



As the season moves from Thanksgiving to Advent, we think of our old friend Grady Nutt who spoke of "Thanksgiving." CBF-LA is grateful for all of you who live out daily an attitude of gratitude reflected in joyful generosity even in the midst of tremendous challenge.



Mike Massar
 CBF-LA Coordinator

As I write this article I am reminded of the fragile mood of our country these days. The recent election has revealed what a fractured people we are. I suppose that will be played out in countless homes this Thanksgiving when your Uncle Don comes to the table in his "Make America Great" cap, followed by Aunt Alice sporting her "Pantsuit Nation" button. It is not going to be easy.

But even more distressing will be the holidays of so many here in Baton Rouge who have lost nearly everything in the floods of August. Putting lives back together is a challenge for those who can afford to do so, but for those who are still homeless and trying to work with FEMA, it is an ongoing nightmare.

In a recent NPR article Stephane Hallegatte, an economic analyst at the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery notes that "We find that poor people are more often affected by natural disasters. If you look within cities, you find people in richer categories taking the best land and poor people in the risky places. This is because it's cheaper to live in a risky area or it's the only available land. When they [the poor] are hit [by disaster], all of their assets and wealth are in material form that can be destroyed. . . And people who are poor are twice more likely to live in fragile buildings that are completely destroyed when flooded or stormed, and they lose everything. . . We take into account that when the rich person loses 10 percent in consumption, it means going to restaurants less or cutting vacation. But for the very poor people, this is education of kids, health care and food. So the value of one dollar is much higher for a poor person than for a richer person. [Some of] these consequences will last for generations."



Interior at Mt. Olive

CBF Louisiana has taken on helping one of the poorest communities in Baton Rouge to regain a sense of community. We are doing this in conjunction with the National Baptist Convention and CBF Global to get the Greater Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church functioning again. With that we hope to create a "lighthouse" of sorts to encourage the ten block community that surrounds them. Most of the hardworking people there have incomes well below the poverty line. We are focusing our resources on helping the church and individual families.



The Pew Project

One idea we that we are going to initiate is "The Pew Project," where we are asking churches, Sunday School classes, and individuals to donate \$1,000 to buy a pew for Greater Mount Olive. The Church's sanctuary had five feet of water in it, destroying all of its pews. The Church itself has started the rebuilding process, but "The Pew Project" will be a visible sign of love and support from sister and brother Baptists. I hope you will consider that for your group or family.

Stagg-Tolbert Forum



St Charles Avenue Baptist Church "won the prize" this year in bringing the largest contingency of folks (above) to participate in the Forum at University Baptist Church-BR.

Joe Phelps led us masterfully in understanding the ancient Christian art of listening and open handed hospitality to those with different perspectives.

In addition to reports from Mike Massar and Marc Boswell, Bobby Rayburn gave an update from the National Ministry Council and a disaster response update. Over 25 churches and groups have participated in the ongoing work.

2017 CBF-LA officers are shown below. Thanks for your service!



Elizabeth Lott
 Moderator



John Henson
 Moder. Elect



Mike Anderson
 Treasurer



Greg Edwards
 Secretary



Bobby Rayburn
 Ministry Council



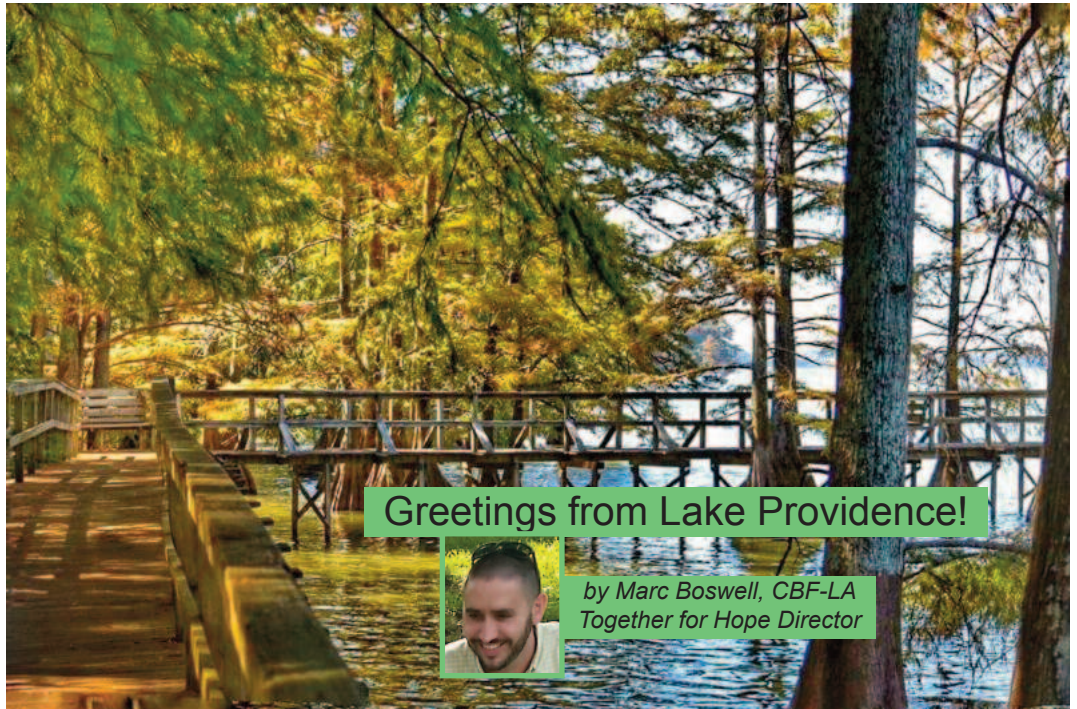
Chris Thacker
 Past Moderator

Things continue to go well with the ministry and mission here in East Carroll Parish. I'm writing on the eve of our upcoming Community Thanksgiving Service. It's great to see people of faith working together across racial and denominational lines for this time of worship. I'll be representing TFH-LA during the service that evening along with other ministers and youth from the Southern Baptist, Missionary Baptist, and Catholic churches.

The Art Club at General Trass High School has received recently a small grant which should enable us to take the students to visit a few art galleries in Vicksburg. Our faculty representative/partner at the high school is currently working on pulling this trip together for the spring.

Our tutoring efforts continue to go well at Southside Elementary. We've maintained and even added to the number of our volunteers, including a new partnership with Capital One that allows their employees to take time off during their work day to study with these younger students.

On a similar note, I'm very excited to share that I've been approved to teach a GED course at the local community college in Lake Providence. After a former teacher relocated many months ago, no opportunities were available for students to achieve their high school equivalency degree. This will be a wonderful chance both to help these adults with their



education/job prospects and to forge new relationships with Louisiana Delta Community College and other affiliated agencies.

Please continue to pray for the parish and town leadership, the residents, and all those who are working to foster the bright light of Christ in this community. If your Sunday School class or congregation would like to visit Lake Providence or have me speak at your church, please be in touch.

Elderly Christmas Project in Lake Providence



It is not too late to participate. Local faith leaders are organizing once again the annual Christmas Elderly Project. Partner churches and agencies are working to provide Christmas gifts/care packages for all of the homebound elderly residents of Lake Providence.

Items needed: square boxes of kleenex, travel size toiletries (shampoo, mouth wash, lotion - please, no conditioner), "slipper socks" with the rubber grips on the bottoms.

Contact Marc Boswell for more information at 252-363-8098 mjboswell3@gmail.com.



A coalition of 22 churches, 2 businesses, and 4 emergency responder departments worked together to put on the first community wide Fall Festival in Lake Providence.



Marc Boswell and Kyle Kelley recently traveled to Helena, Arkansas to visit and brainstorm with our Together For Hope counterparts in the work in Arkansas and Mississippi: Jason Coker, Mollie Palmer, Lane Riley, Janee' Tisby and Ray Higgins



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