

Louisiana Fellowship People

Jan-Feb-Mar 2012
Volume 19, No. 1 cbfla.org

Dawnings...

CBF-LA Spring Conference
March 30-31
First Baptist Church - Bunkie

The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the children of God coming into their own. - Romans 8:19 *Phillips*

Spring Conference officially begins with a 5:30 meal and 6:00 program, Friday evening March 30. All are also welcome to the 4:30 pre-conference business session and fellowship. We are delighted to be at First Baptist Bunkie for the first time and already are enjoying the hospitality of pastor LaMon Brown and the local planning committee.

We've a message to tell and our dawnings theme will give witness to the missional Spirit moving in our "faith community stories." A divine prompting is leading our churches to get outside the walls. Rick Bennett from CBF national, Director of Missional Congregations, will be leading us in nurturing and celebrating those missional callings. Shannon Rutherford, CBF-LA national representative will be preaching in the final worship on Saturday. Steve McCloud, from pastor Gary Baldwin's New Life Community Church in Alexandria, will be leading us in music along with the New Life worship team.

All creation is on tiptoe. Come see the sight.

Childcare available through age 5 by reservation.

Suggested lodging is at the new Howard Johnson located at the Bunkie I-49 exit.

Meal cost: Friday dinner - \$5, Saturday breakfast is complimentary, Saturday lunch - \$5. Reservations requested by March 20.

Pre-conference business and fellowship begins 4:30 Friday. Conference ends with Saturday noon lunch.

REGISTER ON LINE HERE Call Kyle at 318-780-4127 for questions or if assistance is needed with registration.



Rick Bennett
Keynote



Shannon Rutherford
Preaching



Steve McCloud
Music



Two Years and Counting...

Stephanie Vance
CBF-LA Missionary living
in Lake Providence
Follow Stephanie's blog [here](#).

our progress.

We have already had two groups in 2012, with at least three others from Gardner-Webb University in NC, Resurrection Church in San Antonio, TX, and First Baptist Church of Madison, AL scheduled for this Spring and Summer.

There is much work to be done in this place. Join us in partnering with local churches, organizations, and individuals to create a new, hopeful future for Lake Providence. Be blessed, friends. Will your group be the one that:

- * Leads a day camp for children and youth
- * Repairs and paints houses
- * Reroofs a home or church
- * Builds a wheelchair ramp or repairs a walkway
- * Plants flowers and shrubs to brighten someone's day
- * Fills and distributes backpacks of school supplies for students
- * Teaches someone a new skill that could become a new source of income
- * Tells the story of your faith journey to someone who needs to hear it

Please prayerfully consider bringing your group to be a part of this ministry in one of the ways listed or in a whole new way. Your support in even the smallest of ways means more than I can express.

Living in the Love of Christ, *Stephanie*

Just a few weeks ago, on January 11, I celebrated my second anniversary as the Together for Hope Missionary in Louisiana. What a blessing this has been so far! I have found a new home, new friends, and a community that has embraced me.

In the last two years, there have been eleven churches from Louisiana, Arkansas, and Alabama who have partnered in Lake Providence. These churches have sent groups to repair homes, lead camps, stuff bags, play games with local children and just generally show some folks that God loves them.

Some of our elderly received blankets that were hand-made by local 4-Hers and a group of youth and young adults from Pulaski Heights Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. The elderly also received refrigerator magnets that the Women on Mission group from Shades Crest Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL made and donated.

We have a mission house/office in the center of town with an almost completely spruced up appearance. Folks stop me all of the time to talk about the house and





Winds of the Spirit

Reid Doster, CBF-LA Coordinator

Over the past several months, it has been my joy to preach at the Church for the Highlands (Shreveport), Haynes Avenue Baptist Church (Shreveport), Emmanuel

Baptist Church (Alexandria), New Life Community Church (Alexandria), St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church (New Orleans), and to worship with other CBF friends in our Louisiana Fellowship.

I sense something deeply transformative occurring within each of these unique congregations, as they awaken to a fresh understanding of how to do church in the 21st Century. This dawning awareness is leading them into an entirely different kind of journey. For example:

- * *Focusing worship primarily on what a person experiences about God instead of what a person learns about God.*
- * *Developing ministries for unchurched people rather than just for those who grew up within a church culture.*
- * *Concentrating on making disciples instead of making decisions about "running the church."*
- * *Encouraging everyone to exercise their God-given spiritual gifts instead of just holding institutional church offices.*
- * *Promoting accountability, not control, as the dominant form of governing.*
- * *Vetting prospective leaders on the basis of their first being proven servants.*
- * *Mobilizing everyone for ministry instead of relying on paid clergy.*
- * *Becoming intentionally cross-cultural, bridging socio-economic, racial, linguistic gaps.*
- * *Remaining theologically conservative, but inquisitive, flexible and sensitive to the Spirit's leading.*
- * *Shaping everything they do as a church to correlate directly to their stated mission.*

Once they have tasted "missional," there is no turning back. It causes them to do crazy things, like feeding and clothing the poor, or caring less about how many people come to their church services, and more about how many people their church serves. They start offering people real help, not just "supporting them in their spiritual journeys." They feel sent -- to arrange transportation for a shut-in, to build a wheelchair ramp, to repair a roof, to help a lonely person feel valued. Now, THAT sounds like Lake Providence ministry for sure! In the film "The Matrix," Morpheus explains to Neo:

You take the blue pill – the story ends, you wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill – you stay in Wonderland and I show you how deep the rabbit-hole goes."

"Missional" Christians are no longer content waking up in bed and believing whatever they want to believe. They have consumed the "red pill" of being the presence of Christ in the world.

Two upcoming events embrace this vision. Our

Spring Conference will be Friday evening and Saturday morning, March 30-31, at First Baptist Church, Bunkie. The theme is "Dawnings," based on Romans

8:19: "The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the children of God coming into their own." We assemble to strengthen our souls, sing, hear some empowering messages and share how, to the best of our understanding, we are doing justice, extending kindness, and walking humbly with our God. Re-fortified, we then say goodbye, return to our little corners of the earth, to help bring more wholeness and healing. It's another dawning, another awakening, another finding of God in the renewal of all things.

The second special event occurs April 19-21, in Decatur, Georgia. It is a CBF co-sponsored conference titled "Human Sexuality and Christian Covenant." One goal of this conference is to inform and model how churches might have conversation around the question: "What is unique about Christian sexuality?" Dr. Daniel Vestal has issued a challenge: "Imagine what God could do if churches became comfortable discussing sexuality." I encourage you to appoint a representative from your congregation to attend this conference, listen carefully, and come home with suggestions on how to open up this timely topic for honest, scripture-based inquiry. You can learn more about this event by visiting [online here](#) where you can download a prospectus, view the schedule and register.

There is much to share about what God is doing through our Fellowship. You can experience this by making a special effort to attend our 2012 Spring Conference, March 30 & 31. Prepare for an awakening.

In His Love, *Reid*

Veterans Honored by Randall Cope



On November 18, 2011, Broadmoor Baptist Church of Baton Rouge had a Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal Service to honor our WWII Veterans and presented the medals to 17 living and 12 deceased veterans.

The ceremony was preceded with a slide show of pictures of the veterans, a potluck lunch, songs of all branches, and presentation of the Flag by a USMC Color Guard.

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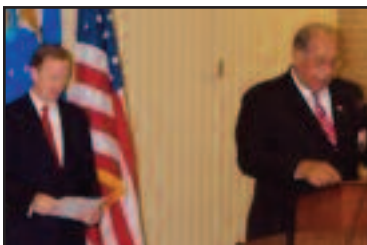
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Veterans cont'd

After an address by LT. General Russel L. Honore' (US Army Ret.), the medals were presented by the General and our Pastor, Dr. Terry Ellis. Recipients were given time for comments, then the program was closed with prayer and Taps.

All those in attendance gave a roaring round of applause to honor the veterans. Churches interested in a program like this should contact LDVA at 225-219-5000 or vetaffairs.la.gov.



At left Dr. Ellis, at right Gen. Honore'




**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly
 Fort Worth, Texas June 20-23, 2012**

Come ask and imagine what God could do through you and through us
 Pre-register online here.

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CBF-LA Receipts	Nov-Jan	Fiscal Year 7-1-11 to 6-30-12
Undesignated	\$16,926.64	\$38,112.88
Together for Hope	\$1,183.34	\$15,350.96
Missionary Fund	\$7,000.00	\$21,125.00
Other	\$682.00	\$722.00
TOTAL	\$25,791.98	\$75,310.84



I want to be part of something new God is doing through CBF-LA:

CBF-LA Ministry Budget \$ _____ New Church Start \$ _____
 Together for Hope Rural Poverty \$ _____ Disaster Relief \$ _____
 Missionary Fund \$ _____ Other: _____ \$ _____

Your name (please print) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Make checks payable to CBF of Louisiana, 2220 South Vienna Street, Ruston, LA 71270
You may also give [on-line here](#).

Picture God's Love
 Give to CBF-LA