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Rachel Held Evans at Stagg-Tolbert Forum November 7!

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You Gotta Hear Rachel

Hurry before it is too late. Rachel Held Evans speaks this Saturday November 7 at the Stagg-Tolbert Forum in New Orleans. [Registration and information here.](#)

Many of us have been reading her latest book ***Searching For Sunday*** in preparation of her coming. Here is a favorite excerpt:

Of particular concern to the religious elite was how Jesus associated with sinners. He'd been spotted around town not only in the company of the poor and sick, the outcast and unclean, but also with tax collectors and prostitutes--people brazen enough to economize their transgressions. Word had it he shared meals

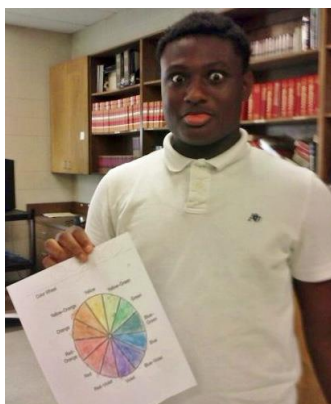
with them in their homes. Some even said he enjoyed himself.

Now, this wasn't simply the sort of colorful company writers and artists tend to romanticize--hookers, drunks, vagrants down on their luck. Jesus broke bread with tax collectors, too, men who exploited the poor and assisted the Roman Empire in its oppressive policies. (Replace tax collector with lobbyist or Wall Street executive and you get the idea.)

These were the people who wore their brokenness on the outside, people whose indiscretions were so other, so uncommon, their entire personhood was relegated to the category of sinner. They were the people the religious loved to hate, for they provided a convenient sorting mechanism for externalizing sin as something that exists out there, among other people with other problems making other mistakes. It's the oldest religious shortcut in the book: the easiest way to make oneself righteous is to make someone else a sinner.

Jesus knew all about this sin-sorting system, so when the religious leaders challenged him about the company he kept, he replied, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick..."

...It wasn't shared social status or ethnicity that brought Jesus' followers together either, nor was it total agreement on exactly who this Jesus character was--a prophet? the Messiah? the Son of God? No, if there was one thing that connected all these dis-similar people together it was a shared sense of need: a hunger, a thirst, a longing. It was the certainty that, when Jesus said he came for the sick, this meant Jesus came for me.



Artsy in Lake Providence: New Art Club

Jenny Hodge, CBF-LA Together for Hope Missionary in Lake Providence recently announced the first meeting for the newly formed Art Club at General Trass High School in East Carroll Parish. It was a smashing success with over 14 students participating (basketball tryouts were also the same day so more students are expected in the future) ! Students focused on learning the Color Wheel and how the colors relate and affect each other. The participating students then voted to study Pop Art as the first area for the Art Club. Looking forward to how the students interpret and practice the work of artists like Ed Ruscha and Andy Warhol!

The newly formed Art Club is a collaboration between Teach for America - Delta, General Trass High School, and Together for Hope - Louisiana, and was supported with donations from Emmanuel Baptist Church (Alexandria, LA). We are in need of artists who would be willing to share their gifts and time with the students, and for continued supply donations.



Jenny would love to come share the story of her work in your church as she did recently to a joint Sunday School meeting at Church for the Highlands and during the "Missional Moment" during worship. Both are great venues to learn and be blessed. Contact Jenny at 318-418-5133 or hodgejv@gmail.com.

Forming Together is more than our new tag line. It's a new way to share the CBF story. It's a deliberate decision to live in to the six attributes that we have discovered about ourselves.



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