

# Spring Conference 2012

INSIDE  
CBF-LA welcomes  
Dr. Jeff Raines



The tapestry of our fellowship drawn by Karin Tillstrom and Allison McCloud as our story unfolded over the weekend. This mosaic will be hung on the wall of our Lake Providence Mission House. "To be continued," the final tile, points to our ongoing Kingdom work.

## Louisiana Fellowship People

April-May-June 2012  
Volume 19, No. 2  
[cbfla.org](http://cbfla.org)



New Life Community Church of Alexandria led in worship at the CBF-LA Spring Conference at FBC Bunkie March 30-31.



Shannon Rutherford

Right before our eyes, we saw the dawning. On tiptoe, we joined all creation (Romans 8:19) in watching the children of God, expressed in our ragtag fellowship, coming into their own--in celebratory missional stories. God's sons and daughters are:

- \* washing and tending to the feet of elderly diabetic patients
- \* throwing free weddings for couples in financial need
- \* tutoring in afterschool programs \* giving a free meal each week
- \* hosting a jazz service at Mardi Gras \* recreating Bethlehem
- \* giving coats to kids \* bringing clean water to the poor
- \* rehabbing houses and doing kids' camps in Lake Providence
- \* advocating in the state legislature against bullying and more

Rick Bennett encouraged us to keep on swimming in this ocean of God's kingdom following the great vision of Jesus, knowing that in all these efforts God works for good. Worship becomes breathing in the goodness of God's affirmation in our lives and breathing out in service to others.



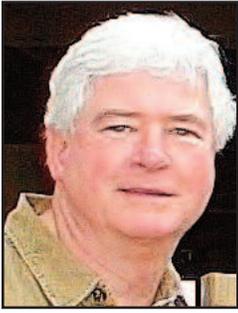
Rick Bennett



Haynes Ave Baptist Youth



Stephanie Vance



# Winds of the Spirit

Reid Doster, CBF-LA Coordinator

Terry Ellis, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist, Baton Rouge, brought our theme interpretation for CBF-LA Spring Assembly. Terry contrasted the only two instances where the word for "charcoal fire" was used in the New Testament. First, in Mark 14, there was the charcoal fire in the temple courtyard, near which Peter denied Jesus three times and exclaimed: "I do not know the man!" Second, in John 21, there was the same type of fire, prepared on a Galilean shoreline by the resurrected Lord, in the warmth of which the graciously reinstated Peter professed: "Lord, you know I love you." My mind drifted back to Elton Trueblood's *The Incendiary Fellowship*. In coming weeks, you will have opportunities to gather with CBF friends around several transformative fires.

First, a **CBF Family Conversation about Sexuality and Covenant**, is scheduled for April 19-21, 2012, at First Baptist Church, Decatur, GA. The intent of this gathering is to sharpen tools with which 21st Century Christian minds will be better equipped for "rightly dividing the Word of Truth" relative to Biblical models of covenant relationships. Human sexuality can be a positive, creative force for good, with potential to strengthen intimate bonds, enhance lives, and open up spiritual awareness. Yet, our churches often remain strangely silent about this deeply personal and sensitive aspect of human experience. Perhaps we need more incisive language and a clearer understanding of theological foundations as we attempt to address sexually-related ethical issues faced by ordinary people in the pew. Isn't it time for the Church to model healthier ways of discussing, from a Biblical perspective, something so basic to life and relationships? For more information, see: [thefellowship.info/conference](http://thefellowship.info/conference).

Second is a **Peer Retreat**, May 17 & 18. Mike Anderson, Pastor of Haynes Avenue Baptist Church, Shreveport, and members of the North Louisiana Peer Group, graciously invite all CBF Louisiana church staff members to this annual retreat. The beautiful Poverty Point State Park will again be our setting. Last year, as we were driving away from Black Bear Lodge, following a delicious meal, I asked my fellow passengers: "How often do you think they actually see a black bear around here?" At that precise moment, a black bear ran across the road, right in front of the car!

Rick Bennett, with the CBF Resource Center in Atlanta, returns to Louisiana to help us further explore the richness of "missional community." Rick's contribution to Spring Assembly was outstanding. Register for this retreat by emailing Mike Anderson at [haynesavenuebc@bell-south.net](mailto:haynesavenuebc@bell-south.net). You will be expected to cover the cost of your meals and, if applicable, golfing fees. Mike says: "These are renewing times for me. I look forward to some learning,

growing, sharing, and a lot of fun and laughter."

Third is the **Stagg-Tolbert Biblical Forum** which has been set for October 6th at Broadmoor-Baton Rouge with Molly Marshall as our guest speaker. Dr. Marshall, President of Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, KS (since 2004), is the first woman to head a Baptist seminary or divinity school in North America. She is also Professor of Theology, Worship, and Spiritual Formation at CBTS, an American Baptist seminary with strong ties to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. I was with Molly at Central Seminary a few months ago and was deeply touched by her warmth, passion, humor and blazing insight. You may recall that Molly was scheduled to bring the Stagg-Tolbert lectures two years ago, but understandably canceled in order to remain by her husband's side once hospice became involved in his care. Molly says she is thrilled to be invited back to CBF Louisiana. Mark your calendar now.

Last, but not least is the annual **CBF General Assembly** June 20-22, this year to be conveniently held in nearby Fort Worth. Our state meeting at the Assembly will be Thursday, June 21, from 4:15-5:15pm. Guest speaker for the Louisiana meeting will be Colleen Burroughs. Colleen, co-director of Passport also serves as the current national moderator for CBF. You will recall her special warmth and inspiration she shared with us at our Stagg-Tolbert Forum a few years ago. Register today for the General Assembly [here](#).

See you around the campfire!

In His love, *Reid*

## 2012-2013 CBF-LA Officers Elected



John Henson Moderator    Terry Ellis Moderator-Elect    Marilyn Anderson Secretary    Chris Thacker Past Moderator

In the business session of the CBF-LA Spring Conference a slate of officers was elected unanimously. They are John Henson, Pastor of Church for the Highlands-Shreveport as Moderator; Terry Ellis, Pastor of Broadmoor-Baton Rouge as Moderator-Elect; Marilyn Anderson, layperson at Haynes Ave. Baptist-Shreveport as Secretary; and Chris Thacker, Pastor of Emmanuel-Alexandria now moves into the role of Past Moderator. Returning positions are Shannon Rutherford, Minister to College Students University-Baton Rouge as CBF National Representative and Kenny Crump, layperson at Temple-Ruston as Treasurer.



*I smell crayons* - Read Stephanie's latest blog at: [Madeittoprovidence.blogspot.com](http://Madeittoprovidence.blogspot.com)

# Help Us Shine!

**Stephanie Vance, CBF-LA Together for Hope Missionary**

Wow! Where to begin? There have been so many great things happening around here lately. Folks around here want to get actively involved with our local crafting groups. The crafting groups are designed to get people dreaming small in order to dream big. We will sit down and create together, teach one another, and hopefully dream together.

We held a craft night at the end of last year and another in March. There are plans for another meeting in May, which I hope will be a fun, creative time for all. Hopefully, we will be able to create new businesses and ways to sell handicrafts from these small meetings. Please pray for the people who will take part in this new program.

There are also great things happening at the mission house. Folks around town are always commenting on the changes that they see at the "Herzog House." (Herzog was the name of a previous owner.) Inside the house, we are currently working on a rewiring project to modernize the house and to be able to provide a more comfortable place to stay. Also in an effort to provide comfort and convenience, we are almost finished building two showers and a small half-bath. It's so exciting to see this gem of a house become more beautiful by the week. Thanks to all of the great volunteers from our CBF-LA churches, as well as churches and groups from Arkansas, Alabama, and North Carolina.

This community is also a diamond in the rough. There is much to do to polish and cut this gem to make it shine. Please consider leading a children's camp this summer, painting a house, leading a craft night, or just coming to town to get to know some folks. God can and will do great things through us here. Come join the work and the fun!

*We're getting saucy!*

We can't promise it will cure warts or rheumatism, but it will spice up your life! Together for Hope pepper sauce is bottled right in Lake Providence.

Started as a family business to keep seasonal farm workers employed year round, Panola Pepper Plant is an excellent partner for us in raising money for our Hope fund and helping the local community.

**\$6 per bottle, 2 for \$10  
\$60 for a case of 12**

Proceeds go to the Hope Fund supporting our work in East Carroll and Tensas. A great project for your mission group, and it tastes great!

**Call Stephanie for your sauce now!  
318-418-4075 or [sthepny@gmail.com](mailto:sthepny@gmail.com)**



**TOGETHER FOR HOPE**  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Rural Poverty Initiative



## Hope Fund

...for the Kingdom work we have been called by God to do in Tensas and East Carroll and to sustain our presence there

**Our Goal: \$38,000**

Spring conference offering and initial pepper sauce sales kicked off the fund at \$1,796

**Offering/Drive runs from Easter to October 1**



## Bags of Hope 2012

**August 4**

**Distribution Day in Lake Providence**

**Collecting Supplies Now:**

*Notebook paper, spiral notebooks, pencils, pens, folders, 16-24 box crayons, children's scissors, gently used children's books, money for book bags or any of the above; book bags are stuffed the night before at the high school*

**For info: Contact Stephanie**

## CBF-LA Welcomes Jeff Raines New Pastor of FBC-Shreveport



Dr. Raines was formerly associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo. He and wife Darcie are both graduates of Baylor University. Raines also has a Master's of Divinity degree from Truett Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. The

Raines are parents to sons Mark, 9, and Bereket, 3.

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***Infinitely More***

*Ephesians 3:20-21*

**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
 General Assembly**

**Fort Worth, Texas June 20-23, 2012**

*Come ask and imagine what God could do  
 through you and through us*



**Pre-register online [here](#)**

***Colleen Burroughs***

*Vice-President of Passport &  
 CBF National Moderator  
 will speak at Louisiana meeting*

Mark your calendar:  
 October 6, 2012

The 9th Annual CBF-LA  
***Stagg-Tolbert Forum for Biblical Studies***  
 Broadmoor Baptist - Baton Rouge



*featuring*

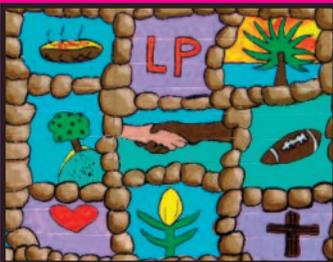
***Molly Marshall***

President of  
 Central Baptist  
 Theological Seminary

**Louisiana Fellowship People**

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 John Henson, Moderator; Terry Ellis, Moderator-Elect;  
 Chris Thacker, Past Moderator; Shannon Rutherford, National CBF Rep.

CBF-LA Receipts	Jan-Feb-Mar	Fiscal Year 7-1-11 to 6-30-12
Undesignated	\$12,670.27	\$50,783.15
Together for Hope	\$2,914.01	\$18,264.97
Missionary Fund	\$2,000.00	\$23,125.00
Other	\$80.00	\$802.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,664.28</b>	<b>\$92,975.12</b>



*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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ 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**

**You may also give on-line: [Donate Now](#)**