

MAY 2005

FELLOWSHIP

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Lutheran student reaches milestone

Sunday, April 10, marked a pivotal day in the lives of Kelly Dickerson, the members of Eau Claire Baptist Church, and those who partnered in the creation of the Baptist Studies Program at Lutheran Seminary in Columbia. Dickerson, a first year Master of Divinity student in the program and a pastoral intern at Eau Claire preached her first sermon on that day.

The sermon, titled "The Surprise of Life," was based on Mark 16:1-8. Kelly challenged the congregation: "Yes, God is faithful even when we are faithless – God is consistent when we are inconsistent. In our doubt, our disinterest, and even our denial, God is a patient, loving father who still comes to us with the message – the tomb is empty, Christ has been raised for us."

As part of the requirements of her degree program, Dickerson has focused on visitation and worship leadership in this internship at Eau Claire under the mentoring of pastor James Goudebeck. She will continue in her internship next year in the same congregation.

It has been an exciting opportunity for Goudebeck and Dickerson to work together in this pastoral internship context. Jimmy was pastor of Kelly's home church in West Columbia when she made her profession of faith. He baptized her as a child in 1986 and now has mentored her as she preached for the first time.

Kelly graduated from Clemson University where she was president of the Baptist Campus Ministry. In addition to being a full-time student at Lutheran Seminary, she is a part-time elementary school guidance counselor.



New moderator Kelly Belcher

General Assembly 2005 Belcher elected moderator; financial report is good

More than 200 people were at Timberlake Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach for this year's SC/CBF General Assembly April 22-23.

Kelly Belcher, associate pastor of Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg, was elected moderator for the coming year. Macon Shepherd, a lay member of Providence Baptist Church in Charleston, was elected moderator-elect. Martha Hammett, member of Trinity Baptist Church in Seneca, and Cal Griffin, member of First Baptist Church, Walterboro, were re-elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively. Johnny

McKinney, pastor of Boulevard Baptist Church in Anderson, will serve as past-moderator and will chair the Nominating Committee.

In presenting the treasurer's report, Cal said receipts this year have been much better than through the same period a year ago. He reported total receipts for the nine months ending March 31 to be \$341,013. With three months remaining in the fiscal year, we are on target to meet the \$449,995 budget. The year ends on June 30.

The body adopted a budget for 2005-06 of \$491,331, an increase of 9.2 percent.



Pat Fulbright from North Carolina led an afternoon workshop on poverty. Participants actually assumed the role of the poor, going through the steps necessary to get assistance. The sign in front of Pat reads "It's a full-time job being poor."

Ecumenism



By Marion Aldridge
Coordinator

The death of one Pope and the selection of another gives me all the excuse I need to write about the relationship between Baptists and other denominations. The Bible calls our sorry history of not loving each other adequately a “scandal.” Foolishly, like 10 year old children, many Christians think that anyone who is different is wrong. We throw around labels that let some people into our “club” and keep others out: liberal, fundamentalist, conservative, moderate. I confess that I am guilty and pledge to pray and work to overcome this bad habit. We all know that eyewitnesses can see the same event(s) and tell the story very differently. Why else are there four gospels?

Ignorance and fear are the big culprits. I grew up really thinking that Baptists believed the Bible and loved Jesus more than people in other denominations, that we somehow were more “right” than they were. I assumed Baptists were a kind of theological peak that other denominations could only aspire to. How dumb! (I am allowed to call myself names, especially when they are perfectly accurate.)

Did you know Lutherans paint

the doors of their churches red so that their members are reminded that they enter the Kingdom of God only through the blood of Jesus? Does that sound wrong to you? Where is the paintbrush? We need to paint some Baptist doors.

A Baptist pastor friend began reading the Bible three times in every worship service, one text from the Old Testament, another from the Gospels and another from the Epistles. He was chastised by a member who thought the practice sounded Episcopalian to her! We consider ourselves a “people of the book,” but I have been in hour-long worship services in which the only scripture read was the one single verse the preacher used for his sermon.

Do we really think we do a more outstanding job of sheltering the homeless than the Salvation Army?

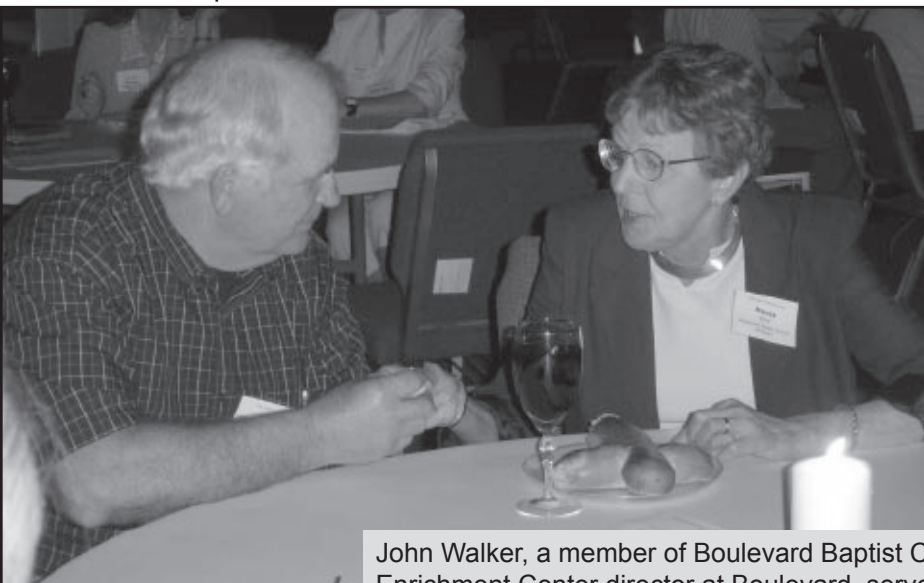
Do we think we really think we understand the Holy Spirit better than the Pentecostals?

John Paul II helped Christians who were paying attention to understand that the categories set by American political parties are not identical to God’s categories. John Paul II was to the left of our country’s most liberal elected

officials when it came to caring for the poor, and to the right of our most conservative politicians when it came to pro-life and pro-family matters. I didn’t always agree with him, but I appreciated that he attempted to be God’s servant, and did not pander to the whims of our culture. I can learn from that.

Most of us are in the habit of simply accepting what the church of our childhood and what our culture tell us. We repeat those slogans and opinions to the next generation. Some of these principles and doctrines are good and worth keeping. Some need to be revisited and revised. That is what Jesus did. He conserved what needed to be conserved and he liberated what needed to be changed: conservative and liberal. Some people want to change nothing and some want to change everything.

I have grown to believe that love means listening and looking. Instead of arrogantly assuming we already know all that is to be known, let us keep our eyes and ears open. Let us learn from the Catholics, the Lutherans, the Methodists and the Quakers. We’ll be better Baptists if we do



Listen and pay attention
Marion Aldridge preached a sermon on Saturday morning at the General Assembly about the importance of paying attention to the needs around you, and listening before acting. He has prepared a booklet that outlines ways that will help you begin that process and offers some specific exercises to get you started. Call the CBF Resource Center at 803.779.1888 if you would like one or many copies of the booklet. You may also download it at www.cbfofsc.org.

John Walker, a member of Boulevard Baptist Church in Anderson, and Marcia Stow, Child Enrichment Center director at Boulevard, serve communion to one another around the tables at the Friday night session of the 2005 General Assembly.



Assembly speakers

Patsy Davis, director of the Women's Department for the Baptist World Alliance, was the keynote speaker on Friday afternoon and also led breakout sessions about the work of the BWA. Ria Deneut (inset), who heads women's ministries for the Union of Baptists in Belgium, spoke at the Friday night missions banquet and led breakout sessions about Baptist work in Belgium and the SC/CBF partnership with that country.

Looking for a vacation spot? Try Angola

By Brenda Pitts

If you're still undecided about where you will spend your summer vacation, consider Angola. Believe it or not, the weather there is mild and dry in July and the natural scenery is beautiful if you can get beyond the war-torn villages, the cities and the IDP (internally displaced persons) camps. But I must warn you, if you go to Angola as part of a CBF volunteer team, you'll spend the majority of the 17 days there helping people in desperate need.

The Angolan ministry, led by missionaries Lonnie and Fran Turner, began to take shape during the summer of 2002 when the Turners traveled across the war-ravaged land with Louis Zigembie, Executive Secretary of CICA (Angolan Council of Christian Churches), and other representatives of the organization that was created to rebuild the country and help the people restructure their lives after the April 2002

ceasefire.

As a result of the Turners' fact-finding mission, CBF partnered with CICA and agreed to help in the following ways: provide volunteer medical teams to Angola to immunize and treat the sick, including HIV/AIDS victims; support educational initiatives for young adults and youth; offer spiritual guidance to the displaced and disillusioned people who had endured 20 years of civil war; provide agricultural supplies; and help with water purification initiatives.

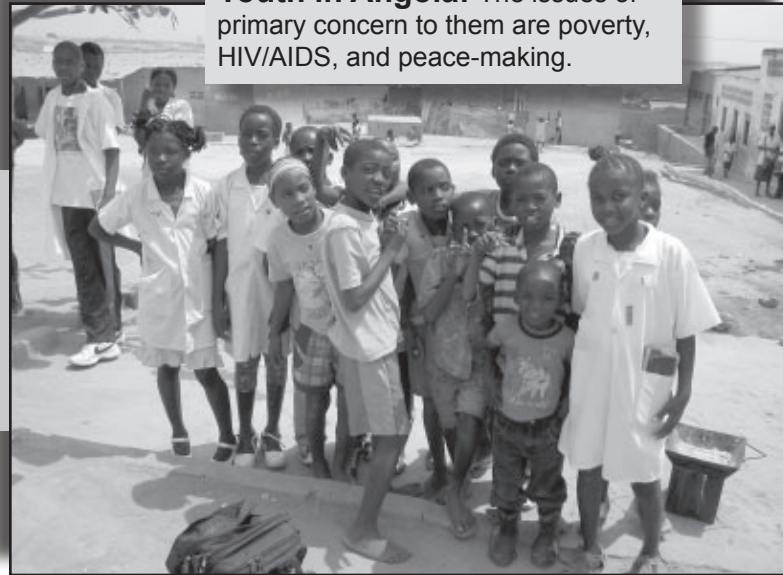
Volunteer teams work in partnership with churches to teach and empower the people to help themselves. Scott Christie, a community health psychiatrist in Charleston, coordinates the medical project, and in July he'll return to Angola for the third straight year with other volunteers.

Here's the best

part—it's not too late to sign up. And you don't have to be a doctor, a nurse, an engineer, a teacher, or a Baptist to be a vital part of the volunteer team. It's highly likely that whatever talent or know-how you possess will be a valuable resource on one of the projects.

If it's not possible for you to make the trip, but you'd like to help in some other way, consider giving money to buy medical supplies. Funds may be designated through CBF for the Angola Project, #80325. Or perhaps your church would be willing to provide a container and land on which to place it for items that otherwise must be purchased in Angola, or to pray daily for the ministry.

Youth in Angola: The issues of primary concern to them are poverty, HIV/AIDS, and peace-making.



If you'd like more information about the Angolan Project, contact Scott Christie at scottchristie215@yahoo.com. Or, go to www.thefellowship.info and search for *Angola* to read other articles about the work going on in that country.



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General Assembly 2005

- 1** . Marc Burcham, associate pastor at Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg, was General Assembly chair.
- 2** . Loris Adams, a member of Greater Harbison Church in Columbia, talks with Ginger Barfield, director of the Baptist Studies Program at Lutheran Seminary, and seminary student _____ in the exhibit area.
- 3** . Jeff Neal, a lay member of First Baptist Church in Anderson, is a newly elected member of the Coordinating Council. Jeff works at Clemson University.



4 . Clam chowder was served as participants left the Friday night session. Here, Gene Sparks helps _____ eat her bowlful.

5 . Roger and Cheng Chapman and Janice Capps from the Baptist Church of Beaufort, talk with SC/CBF coordinator Marion Aldridge.

6 . Nancy Garin was the local arrangements chair and read the scripture on Saturday morning.

7 . ___Viele, a member of the handbell choir, was one of many Timberlake members who made the General Assembly successful.

