

FELLOWSHIP



SEPTEMBER 2007

SC/CBF takes lead in sending Janée back to Belgium

Janée Angel returned to Belgium at the end of August with nothing but faith — and commitments from SC/CBF and some of its churches — in her pocketbook.

Janée had been working in Brussels under CBF's Global Service Corps program which permits field personnel to work — and get paid — for no more than three years. With Nell and Butch Green, her former associates

in Belgium, back in South Carolina and her term as a GSC missionary up, she looked for other ways to continue the work among immigrants and refugees, many of them Muslims from North Africa.

She found the CBF Affiliate Program, which requires field personnel to either work at other jobs or find their own funding. Janée sought help from SC/CBF, which has had

a partnership with Baptists in Belgium for the past several years.

The SC/CBF missions committee approved \$6,000 for her work and several S.C. churches have also made commitments.

One of those is First Baptist Church in Aiken, which has pledged \$4,000 for 2007 and intends to increase its gift to \$6,000 for the next two calendar years, said pastor Fred Andrea.

FBC Aiken members have been to Centre Oasis and developed a meaningful connection with Janée, Fred said. "Our folk want to support in a variety of ways continuation

of that significant outpost of God's grace in a difficult, challenging world so that relationships may be nurtured, training provided, and opportunities for witness extended," he said.

The Baptist Church of Beaufort has committed \$6,000 a year for two years to Janée's ministry, and has committed to be an "Encourager Church," a term CBF has recently adopted to indicate a church that is willing to give prayer and people support to a missions effort.

"It means we can be called upon to help whether she needs a construction team, a couple of accountants, a music group, ESL teachers, or whatever," said Harry Roland, pastor of the Baptist Church of Beaufort. "And Janee becomes a resource for us. She helps us with cultural sensitivity, strategy for reaching internationals, understanding Islam, and more. When we do this then we have sent our church on mission, which is what we believe is the teaching of the New Testament."

Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill has committed \$2,000 a year in direct financial support and pledged other resources.

But Janée is still far short of the \$71,000 she needs annually to run the ministry, and get a small salary.

Nevertheless, she is back in Brussels to continue to teach English and show Christian hospitality in a community of Muslims. She goes back, her pocketbook not quite full, but she takes a heart filled with love and a desire to help her Arab friends understand what being Christian really means.



Janée Angel

Janée is from south central Illinois where her parents still live. She earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University, and has served as a journeyman in Zimbabwe and Botswana with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. In 2000, she returned to the States to enroll in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where she earned a Master of Divinity in 2003. Through her work during the summer following graduation, she became more intimately connected with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and found it a place that felt like "home." In 2004, Janée began her service with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as a Global Service Corp worker in Brussels.

How to contribute to Janée's work

To designate a financial gift for Janée Angel and the work in Brussels, make one of the following notations on your check memo line: 1. Janée Angel or 2. Brussels, Belgium or 3. Account 00212-25010. This notation will insure that your contribution goes to the ministry in Brussels. Mail to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, P.O. Box 101699, Atlanta, GA 30392.

SC/CBF is establishing a formal association of laypeople in the state who want to stay informed about Janée, who are willing to pray for her, and who will contribute to her support. If interested, call or email the SC/CBF office. Go to our web site to view the projected budget for Janée's work, and to read more about her and Baptist outreach in Belgium.

Email Janée:
janeangel@gmail.com



Harry Rowland is a graduate of Baylor University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has previously served churches in Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas. Rowland and his wife Lana have two children – Melissa, 22, and Harry, 21. Harry and Lana have been particularly interested in the SC/CBF partnership with Belgium and have made several trips there.

BEING MISSIONAL — BEAUFORT PASTOR HARRY ROWLAND TAKES ON NEW ROLE WITH CBF

Beaufort pastor Harry Rowland Jr. begins work Sept. 17 as director of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship’s missional church team.

He has been senior pastor of the Baptist Church of Beaufort since 1996 and during that time has focused the congregation on being missional – that is, intentionally establishing ministry partnerships in the local community, state and around the world.

“Harry Rowland brings to this new position a passion for integrating congregations in global mission,” said CBF Global Missions coordinator Rob Nash.

“He has done this very thing at the Baptist Church of Beaufort, which is one of the best congregational models for mission engagement of which I am aware.”

“What interested me in this new position is that I hopefully can work through CBF to assist other churches experience the blessings of being missional as I have enjoyed at BCOB,” Harry said. “I look forward to what is truly a daunting challenge.”

“I have always believed that it is the church that God intends to use to build God’s kingdom,” he said. “This is why I have felt so strongly about the local church *being missional* and not just supporting agencies or missionaries who are missional.”

Harry said he welcomes CBF’s missions shift. “I was very excited to see that CBF was sensitive enough to the Spirit to take the courageous and unheard of step of

seeking to rethink mission deployment and make a concerted shift to resource churches to become missional churches,” he said.

He said that CBF coordinator Daniel Vestal’s book, *It’s Time: An Urgent Call To Christian Mission* and Nash’s address at the General Assembly convinced him that CBF was “determined to focus on developing missional churches to do Kingdom work.”

“I believe that what God has done here in Beaufort with the local church is what God desires to do everywhere,” Harry

said. “It will not look the same but the results and blessings can be the same. This is what I hope to communicate and share.”

SC/CBF has played a role in helping Harry and BCOB become missional. “I was given the opportunity to go to Belgium with the SC/CBF partnership and Belgium became one of our partners,” he said. “And

every time we have asked for resources, SC/CBF has provided them. The missional commitment of SC/CBF reinforced and affirmed what we were doing here. We knew we had a friend and were not alone.”

“It’s going to be a new day in how we do missions,” Harry said. “I feel like God has called the church to be a missionary force in our world. God is empowering the church to realize that every member is a missionary where they live and where they go.”

As the missional church team takes shape, more information on how to engage with CBF Global Missions will be made available. Until then, churches can contact Karen Gilbert at kgilbert@thefellowship.info.

Organizations are methodology but our theology says that God created the church to build God’s kingdom. This is how I have led the Baptist Church of Beaufort — to develop and enter into strategic partnerships where we are building God’s kingdom.

—Harry Rowland

WHAT HE WILL DO

The new position that Harry will fill was created this year as CBF Global Missions made a strategic shift to focus on better integrating churches in mission efforts around the world. Harry’s responsibilities will include helping congregations become missional and engage in global mission. A missional church is one whose members use their talents, resources and unique identity to reach out and fulfill God’s call to the local community and world.

When he leaves the Baptist Church of Beaufort, Harry will have served as pastor for 11 years and one month. What he lists as highlights of his ministry there are: two new church starts at Meadowbrook and Tidal Creek; one new mission point at Indigo Pines that may become a church; one Hispanic and one Korean pastor on the BCOB staff who are working to start ethnic congregations; Operation Good Neighbor, an ecumenical consortium of four Anglo and four African-American churches in downtown Beaufort committed to breaking the poverty and injustice cycles in the poorest section of town; Sunday worship services in assisted living complexes; the celebration of the church’s 200th anniversary including the publishing of an award winning history of the church; the missional emphasis; and the start of multi-generational mission trips.

Two Baptists on a desert island

There's an old joke about two Baptists who are marooned on a desert island. Immediately, they set a high attendance goal of three for Sunday School! Kinda cute. The story says something about the Baptist obsession with numerical growth. Since I have once again taken over the task of helping churches find pastors and church staff, I have been hearing the one-word Baptist mantra: Growth. It doesn't matter whether the church is in a declining community or a changing neighborhood; every Baptist congregation naively thinks the new preacher will bring in a new era of massive growth.

They harbor this fantasy because the men and women who dominate our pastor search committees, many over age 70, remember the post-World War II years when a church with a good preacher in an expanding neighborhood with new industry and a predominantly Christian culture could grow merely by opening its doors. Churches in rapidly developing suburbs can still expect such growth, but something like 85-95% of our Southern congregations do not fit that description. In fact, the most common sequence of events in churches in the early days of the 21st century is

1. a call is extended to a new pastor, followed by
2. a call for congregational change by the new pastor (otherwise, your church will not grow, because if you keep doing what you have been doing, you will keep experiencing what you have been experiencing, numerically speaking), followed by
3. frustration on the part of the older members, followed by
4. a church split, with one-third to one-half of the active members moving down the street to start a new church. Sometimes the older members "win" and sometimes the newer members "win" in these church fights. Jesus weeps for both groups.

That reminds me of a variation of the joke where the

two Baptists on the desert island start two churches because they can't get along enough even to worship together. I know another variation in which the two Baptists started a fund to build a pipe organ. The joke gets less funny all the time.

What if a church decided that the biblical task of a pastor is **to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, and that the task of the congregation was **to minister to their community**? The insulated status of our church culture in the 1950's made us think that the two people who ended up on the island were likely to be Baptist. Now we know that the more likely scenario, on the island and in our neighborhoods, is that one is a Christian of some sort and one will not be a Christian. And the non-Christian is also likely to be a person of color. I predict that if the Christian loves the non-Christian with acts of ministry and mercy then, after a while, the non-Christian may actually become interested in the faith that manifested itself in works. If we live as the presence of Christ in our communities, people will become interested in our faith.

The likelihood of strangers who are not Christians coming into your church this week or this year to listen to someone talk about Christianity is about the same likelihood that you will visit a Buddhist temple to hear someone give a lecture on the Buddha. It probably isn't going to happen.

The Bible says we are judged by the way we live. We get upset with that notion and immediately start arguing about "faith versus works." But it is a fact: Every day, your non-Christian neighbors judge you and me by the way we live. What they see in us, not what they hear from our new preacher, will determine whether our churches grow or decline.



By Marion Aldridge
Coordinator

COOPERATIVE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS: Send us your students

"Give us your energetic, your gifted, your social animals yearning to be free."

The demographics are a bit more upbeat than Emma Lazarus' lines immortalized at the Statue of Liberty. But the yearning to live free is the same. And Cooperative Student Fellowship provides an environment of freedom to encourage college students to become all that God intends for them to be.

So, free and faithful Baptists, give us the names and contact information of students incoming or returning to Clemson, Winthrop, Furman, or USC. We'll extend a warm invitation for them to become a part of a great group of students, the Cooperative Student Fellowship.

—The CSF directors

Our CSF Directors

Clemson: Tim Willis
curabbi@bellsouth.net

Winthrop: David Brown
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Furman: Joe Farry
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Have you considered putting CBF of SC in your will?

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Metanoia's Freedom School

Students decide to take on City Hall to get speed limit reduced

Each summer, Metanoia sponsors a five-week daily summer program called Freedom School that offers intensive reading and values education for students in grades 1-6.

This year, the students decided to take on a project to have the speed limit reduced along Spruill Avenue, which many of them have to cross to get home from Metanoia. The current speed limit is 40 mph.

The students wrote letters to the mayor, and worked with the police department to stage a march along Spruill Avenue on July 12.

"It was quite a site to see 50 students and their leaders walking along with signs asking people to slow down, while also singing songs and shouting cheers to that effect," said Metanoia director Bill Stanfield. Several TV stations covered the event.

The students left about half their signs along the road for a few days and the police department left a speed board that showed how fast people were going. In the two days following the staged march, the police gave particular attention to enforcing the speed limit.

Bill and some of the students also spoke to city council about the issue and hope to see the speed limit reduced this fall, when the Metanoia Young Leaders program resumes.

Go to www.pushingforward.org to learn more about Metanoia, SC/CBF's ministry in Charleston.



Metanoia's Freedom School students carry signs asking motorists to slow down to 25 mph.



Metanoia celebrated its fifth anniversary with a banquet on July 20. Several local elected officials, some pictured here, attended.

**IF YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE ALLENDALE
WORK DAY OCT. 13, PLEASE REGISTER
IMMEDIATELY SO THAT APPROPRIATE
PROJECTS CAN BE ARRANGED. DETAILS ARE ON
THE WEB SITE, WWW.CBFOFSC.ORG.**