

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



APRIL 2003

Lisa Jeffcoat McNeal:

Third year Yale student appreciates supportive spirit and prayers as much as the SC/CBF scholarship

Lisa Jeffcoat McNeal is a third year Master of Divinity student at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut, and will graduate in May. From St. Andrews Baptist in Columbia, this is the third year she has received SC/CBF scholarship funds.

She writes: "CBF of SC has supported me generously throughout my time at Yale. On a practical level, the scholarship money means that I am able to attend here. On a personal level, the financial assistance represents the supportive spirit and prayers of my CBF sisters and brothers in South Carolina. Thus, SC/CBF has made it possible for me to attend Yale, motivated me to do excellent work during my time here because of the investment it has made in my theological education, and strengthened me to have a meaningful academic and spiritual experience in my preparation for ministry through constant support and encouragement.

"During our first few years in Connecticut, my husband John Paul and I were members of Wilton Baptist Church, which is aligned with the CBF. Through that congregation we were able to participate in meetings of the Baptist Fellowship of



Lisa
Jeffcoat
McNeal

New England. I also had the opportunity in 2002 to participate in the preliminary discussions of the CBF Seminarians Network.

"We look forward to returning to the South at some point in the future, and to reconnecting with CBF."

Eric Freeman

Eric is in the first year of a master of divinity program at Campbell University Divinity School, and so this is his first year to get financial help from SC/CBF. His home church is The Baptist Church of Beaufort.



He writes: "The scholarship money has given me an opportunity to further my education. Without this aid I would not be able to complete this degree. After graduation, my plans are either to work as

(continued on page 2)

HURRY UP AND SLOW DOWN

The scripture in Gullah

Hear Ron Daise tell the story of the Exodus in Gullah, a traditional language of the Lowcountry.

Well known for bringing Gullah culture to national and international television audiences through Nick Jr's Gullah Gullah Island, Ron and his wife Natalie are actors, singers, storytellers, entrepreneurs, craftspersons, songwriters, producers and publishers.

Along with Ron's presentation: A gospel choir singing "O Happy Day" and "Amen."



BREAKOUTS at the Assembly

Along with the Gullah readings, preaching and singing, several breakout sessions will be offered on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Topics include: Companions in Christ, Beginning your Church Prayer Ministry, 100 Favorite Bible Verses, Theology in Films, Justice and Missions, Restorative Justice, Baptist Principles, Labyrinth Walk, Top 10 Painless Ways to do Missions, Partnering with Ethnic Churches, How to De-Stress Our Families, and Media Relations for Church.

More about the Assembly INSIDE

**2003
South
Carolina
CBF
General
Assembly:
April 25-26
Beaufort**

Last month we featured three recipients of SC/CBF scholarships for seminary students. In this issue are three other current recipients. Applications for the scholarships are available on the SC/CBF website, www.cbfofsc.org.

Does this sound familiar? It is 8:30 at night, and your television is on. There is an advertisement, a teaser, about the next program. Somebody murdered somebody else a couple of years ago in Oregon, and the television commercial is trying to keep you from changing channels or turning off the TV. They ask if this innocent looking teenager (they show you her picture) got away with cold-blooded murder?

Suddenly, you care about an event you had never thought of and people you had never heard of! You are hooked. You do not change the channel. You do not turn off the TV. You are fascinated by the story (and it is fascinating), and you watch it for the one or two hours it lasts.

Here are my questions: What do you care about? Jesus? The Bible? The poor? Your family?

The world asks us to care about a lot of things. The next television show. The next ballgame. The next party. The latest fad. A bizarre website.

We find the time to read the newspaper when we do not find time to read the Bible. We find time to talk with a stranger on the internet when we do not find time to talk with our family. We find time to watch soap

operas and sports on television when we do not find time to help out at a soup kitchen. We find time to be fascinated by the world of the rich and the famous when we do not find time to pay attention to the world of the poor and the oppressed. When is the last time you rode public transportation? In my Bible reading this morning (Act 3), I noticed that, before ministry and healing took place, Peter and the beggar had to look at each other. It began with Peter paying attention to the beggar, really paying attention, not just throwing a nickel in the beggar's lap.

If spending time with your family is important, do you schedule it, or do you just let it happen when it is convenient? If spending time with Jesus is important, do you schedule it, or do you just let it happen when it is convenient?

"These people come near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." (Isaiah 29:13)

When people make bad decision after bad decision after bad decision, why are they surprised when there are bad results?

If you care about something, make time for it.



By **Marion Aldridge**,
Coordinator
of SC/CBF

Coordinator's Column **What do you care about?**

Scholarship recipients

(continued from page 1)

a pastor at a church or attempt to get my Ph.D. Right now I am seeking God's will in the way God would have me to go."

Eric plans to attend the CBF General Assembly in June in Charlotte as well as the state meeting in April at his home church.

Michael Kellett

Michael, who grew up in First Baptist Church Greenville, is in the second of a four-year program at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. By the end of this year, he will have completed 18 of 30 required hours.

He writes: "It is wonderful to know that there are people and organizations that are willing to support and affirm my call that I've felt to the ministry. In college, I had many friends who had to work two and three jobs to make ends meet. Being somewhat of a newlywed (married June 16, 2001) and with my wife in seminary, it is nice to have financial support so that I have some time to spend with my family and with the community at BTSR.

"I had worked in some capacity with youth ministry for nine years. I finally decided to stop resisting the calling that I had felt to a ministry with youth. I currently work with the Oakland Baptist Church youth group. The youth and the adults who work



Michael Kellett

with them affirm to me that a ministry with youth is my passion and one of the things I have been asked to do in the service of God. "I am currently a national CBF scholar and have recently become involved in *Current*, a conglomeration of youth ministers, children's ministers, seminarians—all young leaders," he said. "I also plan to attend the General Assembly this year."

"I am married to Christine and have a 16-month-old Shiz-tzu named Belle," Michael said. "We both are from South Carolina and hope that our ministry will find its way back there."

MISSIONS COORDINATOR TALKS ABOUT SAFETY ISSUES FOR CBF PERSONNEL



Gary Baldrige, co-coordinator of Global Missions for the CBF Resource Center in Atlanta, was the guest at the March 15 meeting of the SC/CBF Coordinating Council. He said that CBF remains vigilant about world events. "The safety of our missionaries is a great concern of ours right now," he said. Some missionaries have taken home assignment early to avoid potentially dangerous situations, especially in Muslim areas of the world," he said.

10 years at NewKirk

NewKirk Baptist in Rock Hill celebrated its 10th anniversary in February. Shown in the photo at the far right are Harold and Betty Shirley, founding pastors. In the near photo, Sally and Marion Aldridge are flanking Barbara Baldrige, co-coordinator of CBF Global Missions.



Marty to speak at Baptist Historical Society

Louie Lattimer Owens to be honored

The South Carolina Baptist Historical Society is departing from its usual meeting time and is joining with the Chaplain's Office at Furman University to offer two opportunities to hear historian Martin Marty on April 8 during Founders Week.

Beginning at 9 a. m. that day, a Ministers Workshop will be held in Daniel Chapel. Marty will speak on "America's Changing Religious Landscape."

During the afternoon the Baptist Historical Collection will host an open house that will feature a special exhibit on Louie Latimer Owens, the first archivist at Furman University and co-

founder of the South Carolina Baptist Historical Society.

A dinner will be held in Hartness Pavilion at 6 p. m. that will include an announcement of a new endowment for Furman University Archives named in honor of Owens.

After the dinner, Marty will present a public lecture at 8 p. m. in Daniel Chapel entitled "The American Religious Landscape: Baptists and Other Believers."

Reservations are required for the dinner and registration is required for the ministers' workshop. Contact Furman chaplain Jim Pitts, chaplain@furman.edu.

OBITUARIES

Howard McClain

Howard G. McClain, a Columbia Baptist pastor who worked from the 1950s to 1980s for racial and interfaith unity in South Carolina, died Feb. 12 after a long illness. He was 84.

For 35 years, McClain was the executive minister of the South Carolina Christian Action Council. A native of Texas, he took over the leadership of the council in 1950, when it was called the Temperance League of South Carolina.

The group became the Christian Action Council in 1951, and focused its mission on issues such as civil rights, poverty and ecumenical cooperation.

Today the Christian Action Council includes members from 19 different faith groups, including SC/CBC.

James Tate

James H. Tate Sr., 75, founding pastor of CBF-affiliated Florence Baptist Fellowship in Florence, died Feb. 20 after an extended illness. Tate had served as Director of Missions for the Florence Baptist Association from 1979 until he retired in 1991.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of the Pee Dee, 555 E. Cheves St., Florence, SC 29506 or to Florence Baptist Fellowship, 2301 Second Loop Road, Florence, SC 29501.

HURRY UP

AND SLOW DOWN

**2003 South Carolina
CBF General Assembly:
April 25-26
Beaufort**

Featured speakers are **Calvin Miller**, professor of preaching and pastoral ministries at Beesen Divinity School in Birmingham, and **Catherine Allen**, a founder of Global Women.

The Assembly begins with a business session at 1:30 p.m. on Friday and concludes after worship around noon on Saturday. The Missions Banquet is at 5:30 on Friday afternoon.

Hotels (all on Boundary Street):

Country Inn and Suites, 843.379.4000. Best Inn, 843.524.3322. Ramada Limited, 843.524.2144. Hampton Inn, 843.986.0600. Group # 87869513.

To register for the Assembly: Online at www.cbfofsc.org. Or call

The Pennington Group,
706.364.7366.

No charge for the assembly. The Missions Banquet is \$15.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2003

Mack Jones, Moderator
mackbabes@lowcountry.com
(843) 538-5756

Marion Aldridge, Coordinator
(803) 779-1888
Fax: (803) 779-2242

E-Mail: Marion@cbfosc.org

Sue Poss, Editor
editor@cbfosc.org

SC/CBF Website: www.cbfosc.org

National CBF: www.cbfonline.org

The dreams of retirement caused me to smile when work became a real pain. The dream of building a home in the mountains and traveling to places that I really wanted to see kept me motivated. Betty and I have been fortunate to realize a portion of these dreams. We



MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

By Mack Jones
Walterboro

The Merchants of Istanbul

have managed to go to England, Italy, Greece and Turkey; and have taken a couple of trips to the Western United States. We do live in a small world, don't we?

A good deal of our travel has been shared with Jean and Posey Belcher. Traveling is more than seeing and doing; it's a chance to share those memories for years to come. In Rome, I recall the waiter

following us down the hall because we did not know we were expected to pay for the water we drank with dinner. It was in Istanbul that I saw just how nice people are. Our tour guide was outstanding. It was with excitement that

he shared the history and heritage of his country. It was also in Istanbul that the merchants in the shops taught me about the integrity of the Turkish people.

The little shops in the markets were thickly packed together with each vendor seeking the passing tourist trade. I bought a necktie and watched the merchant use his calculator to make sure that there was a fair exchange between his inflated currency and the valued American dollar.

The most memorable experience came at a souvenir shop when I was trying to buy a Turkish flag and other items. I gave the merchant what I thought was the correct amount. The merchant kept protesting that I had overpaid him. I insisted that I had given him the correct amount. The merchant became almost irate trying to give me what he considered to be my change.

I left the shops thinking how honest these aggressive vendors were. They were fighting for the American dollar but they refused to take advantage of the American tourist.

Posey gave me assurance that the merchant had not been cheated. Even if I received a fair exchange for my money, I still got more than I bargained for. When I think about the Merchants of Istanbul, I do so with a smile on my face.

It is a small and a good world.



Mary Frances Thompson of Greenwood and Mary Lou Haddox of Orangeburg go over last minute details for the General Assembly. Mary Frances is chair of the Assembly committee and Mary Lou is responsible for the workshops.

\$\$\$ \$

SC/CBF Financials

July 1, 2002-Feb. 28, 2003

Anticipated Receipts	\$258,336
Actual Receipts	\$252,653
Deficit	(\$6,083)
Expenses	\$234,632
Actual Receipts over Actual Expenses	\$18,021

Pass through to CBF Atlanta

\$492,825