



Louisiana Fellowship People

May-June-July 2011
Volume 18, No. 2
cbfla.org

OFF THE HIGH DIVE

From Deep Gladness to the World's Deep Hunger

SPRING CONFERENCE
MAY 6-7
Church for the Highlands
SHREVEPORT

*The place God calls you to is
the place where your deep
gladness and the world's deep
hunger meet.*

- Frederick Buechner

Register at: cbfla.org



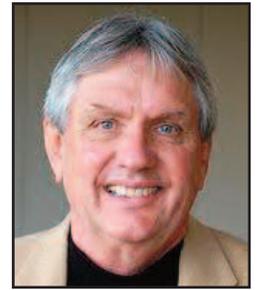
Spring Conference May 6-7



Rob Nash



Chuck Meehan



Mack McCarter

Rob Nash, Chuck Meehan and Mack McCarter headline a Friday evening of celebration of partnership in Kingdom work. Meehan is leading Volunteers of America in over 30 community ministries out of the Highland Center in Shreveport. McCarter leads Community Renewal International, an award winning neighborhood revitalization movement which has spread well beyond the borders of its home town.

Nash, Coordinator of Global Missions for CBF, has cast a vision of Christians and churches partnering with missionaries and faith based groups to reach beyond the confines of the doors of the traditional church to a world of deep hunger.

For churches to invest as partners and to share people and resources may seem risky at first, but when done with respect and in true partnership it becomes a mustard seed leveraging of efforts and a win-win for all groups and the larger kingdom work which goes far beyond our individual efforts.

It is a model in which Church for the Highlands, CBF-LA's new church start and conference host, is thriving. "We exist to bless the Highland neighborhood with the love of Jesus through community partnerships" is the mandate of the church that Pastor John Henson frequently repeats.

In that same spirit, CBF-LA in its Spring Confer-

ence, will also bless the Highland neighborhood with several mission events during the weekend. These include planting a community garden at the VOA Veteran's home, and volunteer activities with Dress for Success, The VOA Lighthouse, Haven House, and Community Renewal's nearby Friendship House.

Saturday morning will feature a time of faith stories addressing our theme of calling, risk, and obedience through obstacles and finding God in the journey. Similar to last year's "back porch faith stories," this will be a moving time of sharing God's nudging in the hearts of folks from many walks of life.

Come, be a part of the laughter, the tears, the joy, the inspiration...the Fellowship.



Chris Thacker will give a theme interpretation.



Dan Gibbs will provide music.

Spring Conference

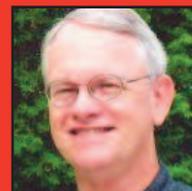
Faith Stories



Sabra Scoggin



Gary Baldwin



LaMon Brown



Jinny Henson



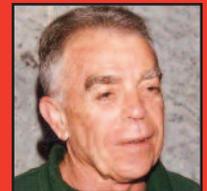
Terry Ellis



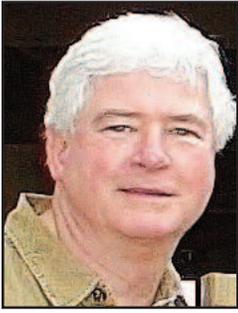
Mike Anderson



Sarah Rogers



Charles Norwood



Winds of the Spirit

Reid Doster, CBF-LA Coordinator

There is no doubt in my mind that the thing most people value – and take away with them – is a sense of community, an experience of mutual respect, support and energy. Put a bunch of CBF folk together, and the bonding just happens. We feel better and do better because of it. The community never fails to help us adjust our views, rekindle our passions, and remind us that together we can make a positive difference for the Kingdom of God.

Last Spring, about 50 people from CBF Louisiana participated in our annual Spring Assembly. A few came just to see what was going on. We were a motley crew. We met on Friday night and Saturday, heard profoundly inspiring testimonies from colleagues in ministry, updated everyone on plans for the coming months, and brainstormed together about possibilities for the future. We shared a few meals together, and got to know one another better. And in that meeting, an amazing thing happened. A spirit of community was renewed and those who attended are still talking about how it was a game-changer.

Last year’s gathering was like spontaneous combustion. We pulled together a bunch of individuals -- each bringing passion, ability, or just plain ol’ curiosity, let them speak honestly about some experience in ministry, had some fun together, and it was phenomenal. It was contagious, and it has lasted for those who made the effort to attend.

Because we are a relatively small fellowship and geographically dispersed, it is easy to feel isolated. Spring Assembly is an opportunity to trade ideas and find out how our brothers and sisters from other churches are dealing with problems, or if they even have the same problems we are facing. Last Spring Assembly was like a revival meeting. CBF folk are starving for camaraderie, and Spring Assembly gives us that venue.

I won’t say that every Spring Assembly is a “high,” but I will say that people who come to these meetings leave feeling better about their kinship with CBF. Such friendly gatherings keep the esprit de’corps intact. We discuss plans and possibilities for the future. We share meals together, work together in groups, and re-establish personal relationships. And once again – bam! – a sense of community takes over. Even if you show up feeling a little bit down, your energy will most likely reignite.

Coming together with others who are facing similar challenges you face is not only enjoyable but essential. You are not alone. There is a strong community eager to help you, support you, encourage you, energize you, and involve you. You need them, and they need you. Never underestimate the value of your CBF community. Go ahead! Dive right off the springboard of your own deep gladness, into the world’s deep hunger, and the folks you fellowship with at Spring Assembly will be right there to help keep you afloat!

Do yourself a favor. Protect two days on your calendar -- May 6 & 7, at Church for the Highlands, in Shreveport.

Conference Schedule

Friday

4:00 Mission Events Begin

6:00 Fellowship and Tour

6:30 Supper and Program

8:30 Bingo

Saturday

8:00 Breakfast/Fellowship

8:45 Morning Vespers

9:00 Mission Events or

Faith Stories

11:45 Lunch/Worship/

Celebration

1:30 Dismiss

Register at cbfla.org

Motel info at cbfla.org

Youth and kid friendly:

Youth Mission Sleep-over at the Highland Center as well as sleeping space for mission groups

Mission event community garden appropriate for school age children

Childcare Provided, please indicate need on registration
Childcare space at Church for the Highlands is excellent

Location: Church for the Highlands is at the VOA Highland Center, 520 Olive Street

Other Conference Highlights

20 Year Celebration of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and recognition of CBF-LA founders

Report on Together for Hope work in Lake Providence

Report on Disaster Response work in Haiti

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana
 Fellowship People
 406 Pine Street, Madisonville, LA 70447
www.cbfla.org

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

Speakers at the Louisiana Meeting
 of the Tampa Assembly will be
 Tom Prevost with Together for Hope National
 and Mike and Brenda Harwood
 with CBF work in Haiti.



Thanks to all who took part in the work days at
 Lake Providence. Seventeen folks participated
 from University, Broadmoor and Church for the
 Highlands.

Follow Together for Hope Missionary Stephanie
 Vance's work at "Made it to Providence" at
cbfla.org.

Louisiana Fellowship People

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318-418-4075 sthepny@gmail.com

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

CBF-LA Receipts	March	Fiscal Year 7-1-10 to 6-30-11
Undesignated	\$7,181.08	\$51,214.65
Together for Hope	\$833.34	\$26,740.55
Church Start	-	\$53,715.00
Missionary Fund	\$500.00	\$2,500.00
Other	\$110.00	\$64,127.67
TOTAL	\$8,624.42	\$198,297.87



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 at www.cbfla.org.