

VISIONS



May / June '02

March Is Mission Madness!

Students from all over Georgia gathered in the city of Rome for fun, fellowship, mission service, worship, a concert, and even an old-fashioned, Greco-Roman Toga Party for March Mission Madness 2002!

An intense weekend schedule kept the participants busy as 344 people arrived at the Friday night registration, and an additional 109 youth and adults arrived on Saturday evening to participate in the remaining activities.

To the delight and dismay of the MMM Steering

event would not have happened without the outpouring of service and love from FBC Rome. The members and staff, led by Minister of Youth and Missions, Phil Smith, welcomed 29 other church groups.

Phil also orchestrated 16 mission project sites for the youth and adults, who painted six houses



(in one day!), served senior citizens, and worked with various local ministry groups, such as Morningstar Baptist Treatment Services, Good Neighbor Ministries, Hospitality House, Open Door Home, Rebecca Blaylock Development Center, Rome Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Club, and the Salvation Army.

Committee, registration filled to capacity quickly. Additional groups were invited to organize mission projects closer to their home churches and then make their way to Rome on Saturday afternoon, as the event ended on Sunday morning.

First Baptist Church of Rome proved to be an excellent host church. The

Linda Smith with the Greater Rome Conventions and Visitors Bureau

First Baptist Church Forsyth youth proudly show their "MMM handiwork."

(continued on page 4)



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All questions and comments
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Frankly
speaking



**The Top Ten Reasons to Attend
the June 27-29, 2002 CBF General Assembly
in Fort Worth, Texas**

- #10 To join in auxiliary events sponsored by CBF partner organizations
- #9 To participate in informal discussions with national CBF leaders
- #8 To have a say in how our organization is run
- #7 To enjoy a Resource Fair with 80 exhibitors of services and resources for churches
- #6 To shop at Missions Marketplace with hand-crafted items from around the world
- #5 To enjoy outstanding speakers and worship experiences
- #4 To learn at your choice of 100 workshops focusing on local church ministry
- #3 To participate in commissioning of missionaries
- #2 To enjoy friendship and fellowship at the Georgia Fellowship on Thursday at 3:45 p.m.
and the number one reason to attend the 2002 CBF General Assembly
- #1 To celebrate the future of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship!

—Frank Broome, CBF of Georgia Coordinator

NYC Mission Team Experiences Restoration

Twenty-five Georgians built walls, hung sheet rock, constructed steps, wired a basement, built an awning, taught children, told stories, sang songs, and laughed and prayed together on the third CBF of Georgia sponsored trip to New York in April 2002.

The mission team consisted of members of Augusta, Harlem, Marietta, and Toccoa First Baptist churches. They worked for a week renovating the basement of the Greater Restoration Baptist Church of Brooklyn, New York, and assisting with the children in the church day school.

Jimmie Lewis, head coach at Harlem High School said, "For the first time I felt like a complete Christian, doing mission work as the Lord wants us to do. It was a mission that brought me closer to God and other people."

Harlem pastor, Philip Vestal reflected, "The trip helped our church realize that God wants to use *us* to make a difference in the lives of people. God really does desire to use *our* gifts to impact His kingdom. Second, many of us received a 'perspective check.' Eyes were opened."

William Smith, a sophomore at Harlem High School agrees, "The trip made me realize how fortunate I am, and that all people have goodness in their hearts." Ben Hill, another youth added, "I saw what these kids went through, and yet they still want to learn and worship God."

Junior Michael Hawkinberry said, "The trip helped me realize the many types of people in the world have one common need...Jesus Christ."

Vestal continues, "Third, the trip connected us to the larger picture. We gained a greater appreciation that we're not alone in doing missions, and by partnering with CBF of Georgia and the Greater Restoration Baptist Church of Brooklyn, our church was able to network in a way it has never done before.

"Finally, this mission trip has propelled us to a new era in missions life." Tyler Holley, a senior at Harlem High School concurs, "The trip was a total learning experience for me. I now see what missions is all about, and I clearly see the opportunities for missions in Harlem, Georgia."

Please see related photos on page five.

10 Years Yield 100 Leaders

The following article is the fourth 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 condensed excerpts from A Decade of Freedom and Faithfulness: The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia 1992-2002, authored by Dr. Gardner and published in February 2002. Copies are available at no cost from CBF of Georgia at 478-301-5928 or pinkston_sk@mercer.edu.

During the past decade, we've had two kinds of leaders in the Georgia CBF. No, not good and bad! Instead, volunteer and professional. Today, let's name some of the names and express our appreciation for each of the nearly 100 persons who would be included in a complete list.

Eleven persons have led the Fellowship as moderators: W. Ches Smith III, Tifton, 1992; Billy T. Nimmons, Dalton, 1992-1994; Pearl DuVall, Cordele, 1994-1995; David K. Hinson, LaFayette, 1995-1996; Janie Peacock, West Point, 1996-1997; Jon Appleton, Athens, 1997-1998; Carolyn B. Massey, Tifton, 1998-1999; Gary L. Abbott, Sr., Milledgeville, 1999-2000; Becky Matheny, Athens, 2000-2001; Jim Ross, Madison, 2001-2002; Rachel Deems, Macon, 2002-2003. Five are female, six, male. All six males are ordained ministers and are or were pastors of churches. Two females are ordained ministers and another, an ordained deacon. Three laywomen have been named to this office, but no layman has as yet occupied this position.

Six have served as clerks: John D. Baker, Atlanta, 1993-1996; Nona Junkin, St. Simons, 1996; Sarah B. Withers, McDonough, 1996-2000; Michael Helms, Moultrie, 2000-2001; Anne Green, Dahlonga, 2001-2002; Katie Fowler, Milledgeville, 2002-present. The two men are clergy; the others are laity.

The CBF has thus far elected three treasurers: John D. Baker, Atlanta, 1993-1997; Darrell Watson, Macon, 1997-1999; and Ruth DuCharme, Macon, 1999-present. Both men were pastors of churches; the female is a layperson. (EDITOR: Ruth DuCharme is scheduled to be ordained to the gospel ministry in August 2002.)

Since 1992, 89 persons have been on the coordinating council, 49 males and 40 females. The breakdown of the group is as follows: male clergy, 34; male laity, 15; female clergy, 10; female laity, 30, of whom two are deacons. The council initiates most of the activities of the Fellowship or, when it does not, supervises the ongoing programs. Without it the existence of our state Fellowship would be virtually inconceivable.

From the first day the volunteer leaders knew that a full-time staff would be needed if the Fellowship were to achieve its maximum efficiency in service. In 1997 requisite financial maturity was reached, and Rev. E. Frank Broome was named the first full-time coordinator. From his office, his home, and his automobile he conducts a wide-ranging mission on behalf of the Fellowship: overseeing its every activity, maintaining a broad correspondence, speaking at every opportunity, counseling churches and clergy, sending resumes of worthy ministers and staff, and originating new ideas that might lead to new ministries. His office is located on Mercer University property in space furnished without charge by the university and said in 2001 to be worth about \$8,000 per year.

In the spring of 2000, Rev. Ann White Morton became part-time associate coordinator, with a major responsibility to strengthen CBF within the 12 geographical areas of Georgia. Her term of service concluded in 2002.

Rev. Jimmy Lewis joined the staff in the spring of 2001 as full-time missions coordinator. Supporting and expanding CBF/GA mission work in the state and around the world occupies his time and energies.

In all of this, the professional leaders have been capably assisted by four office-based colleagues: Sheryl Groover, 1997-present; Surelle K. Pinkston, 1997-present; Stacy Cox, 2001-present; and Carol Jones, 2001-present. Two generous ladies have worked many volunteer hours in the office: Katie Fowler of Milledgeville and Nancy Long of Macon.

You haven't found your name in this article where you think that it belongs? I'm not malicious — just bound by space consideration. Except for the newest members of the coordinating council, please enjoy the appendices in my pamphlet!

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



David Hinson, Janie Peacock, and Pearl DuVall

Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia Select Honorees

Priscilla J. Tunnell was named the 2002 Distinguished Church Woman of the Year by the Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) of Georgia at their spring meeting, held at the First Baptist Church of Savannah. The award is given annually to a Baptist woman in Georgia who has experienced and is engaged in pursuing a call to ministry. Priscilla serves as Minister of Faith Development at First Baptist Church of Rome.

Sue Witty and **Jennie Montgomery** were selected by BWIM of Georgia as the 2002 recipients of the Sarah Owen Etheridge Student Scholarship Award.

Sue Witty is a student at Candler School of Theology at Emory and a member of Oakhurst Baptist Church. Sue plans to do youth work or pastoral counseling. Jennie Montgomery grew up at North Lanier Baptist Church in Cumming. She is a student at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, and plans on a career in missions.

Financial Picture

| | |
|--|-------------|
| 2001-2002 monthly budget requirement | \$34,050.16 |
| March receipts | \$53,470.72 |
| April receipts..... | \$67,012.95 |

Do you have what it takes?

CHURCH PLANTERS ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

September 9-11, 2002
Atlanta, Georgia

For additional information and to register visit www.cbfgamissions.org

March Is Mission Madness *(continued from page 1)*

called the students "a gift" to Rome. "They'll be here giving of themselves to our community," she said, "I think what they're doing is really admirable."

As true for each year of Madness, the amount of work accomplished was amazing. Participants collectively served 2,064 hours in the Rome community! Students and their chaperones made quite an impact.

The *Rome News-Tribune* said, "While some teens were cheering their favorite teams toward a national college championship

Saturday, a group of about 400 youth missionaries were busy in Rome reaching goals of their own."

The beneficiaries of the work performed as well as other Roman citizens were grateful for the presence of Madness participants. In an editorial, the *Rome News-Tribune* said, "The recent appearance in the community of about 400 young missionaries from across the state for a weekend of performing good deeds was a positive event in a world that sometimes appears to dwell only on the negatives of existence."

"It is the sort of good news badly needed to offset the sometimes undue attention given to the much-smaller number of human beings who generate bad news in our times. It also provides members of this community not only with a lesson but also a challenge."

The kingdom of God was made known by the selfless expressions of love and acts of service made by all who participated. God's presence and the good news of Jesus were further expressed during each worship service led by several students and Valerie and Allan Burton, who provided a meaningful connective thread to the experience of all who served, worshipped, and fellowshiped throughout the weekend.

May God continue to work in the lives of young people through opportunities for mission service, as there may be two such opportunities for madness next year!!!

—Scott Ford

MMM 2002 Coordinator



A Rome home receives a face-lift from the youth of First Baptist Church Forsyth and MMM 2002.

memos from the missions coordinator



We are now entering into one of the most active times of mission activity in the history of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia. We need your prayers for these summer activities:

New Church Starts

CBF of Georgia is sponsoring the first Church Planters Assessment Workshop. A major component to our New Church Start Strategy is the selection of a church planter. We know the success of a church start is 90 percent dependent on the right church planter. We are looking for church planters who feel called to the ministry of starting new churches.

The Church Planters Assessment Workshop is the first effort in preparing candidates to understand the nature of this calling and determine if they have the gifts, personality, drive, passion, education, and family support to start a new church.

The workshop is September 9-11, and begins with potential planters and their spouses on Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. The workshop concludes on Wednesday at 12:00 noon. Individuals interested in starting a new church with CBF of Georgia must participate in this Church Planters Assessment Workshop to be eligible.

Those who want additional information can visit www.cbfgamissions.org and click on the "new churches" page.

Blessed in Brooklyn: NYC Mission Team #3

(See article on page 2.)



A day schooler charms team member Kathy Holley of First Baptist Church Harlem.

Taliaferro County

Excitement is building as we prepare for our first summer camp in Taliaferro County. The dates are June 17-21 and June 24-28. The local community is excited and supportive about our summer of investment in the children of Taliaferro County.

We need individuals and groups who are willing to do recreation, prepare meals, conduct hands-on crafts and provide practical experiences. We are in the final stages of planning. If you want additional information, want to volunteer, or make a contribution to this project, you can visit www.cbfgamissions.org and click on the "marginalized people" pages.

First Annual CBF of Georgia Fall Mission Offering

The coordinating council has approved the first annual Mission Offering this fall for the mission ministries of CBF of Georgia. The offering will go directly to the mission endeavors of CBF of Georgia.

Please begin to pray about this opportunity. Share it with your church. Inform your mission committee, pastor and staff. This is a wonderful opportunity to fund the cause of advancing the work of the Kingdom of God in Georgia.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Missions Coordinator of CBF of Georgia.

—Jimmy Lewis, Missions Coordinator

678-428-6204; toll free 1-866-245-5240;

email jblewis@mindspring.com;

web site www.cbfgamissions.org



André Miller (left), First Baptist Church Harlem, assists in the construction of an awning over an exterior door

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.

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2002

June 17-21 and June 24-28

CBF OF GEORGIA SUMMER CAMP IN TALIAFERRO COUNTY

Individuals or groups may volunteer to participate or make a contribution. Visit www.cbfgeorgia.org and click on the "marginalized people" pages, or contact Jimmy Lewis at 678-428-6204, toll free 1-866-245-5240, jblewis@mindspring.com.

June 20-22

Baptist History and Heritage Society Annual Meeting

Theme: Baptist Diversity
Carson-Newman College
Jefferson City TN

For information go to www.baptisthistory.org.

June 27-29

CBF General Assembly Fort Worth TX

Rooms available through Connections. Call 1-800-262-9974.

JOIN THE CBF OF GEORGIA FELLOWSHIP

3:45 p.m., Thursday, June 27

For assembly details go to www.cbfonline.org.

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

Cost \$125 per person; reservation is \$25 per person. A few spaces are available.
Contact Jana Kinnersley at 706-354-0090 ext 204, or janask@milledge.org.

September 9-11

CBF OF GEORGIA CHURCH PLANTERS ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

Assessment begins Monday at 6:00 p.m. for potential planters and their spouses, and concludes Wednesday noon. Individuals interested in starting a new church with CBF of Georgia must participate to be eligible. Go to www.cbfgeorgia.org and click on "new churches" or contact Jimmy Lewis at 678-428-6204, toll free 1-866-245-5240, jblewis@mindspring.com.

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

2002 Preaching Workshop McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, Day Hall

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Fred Craddock, speaker. Cost \$125. Contact Diane Frazier, 678-547-6470, 888-471-9922.

October 10-13

CBF OF GEORGIA SENIOR ADULT GATHERING Myrtle Beach SC

Cost \$350 per person; price does not include transportation. For information contact Phill Nall at 770-939-8238 or phillnall@thenautilusgroup.net.

October 28-29

McAfee Bible Study Preview Conference October 28/Atlanta campus; October 29/Macon campus 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Study 1 and 2 Samuel; Tony Cartledge, presenter. Contact Diane Frazier for reservations, 678-547-6470, 888-471-9922.

November 10-11

CBF OF GEORGIA FALL CONVOCATION Marietta First Baptist Church

Tony Campolo, speaker

events, dates, times & places