



The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

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2011 FALL FELLOWSHIP ON THE MOVE



“Aren’t you concerned that critics might accuse CBFNC of being too political?” my friend asked as we stood in the sanctuary of First, Sylva, following a Monday evening worship service last October. The service was part of a collaborative effort between CBFNC and the Western North Carolina Baptist Fellowship (WNCBF) to conduct a joint Fellowship on the Move and WNCBF fall gathering.

WNCBF leaders had requested that I enlist Rev. Hector Villanueva to serve as the preacher for the service. The inquirer was a pastor who had been out of circulation for much of the year and, therefore, was not aware of the events surrounding Hector’s arrest, attempted deportation, and eventual (Praise God!) release back to his family and congregation.

“Don’t get me wrong,” my colleague continued. “I’m in favor of CBFNC’s involvement in the immigration issue. Hector’s story is amazing. But it does concern me that some folks might see it in a more negative light and might accuse us of violating the separation of church and state.”

“I hear what you’re saying,” I explained to my friend. “CBFNC

still adheres firmly to church-state separation. It’s one of our bedrock principles. We’re not engaging in partisan politics. We didn’t even set out to get involved in the immigration discussion. But we did feel called by God to pursue missions with the growing Hispanic population in our state. And we discovered that when you reach out to people with the love of Jesus, when you truly try to be the presence of Christ with them, their issues become your issues.”

CBFNC is, above all, a missions organization.

Our missiology is based

on our reading of the Bible. By taking Scripture seriously, we are led to be a missionary people. By taking God’s call to mission seriously, we are led down paths that, on our own, we might not choose to go. But as the old hymn has us sing, “Wherever He leads, I’ll go.” And our Bible-based, Spirit-led, mission-focused

life together is taking us down some new paths.

Because Jesus, echoing a repeated Old Testament refrain states, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35), as missionary Baptists we are led to welcome the Hispanic immigrants who have come into our state.

Because Paul explains, “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility” (Ephesians 2:14), and “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28). As missionary Baptists, we are led to seek reconciliation with brothers and sisters of other races.

Because repeatedly in the Old Testament God’s people are urged, “The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern” (Proverbs 29:7), and Jesus himself described as his personal mission “to proclaim good news to the poor” (Luke 4:18), as missionary Baptists we are led to engage in ministries that address issues of wealth and poverty in our state and world.

These are some of the new ministry paths the Spirit is leading us to take. I can’t say where we’ll be called to go next. But I know one thing for sure. We have no interest in pursuing anybody’s political agenda. Our only agenda is to study God’s Word, listen to the Spirit’s call, and faithfully pursue that call consistent with our heritage as missionary Baptists.

... our Bible-based, Spirit-led, mission-focused life together is taking us down some new paths

Equipping Churches for Impacting Tomorrow

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

In October 2010, CBFNC, in partnership with several other organizations (CBF National, Columbia Partnership, Center for Congregational Health), conducted Hopeful Imagination. This was a new kind of conference for church leaders in which the primary resource persons came from one “teaching church,” First, Wilmington. That conference was a dream come true, borne out of our conviction that in the 21st century the real experts for resourcing congregations reside not in a denominational office but in sister congregations.

We’ll take a similar but expanded approach May 18-19, 2012, as we gather at Providence Baptist in Charlotte for “Impacting Tomorrow: Traditional Churches Finding Their Future in God’s Story.” Complete information about the conference can be found on the events page on our website, www.cbfnc.org.

Here is a preview of several conference highlights:

- Mike Queen will interview five churches that implemented and benefitted from lessons learned at Hopeful Imagination.
- Several congregations will lead workshops telling their unique stories of transformation and their missional journeys of renewal and revitalization.
- Gary and Carla Nelson will serve as keynote speakers at two plenary sessions. Gary is the president of Tyndale University College and Seminary in Toronto, Canada, and is the former General Secretary of Canadian Baptist Ministries. Gary is a recognized urban missiologist, author and pastor who led in the revitalization and renewal of historic downtown FBC Edmonton.

I’m grateful for churches that are exhibiting missional vitality during these challenging, rapidly changing times, and their willingness to share their experiences. Our churches need the kind of encouragement and practical help that will be shared. And the people in our communities and world need our churches to be equipped to make a meaningful impact on their lives.

St. John's Baptist Forms Partnership to House Transitioning Homeless Families

by Laura Barclay, CBFNC Social Ministry Coordinator

In October 2010, St. John's Baptist Church formed a Space Utilization Committee to assess how to use the second floor of their building, leading to an amazing partnership with Charlotte Family Housing that shelters families above their worship space.

Larry Hewitt, chair of the space committee, related that the church has previously housed a hospitality house for families of patients in the neighboring hospital. The hospital proceeded to build stand-alone facilities, and St. John's wanted to figure out how to utilize the space in an ongoing partnership with the community and ensure that the building would be serving God beyond Sundays and Wednesdays.

Bert Green, Executive Director of Charlotte's Habitat for Humanity, put the committee in touch with Darren Ash of Charlotte Family Housing, and they began talks to form the second shelter in town that houses families. Moving in above the Fellowship Hall with the name "Hawthorne Place," dorms will house six families at a time, with common areas for a computer lab, laundry room, kitchens and closets.

Ash relates that this move has been a blessing at a time when Charlotte seemed to be pushing homeless populations to the north side of town, making them feel unwelcome downtown. Many of Ash's clients work at the neighboring hospital and will no longer face a long commute.

Ash shared that the goal is to transition these families out of the dorms and into the comfort of their own apartments, and then offer counseling services to help them cope with past traumas. Charlotte Family Housing has rental vouchers for about 120 apartment units for transitioning families, and the organization shelters and houses around 200 families a year.

In addition to living space, families receive asset-based social work to overcome obstacles to housing, as well as vocational counseling, housing advocacy and subsidies, financial incentives like microloans, ongoing clinical social work, and volunteer engagement with clients.

New pastor Dennis Foust is excited about the investment the church has made in their partnership and is looking forward to building relationships between his congregants and the new residents through Wednesday night suppers, worship, and volunteer

opportunities. Ash noted that the level of faith these families had was astounding and uplifting to the employees, who note their reliance on God during difficult times.

St. John's partnership is prophetic for our times. Charlotte is ranked #2 in the nation for family homelessness. Charlotte Family Housing formed this year as a merger between three organizations to more efficiently and effectively care for homeless populations.

This partnership exhibits a church actively aware and engaged in their community and committed to what Jesus identified as the greatest commandments — loving God and neighbor.



LEFT to RIGHT: St. John's Baptist Church Pastor Dennis Foust; Darren Ash of Charlotte Family Housing; and Larry Hewitt, chair of the space committee.

Loray Serving the Poor, Young and Afraid

by Lea Ann Moss, Program Director, Loray Girls Home

As you might imagine, putting together a Christmas morning for a group of teenage girls is a daunting proposition.

Working as program director of the Loray Girls Home in Gastonia for the last 13 years, I've become pretty savvy about developing a thoughtful, creative list and sticking to an increasingly scant budget. All the while, I remind myself that this is the only Christmas morning many of the girls in our home have ever had. They will remember these times the way you and I remember our first Christmases with family.

On Christmas Eve a few years ago, I recall crossing off the last item on the list and returning to the home to finish wrapping. The staff and girls were finishing off some decorations in the family room and cooking — I'd call it cheerfully chaotic, what is somewhat normal for us.

But then I got a call. It was after hours, and it was the Department of Social Services. They'd come across a 16-year-old girl who had been cast aside by family with no safe place to go. And now she was homeless, a fragile kid capable of critical mistakes but old enough to know that she can't go back home. It's a tough place to be.

As the staff got wind of the conversation, the idea of making "the new girl" feel at home for Christmas took hold. She needed us, we were going to be there for her. Getting calls like this are, unfortunately, not that rare.

As I scrambled to get things together, one of the staff members began talking about what happened 2,000 years ago on that first Christmas. She reminded us that Mary and Joseph were forced away from home at the most important time of their lives. They were cast out by society, which judged without knowing them and the circumstances they were enduring. They were told there was no room for them at the inn and were forced to find shelter any place they could. They were poor, young and afraid.

I see that every day in my job. That's exactly who we are serving in Gastonia — the poor, young and afraid. There are millions of young people in this country falling through the cracks every day, shoved aside by family and society and told they don't matter. Many have been abused, neglected and worse. I know things that are unspeakable, just too terrible and too sad. It is heartbreaking, but very real. My greatest fear is that sometimes people don't

get to see how much need there is in their community.

In the book of Matthew, Chapter 18, Christ gave us the essential components of the new way of living he brought the world. He teaches us the importance of humility, the absolute power of forgiveness and the necessity of taking care of the entire flock, not one stray excluded.

That was the mission Rev. Raymond White, pastor of Loray Baptist Church in Gastonia, gave us when he put down the roots of Loray Girls Home 25 years ago. Rev. John Bridges followed and built on that foundation. He passed the mantle to current pastor Dr. Kent Crawford, who is truly a God-send. Three ministers in 25 years, staff that has been here for nearly that long ... we've developed a program and a community

here at Loray that Gaston County has come to know and trust.

But it's not easy. Our mission is to provide a sanctuary and shelter from the storm for the ones who need it most. We are working on plans to launch a new program to help girls transitioning into their first homes as they grow out of foster programs. Sadly, it's becoming more difficult for us as government funds are cut dramatically every year. Meanwhile, the economy throws more and more lower-income families into catastrophe every day. It is a cruel irony that our services have never been needed more, yet our resources have never been thinner.

So I get a little overwhelmed sometimes, which brings me back to that Christmas a few years ago. The sun rose, morning came, that gathering gloom rolled away for a time — for all of us. The neglect of parents, the meanness of the world, the unfairness of it all just melted away for a day. "The new girl" had a day she'll never want to forget, and it was only a few hours after a day that she'll never be able to erase from her memory.

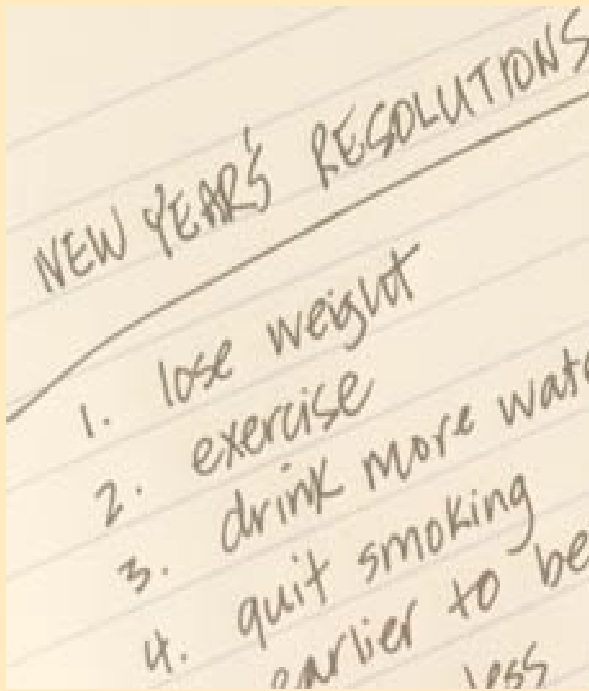
I couldn't be more proud of her today. She's found a great job that has some promise for the future. She's come and gone over the years, but now she's making plans to move to a place of her own and knowing we helped her get there keeps my spirits high. Our girls have gone on to become students at prestigious schools such as Spellman, one has a master's degree and is teaching, hopefully passing on some of the lessons she learned at Loray.

That's why I don't despair, because I have seen with my own eyes that Loray Girls Home is a place where miracles happen.

Visit their website at www.loraybaptist.org/loray_girls_home.htm.



Christ teaches us the importance of humility, the absolute power of forgiveness and the necessity of taking care of the entire flock, not one stray excluded



A New Habit for a New Year

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

The turning of the page on the calendar to a new year triggers, for many of us, a desire to establish new habits. We often begin the new year “resolved” to lose weight, exercise more, get out of debt, or read the Bible daily. Most resolutions are abandoned after a few days or weeks. The best resolutions lead to new habits that change our lives for the better.

CBFNC would like to invite the members of our fellowship to cultivate a new habit for 2012: becoming an individual contributor to CBFNC ministries. The actual “members” of CBFNC are not churches but individuals who are members of congregations that make financial contributions to CBFNC, or who themselves make such contributions.

CBFNC has enjoyed phenomenal growth in giving from partner congregations, but that giving is slowing. Growth in ministry for CBFNC in the future will be dependent on growth in financial support outside of church contributions, and that includes individuals.

As you develop your personal budget for charitable giving beyond your local church, please consider giving to CBFNC. CBFNC is a strong, healthy, missionally effective ministry organization. Help us continue on that path by cultivating a new habit for 2012 — becoming an individual financial supporter of CBFNC.

For your convenience, to make a contribution to CBFNC, you may use the enclosed envelope or visit our website, www.cbfnc.org.

Deacon Ministry: Catalyst for Change

by Eddie Hammett, CBFNC Church and Clergy Coach

“Growing Churches in Challenging Times” was the theme of CBFNC’s 2011 Deacon/Spouse training at University Baptist in Chapel Hill and First Baptist in Hickory. I shared concepts from my book, *Spiritual Leadership in a Secular Age*, with approximately 200 deacons and pastors from 35 CBFNC churches. These attendees were eager to learn and were very affirming of the information and resources shared, as well as of the conference design ... so much so that I have been invited to share the same content in several churches and am planning to repeat the same conference in Greenville at Oakmont Baptist on March 10, 2012.

Affirmations of the “Growing Churches in Challenging Times” were voiced by:

On behalf of myself and our four deacons, thank you for the super retreat of this past Saturday at the Hickory church. The info shared was so important and relevant and it will make a difference in our people and mission in the days to come. Thank you and may God bless you in your calling and purpose.

Tom Kinman, Pastor
Hickory Grove, Mount Holly

First, thank you for a great day for me and my deacons. Those deacons who came had a great experience, and by great I mean they had their eyes opened, expanded, and in some cases blown.

Thomas Bounds, Pastor
Pfafftown Baptist

Feedback from those leaving was that it was just what they needed. I'm so glad we could host! Thanks and blessings over these next weeks as you are on the road!

Rendell Hipps
First, Hickory

CBFNC and I will also partner with Mission Baptist in Locust for a 2012 Deacon/Spouse training event on a new theme, “Recovering Hope for the Church – Moving From Apathy to Engagement.” Mission has a powerful and encouraging story of leadership and congregational transformation over the last decade. Once a rural, struggling congregation, they now hold church worship in multiple sites, engage more than 80% of their members in small group discipleship, and touch their community and world through intentional missional experiences. Set aside September 22, 2012, for this significant training event. In addition, plan to attend the “Impacting Tomorrow Conference” at Providence in Charlotte, May 18-19, 2012.

After serving as deacon consultant for over 25 years, I believe that deacons are to be spiritual servant leaders in the church. Deacons and their families can be catalysts for effective change or they can be significant barriers in the church moving forward and staying relevant in a rapidly changing culture.

Additional deacon ministry resources and links can be found on my personal website, www.transforminsolutions.org. If I can be of help, feel free to get in touch by e-mailing me at ehammett@cbfnc.org.

Where Can We Go on a Mission Trip?

by Linda Jones, CBFNC Missions Coordinator

Ottawa, Canada

Fellow North Carolinians, we invite you to come up here for ten days to one month, two at a time to serve in ministries that welcome newcomers to Canada. The Matthew House Ottawa, www.matthewhouseottawa.org, provides temporary housing for up to eight newly arrived refugees. You would help keep the house running by doing odd jobs, cooking, cleaning, smiling, talking, and praying as you go. You may also spend time at the Furniture Bank of Ottawa, www.furniturebankofottawa.com, to assist clients as they pick out their furniture, assist with moves, and organize donations. Contact Kim and Marc Wyatt at wyatt@thefellowship.info.

Belize is the only English speaking country in Latin America and is located just south of Mexico on the Caribbean coast. Mission Team opportunities include church-to-church relationships and ministry opportunities of construction, VBS, discipleship training and leadership training. CBFNC churches are partnering together to finish the construction of St. Elena School in Belize. More partners are needed & welcome! Contact Brenda Hipp at belizebaptistpt@gmail.com.

■ **The Baptist Bible School of Belize** provides three intensive weeks of study each year.

CBFNC churches and interested friends provide the budget to cover the cost of the courses and textbooks, meals for the week, and administration. Please consider helping financially or, if interested in teaching, contact Susan Pasour spasour@yahoo.com

■ **Eric and Julie Maas, CBF field personnel in Belize** have opportunities for teams to come do VBS, medical, construction, and Bible Studies in April, June or in the fall. Some of the greatest needs are discipleship and leadership training. Contact Julie at julie@seekersave.org

Romania Ruth School offers 1st-8th grade for Romany students. During the summer months, Vacation Bible School is a great way for youth teams to serve. Construction Teams help with painting and plastering, as well as repairs on the buildings. During the school year, help is needed with Teacher Appreciation Week, Moms' Club and English Club activities. Teachers can volunteer with Inservices for Ruth School staff with particular emphasis on teaching unique students. Crafters are welcome to teach at Sewing/Craft Club for students and classes for the community. Contact Ralph and Tammy Stocks at rstocks@thefellowship.info.

Kenya

Sam and Melody Harrell have created Change for Children, constructing eight integrated child development centers around Kenya which have the potential to better the lives of the nearly 650 children, ranging in age from 3 to 6, who will attend the schools this year. Teams come to Kenya providing support for the schools through medical services, construction, or simply teaching and playing with the children. Contact harrell@africaexchange.org

So. Africa

Mark and Sara Williams serve with ARISE ministries which focuses on planting churches in rural areas. Mark works to provide training, resources and support to local pastors and community leaders. Sara works to address the needs of children in the communities, especially orphans. Contact mwilliams@thefellowship.info.

Shelby, NC

Assistance for my neighbors in northeast Shelby is always welcome in the following areas:

- We host a 3-hour "Fun Blast" one Saturday each month involving games, Bible story/craft, and a meal (usually pizza.) Youth groups and/or SS classes are welcome to carry out this event which usually attracts 12-20 youth, ages 4-16. We are flexible about the specific Saturday for this event.
 - We hold Children's Church each Sunday morning from 11:00-1:30 (times are approximate). Individuals, couples, or small youth groups are needed to assist or conduct the entire event.
 - We prepare a meal twice each month for the community. The days and times vary with the seasons. Individuals, SS classes, women's mission circles, and youth groups have provided these meals that usually feed approximately 50 people. We are **always** in need of folks to provide these meals.
 - School supplies are always welcome, especially composition books, notebook paper, pencils, and pencil sharpeners.
 - Several middle school boys need local mentors. A couple of them play football and other sports and have no family members or supporters present to watch them play.
- Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can minister with me. Contact Cecelia Beck: (828) 289-2892 or bcecelia@hotmail.com.

Chaouki and Maha Boulos, CBF field personnel in Lebanon, coordinate "Celebrate Jesus" rallies

Living Faith Ministry, Lebanon 2012 Projects

in Beirut and neighboring countries, where thousands of people have heard about Jesus Christ – some for the first time. Come as a team to Beirut, Lebanon, or to Egypt and assist with an evangelism rally, lead a sports camp, or work at White Wings Conference Center. Financial help is also needed for the rallies and for the Conference Center. Contact Chaouki and Maha at operationantioch@hotmail.com.

Passport

Celebrating 20 Summers ...

For 3rd - 6th grades: Passport kids in multiple sites.
For 6th - 12th grade students: Passport Choices in Wingate, NC; Passport Missions in Danville, VA, and Macon, GA; Passport Missions 2 with expanded missions engagement in Dallas, St. Louis, Missouri and Washington D.C. And check out Passport Kenya! Great experiences await your youth. Watch a two-minute video on YouTube at Treasure: Passport Camps 2012. Details about Passport and all their programs: www.passportcamps.org.

WNC Slavic Ministries, Asheville, NC

Fran and Mike Graham
are self-funded CBF
Field Personnel serving

as Coordinators for WNC Slavic Ministries, Inc. This is a non-profit interdenominational ministry working together with Slavic leaders to provide holistic ministries to empower Slavic immigrants as they integrate into the Asheville area.

Some ways in which you can be involved: invite dental professionals to volunteer on the NC Baptist Men's Mobile Dental Unit the week of March 26-31, 2012; donate items listed at www.wncslavicministries.org; plan and lead backyard Bible clubs during the summer; sort donated household items; and on Saturdays during the year, plan and lead picnics and games.

Together For Hope of Arkansas

Together For Hope of Arkansas, based at the Helena Community Center, hosts Stories on Wheels (a toy and book lending library), sports ministries, after-school tutoring programs, nutritional programs, and health programs. Come be a part of CBF's Rural Poverty Initiative as we reach out to this community. Teams, families and individuals are encouraged to participate in the All Church Challenge that will include a two-week KidsCamp July 7-12 and July 14-19, building renovations and a community garden. Delta Jewels sale parties and other micro-enterprise opportunities are needed! Contact: www.togetherforhope.com and www.allchurchchallenge.org

Northeastern North Carolina

Anna and LaCount Anderson serve in northeastern NC, primarily centered in the Halifax County and Northampton County. In 2012 we hope to move north and east of these counties to continue developing poverty ministry. We have begun two **Christian Education summer events for children**, a literacy fair and Vacation Bible School. There is a **community garden** for the needy in Roanoke Rapids, and we always need help in the garden. A second part of the food ministry is meeting with those in need and food distribution.

Faith House, a woman's shelter located in Enfield, needs considerable work done to its physical structure. Connected to our woman's ministry is the beginning of *Christian Woman's Job Corps*, a partnership with CBF and WMU of North Carolina. Leah Reed is working daily with the program and needs mentors to assist her on a short-term or regular basis. Contact landerson@thefellowship.info.

Together For Hope, Nada, Kentucky

Paula Settle serves in Nada and Booneville, Kentucky, as a part of the Rural Poverty Initiative. This involves working with more than 35 church mission teams each year, housing repairs, reverse mission team trips, tutoring at the elementary school, and GORGEous Gals earrings/Business As Mission project.

A mission team is needed to oversee the food booth vendors during the June 8-10 Nada festival. Kroger, Save A Lot and Walmart gift cards are helpful, as is food for the backpack ministry (Ramen noodles, tuna, cereal bars, fruit cups). Contact Paula Settle at psettle@thefellowship.info.

Rick and Lita Sample serve among international refugees, immigrants, and international students, and they advocate on behalf of victims of human trafficking. They are looking for teams starting in the school year 2012-2013.

Opportunities include a Mihmani (Afghan Friendship Gathering) event where Christians and Muslims come together, Easter Egg Hunts, July 4th celebration, Kite Day, VBS, Karen Park Day carnival, Karen Church involvement with crafts and games for the children, distribution of the Gospel of John, Kids Club, Park Day, and baby showers. There are other options depending on the gifts and desires of your group. Contact the Samples, rsample@thefellowship.info, for additional volunteer opportunities and items needed.

San Francisco Bay

The Village of Hope, Ukraine

Gennady
and Mina

Podgaisky began work with the **Village of Hope** in 2003 after CBFNC purchased a deserted Russian youth camp. Since 2004, volunteer teams have served at the Village of Hope renovating and constructing housing for the children and their families as well as working with the children. Major construction has been accomplished but **renovation work** continues. **Medical and dental missions** are now part of their work. Teams are encouraged to work with Gennady and Mina alongside the children at the Village of Hope or at their many ministry endeavors in Kiev and Bucha. Contact Bill Mason at wmason@carolina.rr.com or the Podgaisky family at podgaisky@gmail.com.

The Timothy Project

The Timothy Project, led by Cliff Christian, is an ecumenical missions coordination agency for church, youth, college and intergenerational groups. Based in the Appalachian Mountains of western NC, they identify, develop, assist and support ongoing mission efforts in the southeastern US. Their summer mission activities are youth-oriented and seek to connect students with opportunities to serve, learn and grow in relationship to Jesus Christ and others.

Rural Appalachian: Madison County, NC, in June, Yancey County, NC, in July Cumberland Gap, KY, in July.
www.TheTimothyProjects.com

The Haiti Housing Network is a collaboration among the Fellowship, Conscience International, the Fuller Center for Housing and the Baptist General Convention of Texas. So far, 15 houses have been completed utilizing a technique developed by Conscience International in which the rubble from the earthquake is used as building material. There have also been two houses completed for volunteer teams. Teams are needed to build more homes! Contact Chris Boltin at cboltin@thefellowship.info. Steve and Nancy James, jamesinhaiti@gmail.com, are on at-home assignment and can be contacted for medical missions info in Haiti.

Haiti

*The righteous flourish like the palm tree,
And grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Psalm 92:12*

These words took root in the soil of my soul this summer when I had the privilege of joining a mission team from several CBFNC churches who joined Linda Jones, CBFNC Missions Coordinator, to participate in a week of ministry and celebration in Lebanon. After a 19-hour flight, CBF National missionaries to the Middle East, Chaouki and Maha Boulos, put us to work immediately the next morning traveling from church to church in preparation for the Celebrate Jesus festival that the Boulos and other local Christian leaders had been arranging for months. Despite years of turmoil between the nation of Israel to the south and Muslims and Christian groups in Lebanon, we were a part of a group of Evangelical Christians holding a public gathering in downtown Beirut celebrating Jesus Christ! For five consecutive evenings, the Gospel was sung, proclaimed, and received. Numbers of individuals accepted Christ including those from other faith traditions. Amazingly, these festivals have also been taking place in Egypt and Jordan since 2000 under the leadership of the Boulos and their volunteers.

Our days were filled with visits, ministry activities and sightseeing. Remarkably, Chaouki had arranged for our team to visit with Lebanon's national police director, Lebanon's highest military court judge, as well as religious and political



leaders from the Druze faith tradition. We shared Turkish coffee, wonderful food, conversation, and initiated cross-cultural friendships. Part of our team visited an orphanage to consider possible mission efforts while others led basketball camps. We toured the retreat center that the Boulos are building for use by groups from across the Middle East. It is an amazingly modern facility atop a mountain range overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Sightseeing included a visit to the ancient city of Byblos where the Bible reports craftsmen were imported to build the Jerusalem Temple. My mountain top moment was when we traveled to the summit of Mount Lebanon and I stood under the branches of a 2,000-year-old cedar. If you get a chance, go and see what God is doing in the region of Tyre and Sidon.

You may want to put down roots.

If interested in giving to this ministry or going on a mission trip, contact Linda Jones ljones@cbfnc.org.

2011 CBFNC Disaster Relief Efforts

by Kent Benfield

2011 has been a prolific year for disasters across America. Here in North Carolina we were impacted twice: April's tornadoes brought devastation throughout central and eastern NC, and August's Hurricane Irene wreaked havoc mostly in eastern NC. The CBFNC Disaster Relief Trailer was put into use in the aftermath of each.

Utilizing the NC Baptist Men's coordination efforts, a team from Lindley Park Church in Greensboro traveled to Raleigh and performed chainsaw work at two different homes. We were fortunate to have additional help from a group from Midland, as



huge trees proved quite a challenge.

We also sent a group to New Bern in September to remove flooring, sheetrock, and debris from a home which had also been flooded/rebuilt after Hurricane Isabel in 2003. The homeowner, a retired Veteran, thanked us many times over. This area was hit hard by Irene, and it was comforting to see many faith-based groups working there.

The CBFNC disaster relief trailer and contents are available for all CBF churches to utilize. The trailer, located in Greensboro, contains generators, chainsaws, a pressure washer, and hand tools for all basic recovery work. If interested, please contact Kent Benfield at (336) 451-0669 or (336) 393-4078. A secondary contact is Scott Orr at (336) 292-5761.

Save the date for the
2012 CBFNC General Assembly!

THE HEART OF JESUS:

That they
all may be one

JOHN 17:21

March 23-24, 2012
Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh

worship speaker

Neville Callam

Baptist World Alliance General Secretary



Friday, March 23

Welcome and Orientation
Ministry Workshop Sessions
Fellowship Dinner (requires pre-registration)
Evening Worship
Fellowship Reception

Saturday, March 24

Ministry Workshop Session
Ministry Celebration
(incl. adoption of '12-'13 budget & council election)
Morning Worship

Learn more about General Assembly details and registration, ministry workshop titles, discounted hotel options, childcare reservations, and the Youth Edition at www.cbfnc.org.

Seeking Reconciliation in the Midst of Conflict

Chris Gambill

Ministry Beyond Retirement

Caralie Brown

Restorative Acts: The Miracles of Jesus and the Apostles

Jim McConnell

What the Bible Really Says About Women

Sheri Adams

Creating "One-ness"

Beth P. Kennett

Four Lenses of Congregational Analysis

Les Robinson

Racial Reconciliation and the Body of Christ

Nathan Parrish and Willard Bass

Seeing the News Through Christian Eyes

Cameron Jorgenson

Circles: A Way to Cross Race and Class Lines

Annette C. Snyder

iGeneration

Andy Jung

An Introduction to F.I.T. Faith (Sunday School Resources)

Rick Jordan, CBFNC Church Resources Coordinator

Missions Unifies the Church in One Purpose

Cara Lynn Vogel

Worship that Reconciles

Dan Day

The Resurrection of Lottie Moon

Glenn Jonas

On Being Pastoral Prophets in the Public Square

Brent Walker

Reaching 20-Somethings Outside of Our Walls

Wanda Kidd

Where's Your Bootstraps

Hyaets Community

Involving Your Church in Local, State, National and International Missions Through NC Baptist Men

Richard Brunson

Listening: The Other Side of Prayer

Hal Melton

The Beauty of Diversity in a Multicultural World

Diana Godwin

Addiction and Grace: Understanding Addiction and Ministry

George Fuller, Jr., and Al Mooney

Skin, Status and Stalemates

Hyaets Community

Social Networking and the Church

John Vestal



**Youth Ski Retreat
January 27-29, 2012
Winterplace Ski Resort in WV**

**New Ministers to NC Luncheon
February 9, 2012**

For ministers (pastors and staff) and spouses who moved to a church/ministry position in NC during 2011.

Join us for a complimentary luncheon at the CBFNC offices in Winston-Salem. There will be fellowship as well as an opportunity to meet CBFNC staff and learn about our organization.

Register by calling CBFNC at 336-759-3456 or 888-822-1944.

**CBF Missions Field Personnel
Off-Field Assignments in Our Area**

Lita and Rick Sample

Raleigh from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

Lsample@thefellowship.info

or Rsample@thefellowship.info

Melody and Sam Harrell

Raleigh from June 4, 2011 – January 5, 2012

Harrell@africaexchange.org

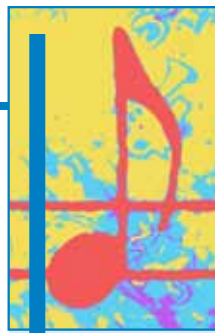
Chaouki and Maha Boulos

Rock Hill, SC, from Oct. 14, 2011 – Jan. 30, 2012

Operationantioch@hotmail.com

Coordinator Visits October-November 2011

First, Chester, VA	Grove Park, Clinton
First, Elkin	Hiddenite, Hiddenite
First, Forest City	Hominy, Candler
First, Greensboro	Hope Valley, Durham
First, Yadkinville	Macedonia, Raleigh
First, Winston-Salem	Mars Hill College
Greenwood Forest, Cary	Murfreesboro, Murfreesboro



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC
2012 Music Festivals

Children's Choir Festival

March 24, 2012, in Raleigh, NC

For Children in Grades 4-6
Registration: www.cbfnc.org,
deadline March 9.



Youth Choir Festival

April 20-21, 2012

First Baptist Church, Greensboro

For Youth in Grades 7-12
Registration: www.cbfnc.org
deadline April 1.

New Contributing CBFNC Partner Churches

(As of Nov. 20, 2011)

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Youngsville (new MRP* contributor)

First, Biscoe (new MRP* contributor)

First, Dobson

*Mission Resource Plan - visit www.CBFNC.org

Ministers on the Move

Compiled by Jack Causey, Ministerial Resources Coordinator

Our encouragement and support go to the following ministers who have recently moved:

John Brown has been called as pastor of Boonville Baptist Church.

Rebecca Hall has been called to Ridge Road Baptist Church in Raleigh as minister to children and missions.

David Grinnell has been called to be pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Temple Baptist Church of Wilmington has called **Steve Spangler** as pastor.

Stephen Epperson has been called by Cherry Point Baptist Church in Havelock as pastor.

When you make a move or know of someone who has changed places of ministry, let us know at jcausey@cbfnc.org. **For assistance to search committees and ministers seeking vocational discernment, visit our reference and referral page on our website at www.cbfnc.org or call 336-759-3456 or 888-822-1944.**



The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina



phone: 336.759.3456 • phone: 888.822.1944 • fax: 336.759.3459 • cbfnc@cbfnc.org • www.cbfnc.org

Larry Hovis Executive Coordinator..... LHovis@cbfnc.org	Wanda Kidd College Ministry Coordinator WKidd@cbfnc.org
Ka'thy Gore Chappell ... Leadership Development Coordinator.... KChappell@cbfnc.org	Eddie Hammett ... Church and Clergy Coach EHammett@cbfnc.org
Rick Jordan Church Resources Coordinator RJordan@cbfnc.org	Javier BenitezHispanic Ministry Leader Coach... Rocafuerte90@hotmail.com
Linda Jones Missions Coordinator LJones@cbfnc.org	Nancy Parks Programs Manager..... NParks@cbfnc.org
Jim Hylton Business Administration Coordinator... JHylton@cbfnc.org	Sarah Mitchell Communications Manager SMitchell@cbfnc.org
Jack Causey Ministerial Resources Coordinator..... JCausey@cbfnc.org	Gail McAlister Financial Manager..... GMcalister@cbfnc.org
Laura Barclay Social Ministries Coordinator LBarclay@cbfnc.org	Allison Gallimore..Administrative Assistant AGallimore@cbfnc.org

Coordinating Council

Donna Bisette, Winston-Salem, **Moderator**
 Ray Ammons, Gastonia, **Moderator-Elect**
 Steve Little, Marion, **Past Moderator**
 Greg Watson, Hickory, **Recorder**
 Gary Knight, Winston-Salem, **Treasurer**
 Tommy Bratton, Asheville
 Mike Eddinger, Cary
 Susan Ellington, Zebulon
 David Hailey, Raleigh
 Martha McDowell, Laurinburg
 Doug Murray, Wilson
 Lisa Rust, Lumberton
 Susan Taylor, Chapel Hill

Endowment Management Board

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 Scott Hudgins, Winston-Salem
 Judy LeCroy, Lexington
 Bill McCullough, Youngsville
 Candy Tennant, Chapel Hill

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 Sophia Steibel, Boiling Springs
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 Ed Beddingfield, Fayetteville
 Sarah Boberg, Red Springs
 Rendell Hipps, Hickory
 Ray Nance Howell IV, Lexington
 Shane Nixon, Mocksville
 Nathan Rice, Greensboro
 Layne Rogerson, Greenville

Missions Ministry Council

Kent Cranford, Gastonia, **Chair**
 Len Keever, Dunn, **Chair-Elect**
 Brandon Hudson, Winston-Salem
 Christopher Ingram, Elizabeth City
 Andrea Dellinger Jones, Raleigh
 Nate Leonard, Kannapolis
 Alicia Porterfield, Wilmington
 Hector Villanueva, Pittsboro
 Linda Winslow, Jamestown

CBF National Council Members from NC

Darryl Aaron, Winston-Salem
 Roger Gilbert, Mount Airy
 Don Gordon, Durham
 Beth McConnell, Charlotte
 Glenn Phillips, Goldsboro
 Robin Roberts, Raleigh
 Blenda Price Sloniker, Hickory

Financial Report:	September 2011 Contributions	Undesignated - \$103,352	Designated - \$164,767
	October 2011 Contributions	Undesignated - \$120,219	Designated - \$162,072
	November 2011 Contributions	Undesignated - \$97,404	Designated - \$172,753
	April 2011 - March 2012 Monthly Undesignated Goal: \$132,604		

CHURCHWORKS!
 CONFERENCE

The ChurchWorks Conference provides opportunities for ministers to discover new ideas and meet others who are also in vocational ministry. The conference combines worship and small group time into a setting where ministers deepen their understanding of their ministry and how it relates to their church environment.

February 27-March 1, 2012
Norfolk, VA

For more information, visit
www.thefellowship.info/churchworks

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT:
 WISDOM OF OLD FOR LIVING TODAY

April 13-15, 2012

Adult Spiritual Formation Retreat
 Caraway Conference Center

www.cbfnc.org for registration and more information



Upcoming Events ~ January/February Edition

Youth Ski Retreat

January 27-29, 2012
Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia

Collegiate Mid-Winter Retreat

January 28-29, 2012
Camp Mundo Vista

Christian Coaching Certificate Training

501 Class: Building Blocks of Powerful Coaching
February 6-7, 2012

New Minister's Luncheon

February 9, 2012
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

ChurchWorks conference

February 27-March 1, 2012
Norfolk, VA

CBFNC General Assembly

March 23-24, 2012
Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh

CBFNC General Assembly

— Youth Edition
March 23-24, 2012
Millbrook Baptist Church and Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh

7th Annual Children's Choir Festival

March 24, 2012
Raleigh

Christian Coaching Certificate Training

502 Class: Establishing a Dynamic Coaching Relationship
April 2-3, 2012

Adult Spirituality Retreat

April 13-15, 2012
Caraway Conference Center

8th Annual Youth Choir Festival

April 20-21, 2012
First, Greensboro

Impacting Tomorrow: Traditional Churches Finding Their Future in God's Story

May 18-19, 2012
Providence, Charlotte

SELAHvie

August 6-9, 2012
Talladega, AL



The photos above are from CBFNC's Fall Fellowship on the Move at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist in Fayetteville on November 6, 2011.

CBFNC's Fall Fellowship on the Move brought diverse groups together in Sylva, Fayetteville and Mount Airy to discuss immigration, invisible neighbors, motivating generosity and many more topics. Visit our website, www.cbfnc.org, for photos, audio recordings and other resources from these events.

Visit www.CBFNC.org to register and for more information.

The Gathering is published six times a year. All questions may be directed to Sarah Mitchell, (336) 759-3456 or (888) 822-1944 or smitchell@cbfnc.org. For story submissions, contact Sarah Mitchell for requirements and newsletter deadlines.