

VISIONS



Nov/Dec '01

Merry Christmas!

Mission Team Brightens Harbor

In the mid-1990's, a group of folks in the mountains of north Georgia met to pray about sharing Christ in their community. They knew more than half their neighbors did not attend any area church.

As they began to share their hearts, someone had the idea of taking the church to the people. The idea became Appalachian Resort Mountain Ministries. Worship services were held at area lakes, picnic areas, city parks, and multi-housing areas.

A local layperson, Denise Bryson Caldwell, became the resort ministries coordinator.

The nearby Ocoee River was chosen for the 1996 Summer Olympic kayak event. Suddenly, the world came to Appalachia. Caldwell recalls, "What a wonderful time of distributing lemonade, hospitality bags, and providing activities for children."

"Each Sunday, there would be a worship service in a store front building in Blue Ridge, Georgia. People would come off the streets for music, preaching, children's Bible activities, and breakfast. Everyone came just as they were. You never knew from week to week who might join in worship. It was a fantastic time. God blessed us so much."

The volunteers helping with the Appalachian Resort Mountain Ministries were members of other area churches, and were spending more time with the resort ministries than they were at their churches. It was at this point they began praying about becoming a church.

Harbor Baptist Church was named to reflect the mission of the church, to provide a safe harbor for those not having a church home. Harbor called Scott Raley as bi-vocational pastor, and ordained Denise Bryson Caldwell into the pastoral ministry. Caldwell became co-pastor of Harbor.



TOP: Ray Echols, J.D. Nolan (North Broad BC, Rome) and Robert Floyd (Horizon Baptist Fellowship, Summerville) gather paint supplies.

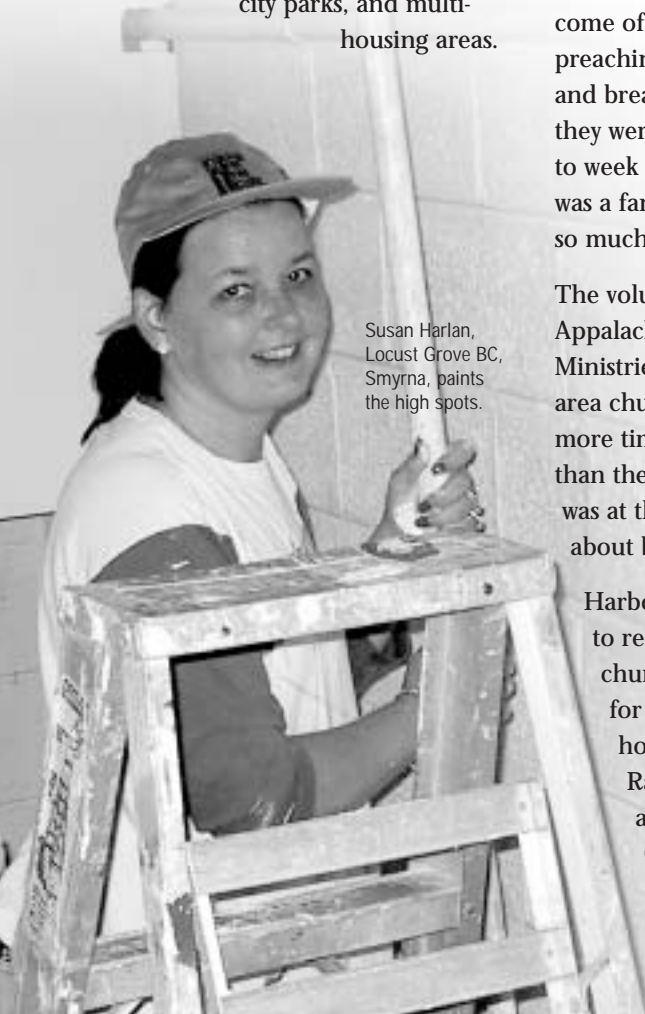
BOTTOM: Jim Meredith, Robert Floyd, Denise Caldwell (Harbor BC, McCaysville) and O.G. Morehead (Horizon BF) team up to freshen the walls of Harbor BC.

Harbor Ministries, Inc. was chosen as their non-profit name, and the ministry has blossomed into three branches, Appalachian Resort Mountain Ministries (est. 1995), Harbor Baptist Church (est. 1996), and Family and Community Ministries (est. 1999).

Because the store front they were using was sold, the church experienced what Caldwell calls a "nomadic period" before moving into the YMCA in Copper Hill, Tennessee. The gym became a drawing card for children and teenagers. Harbor Baptist Church found a permanent home in December 1999 in the old Georgia Theater in McCaysville, Georgia. Denise Bryson Caldwell became the pastor of Harbor in February 2000.

(continued inside)

Susan Harlan, Locust Grove BC, Smyrna, paints the high spots.





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All questions and comments
may be directed to the editor, Surelle Pinkston,
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Frankly speaking



Thanks to the good work of Ann White Morton, the four area meetings scheduled for October were very successful. Based on the attendance and spirit I would say that interest in CBF is growing.

One concern came up at all four locations. It had to do with communication. Our people want us to “get the word out” to others about the work we are doing. They want to be better informed and they want to know how to inform others. It is helpful if we recognize up front that the old way of communicating through the Baptist state paper is out of the question. The thought police simply won’t allow it. So if you want to stay informed here are some suggestions.

Take this newsletter you are now reading seriously. Read it carefully and share it with others. It is not designed to do all things. It is designed to give basic information about upcoming CBF events, especially those in Georgia. It is not designed to be combative. We occasionally will do an editorial. However, we are more concerned with the future than the past. If you want information about the Baptist controversy you should take the Texas State Baptist paper (*Baptist Standard*) or the Virginia State Baptist paper (*Religious Herald*). You can also read *Baptists Today*. It will keep you in touch with the broader world of Baptists and is a must-read if you want to be an informed Baptist.

—Frank Broome, CBF of Georgia Coordinator

Become web savvy. The CBF of Georgia has two web sites. The main site (cbfga.org) does not change often and gives basic information about the organization. The second site (cbfga.missions.org) is managed by Jimmy Lewis and will give you to date information on missions. It will also give you a way to get involved in what we are doing. National CBF has an excellent web site (cbfonline.org). It has great information about all aspects of CBF and will connect you with our partner organizations. One such example is the Associated Baptist Press site (abpnews.com). It is the best source of information about Baptists news on the web. It is also trustworthy.

Learn to email. Several Baptist organizations like the National CBF and the Baptist Center for Ethics produce excellent e-newsletters. If you subscribe you will get regular, usually weekly, updates about Baptist issues. This office is developing email folders for groups of people such as pastors, staff, chaplains, retired ministers, and laity. If you want to receive occasional information, send us your email address and we will add it to a folder.

It takes some work to stay informed. It takes even more work to inform others. However, such work is necessary if we want to see the genuine Baptist vision stay alive.



Charlie Boggan, Frank Broome, Jimmy Lewis, George Starke, and J.R. Huddleston share a laugh at the Jasper area meeting.



Hobart Hortman, Ann White Morton, and Jane Hortman visit at the Rome area meeting.

Georgia Is Tops in Giving

Georgia continues to be a top contributing state to the national CBF organization. Georgia churches contributed over two million dollars in fiscal year 2000-2001, placing it as the third highest contributing state.

Texas with 400 contributing churches gave \$2,816,360, North Carolina with 325 contributing churches gave \$2,354,616, and Georgia with 148 contributing churches gave \$2,294,548.

Seven Georgia churches placed in the top 30 contributing churches, the same number as Texas.

—from the November 2001 fellowship!

Georgia Students Awarded CBF Scholarships

CBF of Georgia has awarded a total of \$2,230 in scholarships to two McAfee School of Theology students, **Michelle Brooks** of Stockbridge and **David Sergent** of Athens.

Michelle Brooks is a 1999 graduate of Emory College of Emory University, Atlanta, and expects to fulfill the



Michelle Brooks

requirements for a Master of Divinity at McAfee in May 2003.

Brooks, who recognized her call to full-time, vocational ministry in her junior year of college, says of her education at McAfee, "As my own spiritual life is being shaped and molded, my ministry and service toward others is also being shaped."

David Sergent, a 2001 graduate of Mercer University, Macon, began classes at McAfee in the fall.

Sergent shares his call to ministry, "Until my senior year of high school, I had always planned to be a medical doctor. The second half of my senior year, I felt called to the ministry, particularly to preach. I do not doubt my calling. I sense it to be too right to be wrong."

CBF of Georgia has awarded scholarships to two Candler School of Theology students, **Ann Vestal** of Atlanta and **Emily Richardson** of Savannah. Look



David Sergent

for their introduction in the next issue of *Visions*.

National CBF Seeks Coordinator for Congregational Life

National Cooperative Baptist Fellowship seeks a person to plan and implement a strategic and dynamic program in the areas of Faith Formation and Building Community. M.Div., MA, or similar church-related ministry degree required. Candidate must submit a letter of recommendation from someone active in CBF life stating why this person is a strong candidate.

Please send resumes to Search Committee for Coordinator for Congregational Life, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, POB 450329, Atlanta GA 31145.

For a position description, call Michele Deriso at the CBF Resource Center in Atlanta at 770-220-1626 or email her at mderiso@cbfnet.org. You may also find a copy of the position description on the CBF website www.cbfonline.org.

Financial Picture

2001-2002 monthly budget requirement.....	\$34,050.16
September receipts.....	\$30,546.98
October receipts.....	\$35,308.30

Area Meetings Unite Georgians

The prayers and plans of CBF of Georgia resulted in four October gatherings of supporters and friends in north Georgia. Ann White Morton, who accepted a two-year commitment as associate coordinator for CBF of Georgia to formulate a network for areas says, "It was envisioned that this network of areas could establish local CBF identity, enhance community, and inspire a commitment to CBF ministry opportunities."

"The possibilities were numerous: fellowships, study groups,

worship services, and mission ministries. These were projected to be locally selected and led. It became obvious immediately that the heart of local interest lay in local and global missions. With the arrival of Jimmy Lewis as missions director in July 2001, the time was opportune to begin holding the area meetings."

With Ann White Morton as meeting planner and Frank Broome and Jimmy Lewis as presenters, long-standing friends, new friends, and potential friends of CBF of Georgia gathered

CBF of Georgia Responds to September 11

CBF of Georgia immediately sent \$1000 to David and Ana D'Amico, CBF representatives to the diplomatic community in New York City. They filed the following report with Jimmy Lewis:

These funds will help the family of Karl Joseph, a brave firefighter and son of Haitian immigrants who died in the tragedy. He helped to support his three younger siblings. These funds will help Mrs. R., who lost her husband, and their children. Mrs. R. needs professional counseling, and the children need medical care. These funds have helped open doors of ministry as the Black Firefighters Association of Brooklyn, largely made up of Haitian and West Indian immigrants, have requested to meet at Greater Restoration Baptist Church. Pastor and Mrs. Bogan serve at the Brooklyn church.

Mrs. Bogan said, "Please tell CBF of Georgia supporters that their contributions are making a difference in our community. Please thank them for us. They have shown true love for our people, not just in words but in deeds. The funds will be put to good use and we will update you. You should have seen Mrs. Joseph's face when I told her CBF of Georgia people were praying for her and were ready to assist her."

CBF of Georgia endorsed counselors Charles and Carolyn Worthy of Jonesboro, who provided street counseling near Ground Zero. After volunteering with Marsh McLennan Corporation, a company that lost 315 in the World Trade Center, Charles said, "I want to go back to help some more." With the endorsement of CBF of Georgia, funds were found and he and Carolyn returned to New York.

Please tell CBF of Georgia supporters ...they have shown true love for our people, not just in words but in deeds.

Mission Team

(continued from front)

The Harbor Ministries Center is huge, and in need of many repairs. "The location is good for social ministry and outreach," said Caldwell. "Harbor Ministries Center is starving for some paint and repairs, but the plan is unfolding. We are trusting God to send resources to accomplish this ministry. We need people who want to join in the work of the Lord in our area."

In October, a mission team led by Jimmy Lewis went to McCaysville to paint the inside of the theater. Fourteen men and women from five churches used an electric hoist and commercial spray paint equipment to transform the dark walls of the theater with 70 gallons of donated paint.

Lewis says, "Denise Bryson Caldwell is doing an excellent job leading her congregation to reach out to the community and share the Gospel. The church has developed a reputable and effective system of meeting the community needs. They are truly living out the Gospel in the mountains of North Georgia."

"Harbor Ministries is first and foremost in need of your prayers," says Caldwell. "Material needs are new wiring throughout the building, carpet in Sunday School rooms, and flooring in the multi-purpose room...resources are not available to supply the materials for these projects."

If you have teams that would like to be involved, contact Denise Bryson Caldwell at 706-492-9953 or jjdd@ellijay.com, or contact Missions Coordinator Jimmy Lewis at 678-428-6204, or jblewis@mindspring.com.

within a geographical area to enjoy food and fellowship, to receive an update on current life in CBF of Georgia, and to learn about the promise of the future.

The meetings were held October 11-25 in Areas 1-4 and hosted by Jasper First Baptist Church, Rome First Baptist Church, Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta, and Hartwell First Baptist Church. The meetings will

continue as Areas 5-12 are given an opportunity to share the vision of CBF of Georgia.

The question and answer follow-ups reflected a variety of insightful questions, and produced thoughtful suggestions as plans are made for CBF ministries and missions. The four gatherings highlighted the potential for support and growth for CBF of Georgia.

"The meetings were fantastic," says Jimmy Lewis. "Long-time supporters were mixed with people who had never heard of CBF. People approached me with excitement and promises of support, from financial contributions to physical labor."

"I give the meetings an 'A,'" commented Frank Broome. "The level of interest for CBF continues to be high."

Mission Immersion Thailand

Course work completed in Evangelism and Mission I and II, 16 days immersed in a foreign culture, and 14 theology students planted on the mission field are the essential ingredients for Mission Immersion, a key component of the curriculum of the McAfee School of Theology.

Rachel Gunter Shapard of Gainesville and Ruth Perkins Lee of Columbus were participants in the 2001 Mission Immersion to Chiang Mai, Thailand. Along with Ron Johnson, The Arnall Mann Thomasson Professor of Evangelism and Mission and fellow students, they assisted CBF missionaries Rick and Ellen Burnette who work with the Lahu, Palang, and Kachin people of Thailand.



Photo by Nicole Farrar

The other students participating were Matthew Alexander, Kiffin Ayers, Chris Burns, Nicole Farrar, Kerri Kroeker, Scott Lee, Robin Norsworthy, Josh Ritter, Rosann Ruffin, Ryan Tracy, John Uldrick and April Walker.

Left: Agro-fields, an example of four crops grown in one field.

Below: McAfee students on Mission Immersion Thailand.



Photo by Nicole Farrar

“Rick and Ellen are presenting holistic agricultural techniques to the community,” reports Lee. “They are teaching farming in one place, on available hillsides and forests, and sustaining a field for future use, as opposed to the custom of moving from place to place each year. This will bring stability to the families and to the population.”

“We worked in the ministry center preparing materials for the hill tribe people,” adds Shapard. “One of our most visible projects was the construction of steps to the ministry center.”

Students are able to participate in the Mission Immersion experience through the financial support of Mercer University and donors.

“Students typically do not have the resources needed to pay for travel, living expenses, and lost wages when they are away from the employment that makes it possible for them to engage in seminary education. Funding support makes it possible for students to give their total attention to the immersion project and will provide opportunities to students who would otherwise not be able to participate,” explains Dr. Johnson.

CBF of Georgia contributes \$2,000 to the Mission Immersion program at McAfee. The contribution is given annually, but return on the investment is infinite and immeasurable. Says Johnson, “Students who experience global missions will develop a heart for missions that they will carry to their ministries upon graduation from McAfee.”



Photo by Nicole Farrar

Scott Lee hauls cement for pouring concrete at UHDP ministry center.

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!

2002

January 15

Baptists and Calvinism
McAfee School of Theology. Atlanta
Register at 478-301-5467 or
thompson_mg@mercer.edu.

February 2

CBF OF GEORGIA
SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE
First Baptist Church, Macon
For information and registration contact Bo Prosser toll
free at 1-877-772-8291 or bozo64@charlotte.infi.net.

February 19-20

The Harry Vaughan Smith Lectures
Mercer University, Macon
February 19 at 10:50 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., February 20
at 10:00 a.m.
James Forbes, speaker

March 1-2

CBF OF GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Johns Creek Baptist Church, Alpharetta
Georgia's annual assembly with inspiring speakers and
informational breakout sessions. William Willimon is
the keynote speaker.

March 4-6

The William L. Self Preaching Lectures
McAfee School of Theology
Timothy Owings, speaker

March 22-24

CBF OF GEORGIA MARCH MISSION MADNESS
First Baptist Church, Rome

April 4-6

Collegiate Minister's Retreat
Scarritt-Bennett Center, Nashville TN
Contact Becky Matheny at 706-549-7069 or
bmath1349@aol.com.

April 15-17

Leadership in Ministry
Calvin Center, Atlanta
Continuing Education Workshops in Ministering to
Congregations as Family Systems. For information go
to www.leadershipinministry.com.

April 26

Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia
Spring Meeting
Memorial Baptist Church, Savannah
Worship, lunch, business and awards are featured.

June 27-29

CBF General Assembly
Fort Worth TX
Rooms are available through Connections at 1-800-
262-9974.

July 16-19 and 23-26

CBF OF GEORGIA NEW HORIZONS CAMP
New Ebenezer Retreat Center, Rincon GA

November 10-11

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