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Welcome to Georgia!

Tim and Sally DeBorde are moving from North Carolina to Eatonton. Tim has been called to First Baptist Church of Eatonton. He will become their new Minister of Music. Their ministry will begin on Sunday, June 5th. Tim has served churches in Louisiana, Florida, and North Carolina. He is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (MCM 1986 and MRE 1988).

Resource Update

- **Initiative for Ministerial Excellence** makes difference among pastors
By Carla Wynn
CBF (National) Communications

ATLANTA – Two years into the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Initiative for Ministerial Excellence (IME), the Initiative's leaders are hearing positive feedback and appreciation from pastors who have benefited from the various IME programs.

The Initiative, funded with a \$1.99 million Lily Endowment, Inc., grant, was launched in response to the need for community among pastors and the understanding that healthy congregations need healthy ministers.

One facet of the program has been the 39 peer learning groups that provide community to 369 ministers. Through these groups, IME has reduced the isolation many clergy experience, said Dave Odom, IME evaluator and president of the Center for Congregational Health. "The invitation to form groups met a powerful need. IME has made a lasting contribution by helping clergy find each other and encouraging clergy to be resources to each other," he said.

The peer learning groups met monthly with group leaders receiving training at last June's CBF General Assembly. Groups also gathered at five state CBF meetings in 2004, with 11 meetings scheduled in 2005. The Fellowship communicates with all group members through a monthly e-zine, which was launched in January. "Some pastors have recommitted themselves to the ministry because of support they have received from their peer learning group," said Terry Hamrick, the Fellowship's leadership development coordinator.

Twenty pastors have been awarded sabbatical grants, enabling pastors to engage in study, rest and relaxation. One pastor even studied at Oxford University in England. Thirteen of these pastors went on their first sabbatical, Hamrick said. Sabbatical planning assistance was offered to each pastor in order to help better meet personal goals. IME will provide sabbatical assistance to 35 pastors next year.

"A number of ministers indicated that they were nearing burnout and questioning the possibilities of future ministry without renewal and spiritual recharging. Many have brought back and begun to implement new ideas gleaned from their sabbaticals, which have taken their congregation's ministry to a new level," said Mike Harton, an IME regional coordinator.

The Ministry Residency program, a pilot project for recent seminary graduates, has provided four people with a two-year mentoring and learning experience in a CBF congregation. In 2005, six graduates will be selected for residencies.

"One significant outcome of IME is that congregations are becoming more aware that they need to be part of encouraging and supporting clergy," Odom said.

Mission Opportunity

- **CBF-National has contact information on a couple interested in Hispanic ministry.** Both are bilingual. Husband has a music degree and served in Ecuador. If your church already has a Hispanic ministry or if your church would like to start a Hispanic ministry, please contact [Clarissa Strickland](mailto:Clarissa.Strickland@cbfga.org), Associate Coordinator for Leadership Development, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, PO Box 450329, Atlanta, GA 31145-0329. Phone: 770/220-1635 Fax: 770/220-1685.
- **Did you know:**
 - >That malaria claims twice the number of victims as AIDS each year?
 - >That globally, 500 million people are infected with malaria every year?
 - >That over 2.2 million people die from malaria annually?
 - >That you and your church can make a difference?

His Nets is a non-profit organization which provides a Christian response to the global malaria epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa. While raising the awareness of this on-going global crisis, **His Nets** is also mobilizing Christians and other caring groups to save the lives and improve the quality of life of those in high malarial areas in sub-Saharan Africa.

His Nets purchases insecticide treated sleeping nets which are then given to African families. These special nets provide protection to an entire family at a modest cost. The Nets are distributed by churches and other agencies free of charge as a tangible Christian witness. See what you can do. See what kind of difference you can make - *a difference between life and death*. Visit [His Nets](http://www.hisnets.org) or call **His Nets** at 405-447-2471.

Updates

Frank Broome, CBFGA Coordinator, named to the Search Committee for the CBF – National's next Global Missions Coordinator. The chair of the committee is **Tim Brendle**, a retired pastor living in Richmond, Virginia. Other committee members are: **Jana Benjamin**, Tullahoma, Tennessee; **Rusty Brock**, Ardmore, Oklahoma; **Beth Fogg**, Richmond, Virginia; **Harriet Herral**, Fort Worth, Texas; and **Earl Martin**, Jefferson City, Tennessee. For additional information, visit [the CBF website](http://www.cbfga.org).

Correction

The June/July *Visions* (page 12) incorrectly lists Clyde Fant as the speaker for the Sept. 18-20 **Mercer Preaching Consultation**. The speakers for this event are: **Dr. Gardner Taylor** and **Dr. John Claypool**. You can receive additional information on this event by calling Truett Gannon at 678-547-6457.

Reminders

- **June 8**
Chaplaincy Network Gathering (Spouses included)
 10:00 am – 3:00 pm (Lunch provided by CBFGA)
 CBFGA Macon Office
 2465 Hillcrest Ave.
 Network gathering for fellowship and support. Discussion on ways that CBFGA can support and encourage chaplains and pastoral counselors. Dr. Ron King, Executive Director of the Pastoral Institute (Columbus, GA), will speak after lunch.

Please RSVP by June 03.
 Call Milton Snyder at 478-452-3098 (home), 478-451-9688 (cell) or call the CBFGA office. You can also email [Devita Parnell](#) or [Frank Broome](#).
- **June 30-July 1**
CBF National General Assembly
 Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, Grapevine, TX
 Auxiliary events offered Wednesday, June 29, and Saturday, July 2.

To pre-register for the Assembly or see a sample listing of workshops, visit [CBF General Assembly 2005](#).
- **Kingdom Builders is partnering with CBFGA and TTWL** to renovate houses in Taliaferro County. Please email [Jimmy Lewis](#) for additional information. Youth groups can register to participate at [Kingdom Builders](#). College students are also needed to serve in paid internships! Email [Joey Fennell](#).
- **A Festival of Preaching**
[Northside Drive Baptist Church](#)
 3100 Northside Drive, N.W.
 Atlanta, Georgia 30305-1909
 404-237-8621
 11:00 am, every Sunday from July 10, 2005, through October 9, 2005.
 Featuring nationally recognized and distinguished guest preachers and theologians.
- **July 17-21**
[Soul Feast](#), Lake Junaleska, NC
 Features large group worship, Bible studies, and small group topical workshops.
- **July 18-21**
 Campbell University's **Pastor School**, Buies Creek, NC
 Messages on pastoral care and more during the three-day sessions.
 For more information call 800-344-4111 ext. 1549 or email temple@campbell.edu.
- **August 23**
 Children's Ministry Network Gathering, FBC Griffin
 Children's Ministers across Georgia are invited to attend this quarterly gathering for professional development. Email [Brenda Dedmon](#) or [Devita Parnell](#). You may also call Brenda at 770-587-6980.
- **Christian Educator's Network Gathering**
August 30
 12 noon – 3:00 pm (lunch provided)
 FBC Griffin
 Join with other Christian Educators across Georgia for professional development, encouragement, and renewal. Rick Bennett, Associate Coordinator for Faith Formation (CBF National), will lead participants in a discussion entitled: "Somewhere Between Christian Education and Spiritual Formation."
 For more information contact [Devita Parnell](#).
- **Global Missions e-update now available!**

 - Providing:
 - >up-to-date Offering information
 - >stories about CBF Global Missions field personnel and partners
 - >innovative ideas and links to resources to help you promote the Offering
 - >information about CBF volunteer missions
 - >links to prayer calendars

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