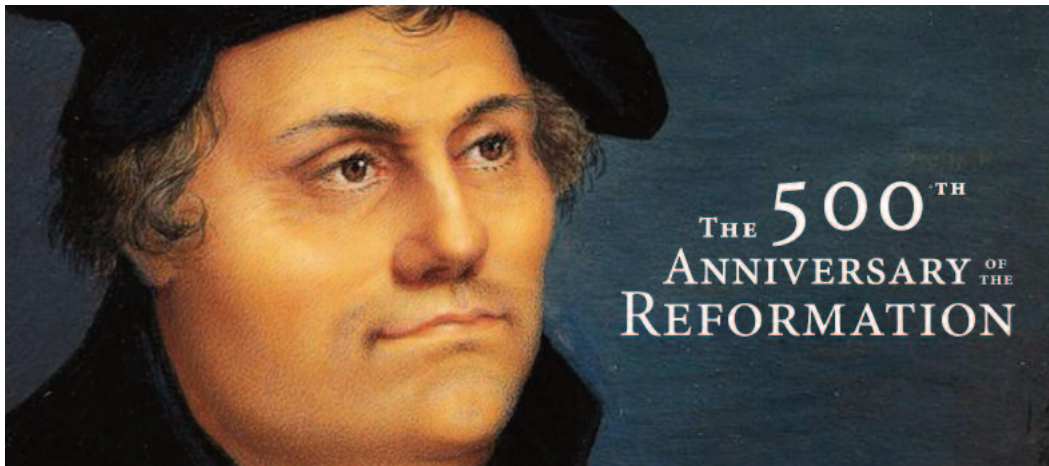


*Dear CBF-LA,*  
 The Southside Elementary administrators, faculty, staff, students, and parents would like to express our sincerest gratitude for the Bags of Hope event and all of the school supplies that your congregations provided on the day of the event, and also through the contributions Rev. Boswell has since delivered to the school. Our community is eternally grateful for your expressions of love and thoughtfulness. May God continue to bless you and your organization!  
*Sincerely, Brenda Baham, Curriculum Coordinator.*

CBF-LA Presents the 14th Annual

# Stagg-Tolbert Forum for Biblical Studies

commemorating . . .



**Forum Schedule**  
 9:30 - Sign-in, Coffee & Fellowship  
 10:00 - Lecture One - Dr. Allen  
 10:45 - Break  
 11:00 - Ministry Updates and the Work of CBF-LA  
 11:45 - Lunch \$5  
 12:30 - Lecture Two - Dr. Allen

**REGISTER AT:** [cbfla.org](http://cbfla.org) or  
 call Emmanuel Baptist Church  
 at 318-442-7773

**Saturday October 28, Emmanuel Baptist Church - Alexandria**

featuring Dr. Loyd Allen

## Martin Luther After 500 Years

The year 2017 marks 500 years since a stubborn monk and towering thinker, Martin Luther, published his 95 theses or complaints against the Catholic Church and launched the Protestant Reformation, a momentous religious revolution whose consequences we still live with today. The Reformation divided the Western church and transformed millions of people's understanding of their relationship with God. So begins the PBS intro to this momentous occasion.



A most colorful figure, not without his warts, Luther also possessed an uncommon courage impassioned by an intense notion of God's grace through faith.

The spirit of the Reformation's teaching on faith continues to reverberate today in contemporary theologians such as Miroslav Volf:

*Faith is an expression of the fact that we exist so that the infinite God can dwell in us and work through us for the well-being of the whole creation. If faith denies anything, it denies that we are tiny, self-obsessed specks*

*of matter who are reaching for the stars but remain hopelessly nailed to the earth stuck in our own self-absorption. Faith is the first part of the bridge from self-centeredness to generosity.* — Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace (2006).

The 2017 Forum tips a hat to Luther and thanks God for a rich legacy.



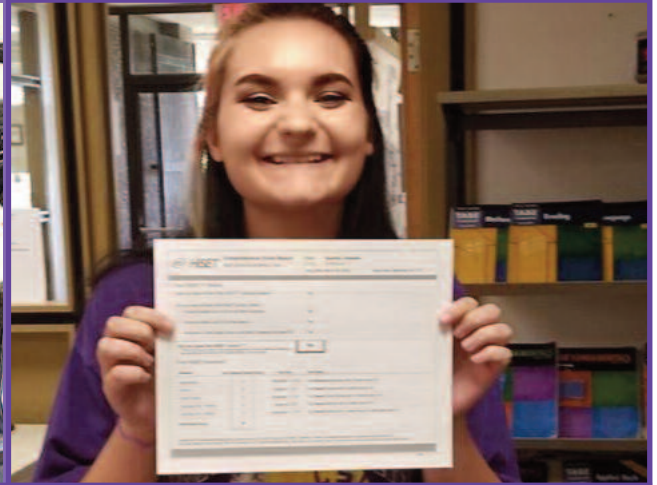
**Loyd Allen** is Professor of Church History and Spiritual Formation at the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University.

Baptist heritage, Christian spirituality, and interfaith work are Dr. Allen's main areas of interest. In 2000, he spent ten months reading in Celtic Christianity while on sabbatical at South Wales Baptist College.

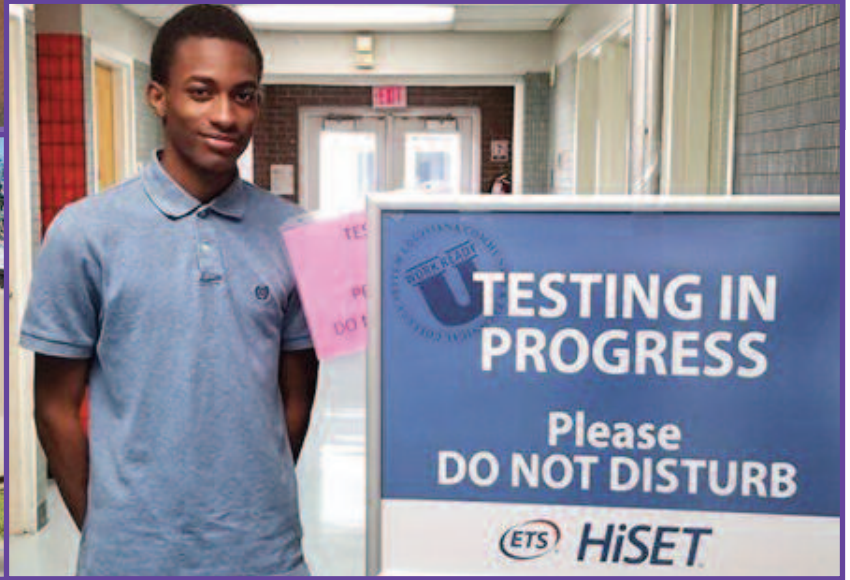
He is currently working on a brief history of Christian spirituality and a comparison of spiritual formation in various religious traditions. He is also a spiritual director and regularly guides pilgrimages to Celtic lands and Israel.

# Greetings from Lake Providence

by Marc Boswell, CBF-LA  
Together for Hope Director



Marc Boswell is interviewed by KNOE TV reporter about new Learning Center below. At right, two of Marc's recent GED/HiSet graduates Gabbi and Davian.



September has been a busy and a good month. Thanks to some generous donors, Together for Hope is expanding into a small building in downtown Lake Providence to open a Learning Center for a six-month trial period.

This is a tremendous blessing for a few reasons. First, it will be a space out of which volunteers and I can teach evening and weekend GED and literacy classes. Currently, there's no place in East Carroll Parish for these services for students who need to attend classes in the evening. For as many students as I have attending and completing the GED prep class, I have an equal number of students who cannot attend because of work and family responsibilities which take them away during the day. Though night classes are needed, there are currently none available.

The second reason this is helpful is because it provides additional programming space for both Together for Hope and other community partners in the area. Currently, if I wanted to

teach a financial literacy class or sponsor a parenting class, for instance, the only available space would be the Mission House. As one would expect, this can be uncomfortable for some people to attend a program in someone's living room.

Other benefits to expanding into the facility is that it provides office space for Together for Hope and a more public face for the community to identify with the ministry. Many people in town know who previous TFH directors and I are, but not everyone is clear on what exactly Together for Hope does or works toward. This move could possibly make the ministry of Together for Hope much stronger and rooted in the community over the years to come.

There are many large and small ways your congregation can help as this project continues to unfold. Please be in touch and look out for more updates! Thank you all for your prayers and continued support.



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 Together for Hope Rural Poverty \$ \_\_\_\_\_       Disaster Relief \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hope (Missionary) Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_      Other: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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