



**Cooperative
Baptist
Fellowship
of Georgia**

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or if you have comments and
questions please email:

Give
GENEROUSLY to the Offering for Global Missions

**CBF field personnel reach out to forgotten,
overlooked in India**

By Celeste Pennington and Patricia Heys
CBF Communications

ATLANTA – Eddie and Macarena Aldape remember vividly their first encounter with Nythia, a survivor of the tsunami. She was malnourished, weakened by tuberculosis, and troubled with a skin disorder – scabies. Once, as she sat with Macarena, the little girl cried and scratched until she was covered in blood.

Local villagers counseled Nythia's parents to accept her fate, advice in line with prevailing social mores and the Hindu faith. But the Aldapes befriended Nythia and her family, and with the family's blessing, located a skin specialist. They took Nythia and her mother to the city of Pune, where she was admitted to the hospital. Over time, Nythia improved and returned to her village. When the people saw her, Eddie said, "No one could believe their eyes."

The Aldapes, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions field personnel, work in India with tsunami survivors, Banjara Gypsies, and other marginalized peoples. The Aldapes' ministry in India, along with the ministries of CBF field personnel around the world, is directly supported by the monetary contributions to the CBF Offering for Global Missions.

Click [here](#) for full story.

visions@cbfqa.org.

Calendar

Dec. 29-Jan. 02
Antiphony

“Call and Response”
Hyatt Regency, Atlanta

A conference for university and graduate students.

For more information, visit
www.antiphonyonline.org.

2007

Jan. 8-10

**Spiritual Formation Regional
Pastors’ Retreat**
Ignatius House
Atlanta

To register visit [the fellowship](http://the.fellowship).

For information, email

rbennett@thefellowship.info

or call 770- 220-1605.

Jan. 13

The Way of The Child
One-day Training Event
First Baptist Church, Griffin

For more information download
the [event flyer](#).

Jan.14

First Annual Georgia Youth
Choir Concerts

An initiative of CBF/GA and
the Townsend-McAfee

Institute, Mercer University

11:00 a.m. – FBC Griffin

4:00 p.m. – Kingsbridge

Retirement Community

6:00 p.m. – Briarcliff Baptist
Church, Atlanta

For more information contact

Devita Parnell at

dparnell@cbfqa.org.

Jan. 16

Coordinating Council Meeting
CBF/GA office, Macon
10:00 a.m.



View the CBF Global Missions gift catalog [here](#).

Resources for Advent and Lent

Advent



This resource was developed by Passport Inc.

Lent

The Baptist Center for Ethics and the Baptist World Alliance are partnering to produce a free Lenten Bible study curriculum unit to help global Baptists on their forty-day walk toward Easter. "Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and renewing our faith. It's also a time for Baptists in wealthy and powerful communities to remember their Baptist kin who suffer from poverty, injustice, and violence," said Robert Parham, BCE's executive director.

This eight-week Bible study, designed for Sunday school, will guide adults through the season of Lent with special emphasis on the witness and work of global Baptists. Student and leader guides will be available online at www.ethicsdaily.com by January 22. The first lesson is designed to be used on February 18. Read more about it [here](#).

1st Annual Martha Stearns Marshall Day of Preaching Celebrating Women Preaching

Jan. 22-24
**“Interim Ministry for
Today’s Church”**

McAfee School of Theology

This is the first course offered in 2007 for ministers seeking certification for intentional ministry. Sponsored by CBF/National and the Center for Congregational Health. For more information click [here](#).

Jan. 26-27
**2007 Retreat for
Moderate Ministers
and Spouses**
**Callaway Gardens, Pine
Mountain**

For more information contact Huey Bridgman at 706-561-6638 or hbridgman@knology.net or Jim Ross at 706-342-2177 or jeross2@aol.com.

Jan. 26-27
“Festival by the Sea”
An Adult Choir Festival
Charleston, SC

For more information, download the [attached flyer](#) or visit www.choirfestivals.org to learn more about this and other festivals.

Jan. 29-31
Session 3
Young Leader’s Program
Thomasville, NC

For more information visit the [Center for Congregational Health](#).

Jan. 30- Feb. 1
Mainline Emergent/s
Conversations in Theology,
Practice, and Hope
Columbia Theological
Seminary, Decatur

For more information click [here](#).

Feb. 2-3
Now Serving Atlanta
McAfee School of Theology,

Baptist Women in Ministry invites all churches to participate in the first annual Martha Stearns Marshall Day of Preaching. On the first Sunday of February each year, we will join together to celebrate hearing the voices of women as they preach in pulpits across the United States. As more women enter the ministry, churches have a greater opportunity to welcome them into their pulpits.

The Martha Stearns Marshall Day of Preaching will give churches an opportunity to do so while at the same time educating their congregations about women in ministry. Churches wanting to participate this year on **February 4, 2007**, can do so by inviting a woman from their church staff, their congregation, or their community to preach. Churches might also choose to contact a nearby seminary and invite a female professor or student to preach. In January, participating churches will be able to find a certificate on the BWIM website that they can present to their female preachers on the Martha Stearns Marshall Day of Preaching.

BWIM would like to recognize those churches that choose to participate. Please send your church name and the name of your guest preacher to Ruth Perkins Lee at 128 E Glenn Ave, Auburn, AL 36830 or ruthperkinslee@bellsouth.net. All participating churches and preachers will be included in the Spring Issue of *Vocare*.

For more information, click [here](#).

Area Networks

Several months ago CBF/GA issued a call for local churches to send us the name(s) of individuals who would serve as representatives of their church(es) at our area network meetings. To be honest the response has been a bit slow. As most of you know we have twelve area networks planned. You can see the area map on our web site at www.cbfga.org. This map was developed a number of years ago and was based on recommendations made by our membership.

In 2007 we will have a series of meetings throughout the state based on this map. Some of the meetings will be at churches, some in homes, and some in restaurants where a meeting room is available. If you are interested in hosting such a meeting in your area, let me know.

At these meetings we will deal with a variety of issues that relate to the local congregation and to the larger CBF/GA family. Specific issues such as reference and referral, missions, and congregational life will be discussed. Area wide events designed to strengthen local congregations and to promote fellowship between congregations will be of primary concern.

Mercer University, Atlanta

A two-day missions event for college students. Visit www.now-serving.org or email dparnell@cbfga.org for more information.

**Feb. (Exact date TBA)
Baptist/Jewish
Dialogue and Dinner
Temple Emanuel, Atlanta
6:00 p.m.**

Sponsored by CBF/GA and the American Jewish Committee Atlanta Chapter. Contact Devita Parnell at dparnell@cbfga.org.

**Feb. 7-10
Current Retreat
"Let Justice Roll"
First Baptist Church of Austin,
TX**

Registration cost \$110 for ministers and lay leaders, \$55 for seminary students. For more information, visit the [Current Website](http://CurrentWebsite).

**Feb. 19-20
Self Preaching Lectures
McAfee School of Theology,
Mercer University, Atlanta**

Speaker: Tom Long
For more information, email frazier_d@mercer.edu.

**Feb. 26-March 1
Youth Ministers Retreat
Beach Cove Resort
North Myrtle Beach, SC**
A retreat for "Rest and Renewal" sponsored by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina. For more information download the brochure [here](#).

**March 5-7
True Survivor VII
Scarritt-Bennett Center,
Nashville, TN**
A Christian Educators' conference and training event. Featuring Kyle Matthews. The cost is \$75 per participant.

If you are interested in helping with this in your area contact me via email at fbroome@cbfga.org.

Vocational Opportunities



For more information visit www.cbfga.org.

Mission Opportunities

Christmas Gifts for Soldiers

The 352nd CSB from Macon, GA, is spending Christmas in Iraq. If you would like to support a Soldier by sending a Christmas gift, the Chaplain on location will distribute it for you.

His address is:
Chaplain Mark Cisco
Christmas Gift for 352 Soldiers
352 CSB, Chaplain's Office
APO AE 09334

A few suggestions are movies, books, games, personal hygiene items, etc. They do not need clothing items and we do not suggest you send home baked goods.

This unit has good relations with the people in Mosul and will do a second school supply donation to a local school early next year. If you don't get around to sending something for Christmas, please think about sending school supplies in January. A few suggestions are paper, notebooks, pens, pencils, art material, etc. The soldiers recently gave out supplies to 1300 children and it was a real blessing.

Upcoming Events

For more information download the brochure [here](#).

March 9

**Coordinating Council Meeting
CBF/GA General Assembly
Smoke Rise Baptist Church,
Stone Mountain**

Time to be announced.

March 9-10

**CBF/GA General Assembly
Smoke Rise Baptist Church,
Stone Mountain**

Speaker:

Anna Carter Florence,
Assistant Professor of Preaching
and Worship at Columbia
Theological Seminary.

March 16-18

**March Mission Madness
FBC Eatonton**

A mission weekend for youth.

Participants will stay at
Rock Eagle Retreat Center.

For more information, visit

www.marchmissionmadness.org.

March 19-20

**Urban Mission Workshop
McAfee School of Theology,
Atlanta**

Workshop Leader:

Ray Bakke.

For more information, email

frazier_d@mercer.edu.

March 23-25

**March Mission Madness
FBC Columbus**

A mission weekend for youth.

For more information, visit

www.marchmissionmadness.org.

April 16

**“Growing Generous Churches,
Growing Generous Christians”
Religious Life Center, Mercer
University, Macon**

A free, one-day, ecumenical
conference featuring Lynn Miller,
Stewardship Theologian. Co-
sponsored by The Center for
Baptist Studies, Mercer
University, Congregational Life,

The Way of The Child One-day Training Event January 13, 2007

First Baptist Church, Griffin

This one-day training event will prepare leaders to help children ages 6-11 explore their spirituality and deepen their awareness of God's presence in their lives.

Download the event flyer for more information.

[The Way of The Child flyer](#)

2007 Retreat for

Moderate Ministers and Spouses

Jan. 26-27

Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain

For more information contact Huey Bridgman at
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or Jim Ross at 706-342-2177 or jeross2@aol.com.

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Beach Cove Resort

North Myrtle Beach, SC

A retreat for "Rest and Renewal" sponsored by the
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For more information download the brochure [here](#).

Financial Picture

Budget Receipts as of 12/12/06

Year to Date:	\$290,404.17
Requirement:	\$373,621.47
Over/Under:	<\$ 83,217.30>

Month to Date	\$20,172.43
Monthly Req.	\$58,202.34
Over/Under	<\$ 38,029.91>

CBF/National, CBF Foundation,
and CBF/GA.

April 16-20
“Intentional Interim Ministry”
McAfee School of Theology

This is the second course
offered in 2007 for ministers
seeking certification for
intentional ministry. Sponsored
by CBF/National and the Center
for Congregational Health. For
more information click [here](#).

April 30-May 2
Session 4
Young Leader’s Program
Thomasville, NC

For more information visit the
[Center for Congregational
Health](#).

May 22
Coordinating Council Meeting
CBF/GA office, Macon
10:00 a.m.

June 27-29
CBF/National
General Assembly
Washington, DC
[Register Now!](#)

Aug. 14
Coordinating Council Meeting
CBF/GA office, Macon
10:00 a.m.

Nov. 4 or 5
Coordinating Council Meeting
CBF/GA Fall Convocation
First Baptist Church,
Savannah

Date and time to be announced.

Nov. 4-5
CBF/GA Fall Convocation
First Baptist Church,
Savannah