



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana

April 5 2014 -- In This Issue:

- * Spring Conference April 26
- * Now Go Find Your Rest - Reid Doster
- * National Gathering June 25-27, Atlanta

Reid Doster, Coordinator:

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

Kyle Kelley, Associate Coordinator:

318-780-4127 cbflouisiana@gmail.com

Jenny Hodge, Together for Hope Missionary

318-418-5133 hodgejv@gmail.com

cbfla.org cbflouisiana@gmail.com

It accumulates, it grows . . . like your best game of pile-up, God's mercies surround us, engulf us. Grace holds us together, joins us as God's beloved community.



Spring Conference

"Grace Upon Grace"

Saturday April 26 -- 10AM to 2PM
Emmanuel Baptist, Alexandria

Register at cfbla.org or 318-780-4127

Remember when your grandmother told you, "count your blessings." Strengths, blessings, assets - all God's graces, are the building blocks by which we are building a community and a community of communities.

Following the Incarnate who came to usher in a Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven," we gather to take in a little holy inebriation, to soak in ... grace upon grace.

**Grace Upon Grace
Grace Upon Grace
Grace Upon Grace
Grace Upon Grace**

John 1:16

Schedule -- Saturday April 26

9:00 -- Pre-conference Coordinating Council / Business Meeting

9:45 -- Registration / Coffee

10:00 -- Session 1: Providential Grace

11:30 -- Lunch

12:30 -- Session 2: Grace Community

featuring:



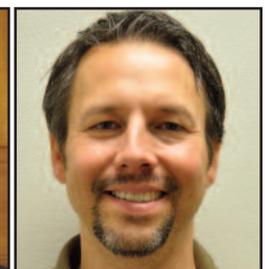
Griff Martin



Jenny Hodge



Chris Thacker



John Henson

more on back



Winds of the Spirit

Reid Doster, CBF-LA Coordinator

"Now, Go Find Your Rest"

Scripture makes many references to a "one thing," e.g.: "One thing have I desired (Psalms 27:4)," "One thing thou lackest (Mark 10:21)," "One thing is needful (Luke 10:42 KJV)," "One thing I know" (John 9:25)," or "One thing I do (Philippians 3:13-14)."

When Augustine (354 - 430 C.E.) penned the timeless words "Lord, our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee," he spoke volumes to us who live in a more complex world with never-ending distractions and who frequently wobble on the brink of exhaustion. After experimenting with many choices that did not work, Augustine settled upon a "one thing" strategy and found his "rest."

We observe a similar "one thing" strategy among the more revered and influential leaders in modern Christian history, e.g., Albert Schweitzer, Mother Teresa or Dr. Martin Luther King, who shared a common trait. Each discovered their "one thing," pursued it with strategic abandon, and persevered until they provided the benefits of their "one thing" to those who needed it most. And, in so doing, they paradoxically experienced "rest."

If you could do one thing you know would make a significant, lasting, possibly life-changing difference in your level of personal fulfillment, would you do it? This "one thing" might be a decision, phone call, commitment, or tough conversation. It might consume a minute, a month or a lifetime, but it's a decision you know would bring more meaning and purpose to your life. Take a moment and honestly consider how you spend your time. Ask yourself:

*"Even if I didn't get paid a cent for it, would I still do this?"
"Would doing this inspire me every day?"
"Does doing this come as naturally to me as breathing?"
"Do I feel I've been given a special gift to do this?"
"Does time seem to fly by when I'm engaged in this activity?"*

If so, then you are pursuing life as you were born to pursue it, perhaps paving a path for others, helping people live, learn, love, laugh, and leave the world in better condition than they found it. And, in so doing, you have discovered "rest."

It's not that we have too little time to do all the things we need to do, it's we feel we need to do too many things in the time we have. Instead, we should be more like postage stamps, sticking to one thing until we get there! This takes mindfulness, deliberateness and intentionality. I've read how even an idle phone conversation while driving takes a 40 percent bite out of our focus and, surprisingly, can have the same effect as being drunk! So, be more careful with your life.

Have you been in a holding pattern because you insist upon knowing conclusively what you'll be doing in 10 years before changing things right now? Stop wasting time.

Unlike in the movie "Back to the Future," Doc Brown isn't going to fly the DeLorean back from 2043, land on your doorstep, hop out with his "future glasses" and give you a new compass heading into your yet-to-come.

God never intended for you to live as spiritual tumbleweed, wandering aimlessly, drifting wherever the wind blows. His calling upon your life is the secret to finding "rest," by honoring the one thing you know in your heart God is calling you to do. This discovery is sequential, not simultaneous. Lorne Whitehead noted in the American Journal of Physics (1983) that one domino can topple another that is 50% larger. Starting with a two inch domino, "geometric progression" means the 23rd domino would be taller than the Eiffel Tower and the 57th would nearly reach the moon! Start today, with what you already know.

Whatever your "one thing" is, it will not leave you alone, because the one thing you have that nobody else has is YOU --- your voice, your mind, your story and your dream.

The incredibly inspiring Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965 C.E.) wrote: "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve."

To the benefit of thousands, The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has latched upon its "one thing," to be the presence of Christ in this hurting world.

Now, go find *your* rest!

Reid



Picture God's Love
Give to CBF-LA



___ CBF-LA Ministry Budget \$ _____ ___ New Church Start \$ _____
 ___ Together for Hope Rural Poverty \$ _____ ___ Disaster Relief \$ _____
 ___ Hope (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