

FELLOWSHIP



Backpacks went in a flash

MORE NEEDED

For the second year, CBFSC participated in the Allendale School District's Back to School Expo.

Representatives from a number of organizations gave out school supplies on Saturday, Aug. 11. Last year several organizations gave backpacks. This year CBFSC was the only one.

On Thursday before the Expo, six members from FBC Allendale joined CBFSC Missions coordinator Beverly Greer to sort the backpacks and pack them with supplies.

Jo Nunn—CBFSC Missions Team member, Allendale resident and a retired school teacher—organized and man-

aged the sorting and packing.

CBFSC provided 176 backpacks for elementary, middle and high school age students. Jo and Beverly, along with Lottie Lewis and Camille Nairn, were there when the doors opened for the Expo at 10 a.m. "There was a rush for our booth," Beverly said. "Within 25 minutes we were out of backpacks!"

Ten backpacks have been received in the CBFSC office since the Expo and will be given out later. It's not too late to help with this project. If you want to donate supplies, backpacks or money, call the CBFSC office. Schools supplies are an ongoing need.



Four of the students who received backpacks given by CBFSC individuals and churches are shown in the top photo. The backpacks were distributed by Camille Nairn, Jo Nunn and Lottie Lewis, shown in the bottom photo. This year adults could not get supplies for students. Students had to be there to receive supplies.

For we live by faith, not by sight. — 2 Corinthians 5:7

Walking by faith

By Tabatha Coker, minister to students, Pelham Road Baptist Church, Greenville

Beep Beep. Another text message just came in from one of the teenagers going on mission to the Dominican Republic. "If they wash our sheets in unsterilized water, will the sheets be safe to sleep on?" Everyone in the group had fears and questions about the trip: flying in the airplane, the safety of the bus, the food they would eat, hugging the children, and so on.

As the group held hands and prayed in front of the church on departure day, church member Angela Sudermann, who coordinates volunteers for American Baptist Churches USA, offered a few last words of encouragement. "The more fear you have, then the more you depend on God and the more room you give God to work," she said.

These words soon became reality as 12 of our youth and adults began their mission with Haitian refugees working in the sugar cane fields of the Dominican Republic. Getting into the country was a frustrating experience for the group. Figuring out what



Pelham Road youth took 400 frisbees to give to Haitian refugee children living in bateys in the Dominican Republic.

(continued on the back page)

PassportKids!

St. Andrews children experience their first camp

By Katie Vance Lucas
Minister of Children
St. Andrews Baptist Church,
Columbia

A group of children and adults from St. Andrews Baptist Church went on their first children's camp experience this summer. At the beginning of July, we packed up children and chaperones and headed to Wingate University to attend PassportKids!, a Passport camp designed specifically for children who have completed third through sixth grade.

I have taken groups to PassportKids! for 8 years and was excited to introduce St. Andrews to this unique camp experience. I prayed the whole year before our departure that our children would have a foundational experience that would open their eyes to missions and ministries around the world.

PassportKids!, along with the youth counterpart Passport, have a unique approach to summer camp. The week is saturated in missions exploration. Everywhere one turns you will see children in missions engagement.



Katie Vance Lucas, center back, took this group of St. Andrews' children to PassportKids! camp for the first time.

During rotations children learn what it's like to live without running water, cook food from other countries and create crafts depicting other cultures and communities.

In a beautiful partnership with Watering Malawi, a ministry of Passport, Inc, PassportKids! creates a night market where children go to different stations bringing village life in Malawi alive. Children and adults alike experience Malawi as they go from station to station eating vegetables and corn mash with their hands, making a ball out of a grocery bag, attempting to wrap baby dolls in cloth or playing a game with rocks. No words are needed at Night Market to tell students the story of God's world, how big it is, and God's love for God's people.

Our children gained foundational experiences that help shape their view of God and God's world. PassportKids!

helped children take focus off themselves and see beyond their own home and community. Our kids know that over one billion people live without clean drinking water. They also know that it takes Christian communities working together to bring access to clean water, a tangible way of sharing God's love, to Malawi and other places all over the world. How beautiful it was to see children engaging in community and working together with other churches and denominations during our week at camp.

It is my prayer that these children will carry with them what I saw in them at PassportKids!—their love for the nations, their ability to work hand in hand in community, the desire to show God's love in tangible ways and their vision of God's expansive love for them and the world.

Boxtops will help in Allendale

You can help Allendale Elementary School earn cash by collecting Box Tops for Education coupons that are on hundreds of participating products. Clip and send to the CBFSC office and we will forward them to the school.



Look for the tiger on Facebook

If you are on Facebook, please "Like" Allendale Elementary School. Look for the page with the tiger.

"Beyond Our Walls" theme of 2013 General Assembly (April 26-27)

Challenging congregations to reach across denominational, generational and cultural walls to minister in Jesus' name is the theme of next year's CBFSC General Assembly, to be held April 26-27, 2013, at Tidal Creek Fellowship in Beaufort.

Popular preacher and writer **BRETT YOUNGER** of McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta will be the lead speaker at the conference. Brett, associate pro-

fessor of preaching at McAfee, has written popular books including *The Lighter Side: Serving Up Life Lessons with a Smile* and *Who Moved My Pulpit?*

ALI ROGERS, Miss South Carolina 2012, will sing and share her testimony; and **RON AND NATALIE DAISE** of the Nickelodeon show "Gullah Gullah Island" will bring a Low-country flair to the event.

CBF's 12 distinctives

Use these to develop your CBF elevator speech

Ever since the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was created more than 20 years ago, we have struggled to say who and what we are in a reasonably short, clear, understandable way. Some people call this an "Elevator Speech." If you get on an elevator with someone on the first floor and you ride together to the 5th floor, and they ask, "What kind of conference are you attending?" what do you say? If someone in your church asks, "What is this CBF I hear people talking about?" how do you answer?



For the first years of our existence, we generally answered with what we are not. Over the years, I have found it easier and easier to answer the question about CBF in positive ways:

- 1 We think God's Grace trumps everything else. We believe in the Law, but the Grace of Jesus Christ needs to be the last word. (You can stop here and I would be fine with that.)
- 2 We believe the Great Commandments (to Love God, neighbor and self) are the most important directives in Holy Scripture. (You could stop here, also.)
- 3 We affirm the role of women in the church in every capacity, as lay leaders and as pastors. (This is what often gets people's attention and they understand this is different from some other Baptists. Sometimes, I start or stop my elevator speech with this affirmation.)
- 4 We empower the laity. We don't believe there are any second-class citizens in the Kingdom of God, neither women, nor laity.
- 5 We foster ecumenical and interfaith relationships. We are committed to civility rather than demonizing those who are different from us. (If I am feeling feisty, I say, "We are the Baptists other people can get along with.")
- 6 We emphasize three particular Freedoms:
 - a) Soul freedom, meaning the individual stands before God alone without mediation by any other human—parent, pastor or pope;
 - b) The freedom of the local church to act independently;

c) Separation of Church and State. (Sometimes, on or near July 4, this is where I begin the elevator speech.)

- 7 Our mission efforts pay attention to and attempt to promote Justice for the most marginalized members of society.
- 8 We are often a sanctuary for marginalized churches that have not fit into the prevailing denominational culture. (This is where I begin my elevator speech with some pastors or laity or churches who have been ostracized in some way.)
- 9 We value Conversation (for adults) more than Indoctrination. We value Biblical scholarship as distinct from a literalistic or legalistic or narrow world view.

- 10 We resource local congregations so that they can thrive.
- 11 We believe in a partnership rather than an ownership model.
- 12 We like to develop and empower young leaders. (Obviously, if I were to give this entire list to my elevator buddy, we would need to ride to the 28th floor, and it would be like drinking water from a fire hose.)

These are a dozen distinctives I have discovered about our wonderful organization. Thanks to my friends, Frank Broome and Terry Maples, Coordinators of CBF of Georgia and Tennessee, for helping me prepare this list. Feel free to discuss it with your Sunday School class or ask your pastor to talk about it on a Wednesday night. These are values that Baptists need to continue to hold dear.

Youth from First Baptist Church Allendale delivered a truck load of children's furniture, Bibles and hymnals to Sea Island Chapel, a new church start in Hilton Head.



OUR MISSION: We are women and men participating in God's mission together. We nurture spiritual development, encourage congregations to thrive, and value collaborative and innovative ministry and missions.



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Working with Haitian refugees— (continued from page 1)

forms to fill out, what lines to stand in and how to work their way through immigration with no one to interpret the Spanish was truly walking by faith. The process took hours but when they finally shook the hand of their translator and began their journey toward their compound, all fears subsided.

They arrived in La Ramona to discover that the facilities were beautiful and clean. By the end of Sunday night they had attended two worship services, traveled a long dusty road

to the bateys and had a glimpse of what their week of ministry would look like.

“We taught children about God’s love, played games with them and gave lots of hugs,” said Lisa Smith, who went on the trip with her sons Brandon and Nick. “We went door to door to distribute food. We talked and prayed with the families. The houses were so small and we learned that as many as five families live in one room.”

“The trip really impacted my life,” said teenager Julianna Lee. “The kids in the bateys barely had anything, yet they were still smiling and wanted to throw the frisbees with us. I learned that money doesn’t bring happiness.”

Jack Coates delivers food to a batey in the Dominican Republic. Sometimes as many as five refugee families live in one small room. Pelham Road youth spent a year raising money for their first mission trip out of the country.



The Pelham Road youth entertaining Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic.



With each person I talked with, I felt I was touching the hands and looking directly into the eyes of Jesus. The refugees were so kind and always had a smile for us when we came to their door. I wanted to cry for all of those children; this is all most of them will ever know.—Lisa Smith



Lisa Smith