



Social Justice

Racial Reconciliation

The Racial Reconciliation Task Force had two successful one-day workshops last summer in Winston-Salem and Raleigh. The discussions that commenced on white privilege, diversity, and the body of Christ demonstrated a great interest in exploring how to best build community between African American and predominantly Caucasian congregations.

The conversation will continue with two workshops at the 2010 General Assembly entitled "What You Get for Being White" and "Following Jesus Beyond the Church." Two day-long workshops will follow this summer on July 13 at Sardis Baptist in Charlotte and July 29 at First Baptist in Wilmington.

Hunger Fund

Did you know that 36.2 million families in the US are food insecure? These families have to choose between food and medication or feeding their children or paying to heat their homes. In response to these great needs, the Wealth and Poverty Task Force established the CBFNC Hunger Fund to aid in churches' efforts to fight hunger in North Carolina. Funds were distributed to Brunswick Island Baptist Church in Supply, Hominy Baptist Church in Candler, and Open Arms Fellowship in Creedmoor to aid in stocking their food pantries. Please visit our website at www.cbfnc.org to donate or apply for funds to support your church's project to address hunger.



Communications

CBFNC launched the "third generation" of our website which is not only more visually appealing, but will better serve as a resource for the CBFNC family.

We also re-designed our e-newsletter to better meet the needs of our readership.

Last year, CBFNC launched Facebook Group and Fan Pages, both with hundreds of members who follow us. The Group Page allows us to create online invitations for our upcoming events, and the Fan Page is where we post interesting religious and cultural stories for reading and discussion.

You can also follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/cbfnc, and be updated on programming and news.

Laura Barclay, our Ministry Support Manager, is blogging on faith and current issues at revlaurabarclay.blogspot.com. She highlights voices throughout our network and beyond to cover a variety of topics.



Engaging in missions and ministries in local communities, North Carolina and the world

North Carolina Missions Initiative

The CBFNC Missions Initiative Weekend was held at three different sites this past year. In the spring, Halifax, Vance and Warren Counties were the focused ministry sites with four churches organizing the event - First Baptist Church, Henderson, Wise Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, Warren and Littleton Baptist Church.

This past October, Polk County and Jackson County had a Missions Initiative Weekend with Jeffrey Vickery at Cullowhee Baptist Church being the lead. Joe Wray organized the Missions Initiative in Polk County along with establishing a new Housing Partnership to continue the work.

Church Planting

It's been a productive year in church starts for CBFNC. There are now 11 new church starts receiving financial help and several others who have finished their support but are continuing to grow. A

training event in partnership with CBF: The New Church Start Academy, was to be held Feb. 4-6 in Clemmons, but due to a snow storm was postponed and is rescheduled for August 19-21.

The Hispanic Network under the leadership of Javier Benitez and the Hispanic leadership team has organized five retreats in 2010 for men, ladies, youth, and children. Last year's first annual family retreat had 550 people attending! The second annual family retreat is planned for June.

CBF Global Missions

After a long respite from any disaster, Haiti's earthquake has motivated our NC churches to give financially through CBF National and collect medical supplies for CBF field personnel Dr. Steve and Nancy James' medical clinics in Haiti.

The Baptist Bible School of Belize under the leadership of Bob Lamb has

held three separate weeks of classes for the Belizean pastors attending the school. Many of our NC pastors have taught at the school. One Belizean pastor graduated in October and nine are expected to graduate October 2010. Fourteen CBFNC churches sent mission teams to Belize. Our church-to-church connection with Belize remains strong. Eric and Julie Maas, CBF field personnel in Belize, continue to be a tremendous help to all.

The Village of Hope, Ukraine now has three families with 18 children being loved and raised. The last cottage, The Laurel House, is being finished. Summer teams are still encouraged to come to the Village of Hope. Under the leadership of CBF field personnel, Gennady and Mina Podgaisky and Bill Mason, the emphasis will no longer be just working on the buildings, but connecting with the needs of the Ukrainian people, i.e. computer or sewing skills, Backyard Bible Clubs, VBS, ESL, etc.

Ministry Highlights 2009-2010



Growth and development of our fellowship

New Baptist Century Convocation

In February 2009, CBFNC celebrated the 400th anniversary of the Baptist movement with a convocation at First, Greensboro that featured several components: an historical overview with Bill Leonard, dean of the School of Divinity at Wake Forest University; a panel discussion with four North Carolina Baptist college presidents on the future of Christian higher education; a fellowship meal with a greeting from national Baptist ministry partners, including Neville Callam, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance; and a worship service. The worship service included an address by CBFNC Executive Coordinator, Larry Hovis, a sermon by Mike Queen, pastor of First, Wilmington, and music by combined college choirs from North Carolina Baptist colleges.

Missional Collaboration Conversations

Each of the ministry partners who participate in the CBFNC Mission Resource Plan were invited to engage in missional collaboration conversations in 2009. Conversation teams for each partner included three components:

- Representatives from the ministry partners
- Representatives from CBFNC

- Representatives from among CBFNC congregations, with a preference toward those who participate in the Mission Resource Plan

Conversation teams were asked to discuss ways to strengthen and develop the partnership between ministry partners, congregations and CBFNC, including four basic factors:

- Missionally appropriate uses of Mission Resource Plan contributions
- Avenues for missional collaboration beyond financial
- Missional enhancement of congregations and CBFNC
- Strategies for mutual public affirmation

Both formal and informal missional collaboration agreements were developed with most of the partners. This process will be celebrated at the 2010 General Assembly with implementation of plans, in many cases, already having begun. See pages 34-36 for more information.

Fellowship on the Move

This year's state-wide tour took place in October with a mini-general assembly format with a fellowship dinner, ministry workshops and a worship service. Each gathering was planned and led in partnership with the seven historic North Carolina Baptist colleges and universities

and area churches in the following cities: Murfreesboro; Wingate; Raleigh; Buies Creek; Winston-Salem; Mars Hill and Shelby. Workshops and worship services were led by a combination of college resource persons, CBFNC leaders and congregational leaders. Offerings were received each night for student mission projects.

Staff Growth

CBFNC welcomed Eddie Hammett in November as "Church and Clergy Coach." CBFNC has a unique arrangement with Eddie, who has a nation-wide ministry, to help churches and church leaders make challenging transitions to provide relevant ministry in our changing times. CBFNC has contracted with Eddie for a portion of his time to lead CBFNC-wide training events and has negotiated a reduced rate for individual congregations to access his services.

Financial Growth

In spite of the recession facing our state and nation, financial contributions to CBFNC remain strong. Financial highlights include the following:

~ Undesignated Giving

Through eleven months of the current fiscal year, undesignated giving for CBFNC

Fellowship Continued

ministries is 14.3% over the same time period the previous year.

~ Designated Giving

Through eleven months of the current fiscal year, designated giving is 16.5% 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. Over 121 congregations are now participating in the Mission Resource Plan, with dozens more considering this plan for 2011.



College Ministry

CBFNC continues to invest in young adults and collegiate ministry. We have a very active and committed group of people who make up the Collegiate Ministry Task Force that guide, plan and support ministry to this population. Some of the things that we have implemented this year have been:

Summer/Houston Sessions

This is an event that takes place in conjunction with the national General Assembly. Twenty-two students and leaders from North Carolina traveled to Houston, Texas, and experienced a broad exposure to ministry initiatives with CBF life and talked to other people in the area who are ministering to a variety of populations in the south Texas area. The group also met several people on the national CBF ministry team that helped them to understand better the breadth of mission involvement of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

CBFNC placed four college students in churches across NC as interns this past summer. They served in a variety of roles within various sized congregations.



Discovering, nurturing and sustaining current and future ministerial staff leaders

Theological Education

A significant portion of the 2009-10 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 continuously exploring better ways to partner with the divinity schools including the creation of CBFNC Days on campuses, scholarships to attend the CBFNC General Assembly, pre- and post-General Assembly workshops for students, and the promotion of divinity school events through CBFNC publicity channels.

This year, Andrew Heil, an intern from Wake Forest University School of Divinity,

helped us research the ministries of scholar graduates. We are learning from this research how we can help students and graduates connect with CBFNC churches and ministries.

Leadership Development Initiatives

Other Leadership Development ministries include the annual training for CBF endorsed chaplains, the creation of regional fellowships of endorsed chaplains and pastoral counselors, partnering with the Center for Congregational Health for the Young Leader's Program, and the annual CBFNC staff ministers' winter retreat.

people who wanted to know what young adults were thinking.

Communication is a vital role in the planning and implementing of ministry to and with young adults. We hope that churches will continue to call on us as we strive to reach out to, not only the college age students within their congregations, but those who have not been nurtured by a church.

Collegiate-Congregational Internships

Several congregations are preparing to take advantage of a National CBF grant called Collegiate-Congregational Internships. This will put college students in local congregations for 9-10 weeks this summer to help them explore ministry within the church. This program is designed to provide a broad-based look at ministry, so that students can see first-hand why we invest our lives in ministry through a local congregation.



Spiritual formation and discipleship development

Adults

Workshops and Retreats

Over 100 workshops of interest to adults have been offered this year as part of the Fellowship on the Move regional tours and the General Assembly.

We held a Staff Ministers' Retreat with 21 participants and leaders, and we have been working with CBF national to promote and attend the fall Youth Ministers' Retreat and the winter Church Works Retreat.

A Spirituality Retreat was held in March 2009.

Two Sunday School literature workshops were held in two locations in May 2009 helping 33 Sunday School leaders from 15 churches.

Three marriage enrichment retreats were held.

The CBFNC staff led several training events for local churches through the year, including deacon retreats, missional understanding, teacher training and evangelism training.

Youth

We had a fun day at Emerald Pointe Water Park in June with 251 youth from 14 churches.

We had two youth spring mission retreats planned (one was rained out, though). We had a total of 86 campers from 6 churches.

We had two fall retreats, one a whitewater retreat in Asheville (77 persons from 5 churches) and the other a beach retreat in Myrtle Beach where CBF missionaries were our speakers. This year, 229 persons from 17 churches attended.

We also had our youth ski retreats in West Virginia. Again the weather affected the second weekend's final attendance. Ironically, too much snow to go skiing! Still, over the two weekends, 453 persons from 22 churches came.

A new resource to help youth and young adults learn about being Baptist was created, *Free and Faithful* – and we had our first ever YouTube video contest for youth groups!

This year we held two Youth Ministry Summits with over 50 youth ministers. This has helped us take a fresh look at our events and how they are planned. While keeping our seasonal events, we are also planning to create more regionalized events, planned and implemented by local youth ministers.

Children

A Children's Ministry Planning Team developed two Children's Mission Retreats for November 2009. A total of 390 participants from 36 churches attended.

Music

A team of music ministers has taken on the tasks of managing two music festivals. We held our fifth annual children's choir festival. We had 148 persons from 14 churches. The sixth annual Youth Choir Festival had 223 persons from 18 churches.



Reference and Referral

The Interim Ministry Network that was formed a couple of years ago is proving to be more helpful to churches that are seeking either an interim or a permanent minister for their church. In order to increase their effectiveness, most of the facilitators in the network and the CBFNC staff participated in a traditional interim training event especially for them and led by Les Robinson of the Center for Congregational Health.

The facilitators of the Interim Ministry Network are Gail Coulter, Bob Shepherd, Billy Honeycutt, Harry Poovey, Harry Smith, Bruce League, Drag Kimrey, Marion Lark, Mack Thompson, Jesse Croom, Hugh Burlington and David Elks.

When they are in transition, more churches are beginning to come to CBFNC

for assistance. In this past year 12 churches sought help in clarifying what type of interim they needed, and then they were provided assistance in finding an interim that best fit their needs at the time. Also, some 45 churches sought out CBFNC either for resumes of ministers, training of their search committees or both.

In addition to these, 30 ministers came to CBFNC seeking discernment in regard to their call to ministry while others came for coaching concerning a personal or professional crisis they were facing.

In this past year we had conversations with 105 ministers who were seeking a place of ministry. Some of these were recent divinity school graduates who were beginning their ministry or seasoned ministers who were seeking to relocate.

For those who began their first ministry in North Carolina in 2009, we hosted our second annual "welcome event." Meeting at our offices, these ministers were introduced to our staff and our resources that are available to them. Attended by more than 20 pastors or staff ministers, this event proved once again to be highly successful as we got to know each other.

CBFNC offered spiritual, emotional and financial support for some 12 ministers who were either terminated or forced to resign from their places of ministry. While we regret the need for this ministry, it indicates a growing crisis, and we are grateful that we are able to provide some assistance to these ministers.