Many Ministries, Lives Devastated by Katrina

TE Richard Bailey, pastor of Plains Presbyterian Church in Zachary, La., opened his church to hurricane victims, and had this to say about PCA churches affected by the storm: “This is a big blow to Southeast Louisiana Presbytery. We may have lost three churches, two church plants and a Ministry. They are:
Desire Street Fellowship plant
Desire Street Ministries
Three Rivers Presbyterian Church in Covington
Trinity Presbyterian in Slidell
Redeemer Church plant in New Orleans
Grace Presbyterian Church, in Metairie.
The fate of all of these is unknown at this time. Life around here has changed for a while. Pray that we will minister and the church should during this lengthy event.”

It has been confirmed by a second source that Desire Street’s facilities and the homes of its staff are almost, if not completely, submerged. Information at time of printing was only available for PCA churches affected, but no doubt the same affect has come upon countless other denominations and ministries. The needs are many and dire.

Financial contributions should be designated for “hurricane relief” and can be made through:
Desire Street Ministries:
desirestreet.org; networkforgood.org;
[Desire Street is the inner city ministry of Mo Leverett, RTS visiting professor]
Mission to North America: pca-mna.org
The American Red Cross: redcross.org,
The Salvation Army:
Salvationarmymusa.org
Charity Accountability:
Charitywatchdog.org and give.org

Check the IR Weekly for Clean-up Updates

“I’m Lost”

“I held her hand tight as I could and she told me ‘you can’t hold me’. She said, ‘take care of the kids and the grandkids.’” Mr. Jackson reported about losing his wife to the hurricane’s torrential flooding. “We have nowhere to go. I’m lost, that’s all I had, that’s all I had. I don’t know what I’m going to do.”

Photo and quotation from BBC News.

Volunteers Needed, Potential Trip In The Planning Stages

Adam and Beth Young are looking into putting some kind of relief effort/trip together through Desire Street Ministries. Adam and Beth worked with Desire Street before coming to study at RTS.

Some of your churches or other organizations may be organizing such a trip already, but for all those who are interested, Adam and Beth Young will be working in conjunction with Desire Street Ministries (and possibly other churches along the Gulf Coast) to organize a relief effort as soon as possible. Right now needs are being assessed and we are waiting for wisdom from New Orleans on the best timing and strategy for such a trip. Stay tuned to your email and the IR for more forthcoming information.

ayoung@rts.edu; byoung@rts.edu

Miscellaneous Volunteering Information

The IR does not recommend driving by yourself to the disaster areas in hopes of rescuing someone from their attic. You’d be a greater benefit if you join a relief organization. The American Red Cross has a HQ in Orlando and is training and mobilizing volunteers daily. So is the Salvation Army. You can visit their websites at www.redcross.org and www.salvationarmymusa.org. Many other organizations are out there!

Counseling Available to RTS Students

If you or someone in your family is struggling emotionally or spiritually, do not hesitate to call or email Chuck DeGroat (cdegroat@rts.edu), or stop in and visit him at his office in the faculty wing. If you’re a student, counseling is encouraged as a part of your growth toward full-time ministry. It’s also discounted for students and their families. Chuck is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and teaches several counseling and theology courses here at the seminary.
## Important Dates To Remember

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
<td>Sep 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day to Add a Class</td>
<td>Sep 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Picnic</td>
<td>Sep 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day to Drop a Class</td>
<td>Sep 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Week</td>
<td>Oct 10-14</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
<td>Nov 24-25</td>
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<td>Last Day of Class</td>
<td>Dec 5</td>
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<td>Term Paper Deadline-11am</td>
<td>Dec 7</td>
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<td>Finals</td>
<td>Dec 8-13</td>
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<td>First Day J-term</td>
<td>Jan 2</td>
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## Women In Ministry

**Women In Ministry** is a ministry for all women affiliated with RTS that provides fellowship, fosters connection to the broader seminary community, equips us to build the kingdom in our respective callings, and encourages us to live passionately in submission to Christ. Meetings are held every other Thursday evening at 7pm at RTS. Come join us for the following events:

- **September 8 - First Women In Ministry Meeting**: 7:00 p.m. at RTS with guest speaker Dr. Reggige Kidd.
- **September 22 - Campus and gender-wide event**: Guest speakers include RTS President Frank James and his wife, Carolyn. All RTS students and their spouses are invited to this special event.

**October 7 & 8 - Women’s Retreat** at Hilton Cocoa Beach Riverfront with Mrs. Becky Hunter, wife of Joel C. Hunter, Senior Pastor at Northland, A Church Distributed. The retreat will begin with a dinner at 7pm on Friday and will last until 2pm on Saturday. The early registration cost is $55 by September 15th. After that date, the cost is $65. Scholarships are available. To register or sign up for carpool, contact Cheryl Crowe at 407-756-4603 or jccrowe@genevasschool.org.

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## Student Cabinet Nominations

We are now accepting nominations for the 2005-2006 RTS Student Cabinet. If you or someone you know would like to serve on this year’s cabinet, please email your nomination to Rachel Blackston at rblackston@rts.edu by Thursday, September, 8th. The purpose of the Student Cabinet is to promote Christian community among students and between the faculty/administration and students. Please include the year and degree program of the nominee.

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## Meet the Job Gurus

**Need a job** while you’re here at RTS? Contact Adam Young at ayoung@rts.edu

**Need a call to ministry** when you leave RTS? Churches are looking for YOU. Contact Rachel Blackston at rblackston@rts.edu

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## Hebrew Reading Group

**Fridays at 7:55 am at Starbucks near Red Bug and TuskaWilla**. We’re currently reading through Genesis. Come and translate or just chill and read along.

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## Babes in Christ

Send in digital pictures of your newborns to news.orlando@rts.edu and we’ll be happy to print them for all to celebrate with you!

**Note**: BatDog is neither a baby nor a human, for he is BatDog

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## Women In Ministry Lunch

Attention all RTS women! Gather in the conference room this Wednesday from 12-1pm for a free lunch with your fellow female RTS-ians.

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## “One School, One Book”: One Movement at RTS

This fall the entire seminary community plans to read and reflect together on a common book, both in the classroom and beyond. The book is **Truth in All Its Glory: Commending the Reformed Faith**, by William Edgar of Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. It is available for only $9 in the campus bookstore. Start reading, and join the conversation!

“The heart of Reformed theology is to credit all good things, especially the comprehensive plan of redemption, to God and to no one else.” (p. 19)