



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia

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All questions and comments may be directed to Nancy Copeland,

478-742-1191 ext 27 or ncopeland@cbfga.org.

opportunities updates reports

CBF/GA recognizes Georgia churches with women deacons

(Continued from June/July 2005 Visions)

First Baptist Church, Carrollton, ordained its first woman deacon in July of 1991.

First Baptist Church, Hartwell, ordained two women deacons in the late 1980s and early 1990s. They were **Beverly Verdery** and **Wassie Vickery**. Presently, FBC has two women serving, **Emily Gunnells** and **Sara Powell**.

People and Places

NEWLY ENDORSED CBF CHAPLAINS SERVING IN GEORGIA

Lyde C. Andrews, Atlanta, endorsed to the United States Army Reserve

Rebecca B. Brannon, Gainesville, endorsed to Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Ruth Walker Demby, Gainesville, endorsed to Hospice of NE GA Medical Center

Robert Allen Elkowitz, Cumming, endorsed to the United States Army

Willard L. Hayes, Athens, endorsed to St. Mary's Health Care System

James Mark Parnell, Macon, endorsed to Portsbridge Hospice

John C. Reeser, Sautee Nacoochee, endorsed to the Care and Counseling Center of GA

Michelle Anne Smith, Columbus, endorsed to St. Francis Hospital

AS THIS ISSUE of *Visions* was released for print, CBF/GA developed the following outline in response to the disaster caused by Katrina. CBF/GA has established a fund to help with the evacuees who come to Georgia. Contact the CBF/GA office for details.

By the time you read this, Georgia will have already taken in an estimated 100,000 people.

Consider assisting in the following ways:

1. Assist Morningstar Treatment Services, Inc. by supporting the relocation of orphans, as well as families with young children. CBF/GA will help cover the utilities, food, etc. for the families they shelter. Contact Barry Kerr at 912-267-7583.
2. Contact Milton Snyder at mps1@alltel.net if you are a licensed counselor/chaplain and are available to volunteer at one of the shelters.
3. Assist Rev. Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, who is coordinating housing. Her contact information: email savannahfrc@morningstartreatmentservices.com; cell 912-308-3385; home 912-772-3129; office 912-691-1262; fax 912-691-1264.
4. Contact CBF/National concerning cash contributions, gifts in kind, and volunteer opportunities. Donations are being requested for deposit in CBF Global Missions Hurricane relief account #17004 and can be done online or by mail. (www.thefellowship.info)

—Frank Broome

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

GEORGIA

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CBF GA coming up!

October 16-21
Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation (sponsored by CBF)
Camp Sumatanga, AL
Contact Mary Jayne Allen at mary_jayne@1stbaptistcha.org or 423-265-2257 or Rick Bennett at rbennett@thefellowship.info or 770-220-1605.

October 24-25
Like a Mustard Seed: Supporting and Celebrating Small Church Leadership, Samford University, Birmingham, AL
For more information visit www.samford.edu/groups/rcpe.

October 17-20
January 23-25, 2006
March 6-8, 2006
May 8-10, 2006

Convergence: The Minister as Leader, Calvin Center, Hampton
Visit www.healthychurch.org for more information or contact Dawn Hall at dhall@wfbumc.edu or 336-716-9722. Scholarships available through CBF/GA.

October 28-29, 2005
Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia Fall Retreat
The Calvin Center, Hampton
Speaker: Alica Kirkpatrick-Bremer. Topic: Self-care and Ministry. Contact: Darlene Flaming at flaming_dk@mercer.edu or 478-746-0492

Nov. 13-14
CBF of Georgia Fall Convocation
First Baptist Church of Griffin
Speaker: Millard Fuller. See inside for details.

2006
February 4, Saturday
Now Serving: Atlanta 2006
9 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. McAfee School of Theology and CBF of Georgia team up to sponsor this one-day collegiate mission event in

Atlanta. Students will experience a variety of mission sites around the city. The day concludes with dinner and worship. Cost of \$5 includes meals and t-shirt. Contact Ryan Clark at clark_ra@mercer.edu or Devita Parnell at dparnell@cbfga.org for more information.

February 8-11
Current Retreat
First Baptist Church of Decatur
Current is a group of young Baptist ministers, leaders, and divinity students who seek to connect young Baptists through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Visit www.thefellowship.info/current/2006retreat.icm on the web for more information.

March 3-4
CBF/GA General Assembly
First Baptist Church of Athens
Guest preacher: Jim Dant

March 6-8
True Survivor VI, Charleston, SC
A training event for all Christian Educators and age group ministers. Featuring: Ivy Beckwith, *Postmodern Children's Ministry*, and Dave Odom, Center for Congregational Health. Cost is \$50 per person. Contact Toni Draper at tdraper@thefellowship.info or 770-220-1654.

March 17-19, FBC Warm Springs
March 24-26, FBC Morrow
March Mission Madness 10th Anniversary
Contact: Scott Ford at robertscottford@mac.com

May 4-5
The University Campus: Tomorrow's Moderate Baptists
First Baptist Church of Decatur
1:30 p.m. (May 4) – 12 noon (May 5)
Co-sponsored by the Center for Baptist Studies, CBF National, and CBF/GA. This conference seeks to act as a catalyst for collegiate ministry among moderate Baptists and to encourage concrete actions at the local church level in the area of college missions. Email Devita Parnell at dparnell@cbfga.org or Buddy Shurden at shurden_wb@mercer.edu for more information.

VISIONS



Vast Change in Baptist Life Evident

MORE THAN 1,600 DELEGATES from the United States, with about 20 of those from middle Georgia, received a warm welcome from the Baptists of Birmingham, England.

We went there to celebrate the centennial year of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). It is amazing what can happen in 100 years. In 1905 the congress was in London. British Baptists supplied 2,500 delegates, with only 750 coming from the rest of the world. In 1905 the total number of world Baptists was 7.5 million, of whom 5 million were white and English-speaking. Today the BWA has 34 million members from 140,538 churches. Two-thirds of these Baptists come from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The face of Christianity in general and Baptist life in particular is changing.

You can see the change by looking at the leadership. For the past five years, Billy Kim has served as the president of

NOTE: The following photo and article first appeared in the Macon Telegraph on Saturday, July 30, 2005.

the BWA. For 45 years he served as pastor of the 15,000-member Suwon Central Baptist Church near Seoul, Korea. There is change evident in the music and worship. Everything from traditional hymns to contemporary expressions of dance and drama can be seen and heard. In the words of noted teacher and preacher Tony Compolo, this century will be “a century of revolution.” It will be a revolution from the bottom up, not the top down. Imagination and inspiration are breaking out all over, and any group or denomination that tries to impose uniformity from the top down will be out of step with what God is doing.

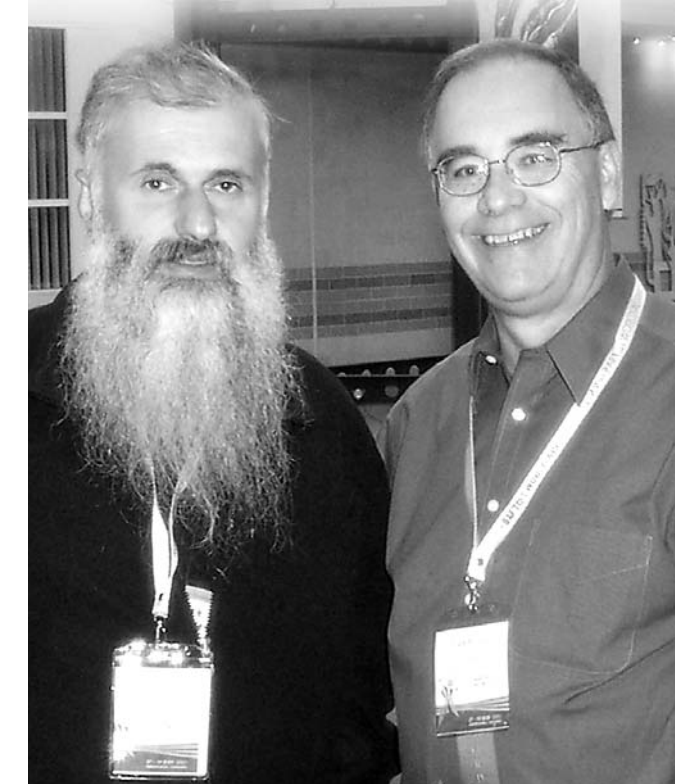
Perhaps the most remarkable change can be seen in the place and role of women in Baptist life. In the words of Ksenija Magda of Croatia, women from around the world should view themselves and Scripture through a new pair of glasses. It is not the message of the Bible that has marginalized women, according to Amparo de Medina of Colombia; rather, it is “the prejudiced reading of its message.” Such an understanding has profound implications for Baptist churches in the South. Men and women are created as equals, and they belong together in the work of the kingdom.

Finally, change can be seen in the emphasis on ministry among and with the poor and dispossessed. We are born again not for ourselves but for others. Our hope is not in gaining political power so that we can force faith on others. Our hope is in demonstrating to a broken world what it means to be loved.

The theme of the meeting was “living water.” What a fitting theme for Baptists to reclaim. For the future does not rest in rigid creeds or fixed programs but in the one who gives living water to every new generation.

—Frank Broome

Malkhaz Songulashvili (left), president of the Union of Evangelical Baptists of the Republic of Georgia, and Frank Broome, CBF/GA coordinator. CBF/GA and the Union of Evangelical Baptists of the Republic of Georgia are considering establishing a Georgia-to-Georgia partnership.



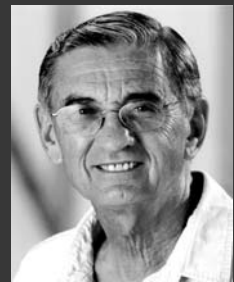
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A WHOLE GOSPEL THEOLOGY

Millard Fuller

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia 2005 Fall Convocation

November 13 – 14 6:00 pm Sunday - 12:00 pm Monday
First Baptist Church, 106 W. Taylor St., Griffin, GA 30224



Millard Fuller, Speaker Millard Fuller founded Habitat for Humanity International in 1976 and was president and CEO until January 2005. In February 2005, the Fullers founded The Fuller Center for Housing. Millard is president of this new organization which is raising funds for the purpose of giving grants and other kinds of support to Habitat affiliates and other not-for-profit, low cost housing organizations.



Music Mercer Singers, First Baptist Church of Griffin Choir, and CBF/GA Choir. The Mercer Singers, an auditioned ensemble of 45 voices, is the primary touring choral ensemble of Mercer University. They are directed by Stanley L. Roberts, Director of Choral Activities and Coordinator of Church Music Studies. He also serves as the Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church of Christ of Macon.

THE MERCER SINGERS

Directions to FBC Griffin From I-75 (North/South), take the Griffin-Jackson Highway 16 exit (exit # 205) and head west. Griffin will be approximately 10 miles west on Highway 16. As you come into Griffin, you will pass Taylor Street Middle School on your left. First Baptist will be one block on the left past the Middle School.

FBC Parking At the intersection of Hill & Taylor streets, turn left and park on the street or travel one more block west to the intersection of 8th and Taylor streets, turn left. Parking will be available in the lots on the left side and the right side of the street.

Housing (Ask for the CBF/GA rate.)

Hampton Inn, \$63, 770-229-9900, 2007 N. Expressway
Holiday Inn Express, \$69, 770-228-9799 (Interior rooms), 1900 N. Expressway
Howard Johnson, \$59, 770-227-1516, 1690 N. Expressway

Sunday Evening, Nov. 13

- 6:00 Registration
- 6:40 Pre-service Music - The Mercer Singers
- 7:00 Worship
- 8:30 Reception & Book Signing with Millard Fuller

Monday, Nov. 14

- 7:30 Baptist Heritage Council of Georgia Breakfast at FBC Griffin (\$8.00/person)
Email baptistheritage@charter.net or call 706-583-8618
- 9:00 Celebrating World Baptists
- 9:45 Coffee, Confections, & Conversation
- 10:30 Worship
- 12:00 Dismissal of Convocation
Mercer/McAfee Luncheon at FBC Griffin (\$5.00/person)
Email Sharon Lim Harle at lim_s@mercer.edu or call 800-837-2905.
- 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Network Gatherings (Children, Education, Students, Music & Worship, Chaplains)

Child Care To pre-register call Beth Horne at 770-227-5517 or email bethhorne@fbcgriffin.org.

Information 478-742-1191, ext. 21 or fbroome@cbfga.org

