

2006 CBFNC GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS



“Each of the workshops was particularly on target for me and my needs.”



“Thank you for incorporating the Baptist Fellowship Choir of NC. They were wonderful.”



“A great deal of information, insight & inspiration was gained from each and all sessions.”



“The GA is so important for fellowship & for keeping the focus on our mission”



“I have never experienced such helpfulness on the part of a host church!”



“Very informative, interesting, helpful, enriching, meaningful personally.”



“Suggestion for next year’s GA: Have Bo Prosser do more workshops!”



“My overall impression? The best yet! Keep it up!”



“Excellent choir. Worshipful and uplifting.”



“Childcare is the no. 1 factor in my attending the CBFNC conference. This year’s childcare was excellent.”



“It was good to be exposed to new worship experiences. I hope you continue to offer new worship opportunities.”

CBFNC UPCOMING EVENTS**June 21-24, 2006****CBF General Assembly**Georgia World Congress Center
Atlanta, GA.For pre-registration and hotel reservations, see www.thefellowship.info.**July 17-20, 2006****Campbell University Pastors' School**For details, call 800-334-4111 x1549
or visit www.campbell.edu/sl/ministry/pastorschool/psindex.html**July 25, 2006****Youth Fun and Fellowship Day**Emerald Pointe Water Park
Greensboro

Watch for details coming soon.

September 8-10 and 22-24, 2006**Fall Youth Retreats**

Myrtle Beach, SC

Watch for details coming soon.

MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND:**November 1-3, 2006****Mission Church Conference****led by Brian McLaren.**Sponsored by CBFNC and Wake
Forest University Divinity School.
Watch for details coming soon.**Come be a part of these
Regional Fellowship Groups***Catawba Valley - Hickory
North Central - Durham
Northeastern - Henderson
Raleigh/Cary
Shelby/Boiling Springs
Triad - Winston-Salem
Western - Asheville*For details, dates, and contact persons
for these regional groups, see
www.cbfnc.org/comingevents.htm or
call (888) 822-1944.**FINANCIAL REPORT****JANUARY 2006 CONTRIBUTIONS**CBFNC Budget — \$79,733
Other — \$100,193**FEBRUARY 2006 CONTRIBUTIONS**CBFNC Budget — \$57,452
Other — \$46,872**MARCH 2006 CONTRIBUTIONS**CBFNC Budget — \$70,492
Other — \$35,890

2005-2006 MONTHLY BUDGET GOAL:

\$55,455

OUR BAPTIST HERITAGE AND WITNESS**- DON HORTON, MODERATOR**

Baptists have a long and storied heritage that has provided a strong witness to the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. However, many Baptists today do not know about

this heritage and do not appreciate the positive witness of the past.

As I thought on the subject of this article, my thoughts kept going back to a little study course book written over forty years ago. The book, written by C. Emanuel Carlson and W. Barry Garrett and published by Convention Press in 1964, is entitled *Religious Liberty*. Reviewing the issues addressed in that study course book confirmed my feelings that the landscape of Baptist life has changed over the years. Of great interest was a report from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs that was favorably received in 1959 by both the American and Southern Baptist Conventions. The following excerpts from the report relate to church and state relations:

“Separate reasons for being. Separation means that the church has its own ‘reasons for being’ and that these reasons are distinct from those of the state.”

“Separate administration. The church cannot be a ‘department of ecclesiastical affairs’ of the state. Each must govern its own affairs.”

“Separate sources of support. The state derives its revenue from the power of taxation, while the church is supported by voluntary stewardship.”

“Separate educational programs. The churches cannot delegate the education of their members to the state; neither should the churches become educational tools for the established political and economic order. The educational programs of the two institutions must be kept separate.”

The final principle in the book was that ‘the churches must be free from governmental control; and government must not be controlled by churches.’”

In his article in the January 2006 *REPORT from the Capital* published by the Baptist Joint Committee, James M. Dunn quoted Foy D. Valentine (1923-2006) as follows: *“Religious liberty’s corollary, the separation of church and state, is the most important contribution the United States has made to world civilization.”* He went on, quoting Martin Marty: *“There has never been an American doctrine of church-state separation, only a Baptist doctrine that has had great influence on America.”*

Some other historical core convictions of Baptists include the concept of a believer’s church, including believer’s baptism by immersion; local church autonomy; and the Lordship of Christ as interpreted by the local church from the Bible, especially the New Testament. Baptists have historically followed these core values because of their convictions by the Holy Spirit through prayer, Bible study and worship, not because they have been forced to subscribe to them by some creed or by signing some document created by man. Think for a moment about the issues that surround the current differences among Baptists in America. Do you see a departure from our Baptist heritage?

It is important to look back to the lessons learned and handed down from our Baptist ancestors. Many of them literally put their lives on the line, and as a result, we enjoy a religious freedom unheard of in many countries.

We must become aware of our heritage and press forward to follow Jesus through His example. Jesus met people where they were and let them get to know Him through personal contact. He never used government resources to promote his ministry. What kind of witness are we providing when we try to get the government to force our religion on others and to pay for those efforts through taxes rather than from the voluntary contributions of Christians? It is time to step up to the plate and provide a positive witness. CBFNC folks are taking that stand. You are invited to join us.

***A New Day:* CBFNC PRESENTS THE MISSION RESOURCE PLAN**
- PAUL BAXLEY, TASK FORCE CHAIR

Those of you who attended the General Assembly at Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem had several opportunities to learn more about the Mission Resource Plan (MRP) and CBFNC's strategies for making congregations more aware of the ways giving through the MRP allows us to be missional, faithful and free Baptist congregations. In the months to come, we hope and pray that every congregation in cooperation with CBFNC will prayerfully consider participating in the mission of God through the MRP.

What do you need to know about the MRP? We believe the MRP is a creative financial covenant that enables more faithful congregational participation in God's mission. The MRP exists to bring your congregation in closer relationship, not only with other congregations and with CBFNC, but even more importantly with other partners whose ministries nourish the life of the church.

Though CBFNC leadership has worked hard for years to design the "default plan," it is only intended as a beginning. We encourage each congregation to prayerfully seek God's direction for your church, and then make whatever adjustments you need to the default plan so that it more accurately reflects your missional identity. You are free to change the percentages. You are free to make other adjustments. Once you are finished with those adjustments, and the plan you develop is faithful to your sense of God's guidance, the plan you adopt will not be CBFNC's plan; it will be your congregation's plan.

We know you have many questions about the MRP. You may want to learn more about the opportunities for faithfulness and freedom it affords. You may want to learn more about the history of the MRP, or the reasons CBFNC has decided to make this plan much more available to your congregation at this time. You may have other important questions about CBFNC and our vision for the future. During the month of May, CBFNC will join with 14 congregations to

host meetings all across North Carolina. We will give you much more information, and you'll have opportunities to ask all the questions that are on your minds. A complete schedule of these gatherings is listed below. We hope you'll find the location and date that is best for you and join us for a meeting. You should call the CBFNC office one week prior to your chosen meeting date to make your reservations. All interested church members are invited to participate in these meetings; they are open to lay persons and ministers alike. If you are interested in missions, in theological education, in a renewed commitment to cooperative ministries, you'll want to be at one of these meetings.

Do let us know if you have questions. The task force (Paul Baxley, Henderson; Roy & Charlotte Smith, Lexington/Raleigh; Mack Dennis, Mt. Gilead; Roger Gilbert, Mt. Airy; Don Horton and Larry Hovis) charged with providing opportunities for you to learn more about the MRP is eager for May to come; we look forward to the chances to share important conversations that will shape the future of our movement and the strength of our witness to Christ. We are grateful for the New Day that has come in our life together. We will see you in May, if not before!

The Mission Resource Plan exists to bring your congregation in closer relationship, not only with other congregations and with CBFNC, but even more importantly with other partners whose ministries nourish the life of the church.

COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT NEEDED

CBFNC is seeking a detail-oriented, computer-proficient person to serve as a Communications Assistant. This is a full-time position responsible for newsletter layout, website updates, e-news updates and other general office duties. The Communications Assistant will report to the Office Manager and work in the Winston-Salem office. If interested, please send a resume and cover letter to: personnel@cbfnc.org

| MISSION RESOURCE PLAN MEETING SCHEDULE | | |
|--|-------|---|
| May 1 | 6:00 | Dinner, FBC Henderson |
| May 2 | 11:30 | Lunch, Murfreesboro BC, Murfreesboro |
| May 2 | 6:00 | Dinner, The Memorial BC, Greenville |
| May 8 | 11:30 | Lunch, St. John's BC, Charlotte |
| May 8 | 6:00 | Dinner, Boiling Springs BC, Boiling Springs |
| May 9 | 11:30 | Lunch, FBC Laurinburg |
| May 9 | 6:00 | Dinner, Masonboro BC, Wilmington |
| May 18 | 11:30 | Lunch, Memorial BC, Buies Creek |
| May 18 | 6:00 | Dinner, Greystone BC, Raleigh |
| May 19 | 11:30 | Lunch, Yates BC, Durham |
| May 22 | 11:30 | Lunch, FBC Asheville |
| May 22 | 6:00 | Dinner, Viewmont BC, Hickory |
| May 23 | 11:30 | Lunch, College Park BC, Winston-Salem |
| May 23 | 6:00 | Dinner, FBC Greensboro |
| <p><i>Meal reservations required.</i> Contact CBFNC office one week prior to meeting. (888-822-1944 or cbfnc@cbfnc.org)</p> | | |

INTRODUCING . . .

LINDA JONES, MISSIONS COORDINATOR



One of my favorite scripture passages is Philippians 4:13-14: *“Brothers [and sisters!], I do not imply that I have made it my own, but one thing I do—forgetting what is behind and reaching out for what lies ahead, I push on to the goal for the prize of God’s heavenly call in Christ Jesus.”* I am excited to be called to the position of Missions Coordinator for

CBF of North Carolina. I am also amazed at the journey God takes us on and where we end up!

I am the oldest of five children raised in New Jersey. I went to mainline denominational churches all of my childhood but never heard the gospel meaning of the cross. I attended college in Ohio where I started searching for life’s meaning and thought that becoming a nurse would answer that quest. God, in his grace, placed me with a Christian roommate who shared the gospel with me. At a church revival, I walked the aisle and received Christ. I met and married my husband (also a new Christian), had two children and walked the aisle a second time, answering a call to go on the mission field (SBC’s partnership evangelism). Going to Indonesia in 1983 changed my life. I experienced the power of God as I shared Christ and led people

to saving faith. I saw that God wanted to use me for his purposes! After a mission trip to Brazil the following summer, God spoke to my husband’s heart and we moved to Connecticut to work in a home mission board church start. It was 11 years of learning, growing and experiencing God’s grace. During that time, I graduated from Southern Seminary’s NEBSOM campus in Boston. As a female, I thought I would have to change denominations which distressed me; I had chosen to be a Baptist. Discovering CBF was wonderful! A place for me! In 1996, I was called to Winter Park Baptist Church, Wilmington, NC as minister of education & missions for five years and then associate pastor of missions, outreach and college students. It was a blessed time.

Now, I look forward to “reaching out for what lies ahead” here at CBFNC. In the book of Esther, Mordecai says to Esther “And who knows but you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Churches with shared values working together in partnership for the kingdom is a wonderful enterprise. I look forward to your input and expertise, to your partnership, to your friendship. I, in turn, will covenant to listen, work hard equipping and resourcing you so that together we can accomplish much with God’s guidance and strength. Thank you for your warm welcome!

CBFNC SPRING YOUTH RETREATS

CBFNC’s spring youth retreats are always an adventure! Each weekend hosted more than 120 teenagers and their chaperones who enjoyed the ropes courses, paintball, horses and the beauty of the mountains. Eleven students from Wake Forest University and Divinity School led this year’s two retreats at the Vineyard Camp using the CBFNC year-long theme “Who Am I?” (Exodus 3:11). Participants considered important questions like: *“Who is God inviting me to be?” “What are the world’s great needs?” “What am I gifted to do?” “What am I passionate about?”*



The students who planned the events reported that these retreats were a highlight of their education this year. Although they have often been on retreats, they have rarely had the responsibility for doing everything from planning, to preaching, to guiding small groups.



The entire experience was a great time of learning and fun for both the leaders and the youth. *Details for youth events for the coming 2006-07 year are in the works, including a Fun & Fellowship Day at Emerald Point Water Park in Greensboro on Tuesday, July 25, and Fall Youth Retreats at Myrtle Beach, SC, September 8-10 and September 22-24.*

PRAYER CALENDAR

May

- 9 **David Harding**, International Coordinator - Emergency Response, Florida
- 11 **Larry Ballew**, Affiliate, Macau, China
- 11 **Robbi Francovich**, work with Banjara Gypsies, India
- 17 **Nell Green**, work with internationals, Brussels, Belgium
- 21 _____, unevangelized people group
- 24 _____, Global Service Corps, Southeast Asia
- 25 **Rick Burnette**, work with Palaung people, Thailand
- 26 _____, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 31 **Ann Skipper**, Affiliate, Tennessee

BLADENBORO, BELIZE, AND GOD'S PLAN

It was before sunrise on November 4, 2005, when nine members of the First Baptist Church of Bladenboro left home on their first Mission trip to a foreign country—to the tiny Central American country of Belize. First Baptist Pastor, Rev. Bert Young, and Dennis Hipp, CBFNC Lay Coordinator for Belize Missions, led the team for the 10-day stay in the small village of Crooked Tree, the cashew capitol of Belize, about 35



miles north of Belize City. Crooked Tree is the location of the second oldest Baptist Church building in Belize. The building was in poor shape, but there was a desire to save and preserve this historic structure.

Thanks to the efforts of the “Bladenboro Missionaries,” our fellow Baptists in Crooked Tree are using a completely repaired, rewired, repainted, and debt-free building—and enjoying their new electric ceiling fans!

But that’s not all the story. The Bladenboro team fell in love with the people of Crooked Tree. They provided a suitcase full of sunglasses to the local residents (see photo of Helen

Clark fitting children with their sunglasses), played with the school children in the afternoon, and participated in worship services at Crooked Tree Baptist Church. They prayed for a teenager who confided that his biggest fear was that poisonous snakes would bite him as he works in the rice fields, as there isn’t much opportunity for young men who do not have the money to continue their education after the required primary schooling. As the team reached the airport ready to leave Belize, they still had a few minutes remaining on their rented cell phone. They all agreed to spend the remaining air time to call back to a contact in Crooked Tree and to inform, not just one, but four deserving young men that the cost of their desired education beyond primary school would be paid. This mission team went to change a church building, but God’s plan was to change lives!



News of Note: Attendees of the 2006 CBFNC General Assembly donated 567 books to help stock the pastoral libraries of ministers in third-world countries such as Belize through “A Book and A Buck,” with the “bucks” helping defray shipping costs. CBFNC partnered with Book-Link in this exciting project.

In Memoriam

Dennis Charles Hipp

March 19, 2006

CBFNC Lay Coordinator for Belize Missions
Member, First Baptist Church of Lexington, NC

CBFNC ENDOWMENT MINISTRY: SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Did you know that Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina has an endowment ministry? The purpose of the CBFNC Endowment Trust is to provide a way for Christian stewards to support Christian ministries for generations to come, long after they have inherited their heavenly home.

The CBFNC Endowment Ministry is coordinated by the Endowment Management Board, elected annually by the General Assembly. The 2006-2007 Board consists of Bill Rouse (Gastonia), Clarence Adams (Charlotte), Joe Harris (Mocksville), Drag Kimrey (Laurinburg), and Tom Smith, chair (Greensboro). Don Horton and Larry Hovis serve as *ex officio* members.

Those who participate in this ministry will support new church starts, student scholarships, partnership missions and other important ministries. There are opportunities to contribute to existing endowment fund categories or develop new ones at the donor’s direction.

There are many ways to give to the CBFNC Endowment Trust, including: Lifetime Gifts (gifts of property, such as cash, bonds, stock, etc., that are given during one’s lifetime); Testamentary Gifts (bequests of property made at the time of the execution of a will); Memorial Gifts (given in honor or in memory of a living or deceased loved one); Life Insurance (can provide the funding necessary to create a fund whereby the Endowment is named as the beneficiary); Real Estate (including land, rental property, even one’s personal residence). Other types of giving vehicles exist, but these represent examples of some of the more popular ways to build an endowment that will further the mission of Christ through CBFNC, long after we have departed life on earth. What could be better than building a legacy to support and enhance God’s mission for generations to come?

If you have questions about or interest in this ministry, please contact the CBFNC office and a member of the Board will be happy to schedule a visit with you.

APRIL FOOL'S NEWS BULLETINS

- RICK JORDAN, CHURCH RESOURCES COORDINATOR



April Fool's Day just doesn't last long enough for me. It passed weeks ago and I missed several opportunities to satirize and pull practical jokes. So, I've decided, on my own, to extend AFD to April Fool's Month. Here are some of my offerings. You've got several days to make up your own fun. We'll repent in May.

News Bulletin: Archeologists discovered new ancient scrolls recently that seem to point to a different editor or faith community during the time of Samuel. Tentatively titled "III Samuel," the text clarifies the real protest of the Hebrew people in the selection of Saul as what previously had been translated "king." "The text is clear that the formerly free and faithful Hebrews wanted a different kind of structure to govern their lives," according to one scholar, as he offered interpretations at a recent church picnic. He opened the scroll and translated, "Give us a denomination!" the people yelled at Samuel. "Why would you want to be confined in a denomination again?" the prophet asked. "Everyone else has one," they insisted. But Samuel protested, "Have you looked at how all the others are doing? The Lutheranians are in decline. The Presbytites have quotas that are impossible to meet. The Methodonians are united only in name. The only strong ones are the Charismatites and you say you don't want to be like them." The people insisted, "But we can do better." "It is clear," stated the scholar, heading for more potato salad, "that history could repeat itself again repetitively." (See Note 1)

News Bulletin: With over 900 persons attending this year's CBFNC General Assembly, officers of that organization are wondering what to do to slow down their movement's momentum. "We really can't afford to rent a coliseum for our meetings, for example," one officer noted, "but we're running out of churches that can host over 1000 persons." One option being discussed is to have multiple meetings. "We now have a General Assembly. These would be Particular Assemblies," said another officer who majored in Baptist History. "Many would be invited, but only a few would be allowed in." (See Note 2)

News Bulletin: Mega-church switches allegiance. A large mega-church, a real large one, has expressed dissatisfaction with its current affiliation with a real large Baptist group. "We have always believed that you had to believe the Bible literally to be a Baptist. But the people who are in control now don't believe the Bible. In the Bible, the missionary Paul says, 'I speak in tongues more than all of you' and further in I Corinthians 14:39 he says, 'do not forbid speaking in tongues.' Paul couldn't be a missionary in today's Baptist world. We want to be affiliated with an organization that, even if not promoting speaking in tongues, allows for differences of interpretation for those who do take the Bible seriously. We hope to find some such organization and maybe even host their next General Assembly." (See Note 3)

1. This isn't true, of course, but is very similar to the story in I Samuel 8, isn't it? 2. Over 900 people came and we don't know what we'll do when 1500 come. 3. It could happen.

CBFNC CHILDREN & YOUTH MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE



The very first CBFNC Children's Choir Festival was hosted by First Baptist Church, High Point, on January 28, with Sandy R. Holland, Artistic Director of the Charlotte Children's Choir, as clinician. Over 160 singers participated coming from 16 churches across North Carolina.

Over 380 singers from 26 churches came together March 31 - April 1 for the 2nd Annual CBFNC Youth Choir Festival, hosted by First Baptist Church, Greensboro. Dr. Kenney Potter of Wingate University served as the festival clinician.



PROFESSING OUR FAITH

- LARRY HOVIS, COORDINATOR



The 2006 CBFNC General Assembly may be behind us, but it left us with many positive memories. The General Assembly Planning Team, under the leadership of co-chairs Greg Rogers and Beth Thompson (Oakmont, Greenville), did an outstanding job of pulling together all of the various elements under the theme, *Living Water in a Starbucks World*. Taking the lead from CBF assemblies at the national level, we offered, for the first time, four simultaneous worship experiences on Saturday morning. Our gracious host church (Ardmore, Winston-Salem) rolled out the red carpet and treated us like special guests, giving tireless attention to every detail. Workshop leaders, worship leaders, exhibitors and fellowship planners combined efforts to provide a gathering that enabled us to celebrate our oneness in Christ and our common bonds as North Carolina CBFers.

One significant element of our closing worship service on Saturday morning was a Litany of Faith in which the gathered worshippers affirmed our common Christian and Baptist faith. This litany was prepared by Dr. Steve Harmon, professor of Christian Theology at Campbell University Divinity School. Dr. Harmon adapted the litany from Alexander McLaren's Presidential Address to the First Baptist World Congress (July 12, 1905) and from the

"Message from the Centenary Congress" issued by the Baptist World Alliance in July 2005. I am grateful for Dr. Harmon's work and for the inclusion of this litany in our worship together.

As I travel across North Carolina and engage in conversations with many Baptists, I'm often asked, "What do CBF folks believe?" Because we rightly reject a coercive creedalism, sometimes we are accused of "not believing anything," or "those folks will believe anything." The truth is, CBF Baptists have always affirmed orthodox Christian beliefs and historic Baptist principles. We celebrate our unity with all Christians who share faith in the crucified and risen Lord, and we rejoice with all Baptists who embrace the particular Baptist approach to living out that faith in personal discipleship, congregational life and world missions.

Please take the time to read and study this affirmation of faith. Let's then dialogue with one another, individually, congregationally and as a fellowship, about how we can profess our common faith while honoring the vital Baptist values of soul competency and congregational autonomy. As Fellowship Baptists in North Carolina, we hold strong, deep, and passionate convictions. Discovering how best to communicate those convictions to each other and the world may prove to be another significant gift of the 2006 CBFNC General Assembly.

As North Carolina Cooperative Baptists, we stand in the continuity of the historic church. Let us confess the biblical story we share with all other Christians — not as a piece of coercion or discipline, but as a simple acknowledgment of where we stand and what we believe.

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

As North Carolina Cooperative Baptists, we are committed to historic Baptist principles. Let us declare the convictions we share with our Baptist sisters and brothers throughout the world—not out of denominational pride, but because God has granted us a distinctive journey as a people of faith.

We believe the Christian faith is best understood and experienced within the community of God's people who are called to be priests to one another, as the Scriptures are read and studied together. We thank God for all those who study God's word and seek to put its teachings into practice individually and collectively through congregational polity.

We declare that through the Holy Spirit we experience interdependence with those who share this dynamic discipleship of the church as the people of God.

We affirm that Believers' Baptism is a public declaration of discipleship for those who have repented of sin and come to personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

We declare that God gives spiritual gifts to believers who are called to live a life of worship, service, and mission. These gifts are discerned and confirmed by the believing community together.

We know that in the Great Commission, every believer, empowered by God, is called to be a missionary, learning and sharing more of Christ that the world might believe.

We repent for not having prayed and worked hard enough to fulfill the prayer of Christ for the church's unity. We commit ourselves to pray and work to further the unity of Christian believers.

We affirm the dignity of all people, male and female, because they are created in God's image and called to be holy.

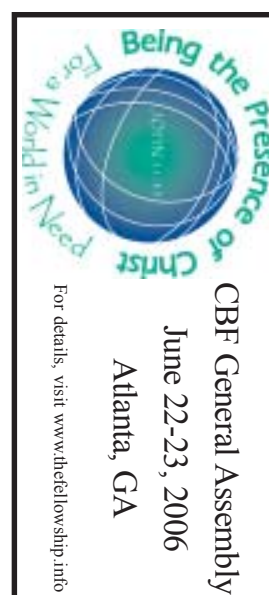
We confess that faith in Christ entails a passionate commitment to religious liberty, freedom, peace, and justice.

We boldly declare that we believe the truth is found in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. Because we have faith and trust in him, so we resolve to proclaim and demonstrate that faith to all the world. Amen and Amen. Maranatha—come, Lord Jesus, come!

* The term "catholic" means all the redeemed across time and space.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**CBF North Carolina
May 2006**
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