

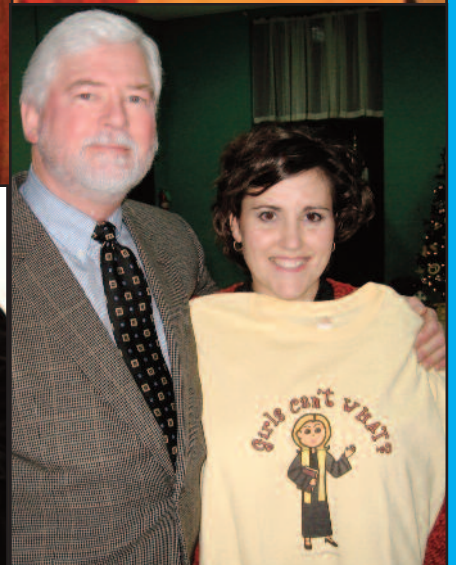
Louisiana Fellowship People

Feb-Mar-April 2011 Volume 18, No. 1 cbfla.org

...and your sons and daughters will prophesy

Joel 2:28

Together for Hope Missionary Stephanie Vance looks on as Rev. Byron Vance, her brother, issues the charge at her ordination service.



"I often cry when I am rejoicing," reflected Dolly Carroll, CBF-LA Coordinating Council member before she read from Isaiah at Stephanie Vance's ordination January 15 at Emmanuel in Alexandria. At far left, Dolly gives a blessing to Stephanie in "laying on of hands." Chris Thacker, pastor of Emmanuel presents the certificate, center. More rejoicing at far right as CBF-LA Moderator Shannon Rutherford, with her "can do" T-shirt, is congratulated at her ordination in December by Coordinator Reid Doster. Above right, Shannon is presented a Bible by Warren Miller.

How far have we come in giving ministry opportunities to women?
Get perspective with [this article](#) by Dr. Sarah Frances Anders.



Winds of the Spirit

Reid Doster, CBF-LA Coordinator

Women in Ministry

CBF Louisiana has recently celebrated the ordination of two females -- Shannon Rutherford and Stephanie Vance -- to the Gospel Ministry. University Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, and Emmanuel Baptist Church, Alexandria, have examined both of these fine ladies in regard to their Christian experience, giftedness, sense of calling and views of Bible doctrine, and have determined that they meet the requirements to be set apart for the public ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For me personally this is the fulfillment of a dream, to encourage and bless young women who are committed to vocational Christian ministry. It stands in such marked contrast to those who are convinced that the Holy Spirit uses gender as a criterion by which He determines giftedness for ministry. This contrast is further reinforced by our Maggie Lee Henson Scholarship Fund, which will help support a female theology student in her final year at a CBF partner seminary and provide a church-planting internship at Church for the Highlands. Funds are still being raised for this scholarship, with the hope of securing a female church planting intern for the Fall of 2011.

Celebrating Grace

Bridgewater Church, Madisonville, has gifted Church for the Highlands, Shreveport, with 80 copies of the new hymnal titled Celebrating Grace. The goal, however, is for others to pitch in and increase that to 125 new hymnals. If you would like to contribute a new hymnal, each copy costs about \$15. Mail your check directly to Church for the Highlands, 520 Olive St., Shreveport, 71104, or you can [give online here](#). It's a special way you can personally bless this new work, led by Pastor John Henson.

"The Rubble House"

I know it's hard to keep up with all God is doing through CBF, so I want to remind you of something extraordinary that is making a real, positive difference in the lives of homeless survivors of Haiti's massive earthquake -- the worst natural disaster ever recorded in the Western Hemisphere. In partnership with Conscience International,

Fuller Center for Housing and Baptist General Convention of Texas, we are constructing safe, attractive, permanent houses, using Haitian labor, and built on land in legal possession of the homeowner,

all for only \$3,500. Just last week, Discovery TV of Canada visited the CBF base-camp in Grand Goave, Haiti, and were so impressed with the houses we are building that they featured our work in their anniversary report. To see this awesome report by video, click [here](#). You can keep up with the Haiti work at haitihousingnetwork.com I will be returning to Haiti next month with Daniel Vestal, Harry Rowland and others, to assess our work and re-affirm our ties with the Baptist Convention of Haiti.

Personal Reflections on The Fellowship

We should never apologize for relationship-building. Not only do we need each other, but we need to be with each other. The work of the heart makes us vulnerable, and can deplete our energy and capacity. We do better when we co-create. That's why we call ourselves The Fellowship. We try to concentrate on issues people really care about. Relaxed conversation is at the primal core of all human endeavors. It's how things get decided.

To keep our CBF conversation fresh, we must change the conversation, and the way to do that is by changing who is in the conversation. It is healthy to hear new voices, see different perspectives and unpack others' experiences. We should ask: "Who in our CBF fellowship is surprising us with their ideas, passion and vision?" New leaders can come from anywhere. We should also focus on what is working and what is possible, rather than waste time on people, issues or situations that drain life and energy. Let's work with what is working. In that way, we really do not have to invent anything. It is probably already out there somewhere in our CBF Louisiana family.

Let's ask: "Who is already doing it? How can we build upon that and refine it?" Instead of "cultivating young leaders," let's listen more to what they are trying to tell us. None of us are experts. In fact, the real "expert" is all of us working together. I'm concerned that if we get too serious in our quest for effectiveness and relevance, we might be tempted either to lower expectations, exaggerate successes, or overlook all the good being accomplished. This is God's work -- the Missio Dei -- and He invites us in on it. We already possess what we need to accomplish His will through us.



Picture God's Love
Give to CBF-LA



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

___ CBF-LA Ministry Budget \$ _____ ___ New Church Start \$ _____
___ Together for Hope Rural Poverty \$ _____ ___ Disaster Relief \$ _____
___ Missionary Fund \$ _____ Other: _____ \$ _____

Your name (please print) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Make checks payable to CBF of Louisiana, 2220 South Vienna Street, Ruston, LA 71270

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



Reflections on the New Year

Stephanie Vance, CBF-LA Missionary

As we begin our new year, I am doubly blessed. On January 11, I celebrated my one year anniversary with CBF Louisiana as your Together for Hope missionary. This has been a great year, both for me and for the community of Lake Providence. We have experienced the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. service, the annual Pancake Dinner on Mardi Gras, the Together for Hope 2nd Annual Football Clinic and the Lake Providence Soul Food and Heritage Festival.

My first group to work here in the community was the youth group from FBC, Madison, AL. They had a great time getting to know Mr. Sye Williams and painting his home. Many would like to return this year. I am grateful for this group's willingness to be a test group for this ministry.

The 8th Annual Bags of Hope Book Bag Drive was a great success. Working alongside local educators and community leaders, we were able to provide over 1,200 book bags and supplies to East Carroll parish students. In Tensas parish, over 450 students received book bags and supplies. I am thankful for the groups from FBC and Haynes Ave. Baptist in Shreveport, Emmanuel Baptist and New Life Community Church in Alexandria/Pineville, and Broadmoor Baptist and University Baptist in Baton Rouge, as well as Kenny and Shirley Crump from Ruston. Your work here was much appreciated by our local committee and those attending the event.

New Life Community Church sent a group of guys to replace Mr. Sye Williams' roof and it was finished just in time. A powerful wind and rain storm passed through within an hour of the group's departure and the roof worked just fine! Thanks, guys!

Since then, in our community, we have elected new town officials and prepared packages for the senior citizens in the area with the Make-a-Difference-Day Committee. Thanks for sending blankets, CBF Louisiana!

I am writing this sitting on a comfy couch in the missionary house here on Scarborough Street (between the Capital One Bank and St. Patrick's Catholic Church), which is possible because of your generous support. We now have blankets for beds, mattresses, curtains, pillows, lamps, pots and pans and all of the items we need to have a great place to stay for all of the groups that will come to Lake Providence in the future (hint, hint).

Yes, this is where you come in. If your church or just a group of friends wants to plug into a community in need, if you want to partner with a local group or organization to create renewal and change, if you want to give of your time and energy in Lake Providence, this is your time!

Contact me anytime and we can talk about some opportunities here and ways to make things happen. Come and see what God can do through you in Lake Providence!

Always blessed by your prayers!

Follow Stephanie's journey at [Made it to Providence](#).

Church For the Highlands Receives Gift, Celebrates "Firsts"

by Kyle Kelley

Celebrating Grace is more than the name of the new hymnals on their way to Church for the Highlands, thanks to the generosity of the "other new church start" Bridgewater. Celebrating Grace is becoming a theme.

With the grace of new beginnings comes many firsts -- first service, first prayer group, first children's choir program, and this past Sunday first baby dedication.

Like many events in the first 6 months of this infant flock, we find ourselves bathed in joy and grace. In the innocent faces of Lucy and Kensey are promises of future dreams much as that of our little flock. We gladly promised to assist in the growth and spiritual nature of these little ones. A near high attendance of 82 souls soaked it all in.

Existing to bless the neighborhood, we share in God's bounty in the process. Each Sunday we pause for a missional moment hearing of other good things we can bless in our community or just take time to tell stories of finding God in the neighborhood.



Above Reid Doster, as Pastor of Bridgewater Church, presents a check for the purchase of 80 Celebrating Grace hymnals to the Kelley family representing Church for the Highlands, a new church start. At right Pastor John Henson reads the announcement to the congregation on Sunday January 16.

"We are exceptionally good at potlucks," Pastor John Henson was heard to say recently. Wednesday nights we share food and *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*. Pulling from ancient and contemporary sources of prayer worldwide, we take the invitation to join the divine dance of that *Cloud of Witnesses* Hebrews speaks of.

Next up is taking those dance steps to the neighborhood in our *first* float in the Mardi Gras parade that comes right past the church door. Going public with God's party. Who knew?

CBF-LA Spring Conference will be at [Church for the Highlands](#) May 6-7. Come share the excitement.



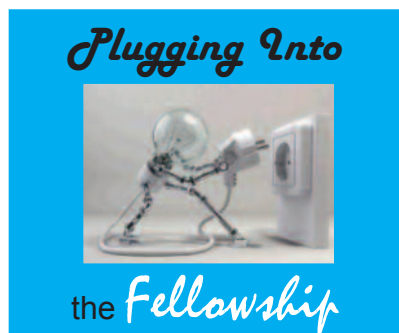
The Fellowship welcomes
 Dr. Terry Ellis, new pastor of
 Broadmoor- Baton Rouge.

Get to know Dr. Ellis:
 His [bio](#), his [blog](#) - Gracewavestoday.com

Mark Your Calendar: May 6-7
CBF-LA Spring Conference
 Church for the Highlands -- Shreveport
*The Call: Intersecting God-given Passion
 with the World's Great Need*



featuring **Rob Nash**
 Coordinator Global Missions



Find your place in *Fellowship* Kingdom work.
 Immediate needs where you can help:

Lake Providence -- Together for Hope

Wish list for mission house: 3 chest of drawers,
 3 comfy armchairs, dishwasher, lamps

Volunteers needed for work day on mission house in
 late February or March; for Spring or Summer mission
 encounters, skills needed: housing rehab, art, music,
 sports for day camps or other efforts;
 Let us know your skills. Contact Stephanie.

Church for the Highlands Needs:

Celebrating Grace hymnals at \$14.95 each,
 Refrigerator, Hotplates/stove. Contact Kyle

Haiti "Rubble Houses"

1,000 homes in 3 years, \$3500 per house, see amazing
 video of this work at cbfla.org. Give or go yourself and
 build. A big goal, but with our partners we can do it.
 Contact Ried.

Scholarships

Maggie Lee Henson Scholarship for Female Church Planters
 Together for Hope Scholarship to Arkansas Baptist College
 Invest in the witness of the future. Give at cbfla.org.



Come celebrate 20 years
 of the Fellowship.
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
June 22-25 Tampa, Florida

CBF-LA Receipts	December	Fiscal Year 7-1-10 to 6-30-11
Undesignated	\$4,624.10	\$31,341.80
Together for Hope	\$11,916.67	\$24,244.87
Church Start	-	\$53,715.00
Other	\$3,010.00	\$9,980.00
TOTAL	\$19,550.77	\$119,281.67

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Administrative address:

406 Pine Street, Madisonville, LA 70447

Reid Doster, Coordinator:

985-778-6049 reid.cbflouisiana@gmail.com

Kyle Kelley, Associate Coordinator:

318-780-4127 cbflouisiana@gmail.com

Stephanie Vance, Together for Hope Missionary

318-418-4075 sthepny@gmail.com

Shannon Rutherford, Moderator; Chris Thacker, Moderator Elect,
 Larry Davis, Past Moderator; Charlene Kelley, National CBF Rep.

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