

Memphis Assembly



Louisiana meeting speaker W.C. Fields receives the obligatory LSU cup from CBF-LA Moderator Mike Anderson. W.C. had us laughing until we cried, on the way to a thoughtful, encouraging word.



CBF-LA Coordinator Reid Doster led a conference workshop on churches preparing for disasters.

More Assembly news with audio and video at thefellowship.info.



More pictures at cbfla.org



Keith Holmes Reports Vulcanesti Church Almost Complete Embarks on 4 Week Missionary Speaking Tour



In a picture taken earlier this month, workers are nearing the final touches on their long awaited building thanks in large part to gifts from CBF-LA churches. Numerous obstacles including weather and runaway inflation have stood in the way. A recent design flaw in the roof was discovered which will require more work, but the congregation is determined. They have recorded a Gypsy worship music CD to raise money for this final hurdle.

Keith Holmes Visits around the state with a thank you from Bethlehem Church and an update on Romany work across Europe. Hear him when he comes to your area.

- June 22 - Sunday worship, 10:30 AM, Haynes Ave. Baptist Church, Shreveport
- June 29 - Mission moment in Sunday morning worship, Broadmoor Baptist, Baton Rouge
- July 6 - Sunday morning worship, University Baptist, Baton Rouge
- July 7- Shreveport Home meeting, 6:30 PM, 405 Regency Blvd
- July 10 - Monroe Home meeting, 6:30 PM, 4100 Forsythe Avenue
- TBA - Alexandria-Pineville Home meeting
- July 13 - Sunday morning worship, Bridgewater Church, Mandeville
- July 14, Guest missionary, Broadmoor Baptist Church vacation Bible school, Baton Rouge

It's Here!
It's Great!

Gypsy Worship Music CD

Let's put them "over the top." Proceeds go to finish the roof of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Vulcanesti. Send \$10 per CD, payable to CBF of Louisiana, to: Vulcanesti CD, 935 Linden Street, Shreveport, LA 71104.

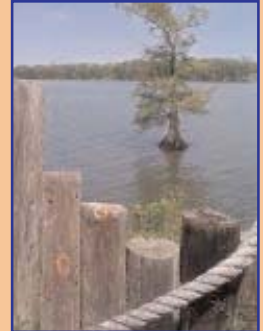


June 29 - July 5

Lake Providence Mission Trip

Approximately 40 youth and adults from three churches are preparing for a mission experience in Lake Providence. Please be in prayer for them. They will be doing construction, repair and other mission events.

Join us on July 3rd and/or 4th to participate in a CBF-LA mission activity of donating/installing long lasting energy efficient screw-in fluorescent bulbs for senior citizens in need. Call Kyle Kelley at 318-780-4127.



Our Goal: 1,000 Backpacks

for students in need in East Carroll and Tensas

Celebration Day August 2 in Lake Providence

Collect for pickup at partner churches by July 25

Needed: New Mesh (preferred)
or Clear book bags

Monetary gifts will be used to buy
from local vendors as available.

Book bag contents: 5 spiral notebooks, 5 folders,
1 dozen pencils, 200 pages of loose leaf paper

For more information contact: 318-780-4127 or
cbflouisiana@gmail.com



Looking Ahead - Mark Your Calendar

September 13 - "11 on 11 Current Event" - Lake Providence

October 18 - Stagg-Tolbert Forum for Biblical Studies featuring
Walter Shurden at First Baptist, Shreveport

October 25 - Make a Difference Day - Lake Providence

Answered Prayer: Reid wishes to thank all who have offered prayers and support during his bout with heart problems. He is on the mend and in good spirits.

Overheard at the Memphis Assembly: "The true measure is the depth of our story." - Mike Young.
Being church, the presence of Christ is engaging the world around us. What is your church's story? Share it with us.

More than just writing a check...

Bridgewater's Missional Church Outreach Team was alerted to the needs of a family facing foreclosure proceedings. This family consists of a father, two daughters, ages 16 and 22, and an infant grandchild living with them.

The father is homebound, in a wheel-chair and on oxygen. After a string of financial losses, including an unexpected reduction in his veteran's benefits, \$3000 in burial expenses following his wife's death, and his own subsequent hospitalization, the mortgage payments were in arrears.

With encouragement from Bridgewater's missional team, this gentleman managed to have the veteran's benefits restored, then worked out a payment plan on the burial expenses and hospital bill, and began receiving Social Security Retirement benefits. However, the timing of these efforts was not fast enough to stop the foreclosure proceedings.

A Bridgewater member examined volumes of paperwork related to the foreclosure and discovered an error which became the basis for a formal appeal. This same church member then spent forty-five minutes in a conference call with the USDA Rural Development officer, and an appeals officer, discussing the error in the paperwork, namely that the homeowner was never notified. All documentation supporting a formal appeal was forwarded to USDA.

The trouble-weary gentleman was joyfully speechless when informed that the foreclosure proceedings had not only been dropped, but that his payment-terms had been renegotiated to a lower rate.

This would not have happened without Bridgewater's Missional Church Outreach Team being poised for missional action at the grassroots level, and in ways that involved more than just writing a check.

Similarly, a local elementary school counselor informed Bridgewater's Missional Church Outreach Team of another family in need. The presenting problem was a 9 yr. old student struggling to control anger. Because of privacy concerns, the counselor remained vague about other specific issues, but suggested the parents would explain the full nature of their difficulties.

Over the past year, this family has suffered a cas-

cade of stressful events. The wife's mother died suddenly, triggering a long, slow slide into clinical depression. She became more withdrawn after wrecking the family automobile, forcing the family to rely on her husband's 18-wheeler as the sole means of transportation.

In the ensuing weeks, the payments on their adjustable rate mortgage skyrocketed beyond manageability and the wife sought help from a "mortgage solution company" to avoid foreclosure. This shady company pocketed \$1,200 and then called the day before they were to be foreclosed on and said, "All we can tell you is to pay the full amount of fees and late payments, or file Chapter 13, or you will lose your home."

With this added stress, the wife fell further into despair, overdosed on anti-depressants and was admitted to a psychiatric facility, leaving the husband to care for three children and deal with the foreclosure, while trying to hold down his job. In tears, he admitted to the Bridgewater team that he no longer knew where to turn.

Again, the Missional Church Outreach Team took positive, concrete action. Two ladies visited his wife in the hospital, providing emotional and spiritual support. Two Bridgewater men, one of whom is in the car business, found a good used Toyota, and the church purchased it for the family.

Another church member began investigating the foreclosure "solution" company and learned that the Better Business Bureau has received thirty-three complaints against them, while the Federal Trade Commission has filed for an injunction due to the company's deceptive practices.

At this stage, the homeowners have filed Chapter 13 to buy some time. However, their name has now been added to the list of plaintiffs and, if the FTC wins their case, the family will be refunded their \$1,200.

The Missional Church Outreach Team also provided anger-management counseling for the nine year old son.

Bridgewater Church continues exploring ways to be the presence of Christ to families in need of encouragement. Earlier this year, the two year old CBF church was awarded a \$25,000 missional grant after completing Daniel Vestal's eight-week study, It's Time.

by Reid Doster, Pastor, Bridgewater Church



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.