

VISIONS



April / May '05

The Test of the Messenger: Hope or Hopelessness?

*EDITOR'S NOTE: As we strive to "Be the Presence of Christ" in our world, can we pass the test of the messenger? The following was reprinted with permission from the author, Jeanie Miley. This is an excerpt from her Soukwork article written for the Fellowship Website, www.thefellowship.info, on October 4, 2004. Jeanie Miley is the author of three books, *Becoming Fire*, *Christheart*, and *Ancient Psalms for Contemporary Pilgrims*.*



Jeanie Miley

And so it is that here, decades removed from my youthful idealism, I am making a new commitment to speaking and living the Good News in a culture that appears to me to be soul-weary and worn from the terrors of contemporary life.

I am committed to being a carrier of hope in a time when powerful voices would stir up fear instead of faith, hate instead of love, conflict instead of peace. And if there are young idealists among us who still believe that they can make a difference in the world, I'm going to put my belief behind them and cheer them all the way.

Given a choice among the groups I'll join, I'm teaming up with people who are for something, instead of those

who are committed to being against something.

Given the option between spending my time with idealists, optimists and hopeful people, or people who keep on announcing bad news, I'm choosing carefully to be with people who are going about doing good.

Given the invitation to speak up and speak out, instead of restating the problems, I'm proclaiming news that will extend love, joy, and peace. I've never given up my deep belief that what the world needs at any given time really is love, sweet love.

At this point in my life, I'm joining forces with the lovers of the world who still believe that it is possible to join the Lover of the world in making people whole, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. ■

As a current events and political junkie, I've recently pulled up that hope and optimism from my youth because now, more than ever in my entire life, the world is desperate for the good news of the abundant life of Christ, a life that yields love, joy, and peace. These are days that plead for voices of hope.

Frankly speaking

As I travel the state and talk with pastors and lay people, I detect a desire from lay and clergy to be more involved in direct missions and ministry. For some it is local. They want to know how to assist individuals and families in need. How does the church deal with requests for food, clothing, shelter, transportation, employment, and education? Others are interested in helping do missions and ministry in the state. They want to experience

missions outside their own city and county but still in a setting where they would feel at home. Still others want to go abroad. They want to engage in missions in a different culture and different country. In the early days of the CBFGA, we were hard pressed to do more than just encourage churches to study, pray,



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From our moderator

What in the world is a South Dakota farm boy, who is also an old, retired soldier, doing as the CBF of Georgia Moderator? That's a good question. Perhaps Frank Broome or the CBFGA Coordinating Council members can answer it. I can't. Maybe they will say that I'm a committed Christian who likes being Baptist, as we "CBFers" define the term. I especially like our vision statement. It really is important to be the presence of Christ in the world!

In the early 1990s, Becky (my wife) and I were members of Immanuel Baptist Church, an English language congregation in Wiesbaden, Germany. I taught a couples Sunday School class that was a mix of Baptist missionaries, U.S. soldiers, and internationals. That class was really interesting, but Becky's was out of this world. She led a young singles group that was truly international and that sometimes "hung out" at our home. I'll never forget one Sunday when I substituted for her. My topic was part of a series on Baptist beliefs. The 16 students



present that day were from seven different nations, and

the young man who read the Scripture translated as he read from his Polish Catholic Bible. What a great, eye-opening discussion we had that day!

You say, Al, what's the point? Those young people really had only two or three things in common—they were fluent in English, they had accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, or were heading in that direction, and they liked being with Christians. Beyond that, they were all over the map, but yes, they were Baptists, and our umbrella was big enough to shelter all of them. Listening to one another, learning from one another, being inclusive, and adapting the Good News to local circumstances without diluting its content are all integral to being the presence of Christ in the World!

—Al Shauf, CBF of Georgia Moderator

From our past-moderator

There is a choral anthem based on Philippians 3:13-14 that I used to love to sing: "Press on, Children of God" (Blankenship). At one point in the anthem the choir is divided into two parts. One part sings the melody and the other part sings over and over: "Press on, children, children of God. Press on, children, children of God." As I move from singing the melody as moderator of CBFGA to a supporting role, I will be like that second choir part, praying continually that the children of God who make up CBFGA will keep pressing on.

It has been such a privilege to work with our committed and capable staff, to lead our concerned and caring Coordinating Council and committees, and to enjoy worship and fellowship with many of you at our state-wide gatherings. Much has been accomplished, but the opportunities for ministry and mission in our state and around the

world are many. In order to meet these needs, all of us who love and seek to serve God through CBFGA have to commit ourselves to give of our time and gifts, both financial and spiritual. We should also be communicating our enthusiasm, taking stands in our churches on budgetary and staffing decisions, being willing to explain why and what CBF and CBFGA stand for, sensitively following God's leading in doing so. All of the above need to be undergirded with prayer.

As I look toward the future, I'd like to say with Paul: "Friends, don't get me wrong. By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus." (MSG) Press on, children of God!

—Sara Powell, CBF of Georgia Past-Moderator



Memos from our missions coordinator



One of the most popular elements of church life today is volunteer missions which is certainly consistent with the New Testament directive for all of us to tell the “Good News.” The success of a volunteer missions program begins at home with training. Volunteers must understand the culture and the values of the people they will serve. The place served while on a mission trip should always be better when the mission team leaves than when they came. The missionaries and natives of the community should be energized by the experience—not drained from the experience. The volunteer missions work holds tremendous possibilities for those who go, for the missionaries on the mission field, and for the people who are native to that land.

The first great possibility is that a group of volunteers can be a great source of strength and encouragement to the people who have planted their lives on the mission field. The spirit of those who go on a mission trip must be focused on being servants of the mission field. The role of servant is the most useful, productive element of a mission trip.

The second great possibility is that volunteers will sense a call from God to give their lives in full-time missionary service. This can be a life-changing experience for both youth and adults. I have seen individuals and families whose future was dramatically changed because they had an opportunity to become servants on the mission field.

The third great possibility is that the returning volunteers will be so inspired by the endeavor that they will involve their local church by becoming a part of an effort to support the mission work through the local church budget. An effective mission strategy is sustained, not only through volunteer missions, but through the support given to the missionaries who have planted their lives in the place where people need to hear the Gospel.

Go where the need is...give of the love of Christ, unconditionally, and you will undergo a life-changing experience.

—Jimmy Lewis, CBF of Georgia Missions Coordinator

2005 Mission Trip Opportunities

▼ **Location:** Community Baptist Church, Milledgeville, Georgia

Need: Construction

Target Date: June 1, 2005

Volunteers also needed to provide a “Backyard Bible School,” VBS, etc. at the same time (perhaps family members of those doing construction). Plans to have all the materials on the ground in advance and provide some regular meals for those doing the work.

Contacts: ROY FOWLER, 175 Mays Road, SE, Milledgeville, GA 31061; Phone: 706-485-0127; E-mail: fowlers175@earthlink.com; ALAN MITCHELL, 143 Log Cabin Road, Milledgeville, GA 31061; Phone: 478-453-2380; Cell: 478-957-2295; amitchell@cbfga.org

▼ **Location:** Evergreen Baptist Church, Milledgeville, Georgia

Need: New building construction

Target Date: Week of June 12th (calendar available to schedule teams)

Contact: TODD LOWE; Phone: 478-456-1772; E-mail: bbq_padre@charter.net; church website: www.evergreenbaptist.com

▼ **Location:** Harbor Ministries, McCaysville, Georgia

Need: Teams willing to help with day camps; some construction

Target Date: Summer 2005

Contact: DENISE BRYSON CALDWELL, P. O. Box 2226, 35 West Tennessee Street, McCaysville, Georgia 30513; E-mail: jjdd@ellijay.com; Home: 706-492-2583; Church: 706-492-9953; Cell: 706-633-3769

▼ **Location:** Boise, Idaho

Need: Church roof for small CBF church; materials provided

Target Date: Spring of 2005

Contact: JIMMY LEWIS; E-mail: jblewis@mind-spring.com (photos and additional information available)

▼ **Location:** University Baptist Church, Getzville, NY

Need: Roof on the educational wing (single story building); additional projects as time permits

Target Date: Summer 2005

Contact: DALE D. MEREDITH, 39 Hardt Lane, Amherst, NY 14226; E-mail: ciedale@eng.buffalo.edu; Phone: 716-837-0301; Cell: 716-465-4986

▼ **Location:** Project Ruth School (A School for Gypsy Children), Bucharest, Romania

Need: Building teams and VBS teams

Target Date: Summer 2005 (Ideal time is July 9 through end of the month)

Contact: ANDY BROCKBANK; E-mail: andy@projectruth.ro; Website: www.projectruth.ro

Morningstar Treatment Services, Inc.

▼ **Location:** Youth Estate Center (Brunswick)

Need: Building and ground work

▼ **Location:** Therapeutic Foster Care (Savannah & West Point) & Treutlen House (Rincon)

Need: Various supplies for residents

▼ **Location:** Family Resource Centers (Brunswick, Carrollton, Cartersville, Cumming, Macon, Rome, Savannah, and Zebulon)

Need: Computers, office equipment, and supplies

Contact: NANCY DAVIS; Phone: 912-267-7583; Website: www.morningstartreatmentservices.com

Tsunami Relief

Potential volunteers must meet these conditions:

- Have a needed skill set: medical or water filtration skills
- Experience in the third world
- Ability to pay project costs. \$2500+/- estimate for a two-week project
- Must provide a letter from a physician (on letter-head) endorsing good health
- Willingness to have typhoid, Hepatitis A/B immunizations, tetanus shot, and take malaria medication
- A background check will be required if accepted for volunteer work

For additional and complete information contact: TIMOTHY WOOD, Volunteer Missions Program Manager; CBF Global Missions – Dallas; 1000 E. Beltline Road, Suite 105, Carrollton, TX 75006; 972-242-5977 or 1-800-782-2451; Fax: 972-389-9857

“Bring it Home”

This program challenges international mission trip participants to impact internationals in their hometowns upon their return. “It is missions in your neighborhood, but specifically missions with an international twist. Missions is not only about going but also about being in your own community,” says Michelle Norman (Michelle and her husband, Matt, work among international students in Toronto through CBF’s Global Service Corps). *A note of interest to CBFGA is that the Normans moved to Atlanta in March of this year. Welcome to GEORGIA!*

The Internationals Team, who is spearheading this initiative, hopes to spread “Bring it Home” to more local churches. At June’s General Assembly in Grapevine, Texas, they will offer a breakout session, geared toward working among Muslims in North America. An auxiliary luncheon about the new emphasis is planned. Contact wyatt@cbfnet.org for additional information.

For additional mission opportunities from CBF National, visit their website at <http://www.thefellowship.info> then click on Global Missions, next click on Destination Missions.

Mission Memoirs

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following are comments written by CBF members who have participated in mission work.

Reflection on the joy of working with the day camp
in Taliaferro County...

Tentative glances and tough exteriors (on all sides)
melting into smiling faces and warm hugs.

Challenges to provide for, yet work with, the children
— the focus to build capacity rather than lead activity.

Enjoying seeing the elementary school children with
their sense of pride about their school and community,
then the next year working with the middle-high
school children wondering what happened to the
sense of pride regarding community...in spite of
developmental stages, happy that they were still playful
and willing to risk.

Praying each day...amazed at the resilience...my own
requiring an afternoon nap as an important essential
to being ready for the next day!

—Gwynn Powell



Being a part of a mission trip to New York not
long after 9/11 was a special experience for us.
Helping people whose lives had been affected so
deeply by that tragedy continues to be a high-water
mark for us. We were grateful for the opportunity that
CBFGA afforded us to spend a week assisting in that
way. Being a part of a mission team is one of the most
spiritually rewarding things in which we have ever par-
ticipated: it is physically demanding and requires
patience, flexibility, time, and energy. The outcome is
dependent on prayer. The object is to be a blessing
and to be used of God to touch the lives of others—
and usually that happens; but always the end result for
us has been a deeper depend-
ence on God and a rich blessing
received.

—Sara & Bill Powell

Having been reared in Miami,
she was quite concerned
about putting her small town boy
on a plane bound for Bucharest,
Romania, with a layover in Paris,
France. After all, this is a kid who
grew up traveling to Macon just to
ride the escalator at Sears. What
would the boy do in a land where
his pennies were useless? She kissed
him goodbye and walked away in
joyful, fearful tears, but trusting a
divine grace she knew well.

I was that boy, a 45-year-old man,
married for 24 years, father of two
teenagers, and pastor for twenty-
four years—with my first passport,
traveling beyond the borders of my
native country for the first time, by
myself —being sent off by my wife. I
was going to teach at the Gypsy
Smith School at the Ruth Center of
the Providence Baptist Church in
Bucharest, Romania, for a week.
The strange thing was that I had no
fear about the travel, changing
planes, language, or money. Maybe I
was simply too naïve to be afraid.
However, I was anxious about how a

middle-class American white boy was
going to be able to connect with a
group of disenfranchised Gypsy
pastors in their Romanian world. I
prayed for the grace of God to be
sufficient once again, to cover for
the inadequacy of my flesh.

Once in Romania I met a rich part
of the body of Christ. The gracious
greeting of “Pace” (pronounced
pa-chee) continues to ring in my
ears. It means simply the peace of
Christ—the greeting that Christians
in Romania give to one another. I
met a vivid incarnation of Christ’s
peace, strength, challenge, and love.
Eastern Europe is so different archi-
tecturally and economically from my
small town. I was obviously a white,
rich American, but I was respected
like a scholar, treated like a dignitary,
and hosted like a beloved family
member. The Gypsy pastors’ conver-
sations, commitment, and humbleness
awakened me. They were so grateful.

But it is I who has the deepest
debt of gratitude. If being thank-
ful is a virtue, then my virtue
should have increased as a result
of serving with the Gypsies. Going
on a mission trip does that to you—
makes you grateful. But please
understand the gratefulness is not
about being grateful for what you
have, as opposed to what some
Eastern European Christians don’t
have. It is about being grateful to be
able to be God’s servant. The mis-
sion trip convinced me that if I had
nothing of what I have, but have the
gift of being God’s servant, I am gift-
ed beyond measure. Teaching Gypsy
pastors at the Gypsy Smith School at
the Providence Baptist Church in
Bucharest, Romania, was such a gift
of life.

Things that provoke tears among us
are often the greatest treasures.
When I recall that week in March of
2004 there are tears of joy and longing.
Thanks be to God for such treasure!
I pray that all God’s people shall find
such treasure.

—Craig Williamson

Jimmy Lewis and Theodor Raychynets, Bosnia-Herzegovina



“Kingdom Building”

It is need,
It is willingness,
It is compassion,
It is new faces,
It is singing,
It is storytelling,
It is feeding,
It is swimming,
It is laughing,
It is camaraderie,
It is sharing,
It is commitment,
It is life-changing,
It is everlasting.

—Beth McQuaig

Ibelieve that going on a mission trip is a life-changing experience. While I started out thinking I could affect the lives of others, I came to realize that the life that had changed was my own.

In 1998 I had the honor of going to Bali in Indonesia. I went with a group of 5 people. The hotel in Bali where we stayed was to host a large group of missionaries. They were to have fellowship and a time of worship and planning for the years to come. It was our job to have a Bible school for the children of these missionaries. They came from all over Asia and Australia. Many of the children spoke no

English, but it was a wonderful experience. Over and over the people attending the conference thanked us for watching their children and told us they would not have been able to attend had we not been there. What had seemed like an insignificant job became more important.

At the time of the mission trip, my husband worked in a homeless shelter, and I worked in retail. My job was not very fulfilling. Still, it paid most of the bills. The work in the



common bond among Baptists and other Christians around the globe in sharing faith in Christ. That improved understanding has made me pray more intelligently and passionately. My prayer list became larger. I have also become determined to be in touch in meaningful ways with those whose lives influenced me and whose lives and ministries I touched. I have sent books and materials to Tuzla in order to encourage the pastor's family and churches for which he is responsible. I realize more than ever the need to allow mission work to be many-faceted. All of us want to bring more persons into the Christian fold, but we know that there are many ways of doing this. We take seriously the needs people have and believe healing and teaching and encouraging are important.

I will remain grateful for the experience and the ways in which it has impacted me and for the greater responsibility I now have because of my increased awareness. How has it impacted me? It has made me feel an identity with believers in another part of God's big house.

—Hugh Peacock

shelter, while more important, did not pay well. Sometimes, prior to going on this mission trip, I had felt like I was doing nothing that mattered with my life. While I was on my way home from Bali, I realized that the work I was doing enabled my husband to do the important work he was called to do. I came to feel that this was my calling and that my work also had meaning. This was not just an attitude change, but a life-changing event for me. I realized that in everything we do, we can serve God.

Thank you CBF for giving me this opportunity.

—Susan Harlan

From our associate coordinator for congregational life



It is always a privilege to invest in the lives of bright and gifted individuals who are finding their places in ministry among CBF of Georgia churches. Allow me to introduce to you the 2004-2005 CBF of Georgia scholarship recipients and to thank both Candler School of Theology and McAfee School of Theology for their partnership in preparing women and men for lives of ministry!

Beth Parlier is in her first year at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. She is a member of Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta where she currently serves as the music ministry assistant. Beth received her undergraduate degree in music education from Mercer University and a Master of Music from Indiana University. She will serve on the CBF of Georgia Coordinating Council as a student representative in the 2005-2006 term. Beth writes: "I am deeply grateful for the scholar-

ship I have received from CBF, whose support has allowed me the opportunity to explore many different possibilities for ministry and stay connected to Baptist life at the same time."

Todd Lowe is in his last year as a student at McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University. Todd is currently serving as pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church in Milledgeville. A native South Carolinian, Todd received undergraduate and graduate degrees in agriculture from Clemson University and has served overseas as an agricultural missionary to Haiti. He is married to Donna, and they have two children, Chapman and Isabella. Todd writes: "This scholarship has given me the opportunity to finish my theological degree so that I can focus my efforts on the ministries of Evergreen Baptist Church. I am truly
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2005 Summer Internships/Opportunities

Andrew P. Stewart Center, Atlanta

Individuals

2-3 individuals at least 18 years old to work as summer missionaries the entire summer; for these positions we will offer room and board for the entire eight weeks. These individuals should be committed Christians who like working with children. The summer missionaries will work with a specific group of children all summer long. They will work in a variety of capacities including chaperoning field trips, picking up kids in the mornings, preparing snacks, telling Bible stories, leading arts and crafts, etc. This is a demanding opportunity but very rewarding.

Youth Groups

We need youth group teams who are looking for a rewarding mission opportunity working as day camp staff for an inner city community center. The weeks we need volunteer teams are: June 13, July 5, July 11, July 18. These groups will be asked to pay \$3.00 per person per night to help cover our expenses (if they choose to stay at the Center). Groups may cook their meals, take showers, use the Center as their home for the week. Responsibilities include forming the staff for day camp in accordance with the director and summer missionaries. They will work in a variety of capacities including chaperoning field trips, picking up kids in the mornings, preparing snacks, telling Bible stories, leading arts and crafts, etc.

Contact: BRITTANY RASMUSSEN at 404-522-0942 or brittany@stewartcenter.org for more information.

Central Baptist Church, Newnan

Paid Summer Youth Intern

Start date/hours/pay negotiable. Housing can be arranged.
Contact: JOEL RICHARDSON: pastor, at 770-683-0610 or jercbc@numail.org.

Community Church, Elba, Ala.

Summer Youth/Children's Worker

Duties would include attending Passport with youth, scheduling activities for youth and children, and helping complete at least one local missions endeavor involving the entire congregation.
Housing provided and a \$200/wk stipend. Female/Upper class college student preferred.
Contact: MART GRAY, Pastor, at alcbf@hiwaay.net or 1-888-245-4223.

First Baptist Church, Claxton

Youth/Children's worker

Contact: MICHELLE GLISSON
First Baptist Church
P. O. Box 607
Claxton, GA 30417
912-739-2241

First Baptist Church, Dalton

Paid Children's Intern

Contact: JANICE KIEHM
FBC Dalton
311 North Thornton Ave.
Dalton, Georgia 30722
706-278-2911 ext. 118

Paid Youth Intern

Contact: RONNIE KIEHM
FBC Dalton
311 North Thornton Ave.
Dalton, Georgia 30722
706-278-2911 ext. 111

Two Paid Residents

Summer 2005 - 2007
For a 2005 seminary graduate
Receive an overall staff ministry experience with the opportunity to be involved with deacons, other staff ministers, hospital visitation, pulpit responsibilities, etc.

First Baptist Church, Roswell

Summer Children's Ministry Intern

10 weeks
Beginning/ending dates flexible.
\$3,500 for the summer
Contact: BRENDA DEDMON, Brenda@rfbc.com or 770-587-6980.

Kingdom Builders, Inc.

Paid Summer Staff - 5 weeks

Open to college students.
Kingdom Builders is a non-profit organization that provides mission opportunities to churches while providing free labor to communities in need.
Contact: JOEY FENNELL at 912-764-5627 or joey@kbministries.org.

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appreciative to the churches and the individuals who have made this scholarship possible.”

I am also pleased to introduce to you a new program of leadership development that is being launched by CBF. *Convergence: The Minister as Leader* is a journey of self-discovery, professional development, and missional leadership to prepare today’s clergy for the emerging church. The program, modeled on the Center for Congregational Health’s Young Leaders’ Program, will be held right here in Georgia and is open to leaders in their twenties or thirties who have ministry experience, but who have not yet reached mid-life and mid-career. *Convergence* will focus on the personal and professional development of leadership in congregations and related organizations. The program will be highly interactive and includes four retreats during the year. See the back page

Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, Athens

Summer Missionary for Children and Youth Ministry

A minimum of one year successful college completion with a GPA of 2.5 or better, record of participation and leadership experience with children and youth activities, other school/community volunteer and work experience. This position will offer support to existing ministries by way of building relationships with students and parents, planning events, implementing and evaluating programs.

May 29-August 7, 2005 (10 weeks)

\$1000.00 plus room and board

Applicants should submit a letter of application along with a resume, including 3 references, to:

Milledge Avenue Baptist Church

Attn: Jana Stewart Kinnersley

1690 S. Milledge Ave.

Athens, GA 30605

706-354-0090; janask@milledge.org.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Macon

Paid Children’s Intern

Immediate opening

Paid Youth Intern

Starting August 1, 2005

Can begin in May, but would be unpaid throughout summer. All trips and mileage covered.

Contact: LANCE MERRITT, Minister to Students, at lance@zstudents.com or 478-994-0838.

Peachtree Baptist Church, Atlanta

Music Supply

July 10 - August 9 (while full-time music minister is on sabbatical)
Sundays and Wednesdays only – involving worship leadership and adult choir, with possibly some work with youth and children.

Contact: ALICIA WALKER at alicia@peachtreebaptist.net or 404-634-2463.

for dates/location/costs.

Jana Kinnersley, Associate Pastor of Milledge Avenue Baptist Church in Athens, a graduate of the Young Leaders’ Program says: “This program benefited me personally and professionally. It challenged me to look at myself honestly and how who I am impacts my ministry. It also gave me the tools I needed to use my personal strengths to be a better minister and improve in my areas of weakness. It is the most valuable thing I’ve done since seminary.”

An investment in emerging leaders, both those in seminary and those in their early years of ministry, is an investment in the future of our congregations. Leadership Development must be a priority at CBF of Georgia!

—Devita Parnell, Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life

Frankly Speaking

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and give. Those three things are still essential. However, they are not the whole answer. We must, where possible, find a way to get personally involved.

This issue of *Visions* contains information designed to help individuals and groups as they seek opportunities to do missions and ministries. In the days ahead you will find more and more opportunities on our web page www.cbfga.org. We want to be a resource for you and your church. We are also developing an electronic newsletter that will be a supplement to our *Visions*. It will contain up-to-date information on missions and ministry projects at home and abroad. Send us your email address and we will put you on the list.

We have come a long way in the past twelve years. From Harbor Ministries in the north to Morningstar in the south, more and more opportunities exist for doing missions in the state. However, additional work needs to be done to assist churches as they attempt to reach beyond their local communities. We are committed to that and with your help it will be done.

—Frank Broome,
CBF of Georgia Coordinator



Resource Wise

Resources for Church Ministry to College Students

Let's face it, unless you have money and time college ministry for a church is tough. Of course you can buy time with money (hire someone) but why should your church take the risk of investing time and money into reaching college students? Even if you do, what will you do with them if you get them?

The benefits of having college age adults around your church are practically endless. College students will infuse energy into your congregation and be a great resource for your other congregational ministries. College ministry provides continued ministry to your youth and their families and helps them negotiate the transition to single adulthood and married life—keeping them connected to the church! The next generation of ministers and lay leaders will come from somewhere, why not your church? The ultimate reason churches should reach out to college students is that it is the right thing to do. After all, we do call the functions we do from our church buildings “ministry.”

The following checklist can guide you if you've decided that your church would like to minister to college students. Think in terms of “launching” this ministry in the fall during “Back to School.” If the best time for your church to reach students is in the summer, just back the timeline up one season.



Spring

- Meet with the pastor and the minister of education and define some specific goals. Also define what success is, as well as failure. Communicate this to your congregation!
- Enlist a group of young adult workers to commit to a school year: a lead teacher, a care giver, and a fun person.

Summer

- Take pictures, face shots in two's and three's for future publications.
- Put your weekly schedule together for Fall and for Back to School.
- Sunday and a weekly thing? Wednesday? What literature will you use?
- Mission Projects Near and Far: Put a mission event on the calendar for the fall.
- Calendar “Back to School” events that are: easy to attend, free, and have food. Don't over plan. There are probably plenty of back-to-school events other people are planning and paying for—you show up, smile, and have fun. Contact school and campus ministries for dates and times of open houses, free speech areas, organizational fairs, freshman orientation, and back-to-school events—you may be able to attend.
 - Put together one, simple piece to hand out: church name, location, programs, website, and mostly, pictures. Put a color form of it on your website with links to more info.
 - Enlist members/deacons to bring food to your meetings (Bible study and fellowships).
- If you're not already on it, get on your campus ministry's list of people who can bring food to campus ministry events. This will bring up your church's visibility.
- Put your “room” together: Assemble a sacred space in your church where students will feel welcomed.
- Mail a copy of your handout piece to incoming freshmen, and place a copy in the chaplain's office, campus ministry offices, and campus bulletin boards (may need permission).

Fall... Back to School and Beyond

- Your leadership is in place with tasks assigned (and being done).
- “Freshmen move-in”: help out, serve drinks, cleaning crews, etc. Anything that gets your congregation involved on campus.
- Be intentional to include young people on the worship platform on Sundays (scripture, special music, testimonials, etc.). You want to model the kind of community you are trying to create.
- Attend, with a smile, “back-to-school” events sponsored by the college, campus ministry, and your church.
- Enlist guest information during all events. Don’t be shy; ask them to fill out a card of personal information. Include: email, cell phone, school address, and “home church,” if any.
- Learn names and follow up with a personal note and a phone call. At your monthly deacons’ meetings provide names, notes, and pens and have them write each guest.
- Find something for everyone to do who is interested in your church. They can serve the Lord’s Supper, take up offering, make posters, run sound system—whatever task you can find for them.
- Be an advocate and a resource for students—where is the shopping center? Where are other free meals? Where do you go to get car tags renewed? Are there families in your church willing to “Adopt” students, take to dinner, offer laundry facilities...

—Ryan Clark, Assistant Director of Admissions
for McAfee School of Theology

Ryan is a graduate of McAfee; he completed course work in 2001 and was promoted to Associate Pastor for College, Singles, and Activities at FBC of Decatur, Georgia. He has also served as Student Ministry Associate at FBC Decatur. Ryan recently completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education through the Care and Counseling Center of Georgia. Ryan earned his Bachelor of Natural Science degree from Arkansas Tech University in 1997 before coordinating outreach for the University of Louisiana at Monroe Baptist Campus Ministry.

Sometimes the hardest thing is finding something to say! The following resources should help get you started.

Books/Bible Study:

Pursuing Spiritual Transformation, Willow Creek Resources: Zondervan (series)

20/30: Bible Study for Young Adults, Abingdon Press (series)

The Jesus I Never Knew and *What’s So Amazing About Grace*, P. Yancy: Harper Collins, Zondervan

Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster: Harper San Francisco

Ragamuffin Gospel, Brennan Manning: Multnomah Publishers

Blue Like Jazz and *Searching for God Knows What*, Donald Miller

Web Resources:

<http://theology.mercer.edu/>

A compilation of resources gathered by friends of McAfee. Follow the collegiate resource link from the homepage.

www.relevantmagazine.com

RELEVANTMAGAZINE.COM is a daily updated website covering God, life, and progressive culture.

<http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/>

Public Radio show hosted by Krista Tippett...A broad perspective on faith and current religious topics. Site leans toward Christianity but includes opinions from other faith perspectives.

<http://www.helwys.com/curriculum/usbshome.html>

Theologically Sound Bible Study Discussions.

www.PreachingPlus.com

Creative worship resource.

<http://www.mercer.edu/baptiststudies/feb05.htm#College%20Ministry>

Great essay by R. Kirby Godsey about the college ministry role in the life of the student.

<http://www.sojo.net/>

Discussions on faith politics and culture.

Opportunities

Summer Children's Camp Scholarships Available

CBF of Georgia is able to provide financial assistance to children in Georgia churches attending Passportkids! or other children's camps this summer. Please contact Devita Parnell at 478-742-1191, ext. 28 or dparnell@cbfga.org for more information.

Developmental Disabilities Ministries, Inc.

NEED: Full Time, Live-In Houseparent(s) serving adults with developmental disabilities. Good pay & benefits. Ideal opportunity for couples and early retirees with patience & a heart for ministry & helping people.

Contact: Bob Cash, Assistant Business Administrator,
1-888-340-5820
E-mail: mail@gbddm.org
Web: www.gbddm.org
FAX: 770-623-4924

Gulbransen organ

A Gulbransen organ has been donated to CBFGA. If you are interested, arrangements will need to be made for delivery. Contact Jimmy Lewis, Missions Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia, Post Office Box 149, Toccoa, Georgia 30577, Phone: 706-297-7122, Cell: 678-428-6204, Toll Free: 866-245-5240 or jblewis@mindspring.com.

From Our Readers

A note of thanks was received from the family of **James T. McAfee, Jr.**

In Memoriam

Sympathy is extended to Devita Parnell for the death of her grandmother, Ruth Boatright Smith of Tennille, Georgia.

Financial Picture

2004-2005 year-to-date

June 1-February 28, 2005

Budget Requirement \$418,275.00

Undesignated Receipts .. \$481,331.13

Designated Receipts \$156,316.33

Event Updates

New Church Start Update

Bannister Creek Church celebrated its first anniversary on February 6, 2005. (See photos at right.)

Dr. Natalie and Tony Adams, church planters, have done an exceptional job during their first year. They have developed a significant list of prospects as they continue to grow. Bannister Creek has current needs with which you may be interested in helping. First and foremost, they need your prayers and next your continued financial support.

Two specific needs at this time: a person to create and lead a Youth Ministry; and a couple of families to commit to help the church for one year. The church is looking for opportunities to meet folks and let them know who Bannister Creek Church is and what it is becoming for the community.

For additional information please visit their website at www.bannistercreekchurch.com.

opportunities reports



PHOTO 1: Natalie Adams (left) and Devita Parnell

PHOTO 2: Frank Broome (left) congratulates Bannister Creek

PHOTO 3: The Bannister Creek Kids

Being the Presence
of Christ
In All the
World
JOHN 3:16

Make plans now to attend the

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship 2005 General Assembly

June 29 - July 2 • Gaylord Texan Resort • Grapevine, Texas

Highlights

Daniel Vestal
featured speaker

Joseph Martin
guest pianist

Carolyn Staley
guest speaker

Albert Reyes
guest speaker

Multiple Worship Experiences
Companions in Christ training
(English and Spanish on Wed.)

Hispanic Leadership
Conference

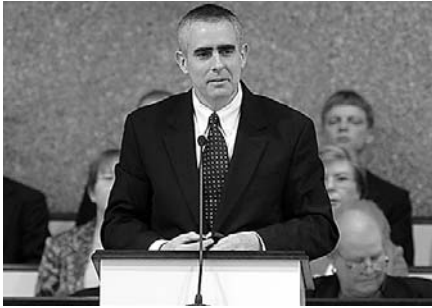
Congregational Leadership
Institute (Wed.) with Greg
Jones, Duke Divinity

New Schedule!

Register and reserve your hotel room at www.thefellowship.info.

Assembly runs Thurs. and Fri. with Auxiliary Events on Wed. and Sat.

2005 CBF of Georgia General Assembly Photos



Chuck Poole addresses the General Assembly on Saturday morning. (CBFGA choir in the background)



Business session on Friday evening



Frank Broome, CBFGA Coordinator, updates the attendees on CBFGA progress



Book signing by Chuck Poole



Registration staffed by FBC Rome volunteers



Speaking the Truth seminar participants



Exhibit Hall



Sara Powell says farewell as moderator



Bonnie Oliver, Deedra Oates, and Jeremy Lewis



Prissy Tunnell welcomes Chris Gambill, one of the seminar leaders



Rabbi David Geffen shares truths about Judaism



Susan Broome, David Wilson, Hugh Peacock, Ann Wilson

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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CBF GA coming up!

April 11

Leading Strategic Planning in the Church
9:30 am-3:30 pm, McAfee School of Theology,
Mercer University, Atlanta Campus

Contact: Dr. Larry McSwain at mcswain_ll@mercer.edu or call 678-547-6442.

April 16

Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia Spring Meeting
Lunch, Business Meeting, and Awards Presentation
Haven Fellowship Church, Conyers

Cost - \$15. Childcare available. To make reservations contact Karen Pennings at kap1003@yahoo.com or 478-757-0564. Send checks made payable to BWIM of Georgia at 2465 Hillcrest Avenue, Macon, GA 31204.

April 19

THEOLOGICAL TRENDS TODAY: A Day with Professor Fisher Humphreys
The Center for Baptist Studies, Mercer University, Macon, GA

Seating is limited and registration is required. The Cost is \$25 per person. Email gourley_bt@mercer.edu or call 478-301-5467 for additional information.

April 22

Judson-Rice Award for Leadership with Integrity

Dr. Walter B. Shurden, recipient
6:30 p.m. Loudermilk Conference Center, 40 Courtland Street (adjacent to Georgia State University), Atlanta. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$25 and reservations can be made by calling 1-877-752-5658.

May 24

10:00 a.m. CBF of Georgia Coordinating Council, Macon

June 2-4

"WOMEN IN BAPTIST HISTORY"

Baptist History and Heritage Society's annual meeting
Samford University, Birmingham, AL

Keynote speaker: Sarah Frances Anders (plus 26 other speakers, representing several ethnic traditions and countries). The auxiliary Fellowship of Baptist

Historians will also meet on June 2. To see photos, IDs, and topics of the speakers, plus registration forms for the meeting and the hotels, see the Society's Website: www.baptisthistory.org.

June 12-18, June 19-25, June 26-July 2

Youth Mission Opportunities in Taliaferro County

Kingdom Builders Ministries, Inc.

Registration is currently open online at www.kbministries.org. Visit the website for more information or contact Joey Fennell at 912-489-7908.

June 29-July 2

PassportKids! Wesleyan College, Macon

Summer camp for children completing grades 3-6. For more information or to register a group visit www.passport-kids.org or contact 1-800-769-0210.

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.

August 16

10:00 a.m. CBF of Georgia Coordinating Council, Macon

October 17-20, 2005

January 23-25, 2006

March 6-8, 2006

May 8-10, 2006

Convergence: The Minister as Leader
Calvin Center, Hampton, GA

Visit www.healthychurch.org for more information or contact Dawn Hall at dhall@wifubmc.edu or 336-716-9722. Costs: \$1,175.00, housing/meals/tuition. Scholarships available through CBF of Georgia.

Nov. 13-14

CBF of Georgia Fall Convocation
First Baptist Church of Griffin

events, dates, times & places