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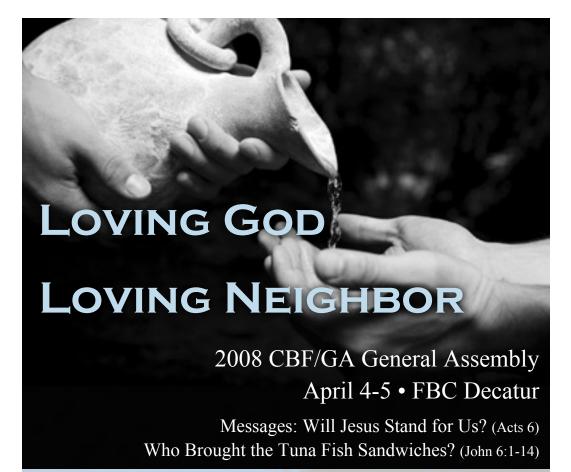
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Overall Schedule

April 4, Friday

10:00-12:00 Coordinating Council 12:00-1:00 Lunch for Coordinating Council 1:00-2:30 First Session Breakouts 2:30-3:00 Resource Fair & Break

2.30-3.00 Resource Fair & Break

3:00-4:30 Second Session Breakouts

5:00-6:30 Dinner/Business Session

6:45 Pre-Service Music

7:00 Worship

8:30 Dessert Reception

April 5, Saturday

8:00-9:00 Breakfast 9:00-9:30 Resource Fair 9:45-10:45 Worship 10:45-11:00 Break 11:00 Networks

Pre-Registration for General Assembly Now Open

- 1. Go to www.cbfga.org.
- 2. Look for the article with Diana Garland's picture.
- 3. Click on the link for pre-registration.
- 4. Fill out the form.
- 5. Wait for your confirmation email indicating that you are signed up.
- 6. Come by registration in FBC Decatur's Narthex when you arrive at the General Assembly. Your name badge and helpful information will be waiting for you.

Directions to FBC Decatur

First Baptist Church, Decatur 308 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030 404-373-1653 • www.fbcdecatur.com

For local residents: We are located at 308 Clairemont Avenue, which is a block from the square in Decatur, Georgia.

Driving North on I-85: Travel I-85 north through Atlanta. Take Exit 91, which is Clairmont Road/Decatur. At the end of the ramp, turn right. The church is located 4.7 miles down Clairmont Road (which changes its name to Clairemont Avenue in the city of Decatur). After crossing Scott Boulevard, the church is approximately 1/4 mile on the right.

Driving South on I-85: Take Exit 91—Clairmont Road/Decatur. At the end of the ramp, turn left. The church is located 4.7 miles down Clairmont Road (which changes its name to Clairemont Avenue in the city of Decatur). After crossing Scott Boulevard, the church is approximately 1/4 mile on the right.

Driving North on I-75: Continue north on I-75 through downtown on the I-75/I-85 Connector. Bear left to go north on I-85 toward Greenville when the Connector splits just north of town. Go to Exit 91—Clairmont Road/Decatur. At the end of the ramp, turn right. The church is located 4.7 miles down Clairmont Road (which changes its name to Clairemont Avenue in the city of Decatur). After crossing Scott Boulevard, the church is approximately 1/4 mile on the right.

Driving South on I-75: Continue south on I-75 past I-285. Exit I-75 onto I-85 North. Go to Exit 91—Clairmont Road/Decatur. At the end of the ramp, turn right. The church is located 4.7 miles down Clairmont Road (which changes its name to Clairemont Avenue in the city of Decatur). After crossing Scott Boulevard, the church is approximately 1/4 mile on the right.

Childcare

Childcare will be provided for children 6-weeks-old and up to 5th grade. For reservations, email Debbie Britt at *dbritt@fbcdecatur.com* with the following information:

- Parent's name
- Phone numbers (home and cell) and email address
- Child's name
- Child's age
- Allergies or special needs
- Day and times of day this child will participate in childcare

The deadline for childcare reservations is March 28.

Hotel Information

Double Tree Hotel, 2061 North Druid Hills Road, Atlanta, GA 30329 404-321-4174, Rate: \$94.00

Holiday Inn Express, 2183 North Decatur Road, Decatur, GA 30033 404-320-0888, Rates: \$109.00 King; \$119.00 Double-Queen

Remember to come by the Registration table at General Assembly for information and name badges!



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

Diana R. Garland, Ph.D., M.S.S.W., is inaugural Dean of the School of Social Work, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, where she has served on the faculty since 1997. She previously served as Professor of Social Work at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky, where she was on the faculty for seventeen years and was Dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work and Director of the Center for Family Ministries. Prior to teaching, she was employed as administrative director of a pastoral counseling center. She has also been employed as a clinical social worker in a rural community mental health center and in a Baptist children's home.

Dr. Garland is author, co-author, or editor of seventeen books. The most recent are Flawed Families of the Bible: How God Works through Imperfect Relationships (co-authored with David Garland, Brazos Books, 2007) and Sacred Stories of Ordinary Families: Living the Faith Everyday (Jossey-Bass, Inc., 2003). Her book Family Ministry: A Comprehensive Guide (InterVarsity Press) was winner of the 2000 Book of the Year Award of the Academy of Parish Clergy at Princeton Seminary. Her family life courses "Parenting by Grace" and "Covenant Marriage" sold more than a million copies. Dr. Garland has published more than 80 professional articles and book chapters. She has raised more than \$6 million in research and program grants since coming to Baylor in 1997, from organizations such as Lilly Endowment, Inc., Pew Charitable Trusts, Inc., the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, the Council on Social Work Education, Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Texas State Legislature. She is known for her leadership with congregations and religious organizations in family and community ministry and for her research on the faith life of families.

She has been married to Dr. David Garland for thirty-seven years. He is Dean of George W. Truett Theological Seminary. They are the parents of Sarah (a journalist), John (a pastor and organic farming educator), and daughter-in-law Abby (a high school teacher).

A Window To the World Devita Parnell, Mission Education Specialist, CBF...
Missions education is more than a program on Wednesday night. It is about expanding the worldview of congregations to help preschoolers, children, youth, and adults become global Christians. Come explore how CBF's missions education resources can open a window to the world for you and your congregation and inspire you to action both locally and globally.

Actively Faithful Youth and Family Ministry Diana Garland, Dean, Baylor School of Social Work ... Researchers have documented that engagement in community service, especially alongside adults, is the most potent ingredient in resilient and deepening faith for youths. This workshop will explore what the research says that can inform how we lead the youth and family ministry of our congregations.

BeChurch...A Missional Church:
The Difference Between Being and
Doing Harry Rowland, Director of Missional
Church Ministries, CBF ... Missional Church
... A Spirit-breathed calling for 21st Century
Churches or just another "buzz" word?
Breakout attendees will dialogue about
the concept of Missional Church, will be
introduced to the Missional Church Journey,
will explore strategic visioning for becoming
a Missional Church, will address obstacles
within the local church, and will learn about
mission engagement opportunities for
churches and individuals.

CBF/GA 101 Frank Broome, Coordinator for CBF/GA, CBF/GA ... Ask the Coordinator. This is an open-ended session where participants can ask the CBF/GA Coordinator questions about the programs and ministries of CBF/GA. It is also a time where participants share insights and suggestions regarding our work.

Church Website 101 Nikki Hardeman, Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life, CBF/GA ... The first impression a church used to make was the appearance of its grounds and its building. However, today people are more likely to visit a church's website before they visit on Sunday morning. Because of this, the church website is increasingly becoming the first impression of potential visitors. This session will discuss ways to make your church website more user friendly to both your congregation and to potential visitors.

Coaching for Spiritual Growth Denise Massey, Associate Professor for Pastoral Care and Counseling, McAfee School of Theology ... In this workshop, participants will learn about and experience coaching for spiritual growth. Attendees will be introduced to coaching as a modality to facilitate their spiritual growth. The goals of the workshop are for learners to become clear about where you are and where

you want to be regarding spiritual growth, coach each other toward greater balance and spirituality, and discern the next steps to move toward where you want to be spiritually.

Faith and Politics Today David P.
Gushee, Distinguished University Professor of
Christian Ethics, McAfee School of Theology ...
Everything about how Christians relate to
the political arena is contested today, both in
the Christian community and in the broader
culture. Working from his just-published
book The Future of Faith in American Politics, Dr.
Gushee will survey the landscape of opinions
and practices on this issue and propose a
Christian response.

Loving God and Loving Neighbor: A Muslim Perspective Kamal Korucu, Interfaith Coordinator of the Istanbul Center of Norcross ... Loving God and Loving Neighbor is a great challenge for these scary times...with cultural matters before us, different kinds of people beside us, and political issues in front of us. In many ways these times are not too different from those of Christ's times. However, Loving God and Loving Neighbor is not simply a Christian concept. It is also the heart's challenge for Muslims as the same message is prominent in their Holy writings. As you come to hear Mr. Korucu, your own understanding of this theme will be enhanced by your appreciation of its wide implications and of its centrality in both the Christian tradition and Islamic tradition.

Loving God and Loving Neighbor: A Jewish Perspective Neil Sandler, Rabbi, Ahavath Achim Synagogue ... Loving God and Loving Neighbor is a great challenge for these scary times...with cultural matters before us, different kinds of people beside us, and political issues in front of us. In many ways, these times are not too different from those of Christ's times. However, Loving God and Loving Neighbor is not simply a Christian concept. It is also the heart's challenge for Jews as the same message is prominent in their Holy writings. As you come to hear Rabbi Sandler, your own understanding of this theme will be enhanced by your appreciation of its wide implications and of its centrality in both the Christian tradition and Jewish tradition.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor: How CBF Is Addressing the MDGs and What You and Your Church Can

Do Jeremy Lewis, Rural Poverty Initiative Specialist, CBF, and Jennifer Wilmore, Student.Go Intern, Bread for the World ... Hear what the Millennium Development Goals are, why they exist, and who is involved. Come join this discussion about the ways that CBF and other churches are addressing the Millennium

Development Goals. Learn and share ways we can work together with others around the world to make a difference in the lives of millions

Loving Our Hispanic/Latino
Neighbor Hispanic Missions Network
Members ... Join this roundtable discussion
about the joys and challenges of ministering
across language and cultural barriers in
Georgia and beyond. Hear stories, share ideas,
and ask questions about life-giving approaches
to loving your Hispanic neighbors as yourself.

Loving Our Neighbors in Liberia, West Africa: How Churches in Georgia Are Making a Difference in a War-torn Country Liberia Missions Network Members ... Join this roundtable discussion about the joys and challenges of ministering despite geographical, financial, and cultural barriers. Hear stories, share ideas, and ask questions about meaningful approaches to loving your Liberian neighbors as yourself.

Committees Make in the Search Process Alan Mitchell, Assistant to the Coordinator for Reference and Referral, CBF/GA... Are you a "minister on the move," a minister looking for a place of service? Or perhaps you are a member of a church search committee. Want to avoid those common mistakes ministers and search committees often make? Want to avoid "recreating the wheel"? You are invited to attend this breakout session, which employs a number of excellent resources for perplexed servants as

Mistakes Candidates and Search

Raising Great Kids Jill Jenkins, Minister to Children, Johns Creek Baptist Church ... This session will introduce the idea of "values parenting" to adults who care not only about their children, but also about their own welfare and their marriages. Aren't our lives greatly affected by how our children are doing? We will focus on the values of love and truth. Let's seek out scripture and role models who will help us develop kids with character.

well as overwhelmed résumé gatherers.

Rolling Waters: Social Justice in the Eighth-Century Prophets Dave Garber, Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, McAfee School of Theology ... This session will discuss the historical, social, and economic circumstances that led to the outcries of the eighth-century prophets Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Micah. The majority of the session will concentrate on describing the ancient social context and the prophetic critique of it, but we will also spend some time analyzing our own social context, using the ancient voices as models for discerning a prophetic word for this generation.

Breakout Sessions



Let's Talk

Thomas Quisenberry

Pastor, FBC Morrow, thomasquisenberry@mac.com

In the fifteenth chapter of Acts, there was a great debate. Religious leaders had made their way up to Jerusalem for a discussion on the future of the church. The question for debate centered on whom the message of Christ was intended for. Were His words for only the Jews or could His works of redemption



apply to the Gentiles, too? At that Jerusalem Conference, Peter was the first recognized speaker. James offered his thoughts. Paul and Barnabas also spoke. And while the text does not name the others who spoke, I cannot help but think that many strong opinions were offered. And after the discussions, the book of Acts makes it appear as if a resolution were settled. But if you look at the second chapter of Galatians, you will see that Paul and Peter were not seeing eye-to-eye on this matter.

Many people look at these two passages and see wonderful texts about the inclusion of Gentiles. While that is true, my thoughts after reading these texts center on the discussions themselves. Here, the church was facing a pivotal point in its history. Do we allow others in or do we not? In my mind, they did a wonderfully Baptist thing: they debated. In their wisdom, they opened the floor up to discussion and let the voices of the people be heard. From these talks, and later debates, opinions were formed, minds were changed, and missions were given direction. When needing to make a decision about how to carry out Christ's own mission in their time, the religious community sought the help, direction, and beliefs of others.

The church today is in a similar situation to the church in Paul's day. We, too, are facing questions that seemingly have multiple answers. What will worship look like in the future? Whom will we ordain to be in our pulpits? How do we find the funds to support our ministries, our staffs, and our very existence? I have not been a pastor long, but I have been one long enough to know that I don't have all the answers that I need. And in a way, the community of CBF/GA has been a Jerusalem Conference for me. With the help of people like Jimmy Lewis, Devita Parnell, Frank Broome, and others, I have been able to have the discussions I have needed for my direction and focus. Have we always agreed? No, we are Baptist. But through honest discussions on difficult issues, I feel as if I have seen some things just a bit more clearly.

So what can CBF/GA do for you? This fellowship of believers can challenge you in your thinking, help you explore new callings in your life, and be a partner in your journey to Christ. CBF/GA

What Can CBF/GA Do for You?

Wendy Joyner

Pastor, Fellowship Baptist Church, joynerwendy@bellsouth.net

AS A SMALL AND RURAL congregation, our relationship to CBF/GA is very important to our church. I think those of us in church, at one time or another, all struggle with the demands of ministry. The needs of our community and our church seem so great—and the resources sometimes do



not seem adequate. That is why partnerships with other congregations are so vital to us. Through the years, CBF/GA has been an important lifeline to us in a variety of ways.

First, we have been able to form supportive, encouraging relationships with many other individuals and churches from around our state. We have attended a wonderful service of Christmas music with some friends at Fellowship Baptist in Edison. As a pastor, I have participated in a peer-learning group with pastors of CBF churches all over southwest Georgia. Lay people in our congregation have gotten to know other Baptists from churches near and far, and they have shared together about their lives, their congregations, and their ministry ideas. We have been reminded of the fact that the Body of Christ is made up of a variety of churches and that we are stronger together than we are apart.

Second, we have been able to participate in service projects with CBF/GA that simply would not be possible if we tried to undertake them alone. For many years, our children and youth have attended New Horizons Camp and March Mission Madness. They have made friends and created memories that will last a lifetime. These opportunities to attend retreats and to participate in handson mission service have been vital experiences for all of us.

Finally, CBF/GA has provided practical support when we needed it most. In March of 2007, our town was struck by an F3 Tornado. The devastation was incredible to behold. In the midst of taking in the scope of destruction, the very first phone calls I received were from the CBF/GA office and Matt Duvall at FBC Athens. They were calling to assure us of their prayers and offer support. Matt and his father came with chainsaws and worked alongside us all day clearing debris. Frank Broome and Devita Parnell maintained close contact with local leadership in those early days of recovery. Other friends from around the state continued to call in the days following the disaster, offering their love, prayers, and help. In the midst of a very dark time, CBF/GA helped shine the light of Christ. CBF/GA

Are State Organizations Going the Way of the Mastodon?

Behind the scenes of CBF/GA

Ryan Clark, Director of Admissions, McAfee School of Theology, Clark_r@mercer.edu

Recently, there has been much talk about how necessary state and even national religious organizations are. Most ministers are now formally educated; communication is instant and abundant; and ministers and lay leaders alike seem too overwhelmed by local congregational concerns to participate in broader associations. Church workers wonder if umbrella organizations are becoming little more than holdovers from a denominational paradigm which has long passed its usefulness.

A minister friend of a different denomination recently noted regarding his regional religious offices, "I don't think they do anything that an outstanding networking website with PayPal couldn't accomplish." He rattled off a list of ministries/services his denomination offered, and with the exception of a semi-annual regional meeting, I had to agree.

It also made me think about the function of state organizations.

Baptist organizations, unlike other hierarchical denominations, grow out of the mission of the interested local churches. State, regional, and even national organizations generally reflect the concerns of local churches and work to resource those churches in ministry local churches couldn't do on their own. In other words, local churches set the agenda for their state organization.

In some areas, we are experiencing a sense among ministers and lay leaders of local Baptist churches that there is nothing their congregations need. What happens to state or regional organizations when this happens?

To answer this question, we may

need to consider a few assumptions. The first is, autonomy is good and isolation is bad. Somewhere out there, there is a line between the two. It is not easy to define the difference, but identifying someone or some organization that has crossed the line into isolation is usually easy to do. Second, everything living will eventually die. I'm not being morbid—it's just something to be aware of; hamsters, houseplants, people, and organizations all have a crossing-over point. Third, change is inevitable, advantageous, and manageable (I know...these are really three assumptions). This is not to say that change can't be sad

means "the called out ones."

The future of state organizations, as well as all volunteer associations, is in every local church's ability to envision ministry beyond its local context. Then the challenge is to adopt patterns of giving and volunteerism, which empower our theology of what we believe God is doing in the world. Churches and state organizations will have to die to models of ministry past in order to live into ministries of the future.

Some things we need to consider along the way include:

• What ministries is the church called to that even the most self-sufficient

As Baptists, it is in our DNA to hear the call of God and to respond with a public profession of faith, to join a community of believers, and to engage in the mission of God in our world.

or disastrous, but everything in our tangible universe is in a constant state of change. We are all responsible for how we respond to our changing environment.

If these assumptions are just a little bit true, then most organizations that are doing what they were doing (and doing it the same way) just a few years ago, are probably walking the same trail as the mastodon. However, there is hope.

For those of us not in solitary confinement in an institution, moving out of isolation in our relationships is possible. As Baptists, it is in our DNA to hear the call of God and to respond with a public profession of faith, to join a community of believers, and to engage in the mission of God in our world. The word we translate as "church" in the New Testament uses the Greek word "ekklesia." It literally

churches cannot do alone? Church planting? Theological education? Global Mission efforts?

- What resources already exist at the local church level, that simply need to be networked? Does one church have too many of something (pews, speakers, robes, building space, etc.) of which another church is in need?
- In terms of sensitivity to the Spirit, what recurring themes come up in conversation among members and leaders of local churches? Might one or two people at a small church feel called to serve in Africa?
- What are we doing to communicate both our Prophetic and Priestly voices to the greater world? In other words, how are we challenging society, and how are we caring for our people?
- What mechanism needs to be in place in order to facilitate new ministry models? CBF/GA

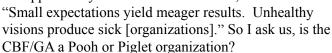


Is the CBF/GA a Pooh or Piglet Organization?

Darrell Watson, CBF/GA Moderator, dwatson@cbfga.org

In his book, *To Dream Again*, Robert Dale provides the following illustration via Winnie the Pooh. "...Pooh and Piglet take an evening walk. For a long time they walk in

companionable silence. Finally, Piglet breaks the silence and asks, 'When you wake up in the morning, Pooh, what's the first thing you say to yourself?' 'What's for breakfast?' answers Pooh. 'And what do you say Piglet?' 'I say, I wonder what exciting thing is going to happen today?'" Dale thus concludes,



As I end my tenure as the moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia, I do so having seen us hire over the past year two bright and capable leaders in Scott Ford and Nikki Hardeman. Scott and Nikki represent both our present and our future. They have a lot of good ideas and are finding their footing among those of us who are one, two, and even three generations older than they. Nikki and Scott join ranks with Frank Broome, who has been the captain of our ship for over a decade. Frank has helped us to navigate through the stormy waves that buffeted the bow of our ship as we began our journey. He has helped us grow and develop into a strong and fundamentally sound organization well on our way along the journey.

Yet, to say that our journey has led us to still, peaceful

waters is to misrepresent where we are as an organization. Our ship is facing growing waves and storms that unless appropriately addressed may put our ship in peril. What do we do about declining revenues and the effect this has on the mission and ministry of the CBF/GA? Are our fall and spring meetings adequately providing for the needs of our current members as well as attracting a new generation of hopeful CBFers? How can we further develop the networks around the state so that CBF-friendly churches and congregations can support and nurture one another?

These are only a few questions that will be scrutinized in a year-long strategic planning process begun in January of 2008 by your staff and the Coordinating Council. I pass the moderator baton to Gwen Colwell, who is more than able to see this strategic planning process through to fruition. As I move to a supportive role as past-moderator, I will do so with the great hope that the CBF/GA will continue to dream big dreams. I know from my own life experience that small expectations yield meager results. Thank you for the opportunity to serve an organization that loves God and loves people. I am proud of being a part of an organization that encourages both men and women alike to be the best that we can be for God's name's sake. I leave you with a prayer that was prayed for my wife and me over twenty-one years ago, "I do not pray that God give you a calm ocean of life, but rather a sturdy ship to weather any storm." CBF/GA

Matchmaker, Matchmaker, Make Me a Match

Alan Mitchell, Assistant to the Coordinator for Reference and Referral, amitchell@cbfga.org

THAT'S NOT ONLY A SONG from "Fiddler on the Roof," it also describes my job to a tee. Let's say your pastor leaves your church for another field of service. Or, it could be your Minister of Music, Minister to Students, or Minister to Senior Adults.

After a search committee is formed, hopefully someone will contact the Office of Reference and Referral of CBF/GA and request resumes to be considered for the vacant position.

Many times, however, it turns out someone at CBF/GA learns of the vacant position and I, as Assistant to the Coordinator for Reference and Referral, contact the church secretary or other church member to ascertain the

name of the search committee chair. Either way, I offer our

services, asking that they go to our website and fill out the

Church Information Form (CIF), a confidential form that

helps us in selecting appropriate candidates for the vacant

position. The CIF consists of information on the church, including size, type of setting (urban, suburban, or rural), as well as the duties, preferred education and experience, salary range, etc. for the position. At any given time, we have approximately fifty to sixty churches seeking ministers. Most of these will usually be "dually aligned." I will attempt to check back periodically for an update on the progress of the search. Normally, I will also counsel the search committee chair on issues surrounding the search, hopefully helping the committee deal realistically with the issues. I may suggest Frank Broome and/or I come and meet with the committee to facilitate the search process.

We will also have at any given time about two hundred individual résumés in our files. When a minister is considering moving to a new field of service and contacts the office of Reference and *Continues to page 7.*

What Is Congregational Life Anyways?

Nikki Hardeman, CBF/GA Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life, nhardeman@cbfga.org

Since I began this job in mid-September 2007, I have been asked at least a hundred times, "What exactly

do you do?" This is always asked with a kind of quizzical look after I have told someone that my job title is the Associate Coordinator of



Congregational Life. The question and quizzical look often imply that my conversation partner really has no idea what I mean when I talk about congregational life.

In a broad sense, Congregational Life at CBF/GA is about helping to increase and maintain the health of moderate Baptist churches in Georgia. This can be accomplished in a variety of different ways. For example, we can utilize many of our age-focused programs, such as our collegiate ministries, Now Serving ATL, Georgia Youth Choir Festival, or scholarship program. We can offer your ministers leadership

development seminars and provide curriculum support for your laity leadership. These are just a few of the ways CBF/GA can aid your congregation in the ministry of the Gospel.

I get excited about helping individuals when they call with a question or a problem they are trying to solve. Perhaps you are looking for some help, but you are not sure if I'm the person to call. Below are some reasons you might call me.

- —You are looking for information about deacon ministry, youth ministry, or senior ministry.
- —You want to know how to implement a new kind of Sunday School curriculum.
- —You are looking for curriculum of any kind.
- —You would like a CBF/GA staff member to speak to your congregation about any variety of topics.

- —You are trying to get the word out about a program in your church. We can advertise it for you.
- —You want to offer your gifts to others who are in need.
- —You want to find a network or support group of other ministers in your area.
- —You are interested in attending seminary and want some help in that search process.
- —You are interested in participating in interfaith dialogue.
- —You would like a suggestion for a speaker on a particular topic or issue.

These are just a few of the ways CBF/GA can help you and your church as we travel this road of faith together. Please feel free to call me or email me if you have a question. If I don't know the answer, I'll be glad to help you find it. CBF/GA



the scenes of

Referral by phone or e-mail, I will ask the candidate to go to our website and complete the Minister's Information Form (MIF). As with the CIF, the information included on these forms is kept confidential, but it helps us in matching churches to the candidate's expectations and vice-versa. In addition, we ask candidates to send CBF/GA five hard copies of their résumés as well as one as an e-mail attachment. Many times, during the course of a minister's searching for a place of service, I am called on to provide personal and/or career counseling. This can involve how realistic the candidate's expectations are, aspects of their calling, why they have not heard from a church, or why the process seems to be moving so slowly. Remember, we're dealing with a committee! Again, I check back as often as possible to get an update on the candidate's search.

Another aspect of Reference and Referral has to do with communication with the CBF/GA Coordinating Council regarding the many facets of the Reference and Referral Program. Having received training at CBF National, I am now an approved administrator for "LeaderConnect,"

a nation-wide search instrument. The Coordinator for CBF/GA and I confer almost daily regarding placement issues. One of our goals is to offer all churches looking for ministers the opportunity to consider women candidates — especially women pastors — if they are open to this.

One of the consistencies of this job has to do with educating ministers on how to prepare a good résumé as far as length, form, and references are concerned. I receive and respond to more than fifty e-mails a day and average three to four lengthy telephone conversations each day.

There are many other aspects to the job of Assistant to the Coordinator for Reference and Referral. The payoff comes, however, when I get a call or an email that a candidate for whom I have been advocating has been called to one of the churches that contacted us. To paraphrase an old "A-Team" TV show adage, "I love it when God's plan comes together." CBF/GA

See page 11 for Open Ministry Positions



Lights! Camera! Action!

Scott Ford, Associate Coordinator for Missions, sford@cbfga.org

I admit it. I love movies. This issue's theme, "Behind the Scenes of CBF/GA," was not my idea, but

I do love movies. To enter another world for two hours, to be entertained, to laugh, to cry (well, not me, but ya know, some



people), to wonder who done it, to get to know characters, to imagine, to experience adventure, to jump or be startled, to do all these things and more: this is what movie-watching is about for me. Then there is also the movie that really, really makes me think and feel. These rare, meaningful few are my favorite. I recently watched Into the Wild — a very interesting, wild, thought-provoking movie about a young man who once lived in Georgia. My favorite movie of all time: Good Will Hunting. Other meaningful favorites: Patch Adams, Crash, Shawshank Redemption, Cast Away, and White Squall.

Over half of the movies mentioned above are rated R or "restricted." so I cannot necessarily recommend them to you. Some are quite harsh. But these movies, and several others, make me think, and they make me feel. Something about these movies and a rare few others helps me to connect with or realize a deep place within my own humanity and within the spirituality of all humankind, as we are created in God's image. There is truth in someone's struggle, a person's questioning, pain, experience, journey, hope. We long for love, peace, acceptance, meaning, purpose. And some movies that we see offer glimpses of or even seem to capture core elements of what it means to be fully alive.

When we think about the kinds of "movies" being produced by CBF/GA, I wonder what genres are

most common? Taliaferro County summer camps might be considered touching dramas of service and sharing. Our international mission efforts and March Mission Madness could be action/adventure. Seminars and breakouts at the General Assembly might be documentaries, infomercials, or comedies at times. Worship can be suspenseful and dramatic. And I suppose Coordinating Council and various committee meetings could be similar to watching Congress on C-Span, necessary and good, but not always the best television around!

When I think about what goes on behind the scenes of most movies, I just don't feel very enthralled. I don't know that I care. I am mainly concerned with the end result. The slick, finished product ready for consumption, that's what I want to see. But every once in a while, I happen to catch "the making of..." some video production, which is usually tied to a movie with loads of special effects. "Here's how we blew up the car!" or "Here's how we achieved a certain camera shot," they say. Overall, "the making of" anything worthwhile consists mostly of blood, sweat, tears, or a lot of hard work. But one can work hard without working smart, and working smart is what we all hope to do. "Working smart" means focusing our attention, time, and energies on ministries and missions initiatives where we can make a difference for Christ in the world.

So...behind the scenes of CBF/ GA? On our best days, churches, individuals, committees, the Coordinating Council, and staff are working well together to produce life-changing opportunities and fellowships. With any luck, we stretch limits and make mistakes with our ambitious goals and strong desire to serve God with all of who we are. We do our best to see that God's calling is heard and followed by all who are touched by our fellowship. We work to see that this "great commission" given to us by Jesus is lived out in our lives as we strive to be the best disciples we can be and to make more disciples in all the earth.

I don't know if the final product is always glitzy, but I do hope the work and ministries of CBF/GA are tied to something so much greater than the movie equivalency of a mindless escape from reality or worse yet a 2 a.m. infomercial selling something no one wants. Instead, may our collaborative partnerships, networks, and fellowships capture and cultivate glimpses of our living, loving God who calls us to action. When our Director says, "all quiet on the set," may our long-suffering work behind the scenes prove to be more than vanity. May our work spark further ongoing transformation in the lives of all who see, hear.

or encounter our passion for and attempts to join God's mission.

CBF/GA

... may our collaborative partnerships, networks, and fellowships capture and cultivate glimpses of our living, loving God who calls us to action.

Programming CBF/GA



When I began working for CBF/GA nearly four years ago, I started in the position as Assistant for Communication & Resources. Over a year ago, I began working as the

Assistant to the Coordinator for Program Management. In this role, I have had the privilege of working with our churches and with individuals as special events and projects have taken place. One of my key responsibilities is the overall coordination of our two annual meetings (Fall Convocation



and Spring General Assembly). This task has afforded me the opportunity to work closely with church staff and laity as well as with the CBF/GA Coordinating Council. In this position, I can also offer you assistance as you prepare to attend the two annual meetings. You, of course, can find information on our website regarding the meetings, but if you need assistance in addition to what can be found there, or if you have questions, please contact me.

Another area of concentration this past year has been with Area Network meetings. As many of you are aware, CBF/GA has been meeting in small groups with interested laity and church leaders to establish a network of communication throughout the state. These meetings have provided us with valuable feedback from the churches. They have given us the opportunity to begin to establish a much-needed system for sharing information. I am in the process of developing a database of the contacts we have established thus far and will continue to update this.

If you are someone who would like to be included in the communication network for your church, let me know.

Over the past year, CBF/GA has also completed the revision of the book *The Fundamentalist Takeover in the Southern Baptist Convention*. An electronic copy of the revised edition can be found on our website (www.cbfga.org) or you can contact me for printed copies (\$3.00 per copy). The purpose of the book is to inform readers about the history of important changes that have occurred in the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979.

One of the projects for 2008 will be to improve and increase CBF/GA's relationship with the local churches. To this end, I would like to invite you to contact me if your church would like to have a CBF/GA representative either stop by your church for an informal visit during the week or on a Sunday for special events. In addition to an informal visit, the CBF/GA staff can also speak at your church for pulpit supply, special events, or whatever the need may be. I will gladly coordinate this with you, your church, and our staff.

As CBF/GA continues to take on new projects and as we continue to improve our communication with you, I will be available to assist you in any way possible. Thank you for your support of CBF/GA and for allowing me the opportunity to serve you, therefore serving God through my work here. CBF/GA

DISTINGUISHED CHURCHWOMAN OF THE YEAR

EACH YEAR, BAPTIST WOMEN in Ministry of Georgia honors a woman from our state as Distinguished Churchwoman of the Year. Qualifications for this award include significant contributions to ministry by a Baptist woman who has experienced a call to ministry and is fulfilling that call in a salaried and/or non-salaried position. Nominations for this honor are reviewed, and the final selection is made by the Steering Committee of Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia. Nominations by persons throughout the state are welcomed and should include a brief written summary of the woman's call, qualifications for ministry, and a letter of recommendation.

All nominations should be received in writing by March 15. Nominees for the award are evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Demonstrates faithful commitment to the development of her ministry;
- Exhibits the characteristics of a mentor of women in ministry;
- Exemplifies qualities of gifted leadership and redemptive service;
- Maintains an active role in the ministry of her local church;
- Displays support for the goals and visions of BWIMGA.

The recipient of the award will be honored during the annual spring meeting of Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia.

Please mail all nominations to: Deedra Rich, 322 Valley Brook Crossing, Decatur, GA 30033.



From the Director's Chair

Frank Broome, CBF/GA Coordinator, fbroome@cbfga.org

This issue of *Visions* plays off the concept of a motion picture as it goes "behind the scenes" of CBF/

GA and takes a look at what we are doing to serve our partnering congregations. We have asked several individuals to reflect on their



relationships to the work of CBF/GA. We have also asked the staff to offer a word from their side of the camera.

Every good movie is the result of a team effort. There are the director, producer, cast, and audience. CBF/ GA does not use the term director. Instead, we have chosen the term "Coordinator." It has less of an authoritarian ring and expresses our concept of shared leadership. Yet as your Coordinator, I function as a director in many ways. In the beginning, I worked in conjunction with the missions, student work, and partnership committees to coordinate a variety of volunteer-led initiatives. Over time, those responsibilities were passed on to other full-time staff, and my role became more involved with supervision of staff, communication, resource development, clergy and congregational support, and public relations.

The producers in this context are the congregations, especially as represented by the Coordinating Council and the committees of the council. CBF/GA has tried to be a different kind of organization. We are not primarily a direct



service organization, doing work for our congregations. Rather it is our goal to empower, mobilize, and encourage our congregations to become centers of mission work. The council leads by setting policy and giving direction. On the one hand, it represents the interests of the congregations, and on the other, it challenges the congregations to greater levels of mission involvement and support. Of course, individuals and entire congregations are producers as well. Without the work of the congregations, there would be no mission story to tell because there would be no missions being done.

The cast in this context is of course the staff. They have been chosen by the Coordinating Council in collaboration with the Coordinator and blessed by the body to lead in specific areas. The staff is called to implement the vision as set by the body under the supervision of the Coordinator. The staff members have freedom to use their God-given talents within the framework set by the council and within the limits set by the available resources. Like every good movie, the trick is to use the resources wisely to get the best results.

So who is the audience in this context? Well it is not the Coordinator, staff, the Coordinating Council, or congregations. One could argue that it is God. For this work is about God's kingdom. It is about doing well what we have been called to do. One could also argue that the audience is the world, especially those in the world who have been left behind for lack of basic resources. such as food, water, and health care. The audience is both God and the world because the God we worship is at work in the world. We are called to play out our lives on this earthly stage. The first act of this drama has been going on for fifteen years. The curtain is about to open on Act Two. I, for one, can't wait to see what will happen next. cbf/GA

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia

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CBF/GA Coordinating Council

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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.

OPPORTUNITIES / REPORTS / UPDATES

Reference and Referral Positions

Cedar Spring Baptist Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina, is seeking a **Pastor**. We are dually aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship with ordained men and women deacons. Candidates should be a graduate of an accredited Baptist seminary or divinity school with prior pastoral experience. Please send letter of interest and resume to Pastor Search Committee, Cedar Spring Baptist Church., P.O. Box 2845, Spartanburg, SC 29304-2845, or respond to *psinclair@sinclairlawfirm.net*

First Baptist Church, Lumberton, North Carolina, is looking for a **Senior Pastor**. This CBF church desires a dynamic Pastor with eight or more years experience and at least a master's-level degree from an accredited seminary/divinity school. The church has contemporary and traditional services, and average Sunday School attendance is 300-350 people. If interested, contact Alan Mitchell at *amitchell@cbfga.org* or 478-957-2295.

Sabbatical Opportunity

The National Clergy Renewal Program by Lilly Endowment, Inc., is a program designed to assist congregations in giving their pastors an extended time of Sabbath rest and renewal. Grants are up to \$45,000 and are open to congregations whose pastor has a Master of Divinity degree from a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools.

Applications must be postmarked by May 14, 2008, and the activities funded by this grant may not begin before January 1, 2009.

For more information call 317-916-7302, or visit http://www.lillyendowment.org/religion_ncr.html.

Scholarship Available

Apply for a CBF/GA Scholarship today! The deadline is April 1, 2008.

For more information or to download an application go to http://www.cbfga.org/church_life/scholarship.html.

You may also contact Nikki Hardeman at *nhardeman@cbfga.org*.

Condolence

CBF/GA expresses their sympathy to **Ann Williams Norton** and family on the passing of her husband, Dewey
L. Norton.

Financial Picture

Budget Receipts as of 12/31/07

Year to Date	\$343,230.31
Requirement	\$388,033.31
	<\$44,803.00>
Month to Date	\$68,689.92
Monthly Req	\$55,433.33
Over/Únder	

Six Ways You Can Give to CBF/GA

- 1. Your church may send a check to National CBF with a note requesting that a certain amount or percentage be forwarded to CBF/GA.
- 2. Your church may send a check to CBF/GA with a note requesting that a certain amount or percentage be forwarded to National CBF.
- 3. Your church may send separate checks to National CBF and to CBF/GA.
- 4. Using a CBF/GA envelope, you may send your personal check directly to CBF/GA. Contact Suzanne Powell at 478-642-1191 ext. 21 or *spowell@cbfga.org* to request envelopes.
- 5. CBF/GA provides a Mission Offering envelope that can be used for year-round giving to missions or for a Mission Offering emphasis in your church. For more information or to request shipment, contact Suzanne Powell at 478-642-1191 ext. 21 or *spowell@cbfga.org*.
- 6. To contribute to CBF/GA online, visit http://www.cbfga.org/none/online_giving.html and fill out the form.

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COMING UP

■ Feb. 3

Martha Stearns Marshall Day of Preaching

■ Feb. 11-12

McAfee Preview Conference

McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta

Feb. 15-16

Now Serving ATL — Atlanta, GA

For more information visit www.nowserving.org.

Feb. 18-19

William L. Self Preaching Lectures

McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta

Feb. 19-20

Building the Beloved Community Symposium

Mercer University, Macon

Feb. 22-23

"The Bible in the 'Christ Haunted' South" Symposium

Piedmont College, Athens

Feb. 26

McAfee/CBF Day

McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta

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@the fellowship.info.

■ March 7-9

March Mission Madness — FBC, Augusta

April 3

Baptists Today Judson Rice Dinner

Loudermilk Center, Atlanta

■ April 4-5

CBF/GA General Assembly — FBC, Decatur

■ May 13-23

Roma English Camp

■ June 19-20

CBF National General Assembly — Memphis, Tennessee

Nov. 9-10

CBF/GA Fall Convocation

First Baptist Church, Augusta

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.

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