

Louisiana Fellowship People

Volume 15, No. 2

cbfla.org

May-June-July, 2008

CBF-LA Elects Reid Doster as Coordinator, Kyle Kelley as Associate Coordinator

Spring Assembly marked by laughter, fellowship, hope and prayerful expectation



Karen Gilbert, with CBF-National leads commissioning prayer for Reid Doster - 2nd from right, Mike Anderson- center, and Kyle Kelley to his left. Pictured behind Kyle is Ray Higgins, Coordinator, CBF-Arkansas, and far left is Jay Hogewood, Past Moderator for CBF-LA.



Greg Carroll, Host Pastor

Susan Cauley and Kate Murphy



Hugs All Around



The Spirited Emmanuel Quartet

Spring Assembly Highlights

Fellowship folk gathered to laugh, sing, pray, dream and...

- * Heard about Current, young leaders in CBF from Shannon Rutherford
- * Viewed missionary video post cards of work of Keith Holmes and Glen & Clista Adkins' with Roma
- * Experienced the carbonated holiness of laughter with Jinny Henson
- * Learned about Jewish/Christian dialogue with Steven Meriwether
- * Listened to John Henson on spiritual needs of Emerging generations
- * Received an update on Together for Hope from Kyle Kelley
- * Heard the latest on disaster response and Bridgewater from Reid Doster
- * Entered into dialogue, facilitated by Greg Hunt, with 9 pastors about leaning together into the dreams and plans God has for CBF-LA
- * Participated in great singing & experienced the joyful musical gifts of the Emmanuel Quartet and the Combined Choir led by Tom Lott & Jerry Cauley
- * Were moved by inspiring preaching from Chris Thacker

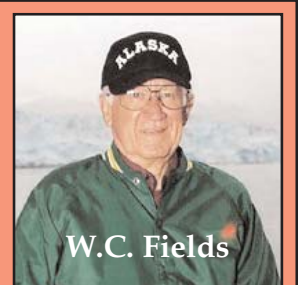
Fellowship folk acted...

- * To elect Reid Doster 1/2 time Coordinator, in addition to his disaster response ministry and pastoring of Bridgewater
- * To elect Kyle Kelley 1/4 time Associate Coordinator with duties in the Northern part of the state, Together For Hope and communications
- * In approving Mike Anderson Moderator and Larry Davis as Moderator Elect
- * In re-electing Kenny Crump treasurer, Ted Holmes secretary and Charlene Kelley Representative to National CBF
- * In affirming John Henson Chair of Missional Ministries, Redean Parsons Chair of Communications/Programs, and Grace Bealle and Stella Couvillon as Co-Chairs of Finance/Development
- * In affirming a slate of Coordinating Council members from partner churches
- * In pledging to expand efforts in Together for Hope and New Church Starts

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!

W.C. prefers leisure photos these days, like the Alaska Cruise shot here. A national Baptist treasure, we welcome this Louisiana native to speak at our state meeting at the Memphis General Assembly.

MORE INSIDE



W.C. Fields

Disaster Response with Reid

Teams from CBF churches around the Southeast continue to call and commit to ministry projects along the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf coasts. One of my joyful responsibilities is to coordinate housing, meals, laundry facilities, showers, tools, equipment, materials and appropriate work-sites for these generous-hearted friends. Some of the teams coming in June 2008:

- The Oaks Baptist Church, Lyons, GA (June 7-12)
- Locust Grove Baptist Church, New Market, AL (June 15-20)
- First Baptist Church, Anderson, S.C (June 15-22)
- First Baptist Church, William, AL (June 15-22)
- Snyder Memorial Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC (June 15-22)
- Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, KY (June 21-27)



St. Charles Avenue Baptist, with volunteers from around the country, just completed a home for a dear soul in New Orleans. Steven Meriwether was determined to get it finished before he moved to his new pastorate in Tennessee. CBF-LA Disaster Response was able to give over \$5,000 toward the plumbing. Seated in the picture are Steven and Ms. LeBlanc. Standing are Reid Doster and Sharon Potts Carroll.

If you would like to work alongside some of these fine folks, just call me at (985) 778-6049 and I will plug you in for one day or several. It will change your life.

CBF stands ready to help in disaster response at home and around the world. Learn more at cbfresponds.com & thefellowship.info.

I think there is something to learn from the four people who have joined Bridgewater Church over the past three Sundays. One is Diana Bailey, a licensed therapist, of Roman Catholic heritage, who until recently, was practicing Buddhism. Diana is currently leading for us a group titled Understanding Your Dreams, which has been attended by twelve people per week in our Friendship House. With tears, Diana told me: "In Bridgewater, I have finally found what I've been looking for in a church family."

Then there is Ray Perrer, never much of a churchgoer, who has suffered many health issues but struggled to get to our worship service specifically to request prayer for his gravely ill son, who has now returned from the edge of death. Ray's wife, Joanna, is a member, and a graduate of Baylor University. Ray has been so touched by the outpouring of love and concern by Bridgewater that he decided to formalize his relationship by signing our Statement of Faith.

And last Sunday, a seminary student and his wife, Zachary and Tiffany Ritchie, also joined Bridgewater stating: "We went onto the CBF website to find a church near us, and

Redemptive Fellowship

by Reid Doster



Bridgewater meets at the Maritime Museum

we found Bridgewater. We feel such a burden has been lifted." They come from a Baptist college in Charleston, SC. "Zac" wants to teach ethics and philosophy. I plan to mentor him, introducing him to many CBF ministries.

So, what's going on? What draws Roman Catholic Buddhists, Southern Baptists, Presbyterians, Anglicans, licensed therapists, theology students and dreamers to the same place on the same day of the week? Could it be because we celebrate unity in essentials, freedom in non-essentials and, in all things, the love of Jesus Christ. As expressed today by one of our regulars, a retired Anglican priest, who gave the offertory prayer: "You've got a good rhythm going here!"

I truly believe the fields are "white unto harvest." Everywhere we turn, people seek to come in from the cold. They are hurting and looking for relief. Jesus said: "When your invited special guests don't even bother to RSVP to the printed invitation for your feast, then go out into the neighborhood and invite anyone who could use a good meal."

Bridgewater and Beanie Babies? Find out at cbfla.org.

East Carroll

Together For Hope

Louisiana

To take seriously 2,000 verses telling of God's compassion for the poor.

cbf rural poverty initiative

For Together for Hope information contact Kyle Kelley at cbflouisiana@gmail.com or 318-780-4127

Bags of Hope

Our Goal: 1,000 Backpacks for students in need in East Carroll and Tensas
Celebration Day August 2 in Lake Providence

Collect for Pickup at Partner Churches by July 25

Mesh (preferred) or Clear Book bags
 Monetary Gifts will be used to buy from local vendors as available

Book bag contents: 5 spiral notebooks, 5 folders, 1 dozen pencils, 200 pages loose leaf paper

Together For Hope Calendar

June 14th Soul Food and Heritage Festival
 Local Lake Providence event, make friends, see the community

June 29 - July 5 Mission Serve Youth Camp
 Home repair & children event

July 3-4 Family Mission Events Lake Providence; Join in worship and town fireworks and barbecue

August 2 "Bags of Hope" book bag and health fair Lake Providence

September 13 "11 on 11 Event" CURRENT Mission Project

October 25 Make a Difference Day

Higher and higher the colorful paper on a wood diamond plane rose into the sky. Wind and string engaged in a furious tug-of-war 200 feet above the ground. Soaring and dancing on tumbling currents of air, the little boy and his kite locked in a moment of irrepressible excitement.

The scene was repeated over and over during our church's "Kite and Hot Dog" Saturday. Watching the children wrestle with their flying toy, I wondered if the thrill was in the imagination of the child sharing the possibilities with the dancing kites. We laughed, too, within the children's imaginary skybox offering its panorama of the world. What a wonderful experience skipping on the clouds and free, flying like birds! Then you look down and realize, maybe the ground wasn't so important for a little while, up here you see--far. It was a moment of freedom--lifted by the hands of wind--but curiously, kept high by the tension of the string.

Perhaps the transcendent experience was only mine, reading childhood memories in the faces of the little ones. I



found myself thinking of another time. Marilyn and I shared a worship service with 3000+ other Baptists in the Atlanta General Assembly a couple of summers ago. I couldn't help but contrast that with the experience a few years prior when we sat in SBC conventions, filled with tension and frustration. But in Atlanta, there was none of this, only the soaring soul caught up high in the music, testimonies and messages, bolstered by breakout sessions, training sessions, and creative reading. I felt the breeze catch and lift high my spirit. Even paper and wood can fly when they catch the right breeze. I knew the breeze was lifting up a mundane soul. And when we came down, we'd still be close to the sky.

I turned to Marilyn and remarked, "I think I've found home."

Catch the breeze and join us in Memphis this June. I'm honored to serve you there as moderator. I look forward to fellowshiping and planning with you, my friends in Christ. I'll share with you there a relative, unique as a contributor to CBF life. Yours in His Service,

Mike Anderson



Mike Anderson serves as Moderator for CBF-LA and is Pastor of Haynes Ave. Baptist in Shreveport. He is also nephew to W.C. Fields.

General Assembly June 19-20 *Memphis*

Come to worship, learn, fellowship...
see: thefellowship.info

Dozens of workshops and auxiliary events with gifted, inspiring speakers including: Molly Marshall, John Killinger, Jeanie Miley, George Bullard, Reid Doster, Mark D. Edwards, Fritz Hill, Daniel Vestal, George Mason and others.

Events for children, youth and college students.

Louisiana Meeting to include words from *Keith Holmes* and main speaker *W.C. Fields*.

W.C. has led a full life and is not your average pastor:

- * Saw Bonnie Parker and Clyde Farrow dead in the car from ambush near his home town
- * Was baptized in a creek, singing in a quartet by age 8, licensed to preach by 16, performed first wedding at 19
- * His first baptism was of an 84 year old woman
- * As a pilot, did aerobatics in a WWII P-51 Mustang
- * As Mr. Baptist Press for 28 years, was the spokesman to national media for every crisis, scandal or strange doings of Baptist folks
- * Has visited 137 countries, fishing as often as possible, including through the ice with Eskimos
- * Contributor/Editor/Writer of 32 books
- * His article on Baptists "Not Just Whistlin' Dixie!" for the Saturday Evening Post, sold over 1 million reprints
- * Loves life, loves telling stories, loves Jesus

More on the life and times of Wilmer Clemont Fields at cbfla.org. Read it and believe it!



Bethany Dillon, 18, released her third album, *Waking Up*, in April 2007. Her 2004 self-titled release was the year's highest-selling female solo debut album, with Gospel Music Association nominations for female vocalist and new artist. Her music appears in the major film, "Dreamer," and on the "Music inspired by the Chronicles of Narnia" soundtrack. She has toured with Jeremy Camp, Bebo Norman and Shane & Shane.



Lauran Bethell, based in Prague, Czech Republic, helps mentor and facilitate ministry among exploited and abused women and children around the world. In Thailand, she helped to launch the internationally recognized New Life Center, which ministered among victims of human trafficking. With two locations, the center shelters as many as 200 at a time and continues to aid at-risk children and women, as well as former prostitutes. Bethell has directed two international conferences about ministry with women in prostitution, was honored by the prime minister of Thailand, and has received the Baptist World Alliance's Human Rights Award.



Krystaal, is three brothers who sing R&B/Pop, Gospel, Urban and World (African). Their album "Keep On Standing" received four gospel music MAJA Awards. Michel, Fabian and Aliston Lwamba, are from what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. They survived a corrupt dictatorship and five years separated in refugee camps. Later reunited, they migrated to Canada. A book entitled "Keep On Standing - The Story of Krystaal" chronicles their journey. The Lwambas have become ambassadors for peace and forgiveness. Their worldwide tours have included the Baptist World Alliance's centennial celebration in 2005.

What is Current?

by Shannon Rutherford

Current is a “network of young Baptist leaders” within the Fellowship. CBF national knows the importance of investing in the lives of young ministers as well as leaders in congregations. That is why they have committed to the support, development and involvement of those who are under the age of 40.

Current hosts two major events each year that fall within these commitments. The first is the **Current Retreat** that is held in February. This retreat is a time for fellowship, worship, and professional development. This year the retreat will be held in Washington D.C. at Calvary Baptist Church. More information will be posted on the website in coming months. I encourage all young ministers/leaders to attend.

The second main event of the year is our simultaneous mission project called “**eleven on 11**”. It is held this year on September 13th. This is a time for all the churches to get our young people involved in being Christ in the community.



On this one day we will have groups from all over the country from San Francisco to New York City serving in a variety of ways, from picking up trash to working in food shelters.

We try to make this as easy as possible with helpful packets of info for the planning process and participants

will receive a t-shirt. If you are interested in leading a group from your church please contact me at Shannon@ubc-br.org or 225-766-9474.

Current also will host an event at General Assembly so I hope you will join us in Memphis. For more information on getting involved with Current check out the website at www.thefellowship.info.



Shannon speaks about Current at Spring Assembly. She is Minister to College Students at University - Baton Rouge.

Polyphony

by Paul Henderson



The first weekend in April I had the wonderful opportunity to be a part of the First Annual Conference of the Fellowship of Baptist Pastoral Musicians: Polyphony. This newly formed group of pastoral musicians from CBF churches met at First Baptist Church Asheville, North Carolina discovering and putting in action their mission: “linking and nurturing church musicians who share a passion for sacred choral and instrumental music, hymnody and the arts.” And fulfilling that mission was exactly what we did. There were indeed great times of fellowship and worship, times of learning and sharpening our skills as musicians, and times of challenging meditation. It was an exciting time for me as a pastoral musician!

I remember the first time I ever went to a national CBF gathering the feeling of “coming home” was so strong. The tension and strife once felt, was no more. You didn’t really know all the people around you, and yet you felt like you were old friends! It was peaceful and at the same time thrilling. I felt that same way at the FBPM. These were real people in the trenches sharing, worshiping, learning, and encouraging each other in very similar church settings.

Our presenters were George Mason, Senior Pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas Texas, and Sigrid Johnson, Artist in Residence in Music from St. Olaf College. Both helped us to “recover creativity, rethink our worship, and reclaim our call.”

There were over 100 attendees this first year. Randy LeBlanc from FBC Shreveport and I represented the fine state of Louisiana, but we would encourage more Ministers of Music with traditional worship settings to attend next year. It will be held April 30 - May 2, 2009, at Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta. Hope to see you there!

Paul Henderson is Minister of Music at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Baton Rouge.





CBF-LA partners with the Romany (Gypsy) Mission. The Adkins and Holmes / van Rheenen couples are CBF missionaries with Louisiana ties who serve in this work in Europe.

Adkins News: Glen reports 90% of the money has been raised to take his new Gandhi School Youth choir to the Baptist World Alliance Youth Conference this summer in Germany. About 40+ teens come every week for practice. Glen has added the keyboard and the Kanna (metal jug used as a drum) to some of the numbers.

The choir is singing Beas and Lovari songs (both Roma languages) as well as Hungarian and English songs. **To see a You-Tube video of the choir, singing "Jarba, Mare Jarbe" with instruments and dance, go to the March Adkins Romany update at cbfla.org.**

This is an incredible opportunity for these kids who are among the poorest of the poor and face some of the harshest discrimination in all of Europe. Please continue to pray for the choir as they are learning to be an actual "singing group," and for Glen as he prepares for the trip. **Pray also for so many of these students who have bruised hearts from so much difficulty in their lives. So many of them look very tough, but it takes little time for us to recognize that their tough exteriors hide vulnerable and often naïve souls and spirits.**

Holmes / van Rheenen News: We are rejoicing that recording for the book of Acts video has been completed. Well, the first phase of recording, anyway. Keith and his partner Armin Peter were able to find "voices" in the Sinti Romany church in Cologne, Germany. This is only about an hour and twenty minute drive from home, so it worked out quite well.

There are always translation challenges. While recording "Acts," they realized that the Sinti phrase for "he drew some people after him" means "a lot of people were on his back." In instances such as these, the native speaker is able to help the translator rewrite the phrase with more appropriate words. Sometimes Keith also notices that sound effects are missing from the Sinti sound track. For instance, he's had to create background crowd noises from his "music and effects" bag of tricks. **See Keith "dubbing" on You-Tube at cbfla.org.**



Work at Vulcanesti Church

While this is going well, the Romany church in Vulcanesti, Moldova, seems to be stumbling along a very rocky path. Last summer's drought has driven prices up. Church members have gone off here and there in search of money-generating activities. Others have become discouraged. Pastor Ion is not certain that, given rising prices and the falling dollar, there are enough funds to complete the church building. For example, last year \$7400 was worth 93980 Moldovan lei. Now \$7400 only equals 74000 lei. Last year 93980 lei could buy 1305 bags of cement; now for 74000 lei only buys 822 bags. **Please pray**

with us for both the church building and the church body there.

Mary also reports this concern for Roma in the Palestinian West Bank: I have the privilege of serving on the board of the Dom Research Center (DRC), a non-profit organization for promoting the culture and well-being of Dom, Gypsies in the Middle East. An elderly relative recently joked that she knew more people in the cemetery than in town. This was a reality rather than a joke for a community of Dom in Nablus, on the Palestinian West Bank who literally lived in a cemetery. The DRC has since helped them move to a shanty town with at least safe water and sewer facilities. Now they have an opportunity to move into real housing. The hitch is that each of the seventy families must be registered (\$300 fee) with the local government first.

You can assist the Dom of Nablus in their attempt -- join the project! Learn more at: www.domresearchcenter.com Please take the time to at least look.

More complete updates and related stories at cbfla.org



Partners in Prayer Calendar Omitted names due to sensitive nature of work.

MAY

- 20 Micah James, 1994, son, Nancy&Steve, Haiti
- 21 ___, Persian World Outreach, New Jersey
- 21 Ron Winstead, Emeritus, 2002
- 25 Rick Burnette, Palaung people, Thailand
- 26 Hunter, unevang. people group, Asia
- 28 Laurel Morrow, 1992, daughter, Frank & Karen Morrow, Texas

JUNE

- 2 Emily Morrow, 1990, daugh, Frank&Karen, TX
- 7 Kiersten Glenn, 2006, daughter, Aaron & Stephanie Glenn, California
- 7 Diann Whisnand, El Paso, TX
- 8 Janice Newell, Albanian/Balkans, Greece
- 8 Kyle Smith, 1989, son, Greg & Sue, Virginia
- 9 Michelle Cayard, China
- 10 Kim Wyatt, internationals, Canada
- 14 ___, unevan. people group, Mid East
- 18 Elizabeth Fortenberry, Los Angeles C
- 19 Ana D'Amico, Emeritus, 2006
- 20 Lonnie Turner, HIV/AIDS/public policy, sub-Saharan Africa
- 21 Anna, 2000, daug, Katie & Matt, Asia
- 21 ___, unevan. people group, Mid East
- 22 Brenda Lisenby, coordinator, China
- 22 Kirk, scripture translation, Asia
- 22 Darrell Smith, work with Albanian/Balkan pples, Macedonia
- 23 Sarah Ballew, Macau, China
- 23 John, relief/development SE Asia
- 23 Helen McNeely, Emeritus, 2002
- 23 Andrew, 1998, son, Kirk&Suzie, Asia
- 24 Hannah Myrick, 1989, daughter, Lori & Tim Myrick, Jordan
- 26 ___, unevan. people group, N Africa
- 26 Tim Myrick, Bedouin people, Jordan
- 26 Lydia, 2005, daug, Katie&Matt, Asia

JULY

- 3 Nathanael Ballew, 1994, son, Larry & Sarah Ballew, China
- 3 Jesse Burnette, 1990, son, Ellen & Rick Burnette, Thailand
- 4 Alex Smith, 1990, son, Darrell & Kathy Smith, Macedonia
- 5 Bob Potts, Emeritus, 1998
- 6 Shelah Acker, development, W Africa
- 6 Sam Harrell, development, East Africa
- 10 Tiffne Whitley, internationals, Spain
- 11 Allie McNary, 1995, daughter, Dianne & Shane McNary, Slovakia
- 12 Elizabeth Houser, 1990, daughter, Ana Marie & Scott, S Africa
- 12 ___, unevan group, M. East/N. Africa
- 12 Mark Podgaisky, 1999, son, Gennady & Mina Podgaisky, Ukraine
- 14 John Deal, Emeritus, 2001
- 14 Erik Smith, 1985, son, Becky & Jim, Germany
- 17 Caleb, 1996, son, Hunter&Mary, Asia
- 19 Jason Pittman, Miami, FL
- 20 ___, son, unevan. pple group,NAfrica
- 21 ___, daughter, unevan grp, Mid East
- 22 Dorothy Potts, Emeritus, 1998
- 23 Butch Green, internatls, S Carolina
- 26 Rick Sample, internatls, San Francisco
- 27 Diana Bridges, internationals, Starkville, MS
- 27 Sarah Morrow, 1988, daug, Frank&Karen, TX
- 28 Emily, 2000, daughter, Kirk & Suzie, Asia
- 29 Christina Houser, 1997, daughter, Ana Marie & Scott Houser, Southern Africa
- 29 Karen Morrow, unevan. people group, Texas
- 30 James Francovich, Emeritus, 2006

Women's Spiritual Formation Retreat Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, Atlanta, GA

featuring:



Molly Marshall Connie McNeill Jeanie Miley Devita Parnell

\$100.00 (by June 1) covers cost of meals, lodging, & programming; Only 48 spots available

Learn more at: spiritform.net.



Keith Holmes,
Roma Missionary
 will be available to
 speak to Louisiana
 churches and groups
 June 21-July 16.

Contact: holmes@thefellowship.info.

The 5th Annual
Stagg Tolbert Forum
for Biblical Studies
 October 18, First
 Baptist Shreveport
 featuring:

Walter Shurden



CBF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 MEMPHIS, TN JUNE 19-20, 2008

**EMBRACE THE
 WORLD**
Building Bridges

W.C. Fields
 speaker for
 Louisiana
 Meeting

Register at:
thefellowship.info

or

800.352.8741

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.

CBF-LA Receipts	Feb-Apr	Fiscal Year 3/01/07-2/28/08
Undesignated	\$17,774.82	\$76,452.03
Together for Hope	\$1,300.01	\$13,758.24
Disaster Relief	\$1,386.61	\$4,922.34
Stagg-Tolbert Forum	-	\$562.94
New Church Start	\$273.40	\$1,597.62
Extra-budget Desg Funds	\$50.00	\$4,665.00
Credits	-	\$941.00
TOTAL	\$20,784.84	\$102,899.17

Louisiana Fellowship People
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Save a Tree.
Save CBF-LA Some Dough.

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Your prayers for and financial gifts to CBF-LA are appreciated.