



HEART TO HEART

I am in the process of reading Alvin Reid's book, *Radically Unchurched* (Who they are and how to reach them). Reid begins the book by highlighting the tragic moral condition of our country. He writes, "The moral downslide in this country has become an avalanche. For many, spirituality can be characterized as a cafeteria of 'make-your-own-religion.' The Judeo-Christian heritage that helped to establish America has become increasingly marginalized."

I doubt that anyone reading this has serious doubts about the truth of Reid's statement. We see it all around us. All we need to do is read the newspaper to learn about the drug dealers and manufacturers in the community, counterfeiters, and yes, even murderers. While we can sit here and bemoan the condition of the country, it would be more important for us to be seeking the Lord, both personally and corporately, for a renewed passion for the Lord and His kingdom. God has made it abundantly clear that He "is not willing that any should perish." The perishing are those who are misappropriating their lives now in such a way that they will miss an eternity in heaven with Him.

Reid provides his description of the "radically unchurched." He says, they "are those who have no clear personal understanding of the message of the gospel, and who have had little or no contact with a Bible-teaching, Christ-honoring church." There is no doubt that we live among many of the "radically unchurched." The seriousness of the situation is accentuated when we read what Charles Arn stated in his address at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Church Growth in Orlando, Florida in November of 1997. In his address, entitled, "The State of the Church in the 21st Century," he says, "active, practicing Christians compose –even when being generous with the numbers- only 82.08 million or 29 percent of the population of the United States." He further states that "those Christian in name only comprise 86.07 million or 30 percent," and "Americans who report no religious affiliation total 116.85 million or 41 percent."

Reid refers to George Hunter, author of *Church for the Unchurched*, who calls the group the "secular people" and says "that approximately 120 million Americans fit the category." Reid also calls attention to Hunter's comment that "of the over 350,000 churches in the U.S., about 80 percent are stagnant. Of the 20 percent that are growing, most increase by biological (babies born to current members) or transfer growth. Less than 1 percent is growing by conversion growth."

While it is one thing to identify a problem, it is far more significant to identify solutions to the problem. Reid attempts to do so and begins by asking and answering a question. The question is, "How can the church reach the radically unchurched? Through a radical commitment to Christ." I agree with him that this is exactly what the Lord came to do and what He commissioned His followers to do. That includes us.

Furthermore, Reid reminds us that Jesus serves as our model for reaching the unchurched through His *incarnation*, His *death and resurrection*, and His *earthly ministry*. Here I want to do some application of his thoughts.

Through His *incarnation*, Jesus demonstrated the need to identify with those He wanted to save. We must find ways to identify with those we hope to help come to a saving relationship with Christ. Cowboy churches, Christian outdoor ministries, biker churches, etc. are examples of ways believers have found to identify with the "radically unchurched." Churches that want to make a real impact on the lost community might begin to pray for the Lord to open their eyes to these and countless other ways to identify with them.

Through His *death and resurrection*, Jesus demonstrated His willingness to make the sacrifice necessary for men to be radically transformed. I confess that there is very little sacrifice in my life. I wonder what it will take for us to come to that point. This might be a good place to do some serious meditation.

Reid says that through His *earthly ministry*, "Jesus demonstrates the ardor with which He sought the lost masses" and goes on to say, "His ministry showed His urgency toward reaching people."

I stated earlier that it is one thing to identify a problem but far more important to identify solutions. Too often we want the writer or speaker to give us the solutions. There are times when I think the Lord uses those people to provide some answers, but if all we do is wait for someone to give us the solutions, we will miss hearing the fresh word of the Lord. We need to personally and corporately beseech the Lord to: (1) show us how to *identify* with the "radically unchurched," (2) make us willing to *sacrifice* for the sake of seeing lives transformed, and (3) have an *ardor*, a zeal, an urgency toward reaching them.

"Have thine own way Lord, have thine own way. Thou art the Potter, I am the clay."

For the sake of the kingdom,
David E. Brown
Associational Missions Coordinator

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES
JULY 2009**

Deposits through 08-12-09

Contributions	JULY 09	TOTAL
Agape'	0.00	707.00
Amite	0.00	34,739.19
Beech Ridge	413.49	2,884.22
Bethel	0.00	1,449.87
Calvary	0.00	0.00
Carroll	735.67	2,972.71
Central	232.48	964.34
Christ's Community	300.00	3,300.00
Colyell	760.51	10,341.06
Denham Springs	0.00	5,714.86
Don Avenue	213.24	2,703.46
Doyle	0.00	0.00
Eden	0.00	680.63
Emmanuel	0.00	5,768.74
Faith	0.00	1,898.16
French Settlement	225.08	3,526.14
Gray's Creek	386.00	4,363.55
Greater Third Zion	0.00	0.00
Head of Island	152.80	2,781.76
Hebron	3,614.00	23,950.44
Holden	195.52	1,995.90
Judson	1,718.11	21,600.98
Life Giving	72.26	1,680.81
Live Oak	883.67	12,022.14
Livingston	472.00	4,879.00
Macedonia	0.00	300.00
Magnolia	295.00	4,239.00
Maurepas	0.00	1,543.61
Midway	250.11	2,451.15
New Bethlehem	25.00	275.00
New Covenant	0.00	700.00
Northside	124.29	3,697.93
One Life (posting correction)	-243.66	590.07
Pine Grove	385.66	4,926.20
Red Oak	200.00	2,400.00
River of Life	0.00	2,002.25
Riverside	853.33	9,776.45
Salem	0.00	0.00
Satsuma	208.55	3,046.94
South Walker	0.00	1,173.26
Southside	0.00	670.34
The New Beginnings	131.67	1,451.88
Victory	165.88	1,047.83
Walker	1,645.08	20,027.37
Total Contributions	14,415.74	211,244.24
Interest Income	0.00	3,857.39
Total Designated Income	3,740.00	97,694.56
Total Income	18,155.74	312,796.19
Capital One Total		101,395.95
Louisiana Baptist Foundation Total		265,393.08
Total Checking & Savings		366,789.03

News from the Churches...

CARROLL BAPTIST CHURCH in Walker welcomes **Larry Badon** as Interim Pastor.

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, 10453 Arnold Road, Denham Springs, LA 70706, invites you to join them for Revival Services beginning Wednesday, September 16 and culminating with Homecoming, Sunday, September 20 at 7:00 PM nightly and 10:30 AM on Sunday. **Bro. Tom Higginbotham** will be preaching. **James Cowell** is pastor.

WALKER BAPTIST CHURCH, 10696 Florida Blvd, Walker, invites everyone to Revival Services on September 20-23, 2009. **Dr. Alan Miller**, pastor of First Baptist Church, Monroe, is guest evangelist. **Richard Blue** is pastor.

The Men's Ministry of **WALKER BAPTIST CHURCH** invites all men and boys to—

Men's Ministry Day
"Recharged"
 September 12, 2009
 7:30AM—1:30PM



Featuring: **Gene Hoyt, Rev. Iran Smith, Bro. Steve Adcox** and other dynamic speakers. Registration fee is \$20 (includes a light breakfast and lunch). For more information or for registration forms, please call 225-665-8368. **Richard Blue** is pastor.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 15th

Please let us know what's going on in your church, such as special events, revivals, pastor/staff changes, etc.

EMAIL: elbmissions@elba.brcoxmail.com

MAIL: ELBA, PO Box 305, Walker, LA 70785

Thank You!

Our family wants to express our deepest appreciation to each of you for all your love, concern, prayers, cards and monetary gifts received during the long extended illness of Gerald and his passing. We love and appreciate each of you for being there for us during this time. Please continue to keep the family in your prayers. **LOVE YOU ALL!!**
 Ora & Family of Dr. Gerald Hull

**Ridgecrest On The River
 Church Leadership Conference**

Date: September 12, 2009

Place: New Orleans Theological Seminary

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Fees: Early Registration—\$20; Late Registration—\$25

Website: www.bagnola.org

Church Growth Corner

Freddie Arnold

Saturday, August 15, was the annual Blitz On the Bayou Sunday School Leadership Training Conference in Baton Rouge. The weather was beautiful and the conference leaders were well prepared and presented the materials enthusiastically. The attendance was good and people were very excited about the conferences. Dr. Rob Zinn was the keynote speaker. He is pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, California. He has been pastor of the church since 1977. He has led the church to grow from 730 members to over 7800 members. The key to the growth and success of the church, according to Dr. Zinn, has been his focus on evangelism and his love for the Sunday School.

FAITH Evangelism Process and Flakes Formula for Sunday School growth have served him and his church well.

FAITH

Forever
Admit
Invite
Turn
Heaven

FLAKES FORMULA

Discover the People
Enlarge the Organization
Provide the Space
Enlist and Train the Workers
Go After the People

Therefore he sees no reason to change to another process. These are producing the desired results.

But he thinks the keys to the lasting success are attributed to three things: One, the support and encouragement of the pastor; Two, the effective training of leadership to staff each of these two processes; Three, the effective implementation of each of these two processes.

Dr. Zinn also reminded us that three things never change: **The Man — The Message — The Mission**; and that there are three things that must change: **The Mind Set — The Methodology — The Ministry**.

I heartily agree with Dr. Zinn and I think that it is time that we as church leaders get serious about evangelism and discipleship of people. We have the greatest tools of any denomination and the greatest message of all time but we are not using these tools effectively, or are we sharing the message as effectively as we must. We want to try every new fad that comes along and just like fads they die out quickly. Then we must find something new to replace them or we choose to do nothing. Sunday School and worship are important and we must keep them functioning and strong through evangelism and organization.

On Mission Celebration News



Date: May 1 & 2, 2010

Place: Your Church and Mine

OMC Rally: Amite Baptist Church

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mickey Caison

CHURCH FINANCE SEMINAR

September 18-19, 2009
ELBA Missions & Ministries Center
8139 Florida Blvd E
Denham Springs, LA 70726

Cost: **\$10.00** per person (includes cost of all resources)

Basic Church Finance

Friday, September 18
7:00—9:00 PM

Led by **Michael Stewart**
LBC Stewardship &
Cooperative Program
Strategist

Planning Financial Support

Saturday, September 19
9:00—11:30 AM

Led by **Stacy Morgan**
LBC Church
Administration Strategist

This Church Finance Seminar deals with interpreting income tax laws for churches, pastors and staff members.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Pastors, Ministers of Education, Deacons, Church Finance Committee, Church Treasurers, Church Administrators, Church Personnel Committee

A registration form is available online at www.easternlabaptists.org ("downloads") or call the ELBA Office at (225) 664-9309.

NOTICE OF CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON AT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING:

The Ad Hoc Committee assigned to review and recommend revisions to the ELBA Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws will present at the Associational Annual Meeting the following:

1. Amending and updating the Articles of Incorporation
2. Updating and clarifying the Constitution and Bylaws including the establishment of Trustees, a Missions and Ministry Center Bylaw, recommend a standing committee structure for a Mission and Ministry Center Committee, and the amendment of the Finance Committee Structure
3. Removing Ministry Teams designations and job descriptions from Bylaws, Section 7, Ministry Teams; recommending that the Associational Council develop a policy and procedures manual to include Ministry Teams designations and Ministry Team job descriptions; recommend that an updated list of Ministry Teams and the team's job descriptions be published hereafter in the Associational Annual Book of Reports
4. Moved BCM Trustees and LWBA Representatives to Bylaws, Section 8, Committees

Proposed changes may be seen online at www.easternlabaptists.org.

Printed copies may be obtained from the ELBA office.

Pastors, please provide this announcement for messengers elected by your congregation.

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association

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James Cowell, Moderator	Tim Norris, Vice Moderator
Sherri Palmer, Clerk	Mary Broussard, Historian
Jenelle Brown, Secretary	Ginger Glascock, Secretary
Lorraine Pankey, Financial Secretary	

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
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PERMIT #1
WALKER LA

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2009

- 7 Labor Day
- 10 Get A Life Conference, Baptist Building, Alexandria
- 12 Ridgecrest on the River, NOBTS
- 13-20 Week of Prayer for State Missions & Georgia Barnette State Offering
- 14 Ministers Conference, Bethel
- 17 Missions Team, ELBA Office, 10:00 AM
- 18 Church Finance Seminar, Eden, 7—9 PM
- 19 Church Finance Seminar, Eden, 9—11:30 AM
- 19 Outdoor Evangelism Conference, Philadelphia, Deville
- 21-22 Expository Preaching Conference, FBC, Pineville
- 23 See You At The Pole
- 25-27 IGNITE: Collegiate Discipleship Conference, Broadmoor, Shreveport

OCTOBER 2009

- 4 Share the Gospel Sunday
- 5 Ministers Conference, One Life, 10:00 AM
- 11 World Hunger Sunday
- 12 ANNUAL MEETING, Walker, 5:00 PM
- 13 Senior Adult PraiseFest, Trinity, Pineville
- 15 Missions Team Meeting, ELBA Office, 10:00 AM
- 16-17 Ministry Wives Retreat, Tall Timbers
- 19-22 January Bible Study / Doctrine Study Preview Tour, Baptist Building, Alexandria

Week of Prayer for

Georgia Barnette
STATE MISSIONS OFFERING

September 13-20, 2009

Envelopes & prayer guides have been mailed to the churches.



MINISTERS CONFERENCE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

10:00 AM

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

20149 Circle Drive, Livingston, LA 70754

2009 ASSOCIATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

The 167th Annual Session of the
Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association
will be held at

Walker Baptist Church
Monday, October 12, 2009

5:00 PM—SESSION I

6:00 PM—Fellowship Meal & AMC Report

7:00 PM—SESSION II

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael Eden
Professor of Theology & Islamic Studies, NOBTS

Remember to elect **MESSENGERS** to the
Annual Meeting and the **EXECUTIVE BOARD**
MEMBERS for your church as soon as possible.