

MARCH 2003

CBF *fellowship!* COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

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MissionConnect: Living the Call Within Communities and Beyond

CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS field personnel Anne Burton was inspired to missions service, in part, by her involvement at Calvary Baptist Church in Waco, Texas. And Burton, who serves among international students in Los Angeles, is not alone.

Seven Calvary members, including Burton, serve as CBF global missions field personnel in Los Angeles, Detroit, Paris and Nairobi, Kenya. The church partners with its "hometown" field personnel by praying for them, serving with them during mission trips and giving to CBF's Offering for Global Missions.

By empowering and supporting Burton, Calvary is ministering beyond its community – to international students in Los Angeles who, in turn, can reach the world.

Burton teaches international students conversational English and helps them find a place of community and fellowship – and, in the process, shows them God's love.

Because many students come from parts of the world

where missionaries cannot go,

reaching out to them is "an

extremely significant mis-

sion," Burton says. "The students

who are coming here represent the leadership of the future in government, politics, economics, education and religion," she adds.

"We've got to see the world that has come to us, here in the United States, and respond to the mission that God has given us," Burton says.

The shared ministry of Burton and Calvary is one of several highlighted through *MissionConnect* – the focus



Anne Burton photo

University of Southern California students from Hong Kong, India and China commemorate the end of their summer conversational English classes taught by CBF field personnel Anne Burton.

of CBF's 2002-03 Offering for Global Missions spring emphasis. With the theme, "Living the Call ... Within Communities and Beyond," the offering's *MissionConnect* emphasis challenges individuals and churches to live the call in their communities and beyond through volunteerism.

MissionConnect features North American-based ministries and describes ways to connect with the missions sites to help provide needed ministry resources.

Besides its partnership with CBF field personnel, Calvary Baptist Church also ministers [continues p. 2]

2002-2003
**Offering for
Global Missions**
Goal: \$6,100,000

within its own community – a neighborhood once attractive to potential residents now faces many challenges including high crime and poverty rates. The church resolved to stay in the community, seeking to reach out to the neighborhood – not by “fixing” it but by being in relationship with its residents, says Calvary pastor Julie Pennington-Russell.

Several members are doing this by becoming “intentional neighbors,” moving into the neighborhood and providing an effective witness by building relationships. Calvary sponsors an English literacy ministry for the community’s Hispanic residents, and many members participate

MissionConnect Needs

Los Angeles International Student Ministry

- Postcards from your city or state for use in conversational English classes (Write a brief description of what is unique about your city or state.)
- Pens and pencils
- Measuring cups and measuring spoons along with a favorite recipe for a baked item (cookies, cake, bread, etc.)
- Baby and toddler toys
- Inexpensive cowboy hats and bandannas for an annual summer “hoe-down”
- Group games (Dominoes, Uno, Taboo, Pictionary, Frisbees, etc.)

Contact: Anne Burton at (818) 409-9117 or <Anne_L_Burton@hotmail.com>

in the local Meals on Wheels program.

CBF field personnel Angel and Jason Pittman lived and ministered as intentional neighbors near Calvary. Now they serve in Detroit among some of the most neglected and impoverished people there.

“Being in relationship with the poor changed my life,” Jason says. “It changed my view of why they’re there and how they got



Nathan Porter photo

Walter Pearce and Fran Porter participate in Calvary's outreach to senior citizens, one that includes a local Meals on Wheels program.

there. It really gave me a desire to live life with them and to be a part of bringing hope and holistic ministry to the least of these.

“Our church family has been very important in our process of being called and becoming missionaries,” Jason emphasizes.

Describing Calvary’s ministry, Angel adds: “We’re definitely on the threshold of some great things at the church in terms of going out and meeting the needs of the neighbors.

“I feel that I have come to a place that I can respond and say, ‘Yes, I will go anywhere for you, Lord,’ ” Angel says. “But I think that everybody can say ‘yes’ in their own way. I don’t think that it has to be across the sea — it can be across the street or across town — but I think everybody is given a unique place by God to fulfill their calling for missions.” *f!*

For more information about Calvary Baptist Church's ministry, contact Sharyn Dowd at (254) 753-6446 or <cbc@cbcwaco.com>.

Get Connected

THESE **MISSIONCONNECT** RESOURCES provide suggestions for living the call:

- **Offering for Global Missions Leader Guide.** Contains examples of the work CBF field personnel do among the most neglected and offers creative ways to share how congregations can live the call. (*free*)
- **MissionConnect Brochure.** Lists ministry needs of four North American-based ministries. (*free*)
- **Offering for Global Missions Bulletin Insert.** Shares stories of how CBF field personnel listened to the voice of God, saw the needs that were around them, and responded. (*free*)

- **MissionConnect CD-ROM.** Includes one segment from the promotional video as well as PDFs of the spring poster, bulletin insert, **MissionConnect** brochure and speakers list. System requirements: PC platform only, Pentium 120mhz minimum processor, 4xCD-ROM drive. (*free*)
- **Offering for Global Missions Poster.** Provides a visual reminder that people of varying ages and skills are living the call within their communities and beyond. Poster back tells specifically how four individuals are living their call and explains how offering contributions can help others fulfill their call. (*free*)
- **Living the Call Within Communities ... and Beyond Video.** Introduces viewers to

people who are living the call each day either as field personnel or within their communities and churches. (*free*)

- **Offering for Global Missions Envelopes.** For church pew racks. (*free for quantities of 300 or less*)

To order, contact the CBF Resource Link at (888) 801-4223 or log on to the CBF e-Store at www.cbfonline.org.

Information on MissionConnect was sent to CBF contributing churches in early February. For additional information, contact the CBF Offering for Global Missions Promotion Office at (770) 220-1653 or go to Missions/Involvement/Offering at www.cbfonline.org.

McNeelys Reflect on Diverse Missions Career

A BITTERLY COLD NIGHT in Siberia provided CBF global missions field personnel Don and Helen McNeely with one of the most heart-warming experiences of their 26-year career.

As CBF's coordinators of volunteers in Eastern Europe, the McNeelys facilitated a major project in Irkustk, a city in central Siberia. The couple recruited teachers for an

Irkustk Bible school for three years, during which 62 pastors and church leaders graduated. "It was some of the most gratifying work we did," Don explains.

In January 1995, the McNeelys were invited to a concert at the church where the Bible school met. They had to walk several blocks and take a bus in sub-zero temperatures. After considering skipping the event, they decided to go and were amazed at what they found.

"The concert was beautiful," Helen recalls. "The church was packed full, so we stood. After the musicians completed their concert, they shared a testimony of thanksgiving. They came to say 'thank you' to all

who had helped start the school, because that Bible school trained a pastor who went to their area. Through this ministry, the musicians had come to know Christ.

"In missions, you often work and never know the results," Helen adds. "It was very moving to hear how God had been at work through the efforts of us and others. ..."

The McNeelys recently retired as CBF's international coordinators for volunteers, settling in Waco, Texas. There they will spend time with family and continue promoting

missions as members of First Baptist Church, Waco.

"Our ministry assignments have been diverse and challenging, yet very fulfilling," says Helen of their career assignments in Zambia, Mongolia and Berlin.

"Our experience helped us to shape and form a new worldview," Don says. "I think we really became aware of what a wonderful world God created, that He made us all equal, no matter where we are born or the color of our skin."

The McNeelys worked in educational positions on church staffs in the United States from 1960 to 1975. In 1976 they became missionaries with the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board and were assigned to Lusaka, Zambia. In 1991, they answered the call to go to an unreached area and were assigned to Ulaanbataar, Mongolia.



Mark Sandlin photo

In retirement, Helen and Don McNeely (center, right) plan to spend time with family and get to know their grandchildren.

"You had to be deliberate and slow with ministry in order to build trust and credibility," Helen says. "You don't reach a lot of people initially, but you have a good foundation that will be lasting. Building trust in an atheist country is essential. Ministry must be very intentional and genuine."

The McNeelys began their career with CBF in 1994, serving in Berlin. In 1997 they moved from Berlin to Texas to become international volunteer coordinators.

"During our career, we learned that it is not necessary to do it all ourselves," Helen said. "We learned the importance of enabling others to work and minister in their own way. Americans don't always know the best way to do everything." *f!*

By Lance Wallace, CBF associate director of news and information

Get Connected: Career Missions

Personnel needs for those interested in missions service with CBF include:

- strategy coordinators for Central Asia, Central Russia, China, the Middle East, Slovakia/Czech Republic and Southeast Asia;
- church planters in Kosova;
- prayer coordinator in Asia; and
- special needs teacher, physical therapist, English teacher and maintenance and building project coordinator in North Africa.

For a detailed listing of opportunities, go to Missions/Involvement/Personnel Needs at www.cbfonline.org.

For more information about global missions career service, contact Tom Prevost at (804) 741-9835 or <tprevost@cbfnet.org> or Becky Buice Green at (770) 220-1624 or <bbgreen@cbfnet.org>.

Marathon Gets North Carolina Church Ministry On the Move

IN DECEMBER 2001, the Raleigh (N.C.) Marathon took place on a Sunday, receiving much criticism from churches. The newspaper picked up on this criticism and made a big deal about it. It left marathon organizers with a bad taste for churches.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jerry Chiles, minister to adults at Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., wrote the following article.

Forest Hills Baptist Church recognized the need to be an agent of change in the community. In order to do this, we had to become involved in the marathon. We discovered that we could volunteer our church to be on the route or we could staff an aid station for the runners.

Some of our members did not consider it a positive thing for us to participate in an activity on Sunday other than Sunday school and worship. The marathon organizers were also a little skeptical.

Marathon Provides Missional Opportunity

Forest Hills Baptist Church seized an opportunity to reach out to its community through a marathon. This 57-year-old congregation demonstrates the missional mindset: being the presence of Christ.

In his recent book, *It's Time! ... an Urgent Call to Christian Mission*, CBF

Coordinator **Daniel Vestal** describes missional churches as seeing "their purpose for existence as incarnating the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and thus extending the mission of God." Books are available for \$9.95 each.

CBF's "Missional Journey Guide" is also available (\$29.95 for workbook, CD-rom and binder; \$19.95 for workbook only). To order items, contact the CBF Resource Link at (888) 801-4223 or the CBF e-Store at www.cbfonline.org. Shipping will be charged.

When the route by our church was not an option, we volunteered to staff an aid station. This involved organizing and providing water, sports drinks, candy and cookies for the runners at the station from the time the marathon began until it ended.

What an experience! At 6:30 a.m. and in 30-degree temperatures, we gathered at the station and began to mix the drinks and pour them into cups. We played Christmas music and hung a banner showing that we were from Forest Hills Baptist Church.

By 7:55 a.m., the first runner appeared. From then on, there was a steady stream of



Courtesy of Forest Hills

Forest Hills Baptist Church volunteers offer a cup of cold water to runners in the Raleigh marathon.

marathon runners, half-marathon runners, relay runners and at least one wheelchair participant.

What a joy it was to hand refreshments to runners. Many thanked us for helping them. At 1:30 p.m., a police car came down the street announcing the marathon was finished.

After the police car passed, a runner came by our station with a pulled leg muscle. Three of our workers walked and ran with her to the finish line. How is that for becoming a Good Samaritan?

As a part of the emphasis on "going to the world," we incorporated a marathon volunteer carrying an Olympic torch into our Sunday morning worship. As the narrator spoke of finding Jesus and taking Him to a world in darkness, and as worshippers began to sing "O Come, All Ye Faithful," the lighted torch came into the sanctuary bringing together the finding and sharing of the Gospel.

Did we change community attitudes about churches? Maybe we did and maybe we didn't. Were our lives changed? I would say so. Would we do it again? You bet! What did we accomplish? We carried out our calling to be light in the world and to give water in Jesus' name. *f!*

Contact Jerry Chiles at Forest Hills Baptist Church at (919) 828-6161 or go to www.foresthills.org.

Oklahoma Church Serves Up Coffee, Conversation to Internationals

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH in Stillwater, Okla., has ample opportunity for international missions in its own backyard.

With approximately 2,100 international students enrolled at nearby Oklahoma State University, this CBF global missions international team partner sees the potential to reach students and their families every day — through “friendship evangelism.”

“Friendship evangelism has been a mainstay at our church,” says Jo Heiliger, University Heights missions committee chairperson. Two church programs — the Hands Abroad program on Thursday mornings and the International Coffee House on Friday nights — specifically address the needs of international residents.

Created 24 years ago, the Hands Abroad program ministers to international residents through both recreational, educational and religious activities. The 65 adults and 20 children in the program enjoy group outings and take part in classes covering such topics as English, crafts and home-making skills. They also have the opportunity to attend a weekly Bible study.

The majority of program participants are spouses of university students, and the 28 Hands Abroad staff members strive to meet these international women and men at a comfortable level.

“When they first come to our classes at Hands Abroad, they are simply looking for help with English skills,” explains Natalie Rockley, Hands Abroad program director for the last six years. “As we meet those needs, some realize that we can be trusted to meet deeper needs for encouragement and friendship. Those who desire to know more about Christ and what He means to us are invited to study the Gospel.”

“I have been encouraged to watch some profess Christ at the peril of their lives when they return to their countries,”



Alec Richards photo/Stillwater News Press

The International Coffee House provides a place for students to gather, listen to music and, of course, drink coffee.

says pastor Tom Westbrook. “Everyone who comes in touch with this ministry is changed.”

This friendship evangelism philosophy carries over to the church’s International Coffee House. For the past two years, the coffeehouse has been a popular gathering spot on Friday nights where local and international students interact in a relaxed environment. Students gather to play games, listen to music and share conversations over a cup of coffee.

To assist with ministries such as the International Coffee House, CBF of Oklahoma is providing financial support to fund Aubrey Taylor’s 10-month term as university and missions outreach coordinator at University Heights.

Taylor explains, “My goal is to teach and equip the students God brings us with a sincere love of the individual. Then, through love, friendship and the meeting of needs — physical, emotional, spiritual — to impart the life of Christ to others.” *f!*

Involving the Local Church in International Missions

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH in Stillwater, Okla., established a “Missions Academy” to prepare their university students to be missionaries. To participate on a missions trip, students must be currently involved with internationals, utilize their gifts

in missions outreach and participate in missions-training classes.

Commissioning services are held for students leaving on assignments for missions-sending organizations. Upon their return, students share their experiences in a worship

service. **Jo Heiliger**, University Heights missions committee chairperson, says, “This cycle of preparation, acknowledgment and receiving the students actively involves the local church in the work of sending missionaries.”

For more information, contact Aubrey Taylor at (405) 372-2744 or <Opheliatoo@aol.com> or contact Jo Heiliger at <Elizjoh@aol.com>.

For more information about partnership missions, contact Tom Ogburn in the CBF Resource Center, Dallas, at (800) 782-2451 or <togburn@cbfnet.org>.

Kentucky Rural Poverty Initiative Partnership Focuses on Appalachian Assets

RECENTLY NADA (KY.) Baptist Mission Pastor Paul Jarrett gathered the mission's youth together to take a photograph.

"Why?" one of them asked with a frown. "So people can send us stuff?"

According to Jarrett, that has long been the experience of people in Nada and surrounding communities, areas of the eastern Kentucky Appalachian Mountains affected by poverty. While assistance by churches has been helpful and appreciated, it has often fostered a notion among residents

Do Something

According to **Paul Jarrett**, churches and individuals can become involved in the Kentucky partnership by:

- **praying** for the emerging partnership ministries,
- **becoming informed** about the partnership and
- **being willing** to participate in partnership ministries as opportunities expand.

For more information, contact **Paul Jarrett** at (859) 744-2884 or <paul.jarrett@fbcwinchesterky.org> or contact **John Lepper** at (502) 426-1931 or <jlepper@kybf.org>.

For more information about the Rural Poverty Initiative, contact **Tom Ogburn** in the CBF Resource Center, Dallas, at (800) 782-2451 or <togburn@cbfnet.org>.

The Kentucky partnership follows in the footsteps of other Rural Poverty Initiative efforts by marshalling the resources, knowledge and experience already present in the area to encourage change. "We decided that if we were going to work in this area, we needed to do it in a way that respects them ... (and) develops their own assets instead of accentuating their needs," says KBF Coordinator John Lepper.

The three-year partnership will seek to expand the ministry of the Nada mission, which provides Bible teaching,

that they have little to offer themselves, says Jarrett, who also serves as associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Winchester, Ky.

Many locals, like the mission teen, are resisting that notion, and they are being supported by a new partnership between CBF global missions, the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship (KBF) and the Winchester church—the Nada mission's sponsor. The partnership is part of "Partners in Hope: CBF's Rural Poverty Initiative," a 20-year commitment to offer hope to people in and around 20 of the nation's poorest rural counties. Owsley County, Ky. — two counties south of Powell County, where Nada is located — is one of the 20 counties.



Courtesy of Nada Baptist Mission

Nada Baptist Mission hopes to empower children and youth as it helps meet their physical and spiritual needs.

worship opportunities, youth and children's programming, and food, clothing and school supply distribution, and work with the Food Place, a Booneville First Baptist Church ministry that provides food and other supplies in Owsley County. Jarrett also hopes to facilitate involvement with other organizations and ministries.

Working with established groups is one way to develop existing assets, Lepper says. Other assets include the region's natural beauty and its location near tourist destinations, the strong sense of community among residents and the desire of people to succeed, Jarrett adds.

Together, the three partnering groups pay for Jarrett's salary and some program expenses. He now spends 40 percent of his time developing initiative efforts and 60 percent in service to the Winchester church.

Mission teams have been instrumental to the Nada ministry over the years, and volunteers will continue to be vital to the ministry in Nada and other areas, Jarrett says.

According to organizers, the young partnership is already reaping benefits. "When you partner together, you get a synergy, a notion that you can do together what you can't do alone," Lepper says. "It's a great way for churches and individuals ... to help spread the Gospel." *f!*

By contributing writer Melanie Kieve, Allendale, S.C.

CBF Considers Family Ministry a Priority for Congregational Health

"FAMILY MINISTRY is probably the most significant evangelistic tool churches can use in their communities," says Diana Garland, director of the Center for Family and Community Ministries (CFCM) at Baylor University. Garland works alongside CBF, training people to think "congregationally."

"We live such isolated lives in our work, schools and even recreational activities," Garland says. "What we do in the church is so important because it recognizes we aren't alone – we are part of families."

Garland stresses three principles of successful family ministry: folding people into literal families and faith-families, encouraging people to live faithfully with one another and using families to reach out to communities – offering a place that recognizes the importance of family.

Garland views helping people live faithfully in families as "one of the most important challenges to practicing our faith."

"Learning to forgive 70 times seven is more difficult in a family than it is with neighbors and strangers," she adds.

One of the first connections between CBF and CFCM was the *AM/FM* audio magazine.

Published quarterly, *AM/FM: Audio-Magazine for Family Ministry* contains interviews with people working in the area of family ministry and features model programs and practical ideas for church leaders and laypersons in an audiocassette or CD format. A program grant from CBF congregational life assists in the development of *AM/FM*, helping with distribution expenses to make *AM/FM* available to a larger market. For a free sample issue, call CFCM toll free at (877) 710-1159 or go to www.family-ministry.org and click the *AM/FM* tab for a list of past issues.



Mark Sandlin photo

Diana Garland teaches about nurturing faith in family life during a workshop at CBF's 2002 General Assembly.

Another beneficial congregational tool is the Church Census, a survey provided by CFCM that allows churches to identify the demographic characteristics of families in their congregations, the strengths of their families, the stresses and challenges families face, and ways families are living their faith.

Requiring minutes to complete, leaders can administer the Church Census during weekly worship services and then return surveys to CFCM for processing. Church leaders receive results in a report that includes charts, graphs and information summaries. This personalized assessment aids in the formation of an effective family ministry, one geared to the unique needs of each church.



"The church needs resources for ministering to marriages and families, helping families discover their calling – especially when we look at the condition of families today," says Bo Prosser, CBF's coordinator for congregational life.

Prosser thinks it's necessary to "build stronger foundations" and says that is exactly what CBF is doing. "CBF is living out our mission and vision to help churches and individuals be the presence of Christ. We are trying to help husbands and wives, and parents and families, be the presence of Christ to each other."

Prosser believes this approach has many positive effects. "If we do a good job, families are stronger, churches are stronger and eventually the world is stronger," he says!

By staff writer Jo Upton

Related Resources

THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES about family ministries are available:

- **CBF's Marriage and Family Initiative Web site** at www.cbmf.net contains additional resources, links to organizations involved in family ministry and an event calendar
- **The Center for Family and Community Ministries**, (877) 710-1159, <Vicki_Northern@bay

lor.edu>, www.family-ministry.org. CFCM is sponsoring the conference "Hand in Hand: Strengthening Families and Building Communities," April 6-8 at Baylor University's Truett Seminary in Waco, Texas. Registration is \$75.

For more information about CBF's family ministry, contact Greg or Priscilla Hunt at (913) 764-9079 or <directions1@cs.com>.

Fellowship Medical Missions Provide Care to the Bedouin

ONE DAY I VISITED a Bedouin (BED-oh-win) family, sitting with the men on mats placed around a fire pit in their goat-hair tent. The long, flowing robes and traditional Middle Eastern head gear of the men seemed totally in place ... my khakis and loafers seemed very out of place.

The fire pit was about 30 inches in diameter, the ground still warm from last night's fire. The rocky terrain outside the tent flap, coupled with chickens walking in and out of the tent followed by their newborn chicks, created quite a scene. A herd of nearly 20 camels walked nonchalantly past us. Scrawny sheep foraged in the arid, rocky ground.

The men talked – in Arabic, of course – largely ignoring me, but casting an occasional glance to which I just smiled and nodded. A woman from the other side of the tent set a small kettle and five small glasses on the ground in front of the host. He poured a cup of hot, sweet tea for each of us. As I glanced around, a toddler stared at me from big, dark eyes set in an unbelievably dirty face. Everything was dirty, of course. We were on the dirt.

Much of the conversation centered around various illnesses and death. I could hear coughing and wheezing from the backside of the tent, giving evidence of chronic health problems. Tent-dwelling Bedouin succumb to tuberculosis due to living in close proximity to each other, as well as



Elizabeth Richards photo

Bilal, a Bedouin boy in Jordan, enjoys a bottle of milk provided through contributions to CBF's milk distribution project. As an infant, he was brought to a clinic on the brink of starvation, but thanks to the milk program, he is growing and thriving.

Do Something

Go

THE FOLLOWING CBF opportunities for career, short-term and volunteer medical missions are available in the Middle East:

- hospital building and plant manager
- lab technician
- medical assistant and consultant
- pharmacist/outpatient clinic manager
- registered nurse.

Career opportunities. Contact **Tom Prevost**, (804) 741-9835, <tprevost@cbfnet.org> or **Becky Buice Green**, (770) 220-1624, <bbgreen@cbfnet.org>.

Global Service Corps assignments (individuals serve as short-term field personnel and help raise their own financial support. Contact the CBF Resource Center, Raleigh, (877) 856-9288, <gsc@cbfonline.org>.

Volunteer opportunities. Contact the CBF Resource Center, Raleigh, (877) 856-9288, <volunteer@cbfonline.org>. For career or volunteer opportunities, go to Missions/Involvement at www.cbfonline.org.

Give

Bequests. For more information on establishing an endowment through the CBF Foundation, contact **Don Durham** at (770) 220-1622 or <ddurham@cbfnet.org>.

Offering for Global Missions. Go to Missions/Involvement/ Offering at www.cbfonline.org. Use the envelope enclosed in this *fellowship!* issue to support CBF global missions. Please mark your check "Offering for Global Missions."

Project Support. Financial assistance is needed for the following projects:

- Bedouin milk distribution (project number: 80641)

- Bedouin pharmacy project – medicine/ medical supplies (project number: 80861)
To contribute, make checks payable to CBF, marked with project name and number, and send to CBF, P.O. Box 101699, Atlanta, GA 30392.

Pray

Use the following resources to enhance missions praying.

- **Praying the Lord's Prayer: A Year-Long Guide to Missions Praying.** Contains prayer requests of CBF field personnel. (*free*)
- **Partners in Prayer: CBF Prayer Calendar.** Lists the birthdays of all CBF-endorsed chaplains, field personnel and their children. (*free*) Also available online at Missions/Involvement/Missionary Prayer Calendar at www.cbfonline.org.

Shipping will be charged. To order, contact the CBF Resource Link at (888) 801-4223 or the CBF e-Store at www.cbfonline.org.

disease-carrying camels. The children are sickly due to poor prenatal care and infant nutrition. Diabetes is common.

CBF doctors, pharmacists and nurses like Lori and Tim Myrick and Elizabeth Richards have joined an international staff of Christian workers committed to treating Bedouin from Jordan and neighboring countries. [The Myricks serve as the Fellowship's first personnel funded by the \$2.5 million Luther Lafayette and Nell Payne Barrett Endowed Mission.] Treatment facilities are scarce, but there is no shortage of sickness. As Bedouin come to the hospital for treatment, trust grows and sometimes openness to the Gospel blossoms into faith.

The unhurried practice of sitting on the ground around the fire in a Bedouin tent talking about family and God, sickness and death, is repeated frequently by CBF global missions field personnel. Recently, Tim and Lori visited Bedouin families near the Saudi/Iraqi border to follow up with former hospital patients. They carried food, clothing and Samaritan's Purse gift boxes. On the way back to the hospital, they passed a large encampment of about 50 tents, but since their trucks



CBF nurse Elizabeth Richards shares a meal with Bedouin tent dwellers.

were empty of needed supplies, they did not stop.

We can help. The hospital needs milk for Bedouin babies, medicine, medical supplies ... so many things money can buy. We can support the CBF field personnel already in place. We can pray for all of the people in the path of war and violence in the desert regions.

You can respond to God's call as volunteer or career medical personnel, as a hospital hostess/activities director or plant manager ... so many ways to take the love of Jesus to tent-dwelling Bedouin. There is nothing better than drinking tea in a Bedouin tent and sharing the love of Jesus! *f!*

Contact Patrick Anderson to speak about CBF global missions at (863) 686-9902, (863) 207-2050 or <panderson@cbfnet.org>.

By CBF columnist and missions advocate Patrick R. Anderson.

Related Resources

Learn more about the Bedouin through the following resources:

- **CBF Missions Education Curriculum.** The April 2003 curriculum focuses on ministry among the Bedouin. (*Annual subscription: adult and youth, \$19.95; children and preschool, \$79.95.*)

To place an order, contact the CBF Resource Link at (888) 801-4223.

- **Unevangelized People Group Flier: Bedouin.** (*free*)

- **Unevangelized People Group Video: The Bedouin.** (*\$6.95*)

Shipping will be charged for cost and free items. To order, contact the CBF Resource Link at (888) 801-4223 or the CBF e-Store at www.cbfonline.org.

Class Notes

- **Baptist Seminary of Kentucky.** Baptist Seminary of Kentucky will hold its Inaugural Convocation on March 9 at 4 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington. **Bill Turner**, former pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, will be the keynote speaker. This event will celebrate the founding of the seminary and highlights of the first year.

- **Baptist Studies Program, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University.** As the Baptist studies program at Brite begins to search for a new director, the program continues to focus on student success. The program reported that more than 70 percent of its graduates work as pastors, chaplains or social service workers in a church. The program's first director and co-founder, **Bill Hendricks**, died in December.

Hendricks taught at three Southern Baptist seminaries from 1957-1995 before retiring and taking the helm at Brite's Baptist studies program. He retired a second time in 1998, but remained active as a lecturer and preacher.

- **Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.** BTSR will host 40 homeless men and women the week of March 2-8 in one of its campus buildings as part of a project known as CARITAS, which stands for Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter.

- **Central Baptist Theological Seminary.** **David J. Schlafer** will be the plenary speaker for the 2003 Clayborn Landers Preaching Lectures and Pastors' Day, April 25. The theme is "Playing with Fire: Preaching Work as Kindling Art." Schlafer currently serves as a faculty member of the Doctor of Ministry in

Preaching Program at the Association of Chicago Theological Schools.

- **McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University.** During the January break from classes, three McAfee students, along with faculty member **Scott Shauf**, worked in Ghana on a mission trip sponsored by Peachtree Baptist Church in Atlanta. Also, **Dean R. Alan Culpepper** delivered an address titled "Our Heritage as Baptist Educators: Legacy from Our Past, Lonestar for Our Future" at the Theological Educators Conference in Hong Kong. Asia Baptist Federation, Asia Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary and Mercer University sponsored the conference. And finally, McAfee faculty members **Lloyd Allen** and **Ron Johnson** met with Baptist pastors in Cuba to discuss theological education.

Baldriges Empower Missions Personnel Living the Call

EVEN BEFORE BARBARA and Gary Baldrige became co-coordinators of CBF global missions in 1999, they were laying groundwork for their future ministry with the Fellowship.

In 1987, Anne Burton served as her church's Acteen prayer support coordinator. She sent cards to missionaries letting them know that she and her fellow teens were praying for them.

Burton received a card and photo of the Baldriges and their family serving in Reunion Island that she placed in a scrapbook. Recently, Burton browsed through the scrapbook and recognized the faces of the couple who now oversee her ministry as a CBF global missions field personnel serving among internationals in Los Angeles.

"Browsing through this book was a fun reminder and a

challenge for me to do better communicating with those who take the time to pray for and write to me," Burton says.

Before coming to CBF, the Baldriges served for 17 years with the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board in Africa, an island in the Indian Ocean, and in Europe, traveling often to Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Middle East and North Africa.

Barbara sensed a call to missions as a child when her family helped start a church in Houston, Texas. "My parents opened their eyes and hearts to meet the needs they saw in our community," she recalls. "I continued to follow their example as an adult, wherever I went."

Gary admits, "I was a little slower in coming around.

"I was a newspaper reporter and had never thought about going into missions," he says. "As I learned more

about the needs around the world and sensed the urgency, I sensed a real calling to this. I realized that I could use my marketable skills to share the Gospel."

The Baldriges feel that God has called them to help CBF global missions personnel live out their calling, using their gifts.

"Our sense of calling evolved as we learned more about ourselves and about what God wanted us to do," Gary says.

"We seek to color outside the lines and find ways to use all our skills for God's glory," Barbara says. "We have reviewed several job descriptions and reallocated some responsibilities so that everyone can work to his or her strengths." *f!*

Contact Barbara or Gary Baldrige at (770) 220-1600 or <bbaldrige@cbfnet.org>, <gbaldrige@cbfnet.org>.

From an interview by freelance writer Lisa O'Brien, Birmingham, Ala. To read the entire interview, go to www.cbfonline.org.

Related Resources

Find out more about CBF global missions through the following resources:

- **A Strategy for Doing Missions in a World Without Borders Brochure.** Explains CBF's strategy among the world's most neglected people. (*free*) Shipping will be charged. To order, contact the CBF Resource Link at (888) 801-4223 or the CBF e-Store at www.cbfonline.org.
- **Global Missions Online:** Go to Missions/About Missions at www.cbfonline.org for an overview.



"OUR SENSE OF CALLING evolved as we learned more about ourselves and about what God wanted us to do."

— CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS

CO-COORDINATOR GARY BALDRIDGE



Mark Sandlin photo

Meeting the greatest needs at the time led Barbara and Gary Baldrige to different mission fields, which meant starting over several times (left, the Baldrige family, 1985).



IT'S TIME!

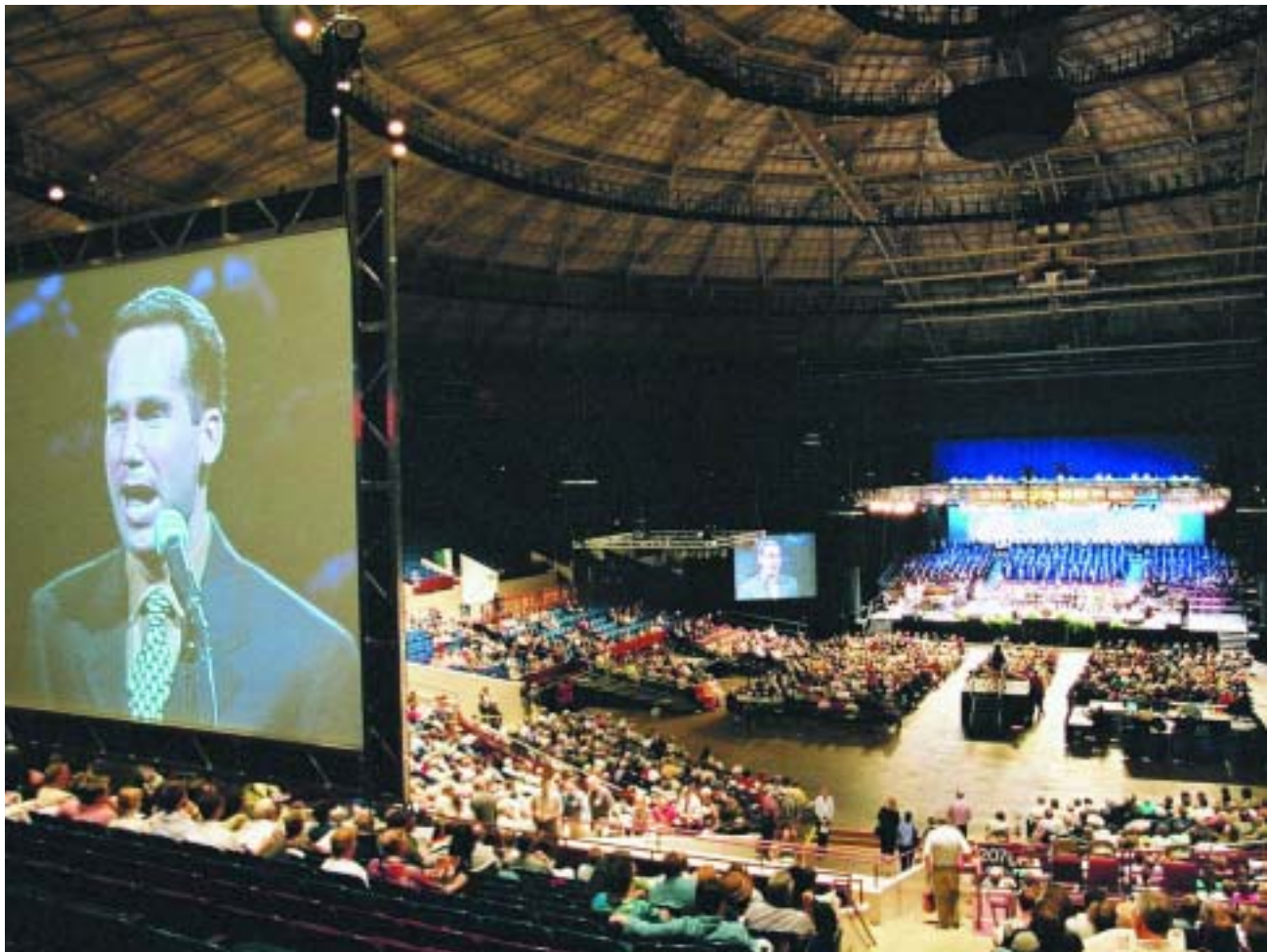
THE
2003 GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
OF THE
COOPERATIVE
BAPTIST
FELLOWSHIP

June 26-28
Charlotte, N.C.

Being the Presence of Christ

*This year's General Assembly will **challenge** you to **catch a vision** of the mission that God has given every Christian and every church: to be an **embodiment** and an **extension** of Jesus Christ in the world. We are called to **follow** Jesus Christ, to **learn** of Christ, to be **filled** with Christ, and then to **be Christ in the world**. How is this possible? Come join us as we strive to learn **together** to carry out God's mission in today's world.*

*To pre-register, complete and mail the form on the back of this page.
Or register on-line at www.cbfonline.org*



PRE-REGISTRATION & INFORMATION REQUEST

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP/PRE-REGISTRATION June 26-28, 2003 / Charlotte, N.C.

Use this form to:

- Pre-register for the General Assembly, which will streamline your on-site registration process (and shorten your time in line) when you arrive.
- Pre-register for the Congregational Leadership Institute on Thursday.
- Request pre-registration information and other details for the on-site programs for children and youth.

Note: There is no registration fee for CBF's General Assembly. However, pre-registration is required — and fees are charged — for some events and services, including the Congregational Leadership Institute and the Children's and Youth assemblies (see below). **Capacities are limited**, so registrations are accepted on a **first-come, first-served** basis. Also, separate pre-registration or advance reservations may be required for some auxiliary events.

NAME 1 _____

NAME 2 (same family) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MEMBER(S) OF (church) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE / PRE-REGISTRATION

"The Church on the Other Side" – led by Brian McLaren
Thursday, June 26, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Registration Fees (per person; lunch NOT included):

\$45 – per individual, \$40 – three or more from one congregation, \$40 – full-time student

Enclosed is my check (noting "Leadership Institute"), made payable to CBF:

Number of persons: _____ @ \$45 or \$40 per person (see above)

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS & YOUTH ASSEMBLY / INFORMATION REQUEST

Thursday afternoon, June 26 – Saturday morning, June 28

Please send pre-registration form and program details for the following:

- Day Care and Day Camp (infants through children entering kindergarten)
- Children's Assembly (children who have completed kindergarten through 6th grade)
- Youth Assembly (students who have completed grades 7 through 12)

Registration Fees:

- **Children's Assembly & Day Care/Day Camp:** \$75 (\$65 for each additional child from same family)
- **Youth Assembly:** \$100

Registration deadline: May 31 (\$25 late fee if registration is postmarked after this date)

Send no money until you receive a registration form for the Children's or Youth Assembly.

Clip or photocopy this form, enclose check for applicable fees, and mail to:

CBF General Assembly, P.O. Box 450329, Atlanta, GA 31145-0329

(If you are requesting information only, you may fax the form to: 770/220-1685.)

You may also register online for any of these events at www.cbfonline.org.

For hotel accommodations, log onto www.cbfonline.org.

If you need assistance call (866) 748-3055.

For the latest information, including program details and an expanding list of workshops and auxiliary events, log on to CBF's Web site at www.cbfonline.org. Click on the General Assembly button on the main page.

CBF: Looking at the Present and the Future

FOR AN INCREASING NUMBER of churches and individuals, CBF is becoming their primary denominational identity. More and more churches are seeing themselves as “partnering churches,” or “Fellowship churches” or churches who value CBF as a significant part of their mission and identity. In some places, this is being done with formal votes and, in other places, it is being done informally with practical ministries. And still in other places, it is being done with changes in funding patterns.

All of this is good news. In anticipating the future, I have great encouragement and hope for the following reasons:

1. We are achieving consensus around the vision of “Being the Presence of Christ in the World.” We are increasingly seeing ourselves as a Fellowship of individuals and churches whose passion is to incarnate the life and



ministry of Jesus Christ. We want to be a continuing incarnation of the life of Jesus and an extension of the ministry of Jesus. And we want to serve one another as we each discover and fulfill this God-given mission.

2. We believe in the freedom and centrality of the local church. It’s in our DNA. CBF exists to serve, help

tional leaders. And we must serve churches as they engage in global missions cooperatively.

3. We are committed to a partnership model of connecting and working. We have given priority to nurturing relationships with American Baptist Churches USA, the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Baptist General Association of Virginia. We have forged very successful partnerships with ABC – the CBF Church Benefits Board being the most notable example. We have more formal partnerships with the BGCT and its agencies than any other state convention. And our partnership with the BGAV has resulted in the co-appointment of a global missions field personnel worker. We have worked hard at strategic partnerships in theological education (13 schools), in congregational development (Upper Room, Center for Congregational Health) and in missions (World Vision, Habitat for Humanity International). These and more than 50 other institutional partnerships have resulted in a renewal movement in the Baptist family.

4. We are maturing as a “seamless movement” with real collaboration between the state/regional organizations and the national organization. In the past five years, much of the growth, action and involvement in CBF has taken place in the state/regional organizations. The coordinators, moderators and councils in each state are invested in our life and effectiveness.

CBF is a viable, healthy, denominational-like organization. We are a growing network of churches that is proving relevant to contemporary culture, congregational needs and the world missionary enterprise. We should avoid any hint of triumphal pride, but we should celebrate what God has done and is doing through us. *f!*

“WE MUST SERVE churches in their mission of being the presence of Christ in the world. We must serve churches as they discover, educate and nurture congregational leaders. And we must serve churches as they engage in global missions cooperatively.”

— CBF COORDINATOR DANIEL VESTAL

and strengthen churches, not force churches to conform or serve us. We have real energy and excitement for the life and ministry of the church. I enjoy saying that our mission is like three legs of a stool. Or to use another analogy, our mission is like a three-stranded rope. All three — congregational life, leadership development, and global missions and ministry — are essential. We exist to provide all three to the local church. We must serve churches in their mission of being the presence of Christ in the world. We must serve churches as they discover, educate and nurture congrega-

By CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal

Fellowship Roundup

News from CBF's states, regions and national offices

ALABAMA

PASSPORT INC. has hired **Todd Heifner** as the organization's first director of development. Heifner will work with individual donors, churches, foundations and denominational groups to develop a permanent funding base. Heifner has served as director of development for the Baptist Joint Committee in Washington, D.C., for the past two and a half years.

Passport, Inc., Alabama CBF and national CBF are co-sponsoring *www.JourneytotheCross.org*, a daily, online Lenten devotional that will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and conclude on Easter, April 20.

ARKANSAS

AFTER SERVING as CBF global missions field personnel among the poor in Southeast Asia, **Ben and Leonora Newell** have moved to southeast Arkansas to work as part of "Partners in Hope: CBF's Rural Poverty Initiative." The Newells live in Helena in Phillips County, which, along with neighboring Lee County, is among the 20 poorest counties in America.

FLORIDA

WITH **PAT ANDERSON'S** move to the new position of missions advocate with national CBF's global missions, the CBF of Florida Representative Assembly has voted to name his wife, Carolyn, as acting coordinator for CBF of Florida. **Carolyn** had been serving as an administrator and newsletter editor for CBF of Florida. **Bud Strawn**, CBF of Florida treasurer, is chairing the coordinator search committee.

GEORGIA

BAPTIST WOMEN in Ministry of Georgia, a CBF of Georgia partner

organization, will hold its annual spring meeting at National Heights Baptist Church in Fayetteville on April 5 with **Wendy Joyner**, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in Americus, as the speaker.

CBF of Georgia welcomed 15 new contributing churches in 2002.

Several CBF-related Georgia churches have recently called the following pastors: **Stephen Cook**, Morrow First Baptist Church; **Bonnie Decuir**, Fellowship Baptist Church, Edison; **Clay Matthews**, New Community Baptist Church, Buena Vista; and **Paul Richardson**, Fellowship Baptist Church, Fitzgerald.

KENTUCKY

THE KENTUCKY BAPTIST Fellowship spring meeting has been scheduled for April 25-26 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort. The speakers include **John Killinger**, **Marty Williams** and CBF Coordinator **Daniel Vestal**. Prior to the meeting, Vestal, **George Hunter** and **Jack Oliver** will lead a workshop on church growth. For more information, go to *www.kybf.org*.

NATIONAL

CBF-ENDORSED CHAPLAIN **Will Kinnaird** of Hampton, Va., was elected chair of COMISS Network – the nation's largest chaplaincy organization – at the group's annual meeting. COMISS is made up of 43 member groups and serves as the central agency for chaplain accreditation and advocacy. Kinnaird serves as associate director of the National Veterans Affairs Chaplain Center.

The CBF Resource Center welcomes **Lance Wallace** as associate director of news and information. Wallace manages media relations and Web content for the Fellowship.

Coming Attractions

April 22

When Religion Becomes Evil

Center for Baptist Studies
Mercer University
Macon, Ga.

Speaker: Charles Kimball

Cost: \$25

Contact: Greg Thompson, (478) 301-5467, <thompson_mg@mercer.edu>

April 25

Clayborn Landers Preaching Lectures

Central Seminary
Kansas City, Kan.

Speaker: David J. Schlafer

Theme: Playing with Fire: Preaching Work as Kindling Art

Contact: Shirley Wallace, (913) 371-5313, ext. 111

For a complete schedule of events, go to Community/Calendar at www.cbfonline.org.

He most recently served as executive director of communications for media relations and marketing at Mercer University.

NORTH CAROLINA

CBF EMERGENCY RESPONSE contributed \$5,000 toward North Carolina's recovery from a recent devastating ice storm. The contribution helped support the work of Fellowship churches in North Carolina and the North Carolina Baptist Men's relief effort. Three relief teams worked to clear downed tree limbs and provide meals. CBF's contribution provided funds for volunteer support and purchasing equipment and gas.

SOUTH CAROLINA

HARDY CLEMONS, retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville, will lead a workshop at Providence Baptist Church, Charleston, on March 10-11, titled "Leading People in Congregations: Reflecting on Our Experience." Participation is limited to 20 attendees, and the cost is \$35. To register, contact The Center for Congregational Health at (336) 716-9722.

TENNESSEE

NEVERFAIL COMMUNITY CHURCH, a CBF congregation in Cumberland County, is working with Neighbors Together (an ecumenical grass roots group) to help local needy families and individuals. The most urgent need is for blankets and coats. Churches in Knoxville, Murfreesboro and Tullahoma have already responded, but help is needed throughout the winter. For more information, contact pastor **Emily Roberts** at (931) 277-5032 or <emilyroberts@multipro.com>.

TEXAS

CBF TEXAS HOSTED a breakfast Jan. 28 in Arlington in conjunction with the Texas Evangelism Conference. The program highlighted church missions opportunities.

• **Duane Brooks** of Tallowood Baptist Church, Houston, is chairing a search committee for a new Texas state coordinator for CBF.

• Veteran educator **Hazel Morris** has received the 2002 Smyth & Helwys Award for Excellence in

Behind the Numbers

3,000 refugees left homeless after recent flooding in Northern Thailand were assisted by funds provided by CBF global missions to assist the Burmese Border Consortium in rebuilding houses and schools. The contribution also assisted with the purchase of mosquito nets, blankets, sleeping mats and cooking utensils.

Source: CBF Global Missions

Christian Education. Morris recently retired after 30 years as associate professor of childhood education at Southwestern Seminary. She serves as minister of childhood education at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth and is a member of the advisory board for Smyth & Helwys' line of children's materials. (ABP)

VIRGINIA

CBF OF VIRGINIA will celebrate its 10th anniversary during its general assembly March 14-15 at Churchland Baptist Church, Chesapeake. The theme is "10 Years of Partnering ... Appreciate the Past, Celebrate the Present, Embrace the Future," and will feature a number of breakout sessions and speakers **Clint Hopkins**, **Donna Hopkins Britt**, and **Sarah Jackson Shelton**.

Worsening Africa Famine Elicits Call for Assistance

CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS field personnel have joined the fight against an increasingly severe famine in Ethiopia and southern Africa and have called on Fellowship churches and individuals to support the relief effort.

Recent reports from the United Nations World Food Program indicate there are food shortages in Ethiopia and six countries in southern Africa.

Fellowship individuals and churches can respond immediately with contributions and relief workers. "Currently we need volunteer professionals with previous third world experience in communications, information management (statistical analysis), information technology, finance management, nurse/nutritionists, logistics, water/irrigation engineers and

agronomists," said **David Harding**, CBF international coordinator for emergency response.

To contribute to the relief efforts, make your check payable to CBF, marked "Africa Relief," and mail to: CBF, P.O. Box 101699, Atlanta, GA 30392. For volunteer opportunities, contact David Harding at (407) 816-2074 or

<dharding@cbfnet.org> or **Kezia Paul** at (877) 856-9288 or <kpaul@cbfnet.org>. To learn more about the CBF Emergency Response Team, go to the CBF Web site at www.cbfonline.org. For more information on this emergency, see www.reliefweb.int.

Association Ousts S.C. Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH in Greenville, S.C., has been declared out of fellowship with its local association over the congregation's membership policy.

First Baptist accepts by transfer from other churches members who have not been baptized by immersion, contrary to Greenville Baptist Association's historic stand that church membership "is for believers in Jesus Christ who have been baptized by immersion."

Founded in 1856, First Baptist Church is a CBF-supporting congregation that previously broke ties with the Southern Baptist Convention but remains a member of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Jeff Rogers, the church's pastor, said the association handled the matter in "a Christian and charitable way."

The church's policy is to require immersion only for members making a first-time profession of faith. (ABP)!

Vol. 13, No. 2

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fellowship!
is published 10 times a year by The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Inc., 3001 Mercer University Dr. Atlanta, GA 30341-4115. Periodicals postage paid at Atlanta, GA, and additional mailing offices. USPS #015-625

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to "fellowship!" Newsletter, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, P.O. Box 450329, Atlanta, GA 31145-0329

CBF Church Plant Reaches Out to Community Children

IT'S 3 O'CLOCK Wednesday in Heflin, Ala. Pastor Les Jones pulls up to Heritage Baptist Church on Willoughby Street, former home of the Cleburne County High School, with a van full of children ages 6 to 14. The kids head inside as a school bus drops off several other young people.

For the next five hours, church volunteers – six of them retired educators – tutor the children and help them with their homework, teach arts and crafts, provide a covered dish supper and lead music and a Bible study. About half of the 15 young people come only for tutoring while the other half stay for all of the church activities. More children arrive as the afternoon progresses. Jones explains that welcoming children to the church has provided opportunities to reach out and meet the children's unchurched families and friends.

These Wednesday night activities are just one way this year-old CBF church has grabbed hold of God's call to community outreach and fulfillment of the Great Commission.



The CBF Missional Church Initiative

Heritage Baptist Church saw a need to reach out to community children and responded. This year-old church illustrates how to be the presence of Christ.

For more information about CBF's Missional Church Initiative, contact Bo Prosser at (770) 220-1600 or <bprosser@cbfnet.org> or Terry Hamrick at (770) 220-1600 or <thamrick@cbfnet.org>.

sioned and hardened by what they have experienced with religion," she says. "We see them as individuals who hurt, who need a loving word from God, and we long to see them feel His presence in their lives."

"The primary objective of the church has been and is outreach," explains Billie Small, Jones' mother-in-law and a retired teacher, missionary and Heritage charter member. "We are surrounded in this rural county by unchurched people. Many, if not most of them, are disillusioned and hardened by what they have experienced with religion," she says. "We see them as individuals who hurt, who need a loving word from God, and we long to see them feel His presence in their lives."



Courtesy of Heritage Baptist Church

Heritage Baptist Church welcomes community children and reaches out to their unchurched families and friends.

Jones has felt a calling to minister to the needs in his hometown since he was a teenager. Although he left Heflin for 26 years to attend seminary and pastor other churches, Jones always knew he'd eventually come back. And, after exploring options for church-planting support, Jones felt that it was the right time to start a CBF church back in Heflin with his father-in-law, Dan Small, serving as the associate pastor.

After one year, 22 members comprise the Heritage Baptist Church family with an average Sunday attendance of 40. In addition to Wednesday activities, the church has ministries to inmates, homebound adults and nursing home residents. Heritage also helps those in the community with temporary needs resulting from illness or job loss.

The church also is planning for what Jones calls a "monumental" building project this year at the site of his home and the surrounding 10 acres. But Jones and his congregants are in no rush. As charter member Curtis Sanders sums up, "A church is not necessarily what you have church in. It's the people in the church who make it a church." *f!*

For more information on new church starts, contact Phil Hester at (678) 429-9753 or <phester@cbfnet.org>. Or go to www.churchstarts.net.

By freelance writer Krista Carnet, Enterprise, Ala.



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