in Scripture. Jesus challenges us to go out of our way to help others. And when we do it in His name, He often showers us with blessings.

Gary Myers is director of public relations at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

## Kentucky Baptists active in Hurricane Gustav relief effort

Continued from page 1

"They love doing it because of their love for the Lord Jesus Christ," he said. "He told us we're to serve people and that's what we like to do."

According to Coy Webb, KBC's disaster relief associate, the weeklong Louisville operation went smoothly and provided Kentucky Baptists an opportunity to minister to numerous individuals.

"They've had a real positive witness ... not only on the people within the shelter, but also on our Red Cross partners," Webb noted.

Brian Quail, CEO of the Louisville area chapter of the Red Cross, expressed his gratitude for the work of Kentucky Baptists. He pointed out that before the shelter was up and running, the KBC already had pledged its help.

"We didn't even need to make a call, they were just there," Quail recalled. "They were just saying, 'Let us know what we need to do and we're with you.'"

The evacuees who took shelter in Louisville fled the Gulf Coast region just as Hurricane Gustav took aim on their homes. The Federal

Emergency Management Agency arranged for thousands of residents to be flown to shelters throughout the country once mandatory evacuation orders were handed down in New Orleans. Most evacuees did not know where they would be heading until they were on the planes, according to Joe Proctor, public affairs officer for the Louisville Red Cross.

Those who made it to the Louisville shelter spent their days gathered around televisions trying to get information from back home. They relied on networks like CNN and MSNBC for news, but the coverage did not satisfy Miles. "They aren't telling me much," he said, adding that he was getting news from his mother and brother who were staying in a hotel in Alabama.

According to news reports, New Orleans—still reeling from Hurricane Katrina three years earlier—avoided a direct hit from Gustav. That fact was hardly a consolation for Miles, whose home in New Orleans East was flooded with eight feet of water during Katrina.

He said that even before Hurricane Gustav passed through last week, the situation in his area of the city already was grim.

"You still see blocks and blocks of abandoned houses where people never came home," Miles said while standing in a food line holding his 9-month-old granddaughter.

Since Hurricane Katrina, Miles has been living in a friend's home rent free while he rebuilds it. He said that since the 2005 storm, the rent in New Orleans East has almost quadrupled, making it nearly impossible for him to live anywhere else.

After Katrina, Miles said that work was easy to come by since homes needed to be gutted and rebuilt. With Hurricane Gustav sparing the city its full wrath, that type

of work will not be as plentiful, leaving Miles at a loss for what to do as he returns home.

"To be honest, I was wishing that it tore some things up so I could rebuild, because I work for my friends and that's the only way I was surviving," he explained. Gustav "just made it more depressing, because you got to go back to the same thing."

Nonetheless, Miles said he made the decision to leave New Orleans as Gustav approached, not wanting to put his family in danger or to repeat the experience of riding out Hurricane Katrina.

The Red Cross did its best to provide for the evacuees. Upon arrival, individuals and families were checked in and given cots, blankets and hygiene kits. Shelter volunteers also offered a health and wellness area where evacuees could receive medical attention and counseling.

The Louisville YMCA and the Humana Foundation provided plenty of games and bounce houses to keep the kids occupied. The video games and movie areas also were popular places for all ages to hang out.

The shelter's busiest feature during the week, according to Proctor, was the computer area which provided Web access to evacuees "to make contact with their relatives and let them know where they are and how they're doing," he noted.

Evacuees also were treated to a day at the Louisville Zoo and the Kentucky Derby Museum during their weeklong stay in the city.

Miles expressed his gratitude for the volunteers at the Louisville shelter, adding that they had been well fed and cared for.

"They've been treating us real nice," he said. "I'm glad to be alive and I'm glad that they have good people that care."

In addition to the work in Louisville, a Kentucky Baptist disaster relief team also is staged in Thibodaux, La., manning a mass feeding unit that is expected to serve up to 30,000 meals a day, according to Webb. Thirty-two volunteers initially traveled with the unit last week and another 20 individuals joined the crew Sept. 7.

The Kentucky teams are among seven units from state Baptist conventions that are serving throughout the Gulf Coast region hit hard by Hurricane Gustav last week.

Webb noted that with the flooding that resulted from last week's storms, mud-out teams also could be mobilized in the coming weeks and that several additional kitchen units have been placed on alert.

### Funds "dangerously low"

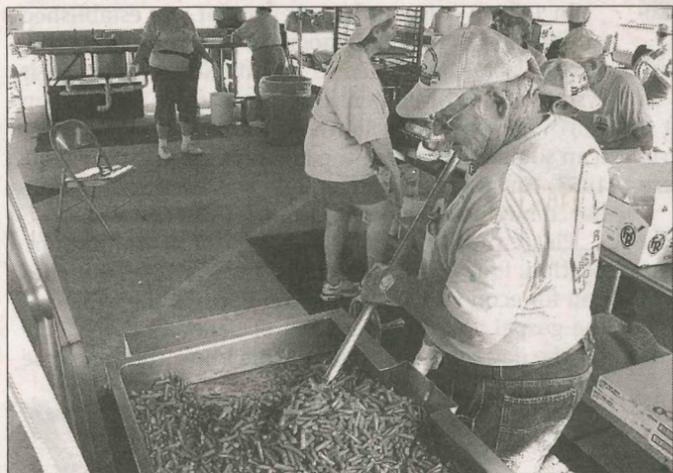
The primary concern for Webb, however, is disaster relief funding, which is "dangerously low," he said.

KBC disaster relief has been at work almost constantly since February, Webb pointed out. Beginning with responses following the tornadoes that hit parts of Kentucky in February and in the spring, as well as the Midwest floods and now, the hurricanes, disaster relief funds are being stretched thin.

"Our disaster relief fund is probably as low as it has been in many years," said Webb, who traveled overseas last week with a seven-member team to the country of Georgia, to help man a feeding unit there. "We are in real need of some support or it could make it difficult for us to respond to some situations in the future."

To donate to the Kentucky Baptist disaster relief fund, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/DR](http://www.KyBaptist.org/DR), or call (502) 489-3527, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.

**IN THE KITCHEN** Avis Mason, a member of First Baptist Church of Jeffersonville, Ind., stirs green beans at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's mobile feeding unit staged at the Red Cross shelter in Louisville. (KBC photo by Larry Brannin)



## Small groups are effective way to disciple

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Lexington—Numerous people are leaving churches to discuss spiritual matters in places such as Starbucks, Panera Bread or Barnes & Noble, according to the small group specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources.

Instead of being alarmed, Baptists ought to recognize that small groups like these offer the best discipleship, Rick Howerton said at a recent Super Saturday seminar.

Howerton said discipleship is about transforming hearts, not implementing a program.

"Jesus took 12 people and gave his life to them," noted Howerton, who at one time worked with Baptist Student Union groups in Kentucky. "He was very honest with them about who He was and who they should be. If we had done that, the world would have been Christian 1,000 years ago."

Living in close fellowship allows people to be honest about what is going on in their lives, he said.

Although the Bible tells Christ's followers to confess their sins so they can be healed, too many churches do not have a place where people can do that, Howerton acknowledged.

However, he warned that a small group puts considerable responsibility on the leader. That person is not a Bible study leader but the pastor of a small church, Howerton said.

Howerton explained that small groups should have a maximum of 12 people because

anything larger will inhibit honest sharing. It also should meet for no more than 18 months, since groups need to multiply and start others.

There are various ways to form a group, he pointed out, such as by age, geographic location or certain interests. Whatever the make up, Howerton said the leader also should clarify what kind of group is being formed.

Some examples are ones focused on Bible study, fellowship, a discipleship group with accountability, a support group or a "seeker" group where the leader primarily answers questions from non-believers.

Despite this diversity, every leader should strive to follow Paul's instructions to pass on scriptural concepts, Howerton said.

"Small groups begin with discomfort," he explained. "I'm afraid in most churches we've tried to make it comfortable so (people) will come. How are people transformed? It's through discomfort."

"We have to raise the bar for people. People will not jump any higher as long as you lower the bar. You don't have to raise the bar. When you study the Bible, the Bible raises the bar."

Howerton also suggested groups follow a three-part agenda, opening with an ice breaker, moving into Bible study and ending with a time of caring to meet needs.

At some point, he said they should also subdivide into separate gender groups so people can express issues they might not want to share with a spouse or members of the opposite sex.

# GUARDING THE GATE

## Protecting Moral Integrity

November 7 & 8

Hawk Creek Baptist Church  
London Community Center

Registration: \$50 per person

\*Group discount available

Registration Includes:	Giveaways Include:
- Conference materials	- \$1,000 Vacation Package
- Conference CD set	- Set of Nike Golf Clubs
- Breakfast on Saturday	- Hunting Rifle
- Dinner on Friday	...and much more!

\*First-come first-served as long as supplies last.



Johnny M. Hunt  
President of the Southern Baptist Convention

Dr. Hunt will be conducting a Q&A session beginning at 4:30 P.M. on Friday Nov. 7 for all pastors and church leaders.

Register Online At: [www.hawkcreekbaptist.com](http://www.hawkcreekbaptist.com)

or

Register By Phone: 606-877-9682

End-of-summer evaluation

Staffers point to relationship building as camp highlight

One of my favorite events of the year is our summer evaluation that takes place each August.

This is a special event where staff members from each camp and the administrative offices in Louisville come together. The meeting usually lasts about three days and allows time for personal and corporate reflection of the past summer's camp.

While the main focus is to address areas of improvement, we always have a focused time to share our personal high points of the summer.

As I listened to various staff share throughout the meeting, a consistent theme became apparent. In almost every case, staff highlights centered upon relational opportunities they were afforded during the summer.

Perhaps you have noticed a theme when we speak of Crossings at Cedarmore and Crossings at the Creek: It is about relationships.

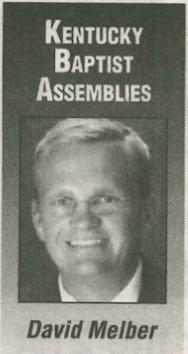
Relationships are the key to having an opportunity to share Christ. Relationships are the key to being an effective leader. Relationships are the key to healthy

families and ultimately, God's redemptive plan is about restoring His relationship to His children.

I am very blessed to serve alongside the staff that God has brought to Crossings. We can come together and, at times, hotly debate topics, and in the end realize that we all are called to live in unity as we seek to serve God.

I really believe that the relational bond our staff enjoys is quite unique in ministry. As all other believers, we are continuing along in the process of sanctification so we have our low points, but they seem to be fewer and fewer each year.

As we work toward celebrating 10 years of Crossings in 2009, I am so thankful for what God continues to do through camp ministry. Based on the trends in our youth culture, I do truly believe that the removed environment of camp is needed now more than ever as we seek to see God restore relationships to students.



David Melber

David Melber is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. Contact him at Box 99918, Louisville, KY 42069-0918; phone (502) 491-7000.

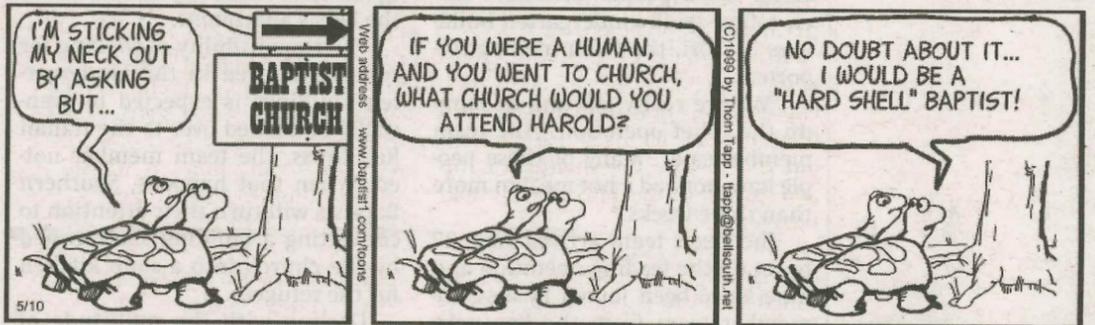
For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp

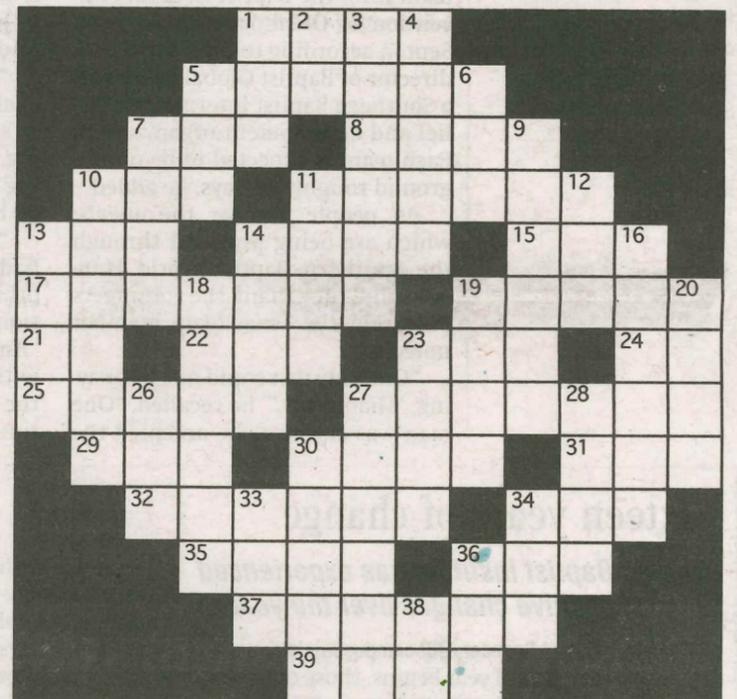


Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

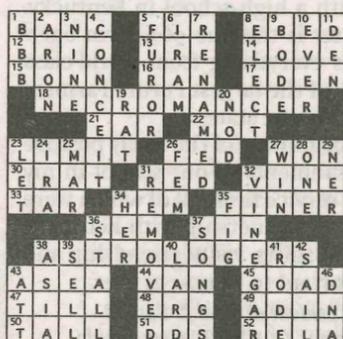
Across

- 1 Ancient Hebrew dry measure (pl.)
- 5 Fifteenth division of Psalm 119
- 7 Snare to trap game or fish
- 8 "And Samuel told him every \_\_\_\_" (1 Samuel 3:18)
- 10 Weak day? (abbr.)
- 11 "I am \_\_\_\_ at my very heart" (Jeremiah 4:19)
- 13 "Lucifer, \_\_\_\_ of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground" (Isaiah 14:12)
- 14 "Speakest to \_\_\_\_ the wicked from his wicked way" (Ezekiel 3:18)
- 15 "La \_\_\_\_" (Debussy composition)
- 17 Omen; portent
- 19 Withhold nothing
- 21 Pronoun
- 22 Black \_\_\_\_
- 23 Pronoun for a seaworthy vessel
- 24 U.S. West Indies territory (abbr.)
- 25 "And David heard ... that \_\_\_\_ did shear his sheep" (1 Samuel 25:4)
- 27 Knight's steed
- 29 O.T. book (abbr.)
- 30 Chinese canine breed



- 31 Age
- 32 Lot, to Abraham
- 34 Foot or footlike structure (zoology)
- 35 Fencer's gear
- 36 \_\_\_\_ France
- 37 "I am like an owl of the \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 102:6)
- 39 "And the veil of the temple was \_\_\_\_ in twain" (Mark 15:38)
- 9 To make suitable
- 10 Like all humans
- 11 This may be flipped
- 12 God (Lat.)
- 13 "They toil not, neither do they \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 6:28)
- 14 "Son of man, \_\_\_\_ for the multitude of Egypt" (Ezekiel 32:18)
- 16 "All the \_\_\_\_ run into the sea" (Ecclesiastes 1:7)
- 18 One who is warded off?
- 19 Author of Pygmalion
- 20 Money, in Milano
- 23 Demonstrate
- 26 David \_\_\_\_ Gurion
- 27 Stilton, for one
- 28 Late actor Will
- 30 "Be of good \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 9:2)
- 33 Catalog abbr.
- 34 "I am counted with them that go down into the \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 88:4)
- 36 Masculine nickname
- 38 Printer's measure

Last week's solution



© 1999 Barbour Publishing

Mississippi Baptist Minister Hosts:

Classic European Tour

13 Days from \$1999\*

Departs March 20, 2009 -- Start in Paris - End in Rome

Travel with other Southern Baptists and your chaplain, Baptist Minister Rev. Billy Williams. This will be Rev. Williams' sixth trip as a YMT Baptist Chaplain. Baptist services will be available some days on tour for those in the group who wish to participate. Rev. Williams has been serving for 49 years as a Baptist minister, 23 years of which he was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Gautier, Mississippi. He is currently active in Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, Mississippi. Your group will start in Paris (3 nights) and see the historic Eiffel Tower, spectacular Louvre Museum, and world-famous Notre Dame cathedral. Next, you'll travel through beautiful French and Swiss alpine landscape. In Geneva (2 nights), enjoy a city tour that includes a guided tour of the Red Cross Museum. Visit the village of Sisteron, a town founded over 4,000 years ago by the Romans. Enjoy romantic Nice (2 nights) on the beautiful French Riviera. Tour Nice's Notre Dame Church and sightsee in the village of Eze for a visit to the Fragonard Perfume Factory. Travel along the Italian-Mediterranean coast to Montecatini-Terme (2 nights) before your drive through scenic Tuscan countryside en route to see the Leaning Tower in Pisa. Stop in Florence and spend the entire day exploring the city including a visit to the Duomo, Florence's famous cathedral. Enjoy city tours of medieval Siena and eternal Rome, including the Pantheon, Quirinale Palace, Roman Forum, Colosseum and Arch of Constantine. \*Price includes European, English-speaking escort quality hotels with private bath 16 meals motor coach sight-seeing per person / double occupancy. Add \$259 tax, service & gov't fees. Airfare is extra. Call for details.

For information, brochure & letter from Rev. Williams call:

YMT Vacations Affordable vacations since 1967! 1-800-736-7300

## Ky. Baptists among groups feeding Georgian refugees

**Gori, Georgia (BP)**—Families displaced by fighting in the Black Sea country of Georgia are expressing profound gratitude for a feeding ministry Southern Baptist relief workers are conducting in Gori, according to a member of a Texas relief team.

A seven-member team of disaster relief specialists from Texas Baptist Men cooked hot meals last week for about 2,000 people who have taken refuge in 18 kindergarten buildings in Gori, the team member reported.

"We are really starting to ramp up the relief operation," the team member said. "Many of these people have not had a hot meal in more than three weeks."

The Texas team arrived Aug. 27 to set up the feeding operation and have since been joined by a seven-member team from the Kentucky Baptist Convention who left the country Sept. 4, and a 10-member team from the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma that arrived Sept. 7, according to Jim Brown, U.S. director of Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist international relief and development organization. Each team is expected to be on the ground roughly 10 days, he added.

As people receive the meals, which are being provided through the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, they thank the volunteers profusely, the Texas team member noted.

"One lady just could not stop saying, 'Thank you,'" he recalled. "One man was crying as he accepted the

food."

One woman who lives near the local Baptist church came to where the volunteers were working and asked for some soup, the team member said. She took it back to her apartment in an old paint bucket. Touched by the fact that she had nothing better to carry the soup in, one of the team members found a teapot near the church, cleaned it up, filled it with soup and took it to the lady's apartment.

The responsibility of cooking for refugees housed in the kindergarten buildings is expected to eventually be turned over to the Italian Red Cross, the team member noted. When that happens, Southern Baptists will turn their attention to converting a building shell owned by the church into a soup kitchen for the refugees.

Dealing with the multitude of details involved in conducting a relief effort has been difficult, but it is worth it to see the joy and hope in people's eyes, the team member said.

"It's an adventure, but it's been challenging," he indicated. "God is stretching our faith and showing Himself faithful. We're looking forward to seeing what God will do here."

"Please pray for logistics. We've had some interesting dealings with other humanitarian aid organizations," the team member added. "And pray the good relationships with the Georgian government and the Georgian Red Cross would continue."

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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

## Sixteen years of change

**Oneida Baptist Institute has experienced a lot of positive changes over the years**

Written by Michael Spencer, OBI campus minister

As another school year begins, those of us who call Oneida Baptist Institute home often look at what has changed during the time we have been part of the OBI faculty and staff.

When my family came in 1992, OBI's staff housing consisted almost entirely of older mobile homes. Today, those mobile homes are gone, replaced by housing of various kinds provided in large measure by the labor of volunteer groups from all over the country.

None of our dorms were air conditioned in 1992. Today, all student dorms have air conditioning.

In 1992, we were just beginning to use portable radios to communicate. Today, the entire staff is connected by radios. These are much less expensive than a system wired into every room, and they allow us instant communication from anywhere in any circumstance.

In 1992, our house parenting staff was remarkably small. Today, there are several house parents working every shift, along with other volunteers in the dormitories, allowing the house parents to concentrate on their most important concerns.

Nearly all of OBI's dorms have been remodeled since 1992, with improvements in every area. Many new classrooms have been built as well, including an entire floor of new classrooms at Baker Hall. Unused dorm space in the same building now provides better housing for volunteers.

In 1992, there was no area for campers. Today, OBI's campground has facilities for 34 camper hookups.

In 1992, we didn't have the Internet. Today, we have three state-of-the-art computer labs. A computerized school records and administration system even allows parents and students access to grades, and allows teachers to log in grades from anywhere they have Internet access.

In 1992, OBI's material donations amounted to very little. Today, our donations department has two warehouses, three staff members and two trucks. Donated food, clothing, groceries, school supplies and other items save OBI tens of thousands of dollars every year.

In 1992, OBI's Sunday worship services and twice annual revivals were led by the local Baptist church. Today, OBI has added a full complement of campus ministry programs to its existing Baptist Campus Ministry. All weekly worship services and twice yearly "Spiritual Emphasis Weeks" are led and coordinated by OBI's campus ministry. Students also have small groups, dorm devotions and BCM to help them in their faith.

In 1992, our farm was a different place. Today's farm is perhaps the finest agricultural facility associated with a high school in Kentucky. A complete ag center is the hub of a farm operation that includes everything from world-class Angus steers to one of the largest Future Farmers of America chapters in the state.

This is only the beginning of the many positive changes and improvements to our school in my family's 16 years of service here, all of which were made possible by our partnership with Kentucky Baptists. Your prayers, gifts, visits, friendship and support are as important to us now as ever.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## A resource for our students

**Conference to help students meet the Calvinist challenge**

One of the great things about Clear Creek is our focus on providing students with practical resources that will help them deal with specific issues they face in the ministry setting where they serve or will serve in the future.

One of the prevalent issues our students face today is how they can respond to the challenge of trying to be "converted" to Calvinism by some who they may encounter in their ministries.

The trustees and the administration of Clear Creek made it very clear a few years ago when we publicly stated that we do not teach, promote or endorse Calvinism. We maintain this same position today.

So, at the request of our students and church leaders, Clear Creek is offering as a resource to them, a one-day conference called, "Meeting the Calvinist Challenge." This is not a debate about Calvinism, but rather a response to the challenge of Calvinism.

Some of the topics to be presented by members of the administration, faculty and guests include, "Does the Gospel of John teach unconditional election?"; "Calvin-

ism's effect on the public invitation;" and "Questions to ask prospective pastors."

The conference will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We also would like to invite any others who want to take advantage of this resource.

The conference and materials we will distribute are free. Lunch

will be provided for a charge of \$5. Pre-registration for the conference is required in order to know the amount of materials to produce and how many people to expect for lunch. Seating is limited and registrations will be accepted until seating capacity is filled.

You can call us toll free at (866) 340-3196, or e-mail [studentaffairs@cbbcc.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@cbbcc.edu) to register for the conference.

CLEAR CREEK  
CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; Web site: [www.cbbcc.edu](http://www.cbbcc.edu); e-mail: [dfox@cbbcc.edu](mailto:dfox@cbbcc.edu)

## Home schooling is constitutional right, according to poll

By Rob Phillips  
LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville—Until last month, more than 8 in 10 Americans were at odds with a California appeals court that ruled in February that “parents do not have a constitutional right to home school their children,” according to recently-released data from LifeWay Research.

In fact, 86 percent of those polled by LifeWay in a telephone survey agreed with the statement: “Parents have a constitutional right to home school their children.”

It seems the California appeals court now agrees. In a stunning move last month, the three-judge

panel reversed itself, saying the state legislature has implicitly accepted home schooling as legal. “We ... conclude that California statutes permit home schooling as a species of private school education,” the justices wrote in their unanimous decision.

“The California appeals court shocked the nation with its ruling in February,” said Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research. “We decided, as part of a broad survey of more than 1,200 adult Americans, to get their reaction and found that 61 percent strongly agreed that the Constitution guarantees the right of parents to home school, and another 25 percent agreed somewhat.”

Eight percent somewhat disagreed, five percent disagreed strongly and two percent did not know, according to Stetzer. “Americans appear to believe that parents, not the government, should decide whether or not they should home school.”

At the same time, LifeWay found some possible agreement with the widely quoted rationale behind the court’s original ruling. The appeals court cited socialization concerns in February, ruling, “A primary purpose of the educational system is to train school children in good citizenship, patriotism and loyalty to the state and the nation as a means of protecting the public welfare.” That

was a main reason the court prohibited home schooling unless the parent had a “valid state teaching credential for the grade being taught.”

Many expressed concern that home schooling fails to provide adequate socialization and connection to broader society, often leading to weaker social interaction and skills. In the LifeWay Research survey, 54 percent of respondents agreed, somewhat or strongly, that “children who are home schooled often lack social skills.”

“As is the case with polling research, we are not asking if something is true but rather what people believe,” Stetzer emphasized. “And, it is important to note that Americans do believe that schooling at home leads to issues with social skills—and this is a perception that home schooling families need to overcome.”

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502-489-3530 or  
866-489-3530 (toll free in KY)  
ministries@kybaptist.org

\$20 by Oct. 11  
\$25 after Oct. 11  
(includes lunch)



### NATIONAL NOTES

**Judge rejects gay marriage challenge.** A New York judge has dismissed the first challenge to a new state policy that recognizes same-sex marriages performed out of state, saying the current policy is in line with state law. In a Sept. 2 ruling, state Supreme Court Judge Lucy Billings called the directive “consistent with New York’s common law, statutory law, and constitutional separation of powers regarding recognition of marriages legally solemnized outside New York.” The Alliance Defense Fund brought the suit in June, shortly after Gov. David Paterson ordered that same-sex couples who are married outside New York should receive the same rights afforded to married couples. Currently, Massachusetts and California are the only states that allow gay marriage, and a move to overturn California’s gay marriage law is scheduled for the November ballot.

**Gay pride group sues Birmingham mayor.** A gay rights group has filed a federal lawsuit against the mayor of Birmingham, Ala., accusing him of refusing to allow pro-gay banners for religious reasons. Central Alabama Pride Inc. said there was no rational basis for Mayor Larry Langford to restrict city workers from hanging banners supporting Gay Pride Week on public property. The city has hung flags or banners in support of many diverse events in Birmingham, according to the lawsuit. Langford said that he has not discriminated against anyone and called the suit a publicity stunt. He recently reiterated his position against signing a proclamation for the event, saying it is inappropriate for a government to endorse a lifestyle that God opposes.

**Florida court religious funding challenged.** Florida’s Supreme Court Sept. 3 tossed out two statewide ballot initiatives aimed at ending a longstanding ban on public funding for religious institutions. Civil liberties groups had filed suit to remove the amendments headed for the November ballot, which sought to rewrite the state constitution to allow church groups to participate in government programs, and pave the way for school voucher programs. If passed, the initiatives would have opened state funding to religious organizations. They also provided a means by which state money could be used for vouchers at private schools—including religious institutions. Florida law currently prohibits taxpayer-funded vouchers for private school tuition.

**Man who said God told him to kill is convicted.** A New Jersey man who claimed God dispatched him to “close the gates of hell” was convicted Sept. 2 of killing and dismembering his grandmother and ex-girlfriend. In finding Rosario “Russell” Miraglia, 36, guilty of two counts of murder and weapons offenses, the jury rejected a defense claim that Miraglia was on a religious mission when he killed the women in 2004. Miraglia, who struggles with a heroin addiction, testified he received a message from God to kill his grandmother, Julia Miraglia, 88, and his former girlfriend, Leigh Martinez, 31, in Ocean Township, N.J. Throughout the trial, Miraglia’s attorney contended that his client was too sick to recognize his own mental illness. Miraglia initially faced the death penalty, but when capital punishment was abolished in New Jersey in December, he became eligible for life in prison without parole. Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 24.

## Pastors & Church Leaders Conference

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Dr. David Goatley

• Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, left, one of two featured speakers, is executive secretary-treasurer of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention.

• Dr. Frank S. Page, at right, is past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and will be the second featured speaker at this year’s event.



Dr. Frank Page

To Register, call (270) 789-5520 or e-mail [jehowning@campbellsville.edu](mailto:jehowning@campbellsville.edu)  
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## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following requests associated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions efforts:

■ Pray for the medical volunteer team from Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown that will be returning from Brazil Sept. 11.

■ Pray for the Brazil partnership closing celebration team that will be in that country Oct. 1-7.

■ Pray for those attending the Partnership Missions Volunteer Team Leader Training event Sept. 20.

■ Pray for David Hale, regional prayer coordinator for On Bended Knee ministry, who has been diagnosed with inoperable cancer.

■ Pray that Kentucky Baptist churches and associations will continue to grow in their level of direct missions involvement.

For more information about partnership missions opportunities, contact the KBC partnership missions department at (502) 489-3529 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3529.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ARLINGTON**—Shiloh Church will hold revival services Sept. 15-18, 7 p.m., with **Ben Stratton**, pastor of Farmington Church, as evangelist. **Rick Yarbrough** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—**Gary Snyder** recently retired as pastor of New Hope Church.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Cedar Grove Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 14, 10 a.m., with **Billy Vincent**, pastor of Friendship Church in Greenville, as guest speaker. **The Conquerors** will provide special music. **Gerald Jones** is pastor.

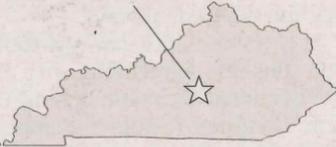
■ **GRAHAM**—Graham Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 14, 10 a.m., with **Todd King**, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church in Bremen, as guest speaker. **Glory Land Four** will provide special music. **Ronald Metheny** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **Driven** in concert Sept. 14, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

South Jefferson Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 14 with

### Spotlight on ...

#### Bradfordsville



Bradfordsville Church will hold revival services Sept. 11-13, 7 p.m.; Sept. 14, 11 a.m., with **James Griffith** as evangelist. **Donavon Burton** is pastor.

**John Coleman**, pastor of Florence Church, as guest speaker. A fellowship meal and special music will follow morning worship. **T.J. Francis** is pastor.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—Pleasant View Church will hold revival services Sept. 15-19, 7 p.m., with **Steve Rutherford**, pastor of New Salem Church in Nortonville, as evangelist. **Kerry Smith** is pastor.

## New Bible study DVDs offer modern perspective of Jesus' parables

**Nashville (BP)**—If the story of the Good Samaritan were retold with modern-day characters, what would it look like?

How about an elderly white man on a busy street playing the role of the man who was robbed, a wealthy doctor and a youth leader playing the role of the priest and Levite, and an Arab taxi driver playing the role of the Good Samaritan?

That's how a new DVD-based Bible study curriculum called "Modern Parables" retells the story in a 13-minute film. The story of the Samaritan is one of six films that are part of the Modern Parables series, which seeks to help Christians better understand the meaning behind Jesus' parables. Each DVD is accompanied with an application video in which a pastor explains and applies the parable, along with a study guide.

The series is the creation of

Thomas Purifoy Jr., a film buff who produced, directed and wrote all six films. Each one is visually unique, mainly because Purifoy borrowed ideas from various movie directors. For example, some scenes in the Samaritan film were inspired by a movie directed by Ingmar Bergman.

"I believe it's a step toward understanding the original text," said Purifoy, who got the idea for the films in the early 1990s while a student at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. "The DVDs are not an end in itself. These are simply tools that are to be used by pastors and teachers to teach the Bible and to explore how to live in the Kingdom of God."

The curriculum is aimed at small groups, although some churches have shown the films in their wor-

ship services.

"I thought the movies were great—they were very well made," said Jim Day, assimilation pastor at PaulAnn Baptist Church in San Angelo, Texas, which went through the series in six weeks in small groups. "We were able to make (the parables) very applicable to our lives."

PaulAnn's senior pastor preached a parable-focused sermon each week to complement the small group topic. Additionally, during the week when the small groups studied the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the church showed the film in the service on a special outreach day.

In addition to the story of the Good Samaritan and the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the Modern Parables curriculum also spotlights the

Parable of the Hidden Treasure, the Parable of the Shrewd Manager, the Parable of the Widow and Judge, and the Parable of the Sower.

Two Southern Baptist pastors, Gene Mims of Judson Baptist Church in Nashville, and Frank Lewis of First Baptist Church of Nashville, are among six preachers who provide application commentary for the films.

Having a pastor apply each parable, Purifoy noted, was critical.

"All good teaching goes back to two principles—exposition and application. That is, understanding the text and applying the text," he explained. "I feel that the pastoral office is the most important office in explaining the text. There's always the possibility in our modern world of people taking a story and making it whatever you want. The parables don't do that."



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

- 11** Retired Director of Missions/Spouse Luncheon, Severns Valley Associational Office, Elizabethtown.
- 12-13** Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek.
- 13** Punt, Pass & Kick, Campbellsville University.
- 13** Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Pikeville, and First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 15** Preparing for Retirement, Buena Vista Baptist Church, Owensboro.
- 16** Preparing for Retirement, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 17** Preparing for Retirement, First Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 18** Preparing for Retirement, Unity Baptist Church, Ashland.
- 19-21** FOCUS 2008, Jonathan Creek.
- 22-23** Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Golf Tournament, Cherry Blossom Golf & Country Club, Georgetown.

### October

- 3-4** Celebrate the Mission, First Baptist Church, Morehead.
- 7** Understanding Other Beliefs, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 9-11** Basic Training for Church Planters, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 10-11** Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.
- 18** Christian Women in Ministry State Leaders Forum, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 23-24** Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Haven of Rest, Inez.
- 25** 101 Workshop, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 25** Reclaiming Our Communities, First Baptist Church, Madisonville; Ashland Avenue, Lexington.
- 31-11/2** International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**BOOKS NEEDED:** I need to buy your used Christian books for my store in Louisville. Any amount, can travel. Call Ron at Refiner's Fire Books. (502) 515-3371.

**FOR SALE:** The e-book, "Get Practical." Provides good practical advice for pastors ministering in the local church. For more information, visit [www.PracticalMinistryAdvice.com](http://www.PracticalMinistryAdvice.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time Southern Baptist pastor for rural Campbell County, Ky., church. Requires at least a college or Bible school degree with 10+ years experience and is at least 50 years of age. Please send resumé to the Pastor Search Committee, Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, 11212 Lees Road, Alexandria, KY 41001.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music director for Post Oak Baptist Church in Russellville, Ky. Send resumé to [elrod@ephnet.com](mailto:elrod@ephnet.com); or mail to POBC Music Search Committee, PO Box 1694, Russellville, KY 42276. For more information, call (270) 726-7804.

**SEEKING:** Piano player for Baptist church in Shepherdsville, Ky.; Thursday nights and Sunday mornings. Paid position—salary negotiable. Call (502) 802-9535.

**SEEKING:** Part-time worship leader for Lakeside Baptist, Jefferson-town (Louisville area). Responsible for coordinating worship and overseeing the music ministry. Blended style of worship—looking to grow the ministry. Mail resumé to: Personnel Committee, Lakeside Baptist Church, 11412 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40299; or e-mail to [brian@lakesidebaptist.us](mailto:brian@lakesidebaptist.us).

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for Bethany Missionary Church in rural Lyon County. For more information, please call (270) 522-7670, or send resumé to Bethany Baptist Church, PO Box 1130, Eddyville, KY 42038.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister for South Jefferson Baptist Church, Louisville. Responsible for planning and directing music—blended worship style. Send resumé to [katmb@insightbb.com](mailto:katmb@insightbb.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth, Calhoun Baptist Church. Send resumé to: [drsams@cbcheart.com](mailto:drsams@cbcheart.com); or mail: CBC, PO Box 283, Calhoun, KY 42327.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational minister of youth (15-20 hours per week) for Buffalo Baptist Church. Minister will be responsible for planning, coordinating, directing, evaluating and being personally involved with the overall youth ministry program. For more information, contact the church office at (270) 325-3820. Please send resumé to Buffalo Baptist Church, PO Box 40, Buffalo, KY 42716, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**SEEKING:** Minister to families to work with young families and children in grades 1-5 for Woodmont Baptist Church. Complete job description available at [www.woodmontbaptist.com](http://www.woodmontbaptist.com). Send resumé to [taffsearch@woodmontbaptist.com](mailto:taffsearch@woodmontbaptist.com); or MTF Search Committee, Woodmont Baptist Church, 2100 Woodmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37215.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for growing church in Versailles, Ky. Must have some experience and be a self-starter. Send resumé to Glen's Creek Baptist Church, 4678 Steele Road, Versailles, KY 40383.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for a loving and growing church in Russell Springs, Ky. Please send resumé and DVD, CD or tape of recent sermon to: Pulpit Committee, Liberty Baptist Church, 215 Wilson St., Russell Springs, KY 42642.

**SEEKING:** Director of missions for West Union Baptist Association in Paducah. West Union serves McCracken and Ballard counties. Send resumé to 2541 Olivet Church Road, Paducah, KY 42001; or [wubaky@bellsouth.net](mailto:wubaky@bellsouth.net). Deadline: Sept. 15.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Reid Village Baptist (averaging 75). Located just outside Mt. Sterling, Reid Village is a missions-minded, giving and loving church. Please send resumé to PO Box 157, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353.

# There is work still to be done

*Three years after Katrina, opportunities for missions still abound in New Orleans*

By Adam Miller  
On Mission

**New Orleans** (BP)—More than three years ago, New Orleans residents escaped a city that, in just a few days, had changed forever. Nearly half would leave for good because they had no reason to return after Hurricane Katrina's storm surge forced Lake Pontchartrain through the city's levees and into their streets and living rooms.

Those who later returned came back to the eerie silence of a city under siege by disaster—a silence interrupted only by the buzz of construction equipment and military vehicles.

"It was like a ghost town," recalled Freddie Arnold, a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board-supported church plant missionary, who only salvaged some cast-iron cookware and crystal from his own flooded New Orleans home.

Even as the smooth notes of jazz and tourists again fill the city's French Quarter, large areas of various communities surrounding the city center may never be rebuilt.

In parts of the Lower Ninth Ward, former home sites have been claimed by overgrowth—a plight made all the more poignant as alleged corruption siphons off a multi-billion-dollar stream of government funds.

Despite a world of challenges, from bureaucracy to pocket-lining scam contractors, residents and churches still continue to repair and rebuild—some with insurance money, many with materials donated by Southern Baptist Convention churches and volunteer manpower.

From Brad Pitt's \$5 million "Make It Right" campaign to the tireless efforts of Southern Baptists, some of whom spend six months or more out of the year in New Orleans with Operation NOAH (New Orleans

Area Hope) Rebuild, volunteer labor across denominations and organizations has injected life into a city on life support following Katrina's onslaught in late August of 2005.

Since Operation NOAH Rebuild started in the spring of 2006, more than 23,000 Southern Baptist volunteers have rebuilt 148 homes, as well as made 1,200 more homes livable and 13 churches operational again.

## Called to help

"God wants us to go wherever and whenever He wants," said Andy King, a 66-year-old retired pastor, farmer and drywall specialist with the Baptist Bricklayers of Tennessee.

King started on his first rebuild project in Pascagoula, Miss., in March 2006 and also has worked in Slidell, La. He and his wife, Charlene, have lived out of their RV for most of two years, occasionally traveling back to Tennessee to help with their son's harvest on the family farm.

"I'll go home (this fall) to help with the soybeans, and then we'll be back here again," noted King, who has been "drywalling" since he was 24.

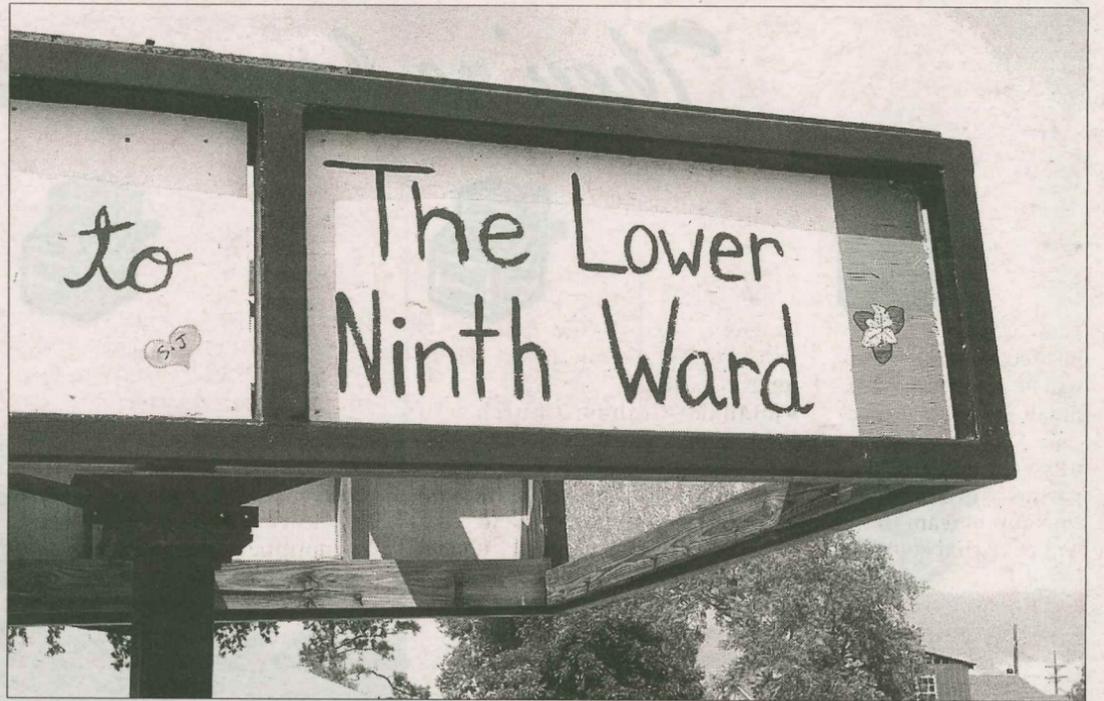
"There's nothing like seeing the faces of the people you're working for," he said. "They are so grateful."

Charlene does administrative work at the NOAH headquarters on the Mississippi River's west bank, while King is the only drywall specialist on the NOAH team at present.

"It's tough work and very few people want to do it," acknowledged King, working his spackle knife along a rough ceiling seam.

A house along Dreux Road is King's 24th renovation project and reflects how far Operation NOAH Rebuild has brought hundreds of residents and churches in three years.

The interior is unfinished but brand new. On door frames, past vol-



unteers have left behind Bible verses. Soon, interior doors and fresh coats of paint will bring the house back to life for the owners who now are temporarily living in Texas.

The Dreux Road residence also represents some of the challenges that NOAH faces as awareness wanes about volunteer needs. While the summer of 2008 drew as many as 500 volunteers per week to New Orleans, most of the volunteer labor was drawn from unskilled workers such as church youth groups.

"Unskilled volunteers are an essential part of our work down here," according to David Maxwell, Operation NOAH Rebuild's project coordinator. "But having someone who can do plumbing work or skillfully set drywall, those people are hard to come by. What we need are crew chiefs who can do sheetrock, plumbing or electrical work and teach others."

Just as Katrina changed the physical landscape of New Orleans, the storm also transformed the makeup of the city's population. The Hispanic population—particularly Hondurans—grew following Hurricane Mitch in 1998 as thousands moved in to take jobs in hospitality and construction.

Before Katrina struck, more than 150,000 Hispanics lived in the New Orleans area. Three years after Katrina, that population is growing again. A U.S. Census Bureau report in June estimated an additional 14,000 Hispanics had moved to the area in response to the rebuild.

As a result of the continued influx of Hispanics, the local construction industry, culture and ministries all have changed.

Greater New Orleans Baptist Association is placing greater emphasis on this emerging population. Some churches have ongoing ministry to homeless Hispanics who work during the day and sleep under Interstate 10 bridges at night.

New challenges also abound in inner-city ministry, said Larry Miguez, director of the Rachel Sims Baptist Center.

"Our numbers are much smaller now. They had grown real big," he pointed out. "Our teen boys program was averaging around 60 a

night. Now it's about six."

Competing youth factions have spawned violent tension in once-peaceful areas south of the business district. Now fights and gunfire break out, fueled by crowds and even squabbles involving things like MySpace.

"Some kid notices that his girlfriend is talking to another guy on MySpace and he'll get angry and possibly violent," Miguez said. The youth must learn to "solve those problems amongst themselves." ... There are great opportunities out there for ministry."

The Baptist center still serves as a hub for volunteer teams and a place where nearby residents can access computers, send their young children to ministry programs and where missions teams can come in and share the gospel.

## The work continues

The sky may be the limit for sharing the gospel in post-Katrina New Orleans, where Southern Baptists have already made a name for themselves.

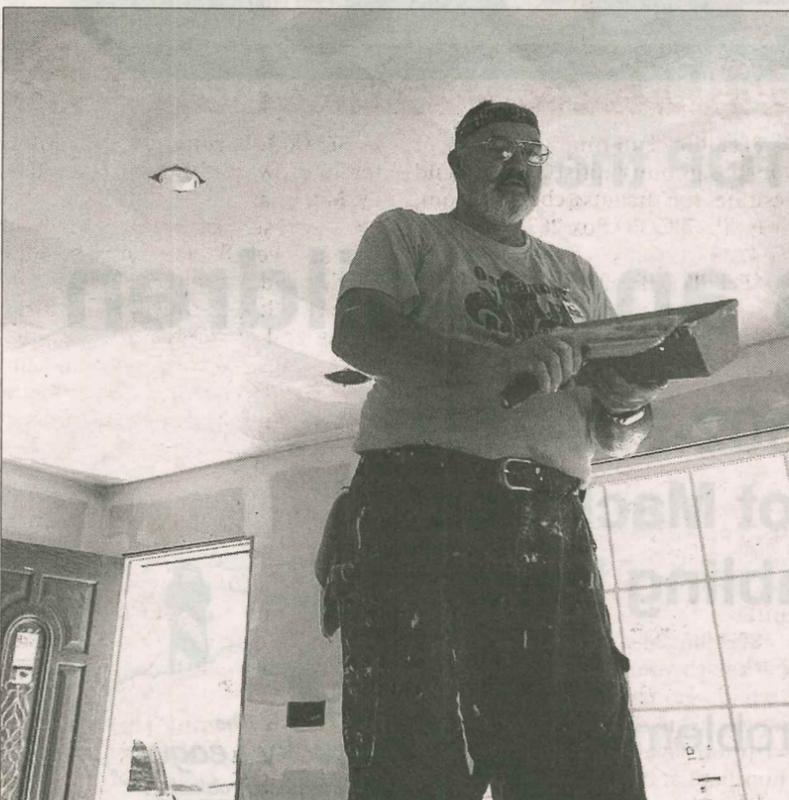
"My priest was nowhere to be found, but those Southern Baptists gave me food, water and shelter" is a common sentiment heard from Katrina victims, a sentiment that has even found its way into the New Orleans Times-Picayune newspaper on occasion.

As Operation NOAH Rebuild enters another year, its staff is looking for ways to partner with churches near and far and with Greater New Orleans Baptist Association, the Louisiana Baptist Convention and NAMB to reach deeper into the heart of the city.

While the object of Operation NOAH always has been to represent Christ in tangible ways, the focus of the operation will shift to reaching homeowners as they return home, according to Mickey Caison, head of NAMB's adult volunteer mobilization team.

"We have a real opportunity here still," he said. "After a couple of years, you can lose that opportunity as things return to normal. The needs will still be great, but people will not be open to the gospel forever."

**LEFT BEHIND** In New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward, where Hurricane Katrina's destruction has left much of the community looking like a network of country roads, some former residents are rebuilding, but many live elsewhere in the city or in other states. (BP photos by Adam Miller)



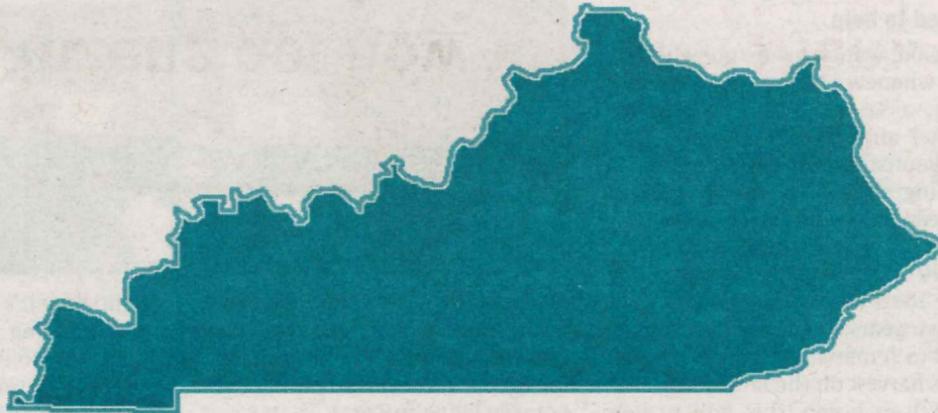
**SATISFYING WORK** Operation NOAH Rebuild volunteer Andy King, who spends much of his time finishing drywall, said, "There's nothing like seeing the faces of the people you're working for. They are so grateful."



# CITIZEN ALERT



*They're banging at the door!*



## SLOT MACHINES

(a.k.a. one armed bandits) are coming to Kentucky

# UNLESS

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