



Cooperative Baptist
FELLOWSHIP of Arkansas

NEWS

3 Innwood Circle, Suite 109 • Little Rock, AR 72211
501.223.8586 • Website address: www.cbfar.org

Serving Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission.



Augustine Palmer of Lacombe, LA shares the stage with President Bill Clinton at Delgado Community College in New Orleans. On Friday, September 15, President Clinton announced that the Little Rock Rotary Club 99 would receive a grant from the Bush Clinton Katrina Fund. CBF of Arkansas formed a partnership with Rotary Club 99 to join with CBF of Louisiana in restoring the homes in this historic African American community. Over 60 homes have been restored.

RAYFLECTIONS



By Ray Higgins

Coming off of a hot, dry summer, I'm thinking CBF is cool!

The latest issue of Fast Company gives a brief history of cool. Cool has been the word since the 1940s while other words such as hip, boss, groovy, outtasite, gnarly, tight, and sweet have gone hot and cold.

It's always cool to be a part of what God is doing in the world. The stories you read in this newsletter show and tell the ways CBF is partnering with God and one another in the world to be the presence of Christ to people in need. In places like the Arkansas Delta, Lacombe, and New Orleans. Through the lives of ordinary people, and pastors, and chaplains.

Your support for our July 2005 to June 2006 Budget was very cool! CBFAR received \$50,096.79 directly from churches, \$80,001.15 directly from individuals, and \$45,693.94 from churches and individuals through CBF Atlanta. In addition to other income of \$11,828.64, you gave us a total income of \$187,620.52 compared to our expenses of \$183,009.21. You are cool! *Continued on page 3*

Busy Summer Ministry in Helena Concludes with Two-Week Volunteer Missions Blitz



Approximately 200 Helena-West Helena children came to a volunteer-run day camp during the All Church Challenge. Photo courtesy Nick Skipper

By Carla Wynn, CBF Communications

ATLANTA – The community of Helena-West Helena, Ark., gets busier and busier each summer. Through a swimming camp, basketball tournament, several large construction projects and a two-week missions blitz called All Church Challenge, ministry in Helena is growing – in number and substance.

The ministry is part of Together for Hope (TFH), the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's rural poverty initiative with 20 of the poorest counties in the United States. Phillips County, Ark., of which Helena-West Helena is the county seat, is one of those counties. Ben and Leonora Newell are the Fellowship's field personnel serving in Phillips County, where one of their largest ministries



The Newells are CBF Together for Hope field personnel to the Arkansas Delta.

is the summer All Church Challenge (ACC).

Held July 22- Aug. 4, ACC had about 200 local children come to activities that involved nearly 220 volunteers from Helena-West Helena and from as far away as North Carolina.

Volunteers helped with community gardening, construction, cataloging books for the new mobile toy and book lending library called "Stories on Wheels Bus," and a children's camp that included arts and crafts, music, golf, soccer, tennis and softball/baseball. One night, volunteers *Continued on page 4*



Closing ceremonies at the Community Center for the 2006 All Church Challenge in Helena, AR.



Annual CBF of AR Fall Luncheon

Speaker: Dr. Jack Snell, former Interim Coordinator for CBF Global Missions, currently Director of CBF's Global Field Ministries

Date & Place: Tuesday, Oct. 31st / 11:45am -1:15pm
Calvary Baptist Church, 1901 N. Pierce, Little Rock 72207
(501.663.8303)

Call CBFAR's office 501.223.8586 or email rhiggins@cbfar.org to make your reservation. \$10.00 per person

Fellowship & network with your CBF of AR family!

Disaster



Katrina, One Year Later

By Charles Ray

Depending on your age you remember where you were on certain days of your life. Some of mine are:

December 7, 1941	Pearl Harbor
April 12, 1945	FDR dies
November 22, 1963	JFK killed
September 11, 2001	Trade Center

For a few million Americans August 29, 2005, will forever be burned into their minds. They were streaming away from the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf coast hoping to avoid a massive storm. Thousands stayed, and sought refuge any place they could find. More than 1,300 would not survive the day.

The next morning some good news was coming out on the New Orleans area. The storm had missed a direct hit on America's number one convention city. However, to the surprise of many, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, a major city nearly 100 miles inland was begging for help. The city was completely shut down. All businesses were closed or destroyed. All power was off for miles. Streets and highways were impassable. Hundreds were trapped in their home from the massive pile of trees and power poles that were down.

As with most such disasters, we stayed glued to our TVs. Then it got much worse. On day two the levees broke in New Orleans and a major city stopped functioning. We watched as the Coast Guard rescued 100s from roof tops, and as water threatened the thousands staying in the Superdome. Part of our country was coming apart at the seams and we could not seem to do anything about it.

JANUARY, 2005

Just eight months before Katrina, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-Arkansas, had hired its first full time Coordinator, Dr. Ray Higgins. For ten years Ray had been the pastor of a large Little Rock church. Even that experience and several years of teaching at a major seminary, had not prepared him for this kind of need. Arkansas was a sister state to both Louisiana and Mississippi. We must help, but how? While these questions were being pondered Hurricane Rita hit more of Louisiana and a large part of Texas. Texas had just received 200,000 evacuees from Louisiana, and now they had to be moved further north. In a matter of hours, our state received as many as 60,000 people with needs never before imagined in this country.

By now Ray had asked me to join him in deciding how to best respond to the cries for help coming from the south. In week two we made some local calls and received \$700 for supplies to be taken to Hattiesburg. A trailer was rented, packed, and we left at 6 AM. A few hours behind us was a group from Rolling Hills Church in Fayetteville. It would be a long day. We returned home at 4 AM the next morning.

Over the next several days, I agreed to accept the position of Disaster Response Coordinator for Arkansas, and hopefully give Ray some relief. By week three I was able to get into the New Orleans area. Not unlike Ray, I was not trained for this job either. Even this early, CBF was on the scene. A man who was to become more than a brother to me, Dr. Reid Doster, had been named Disaster Response Coordinator, Louisiana. If God had wanted me to work with someone in this effort, He could not have picked a better person, unless it had been Ray, or my wife.

SEPTEMBER, 2006

So what have we done, you and CBF-AR?

MONEY

While keeping faith with us you subscribed our budget and kept the office open, the bills paid, and our ministries fully funded. You donated an additional \$26,309 for Katrina relief. In addition, CBF National supplied \$62,400 for the design and building of a shower trailer, equipment trailer, and some communication items. And we can never forget the family that decided that their Christmas gift would be a check for \$6,000 to be used to help those with the most need.



Roy Peterson (right) and Joe Timmons with a team of 16 volunteers from Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, work on two homes in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans and one in Lacombe during the Labor Day Weekend.

LABOR

Several teams from our partner churches made numerous trips into Louisiana and Mississippi to help those without. They often worked beside teams from all across North America. As much as 20% of all volunteers have come from Canada.

A book could be written about the personal stories of many of these volunteers. There was Don Savoie from Nova Scotia. Don was the first person I met on the first trip into the Gulf area. I wondered if he wasn't a little crazy, standing ankle deep in sewage tearing out the flooded home of a family that had nothing left to salvage.

Response

Don would return home but kept coming back. Many months later Don would share with us that he came simply wanting to help. Over the months that he met and worked with CBF folk, he came under conviction. On a trip home he shared his decision with his wife and on Easter Sunday they were baptized.

The house where I first met Don was the home of Dr. Shovie Ducre, senior pastor of a Baptist church in Slidell. At the time we did not know Shovie was a pastor, or even a Christian. All we knew was that he was in trouble. Weeks later as I was helping repair his church, he asked how to learn more about CBF. At the 2006 CBFAR Spring Conference in Little Rock, Shovie was introduced as the pastor of the newest affiliated CBF church in North America

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

In the first month after Katrina the Little Rock Rotary club became a partner with us in Arkansas. For nearly a year they have poured scores of workers into the Lacombe, LA area working with CBF. In addition they have raised more than \$60,000 that has been spent on restoring order to people who had no hope before they came.

ON TO NEW ORLEANS

Before entering the City proper, our combined efforts have gotten more than 60 families back into housing in Lacombe. Rebuilt two churches in Slidell that provides community for 100s of believers. Rebuilt a building, and with our friends at CBF LA, furnished the kitchen equipment for a free food service that had been serving 250 hot meals a day, six days a week. Designed and built, in Little Rock, a shower trailer for CBF-LA that is currently being used in New Orleans.

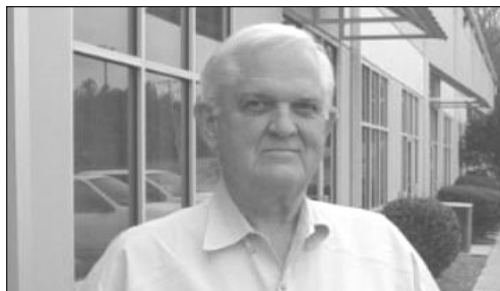
Thank you for your money, your back, your prayers, and your faith in us.

To God be the glory!
Charles Ray

Rayflections continued from page 1

In July we began a new fiscal year with a cool budget of \$221,000. We need your support again this year to invest these dollars in people's lives as God opens doors for us to be Christ's presence in the world through CBF missions and ministries.

This Fall, we will be offering an annual Fall Luncheon and regional fellowship gatherings around the state to connect you with the people, resources and opportunities of the CBF movement. The Newells, Charles Ray, and I look forward to being with you. That'll be cool! Ray



CBF Arkansas supporter awarded highest Rotary Award

In the June 20, 2006 meeting of Little Rock Rotary Club 99, the eighth largest Rotary Club in the world, Mr. Sam Chaffin was awarded Rotarian of the year citation. Sam shared this award with Mr. Butch Lomax. For the last several months Butch has served as coordinator of volunteers for the Rotary/CBF-AR partnership repairing homes in Lacombe, LA.

Mr. Chaffin, married to CBF-AR moderator-elect, Charlie Chaffin, has made countless trips to Lacombe, spearheading the Herculean effort to help those suffering the most with the least chance of recovery. Having heard a plea for help from Arkansas Disaster Coordinator, Charles Ray, a year ago, Sam has not slowed down in his leadership and involvement in the recovery program. Through his efforts more than \$60,000 has been donated to rebuilding homes in Lacombe.

CBFAR Officers 2006-2007

Jim Russell, Moderator, Bentonville

Charlie Cole Chaffin,
Moderator-Elect, Benton

Sue Cato, Recorder, Little Rock

Jim Maloch, Past Moderator, Little Rock

Leann Broadway, Little Rock

Ralph Cloar, Little Rock

Mike Handy, Pine Bluff

Billie Heflin, Little Rock

Kevin Heifner, Little Rock

Vivian Hoskins, Helena-West Helena

Randy Hyde, Little Rock

Charles Long, Hot Springs Village

Matt Lumpkin, Little Rock

Russell Miller, Mountain Home

Mike Mullally, Jonesboro

Lane Northcut, Little Rock

Roy Peterson, Little Rock

Jon Poteet, Little Rock

Shirley Reid, Little Rock

Steve Rogers, El Dorado

Todd Rouse, Jonesboro

Roy Runyan, Swifton

Steve Sheely, Fayetteville

Carolyn Staley, Little Rock

Lane Strother, Mountain Home

Chester Thompson, Camden

Rod Torrence, Little Rock

Together for Hope —

Helena - Continued from page 1

distributed donated school supplies and uniform vouchers to children.

Not only does TFH aim for economic development in Phillips County but also community development, which involves local residents catching a vision for how to better their own community. The outside volunteers that come for ACC can be an inspiration for local residents.

"Our major goal in our community is to provide for things that are community owned and community driven, not driven by outside volunteers," said Leonora Newell.

This year – after all the ACC volunteers left – local residents operated a third week of children's camp. A local church used the new Stories on Wheel Bus as a part of their camp. The bus, remodeled by First Baptist Church of Huntsville, Ala., was stocked and organized by outside volunteers during ACC. The goal is for local residents to use the bus in the community, just like residents did at their children's camp.

"This is an example of how the community is catching a vision of what they can do," Leonora said.

During ACC, a community worship service provides an experience of working together each week. A local African American pastor preaches in a primarily Caucasian church, and the next week the Caucasian pastor preaches in the primarily African American church.

"The purpose is to unite our community and support each other and worship the way we ought to worship – together," said Leonora.

More than 30 local and outside churches combined were involved in TFH activities this summer – with 27 of those helping with the All Church Challenge.

A swimming camp June 19-30 brought more than 100 children and 30 adults to the community pool. While this was the fourth year that volunteers have come to Helena to teach swimming lessons, it was the first year that local volunteers took more ownership by outnumbering outside volunteers.

Next summer's swimming camp will have the benefit of a new pool house, which volunteers began constructing this summer. Funded jointly by the city of Helena-West

Helena, Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., and First Baptist Church of El Dorado, Ark., the pool house is being built by volunteers and scheduled for dedication in the spring.

Another building project also started this summer. Every other Saturday, up to 20 volunteers come to Helena to help build a new facility for New Light Missionary Baptist Church in downtown Helena. Scheduled to be completed this fall, the building is being constructed by 60 percent volunteer labor with the remaining work supplemented by subcontractors.

"It's a great project and a way to get Arkansans involved in what we're doing [in Helena]," said Ben Newell.

Although completing both construction projects is important, the Newells said the real value is the process of working together and building relationships with local residents.

Helena also held TFH's second annual basketball tournament, involving an estimated 70 teenagers. A group from Nada, Ky. – another area of TFH work – traveled to Helena for the event, which was done in partnership with Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Divided into intentionally diverse groups led by FCA summer interns, the teens did team-building activities and community service projects.

"There were a lot of fun times, and the kids heard and lived out the love of Christ in tangible ways," Ben said.

Three teens expressed new faith in Christ and others renewed their faith commitments.

The basketball camp's purpose is "to instill hope and the sense of togetherness with kids that face similar situations in totally different geographic areas of the United States," Ben said. "We hope that these experiences will be the ones that shape their future understanding of the global world that we live in."

Started in 2001, Together for Hope is a 20-year initiative of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to come alongside and learn from the relationships formed in rural communities in 20 counties across the nation in a long-term effort to address domestic poverty. For more information on Together for Hope, visit www.ruralpoverty.net.

Newells' Plans and Thoughts for 2006-07

- Work on Kingdom Enterprise model as a strategy for Christian economic development in poor rural areas. Hope to convene an initial meeting sometime before Christmas.
- Co-host with CBF AR a mission event in Helena that targets young families. This event would include a Saturday of working in mission for each individual (kids, men, and women). Then an entertainment time on Saturday night for each family in a setting that would allow them to get to know each other better as well as get to know some local supporters while having some fun. Then we want to end by meeting on Sunday morning and hearing about the state of Global Missions in CBF (presented by Rob Nash, new GMO Coordinator) as well as breaking off into groups to hear more about a topic of interest to the families and individuals. This would include topics on Together for Hope Delta work, Kingdom Enterprises, Disaster Response, and CBF of AR. We would end by worshipping at our church in Helena, New Light MBC. People could stay in the 5 motels we have in the area or at a local church if they want.
- Lead a regional group of TFH individuals to see if there are economies of scale for mission activities and resources in our region. This would be working with state offices in MS and LA.
- Finish the Helena Pool House erection before Christmas.
- Work to help mobilize people to help finish the New Light MBC building.
- Speak in churches in AR, NC, SC, and VA. We especially want to work with Ray Higgins by speaking in churches around the state in an effort to get the word out about CBF AR and the mission work in the Delta.

Helena

Church In A Day



Individuals and teams from churches across Arkansas continue to spend Saturdays in Helena building a new worship and education facility for the New Light Missionary Baptist Church. Join their pastor, Rev. Ed Wade, and his members along with Russell Miller, a businessman from Mountain Home and project coordinator, as they sheetrock and complete the building. Call Russell Miller (501.454.4844) or call or email Ray Higgins in the CBFAR office for updated information.

Helena-West Helena Swimming Pool House



CBF-AR Partners With Helena-West Helena for Swimming Pool House. Ben and Leonora Newell, CBF missionaries to the Delta and CBF Together for Hope Coordinators in Phillips County, recently announced an agreement with the city to provide a new swimming pool house at the city park. Volunteers from CBF partner churches in North Carolina and Arkansas are building the facility. CBF and partner churches are funding the project. As of mid September, the walls are in place and roof trusses are being made. Labor for the electrical work is being donated. Volunteer teams are needed now to finish the facility.

Stories On Wheels



The Royal Ambassadors group along with members of First Baptist Church, Huntsville, AL, turned an unused bus into a children's mobile library for the Newell's use in the Delta. Included in the picture are members of the Huntsville church, children from Helena-West Helena, the Newells, CBFAR Coordinating Council member Vivian Hoskins of Helena-West Helena, CBFAR Moderator Jim Russell, and CBFAR Coordinator Ray Higgins.

Rolling Hills Baptist Church, Fayetteville takes life skills VBS to Elaine, AR.



Four members of Rolling Hills Baptist Church in Fayetteville invested July 10-14 doing a creative Vacation Bible School with the children in Elaine, AR.

Curriculum creator, Pat Kienzle, and Robin Kirk, both members of Rolling Hills were assisted by Pastor Steve Sheely and Associate Pastor Eric Holt.

38 Children were divided into three groups: K through 4th grade; 5th through 8th grade; and high school.

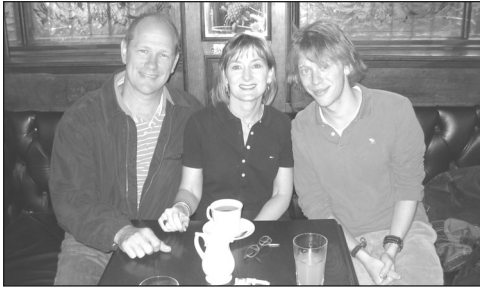
The Rolling Hills team created a store with items they purchased and brought with them. Students filled out employment cards, showed up for work at specific hours, punched a time clock, and organized the items into a bag for home products, school supplies, groceries, and toys. Students earned "money" for their time worked and spent that money in the store during closing exercises on Thursday morning. Students earned enough money to buy one bag each of home products, school supplies, and groceries, with enough money left over to buy additional toys.

Pat Kienzle, a veteran public school counselor in the Fayetteville School District, was awarded a grant for her idea several years ago and has used the idea in public school classrooms. She adapted the idea for Vacation Bible School and includes Bible stories that emphasize the character traits related to being a good employee and becoming a Christian.

Rolling Hills Church has adopted Elaine as its summer mission project, focusing on the children in the community and the public school system, and expanding CBF's Rural Poverty Initiative called Together for Hope into another town in the Delta.

Inside CBF

Sabbaticals for Pastors



David, Roxanne and Nathan Johnson in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

by David Johnson, Senior Pastor of FBC Mountain Home

Sabbatical – what a novel (Biblical) idea! I am extremely grateful for the gift of sabbatical that God gave through our church, FBC of Mountain Home, at the initiative and recommendation of a wise, caring and courageous Personnel Committee! They helped our church realize a pastor's need for extended time out from under the daily pressures of ministry to rest, recalibrate, and re-energize, and that it would not only benefit the pastor, but the congregation as well! A sabbatical is a wonderful gift!

The 12 weeks of my sabbatical were spent 1) retracing and reconnecting with my spiritual roots -revisiting people and places of deep spiritual significance and impact, 2) reading and daily journaling, 3) interviewing large church pastors about leadership in that setting, and 4) resting and taking personal "down time" away with my family! The bulk of the first six weeks were largely on my own, and the second six weeks were spent mostly with my family. A highlight of the entire sabbatical was our trip to the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland! This trip was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream for my wife, who as a little girl began listening to her father's stories about Ireland! All total, the travel by car, plane, boat, bus and train exceeded nineteen thousand miles!

During the sabbatical I revisited the church where I came to know Christ as a seven year old boy, the church where I experienced the call to preach at the age of thirteen, and every church but one

which I was privileged to serve over the 31 years of pastoral ministry. These places were filled with memories of our children's births and growing up, memories of God's working in our ministry, and marvelous, loving people God had placed in our lives! I spent time with mentors, childhood friends, and extended family! These were times of refilling and refueling my physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual tanks! A time of replenishing those energy reserves that get depleted, a time of receiving and taking in after years of giving out!

Due to the loving generosity of our congregation, and a dedicated group of staff who led and served during my absence, and a gift from national CBF, I was able to experience a Sabbath from the relentless demands of ministry! God spoke to me in many ways and through many people! I will be processing the experience and all it taught me, both personally and professionally, for a long time to come! May the end result be God's glory and the advancement of His Kingdom!

Convergence Workshop is a Treasure Chest

by Steve Sheely, Pastor of Rolling Hills Baptist Church in Fayetteville



Soon after I arrived on the Arkansas landscape, a smiling Ray Higgins quickly began to invite me to participate in numerous opportunities. Staff development seminars, Pastor Peer learning groups, CBF of Arkansas Council Coordinating Council and something called "Convergence." Little did I know what I was in for.

Convergence is a four-part workshop conducted by the Center for Congregational Health. Convergence began in North Carolina, but recently spread west of the Mississippi to an event sponsored by CBF of Arkansas, CBF of Missouri and CBF of Oklahoma.

It began in October of 2006 and ended in May. The Convergence workshop I attended was held at the College of the Ozarks near Branson, Missouri.

Convergence is a workshop designed to equip pastors and ministers to be more effective leaders. The four sessions, each lasting several days, cover topics including Leader's Self Awareness, Leadership Settings, Leadercraft Skills and Leadership Synthesis. Presentations, discussion, inventories, exercises, worship and Bible study were part of the experience. We even took a "field trip" to University Heights Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri. Chris Gambill, from the Center for Congregational Health led the workshops and Lavonn Brown, Pastor of Northhaven Church in Norman, Oklahoma was our group mentor who offered his wisdom and experience along the way. Guest speakers were also invited, including Bo Prosser, CBF's Coordinator for Congregational Life and Harold Phillips, the Coordinator of CBF of Missouri.

It's hard to quantify how valuable Convergence has been for me as a pastor. Not only did I learn a variety of powerful skills, but I learned a lot about my gifts and my limitations. I learned how to help my church move forward into the future God has in mind for us and I also learned that I cannot do everything and I need to take care of myself and live in balance. I would encourage any full- or part-time church leader to prayerfully consider participating in Convergence next time it is available. It will make your ministry stronger, it will be an asset to your church and it will help you thrive as a ministry professional.

Steve Sullivan, Chief Chaplain Resident in the Department of Pastoral Care at the University of Arkansas Medical Science, has received chaplain endorsement by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Atlanta.



**DISCOVERING
GOD AT WORK**

By Chaplain
Alan Tyson,
Tyson Foods, Inc., Rogers



One of the things I have had to relearn over the years is this: God frequently works in ways that I could not have imagined. Paul expressed this in his letter to the Ephesians 3:20-21 – Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

In July 1998 I was told my services were no longer needed by Tyson Foods, Inc. Six months earlier Tyson Foods, Inc. had acquired Hudson Foods, Inc., a competitive poultry company. For five years I had served as the Corporate Chaplain for Hudson Foods, Inc. and we had 16 part time chaplains employed at our plant locations. To say that I was disappointed is an understatement!

I could never, in my wildest imagination, have foreseen what was going to happen in the future! I had dismissed the possibility of ever serving Tyson Foods again.

**GOD WAS AT WORK PROVIDING
FOR MY NEEDS**

I am blessed to have a retirement benefit for my 23 years active duty service as an Army chaplain. But, that is not adequate to live on, and, besides I thought, "God is not through with me yet!"

In September I began work part-time as the director of a community counseling center for John Brown University under Dr. Gary Oliver. In January 1999 I learned of a full time chaplain's position at St. Mary's Hospital in Rogers. They had never had a non-Catholic chaplain on their staff. I applied for the position and got it. I worked both in the hospital and with hospice. I loved what I was doing. One year later the director left and I was promoted to be the director of pastoral care services. I had 3 Catholic sisters and 4 part time chaplains as a staff. I expected to continue this job until I retired.

GOD WAS PREPARING TYSON FOODS

John Tyson became the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors in the fall of 1999. The entire structure in the top leadership of the company, that had decided to discontinue chaplaincy, began to change as John began reorganizing and bringing his vision to bear upon the company.

GOD WAS AT WORK PREPARING ME

Of course, I didn't know that I needed preparing! I was a pretty proud guy when it appeared that I was going to lead the chaplain's work for a company of 65,000 people and at 65 locations. You might say "I had a big head!"

On August 9, 1999 I suffered a cardiac arrest while on vacation with my family at Orange Beach, FL. I am alive today only by the grace of God; two professional trained paramedics that used a defibrillator three times to restart my heart; and a wonderful cardiologist that placed a stint in my left anterior descending artery. Let me be very clear! What I am about to share says nothing about me, but it is about discovering God at work.

WHAT IS THE WORK OF A CHAPLAIN?

First, let me tell you what it isn't. It is not our task to turn the workplace into a church place! Chaplain Joe Simmons from Blountsville, AL, said it best. "We are not here to do church, but to be church."

One of our chaplains made a comment on a recent monthly report – "I will continue to pray for God's people here at Tyson's." Well, perhaps we could have a pretty good discussion about who are God's people at Tyson's? Is it just the church going folks? Or, is it all of the people at Tyson's?

Some of our chaplains lead prayer groups or some kind of study group at their plant. My biggest concern with this is that the people who attend are generally the same people who are in Sunday School and Church on Sundays. As they say, "You may just be preaching to the choir!" Yes, the choir needs ministering to, but there are more people on our plant who do not go to church than do go.

So, what is the work of the chaplain? It is bigger and different than what you think it is!

When I was invited to return to Tyson Foods in October 2000 it was for the express purpose of providing chaplain coverage to the corporate HQ as well as to direct the company wide program as it grew. That was cool! I knew how to do that. But I had to get out of my comfort zone because it was so much larger than I could imagine.

Our work is to be agents of God's grace. I don't know about you, but I am not always graceful towards people. Recently I took my children and grandchildren out to eat at a restaurant in Nashville, TN. The service was really poor. It was evident that the young lady waiting tables in our areas had more people than she could adequately serve. She brought us menus, but never came back to take our order. A manager walked by and I told her we would like to order. She took it and then got on the regular waiter and told her, "If you need help you need to ask for it." They were supposed to bring out biscuits for us to snack on and they took forever to get there. The waiter never got around to refilling our drinks. I had to hunt her down to get the check. When I finally got the check and was ready to fill in the amount for the tip, my daughter told me, "Tip her real well. The lady has had a bad night and I will reimburse you for it." That stopped me in my tracks. I was going to give her what she deserved!

Aren't you glad that God has not given you what you deserve?

Let me share with you an inspiring example of one of our chaplains who was absolutely an agent of God's grace in the workplace. The following is a letter written to Johnette Sanchez, wife of deceased Chaplain Al Sanchez, by James Taylor, the plant nurse at the Mexican Original plant in Fayetteville, AR.

(Article to be continued in the November issue of CBFAR)

Chaplain Alan Tyson (Not related to the Tyson family) is endorsed for chaplaincy by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. He can be contacted at (479) 290-8723.



Cooperative Baptist
FELLOWSHIP
of Arkansas

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Dr. Tom Logue, Coordinator Emeritus
Charles Ray, Disaster Relief Coordinator
Allyson Cook, Administrative Assistant

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In memory of Dr. Bob Stagg by Dr. Tom & Kathy Martin
In memory of Dr. Bob Stagg by Shane & Dianne McNary

Pictures of the CBFAR
Spring Conference
that appeared in
the Summer 2006
Newsletter were taken
by J. V. McKinney
of North Little Rock.

Dr. Rob Nash
is CBF's new
Coordinator
for Global
Missions



He developed a passion, vision and leadership for global missions as he grew up on the mission field. He honed his knowledge and skills for global missions through serving as a pastor and as the Dean of the School of Religion and International Studies at Shorter College in Rome, GA. Rob and his wife Guyeth have a daughter and a son. CBFAR extends our welcome, partnership and prayers to Rob Nash and CBF's Global Missions team.

**Purchase copies of
Dr. Tom Logue's
book**



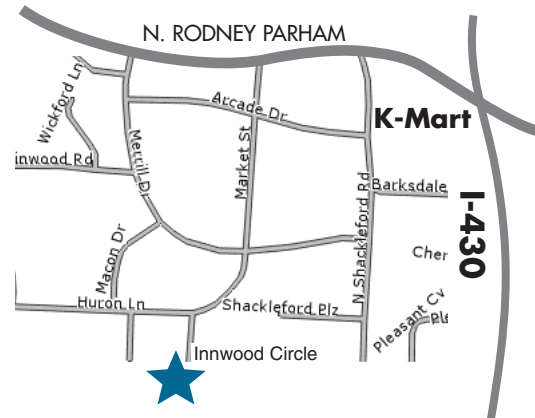
Jim Maloch

**God,
Could
You Talk
a Little
Louder?**

**From the CBFAR
Office**

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