

VISIONS




What's on My Radar?

2

Finding a
Common Ground
Erin Patterson

3

On My Mind
Don Durham

4

Bridges of Hope
Dub Carter

5

March Mission
Madness Summit

6

A Man Named "Radar"
Scott Ford

8

Going Green
Nikki Hardeman

9

Chatter on the Radar
Frank Broome

10 • Opportunities /
Reports / Updates

Reference and Referral
Alan Mitchell

CBF/GA General
Assembly Photos

12 • Coming Up!

What's on My Radar?

This issue of Visions is designed around the question—What is on your radar? We have asked several individuals to write about a major issue, event, or idea related to CBF/GA that is on their mind at the moment. After you read these articles, you may want to take the time to drop us a note and tell us what is on your mind.

Becoming the Mother Bird

Eydie Pittman Jones

"Eydie, come quick," I heard my mother say. The sound of her voice was urgent and staunch, so I ran toward her wondering what could be so important. I only had one day left before flying to South Africa for the summer, and I hadn't even begun to pack. As I caught my breath, I followed the direction of her finger.



Mom had spent so many years directing my path, and now she was directing my eyes to a bird's nest cradled by two dogwood branches—God's awning for our lower patio. Three baby birds—necks craned—were anxiously awaiting their own mother's return and the food she would bring. I saw her swoop down as the wind broke beneath her wings. With a bulging beak, she bent over her babies dropping moist worms in the crevice of their throats.

During the summer of 2000, I realized how utterly dependent those three baby birds were upon their mother as they frantically swallowed the worms and pleaded for more. Without her, they would go hungry. Without her, they would never leave the nest. Without her, they would never learn to fly and explore the world by themselves. Without her, they would lack nourishment and strength. And yet, her

care for them was not earned, but freely given.

As I soak in the beauty of this image—a mother bird feeding her babies—I'm reminded of Matthew 6:25-26:

"If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds. If God gives such attention to the

*Continues to
page 2.*



what's on
my radar?

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Mother Bird

(Continues from page 1.)

appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you?" (The Message)

These verses also remind me that God's care for us is not earned, but freely given. And yet, it is so easy to become preoccupied with getting that I forget to respond to God's giving. I often wonder how many times I've cried out to God like those three baby birds, frantically swallowing God's blessings, only to plead for more. Living a life of God-worship can be such a struggle in our consumer-minded society. Sometimes I just want to stay in the nest of my comfort, but I can't because God—like a mother bird—is gently nudging me out of the nest into a world that is pleading for me to share my God-provisions.

Just last week, I was watching a CNN broadcast when God nudged



me out of the nest into the world of Myanmar. I met Lin, an orphan boy, who has lived in a garbage dump his entire life. Each day, he picks through the trash piles, hoping to find enough discarded food simply to survive. The harsh reality of this lifestyle will never allow Lin to escape without help.

As we journey out of the nest of comfort, we must recognize the task before us. It's important to seek out the baby birds in need of vigilance, for with our "yes" to live a life of God-worship comes responsibility, a responsibility that calls us to freely give to others—to be mother birds.

CBF/GA

Finding a Common Ground

Erin Patterson

MY EXPERIENCES IN MY CHURCH have always blessed and amazed me. The most incredible of them came in the summer of 2006, when my church hosted a group of eighteen Scottish Baptists from East Mains Baptist in East Kilbride, Scotland. They came here to help us reach out to our community, which they did with overwhelming success. While they were here, they led soccer camps for the community children and youth, led our church in Sunday worship, and led a youth fellowship almost every night. Not only did they school us in soccer, or should I say football, they introduced us to some creative ministries such as puppets, dowel rod interpretation (God Rods), and a more contemporary style of worship. Since they left, my church has become more contemporary in its worship style and multimedia use, and we now have a very active creative ministries team called NRG (New Righteous Generation). NRG performs with puppets, God Rods, and we do some amazing human videos.

The Scots didn't leave us to our own devices when they left, nor did we want them to. In February of 2007, one of the members, who had just started seminary, came back and led a youth retreat for us. She also went into the



On My Mind

Don Durham

For around twenty-five to 250 dollars, a woman in Asia, Africa, or Latin America can transform the lives of her family in nearly every way by starting a small business and providing the basic economic stability required for education, health, and hope. Micro enterprise development has enjoyed a surge in popularity over the last few years and demonstrated itself as one of the only enduring strategies for helping people lift themselves out of abject poverty. The most notable event in that rising popularity was the award of the Nobel Prize for Peace to Muhammad Yunus in 2006 for his pioneering work in micro enterprise development, a way of making small loans of investment capital available



to industrious and entrepreneurial folk, who don't qualify for traditional bank loans, because they have neither assets titled in a form that could be used as collateral, nor any demonstrable cash income with which to repay. Micro enterprise banks have found ways to lend money to these borrowers without using traditional collateral. Loans are usually made at market rates of interest to insure that borrower's business models are sound when they graduate to traditional sources of capital. Micro loan repayment rates range from ninety-six to ninety-eight percent—very respectable compared to commercial banks in the United States.

Only the popularity is new. Yunus and other pioneers have been refining the art and science of micro-finance (the mechanism through which capital is supplied to micro loan borrowers)

for over thirty years around the world. According to research conducted by Duetsche Bank, as of 2006 there were approximately twenty-five billion dollars worth of loans made to individuals, who likely would not otherwise have been likely to be able to support themselves or their families. That is remarkable growth, which translates into more and more people having access to the capital they need to be productive caretakers of the families and homes with which God has entrusted them.

As remarkable as the global growth and effectiveness of micro enterprise development and micro-finance are, that isn't what gets my attention. I hear more and more experts in micro-finance talking about the same statistic. Even with twenty-five billion dollars invested in micro loans globally, there is still only

Continues to page 8.

schools to talk about Scottish culture and really helped strengthen our relationship to our community. This February, their pastor and leader of the mission team, Jim McGillivray, came and led our revival. Jim also helped us by previewing what we would be doing as a mission team when we visit Scotland this summer.

All three experiences with the Scots were just amazing for my church and community. They really opened our eyes to the possibilities that lay before us. The percentage of people who go to church on a weekly basis in Scotland is ten percent. That's roughly three hundred thousand of three million people. Of those three hundred thousand, an even smaller percentage is Baptist. Amazing isn't it? Because of this, our newfound friendships, and opened eyes to the massive secularism of Scotland, we are going over there on a mission trip. We want to give back to the Scots the opportunity that they so willingly gave us.

Our plane is leaving Atlanta on June 8 and we'll return to the States about two weeks later. While we're there, we'll be working with two churches and the schools doing some practical mission work (in the spirit of March

Mission Madness), and introducing them to some new Bible study ideas, while introducing them to the South. They have never had any experience with practical mission work or these new ideas, and they're very excited about them. Yes, schools are still in session during mid-June, but we'll make it interesting by talking about the South, teaching a Bible lesson, and answering any questions they have.

Our host church is East Mains Baptist in East Kilbride, and we are partnering with them to help a smaller church in a town close by called High Blantyre Baptist. High Blantyre is the only Baptist church in its area and has twenty-eight regularly attending members, most of whom are retired. Steve Younger is their pastor and is one of the youngest there at forty-five.

The mission team consists of ten adults and six youth, including me. We are so excited and ready to go. It's hard to believe that in seven weeks we'll be in the middle of our mission. Please keep us in your prayers as we go on our trip. CBF/GA

Bridges of Hope

Dub Carter

Bridges of Hope is a new ministry in Catoosa County in Northwest Georgia. We are meeting in homes and currently seeking a place to worship. We are a small group/ministry/church that has been formed with four main purposes: acceptance of everyone, help for those in need, seeking justice, and changing lives.



Acceptance of everyone: I know this seems like a foregone conclusion for a group of believers to assent to do. In my experience, we are far from this in the way we do church now. We say we accept all, but only if it does not inconvenience us, or only if we do not get our hands dirty. As a young believer, my father, who was homosexual, asked me a question that still haunts me to this day. He said, "It is great that you believe Jesus loves you, but do you believe that he loves me?" The easy answer was yes, but how is he ever going to experience that love without someone to show him? We must be people who are willing to go the extra mile to show them the love of Christ through our actions.

Help for Those in Need: We are passionate to be the first thought for people in need. "Whatever" has become a term of disrespect in the lives of students towards people in authority. We need to change that thought to "Whatever . . . I have become all things to all people by all means I might save some." We need to look at needs in our communities, not as an occasion to feel guilty, but as opportunities to do whatever it takes to share the gospel with people. Let's first meet whatever need they may have without expectation. Let's start showing people that we love

them, because that is what God has called each believer to do. We desire to live the verse "We are ambassadors for Christ." We have been working with a local Aids Ministry, trying to serve others and put their needs before our own.

Seeking Justice: We are convinced that it is our calling to be a voice for the voiceless as believers. There are members of our group who are in the process of adopting children here and abroad. We see many hurting children without parental involvement or supervision. We believe we can be an example of the love of Christ through adoption and interaction with children. We currently meet in a park in Ringgold on Sunday evenings, just so we can be outside the walls and reminded of the needs around us.

Changing Lives: Bridges of Hope is about changing lives. The desire to become agents of change within our own community consumes each one of us. We are involved in the lives of so many people through local recreational athletics, school events, and community events. We are out in the world. This past Christmas, we felt led to go caroling in a neighborhood close to where we meet. We baked cookies, decorated them, and then went caroling. It was

odd we only had two "real" singers in the group and a bunch of children. At one house, we were asked to stop singing. I thought "Oh no!" Then, we were invited inside to sing carols to a man who had been in a terrible car accident and could hardly move. The man and his wife began to cry as we sang and we all knew it was a moment where we met Jesus and he changed each one of us.

All of the funds that have been contributed have been invested back into our community. If we are ever blessed enough to have a facility, it would be open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to help meet needs. We desire to be living examples of what it means to believe in Jesus and how that belief changes our lives. Isaiah 61:1-2 says, "The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn." If you are interested in joining or praying for us, please contact Dub Carter at dubc@juno.com. CBF/GA

... and we all knew it was a moment where we met Jesus and he changed each one of us.



March Mission Madness SUMMIT

... working together to improve and refine the statewide missions retreat that began twelve years ago

ON MAY 1-2, 2008, nineteen youth ministers attended the Madness Summit, which began with lunch on Thursday and ended after lunch on Friday. Considering that a “summit” is defined as “a meeting between heads of government or other high-ranking officials to discuss a matter of great importance,” the Madness Summit’s “high ranking officials” were youth ministers who attended March Mission Madness during the past three years, and the meeting’s “matter of great importance” was the effectiveness and efficacy of March Mission Madness in the lives of teenagers and adult leaders across the state.

Intentional conversations and brainstorming centered on different Madness weekend elements, such as mission service sites, worship services, registration, meals, lodging, parties, promotion, and infusing more “madness” into March Mission Madness, though some youth ministers conveyed that they believe the event



Back Row, Standing (left to right): Brandon Strozier, FBC Columbus; Jody Long, FBC of Christ of Macon; Daniel Nance, Central BC, Newnan; Jonathan Barlow, Second Ponce de Leon BC, Atlanta; Nikki Hardeman, CBF/GA; Cass DuCharme, Highland Hills BC, Macon; Amy Shomer, Milledge Avenue BC, Athens; Mark Snipes, Haddock BC; Doug Adkins, Madison BC; Susan Mullis, Horizon BF, Summerville; Andy Jones, FBC Augusta; Josh Gribble, FBC Forsyth; Matt Pogue, FBC Morrow; Kathy & Billy Storey, FBC Warm Springs; Scott Ford, CBF/GA.

Front Row, Kneeling (left to right): Danny Harrell, Haven FC, Conyers; Justin Bishop, Johns Creek BC, Alpharetta; Brian Edwards, FBC Carrollton; Eric Cain, Northside Drive BC, Atlanta. Not Pictured: Austin Aldridge, FBC Marietta.

has enough “madness” already! One highly productive planning session involved the sometimes-divisive topic of worship planning. With many different people and perspectives in the room, the group agreed that regardless of worship style they greatly value a common lot of planning criteria, such as intentionality, coherence around a theme, gender equality, professionalism, and inclusion of youth leadership through prayers, readings, and testimonies. So whether one prefers a large band leading music or a single person with a guitar or keyboard, the youth ministers agreed on several other factors.

a tremendous success. Led by CBF/GA Associate Coordinators Nikki Hardeman and Scott Ford, participating youth ministers worked together to improve and refine the statewide missions retreat that began twelve years ago. In addition to accomplishing much work and progress in the shaping of future Madness weekends, the group enjoyed one another’s company and fellowship during large and small group discussions, brainstorming sessions, breaks, meals including dinner at a Japanese restaurant, and a trip to Gold Cup Bowling on Thursday night. Finally, as you may have surmised, this youth ministers’ event was made complete by awarding a Madness t-shirt to each participant. CBF/GA

The Madness Summit was

SAVE THE DATES!

Madness
Weekends 2009

March 20-22,
Central Baptist Church,
Newnan

March 27-29
Milledge Avenue Baptist Church,
Athens

www.missionmadness.org

WHAT'S ON MY RADAR: A Man Named "Radar"

Scott Ford, Associate Coordinator for Missions, sford@cbfga.org

Have you ever felt like God might be trying to tell you something?

Lately I have wondered. I lived in the city of Gadsden, Alabama, until I was six years old before moving "way out" into the country, attending a K-12 county school. I went to Jacksonville State University in a quaint college town, and when Dixie and I moved to Georgia so I could attend the Mercer University School of Theology (now "McAfee"), we lived in the suburbs here, there, and everywhere right up until the time our family moved to Macon. Since moving and even before, I began to pick up "radar signals" about another world, a world about which I knew very little.



Monday, July 23, 2007 Start serving with CBF/GA as Associate Coordinator for Missions. Almost every week for the next five months, I stay at the home of Frank and Susan Broome during the week and spend the weekends in Conyers with my family.

Thursday, November 15, 2007 Home purchase deal in Macon falls through one day before closing on the sale of our home in Conyers, Georgia. The sale of our home is processed on Friday, and we must vacate the house within seventy-two hours. Most of our earthly possessions are stored in Pods.

Monday, November 19, 2007 Our family is technically without a home of our own: homeless. Dixie and the girls stay at her parents' home in Fort Payne, Alabama. I continue to stay with the Broomes during the week and spend weekends in Fort Payne with my family.

December 2008 I consider writing a *Visions* article about homelessness, comparing and contrasting my family's current situation with that of those who are actually homeless. Feeling this might be inappropriate or appear trite, I choose another topic.

December 28 - January 13 Travel to Liberia, Africa. Help lead Passport Liberia. My eyes are opened to the most

extreme poverty I have ever seen. Our leadership team works hard. There is little time to process what we witness and experience.

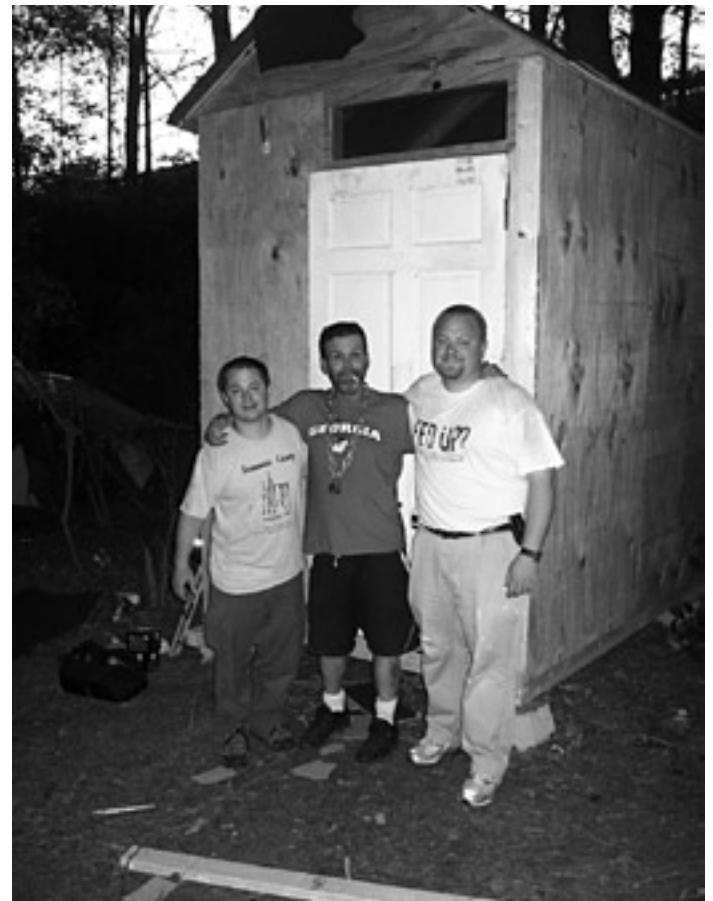
Monday, January 14, 2008 Close on the purchase of a home in Macon. Buy house in what some might call a "sketchy" neighborhood, though there are neighborhoods in much worse shape all over Macon. My family and I live in a truly urban setting for the first time in our lives.

Thursday, January 31, 2008 At the New Baptist Covenant, I am struck by Marian Wright Edleman's challenging message in which she states that children are the fastest growing population of homeless people in the United States.

Thursday, February 28, 2008 After lunch at the restaurant Eats in Atlanta with a Peer Learning Group, I leave the restaurant and walk toward a distant parking lot to the twenty-six foot Madness truck rental. I am startled by a police officer, who jumps out of his truck to wake up and run off a man, who is sleeping on the ground between the restaurant and a large shopping area.

Tuesday, March 25, 2008 While pumping gas early on a bitter-cold morning, I am approached by a man named Lewis, who asks for gas money or a ride to a local hospital. After breakfast, on the way to the hospital, Lewis asks me to just drop him off at another gas station.

"Radar" receives his newly constructed hut. Pictured: Ryan Clark, "Radar", and Scott Ford (left to right). See www.madhouse.org for more information.



According to estimates by the "National Coalition for the Homeless", about 3.5 million people in the United States experience homelessness in a given year.

Thursday, March 27, 2008 Because several group members will be unable to get away overnight, a Peer Learning Group member suggests that our group do a local, one-day mission project, rather than going on an overnight retreat. The group decides to build a hut for a homeless person (see www.madhousers.org).

April 1-2, 2008 Attend the Urban Mission Workshop at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology. Learn about outstanding inner-city ministries and missions. Hear academic, theoretical frameworks as well as practical, hands-on approaches.

Monday, April 7, 2008 Allie, Amber, and I eat breakfast at a McDonald's in Macon while Dixie is in school in Atlanta. An African-American woman appearing to be homeless asks if we will buy her something to eat.

Thursday, April 17, 2008 Our Peer Learning Group meets in Atlanta to build the panels for a hut, which will be used by a homeless person in Athens. Just one day earlier, we realize that we can deliver and assemble the hut ourselves. After seven group members build the hut, three members travel with Mad Housers volunteer coordinator Jason Marshall to Athens, where we assemble the hut for a man they call "Radar."

Sunday, April 20, 2008 After I return home from the office and park my car, a man named Lee approaches me on the street. Lee says, "I know the city of Macon just passed a law against panhandling, but if there's anything you could do to help me, I would greatly appreciate it. For the past twenty-three days, I've been living under the bridge up the road there. . . ."

So when I heard about the theme of this issue of *Visions* and thought

momentarily, "What topic seems to keep popping up on my radar over and over?" it took only a second for "homelessness" to come to mind. Personally, I am new to this scene, and I would love to learn more from those of you readers who have been involved with ministries to and with people who are homeless.

For reasons of circumstance or choice, some reading this article may have been sheltered or isolated from homeless people for most of their lives. Others may be jaded against ongoing requests for help, and others may have been homeless themselves. For me personally, only during the past few months have homeless people shown up so predominately on my radar as "the least of these." Reading Matthew 25 over the years, I have often thought of people in prison, poor people, and people in third world countries. Lately I have been thinking a lot about men, women, and children who are homeless. As a fellowship, as local churches, and as individuals, how might God call us to minister to homeless members of our state?

If you are or your church is involved in ministry to or with homeless people, please email a description of the ministry or ministries to Scott Ford at sford@cbfga.org. CBF/GA

Five Phases of Ministry*

1. **Ministries of Charity:** direct, immediate relief or response to suffering; mercy ministries.
2. **Ministries of Support:** forms of transition ministry; transition from unemployment, addiction, abandonment.
3. **Ministries of Service:** a new level of commitment; established responses to long-term needs of a community.
4. **Ministries of Justice:** amplifying the voice of the voiceless; declaration of redistribution; advocacy.
5. **Ministries of Transformation:** project a vision of the comprehensive transformation of your community; form collaborative ministry partnerships.

*Notes taken during a lecture by Dr. Robert Franklin (tenth president of Morehouse College), April 1, 2008, Urban Mission Workshop, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, Georgia.

Peer Learning Group members, who spent a day building hut panels designed by Mad Housers, Inc.: Ryan Clark, Scott Ford, Deedra Oates Rich, LeAnn Gunter Johns, Julie Whidden Long, Tony Lankford, Leonard Ezell (left to right).



WHAT'S ON MY RADAR: Going Green

Nikki Hardeman, Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life,
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BACK IN THE FALL of 2006, I was hiking with a friend to DeSoto Falls in Fort Payne, Alabama. We were exploring around a pool that the falls deposited into and came upon a small cave. As we approached the cave and peered in, I was a little taken back by what I saw. It looked like it had been snowing inside the cave. As I walked on to the thick white blanket that covered the floor of the cave, I could not figure out what I was looking at. It took me several seconds to realize finally that the substance that looked like snow on the floor of that cave was actually Styrofoam. I was stunned. My friend informed me that many things, like coolers and picnicking items, wash down the river and fall into the pool of water. When the water in the pool rises, it washes those items into the cave. In that moment, something clicked for me. I realized that there were things I did everyday that had a negative impact on the earth in ways of which I was not aware. In fact, there are things we all do every day that hurt and destroy the earth. However, what we fail to realize is that they also hurt and destroy us.

You see, we are intrinsically connected to creation. In the beginning, when God created, humanity and creation were bound in an interdependent relationship with one another. From the very beginning, God set it up so that we

needed creation, and creation needed us. When one of us suffers, so does the other.

The day I am writing this article is April 22, Earth Day. There has been a lot of conversation and media coverage about the day. Everywhere I turn, it seems that people are finding some way to acknowledge that Earth Day is an important event. People are wearing organic clothes, super-poking on Facebook with ecological comments like “so and so has recycled with you,” taking shorter showers, and making an extra effort to recycle. All of this effort to care for the earth seems to be catching on in a significant way. Some might even say that going green is the new black and everyone is getting in on the action. Politicians talk of being environmentally friendly, because it gets them votes. Product makers label their products as “green,” because it sells more products. Celebrities are taking stands about it, because, well, right now that is what you do.

What about people of faith? What drives us to be more “green”? What is our motivation to care for creation? Perhaps we find our answer all the way back at the beginning, when God called us to participate in the process of loving and caring for creation. This is the first thing God called us to do and God is still calling us to participate in bringing about wholeness and fullness in this earth. When we do participate in the process of healing for the earth, we ultimately participate in the healing of ourselves. For when one of us begins to heal, so does the other.

If you are interested in finding some resources on how to talk about creation care in your congregation, check out <http://www.eco-justice.org> for some great ideas. CBF/GA

My Mind *(Continues from page 3.)*

enough money available to satisfy ten percent of the demand for loans by borrowers, who would qualify for loans, if the money was available. The only reason most of these folks are poor is because they happened to be born in a part of the world that may be rich in many ways, but had very little to offer them in terms of economic stability. Ninety percent of the poor, who are ready, willing, and able to pull up their own bootstraps, can't yet get access to a pair of boots. That gets my attention.

I've worked as a fund-raiser of one kind or another for over fifteen years, so I can't help but start thinking about ways to get the other \$250 billion. It

occurs to me that many churches and other Christian ministry organizations already have millions of dollars gathered up in endowment funds, which they invest in stocks and bonds to provide a return, so they can use the earnings as a permanent source of income to pay for ministry. Actually, most of my time at CBF Foundation is spent helping such organizations manage those very endowments. What if there was a way to invest a portion of those endowments in micro loans? That would make much needed capital available to poorer borrowers, while still earning a reasonably modest return to pay for the many vital ministries supported by existing endowments.

Another significant part of my

time lately with CBF Foundation has been spent trying to create just such a mechanism. The CBF Foundation board responded to a challenge by Daniel Vestal to explore ways to help CBF and others be able to invest in micro enterprise development as one of the many ways Fellowship Baptists are seeking to be the Presence of Christ to the most neglected. I hope you will consider having conversations in your churches and with the organizations most important to you about allocating a small portion of any investable funds you may have for investment in micro-finance.

We can all afford to help someone get a good sturdy pair of boots. That's what's been on my mind. CBF/GA

Chatter on the Radar

Frank Broome, CBF/GA Coordinator, fbroome@cbfga.org

WHENEVER WE HAVE a statewide meeting, be it spring or fall, I get a good bit of email or hallway chatter as a result. Most of the chatter has to do with attendance. If we have upwards to five hundred or more people in attendance, I hear very little. We might get a suggestion here or there about music or the preaching. Some might point out the excessive use of male language, or the perceived imbalance between male and female, or younger attendants versus older attendants. However, if the attendance falls to around three hundred, the level of chatter is elevated. Such has been the case with the last two meetings. Some want one-day meetings. Some want one two-day meeting. Others want more regional meetings. Some want Friday and/or Saturday while others like Sunday and/or Monday. The laity seem to like the weekend approach while the clergy seem to like Sunday night and Monday morning. Some want nationally known speakers; others want to hear more local pastors.



For better or worse, here are some general observations I have made over the last eleven years concerning attendance. And I do mean general.

1. Controversy breeds good attendance. The further we get away from the controversy of the last two decades, the less attendance we have.
2. Medium-sized county seat towns where we have a strong local church(es) have the best attendance, because a large number of hometown people attend. This has been true of Athens, Macon, Rome, Columbus, and Gainesville.
3. We tend to drop in numbers in Atlanta. The exception to this was FBC Marietta, when we had our highest attendance ever of around nine hundred people. That was the year Tony Campolo was the speaker. A good many non-Baptists came to that meeting.
4. We tend to drop in attendance when another major moderate Baptist meeting is in Georgia during the year, such as the General Assembly of CBF or the New Baptist Covenant. Our folks have only so much they can spend on travel and lodging.
5. Speakers with a national reputation tend to draw a bigger crowd.
6. The involvement of the local congregation is directly related to attendance. The more individuals from the local church who are engaged in the meeting, the more likely we are to have good attendance.
7. The make up of our meetings reflect the make up of our congregations. We have more individuals participating, who are over fifty than under, because our congregations are composed of a majority of people who are over fifty.
8. The vast majority of those who attend our meetings are laity.

Attendance is but one factor in determining the success of a meeting. I have always looked at the number of new attendees as well as the number of congregations represented as a means of determining success.

It is also helpful to have some perspective when looking at attendance. For example, look at the comparison below.

CBF/GA has approximately 150 churches and we have on average 450 people attending our spring or fall meetings. That is on average about three people per church. The majority state convention in Georgia has 3500 congregations and they have about 1500 on average at their annual meeting. That is .05 persons per church.

National CBF has about 1800 congregations with an annual meeting attendance of about 3500. That is two attendees per church. Compare that to the majority national convention that has fifty thousand congregations with an annual attendance of twelve thousand. That is less than .25 attendees per congregation.

Our coordinating council is in the process of working on a strategic plan. Looking at our meetings will be one part of their work. I hope you will take the time to give us your thoughts, not only about our meetings, but also about the work we are doing together. Speak to a council member or contact us by email, phone, or letter. We are open to hearing and willing to respond. CBF/GA

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Joanne Carr Nominated for Recorder Position

The CBF/National Coordinating Council's Nominating Committee has offered **Joanne Carr** of Georgia for the position of recorder of the Council. During the CBF/National General Assembly Carr will be presented for election during the business meeting. The annual business is June 20. Carr is a consultant with Resource Services Incorporated, a Christian organization based in Dallas, Texas.



Carr serves as a member of the CBF/National Coordinating Council and is a member at FBC Augusta. She served as a member of the CBF/GA Coordinating Council from 2003 to 2006. Carr retired as associate medical center director for the Augusta Veterans Administration Medical Center in 2005.

Portraits of Courage: Stories of Baptist Heroes

By Julie Whidden Long

THE BAPTIST HISTORY and Heritage Society and Mercer University Press announce a book for older children and youth that focuses on fourteen Baptist heroes.

The heroes included are John Smyth, John Clarke, Ann Hasseltine Judson, Jesse Mercer, Lottie Moon, William Knibb, Louise (Lulu) Fleming, Walter Rauschenbusch, Martin Luther King, Jr., Addie Davis, Jimmy Carter, Leena Lavanya, Theo Angelov, and Olu Menjay.

Special features of the book include a timeline of events covering four hundred years of Baptist life in several countries, an introduction that tells what a Baptist hero is along with dozens of illustrations and sidebars that define terms and provide additional information.

Julie Whidden Long is minister of children and families at FBC Macon. Julie earned her B.A. at Mercer University and M.Div. at Mercer's McAfee School of Theology. McAfee awarded her its Outstanding Future Minister Award.

To place your order, email Pam Durso at pamdurso@baptisthistory.org, indicate how many copies you would like, and provide your name, address, and telephone number. The book costs sixteen dollars. Shipping and handling charges will be added.

Wanted:

First Baptist Church in Griffin, Georgia, is seeking a **senior pastor**. Basic responsibilities include proclamation, pastoral care, and administration. The successful candidate will have at least a Master's Degree and ten years or more experience.

Resumes may be sent to fbcgriffinsearch@bellsouth.net or PO Box 77, Griffin, GA 30223. FBC is a downtown county seat congregation with serious commitment to local and global missions.

A seven-year-old Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina church start is looking for an energetic **minister**, female or male. This healthy congregation with an average

Sunday attendance of approximately fifty works at worship, digs deeply into study, engages in local and away missions, and encourages each other. We own two buildings located near the center of this family-oriented community. We are active in CBF/NC regional meetings, ecumenical work, and in the United Baptist Association in Charlotte.

Candidates should send resumes to the Pastor Search Committee, 1201 Oakland Street, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28792.

Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky, seeks a full time **associate pastor to children** who will plan, coordinate, and implement a full-fledged ministry to children and their families. This person will also direct the church's

after-school and summer childcare programs. This position requires excellent leadership, organizational, and communication skills. Must have at least two years experience working with children, meet Kentucky state requirements for childcare director, M.Div. preferred.

Resumes should be submitted to CHBC Children's Minister Search Team, 2800 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206, faxed to 502-896-9855, or emailed to crescenthillbapt@bellsouth.net.

Alan Mitchell,
Assistant to the Coordinator
for Reference and Referral,
amitchell@cbfga.org



CBF/GA General Assembly Photo Gallery

1. General Assembly attendees read literature from the vendors.
2. Diana Garland speaks to the Friday evening worship group.
3. Attendees fellowship between sessions.
4. Participants listen during breakouts.
5. Frank Broome, Nikki Hardeman, Scott Ford, Kadar Jones, and Darrell Watson listen during the Friday evening business meeting.



CBF/GA... 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.

Financial Picture

Budget Receipts as of 4/30/08

Year to Date:	\$547,792.67
Requirement:	\$609,766.63
Over/Under:	(\$61,973.96)
Month to Date:	\$45,327.86
Monthly Req.:	\$55,433.33
Over/Under:	(\$10,105.47)

COMING UP

■ **June 9-13 & 16-20**

Taliaferro Summer Camps — www.tcamps.org

■ **June 19-20**

CBF/National General Assembly — Memphis, TN

■ **August 2, 2008**

Hispanic Health Fair

Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor (Good Shepherd Baptist Church)
Newnan

■ **September 13, 2008**

Current: Simultaneous Mission Project

www.thefellowship.info/current

■ **September 8-10, 2008**

Forum on Youth Ministry

Simpsonwood Retreat Center, Duluth

<http://www.forumonyouthministry.org>

■ **October 17-19, 2008**

ReCharge: Fall Youth Retreat

The Swamp Retreat Center, Union Point

<http://www.ReChargecbf.org>

■ **Nov. 9-10**

CBF/GA Fall Convocation — FBC Augusta

■ **March 20-22 & 27-29, 2009**


March Mission Madness

Central Baptist Church, Newnan

Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, Athens

www.marchmissionmadness.org

CBF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MEMPHIS, TN JUNE 19-20, 2008



John 20:21

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