



Bill Leonard, above, speaks to CBF-LA at the 8th Annual Stagg-Tolbert Forum for Biblical Studies at University Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. Participants were inspired, challenged and left with a grin. Recordings of Leonard’s presentation are available [here online](#).



TOGETHER FOR HOPE

Hope Fund 2012

Goal: \$45,000

God has called us to a great work in Lake Providence. Invest now to move this work into the future.

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**Take the Tour!** Our mission house in Lake Providence is shaping up to be a “Haven of Love that Honors Christ.” Come see it for yourself and help us put the finishing touches on it. See it virtually [here](#).



# Winds of the Spirit

Reid Doster, CBF-LA Coordinator

On top of the World Trade Center, in New Orleans, is The Plimsoll Club restaurant. From there, one can enjoy a sweeping view of the mighty Mississippi River, and the ships that plough her waters. This gathering place for leaders throughout the city, state and nation, is the namesake of a British crusader against corruption, injustice and greed, Mr. Samuel Plimsoll. Research his story and you will learn that he was no stranger to the struggles of the poor and powerless.

In 1853, Plimsoll attempted to become a coal merchant in London, but failed and was reduced to destitution. He described how he lived for a time in a common lodging, for which he paid seven shillings and two pence a week. Through this and other experiences, he learned to empathize with those who suffered, and when his good fortunes returned, he resolved to devote much of his time fighting corruption and abuse in the shipping industry.

The advent of insurance in the 19th century created an incentive for ship owners purposely to sink their own ships and crews, just to collect the insurance money. This grim practice became so widespread, and killed so many merchant seamen, that the over-insured, overloaded vessels became known as "coffin ships." Samuel Plimsoll, "the sailors friend," fought for sweeping merchant shipping regulations that led to the adoption of the marking that bears his name --- the Plimsoll Line. Variations of the line have evolved to calibrate variances in sea conditions, such as water temperature and salinity.

If you look at the outer hull of commercial ships, you might find a painted circle bisected with a long horizontal line. This simple graphic has saved thousands of lives, by clearly indicating when a vessel is overloaded and at risk of sinking in rough seas. If you can see that horizontal line above the water, you're relatively safe. If you cannot see it, you're at risk of capsizing in stormy weather.

Do you ever check your own Plimsoll line? Can you even find it? Ask yourself:

- Have I ignored warning signs that I am overloaded, top-heavy and unstable?
- Have I watched others drown, because of my refusal to deviate from a headstrong course?
- Have I taken on other people's loads to a point where water is pouring in over my sides?
- Have I been swamped by disappointment in people, rather than buoyed by faith in God?
- Have I keeled over and passively relied on others to do what I could for myself?
- Have I allowed "Sinking Thinking" to capsize my joy?
- Have I been drawn into a whirlpool of depression by strong currents of fear, failure, guilt and shame?
- Have I succumbed to a prideful competition of seeing who can haul the heaviest burdens?
- Have I gathered around me a crew of insincere friends who lack courage to speak the truth?
- Have I ignored or denied the fact that my Plimsoll line is submerged?

If you answered "yes" to any of these, then lighten your load, even your keel and live to sail another day!

In His love, Reid



## Update on Our Scholarship Student News from Stephanie Vance

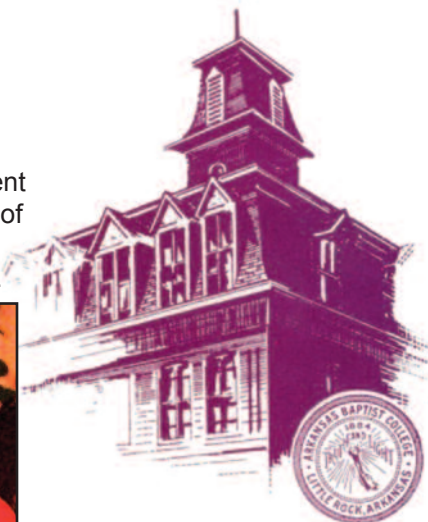
CBF-LA Together for Hope Missionary

I had the chance to speak with Greg Bell last week. Greg is the recipient of our Together for Hope scholarship to Arkansas Baptist College. As many of you know, he is also a player (#53) on the ABC football team. Due to a foot injury, Greg had to sit out a game or two but has gotten in some good playing time this season.

Greg is doing well in school, keeping his grades up and will graduate with his Associates degree in December of 2012. After graduation, Greg plans to enroll in a Bachelor's degree program back here in Louisiana. He is looking forward to continuing his education and is pursuing what possibilities he has for his future. Please keep Greg in your prayers as he continues his journey. Pray that Greg will have good health and the strength of mind and spirit to accomplish any task set before him. We're proud of you, Greg!



Greg Bell of Lake Providence



## Stocking Stuffers for Lake Providence

Together for Hope is collecting socks for senior citizens this Christmas. If you wish to give any socks, contact Stephanie at 318-418-4075 or [sthepny@gmail.com](mailto:sthepny@gmail.com).



## Happy Birthday - Church for the Highlands

Year one was marked with birthday quilt at left and a celebration of highlights. Many of our firsts are pictured here: baptisms, Mardi Gras Jesus Freaks float, VBS, CBF Spring Conference, It's Time Grant - Christian Financial Services, Christmas play, Halloween Carnival, Pet Blessing. Mostly we celebrated God's good grace of a loving faith community and the gift of a special calling to do Kingdom work and bless our neighborhood in concert with so many wonderful partners. Thanks for prayers and support. - Kyle Kelley



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**God's Mission, Your Passion**

**Progress to Goal:**

\$190,755 (through 10/31) toward \$4.4 million goal. Help reach this goal before 9/30/12 by giving today. Our missionaries depend on these year round gifts for their kingdom work.

Many churches support this work at Christmas. Be generous through your church offering or find specific ways to designate your gifts online through the *Fellowship Gift Catalog* [here](#).

*A Word of Thanks*

We often think of this *Fellowship* as the "little engine that could." Again and again we are astounded at what God can do with this mustard seed outfit. We are hardly more than a handful of churches and to many our resources would seem modest.

Yet it is a sweet fellowship of ordinary souls faithfully determined to be the presence of Christ wherever we find ourselves. Together we make a difference far beyond our individual gifts.

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, Advent and the end of the year, it gives us pause to explicitly declare our gratitude to each of you and the One who calls us to this Kingdom Adventure.

God's grace and peace to you all, *CBF-LA Staff*

**Louisiana Fellowship People**

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CBF-LA Receipts	Aug-Oct	Fiscal Year 7-1-11 to 6-30-12
Undesignated	\$15,096.21	\$21,186.24
Together for Hope	\$1,944.34	\$14,167.62
Missionary Fund	\$13,625.00	\$14,125.00
Other	\$30	\$40.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,695.55</b>	<b>\$49,518.86</b>



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

CBF-LA Ministry Budget \$ \_\_\_\_\_       New Church Start \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Missionary Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_      Other: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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You may also give [on-line here](#).