

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



MARCH 2002

THE COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA

2002 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

April 26-27

Oakland Baptist Church
Rock Hill, SC

A highlight of this year's General Assembly will be the commissioning of Evelyn Oliveira and Bill Stanfield, who have been selected to head our state mission effort in North Charleston. They will begin their employment in late April and will begin work in Charleston in July. More information about this missionary couple will be included in the next issue of *Fellowship News*.

The focus of the Assembly this year will be traditional Baptist principles. Mary Frances Thompson of Greenwood is chair of the General Assembly committee.

Keynote speaker

Bill Coates

Pastor, First Baptist Church, Gainesville, GA

Bill grew up in Kershaw, SC, and is the former pastor of First Baptist Church in Orangeburg and Blaney Baptist Church in Elgin. He earned a Ph. D. in English from the University of South Carolina, an M.Div. from Southeastern Seminary; and a B.A. in English and religion from Coker College. He was moderator of SC/CBF in 1991-92.



Schedule

Friday

- 11:45 Registration and exhibits open
- 1:30 Devotional/Business Session
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Regional Meetings
- 3:45 Break
- 4:00 Breakouts
- 5:00 Break
- 5:30 Missions Banquet
- 7:00 Worship
- 8:30 Fellowship Celebration

Saturday

- 8:30 Snack Breakfast
- 9:00 Morning Worship, including the installation of officers
- 9:45 Break
- 10:00 Breakouts
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Commissioning of Charleston missionaries and observance of the Lord's Supper
- 12:00 Adjourn

celebrating
your
BAPTIST
name

Breakouts

Introducing New Preschool/Children's Sunday School Curriculum — Smyth & Helwys

Getting Connected: CBF's Reference and Referral Network — Terry Brooks, SC/
CBF Placement Coordinator

Church Starting 101: How Churches, Groups, and Individuals Can Be a Part:—
Mark & Mary Driskell, SC/CBF New Church Starts Committee

The South Carolina-Belgium Connection — Sammy Verhaeghe, General Secretary
of the Belgium Baptist Union

Doing Missions in South Carolina — Missions Committee

Using CBF Global Missions Curriculum — Tamara Tillman, CBF Associate Coordi-
nator for Missions Education

Theology in Film: Theology in Classic Films & Theology in Contemporary Films
— Roger Thomas, Pastor, Northeast Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Registration and childcare

There is no charge to attend the assembly, but please register in advance. There is a \$15 per person charge for the Missions Banquet, and advanced registration is required. A registration form is on the back page.

Childcare will be available for \$3 per child for one or both days. Please send names and ages of children, along with times when childcare will be needed. Supper will be provided during the missions banquet and snacks during the sessions.

The Youth Group and other members of First Baptist Church in York spent the week after Christmas in Miami working at Open House Ministries of Homestead, a project sponsored by Florida CBF.

They were guests of Riverside Baptist Church, where Ray Johnson, former pastor at FBC York, is now pastor. They worked with Richie Hines, the Volunteer Coordinator for Open House, and his wife Lindsy, the daughter of former CBF missionaries Kathie and T Thomas.

Their assignment was to paint and clean up a restaurant directly across from an elementary school.



First Baptist Church in York: Making A Difference

By Wanda Ashworth, Youth and Music Director

On December 26, a multi-generational group of 23 people traveled to Miami to assist Open House Ministries with a renovation project in downtown Homestead. Many telephone calls and meetings were held to determine how we could best meet the needs of that community. The final project plan involved painting the outside of a local restaurant that was struggling to stay in business.

When I first heard about this project, I was a little dismayed. This was not exactly my idea of mission work. Why are we helping one business? Then I learned more about the situation.

Hassan is a Palestinian who opened a restaurant in Homestead four years ago. The street corner that is now home to the City Grill was formerly inhabited by drug dealers. They did a booming business at that location, directly across the street from a school.

Hassan invested a substantial amount

of his own money to reclaim this corner of Homestead.

Unfortunately, his wife became sick and he could not afford to hire anyone to help him. He also continually struggled with the former tenants who wanted to get the corner back. Open House felt Hassan

First Baptist York
Randy Gardner, pastor
fbcyork@rjsonline.net

needed help.

Friday
morning, Dec.
28, our group

arrived at our work site. Imagine our surprise when we found a sign on the front door that proclaimed, "There is but one God, Allah!" How could this man mock our faith when we had come to help him?

Disregarding the sign, our group began the task of cleaning and scraping the sides of the building. After two days, the outside of the building had been transformed. In addition to a fresh coat of paint, many of our team members had also

picked up trash and debris from the area.

Hassan was delighted with the results. He brought out trays of fried fish, hush puppies, crab cakes, slaw and french fries and began to talk with the team members. He shared his struggles and frustrations. He was very thankful that someone, somewhere cared.

All this brings me back to the sign that greeted us in Hassan's window. Our acts of kindness did reveal to Hassan that someone, somewhere cared. Hopefully, one day he will be able to recognize that person as Jesus Christ. We did not condemn Hassan's faith or beat him over the head with our beliefs. We simply introduced him to the unconditional love that we know through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I hope our efforts in Homestead will make a difference in that community, but my prayer is that seeds of love were sown to open hearts to Christ. Then, we will have really made a difference.



Eric Crowley, a member of FBC York, with Hassan Zahran, a Palestinian from Jerusalem who now operates the City Grill in Homestead. Hassan's lunch special is \$5.45 and includes fish and grits.



The youth group found it ironic that the mural that was repainted on the City Grill depicts New York City's skyline, with the Twin Towers.

Showing up is way underrated. In our competitive culture, where being first, best, biggest or most is the ultimate value, it is easy for the godly gift of consistency to be disparaged.

The Bible says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together." (Hebrews 10: 25) I appreciate people who stick with their spouse, even after the thrill of young love is gone. I am grateful for people who show up at work and do their unexciting job, day after day. I thank God for people who attend church, through thick and thin, year after year after year. Every hymn that is sung does not lift them to the gates of heaven.

Every sermon that is preached does not meet their need. Every child they teach in Sunday School is not polite and appreciative. They do not agree with every decision the church or a congregational committee makes. Yet they keep giving because this is God's church. They keep showing up because Sunday is the Lord's Day! They keep doing what they agreed to do because God commends faithful obedience.

Faithfulness to God has little to do with the preacher or the pastoral staff or the deacons or the Sunday School teacher being right in every detail or being likable in every peculiar habit they have. Every faithful church member has, at some point, been slighted, not receiving phone calls or visits when they were expected.

Bailing out in the midst of adversity is the easiest thing to do. Hanging in there during difficulty is tough. It is also Christian. So, may God bless you with enough grace to be faithful, to go where you are supposed to go, to do what you should do, to encourage, teach, support, and serve, in the name of Jesus.



Coordinator's Column

By Marion Aldrige
Coordinator of SC/CBF

ONLY 30 STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED

Furman summer program will help high school seniors reconcile faith and vocation

Furman University is looking for 30 high school students to participate in — free — a 12-day summer institute on faith and vocation. Students who will graduate in 2003 are eligible to apply.

You Bet Your Life: Faith and Vocation is a summer institute designed to help high school students as they wrestle with some of life's biggest questions: Who am I? How do I go about choosing a career? Should faith play a role in that decision?

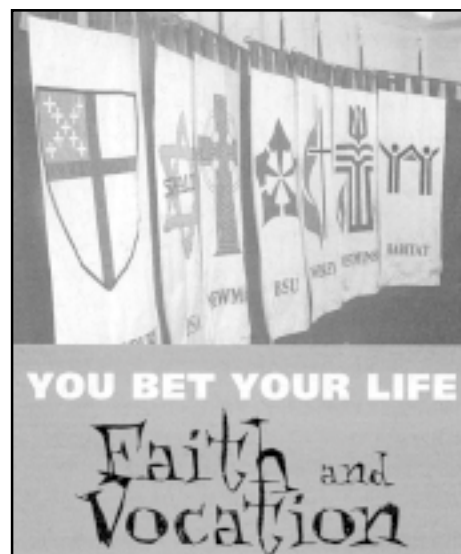
The program will explore these questions with a diverse group of students who are engaged, creative, open-minded, willing to be challenged through discussion and debate, and willing to be stretched beyond their own individual comfort zones about life. "Our hope is that churches will recommend mature, thoughtful students to attend the program," said Ann A. Quattlebaum, Director of the High School Theology Institute and member of First Baptist Church Greenville. "The selection committee will choose 30 students from diverse religious, ethnic, geographic and socio-economic backgrounds."

The summer institute is funded with a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. given to Furman to explore the relationship between faith and vocation through its Center for Theological Exploration of Vocation. Faculty seminars, student workshops and service learning projects support members of the community as they engage in research and inquiry about life-orienting commitment.

The summer institute for high school students will consist of four parts: theology, vocation, personal assessment and community involvement. Two

morning classes will focus on the areas of theology and vocation through lectures, discussion and active learning opportunities. The personal and community components of the program will occur in afternoon and evening sessions. Personal assessment will include standardized vocational surveys, interviews or conversations with adult mentors and guided journal writing. The community component will include a ropes course experience, service projects in the Greenville area, small group reflections and evening entertainment.

"By studying and discussing literature



and movies, art and music, theology and scripture, the students will be challenged to become aware of their own life stories and to understand their lives as a calling," said Quattlebaum. "They will be encouraged to discover a more meaningful life direction by clarifying their interests, gifts and talents."

Program costs — including food, lodging, materials, and tuition — are covered in full. The staff includes members of Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The program is Christian in orientation but nonsectarian.

To apply: Go to <http://www.furman.edu/lilly>

Mark your calendar now:

Aug. 16-17

MISSION EDUCATION

To help professional Christian educators and laity understand and know how to teach CBF mission curriculum better.

Teachers and sites to be announced.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Three chat sessions with missionaries coming up

Open internet chat sessions with CBF missionaries will be available on March 6, 13, and 20 between 6 and 8 EST, sponsored by the Global Missions Office.

Among those online will be Butch and Nell Green, missionaries in Belgium where SC/CBF has a partnership. Butch and Nell write, "We would love the opportunity to have closer contact with your various mission groups or Wednesday night groups."

This will be a great opportunity for a youth or adult mission group at a church with internet capabilities. For information, contact SC/CBF at 803.779.1888.

Cathy Cole, Moderator
ccole@uhsinc.com
Marion Aldridge, Coordinator
(803) 779-1888
Fax: (803) 779-2242
E-Mail: MarionPaw@aol.com
Sue Poss, Editor
SuePoss@charter.net
SC/CBF Website: www.cbfofsc.org
National CBF: www.cbfonline.org

Scholarships available to seminary students

The Inheritor's Committee of SC/CBF has some money available to help students attend seminary. Applications are now being accepted for the 2002-03 school year. The applications are available on the SC/CBF website, www.cbfofsc.org. Blake Harwell, pastor of FBC Clinton, is chair, bharwell@charter.net.

WEBSITE LAUNCHED TO ENCOURAGE MISSIONARIES

Jerry McAtee:
Pilgrims@charter.net

Former CBF missionary Jerry McAtee, now living in Fountain Inn, has launched a website to encourage missionaries still on the field. "My goal is to let them know that they are not alone or unique in the middle of their personal storms," he said. "Many are experiencing the same things but are just not talking much about them. Just knowing that one is not alone and that others have experienced and survived the same problems can provide strength and healing."

The address is www.VoicesfromtheVillage.com.

Jerry and his wife Lorraine were missionaries in the Middle East, and are now members of First Baptist Church Greenville. Their son Brian serves as a CBF missionary in Boston.

SC/CBF 2002 General Assembly Registration

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Church: _____

Missions Banquet: _____ tickets @ \$15 each = \$ _____

There is no charge to attend the assembly.

If you need childcare, please include the names and ages of children and times care will be needed. Cost is \$3 per child.

Mail to: CBF of SC, P.O. Box 11159, Columbia, SC 29211