

SBC surveying churches about Cooperative Program

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By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The Southern Baptist Convention is surveying its affiliated churches about the primary giving channel for the SBC and state conventions in an effort that could lead to changes in the way Southern Baptists support missions.

The survey asks church leaders about their thoughts on the Cooperative Program, how often they speak about it in their churches, their financial relationship with their state convention and what they think the Cooperative Program supports.

Displaced Kenyans in Uganda

receive help from Baptist World Aid

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WASHINGTON (BWA)—Kenyans in Uganda who fled [the rioting in their country](#) have received assistance from Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the Baptist World Alliance.

The aid from the international Baptist organization was granted after an appeal from Hillary Wafula, a Baptist pastor in the border town of Busia, Uganda, where 1,700 Kenyan refugees are housed in an elementary school.

Another 2,500 displaced Kenyans are in the Ugandan town of Malaba, which also borders Kenya, and an estimated 3,000 are in several villages bordering the two east African countries. Five thousand displaced people are on the Kenyan side of the town of Busia, “who can cross any time” into Uganda, Wafula said.

In his letter to Alex Wanyama, general secretary for the Baptist Union of Uganda, Wafula said, “One pastor who is hosting a number of Kenyans is overwhelmed by the number and the debts he is making to make them survive.”

Racetracks unite in push for slot machines

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By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN—Pari-mutuel racetrack owners have come together to make another push for being able to install slot machines at their sites.

[Texans for Economic Development](#), which represents track owners, breeders and others in the racing industry has \$1 million set aside for campaign contributions in the 2008 legislative races. Another \$2 million is set aside for lobbying effort.

Bible Studies for Life Series for January 20: Breakthrough in justice

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Bible Studies for Life Series for January 20

Breakthrough in justice

- Psalm 7:1-17

[By Steve Dominy](#)

Explore the Bible Series for January 20: God wants us to value everyone

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Explore the Bible Series for January 20

God wants us to value everyone

- Genesis 1:27, 9:6; Matthew 5:21-22, 22:36-40; Mark 10:46-52

[By Donald Raney](#)

First Baptist Church, Petersburg

Pick up a newspaper in any town on any given day and you almost certainly will find numerous stories dealing with the need for welfare reform or universal health care, instances of discrimination or hate crimes, and debates over abortion and the death penalty.

Christians in Kenya administer aid as unrest continues

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Christians in Kenya administer aid as unrest continues

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (ABP)—Still-simmering violence sparked by disputed elections in Kenya continues to affect Baptist organizations and

missionaries in the previously stable nation.

Gunfire erupted Jan. 7 in Limuru, a small town less than half a mile from Kenya Baptist Theological College. Several people were killed and almost 200 young men were arrested in the melee, according to Don Ashley, a professor of religion at Wayland Baptist University. The Texas-based university's Kenya campus is housed at the theological school.

Wayland classes in Kenya will proceed as scheduled

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Wayland classes in Kenya will proceed as scheduled

LIMURU, Kenya—In spite of reports of violence about two-thirds of a mile from Kenya Baptist Theological College, Wayland Baptist University will begin regularly scheduled classes there Jan. 14.

Gunfire erupted Jan. 7 in Limuru, Kenya, a small town approximately 1 kilometer from the campus. Don Ashley, associate professor of religion at Wayland, said several people were killed and almost 200 young men were arrested in the melee.

Ashley and his family traveled to Kenya prior to Christmas. He will teach in

the upcoming term in Wayland's Kenya program. While the violence has shaken his family, they are currently safe at the Kenya Baptist Theological College campus, he reported.

A major problem in recent days had been lack of supplies, but Ashley said supply lines have reopened, although it remains difficult to get food, water and fuel. While the campus has sufficient supplies, officials there have stopped accepting refugees for fear of running out.

Pinkston named Texas WMU interim director

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Pinkston named Texas WMU interim director

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Nina Pinkston has been named interim executive director-treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union of Texas.

Texas WMU President Nelda Taylor said Pinkston was selected for the position because of her strong administrative skills, as well as her passion

for mission work in Texas and around the globe.

Baptist Children's Home runaway killed on San Antonio highway

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Baptist Children's Home runaway killed on San Antonio highway

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

SAN ANTONIO—A 15-year-old resident of San Antonio Baptist Children's Home was killed by a car Jan. 4 as she ran across U.S. Hwy 90.

She was attempting to cross the highway, which borders the campus, with four other youth. None of the others were injured.

BaptistWay Bible Series for January 13: There are none so blind

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BaptistWay Bible Series for January 13

There are none so blind

- Mark 8:11-26

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

Southern Baptists respond to critical hunger needs in Kenya

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Southern Baptists respond

to critical hunger needs in Kenya

NASHVILLE—Southern Baptists are responding to critical hunger needs in Kenya, where an estimated 250,000 people have been driven from their homes by violence that broke out after the controversial results of December's presidential elections were announced.

Food packets containing rice, wheat flour, maize meal, beans, vegetable cooking oil and salt will be distributed in seven cities, with the International Mission Board's Baptist Mission of Kenya coordinating the project. Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist international relief and development organization, has approved the release of \$25,000 from the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund to fund the relief effort.

"Many displaced people have congregated at safe locations like police stations, Bible schools, Catholic missions and evangelical churches," said Mark Hatfield, director of Baptist Global Response work in sub-Saharan Africa. "This project will assist 2,500 families in seven cities where Baptists have access to centers of refuge."

The turmoil has made travel difficult, so Southern Baptists have worked through Baptist Convention of Kenya leaders to assess the situation on the ground, Hatfield said.

CBF field personnel safe as

violence continues in Kenya

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CBF field personnel safe as violence continues in Kenya

By Carla Wynn Davis

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

ATLANTA—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's two Kenya-based field personnel are safe despite violent unrest in the East African country following recent controversial presidential elections.

Melody and Sam Harrell, who have served in Kenya with CBF since 1999, are based in Nairobi.

Melody and Sam Harrell
