

your fellowship

a look at the life-changing ministries of the Cooperative Baptist **Fellowship**



from the Coordinator



DEAR FRIENDS,

You and your church are at the heart of this movement we call the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Together with people like you and churches like yours, this Fellowship transforms the world in ways none of us could do alone.

The pages of this brochure highlight how your financial contributions are making a difference in the world. As you'll see, your gifts are changing lives. Whether it's church planting or chaplaincy, global missions or theological education — your Fellowship is having an impact on people. It is my prayer that these stories, testimonies and examples of powerful ministry will bless you and affirm your commitment to this Fellowship. For those who are considering making an investment in this meaningful work, these stories and this budget will give you ideas of where and how to invest.

Thank you for being a part of this movement of God that is changing our world.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Vestal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel Vestal
Executive Coordinator

you are
part of something big

— something widespread, multifaceted, and life-changing.

you are
part of a movement

— a movement passionate about the gospel and committed to being the presence of Christ.

you are
part of a worldwide
fellowship of Christians

that believe Christ changes lives, that believe in the freedom for all to follow God's call, and that believe more is done together than alone.

This is a fellowship committed to your mission, your church and your call.

■ this is
your fellowship.



■ *your mission*

Many sub-Saharan Africans take the dangerous journey through the Sahara Desert to escape violence, disease and poverty. Hoping to reach Europe, many only get as far as North Africa, where they often live as undocumented refugees with few rights and resources. Your Fellowship helps provide food, essential items, medicines and hope.



you live in an ever- changing world.

It's a world both shouting and silent, where injustice and denial of human rights are rousing calls to bring Christ's presence to people who have been silenced by their suffering. It's a world where the gospel of Jesus Christ can make a difference.

You are not being sent merely to speak Christ to the world but to show Christ — to be Christ in the best ways you know how. Being the presence of Christ means helping people get the resources they need to live. It means loving, healing and sharing hope that comes through Christ.

Your Fellowship supports more than 145 field personnel around the world. They are serving in remote villages, large cities, in the United States and in countries with little access to the gospel. They are making a difference among the world's most neglected people, and they need you to join them; not just support them. They need you to be on mission with them, with God and for the world.

serving the most *neglected*



■ **In Kenya**, nearly 650 young children receive early education, a daily meal, and medical attention they may not have without CBF field personnel Melody and Sam Harrell. Working with CBF partner churches, the Harrells have started eight integrated child development centers. “Change in the lives of children through education, better nutrition, elimination of disease, and Christian love and compassion is the goal of this effort,” Harrell said. “An equally important benefit is the change that occurs in the lives of those who commit to be partners in the initiative, using their God-given gifts, resources and skills and discovering God in the process.”



■ **In Ukraine**, more than 17,000 children are homeless. They live under buildings, in tunnels or wherever they can find shelter. They scrounge for food and sometimes steal so they can eat. “When I feed the hungry children in the street, when I give clothes to the children in the street, and give them medicine — it’s all in the love of Christ,” said Mina Podgaisky, one of CBF’s field personnel. She and her husband, Gennady, are helping develop Village of Hope, a Christian foster home for street children.

being the *presence of Christ*



■ An Arab woman who'd been kicked out of her house and onto the New York City streets came to the local Arab American Friendship Center. Nomie Derani, one of CBF's field personnel, helped the woman find a new place to live. Later, the woman said something was different about Nomie. "That's our purpose," Nomie said. "It is for her to find the difference in our lives — Jesus Christ."

■ When Tracy Davis brought her kids to a CBF Together for Hope summer camp in Helena-West Helena, Ark., she didn't know it would change her life. She met CBF field personnel Ben and Leonora Newell, became a major volunteer in this rural poverty ministry and now spends much of her time bettering her community. "I've seen such a turnaround. It's awesome," she said.



Tracy Davis

■ The Romany gypsy people are so discriminated against, it'd be hard for them to believe First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., would do what they did.



In partnership with CBF field personnel Ralph and Tammy Stocks, they helped a Kekcse, Hungary, congregation purchase and renovate a church building, forming friendships along the way. "A partnership is about more than bricks and mortar," Ralph said. "The result of the week was not only new construction, but ... every team member took with them faces and names that they will long remember and for whom they will often say prayers."

Church member David Causey said, "The experience cannot be expressed adequately in words or pictures. One must experience this sort of partnership hands-on to fully grasp the emotional and physical needs of the Roma people."

changing lives



■ At dinner one Wednesday night in Cairo, Egypt, Chaouki Boulos invited Mario, a restaurant waiter, to the final night of a four-day Celebrate Jesus rally. The next night Mario joined nearly 900 people at the rally, heard Boulos speak, and became one of more than 300 new Christians that week. “I am very excited about what God is doing,” said Boulos, who along with his wife, Maha, serve as CBF field personnel in Beirut, Lebanon.



■ For women in India, learning a new skill such as sewing can mean a source of income where there once was none. When her husband left Jyothi and her young son, they had no means to survive until they met Sam Bandela, one of CBF’s field personnel. He introduced her to a CBF-funded job skills school, where she learned to sew. For this single mother in India, sewing is more than a skill, it means she has a future. Along the way, she found Christ, too. Now, Jyothi has a future and a hope.



■ For three years, Bill and Michelle Cayard, CBF representatives to China, had the same Chinese tutor. After three months of working together, she asked if she could come to church with the Cayards. She became a regular attendee, a follower of Christ, and one of the most active members of the congregation.

Churches in China are growing rapidly, and the Cayards help meet one of the greatest needs — leadership training. “The church is growing faster than the leadership can keep up with,” Bill said.

“The Holy Spirit is moving among the Chinese people, and they are accomplishing things that we can only dream about and to be a part of that is a privilege,” Michelle said.

Your gifts at work

- Providing salary, benefits and operating expenses for field personnel ministering among the most neglected | \$6,100,000
 - Walking alongside the 20 poorest U.S. counties through Together for Hope, CBF's rural poverty initiative | \$60,942
 - Encouraging churches and individuals to connect with God's mission in the world | \$140,257
- (See page 19 for complete budget)

■ your church

Your Fellowship provides opportunities for churches to engage in God's mission in the world. When West Main Baptist Church in Danville, Va., heard CBF was partnering to build houses for Katrina victims in Louisiana, they sent a 10-person roofing team to help. "Once you put people in service together, all kinds of differences break down," said pastor Bruce Wilson. "The hope of the church is in projects like these."



God is on a mission in the world

... and your church is a vital part of that mission. As the body of Christ, your church serves others, loves others and reaches out to hurting people. It's a place of relationships, discipleship, prayer and hope. It's a fellowship of encouragement, support, worship and service. No two churches look the same and none is perfect, but each is called to be the presence of Christ in its community and world.

A missional church is one that discerns God's mission and finds ways to participate. It's a church that empowers its people to discover and use their gifts. It's a church that proclaims the gospel and loves people. It's a church that ministers next door, across the street and around the world. It's a church with limitless possibilities.

This Fellowship's mission is to serve churches like yours by helping them discover and fulfill their God-given mission. Whether it's through Bible studies, events and conferences, grants for missional ministries, or support for Baptist partners, your Fellowship is helping equip, empower and engage your church with God and the world.

equipping



■ After learning about HIV/AIDS ministry through *Ignite*, the Fellowship’s missions education resource for youth, teenagers at First Baptist Church in Macon, Ga., were inspired to volunteer at a local AIDS community center. “The curriculum and study did a good job of laying out how Jesus relates to those at the end of their rope,” said youth minister Jody Long. “Going to the Rainbow House was a way for us to focus our worship lives on how we can be a part of a solution, and raising our consciousness: How is Jesus calling me to respond? What can I do?”



■ Each year CBF’s General Assembly gathers thousands of Fellowship Baptists for worship, learning, networking, inspiration and fellowship with like-minded Baptists. Because of the Fellowship’s 2007 General Assembly, Mallory Homeyer of Waco, Texas, no longer questions whether she wants to be Baptist. “It was the first time in my life I was able to hear Baptists [place] a major emphasis on the poor and the least of these. CBF facilitated an environment where you got to hear about that. I was able to see some of the people speaking and connect those faces with the type of Baptist I want to be,” she said.



As the Hispanic population in the United States continues to grow rapidly, the Fellowship is helping start Hispanic churches. Many of these churches worship in Spanish and are able to reach a population most U.S. churches can't. Each year, the Fellowship also helps start a number of other churches trying to reach specific populations — from the unchurched to young professionals to the urban poor.

Resources for you and your church

The resources developed or made available by the Fellowship include:

- ***It's Time: A Journey Towards Missional Faithfulness*** | An eight-week church-wide study to help churches and Christians live with purpose and passion in order to be the presence of Christ
- ***Destinations: Mapping Your Congregation's Missional Journey*** | A guide for churches to discern and implement the ministries God has equipped them to do
- ***Missions Education*** | Learn about missions through a line of four resources that teach, inspire and engage the entire church in age-appropriate ways
- ***Christianity for Beginners*** | Six-week small group study that introduces people to the Christian faith
- ***Klesis: God's Call and the Journey of Faith*** | Explore the Bible and your ministry gifts and consider what God may be calling you to do
- ***Light for the Path*** | A guide for spiritual formation resources for you and your church
- ***Short history of CBF*** | Learn more about the beginnings and development of the Fellowship movement
- ***Church Census*** | A research tool designed to determine your church's strengths, challenges, faith experiences and potential for better helping families
- ***Glimpses of Missional Faithfulness*** | Be inspired by what other churches have done to participate in God's mission in the world

empowering



■ For years, Kirkwood Baptist Church in Kirkwood, Mo., has been developing a ministry among the estimated 60,000 Bosnian and Serbian people living in the St. Louis area. With an “It’s Time” missional grant, some church members were able to travel to Bosnia to build a church as well as learn more about the culture, the people and the country. “It was important to get out there and see how others live. For those who went on the trip abroad, seeing the extent of poverty and the lifestyle of the poor had a huge impact,” said pastor Scott Stearman. “There’s this contagious enthusiasm for the people who went on the trip, and they’re sharing it with the rest of us. It’s served as a kind of spark for the church.”



Scott Stearman



■ New Jerusalem Christian Church is a CBF church start in a drug-ridden area of Baltimore, Md. After completing CBF’s “It’s Time” church-wide study, the congregation applied for one of CBF’s missional ministry grants. With the grant, the church is able to expand its outreach efforts, including Sunday breakfast and special outings for families. “We find our area is full of single parents who are having difficulty getting kids to come to church on time and also have struggles with feeding their children,” said pastor Bernard Roberson. “We are in an urban area full of single mothers. They don’t often have the funds to take the kids skating or bowling. We can subsidize their outings and possibly present the good news to some.”

engaging



■ **In Homestead, Fla.** — a community where nearly half of school age children live below the national poverty line — members of North Stuart Baptist Church in Stuart, Fla., got involved. The church connected with Open House Ministries, which CBF helps fund. “The needs are obvious,” said church member Mike Crook while serving at Open House’s back-to-school event. “You don’t have to start something new, but just look where God is working and join in. We can use this as a way to get started, and who knows where else this will lead us.”

Your gifts at work

- Providing spiritual formation resources for individuals and churches | \$121,500
 - Developing new church starts | \$152,937
 - Providing support for Baptist partners – Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, Baptist World Alliance, Baptists Today and Associated Baptist Press | \$395,000
 - Helping start new Hispanic churches in the United States | \$120,104
 - Equipping, empowering and encouraging churches and individuals for the missional journey | \$66,500
 - Communicating the story of God’s work in the world through missions education and prayer resources | \$464,311
- (See page 19 for complete budget)

■ **Members of University Baptist Church** in Montevallo, Ala., read about, prayed for and financially supported CBF ministries in Thailand. And then, they went. They partnered with CBF field personnel



Robin Norsworthy

Ellen and Rick Burnette to install a water system in a remote village. “Being able to spend a week in a village really opens up the world, so that we have a bigger heart for the people of the world,” said pastor Robin Norsworthy. “I always tell the congregation that I believe we were put on earth to join God in God’s mission where God is already working.”



■ your call

The Fellowship's Initiative for Ministerial Excellence helps sustain healthy ministers and deliver practical help to church leaders.

God calls *people*

— first to Christ and then to be Christ's presence in the world. Each of us responds in our own way — a way unique to our skills, resources and call. Your freedom to listen, discover and respond to God's call is a gift, and it unites this Fellowship. We come together knowing and believing each of us is called.

God calls some to vocational ministry — as ministers in churches, missionaries in international settings, chaplains in hospitals or battlefields, and in other ministry settings. These individuals are ministry leaders, responsible for discerning the Spirit and caring for the people God places in their path. Your Fellowship helps discover, develop and nurture these ministry leaders to live their call, fulfill their mission and impact the world.

■ With a CBF leadership scholarship, Gil Gulick was able to attend Wake Forest University's Divinity School. "I learned about others who thought about faith the way I do.

I learned that I'm not as unique in my faith life as I thought I was. I learned there were other Baptists who thought about spiritual life differently," said Gulick, who hopes to be a pastor or minister of education.



Gil Gulick

■ In 2003, CBF began supporting peer learning groups, which are small groups of ministers who meet monthly for worship, spiritual growth, study, discussion of ministry-related issues



and fellowship. "The group has provided for us a place of freedom," said Cynthia Jarrold, who facilitates a 10-person group of women ministers in Kansas City, Mo. "We have found freedom to express who we are, where we are theologically and share our struggles uniquely related to being women in ministry."



More than 2,000 Baptist students are preparing for ministry at one of the 15 seminaries, theology schools or Baptist studies programs in CBF's network of ministry partnerships.

■ One day, CBF-endorsed chaplain and Navy Lieut.

Alan Rogers was asked to baptize

a Marine in the Euphrates River in

Iraq. “He courageously made a public

proclamation of his faith in front of his squad as they

crouched in the bushes on the riverbank, providing security

for us,” Rogers said. “When he emerged from the water, I

said, ‘God bless you my brother.’ He replied, ‘God bless you

too, Chaps. Now let’s get out of here before we get shot!”

Rogers, one of more than 600 chaplains and pastoral counselors endorsed for ministry by the Fellowship, was also a CBF leadership scholar and calls CBF a meaningful foundation for his ministry.



Alan Rogers

■ CBF’s ministry residency program places seminary students and recent graduates in a two-year position with a Fellowship partner church, which serves as a teaching congregation. Danielle

Smith serves in Franklin, Va., where “being able to walk in the footsteps of more experienced ministers, like those of Franklin Baptist

Church, is such a gift because full-time ministry can be a scary and overwhelming task.

Being a resident and having teachers to guide me through my first season of ministry has

already educated me in ways that I could never fully realize in a seminary class.”



Danielle Smith

Your gifts at work

- Support for 11 partner theological schools and 72 leadership scholars | \$1,313,202
- Assisting churches in finding ministerial staff and ministers in finding churches | \$4,950
- Providing continuing education events for ministry leaders | \$33,000
- Sponsoring Current, a network of young Baptist leaders | \$20,000
- Endorsing chaplains and pastoral counselors; relating to more than 600 CBF endorsees | \$55,000

(See next page for complete budget)

The call to serve has taken many CBF-endorsed military chaplains to Iraq.

B U D G E T S U M M A R Y

Below is a summary of the Fellowship's expense budget. Some "Percent of Total" percentages have been adjusted to reflect rounding.

	Budget 2007-08**	Budget 2008-09*	Designated Expenditures 2008-09	Total Expenditures 2008-09	Percent of Total
EXPENSES					
PRIORITIES					
Congregational Life					
Faith Formation					
Evangelism and Missional Church	\$ 85,000	\$ 66,500	\$ 489,003	\$ 555,503	2.9%
Spiritual Growth	125,000	121,500		121,500	0.6%
CBF Store	70,537	70,000		70,000	0.4%
Missions Education	446,773	464,311		464,311	2.4%
Church Planting	90,000	152,937		152,937	0.8%
Faith Formation Support	559,363	469,148		469,148	2.5%
Total Faith Formation	<u>1,376,673</u>	<u>1,344,396</u>	<u>489,003</u>	<u>1,833,399</u>	<u>9.6%</u>
Building Community					
Congregational Health	36,000	34,000		34,000	0.2%
Reconciliation & Justice	92,500	84,500		84,500	0.4%
Networks and Gatherings	177,800	173,604		173,604	0.9%
Baptist partnerships	403,600	395,000		395,000	2.1%
Marriage & Family	22,800	16,000		16,000	0.1%
Building Community Support	3,600	3,500		3,500	0.0%
Total Building Community	<u>736,300</u>	<u>706,604</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>706,604</u>	<u>3.7%</u>
General Assembly	361,000	360,000		360,000	1.9%
Total Congregational Life	<u>2,473,973</u>	<u>2,411,000</u>	<u>489,003</u>	<u>2,900,003</u>	<u>15.3%</u>
Leadership Development					
Discovering Leaders	24,000	25,000		25,000	0.1%
Developing Leaders	1,471,000	1,425,202		1,425,202	7.5%
Nurturing Leaders	78,500	67,950		67,950	0.4%
Initiative for Ministerial Excellence	137,682	181,758	462,516	644,274	3.4%
Chaplaincy	55,000	55,000		55,000	0.3%
Leadership Development Support	340,818	355,090		355,090	1.9%
Church Benefits Board		25,000		25,000	0.1%
Total Leadership Development	<u>2,107,000</u>	<u>2,135,000</u>	<u>462,516</u>	<u>2,597,516</u>	<u>13.7%</u>
Global Missions					
Missional Church Engagement	129,720	140,257		140,257	0.7%
Ministry Among the Most Neglected					
Field Personnel Salaries and Benefits	3,522,292	3,625,894	594,597	4,220,491	22.2%
Field Personnel Operating Expenses	2,628,010	2,474,106	572,909	3,047,015	16.0%
Field Projects			237,500	237,500	1.2%
Promotional Resources	285,735	258,535		258,535	1.4%
Strategic Partners	66,240	96,240		96,240	0.5%
Field Personnel Orientation and Training	54,372	21,897	145,000	166,897	0.9%
Member Care and Wellness	98,799	113,740		113,740	0.6%
Together for Hope/Rural Poverty Initiatives	64,420	60,942		60,942	0.3%
Personnel Development					
Personnel Selection	66,608	65,174		65,174	0.3%
Student.go	111,297	102,460		102,460	0.5%
Projects/Personnel/Finance Liaison	13,973	26,420		26,420	0.1%
Ministry Support	1,660,561	1,622,505	50,000	1,672,505	8.8%
Total Global Missions	<u>8,702,027</u>	<u>8,608,170</u>	<u>1,600,006</u>	<u>10,208,176</u>	<u>53.7%</u>
TOTAL PRIORITIES	<u>13,283,000</u>	<u>13,154,170</u>	<u>2,551,525</u>	<u>15,705,695</u>	<u>82.7%</u>
ADVANCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION					
Fellowship Advancement:					
Marketing	65,500	58,347		58,347	0.3%
Speakers Bureau	23,900	23,900		23,900	0.1%
Web	19,000	19,750		19,750	0.1%
Newsletter	189,604	207,522		207,522	1.1%
Media Relations	40,000	39,000		39,000	0.2%
Development	108,900	115,000		115,000	0.6%
Communications & Marketing Personnel	632,096	616,481		616,481	3.2%
Total Fellowship Advancement	<u>1,079,000</u>	<u>1,080,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,080,000</u>	<u>5.7%</u>
General Office	664,548	670,340		670,340	3.5%
Office Relocation Expenses	-	50,000			
Information Systems	131,875	140,130		140,130	0.7%
Coordinating Council	38,300	38,300		38,300	0.2%
Administration Personnel	1,284,277	1,367,060		1,367,060	7.2%
TOTAL ADVANCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	<u>3,198,000</u>	<u>3,345,830</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,295,830</u>	<u>17.3%</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$16,481,000</u>	<u>\$16,500,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,551,525</u>	<u>\$19,001,525</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

* In addition to the budgets as detailed above, CBF's operating grant to the Church Benefits Board from reserves \$125,000 in 2007-08 and \$100,000 in 2008-09.

** 2007-08 budget amounts have been adjusted to reflect the realignment of certain line items for the sake of comparison.

this is your fellowship

— a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice. More than 1,850 churches contribute to the Fellowship annually.

We believe in historic Baptist principles, biblically-based global missions, justice and reconciliation, lifelong learning and ministry, trustworthiness and effectiveness. Our mission is serving Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission.



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship



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