

## After Graduation, What's Next?

by Jack Causey, Ministerial Resources Coordinator



Jack Causey

Graduation from Theological Education is a time of excitement; as well it should be. After all, you have spent the past three years (maybe more) listening to lectures, writing papers, exploring new ideas, feeling the sense of a unique community and preparing for the call to ministry that God has given you.

Now you don't have to worry about tests or deadlines for book reviews. Now you go out and practice what you have been taught. That's exciting.

On the other hand, graduation can also be a bit scary. Up until now you have been in an environment that has been more or less safe and secure. There has been a routine to what you have been doing. It's been great to be in a community of faith that has affirmed and encouraged you in your preparation for ministry. For some time there have been those questions in the back of your mind, but now they are so big that you can't get rid of them: "What's next?" "Where will I be a year from now?" And most importantly, "How do I go about finding a ministry position?"

Nobody has the proverbial "crystal ball" that can tell you about the future. However, there are [resources available to help you find that ministry position](#) that you have so thoroughly prepared yourself for. Those resources include your [divinity school](#) who can give your name to search committees and your [personal network](#) of family, friends and people with whom you have served before. These people are anxious to help you find a place of service. Contact them and make sure they know of your availability. Encourage them to pass your name on to committees who are looking for a minister.

Another valuable resource that you should not overlook is the ["reference and referral" ministry of CBFNC](#). As the Ministerial Resources Coordinator, I have the joy of helping ministers and churches to connect with each other. I am often aware of churches that are looking for ministers, and I would be pleased to help you in your search for a position that will enable you to fulfill the ministry to which God has called you.

The first thing you can do to allow us to help you is to go to our website, [www.cbfnc.org](http://www.cbfnc.org), and click on the "vocations" link. Fill out the form for "ministers looking for churches" and send it, along with a resume, to us. Another opportunity is to call Nancy Parks of the CBFNC office at 888-822-1944, and she will schedule a personal and confidential conversation with me at our office in Winston-Salem. This will enable me to get to know you personally and best assist you in your search for a ministry position.

In any event, we want to help you in this important time of your life and ministry. Our prayers are that whatever is next for you "after graduation" will be exciting and fulfilling.

## College Road Trip!

by Wanda Kidd, College Ministry Consultant



Wanda Kidd

If you were at the CBF General Assembly in DC last summer, you probably noticed that there were not many college students attending. We hope to change that for the upcoming General Assembly in Memphis, June 19-20, 2008. There is a cooperative effort from CBF people in several states to bring together a group of our students to participate in this national gathering.

Even though the plans are still being shaped, there are several things that we want to accomplish. We want college students to have access to the worship and break-out sessions we have all appreciated over the years. We also want them to participate in a variety of ministries sponsored by CBF. Through this effort we hope they will meet, interact, work and worship with other young adults who are coming from CBF fellowships throughout the country.

The plan for the event will include hands-on work in Helena, Arkansas (through CBF's Together For Hope Ministry), evening discussion groups and a time of sharing music. There will also be opportunities to volunteer at the CBF gathering in order to see the inner workings of such an event. However, mostly we want them to get an up-close view that CBF is about living out the Gospel of Jesus in our world and that we need their help.

We are in the final stages of securing housing at a reasonable price and putting together an affordable package for a whole week of ministry and missions. More details will follow soon. Begin now to encourage your college students to consider a trip to Memphis this summer. We would love to have them.

## Identity Is Important Continued from page 1.



Rick Jordan

The largest item in the CBFNC Leadership Development budget is for Theological Education (\$60,500). Additional money goes toward scholarships through the CBFNC MRP, an optional giving plan that many churches are now using. It won't pay for every moderate Baptist student, but it will help several students at each of these four schools. We give equal portions of this money to the four schools and ask them to select students who show the greatest potential to be leaders in the moderate Baptist movement. The school selects the number of recipients and the amount given to each, then informs us of their selection. This year's recipients' identities are inside this issue of *The Gathering*.

Also some students from our CBFNC-partnering congregations choose to go to school outside of North Carolina. We offer scholarships to these students, as well. They were selected by the Leadership Development Council and are displayed in this newsletter.

We are proud to support these young leaders who choose to identify themselves with CBFNC. They are becoming the leaders of this movement with which we identify, and that identity is important.