

Engaging in holistic missions and ministries in local communities, North Carolina and around the world, Linda Jones, Missions Coordinator

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10

CBF of North Carolina churches have had a good missional year taking stock of our abilities, spiritual gifts, experiences, seeing where God is working and listening for his calling. It is a wonderful thing to be "on mission for God."

Teams from eleven churches built a new cottage at the Village of Hope, Kiev, Ukraine, as well as renovated other buildings on campus, delivered and sorted clothes and school supplies and played with the foster children.

A covenant agreement with the Baptist Association of Belize has been presented. The Baptist Bible School of Belize was held for three separate weeks this past year with much success. Eighteen men and women attended the February session. Teams from NC churches assisted Belizean churches through renovation, medical/dental teams and children's work.

CBFNC churches participated in Together for Hope, CBF national's rural poverty initiative. Working in Helena, AR, with the All Church Challenge was especially meaningful. Some volunteers gave swimming lessons, led in sports camp, renovated homes or gardened. Teams also traveled to Nada, KY and South Dakota.

Hurricane Katrina relief continues to be in very real need. Teams have gone to Mississippi, Alabama and New Orleans to help. There is still much work to be done.

When crisis or natural disaster brings loss to a community, CBF of NC is committed to embody the healing and redeeming presence of Christ through prayerful and faithful service to these broken communities. A new disaster relief team has come together, a disaster relief plan has been implemented, a tool trailer has been donated and we are gathering tools and needed supplies to be ready!

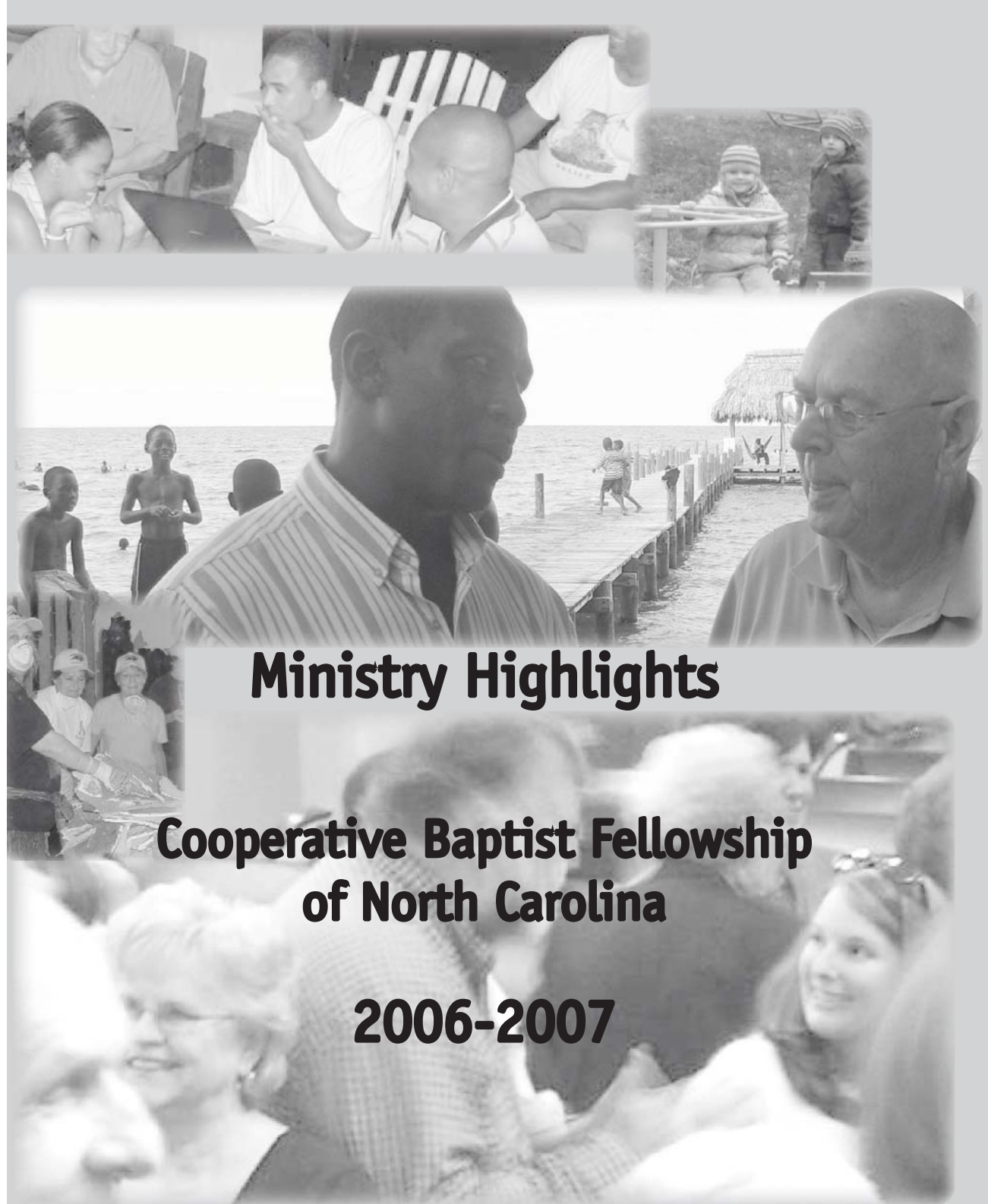
CBFNC has several new church starts. Iglesia de la Comunidad in Alamance County is one year old and doing well. Miguel Gomez is their pastor. Rose of Sharon Ministries in Shelby (Sharon Martin, pastor) just joined us as a new church start. Another Hispanic church start is in process. We continue to fund four other new church starts.

Did you know that we have pockets of poverty right here in NC? A new NC mission initiative is under way. Mark your calendars for the weekend of November 2-4. Take a family mission trip to Henderson/Littleton area (north of Raleigh near VA line). This community needs our help! Opportunities include working with children, renovation, construction, etc. It will be an enjoyable weekend worshiping and working together! Watch our website for more details.

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Bringing Baptists of North Carolina Together for Christ-Centered Ministry



Ministry Highlights

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

2006-2007

Spiritual formation and discipleship development, Rick Jordan, Church Resources Coordinator

Adults – This year, we added new events for adults! In September, a Congregational Leadership Training event was held at FBC, Lexington with conferences for all age groups in Sunday School, missions, deacons and ministers. 72 persons from 24 churches attended. A Singles Retreat was held at FBC, Wilmington. 29 registrants from 11 churches attended this retreat. 21 couples from 10 churches attended a Marriage Enrichment Retreat in April at FBC, Hickory. CBFNC hosted workshops featuring the Upper Room spirituality resources, Companions in Christ and The Way of the Child. Rick Jordan led individual church retreats for deacons, church councils and Sunday School workers.

Children – A Children’s Missions Day was held November 11 at Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh. We had 274 persons from 26 churches registered.

Youth - In the area of Youth Ministry, we expanded our fall retreat in Myrtle Beach to two September weekends. We did this so that the youth would have a better experience on our Saturday morning mission site ministries. This year, we

had 207 from 13 churches the first weekend and 183 from 10 churches the second weekend.

We had a fun day at Emerald Point Water Park in June with 230 youth from 13 churches.

We had two youth Spring retreats in March 2006. Both were filled completely with a total of 311 campers from 17 churches. They were led by students from the Wake Forest University Divinity School.

This year, we had our second youth ski retreat in West Virginia. We had such a strong response, we added a second weekend. Over 700 persons from 35 churches came.

Music - A team of music ministers has taken on the tasks of managing two music festivals. The Third Annual Youth Choir Festival was held February 16-17 at FBC, Greensboro. We had 352 persons from 22 churches registered. We held our second children’s choir festival on January 27, 2007 at Temple Baptist Church in Durham. We had 230 persons from 20 churches registered.

College – In May, 43 persons from 21 churches attended a “College Ministry Discussion” at College Park BC, Winston-Salem.

Discovering, nurturing and sustaining current and future ministerial staff leaders, Rick Jordan

A significant portion of the 2006-07 Leadership Development budget is devoted to theological education scholarships for students at the four CBF-related divinity schools in North

Carolina, plus scholarships for NC students attending schools outside of our state. We are currently exploring better ways to partner with the divinity schools including

encouraging local churches to create support and nurturing networks for seminarians.

Another important ministry is Reference and Referral. This involves efforts to consult with ministers (new seminary graduates and experienced ministers) and church search committees to connect churches seeking ministers with ministers seeking congregations.

Growth and development of our fellowship, Larry Hovis, Coordinator

Communications Improvements

The CBFNC Communications Improvement Plan, developed the previous year, was implemented during this program year. It included the following elements:

- ~ New logo and color scheme
- ~ New four-color, multi-page “about us” brochure
- ~ New bi-weekly E-newsletter
- ~ Re-designed monthly mailed newsletter
- ~ Re-designed website
- ~ Establishment of new position of Communications Manager to oversee communications functions

Strategic Planning

Dave Odom, President of the Center for Congregational Health, was enlisted to help design and facilitate a strategic planning process which involved the Coordinating Council, the Ministry Councils and others from our fellowship. The final plan includes operational goals for the next 12-24 months plus several “future shaping initiatives” that identify key areas of future need. Ministry

Other Leadership Development ministries include the annual lunch for CBF endorsed chaplains, partnering with the Center for Congregational Health for the Young Leader’s Program, and the annual youth ministers retreat in February. CBFNC staff members and volunteers also led numerous leadership development experiences in local churches.

Councils and special task forces will give further thought and planning to these needs.

New Day Campaign for the Mission Resource Plan

The Coordinating Council established a New Day Task Force to help inform our fellowship about the Mission Resource Plan, CBFNC’s tool to assist churches in making financial gifts to NC Baptist ministries, in addition to CBF ministries. A New Day tour was conducted in May 2006 which included 13 meetings with a combined attendance of 454 people from 113 congregations and seven partnering organizations. Nearly 50 churches have adopted a version of the Mission Resource Plan, with many more planning to do so. Another tour, “The New Day...Come and See,” is being planned for May 2007, which will focus on celebrating CBF ministries in North Carolina and beyond.

Staff Growth

Two new staff positions were established in 2006-2007, one of which has been filled. Natalie

Aho was hired in July as our first Communications Manager. Natalie’s primary responsibility is to implement the Communications Improvement Plan and manage our communications functions, including the newsletter, website, e-newsletter, and other publications.

A search is underway for another new position, Ministerial Resources Coordinator. This half-time position will be responsible for reference and referral services, support for ministers, and interim ministry consultation. This person will also provide staff support for the Leadership Development Ministry Council, in cooperation with Rick Jordan, the Church Resources Coordinator.

Financial Growth

CBFNC has been blessed with significant financial growth, thanks to the faithful stewardship of partner congregations and individuals.

Undesignated Giving – Through ten months of the current fiscal year, undesignated giving for CBFNC ministries is 21% over the same time period the previous year.

Designated Giving – Through ten months of the current fiscal year, designated giving is 137% over the same time period the previous year. Much of this increase includes contributions for NC Baptist ministries through the Mission Resource Plan, as well as increased giving to CBF National through CBFNC.

Endowment Management Board – This has been a re-grouping year for this board, which, in cooperation with the Coordinating Council,

revised its operating guidelines. The board is also preparing for a major new fundraising campaign that will target support for theological education.

Tax and legal matters – In response to inquiries from churches regarding how affiliations with other entities impact their tax exempt status, CBFNC moderator Donald Horton conducted research and produced a document which the Coordinating Council is making available to churches who have questions about this topic.

Fellowship Gatherings

We aren’t called a “fellowship” by accident. Throughout the course of the year, we facilitated fellowship among the CBF family in NC:

General Assembly – Our annual meeting took place in March at Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, with around a thousand persons participating.

State Meeting at the National CBF General Assembly in June in Atlanta.

Fall Fellowship Gathering – Our November gathering filled the fellowship hall at FBC Greensboro. Richard Brunson, director of NC Baptist Men, served as the main speaker.

Regional Fellowships – Currently, seven regional fellowship groups meet on a monthly basis.

Peer Learning Networks – Several peer learning networks meet on a regular basis, some in conjunction with CBF National’s peer learning program, and some that form the basis of ministry planning groups with CBFNC.