

# Louisiana Fellowship People

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Sunrise over Lake Providence  
photo - Karen Gilbert

## Funding Nearly at Hand For Together for Hope Missionary

Dreams for a full time Louisiana Together for Hope missionary are near fruition! Two anonymous gifts pledging an initial three year funding commitment along with monies from CBF national has placed the state fellowship 3/4 of the way toward its goal.

"Having a three year commitment for these funds," states Kyle Kelley, CBF-LA Associate Coordinator, "provides a base of stability and a sign it is time to move forward with confidence that this is the direction God would have us go."

Momentum has been building

throughout the summer with the Youth Camp in Lake Providence and a very successful Bags of Hope drive. However this step shows the most significant commitment yet to the focal parishes by placing a person on the ground to daily walk alongside and be the presence of Christ in the recovery of hope for folks in need.

A challenge to our fellowship to secure the remaining funding now comes with our annual "Places of Grace" state mission offering and a call for churches and individuals to catch the vision of the work to which God is calling us.

### Places of Grace STATE MISSION OFFERING

The Fall 2008 Offering will be dedicated to the final funding of the Louisiana Together for Hope Missionary and New Church Starts.

Catch the vision of what God will do through all of us. Give generously.

Look for the Places of Grace prayer guide available for download from [cbfla.org](http://cbfla.org).

# Brain Food for the Disciple

## 5th Annual Stagg-Tolbert Forum for Biblical Studies

featuring  
**Dr. Walter Shurden**

### Session I

**Giving In and Giving Up:  
A Theology of Salvation**

### Session II

**Giving Back and Giving Forward:  
A Theology of Generosity**

**Saturday, October 18, 2008**  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**First Baptist Church - Shreveport**

Register for Lunch (\$5) and Childcare  
by October 10 at  
cbflouisiana@gmail.com  
or 318-780-4127

Exercise the brain God gave you. Hear a gifted pastor, theologian and church historian. An inspiring and engaging Christian speaker, Dr. Walter Shurden, addresses the Stagg-Tolbert Biblical Forum Saturday October 18 at First Baptist Church Shreveport.

Named after two renown Louisiana New Testament scholars, Malcolm Tolbert and the late Frank Stagg, the Stagg-Tolbert Forum exists to make excellence in Biblical scholarship accessible to the lay person.

Since retirement from Mercer University in December as Chair of the Department of Christianity, Shurden carries the title "Minister at Large, Mercer University."

He has also taught in Canada, at Carson Newman, and Southern Seminary where he was Dean of the School of Theology. In addition to his career in academia, Shurden has been

pastor of First Baptist Church, Ruston and Interim Preaching Minister of numerous churches.

Author or editor of 15 books, Shurden has written on numerous topics including the Priesthood of the Believer, Four Fragile Freedoms, the Bible, the Church and Religious Freedom.

A recipient of numerous academic and denominational leadership awards, Dr. Shurden has been at the table of many events that have shaped our common heritage.

His wife, Dr. Kay Wilson Shurden, is a marriage and family

therapist, educator, author and speaker. She retired as Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Mercer Medical School. The Shurdens have three grown children and six growing grandchildren.



Walter Shurden

Current, also known as young adults in CBF, invites everyone to join them for "11 on 11 Book Buddies," a literacy ministry event set for Lake Providence the weekend of September 13.

"11 on 11" is an annual volunteer/ministry event, scheduled on the Saturday closest to 9-11 and sponsored by Current as an ongoing redemptive response to a national tragedy.

Successfully used by Together for Hope in Arkansas and Texas, Book Buddies is the ultimate hands-on, mentoring, literacy, natural-faith-sharing and fun event for caring adults and children in need.

A child is matched with a volunteer who reads to the child alternately between steps of assembling and decorating together a "Book Buddies" shelf. Children learn to enjoy reading, building and the attention of a mentor. They will then go home with a new shelf and 4 books to place on it. One of the books will be a faith story which allows for natural sharing.

Ben Newell, Together for Hope Missionary in Arkansas, cites studies showing this personal touch along with a personalized place for children to keep their books as a proven intervention to increase reading and literacy.

Literacy, of course, is a core issue and prerequisite for

## "11 on 11" Book Buddies Literacy Ministry Event - Lake Providence September 13



lifting folks out of poverty. This event combines healthy bonding, love for hands-on creativity, reading and sharing the

hope we have in Christ.

Folks will begin gathering Friday evening in Lake Providence, with the event scheduled to begin at 1:00 on Saturday and end around 4:30. Volunteers may be able to accompany their child back to his/her home to deliver the shelf and books and meet the child's family following the event.

Folks wishing to spend the night Friday and/or Saturday can do so for \$10 per night in a lake house/cabin in a beautiful setting on the lake to enjoy fellowship together and see more of the community.

### Interested in going?

Contact by September 3 Shannon Rutherford at Shannon@ubc-br.org, or Kyle Kelley at cbflouisiana@gmail.com or 318-780-4127.

### Unable to go, but want to help?

We need: New or gently used children's books  
DecoColor paint pens  
\$7.50 will pay for one book shelf kit

Together For Hope



To take seriously 2,000  
verses telling of God's  
compassion for the poor.

cbf rural poverty initiative

# Bags of Hope Bags of Hope Bags of Hope Bags of Hope

Twenty-eight volunteers made the trek to East Carroll and Tensas parishes to deliver 1,006 back packs with school supplies the first weekend of August. Not only was our goal surpassed, but additional supplies were delivered to schools and a little cash tucked away to replenish supplies next semester.

In Lake Providence, recipients braved 99 degree heat in a line stretching around the corner at the Health Fair sponsored by the hospital. Children received free medical screening and a hot dog to go with their backpacks and opportunities for door prizes, games and a hula hoop contest. Music was provided by a Gospel band and kids could wander out back to see a camel and a ze-donk (zebra-donkey mix)!

University-Baton Rouge was presented with a "Pickled Garlic of the Earth" certificate, for collecting 325 book bags. Paraphrasing Jesus' word about being "salt" of the earth, the local Lake Providence delicacy (garlic) was substituted in a "Together for Hope Version" of the Matthew 5:13 command to spice up this world for the Kingdom.

Also joining this 6th year of Bags of Hope was Christ Church, a new CBF church start in Dallas. Louisiana churches included Bridgewater-Madisonville, Lakeview-New Orleans, Haynes Avenue-Shreveport, Pineville Park, Emmanuel-Alexandria, First-Shreveport, and Broadmoor-Baton Rouge.

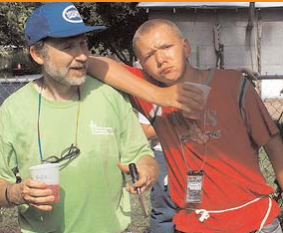
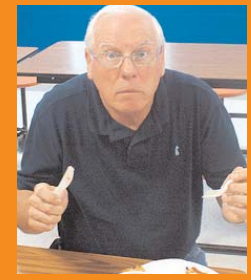




### Youth Camp – Lake Providence

Treated to homegrown peaches, watermelon, and tomatoes as well as hugs, warm hospitality and genuine gratitude, folks at Youth Camp in Lake Providence received as much as they gave.

53 youth and adults from 3 churches partnered with Mission Serve to rehab 4 houses and spread a little hope. Divided into 4 work crews during the day, they gathered at night for worship and fellowship. Church groups involved were Pineville Park, First-Shreveport and First-Orange, Texas.



## Roma Sights and Sounds Whirlwind Tour



Keith Holmes speaks at home meeting.



Missionary to Roma (Gypsies) Keith Holmes was in overdrive in his month long home visit to Louisiana this summer! "My best visit ever" stated Keith about a whirlwind tour which had him speaking in five churches, a Vacation Bible School and 3 home meetings.

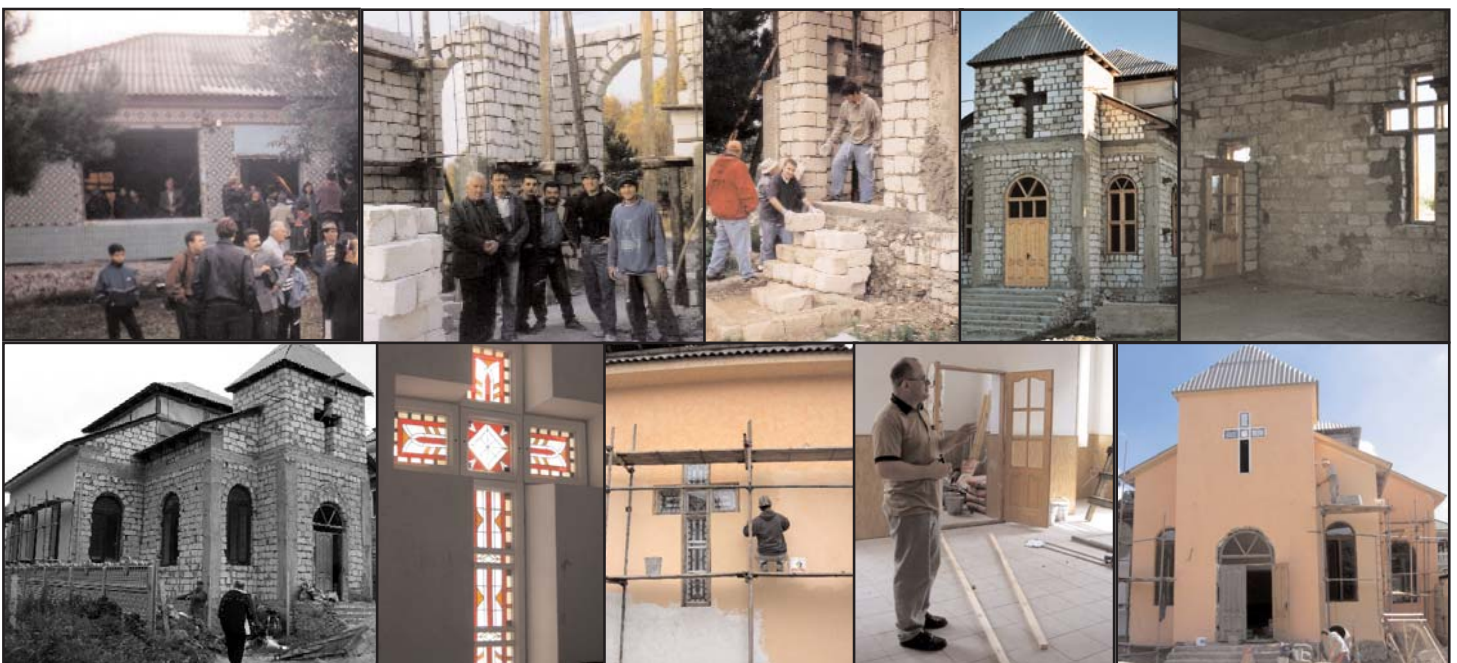
Keith did a demonstration of the intricacies of doing voice-overs of Scripture video, showing his work with the book of Acts. By putting various Romany dialects on video discs, he is providing the only access to Scripture available to many Gypsies.

With great sensitivity and passion he shared stories and challenges of the work. Updates in picture and sound were provided of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Vulcanesti, the only all Gypsy congregation in the poor country of Moldolva. Renovation of Bethlehem Church (made possible in large part by gifts from CBF-LA churches) is nearly 100%. A dedication is planned for the Fall.

Ministry to the Romany beyond providing Scripture in various media, includes training and support for pastors, and partnering with Christian micro-economic efforts to help bring the people out of grinding poverty with legitimate means of employment.

A beautiful recording of Bethlehem Church musicians singing Gypsy songs of worship is available for a \$10 donation at [www.cbfla.org](http://www.cbfla.org). Proceeds support the Romany work. At the website you can hear a sample of the music set to a slide show of the church and various Roma ministries and view updates from Keith's wife Mary van Rheenen, and the Adkins Roma work.

While on tour, Keith spoke at Broadmoor and University Churches in Baton Rouge, Haynes Avenue Church in Shreveport, First Baptist in Winnsboro, and Bridgewater Church in Madisonville. He also spoke at home meetings in Shreveport, Monroe and Alexandria-Pineville.



The Bethlehem Church building began as a store (upper far left). Progress was slow through the years as enormous obstacles were faced. A volunteer from Virginia designed and completed the stain glass windows. The final push towards completion was made possible largely by donations from CBF-LA churches. Pastor Ion is standing in the nearly completed interior.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Looking Ahead:

**September 13** CURRENT "11on11"  
 Literacy Event Lake Providence

**September 29-October 1** Women's  
 Spiritual Formation Retreat -  
 Atlanta, with Molly Marshall  
 and others: [spiritform.net](http://spiritform.net)

**October 18** Stagg Tolbert Biblical  
 Forum with Walter Shurden,  
 First Baptist - Shreveport

**October 25** Make a Difference Day,  
 Lake Providence

## On the Web: [www.cbfla.org](http://www.cbfla.org)

### Additional Updates/Pictures/Videos:

- \* A touching report of the Akdins Gypsy Youth Choir trip to BWA
- \* More Bethlehem Church Pictures
- \* Lake Providence Youth Camp
- \* Bags of Hope 2008
- \* Sample Gypsy worship music of Bethlehem Church
- \* Report/Pictures of WC Fields speaking to Louisiana meeting at Memphis

**And much more!**



### Reid Recovers

CBF-LA Coordinator Reid Doster is grateful for prayers and is recovering well from heart by-pass surgery he received August 13. He states he knows it will take a little longer and is looking forward to getting back to the work of CBF-LA.

### IDENTITY:

We are a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice.

### VISION:

Being the presence of Christ in the world.

### MISSION:

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

CBF-LA Receipts	July	Fiscal Year* 7/01/08-6/30/09
Undesignated	\$2,902.60	\$2,902.60
Together for Hope	\$3,813.33	\$3,813.33
Disaster Relief	-	-
Stagg-Tolbert Forum	-	-
New Church Start	-	-
Extra-budget Desg Funds	\$180.00	\$180.00
* Fiscal year now runs July 1 to June 30		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,321.93</b>	<b>\$6,321.93</b>



### Partners in Prayer Calendar Omitted names due to sensitive nature of work.

#### AUGUST

- 25 Arville Earl, work with Albanian/Balkan peoples, Macedonia
- 26 Corwin Harrell, 1991, son, Melody & Sam Harrell, East Africa
- 26 Cindy, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 27 Verr Dean Williams, Mission Teams, Asia
- 29 Craig, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 30 Karen Sherin, Rural Poverty Initiative, Columbia, MO
- 31 \_\_\_\_\_, son, unevang. group, N Africa
- 31 Karr La Dickens, Mission Teams, Texas

#### SEPTEMBER

- 1 Glen Adkins, Romany people, Hungary
- 1 Ralph Stocks, Romany people, Hungary
- 3 Eric Bebbler, urban work, Washington, DC
- 5 Eddie Aldape, Banjara Gypsies, India
- 5 David D'Amico, Emeritus, December 2006

- 5 \_\_\_\_\_, internationals, North Africa
- 6 Zachary, 1992, son, Melin & Ron, Asia
- 7 Lita Sample, internationals, San Francisco
- 11 Melanie Storie, Rural Poverty Initiative, Marion, AL
- 15 Rebecca Holmes, 1994, daughter, Keith & Mary, Europe
- 16 William Burnette, 1998, son, Ellen & Rick Burnette, Thailand
- 16 Christopher Harrell, 1993, son, Melody & Sam Harrell, East Africa
- 17 Katy Williams, 1989, daughter, Allen & Verr Dean Williams, Asia
- 19 Wanda Ashworth, Open House Ministries, Homestead, FL
- 19 Josiah Maas, 2007, son, Eric & Julie, Belize
- 19 Emily, 2002, daughter, Melin & Ron, Asia
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_, daughter, unevang. group, N Africa
- 25 Angel Pittman, urban work, Miami, FL
- 27 Noa Claire, 2007, daughter, Brandon & Tirzah Turner, Washington, DC
- 30 Elaine Childs, ministry coordinator, Croatia
- 30 Rebecca Wyatt, 1992, daughter, Kim & Marc Wyatt, Canada

### Louisiana Fellowship People Sent to you free for the asking.

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Save a Tree.

Save CBF-LA Some Dough.

Receive our newsletter by email in PDF format. Sign up at [cbflouisiana@gmail.com](mailto:cbflouisiana@gmail.com).