

VISIONS



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Money and Laundry

Frank Broome,
CBF/GA Coordinator

In recent years the August issue of *Visions* has been dedicated to reporting on finances. This is a matter of accountability for us. It is not always the most popular issue we publish. Few people ever call me up and say, "What a great issue!" They do that on all other issues, but not usually this one. I suspect it is because we moderates don't like to talk about money so much, officially that is. We do it in the hallway or parking lot, but the thought of doing it in a worship setting or even in a newsletter is just not our thing. It makes me think of the time when most people in the country had clothes lines. They were almost never in the front of the house, maybe on the side, usually in the back. We didn't like airing even our clean laundry in public. It was simply a part of our culture. Money and laundry were off limits.



Maybe it is still better to keep the laundry in the back of the house, but not so with money. Reporting on what we have received and how it was spent is an essential part of our responsibility as stewards of what God has provided. Baptists have, generally speaking, believed in an open Bible and an open ledger. That is because we have trusted the body when it comes to theology and when it comes to financial support. I would argue that this is not a coincidence. After all, what you know and believe should inform and direct how you act.

So what does our financial report look like from June 2006 through May 2007? The short answer is that it is a mixed

bag. We ended the year in the black by a couple of thousand dollars. However, that is because we were one staff member short for most of the year. Had we been fully staffed, we would have been in a deficit situation. From a budget perspective we ended the year more than \$130,000 behind the budget. From an income perspective we ended the year \$64,300 behind last year. This is the first decline in receipts we have experienced over the previous year in the last decade. In 2005/2006 we ended the year \$13,000 behind budget,

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Laundry *Continues from page 1.*

but our income was about the same as the year before. Not so this year. On one level we should rejoice that we have gone so long without a decline. Most every non-profit organization has seen some decline in recent years, especially if one factors inflation into the equation. On another level we should feel some measure of concern. This may be an indication that our churches are not doing as well as they once did. What is happening on the demographic scene in most of our county seat towns does not favor our churches. It may also indicate that churches are changing the way they think about missions. Expenditures on the local scene are up, especially for the larger churches, while state and national giving remains the same or is in decline. This is not only true for us but for most other church groups as well.

I find it interesting that while these trends are underway the expectations of organizations like CBF/GA are up. We have more participation in our events than ever. The spring or fall assemblies may be up or down depending on location and speaker, but for the most part all of our other events, programs, and ministries are on the rise. We have more kids at March Mission Madness than ever, more scholarship requests, more peer learning groups, more requests for assistance for reference and referral, more involvement in disaster relief, a vibrant CBF/GA youth choir retreat, and a growing CBF/GA adult choir. We are involved in two new African American church starts, one new Hispanic church ministry, and one new Anglo church restart. Devita and I have been in more churches and participated in more conferences than in any previous year. We have expanded our involvement with our partner organizations. We have doubled our communications ability with an expanded *Visions*, an electronic newsletter we call *Re-Visions*, and a completely revamped and expanded web presence.

The challenge we face is the same challenge faced by most denomination-like organizations. We are in a changing ecclesiastical culture. Some call it post-modern, some post-denominational, some say post-Christian. Most of us grew up in a church culture where strong and healthy congregations were called to serve the weaker and fragile ones. Churches banded together to share their resources so that the world as a whole would benefit. The demands placed on local congregations have tempered the flow of resources to mission organizations. Of course I am not very objective about this. After all I passionately believe in what we are doing. I also believe that our partner congregations and those individuals who support our work will meet the challenge of this new day. CBF/GA

Maybe it is still better to keep the laundry in the back of the house, but not so with money. Reporting on what we have received and how it was spent is an essential part of our responsibility as stewards of what God has provided.

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.

Trends in Giving

An article on “Trends in Giving” sounds just like what we need for our churches, doesn’t it? If we knew what the trends are, then we would act, right? Unfortunately, that has not been my experience. Knowledge of the trends has not led to the changes needed to bring about different results.

Ruben Swint,
Senior Strategist, GENERIS



The one big trend in most of the churches I interact with is that “budget” giving is flat when compared with inflation, year after year after year. There is little or no increase in ministry purchasing power.

The second trend is that senior members who give generously and perhaps the largest portion of annual gifts do not have an unlimited life expectancy; we are saying goodbye on a regular basis to members of the greatest generation.

The third trend is that most of our churches are wedded to the budget-driven model of stewardship that developed in the 1950’s, and they are fearful of letting go of the familiar. Stewardship is budget-driven rather than mission-inspired.

So, let me attempt to fulfill my assignment regarding trends in giving by offering **a vision of the trends we SHOULD be experiencing** in our congregations, in a spirit of power and love and self control (2 Timothy 1:7).

1. We are facing and overcoming our fears associated with money so that personal finances, spending, and giving are not taboo subjects.

2. We are preaching, studying, and acting on the whole counsel of God, including those texts that mention generosity, possessions, greed, and contentment.
3. Clergy and lay leaders are modeling Christian lifestyles that are unburdened by stuff and consumer debt.
4. We are learning and applying Christian money management principles and strategies and talking about our experiences with one another.
5. We are less obsessive about meeting a budget and much more interested in fulfilling our mission (the real stewardship).
6. Our generosity is extending in ever increasing ways beyond our congregation.
7. We are asking for and receiving current major gifts and estate gifts in proportion to members’ wealth.

This vision of trends we should be experiencing is based upon a belief in the abundance provided by God. For too long and by too many, we have acted on a belief in scarcity of resources. God has not just been generous to us; God has been extravagant! God is providing us with every grace gift in abundance, that being content with enough, we will have more than enough for every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8, paraphrase mine). CBF/GA

Blessed Beyond Measure

Sonny Gallman, Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Conyers

Two and a half years ago, Trinity Baptist Church had the good fortune of welcoming Igor Coada and his wife Galina to Conyers from Moldova, a small European country between Romania and Russia. Igor had been in the United States previously under a work visa and by chance had met with a small group of Moldovans who were meeting at Trinity Baptist Church. They both expressed a desire for help in order for Igor to become their pastor.

Immediately Trinity and the small mission church began working on ways for Igor to come to the United States on a longer term than his previous stay. What worked out was nothing short of a miracle, as McAfee School of Theology offered Igor a full scholarship

Continues to page 4.





Money Fuels Ministry

Darrell Watson, CBF/GA Moderator

March Mission Madness

First Baptist Church of Madison, Georgia, was where I first experienced it. A large group of youth from my church joined hearts and hands with youth from all over the state to paint houses, do yard work, and love through the act of service to citizens in the community who needed a helping hand. This event, beautifully orchestrated by our new Missions Coordinator, Scott Ford, has become a part of the ethos of my local church setting. March Mission Madness is teaching our youth how to put their faith in action by serving people in need. (Sounds Biblical doesn't it!) *Your money helps to fuel this ministry.*



Reference and Referral

Unlike our Methodist brothers and sisters, Baptists provide no safety net for their church staff. Thank God for Alan Mitchell. Alan is every church staff's best friend who is searching and seeking a new place of ministry. Playing cupid, Alan seeks to get churches and staff together so that relationships can be formed and ministry accomplished through the local church. *Your money helps to fuel this ministry.*

Semi-Annual Gatherings

Twice a year we are encouraged to gather for a time of fellowship, learning, and worship. We conduct business and hear from our coordinator, Frank Broome, and other staff what is happening in the life of our organization. We celebrate at times, even commiserate with one another, regarding being Baptist in a post-denominational era. We hear choirs who are unequaled in their talent, sermons from some of the best homileticians in the United States, and grow in our relationship with God as a result of our common worship. *Your money helps to fuel this ministry.*

Because money truly does fuel ministry, let me encourage you to check with your church's finance committee to make sure that your church is designating a percentage of your church's tithe and offering to CBF/GA. Perhaps a goal could be a 50/50 split between the state and national causes. (Does this sound familiar?) The stronger we become on the state level, the stronger CBF/National will ultimately become. Above all know that your money matters, because money fuels ministry, and ministry and missions are at the heart and soul of what it means to be a Cooperative Baptist. CBF/GA

Blessed *Continues from page 3.*

for study in the Master of Divinity program, and several local churches, the Moldovan congregation, CBF/GA, GBC, and the Stone Mountain Baptist Association all agreed to support the financial requirements placed on someone with a student visa.

The past two years have been educational, to say the least. Igor testifies himself that his mind has truly been opened to God's greatness as he has studied at McAfee. Igor has also been educated on what is involved in being a pastor and a full-time student. The Moldovan church has also been educated, as they

work with Igor in his first pastorate and as they learn to work with our congregation. Our church has also been educated as we have sought to mentor Igor and to mentor this fledgling congregation.

When Igor began his ministry with the Conyers church, he had fifteen people present for his first meeting. Now, just two and a half years later, they have forty regular attendees and have actually begun reaching English speaking people as well! To say that Igor and his family have been a blessing to Conyers, to Trinity Baptist Church, and to me, Trinity's pastor, would be an understatement. God has blessed us beyond measure. CBF/GA



Thanks to your monetary gifts, and the partnership of CBF/GA, GBC, and the Stone Mountain Baptist Association, Moldovan native Igor Coada now pastors a Moldovan congregation in Conyers.

Our Financial Health

Suzanne Powell, Senior Assistant for Finance and Administration

The August/September issue of *Visions* has become the primary means through which we report on the financial health of CBF/GA. We currently have 133 churches and 184 individuals relating to us either by giving to the budget or by participating in CBF/GA projects or events. Currently there are 26 other Georgia churches that give only to CBF/National.



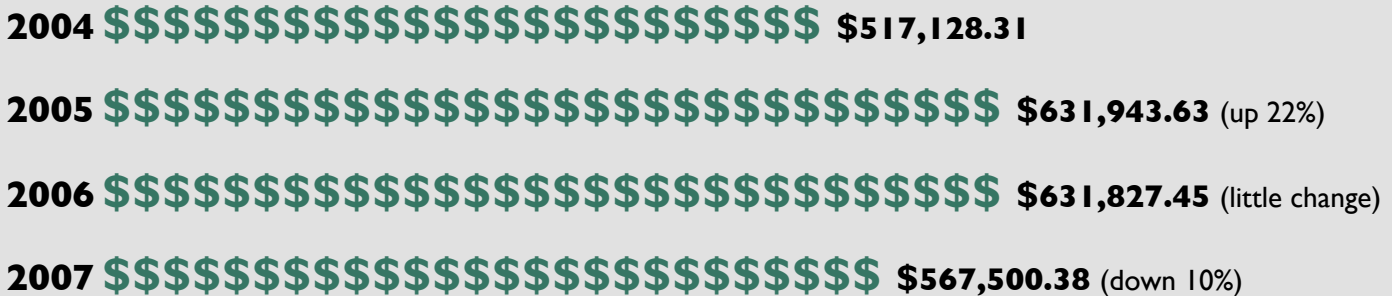
Last fiscal year (June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007) we fell short of meeting budget by \$130,900. Total budget receipts were \$567,500. The good news is that we did not spend more than we took in. Total budget spending was \$547,000. Budget giving is down \$64,300 over last fiscal year and designated giving is down by \$11,800.

Because of the decline in giving I thought this year we would show giving trends over the past four years. Referencing the chart below, total budget giving increased 22% from 2004 to 2005 but basically stayed the same from 2005 to 2006. Last year we were down 10.2%.

In the very near future CBF/GA will have the option of making contributions online. We are very excited about this new process. Please contact Suzanne Powell at 478-742-1191 ext. 21, or spowell@cbfga.org if you have any questions or you would like to place an order for envelopes. Thank you for your continued support of CBF/GA. CBF/GA

- Georgia Churches Giving ONLY to National CBF**
- Beulah Baptist Church-Sparta
 - Cedar Rock Church- Jackson
 - Christian Fellowship Baptist Church- College Park
 - College Hill Baptist Church- Mount Vernon
 - Evergreen Baptist Church- Milledgeville
 - Fellowship Baptist Church- Edison
 - First Baptist Church- Chula
 - First Baptist Church- Cornelia
 - First Baptist Church- Douglas
 - First Baptist Church- Fayetteville
 - First Baptist Church- Jesup
 - First Baptist Church- La Fayette
 - First Baptist Church- Monroe
 - First Baptist Church- Powder Springs
 - First Baptist Church- Saint Simons Island
 - First Baptist Church- Shellman
 - First Baptist Church- Sylvania
 - First Baptist Church- Sylvester
 - Highland Baptist Church- Hogansville
 - Lakewood Baptist Church- Gainesville
 - McDonough Road Baptist Church- Fayetteville
 - Memorial Baptist Church- Waycross
 - Midtown Church- Atlanta
 - Oakhurst Baptist Church- Decatur
 - The Fellowship Group- East Point
 - Unity Baptist Church- Summerville

CBF/GA Four Year Budget Giving Trend 2004-2007



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Georgia Contributing Churches

06/01/2006 — 05/31/2007

*All receipts were received during the period of June 1, 2006 and May 31, 2007

*All receipts are un-audited

*Audit results should be available September 2007

	CBF/GA Budget	State Missions	Pass Thru to CBF/National	Other	TOTAL
Black Springs Baptist Church-Milledgeville.....	18.00	27.00	0.00	1,260.00	1,305.00
Bowdon Baptist Church.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,960.00	1,960.00
Briarcliff Baptist Church-Atlanta.....	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	2,100.00
Buckhead Baptist Church-Atlanta.....	792.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	792.00
Carlton Baptist Church.....	547.99	235.00	0.00	830.13	1,613.12
Central Baptist Church-Gray.....	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	1,645.00	2,745.00
Central Baptist Church-Newman.....	9,375.00	0.00	0.00	1,080.00	10,455.00
Clarkesville Baptist Church.....	735.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	735.64
Community Baptist Church-Milledgeville.....	3,555.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,555.51
Covenant Baptist Church-Cleveland.....	674.78	0.00	0.00	0.22	675.00
Dahlonega Baptist Church.....	3,731.00	240.00	10,756.27	1,460.00	16,187.27
Darien Baptist Church-Sparta.....	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00
Druid Hills Baptist Church-Atlanta.....	1,065.32	0.00	0.00	490.00	1,555.32
Dunwoody Baptist Church-Atlanta.....	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	5,000.00
Fellowship Baptist Church-Americus.....	1,749.48	0.00	0.00	215.52	1,965.00
Fellowship Baptist Church-Fitzgerald.....	2,056.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,056.44
First Baptist Church-Albany.....	2,628.40	0.00	0.00	0.60	2,629.00
First Baptist Church-Americus.....	330.00	0.00	0.00	1,050.00	1,380.00
First Baptist Church-Athens.....	10,793.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,793.50
First Baptist Church-Augusta.....	21,265.38	0.00	21,373.14	8,795.00	51,433.52
First Baptist Church-Avondale Estates.....	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
First Baptist Church-Bainbridge.....	645.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	645.00
First Baptist Church-Bogart.....	612.56	0.00	0.00	0.51	613.07
First Baptist Church-Carrollton.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	675.00	675.00
First Baptist Church-Cave Spring.....	537.50	25.00	0.00	0.00	562.50
First Baptist Church-Cedartown.....	787.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	787.50
First Baptist Church-Claxton.....	4,266.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,266.00
First Baptist Church-Columbus.....	10,169.08	8,586.54	0.00	1,350.00	20,105.62
First Baptist Church-Commerce.....	9,192.79	0.00	0.00	1,190.00	10,382.79
First Baptist Church-Cordele.....	6,356.94	0.00	0.00	1.59	6,358.53
First Baptist Church-Covington.....	835.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	835.00
First Baptist Church-Dalton.....	26,614.48	0.00	0.00	1.91	26,616.39
First Baptist Church-Decatur.....	2,835.00	0.00	38.00	0.00	2,873.00
First Baptist Church-East Point.....	99.70	0.00	0.00	0.30	100.00
First Baptist Church-Eatonton.....	6,424.00	0.00	0.00	770.00	7,194.00
First Baptist Church-Evans.....	95.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	95.82
First Baptist Church-Fitzgerald.....	0.00	2,579.43	0.00	0.00	2,579.43
First Baptist Church-Forsyth.....	9,013.29	382.67	0.00	6,355.00	15,750.96
First Baptist Church-Fort Oglethorpe.....	2,770.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,770.95
First Baptist Church-Gainesville.....	14,120.41	0.00	0.00	4,189.01	18,309.42
First Baptist Church-Griffin.....	32,194.61	0.00	0.00	2,091.14	34,285.75
First Baptist Church-Hartwell.....	2,970.00	5,575.00	0.00	1,983.35	10,528.35
First Baptist Church-Hawkinsville.....	3,090.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,090.59
First Baptist Church-Jasper.....	5,542.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,542.50
First Baptist Church-Jefferson.....	7,798.22	0.00	0.00	1.78	7,800.00
First Baptist Church-Lavonia.....	16,294.05	0.00	0.00	4.66	16,298.71
First Baptist Church-Lawrenceville.....	4,442.11	0.00	0.00	1.19	4,443.30

	CBF/GA Budget	State Missions	Pass Thru to CBF/National	Other	TOTAL
First Baptist Church-Lithonia.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	655.00	655.00
First Baptist Church-Lumpkin.....	6,372.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,372.38
First Baptist Church-Macon.....	22,874.93	0.00	0.00	250.00	23,124.93
First Baptist Church-Manchester.....	867.15	66.00	0.00	0.00	933.15
First Baptist Church-Marietta.....	2,046.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,046.77
First Baptist Church-Marshallville.....	0.00	2,693.07	0.00	0.00	2,693.07
First Baptist Church-Milledgeville.....	5,989.36	0.00	0.00	401.00	6,390.36
First Baptist Church-Montezuma.....	2,694.27	0.00	0.00	0.73	2,695.00
First Baptist Church-Morrow.....	11,456.76	0.00	0.00	1,400.00	12,856.76
First Baptist Church-Newnan.....	282.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	282.50
First Baptist Church-Ringgold.....	1,583.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,583.00
First Baptist Church-Riverdale.....	830.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	830.25
First Baptist Church-Rockmart.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,120.00	1,120.00
First Baptist Church-Rome.....	22,477.07	0.00	0.00	1,782.09	24,259.16
First Baptist Church-Rossville.....	919.81	0.00	0.00	0.16	919.97
First Baptist Church-Roswell.....	11,808.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,808.00
First Baptist Church-Savannah.....	837.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	837.42
First Baptist Church-Swainsboro.....	1,900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,900.00
First Baptist Church-Thomaston.....	1,786.39	0.00	0.00	0.48	1,786.87
First Baptist Church-Tifton.....	6,873.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,873.62
First Baptist Church-Toccoa.....	500.67	0.00	0.00	0.33	501.00
First Baptist Church-Tucker.....	376.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	376.57
First Baptist Church-Twin City.....	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
First Baptist Church-Union Point.....	205.22	14.46	0.00	258.88	478.56
First Baptist Church-Valdosta.....	207.03	790.79	0.00	0.00	997.82
First Baptist Church-Warm Springs.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
First Baptist Church-Washington.....	3,240.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,240.00
First Baptist Church-West Point.....	1,963.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,963.12
First Baptist Church of Lakeview-Rossville.....	449.70	0.00	0.00	0.30	450.00
Garden Lakes Baptist Church-Rome.....	1,537.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,537.00
Glenwood Hills Baptist Church-Macon.....	869.88	0.00	0.00	0.12	870.00
Haddock Baptist Church.....	3,835.00	0.00	0.00	2,385.00	6,220.00
Harbor Ministries-McCaysville.....	449.70	0.00	50.00	350.30	850.00
Hardwick Baptist Church.....	20.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,020.00
Harlem Baptist Church.....	770.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	770.00
Haven Fellowship Church-Conyers.....	1,872.78	0.00	0.00	837.22	2,710.00
Heritage Baptist Church-Cartersville.....	2,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,100.00
Heritage Baptist Fellowship-Canton.....	3,940.00	1,000.00	0.00	118.22	5,058.22
Highland Hills Baptist Church-Macon.....	7,647.92	0.00	0.00	1,120.00	8,767.92
Horizon Baptist Fellowship-Summerville.....	1,050.00	0.00	0.00	1,190.00	2,240.00
Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor-Newnan.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
Ila Baptist Church.....	1,575.31	1,323.87	0.00	0.00	2,899.18
Isle of Hope Baptist Church-Savannah.....	473.59	0.00	0.00	0.05	473.64
Johns Creek Baptist Church-Alpharetta.....	12,313.44	0.00	0.00	5,700.00	18,013.44
Lakeview Hills Baptist Church-Gainesville.....	2,750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,750.00
Madison Baptist Church.....	11,125.89	0.00	0.00	1,680.00	12,805.89
Maranatha Baptist Church-Plains.....	1,324.07	0.00	1,385.83	0.00	2,709.90
Memorial Baptist Church-Savannah.....	1,173.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,173.19
Milledge Avenue Baptist Church-Athens.....	3,100.00	2,720.00	0.00	4,255.00	10,075.00
Montgomery Heights Baptist Church-Commerce.....	837.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	837.73
Monticello Baptist Church.....	3,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,500.00
Mount Zion Baptist Church-Macon.....	13,281.04	415.00	0.00	1,432.50	15,128.54
National Heights Baptist Church-Fayetteville.....	1,955.00	0.00	0.00	105.00	2,060.00
Nehemiah Vietnamese Community Baptist-Chamblee.....	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
New Community Church-Buena Vista.....	159.00	780.04	559.36	935.00	2,433.40
New Heights Baptist Church-Macon.....	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00

CBF/GA Giving

	CBF/GA Budget	State Missions	Pass Thru to CBF/National	Other	TOTAL
New Horizons Fellowship-Fayetteville	243.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	243.00
New Life Christian Ministries-Marietta	0.00	0.00	0.00	770.00	770.00
North Broad Baptist Church-Rome	4,168.85	0.00	0.00	20.85	4,189.70
North River Baptist Church-Roswell.....	366.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	366.00
Northeast Baptist Church-Atlanta.....	600.00	0.00	0.00	525.00	1,125.00
Northside Drive Baptist Church-Atlanta	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Ocilla Baptist Church.....	130.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	130.00
Park Avenue Baptist Church-Atlanta	550.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.00
Parkway Baptist Church-Duluth.....	5,980.85	0.00	0.00	630.57	6,611.42
Peachtree Baptist Church-Atlanta	800.00	0.00	0.00	1,090.00	1,890.00
Rainbow Park Baptist Church-Decatur	600.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.51
Rehoboth Baptist Church-Cave Spring.....	2,583.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,583.75
Rocky Creek Baptist Church-Forsyth.....	1,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00
Royston Baptist Church	5,270.79	100.00	5,470.88	2,180.00	13,021.67
Sardis Baptist Church-Hartwell.....	145.00	0.00	0.00	1,890.00	2,035.00
Scott Boulevard Baptist Church-Decatur	893.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	893.00
Second Avenue Baptist Church-Rome	6,465.35	0.00	1,514.94	598.33	8,578.62
Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church-Atlanta	3,815.92	0.00	0.00	1,470.00	5,285.92
Shekinah Baptist Assembly-Louisville	200.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	600.00
Shurlington Baptist Church-Macon.....	8,380.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,380.17
Smoke Rise Baptist Church-Stone Mountain	9,050.58	0.00	0.00	200.00	9,250.58
Tabernacle Baptist Church-Carrollton.....	21,446.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,446.78
The Hill Baptist Church-Augusta	948.00	0.00	767.00	350.00	2,065.00
The Oaks Baptist Church-Lyons	160.00	55.00	0.00	0.00	215.00
Trinity Baptist Church-Conyers.....	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Trinity Baptist Church-Moultrie.....	7,974.45	0.00	0.00	1,687.23	9,661.68
Un Nuevo Amanecer First Baptist Church-Morrow.....	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Union Baptist Church-Warthen	499.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	499.92
Valley Brook Baptist Church-Decatur	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Wieuca Road Baptist Church-Atlanta.....	20,136.60	0.00	0.00	5,737.65	25,874.25
Total Georgia Church Contributions	526,913.60	27,608.87	41,915.42	86,278.91	640,801.38
Total Individual/Organization Contributions	40,586.78	2,870.00	1,800.00	26,355.30	69,812.08
Total giving June 1, 2006 - May 31, 2007	567,500.38	30,478.87	43,715.42	112,634.21	710,613.46

Budget — includes Missions, Congregational Life, Administration, Personnel, Communications, and Fellowship.

State Missions — include projects such as Disaster Relief, Hispanic Outreach, Benevolence...etc.

Pass thru to CBF/National — includes National Budget, OGM, and other designated projects.

Other — includes all other designated gifts such as Partnership Missions, New Church Starts, March Missions Madness, Georgia Youth Choir Festival, Touching Taliaferro with Love, College Ministry...etc.

WE WANT TO GIVE AS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE accounting of contributions as possible. We do have a number of individuals and organizations who give directly to us. Such contributions are not included under their church's name. They are, however, listed by totals under individual/organization giving at the bottom of this contributing church listing. This list is not intended to be a CBF/GA church directory. It is simply a report of those churches that have participated with us in the previous year. All contributions listed came directly to us from the church or they came by way of National CBF. It

is important to remember that CBF/National and States do not have an agreed upon formula as to how funds are to be shared. In order to give to both CBF/GA and CBF/National the church must either write two separate checks or the church must request that one entity pass a certain amount along to the other. In Georgia, funds are not automatically forwarded from state to national or national to state without a specific request being made by the contributor. If for any reason you think the data is incorrect or incomplete, let us know. CBF/GA

OPPORTUNITIES / REPORTS / UPDATES

Coming and Going: Staff Changes at CBF/GA

R. Scott Ford has been named Associate Coordinator for Missions of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia by CBF/GA's Coordinating Council. Scott served as Minister of Education and Youth at Haven Fellowship Baptist Church in Conyers, Ga., for five years. For the past seven years, he has been the March Mission Madness Coordinator for CBF/GA. Scott assumed his new position on July 23, 2007.

"We are delighted to have Scott Ford as our new Associate Coordinator for Missions," said Frank Broome, CBF/GA Coordinator. "He has been instrumental in developing March Mission Madness, and our larger missions program will benefit from the considerable skills he has in ministry."

Devita Parnell, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia's Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life, announced that she has accepted the position of Missions Education Specialist at Cooperative Baptist Fellowship National in Atlanta, Ga.

"Devita has done a superb job developing the Congregational Life area," said Frank Broome, CBF/GA Coordinator. "We will be ever grateful for her work at CBF/GA. We have been blessed to have her on our staff. We look forward to working with her as she assumes her responsibilities at the national office."

Rachel Huston began working for CBF/GA in September of 2005. She began as a Congregational Life Intern from Mercer. In June of 2006 Rachel became a full-time CBF/GA staff member as the Assistant for Communication and Resources. She will leave CBF/GA at the end of July to attend Seminary at McAfee School of Theology to earn her Master's of Divinity. Rachel's goal, at this time, is to become a chaplain or do some other counseling ministry.

Commenting on her time at CBF/GA Rachel says, "Working for CBF/GA for almost two years has been very rewarding. I am grateful for CBF/GA providing me with the opportunity to learn and grow, helping me further discover my vocational calling. It has been a privilege working with such a wonderful staff. I am blessed to be a part of the CBF/GA family." We all wish her the very best, and we will enjoy watching her develop into a leader for our state.

ElizaBeth Copeland began working for CBF/GA as the Assistant for Communications and Resources on July 2. She has worked for two years at the Mercer University Medical Library as a Library Assistant. ElizaBeth is a Mercer University graduate where she majored in English and Communications. She is also a member of Vineville Baptist Church in Macon, where she is active in the children's ministry. We welcome ElizaBeth to the CBF/GA staff.

Cooperative Student Fellowship at MERCER

CSF of Mercer would like to be able to contact students from CBF churches who are coming to or are already at Mercer.

If you know of any students please send CBF/GA their names and contact information to ncopeland@cbfga.org or call 1-877-336-6426.

Parting Words

June 14, 2007

Dear Friends:

It is with mixed emotion that I share the news that I've accepted the position of Missions Education Specialist with CBF/National in Atlanta, effective June 25, 2007.

The past four and a half years that I've worked with Frank and the staff, as well as churches and leadership of CBF/GA, have been the very best for me! Through your guidance and nurture, I have been given the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally as I found ways to use my gifts and skills within the organization.

Your gracious blessing of me as Associate Coordinator of Congregational Life of CBF/GA has given me the courage and freedom to move forward in this new work. I will always remember these years and this experience with gratitude and fondness. It has truly been fun and exciting as together we have helped to strengthen churches and moderate Baptist life in Georgia!

While I am leaving this place of ministry that I have loved, I am not leaving a cause that I firmly believe in. I am passionate about serving the local church and its leaders and am dedicated to this movement among Baptists. For these reasons I will continue to remain a resource to CBF/GA and its partnering churches as I begin a new ministry with CBF/National. In these days of transition, I pray that God's wisdom and grace would be our guides.

With gratitude,
Devita Parnell





Greetings

Scott Ford, Associate Coordinator for Missions

Scott is married to Dixie Bearden Ford. They and their two daughters, Allie and Amber, live in Conyers, Georgia, and hope to relocate to Macon soon.

AS PUBLISHING DEADLINES GO, I am writing to you from my office at Haven Fellowship Church over a month before our new ministry partnership begins. I am very excited about serving with you as Associate Coordinator for Missions, and at the same time I am sad about leaving one of the greatest church families I have ever known. Haven Fellowship Church is an extremely healthy and gracious congregation who taught me a lot over the past five years. Senior Pastor Steve Powers is a person with wonderful pastoral giftedness, and leadership through blessing and encouragement is one of his greatest talents.

Affirmed by their pastor and by one another, the people of Haven Fellowship Church care for each other and care for those in their community. Through financial giving and with member participation, they support a number of ministries, agencies, and individuals. They support global CBF missions, state CBF missions, and local ministry networks. They serve as reading buddies in the local schools and as foster parents at home. They coordinate and lead twelve-step and other addiction recovery ministries, group and individual counseling sessions, and juvenile advocacy programs. They support Rockdale Emergency Relief, which serves families facing financial hardship, and they comprise a majority of the board of Rockdale Cares, just one of the supported ministries for people who are developmentally challenged. They support inner-city mission centers, disaster relief efforts, animal shelters, hospitals, schools, children and youth summer missions camps, and the McAfee School of Theology. And during the past few years, the church also sent church members on mission trips to Canada, Nicaragua, Bosnia, and Hungary.

The involvement of the church's ministry outside the church is matched by a wealth of contributions that members make within the church walls. From publishing weekly bulletins to teaching Bible Studies to mowing the lawn, people involved with the church serve on ministry teams, administrative teams, and as individuals making personal contributions of time, energy, and resources to the life and ministry of the local church. And as this issue of Visions deals with church budgeting, you might be interested to know that Haven Fellowship Church supports ministries outside the church financially only if one or more church members support the ministry with their time and energy. In other words, the church's missions and ministry funds are spent where church members are serving.

So there you have it! I have shared with you my admiration for a church that is serving wonderfully inside and outside the walls of their church building. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving with this particular church, as I have also enjoyed serving with the amazing churches who participated in March Mission Madness over the past seven years. I now look forward to serving with all CBF/GA churches in the coming years. I look forward to seeing how God is working in and through your congregations to bring about redemption, healing, and loving relationships between yourselves and God and between yourselves and your neighbors.



A Word of Thanks

Editor's Note: CBF/GA contributes annually to the R&R fund for Sumatran field personnel.

I am writing to you to tell CBF of Georgia how much we appreciate the Sumatra family vacation fund. Please pass this on to other appropriate people. It was our year this year, and since we were Stateside we took the vacation in Angelfire, New Mexico, after Christmas to give our kids a first experience in snow! The kids and Matt went snow skiing, and although I was 7 months pregnant with our 4th, I enjoyed some sledding! Also, we got 48 inches of snow in less than 24 hours!

I have attached a photo of our family having fun. We appreciate the generosity and thoughtfulness that goes into this gift.

Many blessings,

Katie, Matt, Anna, Maile, Lydia, and Claire (born February 11, 2007 – after this photo was taken) Sciba

Editor's Note: CBF/GA contributed toward the funding of two Mercer CSF students' participation in the Mercer On Mission trip to Kenya.

Thank you sincerely for your contribution toward my trip to Kenya this summer. I knew God would find a way to make this trip possible. I will keep you updated on the details of the trip as it approaches. Thank you also for your prayers. I will be looking forward to sharing my testimony with you upon my return.

With Love,
Hali Thomas



Ministers on the Move

Alan Mitchell, Assistant to the Coordinator for Reference and Referral

Kerry Bunn is Pastor of FBC Ringgold, GA.

Brian Edwards is Minister of Youth at FBC Carrollton, GA.

Kim Heath is Minister to Children at FBC Lumberton, NC.

Michael Jennings is Minister of Music at FBC St. Simons, GA.

Rory Naeve is involved in a church re-start in the Avondale Estates area of Atlanta, GA.

Bill Ross is Pastor of FBC Marietta, GA.

Alan Schantz is minister of music at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Carrollton, GA.

Andy Smith is Associate Pastor of Youth and Families at Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA.

Amy Shorner is Associate Pastor at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church in Athens, GA, having served there as pastoral resident for the past two years.

Robert Wallace is Interim Pastor at FBC Tucker, GA.

Thank you from Craig Williamson

Thanks for the generous gift to First Baptist Church on behalf of John for support of his mission to Kenya this summer. It is such good testimony to John of how significant partnerships and relationships are among Baptist People.

As his pastor and Dad, I've tried, and especially through the past couple of years, to teach him the necessity of understanding the larger Baptist life to which he belongs. The church has always taught him about missions and the church's support of missions. However, as he has come of age he has begun to learn the devil in the details. So I have also tried to tell him of the grace and good news in the details. Your gift is an obvious illustration of such generous grace to him.

John has been a gift to me and his mother. We trust that he will be a gift to Baptists through the years as a leader and a servant.

Thank You,

Craig Williamson, Pastor, FBC Manchester

CBF/GA 2007 Fall Convocation in Historic Savannah!

Fall Convocation plus a weekend away from home enjoying the Savannah sites like River Street, Historic Squares, Museums, Fort Pulaski, and Tybee Island. Dine on some of the best seafood around!

November 4-5 • FBC Savannah • Theme: Standing Up on the Inside

Speaker: Charles Bugg, Professor of Church Ministry and Leadership at M. Christopher White School of Divinity, Gardner-Webb University

CBF/GA Host Hotel: Desoto Hilton
15 East Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401

Rate: \$109.00*

For reservations call Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Local: (912) 232-9000

Toll Free: 1-800-426-8483

*The deadline to receive this rate is Friday, October 5, 2007.



Financial Picture

2007-2008 Year-to-Date

June 1 - June 30, 2007

Budget Receipts as of 06/30/07

Year to Date:.....	\$52,280.98
Requirement:.....	\$55,433.34
Over/Under:.....	<\$3,152.36>
Month to Date:.....	\$52,280.98
Monthly Req.:.....	\$55,433.34
Over/Under:.....	<\$3,152.36>

Georgia Youth Choir Festival

January 18-20

The Calvin Center, Hampton, GA

Open to all youth choirs large and small. The Georgia Youth Choir Festival is a weekend event that includes sectional and mass choir rehearsals as well as scheduled and free times of fellowship and fun. The event will conclude on Sunday with morning and evening concerts in local churches.

Cost is \$95 per person.

To reserve space \$200 deposit due by August 24. Space is reserved on a first come first served basis.

To request registration packet contact Nancy Copeland at ncopeland@cbfga.org.



COMING UP

■ 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>.

■ Aug. 11

Leadership Training Event — FBC Eatonton
For adult, youth, and children's Sunday School teachers. Contact tdeborde@firstbaptisteatonton.org for more information.

■ Sept. 6

Atlanta Baptist Clergy Luncheon —
Istanbul Center for Culture and Dialogue, Norcross
To discuss ways Baptists and Muslims can learn more about each other through education and dialogue. For more information contact Michael McCullar at mmccullar@jcbc.org or Matt Rich at mrich@wieuca.org.

■ Sept. 16, 23, 20, 6:30 p.m.

Understanding Islam: Knowing Our Neighbors —
Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta
The series will be led by Dr. Ben Johnson, retired professor from Columbia Seminary, Decatur, GA. For more information and to register contact Matt Rich at mrich@wieuca.org or 404-814-4473. www.wieuca.org/ui/

■ Sept. 23-25

Mercer Preaching Consultation — St. Simons Island
For more information visit <http://www.centerforbaptiststudies.org/conferences/preaching07/index.htm>.

■ Oct. 5-6

BWIM of Georgia Fall Retreat — The Calvin Center, Hampton
For more information contact Nikki Hardeman at nikhardeman@gmail.com.

■ Nov. 4-5

CBF/GA Fall Convocation — FBC Savannah
Speaker: Charles Bugg, Professor of Church Ministry and Leadership at M. Christopher White School of Divinity, Gardner-Webb University

2008

■ Jan. 18-20

Georgia Youth Choir Festival — The Calvin Center, Hampton
Open to all youth choirs large and small. Cost is \$95. To reserve space \$200 deposit due by August 24. To request registration packet contact Nancy Copeland at ncopeland@cbfga.org.

■ Jan. 29-30

Current Retreat — FBC Decatur
For more information contact Ryan Clark at clark_ra@mercer.edu.

■ Jan. 30 – Feb. 1

Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant — Atlanta, GA
For information visit <http://www.newbaptistcovenant.org>.

■ Feb. 15-16

Now Serving: Atlanta
For more information contact Ryan Clark at clark_ra@mercer.edu.

■ Feb. 29 - Mar. 2

March Mission Madness — Highland Hills Baptist Church

■ March 7-9

March Mission Madness — FBC Augusta

■ April 4 – 5

CBF/GA General Assembly — Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta

COOPERATIVE
BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

GEORGIA

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