

# Louisiana Fellowship People

FALL 2010  
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[cbfla.org](http://cbfla.org)

## IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE

Support CBF-LA Fall State Mission Offering



Gary Baldwin, Pastor of New Life Community Church of Cenla grabs a load of shingles in Lake Providence.



## Church For the Highlands New church start Shreveport

After weeks of planning, praying, scraping, scrubbing and painting, the Fellowship's newest church held its first official public worship with 84 participants on September 19.



A healthy mix of youth, children and adults of all ages, this young family of faith received a challenge from Pastor John Henson and VOA Director Chuck Mehan to fulfill its call to bless the Highland neighborhood.



Though housed at the Highland (Community) Center, Henson stated the real reason for existence is to share the love of Jesus to those beyond the walls and partner with those already doing a good work in the area to leverage and multiply efforts. [churchforthehighlands.org](http://churchforthehighlands.org)



## Stagg-Tolbert Biblical Forum

**OCTOBER 16 10AM - 2PM**

Emmanuel Baptist - Alexandria

featuring **Terry York**

*Render to Caesar*



*Render to God*

Dr. York is a Professor at Truett Seminary where he is distinguished in theology and music. He is an author and composer and has penned the well loved hymn *Worthy of Worship*.





# Winds of the Spirit

by Reid Doster, Louisiana Fellowship Coordinator

## Our Beloved Friends

Remember in prayer the family of our brother, Dr. John Goodwin, Pastor Emeritus of Broadmoor-Baton Rouge, his precious wife, Johnnie Faye, daughters Jackie and Jodie and the entire Broadmoor family. John departed this earth on September 20. Also, please remember the family of Sue Tweedy and her husband Bud. Sue died on September 8. Both of these folks exemplified servant leadership for us and we thank God for their examples of lives well lived. May God give each family the peace that passes all understanding.



**Our Great Cloud of Witnesses** CBF-LA has been blessed with gifted and inspirational leaders like **Sue Tweedy** who died September 8 and **John Goodwin** who died September 20. The two of them are visiting here at a 2005 CBF meeting. We thank God for their lives and faithfulness.

## Special Guest Dr. Terry York

On Saturday, October 16th, at the Stag-Tolbert Forum it will be our privilege to "sit at the feet" of Dr. Terry York, Associate Professor of Christian Ministry and Church Music, at Truett Seminary. It will be a rich time of learning. In addition to being a gifted speaker, Dr. York is also a talented composer and has written the popular and inspiring hymn "Worthy of Worship." He will be speaking on theologically appropriate ways of incorporating patriotic themes into Christian worship.

## New Church Start in Shreveport

In God's perfect timing, the Church for the Highlands, led by Pastor John Henson, has been born in Shreveport. This new work is blessed with gifted leadership and a vision for reaching into the heart of a struggling neighborhood. This externally-focused faith community is uniting to bring healing through ministries of mercy. Crossing racial, religious, socio-economic and cultural lines, they are intent upon being the presence of Christ to those who may not realize how much He loves them. How inspiring to witness Christians mobilizing their compassion

to do community ministry together, and to do it right. Follow their story at [churchforthehighlands.org](http://churchforthehighlands.org)

## Construction of Permanent Houses in Haiti

CBF has committed to involvement in Haiti for the next 3-5 years. The January 2010 earthquake caused unparalleled devastation and loss of life. One relief expert called it "the worst humanitarian calamity ever as the consequence of a natural disaster." To most people, Haiti has fallen off the radar, but not if you actually live there! In Haiti, up to two million people are displaced and homeless. Victims are crowded into flimsy tent-cities made of sticks and bed sheets. Protection against the elements is in many cases non-existent because suitable coverings are not available. With the rainy season, hurricanes are a threat.

While I have been focused on training programs in psychological first aid, there are other inspiring developments, one of which addresses the huge need for permanent housing. An impressive network of experienced partners is being formed, with CBF taking the lead, and with the goal of constructing hundreds of permanent houses. The model we are adapting will be permanent, expandable and inexpensive – around \$3,000 per unit. It implements rapid construction techniques (6 days), incorporates recycled materials, employs local Haitian labor, and requires 'sweat equity' in the form of donated labor. The architectural style is culturally appropriate, contributes to social solidarity, empowers the Haitian people, remains environmentally friendly, offers multiple configurations, and provides security of property and persons, while accommodating privacy and hygiene needs.

We are looking for churches or individuals to fund a permanent house for a Haitian family for only \$3,000. To learn more contact me at (985) 778-6049 or [reid.cbflouisiana@gmail.com](mailto:reid.cbflouisiana@gmail.com). And, if you can make time to volunteer five days of your life to help courageous, suffering people who live on little more than faith, please contact Chris Boltin at (800) 352-8741, or [thefellowship.info/Disaster-Response-Application](http://thefellowship.info/Disaster-Response-Application) and register your name, skills, availability and any special training you possess. We have volunteer teams scheduled into February 2011. No more than 10% of our costs cover overhead. 90% remains in Haiti where close supervision ensures direct care to those with the greatest need and least amount of resources.

## Peer Groups and Professional Development

Jarrett Banks will be missed, as he transitions from pastor of Broadmoor-Baton Rouge, to a new ministry at a college in North Carolina. As Jarrett had been facilitating our Southern peer group, I will be taking over the scheduling and coordinating of these meetings. Contact me if you would like to be part of this bi-monthly professional peer support with colleagues in ministry. If you live in the Northern Sector (Alexandria and above), contact Mike Anderson (318) 347-9555 to participate in this collegiality and support from others in ministry.

## Resiliency in the Face of Uncertainty

These are hard times. Our nation's smoldering economic crisis has no clear end in sight **Cont'd on back**

# Lately in Lake Providence

by Stephanie Vance, Together for Hope Missionary

I love the sights and sounds of the people of God working to create beauty and change in God's world. Over the past weeks, I have worked with several groups to bring newness to Lake Providence. Whether it's the sight of a football player working alongside a college student or a pastor on a roof, it makes my soul sing.

At 8:00pm on August 27th, a church van pulled into the lot at Lake Providence High School's Hamley Field to fulfill a promise made last year. Shannon Rutherford and a small group from her college ministry at University



Exhausted but exhilarated. Read Shannon Rutherford's account of University church college group keeping a promise to paint the **WHOLE STADIUM** at cbfla.org

Baptist-Baton Rouge wanted to finish painting the stadium that they had begun work on last year. The group immediately started upon their arrival at the stadium and worked under the lights until the wee hours of the morning. The next

thing I knew, it was 7:00am and we were out once again.

Over the next few hours, we painted and scraped and talked about life, God, and football. Just when we would have started to slow down, the LPHS football team arrived and took up brushes and rollers. By 1:00pm, we had finished the stadium. It is now a formidable battleship gray and is the result of a proud joint effort by University Baptist Church and LPHS. Thanks!

Earlier this summer, I met Sye Williams. Mr. Sye is a man who has lived his whole life in Lake Providence. When we met, he told me of his need for a new "top", as

Dr. Mike Anderson brought his youth group from Haynes Ave. Church to kick off the school year by participating in the distribution of over 1700 school bags and supplies for students in East Carroll and Tensas parishes.



he called the roof and a "face-lift." The "facelift" was accomplished by the youth from the church of my youth, FBC, Madison, AL.

I promised that we'd get his house a "wig" as soon as we could. When Gary Baldwin, pastor of New Life Community Church in Pineville/Alexandria expressed an interest in helping here in Lake Providence, I knew that



On the roof despite the heat New Life Community Church group perseveres!

we'd found the answer. Gary and his team of four other men and two youth arrived late last Wednesday and worked Thursday, Friday and Saturday to remove repair and replace Mr. Sye's roof.

The group worked diligently to replace that "wig" even when the heat was bearing down on them.

The team worked without complaint, tirelessly and with precision. Mr. Sye cannot say enough about the new roof and new screen door that replaced his old one. He knows that God works through those who believe.

As I write this, I am beginning plans for the spring and summer of 2011. Please prayerfully consider serving in Lake Providence for a few days and make a difference in the lives of this almost-forgotten gem in the crown of Louisiana. God bless!

**On the Road** Stephanie speaks here before a group at Emmanuel-Alexandria. A great listener, she has stories to tell of Lake Providence. A great talker, she loves to spin those tales of God's providence to churches and groups of all kinds. As we go to publication she is telling the story in Washington DC at the Delta Caucus, a nonpartisan group of advocates for the needs of the Delta. Contact her to speak to your group at 318-418-4075 or sthepny@gmail.com



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You may also give on-line at [www.cbfla.org](http://www.cbfla.org).

**Winds of Spirit cont'd** and is pushing many to the point of exhaustion. The resultant stress and associated losses are unprecedented for many. Prolonged periods of uncertainty can produce a pervasive sense of dread. Such ambiguous losses lack clarity and can lead to sharply different conclusions as to exactly what has been lost. In the "simpler" case of sudden crisis, pain can be more easily "compartmentalized," between bookends of a clear beginning and ending. But in the midst of a lingering, smoldering, pervasive socio-economic depression (not just "recession"), the effects appear more insidious and difficult to overcome.

With this in mind, I will lead a chaplains' retreat in Little Rock next month: "Understanding the Many Forms of Ambiguous Loss," "Identifying Our Own Personal Losses That Still Resist Closure" and "Building Personal Resiliency in the Face of Prolonged Uncertainty." I am also available to offer this workshop to your congregation.

**On the Way to an Oil Spill**

In the search for a practical, hands-on response to the massive oil spill, CBF-LA has discovered fascinating partners, including Dr. Lan Chi T. Luu, Director of Community Empowerment Service Agency (CESA), and a researcher in diabetes among New Orleans's Vietnamese population. I met Lan Chi at a training seminar on "Peer Listening." Dr. Luu's widowed mother had served as an interpreter for Americans prior to the fall of Vietnam, and destroyed all documentation of this to avoid imprisonment and torture by the Communists. The mother tried twice to

escape Vietnam, taking Lan Chi with her, but was intercepted both times. This was considered treason and betrayal of the Mother Country. After the first attempt, her mother was imprisoned. After a second try, she was beaten and warned that execution would follow any third attempt.

Nevertheless, a third attempt was successful when Lan Chi and her mom, without informing any family members, hid in a fishing boat headed down the Mekong River to the South China Sea. There, they were picked up by a mercy ship and taken to an island off Malaysia. Among the refugees, there was intense competition to come to America.

During her interview, Lan Chi's mother was asked for proof of having worked as an interpreter for the Americans. She could not produce such proof, so the interviewer asked specifically: "What was the name of your immediate supervisor?" When she gave the name, the interviewer looked astonished and said: "That gentleman is my very best friend in the whole world!" Lan Chi and her mom, who have remained Roman Catholic, were then "adopted" by a Baptist Church in Tennessee. Mom held down two jobs, while the ladies of the church took this little girl, who spoke no English, under their wings and taught her language, customs, spiritual values and etiquette.

Now, as a way of giving back and helping her own people, Dr. Luu is developing a crisis-line for use by Vietnamese families impacted by the oil spill. This service, employing certified translators, will provide equal access to basic information which most people take for granted. There might be a few small ways we can assist Dr. Luu, who understandably holds deep appreciation for a compassionate people called Baptists!

CBF-LA Receipts	July-August	Fiscal Year 7-1-09 to 6-30-10
Undesignated	\$6,953.14	\$80,849.15
Together for Hope	\$10,490.19	\$24,452.87
TFH Missionary Fund	-	\$64,221.17
Disaster Response	-	\$43,380.35
New Church Starts	\$51,116.77	\$144.80
Missi housing	-	\$53,750.00
Other	\$228.70	\$7,7931.77
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$68,788.80</b>	<b>\$274,730.11</b>

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**Administrative address:**

406 Pine Street, Madisonville, LA 70447

Reid Doster, Coordinator:

985-778-6049 reid.cbflouisiana@gmail.com

Kyle Kelley, Associate Coordinator:

318-780-4127 cbflouisiana@gmail.com

Stephanie Vance, Together for Hope Missionary

318-418-4075 sthepny@gmail.com

Shannon Rutherford, Moderator; Larry Davis, Past Moderator;

Charlene Kelley, National CBF Rep.