



# Savannah Baptist Center

## Summer Missionary: Nichole



How do I even begin to describe my summer at the Savannah Baptist Center? My dad has lived in Savannah for 6 years now so when I found out I would be serving there I felt like I was just going home for the summer. God had a much bigger idea though. He placed so many amazing people in my life this sum-

mer that each played a huge role in helping me grow. The first week of camp was definitely crazy and I wondered how I was going to make it through the whole summer. God gave me the strength I needed and now I look back and think how fast it all went by. Working with the children at day camp and at the church was one of the best experiences I have ever had and I miss it so much already. It was great to see God work in the children's lives and also in the lives of the mission teams that came each week. I look forward to coming

back to visit and seeing how much God has been working since camp has ended. He is doing such a work at the Baptist Center through everyone that works and volunteers there and it was awesome to see that this summer. I pray that He would continue to work and provide for all of the programs there. I hope that I can come back soon!



Kathryn, Nichole, & Anna

## Summer Missionary: Kathryn

Before departing for my position at the Savannah Baptist Center, I felt unprepared and slightly nervous about going to serve. Embarking into the unknown is always intimidating. However, I would not trade the time I spent in Savannah for anything. Even though our work this

summer proved to be challenging, I have been very blessed by this experience. God used this summer to teach me lessons for future ministry opportunities including the importance of expressing compassion to everyone and serving others with the purpose of

glorifying our Heavenly Father. His Spirit is definitely moving among all who enter the center's doors. He desires for His people to be willing to serve, and I pray that He will continue to use the center to make a positive impact for Jesus in this community.

### Savannah Baptist Center

Summer 2011

August/September 2011

### Recurring Needs:

- ☺ Hygiene Kits
- ☺ Food Pantry Items
- ☺ Gift Certificates
- ☺ Volunteers
- ☺ Gas Vouchers
- ☺ Bus Vouchers
- ☺ Clothes Closet Items



### Partner with Us!

The Savannah Baptist Center's operating funds are raised through private contributions from individuals, churches, Sunday School classes, Bible Study groups, etc. Will you commit to partnering with us as we strive to reach out to those hurting in our community in Jesus' name? Your contributions will be tax deductible!

# We would not be successful without our wonderful Volunteers!

During the trustees' meeting in the spring, ideas were tossed around for ways to supplement the support of the ministries at the Savannah Baptist Center. The one that came out on top was a massive garage sale. But who could head up such a major undertaking? Carolyn Tucker's name was mentioned.

When Carolyn was asked to head up the Savannah Baptist Center's garage sale, at first she said, "No," then "Let me see," then "I'm not good at leading; I'm a follower." But then she realized there was no one else to do it and since she had had experience with garage sales and it was being done to help people, she agreed. In her words, "When I first got started in it, I was trying to help people, but then in the middle of it I realized this was God's will." The only way she would agree to be interviewed is if all the glory was given to God.

Carolyn says there have been so many people helping her that she

couldn't name them all. Pearlline Burns and Carolyn both say that an added benefit of this project has been sweet fellowship with old friends and new friends. So many donations have been made. For awhile the building in which they were working had no lights and no air in the summer in Savannah. Everyone persevered, though, and Pearlline got her some fans and John Downs got one air-conditioner working.

At the old Family Dollar site, donations have been pouring in for 2 or 3 months. Everything had to be sorted, tested to be sure it was in working condition, and then priced. The amount of organization that went into it was quite a feat to accomplish. The garage sale is set for September 17th.

Carolyn says she's tired but it's a "good" tired because she has felt this is where God wants her to be at this time. Carolyn took that first step of faith and God blessed it by giving her the ability to organize it, the helpers to do the work, and the people to donate the items. She's just praying that God will continue to



Thanks to Carolyn & the other volunteers who helped make the garage sale a success!

bless their efforts and this garage sale will be successful. Because of the many prayers for its success, Pearlline believes that "every dime that comes in will come from God's hand".

*~Submitted by  
Pat Howard  
(Thank you, Pat!)*

**Ask your church group to commit to collecting 3 different items per week to donate to the food pantry or hygiene closet.**

## Center Church Gets a New Shine

During the Summer months, the Center hosts several groups who come from all over to assist with the children's day camp. This Summer when Waynesboro First Baptist Church arrived, they also brought with them a team of men. These men, led by David Stemberge, brought a



Thank you to this hard working team from First Baptist Church of Waynesboro!

new shine to the Center Church. The first day they were here, they disassembled and moved all the pews out to the parking lot. They worked for hours cleaning, sanding, dusting and re-staining every single pew to make it look as good as new. In the Summer months, the heat index in Savannah is upwards of 101 de-

grees.

While the pews were out of the way, the men were also able to shampoo the carpet in the sanctuary. The carpet now looks nice and clean with a fresh scent. With the shiny new pews and the clean carpet, the Center Church sanctuary has a new shine!

To David and your team- thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Your hard work is truly a blessing to us! God Bless!

## Peace and Hope and Trust

My work at the Savannah Baptist Center began with a God given desire to serve. As a new resident to Savannah I wanted to volunteer in a ministry setting. I remembered the ministry of the Baptist Center in Johnson City, TN, so I did a quick Google search and found the Savannah Baptist Center (SBC). I browsed through the webpage and thought, "I want to be involved with the work there." I called the center and within a few days I was volunteering. I started to work right away in the food pantry, stocking donated food items and preparing food bags for individuals and families. This is an opportunity to share God's love with people by listening to their stories and coming alongside them in difficult times. I know the Lord cares for every person that walks through the door, and He wants them to know that He loves them and has provided forgiveness for their sins and eternal salvation through Jesus. We want them to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. That is the greatest need, more than food.

Sometimes I volunteer in the clothes closet. Working there may include putting away donated clothing items and shoes, finding a shirt or pair of

pants for someone's upcoming interview, or assisting people as they come to clothes closet and handing out hygiene kits. Aspects of the clothes closet remind me of Jesus. We are clothed in his righteousness when we accept Him as Lord and Savior, more than earthly clothes can buy. We are cleansed by His blood, more than soap may ever cleanse.

My time volunteering at the SBC has changed me, for the better. I have been blessed with the friendship and fellowship of other believers. I am part of the body of Christ serving with other members of the body. I have also realized that it is not really "I" who serves and cares, but Christ in me who serves and cares. By the indwelling presence of our Lord are we compelled and lead to do His good work. Let us be changed by Him.

If I were going to share a story about the SBC, I would tell you these glimpses to paint a picture of what you might see while working at the center.



Donated clothing items are sorted then organized in the clothes closet.

Food bags packed for families and children. House burned down. A mother's story. Shedding tears. A man accepted Jesus. Pop top lids. Bottled water. Boxed food. Homeless. Baby clothes and food. Diapers and wipes, baby on the way. Give away

bread. A pair of shoes. An interview shirt. Give out a Bible. Tell people about Jesus. Bible study and prayer. Reading glasses. Food in a backpack, long way to carry. Food in a gift bag or pushed in a cart. Single mom. Grandma and grandkids. Husband and wife. School supplies. Unemployed. No family. Can't afford the rent. Power shut off. Health problems. And so much more. As I look back upon my experience at the SBC, these are the memories that flash through my mind. Yet, I have peace and hope and trust that God is in control and making plans for good. ~Jessica, Volunteer

### The Needs at the Center:

#### VOLUNTEERS:

- ♥ Clothing Closet: Sort, purge, organize donated items on Thursdays
- ♥ Food Pantry: Sort, purge, organize donated items as needed
- ♥ Record-keeping: Update our files on "the history of the Baptist Center"
- ♥ Building & Maintenance: Update our manual, assist with maintaining our building (i.e. patching walls, fresh coats of paint, minor repairs, etc.)
- ♥ Van Maintenance: Maintain a log and calendar on Center vehicles, scheduling maintenance as needed
- ♥ On-Call Assistance (technical, building or vehicle maintenance, mechanics, financial, yard maintenance, etc.)
- ♥ Other: teachers for future classes based on Biblical principals such as parenting skills, budgeting, time management, respecting authority, etc.

The number of food pantry clients nearly tripled over the Summer months. Thanks to all who kept it running!

# Savannah Baptist Center

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## Many Faces, One Faith



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SAVBAPTISTCENTER.ORG

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## Looking to the Future

As I consider the various ministries that are taking place at the Savannah Baptist Center, I am reminded of Todd Beamer on flight 93 on that September morning when he realized his destination for the day had changed and he as well as the other passengers on that flight were facing certain death. He drew courage from his faith as he dialed 9-1-1 and after explaining their situation, he asked the emergency responder to pray "The Lord's Prayer" with him and tell his wife and kids that he loved them. The last words heard during that call were "are you ready? let's roll," followed by a scuffle and then silence. Thousands of lives were forever changed that day. As Todd drew courage from his faith, we are also acting courageously in faith with bold visions for the Center. During the last couple of years, my heart has been burdened that we are not fully utilizing the wonderful facilities that God has provided. Ministry is continuous each day at the center, but there is potential to offer much more. Several

months back I received a call from someone wishing to lease a portion of the old Family Dollar store to begin a "Heads Up Guidance Service" for those struggling with addictions or minor mental health problems. This would involve counseling, and job readiness training. Then recently the opportunity arose to provide temporary space for the "Sojourners" ministry which involves life skills as well as work skills training. Beginning in October, Yvonne Pryor, former director of women's division of Inner City Night Shelter will begin computer training and also a seven week CNA class where women can train and be certified as nursing assistants. This will prepare them for work, the opportunity to secure their own housing and offer them a brighter future. And then I remember how God is blessing the ministry and volunteers from Christ Church who work in the clothes closet and the many churches who prepare and serve breakfast each Sunday morning. And let us not forget that God sent us His Pastor to

lead the Savannah Baptist Center Church and the many who have received Christ and been baptized during the last two years. Ecclesiastes 3:1 states, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." It was Mr. Lewis' desire that this building be used for a homeless shelter and training center, however the city would not zone it for that purpose. We now have the opportunity to fulfill part of his vision. God has provided beforehand for the plans He has for this Center. May we remain grounded in His Word and His promises and constantly seek His perfect will and then have the courage to be obedient to His will. Just as families' lives were changed as a result of 9/11, my prayer is that lives will be changed in this community as a result of boldly stepping outside the box of normalcy. May we borrow from the last words of Todd Beamer, "are you ready? Let's roll," and watch God work.

*~Pearline Burns, Director*