

## FBC West Yellowstone, MT to Host CBF West Meeting, May 7-9, 2014



You are invited to come to West Yellowstone, Montana, located at the west entrance to Yellowstone National Park, for the 2014 annual meeting of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship West. First Baptist Church, West Yellowstone,

pastored by **Benny McCracken**, will be our host. Our theme will be "Reaching Millennials: A Challenge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church." Rick McClatchy, field coordinator for CBF of Texas, will be our guest facilitator during a time of conversation, discussion and panel presentations. A tour of Yellowstone National Park is optional. For more information, including **registration and hotel information**, go online to [www.cbfwest.org](http://www.cbfwest.org). For more information about Yellowstone National Park, go to [www.yellowstone.net](http://www.yellowstone.net).

### Meet Fran Stevenson

Fran Stevenson is a CBF Global Missions field personnel currently serving in the Western United States with husband Pete (see article to the right). She also writes for various CBF publications.



### Thanksgiving Ministry

In partnership with a local church and a local non-profit organization which provided the food, **Lita and Rick Sample** distributed turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner to 35 Karen and Afghan refugee families.



## Mobile Ministries Goes Northwest

Since 2007 **Fran Stevenson** has served as a CBF Global Missions field personnel in her home town of Fremont, California, advocating for Afghan refugee families. When her **husband Pete** retired after working 35 years for the Bay Area Rapid Transit system (BART), they merged their love for camping and their heart for missions and took to the road. Living in their camper-trailer, the Stevensons utilize Fran's social ministries experience and Pete's craftsman/handyman skills to be the presence of Christ in various CBF ministry locations. They have taken their "mobile ministries" to FL, NC, and to work with two CBF congregations in MT and ID.

Settling their trailer at a campground near Yellowstone National Park, Fran and Pete spent several weeks working with First Baptist Church of West Yellowstone, Montana. They enjoyed the pioneer spirit and tender heart of Pastor Benny McCracken who rides a red bike around town and is well known in the community. Pete fixed broken heaters, mounted cupboards, organized an outdoor shed, moved a broken refrigerator (later gifted to a church member) and fixed minor leaking faucets and pipes. Fran cleaned out storage areas, washed laundry left from summer volunteers, participated in a women's luncheon, signed a worship song, and listened as the church brainstorm ways to make a difference in their community. With the only thrift store in town recently closing its doors, the church sought ways to help meet the community's clothing needs for the coming winter. Fran shared about a CBF ministry in North Carolina conducted by LaCount Anderson that operates a very successful thrift store ministry.

Transitioning to Boise, Idaho, the Stevensons set up their presence at Mountain View Community Fellowship, finding a friend in the church's pastor, Rev. Dr. Mamie O. Oliver, a woman who wears many hats at the church and is highly respected in the community. While in Boise, Pete sanded and primed walls in the preschool classroom, fixed ceiling tiles and wiring, replaced bulbs, did minor bathroom repairs, and painted orange caution stripes on the steps. Fran worked at the church-housed Community Ministries Center, preparing food boxes for needy families and helping prepare for the ordination service of LouRae Myhre-Weber, a woman who was ordained as a CBF chaplain. Together Fran and Pete helped package twelve boxes of books to be shipped to Nigeria that Pastor Oliver was donating to a school.

West Yellowstone, a small town, and Boise, a small mid-size city, are vastly different from the San Francisco Bay Area, the huge metropolitan area where the Stevensons live. Fran and Pete were inspired to see how God was working in areas of the country so different than their usual environment. In their time spent in Montana and Idaho, the Stevensons made some life-long friends and felt that giving of themselves during their mission trip adds richness to their own lives as they resume their normal routine. Fran says, "It was a pleasure to see how churches can thrive with vibrant pastors leading them to be the presence of Christ in their communities."

***CBF West is thankful for the presence and ministry of Fran and Pete Stevenson!***

## The Ordination of LouRae Myhre-Weber



On September 25 two CBF West congregations joined together to ordain LouRae Myhre-Weber to the gospel ministry. Members of LouRae's home church, First Baptist Church, West Yellowstone, traveled to Boise, Idaho for the ordination service at Mountain View Community Fellowship Church. LouRae is now serving as a CBF-endorsed chaplain in Butte, Montana. Pictured (left to right) is Benny McCracken (pastor, FBC, West Yellowstone), Bruce Gourley, LouRae, and Mamie Oliver (pastor, Mountain View Community Fellowship Church, Boise).

### **CBF West Officers:**

**Coordinator:** Glen Foster (Tucson, AZ); **Moderator:** Bruce Gourley (Bozeman, MT); **Past Moderator:** Joy Yee (San Francisco, CA); **Moderator Elect:** Exter Hardy (Davis, CA); **Secretary:** Rick Sample (Fremont, California)

**CBF Dawning Retreat, Pasadena, CA, Jan. 17-18, 2014 for pastors/church leaders. Info: cbfwest.org**

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## An Interview with Charles (Exter) Hardy III

Exter is Moderator Elect of CBF West and the author of a newly-published book, *Does Ministry Have to Hurt so Much? Helpful Observations from the Life of Jesus*. The book is an excellent resource for ministers and laypersons alike and is available online at Amazon.com



### 1) What led you to write the book?

*I have been in ministry for over 30 years and am saddened by how many wonderful servants of Christ I see lacking joy in serving God; maybe faithfully serving Him, but lacking joy in their ministry. My life theme verse is John 10:10b,*

*"I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly." So if this is Jesus' purpose, I don't want to miss out on it nor see anyone else miss out on it. I want to help Christians experience that abundant life.*

### 2) Who is the intended audience?

*Clergy, lay members and other Christians.*

### 3) What are your hopes for the book?

*My hope is that Christians will go on a journey with me to find the harmony of "denying self and taking up your cross daily" and experiencing the "abundant life" that Christ meant for us to have. I want to help Christians serve God from a joy in their hearts and not a duty/obligation.*

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