



JUNE 2005

FELLOWSHIP

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



His favorite Baptist is his grandfather — a man he never really knew

Jonathan Teitloff never knew his grandfather as others knew him. Yet, he is Jonathan's favorite Baptist.

Jonathan, a member of Boulevard Baptist Church in Anderson, was the high school winner of the "My Favorite Baptist" essay contest this year, and earned a \$1,000 college scholarship for his work. He read his winning essay about his grandfather, Eddie Rickenbaker, at the SC/CBF General Assembly, bringing floods of tears and memories to those in the audience who knew Rickenbaker during his most vibrant years as a pastor in South Carolina.

"I was prompted to enter the essay contest because my mom told me I should do it the year before, but I never

found the time to sit down and write it," he said. "I figured that this would be a good way to earn money and at the same time honor the memory of someone I loved."

"I chose my grandfather to write about, because I thought it could provide a unique angle," he said. "Also, the truth is that I didn't know exact details about my grandfather until I wrote this essay. I had always heard stories about him, but I had never taken the time to study an outline of his life. The experience of writing this essay contributed a lot to my relationship with him."

Eddie Rickenbaker was pastor at First Baptist Church in Belton from 1977-1986. His ministry—and life — were cut short by Parkinson's disease.

**Read Jonathan's
essay about
Eddie Rickenbaker
at www.cbfofsc.org**

Jonathan, 17, knew his grandfather only during the later stages of his disease. "I was born just after my grandfather became ill so I never really had a relationship with him," Jonathan said. "My grandfather died on March 24, 2002. At the memorial service, I heard a lot about him. By the end of the service, I was crying, not because I had lost someone I knew well, but because I had lost someone I never had the chance to know at all."

Jonathan is a rising senior at T.L. Hanna High in Anderson. He was recently elected as secretary of both the National Honor Society and the Mu Alpha Theta Math Society. He is also a member of the school's Interact Club.

At the T.L. Hanna Awards ceremony, held just after the General Assembly, he won the school's Latin Award, and was also recognized for participating in Junior Leadership Anderson this past school year.

He has been a member at Boulevard since October 2001, where he is a member and officer of the Celebration Singers choir, and a member of the Youth Leadership Team. Last summer he went on mission trips to Bucharest, Romania, and Louisville, KY; and chaperoned a trip for elementary school kids to Atlanta. Next January, he will go on a mission trip to Honduras.

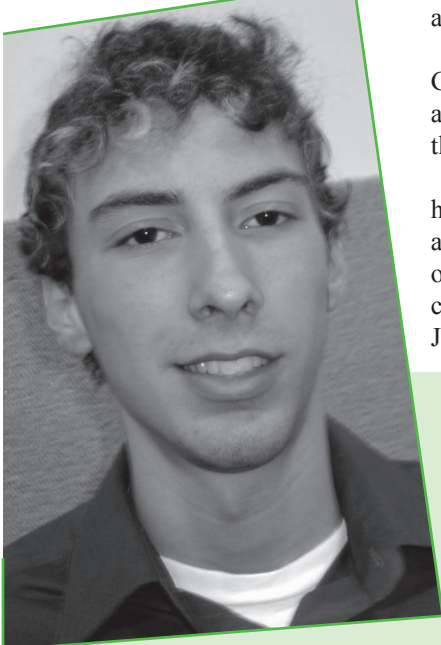


Jonathan Teitloff
with his grandmother
Mary Rickenbaker.

"In my free time, I try to spend as much time with my friends as possible," he said. "Therefore, my hobbies mostly include eating, watching TV and movies, and sleeping. When I'm not doing any of those things, sometimes I find the time to read books, or to write."

Jonathan plans to study at USC, Clemson, or College of Charleston. "The CBF scholarship, combined with a speech contest scholarship I won previously, and the Palmetto Fellows or LIFE Scholarship, will hopefully help me to achieve the best education possible, regardless of the cost of tuition. To me, every little bit of money counts."

Jonathan is the son of Timothy and Jana Teitloff. His father teaches mathematics at Clemson. His mother is a 5th grade social studies and science teacher at Calhoun Elementary School. His brother Eric is a 15-year-old rising junior; and his sister Laura is an 11-year-old rising sixth grader.



Sometimes, people say bad things about CBF, CBF-affiliated churches, and CBF-friendly individuals. Here are some of my responses:

⚭ The false teachers in the Bible are not the people who rely on God's grace but the fundamentalists, the people who mistakenly believe they are perfectly obedient to God's law.

⚭ One-issue politics is not good politics, and one-issue theology is not good theology.

⚭ You cannot "win" an argument with someone who begins with the premise that you and your friends are bad people.

⚭ Some people say, "I'm tired of hearing about all that," referring to religious controversy. Remember that they don't hear about whatever you are tired about in Iran or North Korea.

⚭ There is a difference in what fundamentalists believe and what I believe, and I have no desire to return to the bondage and fearfulness of an immature faith.

⚭ Some people are wrong but they are never in doubt.

⚭ "Jesus told us to love our enemies. He did not say we could avoid having enemies." —William Sloan Coffin

⚭ Some denominations and churches that are distressed at the thought of harboring homosexuals don't think twice about harboring gossips or bigots.

⚭ Some people draw a line in the sand, and in an effort to accommodate them, other people agree not to step over that line. Then they move 20 feet behind you and draw another line in the sand. In order not to offend them, you will need to back up 20 feet further and get behind the new line. You will never be good enough for such people!

⚭ You can't teach a pig to sing. It wastes your time and frustrates the pig.

⚭ When a person or a group does not satisfy the extreme 5% on the left or the extreme 5% on the right, maybe they are not in such a bad place after all.

⚭ Why are moderates accused of splitting a church when they state their opinions, but fundamentalists can say any inflammatory thing they want and people will give in to them? (Could it be because people suspect, based on past experience, that the moderate will be kind, compassionate and Christian in defeat, and the fundamentalist will be hurtful and hostile?)

⚭ Theology by intimidation is bad theology.

⚭ Diversity is Biblical. Unity is Biblical. Every part of the body of Christ is important. That is Biblical.

⚭ Inquisitions have been tried and have always failed—whether they were called witch hunts, heresy trials, or Jihad. Jesus said, "Judge not."

⚭ Many people react negatively out of fear. What they cannot control, they fear.

⚭ The best thing you can do is to be a loving Christian.



By Marion Aldridge
Coordinator

Teaching a pig to sing



Carson Rogerson, the interim pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship, preached at the joint worship service.

Plans laid for joint missions project in August

Columbia churches meet for worship, fellowship

About 125 people from four SC/CBF churches in the Columbia area met together for an evening of worship and fellowship on May 15 at Greenlawn Baptist Church.

Other participating churches were Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship, Kathwood, and New Hope Christian Fellowship.

The choirs from Kathwood and Emmanuel sang, and a mass choir from all four churches also performed. Carson Rogerson, the Interim Pastor at Emmanuel, preached. Greenlawn provided refreshments after the service in their fellowship hall.

"This was the first regional meeting of churches that support CBF in the Columbia area," said Terry Brooks, a member at Emmanuel. "We are hoping to develop more cooperation to do mission projects, and combined programs with children and youth.

A joint mission project, "Inasmuch," is being planned for August 20. Each church will have a couple of projects for that day, and all of the members of the four churches will be encouraged to participate.

At Pelham Road in Greenville

30 days of CHAOS

While many churches have been going through a series called “40 Days of Purpose,” Pelham Road Baptist Church in Greenville has just completed “30 Days of Chaos.”

The theme comes from a sermon pastor John Roy recently preached about Celtic worship and the Celts’ use of the wild goose for their symbol of the Holy Spirit instead of the traditional dove. “A wild goose is hard to catch,” John said. “Basically you can only *follow* a wild goose.”

In that vain, Pelham Road decided to follow the image of the Holy Spirit wherever it leads. The congregation spent 30 days just listening, watching and praying for the Spirit to lead them to unique service opportunities. Individuals, families, the choir, and Bible classes watched for ways to serve people in Greenville that might not ordinarily be served.

The choir made gift baskets to give to dishwashers at a local restaurant. The staff took members of the fire department, located next door to the church, to lunch.



Greenville County fire fighters were the recipients of some of Pelham Road’s “chaos.” Two of the firefighters are pictured here with church child development director Stephanie Fleming, church custodian Duane Corlett, and children’s minister Lou Ann Jenkins. The three delivered lunch to the fire department, which is next door to the church.

Beverly Helton, a church member and real estate agent, went online to find people who overpaid their house taxes and visited as many as possible to show them how to get their refunds. Some are getting back around \$1,000, and one family is owed nearly \$4,000. “It’s worth the time to see their faces and to give them an encouraging word,” she said.

The young adult Sunday School class collected gifts for a local children’s shelter and is helping them fund their summer field trips. Case Jenkins is leading a campaign to assist fire fighters and families whose homes burn. Cathy Ronald is mentoring a struggling parent in her neighborhood.

“These are a few examples of how Pelham Road already knows its purpose: to love and serve God by serving others,” said associate pastor Sam Coates. “We want to share the good news that anyone can have a meaningful relationship with God. We are intentionally creating chaos in the routine of everyday life by discovering people who may need an extra measure of encouragement and the good news that God loves them.”

The official “30 Days of Chaos” at Pelham Road is over, but the leading of the Holy Spirit continues. Both John and Sam challenge Pelham Road members — and all of us — to **listen, watch and follow.**

The SC/CBF Coordinating Council held its annual retreat May 13-14 at White Oak Conference Center. The weekend meeting gave the Council committees a chance to organize their work for the year. Also, Larry McSwain, a professor at McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta, led the council in a study of healthy congregations.



**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
of South Carolina**
P.O. Box 11159
Columbia, SC 29211



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Greenville SC
Permit 579

June 2005

Kelly Belcher, Moderator
(864) 582-7467
klbel@bellsouth.net

Marion Aldridge, Coordinator
(803) 779-1888
Fax: (803) 779-2242
E-Mail: Marion@cbfosc.org

Sue Poss, Editor
(864) 848-3346
editor@cbfosc.org

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

Cooperative Student Fellowship at FURMAN

Clary Gardner, second from left on the front row, has been instrumental in organizing the Cooperative Student Fellowship at Furman University. The first official meeting of the group was held May 12. Some of those at the first meeting are pictured here with Clary. On the front row are Brittany Riddle, a freshman from Louisville, KY; Bailey Edwards, a senior from Spartanburg; and Elizabeth Meador, a sophomore from Jackson, MS. On the back row are Walt Windley, a senior from Gastonia, NC, and Justin Nelson, a senior from Toccoa, GA. SC/CBF Coordinator Marion Aldridge spoke to the group at its first meeting.



my favorite baptist Essay winners

Jonathan Teitloff, featured on the front page, won the "My Favorite Baptist" Essay Contest for high school students. Emily Burns from Second Calvary Church in Lexington was the second place winner for the high school age group; and Catherine Elliott from Fernwood Baptist Church, Spartanburg, won in the 4th-6th grade group. Emily won a \$500 college scholarship; and Catherine won four tickets to Carowinds. There were no entrants in the Middle School category.

National General Assembly
June 30-July 1
Grapevine, TX

The South Carolina Gathering
will be from 3:45 - 5 p.m. on
Thursday, June 30.

Please check your program
guide for the location.

SC/CBF

Fall Convocation

Eau Claire Baptist Church
Columbia
November 14, 2005