



Louisiana

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

News & Views

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CBF Initiates Stagg-Tolbert Forum for Biblical Studies

Malcolm Tolbert will give Initial Address October 16

On October 16, CBF Louisiana launches a new lecture series known as the Stagg-Tolbert Forum for Biblical Studies. Forum committee chair, Rev. Pam Williams, states the series is named after "two Louisiana Baptist treasures," Dr. Frank Stagg and Dr. Malcolm Tolbert. Both are popular and highly respected biblical scholars. CBF-LA Coordinator Lynn Hawkins explains, "We have wanted to provide a setting where excellent biblical scholarship can be made accessible to the lay community. We are extremely fortunate and excited that the initial series will be presented by one of the forum's namesakes, Dr. Tolbert."

Broadmoor Baptist Church in Baton Rouge will be hosting the event which begins at 10AM. The two session topics "The Problem of the Old Testament" and "Genesis 1: Science or Fiction" are typical of Dr. Tolbert's passion to bring biblical understanding to modern concerns or dilemmas and to do it in a way that communicates to the lay person. Ample time will be given for questions and dialog.

TWO LOUISIANA TREASURES:

DR. FRANK STAGG AND DR. MALCOLM TOLBERT

You have been impacted by the teaching, lives and examples of Frank Stagg and Malcolm Tolbert, and you may not even know it! Through a Sunday School lesson or Bible study they wrote, or through their teaching and mentoring of countless Louisiana ministers who have served in your congregation--you have benefited. Both were raised in Louisiana, were graduates of Louisiana College, served as pastors and taught for a number of years at New Orleans Baptist Seminary. Both are widely respected for their mastery of New Testament Greek, and keen insights into the Bible and its application to our life. Dr. Stagg and Tolbert have set the standard in Louisiana for scholarship, faithfulness, serving churches, and engaging the issues of our day with biblical principles. By example, they have modeled the daily Christian walk.



Frank Stagg



Malcolm Tolbert

Dr. Stagg, who died in 2001, was often remembered for his kindness. Margaret Eskew who now teaches at Mercer University recalls riding to church each Sunday in New Orleans with the Staggs when she was a college student. Their route would take them past fraternity houses. On one of those mornings, "Dr. Stagg had to come to a quick stop as a drunken Tulane student walked right in front of his car. Dr. Stagg didn't curse the student. I can't remember what he said, but I do remember the tears that ran down his face. His own son Bobby and daughter Ginger were in the car. Dr. Stagg was crying out of compassion for the student and his parents." This incident is "indelibly burned" into Eskew's memory and part of the witness of a man who continues to influence her life and teaching philosophy.

His pastor, Dr. Steven Meriwether at St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, thought of a Frederick Buechner passage as he pondered his distinguished parishioner: "In God's holy flirtation with the world, God occasionally drops a handkerchief. These handkerchiefs are

STAGG-TOLBERT BIBLICAL FORUM



Saturday, October 16
Broadmoor Baptist Church
Baton Rouge

10:00am "The Problem of the Old Testament"
12:30pm "Genesis 1: Science or Fiction"
Lunch: \$5 meal reservations requested by October 11

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called saints." Meriwether reflected, *Most would agree that Dr. Stagg was one of God's handkerchiefs. At times he even resembled a silk one. As a teacher he was indefatigable in his pursuit of knowledge. But his words were surpassed by his actions. Dr. Stagg coined the phrase "the unhindered gospel" in reference to the Book of Acts; he labored to remove that which hindered....While teaching at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. Stagg was approached by the president in the hallway. Evidently students were pushing the president to integrate the then segregated seminary. Evidently Dr. Stagg didn't share in his president's sense of alarm. The president connected the dots: "And Frank, these students are all coming from your classes!"....Observing Frank and Evelyn afforded me a picture of opposition/opportunity. The words of the apostle Paul seemed to be their very own: "a wide opportunity of effective work has opened to me, and there is much opposition." Dr. Stagg spent a lifetime saying that opposition and opportunity co-exist. He never flinched in the face of controversy.*

Malcolm Tolbert similarly speaks of his colleague and friend,

I began to study with Frank in 1947 when he was a young professor. He was one of the most honest and courageous people that I have known. He was a true prophet. He took a stand against segregation and racial prejudice when it was very difficult to do so. He opposed the Vietnam War and was very vocal in espousing women's rights. Frank always interpreted the New Testament with an eye on what was going on in the world. His message was always very relevant and dealt with the issues of the time. He opened to us the world of New Testament scholarship, one that had been closed to Southern Baptist seminary students until about the time he started teaching. My study was enriched by exposure to the great European scholars. Perhaps his greatest attribute as a professor is that he was life-changing. He was what I had been looking for all my life without ever knowing it.

Meriwether, as pastor, would visit in the Stagg home and occasionally accompany the Staggs on their boat, as being on the water was one of their favorite passions. Not surprisingly a sea metaphor was on Dr. Stagg's mind as he approached death. "When a life-long friend and colleague visited Dr. Stagg for the last time it is reported that he reached up and pulled the friend close as his voice was weak. Into his ear he said, 'My sails are up; I'm waiting for the wind.'"

Dr. Malcolm Tolbert lives in Baton Rouge with his wife Nell and in spite of more than one retirement, remains active, only recently taking the post of Minister of Biblical Studies at Broadmoor Baptist, Baton Rouge. He has four children, ten grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

After his Louisiana College days were interrupted by voluntary enlistment in the Army Air Force in World War II, he returned to Louisiana and later completed his ThD work at New Orleans Seminary. He has pastored since his student days and throughout his career at academic posts in New Orleans, Brazil, and at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest he has always given focus to the practical application of the study of the New Testament to the church and mission field. For nearly 10 years, he served as a missionary to Brazil. Through the years he has been interim

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BWA: Not a New Airline !

CBF Responds to Baptist World Alliance Needs

"A lot of American Baptists think that BWA is a new airline," joked Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Denton Lotz as he spoke to a group at the CBF General Assembly in Birmingham. He noted, "There is some confusion over who we are and what we do." He emphasized a primary focus to provide a worldwide structure to demonstrate unity on common goals such as pressing for religious liberty and strengthening networks for evangelism and relief aid. BWA also provides a forum to dialog with other faith groups around the world where Baptist beliefs about the centrality of Jesus Christ can be put forward. He gave a religious liberty example, "We didn't go there (Cuba) to cozy up to Castro but to raise issues. And because we went, thousands of Bibles were allowed into the country and now thousands of house churches are meeting."

Our previous issue of the Fellowship newsletter featured the work of Baptist World Alliance. After the withdrawal of funding by the largest U.S. Baptist body, CBF, other denominational groups, local churches and individuals have responded to the need. At the CBF General Assembly alone, offerings and budget pledges totaled over \$87,000. The important work of Baptist World Alliance, in drawing together a world wide diverse Baptist family in united ministries, will continue. The General Secretary has also responded to Louisiana CBF con-

tributions with an acknowledgement letter of appreciation.

Further clarifying the Alliance role at the Assembly, Lotz explained, "BWA is not a church or a denomination, we don't write doctrinal statements...that is what the 211 conventions and unions [around the world] do." Given the diversity among Baptists, BWA does not police doctrine but builds on commonalities. He cited differences:

- * In Russian churches, believers generally don't hold to "once saved always saved."
- * The many Seventh Day Baptist groups don't worship on Sunday.
- * In China, 40% of Baptist pastors are women.

Just because not all Baptists would support these issues, or others, is no reason we cannot work together based on the many areas that unite us.

Lotz also pointed to the lessons we can learn from our brothers and sisters in less favorable circumstances than ourselves. It is exciting that CBF has stepped up its support and cooperative work with BWA in Lotz's words, "not because Baptists in the Third World need your money, but because you can learn from them how to experience First Century Christianity."



BWA ?!

Source: Craig Bird, CBF Communications
www.thefellowship.info

Louisiana College: Are the Pine Trees Drooping?

Facing its worst crisis since the Great Depression, the Baptist College in Pineville opens for the fall session on the heels of a flurry of resignations including that of the President, the Dean, and the Chairman of Trustees. The school now braces for the results of a pending investigation by SACS, its accrediting body, regarding "matters of governance and academic freedom." Probation is the expected outcome. Understandably, these events leave students troubled, alumni unhappy and donors wary. Will L.C. find its way?

DRINKING THE MILK OF A NURTURING COMMUNITY

I am a Louisiana College graduate as were my sisters and father before me. Every little Kelley knew almost from birth that LC was the next destination following high school. My father was one of many "country preacher boys" who arrived on campus before the war, in his words, "still wet behind the ears." He would tell you he could not have conjugated a verb even if he knew what that word meant. Like most of that era, he was the first in his family to attend college. The little Baptist school set among those pine trees was a gentle introduction to higher learning, and the nurturing of faith for the great world beyond his rural hometown of Saline.

As Louisiana College approaches its Centennial, much as happened since 1906 when the first student enrollment topped out at 19. Heroic struggles in the early years kept the doors open, and only by great sacrifices on the part of many, did the college survive the Depression. By 1940 the student body had grown into the 300's or so. Old-timers say it was a small lively community where learning sometimes happened, though perhaps not as frequently as the practical jokes. After hearing these stories growing up, one alumni's child was sorely disappointed when he attended LSU and found the Baton Rouge campus "boring" compared to the legendary shenanigans at LC.

The primary strength of Louisiana College has always been the same. It is a caring family environment, informed by Christian faith, that diligently nudges frequently reluctant learners to open themselves to God's fascinating, complex and often bewildering world. Dr. Robert Lynn, president during most of my years,

knew every student by name and knew something of his or her interests. Faculty members were generally well-prepared, involved with students and pushed us to look beyond our limited horizons. Many students groaned at mandatory chapel and the occasional bent towards legalism. Each generation of LC students has its own example. In the 1930's, dating couples were allegedly "busted" for illegally holding hands. Each era has also had its share of those infected with "anti-intellectualism" (as some Baptists can be prone) as if there is a kind of glory in being ignorant. A healthy tension inevitably develops between the goals of providing the highest quality education and its delivery in an authentic Christian context. Not an environment for everyone—but for a sheltered, shy, half-way bright, but undisciplined 17 year old who arrived in 1975, it was a good fit.

I was tuned in one day when Dr. Lynn led chapel using the text of the greatest commandment, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind ...". After pausing on that third way, he took the entire time to explain what it meant to love God with your mind. As he described it, learning is a great joy, but more importantly it is a stewardship issue. We are to use well what God had given us. He said God was the author of all truth and we should neither fear the truth nor settle for second hand easy answers masquerading as the truth. Further, scientific truth and theological truth come from the same Source. Dr. Cavanaugh so ably illustrated this point in intro Biology class. He never referred to a note, yet his presentation was seamless and filled with awe at the intricacies and mystery of creation. In time it began to dawn on me that in human hands, truth can sometimes be slippery. Yet it is the truth that sets us free. Loving God with our mind means making the search for truth a life long pursuit and doing it with a heavy dose of humili-

ty. The journey begins with asking the right questions.

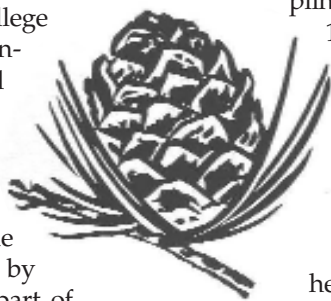
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE: OF FLATULENCE AND PHILOSOPHIZING

"Do you think Jesus would laugh at that story?" was the query raised in British Literature. After a pregnant pause, students began to react in varied ways. Chaucer's Canterbury Tales is a classic from the 14th century that tells of varied pilgrims on the way to a holy site. Each story reflects the views and life experiences of diverse travelers. Some are moral in tone. The Miller's Tale is not. Its climactic scene is farcical, earthy, rollicking, impious and to this then-18-year old, quite funny. The fact that "natural gas" is featured was clearly an attraction. Perhaps college freshmen today are not so enamored with bodily functions, but a number were on my freshmen wing. A few even performed this trick with a lighter and ... uh... never mind.

As a rule my teachers were incredibly patient. They were dealt students with varying gifts, liabilities, and motivations. There were the curious learners, as well as the lazily dazed, for which learning was a near bottom priority. Not all the students were religious and some were religious in the worst way. My dorm mother, whose door was always open and whose heart showed a tender spot for homesick freshmen, was astute in her observations. In a near whisper she spoke of one of her "preacher boys" whom she loved nonetheless, "He's so heavenly minded, he's no earthly good." At our best, this family of students and teachers each on different paths, tolerated, listened to, learned from and challenged each other.

But what do you do with that question? Would Jesus frown or chuckle, fume or twinkle in the eye at this "off color" story? Of course our response to such a question reveals more about us than it does Jesus. Some students were offended, others annoyed, a few intrigued, and oth-

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PARTNERS IN HOPE "bashing basketballs"

by Bill Hoffman

Thank you for your strong support for our "Basketball Bash" in Waterproof, La. July 10th. When the dust had settled 27 friendly, hard working Partners in Hope volunteers had helped to show God's love to over 100 Tensas parish residents!

The children, accompanied by their siblings, caregivers and community leaders heard words of inspiration from **Rev. Mel Brown**, saw a dunking exhibition from former La. Tech athlete **Rev. John Cowling**, enjoyed complimentary refreshments, and made new friends with the volunteers who drove many miles to express an interest in their community.

Fifteen 4th - 6th graders received some instruction in basketball fundamentals and played an exciting scrimmage. Each participant received a trophy acknowledging their positive attitude, team work and sportsmanship. From the broad smiles on their faces you would have thought they had just received the MVP award for the NBA finals.

Along with the popcorn, candy bars, and several cases of softdrinks - we also gave away 50 New Testaments and over 50 CBF/Partners in Hope "T"-shirts.

Several of the Waterproof residents have called and written me to thank us for providing this opportunity for their children. When approximately half of the children in a parish are living below poverty level there are very few opportunities for recreation and social interaction in a positive environment. They seemed genuinely appreciative of our efforts.

We will evaluate the feasibility and desirability of duplicating this type of event again. We certainly intend to build on the goodwill and new friendships generated by this event. Thanks again for your prayers, participation and concern.



Basketball Bash Participants With Trophies at Lisbon Elementary in Waterproof, LA

PARTNERS IN HOPE

"coming full circle, a walking miracle"

Bledsoe Returns to the Place He Served Time--Now to Serve Others

by Ronney Joe Webb

Meet **James Bledsoe**, former Shreveport gang member, drug dealer and all around bad dude. In the mid 80's James was a member of the notorious Bottom Boys. While selling drugs one night, he was involved in a deal gone bad. An altercation erupted and shots rang out leaving James paralyzed from the neck down and his assailant dead on the ground. After months in the hospital and time in jail, James was left without hope, hanging out on his front porch in a wheelchair.

Enter Pastor **Mel Brown** of the **Highland Center Mission of First Baptist Church in Shreveport**. "The pastor would come by all the time inviting me to come with him to church." For a while James turned him down, but one day said yes, and his life changed forever. James turned from a life of crime and drugs to a life with Jesus Christ. He is even walking now, which he attributes to God saving him. According to doctors, James should not be walking, but only through the grace of God he can, and he lets everyone know why too.

James is now 39 years old with 5 kids. "I really love church and so does my baby daughter...Church is not boring, it's fun. If the people would just come they would see." James is active in the weekly brotherhood group that meets at the mission. This group was formed to encourage the men of the community, and help keep them committed to Christ.

Joining other men from the mission and Pastor Brown,

James recently went to help with the Partners in Hope basketball bash in Waterproof, the very place he had

served time. Sadly he noted, at the detention center there are still three of his "brothers." "You have to want to change to change...God can change a person that wants to change," he explained. "You can't serve drugs and money, it will let you down, but God won't let you down."

James feels he is at the best part of his life. Many thought he would be back in prison by now, but he states God changed him and he can change others too. He notes, "Many folks call Christians crazy--so be it. God has a purpose for us, everyone of us. He puts people in our lives like Pastor Brown, you just have to listen to them." God has blessed James and he wants to share that with others in his community. Looking forward to a productive life, he wants to influence others for Christ. His advice to others, "Stay praying and reading your Bible, that keeps you faithful." When people ask James Bledsoe "what's up?" he responds: "What's up, Jesus is what's up." Now that gets peoples' attention.



Partners in Hope Coordinator Bill Hoffman on left with Partners Volunteer James Bledsoe on right

PARTNERS IN HOPE

"back to school"

by Bill Hoffman

Wow! What an incredible response to the needs of E.Carroll and Tensas parish children living in poverty. When Tensas educators told us that approximately 90% of the children attending their public schools were unable to purchase basic school supplies, we decided to increase our goal and attempt to provide school supplies for 300 students.

Throughout Louisiana, children in S.S. classes, Sr. Adults, Men's prayer groups, Women's mission and Bible study groups and many other friends of all ages gathered supplies and gave generously to help their neighbors in need! By the time the last pencil had been delivered, over \$3,000 in cash and approximately \$5000 in donated supplies had been contributed (and the amount keeps growing)! Even after exceeding our goal in Tensas, there were enough supplies and resources to share with children in E. Carroll Parish.

Your generosity put smiles on the faces of over 500 children (and many parents as well)! One grateful parent had a tear running down her cheek as she hugged me and thanked me for helping her children. Tensas educators were also appreciative. Newellton principal and life long resident **Allen Bozeman** said, "You have no idea how much this will help."

Many volunteers helped with multiple shopping, sorting, and packing sessions. Nine volunteers delivered the supplies to St. Joseph August 16. (Tensas parish schools began August 19). **Southern Hills Baptist Church in Shreveport** donated supplies, designated their VBS offering for the project, and prepared 50 special gift bags for each of the teachers in Tensas parish! **Broadmoor Baptist in Baton Rouge** and **FBC Shreveport** were very actively involved and made significant contributions in supplies, finances, and lots of "hands-on" assistance. We are grateful for every church and individual who helped us express God's love to these children and their families! This ministry effort was a wonderful example of people joining hands and reaching out to the marginalized people of the Mississippi River Delta!

Dear PARTNERS IN HOPE,
Thank you for providing a day of fun for the students of Lisbon Elementary. They enjoyed it very much. In fact, some of the students wanted to know if you all would be here next Saturday! Once again thanks!"
Demetria L. Dix, Principal

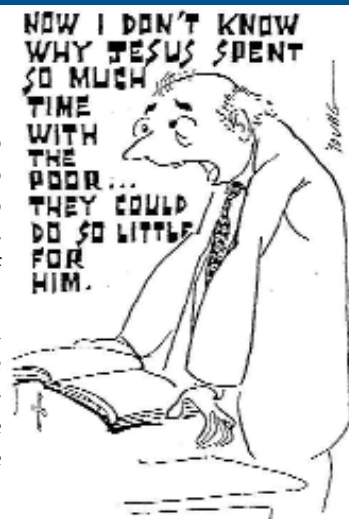
PARTNERS IN HOPE

"the isaiah platform"

Luke tells us when Jesus began his ministry in Nazareth, he started by quoting Isaiah to show the kind of Messiah he was to be. Jesus declared that the Spirit had anointed him to "preach good news to the poor...proclaim freedom for the prisoners...sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (4:18-19 NIV). Jesus purposefully aligned himself with the prophetic tradition and its legacy of stinging indictments of both idolatry and neglect or misuse of the poor.

As a natural outgrowth of its work like the **Tensas** and **East Carroll** Partners in Hope Rural Poverty Initiative, **CBF is partnering** with a modern prophetic voice. **Call to Renewal** is the only national faith-based organization addressing poverty-related public policy whose coalition includes Evangelicals, Catholics, Mainline Protestants, Historic Black Churches, Peace Churches, and Asian and Hispanic Churches. These co-laborers come from both sides of the political and theological spectrum and from established as well as emergent churches.

"The Isaiah Platform" is their statement and covenant of unity to work together to "ensure that overcoming poverty becomes a bi-partisan commitment and a non-partisan cause, one that links religious values with economic justice, moral behavior with political commitment." Recognizing that particularly in an election year we live in a time when political and social issues threaten to divide the church, these leaders nevertheless cooperate around a central biblical imperative to uplift those in poverty as a commitment that unites across theological and political differences. They state, "Persistent and widespread poverty is for us a primary religious and political issue. Thirty-five million people [in the US], including twelve million children, living in poverty is morally unacceptable." In this political season and beyond they pledge and implore all Christians to join the tradition of Isaiah in raising the public debate with candidates and political leaders and holding them accountable to address three points.



THREE POINTS OF ISAIAH PLATFORM

1. We recognize that budgets are moral documents that reflect our values and priorities. All tax policies and spending proposals should be evaluated with a publicly available analysis of how they assist people in overcoming poverty and strengthening families and communities.
2. As a society we must commit to supporting all who work and those unable to work by providing: a living family income, quality health care, affordable housing, adequate nutrition, educational opportunities for their children--with the goal of reducing the number of children in poverty by half in ten years.
3. We must commit to significantly reducing the number of people worldwide who experience extreme poverty, in cooperation with other nations, through a foreign policy that sees just trade, effective international aid, and reducing the debt of impoverished nations as central to our national and global security.

Additional information can be found at calltorenewal.com.

LOUISIANA COLLEGE *continued*

ers dozed on. It is not clear whether this question from the prof was an act of courage (to risk getting us to think) or an act of desperation (to stir us from our slumber.) As I recall, the question made it back to the dorm for the late night bull session. Such sessions are among my most exquisite memories. Among that little group of students no topic was off limits, and as often as not, the discussion came through the prism of what does this mean if I take Jesus seriously.

Like any good teacher, this English professor (long since departed from LC), resisted giving us the "answer." He understood his role to be that of guide and facilitator, and that as young adults, ultimately we were responsible for our own learning - responsible to ourselves and, for those of us who were followers of The Way, responsible to God for how we used our gifts. Once, there was a little boy who found an emerging butterfly struggling mightily to escape from its cocoon. The child took pity, reached down, and cut free the poor insect only to find a wobbly, anemic creature too weak to ever fly. "Saving" the butterfly from its struggles prevented it from gaining the strength it would have developed through the process in order to fly and survive in the world. No metaphor could more clearly illustrate the issue before Louisiana College today. Do we want a school that respects the students in their unique curiosity and that expects maturity from them to address adult issues (since it is the adult world that they now enter)? Or, do we want to help them hide and withdraw into a false spiritual enclave where they are too weak to enter the marketplace of ideas and the world's pain with an articulate gospel word? Do we want professors to use their God given minds to soar freely under the Lordship of Jesus to think in new ways and engage the world creatively? Or, do we want their wings clipped, their provocative questions silenced, and for them to be granted permission only to offer "second hand easy answers masquerading as the truth?"

CASTING OUT FEAR...AND A CHILD SHALL LEAD

Louisiana College has never been a large school and today even after a near-

ly 100-year history, its total number of graduates is not much over 10,000. Are these numbers large enough to make a difference? In the grand scheme of things does seeking to conserve this tradition of open inquiry in Christian community matter that much? The largest crowd (any of us could recall) assembled at a recent regional alumni meeting to speak in the affirmative. It seems a crisis served to bring out the faithful. Stories circulated among the group not only of what the school has meant to us, but the difference



its graduates have made. A contribution well out of proportion to its size, LC has sent out a bevy of professionals to be salt and light in virtually every field of endeavor. One alumnus noted that at one point, there were seven School Superintendents who were LC graduates.

So what has gone wrong? At this alumni gathering, consensus emerged about trustees out of control -- not all of them apparently, but a significant group that never sleeps in its misguided zeal. Their self-appointed task is to narrowly re-shape the vision of a Christian liberal arts college into an intolerant, "dumbed-down" religion school. It is a by-product of a larger conflict of which we are all too familiar and have long been weary. The cry of "I am more conservative than you, more fundamental in my beliefs than you" has sent Baptists on a religious arms race to the wacky. Pushed to its extreme, the result is trustees wanting to ban books that have become modern classics and requirements that Christian scholars submit their curriculum to censors. It is a lurch towards an academically sterile and chilling environment where open discussion is suspect.

Just as disturbing is the "end justifies the means" mentality, in which off campus power plays, rump sessions, and moving around established procedures become the mode of operation that is just like ... well, the world. Yes, the same world Jesus has called us to transform. What irony, we Baptists must rely again on the "secular world" to get us in line and warn us to behave like Christians or else. Only a few years ago the court found one of our current trustees guilty of libel against LC professors and awarded damages. That trustee continues to lead the charge to dis-

aster. Now we look to a "secular" accred-

iting body to slap our trustees' hands for stifling academic freedom, and running roughshod on established and orderly governance procedures (like a jerry rigged effort to install a woefully unqualified renegade teacher as the new president).

The deeper issues however, point to our fractured Christian community and our failure of faith, love and imagination. Fear, not doubt is opposite of faith. We fear trusting one another and God with our differences. We are called to unite under the banner of "Jesus is Lord," recognizing that God transcends our categories. St. Paul tells us perfect love casts out fear. Our sad history as Baptists is that we love our dogmas much more than we love Jesus, and certainly more than we love each other. We are much quicker to err in love than in doctrine. Jesus' last recorded prayer near the end of the Gospel of John is a tender plea that we, his followers would have (not perfect doctrine but) a love for each other so compelling that the world will take notice. In my years at LC, there were non-Christian students who came because of the school's academic excellence and individualized attention. Some of these were changed forever not because of our religious purity, clever arguments or ability to "shout them down." It seems yielded, humble vessels willing to be real, honest, and loving with fellow students became the instrument of choice the Potter used to find those hearts in need.

In the New Testament we see a Jesus ready to laugh with those who laugh and weep with those who weep. We have it on record of his great mercy to one caught in the most embarrassing of circumstances with his gentle word, "Go and sin no more." His strongest words were against the religiously self-assured, who had no need of a physician. It was always people before agendas. Jesus has a way of surprising us and turning our world upside down. Jesus will be faithful to call out the next generation, from those "grown up children" who now attend LC. Will Louisiana Baptists be open to that leading, to trust each other and give these students the best in mature, authentic, Christian liberal arts education? Not by fear, not by overprotection, not by clipping wings or snipping cocoons, but by faith and love would butterflies soar.



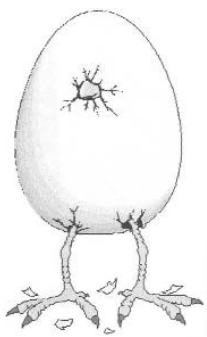
- by Kyle Kelley

TREASURES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 pastor of more than 30 churches, written seven books and numerous articles.

Bill Ichter, who served as a fellow missionary in Brazil, spoke admiringly of Tolbert's effectiveness on the mission field and his command of the language. Ichter recalled the comment of the President of the Brazilian Convention who stated he could count on one hand the number of preachers who were as effective in communicating the gospel in Portuguese, and he was comparing Dr. Tolbert with native speakers! Ichter states he was also present when Dr. Tolbert preached his first sermon in German, after only two months of study. He reports the German pastor complimented Dr. Tolbert on his fluency with the only slightly critical comment that he was "over the heads" of some of his German audience.

Serving as a pastor in Baton Rouge at the same time as Dr. Tolbert, **Irvin Cheney** observed his "brilliance and sensitivity as a pastor." Yet what he most treasures is his loyal friendship stretching over 50 years no matter what the trial. Cheney observed all of us have good and bad traits, and admitted as we grow older we "usually get cranky." But Cheney pointed to a "dramatic observation" that through the years the positive traits in Dr. Tolbert have continued to increase and the negative ones have diminished.

Ray Rust, who was Executive Vice President at New Orleans Seminary during Dr. Tolbert's time as professor at the seminary calls him "one of the brightest scholars in our generation." Rust has known Dr. Tolbert since Louisiana College days when they were roommates. When it was discovered that the Biology teacher wasn't taking roll, they would alternate their attendance and take notes for each other so they each could sleep in late every other day. Rust recalls feverishly taking notes to keep up with the volumes of information the teacher gave, but then would gaze in puzzlement at the skimpy short hand his roommate took because Dr. Tolbert had the rest in his head. Rust was also able to point to the unusual concern Dr. Tolbert shows towards others reflected first in the many friendships at Louisiana College but becoming even more apparent in his work on the mission field. Later Rust observed Dr. Tolbert's care for students but has also witnessed it towards people in all walks of life. This gentle consistency towards others continues to this day and we will be blessed further in our opportunity to partake in the Stag-Tolbert legacy by hearing Dr. Tolbert at the October forum.



God is Doing Something New!

**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! Your gifts are needed:

Spiritual Pray to under-gird 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 to CBF-LA

Contact us at: CBF-LA, PO Box 607, Ruston, LA 71273
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PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

By Frank Stagg

The Book of Acts
The Holy Spirit Today
*Polarities of Human Existence in
Biblical Perspective*
New Testament Theology
Woman in the World of Jesus
(with Evelyn Stagg)
Broadman Commentary, Matthew
Broadman Commentary, Philippians
Glossolalia (with Hinson & Oates)

By Malcolm Tolbert

Shaping the Church
Broadman Commentary, Luke
Good News from Matthew
Ephesians: God's New People
Walking with the Lord - I John
*Speaking in Tongues (with Fisher
Humphries)*
Layman's Bible Book Commentary:
Philippians, Colossians,
I & II Thessalonians,
I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon

A number of these are out of print but most are still available through web used book sources like half.com and barnesandnoble.com.

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WHAT? YOU MISSED the CBF ASSEMBLY in BIRMINGHAM?

Once a year Baptists from all over the country meet for the national assembly of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. It is an amazing time of learning, worshiping, sharing, celebrating and being re-energized for the road ahead. Here is what your peers from Louisiana Baptist churches said about their experience.

The CBF Assembly in Birmingham provided wonderful workshops on new ideas for "doing church." The overall spirit was so uplifting-good music, inspiring speakers, great new friends. Hope to see lots of Louisianians in Grapevine, Texas next June. --Sue Tweedy, University Baptist, Baton Rouge

This was our first CBF General Assembly. It was a very uplifting spiritual experience and a great send off for our trip to China to teach English. We definitely want to attend again next year. --Kenny Crump, Temple Baptist, Ruston

We enjoy it so much we already have our reservations for next year. We even have an extra reservation for someone who has never been before. It is such a joyful and congenial group! --Mary Wilson, First Baptist Shreveport

CALENDAR

October 16 Stagg Tolbert Forum for
Biblical Studies
Broadmoor Baton Rouge

October 24 Bread for the World
Sunday

December 12 Baptist World Alliance
Human Rights Sunday

February 6 Baptist World Alliance
Sunday

March 11-12 CBF State Assembly
FBC Shreveport
Dan Vestal speaker

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