



VISIIONS



Control Center Blues

Frank Broome, CBF/GA Coordinator

The New York Times headline for Monday, February 19, 2007, read: “C.E.O. ‘MORTIFIED BY JETBLUE CRISIS.’” David Neeleman was responding to the missteps made by the airline JetBlue the previous week. Over 1,000 flights were canceled, causing confusion and angry exchanges between employees and passengers. It seems that bad weather had set in motion a chain of events that overwhelmed the reservation system of the airline. Until recently the airline had been praised for the profitability of its low-cost system of reservations based mainly on part-time stay-at-home individuals in Salt Lake City. As long as things went smoothly, the system worked. However, when a crisis came, the system failed. “We had so many people in the company who wanted to help who weren’t trained to help,” Neeleman said. “We had an emergency control center full of people who didn’t know what to do. I had flight attendants sitting in hotel rooms for three days who couldn’t get a hold of us. I had pilots e-mailing me saying, ‘I’m available, what do I do?’”

Perhaps there is a lesson in this for those of us who support CBF/GA. In our rush to think outside the box, to create a new and different way to serve our churches, we need to make sure we develop a system that works.

Whether it is helping with reference and referral, disaster relief, new church starts, congregational life, clergy networks, leadership development, spring and fall convocations, mission trips, field personnel, or music, we need to be sure the financial resources and personnel are there to get the job done. No doubt, bureaucracy can strangle a system, whether it is a local church or a denomination, but so can the lack of an infrastructure. The challenge before us is to find that middle ground where we have enough structure to get the job done but not so much that our missional resources are eaten up by the system itself.



It is my opinion CBF/GA has done a pretty good job in finding that middle ground. If we have failed on occasion, it has been because we have had too little infrastructure and not too much. However, if we are wise, we will continue to keep an eye on the balance so we will be able to function in the storm as well as in the quiet. For those who want our churches to be missional and for those who are investing themselves in an emergent community, the question of the size and shape of our organizational life will doubtless be on the front burner. **CBF/GA**

MISSIONAL / EMERGENT CHURCH

2

What Is a Missional Church?

Bo Prosser

3-8

Emerging Missional Leaders

Emerging Missional Leaders

Devita Parnell

The Emergent Ethos

Jake Myers

Resource Wise

9 • Opportunities/ Reports/Updates

10 • CBF/GA Past-Moderator / Spring General Assembly in Photo

11 • CBF/GA Office of Reference and Referrals

12 • Coming Up!

Missional

Rick Bennett, Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life, CBF/National

NOT LONG AGO I was in a restaurant when I felt a “holy nudge” to share a word of faith and encouragement with the waitress. Another



time I was on a plane when I felt that same nudge to help a young man navigate his way through what appeared to be a copy of the Scriptures that he had purchased at the airport in Atlanta on his way to the plane. Often my attention is drawn to someone’s need as if God were calling it to my attention and saying, “Go.” The responses that I get often confirm that these nudges are from the Holy Spirit of God.

Situations like these serve as reminders to me of a timeless truth — **that God’s plan to** *(Continues on page 7.)*



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia

P.O. Box 4343, Macon, GA 31208-4343
phone 478-742-1191 fax 478-742-6150
toll free phone 1-877-336-6426
toll free fax 1-877-336-6425
website www.cbfga.org

CBF/GA Staff Coordinator

E. Frank Broome • fbroome@cbfga.org

Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life

Devita B. Parnell • dparnell@cbfga.org

Senior Assistant for Administration and Finance

Suzanne Powell • spowell@cbfga.org

Assistant for Communication and Resources

Rachel B. Huston • rhuston@cbfga.org

Assistant to the Coordinator for Reference and Referral

Alan Mitchell • amitchell@cbfga.org

Assistant to the Coordinator for Program Management

Nancy A. Copeland • ncopeland@cbfga.org

CBF/GA Coordinating Council

Moderator • Darrell Watson, Forsyth
Moderator-Elect • Gwen Colwell, Macon
Past-Moderator • Renée Bennett, Macon
Treasurer • Kadar Jones, Macon
Clerk • JoAnn Callaway, Moultrie

Becky Adkins, Madison
Gail Duke, Dalton

Quentin Madden, St. Simons
Ricky Newsom, Union Point

Van Pool, Savannah
Steven Spencer, Evans

LeDora Taylor, Marietta
Jill Jenkins, Alpharetta

Katrina Brooks, Rome
Mimi Walker, Atlanta

Ruth Cuellar, Newman
Tony Buesing, Dahlonega

Jack Caldwell, Macon
Nancy Church, Hiawassee

Greg DeLoach, Augusta
Ginny Dempsey, Atlanta

Cindy DuVall, Cordele
Tom Hill, Canton

Gerry Hutchinson, Atlanta
Ron McClung, Haddock

Stephanie McLeskey, Athens
Deedra Rich, Alpharetta

Student Representatives

Katie Gilbert, Candler School of Theology
John Williamson, Mercer University

CBF/National Coordinating Council

Georgia Members

Jimmy Gentry, Carrollton
Al Shauf, Cordele

Gwen Colwell, Macon
Joanne Carr, Augusta

Sara Powell, Hartwell
Bill Ross, Athens

Bill Self, Alpharetta

VISIONS is published six times a year
by CBF/GA.

All questions and comments may be
directed to Rachel Huston,
478-742-1191 ext 23
or rhuston@cbfga.org.

What Is a Missional Church?

Bo Prosser, Coordinator for Congregational Life, CBF/National

As I journey sharing with churches, there are several questions that begin to emerge around the Missional Church. Churches are continually seeking for the next “big thing.” The Missional Church is not the next “big thing!” The Missional Church is about a change in the way we do church. Here are some responses to some of the most frequently asked questions about this shift in approaching church.



1 What is a Missional Church?

The Missional Church is a church reacting to the stagnation and complacency of the “Institutional Church.” The Missional Church is about empowering people to use their God-given passions in order to be the presence of Christ in the world. The Missional Church is not focused on getting people to “join the church!” The Missional Church is directly focused on being followers of Christ in the Kingdom of God.

The Missional Church focuses on relationships, relationships within the church and relationships between the church and the world. The Missional Church is not afraid to go across the street or around the world to share the love of Jesus.

2 Will a Missional Church also be a growing church?

Yes, because Missional Churches do NOT focus on the institution ... the focus is on relationships. My contention is that people go where they know they’ve been prepared for and are cared for. As church people know that they are empowered to go and share, they will participate in the life of the church. As people outside the church know that they are cared for, they will participate in the life of the church. The Missional Church is more about seeking the disenfranchised than drawing a crowd. The Missional Church is more drawn into today’s culture than repelled by it. The Missional Church is NOT another growth campaign. The Missional Church is not about enrolling more in Sunday School. The Missional Church is about being the presence of Christ in the world.

3 Can a Missional Church be successful?

Brian McLaren says we don’t succeed or fail on this journey ... the question is, “Are we making progress?” I think he’s right! The Institutional Church is more concerned with maintaining buildings, raising budgets, and drawing a crowd. The Missional Church is more concerned with going outside the buildings, being good stewards of budgets, and reaching into the community.

Rusaw and Swanson, in *The Externally Focused Church*, write: “The church that develops long-term, trusting relationships with the community is the one that has an opportunity to influence its culture” (p.94).

4 If we continue as we are, do you think we will be successful for a short or long term?

The question is the wrong one. If churches continue doing what they’ve been doing, they’ll continue to get what they’ve always gotten!

The right question is, “Lord, what would you have us to do and be?” and then communicate this vision to the people. The Scriptures are plain, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Perhaps, the paraphrase might also be true, “Where there is no passion, the people perish!” The Missional Church calls us into sharing ministry with the world around us without forcing ourselves into the relationship. **CBF/GA**

... it’s about being the presence of Christ in the world.

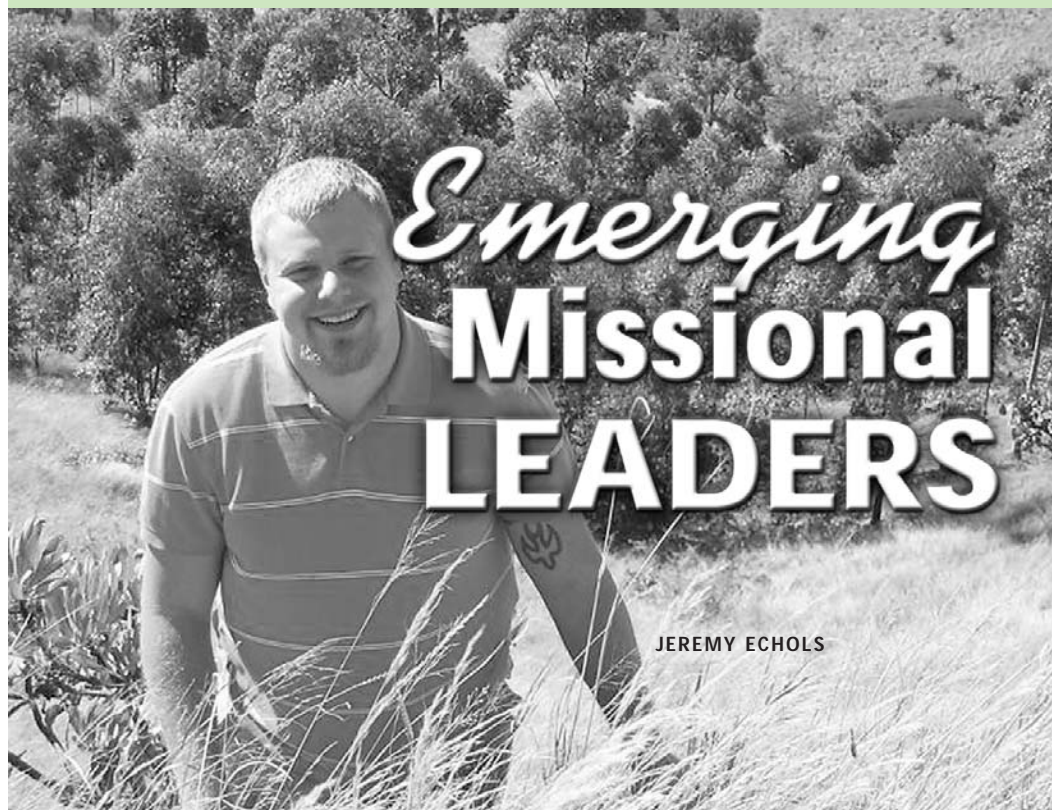
Devita Parnell, Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life

The church participating in God's mission — or the missional church — expresses itself in a variety of ways and in a variety of contexts. Words make it difficult to contain the missional church; pictures or stories more vividly describe the missional church. Just as Jesus described the kingdom of God by saying, "It looks like . . .," so it is with the missional church. As we flip through the pages of the missional church photo album, we catch glimpses of the church at work in the world — not just once a year on a mission trip, but all year long, consistently, faithfully, many times in unobservable, behind-the-scenes ways. However, what is common to each of the pictures is that individuals are discovering their giftedness and passion and then are finding ways to engage the world with them.



More than ever, today's church needs missional leaders who can help awaken the body of Christ to engage the world with its God-given gifts. When the ear begins to function as an ear and the eye as an eye, the body of Christ is fully-functional, doing what it was meant to do all along. How exciting!

I would like to introduce you to some of these emerging missional leaders who have been shaped by churches across CBF life. Their energy and passion for ministry is a direct result of their being "called out" and then given opportunities for leadership. Some of these leaders are also being formed through their experiences in CBF partner seminaries. CBF of Georgia has the privilege of helping them along the journey through our annual scholarship. Not only must each recipient demonstrate his/her connection to CBF through his/her church's financial gifts, but he/she must also show potential for leadership in CBF life.



JEREMY ECHOLS

JOSH CALDWELL

Harbor Ministries, McCaysville, GA
Georgia Southern University

EDITOR'S NOTE: Josh is a recipient of the CBF/GA Undergraduate Scholarship, which is awarded to college juniors.

"Using my degree for missions is the long term plan. I believe that God will use my mechanical engineering technology degree from Georgia Southern University as a means into other countries where missionaries may not be allowed.

"While I look at every day as a mission, God has given me another mission field in Taliaferro [County], Georgia, in the summer camp, Touching Taliaferro with Love. God has taught me a lot about how ministry works and has allowed me to see the fruits of his work."



CLAYTON DAVIS

Peachtree Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
McAfee School of Theology

"I still feel as though God is calling me to use my relationship-building skills in ministry. God has blessed me with the ability to get close to others and make them comfortable. I sense that God might be calling me to use this gift in a counseling situation. Another possible ministry, that I had not considered before attending McAfee but that has recently perked my interest, is the opportunity to build relationships through church planting.

"Since arriving in Atlanta, we [my wife and I] became members of Peachtree Baptist Church, a member of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia. We have fallen in love with Peachtree and look forward to serving God through our local body of believers."

(Continues to next page.)

The Emergent Ethos

Jake Myers serves as the Coordinator for Missional Community at Wieuca Road Baptist Church. He is also planting a church called Trinitas in the Little Five Points area of Atlanta.



Put simply, “Emergent,” or, the emergent conversation, is a conglomerate of burgeoning stories shared by missional Christ-followers who are asking questions about community, theology, and praxis within postmodern cultures. This generative friendship is bolstered by an organization called Emergent Village, which facilitates such relationships, provides resources that enliven our discussions, and promotes our corporate values.

How I became a part of Emergent Village

Having been reared in the Church, I spent countless Sunday mornings polishing a pew with my bony bottom,

and when I left home for college, I was following a call to full-time Christian ministry. As a Religious Studies major at Gardner-Webb University, I began to question some of the theological and ecclesial convictions that had been ingrained in me during my youth. It is quite common to question one’s family values during the college years. However, my intellectual and faith development were complicated because of my concurrent work as a youth and children’s minister at a rural, Southern Baptist church that did not value the kinds of questions I was posing. Putting it mildly, my four-year tenure at this church was marked by “challenges,” the emotional effects

of which linger. When I was fired from a field education placement in seminary for refusing to submit to the doctrine of biblical inerrancy, I began to seriously doubt my capacity to make a career out of ministry. I mean, calling or no, could I really sustain forty more years of this? These experiences did not weaken my faith in Christ. However, my faith in the Church, as well as any role that I might play within it, was crumbling.

With a crisp pink slip in my pocket, I arranged a meeting with Tony Jones, who was a leader in this thing called Emergent, as well as a fellow student at Princeton Seminary. I called him to find out what emergent was, hoping desperately that it could provide a way to continue to do church while remaining authentic to who I was called to be in Christ. From this conversation, a cohort developed in central New Jersey. (A cohort is an informal group of emergents, meeting once a month in the community to build friendships and discuss issues of faith, church, culture,

will become more important and vital as time passes.

“My current relationship with CBF of Georgia is [through] my membership with Central Baptist Church, Newnan, and affiliation with First Baptist Church of Rome – I was a watch-care member there while I was a student at Berry College. I am currently a CBF Leadership Scholar, and plan to remain active with CBF.”

JEREMY ECHOLS (photo top of page 3)
First Baptist Church, Augusta, GA
George W. Truett Theological Seminary

“I feel called to preach Christ, and Him crucified. I am not sure what his calling will look like; whether it will be within the local church, or on the level of an evangelist. In the time being, the Lord is preparing me for my calling by alluring me into the place of prayer where I may exchange my power for His power, which is perfected in my weakness.

“My current relationship to the CBF of Georgia is based through First Baptist Church of Augusta, GA. This church has been a blessing to me through their support of my mission endeavors, [and by allowing] me opportunities to minister through various speaking engagements. Through these forms of support, I have been very blessed thus far with my relationship with First Baptist as well as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia.”



SAM DUENCKEL

SAM DUENCKEL

Central Baptist Church, Newnan, GA
Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

“I love working with senior adults, and have a passion to minister to them and their families. [As an intern] at Monument Heights [Baptist Church], I will develop a ministry for ‘younger’ senior adults (Baby Boomers). I will be dealing with understanding their transition, and what retirement means for them. My long-term goal is to teach practical business education for church leaders and seminaries. I think it is a very important topic that is rarely touched upon in a ministry setting, but it is a topic that

and justice.) I quickly realized that many other seminarians, local pastors, and church goers were also longing for a community in which to discuss the types of questions I had, as the group quickly grew to several dozen people by the second meeting. Through the monthly cohort meetings I connected with two pastors who were nurturing a community called The Well. By intentionally connecting with the unchurched and over-churched, they seemed to “do church” in a way that matched my convictions while also being relevant to the community. The emergent cohort and The Well gave me new hope as a minister, new ideas for doing church, and new inspiration for reaching others who had become disillusioned with church.

After seminary, I moved to Atlanta for my wife’s education. I searched and searched for a church like the one I served in seminary, hoping to find a community to invest my life in. Sadly, I found none. I realized that if I could not find a church to serve that practiced

faith in the way I was now committed, there were probably lots of people who could not find a church to attend that was relevant to their lives. It was then that I decided to become a church planter with CBF.

I have since found a CBF church in Atlanta that is passionate about living missionally; and, though the terminology is new, the history of Wieuca Road Baptist Church is a testimony to its missional heritage. Here I serve as Coordinator for Missional Community, where I equip and encourage our members to live missionally in our world and community. As a facet of Wieuca’s ministry in Atlanta, they support me as I continue to plant a missional community in another part of the city. I now serve on the Emergent National

Coordinating Group, a council of sorts which strategizes to support churches and Christ-followers who are sojourning in emerging, postmodern cultures. I also help lead the Atlanta Emergent Cohort.

Through friendships and conversations, I have found that my story was similar to that of many others, especially within moderate Baptist life. And that leads us to the reason you are reading this article in the first place—to learn more about the Emergent ethos.

(Continues to next page.)



DANIEL NANCE

DARRYL MATHIS

*Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, Athens, GA
McAfee School of Theology*

“At Milledge Avenue [Baptist Church], I was elected to the Deacon Board and began to serve on and chair various committees in the church. God began to call me to follow him in a different way. I became intensely aware of God calling me to ministry. I was 39 years old and had been in management for more than 16 years, so I told myself that I was misunderstanding what God was saying to me.

“I feel that I am being called to preach. My goal is to just be obedient to God’s call on my life and try to serve Him and follow the narrow path that he is calling me down.

“I have four daughters and they are very active in the church. Milledge has strong female role models for my daughters and that is important as they are allowed the freedom to follow God’s calling in their lives. Like my church, I believe in the CBF and its mission and values.”

JOEL MILLS

*Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
McAfee School of Theology*

“I have felt, and continue to feel, the calling of God to serve His church and Wieuca [Road Baptist Church’s]



DARRYL MATHIS

community through recreation and activities, and I hope that seminary will continue to teach me the ministerial skills that I need to contribute to this ministry’s continued growth. Although I am new to [CBF], in my time at McAfee and Wieuca, I have gained solid understanding of what it means to be a true Baptist.”

DANIEL NANCE

*Central Baptist Church, Newnan, GA
McAfee School of Theology*

“Because I hold firmly to Baptist distinctives, I am involved with CBF churches due to the fact that they seem to follow those distinctives more closely. Both FBC Morrow and Central [Baptist Church, Newnan,] have been great places in which to grow. At both of these churches I have been able to develop and articulate my goals for ministry. My ultimate goal in ministry is to take those gifts given to me by God and share them with others. After working as a youth minister, I can see myself working with a mission organization as a missionary or being on staff somewhere as a minister of outreach.”

(Continues to next page.)

ETHOS*(Continued from page 5)***The Emergent Ethos**

Insiders refer to “Emergent” as a *friendship* because it is more about people than ideas; but people often have ideas that they want to share, so we create spaces to talk about these ideas (e.g., blogs, theological conversations, regional/national gatherings, etc.). This is a conversation that we want to keep open to new insights, dreams, questions, and convictions. It is organic, always fluctuating and growing and, quite frankly, we like it that way. Trying to lock down the emergent theology or the emergent church model is like pausing a DVD and pointing at the screen, saying, “This, this is the story! Right here.” To those who do not know the storyline that has built up to this frozen frame, the image on the screen fails to capture the whole story and thereby frustrates its meaning. The emergent conversation

spans denominational, theological, and national differences; so naturally, the people that constitute the emergent conversation hold a wide range of theological and methodological convictions.

Eddie Gibbs and Ryan Bolger recount some of the values we emergents hold in common in their book, *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures*. They write: “Emerging churches (1) identify with the life of Jesus, (2) transform the secular realm, and (3) live highly communal lives. Because of these three activities, they (4) welcome the stranger, (5) serve with generosity, (6) participate as producers, (7) create as created beings, (8) lead as a body, and (9) take part in spiritual activities” (p.45). I recommend this book as the best resource for understanding the Emergent ethos. And this brings us to a major source of confusion that I have observed in

evangelical life, in general, and Baptist life, in particular: Emergent is not a model. It is an ethos. “Emergent” is not a noun, but an adjectival modifier delineating postmodern cultures.

Like Cowboy Culture or Goth Culture, emergent communities share a few common traits and values that make us distinct from the culture at large. This, however, ought not be reduced to a model that can be successfully packaged, shipped, and replanted into another culture, regardless of what some authors and speakers will tell you. Emergent is not some kind of ecclesial Ch-ch-ch-chia Pet that you can take out of the box, water, and watch it grow full of Gen-Xers. There is no postmodern purpose-driven planning guide to fill you with clever strategies. And what would an

THOMAS PITTS

*Shadnor First Baptist Church, Union City, GA
McAfee School of Theology*



“I used to believe that I was making a sacrifice to fulfill God’s calling. I was never more wrong! I realize now that I have been blessed to have such a call. My total being now is to become a minister. It is in my blood, my bones, and my soul. My goal is to become a full-time preacher, and my association to CBF of Georgia is through McAfee School of Theology.”

**JAN THOMPSON**

*Covenant Baptist Church, Cleveland, GA
McAfee School of Theology*

“I intend to complete a Master of Divinity at McAfee School of Theology, absorbing every bit of information and wisdom available; I am a lifetime learner. I am certain that I will spend the rest of my life serving God by teaching, preaching, and leading; by serving others. The pastorate is a place I desire to be. There is no guarantee that this will be an easy course to pursue; in fact, there will be rough roads ahead.

“My relationship to CBF of Georgia is simple: the church that I pastor is a contributing member of CBF and CBF of Georgia. I and my church believe in the work that is being carried out through these organizations.” CBF/GA

SECOND-YEAR RECIPIENTS

JEFF DAVIS – Candler School of Theology

MICHAEL GOODMAN – Candler School of Theology

MARTHA KATE BERRY HALL – George W. Truett
Theological Seminary

GIGI KERR – McAfee School of Theology

BETH PARLIER – Candler School of Theology

BETH PIRKLE – McAfee School of Theology

GREG SMITH – McAfee School of Theology

GAIL LIEBMAN – McAfee School of Theology

“Emergent model” look like? Would you emulate the Rockabilly style of Dan Kimball in Santa Cruz? Or become an Abbess like Karen Ward in Seattle? Would you start a Jesus Dojo like Mark Scandrette in San Francisco or buy a swivel chair so you can preach like Doug Pagitt in Minneapolis? My point is that, perhaps, as we incarnate the gospel in postmodern cultures, we also become post model-driven. If you must, here is the formula:

Jesus Christ + Your Culture = ???

The question marks are placeholders for the particular manifestations of the kingdom of God in your particular context. But, this is not emergent; this is missional. My advice is this: don’t try to “be” emergent. Try to be missional and you might end up finding yourself, naturally, becoming a friend of emergent, especially if your background, context, and passions connect with postmodern cultures.

Missional theology transcends cultural differences because it teaches us to incarnate the gospel by participating in the mission of God in *specific* contexts. Consequently, there are innumerable expressions of missionality. Like the Cowboy churches that are sprouting up all over Texas and Oklahoma, communities that are forming in emerging cultures are asking the question “What does the Gospel look and sound like for these people at this time?” Think of it this way: one can be missional and not emergent, but missionality is a primary facet of the Emergent ethos.

Because Emergent is not a model, but an ethos, you may find that you resonate with some of our shared values. (Check out www.emergentvillage.com/about to learn more about the Emergent ethos.) If so, you may find the friendship with other emergents to be life-giving.

Here are a few suggestions for those of you seeking to incarnate the Gospel in postmodern cultures:

- Listen. Really listen, to people outside of the church, especially those who have left the church, and be open to what they are saying.
- Practice your passions on purpose in your community.
- Practice holistic evangelism.
- Be a blessing to people outside your church with no strings attached.
- Be yourself.

Check out these blogs to join in the conversation (www.theshiverian.com, www.theofragen.com, www.pomomusings.com, www.tallskinnykiwi.com, and www.jonnybaker.blogs.com). CBF/GA

MISSIONAL

(Continued from page 1)

reconcile and redeem the world to Himself includes you and me! For whatever reason, God has chosen to include you and me in the redemption and reconciliation of the world. Though I have a hard time wrapping my mind around this truth, Scripture nonetheless calls me to embrace and live it by faith. In Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians he makes it clear that God is actively reconciling the world to himself in Christ and that he has committed to us this message and ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17ff).

Even more, God sends us each into the world as “ambassadors for Christ” as though Christ were making his appeal through us. Yes, God’s plan to reconcile and redeem the world to Himself includes you and me! And, we are the presence of Christ (think about all it means to be an ambassador!) in the world. Embracing this reality, living into this truth, and making it our lens on life, is what I believe it means to be a missional Christian and a missional Church. Sadly, many churches and Christians have lost sight of this truth.

The revelation of truth always raises questions for me. Standing in light of the above truth I am confronted with the question, “**How then is God calling me to be the presence of Christ in this time and place?**” It is a timely question. It is a timeless and dynamic question. It is a contextual question. The answer varies with each individual and church and each time and place. I believe faithfulness requires that each Christian and church ask this question and discern its answer(s) in community. I believe that we can’t ask the question enough for its ability to help us to live in an awareness of all that God is doing in the world and in our very midst. The question reminds us that God is a sending God; He sent the Son, who sent the Spirit, who sends us.

God’s will for our lives is to become like his Son in character and likeness (Romans 8:28ff). This conformation to the image of Christ includes a missional perspective on life and work that goes far beyond an occasional mission trip experience or church mission program. Jesus modeled for us what that meant as he lived in constant awareness of what God was doing in the world and his circles of influence. This awareness is essential to being the presence of Christ. God, help us be more like Jesus; and the Kingdom will come.

How would your life be different if you daily embraced this truth and lived this question? CBF/GA

Missional ... it's about being the presence of Christ in the world.

Resource Wise

For more information on the missional church see the following resources.

It's Time: A Journey Toward Missional Faithfulness — Through an 8-week study learn what it means to live a missional lifestyle, both as an individual and as a church. The study includes sermons, small-group studies, and personal, devotional material. For more information or to order visit www.thefellowship.info.

Missional Journey Guide — This is a congregational study that further explores the missional concept through church examples and practical information for church leaders. Visit www.thefellowship.info to order or for more information.

The Missional Journey: Being the Presence of Christ Journal is a 32-page booklet, journal, and CD-ROM that highlights missional examples, biblical examples, and suggested resources and processes for a church beginning the missional journey. Visit www.thefellowship.info to order or for more information.

Klesis: God's Call and the Journey of Faith was written to help Christians more carefully consider how God might be calling them to be the presence of Christ in their world. More than a spiritual gifts study, Klesis leads participants to a more holistic consideration of their unique call. Visit www.thefellowship.info to order or for more information.

Bass, Dianna Butler. *The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2004.

Barrett, Lois Y., et al., *Treasure in Clay Jars: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness*. Grand Rapids, MI: The Gospel and Our Culture Network, 2004.

This book focuses on the case studies of nine missional congregations and the eight "patterns" common to these churches.

McLaren, Brian. *The Story We find Ourselves In: Further Adventures of a New Kind of Christian*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003.

Rusaw, Rick and Eric Swanson, *The Externally Focused Church*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2004.

www.missionalchurch.org/pages/faq.pdf. This link brings up a page of frequently asked question on the missional church. This is sure to answer any questions you may have on the missional church.

www.marshall.org. On this website you will find an example of a missional church. Take a look at what this church is doing to be the presence of Christ in the world.

For more information on the emergent church see the following resources.

Bolger, Ryan and Eddie Gibbs, *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005.

Guder, Darrell, *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.

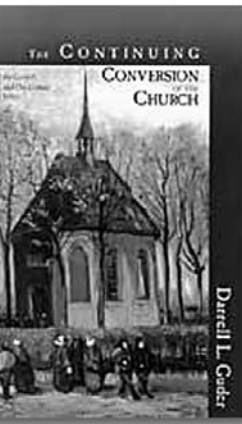
Kimball, Dan, *Emerging Worship: Creating Worship Gatherings for New Generations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004.

McLaren, Brian, *A New Kind of Christian: A Tale of Two Friends on a Spiritual Journey*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001.

McLaren, Brian, *The Church on the Other Side: Doing Ministry in the Postmodern Matrix*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, New, Expanded edition, 2003.

McNIGHT, Scot, "Five Streams of the Emerging Church," *Christianity Today*, January 2007.

This article can be found online www.ctlibrary.com/40534.



www.emergentvillage.com Emergent Village is a growing, generative friendship among missional Christians seeking to love the world in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Visit the website to learn more about the emergent church and to join the conversation.

www.gocn.org The Gospel and Our Culture Network is a network that offers companionship for Christian leaders and groups working together on the frontier of the missionary encounter in a society that is changing rapidly from "modern" to a "postmodern" form. Visit the website to learn more.

OPPORTUNITIES/REPORTS/UPDATES

Baptist Women In Ministry of Georgia Spring Meeting

Singing in Harmony: A Homecoming

Peachtree Baptist Church, 2108 Briarcliff Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

April 28, 2007

Worship 10:00 a.m., Business Meeting 11:30 a.m.

Lunch will be served.

Please join us for a time of remembering where we have come from and a time to look toward the future. Whether you are a former member, current member, or are interested in becoming a new member, we want you to come. We are looking forward to honoring the ministry women have done in Baptist life over the last several decades. We are excited to have Dorthea Gatlin and Devita Parnell as our preachers for the morning. Please join us and bring someone who you think will benefit from our organization. Our mission emphasis for the day will be Women's Literacy Education in Ghana.

To help cover the costs of lunch we have set a fee for \$15.00 per person. For more information or to register, please contact Nikki Hardeman at nhardeman@fbcrome.org or 706-936-9264. You may also register by mailing a check directly to BWIM/GA, 2465 Hillcrest Avenue, Macon, GA 31204. Please write BWIM Spring Meeting in the For . . . line. Some hotels in the area are listed below if you need one.

Courtyard by Marriott, Executive Park, 1236 Executive Park Drive, 404-728-0708.

Days Inn Emory, Buckhead, 2910 Clairmont Avenue, 404-633-8411.

Hampton Inn, 1975 North Druid Hills Road, 404-320-6600, toll-free 1-800-426-7866.

Holiday Inn, Decatur, 130 Clairmont Avenue, 404-371-0204, toll-free 1-800-HOLIDAY.

Residence Inn by Marriott, 2960 Piedmont Road, NE, 404-239-0677, toll free 1-800-331-3131.

CBF/GA PHOTOS

1 Now Serving: Atlanta — On February 2-3, 2007, over 100 people participated in Now Serving: Atlanta. Students from Georgia churches and college groups, as well as groups from Alabama and South Carolina, gathered to worship at Mercer University's Atlanta Campus, and then went out into the city in smaller groups for a day of work.

2 Georgia Youth Choir Festival — Over 100 youth and adults from 8 churches participated in the First Annual Georgia Youth Choir Festival sponsored by CBF of Georgia and the McAfee-Townsend Institute of Mercer University over MLK Jr. Weekend, January 12-14, 2007. This pilot event was held at the Calvin Center in Hampton, Ga., and included periods of extended rehearsals, as well as times for fellowship. On Sunday, the mass choir led worship at FBC Griffin in the morning service and gave concerts Sunday afternoon/evening at Kings Bridge Retirement Community and Briarcliff Baptist Church, Atlanta.

3 Kyle Matthews Workshop — Singer/songwriter, Kyle Matthews, engages workshop participants to consider how churches express themselves through worship and outreach. This CBF/GA sponsored event was held January 23 at Highland Hills Baptist Church, Macon.

4 Baptist Jewish Dialogue — Baptists and Jews gathered for dinner and dialogue on February 13 at Temple Emanu-El in Atlanta. The event was co-sponsored by the CBF/GA Interfaith Task Force and the American Jewish Committee, Atlanta Chapter. For more information, visit <http://www.abpnews.com/www/1717.article>.

FINANCIAL PICTURE

Budget Receipts as of 02/28/07

Year to Date..... \$407,416.33

Requirement..... \$523,821.00

Over/<Under>..... \$<85,583.59>

Month to Date.....\$52,071.87

Over/<Under>.....\$<6,130.46>



1



2



3



4

A Strong Fellowship, a Strong Presence, a Strong Future

Renée Bennett, CBF/GA
Past-Moderator

A STRONG fellowship, a strong presence, a strong future for CBF/GA ... To listen, to support, to lead, to challenge ... I hope it all mattered this past year!



This time last year I was sharing with you what I hoped would matter regarding my year as Moderator of CBF/GA. My goals were to listen to staff, the council, and members of the Fellowship; to

support the CBF/GA staff; to lead the work of the Coordinating Council; and to challenge all of us to be the presence of Christ in Georgia and around the world. The Staff continues to serve with creativity and sensitivity to the needs of the local church. Council meetings have been lively and productive. State meetings have been outstanding with Darrell Watson and Nancy Copeland at the helm. Georgia continues to be a leader in state and global missions. Now, the fact of the matter is, I have had little to do with all that has been accomplished. I have

listened, I have supported, I have led, I have challenged — but all with a very cooperative and willing group of people. In other words, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia is just that! I simply joined the Kingdom and the Presence already among us.

Thank you for listening to, supporting, leading, and challenging me through a year as Moderator of CBF/GA. Not only has the year mattered to me, I am confident it has mattered to the Kingdom and to the future of CBF/GA because of YOU. I look forward to working as Past Moderator, following Al Shauf's good example. Thank you, Al!

CBF/GA ... 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.

CBF/GA General Assembly ... Time to Fellowship and Network

- 1 Anna Carter Florence, keynote speaker, not only led us in worship, but also shared her gifts by leading the Pastor's Network.
- 2 Participants learn how CBF is working with Christians in China during the CBF/GA workshops.
- 3 Attendees fellowship before the Friday night dinner and business meeting.
- 4 Attendees fellowship during a break at the resource fair.
- 5 CBF/GA choir practices before leading in Saturday morning worship.



CBF/GA Office of Reference and Referral

Alan Mitchell, Assistant to the Coordinator for Reference and Referral



POSITION OPENINGS

A large CBF church in the greater Athens, GA, area is seeking a **part-time Minister of Music**. Interested persons, please contact CBF Reference & Referral at amitchell@cbfga.org.

A small church in a small town near Athens, GA, is seeking a **Pastor on a permanent part-time or bi-vocational basis**. The church would like for the Pastor to live in their parsonage. Interested persons, please contact CBF Reference & Referral at amitchell@cbfga.org.

A church in a small town between Atlanta and Athens is seeking a **part-time Associate Pastor for youth and children**. Minimum education level is 2 years of college. Interested persons, please contact CBF Reference & Referral at amitchell@cbfga.org.

First Baptist Church of Milledgeville is accepting applications for the position of **Associate Pastor for Music/Youth**. Applications may be obtained by contacting First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 795, Milledgeville, GA 31059-0795 — attention Jerry Bradley — or by emailing fbcmville@alltel.net. Applicant must be an ordained minister with experience in the areas of music and youth. This is not an entry level position; applicant must have had experience within the last two years. Salary to be determined based on training and experience. Position will remain vacant until filled.



MINISTERS ON THE MOVE

JOE S. ALVERSON is Chaplain at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center, Lexington, KY.

MELISSA CARGILE is on staff at First United Methodist Church, Ormond Beach, FL.

RON CRADDOCK is Chief of Chaplain Services at Veterans' Administration Hospitals, Augusta, GA.

K. BOYD DENNARD is Minister of Music at First United Methodist Church in Eatonton, GA.

STEPHEN FARRAR is Minister of Music at FBC Galax, VA.

TIMOTHY M. FRIAR is Pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Liberty, NC.

HOWARD GERMANY is Pastor at Carlisle Baptist Church in Richmond, VA.

MITCHELL HUSKISON is Associate Pastor, Minister of Music at FBC Waynesville, NC.

ANDY JONES is Minister to High School & College Students at FBC Augusta, GA.

REBECCA JONES is Minister to Preschool & Children at FBC Augusta, GA.

DERRICK A. JUSTICE is Pastor of Lillington Star Church in Clayton, NC.

JASON N. "BRENT" KIMLICK is Co-Pastor at Bruington Church, Bruington, VA.

STEVE NEILL is Minister of Education at FBC Waterloo, IL.

ELIZABETH ASHLEY-PRITCHETT and **MICAH PRITCHETT** are Co-Pastors at Englewood Baptist Church in Kansas City, MO.

JOHN REESER is Pastor of Danielsville Baptist Church, Danielsville, GA.

SHEILA RUSS is Associate Pastor at Peace Haven Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC.

PAULA JEAN SETTLE is Missionary, Nada, Owsley County in Stanton, KY.

JACOB LYNN SNAPP is Pastor at Immanuel BC, Butler, MO.

JOSH THOMPSON is Minister to Students at Vineville Baptist Church, Macon, GA.

ROBERT WALLACE is Interim Pastor now at FBC Tucker, GA.

JEFF WELLS is Pastor of Johnson Drive Baptist Church, Athens, GA.

LISA WILLIAMS is Minister to College Students at FBC Knoxville, TN.

COMING UP

■ April 1

CBF/GA Scholarship Deadline

To receive an application form, contact Devita Parnell at 478-742-1191, ext. 28, or dparnell@cbfga.org or visit www.cbfga.org.

■ April 16

"Growing Generous Churches, Growing Generous Christians"

Religious Life Center, Mercer University, Macon
A free one day ecumenical conference featuring Lynn Miller, Stewardship Theologian. Co-Sponsored by The Center for Baptist Studies, Mercer University, Congregational Life, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, CBF Foundation, and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia

■ April 16-20

"Intentional Interim Ministry" McAfee School of Theology

This is the second course offered in 2007 for ministers seeking certification for intentional interim ministry. Sponsored by CBF/National and the Center for Congregational Health. For more information visit http://www.healthychurch.org/int_min_train.asp.

■ April 28

BWIM of Georgia Spring Meeting Singing in Harmony: A Homecoming

Peachtree Baptist Church, Atlanta
Worship 10:00 a.m., Business Meeting 11:30 a.m.
If you have questions, please call Nikki Hardeman at 706-291-6850.

■ June 7-9

"African Americans in Baptist History" Baptist History & Heritage Society Annual Meeting

Campbellsville University, Campbellsville, KY
For more information visit www.baptisthistory.org or call Pam Durso at 615-371-7937.

■ June 11-15 and 18-22

Touching Taliaferro With Love Summer Camp

For more information or to volunteer contact Ann Peisher by calling 706-549-7032 or emailing apeisher@uga.edu.

■ June 25-29

Touching Taliaferro With Love Baseball Camp

For more information or to volunteer contact Ann Peisher by calling 706-549-7032 or emailing apeisher@uga.edu.

■ June 27-29

CBF National General Assembly Washington, D.C.

■ July 17-20

Alleluia! Church Music Conference Baylor University

Presented by Baylor University Center for Christian Music Studies. For more information visit http://www.baylor.edu/christian_music/.

■ Aug. 1-3

Baptist History Celebration

First Baptist Church, Charleston, SC
For more information or to register for the event, go to <http://www.baptisthistorycelebration.org>.

■ Nov. 4-5

CBF/GA Fall Convocation

FBC Savannah

Visit
www.cbfga.org
for more
info!

COOPERATIVE
BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

GEORGIA

P.O. Box 4343
Macon GA 31208-4343



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ATHENS GA
PERMIT #351