



AUGUST 2010

FELLOWSHIP

BEING THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD



The secret to international ministry: Build relationships first

Become a friend first. That, says Aki Shigemi, is the first step toward introducing the gospel to internationals who have never heard about Jesus Christ. "Our ultimate goal is to introduce them to Jesus' love," said Aki, "and the best way we can do that is to build relationships."

Aki and his wife Yoko are CBFSC ministers to internationals. From their home in Anderson, they do what they can to build relationships with internationals throughout the state and from any country.

"We have many internationals in our communities," he said. "I would like to educate members in our churches and help them improve communication skills with Internationals. There are many cultural differences. Both sides would benefit. Both sides can learn."

Yoko is a chaplain who works with the sick and dying. "Many people, particularly Internationals, are afraid when they know they are about to die," she said. "Sometimes cancer patients want to fight death. I want to educate them about the meaning of the end of life and help

them make good decisions. I want to help them have a quality life right up to the end."

Churches that want to establish an international ministry don't have to look far. "The international population is increasing in South Carolina," Aki said. "These people become a part of your community and it is necessary to reach out to them. If they keep their religion and do not touch the cross of Jesus, our society will before long become non-Christian."

Aki said churches could, for example, sponsor English as a Second Language classes, which would not only help internationals improve their English but would give church members time to build those important relationships. "We often have difficulty understanding each other," he said. "Both teachers and students need patience in listening because cross-cultural communication is a key to introduce Jesus' love and salvation to them."

Yoko feels called to minister to all internationals because she can understand how difficult it is to live in U.S. She helps them learn how to cope. "It's hard," she said. "Everything is different. I want to help them with their challenges and how to adapt to this country."

Each of the Shigemis is part of the ministry team. Isaac attends Japanese services with his parents and when there is no pianist, he plays violin.

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The work of Aki and Yoko is made possible through your gifts to the **JUST SHARING** Offering for State Missions. Because of budget shortfalls, the money available to support Aki and Yoko has gradually been reduced. Aki has another job but would like to work fulltime for CBF and in church ministry type settings. "We need to expand the international ministry which Aki and Yoko have a vision to do but both time and funds for this are very limited," Beverly said.



Brush up on your U.S. history when you talk to Aki, Yoko and Isaac—new U.S. citizens

by Beverly Greer

Aki and Yoko Shigemi are ministers working with internationals in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina community. Aki is also the CBF Asian Coordinator. You might want to brush up on your American history and government if you talk with them. Aki, Yoko and their son Isaac are among our newest United States citizens. When I read a sample of the citizenship test questions, a few of my answers might qualify for Jay Leno's "People on the Street" segment.

The Shigemis have been legal residents of the United States for 16 years. "I paid taxes but could not vote," Aki said. "I was a guest of this society. Now I am a member of this society. I want to contribute fairly with other American citizens."

"On Independence Day I felt I was part of the celebrations," Yoko said. "Before I got my citizenship, it was another country's independence. Afterwards I felt it was mine. It's not another country's story, it's my



country's story and I wanted to celebrate. I feel a responsibility for this country to contribute to the people living here."

Isaac, a violinist, is a student at the Governor's School for the Arts in Greenville. This summer he is attending a three week violin camp at the University of North Carolina music school. Yoko, said that Isaac is proud of his Japanese heritage and is also proud to be an American citizen.

The Shigemis have been model guest citizens for 16 years. Isn't it great that they are officially United States citizens? I feel a need to do a bit of studying so I will not embarrass myself when it comes to my knowledge of United States history and government!

International ministry—

(continued from page 1)

"Both Yoko and Aki want to be good church members and supporters of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship," said CBFSC missions coordinator Beverly Greer. "They want to carry their responsibility. They both

expressed their passion to reach people who need the gospel."

Aki will lead a Bible study for internationals in Anderson this fall. "My vision is that we will create an international

mission group to reach out to the international population in this community," he said. His next step will be to start similar groups in Greenville, Greenwood, Aiken and Columbia.

International ministry needs:

- ▶ Bibles and hymnals in the languages of the various cultures.
- ▶ Money for travel to introduce international ministry to churches.
- ▶ Christian newspapers in Japanese. (100 needed each month)
- ▶ Christian training materials and mission magazines in various languages.
- ▶ Bibles and hymnals for international students for a Bible study that Aki is planning to start at Anderson



Aki and Yoko work with internationals from any country, such as this family from Mexico and this couple from _____.



Aki says the Japanese Christians in South Carolina often make copies of the CBFSC and national CBF newsletters to share with friends. "We get one for each family," he said. "If they want to talk with another family about Christianity they have to photocopy it so they can keep one and share one. This becomes quite expensive."

What we offer is HOPE

1 Cor. 13:13 records these words of Paul, "And now faith, hope and love abide. These three; and the greatest of these is love." (NRSV)

Part of what that passage says earlier is if I do good things, say good things, give to good causes, and have faith, that's not enough. Well, what is enough? In his commentary, William Barclay writes that Paul stresses the absolute supremacy of love. "Great as faith and hope are, love is greater. Faith without love is cold, and hope without love is grim. Love is the fire which kindles faith and it is the light which turns hope into certainty."



MISSION COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

By Beverly Greer

the store and buy responsibility and dependability. Neither can you buy love and hope. You can't buy a jar of hope or love so where do they come from? Christians believe that Christ gives hope through his love. Christ manifested faith, hope and love by his actions. We don't require people to be Christians to help them. Jesus didn't require people to be his followers to help them. It wasn't about helping only those who followed him. It was about lifting up all people."

I was reminded by another friend that hope can be a good thing that energizes and gives life. But, if what you hoped for doesn't come to pass, then it becomes a source of pain and frustration.

Our love, when motivated by God's love, will open for us exciting avenues of service. Our service to the marginalized and forgotten and keeping our promises to them is how they experience the presence of Christ and have hope.

With joy I see people in the South Carolina Fellowship community being the presence of Christ, lifting people up and giving them hope with love that comes from God. "And now faith, hope and love abide. These three; and the greatest of these is love."

ABBA'S Kitchen News

Abba's Kitchen is an 'oasis' for students in Allendale

USC Salkehatchie student Richarde Anderson (pictured at right) told the CBFSC General Assembly that "Abba's Kitchen is a weekly oasis for college students in Allendale. Students receive support, encouragement, fellowship, and a challenge to give back to the community."

Richarde was one of seven students from Abba's Kitchen who attended the 2010 General Assembly at Pelham Road Baptist Church in Greenville. After seeing other college students at the meeting, the USC Salkehatchie students said they would like opportunities for fellowship and missions projects with other college ministry groups.

Abba's Kitchen is the name of the ministry that First Baptist Church Allendale and CBFSC sponsor at USA Salkehatchie.

Abba's Kitchen is planning a trip to Atlanta, GA, on **Aug. 27**. USC Salkehatchie students will mentor young students on Saturday morning and take leadership roles in the worship service at North River Baptist Church in Roswell, GA on Sunday morning. The students will also enjoy white water rafting and attend an Atlanta Braves game. All of this for the price of \$52. Carol Holladay, who directs Abba's Kitchen, **invites other college groups/students to go on the trip**. If interested, go to the Abba's Kitchen Facebook page or email Carol at firstbapch@bellsouth.net.

ONGOING DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR:

Abba's Kitchen offers a Sunday evening coffee house with small group Bible study and Wii game competition for fun.



September 25, 2010 is Fall Work Day in Allendale.

The Allendale planning committee is working with local individuals and agencies to coordinate relationships between persons needing assistance and volunteers coming to assist on work day. The goal is to have every project adopted by a church or group before September 1. This will enable the church/group to have calls or visits with the project contact and plan for the job in advance of the work day. Materials are to be supplied by the person needing assistance unless otherwise specified. If your church or group is willing to sponsor the labor for a project, please let Carol Holladay at First Baptist Church Allendale (firstbapch@bellsouth.net) know.

Current projects include:

1	John Harter Nursing Home	Vacation Bible School for the residents including Bible stories, games, and crafts. Grilling hamburgers/hot dogs for lunch.
2	Small community church	Paint exterior (painted cement block) walls of church. Workers need to bring a paint brush or roller.
3	Elderly disabled single female	Residential dwelling needs walls painted and some small dry wall repair. Also needs linoleum tile installed in kitchen. Supplies on site.
4	Elderly male	Residential carpentry repair to home. All materials to be provided.
5	Community church	Landscaping project around front entrance to church to replace shrubs/landscaping. Mulch provided. Donations appreciated. Damage to grounds by septic tank repair.
6	Health fair screenings	Provide health fair for individuals working during week days when normal health fair occurs. Morning in Allendale community and afternoon in the Brunson community.
7	handicapped ramp	Build handicapped ramp in Brunson community. Materials provided.
8	Allendale animal shelter	Need skilled laborers to oversee roof addition and add fencing. Materials provided.
9	Low Country Healthy Start	Sponsor a baby shower to expectant mothers. Give materials, solicit pampers/baby items for advertised baby shower. There is a high infant mortality rate in Allendale County. Volunteers will assist workers with health information/car seat checks, and teach healthy habits.
10	Allendale Assembly Church	Full day of children's activities including coordinated face painting, games, inflatable fun, crafts for children.
11	DHEC/Carolina Smiles Children's Health Camp	Teach children how to make healthy snacks/exercise. Coordinate efforts with DHEC/Carolina Smiles to improve health through good dental hygiene and dental care.



STATE MISSION OFFERING

We have items available to help you promote the State Mission Offering. There are bookmarks, posters, envelopes, and a promotional CD. If any of these items would be useful to you in promoting missions work within South Carolina, call or email Debbie Haag in the office. She will get them to you right away.

Fall Work day in the Upstate is Oct. 23
The site and specific projects are yet to be determined.



Young Leaders is more than a name for a program

Kerionne is just one example of the success of Metanoia's Young Leaders program.

METANOIA BY BILL STANFIELD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Students becoming young leaders

A couple of years ago, Kerionne came to us looking for opportunities to perform community service. He had thrown a rock at another kid at a bus stop, and, when he got to his middle school, the police were there to intervene.

Kerionne's story has become a great example of what we are working to do here at Metanoia. During his community service time, we noticed Kerionne had exceptional manners. He was a hard worker who lacked positive role models and a sense of others believing in him. We saw him for his strengths not his deficits.

When his community service hours were completed, we enrolled him in our regular programming.

This past year Stacy Brown and David Hutchinson—who mentor Kerionne daily in our programs—got him out of the remedial tracks he had been put in that would not even earn him a high school diploma. He is now in a better educational plan that recognizes his capabilities.

We worked to improve his grades and he has begun to earn income by

learning the skill of screen printing. He is now the key printer in our Hodari Brothers Screen Printing company (call Metanoia to get your church t-shirts made!).

This summer Kerionne has joined six other students who have grown up around Metanoia to become Junior Servant Leader Interns. As a JSL, he works for a small stipend at Metanoia's Freedom School. He assists our college aged Servant Leader Interns in classroom management and program execution.

This is a big deal, not just for Kerionne but for Metanoia. When we first began our youth leadership programming with a handful of elementary aged students, our goal was to raise up a new generation of leaders for our community.

In watching our JSLs make the transition from participant to leader, we are seeing that dream become a reality. The amazing thing is that each of the JSLs has a story as compelling as Kerionne's. Special thanks to everyone in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina for making these kinds of stories routine here at Metanoia.

RECOGNITIONS

AWARDS

Metanoia is not only well-known around CBFSC but has also made a name for itself in the Charleston area and beyond. Here are some of the most recent recognitions that have come to the organization that CBFSC birthed and supports through our [Just Sharing State Mission Offering](#).

Spring 09 – **Erin Hardwick Award for Excellence** in Non-Profit Management, given by S.C. Association of Non Profit Organizations.

Fall 09 – Designated as one of 10' **Angels' by the SC Secretary of State**, out of more than 8,000 registered charities in S.C.

Spring 2010 – Received the **National Metlife Community Police Partnership Award** for crime reduction that has occurred as a result of its work (one of six out of more than 650 applicants)



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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I need something to fill this space.

TFH²

CBF's Together for Hope initiative focuses on the 20 poorest counties in the country. But every state/CBF region has its own poorest county and most have ongoing work those counties. In South Carolina, our efforts are focused in Allendale.

To facilitate the various work of the states and region, coordinate efforts and share information, leaders from those states have formed the TFH² (Together For Hope Squared) Council. CBFSC Missions Coordinator Beverly Greer is chair. Because of our work in Allendale County and participation in the TFH Council, some 2011 CBF Missions literature will feature Allendale County.