

Ministers of music to Gypsy children in Hungary:

**“We all worship
the same God
who offers love
for all people.”**

You don't have to speak the language to communicate through song.

And the message the five ministers of music from South and North Carolina took to Gypsies in Pecs, Hungary, through their music is that God loves them.

The trip began as an idea of Shelden Timmerman, minister of music at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill. Shelden wanted to support the work of Glen and Clista Adkins who work among the Romany (or Gypsy) people at the Gandhi School in Pecs, and he also wanted to visit Gypsy villages to learn of the work that goes on there.

Accompanying him on the trip were Burt Pardue from Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia; Mark Kemp from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greenville; and Paul Sims from First Baptist Church in Monroe, NC. Glen is the former minister of music at First Baptist Church in Greenville.

Using donations they received before they left, when the group arrived in Hungary, they bought new guitars to give to some of the many guitar players in Hungarian churches. They also bought a violin for one violinist whose instrument was cracked, and lots of extra strings for the guitars.

The ministers of music sang at various kinds of worship services. “We felt this was a way we could offer our expression of God's love for all people,” Shelden said. “We also prepared personal statements to be shared at the worship services. These statements were translated for the people to understand our message of love and hope.”

Beyond the music, Oakland's Mission Friends wanted to provide ice cream for the 250 students at the school. They raised enough money so that Shelden could buy the ice cream, and the ministers of music performed a concert while the



Shelden Timmerman (in the back), minister of music at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill, went to Hungary to sing and perform for Gypsy children. He made a lot of friends while there.

students ate. They also handed out pencils upon which was inscribed, in Hungarian, “God loves you.”

“Through music, we felt that we could express God's love for the Gypsies in a way that transcended

the language barrier,” Shelden said. “We were well-received by the students, the Hungarians and the Gypsies as we sang. Though our songs were not familiar to their culture, they sensed our care, our love, and our dedication to Christ. It is often said that music is a universal language and we could observe how this was true as we sang.”

“We learned yet again that Christ's love needs to be shared throughout the world—not just in our own backyards,” he said. “We were able to see the efforts of our missionaries and learn that supporting their work with hands-on mission is equally as important as giving our money to the offerings. We learned of the loneliness of our missionaries when they are living in a culture that is so different from ours and language is a major barrier. Our presence with Clista and Glen offered them some security, assurance, and down-home friendship. We determined that the work that takes place needs tremendous amounts of money to help folks who are displaced by their culture. The village churches with which we worshipped all needed updated facilities—many needed running water and bathrooms. Skilled carpenters and abundant funds would help build the worship needs of these people—and it would take far less than building here in the United States.

“I believe all the folks

(continued on page 3)

A short video clip of these five ministers of music performing in Hungary is posted on online.

Go to www.cbfofsc.org to view it now.

Church wants to make covenant with God about its future



CARY HILLIARD

Much of Cary Hilliard's first six months as pastor of First Baptist Church in Orangeburg has been spent assessing how the church can best serve God, the community, and the world.

The church has just completed a church-wide emphasis called "We will be your church" that included a study of both the early church and the contemporary church. Throughout the study, Cary said, the purpose was to "pray through and envision who God desires for us to be."

"Hopefully we will reach a point of covenant with God that we will be the church that God desires us to be and that our community needs," he said. "Our goal was to determine who is this church and what are we supposed to be doing, locally and globally."

"Orangeburg is wonderful community but the needs are widespread," he said. "We have an incredible opportunity for mission work locally."

The church for years has hosted a soup kitchen every Thursday for local people who are impoverished, low income, or simply can't make ends meet, Cary said. FBC is one of several community churches among which the soup kitchen rotates. "It's a great ministry of this church," he said.

In addition, the church hosts a Mission Action Center, which houses a food pantry and a clothes closet open to the public.

Cary's goal is for the church to expand on ministries such as these. Some potential components of an expanded social

ministry include job skills training, Narcotics or Alcoholics Anonymous, GED classes, after school care for children of low income families, dental clinics, ESL, a food warehouse, or health clinics. "It is our hope to partner with others (churches and non-profits) to coordinate ministries such as these through a community wide effort," he said.

Cary joined the staff in Orangeburg in June, following eight-and-a-half years as pastor of First Baptist Church in Jefferson, GA. From Oklahoma, Cary is a graduate of Truett Seminary at Baylor University and Oklahoma Baptist University. He did his doctor of ministry study at M. Christopher White School of Divinity at Gardner Webb University where he graduated in 2005.

He has been involved with CBF since 1997. He had just been elected to the Coordinating Council of CBF of Georgia when he moved, and previously served on that group's missions committee for three years.

"FBC Orangeburg is a big CBF supporter both financially and through missions volunteers," he said. On Oct. 3, the church hosted the first CBF-sponsored youth event held prior to the Fall Work Day. "Hosting the youth event was a great opportunity for us to support the effort, to see young people partnering in mission work and developing friendships," he said.

Cary like to hunt and play golf. He and his wife Kelli, a CPA, have three children.

SAVE THE DATE

Kate Campbell to highlight 6th annual women's conference



KATE CAMPBELL

As usual, the SC/CBF-sponsored annual women's conference has two parts, the first for clergy women, the second for all women.

The 2009 conference for clergy will be **February 26-27** with the theme of "Circling Around God." The speaker will be **CONEY FAHEY**, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. She has 50+ years of healthcare experience, most recently as the executive director of Mercy Hospice in Myrtle Beach. Upon retiring from Mercy Hospice in 2008, she ministers as a spiritual director on the Wholeness Holiness Retreat Team, a special retreat experience for women. She is the Catholic church's campus minister at Coastal Carolina University and is a liaison with the Sisters of Charity Foundation's South Carolina Women Religious Ministry Initiative. She serves on various faith-based not-for-profit boards of directors in the Myrtle Beach area.

Speaker/musician **KATE CAMPBELL** will lead the laity conference **February 27-March 1**. Kate is a song writer and musician and has made a niche for herself exploring the complex topics of religion, race, history and human relationships. She has recorded a number of records, including her award winning debut album *Songs from the Levee*. Her latest album *Save the Day* will be the focus of the conference.

Both conferences will be held at the Hilton Myrtle Beach at Kingston Plantation. Registration information will be coming soon. Contact Christy McMillin-Goodwin, cgoodwin@oaklandchurch.com, at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill for more information.

Myrtle Beach
Clergy: Feb. 26-27
Laity: Feb. 27-March 1

M \$ O \$ N \$ E \$ Y

Some preachers don't talk about money, and I think they do their congregations and their members a disservice. Jesus did not hesitate to talk about finances, and how it is usually an indicator of our spiritual health. For many people in churches, including CBF congregations, a lack of generosity is a sign of our dis-ease, a clue to a spiritual sickness.

Bill Lancaster was my pastor in Decatur, Georgia, back when I was single. I will never forget an offertory prayer he prayed: "Lord, what we give to you is a pretty good indication of what we think about you. Amen."

Generosity (what we grew up calling "stewardship") is not complicated. You either are or you aren't generous. Bigheartedness, openhandedness, compassion and kindness either describe you or they don't! Some people don't want their pastor or others to

know what they give, but it's not hard to figure out. When someone turns in a receipt to be reimbursed for \$2.12 to their church, you can guess they are pretty cheap. An old-fashioned word

Coordinator's Column



By Marion Aldridge
Coordinator

for these people describes them as "mean." That sounds true to me. I had one such Freddy Freefloating church member who had a good job, lived in a beautiful house, drove a fine car, sent his children to the best colleges,

but when it came to generosity, he began to mumble about his frugal Scottish blood. I told him to leave the good people of Scotland out of this. They have churches in Scotland. People in Scotland tithe. If he was

going to be miserly, just admit it. And change. Repent!

I love my church, I love this movement called the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and I love the Church of Jesus Christ. We don't always get it right, but those of us who are his followers of Jesus are the Bride of Christ. I want to treat God's Bride lavishly, not stingily.

Wishing your church and/or CBF well does no one any good. It does your church no good. It does CBF no good. It does Jesus no good. I get tired of pastor friends and others who tell me they are pulling for CBF to succeed, to thrive. "Put your money where your mouth is" is good advice. What I value always costs me money: Sally, Jenna, Julie, God's church, hobbies, travel, even friends.

Does anyone really think churches and CBF can provide the services we provide without money? Probably not. But the issues of compassion and generosity are not ultimately about providing services. They have to do with the spiritual health of the individual.

An envelope is enclosed. Fill it up, and it will make you feel better.

Donate online: SC/CBF is now set up to receive contributions directly online. Go to our home page, www.cbfofsc.org, and look for "Click here to donate online."



Burt Pardue presented pencils inscribed with "God loves you" to one of the teachers at the Gandhi School.

Gandhi visit —

(continued from page 1)

we encountered understood that we Americans had something more to offer than political answers to the world's problems," Shelden said. "They could understand how we were touched by their sweet spirit and they could perceive that we cared for them and wanted to express God's love as well as our own

for them.

"From the students who were inquisitive, to the villagers who were appreciative of us and our message, to the members of the Pecs church, all understood how much this group of ministers of music wanted share this message of love with them," he said. "Surely these people understood that our God moved beyond our world into their world. They could understand that we all worship the same God who offers love for all people."

2009 Coordinating Council Meetings

- Jan. 8
- June 11
- Oct. 8

The council's annual retreat will be held on April 23-24, prior to the General Assembly in Greenwood. The council meets from 10:15 a.m. -2:30 p.m. at Kathwood Baptist Church, 4900 Trenholm Road, the Columbia.

Anyone is invited to attend any council meeting.



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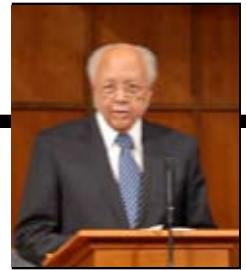
2009 General Assembly

April 24-25

First Baptist Church Greenwood

FALL Convocation

St. Andrews Baptist Church in Columbia hosted the 2008 Fall Convocation on Nov. 10. It was a follow-up to the January New Baptist Covenant meeting in Atlanta where Baptists from several denominations met to discuss how they can work better together in their local communities.



In Jesus Christ we have reconciliation which allows us to walk in God's way. If I am reconciled to God in Christ, I am also reconciled to you in the church. We have the DNA of Christ within us.

— William Shaw,
president, National
Baptist Convention



I grew up in a culture where the gospel was about individuals. We believe we are converted and sanctified as individuals one at a time – but the gospel is not only about transformation of individuals. It's also about transformation of culture and community. The central theme of Jesus' message was 'The Kingdom of God.'

— Daniel Vestal, Coordinator,
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

The Morris College Gospel Choir

