



“When it gets out of the newspaper headlines and off the evening news is not when (giving) needs to stop. It needs to keep going for months to help these people get their lives together.”

**Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen**  
*after a visit to the Union campus Feb. 8*

“I personally wrote a check last week to Union University and I want Southern Baptists to do the same. Twenty million dollars is a doable amount for Southern Baptists and we need that quickly, because the needs are here now.”

**Frank Page**  
*president, Southern Baptist Convention*

# Rebuilding Union

“You can’t rebuild lost lives, so the No. 1 priority is making sure everyone is safe. The fact that you all did what you had to do is a great credit to you as a school and administration.”

**Michael Chertoff**  
*U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security*



## From Charles A. Fowler Senior Vice President for University Relations

Dear Friends,

What an unbelievable spring semester this has been! Like so many of you, I was overwhelmed by the extent of the damage caused by the February 5, 2008 tornado. However, as we have removed rubble, recovered students’ belongings, and struggled to return to a sense of normalcy, we are continually aware of the faithfulness of God on our community. It is truly a miracle that no life was lost, a fact which has given us a new realization of



our dependence upon God. As we face massive needs over the coming year, we know that just as we needed God’s hand of protection in the midst of the storm, we are utterly dependent upon his hand of provision afterwards.

In all her history, Union University has never faced financial challenges of this magnitude and urgency. We remain confidently hopeful that we will emerge from this traumatic event stronger and more resilient than ever. However, there is much work to do and many obstacles to overcome before we open the next chapter in Union’s history. As we take

stock of what will be required for our recovery, four primary areas of need have been identified.

Rebuilding Projects	\$12,000,000
Operational Losses	\$2,500,000
Campus Infrastructure	\$2,500,000
Student Scholarships	\$1,000,000
<b>Total Needs</b>	<b>\$18,000,000</b>

Meeting the needs in each of these areas will be pivotal to our recovery efforts and continuing success.

Thankfully, we have already received generous support from our community, alumni, and friends around the world. But with needs approaching \$18 million, we need your help now more than ever. Will you consider making a gift to the Union University Disaster Relief Fund? Every contribution will help to rebuild our campus and enable us to advance our Christ-honoring mission. Thank you for your continuing prayers and support for the Union family.

Gratefully,  
**Charles A. Fowler, Ph.D.**  
*Senior Vice President for University Relations*



## A few commonly asked questions

### What are Union's plans to replace the demolished Hurt and Watters complexes?

Union University broke ground Feb. 22 for 14 new residence life buildings on the site of the former Hurt and Watters complexes. The new buildings will include more than 700 private bedrooms—a few more than the pre-tornado total.

### How quickly can this be accomplished?

A 10-year plan before the tornado to replace Hurt and Watters complexes has now become a 10-month plan. Completion of the new residence life complexes should come fall semester 2008.

### How will the new buildings improve the overall experience for residential students?

The new on-campus housing will go far beyond simple replacement of the lost buildings.

Across the entire 14-building complex, there will be an additional 45,000 square feet when compared to the total pre-tornado residential space. This added square-footage is prompted by the need for a second bathroom within each apartment suite and other amenities that prospective parents and students expect.

### Will the buildings be stronger than the structures they replace?

The Hurt and Watters residence life complexes were built in 1975. Since that time, building codes and the expectations of college students have changed.

“What that storm did? Yes, it blew the campus apart, but it blew all of their souls together. That was the Lord working.”

**Terry Wright**

*(’81) father of current Union student Molly Wright*

### Won't all these improvements be expensive?

Beyond replacement cost, anticipated expenses are in excess of \$6 million.

### In addition to the lost rooms, what about replacing the commons areas in Hurt and Watters?

Work on the commons buildings will begin in early 2009 at a total cost of about \$4.5 million.

### Apart from rebuilding the campus, what must be done to meet the financial needs of students and their families?

Just as with the University, this tornado has created significant financial losses for students. These storm-related expenses are presenting challenges for families. Therefore, some additional financial aid is needed to help families recover from the storm and assist students with educational expenses.

### Won't insurance payments cover the losses?

Not entirely. Some losses are capped at fixed amounts that are inadequate to repair the level of destruction seen on Union's campus. Some coverage provides only for replacement costs. It is not possible to replicate a 1975 building project in 2008 and expect to meet code requirements and consumer expectations.

The university will also face significant challenges due to the business interruptions and displacement of residential students associated with the tornado.

One example: Centrifuge programs for summer 2008 are canceled. Union is the most popular Centrifuge venue, annually attracting about 5,500 campers to campus from across the Southern Baptist Convention. ❖



Beyond the building code required in West Tennessee, Union University is voluntarily complying with codes for coastal Florida that are designed to protect against 110 m.p.h. winds. The new buildings will feature 2' X 6' frames rather than the standard 2' X 4' construction.

### What about safe rooms?

Safe rooms will be incorporated for first floor apartments in each of the 14 new buildings. These will be structurally-reinforced bathrooms with heavy metal doors that will be large enough to accommodate everyone who lives in the building.

“What better proof is there that this school is training students to integrate their faith into all of life than the way these students responded to the storm? Now the only question remains as to whether you and I will put our faith into action as well.”

**Charles Colson**

*on “Breakpoint,” a nationally syndicated radio program, March 4, 2008*

“I love Union and I'm only a freshman. I can't imagine what the juniors and seniors feel like.”

**Caroline Beffa**

*Union freshman, Farmington, Mo.*



“The devastation here is hard to visualize, even on TV...To see (the destruction) in person really makes such a lasting impression.”

**U.S. Senator Bob Corker**

*after a Feb. 9 visit to Union's campus*



"As I drove across the campus (Feb. 16), things had already changed dramatically. Much of the debris was already being hauled off. It's going to be a new day at Union University."

**Morris Chapman**

*Union trustee and president of the SBC Executive Committee, after presenting a gift from the committee for \$100,000.*

## How to give

- You may send a check payable to Union University and designated for the Disaster Relief Fund. Mail the check to 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, TN 38305
- You may give online. Go to [www.uurebuilding.com](http://www.uurebuilding.com) and click "online" in the upper right-hand corner of the page. This will open a giving page for the Disaster Relief Fund. Here, you may give on a secure server using Visa, MasterCard or Discover.
- If you have questions about disaster relief and would like to speak with someone in Union's advancement office, call 1-800-338-6644

"Union University merges faith and learning and provides Christian education the way it ought to be done."

**Jack Graham**

*pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, Texas—among the first congregations to contribute to Union's Disaster Relief Fund.*

## A Gift for Union

Seven-year-old Macy Scott took an interest in post-tornado news coverage about Union. Instead of receiving gifts at her birthday party, Macy decided it would be better to ask guests for contributions to Union's disaster relief fund. She delivered those Union gifts to Hammons Hall shortly after her Feb. 27 birthday. Macy is the daughter of David and Leslie Scott of Jackson. Leslie is enrolled in Union's M.Ed. program.

