

VISIONS

March '02



CBF of Georgia Provides Link for Youth Missions

The turn of the calendar year reminds us that summer is just around the corner. For youth ministers, that means plans for our summer mission trip need to be finalized. Yet with all of our planning, things probably will not go exactly as we had hoped.

I learned this last year as I watched plans for our summer mission trip unravel. With only five weeks until our departure date, our trip was canceled. It was at this point that the sleepless nights began and the continuous question, "What are we going to do?" echoed in my ears.

Eight hundred miles away, the residents of Houston, Texas, were asking the same question as the state experienced one of the worst natural disasters in its history when flood waters inundated the city. Knowing the dilemma we were facing and seeing the horrific images of Houston on TV, members of our church began to pray about how we could help.

The answer to our prayers began with a phone call to Frank Broome in the CBF of Georgia office. He referred us to the CBF Resource Center in Raleigh, North Carolina. After explaining our situation and sharing our interest in helping the victims of Tropical Storm Allison, I was given the number of CBF missionaries currently stationed in Texas.

Before I knew it, I received an email address for Sean Halloran, a lay leader at University Baptist Church in Houston, who was coordinating volunteer efforts. Two hours after emailing Sean, my telephone rang.

Sean was on the other end, praising God that his prayers had been answered. The initial wave of volunteers was gone, and there were still hundreds of homes that needed sheet rock and insulation removal.

For five days, with temperatures and humidity soaring, we removed water logged insulation and sheet rock from four homes and began repairing two of those homes. In one home heavily damaged by the flood, we braced the collapsing roof, ripped out the warped hardwood floor, and rebuilt it starting with the sub-flooring. Each day we had to adapt to changes, but everyone in the group remained patient and committed.

Looking back, I am still amazed how all the details came together. When we started planning the logistics of this trip, the expense was well over budget. Several small miracles began to happen and the details and budget fell into place. This mission trip taught our group how to put our faith in other people like Sean, as they serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

I am grateful for the assistance CBF of Georgia and the CBF Resource Center provided. With their support, two CBF church families miles apart prayed and worked together to share the love of Christ, and allowed my youth to experience what it truly means to be a servant.

—Douglas F. Grogan,
Minister to Youth and
Young Adults, First
Baptist Church of
Christ, Macon GA

Flood victims of Houston TX
were grateful to have the
manual labor provided
by the youth
mission team
of FBC of Christ,
Macon GA.





Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia

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All questions and comments

may be directed to the editor, Surelle Pinkston,
at (478)301-5928 or pinkston_sk@mercer.edu

Frankly speaking



By the time you read this, CBF of Georgia will have begun celebrating its tenth anniversary. The growth of the state organizations alongside national gives evidence that CBF is alive and well.

While national CBF has been busy sending and supporting missionaries, developing theological education, and providing materials for churches, state organizations like Georgia have moved to expand the base.

We have developed programs for children, like New Horizons Camp, which is now offered for two weeks during the summer. Over 350 youth have signed up for March Mission Madness 2002, a wonderful mission-filled weekend for our teenagers. We have decided to offer two MMM 2003.

February 2, 2002 brought our first statewide Sunday School Conference. No doubt more of these will follow.

Thanks to Ann White Morton, we have begun laying a foundation for state CBF regions. Based on the response of last year, this approach will mean stronger CBF ties between churches in various areas of the state.

Our mission program has seen significant growth, thanks in large measure to the work of Jimmy Lewis and the missions committee. Whether it is a new church start, a mission trip, a prayer group, or a construction team, there is something for everyone.

We should not forget our partners, Chamblee-Doraville Ministry Center, Morningstar Baptist Treatment Services,

Associated Baptist Press, *Baptists Today*, Baptist Center for Ethics, Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia, Baptist Studies at Emory, Mercer University and McAfee School of Theology. They have also grown during this ten-year period. That growth will continue. It all adds up to a healthier moderate movement.

Yes, we have challenges ahead. We need more office space in Macon. We need to increase giving to state and national CBF so that more missionaries can be sent. We need to strengthen our structure so that churches can more easily hear about and participate in CBF events. We need at least one additional staff member to help resource the churches we already have. And we need to start new churches where the needs exist.

On March 28, 1992, about 400 people gathered at Mercer University to formally organize the CBF of Georgia. Ten years later, that decision has proven to be a good one. We have made a difference in our state, and by the grace of God we will continue to do so. Happy birthday, CBF of Georgia!

—Frank Broome

CBF of Georgia Coordinator

Georgia Mission Team Embraces New York City

Three hundred and forty-three firefighters died so that others may live. They did not use common sense. They walked into a burning building. Reflecting on the events of September 11, the Rev. Dr. David P. Matthews, Rector of Trinity Church in New York City, asked those gathered in worship on January 20, "How then do we respond to evil?" Do we respond to evil with evil? No. Like the firefighters, we respond by giving of our lives so others may live. We respond by leaving our comfort zones and sharing our space with others. We respond by living with spiritual sense, not common sense.

On January 14, fourteen individuals left the comfort of their Georgia homes and flew to New York City to assist the Salvation Army in the September 11 relief effort. They would

Origin, Purpose, and Structure of The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia

The following article is the second in a series recounting the first ten years of CBF of Georgia. Written by Robert G. Gardner, Senior Researcher in Baptist History at the Jack Tarver Library of Mercer University, the articles are a condensed version of a history of CBF of Georgia to be published in the anniversary year 2002. Look for excerpts in future issues of Visions 2002.

In Georgia the emergence in 1992 of the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Inc., was soon followed by a state organization. At the 1992 national meeting, a Georgia caucus was held to nominate Georgia representatives for the national coordinating council, but this cannot qualify as the organizational session for the CBF of Georgia.

A preliminary meeting of the "Georgia Chapter" of the national CBF was convened following the Monday evening session of the Georgia Baptist Convention on November 11, 1991, at First Baptist Church of Augusta. Much was said and felt at this gathering, but little is on record concerning it.

A second, more productive, meeting was held by an estimated 400 persons on March 28, 1992, at Mercer University, Macon, with W. Ches Smith III of Tifton as temporary moderator. Charles O. Walker of Jasper moved "that this group of Baptists organize themselves into the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of

Georgia....," and the motion was approved unanimously. The group named a nominating committee to report in November, contributed \$126 to the work of the state organization, and discussed areas of mission service.

Called to order by Ches Smith on Monday, November 9, 1992, at 10:00 P.M., at the First Baptist Church of Macon, about 175 persons assembled to effect a formal state organization. Three officers were elected: Billy T. Nimmons of Dalton, moderator; Pearl DuVall of Cordele, moderator-elect; and John D. Baker of Atlanta, clerk and treasurer. Ten were named to what was soon called the coordinating council. Thirteen persons comprised a committee to formulate a constitution, bylaws, and a statement of financial procedures. The body agreed to seek the endorsement of the national CBF and legal incorporation. Current financial assets were reported at about \$3800, most of which was held in trust by the national office. In 45 minutes the CBF of Georgia had moved from words to structure.

About 600 persons assembled for what is considered the "first" General Assembly, at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, March 20, 1993; heard an address by Keith Parks, global missions coordinator for the national CBF; and adopted a constitution and bylaws.

It was quickly decided that "The purpose of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia is to enable 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 responsibility to exercise God's gifts and calling." This issue of *Visions* prints this statement with little change.

Structurally the Georgia CBF has developed gradually from the relatively simple to the relatively complex. Currently activities are centered in the moderator, coordinating council, and coordinator. The Fellowship works through three governing committees within the coor-

Much uncertainty remained as the smoke settled around Smoke Rise in 1993, but the fledgling group was off and running.

be assigned to work at the Salvation Army Command Center and the Salvation Army canteens at Worth Street and Ground Zero.

The Salvation Army Command Center is the origin of all Salvation Army relief activity, and the hub for data collection related to victims of the disaster. CBF volunteers here assisted with data entry and filing. Volunteers at the Worth Street Family Service Center canteen served meals to employees of the social service agencies and their clients.

Those assigned to Ground Zero assisted in the preparation and serving of meals at the 35,000-square-foot Environmental Protection Agency tent located 100 yards from the cleanup

site. With their Restaurant Revitalization Program, The Salvation Army has teamed with Whitson's Food Service to utilize the services of New York City restaurants and caterers in lower Manhattan impacted by the World Trade Center disaster.

The EPA tent at Ground Zero provides a retreat for the cleanup workers. They gather to share a meal, play dominos, take a nap, read the paper, pick up another pair of gloves, or simply drink a cup of coffee. At times the tent is abuzz with conversation and activity. At all times there is someone who just wants to sit alone and be quiet. At each table is a basket filled with cards from children around the world. Reading those cards of encouragement brings tears but also comfort.

dinating council: (1) Education, which "promotes historic Baptist principles, encourages the education of Georgia Baptists, and builds knowledge of the heritage and hope of Baptist principles"; (2) Missions, which "encourages, identifies, and provides opportunities for sharing the Gospel and opportunities for engaging in mission activities"; and (3) Student Ministries, which facilitates work with children, youth, college students, and seminarians. There are also several standing committees: executive, communications, constitution and bylaws, convocations, finance, and nominating. Each of these entities reports to the coordinating council, which provides direction and unity to the movement.

Much uncertainty remained as the smoke settled around Smoke Rise in 1993, but the fledgling group was off and running.

—Robert G. Gardner, author, *A Decade of Freedom and Faithfulness: The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia, 1992-2002.*

The CBF volunteers at Ground Zero worked from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. They made many new friends and heard countless stories. It may have been cold and dark outside, but inside was a warm spirit and a ray of hope.

As the 14 CBF volunteers left New York City on January 20, their places were filled by other volunteers from other parts of the world. The job will not go undone, because others have chosen to leave their comfort zones, share their space, and give their lives so that others may live.

—Phillip Nall, *The Nautilus Group*

For additional mission team comments, go to www.cbfgamissions.org.

Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia Sara Owen Etheridge Student Scholarship

Each year the Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia award a scholarship to a Baptist woman who has been or is a resident of Georgia and is enrolled in at least her second year of theological studies at the Masters or Doctoral level. Applicants may attend a Baptist or a non-Baptist seminary. The amount of the scholarship is \$300. Applications must be received by

March 15, 2002. For more information, please contact Rachel Gunter Shapard at one of the following numbers: home 770-822-2629 or work 770-534-7354.

Financial Picture

2001-2002 monthly budget requirement	\$34,050.16
January receipts	\$35,862.10

The smiling faces of the Ground Zero mid-night shift were an asset to our mission team. (L-R) front row: Kay New, Phillip Nall, Nicole Duncan; back row: Denise Caldwell, Nicole Barton, Louis Barton.



In a moving farewell, the mission team prayed and laid hands on CBF representatives at the United Nations, David and Ana D'Amico.



(L-R) Jimmy Lewis, Kay New, Julia Barton, Louis Barton, Phillip Nall, Will Peters, Wendy Joyner, Tara Peters, Denise Caldwell, Nicole Duncan, Sheryl Groover, Lynn Gatchell, Surelle Pinkston, and Doug Gatchell line up after arriving in New York City to represent CBF of Georgia in relief efforts.

SNAPSHOTS...

CBF of Georgia
sponsored

Spring & Summer Events



M B
3 days of...

fellowship road-trip,
friends, new people,
making new friends
worship songs, prayer, drama,
video, sharing, praising
missions serving, sharing, working,
scraping, painting
fun concert, basketball, games, free time,
pizza, and much more!

March Mission Madness 2002 March 22 - 24

Mark your calendar for the weekend of Friday-Sunday, March 22-24, when you can join other students at First Baptist Church Rome.

This event is FULL which means 350 people have registered!

An overflow option is offered to allow groups to participate in Saturday evening worship, Fandom, concert, t-shirt and picnic.

Contact Scott Ford at 770-439-9164 or
robertscottford@hotmail.com for the details!

NEW HORIZONS CAMP

CBF OF GEORGIA NEW HORIZONS CAMP
July 16-19 and 23-26

*A mission camp for children
who have completed grades 3-5*

New Ebenezer Retreat Center, Rincon GA

Theme: Color the World

Cost \$125 per person which includes lodging, meals, t-shirt and camp supplies. A reservation of \$25 per camper is required and taken on a first come/first serve basis. Reservations are accepted now through April 1, and all reservation must include a \$25 deposit.

Send registration information and questions to:

New Horizons Camp, Attn: Jana Kinnersley
Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, 1690 S. Milledge Avenue,
Athens GA 30605
706-354-0090, ext. 204, janask@milledge.org.

The 2002 General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

June 27-29

Fort Worth Convention Center
Fort Worth TX

Experience worship...workshops...

Church Leadership Institute...a Georgia fellowship...

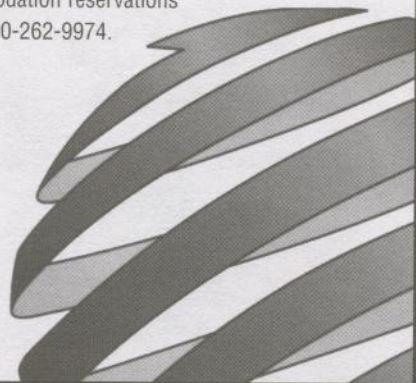
Children's Assembly...exhibits...music...receptions...

and a closing communion service.

Make your accommodation reservations
soon by calling 1-800-262-9974.

Log on to
www.cbfonline.org
for program details.

**Don't miss out on all
the excitement!**



CBF of Georgia...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.

COOPERATIVE
BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

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CBF GA coming up!

2002

March 1-2

CBF OF GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Johns Creek Baptist Church, Alpharetta

Georgia's annual assembly with inspiring speakers and informational breakout sessions. William Willimon is keynote speaker.

March 17-20

Spring Bible Conference
FBC Morrow

12 noon with lunch and 7:00 p.m. Randall Lolley, leader

March 22-24

CBF OF GEORGIA MARCH MISSION MADNESS 2002
for students in grades 7-12

Rome First Baptist Church

Contact Scott Ford, MMM 2002 Coordinator, at 770-439-9164 or robertscottford@hotmail.com.

March 23

Morningstar Baptist Treatment Services
Benefit Golf Tournament

Coastal Pines Golf Course, Hwy. 99, Brunswick, 912-267-7583.

April 4-6

Collegiate Ministers Retreat
Scarritt-Bennett Center, Nashville TN

Contact Becky Matheny at 706-549-7069 or bmath1349@aol.com.

April 9

The Neo-Apocalyptic and Baptist Life:
"Left Behind" Theology and Our World Crisis
Mercer University, Macon, Medical School Auditorium
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. William Hull, leader. Registration is required. Contact Greg Thompson at www.mercer.edu/baptist-studies or call 478-301-5467.

April 15-17

Leadership in Ministry
Calvin Center, Atlanta

Continuing education workshops in Ministering to Congregations as Family Systems. For information: www.leadershipministry.com.

April 26

Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia
Annual Spring Meeting
Memorial Baptist Church, Savannah

Worship, lunch, business and awards are featured. Carolyn Hale, speaker. To register, contact Devita Parnell at 478-301-5648 or parnell_kd@mercer.edu.

May 3

How to write a GOOD Local Church History
Mercer University, Macon
Religious Life Center, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Rollin Armour, Robert Gardner, Doug Weaver, and Walter Shurden, leaders. Registration is required. Contact Greg Thompson at www.mercer.edu/baptiststudies or call 478-301-5467.

June 27-29

CBF General Assembly
Fort Worth TX

Rooms are available through Connections at 1-800-262-9974.

July 16-19 and 23-26

CBF OF GEORGIA NEW HORIZONS CAMP

A mission camp for children who have completed grades 3-5
New Ebenezer Retreat Center, Rincon GA
Please look inside for more information.

November 10-11

CBF OF GEORGIA FALL CONVOCATION
Marietta First Baptist Church

Tony Campolo, speaker

CBF of Georgia Grant Given to Baptists Today



CBF of Georgia Moderator Jim Ross presents a \$10,000 CBF of Georgia grant to John Pierce, editor of *Baptists Today*.