

FELLOWSHIP



BEING THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST—THAT IS, DOING MISSIONS—HAPPENS EVERYWHERE.

We have many people in CBFSC churches engaged in missional activities, people such as Inman's Jeremiah Childers, shown here. Is he in Hilton Head, Allendale, Haiti, Alabama, Greenville, Charleston, Rock Hill, Ukraine? Does it matter? For these three boys, he is the presence of Christ in this moment.

Signs obvious that change has come to Allendale

By Carrie Veal, chair elect of the CBFSC Missions Team
Associate pastor for children, Morningside Baptist Church, Spartanburg

In the fall of 2009, I sat on a hotel bed in Atlanta looking through a file folder. I was a writer for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's *Spark* missions education curriculum and had been given my assignments for the next year. Here are some of the comments that were in that folder.

There's nothing to do here, so kids use drugs and have sex just to have something to do. The city is a part of the Corridor of Shame. There are so many abandoned homes, businesses, and buildings. No one comes to Allendale, they only leave.

My assignment was to write about how two states, South Carolina and Louisiana, were making inroads in their state's rural poverty. When I read the words in my folder, I had to wonder if money was all that was needed. I jotted some notes and went to bed. The folder was put away since the assignment was not due for several more months.

Five months later I was in Allendale. It was a cold, rainy March day and a group of us were doing research for the assignment whose deadline was approaching. I was now living in South Carolina so my assignment was suddenly personal.

That day I saw hopelessness. Hotels that were falling apart, restaurants that had been out of service for years, and homes that looked like they had been made of paper and someone had just crumpled them up and left them there. Soon I had a terrible headache. How was I to write about Allendale and give any good news?



Flash forward to a warm, bright June day. I was back in Allendale for the fourth time. Three work days had come and gone since that first trip. On this day I arrived in Allendale and met with several friends from the Missions Team. We loaded into a van and drove around Allendale to see parts of town we had not previously seen. We visited all six neighborhoods to see how the folks in Allendale live. This was where my eyes were opened. I saw houses that looked brand new next to those that were abandoned and needed to be torn down. There were perfectly manicured lawns and yards full of weeds. And there were neighbors helping each other make a difference in their communities.

While we commented on what we saw as assets to each neighborhood, we also commented on how we felt encouraged that Allendale residents were on a mission to make their town a better place. No longer were they satisfied with being a part of the Corridor of Shame.

Following our ride around town we met for lunch and conversation with local residents and others. We listened to one another. A man from Christ Central, a ministry in Allendale that Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina gave early assistance to with labor and funds, shared a new ministry that focuses on recovery. He spoke with such enthusiasm and

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Together for Hope

THE FELLOWSHIP'S RURAL POVERTY MINISTRY

Launched in 2001, Together for Hope is CBF's long-term commitment to working with people in 20 of the nation's poorest counties in order to affect change and break the cycle of economic disparity. The ministry is about establishing long-term relationships, listening, learning and walking alongside local leaders. The hope is that communities will be transformed as will the churches and individuals who serve in focal counties. These counties are in 5 locations; Appalachia, Mississippi River Delta, Rio Grande Valley, Alabama and South Dakota,

In 2006 Allendale County was designated a TFH2 county. TFH2 counties are so designated because they have similar challenges to the original 20 counties and the state has made a long term commitment to work with the people in these counties.



As Missions Coordinator, Beverly Greer represents Allendale County on the Together For Hope council, and this year serves as the facilitator on the Lead Team.

For additional information on Together For Hope go to this website. <http://www.thefellowship.info/togetherforhope>

CBFSC and individual churches in South Carolina work with various projects in Allendale throughout the year. Our most recent project has been to provide backpacks and school supplies to students in preparation for the new year.

Allendale City Council member Lottie Lewis, a leader in the Sugar Hill Flat Street Neighborhood Association; Terri Boone, Director of Salkehatchie Leadership Institute; Cleveland Stokes, Chaplain for the Allendale Correctional Center.



Allendale— continued from page 1

gusto that all of us were inspired to hear more. We heard from the new neighborhood associations that have formed. These folks shared what they are working towards in their communities and informed us how CBFSC can be a part of it.

In the middle of all this positive change sits one woman. Those of us who grew up Baptist know all about Lottie Moon and the difference she made in China. Allendale has a Lottie too—Lottie Lewis—and she is out to show the people she lives among that their town can be a place where people come and not leave.

Things are changing in Allendale. They are moving towards hope and fullness. There is still a lot of work to



A happy young girl and the bookcase she decorated at the Reading Fair on Operation We Care Allendale day.

"If I'm asked what's the single most important thing to do to address poverty in the U.S., I'll say literacy."

—Tom Prevost, first director of Together For Hope

Reading Fair— missions in your own community

A Reading Fair is something every church can do to address poverty in its community. Let us help you explore how you can use this effective program as a ministry to begin to bring change to the lives of young children who live in poverty near you. Contact Beverly Greer at beverly@cbfosc.org.

be done and maybe there always will be. But between those who live there and those like CBFSC volunteers who go there, Christ is present in Allendale.

So the question is this: how will your church be a part of this change? I encourage you to be a part of Operation We Care Allendale on **March 16, 2013**. I encourage you to set aside money in your budget so that people in your congregation can go and make a difference in the lives of people who have felt forgotten. And I encourage you to pray every day for what God is doing in Allendale. I'm glad to be a part of it and look forward to seeing you in March.

They went to Haiti to build—but were instead built

By Chad Blackwell
Inman First Baptist Church

The lives of many of our church members changed significantly after the Haiti Earthquake of 2010. Immediately after the disaster, we purchased a used school bus and packed it full of about 25,000 pounds of beans, rice, clothing, and other necessities. Three church members drove it West Palm Beach, Fla., where we then shipped it to the port of Gonaives, Haiti. It was driven by Haitians to Bayonnais, a mountain city of 80,000 people which, at the time, was just beginning to build its first medical clinic.

Later, 10 of our church members went to one of the oldest cities in Haiti, Grand Goave. We knew that we were going there to build, but we weren't expecting to be built. Our first stop (after fixing a flat tire in Port Au Prince) was at an orphanage in Bon Repos called The Upper Room. There, we were greeted by children rushing to embrace us. One of the first things that struck me was the gratefulness of these children, aged 2-13. There were 26 of them, and each was starved for love and attention. I watched those kids share everything they had, even down to passing around a cheese cracker to ensure that each had a chance to take a bite.

We knew that our eyes would be opened on this trip, but didn't know the overwhelming love that we would feel almost immediately towards them and other Haitians we encountered. Suddenly, riding with 38 other people in 90+ degree weather in the back of a box truck didn't seem so bad. Neither did sleeping on the concrete floor of the orphanage which housed the kids. Haitians are amazing people, and incredibly resilient.

It's safe to say that this experience has caused many of us to look at the Great Commission differently than before.

Mallory Drake and Dustin Drake from Inman FBC being the presence of Christ in Haiti.



What Inman FBC continues to do in Haiti:

- Provide monthly support for the purchase of food for the children at The Upper Room Orphanage
- Provide monetary support this year for the re-construction of a local church in Grand Goave which was destroyed by the earthquake
- Purchase Haitian Creole Bibles, which will be taken by team members on subsequent trips
- Within the next few weeks, ship a donated 4x4 vehicle packed with supplies to Grand Goave to support local missionaries.

Whitley family moves into Oakland mission house

Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill has just welcomed a new missionary family into its missions house. Tiffne and Joel Whitley and their three children arrived in mid-July. The Whitleys were commissioned as CBF field personnel in 2003 and work with African immigrants in Southern Spain and North Africa through a ladies class, a kids club, and a house church. Learn more about the Whitley's ministry at their blog: <http://whitleybananaboat.blogspot.com/>. They will be preaching at Oakland on August 19 and as soon as they are settled will be available to preach in other CBFSC churches.

The Whitley children — Megan, 10 and Cade and Dylan, 7 — helped their parents explain their Christian beliefs to Muslim immigrants at Christmas-time in Southern Spain.





METANOIA SUMMER: 10 YEARS LATER

By Bill Stanfield, CEO, Metanoia

As I sit down to write this summer update from Metanoia, I have spent the day moving in lots of different directions.

I have seen our students preparing for a neighborhood march against gun violence that they will lead through our community.

I've met with our housing director about the extensive repairs we are wrapping up on three homes of low income families in our neighborhood.

We've shot a bit more video for our summer fundraiser (visit www.lowcountrymystery.com for more on that), and we signed a contract to begin significant construction on our new Youth Entrepreneurship and Volunteer Center.

Ten years ago the summer wasn't nearly as busy as Evelyn and I were just getting started on the ground in Charleston – but the goal is still the same. Wake up and try to be faithful with what God puts before us each day.

Over the past 10 years of serving with Metanoia, I've come to see that missions is less about filling the air with a bunch of anxious talk and work, and more about waking up and just being available to the movement of the Holy Spirit. We continue to be thankful for your support in helping us try to exercise that faithfulness here in Charleston.



Wayne Carey



Rod Singleton



MISSION: UKRAINE

By Sue Cornell, Timberlake Baptist Church, Myrtle Beach

Wayne Carey and Rod Singleton are the most recent members of Timberlake Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach to go on mission to Ukraine.

For the past eight years, Timberlake has sent a team to the former Soviet republic to encourage and to be encouraged by the Christians there. This year, Wayne and Rod were able to go into new areas of the Chernobyl region. They visited three new orphanages and four newly-organized house churches.

Rod has traveled to the Ukraine many times. "The love and appreciation these people have for us never ceases to amaze me," he said. "They are all so hungry for God's word and eagerly await our next visit. We are already planning a trip for November and I can hardly wait to see what doors of opportunity God will open for us. I often think of Isaiah's response, 'Here am I, send me.'"



This student participated in Metanoia's summer business camp. Middle school students presented their business projects to a panel of judges to wrap up the summer program.



Some of the younger students in Metanoia's summer program participated in an anti-violence rally in mid-July.



CBFSC's missions team will provide training for churches who would like to participate in Operation Inasmuch.

Here's what we will offer your church for \$125:

- Onsite training by a person with experience and expertise in the program. We will use an OIAM video and a brief video of another church's OIAM day of ministry.
- The book: *Operation Inasmuch: Mobilizing Believers Beyond the Walls of The Church* by David Crocker (additional copies can be purchased)
- One OIAM Project Guide.

The session will last 3 or 4 hours with a lunch that your church will provide.

October is OIAM month. However, a church may hold an OIAM Day at whatever time is convenient. The purpose is to show hospitality to the community. Hospitality by definition is generosity, kindness, warmth and friendliness.

Several of our churches participate in Operation InAsMuch or similar work days in their communities. These are the ones of which we are aware.

Providence, Daniel Island
 Fernwood, Spartanburg
 FBC Greenwood
 Earle Street, Greenville
 FBC Greenville
 FBC Conway
 Rivertown Community Church, Conway
 Baptist Church of Beaufort
 FBC York
 Augusta Road, Greenville
 Augusta Heights, Greenville
 FBC Orangeburg
 FBC Lake View



Pelham Road members Randy Smith and Nancy Boyd— finished with the cooking, now serving plates to the homeless on a Sunday at Triune Mercy Center in Greenville.

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? Matthew 25:37

Homeless fed, stories shared, friends made —all because of willing spirits

By Suzanne Hasty, Pelham Road Baptist Church, Greenville

The Bible tells us when we feed the hungry or give the thirsty something to drink we are giving Jesus food or drink.

One Sunday a month Pelham Road prepares and serves lunch at Triune Mercy Center in Greenville, a center that serves the hungry and homeless.

Feeding the hungry begins with seeing. When we open our eyes to see those broken by this world, the rest is easy. Seeing is the challenge; preparing the food is service; and serving the homeless is joy. Our Sunday rotation is an opportunity for us to go with willing hands and hearts to share the love of Christ as we feed the hungry in our community.

We have three teams of volunteers who rotate monthly to prepare and serve meals. The teams are an interesting blend of seniors, youth, long-time guests,

and charter members. Business professionals work side by side cooking, cutting, and washing with stay at home moms, teachers, retirees, and students.

The serving teams come away with a multitude of blessings: a smile as we put warm plates of food in front of guests and receive a thank you they leave the dining room, a request for a second serving and a morning of laughter as we work in the kitchen beside fellow church members with whom we may not usually interact.

Shared stories and laughs while preparing soup for the soul have created new friendships, fishing buddies, church members and lunch groups. It is amazing the many blessings you walk away with when you have a willing spirit and an open heart to go and serve the body of Christ.

Being missional or doing misional? CBF missions personnel Butch and Nell Green write about a different kind of missions experience they led for college students in Houston, Tex., recently. They did a similar project when they were based in Rock Hill. "Sometimes missional is about being and not necessarily doing," they say. <http://www.abpnews.com/blog/missions/being-missional-or-doing-missional-2012-07-06/>

20 years of Project Ruth

By Ellen Sechrest
Boulevard Baptist Church, Anderson

PROJECT RUTH just celebrated its 20th anniversary of being on mission in Bucharest, Romania. What began as a Bible-club for local Roma (Gypsy) children in the Ferantari community has turned into a full blown ministry center.

Over these 20 years the program has grown from being a club that met three times a week and offered a snack to children to being a school for 180 children, both poor Roma and poor Romanian.

The center also 1) Offers a kin-

dergarten program for children at the Obed Center, 2) Partners with two centers in Moldova, 3) Offers four one-week classes each year for Roma pastors through the Gypsy Smith Pastors School, 4) Has a medical clinic that is open to the community. 5) Operates the Naomi Center to address the needs of women in the community and offers micro-enterprises to women to help them provide for their families.

PROJECT RUTH has touched the lives of hundreds of people, not just in Romania but around the world.

The South Carolina CBF Missions Committee is forming a partnership with the work of the Roma both in Romania and Slovakia. This fall you will begin hearing about partnerships, programs, and resources that you can use as ways to educate yourself, your church, your family, and your friends. CBFSC will be sponsoring a trip in the fall of 2013 to the Ruth School in Romania and to Roma work in Slovakia.

Check out the Ruth School website at www.projectruth.ro, or get on the mailing list for Ralph & Tammy Stocks or Shane & Dianne McNary who serve as CBF Field Personnel.

Ellen Sechrest with a young Roma boy at the Ruth School in May.



Wayne Patterson, being the presence of Christ along the Gulf Coast

Disaster response with a capital C

by Wayne Patterson
First Baptist Church, Pendleton

Being the presence of Christ through disaster response (DR) is something the church must do. FBC Pendleton has taken 28 mission trips—to the Gulf Coast after hurricanes, the Atlanta area after floods, and Alabama after the tornadoes. We have given to support mission efforts, prayed for those affected by disaster and gone on the mission trips—I could not be more proud of FBC Pendleton's record. Mason Harris, CBFSC's Disaster Response Coordinator, has accompanied us on several trips.

Since the devastating tornadoes of April 27, 2011, we have made five DR trips to Jacksonville, AL. On each of those trips we have been hosted by FBC Williams, a church with about 400 members in the Williams community, five miles north of Jacksonville.

Beginning with prayer on the morning of April 28, 2011, they turned their

church into a collection/distribution center for meeting immediate needs in the area—during the first 3 months they provided over 45,000 meals, child-care, food, clothing and other daily necessities. They worked with others in the community to clear debris from roadways and 85 home sites. During the past year they raised more than \$472,000 and created housing valued at over \$1.6 million.

Our volunteers can assure you that they are great hosts. To us and other volunteers they served 9,000 eggs, 2,000 pounds of bacon, 1,500 pounds of sausage and 20,000 biscuits to accommodate 30,000 man-hours of volunteer labor—if you're keeping score, apparently one biscuit yields 1½ person-hours.

FBC Pendleton has a great DR record and so does FBC Williams—each church should be inspired by the other to be the presence of Christ. DR is one way we can do it—but the capital C is for Christ.



CBFSC has a community service trailer churches can use for either disaster response or local mission projects. If you would like to use the trailer, contact Tom Newbould at newbould@sc.rr.com, or call 803.732.4897 or 803.394.4861. The trailer is still not equipped. A list of needed tools is posted on the website, cbfsc.org. You can go to this registry and select the tool(s) you will give or pay for.



For many churches just getting started, nothing is routine or traditional. Worshipers at Sea Island Chapel on Hilton Head dress in what they feel is appropriate and come prepared to move chairs, tables and hymnals in preparation for the service each week. *New churches or new ministries that will attract new people to CBF churches require serious prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit. There are no short-cuts or quick fixes.*

Hilton Head or Hong Kong: Both need Jesus

One of the mistakes many Baptists made when thinking about missions in the 20th century was assuming that “real” missionaries worked far away—the remoter the better: China, Africa, the Philippines and India come to mind. When we gathered money for missions, a medium-size church might collect \$3,000 for Foreign (International) Missions, \$1,500 for Home (United States) Missions, and \$500 for State (South Carolina) Missions.

Along with a lot of other people who have claimed the mantra “Missions begins at home,” I have been re-thinking that formula over the past decade or two. I still believe in the unselfish sending of career missionaries to far-away places. But, more than ever, I also believe in making sure that people who live close to our own churches have the chance to hear and see the gospel. The way we “do” church has become culturally predictable—pews, pulpits, choirs, organs and pianos, 19th century hymns, age-segregated Sunday School classes held an hour before racially-segregated Sunday morning worship.



Young adults with tattoos and piercings and other 21st century characteristics, habits and opinions are left literally outside our walls. Our churches are safe for people

While we work to start 21st century churches in South Carolina, we also seek to be the presence of Christ in more distant places such as Haiti.

who know our unwritten rules, but uncomfortable for strangers who are spiritual seekers.

We have little chance of transforming our “Mom and Pop” churches which have served God magnificently and well in the 20th century into “hip” or “trendy” congregations which minister to the peculiar needs of 21st century adults. Is Mom’s Diner really likely to start serving sushi, Greek yogurt and tapas? If Mom did change her menu, are the people who have enjoyed “meat and three,” fried chicken, turnip greens and mashed potatoes, over the past decade likely to keep coming to this weird

(in their opinion) new restaurant?

While some extremely skilled pastors and Christ-loving congregations are slowly and prayerfully making a transition into a multi-cultural century, it sometimes makes more sense for CBF to help start new congregations which have un-churched young adults as their natural constituency. Rather than making “them” jump through “our” hoops with regard to religious traditions and Baptist customs, why can’t we go to where they are and enter their world to deliver the good news of Jesus? That may mean sponsoring a Monday night Bible study in somebody’s home rather than another Sunday class in our church’s educational wing. New churches or new ministries that will attract new people to CBF churches require serious prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit. There are no short-cuts or quick fixes.

For the past few weeks, I have been blessed to preach at a couple of our new CBFSC churches near the coast, Tidal Creek on Lady’s Island in Beaufort and Sea Island Chapel on Hilton Head Island. Pray for these congregations and others that CBFSC has helped plant. Our nearby neighbors in South Carolina need Jesus as much as our more distant neighbors in Hong Kong or Haiti.



COORDINATOR’S
COLUMN

By Marion Aldridge

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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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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JUST Sharing



If you need materials to help promote Just Sharing in your church, contact the CBFSC office. Posters, brochures and envelopes are available.



By Beverly Greer
Missions Coordinator



For 10 years you have given to support Metanoia—the ministry we started in North Charleston that encompasses a range of programs to bring change through community development.

For almost that many years, you have given to support CBFSC work and ministry in Allendale County.

You have given to lend support to Aki and Yoko Shigemi as they minister to the upstate Japanese population, the only Baptist ministry, and maybe the only Christian ministry to the Japanese in South Carolina.

Through these ministries you are being the presence of Christ to people you may never see and in places you may never go.

Primarily, you have done this through the Just Sharing state missions offering. The past several years this offering has fallen short of the goal of \$75,000 set by the Missions Team. In 2011 you gave \$56,989.

These ministries, and others not mentioned, need your support. Your gifts make all the difference. Will you help us reach this year's goal of \$75,000?

2012 Goal: \$75,000

Received to date: \$40,125