## Former Baptist pastor in India completing graduate work at Lutheran

### 'The crisis demanded that I leave India'

Zadda R. Chakravarthy (Chaks) has found his way from a theological school in India to the Baptist Studies program at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS) in Columbia.

"Seeing the dangerous context and growing need for missions in India and to protect me, God opened a door for me to study at LTSS," said Chaks. "Though it was hard for me to leave my wife and children, the crisis demanded that I leave India."

Chaks is currently the only international student on campus, said Ginger Barfield, director of the Baptist Studies program. "Chaks has been a great asset to the student make-up on campus," she said. "He has brought a much broader perspective to our classes (not just the Baptist classes) in terms of theology and cultural awareness. Chaks was a member of our Baptist Leadership and Polity class last semester. So many of the issues that seem vital in American church culture are so marginal in a country such as his where Christianity is a minority faith. As we

talked in terms of the need to be missional churches, Chaks challenged all of us to consider what that really meant."

Chaks was a student in Gurukul Lutheran Theological College working on a post-graduate degree when he took a theology course in 2005 taught by Phillip Backer, director for missiology and evangelism at LTSS. Backer encouraged him to come to Columbia to study. Chaks is now working on a Masters of Sacred

As he continues his study in Columbia, Chaks would like to speak in South Carolina churches about persecution in India and the challenges of the Indian church.

Zadda (Chaks) R.Chakravarthy Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary 4201, North Main Street, Columbia, SC 29203-5898 803.461.3346 chaks@ltss.edu Theology degree focusing on missions.

"India has closed its doors to foreign missionaries which has brought significant changes in missionary work," Chaks said. "Of the 1.08 billion people who live in India, only 2.5 percent are Christian. The challenge is to train Indian Christians to be missionaries to their neighbors. My vision is to be a missionary to my people and also train the Indian youth to do the same."

"Chaks has been able to challenge our thinking about foreign missions and evangelism and the cultural context," Ginger said. "He is a third generation Indian Christian but they are still struggling to contextualize the Christian faith in India. Missionaries for too long brought such an anglicized western Christianity to the foreign lands that it has been hard, once those missionaries left, for the indigenous people to develop the faith and structures to sustain it."

"Baptist work among the Telugu-speaking people is very

challenging," Chaks said. "I have noticed a strong growth in rural areas, and more stable second and third generation Christians in towns and cities. However, the Convention is suffering with serious leadership crises."

"People in India who convert to Christianity face serious economic, social, and political consequences," Chaks said. "They are denied bank loans, scholarships and government employment. Christians, particularly pastors, are often targets of violent actions by radical Hindu fundamentalists."

Because there are relatively few Chrisitans in India, denominations there are more unified than in the U.S. and seminaries are mostly ecumenical rather than denominational. (continued on page 3)



hristian people, and others, throw around the word "love" as if everybody who uses it means the same thing. I once heard Dr. Clyde Francisco say that the word "love" has grown tired from having to carry so much weight over the years. Teenagers say "I love you" in the back seat of a car to someone they didn't even know two hours before. An abusive father, full of alcoholic rage, says to his teenage son as he is beating him, "I am doing this because I love you." Husbands and wives declare their love to one another and then misbehave. Evangelicals say it to non-Christians and then treat the people to whom they are witnessing with disrespect.

Somebody told me that if something felt like a punch in the stomach, it probably was. You can say, "I'm doing this for your own good," but if you hurt me in the process, then I am going to question whether you really love me. Probably, you are doing something that meets your needs more than mine.

Loving a person requires that we treat them with dignity and respect, that the "Lovee" be listened to in determining what are their needs and desires. For generations, white folks assumed that they knew best what their black neighbors needed. Historically, men made decisions on behalf of the women in their family. At

worst, such attitudes created hostile and cruel environments. At best, such attitudes were patronizing.

Christians have not been exempt. We have too often assumed that "Christian knows best," and organized our cultures in ways that made us happy, no matter how they affected others. We created Blue



Laws that protected our Christian day of worship even though we ignored the Jewish Sabbath.

Listening to others is not something we do easily. Like a lot of other Christians, I have been so full of myself and my agendas that I have talked, talked, talked, pushed, pushed, pushed, argued, argued, argued, insisted, insisted, convinced, convinced, convinced, when

a more loving thing to do would have been to shut up and listen. What are your needs? What do you think?

Long ago, a female friend who had been divorced was telling me the sad story of her failed marriage. She described one Valentine's Day when she cooked her unappreciative husband an omelet in the shape of a heart. What a romantic gesture! And what a jerk she thought he was for not valuing her gift. As I later reflected on her story, I wondered if she had met her need or his. Maybe the way to that husband's heart required the gift of a couple of fishing lures or some golf balls, not an omelet in the shape of a heart. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is attempting to ask the Lovee what love looks and feels like. This is affecting the way we evangelize and do missions. Instead of telling the person we are attempting to love what he or she needs, why not ask them some questions? I Corinthians 13 tells us that even angelic eloquence doesn't mean much if the words are not backed up by loving actions. It also tells us that remarkable and fabulous actions are equally meaningless if they are not undergirded by genuine love.

This year, for Valentine's Day, let's make a commitment to let the Lovee help us understand exactly what it means to love.

# Ted Mears is new pastor in Florence

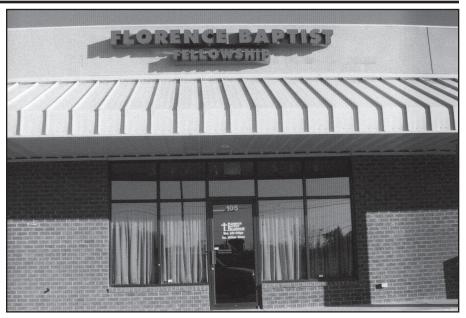
Ted Mears is the new pastor of Florence Baptist Fellowship, effective Jan. 11. He succeeds Brantley Freeman of Lugoff who had served as bivocational pastor since October 2003.

"Florence Baptist Fellowship is quite fortunate to gain a pastor with the experience and stature of Ted Mears on a full-time basis," Brantley said. "

Ted previously served as pastor in Florence at Ebenezer Baptist Church from 1971 until his retirement in 1986. He has also been pastor in Hartsville, Kingstree, Great Falls, Lugoff, and Blackville.

Since his retirement, he has been interim pastor of five churches.

Ted and his wife Betty have two sons, a daughter, and nine grandchildren.



Florence Baptist Fellowship began meeting in this space in November, Century 21 Plaza on South Irby Street.



### A CHRISTMAS GIFT

North Charleston councilwoman Gussie Greene was one of several dignataries invited to the *Metanoia* Christmas party in December. While she was there, she made a personal gift to the ministry. Accepting is Imani, one of the Young Leaders.

Eveyln Oliveira and Bill Stanfield, the directors of *Metanoia*, are available to speak in churches. Contact them at metanoia@cbfofsc.org.

**Metanoia** is the urban ministry of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina. Visit its web site at www.pushingforward.org.

# Financial update

July 1-Dec. 31, 2005

Unrestricted Gifts \$230,274 Expenses \$202,773

(not including designated gifts)
Undesignated revenues

over expenses \$64,401

The annual budget (excluding designated gifts) is \$491,331.

#### **Designated Gifts**

State Missions \$27,672 Scholarships \$6,638 Allendale Misson Project \$100 **Baptist Studies Program** \$1,990 Metanoia \$100 Katrina Response \$49,426 Other Restricted Donations \$30,668 Interest Income \$2,390 **Total Designated Gifts** \$118,984

Pass through to

National CBF \$288,317

These figures represent the first six months of the 2005-06 fiscal year for SC/CBF. They should not be confused with the figures on the inserted page which are for the calendar year 2005.

### Indian student brings different view —

(continued from page 1)

Chaks is the son of Christian parents who worked with foreign missionaries in mission schools. After finishing a masters degree in electronics and communications in 1995, Chaks decided to enter full-time ministry. He enrolled in Union Biblical Seminary in India and served four years as pastor of Stanton Memorial Telugu Baptist Church. After completing his studies there, he moved to Gurukul to earn another degree.

In January Chaks attended a symposium in Geneva, "The Ecumenical Church in a Globalized World – Implications for Ministry," organized by the Lutheran World Federation to expose and equip seminarians for global challenges.

Chaks is married to Glory, and they have two children, Richie, 8, and Serene, 6. They remained behind in India while he

came to the U.S. to study.

"Students, faculty, and staff have a great deal of respect for Chaks," Ginger said. "He is doing incredibly well academically and hopes to go on to do a Ph. D. in missiology when he finishes here. He is personable and vibrant in his faith. He has many friends on campus. He is also seeking to become active with the Indian residents in the Columbia area. He does miss his wife and children and we hope to arrange a trip for them here before the year is out."

Chaks frequently attends Eau Claire Baptist Church next door to the seminary and also visits other churches in the Columbia area.

"We are fortunate to have the benefit of his presence in the Baptist Studies Program," Ginger said.

### Scholarships

For the spring semester, the Leadership Development Committee awarded scholarships to 15 students studying at CBF-related seminaries. Most of the students received \$600.

### **Disaster Response Coordinator**

Marion Black, a member of First Baptist Church in Orangeburg, has agreed to head up disaster response work for SC/CBF. He will be working as a volunteer. CBF had asked each state to appoint a person to be responsible for this important area of ministry. Marion and his wife Shirley have been disaster response volunteers for several years. Phone: (803) 823-2521. Email: crzylzrd@juno.com.



## Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina

P.O. Box 11159 Columbia, SC 29211



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#### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### February 2006

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SC/CBF Website: www.cbfofsc.org National CBF: www.thefellowship.info

# 2006 General Assembly • Spartanburg • April 28-29 Being neighbors in a global community

Something new is being added to the General Assembly program this year

— **South Carolina Spotlight**. This luncheon meeting will kick off the assembly April 28-29 at Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg.

David Holland, the founding pastor of Tidal Creek Fellowship in the Beaufort area, will talk about that work. The Spotlight lunch begins at noon. The business and afternoon sessions will follow.

James Somerville, pastor of First Bap-

tist Church in Washington, DC, will be the guest speaker for the Assembly

Jack Snell, interim coordinator for Global Missions for CBF, will speak at the Missions Banquet.

Being neighbors in a global community is the theme. Seventeen exhibitors and 16 breakout sessions are already scheduled.

A brochure with more information and a registration form will be included in the March issue of this newsletter. Or, you can register now online.

### Friday, April 28

11:00 a.m. Registration begins

12-1:15 p.m. South Carolina

Spotlight Luncheon

David Holland will tell the story

of Tidal Creek Fellowship

1:15-2:45 p.m. Business session

3-4 p.m. Breakout Session 1

4:15-5:15 p.m. Affinity/interest groups

5:30-6:45 p.m. Missions Banquet

7:00 p.m. Worship

(including Lord's Supper)

After Worship Fellowship

(exhibits open)

#### Saturday, April 29

8:30-9 a.m. Juice & Java 9-10 a.m. Breakout Session 2

10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship

10:30-11:45 a.m. Worship

# Hotel Information

Refer to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina when making reservations at either place. Host hotel: Radisson Hotel & Suites Spartanburg

9027 Fairforest Road ((I-85 & I-26)

864.574.2111

\$79 single or double occupancy. Includes full breakfast.

Deadline for reservations: March 26

Courtyard Marriott, 110 Mobile Drive

864.585.2400

\$69 king or double. Does not include breakfast.

Deadline for reservations: April 12

Looking toward to the fall: Fall Convocation • Nov. 13

The focus will be on missions.

## Gifts given through CBF of South Carolina

January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005

These are gifts given through SC/CBF. Some churches may make direct gifts to CBF National, and to other designated causes. State **CBF** Global CBF of SC **TOTAL Missions National Missions** Other Augusta Heights Baptist Church Greenville \$296.80 \$620.00 \$271.80 \$230.00 \$805.00 \$2,223.60 Augusta Road Baptist Church Greenville \$2,514.54 \$94.00 \$4,669.76 \$317.00 \$1,510.00 \$9,105.30 Belmont Baptist Church Columbia \$154.52 \$35.00 \$286.94 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$476.46 Berea First Baptist Church Greenville \$70.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$70.00 Blaney Baptist Church Elgin \$1,696.63 \$456.00 \$906.52 \$510.00 \$0.00 \$3,569.15 \$29,138.23 \$54,113.84 Boulevard Baptist Church Anderson \$2,974.00 \$850.23 \$350.00 \$87,426.30 Brunson Baptist Church Brunson \$1,714.11 \$425.00 \$2,423.23 \$1,573.75 \$4,485.00 \$10,621.09 \$494.68 \$0.00 Cedar Spring Baptist Church Spartanburg \$266.36 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$761.04 Chesterfield Baptist Church Chesterfield \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$1,731.93 \$0.00 \$1,731.93 Clearview Baptist Church Anderson \$4,909.94 \$1,648.00 \$2,193.00 \$2,643.87 \$685.00 \$12,079.81 Community Church of the Midlands \$50.00 \$50.00 \$50.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$150.00 \$3,993.22 \$0.00 Corinth Baptist Church Vance \$2,150.23 \$25.00 \$125.00 \$6,293.45 Cornerstone Baptist Church Hartsville \$1,737.77 \$0.00 \$955.14 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$2,692.91 Dean Swamp Baptist Church Springfield \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$815.00 \$0.00 \$815.00 Earle Street Baptist Church Greenville \$1,421.05 \$0.00 \$2,639.04 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$4,060.09 East Park Baptist Church Greenville \$34.51 \$0.00 \$65.44 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$99.95 Ebenezer Baptist Church Florence \$458.50 \$0.00 \$851.50 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$1,310.00 Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship Irmo \$1,734.14 \$258.00 \$3,220.48 \$302.38 \$1,316.00 \$6,831.00 Fernwood Baptist Church Spartanburg \$14,370.50 \$1,165.97 \$14,370.50 \$4,072.85 \$1,504.07 \$35,483.89 First Baptist Church Aiken \$66,165.28 \$3,012.00 \$0.00 \$67,275.68 \$21,558.82 \$158,011.78 First Baptist Church Allendale \$525.00 \$0.00 \$975.00 \$285.00 \$0.00 \$1,785.00 \$1,453.50 First Baptist Church Anderson \$15,438.49 \$28,671.38 \$5,886.38 \$0.00 \$51,449.75 First Baptist Church Belton \$3,918.94 \$0.00 \$7,278.00 \$8,771.56 \$16,795.47 \$36,763.97 First Baptist Church Clemson \$7,224.75 \$0.00 \$29,556.63 \$0.00 \$650.00 \$37,431.38 First Baptist Church Clinton \$1,810.71 \$100.00 \$3,362.62 \$435.00 \$200.00 \$5,908.33 First Baptist Church Conway \$0.00 \$8,099.35 \$0.00 \$8,415.50 \$4,361.21 \$20,876.06 \$7,651.82 First Baptist Church Denmark \$1,479.84 \$1,517.71 \$212.98 \$4,441.29 \$0.00 First Baptist Church Easley \$2,483.94 \$0.00 \$4,613.03 \$0.00 \$545.00 \$7,641.97 First Baptist Church Edgefield \$1,500.47 \$0.00 \$2,786.53 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$4,287.00 First Baptist Church Gaffney \$2,171.76 \$0.00 \$4.033.22 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$6,204.98 First Baptist Church Greenville \$9,373.20 \$0.00 \$28,119.60 \$0.00 \$26,892.72 \$64,385.52 First Baptist Church Greenwood \$12,036.18 \$19,500.00 \$9,225.00 \$10,500.00 \$18,104.19 \$69,365.37 First Baptist Church Holly Hill \$3,546.65 \$0.00 \$4,479.39 \$1,118.00 \$0.00 \$9,144.04 First Baptist Church Inman \$2,998.10 \$0.00 \$509.31 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$3,507.41 First Baptist Church Lake City \$30,000.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$20,000.00 \$50,000.00 First Baptist Church Lancaster \$406.35 \$0.00 \$754.65 \$0.00 \$250.00 \$1,411.00 First Baptist Church Laurens \$304.14 \$0.00 \$564.85 \$745.00 \$0.00 \$1,613.99 First Baptist Church Loris \$673.20 \$0.00 \$501.80 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$1,175.00 First Baptist Church Mauldin \$457.10 \$0.00 \$848.90 \$0.00 \$4.256.65 \$5,562.65 First Baptist Church Newberry \$7,548.24 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$125.00 \$0.00 \$7,673.24 First Baptist Church North Charleston \$323.52 \$600.78 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$924.30 First Baptist Church Orangeburg \$14,666.67 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$16,100.00 \$1,433.33 First Baptist Church Pamplico \$1,283.67 \$95.00 \$0.00 \$1,019.56 \$1,000.00 \$3,398.23 First Baptist Church Pendleton \$5,072.56 \$1,252.00 \$9,420.44 \$1,007.65 \$0.00 \$16,752.65 First Baptist Church Piedmont \$620.00 \$2,940.43 \$935.00 \$1,100.00 \$1,575.67 \$7,171.10

	CBF of SC	State Missions	CBF National	Global Missions	Other	TOTAL
First Baptist Church Simpsonville	\$5,433.89	\$875.00	\$3,620.29	\$250.00	\$2,744.81	\$12,923.99
First Baptist Church Walterboro	\$12,604.08	\$2,122.50	\$23,411.76	\$4,707.16	\$0.00	\$42,845.50
First Baptist Church Woodruff	\$791.53	\$0.00	\$1,469.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,261.47
First Baptist Church York	\$3,295.47	\$547.50	\$6,120.06	\$3,171.20	\$0.00	\$13,134.23
Florence Baptist Fellowship Florence	\$1,811.00	\$650.00	\$1,811.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$4,872.00
Great Commision Baptist Church Lancaste	er \$21.00	\$0.00	\$39.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60.00
Greenlawn Baptist Church Columbia	\$2,318.86	\$10.00	\$3,626.99	\$1,576.28	\$230.86	\$7,762.99
Kathwood Baptist Church Columbia	\$13,917.46	\$0.00	\$23,989.54	\$7,895.00	\$65.00	\$45,867.00
Lakeview Baptist Church Camden	\$2,709.93	\$895.00	\$5,032.68	\$1,620.00	\$0.00	\$10,257.61
Lawtonville Baptist Church Estill	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,278.00	\$1,896.72	\$4,174.72
Mountain Bridge Community Church Green New Beginnings Baptist Fellowship	er \$567.94	\$0.00	\$1,054.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,622.59
West Columbia	\$235.00	\$0.00	\$65.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
New Heights Baptist Church Gaffney	\$3,090.78	\$0.00	\$5,739.93	\$1,965.05	\$2,212.00	\$13,007.76
New Hope Christian Fellowship						
West Columbia	\$1,213.55	\$0.00	\$2,253.68	\$1,356.00	\$1,914.37	\$6,737.60
Newkirk Baptist Church Rock Hill	\$187.86	\$0.00	\$348.89	\$1,520.72	\$0.00	\$2,057.47
Nixonville Chapel Conway	\$420.00	\$405.00	\$780.00	\$0.00	\$452.05	\$2,057.05
Oakland Baptist Church Rock Hill	\$35,626.50	\$8,544.39	\$23,751.00	\$12,816.58	\$257.20	\$80,995.67
Overbrook Baptist Church Greenville	\$667.91	\$0.00	\$1,001.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,669.78
Palmetto Missionary Baptist Church						
Conway	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Parisview Baptist Church Greenville	\$186.43	\$0.00	\$132.47	\$238.00	\$0.00	\$556.90
Pelham Road Baptist Church Greenville	\$3,064.90	\$0.00	\$5,694.93	\$3,571.50	\$1,612.68	\$13,944.01
Pendleton Street Baptist Church Greenville	e \$155.11	\$0.00	\$208.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$363.93
Providence Baptist Church Daniel Island	\$4,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$7,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,000.00
Rivertown Community Church Longs	\$900.00	\$1,247.00	\$0.00	\$4,701.03	\$1,500.00	\$8,348.03
Sans Souci Baptist Church Greenville	\$3,170.47	\$350.00	\$5,887.94	\$3,281.50	\$200.00	\$12,889.91
Shaws Fork Baptist Church Aiken	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
St. Andrews Baptist Church Columbia	\$14,345.84	\$843.25	\$26,642.17	\$4,498.24	\$0.00	\$46,329.50
Swift Creek Baptist Church Hartsville	\$1,123.82	\$50.00	\$2,087.01	\$460.00	\$0.00	\$3,720.83
The Baptist Church of Beaufort Beaufort The Bible Fellowship Baptist Church	\$28,713.73	\$3,784.65	\$9,835.24	\$12,172.04	\$822.24	\$55,327.90
North Myrtle Beach	\$3,512.68	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$861.18	\$0.00	\$4,373.86
Thee Baptist Worship Center Conway	\$28.00	\$0.00	\$52.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$80.00
Tidal Creek Fellowship Beaufort	\$470.00	\$0.00	\$830.00	\$150.00	\$2,715.00	\$4,165.00
Timberlake Baptist Church Myrtle Beach	\$2,279.20	\$0.00	\$4,232.78	\$100.00	\$1,000.00	\$7,611.98
Trinity Baptist Church Seneca	\$9,957.50	\$1,000.00	\$18,492.50	\$2,200.00	\$400.00	\$32,050.00
TOTAL CHURCH GIVING	\$413,281.66	\$50,631.98	\$439,063.06	\$195,314.93	\$141,125.16	\$1,239,416.79
TOTAL ALL INDIVIDUALS	\$33,457	\$2,345	\$10,815	\$4,275	\$3,135	\$54,027
TOTAL GIVING 2005	\$446,738.00	\$52,976.98	\$449,878.06	\$199,589.93	\$144,260.16	\$1,293,443.13

The category of "Other Designated" includes all other designated gifts such as to theological education, Katrina and tsunami response, new church starts, world hunger, and Japanese ministries.

# Thank you for your support of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in 2005.