



Ray Higgins
COORDINATOR

RAYFLECTIONS

What a magnificent experience! I am standing on one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Great Wall of China.

Being on it made me realize why it was built, to keep invaders out. I also tried to imagine what it would be like to spend your life just building a wall.

Standing with me was a student who attends a school in Shanglin City, China. The school, with 50 children who have special needs, is one of the first in China to educate these children.



On the way home I began to reflect on the question, which is the greater wonder?

To build a wall to keep others out, or build a school to bring them in?

To protect yourself or to give of yourself? To live in fear or live out of love? To invest in mortar or children? To enslave workers or to empower leaders?

Six of us from Arkansas were blessed to witness Brenda Lisenby's servant leadership as CBF's field personnel in China's Guangxi Province. We saw the faces of the people CBF reaches out to—"those who have the greatest needs and the fewest resources." We also saw what it looks like "to be the presence of Christ in the world."

Our Coordinating Council, Charles Ray, and I spend our time and energy to connect you with all the ways that God is working through CBF people to connect people around the world with real life in Jesus Christ. The CBF movement appreciates you ... your prayers and your participation. I hope as you read this newsletter and visit our website that you will feel a part of this exciting and fresh spiritual movement among Baptists around the world! We genuinely appreciate your friendship, partnership and support.

FALL 2007

Cooperative Baptist **FELLOWSHIP** of Arkansas **NEWS**

3 Innwood Circle, Suite 109 • Little Rock, AR 72211
501.223.8586 • Website address: www.cbfar.org

Serving Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission.

TOGETHER FOR HOPE—HELENA SUMMER 2007



Ben & Leonora Newell & Together for Hope sponsored 3 major missions events this summer in Helena: a basketball camp, a swimming camp, and the All Church Challenge. More than 50 teenagers participated in the basketball camp, sponsored by CBF's Together for Hope and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. 4 churches and 60 leaders worked with 125 children and teenagers in the swimming camp. 14 churches and organizations brought 160 leaders, along with 75 local leaders, to work with 210 children and teenagers in the All Church Challenge. See page 3 for more pictures and stories.

NEW BAPTIST COVENANT TO MEET IN JANUARY 2008

Plan to join more than 20,000 Baptists from across North America as they gather in Atlanta January 30-February 1, 2008, in an unprecedented demonstration of Baptist unity. The New Baptist Covenant is an informal alliance of more than 30 racially, geographically, and theologically diverse Baptist organizations from that claim more than 20 million members. Representatives of these Baptist organizations have reaffirmed traditional Baptist values, including sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications for public and private

morality, as well as their obligations as Christians to fulfill the biblical mandate to promote peace with justice, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick and the marginalized, and promote religious liberty and respect for religious diversity. For more information and to register, see www.newbaptistcovenant.org. If you would like to go to the meeting with CBF leaders from Arkansas, please contact the CBFAR office by phone (501.223.8586) or by email (rhiggins@cbfar.org)

Celebration OF A **NEW BAPTIST COVENANT**

Atlanta, Georgia
January 30-February 1, 2008

For more information, visit www.newbaptistcovenant.org or call 678-547-6455.

PLENARY SPEAKERS:

- Charles Adams
- Tony Carrullo
- Jimmy Carter
- Bill Clinton
- Al Gore
- Lindsay Graham
- Chuck Grassley
- Joel Gregory
- Bill Moyers
- Julie Ferrington-Russell
- William Shaw
- Martin Wright Edelman



Ray Higgins presents Senior Pastor Zhao of the Zhongshan Road Church in Nanning, China a gift from CBF of Arkansas for their church's ministry at the Shanglei Village Elementary School.



Pat Kienzle, a recently retired elementary school educator and counselor and a member of Rolling Hills Baptist Church in Fayetteville, conducts a "read along" with the children of the Fanglei Village School. Pat is reading a children's book she authored entitled, "The Ladybug Hug."



Chinese students learning English from Dr. Don & Karen Barnes, CBF field personnel in Nanning, China, teach Roy Runyan (left) a farmer and member of Swifton Baptist Church, Swifton, and Larry Cheatham, a civil engineer and member of Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, how to make dumplings.



Dr. John Wikman, a physician and member of Fianna Hills Baptist in Ft. Smith, stands with a student at the Shanglin School for children with disabilities.



Brenda Lisenby and Josh Sutherland, an international business major at Marshall University, stand with Director Kate Wang, the founder of Angel House.



Brenda Lisenby, CBF field personnel in China, interacts with a college student who works with the children at Angel House. Angel House is a privately funded ministry to children with disabilities like cerebral palsy. Brenda provides leadership and financial support to Director Wang and Angel House.

CBFAR sponsored a 10 day global missions experience in China for six Arkansas Baptists in May. Brenda Lisenby, field personnel in China and CBFAR Global Missions partner, hosted our trip in the Guangxi Province of southern China. You can read more about Brenda's work at www.cbfinchina.org.



The CBFAR team spent an evening with students at Guangxi University who are learning English from Dr. Don and Karen Barnes, CBF field personnel in Nanning.



The children of the Fanglei Village Elementary School welcome the CBFAR team. CBF of Missouri provided the money to build the new school in this remote village outside of Nanning, China.

CBF *Offering for*
GLOBAL MISSIONS 

The Global Missions offering Goal is \$6,150,000

This offering supports 150 plus field personnel and their ministries among “the people with the greatest needs and fewest resources.” in the U.S. and around the world. Order the Fall 2007 Emphasis Guide by contacting (800) 352.8741 or www.thefellowship.info/ogm



CBF Global Field Personnel Dianne and Shane McNary, native Arkansans, serve among the Romany (Gypsy) people in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. They spent their first off field assignment based in Little Rock, AR during the Summer 2007, living in a mission house provided by Calvary Baptist Church.

They spoke at eight CBF partner churches, and returned to two of them to share with small groups. CBF field personnel are supported by your gifts to the Offering for Global Missions. Thank you for giving generously. The McNarys can be contacted via email at smcnary@thefellowship.info. See Mission trip information on page 7.

**FCA/TFH
 BASKETBALL CAMP**

In June, **Ben Newell** sponsored his third annual **Together for Hope Fellowship of Christian Athletes** basketball camp. Over 50 male teenagers participated. In addition to the basketball camp, the participants collected over 75 bags of trash from around the community center. Camp speaker was **Robert Upshaw**, brother of former NFL player **Willie Upshaw**. Robert, an FCA staff person from Little Rock, brought a motivational message that focused on people’s relationship with Jesus Christ. Former Hughes, AR high school coach, **Jason Carmichael**, took the campers through basketball skills and drills.



POOL HOUSE OPENS



In a ribbon cutting ceremony the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship presented a new swimming pool house to the city of Helena-West Helena on Friday, June 22. Ben Newell, CBF/Together for Hope missionary to the Delta explained to Mayor James Valley that the gift was a result of a year of volunteer efforts by many CBF supporters and several monetary gifts from CBF churches and individuals.

PAST AND FUTURE

By Charles Ray
CBF & CBFAR
Disaster Response
Coordinator



The new CBF website for disaster response gives information about each state and region's response to disasters.

www.cbfresponds.com



Labor Day Investment

Thirteen members and friends of Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, invested their Labor Day weekend on the Gulf Coast getting a family back into its home and bringing school uniforms and shoes to elementary school students.

Roy & Allyson Peterson, team leaders, worked with **Dr. Reid Doster**, disaster response coordinator for CBF of Louisiana, and **Charles Ray**, CBF's national disaster

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As the country observed the second anniversary of Katrina it is timely to understand what we in Arkansas have learned from our involvement and how we are preparing for the next event.

THE PAST

Perhaps the greatest lesson I have learned is that our faith based groups (CBF included) can move faster and get more done with less resources than our government. Now before you think I am anti-government, let me explain. Individuals that make up these dedicated groups come from every major religious order in America. They live in all of the affected areas. They have a stake in their communities. They are use to helping others. I do not believe any of us expect to rebuild a city through our efforts but we can certainly rebuild community, one family, or one church, at a time.

Going into Katrina, two years ago as Arkansas' Disaster Response Coordinator (DRC), I was impressed by the number of different groups in the areas. Multiple Baptist groups, Volunteers of America (VOA), separate civic organizations and many other denominational teams. Somewhere in all that mixture of efforts I began wondering how much more effective we could be with some coordination of these groups. In January, 2007, I became the national DRC. It was time to see if that idea had merit.

My first call was to the DRC of A B Men, the response arm of the American Baptist Churches USA. Our northern brothers and sisters. This organization has a number of well trained teams along with response trailers located across much of the north. With CBF strong in the south this connection would add to our ability to help others in need.

In February, while still discussing our mutual goals with ABC, I was called to Florida to respond to the killer tornado there. As I walked down a road in the midst of

total destruction I met a man wearing an ABA Response t-shirt. I learned that ABA was American Baptist Association, often referred to as Missionary Baptist. "How can I help you," I asked. He responded that he had adequate equipment but not enough help. Through our CBF Florida office we responded with seven workers before the day ended. For the next week our groups worked together. On Sunday we had "church without walls" in the open field for a few minutes and went back to helping others. I believe that is what Jesus would have done.

Three weeks later Dumas, Arkansas was hit hard and I was in the area in a few hours. The next morning I was shocked when I received a call from the ABA person I had met in Florida and he told me he was in route to Dumas to help us. He lives in Tampa, FL. Within a week after Dumas I was obtaining sleeping space and food for them in Enterprise, Alabama, through a CBF church. Because of the massive destruction there all relief work was shifted. ABA led our efforts there for the next three weeks. What we couldn't do alone was getting done through networking and cooperation.

Over the next few months I met with Volunteers of America and Rebuilding Together, two secular based groups. During our efforts in Alabama after Katrina we relied on VOA for leadership. Realizing that CBF's greatest resource is our people, VOA was eager to ask us to become a national partner with them. At the same time Rebuilding Together inquired about a similar arrangement. It became obvious that others had been seeking a way to come together and form a more effective response than was possible by themselves.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

ABC USA. While we at CBF do not hold ourselves out as a "first responder" we have, however, other groups that do and

Continues on the next page

will lead our responders who wish to do so. To date we have entered into a Covenant with A B Men to work with them in all areas of North America. We will share equipment and other resources where needed. If we are called on to respond in an area where CBF is strong, they will work with our leadership. If in the north, we will follow them.

VOA. We are continuing to meet with this group and will enter an agreement soon for calling on each other in a time of crisis. The VOA may be un-matched in permanent leadership in the coastal regions of America.

Rebuilding Together. A Memo of Understanding was signed in June joining our efforts in the continued work of renewing the ravaged gulf coast area. We are pledging to help build, or rehab 100 homes in the New Orleans area over the next three years.

ABA. We are committed to responding together in future disasters. We will help our collective churches, their members, and then the community, in that order.

Lastly, we in Arkansas are asking at least three churches to pay for an equipment trailer stocked with items needed for early deployment in our state. We hope they will provide at least one team of four that we will train for such deployment. We have the ability to purchase and stock the unit for a cost of \$7,700 each. One trailer has been purchased.

To permit all the new partnerships to have a common knowledge of resources, we have developed a new web site, www.cbfresponds.com. Through this site we expect to know where every piece of equipment is located, regardless to whom it belongs. Your support to this and all our CBF efforts permit all of our work. To continue helping us with any project, please send your contributions to CBFAR Disaster Response or you can make an online donation at our website, cbfar.org



“Untitled”

(July 2007)

**When April showers have birthed
The greening leaf,
And summer’s sun has watched it
grow a tree.**

**October frost brought crimson
To its face.**

**Its glory glows for all the world
To see.**

**And now it insulates the forest sod
As barren limbs lift up
Their arms to God.**

*Rev. Floyd Emmerling
March 3, 1927–July 8, 2007*

Labor Day Investment

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response coordinator, to plan the trip to Pearlington & Waveland, MS.

The Little Rock team worked on one house and purchased and delivered 143 pieces of children’s school uniforms and 68 pairs of shoes to the Waveland Elementary School. The money for the uniforms came from designated gifts from individuals to CBF of Arkansas disaster response.

During the two day work period, the team put the decking on the roof, corrected siding issues, painted the outside, placed all of the bracing under the house, installed one window, moved the placement of and installed an exterior door, and installed a shower/tub in one bathroom. A roofing crew was scheduled to arrive Monday to finish the house.

According to Roy Peterson, the people of Pearlington and Waveland were very grateful for the team’s work and the team members felt blessed in helping.

CBF, in conjunction with other relief organizations have built scores of houses in the Pearlington area and currently have 15 houses under construction, Doster reports.



CBF "IT'S TIME" MISSIONAL CHURCH GRANTS

Zion Hill Baptist Church of Camden, a CBF partner church, received a \$2,500 "It's Time Missional Church Grant" in April for its 6 Weeks Summer Success Reading program. The daily reading enrichment program, for Pre-school - 6th Grade, included spiritual development, character development and a children's choir that ministered weekly at area and regional nursing homes. The program also provided an 8 week evening program of character development for young men ages 10-18 years of age. **Dr. Chester Thompson**, shown here, is the pastor and serves as a member of CBF's national Coordinating Council. If you are interested in applying for a grant, go to this website address (<http://www.thefellowship.info/ItsTime/itstime.icm>) or contact Ray Higgins in the CBFAR office.



Two Little Rock churches, **Christway Missionary Baptist** and **Calvary Baptist**, held a Sunday night family neighborhood party at Christway Church this summer.



Rod Torrence, pastor of Christway, and Lane Northcut, Calvary's minister of education and single adult ministries, planned the dinner, activities, fellowship, and outreach event. Both serve on CBFAR Coordinating Council. Dr. Ed Simpson is Calvary's senior pastor.

JULY 2006-JUNE 2007

FISCAL YEAR SUMMARY

Budget	\$221,380
Income	\$204,357
Expenses	\$192,999
Designated.	\$31,405
<i>(Global Missions, Together for Hope, Disaster Response, Helena Church Building, Other)</i>	

E-NEWS UPDATES

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email instead of by mail, and/or if you would like to receive regular E-News informational updates about CBF of Arkansas, please email rhiggins@cbfar.org.

PASTOR PEER LEARNING GROUPS



CBF of Arkansas has organized three regional Pastor Peer Learning Groups. Rev. Steve Sheely, pastor of Rolling Hills Baptist Church Fayetteville, serves as facilitator of the Northwest Arkansas group. Dr. Stan Wilson, director of pastoral care at Baptist Medical Center and pastor of The Providence Baptist Church Little Rock, leads the central Arkansas group. Rev. Ed Wade, pastor of New Light Missionary Baptist Church Helena, is forming a Helena group.

CBFAR Annual Fall Luncheon

Tuesday, November 6, 2007 • 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m

In Van Buren at the Western Sizzlin Steak House **In the Razorback Room**
3120 Alma Highway, Van Buren 72956 (479.474.2357).



Keynote Speaker

Catherine Bahn

CBF Student.Go Intern, Helena (Summer 2007),
Senior Journalism Major, Arkansas State Univer-
sity, member First Baptist Church, Jonesboro.

Optional Tour

of Rena Road Baptist Church, 512
Rena Road, Van Buren after the
luncheon led by Rev. Steve Matthews,
RRBC Pastor.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION RETREAT

for Associate Pastors & Ministers

January 14-16, 2008 • Little Rock, Arkansas
Ferncliffe Camp & Conference Center in Little Rock

Sponsored by CBF and CBF of Arkansas
Leaders: Bo Prosser, Rick Bennett, Jeanie Miley

For more information and to register go to:

<http://www.thefellowship.info/involved/events/January2008.icm>

Past and Future

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Plan to attend the
CBF of Arkansas Spring Conference

April 18-19, 2008

at Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock

Dr. Fitz Hill, President of Arkansas Baptist College and former assistant football coach for the Arkansas Razorbacks, will be the Keynote Speaker on Friday night.

A TRIP THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Join a dozen Arkansas Baptists on a 10 day mission trip to **Slovakia and Prague from April 29-May 8, 2008**. Participants will experience CBF mission work in Slovakia led by field personnel Shane & Dianne McNary. Participants will also tour Prague and stay at the International Baptist Seminary which many Arkansas Baptists helped renovate after the move from Ruschlikon. Please email rhiggins@cbfar.org for more information.

Make The 2008 CBF General Assembly Part of Your Summer Family Vacation

Memphis, TN Cook Convention Center & Marriott

June 19-20, 2008

CBFAR will provide volunteers to serve on the following teams: registration, communion, information & hospitality, facilities, local transportation and ushers. If you would like to volunteer, please email your name, contact information and church membership to rhiggins@cbfar.org.



Cooperative Baptist
FELLOWSHIP
of Arkansas

3 Innwood Circle, Suite 109

Address Service Requested

**Keep in touch with CBF of Arkansas
through our website:
www.cbfar.org**

Please send your email address to
rhiggins@cbfar.org if you would like to be
included in our email communications.

Dr. Ray Higgins, Coordinator

Dr. Tom Logue, Coordinator Emeritus

**Charles Ray, National Disaster Response
Coordinator**

Allyson Cook, Administrative Assistant

CBF of AR Officers

Charlie Cole Chaffin, Benton—Moderator

Dr. Kevin Heifner, Little Rock—Moderator-elect

Norma Caldwell, Pine Bluff—Recorder

Jim Russell, Bentonville—Past Moderator

**Dr. John Wikman, Fort Smith—AR member of the
CBF National Coordinating Council**

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE

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Permit No. 1365

Mailing label

Special Gifts to CBF of AR

**In honor of Peggy Buice,
Jean Goodwin, Martha Graham,
Lynn Heflin and Jerry Jones**
by Dr. Boo and Mary Heflin

In honor of Dr. Tom Logue
by Reza & Judy Mobarak

In memory of Eric Hyde
by Ray and Judy Higgins
by Harriett Phillips

In memory of Rebecca Kessinger
by Sue Cato
by Dr. John & Barbara Wikman
by Ray & Judy Higgins

In memory of Rodney Landes
by Ray & Judy Higgins

**To Together for Hope Helena in memory
of Bart Lindsey** *by Katie Jacks*

In memory of Rev. Roy Gene Edge
by Dr. Tom Logue

In memory of Rev. Floyd Emmerling
by Sue Cato
by Ray & Judy Higgins
by Dr. Tom Logue

**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of
Arkansas Coordinating Council**

Mitzi Bass, *Arkadelphia*
Ralph Clour, *Little Rock*
Jimmie Lou Fisher, *Little Rock*
Billie Heflin, *Little Rock*
Dr. Fitz Hill, *Little Rock*
Rev. Vivian Hoskins, *Helena*
Dr. Randy Hyde, *Little Rock*
Sarah Kinard, *El Dorado*
Rev. Joe Loghry, *Imboden*
Rev. Brady McCarley, *Greenbrier*
Mike Mullally, *Jonesboro*
Rev. Lane Northcut, *Little Rock*

Roy Peterson, *Little Rock*
Rev. Steve Pyle, *Mountain Home*
Dr. Roby Robertson, *Little Rock*
Rev. Todd Rouse, *Jonesboro*
Rev. Steve Sheely, *Fayetteville*
Rita Spillyards, *Rogers*
Rev. Carolyn Staley, *Little Rock*
Lane Strother, *Mountain Home*
Dr. Chester Thompson, *Camden*
Rev. Rod Torrence, *Little Rock*
Warren Whatley, *Hot Springs Village*
Dr. Stan Wilson, *Little Rock*

Arkansans Serving In CBF & Partner Organizations

Dr. Hal Bass, Arkadelphia, Recorder for CBF;
Co-Chair of the Religious Liberty Council,
Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty

Dr. Chester Thompson, Camden, Member,
CBF Coordinating Council

Marc Heflin, Little Rock, Member,
Religious Liberty Council,
Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty

Chaplain Alan Tyson, Rogers, Member,
CBF Board of Endorsement for Chaplains
and Pastoral Counselors

Kevin Heifner, M.D., Little Rock, Chair, Baptist
Center for Ethics (*Ethicsdaily.com*)
Board of Directors

John Wikman, M.D., Fort Smith, member
CBF Coordinating Council