



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.

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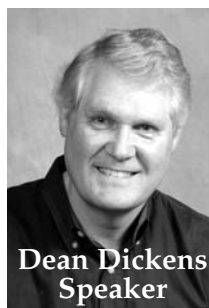
CBF-LA Spring Assembly Goes to New Orleans *St Charles Avenue Baptist Church to Host Meeting March 17-18*

We shall return! CBF-LA Spring Assembly moves to New Orleans, the site originally intended for 2006. A city and church reeling from disaster were unable to host us last year. Rebuilding a city continues in 2007, with a congregation and a state fellowship finding a new missional identity, and now ready for the family to gather!

Hope for a World Without Borders, a theme which embraces this spirit, will collect us in our diversity and define our weekend activities. Dean Dickens, CBF Global Missions Associate, (and closet humorist) brings the keynote message Friday evening. Kingdom building doesn't have to be somber Dickens will show.

John Daugherty will give a report and video footage of the Romany (Gypsy) congregation, Bethlehem Church, in Moldolva. CBF-LA has pledged to help with construction work at their facility. Reid Doster, State Disaster Response Coordinator and his national counterpart Charles Ray will describe the innovative, collaborative, and ongoing work with the most vulnerable to life's literal storms.

Tamara Tillman, also with CBF national, will highlight and provide training in a new hands-on missions curriculum for all ages (teaching



Dean Dickens
Speaker

the next generation) that has received rave reviews. Marion Aldridge CBF-South Carolina Coordinator, presents a thoughtful meditation on sabbatical living, "It's a Big, Big World: Sacred Serendipities."

Ben Newell, CBF Missionary with Together for Hope, will outline progress in our Rural Poverty Initiative and the increasingly regional outlook

for the Delta work between the Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi fellowships. He will also introduce Kingdom Enterprises, a self help Christian micro-enterprise effort. Keithen Tucker, with Baptists Today, will present the ever useful topic, "Building Conflict and Communication Skills in the Local Church." Music will be provided by Thomas Rushing.

St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church hosts our gathering. Housing is available conveniently across the street from the church in the Dominican Conference Center. Those requiring more upscale lodging can book rooms at the nearby Garden District Hotel Ramada Plaza. (See insert for registration details.)

More than information, more than inspiration, Spring Assembly is a state family get together. Find your place in the family.

CBF-LA Spring Assembly * March 17-18 * New Orleans



...the state family gathers

Hope... for a World Without Borders

All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing.....and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Colossians 1:6, Acts 1:8



Historic St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church
7100 St. Charles Avenue 504-861-9514

Begins with Friday banquet at 7pm
Concludes following Saturday lunch
For registration and lodging information
SEE INSERT

Disaster Response



Reid Doster (right) with members of the Bridgewater Church Disaster Response Team

From Bill Hoffman

We had another great "end of year" response for Kidz@C-mas and Bibles for inmates. We were able to place several hundred toys and Bibles in the hands of grateful individuals. It was a real blessing. We continue to see encouraging signs in Tensas Detention Centers. There were eleven Hispanic men baptized in Waterproof last week. Thank you for all the expressions of concern and support for the ministry efforts in Tensas. I know I shouldn't be surprised at the faithfulness of God - but I am!

Each month we are blessed to see the hearts and lives of inmates and their families touched and changed. Like a colorful cactus bloom standing out in stark contrast to the desolate landscape surrounding it; in the midst of poverty, turmoil, and communities in crises - God continues to transform the lives of these forgotten people one at a time. It is a beautiful thing!

We currently have the privilege of giving out about 100 Bibles a week. This is a real opportunity and challenge. Sometimes all we are able to do is place a Bible in their hands and have a prayer with them before they are transferred.

The turnover for INS inmates in Tensas parish has escalated recently. Any soft-cover modern version will be gladly received. Hispanic Bibles are still our

greatest need. There is an ongoing need for Bibles. Please keep us in your prayers.

Poverty Advocacy Workshop

CBF partner organization Bread for the World will sponsor "The Gathering

By the Numbers:

July through December 2006

- 267-- Number of Volunteers Housed and Fed
- 21--Number of Church Groups Hosted
- 6 -- Number of Churches renovated
- 4 -- Number of New Orleans pastor's homes renovated
- 3 -- Number of home renovations still underway
- 140 --Number of Volunteers confirmed so far for 2007
- Dozens and Dozens of Partners



BLITZ BUILD Baton Rouge April 23 - May 5

CBF and Habitat for Humanity are teaming up to build 12 houses for Katrina victims. More than 325 volunteers a day are needed for this major two-week build!

SEE INSERT

2007," a conference about poverty and hunger alleviation June 9-12 in Washington, D.C. Called "Sowing Seeds: Grow the Movement to Overcome Hunger and Poverty," the event will gather thousands in efforts to strengthen the movement to overcome hunger and poverty.

Participants at the interfaith gathering will pray for God to move the United States toward justice for hungry people, ask elected officials to prioritize hunger alleviation, engage presidential candidates around poverty and hunger alleviation programs both domestically and internationally, and strengthen individual and church commitments to overcome hunger and poverty.

"Bread for the World is a significant partner for CBF in addressing poverty through public policy advocacy," said Tom Prevost, who coordinates Together for Hope, CBF's rural poverty initiative. "This upcoming June event will provide major encouragement for people of faith in their obedience to God, as well as a reminder to Washington decision-makers that poverty is a religious issue." For more information, visit bread.org.

Bridgewater Fellowship Thriving, Celebrates First Anniversary

bridgewaterchurch.info

Bridgewater Church celebrated its first anniversary on February 4, 2007. Starting with four people eleven months ago, average attendance has grown to forty-five, with a total of sixty-five considered active. Average weekly regular offerings are \$1,400. With some special offerings they have managed to save \$51,000 for future projects. Currently, they are engaged in a thirty week, church-wide doctrinal study, titled "Christian Believer." Pastor Reid Doster reports, "our next study will be 'It's Time,' although we are already a solidly missional church. For example, Bridgewater Church is providing assistance to students and faculty members at Abney Elementary, Slidell, who lost most of their possessions in the flood waters of Hurricane Katrina."

Through partnering with other groups and individuals, as well as drawing upon its own resources, this small congregation has managed to supply Abney faculty and students 300 shoe boxes of needed personal items, plus the school's "Top Ten Wish List" with items ranging from an overhead projector, to scissors, a pull-down screen and health kits. They have also delivered school books, paper, and are arranging for a member who is a local artist to teach students watercolor techniques. Members of the congregation continue to assist disaster volunteer groups as well as help with reconstruction. They also coordinated the acquisition of personal items

urgently needed by 300 legal migrants camped in Tallulah, Louisiana, in desperate financial straits due to heavy rains which prevented harvesting. These were delivered after a seven hour round-trip drive, unloading in total darkness, surrounded by some initially rather rough-looking (but ultimately very grateful) people who spoke no English.

Bridgewater is still happily worshipping in The Maritime Museum, Madisonville, which will allow room for growth over the next two years. In the meantime, Reid states, "we are giving very serious consideration to the purchase of an existing home, which we will probably call 'The Friendship House.' This facility will not only provide Bridgewater with a place to conduct Bible studies, fellowships and support groups during the week, but will position us to offer ministries to the community at large, e.g. senior adult education and health services, after school programs for youth, apprenticeships, computer learning, mentoring programs, life coaching, job skills and job search, home improvement, group and family counseling, English as a second language and, generally, a place for companionship, conversation, friendship, emotional support and help with daily living activities."

To further expand ministry beyond its own doors, Bridgewater continues to "tithe" its offerings (sending 10%) back to CBF.





Romany Mission
 romani-bible.org gypsyministries.com
 Keith Holmes and Mary van Rheenen



Partners in Prayer Calendar
Some missionary names omitted due to sensitive nature of work.



Bethlehem Baptist Church, Vulcanesti, Moldova

JANUARY

- 16 Fran Graham- Slavic people, Asheville, NC
- 16 _____, 1996, daughter, unevan., Asia
- 16 Merrie Grace Harding, 1995, daughter, David & Merrie Harding, Florida
- 17 Latha Bandela, unevangelized people groups of N. India, Georgia
- 17 _____, daughter, unevangelized people group, M. East/N. Africa
- 21 Laura Barton, English teacher, China
- 21 Jack Snell, Field Ministries, Georgia
- 25 Scott Houser, devlpmnt work, S. Africa
- 25 _____, Persian World Outreach, New Jersey
- 25 _____, 2006, daughter, unevang. people, Asia
- 30 Jonnie Hill, English teacher, China
- 31 Penny Mann, Romany people, Hungary

FEBRUARY

- 3 Philip Whisnand, urban work, El Paso
- 8 Taisha Rose, urban work, Brooklyn, NY
- 11 Donald Barnes, English teacher, China
- 11 Rick Shaw, Albanian/Balkan, Macedonia
- 12 Louisa Houser, 2004, daughter, Ana Marie & Scott Houser, S. Africa
- 17 Nancy James, holistic ministry, Haiti
- 19 Keri Gage, urban work, Miami, FL
- 21 _____, son, unevang. people grp, North Africa
- 21 Wes Craig, Romany people, Romania
- 27 Lori Myrick, Bedouin people, Jordan

MARCH

- 3 Emmanuel Aldape, 1990, son, Eddie & Macarena Aldape, India
- 4 Jane Martin, Emeritus, retired June 1994
- 6 Ronnie Adams, urban work, New York
- 6 Courtney Johnson, 1989, daughter, Connie & Rodney Johnson, Mexico
- 7 Rodney Johnson, indigenous people groups, Mexico
- 8 Benjamin Burnette, 1993, son, Ellen & Rick Burnette, Thailand
- 8 Isaac Pittman, 1999, son, Angel & Jason Pittman, Florida
- 9 Calandra Togba-Doya, transformational development work, Liberia
- 10 Joshua Ballew, 1992, son, Larry & Sarah Ballew, China
- 12 _____, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 12 Jim Rich, Rural Poverty Initiative, Rio Grande Valley, Texas
- 15 Matthew Myrick, 1991, son, Lori & Tim Myrick, Jordan
- 15 _____, unevangelized group, Asia
- 15 **Mary Van Rheenen, work with Romany people, Europe**

Loaves and Fishes?

“Without divine intervention they have no hope of ever finishing that building.” – Mary van Rheenen

Their wealthiest member makes a princely sum of \$500 a month. They are a poor, frequently shunned group of Gypsies living in the poorest nation in Europe. Isolated, they are the only all-Romany church in the country. They number only 50, elders converted during Communist times and young people disciplined in the last few years. Five years ago they were able to purchase an old abandoned Orthodox church and have slowly refurbished it. Costs continue to rise, their income, typically a few dollars a day, does not. Authorities are adamant that the building cannot be used until completed, so they meet in homes. Their old, still abandoned building, a symbol of hope or hopelessness? Hope is in their God, their fellowship, their beautiful music, and a capable pastor. They have made a CD to help raise funds. But a seasoned, sympathetic missionary states, “without divine intervention they have no hope of ever finishing that building.” Even for Americans, \$30,000 is not spare change, yet compared to our building drives, our capital campaigns? Divine intervention? Would God choose to use us? Do we have a few loaves and fishes to give from our abundance to joyfully advance the Kingdom?

**Goal: \$30,000
 Raised: \$4,000**



Members of the Bethlehem Romany Congregation

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



"Happily Ever After" International Marriage Enrichment Celebration will be held July 12-15 in Orlando. It will feature a full lineup of nationally known expert presenters including **Gary and Karolyn Chapman**, authors of *The Five Love Languages*. Sponsored by CBF's partner organization Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment, ACME, is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that has been helping build better marriages since 1973, when it was launched at a Christian Life Commission Conference. Promoting this event is a tangible way to encourage healthy marriages in your church and community, using marriage enrichment as an outreach tool. Staff and lay couples who attend will be exposed to a broad range of topics, increasing their effectiveness as leaders of marriage ministry. Camp ACME, activities for children, will be provided during the conference. Contact **Priscilla Hunt** at phunt@bettermarriages.org or 318.795.3385. Website: bettermarriages.org



Campolo



Wallis

Christian Ethics Today will sponsor an ethics conference June 27 called **"The Minister and Politics: How to be Prophetic without being Partisan"** prior to CBF's General Assembly. This free conference will be from 1-5 p.m. Featured presenters include author and speaker **Tony Campolo** and Sojourners founder **Jim Wallis**. "The conference is designed to assist religious leaders in the complex and difficult area of working for moral values and social justice," said Joe Trull, editor of *Christian Ethics Today*. "In our politically charged atmosphere, with so many evangelicals clamoring for political influence and power, the average Baptist minister needs to know how to be 'salt and light' in a dark and decaying society, as well as where to draw the line in social action and political involvement." *Christian Ethics Today* was started in 1995 by Baptist ethicist **Foy Valentine**.

Register at: thefellowship.info or 800-352-8741

General Assembly

WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 28-29, 2007

Auxiliary events June 27 and 30



CBF
Coordinator
Daniel Vestal

Artist in
Residence
Kate Campbell

CBF Moderator
Emmanuel
McCall

Global Missions
Coordinator
Rob Nash

Baptist World
Alliance Pres.
David Coffey

Worship
Leader
Susan Deal

CBF-LA has a new email address:
cbfla@suddenlink.net

CBF-LA Receipts	Nov-Dec	Fiscal Year 3/01/06-2/28/07
Undesignated	\$17,825.19	\$68,020.17
Together for Hope	\$3,033.34	\$15,203.90
Stagg-Tolbert Forum	\$828.19	\$1,910.86
New Church Start	--	\$6,226.66
Disaster Relief	--	\$200,010.00
Misc. Designated Funds	--	--
Credits	--	\$1,150.00
TOTAL	\$21,686.72	\$292,521.59

Louisiana Fellowship People
 Sent to you free for the asking.

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Greg Hunt, Representative to National CBF
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 Editor-Kyle Kelley, kylek1@bellsouth.net

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 fellowship.**

Be a Lift - Get a Lift

