



HEART TO HEART

HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE

For months now we have been attempting to pull together an Associational Health Insurance Group with GuideStone. We have been working with both the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge and the Northshore Associations. In the most recent communiqué from GuideStone, we discovered we were still short of the required health statements due to the fact that some of our “eligible ministers” did not respond. We also discovered that the way GuideStone counted the “non-responders” left us short of the required 80%.

As a result, there are two options left to us. One is to explore the possibility of finding another underwriter that all five of our associations can work with, or for Eastern Association to explore the possibility of developing our own group, independent of the other associations. For the second option to become a reality, we would need to acquire a few additional responses from those that did not do so previously. I believe that could be accomplished. If the necessary responses are achieved, then we would need to develop an Associational Health Insurance Committee to manage the group. The group would need to be responsible for collecting the premiums from all the participants and then forwarding it to GuideStone. There would probably be some management costs and the Committee would need to determine how those would be paid. I will assume the responsibility of acquiring the additional responses to forward to GuideStone. We would then, again, have to wait for them to submit the documentation to the underwriter to receive a premium quote.

I have been amazed at the “hoops” we have been having to “jump through” in trying to establish this group. It reveals how little I know about the processes required by insurance providers. I’m even more concerned about what the processes will be when the Federal Government enacts whatever “healthcare reforms” they come up with. Isn’t it good to know that our care is in the hands of the Heavenly Father, not the Federal Government, even if or when they do enact “reforms.”

ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

I anxiously awaited hearing the responses of messengers concerning the modified Annual Meeting schedule, having moved from two evenings to one with three distinct segments. Session one came off without a hitch, accomplishing what we needed and finishing right on time. In the absence of our Moderator, Brother James Cowell, Pastor at Emmanuel, Brother Tim Norris, Vice Moderator, did an outstanding job. Brother James was preaching revival services in a Native American Church in Ada, Oklahoma. I believe that is a justifiable reason for missing the meeting.

A number of individuals commented that “Dinner with David” gave those participating an opportunity to put a face on the various ministries that the churches in the association support and conduct through their members. Walker Baptist Church set the bar quite high in hosting the meeting. The meal was absolutely superb and the members were gracious and superb hosts. As for the timing, we went over just briefly and coupled with the need to transition back to the worship center delayed the start of the second session.

Session two was a blessing. We were blessed by a worship team from Christ’s Community who endeavored to set the stage for congregational worship and the preaching of the Word. We realized, after the fact, that there was a need for better communication between all the participants. Dr. Edens brought a powerful and timely message from the Word of God. We were blessed by the message and are blessed to know we have such leadership in our theological seminary in New Orleans.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES
SEPTEMBER 2009**

Deposits through 10-12-09

Contributions	SEPT 09	TOTAL
Agape'	0.00	0.00
Amite	0.00	0.00
Beech Ridge	0.00	0.00
Bethel	162.19	162.19
Calvary	0.00	0.00
Carroll	0.00	0.00
Central	0.00	0.00
Christ's Community	300.00	300.00
Colyell	0.00	0.00
Denham Springs	633.15	633.15
Don Avenue	187.70	187.70
Doyle	173.63	173.63
Emmanuel	2,352.83	2,352.83
Faith	0.00	0.00
French Settlement	241.60	241.60
Gray's Creek	341.00	341.00
Greater Third Zion	0.00	0.00
Head of Island	170.20	170.20
Hebron	2,511.00	2,511.00
Holden	157.61	157.61
Judson	1,816.79	1,816.79
Life Giving	111.29	111.29
Live Oak	1,228.82	1,228.82
Livingston	504.00	504.00
Macedonia	0.00	0.00
Magnolia	357.00	357.00
Maurepas	0.00	0.00
Midway	176.31	176.31
New Bethlehem	25.00	25.00
New Covenant	0.00	0.00
Northside	124.15	124.15
One Life	150.62	150.62
Pine Grove	435.44	435.44
Red Oak	200.00	200.00
River of Life	0.00	0.00
Riverside	578.99	578.99
Salem	0.00	0.00
Satsuma	269.72	269.72
South Walker	122.85	122.85
Southside	116.98	116.98
The New Beginnings	103.32	103.32
Victory	184.00	184.00
Walker	1,813.43	1,813.43
Total Contributions	15,549.62	15,549.62
Interest Income	541.35	541.35
Party Trailer User Fees	700.00	700.00
Total Income	16,790.97	16,790.97
Capital One Total		113,797.01
Louisiana Baptist Foundation Total		241,334.43
Total Checking & Savings		355,131.44

News from the Churches...

Jason Ebeyer has resigned as Minister of Education of **AMITE BAPTIST CHURCH** to accept the position of Minister of Education/Administration at First Baptist Church of DeRidder.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH welcomes **Bryan Morgan** as Youth Minister. **Trey Cowell** is pastor.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH invites everyone to their community wide singing, *Christmas in the Pines*, at 6:30 PM on Thursday, December 3, 2009. Ladies put on your bonnets, men pull out your best pair of overalls—old time attire is not only welcomed, but encouraged! Groups and/or choirs from other churches are invited to come sing a song or two. Come start the Christmas season as we join together for singing of the old fashioned Christmas hymns. The church is located at 34685 LA HWY 1036, Holden, LA 70744. For more information call (225) 664-4448. **Roger Dunlap** is pastor.

NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH invites everyone to a Family Conference, "Reaching for God's Vision for Your Family," on November 6, 6:30—8:30 PM and November 7, 9:00 AM—Noon. Large and small group sessions will be held focusing on family, marriage, and parenting. The cost is \$10 per couple, \$5 for singles and includes a continental breakfast on Saturday. Childcare will be provided. For more information or to register call the church office at (225) 664-0858. **Keith Zachary** is pastor.

RIVER OF LIFE WORSHIP CENTER is pleased to invite you to their 8th annual Women's Conference, *Labor of Love*, on Friday & Saturday, November 13-14. Cost: \$20 (after Oct. 31—\$25) In addition to the Word of God and fellowship with sisters, your conference registration includes a Friday evening reception, Saturday morning breakfast, dramas, laughter, goodie bags for everyone, door prizes, and a catered luncheon with delicious desserts. For registration forms and conference schedule go to www.riveroflifeworship.com or call (225) 698-9640. **Bobby Ready** is pastor.

WALKER BAPTIST CHURCH Youth Ministry Team invites all area youth to join them for **4Day Jesus** on November 4-7, 5:30 PM—8:30 PM. 4DJ is a high energy youth worship experience designed and detailed for the youth of today in a dynamic, exciting, Holy Spirit-filled series of events featuring different speakers each night. Don't miss what is going to happen during the 4 days that are devoted 4 Him. Worship music led by DV8 Band. The church is located at 10696 Florida Blvd., Walker, LA. **Ray McCon** is Minister to Students. **Richard Blue** is pastor.

BIBLES NEEDED FOR PRISON MINISTRY

Bibles are needed for distribution to the women at the **Livingston Parish Prison**. For more information about how you can help this vital ministry call **Shirley Ballard**, 791-4498, or **Brenda McMorris**, 664-3185.



Church Growth Corner

Freddie Arnold

On Mission Celebration Notes:

We are continuing to distribute and collect Commitment Cards for the OMC. We need to know how many churches are going to participate in this great mission education process. If you have a card we need it returned to ELBA as soon as possible. If you have not received a card call the office and we will try to get one to you or you may come by and pickup one. Why is the card necessary? It helps us have a clear record of who is going to participate and who is not going to participate. We don't want to pressure anyone but we need to know in order to better communicate, plan and provide. Let us hear from you. Thanks to you who have responded by sending their cards back.

ELBA Mission Trip:

The Mission Team continues to move forward with plans for our Summer Mission Trip to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Early in the Spring of 2010 we will be making a mission preview trip to Broken Arrow to determine the final details of the project. Bro. Trey Cowell is the Team Leader, he will be happy to answer any questions about particulars related to the mission trip.

Mission Center Teams Notes:

The Mission Center Team continues to meet regarding the transition work to be done on the ELBA Mission Center property in Denham Springs. We are working on developing a master plan for use of the property and working drawings for the renovation of the existing buildings. These are things necessary before moving forward with construction.

Church Health Thoughts and Evaluations:

As I study the information reflected in the annual church profiles collected from the last year, I find some challenging facts. The first fact that I find is that we have reported 20,709 that comprise the total membership of our 43 churches and missions. When I divide the 20,709 by 43 (churches) that equals 482 persons per church. The Livingston Parish Council web page tells me that there are 101,473 residents in Livingston Parish. This may differ with some other figures that you may have seen or heard but be that as it may. This is what the web page states. Okay what if just 50% (50,737) of them are unchurched that would mean that each church could average 1180 members per church. The average membership now is only 482. That would mean that 698 people could be added to your membership if they were reached. That would demand some planning and providing on the part of each church.

The second fact that I find in the reports is that only 52% (10,869) of our 20,798 church members are enrolled in Sunday School. There is another 10,814 persons not enrolled in regular Bible Study. They represent an average of 252 persons per church that are prospects for Bible Study. When combined, lost 698, plus 252 un-enrolled church members, that totals 950 prospective Bible Study students per church to be reached. In light of these facts Matthew 9:37-38 comes alive, "Then He said to His disciples, the harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. 38: Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."



On Mission Celebration
May 1 & 2, 2010



**2009 Baptist Women's
World Day of Prayer
Walker Baptist Church
November 2, 2008
8:30 AM—Noon**

All women are invited to come as we focus on encouraging prayer as a vehicle for making changes in the world.

Theme: Seeing God's Creation With New Eyes —Psalm 24:1
Contact Mrs. Betty Marsh, (225) 664-4617 for more information.



Matthew 22:37

Youth Evangelism Celebration
November 22-24
Rapides Coliseum, Alexandria
Speaker: Ed Newton
Worship with Matt Papa
YEC@LBC.org

[HEART TO HEART continued from page 1]

We learned some things about holding the annual meeting on one evening, a fact that has been well received by most participants. I don't know how many people have commented with favor at having it all done on one evening. The Arrangements Committee recommended and the messengers approved the continuation of the one evening schedule. The 168th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association will be held on Monday, October 11, 2010 at Riverside Baptist Church, with sessions at 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 p.m. Please add this meeting to your calendar.

We plan to produce the 2009 Annual Minutes book in house this year, so we hope to have it available to each of you much earlier than this past year. This past year, we encountered some production delays that contributed to the late publication. With our efficient associational Ministry Assistants, I am confident you will have the 2010 document in a timely manner.

Let me take this opportunity to express a deep appreciation to all who contributed to making the 167th Annual Meeting a great experience.

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

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association

PO Box 305 ❖ 32470 Walker N Rd
Walker LA 70785
PH (225) 664-9309 FAX (225) 664-9349
elbmissions@elba.brcoxmail.com
www.easternlabaptists.org

David E. Brown

Associational Missions Coordinator
amc4elba@elba.brcoxmail.com

Freddie L. Arnold

Associate Associational Missions Coordinator
freddie@elba.brcoxmail.com

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
POSTAGE PD
PERMIT #1
WALKER LA

☑ MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2009

2 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer, Walker, 9 AM
2 Ministers Conference, FBC, Denham Springs, 10:00 AM
9-10 Louisiana Baptist Conv., Summer Grove, Shreveport
19 Missions Team Meeting, ELBA Office, 9:00 AM
19 OMC Steering Committee, ELBA Office, 10:00 AM
22-24 Youth Evangelism
Conference, Rapides Coliseum, Alex.
26 Thanksgiving Day
29—Dec 6 Week of Prayer for
International Missions & Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering



DECEMBER 2009

7 Pastors, Staff & Spouses Christmas Dinner &
Fellowship, Pine Grove, 6:30 PM
17 Missions Team Meeting, ELBA Office, 10:00 AM
12/24—1/03 ELBA Office closed
25 Christmas Day

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS &

WHO'S
WHOSE MISSING?
MISSION?

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS OFFERING

November 29—December 6

Materials will be mailed to the churches.
Material can also be downloaded at www.imb.org.

Have you heard about the ELBA Mission Trip to Broken Arrow, OK, on July 17-23, 2010? All are welcome! Work for all ages!

For more information contact the Association Office,
225-664-9309; elbmissions@elba.brcoxmail.com or

Bro. Trey Cowell, 225-324-8966; revtrey@hotmail.com.



MINISTERS CONFERENCE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009

10:00 AM

FBC OF DENHAM SPRINGS

308 N River Road, Denham Springs, LA 70726



MINISTERS & MATES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday, December 7, 2009 — 6:30 PM

Pine Grove Baptist Church

21949 LA HWY 444, Livingston, LA 70754

All church staff members and their spouses are invited to attend. Please call the Associational Office (664-9309) by December 1 to let us know that you will be attending, if you need childcare, and for what ages.

CALL OF THE SECOND MILE Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

November 9-10, 2009

Summer Grove, Shreveport

*"And if anyone forces you to go one mile,
go with him two miles." Matthew 5:41*