

2011
DEC'10/JAN

Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship of Georgia

VISIONS



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CBF *Offering for* GLOBAL MISSIONS

According to 2 Corinthians 5, God's mission of reconciling with the world was given to us. To accomplish this mission, God gave each of us a giftedness or special role—a passion. Some of us teach. Some build. Some listen. Some heal. Some pray. Some advocate. God's mission brings us together. We work together, joining God's work in the world.

As one church or one person, you could never do what we are able to do together. The CBF Offering for Global Missions is an important way we come together, pooling our financial resources to send God's called ministers into the mission fields of the world. These CBF field personnel serve long-term in one place, building relationships and opportunities for you and your church to come minister alongside them.

When you and your church give to the CBF Offering, you become part of God's mission in the world. You help change the lives of people you may never meet. You help provide a Christ-like response to hurting people and a Christian presence among people groups that may not otherwise hear the gospel. Encourage your church to give, to go, and to become part of God's mission to heal, redeem, and transform the world.

What is the CBF Offering for Global Missions?

The CBF Offering is an annual campaign to support CBF's missions efforts around the world. Both churches and individuals can give to the Offering, which is collected year-round. Gifts to the 2010-2011 Offering will be received from Oct. 1, 2010, through Sept. 30, 2011.

What Does the CBF Offering Do? The Offering financially supports CBF field personnel around the world by providing their ministry expenses, salaries, and benefits. These field personnel spread the gospel among those who have not heard, meet physical needs among the most neglected, and serve the local church by providing ways that church members can participate in life-changing ministry.

Why Is the CBF Offering Important? The Offering is not "over and above" the CBF Global Missions budget; it is the PRIMARY way that field personnel are funded. Without gifts to the Offering, many CBF field personnel could not serve, and many life-changing ministries could not exist. This year's national goal, \$5.5 million, is the amount needed to support these ministries.

This Year's CBF Offering Stories

Loving the Roma in Slovakia CBF field personnel Dianne and Shane McNary live in Košice, Slovakia, where they work with the Roma people, more commonly referred to as Gypsies. This community has been marginalized in Slovakia for more than six hundred years. In this work, the McNarys' passion meets God's mission as they live as neighbors and seek to be the presence of Christ among the Roma people.

Sharing Hope in New York City Ronnie Adams serves as one of CBF's field personnel in New York City. Ronnie's ministry is to share hope with those looking for direction, purpose, and faith in the nation's largest city. His greatest passion is ministry among those living with HIV/AIDS, a population to which he is a pastor,

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CareForTheTroops

Dedicated to the mental health care of our returning troops and their families, we provide information and training to families, clinicians, congregation and community leaders, so that they become more aware of the culture, unique symptoms, and issues faced by military families.

Care for the Troops

PETER MCCALL

“Pastor, I am a combat vet, and I am feeling very troubled. I have nightmares about what I saw, I am having trouble at home, and I feel spiritually lost. I want to be better with my family. Can you help me?”

What do you do? What resources do you turn to? Where can they be contacted? What do I need to know?

Consider substituting any of the following words for “combat vet” in the sentence above, and you might get a sense of the range of those who are being affected and may need your help: spouses, daughters and sons, moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, best friends, or any other extended family member!

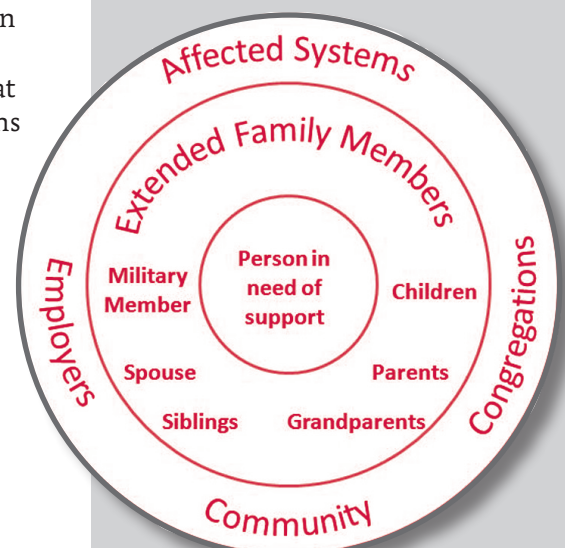
CareForTheTroops (CFTT) has been created to facilitate the spiritual and psychological care of war veterans, civilian contractors, and their extended families. CFTT is a non-denominational non-profit organization, and its mission is to help you respond and answer these questions.

- It has been endorsed by CBF/GA and a number of other groups.
- It offers a website full of information for pastors, mental health professionals, family members, caretakers, and others (www.CareForTheTroops.org).
- It keeps a statewide database of counselors who have voluntarily enrolled and taken time to learn about the military culture and the latest treatments for addressing trauma, PTSD, and associated problems.
- It is building a networked community of congregations, designated as Veteran Friendly Congregations (VFC). VFCs have established “ministries” to support those affected by current and past wars with programs and activities that provide awareness and create an atmosphere of acceptance. The congregations individually decide what they do, depending on their interests and skills.

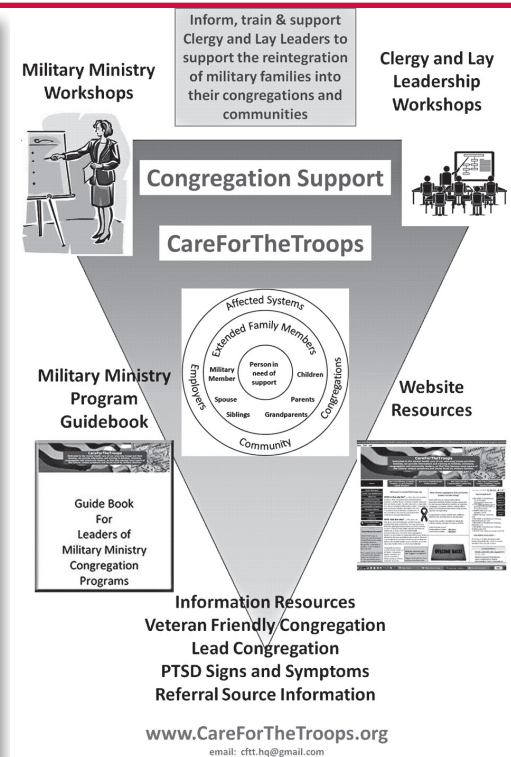
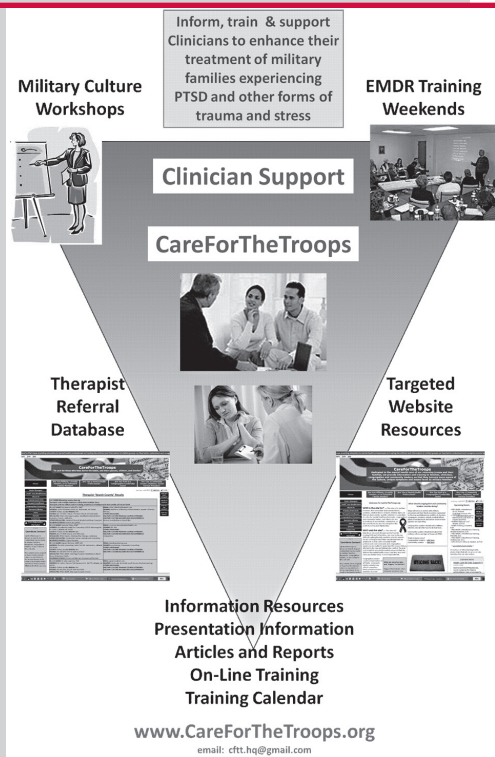
CFTT’s approach is depicted in the picture on the right. The focus of CFTT’s support is the person in the family who is in need of support, not necessarily the person who wore the uniform. CFTT creates and participates in activities that inform, educate, and enable those in the family and community who are most likely to be in contact with those who need help and steers them to the psychological and spiritual support resources they will need to overcome their troubles.

CFTT believes congregations are the “front lines” for this effort. It has been shown in studies that pastors and lay leaders in congregations are frequently

...pastors and lay leaders in congregations are frequently the ones approached when [veterans] realize they need psychological help.



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the ones approached when others realize they need psychological help. So it becomes very important, in order to be supportive of veterans and their families, that both clergy and lay leaders know what signs to look for, as well as what and where support resources exist. CBF congregations must position themselves through the establishment of Military Ministries to build awareness and create an atmosphere of acceptance so that military families know that their CBF congregation can be a place to get the help they need.

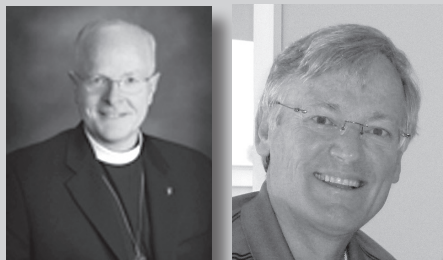
CareForTheTroops has developed a number of programs and initiatives designed to address the wide range of issues being faced by veterans and their families. There

...the range of those who are being affected and may need your help: spouses, daughters and sons, moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, best friends, or any other extended family member!

is a higher incidence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the physical and mental effects of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) than in any previous war. The 2008 Department of Defense (DOD) Mental Health Advisory Team (MHAT) study revealed that PTSD and major depression are highest among those in the Army and Marines, and among service members from all the services who are no longer on active duty. Georgia's military has a large number of Marines and Army installations. Nearly fifty-four percent of those deployed have been from the Reserves and National Guard—Georgia is the sixth largest National Guard state. There are high numbers of incidences of extended family issues ranging from secondary PTSD, abuse, addiction, marital problems, and children with anxiety, depression, and grief, to name a few. Additionally, sexual trauma is running at sixteen-to-twenty-three percent. CFTT activities are designed with a focus on mental health professionals, congregations, and community organizations that are where people in need will most likely make contact when help is needed. These capabilities are depicted in the pictures above.

CareForTheTroops got started in 2009 by Robert Certain, who is a former Vietnam POW and a retired Air Force Chaplain. He himself suffered from PTSD. The inspiration for CFTT resulted from his question, What can we do to reduce the time it takes for the current veterans to get the help they need? Certain is a member of the DOD Health Advisory Board, the recently completed (summer 2010) President's Task Force on Suicide Prevention, and the newly formed (by Secretaries Gates, Sebelius, and Shinseki) National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. The executive director is Peter McCall. He is a 1970 graduate of the US Military Academy, has served nine years in the Army on active duty and in the Reserves, and has recently retired from IBM.

CFTT is a grass-roots effort that needs your help to make its work become all it can be. Please consider starting or enhancing a Military Ministry in your CBF congregation and becoming a Veteran Friendly Congregation (VFC). If you are interested in working with CareForTheTroops in any capacity, contact us at cftt.hq@gmail.com. Visit the CFTT website at www.careforthetroops.org/about_programs.php.



Robert Certain, founder of CareForTheTroops, and Peter McCall, executive director