

Gulfport members learn church is not brick and mortar

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The building of First Baptist Church of Gulfport, ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, has been torn down. The congregation is rebuilding several miles to the north of the Gulf.

Gulfport members learn church not just brick and mortar

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

GULFPORT, Miss. (ABP)—Members of First Baptist Church of Gulfport

have learned a lot in the year since Hurricane Katrina destroyed their waterfront church buildings. Mostly, they've learned that a church is much more than an edifice.

"It's an exciting time for us," Pastor Chuck Register said. "Probably the most exciting thing for us has been being forced to rethink the New Testament (concept of) what really is the church. The church is not brick and mortar."

Explore the Bible Series for September 10: Without faith, it is impossible to please God

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Explore the Bible Series for September 10

Without faith, it is impossible to please God

• Hebrews 2:5-18

By Howard Anderson

Baptist University of the Americas, San Antonio

As we listen to God's word, we are challenged to grow in faith. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Faith is the substance of things hoped for. Faith is the evidence of things not seen. Faith is trust in an unknown future. Faith is the life-blood of the just. Faith is the shield of Christian armor. Faith is the guarantee of answered prayer.

Pastor uses retirement funds to help restore church

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Pastor uses retirement funds to help restore church

By Carla Wynn

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—Pastor Lawrence Gaines has spent \$35,000 of his personal retirement funds to help restore his church building, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

"We've gotten to the point now where we just don't have any other (financial) source to keep going," said Gaines, pastor of Little Zion Baptist Church in New Orleans, earlier this summer.

Couple left family, friends to run volunteer base in Gulfport

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The North Carolina Baptist Men's disaster-relief team has centralized operations in the Gulfport National Guard Armory with plans to build 600 homes.

Couple left family, friends to run volunteer base in Gulfport

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

GULFPORT, Miss. (ABP)—It would take an act of God for most people to quit their jobs, move away from friends and family and commit to living for two years in a camper in Katrina-ravaged Gulfport, Miss.

Martha and Eddie Williams were no different, but they chose to respond to that act of God with cheerful hearts. Along with four other couples, the Williamses, who enjoyed a “comfortable, normal” life in North Carolina, moved to Gulfport March 1 to oversee Hurricane Katrina relief and construction operations for two years.

Katrina giving did not hurt other charities, group says

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Katrina giving did not hurt other charities, group says

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—Despite expectations to the contrary, donations to many charities not related to Hurricane Katrina held steady or increased last year, according to reports from Charity Navigator, a nonprofit watchdog group that monitors the financial health of charities.

The most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history, Katrina caused roughly \$75 billion in damage since it hit land Aug. 29, 2005. One year later, nonprofit leaders and watchdog groups are evaluating how much money was given to Katrina relief, what it was used for, and how that giving affected other charities.

Inexperience hurt effectiveness of some Katrina relief groups

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Inexperience hurt effectiveness of some Katrina relief groups

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—Although Hurricane Katrina inspired an unprecedented relief response, some of the groups who answered the call were inexperienced and ineffective, a charity watchdog group has concluded.

The deluge of new and inexperienced charities that responded to Katrina complicated the relief picture, said Sandra Miniutti, director of external relations for the New Jersey-based Charity Navigator.

Teens from FBC Wolfforth help Buckner get facilities back to normal

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Relocating school supplies, desks and books was a daunting task for Buckner Children's Village in Beaumont until the members of First Baptist Church, Wolfforth stepped up to the task. More than 60 members of the church helped move the on-campus school back to its original location after Hurricane Katrina evacuees had occupied the space for nearly a year.

FBC Wolfforth volunteers help Buckner get facilities back to normal

By Jenny Pope

Buckner Benevolences

BEAUMONT—When Hurricane Rita threatened to strike the Gulf coast Sept. 21, 2005, more than 60 residents of Buckner Children's Village and Calder Woods, a Buckner retirement community, evacuated together in a two-week, statewide shuffle from one location to the next.

And though most of the physical damage from the storm—broken fences, downed trees, water-logged carpets and sidewalks—have since been repaired, the two communities continue to mend the emotional damage one year later.

BaptistWay Bible Series for September 10: God is open to hearing our questions

September 5, 2006

Posted: 9/02/06

BaptistWay Bible Series for September 10

God is open to hearing our questions

• Psalms 3, 13, 22

By David Wilkinson

Bible Studies for Life Series for September 10: The victories God provides are worth remembering

September 5, 2006

Posted: 9/02/06

Bible Studies for Life Series for September 10

The victories God provides are worth remembering

• Joshua 4:1-3,8,10-11,17-24

By Kenneth Lyle

RIGHT or WRONG? Am I prejudiced?

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RIGHT or WRONG? Am I prejudiced?

My church is mostly white, but a few people of darker complexion have begun to visit a little, since the neighborhood around us is changing. I sometimes say that I really am not prejudiced toward other groups. But I find myself struggling a bit as to whether I should or could address this dynamic we are facing.

Loan Corporation cuts interest rates

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Loan Corporation cuts interest rates

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

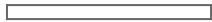
DALLAS—The Baptist Church Loan Corporation recently voted to reduce its interest rates for new and existing loans by three-fourths of a percent, the largest drop and lowest rate in the corporation's history.

During its recent meeting, the corporation's board of directors lowered interest rates by three-fourths of a percent to 1 percent below prime—the base rate at least 75 percent of the nation's 30 largest banks offer on corporate loans.

Cartoonist brings Christian faith to the funny papers

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Characters
from Kevin
Frank's
syndicated
cartoon
strip
Heaven's
Love Thrift
Shop.
(Photos
and art ©
2006
Kevin
Frank,
Dist. by
King
Features
Syndicate,
Inc.)

Cartoonist brings Christian faith to the funny papers

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—Christian cartoons are nothing new. They're everywhere from gospel tracts to Christian magazines and newsletters. But a Christian cartoon as a nationally syndicated feature in secular newspapers? That's almost unprecedented.

Although cartoonist Kevin Frank's strip involves Christian characters working in a place called Heaven's Love Thrift Shop, he doesn't consider the strip to be Christian.