

- 2 Recent CBF/GA Events: ReCharge, Interfaith, Fall General Assembly
- 4 I Just Want to Go Home *Tommy Deal*
—FBC Augusta Community Mission Trailer *Andy Jones*
—Johns Creek Baptist Church Mission Trailer *Michael McCullar*

- 6 South Korea Mission *Philip Vestal*
—Reflections from Madison Baptist Church *Doug Adkins*
- 8 Frankly Speaking *Frank Broome*
- 9 The Blessing of Interfaith Dialogue *Laura Foushee*

- 10 The Mosaic of CBF/GA *Joyce McCartney*
- 11 REPORTS & OPPORTUNITIES
—An Invitation from Georgia Youth Choir Festival
—Financial Report
- 12 Events Calendar



Talking the Walk

BILL IRELAND bireland@fbcdalton.org

Here is the tenth in a series of articles called The Pastor's Sounding Board. This series gives you a chance to hear from senior pastors of CBF/GA. Bill Ireland, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dalton, is the writer for this issue.

A sounding board is a structure over a pulpit or rostrum to give distinctness to a speaker's voice. In these articles, we expect to hear about some of the "best practices" occurring in our churches, and we hope to hear some of the "best thoughts" that our lead pastors have. We hope these words will challenge you and your church to open new vistas of ministry in Georgia and around the world.

Most Baptists I know are eager to "walk the walk." We are inclined to action rather than contemplation. All of that mission education we imbibed for years has paid off, and we are eager and ready to do something. So, give us a weekend, and we'll hammer a house together. Let a disaster strike, and we'll hook up a trailer full of chain saws, shovels, and a portable kitchen, and we're off! We're ready to lend a hand and help others begin fashioning a new life out of the rubble of the old. If someone needs food, clothing, or a prescription, we'll let ourselves be inconvenienced to no end in order to help. I can readily testify that the churches I've served have never met a mission project they didn't like! We want very much to "walk the walk" and live up to Jesus' example.

But as I see it, we don't talk the walk much. We don't speak the gospel—at least to people who don't know Christ.

This subject has been on my mind a lot, mainly because I don't do a good job with it myself. The churches I've served have typically done well in presenting and handing on the gospel to our children and youth. We have been able to pass on the importance of following Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Many families, Sunday School teachers, and youth

leaders have done an impeccable job of modeling the Christian life in a way that makes it incredibly attractive. We rejoice, and rightly so, when this happens. After all, the link between one generation and the next is incredibly fragile, and nothing is guaranteed.



But outside the church, I'm afraid our efforts to "talk the walk" fall short.

I'm putting this subject out there as a way of calling myself to this task. I want evangelism to be on our radar again. I would like more of us to experience the joy of seeing someone outside the church enter the kingdom. I would like more of us to have the excitement and joy of seeing someone come to know the Lord. As much as we delight in baptizing children and youth who have learned the faith from their parents and teachers, I would like more of us to baptize more adults who have been introduced to Christ by a friend or colleague.

As I said, I don't do this job well myself, but I've begun trying to figure out how to go about it. Here's what I've learned so far:

Pray. When was the last time we prayed for those our churches could reach? When was the last time we prayed for an opportunity to share the gospel

(continues on page 8)

Recent CBF/GA Events ...

A Weekend at ReCharge

CBF/GA's annual ReCharge event is a spiritual retreat weekend for middle school and high school students. The weekend includes four worship gatherings, small group breakout sessions, and time for rest and play. Participants gathered for ReCharge October 5-7 at Woodland Christian Camp in Temple.



Through worship and breakout sessions, youth were challenged to “awaken” themselves to the presence of God in their lives, in other people, and in the world. Our preacher, Barrett Owen, used various texts, including the Good Samaritan, the apostle Peter’s transformation, and words from the prophet Micah, to illustrate these ideas. Each worship gathering included music, a sermon, the reading of scripture, a prayer experience, and a time of response, such as communion.

Each breakout session revolved around the theme of “awakening” and how we can find God in every aspect of life. Group leaders, chaperones, or seminarians led the sessions, which gave youth the opportunity to explore faith in a small group setting.

Breakout sessions were:

- Storytelling: God and Me*
- What Would Jesus Eat?*
- Losing Eden: Finding God When Life Stinks*
- Finding God in Scripture*
- Finding God in Today’s News*
- These Are a Few of My Favorite Things: Life-Changing Service*
- Yes, There Are Sports in Heaven*
- Tree Huggers*
- Hearing God in the Melody*
- Static: Finding God amidst Stress*

- The Pretty Little Hunger Twilight Diaries: Finding God in Pop Culture*
- Prayer: Who, What, When, Where?*
- The I of the Storm: Finding God in Meditation*
- Worship Rewind*
- Don’t Leave for School without God*

ReCharge Weekend Schedule

FRIDAY

- 6:00 p.m. Registration
- 8:00 p.m. Opening Worship
- 9:30 p.m. Group Leaders Meeting
- 10:00 p.m. Church Group Devotion
- 11:00 p.m. In Cabins
- 11:30 p.m. Lights Out

SATURDAY

- 8:45 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:15 a.m. Individual Devotion
- 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship
- 10:45 a.m. Breakout Session A
- 11:30 a.m. Break
- 11:45 a.m. Breakout Session B
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Free Time
- 5:15 p.m. Breakout Session C
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship
- 8:00 p.m. Campfire
- 10:00 p.m. Church Group Devotion
- 11:00 p.m. In Cabins
- 11:30 p.m. Lights Out

SUNDAY

- 8:45 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Individual Devotion
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Group Picture and Packing
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch



Interfaith

On Monday, October 15, CBF/GA co-sponsored a dialogue event with the American Jewish Committee Atlanta. The event examined the role of religion in politics and what Baptists and Jews could learn from the past. Speakers were Gary Simson, dean of Mercer University's Law School, and Walter Shurden, minister at large of Mercer University; and Josh Levs, a journalist for CNN, was moderator.

(See page nine for more photos and an article by Laura Foushee about this event.)



Fall General Assembly FRANK BROOME

Feedback from the fall General Assembly in Griffin has been completely positive. Everyone—and I mean everyone—agreed that FBC Griffin did an outstanding job of hosting the event. We were welcomed and given directions by dozens of greeters. From the quality of food served to the beauty of the surroundings, we could tell that a great deal of effort was taken to make us feel at home. The church has been a strong supporter of CBF/GA, and it certainly made that even more apparent at this event.

This General Assembly may prove to be the most significant we have had. We had an honest discussion about our financial situation, and the responses coming from our laity were encouraging. The energy level at the missions luncheon was noticeable, especially from our core group of advocates. I expect that the suggestions offered by Marion Aldridge from the CBF of SC will be heeded. If so, we will begin to see a renewed commitment to our work together.

The worship service was quite remarkable. Craig McMahan delivered a powerful message on “Looking Your Way to Grace.” Not only did he call us as individuals to see people as Jesus would see them, he also called us to do that together as one body. Just imagine the possibilities of our third decade if we will embody this call to be people of grace.

The Monday morning sessions were well attended and very engaging. I went to the deacons' network session led by Daniel Vestal, where over fifty individuals gathered with ninety percent of them deacons. The development of a strong deacons' network among our CBF congregations is long overdue. Such a network will be important as we seek to strengthen our congregations for ministry in the next decade.

Those who attended the missions/advocates luncheon also got to view the new CBF/GA video. I was greatly encouraged by the spontaneous round of applause as it ended. I took that to mean they were pleased at the work we are doing together and liked by what they were hearing and seeing. We will post the video on our web site, and I ask that you view it and show it when possible at your church.

I was very pleased to see the two CBF/GA disaster response trailers in the parking lot. They represent a partnership between CBF/GA and two of our congregations, Johns Creek and FBC Augusta. One trailer is already outfitted, and we are working to stock the second. One of our attendees decided to write a check for tools rather than give Christmas gifts to family members. You can be a part of this effort by selecting an item from the list available on our web site or by contacting Tommy Deal, our disaster response coordinator, at tdeal@cbfgfa.org.

(See photos of disaster response trailer photos on following pages.)



I Just Want to Go Home

TOMMY DEAL, CBF/GA Disaster Response Coordinator tdeal@cbfga.org

Miriam Marks sits each day in the remains of her living room, waiting for the day when she and her eighty-two-year-old husband can return to their home of fifty-six years. On August 29, 1956, Miriam and her barber husband, Luce, moved into their newly built house in LaPlace, Louisiana. They raised their children there. The city named the street after Luce's profession—Barber Drive. One son built his house next door.

On the nearly two acres behind the house were chickens and rabbits, safely caged out of the reach of the neighboring alligators that graced the canal on the edge of their property. When asked about pets like dogs or cats, they just smile and acknowledge the alligators' presence.

Now in their eighties, Luce still goes to his shop to cut hair a "few hours a day," while Miriam's activity is limited due to her current health. Life changed for them fifty-six years to the day from when they moved into their house. Hurricane Isaac did what no storm had done before and flooded their home. The levies held in New Orleans to the east. There were no levies to control the waters of Isaac, Lake Ponchartrain, and the Mississippi River that converged in LaPlace. Unlike any other time in their fifty-six years of life on Barber Drive, floodwaters came rushing through the woods to the east and raised the canal that poured into their yard and home. At one time, the waters rose a foot in twenty minutes.

CBFResponds, under the capable guidance of CBF/Louisiana Coordinator Reid Doster, connected with New Wine Christian Fellowship and the St. John the Baptist Parish in LaPlace and determined that many homes had been flooded. Homeowners were beginning the process of recovery and many, like the Marks, needed assistance. New Wine Christian Fellowship is a vibrant congregation that proved its love for its community in

... floodwaters came rushing through the woods to the east and raised the canal that poured into their yard and home.

the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It opened up its facilities in a former Kmart shopping center to house the Volunteer Reception Center.

The first group of CBF volunteers came from First Baptist Church Augusta on October 9-13. Wayne Hardy, Denny Giles, and Jeff Badke were joined by Tommy Deal, CBF/GA disaster response coordinator, and Tim Adcox, minister of missions at Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain. Their first assignment came through the requests for assistance via the Volunteer Reception Center.

They went to the home of Luce and Miriam Marks, whose sons had been working hard to restore the house. The one son who lived with them had been doing all of the work and had found that the task was more than he could handle. His parents were going each evening to sisters' houses to sleep, but so wanted to be back in their home. New sheetrock was needed in the main living area. With no real expert experience among them, these CBFResponds volunteers helped hang the sheetrock and get this home well on the way to its homeowners' returning.

When the day ended, the group gathered around Miriam for a picture and a prayer. You can see her beaming, as she knows she will soon be able to stay at her house again all the time.



First Baptist Church of Augusta Community Mission Trailer

ANDY JONES ajones@fbcaugusta.org

First Baptist Augusta has adopted Acts 1:8 as its guiding mission verse. As a church, our mission efforts are focused in four areas: local (Jerusalem), statewide (Judea), national (Samaria), and international (to the ends of the earth). As a part of this strategy, our Men on Mission have been dreaming about the possibility of outfitting a trailer for the purpose of community missions/disaster relief. Through a grant from CBF/National and a matching grant from CBF/GA, your mission dollars at work have gone to purchase two trailers to be used in our state and beyond.

These two trailers will be stationed at First Baptist Church of Augusta and at Johns Creek Baptist Church in Alpharetta and made available for use by any churches that have a need for them. They are outfitted to accommodate local ministry projects (painting, yard clean up, wheelchair ramps, home repairs, etc.), statewide ministry efforts such as CBF/GA's March Mission Madness, and other projects as they arise. CBF/GA will be able to use them in responding to national disasters, and the Augusta trailer will also be available to our South Carolina neighbors, given our proximity.

I am pleased that CBF is increasing its capacity to respond where needed. This ministry can only grow in proportion to those who are committed to community missions and disaster response. Now, we have the tools to accomplish great things. It is up to us to be aware of the needs around us and to respond as appropriate. Thank you, Jeff Badke, Tommy Deal, Denny Giles, and Wayne Hardy, for making the inaugural trip to LaPlace, Louisiana, in response to Tropical Storm Isaac.

Thank you to Charles Ray, CBF/National disaster relief coordinator, Tommy Deal, CBF/GA disaster response coordinator, Frank Broome, and Renée Bennett, who made these gifts possible. We also want to thank everyone from across the state who donated supplies, tools, and money to fill these trailers.



Johns Creek Baptist Church's Missions Trailer

MICHAEL McCULLAR mmccullar@jbc.org

Johns Creek Baptist Church's missional strategy has been to support missions cooperatively through CBF while simultaneously developing specific work locally, nationally, and internationally. We are now in our seventeenth year of this process, and as a church we have been blessed with annual growth in participation, giving, and scope. This approach has many moving pieces and parts, and one missing piece was discovered in 2011. We were not adequately prepared to respond to disasters. This hole in our missional strategy became a focus of prayer and planning.

A truly providential moment occurred in late 2011 when we were made aware by CBF/GA that two missions trailers were going to be provided to state churches. Trailers would be provided to two churches that would commit to equipping and utilizing them for local missions endeavors and for disaster relief. Our missions committee agreed to be one of the two churches and set about to provide funding to fully equip one of the gift trailers. Using a portion of our annual missions offering, we equipped our trailer (\$10,000), and we are proud to state that it has already been in use

for three missions endeavors in our local area.

Thanks to CBF/GA's gift, we have redesigned our missions calendar to take full advantage of the trailer. Our plans are to use it quarterly in meeting local needs and in work in neighboring states. We also stand ready to meet needs created by the inevitable disaster. We all know disasters are *when not if*, and thanks to our CBF/GA leadership, we feel better prepared to make a difference.

CBF/GA



MISSIONAL IMMERSION:

SOUTH KOREA

PHILIP VESTAL pv@harlembaptist.org



On Friday, July 20, twenty-one persons answered the call of God to be the presence of Christ on a mission trip to Sung Lim Baptist Church in Kwangju City, South Korea. The team consisted primarily of members from Harlem Baptist Church and Madison Baptist Church, as well as individuals from Texas and Pennsylvania.

This partnership was presented to CBF/GA over a year ago, and in one regard it was also a “first.” This trip was the first time CBF/GA had been asked to do an international mission trip with the focus being on young people as the main participants. Through joint worship services, a spiritual retreat in the mountains, local outreach and evangelism, a powerful musical performance performed by the youth at Sung Lim Baptist Church, and social ministry to impoverished homes/families, Baptist youth from America and South Korea experienced the blessings

of God in many ways from this cultural, spiritual, and missional exchange and immersion.

For one week, we stayed in the homes of Korean families, we ate Korean food, we lived the Korean way of life, we developed friendships, we worshiped the way many in Korea do, and we learned from one another about our shared faith and love for God. It was an incredible experience for everyone, and all of us were transformed from having made the trip.

We thank CBF/GA for the encouragement and most of all your prayers. Without your support, we would not have been able to do this. The future of this partnership is bright, and seeing what God has in store for this potentially ongoing relationship between CBF/GA and Sung Lim Baptist Church is exciting.

Phillip Vestal is pastor of Harlem Baptist Church in Harlem.

Reflections from Madison Baptist Church

DOUG ADKINS jdadkins@hotmail.com

I was particularly excited about this trip, because I lived in South Korea for two years as a Journeyman with the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. We were first and foremost overwhelmed with the generous Christian hospitality shown by the members of Sung Lim Baptist Church. The host families, especially, went beyond any expectations in making us feel welcome, giving up their beds for us while they slept on the floor. The hospitality and warm reception took away a great deal of anxiety we had at the beginning of the week.



Our first full day in Kwangju was spent entirely at the church, and it quickly helped us experience the faith and love of the church members. The retreat with the Korean and American youth from Monday to Wednesday allowed time for group building as we worshiped together and participated in small group activities. Our youth, particularly, were surprised at how easily they bonded with the Korean youth. It was an important lesson in one of the hallmark truths of our faith: wherever we may travel in this world, we can find a home with other people who are part of the Body of Christ, no matter how great our cultural differences.



The other obvious gift our entire group received from this journey was a renewed respect and appreciation for people who have served on the international mission field. The very first day we were there, the good people at Sung Lim Baptist Church

(continues on page 11)

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Madison Baptist Church Participants

Adults:

Doug Adkins
Katie Anderson

Youth (all high school students):

Lydia Adkins
Daniel Cochran
Olivia Cochran
Kathryn Gailey
Reed Pagett
Samuel Smith



FRANKLY SPEAKING: Task Force Chosen

FRANK BROOME fbroome@cbfga.org

By the time you read this article, we will have celebrated our twentieth anniversary as a fellowship. It is hard to believe that we are entering adulthood as an organization. It is fitting that our council approved the recommendation of our past moderator, Jimmy Gentry, regarding a discernment task force.



The task force will be chaired by Matt Marston, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Moultrie, and will begin its work before the end of the year.

Its primary responsibility will be to return a set of recommendations that will help guide CBF/GA for the next several years. There will be ample opportunity for lay and clergy members to share input that will help shape our future work.

The task force includes the following members:

Matt Marston, chair	Tom Hill
Paul Baxley	Bill Ireland
Gwen Brown	Melissa Kremer
Janice Hale	Keithen Tucker
Erin Hall	Rebekah White

Ex-officio members are:

Frank Broome	Joyce McCartney
Laura Foushee	Jimmy Gentry

I hope you will be in prayer for this task force, and I hope you will assist these members as they seek to help our council set priorities and goals for the future. CBF/GA

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I hope you will be in prayer for this task force, and I hope you will assist these members as they seek to help our council set priorities and goals for the future.

Sounding Board ... (continued from page 1)

with someone at work, school, or in our circle of friends? Beyond budgets, buildings, and programs, I have to remind myself that church remains at heart a spiritual enterprise. Prayer is our lifeline, and our efforts to speak the gospel will come to nothing apart from this vital discipline.

Be aware. Opportunities come more often than we realize. Where does your job take you? Who do you meet in the course of a normal day? Chances are, we run into people who are searching for something more often than we know. The opportunities do not require us to be false or clothe every statement in a fog of God talk. A normal conversation with someone may provide some open doors to make a simple statement such as: "My faith means everything to me." Such conversations don't require a nuanced understanding of the fine points of theology or an explanation for the world's evil. They simply require us to be ourselves.

Tell your story. As I see it, canned approaches to sharing the gospel have had their day. These days, the thing that's liable to ring true with someone else is the part of your own experience that rings most true with you. We can get to the heart of our story by asking ourselves a couple of thoughtful questions. First, what is it about our walk with Jesus Christ that we can't do without? Secondly, can we tell someone what Jesus Christ means to us without using the words "reared in a Christian family" or "church"? The exercise is worth the effort, and our answers will likely surprise and energize us at the same time! We'll have discovered what it is that we have to give away.

As I said, I'm still in the learning phase and trying to figure some things out for myself. Nevertheless, I hope we can all do a better job of "walking the walk" and "talking the walk."

Bill Ireland is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Dalton. He graduated from Southern Seminary and is married to Ginny Bridges Ireland. Bill and Ginny have one daughter, Mary Virginia, who is a sophomore at Mercer University.

The Blessing of Interfaith Dialogue

LAURA FOUSHEE lfoushee@cbfga.org

I am fortunate to witness many gifts and blessings through the ministries of CBF/GA. Each year I am able to witness hundreds of middle and high school students serve local communities in Georgia. I am blessed by the sound of a hundred young voices at the Georgia Youth Choir Festival. I have watched our three Cooperative Student Fellowships grow and continue to provide faith communities for students on their campuses. But of all the blessings I receive in this job, none has moved me more than CBF/GA's work in interfaith dialogue.



On Monday, October 15, CBF/GA co-sponsored an event with American Jewish Committee Atlanta, a partner organization for several years. The staff and leaders of AJC met with CBF/GA's interfaith task force to plan a Baptist-Jewish dialogue. Our timely theme was "The Role of Religion and Politics: What We Have Learned from the Past." Gary Simson, dean of Mercer Law School, and Walter Shurden, minister at large of Mercer University, served as our speakers. Josh Levs, a journalist for CNN, served as moderator. Simson and Shurden spoke not only from their Jewish and Baptist perspectives, respectively, but also from their professional perspectives as an expert in constitutional law and a pastor and professor of religion. The two-hour event included addresses from the speakers, a time of table discussion among participants, and a question and answer session with the speakers. Over sixty Baptists and Jews came together that evening for the conversation.

As the dialogue was underway, one of the first remarks from Dr. Shurden was simple, but I think worth repeating: "The fact that we have come together as people of different faiths to dialogue about important issues is extraordinary." This acknowledgement caused me to pause and affirm that this kind of ministry is indeed extraordinary. In a world of division and partisanship, our identity as free and faithful Baptists has led us to this ministry of interfaith dialogue. The historic Baptist belief that religious freedom should be extended to all people gives us the foundation to nurture a ministry that too few people in our world are engaged in. I am really proud of those within CBF/GA life who are committed to building relationships with our neighbors of other faiths and learning from those friendships.

Before this article is published, CBF/GA's Baptist-Muslim committee will have hosted a Thanksgiving Friendship Dinner and Food Drive with our Muslim neighbors at Druid Hills Baptist Church on Sunday, November 11. The people who serve on these committees are working hard to provide opportunities for this ministry to grow and expand. I want to thank them for their passion, drive, and diligence. And I personally want to invite you to take the opportunity to join us in the blessing that is interfaith dialogue.

For more information on the CBF/GA interfaith task force, visit www.cbfgainterfaith.org. CBF/GA

Baptist-Jewish committee

Wayne Martin, chair
Zach Bay
Gwen Brown
Colin Harris
Jannette Pratt
Charles Qualls
Richard Swindle

Baptist-Muslim committee

Charlotte Connah, co-chair
Darrell Smith, co-chair
Matthew Pogue
Wayne Martin
Missy Ward



The Mosaic of CBF/GA

JOYCE McCARTNEY moderator@cbfga.org

Have you ever seen a beautiful mosaic art piece and marveled at how such a complete and gorgeous image can emerge from hundreds of different tiles or pottery pieces? Enjoying a beautiful mosaic can begin with looking at the big picture, so to speak. But then looking more closely, you see the beauty of each individual section or piece. Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia is much like a beautiful mosaic. The work of CBF/GA is multi-faceted and varied. When we look at all that it comprises, it is a beautiful image of God's working in our world. This edition of *Visions* is packed with articles on the work and ministry of CBF/GA. Each is important and beautiful and fits into the larger picture of the what and who make up CBF/GA. What piques your interest and draws your eye as you read through this edition of *Visions*?



Is it missions? Does reading about the students' traveling and working in South Korea or responding to disasters here in the United States thrill your soul? The CBF/GA mosaic shows its missional beauty.

How about the Fall Assembly? It was a great time of worship, fellowship, and learning. CBF/GA is a worshipping, teaching, and definitely fellowshiping group of folks. What a grand part of the mosaic are our worship, learning, and fellowship times!

What about sharing the love of Christ with others? We are people called to be the presence of Christ. As we read and learn about evangelism in this issue, you may think: "Yes, we

can share God's love." Our Baptist/Jewish dialogues and other interfaith events also provide opportunities to build relationships with new friends. We have some individually gorgeous tiles that are fitting together beautifully as we share God's love.

The articles included here share just a brief portion of the work of CBF/GA that is a beautiful mosaic of ministry and witness. But where do you fit in? Which portion of the mosaic needs your individual tile to complete a part of the mosaic called CBF/GA? I challenge you to think and pray seriously about this question. Learning about CBF/GA is the first step in finding your place.

An artist must think, learn, and plan to produce a beautiful mosaic. So too are thought and understanding important parts of the CBF/GA mosaic. Are you continuing to learn about the work of CBF/GA? Reading *Visions* and *Re-visions* is a good first step. Talk to those serving on the coordinating council about the ministries of CBF/GA. You can find their names listed at the end of *Visions*. Encourage your pastor and church leadership to invite Frank Broome and Laura Foushee to preach and share with your congregation. As you learn, I believe you will be challenged to participate in CBF/GA in larger and more meaningful ways.

You can also pray! Prayer is the glue holding our CBF/GA mosaic together. Pray for our staff in the office. Put their names in a prominent place to remind you to pray for them. Pray for the coordinating council. These folks represent you as decisions and plans are made. Your prayers are important as they provide

guidance to the work of CBF/GA. Your prayers are especially important for the discernment task force. This special group will be seeking God's guidance and direction as they look at the future of CBF/GA and think about what focus and shape the mosaic of CBF/GA will take. The visioning process of the discernment task force needs to be a primary focus of our prayer. Don't neglect this!



We also must give! Giving of ourselves, our resources, and our time to fit into the mosaic helps to make the piece of art complete and appealing. We have many opportunities to give to CBF/GA's work. The state mission offering for 2012 has helped to strengthen church starting and Cooperative Student Fellowships through CBF/GA. Ongoing giving is important also. Without the financial support of churches and individuals, the mosaic of CBF/GA would be incomplete. How does the financial giving of your church support the budget of CBF/GA? Finally, give some prayer and thought to how you might personally keep the mosaic in beautiful condition by estate planning that will provide a lasting gift through the CBF/GA endowment fund. Giving is a place to fit in, to keep the mosaic beautiful and complete.

The tiles of the CBF/GA mosaic are individually beautiful, and all together they are magnificent! How will you fit in to the gorgeous mosaic of ministry and work called Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia? Will you learn, pray, participate, and give? We have just the right spot for you! CBF/GA

OPPORTUNITIES, NEWS, & REPORTS



You and Your Congregation Are Invited to
The Georgia Youth Choir Festival Performances
January 20, 2013

Briarcliff Baptist Church, Decatur, at 11:00 a.m.
or
First Baptist Church, Columbus, at 4:30 p.m.

For more information and to download more invitations,
please visit www.cbfga.org.

The Georgia Youth Choir Festival is sponsored by
CBF/GA and Mercer University's Townsend School of Music

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia

P.O. Box 4343, Macon, GA 31208-4343
phone 478-742-1191 • fax 478-742-6150
toll free phone 1-877-336-6426
toll free fax 1-877-336-6425
website www.cbfga.org

CBF/GA Staff

COORDINATOR
E. Frank Broome • fbroome@cbfga.org
ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR
Laura Foushee • lfoushee@cbfga.org
ASSISTANT TO THE COORDINATOR FOR FINANCE
Renée Bennett • rbennett@cbfga.org
ASSISTANT FOR COMMUNICATION AND RESOURCES
ElizaBeth Copeland • ecopeland@cbfga.org
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Kelley Dixon • kdixon@cbfga.org
ASSISTANT TO THE COORDINATOR FOR ADVANCEMENT
Jim Bruner • jamesbruner@gmail.com
DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR
Tommy Deal • tdeal@cbfga.org
CAMPUS MINISTER FOR CSF AT UGA
Sarah Reddish • sreddish@cbfga.org
CAMPUS MINISTER FOR CSF MERCER
Carson Foushee • carsonfoushee@gmail.com
CAMPUS MINISTER FOR CSF GEORGIA TECH
Dan Stockum • danstockum@yahoo.com

CBF/GA Coordinating Council

MODERATOR-ELECT • Paul Baxley, Athens
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Missional Immersion in South Korea ... (continued from page 7)

explained to us one of their main goals in dreaming up this week shared with American Christians: they wanted to say “thank you” in memory of our ancestors in faith who journeyed to Korea in the late nineteenth century as the first missionaries. In both Kwangju and Seoul, our hosts insisted on taking us to missionary cemeteries. They told us the story of life in Korea prior to the arrival of those American missionaries. They explained how those missionaries helped build some of the first hospitals and schools in Korea and how they translated the scriptures into the Korean language. They shared how those missionaries lived



lives of hardship, often dying due to disease, and many times losing children to illnesses that would have been easily treated in America. Their reverence for these saints was obvious—but they wanted us to see how they, and hundreds of thousands of others in this small country, were living examples of the fruit of the missionary labors.

When we left Kwangju for Seoul on Saturday morning, there were plenty of tears and hugs. The people who were strangers the Saturday before had become family. Unlike when I left Korea in 1989, we have e-mail, Facebook, and skypeing to enable our groups to stay in touch. We now talk about our “Korean family” and how we hope to see them again some day. It was an unforgettable week of sharing life and faith with loved ones we did not even know we had on the other side of the world. Our youth learned an amazing lesson of what happens when we allow Christ to be the Head of the Body. Presumed differences quickly recede, and true Christian community is shared. CBF/GA

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Year to Date Receipts for 2011 ..\$	378,089.22
Year to Date Receipts for 2012 ..\$	394,197.21
Requirement	\$ 502,464.10
Over/Under	\$(108,266.89)
October Contributions	\$ 42,768.78
October Requirement	\$ 50,246.41
Over/Under	\$(7,477.63)

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EVENTS CALENDAR

2013

■ **January 18-20**

Georgia Youth Choir Festival
Calvin Center, Hampton

■ **February 8-9**

Now Serving Atlanta
Atlanta

■ **March 1-3**

March Mission Madness
Macon

■ **March 8-10**

March Mission Madness
Rome

■ **March 22-24**

March Mission Immersion
Calvin Center, Hampton

■ **April 5-6**

Deacon Summit
Macon

■ **April 19-20**

CBF/GA Handbell Festival
First Baptist Church of Griffin

■ **May 6**

Senior Celebration
TBA

Keep up to date with events ...

www.cbfga.org

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