



FELLOWSHIP

being the presence of Christ in the world

SEPTEMBER 2009



COOPERATIVE BAPTIST
FELLOWSHIP
of South Carolina



Eight-year-old Cerria, left, said she had fun at Camp Care. "I love the people. I want to stay here. I've learned a lot of things I didn't know. I learned that God is always there for me and if I make a mistake God will forgive me and still love me. I learned that I am wonderful and God made me special. And no matter what people say about you God always loves me."

Boulevard's CAMP CARE helps the

Child victims of violence

By Sue H. Poss, CBF Communications

Knowing that women who are victims of domestic violence and drug abuse have little hope of pulling themselves out of those situations and thus helping their children, Becky Lynch set out to find a way for her church to help the child victims directly.

She spent more than a year organizing Camp CARE—**C**hildren **A**re **R**eason **E**nough—at Boulevard Baptist Church in Anderson. Twenty children ranging in age from five to 12 participated in each of two four-day camps. The South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) selected the 40 children, all of whom live or have lived in violent homes with substance abuse and many of whom have been physically and sexually abused themselves.

The global missions director at Boulevard, Becky has for 25 years worked with families of violence through DSS. She had often asked herself how Boulevard could make a difference in the lives of these families. Her vision for the camp began two years ago when she was at a conference in New York City. Each evening, she would be in conversation about the millennium development goals with others present, including CBF field personnel Tina and Jonathan Bailey and Ronnie Adams.

"Becky was talking about domestic violence and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Tina Bailey, CBF field personnel from Southeast Asia, encourages 6-year-old Will to creatively and appropriately express emotions.



Ronnie Adams, CBF field personnel from New York City, works with one of the children in a group called *Building Self Esteem*.

Cameron pauses to reflect after placing a sign on his body map that says "God made me and I am wonderful!"

CAMP CARE—

(continued from page 1)

what can be done to reduce the risk to children who grow up in those conditions," Jonathan said. "She shared her vision for the camp with us and invited us to participate."

Thinking outside the box is what led to Camp CARE, Jonathan said. "We talk about doing missions out of the box," he said. "This camp did that because: 1) CBF field personnel came to help a local church in its project rather than the typical case of churches sending people to help the personnel on the field 2) It was a partnership between a local church, CBF, and a government agency (DSS) and 3) It had a spiritual component, taught core values of healthy communities, and provided life skills for the children."

The Baileys, based in Southeast Asia, and Adams, based in New York City, provided leadership at the camp. More than 250 members of Boulevard helped in some way. Local law enforcement

officials, nutritionists, hygienists, therapists, and others gave their time to work with the children. Local restaurants supplied the meals. Seven DSS employees spent all day each day at the camp, doing their other required work in the evenings.

"We built the camp around the needs of the children," Becky said. "We used the story of Joseph to teach our daily themes — love, kindness, forgiveness, compassion."

Each day began with a contemporary version of a Bible story. Then the children rotated through sessions that taught them team-building and self-esteem, conflict resolution and expressing emotions. They planted

flowers to learn how to be gentle and caring. They learned self-sufficiency skills including personal and dental hygiene.

Becky said the presentation by the Sheriff's Department on safety was perhaps the most appreciated activity. "We're not talking about how to safely cross the street," Becky said. "We're talking about how to keep yourself safe if you're in the presence of domestic violence." The deputy told the children when, why and how to call 911, and showed them the effects of drugs on the body.

All 40 children got a new pair of shoes, a set of linens with their names monogrammed on each piece, a potted plant, and a framed photo of themselves.

During the camp, the children disclosed situations happening in their homes that Becky Lynch, pictured, said the DSS staff addressed immediately.



I loved camp. All the people here were nice to me. I love all the teams. I learned about the Lord and how wonderful we are because he made us. I learned that drugs are the wrong thing to do because they hurt your body."

—Jordan, 8



Sarah Krueger with a bag of rice that she was helping give to refugees from Middle Eastern countries.

On the streets of Athens, Greece, the Krueger family found

The power of Christian partnership

By Courtney Krueger, Pastor | First Baptist Church, Pendleton

CBF didn't teach me the word *partner* but CBF has helped that word become very powerful for me. From early on, CBF was clear that we wouldn't own many structures or institutions, but would partner with those who were doing ministry in Christ's name.

My family experienced this first-hand during a nearly five-week trip to Athens, Greece, this summer. Our initial partners were Bob and Janice Newell, CBF missionaries there. They needed to come back to the United States for the CBF General Assembly and to see family. Our job was to care for their ministry while they were gone. Theirs is a ministry to Albanian immigrants. The Albanians are often discriminated against. (Many advertisements for apartments or jobs will include the phrase, "No Albanians.") They are in need of people who will love and value them. The Newells do this in a variety of ways including English and computer classes, art exhibits, discipleship classes, relationship building and networking with governmental officials. I liken their ministry to Jesus' ministry of love and respect for those who were discriminated against in his culture.

But Bob and Janice's work at **Porta** isn't done in a vacuum. There are others in Athens who are marginalized and there are other Christian groups who are responding to their needs. We lived in an apartment in the Second Evangelical Church of Athens, joking that we were on a leave FROM church and we were living IN church! Second Evangelical partners with **Porta** and others through this ministry of hospitality to visiting "missionaries." My children distributed food and clothing one day to refugees from many of the war-torn Middle Eastern countries through a group called **Helping Hands**. My wife Lea and I worked with a ministry called **Neo Zoi** (New Life) to women caught in prostitution. I had the opportunity to preach and

lead in worship at **Second Evangelical** and we helped with the church's neighborhood youth center.

All of these groups are bound together not by orthodoxy (Greek or otherwise!) or organization. They are bound together by a commitment to Jesus and his love for people who are marginalized, hated or abused. On the streets of Athens at 2 a.m. as I was walking with the Neo Zoi people, someone asked me, "Tell me again, the ministry you are working with in Athens?" I began by saying its name was Porta. She said, "Oh, yeah, Bob and Janice – they are great!" I realized for the first time that there are overlapping circles of partnership, relationship and support throughout all of these various ministries. They are all partners in ministry.

As we were driving home from the Charlotte airport, I asked my children, "You've been in Greece for nearly five weeks. You've seen and done all kinds of great things. What stands out for you the most?" David, our 16-year-old, said, "Lunch with Nicole at Thesseion." Sarah, our 12-year-old, said, "Dinner at Alma's." Nicole is an American who is teaching English at Porta and working with Neo Zoi. Alma is an Albanian who is an English teacher at Porta. While we were in Greece we saw the Parthenon, I got to run in the original Olympic stadium, we spent five days on the beautiful island of Santorini. But my children remembered the people – the relationships and the partnerships. Can there be a better testimony to the power of Christian partnership?

To learn more about Porta and Bob and Janice Newell's ministry, go to <http://www.portashqiptare.com>.

To see pictures and read more about the Kruegers' experiences, go to www.fbcpendleton.org and click on the link on the front page.



Courtney, second from left, led a men's Bible study while he was at PORTA.



CBF WORK DAY

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

Two locations: ALLENDALE AND GREENVILLE

Registration Deadline: AUG. 31

Cost: \$20 PER PERSON OR \$40 PER FAMILY (includes lunch, t-shirt, insurance, and materials).

REGISTER ONLINE for either of these events at www.cbfofsc.org

ALLENDALE DETAILS

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Gather at First Baptist Church, Allendale by 8:30 a.m.

Projects: Children's day camp, food drive, construction projects in the Flat Street/Sugar Hill neighborhood, building a porch, hanging sheetrock, cleanup at the African American Cultural Center building, projects at Vision Ministries in Fairfax, framing an assembly room, landscaping a garden, roadside cleanup, VBS at John Harter Nursing Center. This is the third year we've worked in Allendale.



FAIRFAX MISSION AND OUTREACH CENTER

First Baptist Church in Allendale and CBFSC have already been working with Vision Ministry in Fairfax to shore up this building (pictured above) which will be used to provide numerous services including life skills education, health awareness and management, job skills preparation, after school programs, family resources, youth development activities, and recreation.

We will help even more on Work Day where the goal is to frame in a multi-purpose area and create a garden. Once the multi-purpose area is framed, local resources will be used to complete the work. The target date to open the center is Dec. 31.

"We have been working toward real partnerships for the Allendale area and those are beginning to happen," said CBFSC missions coordinator Beverly Greer. "We have been praying for an entrée into the Fairfax area. Vision Ministry is opening that door."

GREENVILLE DETAILS

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Frazer Dream Center located in the Historic District at Pinckney & Lloyd Streets (formerly Central Baptist Church) in downtown Greenville

Projects: Cleaning, organizing food pantry, installing sheetrock, painting classrooms, plaster demolition.

The Frazer Dream Center is a free after school and summer program for under resourced children in the downtown Greenville area. The program offers assistance and guidance to children ages 6-13 in the areas of academics, character development, sportsmanship and emotional wellness.



FOOD NEEDED IN ALLENDALE

Dried beans, macaroni/cheese, tuna/chicken in water, peanut butter, boxed dinners, jelly, canned vegetables/fruits, ramen noodles, soups, cereal.

The shelves of the food bank at Christ Central Ministries in Allendale are often almost empty.



Volunteers from First Baptist Church Greenville worked at the Frazee Center last spring as part of Operation Inasmuch.

FRAZEE CENTER

CBFSC volunteers will do some light construction in getting the preschool and middle school rooms ready and cleaning the building. We have a very low operating budget so we depend on volunteers to help us get this work done. We are grateful for the help in assisting us to get these rooms ready to serve additional children in the neighborhood.

—Alise Brown, Frazee Center

Judith White and Marcia Harris working at Christ Central Ministries in Allendale.



ALLENDALE WORK DAY DRAWS VOLUNTEERS FROM NEAR AND FAR

This will mark my third Allendale Work Day. My first year I was thrilled to see other people called to the same task that I had been called. Even though the location isn't convenient, Clemson First Baptist grows in response to the needs in Allendale. We plan on taking a food offering to Allendale, and we are going to collect school supplies for elementary school students. We have increased the number going from two the first year, four the second, to 16 or more this year. We will send an advance construction crew on Sept. 6 to get things started, then will have other workers coming Sept. 12. —Judith White, First Baptist Church, Clemson



When CBF scheduled a work day in Allendale, it provided an opportunity for me to be a part of a mission project close to home. This meant that I would not have to travel far to be involved in missions and there was something that I could do. As a participant in Allendale, I was part of a team of volunteers from across the state who were assigned to the nursing home. We got to spend time with the residents while we sang, read stories, played games, did crafts, baked cookies, had a cook out and ate lunch together. Getting to work with volunteers from across the state provided an opportunity for fellowship with other CBF members who are involved in missions, as well as brighten the day of the residents with our visit. —Betty Jones, First Baptist Church, Walterboro

Betty Jones, left, passes out treats to nursing home residents at the 2007 Work Day in Allendale.

ALLENDALE PARTNERSHIP IS YEAR-ROUND

One woman found five stems of crystal at the Sales Blitz. She bought them for her daughter who was getting married and was thrilled with her purchase.

Contact Beverly at beverly@cbfsc.org if your church wants to do a similar project or has another idea for a project.

Our work in Allendale County doesn't happen on just one day every year. For example, week by week members of Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill take clothes to a local drop-off point. Caroline Krueger leads a team that goes every Wednesday to sort the clothes according to size, cull out those that are not clean, are torn, have buttons missing, etc. They then bag and label the bags.

Caroline's daughters have a consignment business and have three large consignment sales each year. Their consignees are encouraged to donate what doesn't sell to the Allendale project. The gifts from Oakland members and consignees made up the spring Sales Blitz. "Through this project, we made more than \$1,000 that has already been invested in an Allendale ministry," said Beverly Greer.

The shoppers at the Sales Blitz were excited at the amount and quality of clothing. Many asked us to do this again.



JUST Sharing

STATE MISSION OFFERING 2009 GOAL: \$80,000

Marion, Christina and Beverly are available to preach or give a 3 to 5 minute missions emphasis in the service during September.

The Just Sharing State Mission Offering is vital to the missions efforts being carried out in South Carolina. For example:

1. The \$20 registration fee that Work Day participants are being asked to pay this year will cover the cost of some of the Work Day materials. The rest of the money for the materials comes from the offering.
 2. The International ministry that Aki and Yoko Shigemi coordinate relies on the offering.
 3. We have committed \$50,000 to Metanoia from the State Missions Offering.
- As of Aug. 6, the 2009 offering receipts were \$45,526.

If you need materials to promote the offering, contact the CBFSC office.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE: Aki Shigemi, our minister to internationals, has helped establish a partnership between the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Kanazawa Baptist Church in Japan. A part of this partnership will be a program teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). Volunteers willing to commit two years of service are now being enlisted. Contact Chris Boltin, the Fellowship's short-term assignments coordinator, at cboltin@thefellowship.info.

Book Bytes

Book reviews by Marion Aldridge

Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical

By Shane Claiborne

Zondervan, copyright 2006, 367 pages

Claiborne's life makes our conversations about the "missional church" seem a bit wimpy. Indeed, he discovered what many of us who have taken "mission trips" have begun to realize: "At first I went on mission trips to 'take the good news' to poor people. Then I discovered that they were the ones who brought the good news to me."

Read Marion's full review at
<http://cbfscbookbytes.wordpress.com>
or link to it from the home page
of our web site.



Out of the box: Don Flowers, pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Charleston, suggests that churches look to the state government as partners. "Why not partner with organizations that are already doing good stuff? Why do we have to recreate the wheel every time? There are some really good programs going on through our state government that would be happy for the assistance." One concrete example: Contact your local Department of Social Services and volunteer to build wheelchair ramps. Don said sometimes DSS has funds for materials but needs help with the labor. Other times it doesn't have money for either. In either case, churches might be able to help. Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia just completed a wheelchair ramp as part of this initiative.

INSURANCE

It's not glamorous but it is necessary: Insurance for mission trips and activities. "I can't stress enough the need to get insurance for each person on every missions trip," said Beverly Greer. "We build the cost of the insurance into our Work Day fee so that every person participating that day is covered."

CBFSC uses Adams & Associates International in Columbia for coverage it purchases under what is called a Volunteer Travel Program.

www.aaintl.com



Rivertown's
'custom'
missions
trip has led
to ongoing
relationship
with Slavic
ministry

Debbie Dantzler with two of the
Slavic women she met.

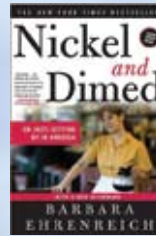
VISIBLE Christians

By Beverly Greer
Missions Coordinator



In her *New York Times* bestseller, **Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America**, Barbara Ehrenreich recounts her experiences working undercover in minimum wage jobs.

In Florida she worked as a waitress, not in the upscale restaurants where tips can be generous but in places where diners left meager amounts. In describing the tipping tendencies of customers she said, "The worst, for some reason, are the Visible Christians . . ." and described the after Sunday night service groups who have large food bills and



leave \$1 or those who wear identifying T-shirts or crosses and leave nothing. Both, she said, demanded a lot of service.

It was her term "Visible Christians" that caught my attention. We all are probably "Visible Christians" a lot more than we realize. Reading that book has caused me to pay more attention to my demeanor wherever I am.

This newsletter tells the stories of a different kind of "Visible Christian." These are South Carolina Fellowship folks being the presence of Christ to people who live on the margins of life. CBFSC members are making a positive difference to individuals and communities. The stories here are but a sampling of what people are doing. Not only every church but probably every person has a make-a-difference story.

Frederick Buechner says that vocation is "the place where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need." That might be applied to missions ventures as well. There is deep need everywhere you look. South Carolina Fellowship people are doing remarkable work matching their deep gladness to their world's deep need.

Church newsletters I read tell the stories of make-a-difference events sponsored by churches. There are many projects and they are varied according to the needs they see and according to the gifts of the church members.

What we don't see so much is the quiet make-a-difference ministry done by a person whose deep gladness may be regularly checking on a homebound friend or quietly giving money to someone who has lost a job. And we all know people who make those they meet feel cared about — a deep need.

Visible Christians being the presence of Christ cover the South Carolina Fellowship landscape. It's not the size of any ministry that's of primary importance. It's the deep gladness within each person who meets a deep need.

Rivertown Community Church in Conway was looking for something different to do this summer for missions that involved more than construction and was fairly close by. They found the Slavic ministry in Asheville, NC, run by CBF field personnel Mike and Fran Graham.

Six members of the church spent a few days working with the ministry. "Mike and Fran custom-designed our trip to what we could do," said church member Deborah Dantzer.

During their trip, church members planted daylilies at some Habitat homes for the Slavic residents, sorted household goods at a warehouse, led a Backyard Bible club, and were treated to a Moravian picnic.

"While we have enjoyed the work days in Allendale and plan to continue to participate in those, I think this trip is the beginning for a lasting relationship with the Grahams in their ministry," Debbie said. "They helped us so much. All of us want to go again and after hearing our reports, others from our church want to go next time."

Back in Conway, church members are already collecting towels for the Slavic ministry because that is a particular need among families moving to the area. And Jean Burden (see article at right) has already heard from some of the children via e-mail, and she plans to continue to develop those relationships.



I had some fears going in — mainly fears about the language barrier. Then, during a picnic with the Slavic people, we sang songs that all of us knew; they sang in their language and we sang in ours, and I realized language didn't matter a bit. We just sounded like God's people praising God's name, and it was an "AHA!" moment for me. The missions trip also helped me clarify my professional life. I am a middle school teacher, and before we left for the trip, I had been having some serious reservations about going back to the classroom. I felt that my passion for the work might be lost. Well, the missions trip gave me the answer for which I had been praying in an unexpected way. In almost every house where we planted flowers, we met middle school children, sixth graders to be exact. What God showed me during the planting and at the backyard Bible school is that I love sixth graders, and any doubts I had of returning to teach fell away. I was able to decorate my new classroom with joy and anticipation. God is so very good."

—Jean Burden (second from left in the above photo)



P.O. Box 11159
Columbia, SC 29211

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Christy McMillin-Goodwin MODERATOR
803.328.3864 | cgoodwin@oaklandchurch.com

Marion Aldridge COORDINATOR
803.779.1888 | Cell: 803.413.2734
marion@cbfosc.org

Christina Whitehouse-Suggs ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR
803.779.1888 | Cell: 803.727.7581
christina@cbfosc.org

Beverly Greer MISSIONS COORDINATOR
864.338.9923 | Cell: 864.360.1396
beverly@cbfosc.org

Sue Poss NEWSLETTER EDITOR
864.848.9828 | editor@cbfosc.org

CBFSC Web site: www.cbfosc.org
Fax: 803.779.2242

National CBF: www.thefellowship.info • 800.352.8741

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PREPARING FOR WHAT?

Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the British Boy Scouts, was once asked by a scout, "Be Prepared for what?" "Why," said Lord Baden-Powell, "for any old thing."

One of those "old things" that a church family may want to consider is disaster response (DR). While the Boy Scout motto *Be Prepared* means that scouts are always ready in mind and body to do their duty and face danger, if necessary, to help others, a church can be the presence of Christ while helping those persons subjected to trauma as a result of manmade or natural disaster.

A recent request for the names of CBFSC Church Disaster Response Coordinators (CDRC) revealed that 11 churches in the state are aware of the need for a CDRC.

Examples of the DR approaches that some of these churches take include:

1. Partnering with the American Red Cross to serve as emergency shelters
2. Being open during power outages in the community
3. Establishing disaster response teams to serve when needed
4. Making 15 trips to the Gulf Coast area to repair structures damaged by Hurricane Katrina

Ways in which a church can do DR are many. Ask first if the church family has a plan to look after its own members during unexpected interruptions of water or power services. Being able to look after church members who are homebound, elderly or who live alone is a good place to begin. Is there a "telephone tree" in place? Can the location of members be grouped by proximity?

Other ideas include:

1. Form a support team for a tool trailer for debris removal, temporary structural repairs
2. Agree to be a point of distribution (POD) for commissary supplies or clothing
3. Offer your parking lot as a meeting place/staging area in case of community emergency
4. Partner with other DR organizations/groups for DR training

Becoming a member of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) or a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will help one learn about the various organizations that are called upon to provide DR.

Helen Keller said, "I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish all small tasks as if they were great and noble."



By Mason Harris, Gaffney
CBFSC Disaster Response Chair
hawkeyeharris@bellsouth.net

