

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.

Volume 14, No. 2
March-April, 2007

CBF-LA Family Gathers in New Orleans for Renewal

A little child shall lead states the prophet Isaiah. Our youngest congregation, Bridgewater Community Church gave leadership to the CBF-LA Spring Assembly by telling what they are becoming, and modeling for the rest of us what fellowship can be.

"We are a community of friends." "We have become connected." Our gatherings "make you laugh and make you cry." "God is there. We have such a strong sense of trust, peacefulness, honesty;



Mary and Phil Pitts, two of Reid's "best sermons" share the Bridgewater story.

there's no pressure. I can't walk through the door without smiling." "It is amazing the amount of outreach we do for a small church. It's a real eye opener."

Reid Doster, Bridgewater Pastor (and also known on occasion for the length of his presentations) raised a few eyebrows when he explained his plan for meeting his 15 minute time limit by delivering "his five best sermons." Speaking from their hearts, his members themselves were the message. *Cont'd, page 4*

Jesters in the King's Court

by Kyle Kelley

God intervened then and asked about Sarah's laughter, and Sarah was scared stiff and denied the whole thing. Then God said, "No, but you did laugh," and, of course, he was right. Maybe the most interesting part of it all is that far from getting angry at them for laughing, God told them that when the baby was born he wanted them to name him Isaac, which in Hebrew means laughter. So you can say that God not only tolerated their laughter but blessed it and in a sense joined in it himself, which makes it a very special laughter indeed—God and man laughing together, sharing a glorious joke in which both of them are involved. It is perhaps as important to look closely into the laughter of Abraham and Sarah as it is important to look closely into the tears of Jesus. - Frederick Buechner

"I don't believe in a God who sends children to hell," I said, perhaps with a bit more drama than needed. A small group discussion on the topic of close minded, self-righteous distorters of the faith, was in process. Next came silence, a pregnant pause. That was all the space she needed. Bubbling forth disguised in a thoughtful tone came, "I guess it depends on the child." Gasp!... Shock!... Laughter!... Oops, the jester is out.

Meet Jinny Henson.

My daughters are grown. Diaper changes and temper tantrums are distant memories. (Ok, well maybe not the latter.) Any mother in the thick of it though, is clear headed enough to be well aware of the thin line between angels and hellions which the little beasts, uh...darlings, may cross at any time.

Jinny had delivered a Nutt-esque moment, as in my old Sunday School teacher, Grady Nutt. A pioneer Christian humorist, Nutt died in a plane crash in 1982, thus a whole generation now has missed his quirky laugh and surprising twists of merriment.

Our last semester in Louisville as newlyweds, Charlene and I joined Grady and Eleanor's couples class. Being a part of that class and spending

time in their home on retreat kept us on joyful alert.

Grady didn't sit around making up jokes. He just kept his eyes open. Humor popped up, sprung forth, accosted him at every mundane turn. Once, he broke down in giggles in a crowded subway train after passing an auto repair shop with the sign, "Free estimates, now \$10."

Self-deprecating fun was a big part of the mix. Grady spoke of his favorite phone greeting, "Nutt house, which Nutt do you want to speak to?" Similarly, Jerry *See JESTERS, page 2*

**SPIRITUAL
humor
GIFT**

Special feature



Grady Nutt



Jerry Clower



Jinny Henson

Bubbles From the Same Spring



Celebration, Restoration, Perspiration

Finally! Complete! Above are photos of the Loretta and Sammy Ducre family and house. Over a year ago they received a brand new gift house from Trinity Baptist, British Columbia, only to see half of it destroyed in Kansas by a tornado as the two halves were being transported to Louisiana.

Following a multitude of bureaucratic and logistical obstacles, the task is done. On Friday, March 30, the Ducres spent their first night in their new home, in Lacombe. Sammy did most of the finishing work himself and is understandably quite proud of it. He is a trim carpenter by trade. The family was beaming with joy when Reid visited them the following day.

**BLITZ BUILD
Baton Rouge
April 23 - May 5**
CBF and Habitat are building 12 houses for Katrina victims. Volunteers still needed for a day or up to two weeks. Call Timothy Wood 1.800.782.2451

Loretta and Sammy have lost two children and now have custody of their two granddaughters -- Christy (older) and Maya. They expressed their faith in the Lord and their love for everyone who helped them, namely numerous volunteers from CBF churches and the Little Rock, AR, Rotary Club.

Reid states, "The biggest change I saw in the family was a new level of openness and communication. The eye contact was solid, the hugs were genuine, the smiles were more spontaneous. Gone was that vacant look in faces that now reflect renewed hope. It seemed very much in keeping with the Easter season -- a type of resurrection. We agreed that the two most important lessons we had learned from this experience were: (1) Keep the faith and (2) practice patience."

Efforts continue around the state. Just one more example is that of St. Charles Avenue Baptist. To the right is pictured work that

congregation has done with New Orleans resident Estelle Smith. In the past 15 months alone, St. Charles has housed over 320 volunteers from CBF and American Baptist churches, and delivered meals to work sites daily. 32 homes have been gutted, 2 rebuilt and occupied by owners and a 3rd is 65% complete. Through this one small congregation to date, nearly \$100,000 has been raised for Katrina relief. Pastor Steve Meriwether notes the need now is for groups with carpentry and other building skills.

All in all, disaster work by CBF in Louisiana and Mississippi over the last 16 months reports Charles Ray, national disaster response coordinator, has included 190 groups, involving 27 different church backgrounds, and 1,950 volunteers giving 69,903 hours. At the federal rate of \$17 an hour, that amounts to over 2.3 million dollars in free labor!

Now for the perspiration. So much remains to be done. As Reid is known to say, "It's like a mosquito in a nudist colony." A major two week blitz build (see to the left) is upon us in Baton Rouge. Suit up for action!



JESTERS, from page 1 Clower, the well known humorist of "gifted girth," (who died in 1998) once appeared before an audience in his bright yellow leisure suit noting how many times that day he had been hailed to stop, being mistaken for a taxi. A kindred heart, Jenny relates, "I'm finding being a dork works for me." She tells of an incident of repeated body searches at an airport, each increasing her consternation. You figure out it is not the indignity of it all (At least I won't need a breast exam this year) that bothers her near as much as the comic frustration of that pesky sign forbidding any joking in the process lest she wind up behind bars.

Mostly though, it was (still is) about paying attention, being present to life in its ordinary, maddening, zany, tragic, hilarious, but ultimately holy moments. Clower, with gesture and gleeful squeals, masterfully portrays his rural southern culture. He sets up the story of a coon hunt in which the protagonist finds himself in a tree with a much larger and more deter-

mined critter than he expects. Our man is struggling, desperately to hang on. Building to crescendo, Clower describes the would-be rescuer on the ground ready to shoot the varmint out of the tree, but afraid he will shoot his friend by mistake. Down from the tree comes the pathetic plea, "Just shoot up here amongst us. One of us has gotta have some relief."

Humor is bound up with struggle, pain and relief. Often that includes the struggle to change. For Nutt, it was pointing out hypocrisies and double standards, in his riveting retelling of the woman caught in adultery, that challenged us to integrity and plain-speak. For our SS class, his calling was to reach out to us seminarians, who armed with new found "sophistication" were scoffing at our sheltered, parochial upbringings. "Whatever the limitations of your past," he said, "it is what got you to this moment." His book *Being Me* and much of his work was about accepting ourselves and others as being loved by God, enjoying that, and letting go of pretense.

Humor can be risky though. See **JESTERS, page 5**

Just in time for the new Chinese Year of the Pig, *Fellowship People* presents:



The Pork Chop

by Jinny Henson

How God tricked me into being a Preacher's Wife!

Scientists have recently discovered that falling in love produces the equivalent of an amphetamine-induced high. I realize after 12 years of marriage that no human would voluntarily make this commitment unless they were smoking crack. Which leads me to this conclusion: God is pretty smart.

I'd done them; the blind dates. You go to be polite and have as much in common with the guy as the Uni-Bomber. My parents met on one and who was I to tempt fate should history repeat itself? I'm no obsessive-compulsive but when you're a girl dealing with something as serious as love here you have to touch every light switch twice and avoid the cracks in the ground or you might just miss "the one."



Jinny Henson
"Soccer Mom, Nutty
Blonde, Preacher's Wife"

There was the relationship with the English Major who insisted that we double date with other English Majors. They would form the conversational Trinity discussing Thoreau and why he went into the woods. I, the intellectual Pee Wee Herman, was conversely pondering questions like, "In Dr. Seuss' *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*, why was the fish red?"

What made that fish so blue?"

I was convinced my junior year in college that God would either give me Steve or Mike for a husband and I didn't really care either way. I was being thoroughly generous in allowing God to give the final answer as to with whom I would grow old and wrinkle-y. Strangely enough, summer approached and they both graduated from college having forgotten to fall madly in love with me. Since I had not even so much as gone out with either of them I have no idea why this surprised me.

So maybe not so lucky at love. But, as I graduated from Baylor and entered seminary, I sensed that I was on the right track. My mother accused me of being too picky. I just didn't want someone with incorrect grammar raising my children. Or someone who held his fork the wrong way. Or expected me in all of my Southern glory to actually PAY for my dinner.

I knew Mom feared that my ship would never come in but with a fat beach umbrella and a cold Diet Coke, I hunkered down in zestful expectation.

Call it anticipation. Just the thought that Mr. Right could be in behind me in the Cinnabon line thrilled me to no end. I was on the cusp and more ready for love than an Adkins dieter at an all-you-can-eat omelet bar.

The anticipation ebbed & flowed as my brain was being pumped full of theology at Southwestern Seminary. Not such a hot crowd there. The field was rife with full grown men in flood pants & tote bags. I was never going to marry a preacher so I certainly wasn't concerned.

My intentions were to get my Master's and head off to Atlanta and work for the Olympics. My friend Cindy Greeno at CNN and I had already hatched a plan.

Besides, I was the bungee-jumping type. No holiness bun for this girl. I knew I was a pork chop with no desire to be squeezed into a Jell-O mold. Even if you blended the thing up and mixed it with Knox Gelatin it still wouldn't make.

I was never prim and proper and certainly didn't reign in any of that 'personality,' at Seminary. My Theology professor, Calvin Miller, began with his brilliant discourse;

"Jeremiah...."

"Was a bullfrog?" I interjected. Oh, I was so proud of myself.

I looked normal enough on the outside but my innards were blazing with wild dreams that no life as a preacher's wife could hope to accommodate. I was quirky, too, giving no thought to stapling a hem in a pair of pants, spray-painting shoes a new color or trimming my own hair at midnight. My parents raised me to believe that anything was possible

Laughter is carbonated holiness. -Anne Lamott

whether it be do-it-yourself dentistry or painting the house. Life was one grand experiment to me and the vanilla Minister's Wife Petri dish was one I could pass on.

A shoe then changed my life forever. I glanced down in Sunday School, what a messed up name for a place where adults go, and saw a good looking shoe. My Dad was men's clothing manager for Neiman Marcus and then Saks so I knew a nice shoe when I saw one.

See PORK, page 6

ASSEMBLY, from page 1

Keith Holmes, CBF missionary to the Romany "Gypsy" people, was able to make the meeting flying in from Holland, by combining a trip to test the latest Romany dialect dubbed Jesus video with a similar Gypsy group in the Dallas area. He reported they understood the video perfectly and were very positive about the results. Keith gave an update on the work with Bethlehem Baptist Church in Vulcanesti, Moldolva, another small fellowship CBF-LA is supporting as it seeks to grow in ministry to its poor village. (See page 7 for more details.)



...for a world without borders

**Assembly host church
St. Charles Avenue Baptist**

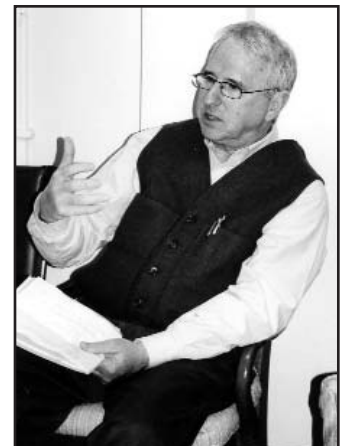
John Daugherty shared a moving video about Together For Hope, CBF's rural poverty initiative to the nation's 20 poorest counties. Work in each of the five regions was highlighted with stories of building bridges of faith, hope and empowerment in walking along side the marginalized and building on strengths.

Dean Dickens, CBF Missions Associate, told of joyful missional living in which the Kingdom moves us past our narrow agendas to a cause that goes far beyond ourselves. Following a recent pout with kidney stones, Dickens laughed he was happy to be with us in more ways than one and had a new favorite verse, "This too shall pass."

A rainbow of faith interests and ministry efforts were presented in small groups, captured partially here in pictures and captions. Dreaming for the future, CBF-LA decided in business session to begin a fall state missions offering to support and highlight our growing ministries. Also to be initiated is a "future thinking" planning group to envision ministry to the next generation in a post modern, post denominational world and ways to leverage our resources for the maximum impact in missional living and service.



CBF Missions Associate Dean Dickens on joys of being missional.



Marion Aldridge, CBF Coordinator for South Carolina, led a small group on sabbatical living, a mission experience of hearing, seeing and praying for God's world.



CBF Missionary Keith Holmes, a pleasant late addition to the program, brought news of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Moldova.



CBF Missionaries Ben and Leonora Newell, speak of Together For Hope opportunities in the Delta region.



CBF-LA Coordinator John Daugherty sharing a passion for missions and outreach.



The state family gathered in fellowship across generations.

Deuter. 15:7-11; Psalms 82:3-4; Proverbs 14: 21,31, 22:9; Isaiah 1:17; Ezekiel 18:7; Matthew 25:31-46;

Acts 10:1-4; Romans 12:9-13; 2 Corinthians 8:9-15; 1 Timothy 6:17-19;



Bill Hoffman's Restorative Justice Ministry
Tensas Prisons needs:

- * Soft cover Spanish Bibles (bilingual a special blessing)
 - * Soft cover English Bibles
 - * White low cut socks
 - * Six large Baptismal robes (any condition)
- Prayers for:
- * Inmates and their families
 - * Guards and prison officials
 - * Those who minister to them

Gifts can be sent to CBF-LA for the Restorative Justice ministry.



To take seriously 2,000 verses of Scripture telling us of God's special concern for the poor and marginalized

cbf rural poverty initiative

Poverty Advocacy Workshop

CBF partner organization Bread for the World is sponsoring a conference about poverty and hunger alleviation June 9-12 in Washington, D.C.: "Sowing Seeds: Grow 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. Tom Prevost, who coordinates Together for Hope, sates. "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.

2006 Highlights

- * 5th year in CBF's 20+ year commitment to 20 poorest counties
- * Nationwide 11,000 volunteer units reaching 90,000 people
 263 mission teams from 306 churches
 742 professions of faith
- * Louisiana:15 teams from 25 churches
 180 professions of faith
- * Growing recognition of Together for Hope as a national player in anti-poverty and rural development
- * Initiation of Open Hand Enterprises in Delta for long term development.
- * Increasing regional view of Delta work



Get the DVD!
Together for Hope tells the story. Free with modest shipping charge.
Contact:
thefellowship.info

James 1:27; 1 John 3:16-18; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Matthew 19:21-26;

Psalms 68:5, 107: 9, 146:7; Luke 4:16-21; Philippians 2:6-7; Luke 1:46-53; Mark 12:41-44; James 2:1-8;

JESTERS, from page 2 Things get turned upside down. We are disarmed. Facades explode. New insight seeps through the cracks, bubbles up through the pores. We are shocked, shaken up. No one did this better than Clower in pushing his southern audiences toward racial acceptance and reconciliation. Will Campbell, fellow Mississippian and front line civil rights minister, has said Clower had far more influence than he ever had in changing racial attitudes. Clower did it with humor, simple dignity and integrity.

Prophets used the shocking gesture to blast their audiences past complacency. Isaiah walked around naked for three years. Jeremiah harnessed himself to an ox yoke. Hosea married a prostitute. Ezekiel lay bound by ropes staring at a clay model of Jerusalem for months on end. Jesus, besides being our Savior, was also a prophet. His hearers were often baffled, even disoriented at his "hard teaching." None more than his clueless disciples.

In using parables, notes Clarence Jordan, Jesus was handing people lit sticks of dynamite. By the time they caught on and the message blew apart their "conventional thinking" about God and neighbor, Jesus was on down the road. Parables do an end around our handling of holy things with casual forgetfulness and self-absorption. We are put off balance, so new equilibrium can be found. Jesus took the risk of being misunderstood, but without the twist, the shock or the puzzlement, listener defenses (including our own) would never be

penetrated.

Pointing out humor in Jesus can be tricky in translation across time and culture, but Marcus Borg thinks he has found an example. He cites the word choice Jesus uses in describing God's defining characteristic--compassion. Frequently translated merciful, in the singular it means "womb." In describing the radical nature of God's love, Jesus is using a feminine nurturing metaphor. It was unsettling and scary enough for Jesus to use "Abba" – the equivalent in English is "Daddy," to suggest intimacy with God. But to say your heavenly Father is "like a womb," which is one way you can translate Luke 6:36, must have puzzled if not raddled his disciples, in its gender defying/transcending strangeness. Borg suggests it was likely said with a wink. Jesus didn't mind pushing us past the edge of our puny, narrow and lifeless systems. The Spirit is always doing this—in ways unpredictable, in the outrageous act of a prophet, the table turning story, the foundation shattering event, the unexpected kindness, or by a twinkle in the eye.

Our artists, our poets, our seers, our comics are like that. Sometimes it's madness. Sometimes it's prophetic. Sometimes it's both. We miss Grady and Jerry. Is there a fresh wind blowing, a stump of Jesse thing going on here with a new generation? Jinny's website gives a link to the Christian Comedy Association with a current listing of, countem', 300! practitioners. That's more like a Jesse's stump meets Kudzu, or do I jest?

PORK, from page 3

"Oh, I love your shoes!" I gushed in my filter-less way.

"Thank you." he politely added with a furrowed brow.

"They remind me of my Dad." I emoted, head cocked respectfully with a pout as I thought of my sweet Daddy.

He now looked at me as though I were nursing an octopus and politely nodded.

Shoe boy had a name: John. No tote bag either. I noticed as I flitted from class to class. He noticed my raucous laughter across campus. "There goes that crazy blonde," he would tell his friends. No second thoughts because I was never going to ever be a Preacher's Wife.

O.K. Watch this; this is funny. Tell God what you don't want in life and see where it gets you.

It just so happened that John was going to be a Pastor. As I would see him studying in the library or hear him ask for prayer for his mom who had cancer I began having troubling thoughts. His dark hair, his discreet humor, the fire in his belly. This was one awesome guy that made Steve and Mike look like Napoleon Dynamite.

I was bitter in the realization that the best bakery in town just opened on a street I had forbidden myself to walk down. Darn that carrot cake. Just what was God up to? He asked me out...and paid. He was funny, irreverent, holy, smart, and going to be a Pastor? I didn't know they came in this flavor.

Suddenly I had visions of being the subject of prayer-request hour, "The preacher's wife, well, we have learned that she has....the demon of spontaneity and adventure. Let's pray for her."

I'd heard about girls at Wheaton College in Illinois who had, "Passion and Purity," prayer times. Based on Elizabeth Elliot's book, they would gather and pray for the Pastor husbands they had not even met. I truly thought this was some wacky joke at first. Now, here I was entertaining the weensiest possibility that I would be in that sorority. Was I losing it or what?

Since Jesus had done a pretty great job with my life so far, I knew I had to pray about this...and quickly. Could this be

my life? Could I really live in a parsonage and have 17 children named things like Zechariah and Shikinah? But this man is so incredible. I could tell he accepted me even in my most random of moments and even seemed smitten by my spunk. I couldn't help but think that he liked me now but what about when I teach the children to rap at Vacation Bible School and they garnish his wages?

My father in his infinite Bill Richardson wisdom had a solution to my quandary: "Reel him into the boat, Jinny, and if you don't like him you can always throw him back." That innocent statement turned a corner in my mind and I knew from that day on I would have to learn to deal with being a Preacher's wife.

I got Shang-Hi-ed. Pure and simple. The old switch-a-roo. John asked me to marry him on top of Mt. Mitchell while he was the Camp Pastor at Ridgecrest Camp For Boys just 4 months after our February 13th date. We were married a year after that. We finished Seminary together and in 12 years have had two

kids, two parents' funerals, started two churches and owned four houses.

The dreams I'd so fiercely treasured, convinced that no pastor's-wife-life would allow have all come true. He is immensely proud of his wife, the stand-up comedienne.

Only in God's economy can what we fear the most become the treasure we would never choose to live without.



Jinny has two offspring: Maggie Lee (10) and Jack (8). "They think everyone's mom is this wacked-out, so don't spoil it for them."

Comedienne Jinny is married to John Henson, the Associate Pastor for Emerging Ministries at First Baptist, Shreveport. She travels the country leading women's retreats and entertaining church and corporate crowds. You can catch her cyber columns at Texas Baptist Standard on line. For more information, see jinnyhenson.com.



**Save a Tree
&
Save CBF-LA
Some Dough**

Receive our newsletter by email in PDF format. Sign up at kylek1@bellsouth.net.

Loaves & Fishes



Romany Mission

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



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

MARCH

- 15 Mary Van Rheenen, with Romany people, Europe
- 21 Brandon Turner, urban work, Washington, DC
- 25 Jade Acker, transformational development work, West Africa
- 27 _____, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 28 Aaron Glenn, internationals, Los Angeles, CA
- 28 _____, 2002, daughter, internationals, Europe
- 30 _____, son, unevangelized people group, Middle East

APRIL

- 1 Greg Smith, work with Latino internationals, Fredericksburg, VA
- 2 Frank Morrow, unevangelized people group, Texas
- 2 Leonora Newell, Rural Poverty Initiative, Helena, AR
- 3 Benjamin Shaw, 1998, son, Martha & Rick, Macedonia
- 5 _____, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 5 _____, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 11 Steve James, holistic health ministry, Haiti
- 13 Glenn Herrington, English teacher, China
- 13 Susan Craig, work with Romany people, Romania
- 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, East Africa
- 30 Erika Houser, 2001, daughter, Ana Marie & Scott, S. Africa

MAY

- 3 Leah Harding, 1992, daughter, David & Merrie, Florida
- 5 Annie Rich, 1992, daughter, Jim & Monica Rich, Texas
- 5 _____, 2004, son, scripture translation, Asia
- 9 David Harding, CBF International Coordinator, Emergency Response, Florida
- 11 Larry Ballew, partnership advocate, Macau, China
- 11 Robbi Francovich, work with Banjara Gypsies, India
- 15 _____, 2002, daughter, unevangelized people group, Asia



Bethlehem Baptist Church, Vulcanesti, Moldova

We are bringing our loaves and fishes to help a small impoverished Gypsy congregation that has struggled mightily for 5 years to refurbish a building up to code, so they can be allowed a place for worship and ministry outreach in their village.

Goal: \$30,000
Raised: \$6,800

Above, you see before and after pictures of work that has already been done. The man pictured is Brother Igor Drentha. He served as a kind of interim pastor and would drive to Vulcanesti several times a week even though he lives in the capital city and spoke a different language. He began to learn their dialect (Usari Romani), did pastoral counseling and assisted in teaching and preaching. After a while he became Moldovan Baptist Union's missionary to the Romany.

By profession, he is a plaster and he also raises and sells tropical fish. In Vulcanesti, he assisted in getting adequate windows and doors put in the church building and encouraged a Christian friend to donate parquet flooring for the church (yet to be laid). Now that a new pastor has come to the church, Igor devotes more time to leading Bible studies in more closed, former Soviet Republics.

Keith states Vulcanesti is a village of only 1,000. Like Moldova in general, its primary export has been people, due to the dire poverty. In the village, the traditional occupation has been bear trainers, but in recent years has turned more to drug dealing and "professional begging." The witness of this church is not only to bring faith and hope, but to show alternate and constructive ways to live.

Living in a cold climate, villagers have none of the amenities we expect. "Central heating" consists of a stove in the middle of the dwelling where the smoke is channeled through winding passages before finally exiting the house, thus heating not only the room with the stove but also the room on the backside of the stove, and is actually very efficient.



Bethlehem Church worshipping outside.

There is no other church or public building of any kind in the village. Once the church building is completed, it will be a natural gathering place and outreach center for the entire community.

Our next issue will highlight the congregation's new Pastor, Ion Matveev, and his capable and devoted leadership. Please give generously (with attached envelope) to support this outpost of Kingdom building.



"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

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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



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**.

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

CBF-LA Receipts	Jan-Feb	Fiscal Year 3/01/06-2/28/07
Undesignated	\$15,050.10	\$83,070.27
Together for Hope	\$3,208.34	\$18,412.24
Stagg-Tolbert Forum	\$298.81	\$2,209.67
New Church Start	--	\$6,226.66
Disaster Relief	--	\$200,010.00
Misc. Designated Funds	\$4,250.00	\$4,250.00
Credits	--	\$1,150.00
TOTAL	\$22,807.25	\$315,328.84

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 8646 Ridgemont Dr., Pineville, LA 71360

John Daugherty, Coordinator
 318-640-5782 cell:318-229-3738 cbfla@suddenlink.net
**Reid Doster, Disaster Response Coordinator and
 New Church Start Pastor**
 985-222-6900 reid_doster@hotmail.com

Jay Hogewood, Moderator
Charlene Kelley, Past Moderator
Greg Hunt, Representative to National CBF
 Send communications about newsletter to:
 Editor-Kyle Kelley, kylek1@bellsouth.net

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Support CBF-LA We need every last woolly one of you! *Make a monthly pledge*