

In Memoriam:
 Bay Tull 1919-2008

One of our dearest friends, Howard "Bay" Tull, died peacefully at home on Wednesday evening, November 12, surrounded by his loving family. "Bay" was born in 1919 and lived a full and happy life, much of it devoted to serving the Lord through such Baptist fellowships as Oak Park and Lakeview,

in New Orleans.

He was the first person to call me when word got out that CBF Louisiana was birthing a new church in St. Tammany Parish. He and Helen attended faithfully until he was no longer physically able to do so.

To the end, "Bay" modeled profound faith, with a marvelous sense of humor. He was my friend.

Al Kessler was taking me back to the airport one day and started talking about what a positive impression "Bay" Tull had made on him. Only the Lord knows how many lives this fine man touched by modeling the love of Jesus.

-- Reid

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	Sept-Nov	Fiscal Year 7/01/08-6/30/09
Undesignated	\$20,964.05	\$28,334.18
Together for Hope	\$2,960.77	\$8,339.92
Disaster Relief	\$383.40	\$383.40
Stagg-Tolbert Forum	\$27.00	-\$927.33
New Church Start	\$135.97	\$135.97
Extra-budget Desg Funds	\$200.00	\$200.00
Credits	\$80.00	\$80.00
TFH Missionary Fund	\$38,000.00	\$38,000.00
TOTAL	\$62,751.19	\$74,546.14

Louisiana Fellowship People
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Jay Hogewood, Past Moderator

Charlene Kelley, National CBF Representative



Partners in Prayer Calendar

Omitted names due to sensitive nature of work.

DECEMBER

- 1 Tori Wentz, healthcare, Fredericksburg, VA
- 3 Shane McNary, Romany people, Slovakia
- 3 Gennady Podgaisky, urban work, Ukraine
- 4 _____, unevang. pple group, Mid East
- 8 Stephanie Glenn, work with internationals, Los Angeles, CA
- 9 _____, work with internationals, North Africa
- 13 Tom Cleary, Emeritus, December 2002
- 15 Jolene Tucker, coordinator, Tuxpan, Mexico
- 16 Ina Winstead, retired January 2002
- 17 Christy Craddock, urban work, Miami, FL
- 19 Anna-Grace Acker, 2005, daughter, Jade & Shelah Acker, Uganda
- 21 _____, unevang. people group, N. Africa
- 24 Bogdan Podgaisky, 1997, son, Gennady & Mina Podgaisky, Ukraine
- 25 Taylor McNary, 1993, son, Dianne & Shane McNary, Slovakia
- 27 Steve Clark, video product., Internationals
- 28 Brandon Green, 1988, son, Butch & Nell Green, South Carolina
- 30 Revonda Deal, Emeritus, February 2001
- 31 Nathaniel Newell, 1998, son, Ben & Leonora Newell, Arkansas

JANUARY

- 1 Sam Bandela, pple groups of India, Atlanta
- 1 Dave Harding, 1991, son, David & Merrie Harding, Florida
- 2 Gabriella Newell, 2002, daughter, Ben & Leonora Newell, Arkansas
- 2 Tammy Stocks, Romany people, Hungary
- 3 Karen Barnes, English teacher, China
- 8 Ellen Burnette, Palaung people, Thailand
- 9 Bill Cayard, coordinator and teacher, China
- 9 Jonathan Myrick, 1994, son, Lori & Tim Myrick, Kenya
- 10 Melody Harrell, development, East Africa
- 10 Kenny Sherin, RPI, Columbia, MO
- 13 Dianne McNary, Romany people, Slovakia
- 15 Abigail, 2003, daugh Craig & Susan, Asia
- 16 Fran Graham, Slavic people, Asheville, NC
- 16 Eliza, 1996, daughter, Melin & Ron, Asia
- 16 Merrie Grace Harding, 1995, daughter, David & Merrie Harding, Florida
- 16 Jessica Togba-Doya, 2002, daughter, Calandra & Jessy Togba-Doya, Liberia
- 17 Latha Bandela, pple groups of India, Atlanta
- 19 Kaelah-Joy Acker, 2008, daughter, Jade & Shelah Acker, Uganda
- 20 Marcia Binkley, refugees, Uniontown, OH
- 25 Scott Houser, development, Southern Africa
- 25 Cynthia Levesque, English teacher, China
- 25 _____, Persian World Outreach, New Jersey
- 25 Samantha, 2006, daugh, Craig & Susan, Asia

Reid's new email address: reid.cbflouisiana@gmail.com

World Aids Day Dec.1, Pray and pledge actions bringing hope to the millions, a majority poor women and children

Coordinating Council meets Saturday, January 24, Emmanuel - Alexandria

Good gifts: Buy fair trade at Christmas: WMU:WorldCraftsVillage.com,

Men-nonite: tenthousanvillages.com; and SERRV International: serrv.org.



Save a Tree.

Save CBF-LA Some Dough.

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

Louisiana Fellowship People



cbfla.org

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December-January, 2009

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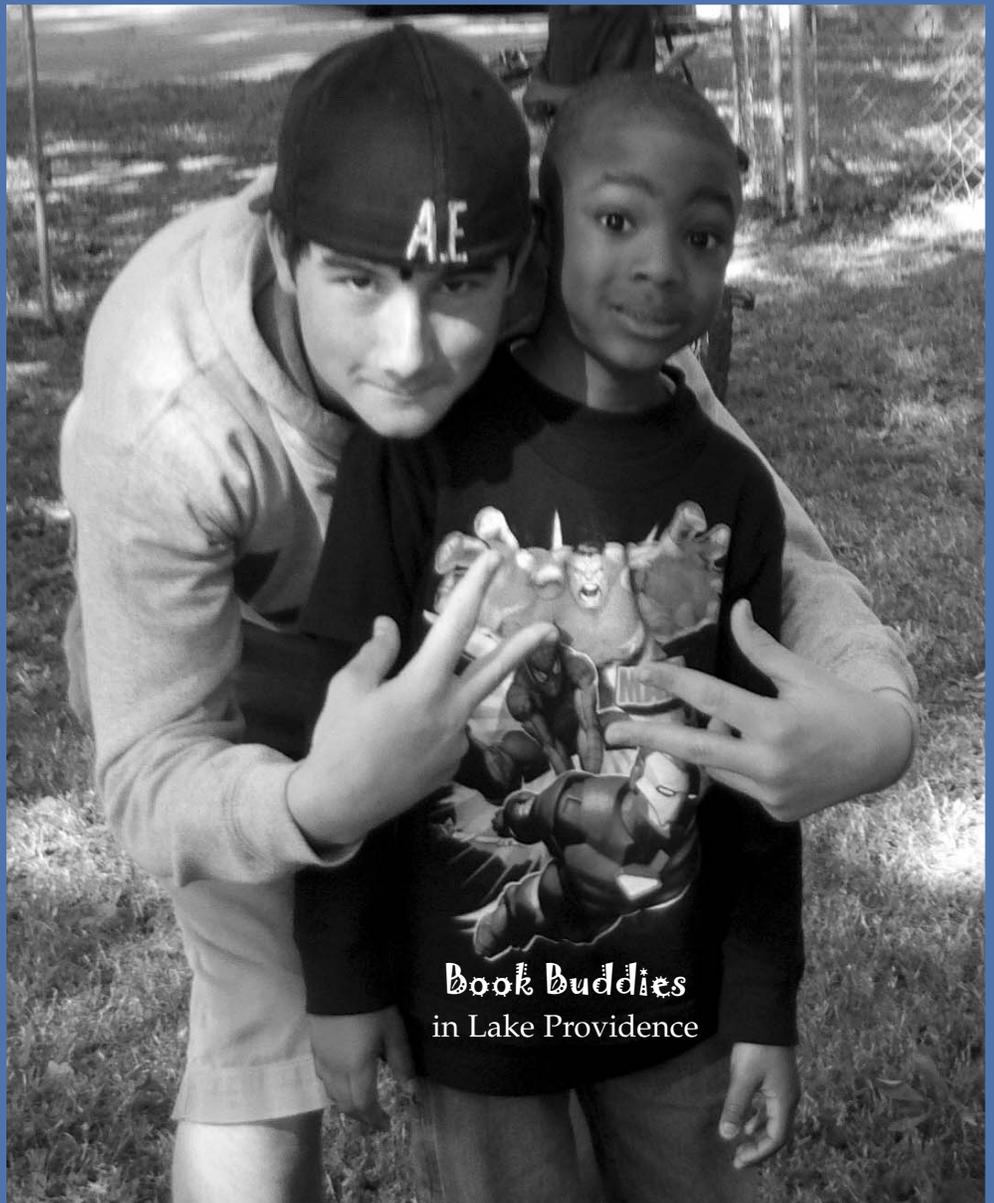
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Book Buddies

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Doves and Mountains
Shurden Forum Excerpts

Global Missions Giving
More important than ever



Book Buddies
in Lake Providence



CBF *Offering for*
GLOBAL MISSIONS

*Embrace the
World*

Give generously.



"Winds of the Spirit"

By Reid Doster

There is a fellowship of Christians in Houma – Mulberry Baptist Church – who are fast becoming friends of CBF. I had not heard about this church until two things happened: (1) Malcolm Tolbert's granddaughter, Dana Guidroz, was called as Bridgewater's Minister of Music and Dana has some ties to Mulberry, where her mother serves as a Deacon, (2) then Cindy Graves, wife of pastor Steve Graves, contacted me about possibly being her clinical supervisor as she pursues licensure as a professional counselor.

After visiting with them in Houma, I appreciated their obvious rootedness in CBF values. Steve and Cindy came to Houma and Mulberry in the fall of 2006, moving from Waco, TX, where they had been ministering to students at Baylor University for almost a decade. Steve is originally from DeRidder, LA, while Cindy grew up in Corpus Christi, TX. They both are Baylor and Truett Seminary graduates - Steve in 1996 and 2000, Cindy in 1997 and 2003. They have two daughters - Ashlyn (2004) and Rebekah (2006). Both Steve and Cindy are ordained pastors, and Cindy serves now as a full-time mom and as the Homeless Liason/Counselor at a local school.

Charles Ray, National Coordinator of CBF Disaster Response, and I made another trip to Houma. We inspected damage to the roof of the Graves' private residence, inflicted by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike, rendering one room of their home unusable. With a high insurance deductible, this young couple had managed only to patch it up here and there. On faith, I wrote letters of personal appeal to certain contacts developed since Katrina, and am now happy to report the receipt of checks totaling more than \$8,000 toward disaster response, designated specifically to replace that roof. The work should begin next week. We need to take care of our own caregivers, so they can feel more set-



Charles Ray with Steve Graves reviewing roof damage.

led, focused and blessed in the Lord's work.

We are also building a relationship with Live Oak Baptist Church, in Pointe-Aux-Chenes, which is down the bayou from Houma. Our hope is to direct more disaster response volunteers to that area, possibly to assist pastor Tom Bellon with the construction of a second story on his home, whenever he, his wife Liz and their four daughters are ready. They can then minister to the community from "higher ground."

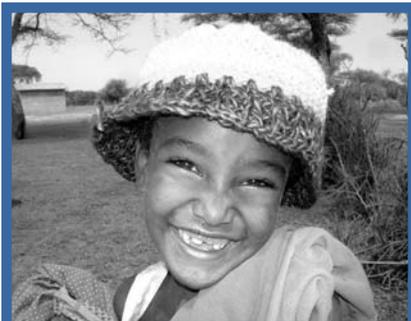
There is another fellowship of believers in Coushatta, LA, that has also blessed CBF Louisiana with a gift of financial support. Tom Smith, pastor of Open Door Fellowship, is a long-time friend of Mike Anderson, our Moderator. Tom and Mike served together as missionaries in the Philippines, and Mike has been instrumental in sharing with Tom what CBF represents. The Open Door Fellowship was formed recently when Tom and others encountered opposition to racially integrating the other church through cross-cultural ministries. Rather than foster disharmony, these folks formed a new fellowship with a different set of core values. This new church can teach us much, and I look forward to sitting at Tom's feet and learning all I can.

Incidentally, you might be interested in the newly released and already award-winning DVD titled: "Beneath the Skin: Baptists & Racism." The Baptist Center for Ethics produced the DVD and is encouraging its use for screenings around the country. You may read more about this DVD at www.ethics-daily.com. The purpose is to encourage a positive, healthy and productive conversation about race relations that leads to mutual friendships and ministry partnerships in the community, "all in the spirit of the New Baptist Covenant."

Last weekend, two ladies from Bridgewater Church spontaneously surprised our neighboring A.M.E. pastor, The Reverend Enola Lee, by power-washing the bricks on their building and leaving a couple of lovely poinsettia arrangements at the front door. We are looking for other ways to say we care, which

Cont'd Inside, Back Cover

More Important Than Ever!



Embrace the World
CBF Global Missions Offering

Our purpose is to introduce people to Jesus by both word and deed, and our primary focus is on some of the world's most neglected peoples. This purpose launches us on a journey ministering with and among unreached and marginalized peoples. As we travel, we are committed to collaborating with churches and Christians to engage in holistic ministries with the most neglected people in a world without borders.

The CBF Offering for Global Missions is the **primary** way CBF field personnel and projects are supported. Through the Offering, CBF churches participate together to do things we could never do alone.

At thefellowship.info, there are stories, videos, facts and figures of truly amazing work. You will find also a description of specific projects you can connect to and support across a wide range of needs. It is joyous work in often very hard places, but it is Kingdom work, and now, more important than ever.

Give through your church or at thefellowship.info.

Offerings for Global Missions support the **Romany** mission work in Europe of **Keith Holmes/Mary van Rheen** and **Glen and Clista Adkins**. Updates of their joys, struggles and prayer requests can be accessed at cbfla.org.

New prayer requests from Mary:

*Salary for Petru (new Pastor of Bethlehem) for the next quarter, January-March; \$110/week (RomanyOutreach, Moldovan Baptist Union, #85822);

*Employment/business development among believers in Vulcanesti so that they can support their own pastor and pay for their own heating system.

Shurden cont'd forgiveness to others, to remember that repentance is not a once for all event but a never ending exercise of the soul, to say out loud that the evangelism which overpromises performs a monumental disservice to the life of discipleship. Why? Because Christianity, when it is Christianity, is struggle; when struggle is taken away, Christianity goes flat ●●●●

"No battle ever stays won." I believe I heard that line from my all-time favorite preacher, Ernest T. Campbell: "No battle ever stays won." . . .

It is true in international relations. Peace won't stay won. Someone is always having to place his or her life between warring parties. Reconciliation doesn't happen once and for all; it is a recurring act and it is a very steep mountain to climb.

"No battle ever stays won." Racism won't be buried. Prejudice hounded the earliest church as reflected in Acts 15, and it has blighted every church since. The unbelieving world has no monopoly on racism, sexism, or ageism. What a steep, steep mountain these are for all who name Christ!

"No battle ever stays won." That is true in marriage. No marriage is ever safe. NO marriage is EVER SAFE! The instinct to retaliate, the refusal to forgive, the joy of being petty, the fiendish delight of hurting even someone you love--all of these must be periodically beaten back to the altar to hear the vows again. "The home that prays together stays together" ONLY as long as they work at staying together. Prayer does not fix our most intimate problems.

Prayer fixes us so that we are empowered to forgive and affirm and accept. It is prayer and struggle, prayer and toil! If we sent more newlyweds off with that message, we just might celebrate more silver wedding anniversaries.

"No battle ever stays won," and no follower of the Nazarene ever gets a free ride completely! If we do not keep a sickle in our hands the weeds will overtake the gardens of our lives. The "ascent" has many twists and turns, many steep sides to it. The "ascent" has to do with my my sins, the sins of my culture, the sins of my nation, and the sins of my world. Getting on top of those despicable demons--that is the wearying, unending, fearful "ascent of the mountain." ●●●●

Do you know, asked G.K. Chesterton, what God says to the sun every morning? God says to the sun every morning, "Get up ole sun, and do it again." And you do know, don't you, what God says to his people every morning: "Get up, O blessed, bruised and tired ones, and start up that mountain again."

In the very same letter--thank God, the very same letter!--the writer of Ephesians said, "For by grace you have been saved through faith" (2:8), and then the writer said, "Put on the whole armor of God (6:11)."

Gift and Demand! Grace and Struggle! Doves and Mountains!

Giving in to being loved and giving up to the demands of love.

The complete addresses of Dr. Shurden can be heard at www.cbfla.org.

CBF-LA Together for Hope Missionary Position

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana is seeking to hire a full time state missionary for the Together for Hope Rural Poverty Initiative in Louisiana. This work is to be based primarily in East Carroll Parish with additional outreach to Tensas Parish.

Qualifications and Duties:

- Expressed sense of calling to Rural Poverty Ministry and Community Development
- Willing to live in East Carroll Parish (Lake Providence)
- Personal spiritual commitment and willingness to be involved in local churches
- Self starter/strong people skills/experience relating to community members
- Entrepreneurial / financial background preferred
- Rural or small town background and understanding of agriculture preferred
- Willingness to make long-term commitment to community (initial 3 years)
- Understanding and commitment to community transformational principles of walking alongside, building on strengths, preserving dignity of poor in encouraging building of capacities, reaching out to all members of community, advocating, etc.
- Recruit volunteers and organize volunteer mission activities for groups from within and without the state
- Learn and stay up-to-date on best practices from Together for Hope Council, sites such as Helena, Ark, Shreveport-Bossier Community Renewal and other models.

Resumes should be sent to: cbflouisiana@gmail.com.

SPIRIT cont'd. could involve some disaster response work, since their pews are marked by three water-lines, from Katrina, Rita and Gustav. Their podium needs to be raised above that highest water-mark! The Doweey-Gaston African Methodist Episcopal Church sits only 100 yards from our Friendship House. They have about 60 folks normally in worship and over half of those are young people, who absolutely love to sing! We envision some collaborative work-days, times of fellowship, joint worship and mutual learning.

I am very happy to announce that our keynote speaker for the Spring Assembly will be Dr. Fitz Hill, President of Arkansas Baptist College. I have heard Dr. Hill speak several times and, believe me when I tell you, the Lord uses him to challenge and inspire. I view Dr. Hill as an exemplary leader of not only the African American community, but of the Christian community in general. Again, we have much to learn, as God opens the eyes of our hearts.

Also, last weekend I met with Victoria Goff and Kenneth George of the American Baptist Churches - USA, to inspect several homes under construction or repair as a result of the generous funds granted to CBF for this purpose. During this time, I experienced a moment of God's presence that I will never forget.

We visited, among others, Mr. Ben Miller, whose home

has recently been completed. Mr. Miller, who is 89, was ill that day and was staying with close friends until he could regain strength. Being a bit chilled, he was wearing a bright blue knit cap, "because the heat goes out the top of my head." After a brief chat, in which he expressed profound gratitude, I asked: "Mr. Miller, is there anything else we can do for you?" He paused, then said: "Well, yes, there is one thing. For the longest time now, I have wanted to be baptized." His friends confirmed that this was in fact a strong desire that he had repeatedly expressed, but that a local pastor kept telling him he had to be baptized by immersion or risk "going to hell." "I am too old and sick to be immersed." Almost simultaneously, the three Baptists in the house exclaimed: "You don't have to be immersed!" After quoting a few scripture passages, I asked if he would like to be baptized right there on the spot. He smiled and stated an emphatic "Yes!" With that, I asked him to remove his cap, held one of his hands and dipped my finger from a glass of



Ben and Reid

water with the other and, making the sign of the cross on his forehead, asked: "Ben, have you received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?" "Yes." "Then, upon your profession of faith in Christ, I baptize you, Ben Miller, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." After a brief prayer, I said: "Ben, I don't know if I will ever see you again but, if not, I do know that I will see you on the other side." With that, he breathed deeply and, with a spark in his eyes and a slight smile that expressed relief, said to me: "That's a deal!"

Book Buddies



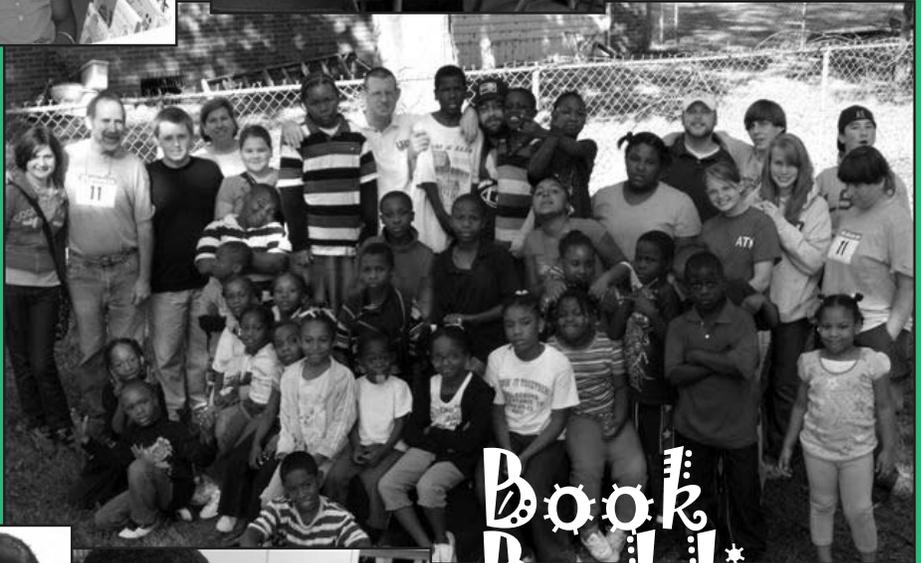
Book Buddies



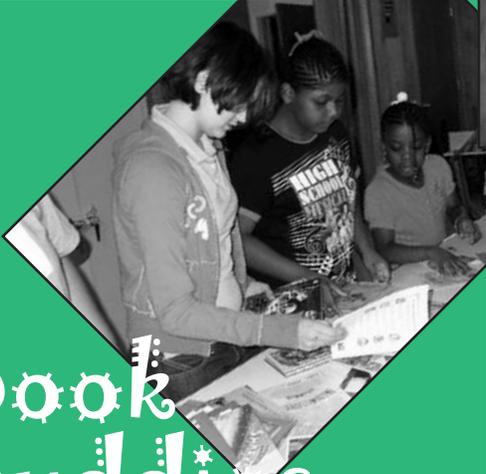
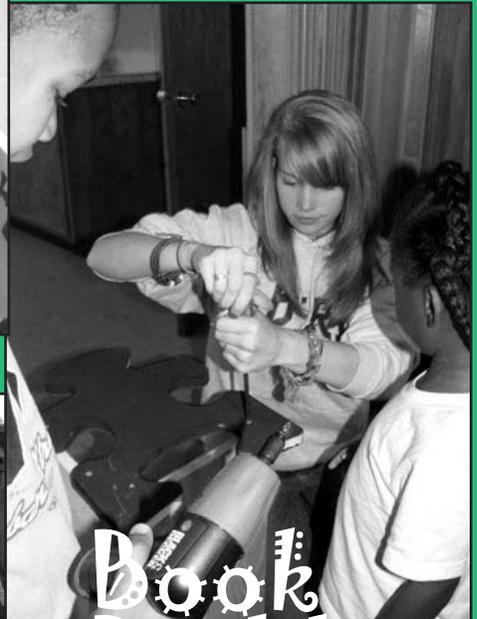
Several hundred children's books were given away and over 30 children in need were read to and loved on at the "11 on 11" Book Buddies event October 25 at Lake Providence.

Each mentor read several books including a faith story to each child and assisted them in assembling and personalizing a Book Buddies shelf.

Volunteers from Bridgewater, First Baptist-Shreveport and University-Baton Rouge participated while gifts of books, money and materials came from individuals and churches throughout the state.



Book Buddies



Book Buddies

Book Buddies



Giving in to be loved

Giving up to the demands of love

Walter Shurden Speaks at Forum

"These lectures are not ordinary assignments for me; they are extraordinary opportunities to say grace over two people who have graced my life profoundly," stated Dr. Shurden as he began his address at the 5th annual Stagg-Tolbert Biblical Forum October 18 at First Baptist-Shreveport.

Shurden spoke of "The Flight of the Dove,"... the lift and the gift of God's grace that comes to us so freely, and "The Ascent of the Mountain,"... the holy struggle in the sometimes bruising but ultimately fulfilling path of discipleship.

Citing his on coming to faith, Shurden noted he did not grow up in the church or come to some intellectual discovery about God after a long search. Rather, late at night in a college dorm room he states, "I was unhorsed by an unexpected Presence." Years later in a class under Dr. Frank Stagg, he came to grips with the call to discipleship. Below are excerpts from his talks at the Forum.

Flight of the dove! That is a gift. Doves do not fly after a careful analysis of the situation. They do not take courses in aeronautical engineering and thereby learn to fly. Flying is part of the "doveness" of doves. It is part of the gift of life that doves fly. And for me, Christianity began when I was literally "swept up" one night by the gift of a Presence I had no way of anticipating ●●●●

Fifty-three springs have come and gone since I first experienced that initial flight of the dove. Fifty-three springs since I first learned that God is for me! And because I learned that God is for me, I realized that God is for everybody else. And I have been running into that message for a half a century in the most contradictory places ●●●●

To hear those words, "You are my beloved son" or "my beloved daughter," to be awakened to Cosmic Generosity, to be told that "God is for you,"---that is the part of the gospel that I continue to have the hardest time believing. Indeed, the most incredible part of the gospel to get my arms around are not the so-called facts of faith, what happened and why and when. The most incredible part of the gospel for most of us is, given who we are and how we act, that "God is for us." Is it any wonder that they have called it "Good News" for 2,000 years? ●●●●

"Living unloved," said William Young, "is like clipping a bird's wings and removing its ability to fly". Creation is first of all about love. It is not first of all about sovereignty or holiness or authority. Creation is about love. God created so God could love.

I have been thinking for the last several years of what it means to be "lost." At least part of what it means to be "lost" is to live as though you have never been loved. All are children of God, but some have resisted the embrace of being loved ●●●●

When we live unloved lives we end up overreaching like Adam, lying like Eve, manipulating like Jacob, being fearful like Saul, living unbuttoned like David, amassing like Solomon, denying like Peter, boasting like Paul, and killing ourselves like Judas. Living unloved, we end up puking in alleys, living self-destructive lives, buying till it hurts, climbing ladders made of others' heads, building barns too big to live in, confusing ambition with vocation, hoarding rather than sharing, hating folk who don't look like us, driving by Lazarus, and using rather than serving people.

To tell the truth, we end up on trash heaps on the southwest corner of Jerusalem. They called it Gehenna. We call it Hell! We end up as waste, and we waste the only life given to us. That is hell: waste ●●●●

If the room is still there, I can show you where I was sitting... Frank Stagg had his Greek New Testament in his left hand, as he usually did standing before a class. He was exegeting Mark 8: 27-37. Jesus is at Caesarea Philippi. He turns on his disciples and says, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life, will lose

it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it" (Mark 8:34-35).

The longer Stagg unpacked that passage, the more I remember thinking to myself in the seat near the back of the room: "Have I ever done that?" I knew that I had given in to being loved, but had I given up to the demands of love? I had known well the feeling of the Divine Embrace. Now I was confronted with obligation of a Divine Imperative. The Christ way was the Cross way, not for Jesus alone but for me, in my daily life.

The life I had chosen, the gospel I was to preach, Stagg insisted, was to look like a cross, a symbol of self-giving. From the very beginning of my spiritual

life I, of course, had some idea of this demand. But truth be told, I got into the Christian parade, like thousands of others, primarily to get something. And what I got was something marvelous indeed---being loved. But now Stagg makes another part of discipleship clear to me---I was to love like Jesus loved! I was to live a Cross-life. Self-denial was to be the mark of my life. Is this a doable thing? A livable life? ●●●●

Most Christians are not plagued by the monumental sufferings of life or the inexplicable mysteries of life. The gnawing thing that has plagued most of us has been the burden of our own humanity, the shortfall of our own lives. The psalmist turned his cards face up in a pre-modern society and spoke of "my iniquities." There is the first burden of life for most of us! Our iniquities! Nothing makes us want to turn around and go back down the mountain like our iniquities! ●●●●

We want to be done with the tension between the angelic and the demonic in life, between that tug-of-war between Adam and Christ going on within us. But here's the truth if I have ever told it: we simply cannot have it! I cannot get done with "the ascent of the mountain." And neither can you. And my fellow Baptists, we can not be done with it even if we join up with those splendid Christians who peddle perfection.

And we cannot have it for the same reason they can't have it. It is not available! ●●●●

You and I---half-seeing, half-healed, half-saved Christians---we live on the very, very far side of Eden. Perfection is not available to us. What is available to each one of us is "the flight of the dove," what is available to us is "giving in to being loved," what is available to each of us is the Christian call to struggle, to keep working at our lives, to "put on the whole armor of God," "to give UP ourselves to the demands of being loved." What is available is the knowledge that God does not give up on Peter so Peter ought not give up on himself.

So what it means to me to be a Christian is ... to struggle with my feelings of non-worth, to refuse to wave a white flag over my soul every time I fail to live up to my baptism, to learn that all the tattered fragments of my life did not become one because of conversion or ordination, to constantly reach for God's forgiveness and to struggle to extend that

