

## 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](mailto:elbmissions@elba.brcoxmail.com)  
[www.easternlabaptists.org](http://www.easternlabaptists.org)

### David E. Brown

Associational Missions Coordinator  
[amc4elba@elba.brcoxmail.com](mailto:amc4elba@elba.brcoxmail.com)

### Freddie L. Arnold

Associate Associational Missions Coordinator  
[freddie@elba.brcoxmail.com](mailto:freddie@elba.brcoxmail.com)

Tim Norris, Moderator	Carl Sullivan, Vice Moderator
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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 2011

- 5 Kaleidoscope, FBC, Pineville
- 7 Fellowship Meal, Pine Grove, 5:30 PM
- 7 Executive Board Meeting, Pine Grove, 6:30 PM
- 8 Retired Ministers Lunch, Ryan's, 11:30 AM
- 11-12 Conflict Training—Pastors & Wives,  
Judson Retreat Center
- 12 & 19 ESL Workshop, Jefferson Baptist Church,  
Baton Rouge, 8 AM—4 PM
- 17 Mission Team Meeting, ELBA Office, 10:00 AM
- 19 Sunday School Leadership Conference, Walker,  
8:30 AM—Noon
- 25-26 LA Baptist Church Music Conference, LC
- 26 Evangelistic Party Trailer Training, ELBA Office,  
9:30 AM—Noon

### MARCH 2011

- 6-8 Youth Winter Retreat, Camp Living Waters
- 6-12 Youth Week
- 6-13 Week of Prayer for North American Missions &  
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 8 Church Building Conference, Alexandria
- 14 Ministers Conference, Central, 10:00 AM
- 17 Mission Team Meeting, ELBA Office, 10:00 AM
- 19 M-JAM, FBC, New Orleans
- 24 Deadline for ELBA Scholarship Applications

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 7, 2011  
6:30 PM

PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH  
21949 LA HWY 444, Livingston, LA 70754

Fellowship Meal at 5:30 PM

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March Ministers Conference  
Monday, March 14, 2011  
10:00 AM

Central Baptist Church  
14200 LA HWY 44, Gonzales, LA 70737

**Freddie Arnold**, Associate Associational Missions  
Coordinator, will be making a presentation on **CERT**  
(Community Emergency Response Teams).

March 6-13



**START  
HERE.**

Matthew 9:36-38

Materials will be mailed  
to each church soon.

Kaleidoscope “*Treasures in Jars of Clay*”

February 5, 2011 – First Baptist, Pineville

Speaker—Liz Luter

Cost: \$30 (includes lunch)

For more information: 1-800-622-6549 or  
[WMM@LBC.org/Women](mailto:WMM@LBC.org/Women)



## HEART TO HEART

### **IS A HEALTH INSURANCE GROUP FOR MINISTERS A POSSIBILITY?**

In August of 2008, Roddy Conerly, Lonnie Wascom and I began to address the prospects of forming a health insurance group for ministers through GuideStone. We dotted all of our i's and crossed all of our t's only to discover that we would not be able to establish the group through GuideStone. As a result, we then began to explore the prospects of establishing a health insurance captive which would have been similar to establishing our own insurance company owned by the associations. After research was done, we were told that it would not be possible. So, it looked as though the establishment of a health insurance group was out of the question.

However, since then, we learned of another possibility. That would be to establish a health insurance trust. We have been working quietly and behind the scenes to see if this might be a realistic way to provide a vehicle for offering health insurance to ministers. We have a couple of insurance consultants working with us who have discovered this vehicle and have been working diligently to assist us in developing this trust.

At the present time, we are in the process of working with an attorney to draw up a corporate structure which would be organized under the Northshore Baptist Association. The proposed name for this entity is the "Ministers' Health Trust." We are required to provide a Statement of Faith and a set of bylaws to spell out the membership and associational representation on a governing board. Based on our current discussions, we may be able to offer three sets of benefits, and potential participants would receive an individual quote, hopefully at a significant savings. We would be working with a firm to manage the trust under the guiding documents.

We are hoping that we might have all of the structure in place to begin the program on March 1, 2011. Should we not be able to complete all of the preparation by then, we will shoot for April 1, no fooling. We will provide each of you with complete information as soon as the preliminary work is completed.

I would ask that you pray for divine direction. This has the potential for providing significant financial savings to participants and potentially making it possible for some who have no health insurance to secure it.

### **OUR GOD IS A MIGHTY GOD!**

The December/January issue of SBC Life published an article entitled, "A Thai Prisoner Set Free." It is a story of missions and answered prayer.

Noon, imprisoned for drug possession, had not had a visit from anyone for nearly two years. The 25 year-old said that everyone in her family had rejected her. Another prisoner that was a Christian told her about God and began to teach her to pray. Noon said, "the first prayer I prayed was 'If you are God, please bring someone to visit me,' because for two years, no one visited me or wrote a letter to me." She continued, "I said, 'God, if you want me to know your grace, answer me and let someone come to visit me.'"

One week after her plea to God, an aunt came to bring her news from her family. "She knew that with a miracle such as this, God must be real. She began to meet with a group of Christians and a team from the Christian Prison Ministry Foundation established by an SBC International Mission Board missionary. Noon soon responded to the Gospel and invited Christ into her life. She still had five months of her sentence to serve.

The closer her release date came, the more she was filled with fear, not having anyone on the outside to meet her and no place to go and no resources, not even bus fare. Prison officials don't allow them to leave with anything, not even bibles, notebooks or diaries.

Noon heard of a Christian halfway house, an endeavor of the Christian Prison Ministry Foundation. "The House of Blessing provides a place for former inmates to live as they begin new lives outside the prison wall." Tiwan, a member of the prison ministry team and a former prisoner herself assured Noon she would have a place at the House of Blessing.

However, "Noon was not released on Monday, the usual day that the ministry team visited her prison. When it was too late to notify the team, Noon discovered that she would be released on a Tuesday." Because the team had some other meetings, they had not visited the prison for two Monday sessions at the prison. Noon said, "I was so worried about no one to pick me up. I didn't have a place to stay. But I prayed and prayed."

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES  
DECEMBER 2010**

Deposits through January 13, 2011

Contributions	DEC 2010	TOTAL
Agape'	0.00	359.00
Amite	0.00	12,580.65
Beech Ridge	0.00	857.61
Bethel	184.31	644.25
Calvary	186.56	830.79
Carroll	540.96	1,086.65
Central	0.00	0.00
Christ's Community	300.00	1,200.00
Colyell	0.00	2,175.42
Denham Springs	1,097.35	2,868.96
Don Avenue	301.72	857.10
Doyle	10.00	20.00
Emmanuel	1,183.18	2,890.30
Faith	691.09	1,339.15
French Settlement	286.76	1,161.50
Gray's Creek	600.00	2,283.00
Greater Third Zion	0.00	0.00
Head of Island	193.79	863.45
Hebron	4,233.88	9,994.22
Holden	227.54	973.64
Judson	1,677.99	7,769.25
Live Oak	980.23	4,794.52
Livingston	450.00	1,922.00
Macedonia	0.00	0.00
Magnolia	302.00	1,600.00
Maurepas	0.00	894.00
Midway	359.31	812.10
New Bethlehem	25.00	100.00
New Covenant	700.00	700.00
Northside	224.74	867.41
One Life	0.00	0.00
Pine Grove	1,121.45	2,442.20
Red Oak	200.00	800.00
River of Life	0.00	0.00
Riverside	358.82	1,228.32
Salem	0.00	77.56
Satsuma	258.47	1,545.55
South Walker	68.40	318.01
Southside	0.00	133.45
The New Beginnings	70.11	396.72
Victory	266.94	581.74
Walker	1,871.45	7,449.67
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>18,972.05</b>	<b>77,418.19</b>
<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>301.16</b>	<b>619.67</b>
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>39.91</b>	<b>7,127.16</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,600.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>19,313.12</b>	<b>90,765.02</b>
Capital One Total		93,670.72
Louisiana Baptist Foundation Total		195,813.13
<b>Total Checking &amp; Savings</b>		<b>300,363.44</b>

***News from the Churches...***

**CARROLL BAPTIST CHURCH** in Walker, welcomes new pastor, **Lonnie Cook**.

**SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH** in Denham Springs welcomes new pastor, **Don Hoy**.

**Sunday School Leadership Training**

**THEME: *Great Expectations:***

Planting Seeds For Sunday School Growth

**February 19, 2011**

**8:30 AM—12:00 PM**

**Walker Baptist Church**

10696 Florida Blvd, Walker, LA 70785

**Clinic Sessions:**

- Pastors and Sunday School Directors
- Adult Leaders
- Youth Leaders
- Children's Leaders
- Preschool Leaders



**Registration Fee:** \$15.00 per person—pay at the door, includes snacks and book

**EVANGELISTIC PARTY TRAILER  
TRAINING**

**Saturday, February 26, 2011**

**9:30 AM—NOON**

**ELBA Office**

32470 Walker N Rd, Walker, LA

In order for a church to use the Party Trailer there must be at least one person from that church trained in its use.

Please pre-register at 225-664-9309 or [elbamissions@elba.brcoxmail.com](mailto:elbamissions@elba.brcoxmail.com) as soon as possible.

Check out the "Party Trailer Manual" on our website (Downloads) for details about contents, guidelines, fees, etc

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION  
FORMS AVAILABLE**

Application forms for the 2011-2012 Associational Scholarships to Louisiana College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary are available and may be picked up from the Associational Office at 32470 Walker Rd N, Walker, LA. The committee will award up to four scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 per year each.

Deadline for returning completed forms is **March 24, 2011**. The Scholarship Committee will report to the May 2, 2011 Executive Board Meeting.

## Church Growth Corner


Freddie Arnold

In 2 Cor. 6:1-3 the Apostle Paul tells the church at Corinth in verse one not to “receive God’s grace in vain”. We need to hear that as well, because it is easy to grow weary, get discouraged, feel defeated and want to give up. These are the tools of Satan as he attacks us. Paul goes on in verse two to remind us that God heard us in the time in which we called upon Him and that salvation was provided to us at that time in His faithfulness. He continues in verse three to remind us that God’s favor and time is now, and He is open to anyone just as He was open to us. We go through the same struggles today that the early churches went through then, but we must work through them and continue in faithful service and witness.

### ELBA Sunday School Leader Training

The time is fast approaching for our Sunday School Leader Training event at Walker Baptist Church. February 19, 2011, training will be provided for all Pastors, Sunday School Directors, Department Directors and Teachers from all the churches in ELBA. Again this year, each age group will be led in the study materials related to their age group. The book **Great Expectations: Planting Seeds For Sunday School Growth** will be the base material for our training. Again, let me remind you of the great importance of a healthy, vibrant Sunday School/Bible Teaching organization in the life of a church. The details related to this event can be found in a highlighted section in this newsletter.

### ELBA 2011 Mission Trip

 We are ready to begin developing plans for the ELBA 2011 Mission Trip. We will be going to the Choctaw Indian Reservation in Philadelphia, MS. A mission preview team visited with the Indian Mission Director and pastors recently to determine how we can help them. We found construction needs, Bible Teaching opportunities, and discipleship training opportunities available. If you are interested in participating in this trip, please come to the organizational meeting on Feb. 13 at 3:00 P.M. in the ELBA Conference Room. The date of this trip will be either July 16-22 or July 23-29. If you can’t go on this trip but would like to participate, you may pray for the trip and give toward the expenses of the trip. Your donations can be sent to the ELBA office, and be assured, both prayers and gifts will be greatly appreciated.

**2010 ANNUALS** (Printed Minutes) are ready and available for pickup! Each church may receive five (5) copies at no charge. Additional copies are available for \$1.00 each.



## The Prayer Room

Perhaps we don’t pray about many things we should pray about because we doubt that our prayers would do much good. We need to have great confidence in the power of prayer. Consider Elijah. He prayed and a long drought came. He prayed and the drought ended. He prayed and fire fell from heaven. Why did he get such remarkable answers to prayer? He was not praying for selfish ends. He prayed in faith in accordance with the revealed will of God. When he was praying for the fire to fall, he said, **“LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word”**(I Kings 18:36 NKJV). God had revealed His will to Elijah and he believed God. God reveals His will to us through the Bible and through the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We need God’s help to accomplish His work. Let us not be afraid to ask God for big things if we know they are in accordance with His will.

If the answer does not come quickly, we should be willing to persevere in prayer. Jesus told a parable to show **“that men always ought to pray and not lose heart”** (Lk.18:1 NKJV).

If God shows us that we have mistakenly asked for something not in His will, then we should humbly accept God’s no. Otherwise, let us not be afraid to keep asking.



### ASSOCIATIONAL VBS CLINIC

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

“Big Apple Adventure”

Mark your calendar with the date and be watching for more information coming soon!

[Heart to Heart continued from page 1]

“Tiwan, not knowing that Noon’s day for release had been changed, had rearranged her schedule that week and arrived at the prison on that very Tuesday.” When Noon saw the team, she cried and when she came out, she was so happy. Tiwan took her to shop for clothes and everything that she didn’t have.

Since going to the halfway house, Noon has been baptized, is studying the Bible and growing stronger in her relationship with the Lord. She said, “In the past I bowed down to the idols all the time. Every time I saw an idol, I bowed down. But since becoming a Christian, I don’t bow down to idols because I know that God is a mighty God.”

How blessed we are to have such a mighty God, to be part of such a magnificent world-wide mission endeavor through the Southern Baptist Convention, and to know that our God is not some man-made object, but the God of love and answered prayer.

Let us keep on praying and giving for the sake of the Kingdom of God and for the lost around the world. Let us also resolve that in every church we would see **AT LEAST ONE MORE** person be born again and baptized than we had last year.

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