

# Louisiana Fellowship People



cbfla.org

April-May, 2009

Volume 16, No. 2



## Going to Lake Providence

### Winds of the Spirit Reid Doster, Coordinator

#### The More We Get Together

On Thursday evening, March 19th, Jarrett and Lori Banks, Broadmoor-Baton Rouge, along with my sweet wife, Penny, helped host a dinner gathering of friends who have expressed interest in learning more about the Louisiana Fellowship.

Sixteen of us sat in-the-round, in a private dining room, telling our stories. This group included new friends: Ike and Gigi Mayfield (New St. Marks-New Orleans), James and Amy Welch (Sojourn Church-New Orleans), Lynn and Leah Clayton (New Life- DeRidder), Steve and Cindy Graves (Mulberry- Houma), Brian and Paulette McDonald (Douglas Church-Madisonville) and Enola Lee (Dowey-Gaston A.M.E.-Madisonville).

Sharon Potts Carroll (St. Charles Avenue-New Orleans) was also with us, giving CBF representation with the Dosters and Banks.

Our purpose was to deepen friendships, share what the Lord is doing through our ministries and explore ways to offer love and support to each other during challenging times.

Over dessert, we discussed aspects of ministry we find most fulfilling and where we personally feel the most energy.

Here are some comments received since the dinner:

*Thanks for hosting and facilitating a wonderful evening. We had a fabulous time sharing and hearing stories. It was nice to meet new people. The meal was good and we left satisfied. We look forward to opportunities to grow in deeper relationship with the beautiful people we met last night.*

*I really enjoyed meeting everyone and hearing their stories, and the food and setting were very enjoyable. I hope we will do this again.*

*One can say with certainty that you have a wide diversity of friends!!*

Several other kindred spirits expressed regrets due to scheduling conflicts, but asked to be included in the next gathering -- a joy to hear.

I learned some things: First, there are pastors and churches who are open and receptive to the ministries of the Fellowship, if we simply reach out to them.

Second, the spouses of people engaged in vocational ministry seem hungry to know one another, to experience mutual encouragement.

Third, everything we do as a missional fellowship hinges upon three things -- relationships, relationships, relationships.

From this dinner, Jarrett plans a peer group that will meet regularly for supportive friendship, spiritual nurturing and professional growth. I will be a part of that group.

Broadmoor graciously funded the meal for this gathering. Jarrett and Lori's presence made all the difference, with their warm smiles, gentle humor and big hugs.

Cont'd

### Together for Hope: Turning Towards Life

Spring Conference and Mission Events  
Lake Providence May 1-2



Fitz Hill President Arkansas Baptist College	Hal Bass National Moderator, Professor Ouachita University	Karen Gilbert Fellowship Missional Church Specialist	Wade Arnold Associate Professor of Psychology Northwestern
--	---	--	--

**Friday** Lake Providence High School Auditorium  
Cookout begins 6:00pm  
Community Rally begins 7:00pm

**Saturday** Providence Church - Morning conference  
Continental Breakfast begins 8:00am  
Following lunch - Family Fun Zone  
Carnival will end at 2:30pm

#### Community Mission Outreach Events:

- Football clinic – public and private school teams
- Community Mural Painting – children to adults
- Book Buddies Literacy Event
- Family Fun Zone Carnival, face painting, clown, inflatables, entertainment

Meals: Friday - \$6 Saturday - \$9

Motel: Newly built Oak Grove Inn and Suites, 318-428-2088  
Complete conference information, maps & other housing at [www.cbfla.org](http://www.cbfla.org). To register or get more information, email [cbflouisiana@gmail.com](mailto:cbflouisiana@gmail.com) or call 318-780-4127.

## Who Is My Neighbor?

It had not rained for 24 days, but on Saturday, March 14th, when 34 people showed up to begin renovations of the Dowey-Gaston A.M.E. Church, in Madisonville, the bottom fell out!

Contributing to the irony is the fact that the church flooded four times -- Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike. In fact, until we sanded them away, the old oak pews proudly wore four distinct watermarks left by the rising waters.

With the rain falling in buckets, my heart sank. I kept asking myself: "What am I doing here?" And the response that came back was: "Because I was chosen to be here."

The "bad" weather proved to be a special blessing. It forced us -- blacks and whites, skilled and unskilled, male and female, fairly well-off and not so well-off -- quickly to pull together, decide what needed to be done and get busy doing it.

The rain also kept us from working as fast as we had hoped, which led to a decision to combine the two congregations for worship in Bridgewater's facility the next morning. Everyone seemed to love that! While Bridgewater's choir sang "I Have Seen the Hand of God," tears streamed down many faces.

Helping us were college students led by Shannon Rutherford, with Reid at the right, of University Church-Baton Rouge, and another group from University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, in Texas.

Funding came from Bridgewater Church's Friendship Fund, from an "It's Time" missional church grant and the Fellowship's Disaster Response funds.

Two experienced builders looked at our finished work and said they could not have done it for less than \$15,000. Our costs so far are less than \$3,000.

Over lunch one day, Rev. Enola Lee, in center of picture, told of her call to ministry, at the age of eight. "My older sister caught me under the house, acting and sounding like I was the preacher. I told her God had called me to preach and she said God was probably going to strike me down by lightning! I actually believed that for awhile. I come from Baptist roots, but had to join the A.M.E. church to be given the opportunity to use my gifts."

That's when I told her about the *Fellowship's* gender equality in ministry. I shared with her that I, too, when only eight, informed my family I was being called to preach and would one day be a minister. Enola and I looked deeply into each other's eyes and then smiled broadly, as if on cue.



Pictured at right is Teri. She lives across the street from the A.M.E. church. Last year, we found her on a ladder, trying to paint her house. "I can only afford one gallon of paint at a time. When my daughter was only one year old, her daddy died. I struggled to survive by working at a saloon and cleaning houses. Then Katrina hit and I had to move

Cont'd page 4

## "Boldly Going--to Lake Providence"

by Mike Anderson, Louisiana Fellowship Moderator

Growing up in the sixties, I was an avid fan of a new sci-fi serial called *Star Trek*. Little did I know this TV series was on track to become one of the most successful theme series in history.

The opening line encapsulates the show's theme. Their five-year mission was to "boldly go where no man has gone before..." These lines were taken from a White



House document following the launch of the Sputnik satellite in the late 1950's.

The original series with its spin-off of five additional TV series comprised 716 episodes spanning twenty-three separate seasons. In addition, ten full-length movies were made with the eleventh coming out this May 8th.

This May, the Louisiana Fellowship also will unveil a new mission that calls us to boldly go where in a sense no man or woman has gone. We'll share this during our Spring Assembly scheduled for May 1st and 2nd. What is new is its location and purpose. We meet at Lake Providence, Louisiana.

Its purpose is to inaugurate the next generation of mission. We hope to introduce the first full-time state missionary who'll work in Lake Providence. This is an exciting step forward. Like the TV series, we too were told to boldly go, where we haven't gone before (Matthew 28:19). Jesus gave us this command.

Star Trek's prime directive was to interfere with no alien culture's development. Ours is to jump in the middle of a culture with the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are going to Lake Providence because it is the site of our "Together with Hope" project where we will place a missionary to extend the mission of Christ in a needy world. Through our missionary we shall bring the

gospel in the lives, homes, work, school, and play of all whom we possibly can, crossing barriers and affecting reconciliation.

Tom Sine in *Wild Hope*, expresses a conviction that we share in our going. "The Jubilant dancing on the Berlin wall is the dance of God. The

songs of freedom sung exuberantly by South African children are the songs of God. The ardent

prayers of East European young people are the prayers of God, and the longings for peace in the Middle East are the longings of God. Our God is alive and well -- and not only found in the songs of celebration. Our God (is) also ... in the scenes of desperation in the urban wastelands of the United States and the mounting famine in the Horn of Africa. Our God fully participates in both the pain and the hope that fills our world." God calls us to fully participate in the lives that are filled with hopelessness and bring to them "a reason for the hope that is within us."

Spring Assembly is a great opportunity to see first hand this town and work to which God has led us. Our Associate Coordinator, Kyle Kelley, has reserved comfortable rooms at the nearby Oak Grove Inn & Suites. Other accommodations are also available. Let us join God as we join together in support for our newest work, to the glory of God... Because the world needs to know the message of God's grace and love in the eternal Christ. I hope you join us and boldly go to Lake Providence this May.

Trekkie Mike Anderson is also Pastor of Haynes Avenue Baptist Church in Shreveport.



My wife and I live just outside Natchitoches. Over the Mardi Gras weekend we decided to explore our new town, so we drove down Fish Hatchery Road. The road winds through freshly furrowed fields and eventually follows Cane River Lake back to town. As we turned one corner, I noticed an old pale yellow Labrador Retriever laying in the middle of his yard. As we drove slowly past on that bumpy road, the dog remained completely, remarkably undisturbed. He was curled up with his head on his tail looking straight up the road in our direction. As we got closer, he didn't move a muscle.

He didn't lift his head, twitch an ear, or blink an eye. For just a second I thought that this was the best piece of lawn art I had ever seen. But as we passed no more than 30 feet from him, I could discern the faint rise and fall of breathing. I love dogs and have been around many in my life. I know that cars and people are often good targets for a chase. What was it about this dog that led him to be unfazed by our presence?

As I reflected on my experience of this dog, I wished I was more like him. Don't you? We chase so many things that frequently end up leading us down the wrong path. We chase every fad that rolls by. Unlike that dog, we have a much more difficult time discerning what is worth going after and what is not. The same is true in our thought life. We have a difficult time stopping ourselves in the moment, and before we know it we have chased a thought so far down the road we don't even recognize where we are. Perhaps we find ourselves on Sin Street or Depression Lane, so far away from home that we don't know how to get back.

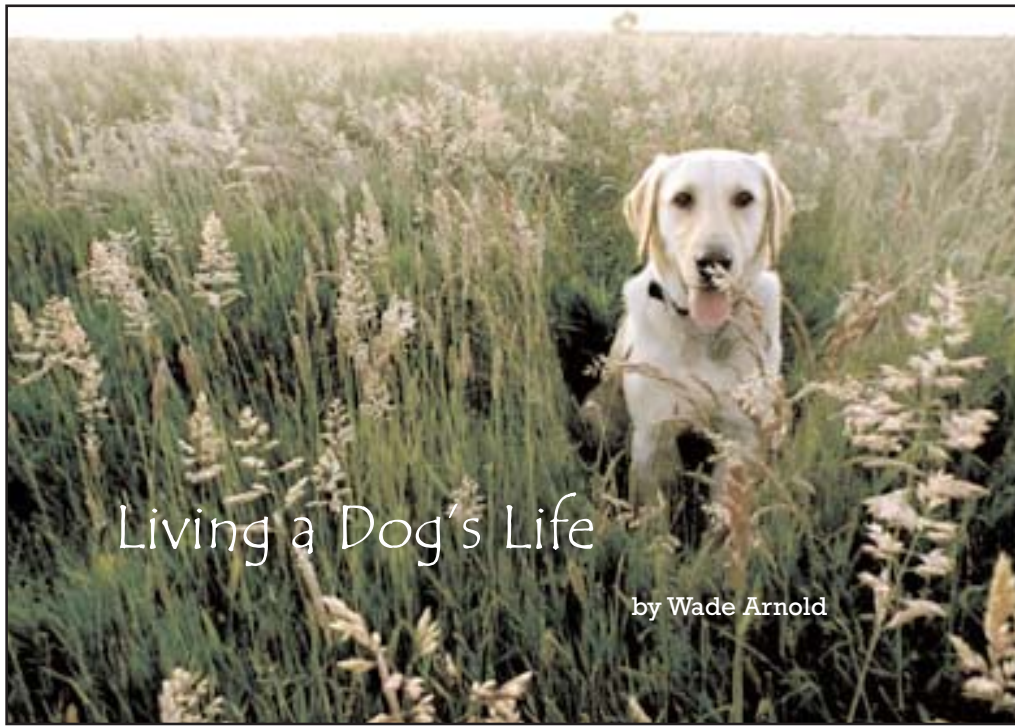
How did this dog do it? How did he just sit there, doing nothing? The key, of course, was that he wasn't doing 'nothing.' There are a couple of lessons we can take from that Lab. First, we trust our master, our 'pack leader.' Now, I am not saying that

if you just have more faith (as if your faith is somehow deficient) your marriage, your mood, or your relationships will be transformed. But what I am saying is that if we trust God, we are

going to obediently await his provision for our needs rather than taking matters into our own hands. Second, we must focus on our master. The Lab was clearly anticipating someone else coming down Fish Hatchery Road, and he didn't want to miss it. God is moving all around us all the time, but we are so busy chasing other 'stuff' down the road that we miss Him. Practicing the spiritual disciplines such as prayer and fasting help us see God's activity in and around us.

Perhaps, that Lab understood what the prophet Isaiah meant when he wrote, "The

steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You." May we all live this dog's life.



## Living a Dog's Life

by Wade Arnold

*Dr. Wade Arnold is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. He is also an ordained Baptist minister having served churches in Mississippi, Texas, and New Mexico. He will be presenting a workshop at the Fellowship Spring Conference entitled "Forgiveness: Biblical and Psychological Perspectives."*



**In Memorium**  
**Bryan Bazer**  
1926 - 2009

The Louisiana Fellowship celebrates the life and witness of Bryan Bazer, longtime supporter pictured here at a Friends of the Fellowship meeting last summer. He was loved by all at First Shreveport, but especially the children who affectionately knew him as the "gum man." Bryan gave out chewing gum weekly to generations of kids at church.



**Get Frisky!**  
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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 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 at [www.cbfla.org](http://www.cbfla.org).*

to this little house, which needs lots of work.”

Our missional congregation bought all the paint she could use, installed new wiring, took care of carpentry repairs, etc., and will soon repair her fence that was creamed by Gustav.

Teri’s giving back by helping her neighbors, just as we helped her. That’s how it works. It was my joy recently to baptize Teri’s daughter, Kaitlyn.

The fellow with the cap is Randy. He moved his family to Madisonville from



Dallas to be near his sister who has metastatic cancer, and near his father who has Alzheimer’s. After teaching some of the A.M.E. youth how to use a drill and repair a banister, Randy exclaimed: “Working on this A.M.E. church building, with these people, is one of the highlights of my life.”

If you will become engaged in some hands-on project right in your church’s neighborhood, you will be amazed at its power to bless many lives and mature your mission.

### God’s Providence in Lake Providence

While Kyle and the missionary search committee continue their vital work, plans are shaping up for our May 1 & 2 Assembly, in Lake Providence.

I want you to make reservations NOW. Friday night’s history-making rally in the local high school auditorium, will feature Dr.

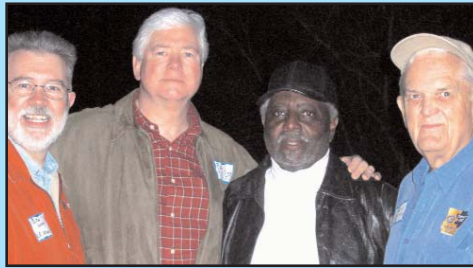
Fitz Hill, President of Arkansas Baptist College.

One of our closest allies in ministry there, “Sister Bernie” with Sisters of Charity, has stated that our Friday night activities are “truly a miracle.” Coaches and athletes from the public high school will join coaches and athletes from the private academy in a Friday afternoon multi-racial football clinic, which will culminate with a rally in the high school auditorium, complete with Gospel choirs. You need to be there. God is up to something, and the Louisiana Fellowship is in the thick of it, shaping a new vision for ministry .

I want you to understand how important this event, and your personal presence, is to the life of our movement.

I urge you to make reservations to spend Friday night and join us on Saturday for a condensed conference, followed by forays into the community, where you will be able to see and touch mission projects unfolding concurrently with our meeting.

And one more thing, be ready to catch the winds of the Spirit!



Butch Lomax, Reid Doster, Shovie Ducre & Sam Chaffin

*Recently Rotary partners gathered for a meal with the families of Lacombe in a sweet celebration of God’s providence through so many brought together for a common purpose. It felt good to laugh and count our blessings, after having gone through such sad times together.*



### Partners in Prayer Calendar

Omitted names due to sensitive nature of work.

#### APRIL

- 1 Greg Smith, Latinos, Fredericksburg, VA
- 2 Frank Morrow, unevang. people group, Texas
- 2 Leonora Newell, Rural Poverty, Helena, AR
- 5 Eddy, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 11 Steve James, holistic health ministry, Haiti
- 11 Dee Donalson, education, Ethiopia
- 13 Susan Craig, Romany people, Romania
- 15 \_\_\_\_, unevangelized people group, Mid East
- 20 Casey, water & developmt, Southeast Asia
- 20 \_\_\_\_, unevang. people group, North Africa
- 22 Lucas Newell, 1997, son, Ben & Leonora Newell, Arkansas
- 22 Brittany Phillips, outreach developer, China
- 27 Carter Harrell, 1995, son, Melody & Sam Harrell, East Africa
- 30 Erika Houser, 2001, daughter, Ana Marie & Scott Houser, Southern Africa

#### MAY

- 2 Jessica Rose, transform. ministry, Lima, Peru
- 2 Matthew Sherin, 2004, son, Karen & Kenny

Sherin, Missouri

- 3 Leah Harding, 1992, daughter, David & Merrie Harding, Florida
- 5 Austin, 2004, son, Kirk & Suzie, Asia
- 5 Jay Westfall, medical work, India
- 9 David Harding, Emergency Response, FL
- 11 Larry Ballew, advocate, Macau, China
- 11 Robbi Francovich, Emeritus, December 2006
- 15 Paula Settle, Rural Poverty, E. Kentucky
- 16 \_\_\_\_, daughter, unevang. people grp, NAfrica
- 16 Alex, 2001, son, Cindy & Eddy, Asia
- 16 Leela Togba-Doya, 2007, daughter Calandra & Jessy Togba-Doya, Liberia
- 17 Nell Green, internationals, South Carolina
- 18 Ciera Maas, 2003, daughter, Eric & Julie Maas, Belize
- 19 Joshua Stocks, 1989, son, Ralph & Tammy Stocks, Hungary
- 20 Micah James, 1994, son, Nancy & Steve James, Haiti
- 21 \_\_\_\_, Persian World Outreach, New Jersey
- 21 Ron Winstead, Emeritus, January 2002
- 25 Rick Burnette, Palaung people, Thailand
- 26 Hunter, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 28 Laurel Morrow, 1992, daughter, Frank & Karen Morrow, Texas



## Fellowship General Assembly

July 2-3,  
Houston, Texas

### IDENTITY:

We are a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice.

### VISION:

Being the presence of Christ in the world.

### MISSION:

Serving Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission.

CBF-LA Receipts	February	Fiscal Year 7/01/08-6/30/09
Undesignated	\$7,640.59	\$50,645.77
Together for Hope	\$416.67	\$9,639.93
Stagg-Tolbert Forum	\$22.40	-\$3,500.13
New Church Starts	\$61.40	\$197.37
TFH Missionary Fund	\$1,000.00	\$41,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,141.06</b>	<b>\$99,196.34</b>

Louisiana Fellowship People  
Sent to you free for the asking.

Published by CBF of Louisiana

Administrative address:

406 Pine Street, Madisonville, LA 70447

Finance Office address:

2220 South Vienna Street, Ruston, LA 71270-7219

Reid Doster, Coordinator

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

Kyle Kelley, Associate Coordinator

318-780-4127 cbflouisiana@gmail.com

Mike Anderson, Moderator

Larry Davis, Moderator Elect

Jay Hogewood, Past Moderator

Charlene Kelley, National CBF Representative

Save a tree.

Save the Fellowship some dough.

Receive our newsletter by email in PDF format. Sign up at cbflouisiana@gmail.com.