



A Weekend In New Orleans with

RACHEL HELD EVANS

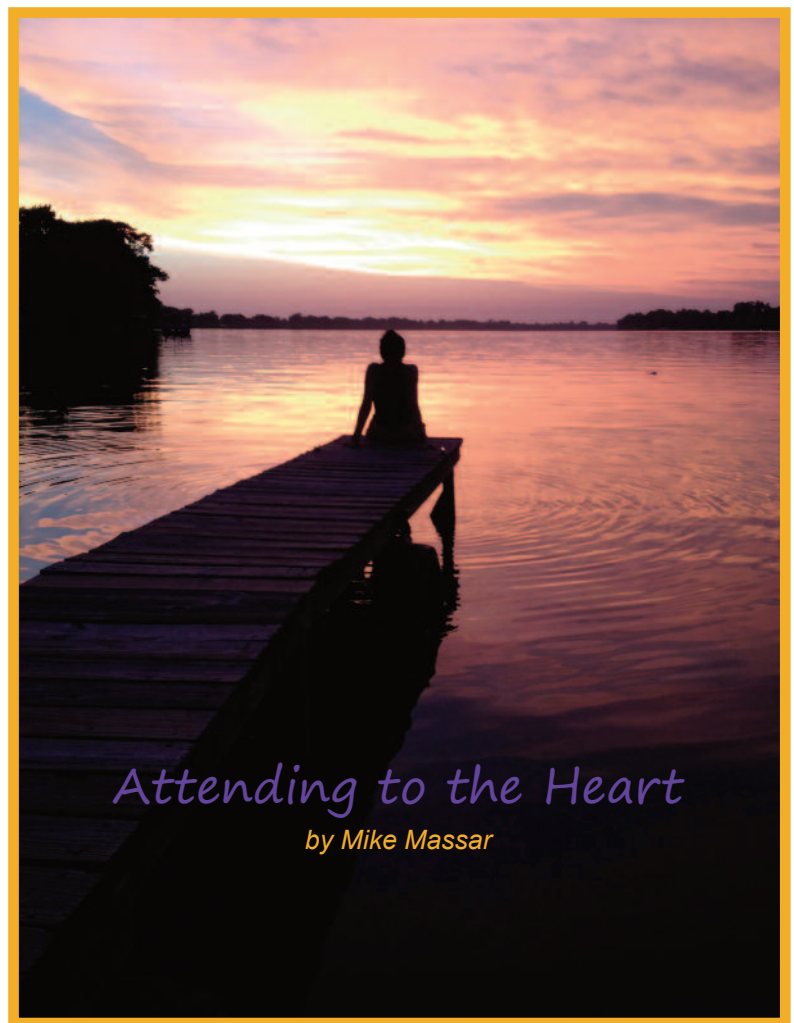
presented by The St. Charles Avenue
Baptist Church Mable Palmer
And CBF Louisiana
Stagg-Tolbert Lectures

Saturday, November 7, 2015
St. Charles Ave Baptist Church

7100 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans
CBF-LA Coffee and Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
Rachel Held Evans at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

More Info and Registration at:
scabc.org/RHE.html or call 504-861-9514

Rachel Held Evans is a New York Times Best Selling Author and popular blogger with over a quarter of a million visits to her blog each month. She's been featured in interviews on The View, The Today Show, NPR, Slate, The BBC, The Washington Post, The Guardian (UK), The London Times, The Huffington Post, and oprah.com. Her most recent book, Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church (Thomas Nelson 2015) is a memoir about making do and taking risks, about the messiness of community and the power of grace, and overcoming cynicism to find hope and Church.



Attending to the Heart

by Mike Massar

Recently I spent a day with CBF missionary Jenny Hodge at the Together For Hope ministries in Lake Providence, Louisiana, one of the poorest places in our country. It was an eye-opening experience.

It began as I drove up. There was a man working in the mission house yard. We exchanged pleasantries, and he showed me some of the work he had been doing. I was impressed with his work but became even more impressed when I found out that he was doing the work as a volunteer. You see he is one of those in Lake Providence looking for work. Thus, he was taking care of the missionary house's exterior for no pay, just the opportunity to show people the quality of his work. You might call it occupation without compensation.

It was the first evidence of the plight of hardworking people struggling to make ends meet. As Jenny gave me a tour of Lake Providence, I realized that my first encounter was not going to be an isolated event. She narrated the town's history - past and recent past - and how at one time Lake Providence had been a thriving community, benefitting from a robust rural economy augmented by a healthy tourism because of the secluded beauty of the place. However, with the advent of agricultural automation, farms no longer needed the manpower they once did, and a large part of the population lost their livelihood. Over the past fifty years or so the gap between the rich and poor has widened.

My guided tour evidenced that. On the north side of the lake there were beautiful homes with large manicured lawns. The south side was dramatically different, with weathered trailers and dilapidated sheds clustered closely together. As we moved through the south side I noticed that, although it was mid-day, a lot of people were sitting on their porches. Jenny told me that they were mostly folk out of work and were just trying to stay cool. I couldn't help but notice

that Jenny waved and called them by name. And as we moved along she shared a brief history of each family.

In one sense the stories were heartbreaking because of the sad circumstances of those lives, but in another sense altogether, the stories were imbued with the hope and care shown by Jenny. I was moved by her efforts to share the love of Christ in that community.

Someone once came to me and complained about the theology of a fellow church member, describing it as disgustingly liberal. Ironically enough, while this person vehemently objected to the other church member's way of thinking, they voiced admiration for the many Christian things



Jenny Hodge and friends in Lake Providence

this person did in the church and community. My response was something to the effect that theology is best articulated in deed versus word . . . Pay attention to the heart, and matters of the mind will make more sense.

There is a lot of misery in Lake Providence and some questionable theology in those who simply dismiss it as God's will. But there is also some good theology being espoused there. I saw it in the lives of our missionaries and others who articulate the Gospel with a compassion that would impress even the most astute theologian.

I am grateful for my time in Lake Providence and for



Summer in Lake Providence: 3 weeks of camp/VBS and the annual school supply drive Bags of Hope.

the loving hearts of Jenny and others who seek to live out the Word of God. It makes me want to be in that number, don't you?

Blessed by thought and deed, Mike.

Church for the Highlands Celebrates 5th Anniversary



CBF-LA Coordinator Mike Massar sent this birthday greeting:

Congratulations on your fifth anniversary! That is a remarkable achievement. Lisa and I were so impressed with all of the programs and ministries that you all are doing at Church for the Highlands. Truly, it is amazing. But even more amazing is the spirit of hospitality that you have. We felt so welcomed when we were with you this summer. It was an authentic experience of being made to feel at home by your fellowship. We won't forget the richness of that experience. Nor will we forget you in our prayers of gratitude. God is doing such wonderful things through the Church for the Highlands. I trust that this anniversary will afford you the opportunity to look back with such gratitude as well as look forward with such hope. Please know how grateful Lisa and I are for you. Please know how grateful CBF-LA is for you. What a difference you make!

Holmes/van Rheenen Visit in Fall

Keith Holmes and Mary van Rheenen, CBF Field Personnel to the Romany will be in the States October - December; Contact them at holmes@cbf.net to speak to your church or group.



Their most recent prayer update **From Riga, Istanbul and Coming Your Way** can be found at cbfla.org.



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