

## Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association

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Chuck Ott, Clerk	Mary Broussard, Historian
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Jenelle Brown, Secretary	Ginger Glascock, Secretary

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT  
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PERMIT #1  
WALKER LA

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### JUNE 2011

- 11 SBC CrossOver, Phoenix, AZ
- 12-13 WMU, SBC Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ
- 14-15 Southern Baptist Convention, Phoenix, AZ
- 18 Women's Enrichment Leader Trng, Tall Timbers
- 19 Father's Day
- 20-23 RA Camp, Tall Timbers
- 21 Finance Committee Meeting, ELBA Office, 10 AM
- 22 Joint Meeting of Church Planting Team, Evangelism Team, & Missions Team, ELBA Office, 3:00 PM
- 28 Church Clerk Workshop, Walker, 6:30 PM

### JULY 2011

- 4 Independence Day
- 5-9 Clear Youth Camp, Week 1, Tall Timbers
- 11 Ministers Conference, Colyell, 10:00 AM
- 12 Finance Committee Meeting, ELBA Office, 10 AM
- 12-16 Clear Youth Camp, Week 2, Tall Timbers
- 13-16 National Acteens Convention, Orlando, FL
- 16-22 ELBA Mission Trip to Philadelphia, MS
- 18-21 GA Camp, Tall Timbers
- 25 ELBA Council Meeting, ELBA Office, 10 AM
- 25-26 Childhood Education Workshop, NOBTS, New Orleans
- 25-28 GA Camp, Tall Timbers
- 28 Mission Team Meeting, ELBA Office, 10:00 AM



## MINISTERS CONFERENCE

### Colyell Baptist Church

19524 LA HWY 42, Livingston, LA 70754

**July 11, 2011**  
**10:00 AM**

Round Table: What's Working / What's Not



**ELBA MISSION TRIP**  
**JULY 16-22, 2011**  
**CHOCTAW INDIAN**  
**BAPTIST**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**Philadelphia, MS**

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION



**JUNE 14 -15, 2011**  
**PHOENIX, AZ**

Get more information and register on-line at  
**WWW.SBC.NET**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is coming soon to a church near you! **PRAY** for the precious children that will be attending. **PRAY** for the teachers and workers that will be leading the sessions. **PRAY** for how God would use **YOU** during VBS.



Volume 35 Issue 5

Together We Do What We Cannot Do Alone

May 26, 2011

## HEART TO HEART

### **A LIFE FULL OF HOPE**

In one edition of the comic strip *Peanuts*, Linus commented to Charlie Brown: "I guess it's wrong always to be worrying about tomorrow. Maybe we should think only about today." To that, Charlie Brown

responded: "No, that's giving up. I'm still hoping that yesterday will get better."

One thing that Christians have is the assurance that yesterday will get better because all of our flaws of the past are forgiven in Christ, so, yesterday does get better.

In first Peter 1:3, Peter speaks of us being "born again to a living hope." Indulge me as I share my thoughts on this marvelous reality. From the text we see that this hope is living. It's not a dead, ineffective hope but a living one. It is a hope that is obtained by a new birth. When we are "born again" this living hope becomes a reality for us. The means of obtaining this living hope is through the "resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." In Ephesians 2:12, Paul writes, "*That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.*" Living hope comes when we are born again by faith.

We also see in verse 4 that our new birth provides us with the hope of a perfect inheritance. Notice that it is imperishable (will not die), undefiled (not ruined or second rate), unfading (its beauty and value are never diminished), and that it is reserved for us in heaven. Something reserved is usually paid for in advance and kept until the appointed time to enjoy the reservation. How thrilling to know we have a perfect inheritance reserved for us.

This life full of hope is for a protected people. Verse 5 points out that the newborn person is protected by the "power of God." How awesome. There is no greater power than the power of God, so we are protected by the greatest power of all. That power is activated through one's faith, and that believing one is protected "for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." Wow! What a future is ours.

The text also reveals that this is a life full of hope in time of present trials. This life full of hope does not exempt us from trials, but is ours in the midst of the trials. In verses six and seven, we see that this hope enables us to rejoice even in present trials and when we are temporarily distressed. It's interesting to notice how Peter recognizes that believers become distressed, yet without condemning us because of it. However, he does remind us of our hope which enables us to rejoice anyway. He also points out that the trials provide proof of our faith. This faith is "more precious than gold." It is a faith tested by fire which results in praise and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ. While Christ is glorified as we endure testing, the ultimate reward is the praise and glory He receives at his "revelation."

Verse 8 shows that this life full of hope is revealed in that we love Christ, even though we have not seen Him. Verse 8 also points out that we believe in this One we have not seen. How amazing it is to love and believe in one we have never seen. And finally, verse 9 teaches us that the reward of this life full of hope is "the salvation of your souls."

Donald B Strobe, Senior Minister of First United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan observes, "Jesus says 'Yes' even to our yesterdays. He accepts us as we are, forgives us and renews us, and 'washed behind the years.' Because of Jesus Christ, we have healing for the past, help for the present and hope for the future."

In a day when the economy is weak, storms and floods wreak havoc on many lives, we have "joy unspeakable and full of glory," A LIFE FULL OF HOPE.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST UPDATE**

It would appear that our motto related to the Health Insurance Trust might be "Never Give Up." That's what our current attitude is. We are in the process of considering a different administrator because of some concerns related to costs, liabilities and agreements. I'm convinced of the truth of Romans 8:28, "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.*" So, even delays fit into God's divine plan and I will rest in His promise that all this is working together for good.

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

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES  
APRIL 2011**

Deposits through May 15, 2011

Contributions	APR 2011	TOTAL
Agape'	323.00	682.00
Amite	6,658.46	22,239.11
Beech Ridge	369.05	1,806.92
Bethel	146.69	1,275.01
Calvary	620.78	1,673.38
Carroll	253.56	1,870.97
Central	0.00	213.17
Christ's Community	429.09	2,862.82
Colyell	871.08	5,588.73
Denham Springs	667.91	5,580.41
Don Avenue	356.97	2,784.46
Doyle	20.00	260.00
Emmanuel	504.96	5,072.18
Faith	638.04	2,761.69
French Settlement	185.44	2,379.82
Gray's Creek	0.00	0.00
Greater Third Zion	688.00	5,222.00
Head of Island	143.90	1,573.03
Hebron	3,378.97	17,215.46
Holden	571.10	2,091.04
Judson	1,661.51	14,195.38
Live Oak	2,488.41	10,614.74
Livingston	370.00	3,509.00
Macedonia	0.00	600.00
Magnolia	408.00	3,366.00
Maurepas	162.00	1,779.00
Midway	341.07	1,617.81
New Bethlehem	25.00	200.00
New Covenant	0.00	700.00
Northside	874.07	2,593.88
One Life	0.00	0.00
Pine Grove	390.53	4,085.61
Red Oak	400.00	1,800.00
River of Life	0.00	250.00
Riverside	239.01	2,295.64
Salem	0.00	77.56
Satsuma	332.91	2,920.43
South Walker	101.01	843.62
Southside	0.00	308.98
The New Beginnings	101.94	730.35
Victory	144.34	1,235.21
Walker	2,249.58	16,105.71
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>27,116.38</b>	<b>152,981.12</b>
<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>619.67</b>
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>8,993.78</b>	<b>19885.40</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,600.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>36,110.16</b>	<b>179,086.19</b>
Capital One Total		93,371.40
Capital One M & M Center		10,879.59
Louisiana Baptist Foundation Total		195,813.13
<b>Total Checking &amp; Savings</b>		<b>300,064.12</b>

## News from the Churches . . .

**AGAPE' BAPTIST CHURCH** welcomes **Barry Dunlap** as pastor.

**Tom McLaughlin** has resigned as Music Minister at **CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH** to accept the position of Minister of Music and Youth at First Baptist Church of Marthaville, LA. **Sondra McLaughlin** has resigned as Youth Director at **CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**. **Rhett Major** is pastor.

**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**, 14200 LA HWY 44, Gonzales, invites everyone to Revival Services June 6—10 at 7:00 PM. Evangelists are **Robby Dickerson** and **Murray Bankston**. **Billy Burton** is pastor.

**HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH**, 24063 LA HWY 16, Denham Springs, LA 70726 has a **Clothes Closet Ministry** that is available for anyone who is interested in shopping for FREE! The Clothes Closet is open on the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. Clothes are available for men, women, and children (no infant). For more information please call the church office at 225-665-6278. **Joe Alain** is pastor.

**THE NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH** welcomes **Charles Ray Smith** as pastor.

**Women's Enrichment Leader Training**  
**"Many Hats, Many Joys"**  
**June 18, 2011**  
**Tall Timbers**

For more information call 1-800-622-6549 or  
go to [www.LBC.org/WELT](http://www.LBC.org/WELT)

## ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE WORKSHOP

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

6:30 PM

Walker Baptist Church

The Annual Church Profile is a tool that ELBA, LBC, and SBC use to obtain statistical, historical and staff information on each congregation. There are also many benefits for the congregation that completes the ACP.

The Church Profile packet for each church will be available at this workshop. The church clerk or designated ACP preparer is encouraged to attend this important training session.

Please contact Chuck Ott, Associational Clerk, (225) 665-2415, [cdottsr@yahoo.com](mailto:cdottsr@yahoo.com), or Ginger Glascock, (225) 664-9309, [ginger@elba.brcoxmail.com](mailto:ginger@elba.brcoxmail.com) for more information.

# Church Growth Corner

## Freddie Arnold

April has come and gone and we are still having cold spells in the weather, tornadoes have battered us, gasoline is still high and the water is rising in the Mississippi River. There's always something to keep us on our toes.

The last few weeks have been full of one type of disaster or another. I spent a week with the North Shore Association Feeding Team in Meridian, MS feeding victims of tornadoes and training two new Disaster Relief White Cap leaders, one new Blue Cap leader, and seven new Yellow Cap persons in how to set-up a feeding unit and prepare the food for distribution. It was an exciting time of training, making new friends, and meeting the needs of the community.



We were set up on the parking lot of the FBC of Meridian. Many people in Meridian came by to express appreciation for the help that we were providing for their people. Several small communities around Meridian were severely impacted by multiple outbreaks of tornados in the area.

Again, last week I was called out, along with the ELBA Chainsaw Unit, to go to Geraldine, AL to help coordinate the clean-up work going on there due to the damage done by tornadoes in that state. Even before returning home we were contacted to prepare the Disaster Relief Shower Trailer Unit for possible deployment to the Morganza Floodway and the opening of evacuation shelters to meet the needs of the people in harm's way.

Why do we do this, you might ask? We have learned that every crisis is a "Spiritual" event. In times of crises, an individual will be more open to the gospel presentation after we have helped that person overcome or adjust to the situations and struggles that they are going through at the time. We see this happen every time we minister in a time of great crises such as floods, fires, wind damage and illnesses. We saw hundreds of people turn to Christ after Katrina, Ike, Gustav, the California fires and these recent tornadoes. When we minister to and pray with hurting people until they find help, they will respond to the Holy Spirit.

I am reminded of the passage in Matthew 25:35-40. Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." In verse 40 the King replies to the question of "When?" asked in verses 37-39. "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me." We must earn the love and respect of the world by ministering to their needs. We saw five people get saved during the clean-up operation in Rayne, LA. We saw 12 people get saved in Alabama last week during the clean-up operation. It works, people, when we apply the method that Jesus uses.

**Pray for ELBA Philadelphia Mission Trip  
July 16-22, 2011.**

**Pray for the ELBA Wild Horse Ministry's "Round Pen of Life" Evangelistic Event on October 5, 2011.**



## The Prayer Room

At a time when so many groups seem to depend on high pressure tactics to induce potential donors to give, it is interesting to recall George Mueller's fund raising strategy. Mr. Mueller ran an orphanage on faith and prayer. It is said that he would ask no one except God for money. He prayed and people were moved to give without his asking them. It has been reported that, on one occasion, a woman asked him to tell her about his needs and that he replied that he told his needs only to God. She could give if God led her to give. On another occasion when mealtime came there was nothing to feed the children. Mueller asked the blessing as if food were there. Then someone arrived with food to donate, and the children had their meal.

This is not to suggest that we should, like Mueller, refuse to ask for donations. But whether or not we ask for donations, perhaps the example of this man's faith will remind us to trust God to supply our needs as we do His work.

Tommy Shipp, Prayer Ministry Coordinator

ELBA Youth Ministry Team Presents:

## The Forge

### Highlights

- "Totally Consumed" theme
- August 19-20, 2011
- Judson Baptist Church—Host Church
- Todd Blount—Speaker
- Nolan Bishop—Worship Leader
- Totally Consumed Disciple Now Material
- Cost \$15.00 for The Forge (Includes T-Shirt, Meals at Judson; does not cover D—Now material)

For more information contact :

**Johnny Morgan**—278-4772; johnny@liveoakbaptist.org

**Lonnie Cook**—439-8684; llcook\_msu@yahoo.com

### 2011—2012 CHURCH PLANNING GUIDES

A limited number of the **2011-2012 Church Planning Guide Calendars** are available for purchase from the Associational Office for \$1.00 each. The Association offers these calendars at a reduced rate to help and encourage our churches in planning.

*"For the training of the saints in the work of ministry to build up the body of Christ." —Ephesians 4:12*