

# Louisiana

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

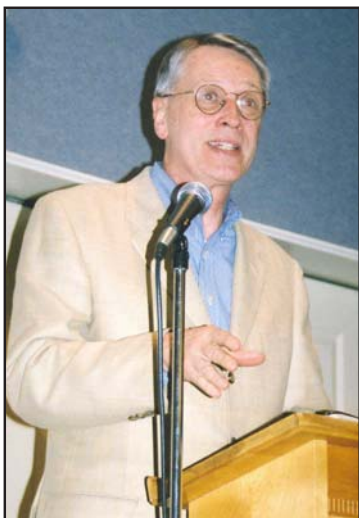
## News & Views

March-April, 2005

Volume 12, No. 2

# CBF-LA Assembly Celebrates "Breakout Year"

*RECEIVES RENEWED CHALLENGE FROM DR. VESTAL*



*Daniel Vestal addresses Assembly*

It has been a break-out year stated CBF-LA treasurer **Kenny Crump**, referring not only to the doubling of revenue over the past year but also the increasing missional focus on which our state Fellowship has embarked. "This feels right, I think we are moving in the right direction," remarked **Rev. Pam Williams**, Past Moderator. She was commenting on proceedings full of energy, activity, challenge and, as you would expect given the theme, brimming with hope.

Heading the list was the advancement of work on the **new church start**, with \$15,000 seed money designated, (\$5,000 budgeted and \$10,000 from reserves) and the target area **Madisonville** announced. A timeline is now established to enlist support as we look to a startup date set for January 1, 2006. This committee has been quite active in doing their homework, with technical assistance in area research and strategic planning from the national office.

Additional items were also approved or announced signifying the positive vision CBF-LA has developed:



Being Partners  
in Hope  
**SPRING  
ASSEMBLY**

\* Making **Baptist World Alliance** support a permanent part of the budget, renewing last year's initial \$1,000 line item to under gird this cooperative, global ministry of evangelism, religious liberty, aid and justice work.

\* Establishing a Partnership with the Romany (Gypsy) work of Louisiana native

**CBF missionaries Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen**. This collaboration will include a pledge of prayer support, a \$1,000 line item in the budget, and encouragement of other kinds of support from individuals such as designated offerings, volunteer trips and responding to tangible needs identified.

\* Funding for launching of our website **cbfla.org** (to premier April 30) to tell the Louisiana CBF story and foster communication and prayer support among our growing membership.

\* Allocating \$10,000 funding toward the goal of permanently endowing the **Stagg-Tolbert Forum for Biblical Studies** so that excellence in Biblical scholarship is made available to the lay person on an annual basis.

\* **Charlene Kelley**, Moderator, announced that the Coordinating Council has appointed a committee to begin the process of hiring CBF-LA's first full time employee to eventually fill the role of both state Coordinator and directing the **Partners in Hope Rural Poverty Initiative**. (See "Growth and Transition" page 2.)

Worship, sharing and fellowship permeated the gathering. **Dr. Daniel Vestal** and **Rev. Bill Hoffman** delivered to the general sessions heart felt challenges to live out our callings. In the small group "break out" times on Saturday, participants got a view of the diverse gifts, passions, and unique paths of service our members represent. That is something to celebrate!





**Lynn Hawkins**  
CBF-LA Coordinator

## ON CHURCH PLANTING

Have you ever been a charter member of a new church? They tell me that it's a feeling like no other. You can have this kind of joy by helping CBF Louisiana start a new church in our state.

At the Louisiana CBF Spring Assembly, the New Church Start Committee discussed the opportunity to start a new church in the Madisonville, Mandeville, and Covington area. There is a great need to proclaim Christ in that area because it is the fastest growing area of our state.

As the State CBF Coordinator of Louisiana, I began talking with Phil Hester, the National CBF New Church Start Coordinator, over three years ago. After discussions about a new church start we met and looked at the Slidell area. That area looked promising, but CBF Louisiana was not ready at that time to start a new church. About a year ago Phil and I discussed the opportunity again and this time Phil promised to do a marketing analysis of the Madisonville area. That major study was done last summer and the New Church Start Committee had a meeting to study the results. There have been follow-up meetings that have led to the committee's recommendation.

The committee is talking with a long-time resident of the area, who is a skilled minister, about leading this new

church start. This would be our second major mission project and will give us a missional flavor. Our participation in Partners in Hope has encouraged and energized our Fellowship in Louisiana.

Both of these ministries deserve our finest commitment. Our giving to Partners in Hope has been tremendous. Bill Hoffman has led this ministry for the last year and a half and he challenged us to give to meet the needs of these people. Recently, Bill has decided to follow his dream of working on his doctorate. We wish the best for him and his ministry. Our Search Committee is looking into the possibility of making that position a full time one.

What can you do to see that these two ministries continue to grow? First, every church that has given this past year to CBF of Louisiana can look to see if it can increase its mission giving this year to these causes. Your church might make this a major mission commitment in Louisiana. This is missions at our back door. Second, individuals can look to see if they can increase their giving. Perhaps you are looking for a place to give your funds to a Christian cause.

This new church start and Partners in Hope deserve a serious look. Would you like to commit \$100, \$150, \$200 a month for three years to see this new church become a reality or to see us expand Partners in Hope to a full-time position in Tensas and East Carroll? If you would like to make a gift or a pledge, use the envelope insert in this newsletter. May God bless you for helping us spread the Gospel. Your commitment will give our committees direction for our budget.



## Growth And Transition

*The Coordinating Council received in late January the resignation of Rev. Bill Hoffman as Coordinator of Partners in Hope Rural Poverty Initiative effective March 31. He stated his intention to continue his chaplaincy in the Tensas prisons in a volunteer capacity as he is able.*

*To fill Bill's position, the Council appointed the following committee: Pam Williams, Past Moderator; Kenny Crump, Treasurer; Ted Holmes, Secretary; Dick Randels, Missions Chairman; Charlene Kelley, Moderator; and Lynn Hawkins, Coordinator.*

*As the committee began its work, Lynn Hawkins offered to "step aside" from his half time position of Coordinator if the committee wanted to look for one person to fill both positions. The committee accepted Lynn's offer and decided to work in that direction. Until a new person is found to serve in this combination position, Lynn has agreed to continue to be Coordinator and to serve an extra 10 hours a week with pay and expenses on the Rural Poverty Initiative work.*

*During the past year and a half, the Partners In Hope ministry has made meaningful inroads into the targeted area and energized the entire state Fellowship with a mission focus. Gratitude from the Council was expressed to Bill for his leadership in this area and to Lynn for his willingness to devote additional time for the continued work during this time of transition.*

# Following Jesus Together in a World of Pain

*Dan Vestal and Bill Hoffman address general sessions on theme of bringing hope to a hurting world.*

What do we do with our pain? What do we do with the pain of the world? Where is our hope? Are we ready to allow the Spirit to work through our brokenness? Dr. Daniel Vestal and Rev. Bill Hoffman led participants through these issues in the three general sessions.

Vestal looked at the continuum of pain from the inconvenient, to the disorienting to the catastrophic, noting pain is that thing which causes us to say,



*Bill Hoffman Speaks at Luncheon*

"oh, no." Our willingness to embrace these questions in ourselves and others become the "acid test" for Christian faith. Yet Hoffman lamented how often the church and believers look away and



*Bill Hoffman and Dan Vestal visit between sessions.*

ask instead "questions that reflect our self-absorption, that reflect a pre-occupation with perpetuating a religious institution or a religious life, spending a disproportionate amount of energy and income in that matter, or questions that reflect a narrow mindedness, or questions that are irrelevant, questions that even when we answer them satisfactorily or effectively, no one cares, no one is listening, no one is tuned in."

Vestal cited Romans 8, where Paul tells us that "creation was subjected to frustration ...in hope" that it will one day be liberated. We participate with the Spirit in groaning, waiting eagerly and patiently. As Vestal put it, "This text...says there is a Spirit created groaning, the Spirit stirs in us in empathy and sympathy for hurts that is holy and redemptive." Even when we don't know how to pray this Spirit interprets our sighs and intercedes for us.

As our own pain is healed, we reach out for the healing of others. "God uses this Spirit created pain to accomplish his purposes in the world." This "Spirit inspired groaning" moves us to compassion for our neighbor, for the poor in our Partners in Hope parishes and for the world beyond. Vestal directed us to the needs. "There is suffering in this world that, literally, if you listen, there is a groaning:"

- \* 1 billion people who live on less than \$1 a day
- \* 2 billion people who live on less than \$2 a day
- \* 8 million who die each year from poverty (20,000 a day) too poor to eat and survive.
- \* 28 million people in sub-Sahara Africa infected with HIV Aids
- \* 25% of the people in Zimbabwe infected with HIV, mainly women and children; 3800 deaths a month

there. One pastor told Vestal, he preached 8-10 funerals a week.

Our hope stated Vestal is that, "God is at work in our hurts and God is at work even in the hurts of our world." Our personal pain may not be as catastrophic as that of an Aids orphan, but our pain is important to God and is the starting point for God to enter our bro-

**"there is a Spirit created groaning, the Spirit stirs in us in empathy and sympathy for hurts that is holy and redemptive."**

kenness and use us for His greater purposes. Vestal stated this is also true for our fellowship. "God is at work in CBF. This is a work of grace...We were born out of a bad situation, but God is a God of grace...God takes bad and brings good out of it...We are a renewal movement, I'm convinced ...spiritual renewal, congregational renewal, mission renewal. We are a renewal movement within the Baptist family."

So we partner with others: CBF now has over 160 partnerships with various Christian groups. One of the most exciting is a new agreement with Buckner Benevolence of Dallas, the largest benevolence organization in Baptist life in cooperation with the All Africa Baptist Fellowship to carry out a major initiative to at risk children-those with HIV, malaria, the poor in Africa. It is a great privilege to partner with others, but even greater to realize the amazing, divine call to partner with God in the mission of Christ to "reconcile all things both in heaven and in earth." It is God's mission, and God says I choose you, I

*Hurting World Cont'd on Page 6*

## New Church Start

Members of the New Church Start Committee shared with participants highlights of their work to date, focusing in particular on the need. In 2004, **Lynn Hawkins** enlisted the services of **Phil Hester**, CBF Associate Coordinator Of Church Starts, to determine the best sites for a new CBF church in Louisiana. **St. Tammany Parish** emerged as a site of strategic importance for a number of reasons:

### Favorable Demographics:

- \* 5th Fastest Growing Area in America
- \* Fastest Growing Parish in Louisiana
- \* 500 New People Each Month
- \* Tripled Population In 30 Years
- \* Popular Retirement Area
- \* Louisiana's Highest Per Capita Income
- \* Highest per Capita College Graduates
- \* Premier Recreation - Tchefuncta River
- \* Excellent Medical Care
- \* Low Crime Rate
- \* 40 Minutes From New Orleans
- \* Superb Schools - "Top 100" Nationally
- \* Above National Testing Norms

### The "Good Life"? Yet Many Are The "Down and Up":

- \* Highest Number Of Suicides Of Any Parish
- \* Widespread Teen Drug Abuse
- \* Transiency And Mobility - Left Feeling Isolated
- \* High Divorce Rate
- \* High Adult Alcohol Abuse

"I've said 'Goodbye' so many times that now I don't even bother to say 'Hello.'"

"I go to that really big church because I can remain anonymous, just slip in and out and nobody notices."

"When people talk to me about religion, I think of it as noise to be ignored."

"I do have a vague desire for non-institutional spirituality, but how do I find it?"

**To Fill The Void:** *"Borrow. Spend. Buy. Waste. Want. More is better: To impress neighbors you don't even like."*

*You have made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in You.*

- Augustine

## Developing a Marriage Ministry in Your Church



**Greg and Priscilla Hunt**

In their breakout session, **Greg and Priscilla Hunt** talked with participants about the basics of getting a marriage ministry started in a church. They emphasized the importance of marriage ministry because of the connection between healthy homes and healthy churches and society. Counteracting the tendency to think that marriage ministry is for troubled marriages only, they emphasized that marriage ministry is for all couples—those married, engaged, new to marriage, experienced in marriage, those with special relational needs, those with healthy marriages, church members, couples in the community.

The goal of all marriage ministries, whether elaborate or simple, is balance. An effective marriage ministry will balance three components: relationship education, peer support, and couple care. Rather than have only one marriage-related event per year or one sermon series per year, the ministry should be continuous, with one thing leading to another.

To get started, first gain the full support of pastor and other key leaders. Next, offer a kick-off event. Use the event to attract marriage ministry leaders. Form a marriage ministry team and strategize together. Keep recruiting and training leaders. Add marriage ministries as you can. The Hunts provided a bibliography and other resource materials for all participants. To get your own copy of these resources, contact the Hunts at [priscillahunt@earthlink.net](mailto:priscillahunt@earthlink.net).



**Rev. Pam Williams**  
with New Church  
Start Committee

## CBF Louisiana



### The Little Engine That Could!

*Of Saints and Sea Legs*

by Kyle Kelley

"Now faith is the turning of dreams into deeds; it is betting your life on the unseen realities." That is Clarence Jordan's rendering of Hebrews 11:1. What comes next in that chapter is the roll call of saints. If there are any saints in CBF that God is using to turn "dreams into deeds," I would submit they are only your ordinary garden variety saint. We can be as muddleheaded as the next Baptist, yet God chooses to use us.

We have doubled our budget, excitement is building over our new church start, Partners in Hope, and our growing mission focus. Perhaps we're getting our sea legs. We are growing nationally and as a state fellowship. But even with a twofold increase, yearly revenue is under \$100,000. Small potatoes? And nationally, with a 16 million dollar budget and approximately 150 missionaries, that's only modest by Baptist standards.

Yet "Baptist standards" is not the yardstick that should concern us. What is our calling from God? Dr. Vestal is convinced our calling is to be a minority movement of renewal within the Baptist family. Still, the Kingdom is much bigger than our part in it.

We are to pray for God's kingdom to come on this earth as it is in heaven and speak kindly of all members inside and out of the Baptist family, even the "strange uncles" who may think we're a little weird as well. Vestal reminds us that with our identity in Christ, there is no room for competition in this enterprise and no room for feeling superior or inferior. God can use "little engines" that seek to be faithful to "unseen realities" just fine.

## Partners in Hope - Rural Poverty Initiative

### Grief Journeying Together

We are a community of wounded healers stated Dr. Lee Weems in his break out session on ministry in times of grief.

"Friends walk with us in the dark." Each loss is different, but "every loss kicks up old losses." "Healers who know their wounds are most able to assist another. "When one knows we accept their pain, sorrow, anger and hurt, then the sense of abandonment and loneliness is lessened."

Giving permission to have confusing emotions, offering support, encouraging the telling of stories, not running away or distancing ourselves--these are the tasks of the healer.

As a follower of the Man of Sorrows, we must gently reach out in practical ways, help in the picking up of pieces and reintegrating into life and meaningful relationships.



Dr. Lee Weems

### 2004 Annual Report

\* 530 volunteer units \* 11 mission teams \* 2,950 people served  
\* 150 professions of faith \* 110 baptisms

### 22 Partnering Churches:

Broadmoor, Baton Rouge	Bethel Baptist, Homer
Chinese Mission, FBC Shreveport	Evergreen Baptist, Bernice
Ebenezer (Hispanic), Shreveport	Emmanuel, Alexandria
FBC, Arcadia	FBC, Bienville
FBC Pineville	FBC, Shreveport
FBC, Summerfield	FBC, Winnsborro
Highland Outreach, Shreveport	Lakeview, New Orleans
Mt Lebanon, Gibsland	Newellton Baptist, Newellton
Pineville Park, Pineville	Shreve City, Shreveport
Southern Hills, Shreveport	St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans
St. Joseph Baptist, St. Joseph	University Baptist, Baton Rouge



Targeted Parishes

**Rev. Steve Street**, Coordinator for CBF Mississippi, facilitated a break out session on Partners in Hope Rural Poverty Initiative, CBF's 20-year commitment to the 20 poorest counties in the United States. He brought the perspective of his work in Mississippi to the discussion of our efforts in Louisiana.

Noting the difficulty of the task he stated, "When we feel overwhelmed, we need to revisit the why of our ministry--our motivation. Jesus taught us in Matthew 25 to love the neglected. 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:35-36).

He continued, "Why are we partnering with the people living in the 20 poorest counties/parishes in the United States? Because Jesus calls us there. How do we go about this ministry? We love God and love people. As we love, the needs will become apparent. There are organizations and individuals already doing a good work in these parishes and counties. By establishing trusting relationships, partnerships can be forged for ministry together. Many churches throughout the CBF movement are eager to send mission teams but we need to provide them a framework of where to plug in."

The group affirmed again the importance of listening to those living in the areas instead of rushing in with our perception of what they need. Make small promises and keep them.

## Discipleship in Mark's Gospel

Clueless in Galilee. "Don't you understand anything yet?" is a repeating theme in Mark as the disciples routinely test Jesus' patience. Of all the gospel writers, Mark is the harshest on the disciples. Dr. Winbery noted, "Mark uses the disciples as foils over against what disciples should be." An early church father, Papius in 135 AD, recorded that Mark wrote what Peter preached. Perhaps we see reflected a humbled Peter who remembered Jesus calling them to a new and different "way," and also remembered their slowness, blindness, fumbling and downright pettiness.

Accurate understandings of who Jesus is come not from the disciples, but unexpected places: the Centerion (a foreigner), Mary as she anointed him with perfume (a woman!), and even the demons as they are cast out. When Peter announces Jesus is the Messiah, it is a clouded understanding, for only 3 verses later he rebukes Jesus for saying he will suffer and die.

What is most difficult for the disciples (and often for us too) is the suffering. No one imagined a suffering Messiah. Passages such as



Dr. Carlton Winbery

## Partners in Prayer: Prayer Calendar

*A resource to empower you, your family and members of your congregation to pray specifically for CBF Global Missions Field Personnel and their children on their birthdays. Some names are omitted due to sensitive nature and location of their work.*

### APRIL

- 2 Frank Morrow, unevangelized people group, Germany
- 2 Leonora Newell, Rural Poverty Initiative, Arkansas
- 3 Benjamin Shaw, 1998, son, Martha & Rick Shaw, Macedonia
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 13 Glenn Herrington, Envoy, China
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_, unevangelized people group, Middle East
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_, unevangelized people group, North Africa
- 22 Lucas Newell, 1997, son, Ben & Leonora Newell, Arkansas
- 27 Carter Harrell, 1995, son, Melody & Sam Harrell, Kenya
- 30 Erika Houser, 2001, daughter, Ana Marie & Scott Houser, Southern Africa

### MAY

- 3 Leah Harding, 1992, daughter, David & Merrie Harding, Florida
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_, daughter, unevangelized people group, Southeast Asia
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_, 2004, son, scripture translation, Asia
- 9 David Harding, CBF International Coordinator-Emergency Response, Florida
- 11 Robbi Francovich, work with Banjara Gypsies, India
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_, 2002, daughter, unevangelized people group, Asia

## Hurting World, Cont'd from Page 3

want to include you in my mission.

"Partnering" said Vestal, is more than a word, "It is the essence of the Gospel." God's work is much bigger than any of us, and "we are more together than we are individually." Thus there is no place for competition or feeling either superior or inferior to others in the Body of Christ. We should celebrate diversity knowing that God uses diverse individuals and churches for unique purposes. The issue then becomes: Are we going to be faithful and obedient? Vestal concluded "Partners in Hope: What a blessed privilege, what a blessed responsibility."

*Tapes of the General Sessions are available for \$5.50 each contact: [kylek1@bellsouth.net](mailto:kylek1@bellsouth.net)*

## Discipleship, Cont'd from Page 5

Isaiah 53 that described a suffering servant were viewed as referring to the remnant of Israel. The Messiah would win, not lose. He would be a glorious military victor casting out the Romans.

The Good News for us is that Jesus did not turn from his suffering and did not then (nor does he now) give up on his disciples. Patiently, Jesus reminds us that to follow means to continue to partake in his sufferings. Mark asks his readers through the centuries and even today, "What kind of disciple are you going to be?"



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## 2005 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OUR NATIONAL GATHERING



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## **REPORT FROM YOUR LOUISIANA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NATIONAL CBF COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

By Dr. John W. Goodwin

CBF is continuing to show signs of growth and stability as we move on into the future. I have enjoyed my three years on the Coordinating Committee, especially working with people like **Dan Vestal**. Our CBF staff are all hard-working, competent individuals who are giving us wonderful leadership. My final committee meeting will be at the national Assembly in Grapevine, Texas, June 29 to July 2. I am happy that **Greg Hunt**, pastor of First Baptist Church Shreveport, will be representing us on the Coordinating Council for the next three years. Dr. Hunt will represent us well.

There are several important items that were considered in the Spring meeting of the Coordinating Committee that I would share with you briefly.

First, we heard an important preliminary report from the **Partner's Study Committee**. This committee has been working for the last 18 months to clarify and formalize the relationships between CBF and our mission partners. As you know, the genius of CBF is our intention to "partner" with other Christian groups and institutions, rather than owning and running them. We do not own any colleges or seminaries or other forms of mission endeavors, but we have "partnered" with many to accomplish the work of CBF.

This program has blossomed and expanded, sometimes beyond our ability to meet the needs. Particularly, a problem has sometimes arisen when available funds for those endeavors are less than expected or needed. How many partners can we logically help support? How can we make the most of whatever CFB dollars are available? If funds are limited, which organizations receive priority?

Over the past few years it has become very clear that there is a need to bring process, structure and continuity to the people with whom we partner. Our partnerships should be voluntary, based on mutual trust and accountability of expectations. The CBF plan of working through our partners covers many different approaches—from theology schools and colleges to leadership partners to ethic partnerships to global mission partners. All of these things are currently under careful scrutiny by the Partner's Study Committee, and we will be receiving further information from this committee.

Second, another significant action of the recent

Coordinating Committee was the naming of our annual Assembly Offering as the "**Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Offering for Religious Liberty and Human Rights**." The money collected at this year's Assembly and all future Assemblies will be used to promote religious freedom around the world. Jimmy Carter, as you know, is our most visible and prominent CBF Baptist. This is not a political statement. The Carters transcend partisan politics in the area of religious liberty and human rights.

Third, **Constance McNeill** was called and elected as our new **Coordinator of Administration**. Rev. McNeill comes highly recommended to the CBF National Office from a similar position with Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City. This action will free Dan Vestal from much office supervision and administration, and will get him out among the churches and the people where his unique talents can be better utilized. This move should greatly strengthen our organization.

Fourth, another significant action was the affirming of **Barbara Baldridge** as our **Coordinator of Global Missions**. She had previously served with her husband Gary as Co-coordinator for Global Missions since 1999, but now, following her husband's retirement January 1, will give singular leadership to our missions program.

Fifth, the compassion of our CBF family was seen dramatically when the recent **tsunami disaster relief** offering passed the \$900,000 level. CBF was one of the first groups to begin immediate disaster relief in that devastated area.

Sixth, perhaps the most dramatic thing that has happened to CBF most recently was the affirming of CBF as a full member of the **Baptist World Alliance**. Against unbelievable political and financial pressures by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist World Alliance and its membership committee did the right thing and recognized CBF as a separate entity, deserving of recognition by the world Baptist family, and full membership in this important world organization.

**Joy Yee**, a San Francisco pastor will assume the moderator's position at the June meeting and the venerable and respected **Dr. Emmanuel McCall** will be nominated as our Moderator-elect. Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve our CBF of Louisiana. I am excited about the future of CBF.



*Dr. John Goodwin (left), Pastor, Broadmoor Baton Rouge, will soon hand the baton to Dr. Greg Hunt, (right) Pastor, First Shreveport who will be Louisiana's new representative to the National CBF Coordinating Council.*

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CBF-LA  
 'BRIEFS'



**Drs. Larry and Linda Taylor** recently celebrated 20 years of service in ministry at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Alexandria.



Thanks to the many volunteers at **First Baptist Shreveport** who worked to make our Spring Assembly a success.

**Fisher H. Humphreys** will be the speaker for the 2nd annual **Stagg-Tolbert Forum for Biblical Studies** to be held at Broadmoor, Baton Rouge October 8. Dr. Humphreys is Professor of Divinity at Samford University Beeson Divinity School, previously served at New Orleans Seminary and is author of *Thinking About God*.

**Dr. Sarah Frances Anders** will be the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Baptist History and Heritage Society June 2-4 at Samford University. "Women in Baptist History" will be the conference theme. Dr. Anders will address the topic of clergy-women from 1950-2000. Learn more at [baptisthistory.org](http://baptisthistory.org).

**Notable and Quotable:**

*"Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words."* -attributed to **Francis of Assisi**  
*"I have been fed from fields I did not till. I have crossed bridges I did not build. I have sat in the shade of trees I did not plant. I have received knowledge I did not research."*  
 - **Henlee Barnette**, recently deceased Baptist ethicist

**State Disaster Response Lynn Hawkins** is recruiting volunteers from Louisiana who can be part of a national CBF network to aid victims of natural disasters. **David Harding** will lead the national effort that utilizes local churches to provide second stage, hands on, practical help. Contact Lynn at 318-255-4242.

**Louisiana CBF Missionaries Keith Holmes** and **Mary Van Rheenen** will be home the last week of May and the month of June. Invite them to speak to your church or group about their work with the Romany people (Gypsies). They can be reached at [kh@worldmail.org](mailto:kh@worldmail.org)

CBF-LA Receipts	Fiscal Year Ending 2/28/05
Undesignated	60,799.84
Partners in Hope	35,234.88
Stagg-Tolbert Forum	2,076.00
Credits	1,083.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99,194.56</b>

CALENDAR

June 30 - July 1 CBF General Assembly  
 Grapevine, Texas

July 27-31 Baptist World Alliance  
 Centennial Congress  
 Birmingham, England

October 8 Stagg-Tolbert Biblical Forum  
 Broadmoor - Baton Rouge  
 Fisher Humphries - speaker



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**Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it?**

*Isaiah 43:19 The Message*

**Get involved! Be part of God's new surprises in CBF-LA!**

**Spiritual** Pray to undergird Partners in Hope, mission projects, new church start, congregational supports and our national and international work. Send us your ideas, your creativity -- the places the Spirit is moving in your life.

**Physical** Share your time and presence. Let us know of your interests and passions and we will find the place of ministry and mission that only you can fill.

**Monetary** Give joyfully. Give hilariously! Use the enclosed envelope. Support this ever expanding work. If you send offerings to the national office, be sure to designate at least 25% for work in Louisiana. Make a monthly pledge!