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OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS 2008-2009

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



CBF *Offering* *for* GLOBAL MISSIONS

As many North Africans search for hope, CBF field personnel live and serve among them, sharing the gospel through word and deed. By giving to CBF's Offering for Global Missions, Fellowship Baptists enable these field personnel to share the love of Jesus Christ with many people who have never heard the gospel.

God has a plan in our giving



I was standing in a deceptively beautiful place right on the border of Thailand and Burma. The sight of gorgeous limestone mountains rising out of a green valley absolutely captivated my attention, and I quickly discovered that I was ignoring the realities of the fenced Karen refugee camp at Mae La that stretches five kilometers along the road. We were there to listen to the stories of the Karen people who, over many years, have fled into Thailand to avoid persecution in Myanmar. Our hope was to gain a better sense of the challenges that they face and to consider ways to partner together with them in their struggle for some sense of home.

Our guides were Duane and Marcia Binkley, two of our CBF field personnel who assist Karen refugees with resettlement in the United States. Also on the trip was Greg Pope, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. Crescent Hill is among a growing number of congregations in the United States who have welcomed the Karen as Christian brothers and sisters and who are assisting in the relocation effort. Greg came bearing packages from some of his Karen church members for their relatives who remain in the camp.

We spent the better part of the day at a Bible school on the edge of the camp and were privileged to hear from Saw Simon, the current director of the school, who captivated us with the prophecies of the Karen people and the stories of the camp and school. The school has been around for decades and has provided pastoral leadership to the many Karen churches in the camp and beyond.

The story of the Karen is significant. Some 200 years ago, Adoniram Judson, one of the first American Baptist missionaries, carried the Christian faith to the Karen. The Karen national anthem alludes to his faithfulness and to the belief that one day the Karen would take that same faith to the world. Saw Simon told us that this prophecy is now fulfilled in the resettlement, as Karen people (many of them Christian) now head off around the globe.

What does all of this have to do with an Offering for Global Missions? It has everything to do with it. Faithful Baptists 200 years ago pooled their financial resources to support Ann and Adoniram Judson, first in India and then in Burma. The Judsons shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with the Karen people and that gospel took root in their midst. Many Karen have continued to follow in the way of Jesus from that day until now. CBF partner churches pooled their resources in 2008 and Duane and Marcia are now ministering among and alongside the Karen in order to facilitate their relocation to the United States.


Crescent Hill Baptist Church and many other CBF partner congregations are receiving hundreds of Karen brothers and sisters who now become our partners in sharing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It's enough to make you believe that God has a plan in all of this giving that we do. From the Judsons to the Binkleys, we give and people go – and the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared.

The CBF Offering for Global Missions isn't just a relic of the past. It's a part of God's future. It offers a powerful way of combining our financial resources on a national level so that what happened with the Karen some 200 years ago can continue to happen today.

Thanks for what you and your church are doing in ministry and mission across the world — and in partnership with your CBF family.

With gratitude,



Rob Nash, CBF Global Missions coordinator

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Your *Gifts* have made a difference in North America ...

Six years ago, Rosa and her family moved from Mexico to Homestead, Fla., hoping to provide her children with better resources. When her husband, Emilio, was severely injured while working, she sought prayer at Open House Ministries, a ministry of CBF and CBF of Florida, because she had heard the big yellow building was God's place. Since then, both her children participate in after-school programs, and Rosa volunteers at the center. Rosa said Open House is a like a family, and when there are needs she can't meet for her children, the center is the first place she thinks of going.



Patricia Heys photo.

“Your giving has allowed us to join partner organizations to reach the HIV/AIDS community and to join with churches seeking to be a presence of Christ in their diverse neighborhoods in this great corner of the world.” — *Ronnie Adams, one of CBF’s field personnel, New York City*



Stretch Ledford photo



CBF photo

“Thank you for giving to CBF. Your giving has made it possible for the international peoples living in the United States to experience the love of Christ and hear about the truths of Jesus for the first time.” — *Aaron and Stephanie Glenn, CBF field personnel, Los Angeles, Calif.*

Carlton works in Miami’s day labor pool. In between jobs, he often struggles to afford food and housing. He spends his nights on the street so that he can save enough money for a permanent place to live. Carlton takes his hard hat with him everywhere he goes — even to worship on Sunday morning at the downtown mission. The mission, facilitated by CBF field personnel, provides a clean shower, change of clothes, a meal and a place where Carlton feels welcome.

“The CBF Offering for Global Missions is so important to my life. The mission that I do is not 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — it is 24 hours.

Sometimes people call me in crisis in the middle of the night. It is a blessing to be able to see someone in need and be able to help. The Offering allows me to give people the time, energy and love they need.” — *Nomie Derani, one of CBF’s field personnel, Brooklyn, NY*



Randy Durham photo

... and around the world.

Thank You for giving.

“Through partnership, prayer and project support, members of the CBF family have facilitated much-needed Change for Children in sub-Saharan Africa, enabling us to reach out and make a difference to children in especially difficult circumstances. Thank You.” — *Melody and Sam Harrell, CBF field personnel, Kenya*



Angie Weston Hoff photo



Annette L. Ellard photo

Por was only the second person in her people group to come to Christ.

While attending college on a scholarship provided by CBF, Por met Christian students and began attending church with them. “Accepting Jesus is usually difficult for people in my country — it often takes a long time,” said Por, who grew up in a hilltribe village in Southeast Asia. “But for me it was easy — maybe because so many Christians who had provided scholarships to kids from my tribe were praying for me.”

“Thank you for giving to CBF. Your gifts allow us to assist pastors in rural areas of China whose poor, farming-based congregations cannot provide them an adequate salary.

This subsidy of \$42 a month allows pastors to provide food, shelter and education for their children.” — *Bill and Michelle Cayard, CBF representatives, China*



CBF photo



CBF photo

As a Romany missionary, Danut Tataru faces many challenges.

For Roma, often referred to as gypsies, educational opportunities are limited, including theological training. But with funds from the Fellowship and the work of CBF field personnel and partner churches, Danut had the opportunity to attend the Gypsy Smith School in Romania, which offers courses for missionaries and church leaders. He is now better equipped to minister effectively among his own people.

“Because you have given to CBF, children who are good students but are from poor families will be able to continue their education

and not be forced to work on the streets. In this way, they see Christ’s love for them.”

— *Janet, one of CBF’s field personnel, Middle East*



CBF photo

One person at a time

Field personnel share gospel with Berbers of North Africa

In the bustling North African market, Jane Moras* walks with purpose. She's careful to dodge the donkeys carrying large loads, children bounding about after school, and the occasional tourist looking for a bargain. During this hour-long stroll with a few friends, she'll pass hundreds of people — children with worry-free smiles, older men

working in the same food stand they've worked their whole adult lives, and women with their heads covered as is the Islamic tradition in this country.

Odds are there are only a handful of people in the market who've ever heard the story of Jesus, and one of them is the woman walking beside Moras — her friend Karima. They've been friends for years,

and in this Islamic country, Karima has heard the gospel in one of the most common ways it's shared — through relationships with Christians like Moras.

In North Africa — where sharing the gospel in public settings is illegal — Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel like Jane and her husband, Sam, can't hand out Bibles on a street corner, project the Jesus Film on the side of a neighborhood house, or invite people to attend church. But they can love people.

"We share the lives of people during their struggles, we share the lives of people

during their celebrations, and through that we hopefully share God's love," Sam said.

"Jesus helped others with a hands-on approach. We don't have to pass out Bibles to teach others about Jesus. Our call is to love others, take care of the poor, the needy, the widows, the orphans and to let others see Christ shining through us," Jane said.

That's exactly what the Morases do among the Berber people, the original inhabitants of North Africa, who are often nomadic or disconnected from the larger Arab population. For one group of Berber women, the Morases purchased sheep whose wool is providing a much-needed source of income. For homeless children, the Morases partner with an organization that provides food and showers and exchanges clean clothes for dirty. The Morases also give away medicines in rural villages and help ensure people with mobility impairments have wheelchairs.

But ministry doesn't stop there. Sharing the gospel through meeting human need only goes half way. The Morases believe they must speak the words of Christ.

"How else will they hear?" Jane said. "We hope for opportunities to speak the words of Jesus Christ, to speak of the hope that is within us, and share information whereby people can choose ... to receive Christ."

Often, it takes years of sharing and dialogue before a Muslim will choose to follow Christ. In North Africa, it's a costly decision. Sometimes Christians lose their job or are shunned by their families. So



CBF photo

Through local partnerships, Jane and Sam Moras are able to help North African children — whether it's providing homeless children with clean clothes and food, children with disabilities with wheelchairs, or children in rural areas with medical assistance.



The predominant religion in North Africa is Islam, and it is illegal for a Muslim to convert to another religion.

disgraced by the decision, families will even report their Christian relatives to police since converting from Islam is illegal. The Morases know North Africans who have been imprisoned, beaten or even raped because they have turned from Islam. And yet many stand firm, believing in the depth of their soul that following Christ is something they must do.

When Hasan first became a Christian, he remembers being so scared. He didn't know who he could tell or where he could go to find other Christians, but he couldn't deny that Christ had spoken to him. "Follow Islam or choose to follow me," he remembers hearing.

Hasan chose Christ and, years later, is

part of a secret church for other former Muslims. Each time they meet, they willfully break the law but feel it's necessary to worship with the only other followers of Christ they know. They meet in homes, changing locations each week as to not be suspected or caught for meeting as Christians. They sing and worship — but they do it quietly. They read the Bible, pray and disciple each other.

The Morases have worked with underground churches like Hasan's for years. Instead of leading a church themselves, the Morases connect new believers with these indigenous churches, allowing North Africans to disciple, support and lead their own.

"We walk besides them, support them, encourage them, love them and do what they feel is necessary to see their part of the world reached for Christ," Jane said.

In North Africa, reaching Muslims with the gospel comes one by one. One follower of Christ invests in a friend, loves them and answers questions that friends naturally ask each other — What do you believe? Why aren't you a Muslim? Will you tell me about Christ?

"If you're in contact with people, they want to know who you are and they want to know about God," Sam said. "I can't even tell you how many times somebody might say to me, 'I've never met a Christian before and I've never understood what it



CBF photo

As Jane and Sam Moras live and serve in North Africa, they form relationships with North Africans and are able to share the gospel.

is that you really understand and believe.”

After nearly 10 years of living and building relationships in North Africa, the opportunity to share Christ occurs daily for the Morases. And although it takes years of friendship, love and conversation, North Africans are choosing to follow Christ. It may be only two or three people a year, but the church is growing.

Like other field personnel around the world, the Morases are supported by the CBF Offering for Global Missions, which provides for their salary, benefits, ministry and living expenses. Gifts to the Offering enable the Morases to

live in North Africa, build friendships and continue sharing Christ’s love in word and deed.

“Without your participation and support for the Offering for Global Missions, the opportunity for these people to hear the Gospel message wouldn’t be there,” Sam said. “We love the people who are around us. We love our friends, and we couldn’t do what we do without the Offering.

“Thank you for your gifts to the Offering. Thank you for helping us embrace the world.”

By CBF Communications

** Editor’s note: Due to security concerns, names of field personnel have been changed and specific locations will not be publicized.*

Church Spotlight

Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Mavis only took crochet patterns and materials to North Africa because they were small and fit in her suitcase. She didn’t know it would help change the life of a Berber woman in a remote village.

During the trip, Mavis helped teach an entire group of Berber women how to crochet, and one of the last students that day was a woman who was the sole supporter for her parents and younger sister. She had recently lost her job and didn’t know how she would find money to feed her family. That day, she learned a new skill that gave her hope. At the local market, she was able to start selling the hats, mittens and gloves she stitched.

“Words cannot explain what that story ... meant to me,” said Mavis, a member of

Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Since the church became involved with CBF field personnel Jane and Sam Moras* ministry among the Berbers in 2000, members of the congregation have prayed for the ministry, collected and sent eyeglasses, and given money to purchase sheep for Berber women, who can earn money by selling the animal’s wool. Church members have traveled to participate in ministry firsthand, and their lives have been touched and changed.

“Just being in that type of involvement is something you’ll never forget,” said David, who has traveled to North Africa twice.

The church has helped change lives and has joined God’s mission in the world. They have befriended Berber people and that moves them to continue giving to mis-



CBF photo

Groups from several CBF partner churches, like this one from Wilshire Baptist in Dallas, travel to North Africa to work alongside field personnel, learn more about the region, and build relationships with people there.

sions and going themselves.

“We have a relationship with these people,” said Jerry, another church member. “It’s not a matter of duty anymore. It’s a matter of being family.”



In word *and* deed

Samples welcome
Afghan refugees
with the presence
of Christ

In Afghanistan, the Taliban murdered Mustafa's father, kidnapped and imprisoned his brother, and helped force him and his remaining family out of their homeland and into a crowded refugee camp in Pakistan. That they survived and made it to Fremont, Calif., is a small miracle; that they ended up meeting CBF field personnel Lita and Rick Sample is another.

When the Samples met Mustafa's family in this suburb of San Francisco, they were not unlike other refugee families who arrive in the United States with little more than each other. When refugees arrive, they may have a few sets of clothes, but they usually don't have furniture, dishes, hygiene items or even a blanket to keep them warm on brisk northern California nights.

Refugee resettlement agencies often find new families a place to live and help as much as their resources allow, but inevitably some people slip through the cracks. Often, refugees — those forced from their home country because of violence, poverty or

With an estimated 50,000 Afghan refugees and immigrants in Fremont, the Samples often meet new families and build friendships by sharing a meal together.

other life-threatening reasons — don't speak much English, which makes it even harder to let someone know they need help.

“Even though refugees are very happy to finally be safe in America, there are many challenges that they find here,” Rick said. “There are immigration challenges. It's hard for them to find jobs, and most of the older people don't speak English. So the adjustment period is very challenging to them.”

That's where the Samples step in as CBF field personnel who welcome and care for families as they adjust to a new country, culture and life. For years, Mustafa's family has been one of those families. Initially,

“Even though refugees are very happy to finally be safe in America, there are many challenges that they find here.”

the Samples helped find furniture for them. Then they made sure their children had school supplies and later helped the missing teenage brother — who had been re-

leased from imprisonment in Afghanistan— navigate U.S. immigration procedures to rejoin his family in the United States.

“After sharing our lives and showing that we genuinely care for these families and that we want to be in their lives and part of their lives, then we

have the opportunity to share the gospel verbally,” Lita said.

“We want them to know that the reason we are there for them is not just because we're nice Americans, but because Jesus

loves them,” Rick said. “I believe it's so important for us to have ministries with them to show them that there is hope and that Jesus is that hope.”

That hope, which the Samples share frequently, eventually changed Mustafa's life. Through the Samples, he heard the gospel. Through a visiting student mission team he got answers to some of his questions about Christ. And finally — during worship at an Iranian church retreat — Mustafa said he was ready to become a follower of Jesus.

Mustafa's life is one of many changed through the Samples' ministry in Fremont, which has the largest Afghan-American population in the United States. One Afghan family came to a church-sponsored Christmas party, heard about the birth of Jesus and, after two months of reading the



As a way of welcome, Lita Sample often buys a scarf for new Afghan women in Fremont, who often know no one in the area and arrive in the United States with few possessions.



Carla Wynn Davis photo

The Samples partner with FarsiPraise, an organization that records praise and worship music in the language of Farsi and makes it available online for Farsi-speaking people around the world.

Bible, decided to follow Christ. Another family went to an Iranian Christian camp and made the same decision.

“Often, it takes a lot of time for them to really be open to the gospel,” Lita said. “It takes a lot of sharing and a lot of patience and a lot of love.”

By sharing Christ with refugees and immigrants, the Samples believe they are sharing with the world. Many times families still communicate with relatives in their home countries, telling them stories about the kind of things Christians do and of the gospel story Christians speak.

Another way the Samples are reaching beyond Fremont is through a local ministry called FarsiPraise. This ministry partner provides worship songs and resources in the Farsi language, which is spoken in countries such as Iran and Afghanistan. Christians in these countries, where it’s illegal to convert from the Islam religion, wouldn’t have access to Christian music if it wasn’t for FarsiPraise’s Web site.

“On a monthly basis we have about

13,000 people visiting our Web site,” said the ministry’s founder, Fariborz Ansari. “We get e-mails about how it’s touching their lives, and it’s amazing. God used CBF for FarsiPraise to get started and reach other nations.”

While the Samples have seen God

change lives in Fremont, they are convinced it’s only the beginning of a fruitful ministry. Through CBF’s Offering for Global Missions, which supports their salary, ministry and living expenses, the Samples are able to continue being a long-term presence among Afghan refugees. They are able to

continue sharing their lives and the gospel with people who might not hear otherwise.

“This is a group of people that are desperate for the gospel, and without the Offering, they won’t be able to hear,” Lita said. “In supporting the Offering, everyone has an opportunity to make an incredible difference in these Afghan lives — more than just sharing the gospel, but to make a difference in their whole being.”

By Carla Wynn Davis, CBF Communications

“Often, it takes a lot of time for them to really be open to the gospel. It takes a lot of sharing and a lot of patience and a lot of love.”

Unexpected ministry

Mary Jo Seymon never intended to get involved with refugee ministry in Fremont, but people just wouldn’t stop asking her about it.

CBF field personnel Lita and Rick Sample asked if she would give driving lessons to Kira, an Afghan refugee who was new to the country. A short time later, Kira’s son and husband asked Mary Jo to do the same thing. Finally, Mary Jo felt she had to say yes, and now — years later — she’s so glad she did.

Since that first driving lesson, Mary Jo and Kira have become good friends. She’s helped Kira learn English, provided transportation when there was none, guided the family through complicated paperwork, and tried to find the family affordable housing.

“It’s really good being able to be part of something that God has called you to do,” Seymon said.

The Samples see connecting Christians like Seymon with Afghans as part of their ministry in Fremont. Not only does it mean more Afghans can be reached, but more churches have the opportunity to be part of God’s mission in the world.

“I think it’s important for us to be Christ’s presence in a very real way, something that not only changes the lives of refugees but changes our own lives,” Lita said.

Through her friendship with Kira, Seymon has gone from not wanting to be involved with the ministry to believing wholeheartedly that God has placed her there for a reason.

“The mission field is here,” she said. “God has opened this window of opportunity for us to minister to the world, and it’s our job as Christians to be the hands and feet of Christ and to minister to the world.”

EMBRACE THE WORLD

fellowship Baptists are giving and going. As they give of their time, energy and resources, Christians and churches are embracing their own missional callings. They give to the CBF Offering for Global Missions in order that the physical and spiritual needs of people around the globe might be met. And they go, standing alongside CBF field personnel, to be the presence of Christ to a world in need.



Photo courtesy of the Tatums

The Tatums, along with their daughters, Kara and Kristen, and children of field personnel, traveled down a river in Southeast Asia to see the work of CBF field personnel in a local village.

“We are always amazed that God has allowed us to have this opportunity to participate in missions in a way that we could never have imagined. Seeing the projects that the field personnel are involved in has expanded our awareness of how real the needs are all around the world for both day-to-day resources and for the message of Christ. It also reinforces our belief that we should be involved in missions in our own neighborhood.” — *Ross Tatum, Fort Worth, Texas*

Kimberly and Ross Tatum are part of CBF’s member care team, serving as wellness resources for CBF field personnel. Ross, a psychiatrist, and Kimberly, a counselor, have traveled annually to Southeast Asia for the past seven years. “We originally became engaged in member care because we found it was a way that we could contribute to the missions effort,” Kimberly said. “Now, we go, with even more motivation than before, because we care about our CBF field personnel that we have developed relationships with.”

“My best memory of the trip to China is my interaction with a university student who was a little discouraged. I was able to share my testimony with her, which she said encouraged her greatly. She wanted to go back to her [village] and teach them. God uses people where they are. I went to China wanting to help other people, and the blessing I received back is more than I could have imagined.” — *Dottie Gross, First Baptist Church, Waynesville, N.C.*



Photo courtesy of Howell Glenn

Members of First Baptist Church saw first-hand the work of CBF representative Brenda Lisenby, foreground.

“We have a very urban youth group from diverse backgrounds. Metro Baptist Church was one place where we could go and they could work with kids who might also have a non-traditional life story. The teenagers see what needs to be done, and they step up and realize that they can be a positive influence in the world. That happens over and over again. The youth realize they can make an impact, and because of their experience at Metro Baptist many are now working to become teachers.” — *Judy Fiske, associate minister, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.*

Tabernacle Baptist has partnered with Metro Baptist Church in New York City since 1989. In addition to youth, many adult church members have also worked at Metro Baptist’s week-long summer camps. CBF field personnel Ronnie Adams and Amanda Hambrick currently serve at Metro Baptist and help facilitate partnerships.



Patricia Heys photo

Metro Baptist provides after school programs and summer camps for children.



Photo courtesy Catherine Bahn

Bahn taught tennis lessons during the All Church Challenge weeks, when missions teams lead sports camps, Vacation Bible School and work on construction projects.

“Helena has changed my life. Since my first trip as a senior in high school, I’ve returned countless times, spent a summer there and recently finished my undergraduate thesis on community development in Helena. I have learned so much from the people there. They’ve taught me that we are all the same, despite our backgrounds, regardless of our skin color; we are all God’s children.” — *Catherine Bahn, Jonesboro, Ark.*

Located two hours from Bahn’s hometown, Helena-West Helena, Ark., is one of the focal communities of Together for Hope, the Fellowship’s rural poverty initiative. For the past two summers, Bahn has served alongside CBF field personnel Ben and Leonora Newell through the Fellowship’s Student.Go program for college students. “Too often we consider missions as only global service,” Bahn said. “But Christ also calls us to serve in our own backyards. My experience in Helena reaffirmed this calling.”

“Our preference is to be directly connected to the ministry to which we provide support, time-wise and materially. It gives us great joy to see our material support being wisely used by Bob and Janice [Newell] to build a cultural center in Athens for Albanians. To watch this center take shape over the past several years has been phenomenal, and it is obvious that Bob and Janice have the vision, the heart, the drive and the skills, all given by God, to make Porta happen. Of course, first and foremost, they have the love of Jesus for the Albanian people, which we’ve observed first hand in their daily interaction with the Albanians, and they freely share the reason for their love daily.” — *Cindy and Ric Stewart, Biloxi, Miss.*

The Stewarts have made two trips to Porta, the Albanian center in Greece started and run by CBF field personnel Bob and Janice Newell. Most recently, Ric has used his technology experience to help create a computer lab at the center, and Cindy conducted jewelry workshops, providing information on starting a business.



CBF photo

Porta serves as a cultural and spiritual center, offering classes and opportunities for fellowship.

Why I give...

“Whether it’s in your church, your home or among friends and civic groups, I think we are better people as individuals because of what we do for missions. Whatever we are a part of, it makes that organization better.”

Jerry Isley
Ardmore Baptist Church
Winston-Salem, N.C.



Jacqueline Cardiner-Veal photo

Jerry Isley was moved by the faces he saw in the CBF Offering for Global Missions video. And when members of his church returned from North Africa with stories of the people they had met, he was compelled to get involved.

“Once you have that relationship and once you hear the stories and learn about

the needs of the people, you want to get involved and you want to help,” said Isley. “And that has happened to me as an individual, and I think it has happened with our church as we partner with people.”

Isley, along with his wife, Peggy, not only provide financial support to the mission efforts of the Fellowship and their church, but

they also offer encouragement in other forms. He says the congregation has formed a family bond with the Berber people of North Africa.

“We aren’t just giving to missions, but we have a relationship,” Isley said. “And because of that relationship we want to give. It’s not a matter of duty anymore. We genuinely care about what happens to people.”

Why we give...

“While it is increasingly important for churches to engage in missions in their own communities, it remains critical for the local congregation to recognize and connect with Christ’s work around the world.”

Brian Harfst, pastor
Antioch Baptist Church, Unionville, Va.



Photo courtesy of Antioch Baptist Church

Last year, Antioch Baptist Church, located in a small, rural community outside of Fredericksburg, Va., surpassed its goal for the CBF Offering for Global Missions. The congregation was inspired in part by the visit of Sam Bandela, one of CBF’s field personnel serving in India, who told members stories of how their gifts were changing lives.

“Like Christian faith in general, a passion for mission, both locally and globally, develops better from

relationships, personal exposure and shared stories, than from simply hearing statistics or detached sermons,” said pastor Brian Harfst. “Hosting CBF field personnel, like Sam, not only helps to increase awareness of what CBF is doing among the world’s most neglected and least evangelized, but it also puts a face on and ignites the passion for the mission work.”

The church, which celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2008, recently completed the “It’s Time: A Journey Toward Missional

Faithfulness” study and will continue to discern how God is calling the church to engage in missions — both in its own community and around the world.

“As it gets used by CBF field personnel, our Offering for Global Missions money becomes an extension of our church’s ministry, allowing Antioch Baptist to be the presence of Christ in places where we will never set foot and among people whom we will not encounter in this life,” Harfst said.

Frequently Asked Questions about the



Q: What does the CBF Offering for Global Missions support?

A: 100 percent of gifts to the CBF Offering for Global Missions exclusively supports field personnel salaries, benefits and ministry and operating expenses. Other expenses related to CBF Global Missions — such as member care and wellness, field personnel training, the rural poverty initiative Together for Hope and other ministries — are funded from gifts to the CBF budget.

Q: How do the most neglected benefit from my gift to the CBF Offering for Global Missions?

A: Your gifts to the Offering pay to have field personnel living among the most marginalized and least evangelized in some of the most difficult places in the world. CBF field personnel are able to be the presence of Christ among those who can benefit the most from their expertise, their witness and their channeling of resources from your gifts. Field personnel are strategically placed among the most neglected and are able to assist when disasters such as earthquakes, floods or tsunamis, strike. Those who have the least access to the gospel and who most often live in extreme poverty have a greater chance of a life changing encounter with Jesus Christ through CBF field personnel when you give to the CBF Offering for Global Missions.

Q: How does my church benefit from contributing to the Offering?

A: CBF field personnel are engaged in long-term ministry in locations around the world. Your financial support provides for the kind of long-term, sustained engagements that are essential to global missions and that no single congregation can undertake. In addition, they are invaluable cross-cultural and ministry resources for your congregation, both while they are on the field and when they are at home, speaking at your church. They can serve as a catalytic presence to energize your church to be missional.

Q: What is the significance of the goal?

A: The \$6.1 million goal for 2008-2009 is the amount in the line item for field personnel salaries,

benefits and ministry and operating expenses in the CBF budget. If the goal is surpassed, CBF has the opportunity to send additional people called by God to be the presence of Christ among the most neglected.

Q: What if we don't reach the goal?

A: If this goal is not reached, difficult decisions must be made about the placement of field personnel and the funding they have to minister. It is possible some units may have to be called home, or, more likely, short-term field personnel positions that are being vacated or slots where career field personnel have retired will go unfilled.

Q: Our church would rather be involved in missions in a hands-on way. Can't we just take a portion of our gifts to the Offering to pay for our members to go and participate in the work of CBF?

A: Many churches partnering with CBF have become more involved in a personal, hands-on way in God's mission in the world over the last few years. CBF celebrates this trend and, in fact, challenges more churches to become involved at this level. The Fellowship's mission statement is "to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission." CBF would like to see more churches go. But instead of making it a zero-sum game where churches have to take from CBF Offering for Global Missions funds in order to become involved in a hands-on way, CBF would challenge your church to make it a both/and solution. Challenge members to continue funding CBF field personnel at current levels or even increase funding while giving extra so that church members can go and serve alongside field personnel.

Q: When can I give to the CBF Offering for Global Missions?

A: The CBF Offering for Global Missions is collected year round. The \$6.1 million goal begins Oct. 1, 2008, and wraps up on Sept. 30, 2009. You can give directly to the CBF Offering for Global Missions at any time, or if your church collects for the CBF Offering, you can give through your church. Check with your church staff to find out when and how the CBF Offering for Global Missions is collected.

Q: How can I give to the CBF Offering for Global Missions?

A: You can give through your church, through your state or regional CBF organization or directly to the national organization. If your church is not supportive of CBF, you can give directly to CBF. You can utilize the envelope stapled into the center of *fellowship!* magazine, give with a credit card by calling toll free 1 (800) 352-8741 or going online to www.thefellowship.info/give, or write a check and mail it to CBF Offering for Global Missions, P.O. Box 101699, Atlanta, GA, 30392.

Q: When should I promote the CBF Offering for Global Missions?

A: Churches promote the CBF Offering for Global Missions in a variety of ways, from annual missions offerings at Christmas and Easter to an ongoing campaign throughout the year. Consult with your church staff, missions committee or finance committee to find out when your church collects its missions offering. The CBF Offering for Global Missions promotional campaign is flexible and is designed for use in any number of ways. To learn more, subscribe to the "OGM e-update" electronic newsletter by e-mailing contact@thefellowship.info or selecting it from the list at www.thefellowship.info/subscribe.

Q: Who do I contact if I have any questions?

A: Lance Wallace, CBF's director of communications, can answer your questions as well as provide individual consultations on promoting the CBF Offering for Global Missions at your church. He can be reached at (800) 352-8741 or by e-mail at lwallace@thefellowship.info.

Q: Is there a Web site I can go to learn more about the CBF Offering for Global Missions?

A: Place a favorite at www.thefellowship.info/ogm. There you can read overviews of the stories featured in this year's campaign, watch video clips, download logos, and get ideas on how to promote the CBF Offering for Global Missions at your church.

RESOURCES

CBF Offering for GLOBAL MISSIONS



Inviting people to give to the life-changing work of CBF field personnel working among the most neglected people in the world is as simple as telling a story.

All of the resources CBF produces to promote the CBF Offering for Global Missions are designed to tell the story of people's need, field personnel's calling and how you can become involved in making a difference to the unevangelized as well as those working with them.

Take a few minutes to review these resources that are available to you. Everything from bulletin inserts to pop-up globe banks can be ordered online at www.thefellowship.info/theclubstore or by calling The CBF Store, (888) 801-4223. Send any questions or comments to ogm@thefellowship.info. Be sure to get a jump on your promotion campaign planning by ordering today!

There are many free resources to help you promote the CBF Offering including:

- **CBF Offering envelopes** — Product no. 0420P001
- **CBF Offering Leaders Guide** — Product no. 0820P001
- **Embrace the World campaign poster** — Product no. 0720P005



Bulletin inserts and posters highlighting North Africa and northern California

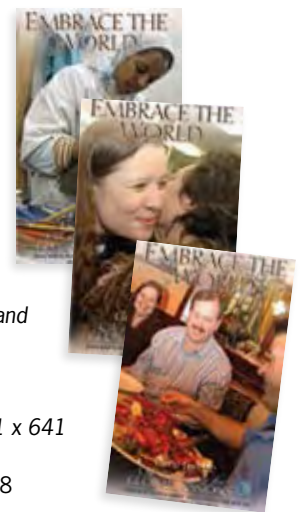
- **North Africa posters** — Product no. 0820P002
- **Northern California posters** — Product no. 0820P003
- **North Africa bulletin insert 1** – bundles of 25 — Product no. 0820P004
- **North Africa bulletin insert 2** – bundles of 25 — Product no. 0820P005



- **Northern California bulletin insert 1** – bundles of 25 — Product no. 0820P006
- **Northern California bulletin insert 2** – bundles of 25 — Product no. 0820P007

A DVD with nine video segments and a CD-ROM, which has multimedia tools such as sermon outlines, litanies, dramas, and sample children's sermons

- **DVD** — Product no. 0820DV001
VHS available by calling (800) 352-8741 x 641
- **Prayer guide** — Product no. 0880P008
- **CBF Offering for Global Missions pop-up globe banks** — Product no. 0520P008
- **E-mail updates and promotion ideas** — E-mail contact@thefellowship.info to request addition to the e-mail list
- **A Web site** with a complete set of downloadable resources at www.thefellowship.info/ogm



Speaker's bureau

People passionate about global ministries are often the greatest resource to promoting the CBF Offering. Through its *face2face* speaker's bureau, CBF can connect your church with a missions speaker who will share compelling stories from the mission field and help promote the CBF Offering that allows those stories to happen. They can speak during worship, on a Wednesday night or to Sunday school classes. Schedule a speaker by calling (800) 352-8741 ext. 630 or e-mailing face2face@thefellowship.info.

Missions Education Resources

Learn more about the work in northern California and North Africa as well as other CBF ministries this year in the Fellowship's missions education resources. CBF offers a line of four resources for preschoolers through adults to engage congregations in the study of missions. The resources can be used in traditional missions education classes as well as in Sunday school, around the dinner table, at home or in worship. The stories of CBF field personnel, churches, and individuals working in the world will inspire learners of all ages to live in more faithful, missional ways. Missions education is missional formation! For more information about CBF's missions education resources, visit www.missionseducation.



Lita and Rick Sample

The Samples are Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel ministering in the San Francisco Bay area. They are based in the city of Fremont, where they work among refugees and immigrants.

Background: Commissioned for CBF missions service in 2002, the Samples have previously worked with youth, children and have taught English as a second language. They have three children — Beth, Anna and Elliott — and feel privileged to minister among refugees and immigrants.

“Rick and I are really passionate about our ministry here,” Lita said. “It’s something that we love; that we feel called to. I can’t imagine being anywhere else. I can’t imagine doing anything else.”

Ministry: Because Fremont is home to the largest U.S. population of refugees and immigrants from Afghanistan, the Samples focus on welcoming new Afghans and making sure they have the physical resources they need. They form friendships and share the gospel through word and deed.

“As Christians, we’re the ones that have the opportunity to share the hope of Jesus Christ in a hands-on way, not only through what [refugees] need or by friendship but by word,” Lita said. “You know, it’s as if God was taking people from other countries closed to the gospel and bringing them right here to our own doorstep for us to share with them.”

The Samples also connect local Christians with Afghans so the ministry expands and more Afghans can experience the presence of Christ.

“God is changing lives,” Rick said. “He is doing some exciting things right here in America with internationals. They are coming to know Christ, and they are experiencing what it means to be loved by Christians.”

Several Afghans have become Christians through the ministry, and with support from CBF’s Offering for Global Missions, the Samples are able to continue ministering in Fremont.

“One of the things that is so important



Year-long mission study

This year churches using *Affect*, CBF’s missions education resource designed especially for adults, will be studying in-depth about the work in northern California and North Africa as well as other CBF ministries. Upcoming topics for 2008-2009 include: Karen Immigrants, Baptist Missional History, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and Exploring a Call. *Affect* is now a full-color quarterly magazine containing monthly units that can be used in traditional mission groups, worship, Bible study and at home. For more information about *Affect*, or one of the other CBF resources, visit www.missionseducation.org.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship



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Lita and Rick Sample talk with a woman at an Afghan market in Fremont, Calif.

Carla Wynn Davis photo

for us is to be able to have a long-term presence,” Rick said. “The refugee families that we have encountered need to know that we are here for the long term. The Offering for Global Missions makes it possible for us to have a long-term presence to internationals in California.”

By Carla Wynn Davis, CBF Communications