

## New Relationship with TN CBF

We were blessed with a new experience this spring. We attended our first Tennessee CBF meeting. Ircel Harrison, TN CBF Coordinator, invited us to attend and asked if we would lead one of the break-out sessions. The meeting was held April 22, 2006 at First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, TN and was attended by approximately 325 people.

We accepted the invitation and since we are working with "Together for Hope," CBF's rural poverty initiative. We led a breakout session comparing the charity model of addressing the needs of the poor to the community development model. Although there is a place for charity in helping the poor, charity alone does not help the poor to lift themselves out of poverty. Community development allows the members of the community to work together to build the community of their dreams. It is a hand up, not a hand out. Attendance was good for our session and the attendees participated well.



*Nick Skipper leads breakout session.*

There was an exhibit hall where various organizations were able to display exhibits that told about their particular work. We met new people and also saw some familiar faces.



*L-R: Ann Wilson (Volunteers for China), Ann Skipper, Nick Skipper*

Ann graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro in 1978. Driving through the campus, it was obvious that the campus has changed since then. So many new buildings have been added and more are under construction. It appears that MTSU is doing well these days.

We were very pleased with the Tennessee CBF and how they are involved in God's work both in Tennessee and further afield. Hopefully, we will have future opportunities to be involved with Tennessee CBF.

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## McCreary County, KY Extreme Build 2006

We have just returned from the first ever McCreary County, KY Extreme Build. McCreary County, KY is one of the 20 poorest counties in the U.S. as identified by "Together for Hope," CBF's rural poverty initiative. Extreme Build 2006 was the product of a partnership between the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship (KBF) and the McCreary County Community Housing Development Corporation (MCCHDO).



Dalton and Brenda Perry

The goal was to build a quality home for Brenda Perry. Brenda is courageously raising her three grandchildren: Brandi, J.T. and Dalton. Over a year ago, nine-year-old Dalton suffered complications from diabetes and lapsed into a coma. Dalton now lives with permanent brain damage.

Brenda dreams of the day when she can bring Dalton home, but the state would not allow that to happen until the family had a home equipped for Dalton's special needs. Her present home does not meet that standard.

Over 120 volunteers from all over Kentucky and two other states answered the call for help. Local volunteers from McCreary County joined in. Together they built a beautiful new home designed specifically with Dalton in mind, and they did it in just one week.



Roof trusses being put into place on the Perry home.



Brandi, J.T. & Brenda

Although not 100% complete, a dedication ceremony was held on Friday afternoon, July 14 to give Brenda Perry the keys to her new home. She was also presented with a fam-



Heather French Henry, Miss America 2000

ily Bible that had been signed by all the volunteers. Brandi and J.T. were also presented with their own Bibles.

Heather French Henry, Miss America 2000, was on hand to sing at the dedication. Heather also presented a special concert the night before as a way of saying thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard all week in the heat and humidity.

It takes a lot of people and organizations to make a project a success. Habitat for Humanity provided several of their team leaders for this project. Charlie Gatton, construction manager for the Extreme Build, is also a Habitat volunteer. Christian Appalachian Project allowed the volunteers use of their community center for breakfast and dinner meals. They also provided shuttle buses to and from the job site.



Shuttle bus provided by Christian Appalachian Project.

The Eagle/Sawyer Volunteer Fire Department let their fire hall be used as the place where lunch was served to the volunteers. Several churches and organizations provided food for the lunches. Kroger and Walmart donated food and drink. Some building materials, furniture and appliances for the house were also donated thanks to the determination of the McCreary County Schools Community Center.



Day five of the build

We spent the week photographing and videotaping the build and associated events. We were also responsible

for providing the house with a family Bible that had been signed by all the volunteers. Brandi and J.T. were also presented with their own Bibles.

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Nick Skipper photographing the build.

for the project blog. Each morning we added new articles and photos to the blog at [cbfmissions.blogspot.com](http://cbfmissions.blogspot.com). This allowed family members and churches back home to see what the volunteers were doing and keep up with the progress of the build. Christian Appalachian Project allowed us to use their internet connection to do our work.

We have added a short video of the dedication to our website [www.blmm.com](http://www.blmm.com). We have also produced a video about the build as a commemoration of the whole experience. The DVD includes the commemorative video plus outtakes of various events of the week. A CD of still photos that we took during the week will also be included. The cost for both the DVD and CD is \$7.00. To order a copy, send your name and address with a check made payable to BLMM to:

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Group photo of Extreme Build 2006 volunteers in front of Perry home.

## We Survived Grand Camp

This summer we had our grandsons, Kelby(14) and Blake (8), stay with us for two weeks for Grandcamp. They did arts & crafts, went swimming at the lake, visited Dollywood and got to hear the wolves howl at Bays Mountain Planetarium & Park.

We also visited Appalachian Caverns. The boys thought it was neat to see bats hanging from the ceiling of the cave. We also saw catfish and turtles in an underground river that ran through the cave.



Kelby & Blake with Pepaw & Miss Ann at Appalachian Caverns

Kelby and Blake also invented their own entertainment. A garden wagon became a



Here they come...

They made their own slip 'n' slide with a large sheet of heavy plastic and a lawn sprinkler. They spent hours sliding down the wet plastic until they were black & blue with bruises and lacerations. They had great fun, though.



Slipping & sliding

During their visit, they went to Miss Ann and Pepaw's Cooking School. We taught them how to cook various foods including their favorite—vegetable soup. They were eager to learn (and more eager to eat). They went home with their own copy of the recipes so that they could practice their cooking skills at home.

We all had a great time, and we're looking forward to next year.

high speed shuttle to the bottom of the slope in our backyard. It was a bit hair-raising watching them zoom down the hill.

Their need for speed still wasn't satisfied.



...and there they go!

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## We Need You!



Nick & Ann Skipper

*In order for us to do the work that God has called us to do with Together for Hope we need your prayer support and your financial support. We ask you to partner with us as we serve in Partners in Hope.*

*Please designate your contribution for Nick & Ann Skipper's ministry and send it to:*

*Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
P.O. Box 101699  
Atlanta, GA 30392-1699*



## It's in the Mail

Or it could be. Most of you receive this newsletter via email. If you would like to receive a paper copy, please let us know. We will be glad to mail you one.

