



**cbf** Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
*Forming Together*  
 Louisiana  
 March 12, 2017 - [cbfla.org](http://cbfla.org)

CBF Global Coordinator Suzzi Paynter with Rev. Caruthers at Greater Mt. Olive Church  
 The work continues....



## Thinking Towards the Future

by Mike Massar, CBF-LA Coordinator

Some of you may remember Alvin Toffler's best seller of a few years ago titled Future Shock. Toffler's premise was that the body of knowledge, everything we knew about everything, was growing at an unheard-of rate, doubling every seven years or so (Some would say that in recent years that rate has sped up to less than 3 years.). What that means is that if today we were able to know everything there is to know about everything, in three years we would know only half that much! Toffler postulated that this rapid growth was going to affect us in adverse ways, even causing a state of emotional, cognitive and physiological shock.

Toffler was a genius, and he was, of course, so correct about society moving rapidly. One of the things Bo Prosser notes in his Dawning presentations is that there is more powerful information in our cell phones than the astronauts had on the computers that got them to the moon! Information is expanding at an unbelievable pace.

Just recently, for instance, CBS's "Sixty Minutes" did a feature on computers and robots. They noted that IBM has dedicated most of its research and development funds to artificial intelligence. The program went on to talk about "Watson," IBM's most advanced computer, which is currently

## YOU ARE INVITED

Day Trip to  
 Lake Providence  
 Friday, April 7 - 12 PM  
 Lenten Lunch



Together for Hope will host the final lunch of the season. This will be a great time to meet many of Lake Providence's residents, ministers, and other local leaders, visit with Marc, view the mission house and the work. Come celebrate, eat and worship with us.

on loan to the University of North Carolina's medical school and is doing research on cancer, even diagnosing cancer patients. Could it be that in the near future doctor visits may be directed by a computer? And with the great strides being made in robotics, perhaps our doctor consultations could be with a Watson-like robot!

All of this is fascinating to me, and I've enjoyed speculating on Watson's take on a problem that so many churches face. And that is, how do we attract young adults and their families? Denominations and congregations have been struggling with that for the past decade or so.

I have been intrigued by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's work in this regard. They are intentional about reaching young adults, with one of their strategies dealing with new church starts. Andy Hale directs this effort and does a magnificent job.

He understands what it takes to begin a new work, and especially what it is that attracts adults under 35 years of age.

Recently, I have been talking to Andy about the possibility of his coming to Louisiana to share some of his ideas with us. After all, we have identified a number of pockets of CBF-related folks who live where there is no CBF church. I want Andy to help us strategize about starting some CBF churches. If you are interested in this ministry, I would love to hear from you.

In the meantime, please pray for CBF Louisiana, that we might help your church be the church! - **Mike**

**P.S.** Work continues with the Greater Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church. Dr. Suzii Paynter was with us a few weeks back and is committed to helping us with more funds to get that church back on its feet. She met with their ministers and charmed them with her interests and insights. I am encouraged by what is happening!

Give to:

The Pew Project



\$1,000 buys a pew for Mount Olive which had five feet of water in it, destroying all of its pews during the BR flood. Give at [cbfla.org](http://cbfla.org) or CBF-LA, The Pew Project, 520 Olive St. Shreveport, LA 71104

# Greetings from Lake Providence

by Marc Boswell, CBF-LA  
Together for Hope Director

Youth from Church for the Highlands and local volunteers work with Marc on two local parks

These warm winter months have brought some exciting developments. Five GED students are currently in the process of taking their GED tests - a months-long process. It's a pleasure to announce that the first two students to take a portion of the test successfully passed the parts on which they were working. I've also worked to connect students with Workforce Louisiana, an agency which will help students find work while they complete their degrees.

It was a joy to preach and worship with the Church for the Highlands in February. The church brought a youth group to visit Lake Providence March 3-4 to join local leaders in service projects in two of Lake Providence's parks. Residents of the Newtown Neighborhood Association were excited to join in the workday and to continue building relationships with their CBF partners.

In town, TFH and other citizens are continuing to work with the mayor's office on the development of a strategic plan with Louisiana Economic Development (LED). Meetings are being held over the span of several weeks to continue gathering community feedback and to draw up a list of goals and objectives. The plan will guide local business leaders, the city council, and community partners, like Together for Hope, as we discern what types of projects and work we hope to accomplish to help Lake Providence flourish.

Together for Hope - Louisiana, indirectly, will be greatly benefited by this work. We'll be able to use our resources and networks to join with churches, the city, and business leaders to

tackle certain projects and initiatives that emerge out of the strategic plan. Our mission, in other words, is best served when we listen to and partner with the people of Lake Providence.

As always, groups are welcome to come to Lake Providence for service-learning and retreat opportunities. Be in touch to schedule a visit or to have me come visit your congregation. Also, be sure to like our page on Facebook, follow us on Instagram, and check out our updated website to keep up with what's going on in Lake Providence.

### Day Trip to Lake Providence!

On Friday, April 7, at 12 PM, Together for Hope will host the final Lenten Lunch in Lake Providence. Area congregations and ministries take turns hosting the Friday lunch series during the season of



Marc preaching at Church for the Highlands

Lent. This will be a great time to meet many of Lake Providence's residents, ministers, and other local leaders. (Contact Marc for more information: 252-363-8098 or [mjboswell3@gmail.com](mailto:mjboswell3@gmail.com).)

### Prayers for Keith Holmes



Keith Holmes, CBF missionary (field personnel) with the Romany (Gypsy) people of Europe recently developed abdominal problems while working on a Bible translation/video project in Spain. He is resting and recovering from surgery now in Holland. Please remember Keith in your prayers. Follow the work through the Holmes/van Rhee-nen prayer letters at [cbfla.org](http://cbfla.org).



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Make checks payable to CBF-LA, Finance Office, c/o Sabra Hicks,  
520 Olive Street, Shreveport, LA 71104 [Give online at cbfla.org](http://cbfla.org)

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