

Christmas and missions go together like **GRITS AND EGGS**

Christmas and missions go together like...peas and carrots? I don't eat those often...grits and eggs!

Christmas and missions go together for Baptists like grits and eggs! Christmas and grits are both really great on their own (especially with loads of butter!) but when you add missions and eggs it doesn't get any better. I suppose the tendency toward generosity in the Christmas season is what first tied missions promotion to it. But as I think about it, joining Christmas and missions is pretty good theology, too.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, "God with us." Here we lean into the mystery of God the Son taking on human flesh, all the glory of God becoming bound in Jesus.

With this Incarnation, God chooses life among us in order to bring us peace, eternal life, joy, and abiding hope...to save us. We celebrate in the birth of Jesus the mission of God on the ground, among us.

And once we have experienced the mission of God among us, and united with God in a relationship by faith, we also join God's mission for the world.

Jesus's presence with us becomes our presence with others to experience and make manifest the peace, life, joy, and hope with God. In celebrating Christmas we are called every year, and reminded every year, to join in God's incarnational mission.

Your support of missions at Christmas—and all year—through CBFSC lends an accompanying presence to communities across South Carolina.

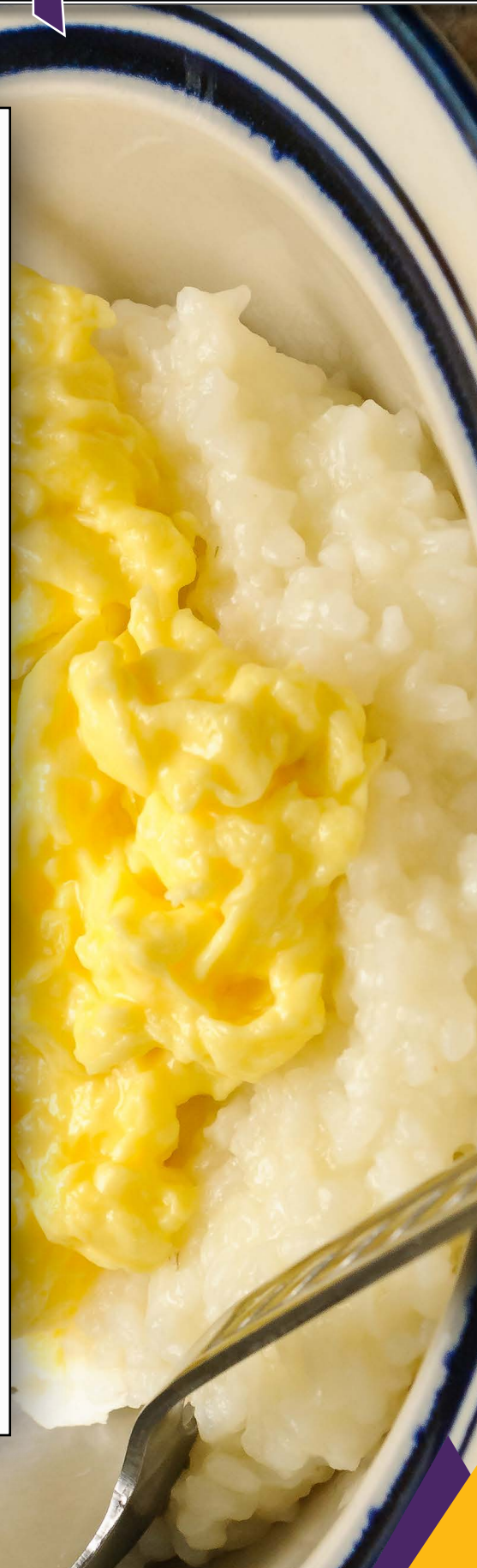
With human and financial resources you come alongside local leaders serving their neighbors. You join with them in God's mission, not a directive from an office far away but lived and led on the ground, in the flesh.

Your support of missions at Christmas—and all year—through CBFSC funds missions partnerships in North Charleston, Columbia, Conway, Rock Hill, Greenville, Denmark, and all across our state.

You are bearing witness to "God with Us" bringing peace, life, joy, and abiding hope. Merry Christmas...and please pass the grits!



By Jay Kieve
Coordinator



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.

We've set a goal to raise \$10,000 during December to support our state missions commitments

CBFSC has a goal of raising \$10,000 for the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions in the month of December. This is a bold and aspirational goal, but imagine the many ways that we can support our partner nonprofits and churches across South Carolina.

We want to support our mission partners, nonprofits and churches who apply for grants, and new initiatives across the state. Through this fund, we support mission partners like Palmetto Works, who is passing out food in their community and working with their youth who are experiencing trauma because of the pandemic and food insecurity in their community.



By Lane Riley
Associate Coordinator

This holiday season, please considering giving to CBFSC for our state missions initiatives, and help us reach our goal of \$10,000 for our state missions offering. To learn more about mission partners and how to apply for a grant, visit <https://cbfsc.org/missions/>. And if you would like to support CBFSC in reaching our goal, you can give online at <https://cbfsc.org/giving/>.



\$10,000

To support recipients
of the Beverly Greer Offering
for State Missions

IN CASE YOU MISSED THIS NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE CBFSC.ORG | DISCOVER CBFSC | PEOPLE AND STORIES

We have published numerous articles about CBFSC life on our website since our last newsletter in September. Here's a sampling:

- Churches and Covid over the next few months by Dr. Steve Carroll, Providence Church, Charleston
- Give to CBFSC missions on Giving Tuesday by CBFSC Associate Coordinator Lane Riley
- Augusta Heights in Greenville shifted gears to keep ministry moving by Christine Powell Kellett
- Flood buckets can help Gulf Coast recover by CBFSC Disaster Response Coordinator Wayne Patterson
- FBC Pendleton has its own woodchucks by Ted Stokes in Pendleton
- E-Learning Center at Baptist Church of Beaufort helps students/parents by Kelly Zytynski
- Some of our preschools and daycares are reopening after months of silence by Lane
- Caring for your clergy from CBFSC Coordinator Jay Kieve
- Pastoral resident: What you don't learn in seminary by Camille Loomis Rehnborg at FBC Greenville
- Thank you, ministers Denmark Cares stepped into service void by Letitia Dowling

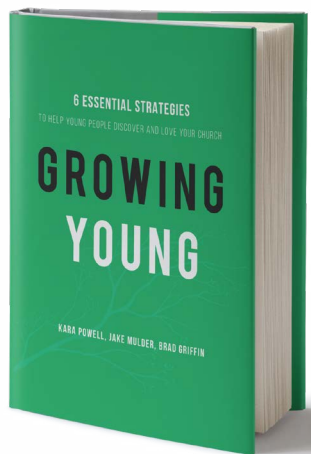
Seven CBFSC churches are a part of “Growing Young”

BY JAY KIEVE, COORDINATOR

Seven CBFSC partner churches began a year-long exploration with Fuller Theological Seminary of “Growing Young in a Changing World.” The South Carolina churches are participating in a cohort of nearly 50 churches from around the world seeking to expand their ministries to children, youth, and young adults. The cohort is guided by the Fuller Youth Institute’s (FYI) research into churches that thrive with young people.

The “Growing Young in a Changing World” cohort launched October 10 with a daylong virtual summit that featured FYI leaders presenting research findings and best practices for serving young people. Teams from the seven CBFSC partner churches—comprised of staff, lay leaders, and young people—then met to discuss how the research applies in their particular setting. Over the course of a year, the churches will participate in four summits, additional informational webinars, and individual coaching.

Participating in the “Growing Young in a Changing World” cohort are First Baptist Greenwood, Fernwood Baptist, Providence Church, The Baptist Church of Beaufort, Oakland Baptist, Trinity Baptist, and Boulevard Baptist.



THE CORE COMMITMENTS OF GROWING YOUNG

The “Growing Young in a Changing World” cohort churches learn the six core commitments of churches that are “growing young,” discovering how serving children, youth, and young adults well leads to overall church vitality.

Unlock key chain leadership: instead of centralizing authority empower others for leadership, especially young people.

Empathize with today’s young people: instead of criticizing or judging, step into the shoes of this generation.

Take Jesus’ message seriously: welcome young people into a Jesus-centered way of life.

Fuel a warm community: aim for warm intergeneration and peer relationships.

Prioritize young people (and families) everywhere: looks for creative ways tangibly to support, resource, and involve young people in all facets of the congregation.

Be the best neighbors: instead of condemning the world outside the church, enable young people to neighbor well both locally and globally.

*Merry
Christmas!*

Jay
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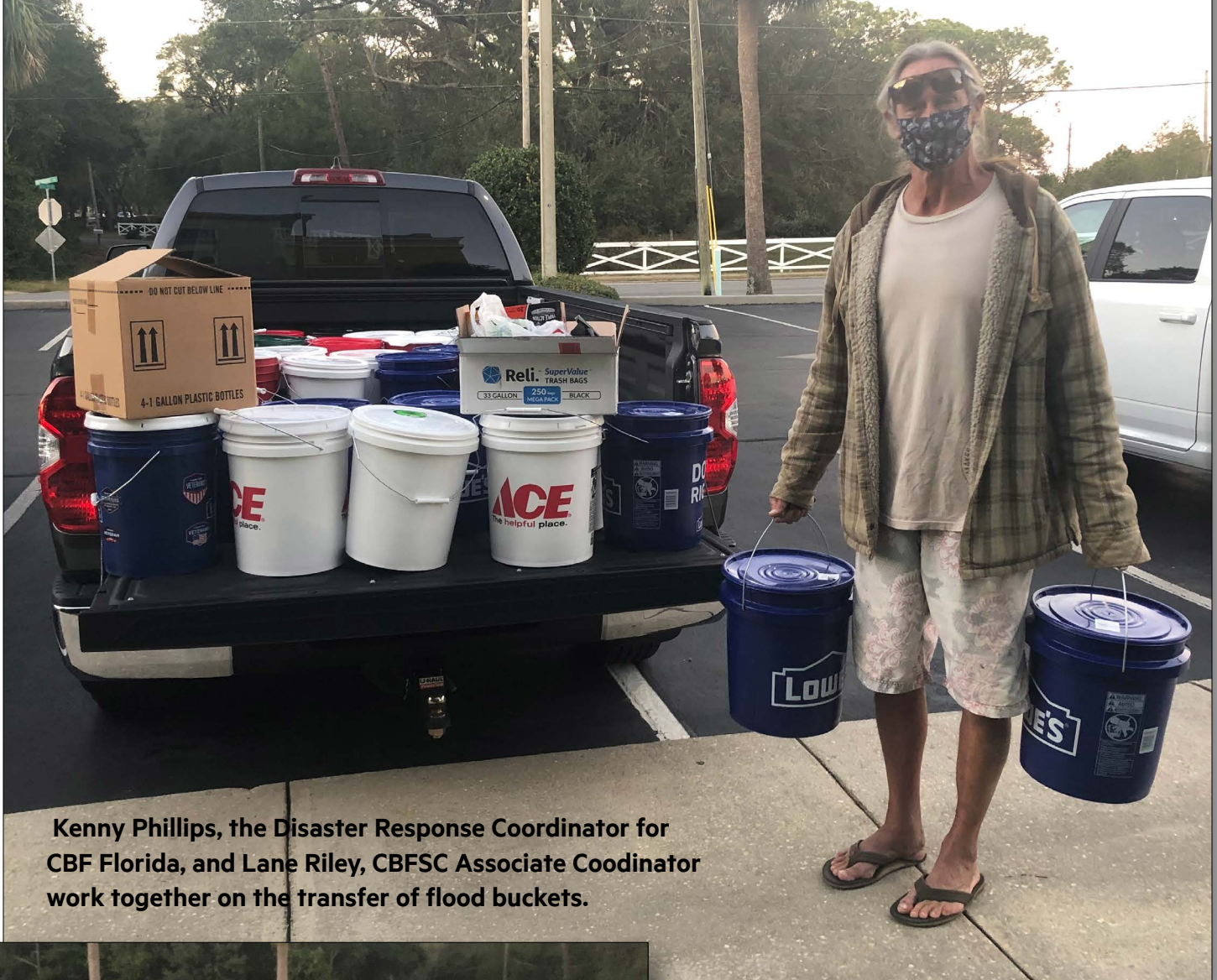
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Kenny Phillips, the Disaster Response Coordinator for CBF Florida, and Lane Riley, CBFSC Associate Coordinator work together on the transfer of flood buckets.



CBFSC churches donate 36 flood buckets

CBF South Carolina has always been generous in supporting disaster response efforts.

Five CBFSC churches filled 36 five-gallon buckets with supplies that are needed immediately after a hurricane or tropical storm.

These buckets include items such as work gloves, brushes, detergent, and trash bags.

They were delivered to Florida on November 18, and given to Kenny Phillips, the Disaster Response Coordinator for CBF Florida.

Kenny will coordinate with local recovery efforts in Florida and Louisiana to people affected by recent storms. Thank you for everyone who contributed supplies and money for this project!