

VISIONS



April '02

Connect with CBF of Georgia

Through Education *promoting historic Baptist principles, encouraging the education of Georgia Baptists, and building knowledge of the heritage and hope of Baptist principles*

CBF of Georgia and the Center for Christian Education held its first annual **Sunday School and Church Growth Conference** in February 2002. The anticipation, participation and reaction to the conference was outstanding. Watch as we repeat this event in 2003.

Individuals must take responsibility to stay informed of the latest developments in Baptist life. Connect with our **partners in information ministry**:

- Associated Baptist Press at www.apbnews.com
- Baptist Center for Ethics at www.baptist4ethics.com
- Baptists Today at www.baptiststoday.org

CBF of Georgia **grants and scholarships** are given to Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia, Candler School of Theology, McAfee School of Theology, and Mercer University. Giving to CBF of Georgia ensures tomorrow's denominational leaders are educated and trained.

The first annual CBF of Georgia **Senior Adult Gathering** is set for October 10-13. Get in on the inaugural event! Find details in the Coming up! section on page 6.

Through Student Ministries

facilitating work with children, youth, college students, and seminarians

CBF of Georgia **March Mission Madness** began in 1997 as an annual youth weekend event, and has grown to 350 youth with provisions for overflow. Future plans could include simultaneous "east coast" and "west coast" events in cooperation with Alabama and South Carolina. Watch for more madness!

CBF of Georgia **New Horizons Camps** have been held since 1994, with a second week added in 2000. In this cutting-edge mission camp for children who have completed grades 3-5, children participate in a mission project and learn about global missions.

Through Missions *encouraging, identifying, and providing opportunities for sharing the Gospel and opportunities for engaging in mission activities*

CBF of Georgia **mission teams** have painted Harbor Ministries in McCaysville, Georgia, and assisted the Salvation Army with relief efforts in New York City. A second team returned to New York to assist Safe Horizons. A third team returns to New York in April to do construction work at Brooklyn Redeemer Church.

A major mission opportunity exists in Taliaferro County, Georgia, this summer for academic tutoring, recreation and Bible teaching. See *Memos from the Missions Coordinator* inside for more on Taliaferro County.

Ten locations in Georgia have been identified as areas in need of **new church plantings**. Pray that the right leaders are found to lead these new initiatives. Give to CBF of Georgia to ensure that these new congregations are supported in their infancy.

Future mission opportunities exist with **Bosnians and French Canadians**. A mission team will visit the United Nations to see how CBF is making a difference internationally, and how CBF of Georgia can add to the effort.

CBF of Georgia has adopted the **unevangelized people of Sumatra, Indonesia**. The adopt-a-people initiative invites individuals, groups and churches to become directly involved in missions through focused prayer, project participation and volunteer involvement. Many have already found their path to adoption and service. Jimmy Lewis, Missions Coordinator, can guide you through your adoption process.

There are many **mission opportunities** for individuals and churches. Often they are time sensitive, and immediate communication is crucial. Register for volunteer mission opportunities on the CBF of Georgia mission website www.cbfgamissions.org.



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia

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VISIONS is published eight times a year by CBF of Georgia

All questions and comments may be directed to the editor, Surelle Pinkston, at (478)301-5928 or pinkston_sk@mercer.edu

Frankly speaking



When we gather for meetings, I get a chance

to answer questions about CBF.

Sometimes it is in formal settings such as a breakout session. Most of the time it is in the hallway. The questions asked are a good indicator of what is on the mind of most CBF people. Let me share a few of those questions I heard at our recent meeting at Johns Creek in Alpharetta.

Q. What is new with CBF of Georgia?

A. The Missions Committee is developing an initiative in Taliaferro County. They are working with local community leaders to meet needs among the lower income population. A search committee has been formed to secure a person to assist with the work of our education and student work committees; Craig Williamson, pastor of FBC Manchester, is the chair. We are looking for additional office space in Macon. For the past four and a half years we have used three offices at a building owned by Mercer. We need seven regular office rooms and one large meeting room.

Q. How is the relationship between the National CBF office and the 18 state and regional offices?

A. Good. For the past year the state and regional coordinators have been meeting regularly with the coordinators at the Atlanta office. We alternate between meeting in Atlanta and meeting in one of the states or regions. This has strengthened our relationship with each other and brought greater understanding of how we can work together.

Q. What can you tell me about our Wales and Sumatra partnerships?

A. Jimmy Lewis and Sara Powell, chair of the missions committee, will be giving us more details about these two partnerships. We do know that we are committed to praying for both of these areas. We are likely to see mission teams find places of service in Wales and Sumatra. Future issues of *Visions* will provide additional details including specifics of the partnerships and how individuals and churches can become involved.

Q. What is this new organization, Global Women?

A. Global Women is a new organization for women. It was incorporated on December 6, 2001, and will attempt to “create and cultivate global friendships among women.” The purpose statement stays that the organization will “enable evangelical women to help women and their families to obtain a life of faith and benefit.” Dorothy Sample, a former national president of WMU, is the president. Catherine Allen and Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler are also officers. Suzanah Raffield will serve as the first full-time coordinator. Additional information can be found at www.globalwomengo@cs.com.

These are a sample of the kinds of questions asked in the hallway. Perhaps they are an indication that knowledge of and interest in CBF of Georgia is growing. That is good news for all of us.

—Frank Broome
CBF of Georgia Coordinator



At the tenth annual General Assembly, former and present moderators and staff were recognized along with Robert Gardner, author of *A Decade of Freedom and Faithfulness: The CBF of Georgia 1992-2002*.

Public Meetings of the Georgia CBF

The following article is the third in a series recounting the first ten years of CBF of Georgia. Written by Robert G. Gardner, Senior Researcher in Baptist History at the Jack Tarver Library of Mercer University, the articles are condensed excerpts from A Decade of Freedom and Faithfulness: The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia 1992-2002, authored by Dr. Gardner and published in February 2002.

Have you ever caught yourself looking over your shoulder to see who is standing nearby and overhearing your conversation? No doubt all of us have, at one time or another, but not at CBF meetings! There we have experienced a freedom of fellowship that is unparalleled in most recent Baptist meetings.

Four kinds of public CBF/GA meetings have occurred during the past decade and I'll bet that none of us has attended every scheduled gathering! On a regular basis we have general assemblies in the spring, open meetings in connection with the national CBF late in the spring or early in the summer, fall convocations and, occasionally, regional meetings supported mainly by the local folks.

One- or two-day meetings have been scheduled each spring since 1993: two at Decatur and one each at Stone Mountain, Milledgeville, Atlanta, Griffin, Athens, Tifton, Augusta, and Alpharetta. Since 1997 they have included events during parts of two days, Friday and Saturday.

Programs have included out-of-state and local speakers and musicians, reports from the leaders of ministries within the Fellowship, the election of officers selected after open discussion, workshops of great number and variety, often a meal on the premises, and a room of exhibits publicizing ministry resources available to interested churches and members.

Non-Georgia guests have included Bill Leonard, then of Samford University; Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler and John Tyler, moderators of the National CBF; Michael Hawn, musician from Perkins School of Theology in Texas; Robert Parham of the Baptist Center for Ethics; William Augustus Jones, Jr., pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York; John David Weaver of South Wales Baptist College; Will Willimon of Duke University and even the Bert and Debbie Ayers family from Albania by way of a long-distance telephone hook-up.

Each year authorities in their fields have conducted practical and informative workshops, some of which have been titled: "Doing Evangelism with Integrity"; "It's Time to Look at Creative Worship"; "Theological Education in Georgia"; "Stewardship and Church Budgets"; "Healing, Health, and Faith"; "Marriage and Parenting"; "Frog Kissin': An Approach to Missions"; and "The Celtic Way of Doing Evangelism."

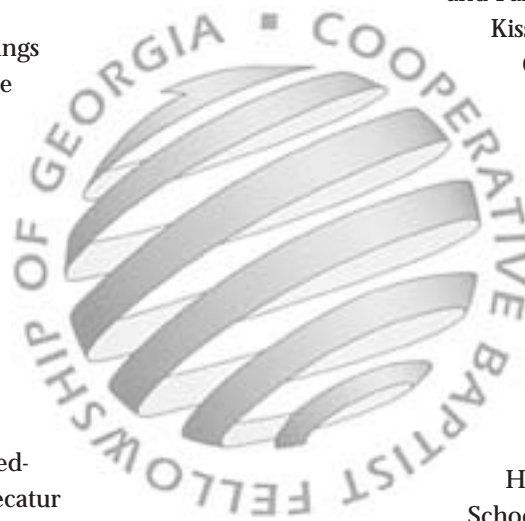
Similar convocations have been held each fall since 1991 during parts of one or two days. Major speakers have included the ubiquitous Bill Leonard, now of Wake Forest University; Pat Anderson, moderator of the National CBF; Cecil Sherman and Daniel Vestal, coordinators of the National CBF; Keith Parks, National CBF global missions coordinator; Glenn Hinson, visiting professor at Candler School of Theology; Rabbi Arnold Mark Belzer of Savannah; and John Claypool of Atlanta. This winter our principal guest at Marietta First is to be Tony Campolo of Pennsylvania.

Since 1991 in Atlanta, Georgia, gatherings have been held in connection with meetings of the national body. Speakers have usually been brief, preceded and followed by much animated conversation and light refreshments.

Perhaps you've been unaware of regional meetings. However, since 1994, they've been convened at Summerville, Rome, Tifton, Pinehurst, Reynolds Plantation, Dahlonge, Atlanta, Jasper, Morrow, Milledgeville, Toccoa, Savannah, Columbus, and Hartwell. Watch for the next one nearest you.

In light of this article, how would you characterize CBFers in Georgia? They are meeters, eaters, and listeners! Later in the series we'll watch them as they are doers.

— Robert G. Gardner, author,
*A Decade of Freedom and Faithfulness:
The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia, 1992-2002*



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Position Announced for Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life

The CBF of Georgia is accepting resumes for the position of Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life. Primary responsibilities include resourcing churches for education, student work, and leadership development. A job description is available upon request. Resumes will be accepted until June 1, 2002. Send resumes to Craig Williamson, CBF of Georgia, POB 4343, Macon GA 31208.

Order Today!

A Decade of Freedom and Faithfulness: The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia 1992-2002 available at no cost from CBF of Georgia at 478-301-5928 or pinkston_sk@mercer.edu.

A Heart for Missions

This Vacation Bible School turns a church into a miniature medical school, teaching children that missions is all about helping and healing in God's name. Better yet, children are

led to do missions action now, rather than assuming that they must wait until they are older. The crafts made in the VBS are handy and useful to people with needs, and are given away during the week. This VBS really makes a difference in lives. Contact Smyth and Helwys at 1-800-747-3016 or www.helwys.com.

FaithSteps Sunday School Curriculum

Experienced children's leaders and local church teachers were involved in the development of these new materials, and their input shows.

Compare ease-of-use and theological distinctives. Connect with Smyth and Helwys through the previously listed contacts.

Financial Picture

2001-2002 monthly budget requirement.....	\$34,050.16
February receipts.....	\$28,833.88

General Assembly, Johns Creek BC, March 1-2, 2002



Former moderator Carolyn Massey and husband Charles were present as the gavel was passed once again, from Jim Ross to Rachel Deems.



Friday worship was greatly enhanced by the voices of the North Atlanta Young Singers, under the direction of Lynn Urda

Mission Trip, New York City, February 4-9, 2002



(L-R) Toccoa residents Glenda Condrey, Jimmy Lewis, Twyla Nelson, Dale Moseley, and Glenda Jackson assisted Safe Horizons with relief efforts in New York.



(L-R) Dale Moseley, Mayor Guliani, and Glenda Condrey met on a New York street and exchanged greetings.



Mayor Guliani thanked Howard Enslley for his volunteer work in New York.

memos from the missions coordinator



These are exciting and challenging days for missions through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia. The coordinating council approved a recommendation from the missions committee to partner with the residents of Taliaferro County (Crawfordville) to provide tutoring for the children of the community this summer. Consider some of these issues as they relate to Taliaferro County:

Taliaferro (pronounced Toliver) County, a federally designated Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community, is listed in *The Georgia County Guide* as the 5th lowest county in median family income, and 156th out of Georgia's 159 counties in economic wealth. This poverty is reflected in every aspect of the community. Ninety-six percent of school children at the Taliaferro County School are receiving free or reduced lunch. Taliaferro County has the lowest per capita income in the Central Savannah River Area region at \$14,933.

Statistics on education indicate 51.4% of the Taliaferro County population has not completed high school. For over 20 years, students in grades 7-12 were bused to adjoining Greene County to attend middle and high school. Students were subjected to long bus rides and experienced a lack of community involvement. These conditions led to a high drop-out rate.

For the first time in 20 years, all Taliaferro County School students are attending classes in their home county. The Taliaferro County School began the 2001-2002 school year as a charter school. A new school building is almost complete. The school has a basketball team this year.

The administrators of the Taliaferro County School began an after-school

program during the 2000-2001 school year — the first ever. The program consisted of tutorial help, including math and reading, arts and recreation.

Family Connection was able to bring 4-H back to the county in 2000 through a cooperative effort with Greene County. The 4-H program is part of the after-school program. An emphasis is being



made to help high school students, who fell behind in Greene County, to progress in order to graduate.

There is no recreation program in the county. The after-school program and the basketball program are helping keep some youth busy after school.

The Taliaferro County Career Opportunity Center, a satellite school of Athens Technical College, is open every weekday. Dr. Katherine Allen is working with many students who have dropped out of school. A new population of students are middle-aged displaced textile workers, many of whom do not have their high school diplomas or GEDs.

A December 2001 article in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* listed

Taliaferro County as 4th in the state for out-of-wedlock pregnancies. The paper said the high rate of unwed births is one factor contributing to poverty in the Black Belt. The percent of female headed families living below the poverty level is 52.2%.

Medically, residents are receiving health services from a Tri-County Health Clinic. A doctor is in the office each weekday. The county also has a health department; it currently is without a resident nurse.

The last figures published in 1998 listed Taliaferro County with a 6.8% unemployment rate. The rate of residents commuting outside the county to work is 68.7%. Many residents have lost their jobs in recent months due to plant closings in nearby Greene and Wilkes Counties.

The population is an aging one. Many residents move back to Taliaferro County to retire. They enjoy the slow-paced lifestyle and lower cost of living. For the younger population, trying to earn a living and raise a family, the situation is often desperate. Many times there is no desire to break out of the lifestyle they grew up in. The cycle of poverty continues for these residents.

We are in the process of planning our work in Taliaferro County this summer. There will be numerous opportunities to be a part of this significant ministry. Contact me for additional information.

— Jimmy B. Lewis, Missions Coordinator,
678-428-6204; toll free 1-866-245-5240;
email jblewis@mindspring.com; web site
www.cbfgamissions.org

CBF of Georgia...enabling the people of God who are committed to historic Baptist principles to carry out the Great Commission under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in a fellowship where every Christian has the freedom and the responsibility to exercise God's gift and calling.

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coming up!

2002

April 4-6

Collegiate Ministers Retreat
Scarritt-Bennett Center, Nashville TN
Contact Becky Matheny at 706-549-7069 or
bm1349@aol.com.

April 9

**The Neo-Apocalyptic and Baptist Life:
"Left Behind" Theology and Our World Crisis**
Mercer University, Macon
Medical School Auditorium
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. William Hull, leader. Registration
is required. Contact Greg Thompson at 478-301-5467
or www.mercer.edu/baptiststudies.

April 15-17

Leadership in Ministry
Calvin Center, Atlanta
Continuing education workshops in Ministering to
Congregations as Family Systems. For information:
www.leadershipministry.com.

April 26

**Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia
Annual Spring Meeting**
Savannah FBC
Theme: Grace Sufficient. Carolyn Hale, speaker. Lunch,
business and awards are featured. To register, contact
Devita Parnell at 478-301-5648 or
parnell_kd@mercer.edu.

May 3

How to write a GOOD Local Church History
Mercer University, Macon
Religious Life Center
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Rollin Armour, Robert Gardner,
Doug Weaver, and Walter Shurden, leaders. Registration
is required. Contact Greg Thompson at
www.mercer.edu/baptiststudies or call 478-301-5467.

May 3-5

**Building Blocks for Living a Successful Single
Lifestyle**
"The Cove" at Black Mountain NC
\$250 per person. Contact The Center for Christian
Education toll free at 1-877-772-8291 or www.c4ce.org.

June 20-22

**Baptist History and Heritage Society Annual
Meeting**
Theme: Baptist Diversity
Carson-Newman College
Jefferson City TN
For information go to www.baptisthistory.org.

June 27-29

CBF General Assembly
Fort Worth TX
Rooms available through Connections at 1-800-262-9974.
JOIN THE CBF OF GEORGIA FELLOWSHIP
3:45 p.m. on Thursday, June 27.
For assembly details go to www.cbfonline.org.

July 16-19 and 23-26

CBF OF GEORGIA NEW HORIZONS CAMP
*A mission camp for children who have completed
grades 3-5*
New Ebenezer Retreat Center, Rincon GA
Cost \$125 per person; reservation of \$25 per person is
required and accepted through April 1. Send registration
information to Jana Kinnersley, Milledge Avenue Baptist
Church, 1690 S Milledge Avenue, Athens GA 30605.
For questions contact Jana at 706-354-0090 ext 204 or
janask@milledge.org.

July 18 - August 7

CBF College Student Cultural Exchange to China
Cost \$2400. Christian students are welcomed to China
to teach English skills and study Chinese culture.
Contact Ann or David Wilson, 989-835-1536 or
cen29529@centurytel.net. Find more info and applica-
tion forms at www.cbfinchina.org.

October 10-13

CBF OF GEORGIA SENIOR ADULT GATHERING
Myrtle Beach SC
Cost \$350 per person; price does not include trans-
portation. For information contact Phill Nall at 770-939-
8238 or phillnall@thenautilusgroup.net.

November 10-11

CBF OF GEORGIA FALL CONVOCATION
Marietta First Baptist Church
Tony Campolo, speaker

events, dates, times & places