

APRIL 2005

# FELLOWSHIP

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



## Finding **YOUR** mission field 40-day emphasis at Baptist Church of Beaufort helps members identify where they can best serve

*"My role is helping Christians make the connection between spiritual formation and missions. It is neat to see people respond." -Eric Spivey*

Since 2001, The Baptist Church of Beaufort has been looking toward its future through prayer and preparation rather than planning and predicting. "We want to look at how we can prepare our church for what God has in our future," said Eric Spivey, who was called in 2003 as associate pastor and minister of Christian formation and missions to lead what he calls the "ongoing futuring process."

"Through our prayer and preparation, we have determined that we want our church to be a world mission center," he said. "And as a result we have made changes to our organizational structure, to the way we give to missions, to the way we do missions and to the way we look at missions. We want to be missional Christians in a missional church."

To support that goal, the church has just completed a 40-day devotional series called "Becoming a Missional Christian: A 40 Day Missional Journey," based on Acts 1:8. Finding no material that suited their needs, Eric and other church staff developed their own study guide.

"We pulled together a variety of missional books and daily devotionals," Eric said. Each week's study guide included a scriptural devotional piece, a prayer, a missions opportunity and a chance to respond.

"We also developed a small group curriculum that we used in our Sunday School classes that went along beside the study material, and our worship focused on the theme for the week," he said.

A couple of special events were also held during the 40-day study. A "Get in the Game Ministry Fair" helped members find potential service opportunities at booths of the church's approximately 20 missions teams.

Near the end of the 40 days, a Missions Celebration was held to which local, state and international missions partners of the church were invited to participate. On Saturday of the celebration weekend, church members worked on local mission projects around the Beaufort area through a Mission Service Challenge.

The church ended its 40 Day Missional Journey with a Missional Christian Commissioning service on March 13. "We had spent 40 days helping members determine where God has called them and on this final day we passed out missionary ID cards for them to fill in their names and their mission field," said Harry Rowland, the church's pastor for the past nine years. "Their field could be a place, like work or neighborhood; a

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## The results of the 40-day journey

- 73 people committed to **BE** missional Christians.
- 3 people committed to be career missionaries.
- 6 people committed to be short term missionaries (1 month – 2 years).
- 111 people committed to pray for missions.
- 142 people committed to do missions with "Jerusalem" (Beaufort) mission partners.
- 71 people committed to do missions with "Judea" (regional) mission partners.
- 41 people committed to be a part of a "Samaria" (national) mission experience.
- 35 people committed to be a part of a "Ends of the Earth" (Global) mission experience (Belgium, Liberia, Haiti, or Winter Olympics in Italy).

**FINDING THEIR FIELD:** Kids from the Baptist Church of Beaufort bring cookies to the hospital emergency room during Mission Service Challenge.



From left, Julie, Jenna, Sally, and Lake.

## FAMILY

Years ago, I received a church newsletter in which the pastor spent half of his column every week lamenting that his family still lived far away in Texas while he was in South Carolina. I determined that I would never turn a newsletter column into a repetitive discourse about my family. And I haven't.

But, here is something you might find helpful. This is the official Aldridge Family Column, and it is past time for me to write it for my CBF of SC friends. Anyone who knows me knows that my greatest addiction is to the three women in my life, my wife Sally and my daughters Jenna and Julie.

Sally and I have been married 32 years, and she is my dear and trusted friend. Jenna, age 30, is a redheaded sweetheart, a fine Christian who lives only blocks from me with her husband, Thorne, and my only grandchild, Lake. Every now and then I need a Jenna-fix. I just need to spend time with her. We still take trips together, just she and I.

Julie, age 22, is currently studying abroad in Australia, until June, and I miss her enormously. However, her being gone is good for both of us as she becomes an independent young

woman (and as I make my peace with her being so far away from me). She has made Sally and me immensely proud of her in the past few years as she has matured emotionally and spiritually.

What I want you to know is that I have prayed for my daughters since *before* they were born. Why wait until there is a crisis? Before they had names, I knew we would need God's help, and we did! Here is the list of things I prayed for them even before I knew if they were male or female:

- Salvation and Christian growth
- Physical Health
- Emotional Health
- Friends
- Personality
- Education/Wisdom
- Daily Quiet Time
- Vocation
- Hobbies
- Spouse
- Children
- Self-discipline
- Sibling relationship
- Listening
- Independence from us/  
Dependence on God
- Play
- Teachers/Mentors/Coaches
- Strength and Power
- Grace toward self and others

There it is. There are people in South Carolina who know nothing else about me, but they know about my prayers for my daughters. Those prayers are probably the best thing I have ever done in my life.



By Marion Aldridge  
Coordinator

## 100 women attend annual conference at the beach

More than 100 women from 14 churches in South and North Carolina attended the second annual CBF Women's Conference March 11-13 at Myrtle Beach. Nancy Hastings Sehested, a pastor and prison chaplain from Asheville, NC, led the conference with sessions on "Companions for the Journey; Biblical Stories of Hope."

"She used biblical stories to describe how hope is alive — even after Good Friday and in the in-between time of Saturday — as we wait on Resurrection Sunday," said Christy McMillin-Goodwin, associate pastor at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill and one of the conference organizers.

The Membership/New Church Starts Committee of SC/CBF funded a part of the conference. "We could not have provided this conference without their help," Christy said.

Preceding the general conference, 12 clergy women met for a Women in Ministry Conference. Nancy spoke about power issues in the local church. National CBF helped to sponsor this conference.

Plans are already underway for next year's conference to be held in early March at the Hilton at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach.

### Hopkins is first to be featured

The CBF national website has added *Sermon of the Week* as a new feature. The first sermon posted was *Lessons from the Spider* by Tony Hopkins, pastor of FBC Greenwood. You can access it at [www.thefellowship.info/News/050307Hopkins.icm](http://www.thefellowship.info/News/050307Hopkins.icm).

### Golden Strip church start

The new church start in the Golden Strip area of Greenville County has found a "permanent" temporary home. The group is meeting Sundays at 7 p.m. in the chapel of Fletcher Funeral Home, 1218 North Main Street in Fountain Inn. Steven Smith, a hospital chaplain in Greenville, is heading up the effort. He may be reached at [kemperboy1@juno.com](mailto:kemperboy1@juno.com) or call him at 864.962.1652.

“The Swamp Dolphins” was one of the teams organized during the sports camp the Baptist Church of Beaufort led for its “Samaria” mission partner – Touching Miami with Love.

Since turning its focus to being a missional church, the Baptist Church of Beaufort has been actively involved with Touching Miami with Love, the SC/CBF partnership in Belgium; and Metanoia. It has ongoing mission efforts on Daufuskie Island and in Haiti. The church also plans to send representatives to the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Birmingham, England this summer, and to connect with work in Liberia. Church youth also have their annual missions projects.



## 40-day emphasis at Baptist Church of Beaufort —

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people group, like children, youth, or the poor; or those in certain life situations, like the elderly, the dying, or victims of disease.”

“I think our missional emphasis has given people a renewed vision and purpose for being here,” Harry said. “It has made people realize that missions is a part of their lives, and made them more conscious to share Christ every day.”

A by-product of the missional emphasis has been more intergenerational activities. “We might have some people in their 70s going on a missions trip with several of our youth,” Harry said. “I think church members know and appreciate each other better.”



BCOB members provided free car checks during Mission Service Challenge.

“Our goal has been to help our people grow spiritually locally, then send them out,” Eric said. “We have now seen an attitude change. Our focus is on the outside. We are excited about what God is doing.”

Eric Spivey at Touching Miami with Love.



**Eric Spivey** for eight years was a North American Mission Board missionary assigned to the Savannah River Baptist Association to do resort and community missions on Hilton Head. As the Baptist Church of Beaufort (where he was a member) began its missional process, Eric found himself called to join the church staff. From Savannah, he had also been a resort missionary at Dollywood and Six Flags over Texas. He and his wife Marcia are parents of two daughters.



## Brown is new student minister at Oakland in Rock Hill

David Brown, former associate pastor at Parisview Baptist Church in Greenville, is now Associate Minister to Students at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill. “Things are going well so far, though I’m very busy trying to get my feet under me,” he said. “There is so much excitement and potential here. This spring, I am really focusing on youth ministry but later I plan to do more with campus ministry and hope we will launch a broader ministry to college students this fall.” David is a member of the Coordinating Council for SC/CBF where he serves on the Missions Committee.

## Internationals?

The Missions Committee of SC/CBF wants to hear about ongoing ministries your congregation is involved in that reach out to (or involve) **internationals living in your communities**. If you are involved in such a ministry, please contact David Brown at Oakland Baptist Church, 803.328.3864 or [dbrown@oaklandchurch.com](mailto:dbrown@oaklandchurch.com).

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## Festival by the Sea: **Youth learn value of music in worship**

What would bring 265 teenagers and 100 adults together for a weekend? It would have to be the Festival By the Sea youth choir festival sponsored each year by CBF. This group gathers annually at Springmaid Resort to spend the weekend rehearsing good, quality music in preparation for a concluding worship experience designed around the anthems.

Choirs from 13 churches in South and North Carolina attended the festival March 11-13. "Not only did the teenagers spend much time rehearsing music, they spent great times together developing friendships that will last a

lifetime," said Shelden Timmerman, associate pastor for music at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill and an organizer of the festival. "From the Penguin Challenge to the dance, to times around the pool to time rehearsing and worshipping together to these teenagers learned a great deal about one another, about music, and about how music helps them relate to God."

Next year's festival is scheduled for March 24-26, 2006, at Springmaid Resort. Participation is limited to the first 300 singers registered. Details will be released early this summer.

Website: [www.festivalbythesea.net](http://www.festivalbythesea.net)

## **Fellowship at the beach:**

2005 General Assembly. Timberlake Baptist Church at Myrtle Beach April 22-23. Featuring Patsy Davis from the Baptist World Alliance and Ria Deneut from the Union of Baptists in Belgium. Only cost, \$15, for the Missions Banquet meal. Go to [www.cbfofsc.org](http://www.cbfofsc.org) to register online or to download a registration form, or to get hotel information.

## **SC Baptist Historical Society to meet prior to Assembly**

The South Carolina Baptist Historical Society will hold its spring meeting at the Litchfield Inn on April 22 at 11:30 a. m. in conjunction with the SC/CBF General Assembly. Charles Dewese of the Baptist History and Heritage Society will speak on "Baptist Women Deacons: Some Recent Trends." He is currently writing a book on women deacons that will be published by Mercer University Press.

The meeting is open to anyone interested. Reservations are necessary if you want to have a meal, available for \$15. Please contact Glen Clayton at (846) 834-8326 or by email at [jlclayto5@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlclayto5@bellsouth.net) or Shirley Hickson at 9 Hillington Place, Greer, SC 29651.

## Festival by the Sea

