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VISIONS



EMBRACE THE WORLD

Where does the offering go? The following help illustrate programs and personnel your offering supports.

SAM BANDELA is a native of India who works with local leaders helping them start new churches in areas he cannot access in the mountain central region. His program was established with gifts from Fellowship churches. Indigenous Christian leaders now run it. Fifty new churches among the hill tribes have been built as ten to twenty church planters graduate several times a year. Upon graduating, the church planters are given a bicycle and a new Bible to take with them to the areas where they will serve.

CBF's work in India includes church planting, flood relief, giving out clean water and food, medical clinics, pastoral training, and vocational programs

DAVID AND MERRIE HARDING live and work in the Rift Valley region of Ethiopia. Almost seventy-five percent of people in Ethiopia do not have access to clean water. So David Harding is doing what he can to protect these fifty-five million people from famine, malnutrition, and cholera by drilling one well at a time. A working well represents no more trips



Continues to page 2.

CBF Offering for GLOBAL MISSIONS



This year's goal is \$6,150,000.

The 2005-2006 Georgia offering was \$613,867.71.

The 2006-2007 Georgia offering was \$590,519.09.

The Offering funds field personnel salaries, benefits, and ministry and operating expenses.

CBF field personnel serve as an extension of the local church and they assist the local church working with them in ministry.

The Offering is the primary way CBF field personnel are funded. There are about 150 CBF field personnel serving around the world.



Roma family in Slovakia

Global Missions *Continues from page 1.*

to a muddy river to haul water home, less disease, more time with family. It also helps the farmers feed their livestock and water their crops. The effort, which works with local churches, is called Living Water Ethiopia.

Living Water Ethiopia spends about twenty-five hundred dollars to dig a well. The first well can service up to 400 people. As a community digs more wells, they begin to service 50 people and their livestock.

DIANNE AND SHANE MCNARY work to establish Romany-led churches through Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The McNarys rely on the CBF Offering for Global Missions for their salary, living and ministry expenses, and health benefits. The Romany people are a minority who are discriminated against by social and government systems. Roma live separately from the rest of the city in shacks made with *Continues to top of next page.*

FROM JOHN AND CASEY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

John and Casey are Global Service Corp field service personnel for CBF who serve in Southeast Asia. They are currently attending language school before working in disaster relief.

WE HAVE BEEN LIVING in Southeast Asia for only two months now, but we are already learning much about the value of certainty and the power of uncertainty. In America, there tends to be a predictable amount of certainty. You know when the mail comes everyday. You know where in the grocery store to find everything you need (and you know it will be there). You know how long it will take to get somewhere in the city during a certain time of the day. These certainties may be disturbed once in a blue moon, but they are pretty stable. Beyond the everyday certainties, which have become expectations, one also tends to live with a great deal of certainty concerning bigger life issues in America. If you move or change jobs, it is often a conscious decision, based on prerogative or better opportunities elsewhere. At your job, or even on your home calendar, you probably plan a year or more into the future

and may have even developed a five-or-ten year plan. No, these generalizations are not always true—we have many friends who have had illness, poverty, or job cuts remove this certainty from their lives. They can testify with us that certainty has great value; it brings peace, hope for the future, and an ease to everyday functions.

The power of uncertainty, we are finding, tends to counter the things that certainty brings, especially if one is just beginning to learn and live with its constant presence. Here, one is never sure how long a small errand will take, if the store will have what you need (even if they had it last time), or what you may be served to eat if you visit a friend. We learned pretty soon to weather these uncertainties with greater ease. We have simply had to remove certain phrases from our vocabulary, “You would think . . .,” “Why . . .,” and “Surely . . .”

The bigger uncertainties are harder to weather. Recently, we learned that we will have to move because of a predicted earthquake near what

was to be our new hometown. We had already settled our things there and met some of the people we might work with before we went to language school in another town far away. It was nice to know and look forward to where we would be working and living after six months of transitory living and training. Now, we do not know where we will live, and a change in location necessitates an alteration in job description. Though we hope to continue to focus on disaster relief, the details of what we do and how we do it are now unknown.

All of these unknowns bring about many questions and an underlying stress to life, but we are also discovering a power greater than that of uncertainty — purposefully living as Christ to those around us in the here and now. We are learning this lesson both from our teammates and from our own experiences. We have teammates who are encountering the same unknowns that we are (where to move and what work to do), but they are still focused and intent upon caring for those who are not fortunate enough to *Continues to page 3.*

scavenged materials. Roma babies are baptized in different cities or at different times rather than at regular services.

Shane credits the Offering for allowing them to be in Slovakia. “We have a unique ministry focus that is needed here — a ministry which seeks to empower Roma to be ministers of Christ,” he says.

NOMIE DERANI, a native of Lebanon, moved to Brooklyn, New York, in 2004 and started the Arab American Friendship Center. The Center depends directly on funds from the CBF Offering for Global Missions. The Center offers classes in English and citizenship along with fellowship for Arab women four mornings a week. The Center works to fill the emotional and physical needs of the women who visit it.

Derani says that she praises God for CBF and for the partners “who are supporting us in a way that is freeing me to be able to help these people. It is a blessing to be able to see someone in need, and [be] able to help.”

—*This information was gathered from the CBF Offering for Global Missions packet. For more information, visit <http://www.thefellowship.info/ogm/>.*



Nomie Derani

move away from the predicted disaster. We also have teammates who do not know if their visas, which allow them to be in the country, will be extended, yet they are continuing to passionately serve the impoverished people around them through medical services, job training, and food production programs.

Here at language school we are learning the value of unpacking where we are — through Christ, loving those around us in the here and now, instead of living with the anxieties of an uncertain future. For instance, we have developed a friendship with a lady named Ilis. Through simple conversation, while we try to learn the language, we have been able to help her and her family with small medical issues that they did not know the best way to handle. We visit her often and she has even started visiting us without an invitation. We have also been asked recently by other friends, Dede and Risa, to join in a prayer service for a family member who was being deployed by the army to another part of the country for a year. We were the only Christians present, but our prayers and our presence were still welcomed and appreciated by the family. It is through unpacking our bags in the present that God grants us the grace to continue with purpose in the face of uncertainty. Please join us in prayer for those CBF field personnel who live with constant uncertainty, but also join us in praise for the purpose, strength, and grace that God has granted to those same individuals and families.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts that allow CBF field personnel to serve others in the name of Christ with great purpose all over our world.

How Do Field Personnel Go to Those Who Need Them?

CAREER SERVICE

- These personnel are strategically placed all over the world.
- They are fully funded by the CBF Offering for Global Missions.
- They seek to develop long-term, sustainable ministries by developing local Christian leaders.

ASYOUGO (AYG) SERVICE

- The AsYouGo Affiliate service provides a means for self-supporting personnel to serve through the CBF Global Missions field team structure.
- Some are educators, business people, and medical professionals while others serve through the direct financial support of partners.
- The ultimate goal is to have long-term, self-sustaining ministry.

GLOBAL SERVICE CORPS (GSC)

- Global Service Corps provides opportunities for service from one to three years.
- This program is fully funded by the CBF Offering for Global Missions.

Student.GO

- Student.GO provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to serve.
- Students participate for a summer or a semester with CBF Global Missions field personnel and ministry partners.

For more information, visit <http://www.thefellowship.info/involved/serve/globalmissions.icm>.

FROM KATIE AND MATT IN SUMATRA

Katie and Matt serve in the River Ministry, which brings medical supplies to villages in Sumatra.

PEACE OF CHRIST TO YOU THIS DAY.

Family Update

Our travel here went well, and we are settling in nicely. Cleaning out the dust in our house, going to the river, sorting through things, dealing with tropical rashes, getting the school room set up, and lots and lots of meetings with folks here are only a few of our activities since we arrived. Maile and Anna were quite anxious to start school once we got everything ready. We are now in the middle of our first week, and things are moving right along. We are all adjusting to the new curriculum, and I (Katie) am finding my way with two students in the “one-room schoolhouse” method. I hired a young lady to help me with Lydia and Claire, and they are enjoying their new babysitter. I cannot tell you how thankful I am to have found a person whom Lydia enjoys playing with but who can also handle a baby.

The River Ministry

The few weeks back on the field have been packed full with important events and developments for the River Ministry and the operation of the medical boat. It is very difficult to explain exactly what has transpired because of the complexity of the situation and the differences between the U.S. and local medical systems.

To put it briefly, we have established the partnerships and relationships we need to finalize our five-year license of operation for our primary area of service (we are currently under a temporary letter of permission to operate the clinic). We also have a very strong lead for a doctor who is interested in working with us long-term. As you know, we have been looking for a permanent, long-term doctor for about two years. It might be a few more months before we know the full outcome of these developments. When these things are completed, it will be a huge step in bringing stability to our operation.

A few weeks ago, I took a couple of visitors on a water taxi tour down the river. It was a little overwhelming to see the villages for the first time in a long time. There is so much work to be done. The magnitude of the problems the people along the river

Systems of injustice are present all over the world. If we are not bumping into them from time to time, it probably means that we are not doing the things Jesus would do.

face every day seems insurmountable. And we have also been reminded these past weeks that the problems in the villages are not just economic, nutritional, and medical. They are caught in the middle of a system of injustice. The laws and regulations that were meant to protect the citizens are often used by officials for personal gain, protection of their own self-interests, and maintaining the status quo. In this way, we are denied entry into some areas of tremendous need. We have made progress in developing good relationships in one regional health department office, but in other areas, we continue to be denied access.

It is a path we must walk one step at a time. Systems of injustice are present all over the world. If we are not bumping into them from time to time, it probably means that we are not doing the things Jesus would do.

Continued Giving

Please continue to give to the CBF Offering for Global Missions. Thank you for your generosity and partnership. Please continue to prayerfully consider how you will be involved in the River Ministry and CBF’s overall global missions efforts throughout the year. To make a contribution, send your checks to:

CBF Global Missions
PO Box 101699
Atlanta, GA 30392

On the memo line of your check be sure to designate the gift to go to:

1. The Offering for Global Missions (To support overall mission efforts) OR
2. Project 80943, River Ministry (To support the operational costs of the medical boat and our other projects).

CBF *Offering for*
GLOBAL MISSIONS 

FROM HALI IN KENYA

With the help of CBF/GA and Mercer University, student Hali Thomas was able to travel to Kenya this summer. Hali, His Nets representative and Mercer mission volunteer, shares her story.

MERCER ON MISSIONS sent a group of 16 students and two professors to Kenya for three weeks with the mission of distributing six thousand life-saving mosquito nets. Partnering with CBF missionary and the founder of Africa Exchange, Sam Harrell, our team primarily targeted the Illchamus tribe in the mid-west regions of Kenya. Each day, half the group went to the central village of Longewan to contribute to the communities' activities, while the other half traveled to the many Illchamus tribes to give out nets.

Students and professors found different ways to connect and communicate with the Illchamus people. The language barrier did not hinder anyone's ability to commune with the people. In fact, my way of integrating into the Illchamus culture was to memorize a short speech in Swahili, which I gave in each location where we distributed nets. This small effort on my part presented the Illchamus people with a touch of the love I developed for them. The people may have been smiling and laughing at the way I mispronounced some words, but I could recognize appreciation in their eyes.

Along with handing out nets, our group built a latrine and a cooking hut for the Child Development Center in Longewan. We also planted various types of trees in the community garden, which after some time will help feed the people in the village.

For most of us, this was our first look into an African culture. We came home with a firsthand knowledge of how women and men in the Illchamus communities live each day. We also observed the extreme and undying need for treated mosquito nets to protect them from malaria and other airborne vector diseases. The Illchamus people are relatively unknown as they are a small people group living in remote places of Kenya. One interesting footnote, upon arriving at our first distribution site, we learned that the people had not come because they could not believe that free mosquito nets were being handed out!

We left Kenya with a great sense of appreciation for what we had accomplished. At the departing ceremony held for us in Longewan, not a single person from our group had dry eyes. We may not have made a difference in each one of their lives, but they changed each one of ours. The Illchamus people of Kenya will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.

Let us remember to support through our individual and church resources the spreading of the good news of the gospel to the utter most parts of the earth. Let us be generous, even sacrificial, in our giving to global missions.

—Darrell Watson,
CBF/GA Moderator

FROM OLU MENJAY IN LIBERIA

Ricks Institute is a private school offering free education to children from grades 5-K to 12th. It is owned by the Liberian Baptist Convention. This letter comes from the principal/chief administrative officer.

GREETINGS FROM RICKS INSTITUTE, LIBERIA!

The Lord has been so gracious to us as the school grows and lives continue to change. We have a very long way to go but we are grateful.

Over the past few weeks, 390 prospective students sat for our placement exams. This number far exceeds our current enrollment of 378 students and we can only accept less than 100 students.

Our residential program will commence in September, the time our new school year starts. I am deeply excited

to once again have students living and learning on our campus. The school was originally built as a boarding school. This will be the first boarding school in post-war Liberia. Both the girls' and the boys' dorms have been renovated.

Please continue to pray for us and support the work at Ricks. Realistically, lives are changing!

Peace + Grace, Olu Q. Menjay

For more information on Ricks Institute, please visit <http://www.ricksonline.org>. For more pictures of the renovated dorms, please visit <http://www.cbfga.org>.



Celebration OF A New Baptist Covenant

www.newbaptistcelebration.org

January 30 - February 1, 2008 • Atlanta

MORE THAN 20,000 BAPTISTS from across North America will gather at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta in an unprecedented demonstration of Baptist unity. This history-making event will culminate months of planning by leaders of more than 30 Baptist organizations for a new era of cooperation.

Plenary Sessions and Speakers

Themes of the plenary sessions are:

- Unity in Bringing Good News to the Poor
- Unity in Respecting Diversity
- Unity in Seeking Peace with Justice
- Unity in Welcoming the Stranger
- Unity in Setting the Captive Free

A tentative list of plenary session speakers includes:

Bill Moyers, author and journalist

Dr. Charles G. Adams, Pastor of Hartford Baptist Church in Detroit

Dr. Joel Gregory, professor of preaching, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University

Dr. Tony Campolo, professor emeritus at Eastern University and founder of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education

Dr. William J. Shaw, pastor of White Rock Baptist Church in Philadelphia and President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

Former President Bill Clinton

Former President Jimmy Carter

Former Vice President Al Gore

Marian Wright Edleman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund

Rev. Julie Pennington-Russell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia

U.S. Senator Charles Grassley

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham

Workshops

Along with the plenary sessions, the New Baptist Covenant is offering sixteen special workshops. Please note sessions subject to change as plans are finalized for the New Baptist Covenant. Workshops will be held from 2-5 on Thursday, January 31 and Friday, February 1.

- Breaking Cycles of Poverty
- Can We All Get Along? Finding Common Ground with Other Faiths
- Engaging the Criminal Justice System

- Faith and Public Policy
- Peacemaking
- Proclaiming God's Good News (Evangelism)
- Prophetic Preaching
- Race as a Continuing Challenge
- Reaching Out to the Sick
- Religious Liberty and Separation of Church & State
- Responding to Natural Disasters
- Sexual Exploitation
- The HIV/AIDS Pandemic
- The Spirit of the Lord upon Me
- Welcoming a Stranger
- Youth at a Crossroads

Scholarships

The New Baptist Covenant group has established a program called the **New Baptist Covenant Seminary Scholars**. The focus of the program is to provide the means for seminary students to attend the celebration along with participating in coursework. There will also be time to meet with seminary faculty members after the meeting to discuss thoughts about the Covenant. Students will need to be able to stay in Atlanta from the evening of January 30 to the afternoon of February 2. Atlanta students can receive up to \$100 while non-Atlanta students can receive up to \$500. The funds come from gifts of individuals, organizations, and churches. The funds can cover travel expenses, lodging, and/or meals. Interested students should go to <http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org> and read more about this program in the Student Corner, located on the Celebration 2008 toolbar.

Volunteer Now

Be a contact person for your church for the Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant. Contact Frank Broome at fbroome@cbfga.org for more details!

The New Baptist Covenant's Local Arrangements Committee is **looking for volunteers** to work in a variety of areas: pre-conference preparation, aiding in registration, and giving out information to participants. Volunteers can also help as session hosts, ushers, or transportation concierges. If you wish to volunteer, fill out the online registration form and show the area in which you wish to serve. The registration link and more information about volunteering can be found under the Get Involved toolbar.

Contact Information

New Baptist Covenant, 3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341

contact@newbaptistcovenant.org • 678-547-6455

Plan to Join the Celebration!

www.newbaptistcelebration.org



On Dentists and Missions

Darrell Watson, CBF/GA Moderator

Going to the dentist is not high on my list of fun things to do. Sometimes, though, tooth pain is too strong a motivator to deny. Fortunately, I have a good dentist and he is a Baptist to boot. At each office visit, and at times over lunch, we swap church stories. My dentist is a member of one of the largest churches in the middle Georgia area. He has shared that over the past decade his church has grown in membership, the budget has more than doubled, and the church's campus has added several very impressive buildings. Yet, there is one thing about this growing church that is half the size it once was. Can you guess what this might be?



When a church is adding staff, constructing buildings, and paying mortgages, one item in the budget that often times gets the shaft is missions. "We need to care for our own," is an argument I often hear. Caring for our own is definitely something that each church needs to do. Yet, theologically speaking, can we justify spending ninety to a hundred percent on ourselves? In years past, one of the criteria in

becoming a leader in Baptist life was the percentage the pastor's church gave to missions. Mission giving was a source of pride for churches. This church, referred to above, a decade ago gave twenty percent of its unrestricted gifts to missions. Yet, over the past decade, their giving has decreased one percent each year. Is the church still giving a lot of money to missions? Absolutely! Ten percent of a multi-million dollar budget is still a large sum of money. In real dollars, though, when adjusted for the rate of inflation, this gross amount becomes less and less. So let's ask ourselves a question, "What does my church's mission giving say about the church theologically? Is our giving consistent with Jesus' edict to carry the good news of the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth?"

A recent trip to India has given me a new perspective and a renewed sense of conviction concerning my mission's giving. India is the second most populated country in the world with over 1.1 billion people. (I am not sure how many cows they have, but they surely treat them well.) There are over 800 million Hindus in India, which is over two and a half times the population of the United

States. So, how can I theologically justify spending ninety to a hundred percent of my money on my needs and wants and designate only a small portion of my income to spreading the good news of the gospel to the 1.1 billion people in India and 1.2 billion people in China? Supporting missions is a way to ensure that we do not become too consumed with ourselves. Being consumed with our wants is a tremendous challenge for those of us living in the world's most prosperous country. Giving generously to missions stimulates an outward perspective rather than an inward one. Missions have been the heartbeat of Baptist life since our inception, and it is important that our generation keep this heartbeat strong for generations to come.

Christmas is coming! The spirit of Lottie Moon is still prompting us to give to global missions. Let us remember to support through our individual and church resources the spreading of the good news of the gospel to the utter most parts of the earth. Let us be generous, even sacrificial, in our giving to global missions. CBF/GA

Local Church: Backbone of Christian Ministry

Nikki Hardeman, CBF/GA Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life

Growing up, I was fortunate to have been a part of some really great local churches. These churches nurtured my faith development, encouraged my spiritual growth, challenged me to be missionally minded, and showed me love, acceptance, and compassion. These positive experiences have led me to believe that the local church is the best tool we have to communicate the love of Christ to the world around us.



Now, don't get me wrong. The churches I grew up in were by no means perfect. They fought and had power

struggles just like any other church. They were not always the perfect picture of Christ. However, in spite of it all, they still managed to be the love of Christ to many others and to me.

I have been on staff at CBF/GA as the Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life for a little over a month now — and what a month it has been. There are so many wonderful facets to congregational life and I have enjoyed learning about each one of them. My work so far has only reinforced my belief that our local churches are

Continues to page 8.

We Can Make a Difference

Scott Ford, Associate Coordinator for Missions

Linda McKinnish Bridges tells about being on a dusty country road behind a small pickup truck. The driver's windows are down, his arm is hanging out a window, and a straw hat is on his head. Bridges is running late for a guest preaching engagement and frustrated that this Sunday driver is driving so slowly. She can't pass on the narrow dirt road, her car is becoming caked with dust, and she's going to be late for worship. As her frustration grows, her internal wrath becomes directed at the man, who she assumes to be a small-town, uneducated farmer. She imagines some vindictive thoughts about the driver for a while, then the moment comes that he stops at an intersection. The dust settles and she is completely astonished. On the rusty, dented, old pickup truck, she reads with great surprise: "Think Globally. Act Locally." It seems that the truck driver's worldview far exceeded Bridges' expectations.



With current technologies, thinking globally is no longer a problem in today's world, unless you consider the extremely overwhelming feat of trying to think... "globally." Information is in no short supply, so actually achieving the breadth and scope of global thinking can be a full-time job. Wars. Genocide. Floods. Earthquakes. Droughts. Nuclear armament. Cultural revolutions. Peace agreements. Elections. Political transformation. Paparazzi. Tourism. And "globally," as it turns out, includes local needs too. Education. Health care. Politics. Generational cultures. Violence. Sports. Movies. Poverty. Hunger. Unemployment. A living wage. Community development. Housing. It's a lot to think about.

Acting locally is a wonderful challenge, but when we experience information overload, the volume of needs and opportunities can be paralyzing. Furthermore, we are no longer limited to local responses. We respond to disasters states and continents away. We are able to fly to

the other side of the world in a single day. And the new, implicit challenge is to "Think Globally. And Respond Globally... Here, There, and Everywhere." Herein lies the problem: we are finite human beings. In minor contrast to Paul's example of becoming "all things to all people" (1 Corinthians 9:22), individually we cannot do it all. And collectively, we as a cooperative Baptist fellowship cannot do it all.

But, we can do something. Just like the old story about a boy on the seacoast, you can make a difference in the life of this starfish! Once we overcome being overwhelmed, we can take one step at a time and get involved in a place where we are needed. We can make a difference. Churches and individuals of the CBF/GA are making a difference in cities, towns, homes, and lives all over the state. We are reaching out to sister cities and states, and we are reaching out around the world. As a movement, we are involved in North America, Central America, South America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa, India, Indonesia, and probably a few other areas! We are thinking globally, acting locally, and collectively, we are acting globally. And whether we share the good news of Christ next door or next year in Kuala Lumpur, we will be witnesses, we will make disciples, and we will love our neighbors as ourselves. CBF/GA

We can make a difference.
Churches and individuals of the CBF/GA
are making a difference in cities, towns,
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We are reaching out to sister cities and states,
and we are reaching out around the world.

Local Church

Continues from page 7.

the backbone of Christian ministry, both locally and around the world. As I continue to work at CBF/GA, it is my commitment to help create healthier and stronger congregations.

Since I have been on board at CBF/GA, I have been working with the Cooperative Student Fellowship,

the Georgia Youth Choir Festival, Now Serving Atlanta, and the Interfaith Task Force. In the coming months, I will begin working with our scholarship committee to make plans for next year, our peer learning groups, and ministerial networks. It is exciting to be a part of so many wonderful endeavors.

If there is any way that I can be of service to your congregation as you

seek to be the presence and love of Christ to your community and your world, please let me know. I am committed to helping you become the best and strongest congregation you can be. I look forward to serving alongside you in this wonderful and special work of which we are blessed to be a part. CBF/GA



Georgia Proud

Frank Broome, CBF/GA Coordinator

Three years ago, Daniel Vestal and I were having lunch in Atlanta. He made a suggestion that caught my interest. He wanted the CBF/GA to consider exploring a partnership with the Republic of Georgia. It would be a Georgia-to-Georgia partnership. He gave me Bishop Malkhaz Songulashvili's email address and not long after, I made contact. Malkhaz and I agreed to meet at the Baptist World Alliance, which was scheduled to begin the next summer in Birmingham, England. That meeting led to our inviting Malkhaz to the Fall Convocation in Macon last year. Having him in my home for a week was a real blessing. Malkhaz is a remarkable intellect and a genuine visionary.



This past summer, Susan and I made our way half way around the world to the Republic of Georgia. Malkhaz and his driver picked us up at the new Tbilisi airport after our twenty-hour flight. We stayed in the Good Samaritan House. This home is a shelter for families in transition, one of the several ministries of the Evangelical Baptist Church, where Malkhaz is the presiding Bishop. No one in the shelter spoke English, but we managed to communicate with smiles and hand signals.

The mornings were spent at the Beteli Center where Malkhaz has his office. This is a fairly modern building that includes a worship center, classrooms, and apartments for low-income senior adults, most of whom have little or no means of support. In the afternoons, we visited churches, cathedrals, and historic sites. We also enjoyed

Georgian food, which includes many fresh fruits, vegetables, and breads. We had tomatoes and watermelon at almost every meal.

One morning I attended the formation of the Order of the White Lily. This is the equivalent of our Baptist Women in Ministry. Malkhaz asked me to address the group and

I shared with them something of the experiences Baptist women in our Georgia have had as they endeavored to find places of service. As I talked about the struggles of Baptist women in our own country, I could sense they understood what I was saying and connected with it.

On Sunday, Susan and I joined about three hundred people on a trip up Mount Didgori.

We went there to observe the Festival of Transfiguration.

This religious celebration has deep meaning for the Baptists in Georgia. Not only does it remind them of the transforming power of God in Christ, but it also gives them great hope and encouragement as they experience living in a post-communist era. The Baptists of the Republic of Georgia are definitely a minority. Yet like leaven, they are at work transforming the world around them.



CBF-type Baptists in our Georgia and Baptists in the Republic of Georgia share much in common. We both have our peaches and watermelon. We have highways and dirt country roads. We have experienced oppression from the larger religious community. We are open to people of other faith traditions. Issues of poverty and social justice permeate our mission work. More and more, females are being called to places of service in local congregations. We are equally united in our desire to educate and train a new generation of clergy.

Before we left I returned to the Beteli center. I wanted to see the icons hanging on the walls just one more time — Mary, Martha, James, John, and Jesus. And there was Martin. Yes, there was Martin, as in Martin Luther King. We share him as well. I stood there looking at the icon, and I could hear a voice saying, "Let freedom ring." It made me proud to be a Baptist from Georgia. CBF/GA





Position Openings, Reference and Referral

Alan Mitchell, Assistant to the Coordinator for Reference and Referral

WANTED First Baptist Church in Dalton is looking for a **full-time minister to youth and students**. Basic responsibilities include providing dynamic leadership for an active youth ministry focused on middle and high school students. This ministry leader functions in a team culture and requires excellent planning, communication, and relational skills. A deep and growing commitment to Christ, creativity, and an innovative spirit are essential. A seminary degree is considered a minimum level of education. Interested candidates should contact Stacy Nowell at snowell@firstbaptistdalton.com, or P.O. Box 827 Dalton, GA 30722.

WANTED First Baptist Church, St. Simons Island, is searching for a **full-time Minister of Education, Children, and Families**. If you are interested in this position, please contact Alan Mitchell at amitchell@cbfga.org or Dr. Quentin T. Madden, Pastor, at First Baptist Church, 729 Ocean Blvd., St. Simons Island, GA, 31522, or quentin@fbcssi.org.

Appreciation

CBF/GA thanks Ms. **Gayle Paulson** for her donation in honor of Rev. Carlton Allen.

CBF/GA thanks **First Baptist Church, Griffin**, for their donation in honor of Frank Broome.

CBF/GA thanks **Mr. and Mrs. Grady Rogers** for their donation through First Baptist Church, Washington, in honor of Frank Broome.

Condolence

CBF/GA expresses their sympathy to **Bob Bryant and family** on the passing of his wife, Deborah W. Bryant.

CBF/GA expresses their sympathy to **Anita Snell and family** on the passing of her husband, Jack Snell.

CBF/GA expresses their sympathy to **Ann Green and family** on the passing of her husband, Bob Green.



ROMA ENGLISH CAMP MISSION TRIP

Mission Trip Dates: May 13-23, 2008

Application Deadline: January 20, 2008

Go online for more information and application at www.cbfga.org.

CBF/GA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

April 4-5, 2008

First Baptist Church,
Decatur

SPEAKER: Diana R. Garland,
Ph.D., Dean, School of Social
Work Baylor University

Save the Date!



Financial Picture

Budget Receipts as of 10/31/07

Year to Date.....	\$255,232.77
Requirement.....	\$277,166.65
Over/Under.....	<\$1,933.88>
Month to Date.....	\$47,288.57
Monthly Req.....	\$55,433.33
Over/Under.....	<\$8,144.76>

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 FALL CONVOCATION IN PICTURES

- 1 Gwen Colwell addresses the evening worshippers.
- 2 Clarissa Strickland reads from the "Dare She Scrolls" at the Mercer-CBF/GA luncheon.
- 3 Chuck Bugg, keynote speaker, discusses his book with an attendee.
- 4 Frank Broome recognizes the past moderators at the Mercer-CBF/GA luncheon.
- 5 Don Mattingly presents a program on Mercer University mission initiatives at the Mercer-CBF/GA luncheon.
- 6 Bailey Nelson represents the New Baptist Covenant.
- 7 Al Shauf speaks at the commissioning of Nikki Hardeman and Scott Ford by Devita Pamell and Jimmy Lewis.
- 8 FBC-Savannah offers pre-worship music.
- 9 Charles Ray discusses disaster relief.



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 Missions
 Scott Ford • sford@cbfga.org

Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life
 Nikki Hardeman • nhardeman@cbfga.org

Senior Assistant for Administration
 and Finance
 Suzanne Powell • spowell@cbfga.org

Assistant for Communication
 and Resources

ElizaBeth Copeland • ecopeland@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

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Jack Caldwell, Macon

Nancy Church, Hiawassee

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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 ElizaBeth Copeland,
 478-742-1191 ext 23
 or ecopeland@cbfga.org.

COMING UP

■ Dec. 8

Baptist Youth Day at Mercer University — Mercer University, Macon, 11:00 a.m. For youth groups and parents. Offers worship, campus tours, and athletics. Contact Don Mattingly at 478-301-2303 for more information.

2008

■ Jan. 17

Roma English Camp Mission Trip

Trip is scheduled May 13-23, 2008. For more information, visit www.cbfgamissions.org.

■ Jan. 18-20

Georgia Youth Choir Festival — The Calvin Center, Hampton

■ Jan. 29-30

Current Retreat — FBC Decatur

For more information visit www.thefellowship.info/current.

■ Jan. 30-Feb. 1

Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant — Atlanta, GA

For information visit <http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org>.

■ Feb. 15-16

Now Serving ATL — Atlanta, GA

For more information visit www.nowserving.org.

■ Feb. 29-Mar. 2

March Mission Madness — Highland Hills Baptist Church and Mercer University, Macon

■ March 3-5

True Survivor VIII — FBC, Asheville, NC

For all Christian Educators. Sponsored by CBF National, Congregational Life. Contact Toni Draper at tdraper@thefellowship.info.

■ March 7-9

March Mission Madness — FBC, Augusta

■ April 4-5

CBF/GA General Assembly — FBC, Decatur

■ June 19-20

CBF National General Assembly — Memphis, Tennessee

SPONSORED BY CBF OF GEORGIA



& McAFEE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

FEBRUARY 15-16

Speaker: LeAnn Gunter Johns, Associate Pastor, Peachtree Baptist Church, Atlanta

Song Leader: Wes Hunter and the Gang, Wieuca Road Baptist Church

...a great opportunity for college students to connect with each other and the needs of the world around them. Participants will meet and worship on Mercer University's graduate campus and serve on a diverse collection of mission sites across the city of Atlanta.

For more information, visit <http://www.nowserving.org>. To register or ask questions, contact Nikki Hardeman at 478-742-1191 ext. 26 or email nhardeman@cbfga.org.



MARCH MISSION MADNESS

February 29-March 2,
Highland Hills Baptist Church
and Mercer University, Macon

March 7-9, First Baptist Church, Augusta
www.marchmissionmadness.org

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