in my opinion

here is your chance to "do something"

BY JIM DANT

I WAS BORN... into less than desirable circumstances. Teenage parents, low income level, and little family support made my beginnings unstable. I did, however, have an adequate IQ and someone outside my home was watching over me. The church became aware of my situation and intervened to make sure the basic needs of my physical, social, and spiritual growth were met.

MY THREE GIRLS... were born into a more stable environment. They each have adequate IQ's (of course "adequate" is an understatement...) They are in good health. Their physical, social, and spiritual needs are provided within the home. The church, however, plays an important role in their life. It is in the church that they learn to profess, live, and share the faith as a part of a community of believers.

MANY CHILDREN ARE BORN... into homes that cannot provide the basic necessities of life. Other homes are saturated with monetary resources, but the child may be so mentally challenged that parents do not have the skills or strength to deal with the child. Some children and families need help. Once again, the church has the opportunity to be instrumental.

I have recently joined the Board of Directors of Morningstar Baptist Treatment Center. Morningstar provides preventive and therapeutic services which address the needs of families and children. The agency is only four years old, yet it already provides residential care, foster care service, family treatment, parenting education, outpatient counseling, elder care services, and much more. They are servicing over 500 individuals per month in Family Resource Centers and on their residential campus in Brunswick, Georgia.

In recent days, many have mentioned a need to "do something" about families and troubled children in this world. Here is your chance.

- Support us as we work to make Morningstar all it can be in our state.
- Consider being a board member if you are approached with such an opportunity.
- Encourage your Sunday School class or mission group to do a mission project on the Brunswick campus.
- If you are interested in making a financial contribution to the agency, feel free to call Morningstar at 706-232-1116.
- Above all, pray.

I was glad the church cared for me. I am glad the church cares for my children. I want all our churches to be instrumental in the care of other children and families for whom we can provide hope…

Jim Dant is pastor of Highland Hills Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia. This article was published in the May 6, 1999 Highland Hills Baptist Church Family Matters *newsletter and is reprinted with permission.*

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP
GEORGIA

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coming up!

1999

September 17-18
Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia Fall Retreat
Camp Pinnacle, Clayton, Georgia
Theme: Transformation in Life, in Worship
Retreat Leader: Paul Duke
Cost $47.00 ($40.00 for students) covers one night lodging and three meals. To register, send $15 deposit to be applied to cost. Contact Natalie Nicholas Adams, 280 Ashland Trail, Tyrone GA 30290-2201, phone 770-487-8414.

October 8-9
Regional Sunday School Training and Church Growth Conference
Johns Creek Baptist Church
Atlanta/Alpharetta GA
Theme: Blending Tradition and Innovation
Featuring 21 leadership age group training conferences. Registration $35.00. For information contact Dr. Michael McCullar, Johns Creek Baptist Church, phone 770-623-8203 or E-mail MCCU1475@aol.com.

October 11-12
Leadership Edge for the 21st Century
Baptist Center for Ethics
Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, Atlanta GA
Leadership Edge is designed to outfit congregational leaders with useable information and proactive skills for their mission of building community in the midst of the rapids of change as our society moves from modern to postmodern society. Cost is $80.00 or $65.00 for three or more from the same church. A grant from CBF provides a limited number of registration scholarships to ministers in their first churches. For more information or to request a scholarship, contact Baptist Center for Ethics, 4219 Hillsboro Road, Suite 210, Nashville TN 37215, phone 615-383-3192, fax 615-383-0915, www.baptists4ethics.com.

November 14-15
CBF of Georgia Fall Convocation
First Baptist Church, Macon
For hotel accommodations, the CBF of Georgia has a block of $79.00 rooms reserved at Crowne Plaza, 108 First Street (call 1-800-227-6963 by 10/15/99). Rooms are also available at Comfort Inn, 2690 Riverside Drive (call 912-746-8855 by 10/14/99). Be sure to say you're with CBF of Georgia. You may also call any of the major hotel/motel chains of your choice.

TBA
New Church Start Conference
Contact Jimmy Lewis 770-961-9270.

2000

March 3-4
CBF of Georgia General Assembly
First Baptist Church, Decatur

June 29-July 2
CBF General Assembly
Orlando FL
Make your reservation through Connections, official housing service of the 2000 General Assembly, 1-800-262-9974, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Eastern Time.

November 12-13
CBF of Georgia Fall Convocation
First Baptist Church, Savannah

1999 Visions Deadlines...
September 7 & November 8

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.

VISIONS

July/Aug '99

How will my contributions be used?

$29,500.00
Ministry
- Children's Camp
- Educational Conferences/Scholarships
- Area Network Events
- Partnerships
- Theological Education/Scholarships
- Youth Events
- Georgia Women in Ministry

$30,000.00
Missions/Evangelism
- Chamblee-Doraville Ministry Center
- Morningstar Baptist Treatment Center
- Kurdish Ministry
- Mission Trips
- Other Mission Grants
- New Church Starts

$39,410.00
Administrative
- Travel
- Hospitality
- Conventions
- Conferences
- Office Expenses
- Professional Development

$44,000.00
Promotions/Printing
- Publicity/*Visions*
- Promotional Materials
- Fall Convocation
- Spring General Assembly
- Georgia Coordinating Council Retreat
- Georgia Meeting at National General Assembly

$104,051.90
Personnel Salaries/Benefits
- Coordinator
- Two Part-time Administrative Assistants
- Yet-to-be-named Part-time Associate Coordinator
- Yet-to-be-named Part-time Administrative Assistant

1999-2000 CBF of Georgia Budget
$246,961.90

Frankly speaking

On Thursday, June 24, 1999, about 220 Georgians gathered in meeting room M of the conference center in Birmingham. We were part of approximately 4,000 participants in the national CBF General Assembly. Caroline Galloway, chair of the Fellowship Committee, had everything ready. Gary Abbott, our moderator, presided.

We heard from Lee and Hilary Canipe of Savannah First Baptist and Tara Johns of Milledgeville First Baptist, newly appointed CBF missionaries. Lee and Hilary will serve in Russia and Tara will serve in Thailand. We heard reports from Georgians who are coordinating work with Global Missions Adopt-a-People/Unreached People Groups around the world.

Many of the Georgia participants were first timers to a national meeting. Given the joy experienced that day, I suspect most of them will be in Orlando next year.

The evening before, a large group gathered to celebrate the ministry of Keith and Helen Jean Parks. We saw a wonderful video of their years in mission work. We heard touching testimonies from family members and friends. We even saw a representation of what Keith would look like with a full head of hair! The Parks are moving to Texas where Keith will work with the CBF Foundation. We will certainly keep them in our prayers as they begin this new phase of their work.

Our Avenues are chaired by the following people:

Education, Mary Etta Sanders, Dalton
Missions/Evangelism, Joy Carter, Homerville
Partnership, Joel Richardson, Newnan

As our budget has grown, so have the responsibilities of our Avenues. We are dealing with a variety of issues this year including new church starts, mission trips, educational conferences, partner relationships, church resources, and committee assignments.

Moderator-Elect Becky Matheny is chair of the Convocations Committee. Under her leadership plans are being made for our November 14-15, 1999 Fall Convocation in Macon and our March 3-4, 2000 General Assembly in Decatur. Mark your calendars and make your reservations. It is going to be a good year.

—E. Frank Broome, Coordinator, CBF of Georgia

We left that evening aware of challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for Baptist Christians as we enter the next century.

Blitz across Georgia report

Facts:

4 days (May 3 - 6, 1999)…5 speakers…41 churches…
Average attendance 30…Estimated total attendance 1,230

Feedback:

The response made by one, "You say this [CBF] has been going on for nine years; why haven't we heard about it?" spoke strongly to many of us. We are guilty of not letting the good news of a new [CBF] movement be known more clearly and powerfully. *—from Bill Trawick, Atlanta*

We left that evening aware of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for Baptist Christians as we enter the next century. I hope we can get together like this more often!

—from Marsha H. Solomon, Carrollton

The CBF Blitz across Georgia served as endorsement to those serving and inspiration for greater spreading of the gospel. Each rally created a feeling of gratitude to be a part of such a tremendous task.

—from Sarah Withers, McDonough

Dr. Bill Bruster covered in a concise manner traditional Baptist principles of faith and practice. His knowledge of recent events "opened my eyes" to the alarming degree of erosion in those principles throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

—from Bill Greenhaw, Macon

The CBF Blitz across Georgia introduced new people to us. But even more, the Blitz made those committed...for the first time fully committed, really understanding the purpose of CBF.

—from Carolyn Massey, Tifton

A feeling of community is nurtured during shared worship experiences at the CBF General Assembly in Birmingham, AL, June 24-26.

Community is also encouraged at the General Assembly through small group discussions.

Lyn Harmon and **Jane Carter** of New Century Baptist in Gainesville enjoy viewing the many displays at General Assembly.

Grace Powell Freeman, Associate Missions Coordinator for Missions Education and Promotion, and **Tara Johns** of Milledgeville First Baptist, Global Service Corp missionary, discuss Tara's upcoming appointment to Thailand.

Representatives of several statewide church organizations recently visited Vienna for the purpose of bringing a contribution to the tornado relief fund. In the group were (2nd from left to right) **Rev. Hopie Strickland Jr.**, president of New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia; **E. Frank Broome**, coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia and **James Pullin**, director of the Home Mission Board and media coordinator for the New Era Convention. Pictured with the visitors is **Dr. Bobby West**, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Vienna.

people/resources/opportunities/etc.

people

Marty Henderson, pastor of Mt. Zion Second Baptist Church in Atlanta, lost his thirteen- year-old son, Kristen, due to a heart problem, on June 12. Marty serves on the 1998-1999 National CBF Coordinating Council and the Multicultural Ministries and Equipping Congregations Task Group.

CBF of Georgia welcomes **Ruth DuCharme** as treasurer. Ruth is minister to children at Highland Hills Baptist Church in Macon. She replaces **Darrell Watson**, pastor of Shurlington Baptist Church in Macon, who is pursuing postgraduate education.

Sam Foskey, formerly serving as pastor of Black Springs Baptist Church in Milledgeville, and as area network coordinator for CBF of Georgia, has moved to the pastorate of University Baptist Church in Carbondale, Illinois.

The Coordinating Council of CBF of Georgia welcomes **Kurt Varney** of Decatur First Baptist and **Robert Walker** of Atlanta to the council.

Baptist Women in Ministry has elected **Julie Cannon Turner** of Cartersville and **Fred Bongiovanni** of Macon to their board of directors.

Craig Williamson is moving from the pastorate of Lincolnton First Baptist to Manchester First Baptist.

Guy Rutland III of Decatur has been elected as trustee of the CBF Foundation.

Ron Grizzle of Columbus has been elected to serve a three year term on the National CBF Coordinating Council.

Greg Barr has accepted the pastorate of North River Baptist Church in Roswell.

Denise Caldwell, formerly co-pastor, has been called as pastor of Harbor Baptist Church in Blue Ridge.

Todd Gaddis has been called as pastor of Lafayette First Baptist.

Adel First Baptist has called **Mike Ruffin** as pastor.

Carolyn Hale is the new senior pastor of Memorial Baptist in Savannah.

Winners of the Baptist Women in Ministry's 1999 Addie Davis Awards have been announced. **Veronice Miles** was awarded for preaching, and **Virginia Dempsey** was awarded for leadership. Both women are students at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. The Addie Davis Awards are named in honor of the first woman ordained in a Southern Baptist church.

resources

The quickest and most up-to-the-minute resource for information on the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is found at **www.cbfonline.org**. This is also where you can find the latest news concerning global missions and relief efforts.

Smyth and Helwys, curriculum and book publisher, has announced a new line of adult Sunday School materials, available January 2000. **The Smyth and Helwys Uniform Series Bible Study** will follow the International Sunday School lessons of the Uniform Series, and use the New International Version of the Bible as the core translation. More information is available at 1-800-747-3016 or www.helwys.com.

NextSunday.com, a service of Smyth and Helwys, has launched the first online source dedicated exclusively to digital Christian education and worship resources for churches. NextSunday.com resources enable churches to purchase, download, and print professional quality materials in minutes. NextSunday.com can be found at www.nextsunday.com.

professional opportunities

The Executive Committee of the **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia** announces a candidate search for the position of **Associate Coordinator**. The Associate Coordinator will assist the Coordinator in strengthening the work in the twelve geographic areas of the CBF of Georgia. Responsibilities include supervision of volunteers, planning and implementing special events, and encouraging churches within each area to support the work of the CBF. The Associate Coordinator will work 20-25 hours per week under the supervision of the Coordinator. Send resumes by August 31, 1999 to Gary L. Abbott, Sr., Milledgeville First Baptist Church, POB 795, Milledgeville GA 31061.

Two-year-old church in Gainesville GA seeks a **full or part-time pastor** to direct spiritual growth for CBF congregation. Master of Divinity or equivalent education required. Pastor to provide leadership and work with lay leaders in the growth and direction of the church. Send resumes to New Century Baptist Fellowship, POB 368, Gainesville GA 30503 by August 23, 1999.

financial picture

April total receipts	$35,276.64
April undesignated	$30,191.64
May total receipts	$21,421.35
May undesignated	$20,750.97

end of fiscal year

1999-2000 monthly budget requirement $20,580.16

June total receipts	$20,295.57
June undesignated	$20,295.57
Habitat House receipts	$9,272.60
Habitat House goal	$30,000.00

important changes

The **CBF of Georgia mailing list is "under construction."** National CBF, under the direction of Alin Pop, has created a computer software program exclusively for the unique needs of the state offices of CBF. We are helping them test the system. We have been able to acquire the Georgia names on National CBF's mailing list and merge them with ours.

This merge has enabled us to grow from 5,000 to 9,000 names on our database. Duplications will exist. We do not like to waste resources, but prefer sending you two copies of *Visions* over none at all. Feel free to share your extra copy, and also to continue informing us of duplications.

If you are receiving duplicate copies of *Visions*, please contact the CBF of Georgia office via email, fax, mail or phone. Contact information is listed on back of this newsletter.

**As of July 11, 1999
CBF of Georgia contact numbers are:
phone 912-301-5926;
fax 912-301-5927.**