

CBF West Summer Intern News

Here are the stories of this year's six CBF interns.

"Communion and Redemption"

By Isa Torres, Summer Intern



About the Author: Isa Torres was raised in Juarez, Mexico and later moved to Texas. He is an MDiv student at Truett Theological Seminary and hopes to serve as a missionary to the urban poor. The following is an edited, abbreviated version of Isa's original blog post.

In late May (pictured L-R) Zachariah Seanor, Melani Lippard, Elizabeth Bauman, Isaac Justus, and I arrived in West Yellowstone, Montana to work as part of CBF's Collegiate Congregational Internship with First Baptist

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 CBF West Summer Intern News
- 1 News from CBF West Churches
- 3 Photo Gallery
- 4 CBF West Regional Meeting
- 4 CBF West Officers

News from CBF West Churches

CBF West churches are modeling Christ throughout the West. Here are three stories from CBF West life.

"Being the Presence of Christ in Salt Lake City"

By Glen Foster (Tuscon, Arizona), CBF West Coordinator



First Baptist Community Church, a CBF West church in Salt Lake City, Utah, feeds more than 2,000 people each month. A ministry that began in the 70s, they are now one of the ten largest food pantries in Utah, encompassing about twenty-five zip codes. Food is provided by the USDA, Boy Scouts, local stores, individuals, and politicians. Two huge walk-in freezers keep meat and frozen items cold. Rooms and hallways store canned goods, laundry detergent, bread, desserts, drinks, and a variety of other products. Church members and community volunteers work five days a week distributing food to folks who line up two and a half hours early. Each family member is given enough food to eat three meals for three days. It is an amazing ministry.

It is even more amazing to discover that the average attendance on Sunday is ten. That's right, ten individuals consistently attend worship and do most of the work. And they need help.

Even with Vietnamese and Hispanic congregations sharing the facility and paying rent, FBCC is falling short \$1,000 per month and has had to dip into savings to make up the difference. The savings are almost depleted and the church is on the verge of closing it's doors and the food pantry in the next few months unless a solution can be found. (see page 3)

continued on page 3

Church. We came with the knowledge that this church was grounded in a tradition that thus far had limited the role of women in leadership. We had doubts and concerns before arriving that these differences might be a barrier, but our experiences have alleviated our fears. One of those defining experiences happened early in the summer, when we came together to serve Communion. Benny McCracken, the pastor at FBC of West Yellowstone, asked the interns to prepare and administer Communion. We did our best to plan for an inclusive Lord's Supper. Benny prepared the bread while Sue Knapp and Brenda Geiger organized the sanctuary and the dishes that were going to be used on Sunday.

Zachariah, also a Truett student, helped prepare for the Communion service. Our scripture text was Mark 14, in which Jesus shares his last meal with his disciples, declaring that he will be betrayed by one of them. He tells them that the betrayer will dip bread with him, and soon after Judas' hand is dipping bread into the bowl with Jesus' hand. The scripture is an image of Jesus' love for all us, sinners, and to each one of us, betrayers. Zachariah read the scripture and I led everyone to mediate and pray. Isaac, a graduate of East Tennessee State University, said some words before we ate the bread. Elizabeth, also a Truett student, led us in the drinking from the cup. Melani, a graduate of Western Carolina University, closed us in a prayer. It was a good experience for those of us serving Communion for the first time. We saw nothing extraordinary, or so we thought.

During the fellowship meal following the service, Benny stood up and announced that he had heard many positive responses to the Communion service. He told us that some women felt affirmed after seeing Melani and Elizabeth helping lead Communion. During the service, women had the same responsibilities and privileges as men, and that was something that some had never seen before. Afterwards, three different ladies shared with Benny their appreciation for allowing them to worship with the rest of the church. A visitor from Texas told Zachariah that she was sure the hand of the Lord was with us. Little had we realized what a radical experience the service had been for the church.

We recognize that we are coming from different settings and are from a different generation. We also acknowledge that this should not stop us from uniting and being one with those who see differently. We also believe that Jesus saves and that he can redeem everything. We believe that we were sent to speak of that inclusion to everyone who seeks redemption. We did this because we believe that Jesus seeks those who are being excluded. Even though Jesus wants to include everyone, we also believe in the choices that we have. So this is no longer a question of women being able to do something, this turns more into a question of, who is out there? And, is that person willing? The act of Communion is a basic function of the church and it is to be done with those who are willing. It does not matter if it is you, or if it is me, we are all called to be part of this Holy function. But our culture has permeated our mentality and it brings chains to bind us and keep us from who we are to be. And somehow

we become comfortable with our chains. Redemption always comes with changes, and change is uncomfortable.

Thankfully, the response of the church in West Yellowstone was positive. Through their service for us and our service for them we can understand the bigger and more beautiful picture. With First Baptist Church we came to understand that we are lost, and that we have a savior who calls us home; he calls us back to what we were meant to be. As interns, we tried to learn what this is, and how we are to do it. The church came together and dealt with some lingering issues. Together we served one another, helping one another see Christ and move together towards redemption.

***Editor's Note:** During the summer, both Isa and Elizabeth Bauman preached at First Baptist Church West Yellowstone, and both messages were well received.*

"Free Help"

By Exter Hardy, Summer Intern Supervisor

***About the Author:** Exter is pastor of Pole Line Road Baptist Church in Davis, California*

While not exactly free help, the college intern program is a blessing going both ways. Thanks to the ministry of Wanda Kidd, CBF collegiate specialist and college intern program coordinator, our church was blessed with Juan Winstead, a senior music education major from Chowan University. Juan spent his summer serving in our church community. By the end of the summer, most of our church members were threatening to cancel his return ticket!

This was our second year to have a college intern. We try to adjust the ministry assignment to meet the gifts, talents and ministry interests of the intern as well as the needs of our church and community. With Juan's musical abilities and our town's love for music and the arts, we reached into the community in a variety of ways. Juan gave trumpet lessons, led a children's choir, and went salsa dancing. Yes, we are a Baptist church and we knew that Juan was dancing. Through friendships he made at dance night, Juan was able to share the gospel and led two International students to start coming to our church. One young lady commented that through her friendship with Juan, she feels like she understands God more and has grown closer to Him.

Juan brought a fresh infusion of excitement to our church as our members were touched by his loving heart personally and witnessed his integration of ministry and fun. Likewise, he was stretched and grew personally and spiritually through a variety of cultural and ministry experiences.

Would your church like a summer intern for 2014? Contact Wanda Kidd at asyougo5@aol.com by November 30.

Photo Gallery



The annual 2013 CBF West gathering was held in April at the Mercy Center in Burlingame, California. Some 35 participants enjoyed the spirituality-focused retreat in a beautiful setting.



A meeting of Selah Congregation of Flagstaff, Arizona. Greg Long (far left) is pastor. The church meets in local homes.



Adalberto and Abraham enjoy a CBF West-sponsored block party in Douglas, Arizona, on January 27, 2012. The event was hosted at Iglesia Bautista del Sur Amistad.

Can you help? Do you know a bi-vocational community development pastor/social worker who desires a challenge? Current community relationships are established and others can be formed. Church attendance can grow with proper followup of those who receive food. Secondly, can you monetarily support this vital ministry?

Let us join together to make sure that First Baptist Community Church continues to be the presence of Christ distributing the bread of life

"Together for Hope in Flagstaff, Arizona"

By Glen Foster, CBF West Coordinator

Selah Congregation meets each Saturday in homes scattered throughout Flagstaff, Arizona. This CBF West church is growing and ministering in the community.

Together For Hope will meet in Flagstaff, AZ, September 16-18. Launched in 2001, Together for Hope (TFH) is Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's long-term commitment to working with people in our nation's poorest areas in order to affect change and break the cycle of economic disparity. The ministry is about establishing long-term relationships, listening, learning and walking alongside local leaders. The hope is that communities will be transformed as will the churches and individuals who serve in these places. As many as 45 persons are expected to attend.

"Hospital Chaplain Shares God's Love in Washington"

Adapted from the fellowship! Newsletter of national CBF

Growing up, Laura Senter told God there would be two things she did not want to do with her life. The first was to be a pastor. The second was to be a doctor. Both require responding quickly to desperate calls for help, night or day. "Be careful about telling God what you don't want to do," said Senter, who is now a hospital chaplain and frequently responds to emergency calls.

For twelve years, Senter has been the staff chaplain at Providence Regional Medical Center Everett, a 360-bed facility near Seattle. A North Carolina native, Senter listens and offers prayer not only with patients and staff at the hospital, but with family members facing traumas, anxieties and deaths. She has come to see these tasks as her role in God's mission in the world.

Senter's ministry takes her throughout the hospital. One of her most challenging assignments is in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit, where infants struggle for life—and sometimes to overcome drug addictions. Many of these young moms don't even know what a chaplain is," Senter said. "It can be hard. How do I set myself and any feelings I may have aside and show them God's love—that they're worthy and are God's children?"

CBF West Regional Meeting Summary: June 28, 2013



Seventeen people participated in the regional meeting at the CBF General Assembly in Greensboro, NC. Regional treasurer David Theel of Arizona gave an overview of CBFWest's financial picture and discussed funding ministry goals. Regional coordinator, Glen Foster of Arizona, gave the coordinator's report detailing his trips and engagements during which he promoted CBFWest as well as plans for the summer and fall. The region celebrated the six CBF interns serving in the West through CBF's collegiate internship program. The meeting concluded with an affirmation of Joy Yee for her two years of service as regional moderator.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CBF West Officers

Pictured left to right



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Glen Foster (pictured left) is the coordinator of CBF West. His email is glenfoster6@comcast.net.

Newsletter designed and edited by Bruce Gourley.

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