



## **HEART TO HEART**

In this issue of the ELBA newsletter, I have chosen to reproduce, with permission from the author, the article by Rev. Dennis Allen, the Assistant to the Executive Director of the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge. The article he wrote is entitled:

### *Hijacked and Hoodwinked!*

Has the church been hijacked and hoodwinked by some lesser sorts? What am I asking? Let me illustrate my point with a true story. In my work with BAGBR, I am privileged to visit in a different church in our association almost every Sunday. Some time ago, my wife Peggy, and I were visiting in one of our beautiful churches. One of the members of the church sat down by us and stated the obvious, "Our attendance is down and we have only a few young couples." What he said next gave me a mental jolt. He said, "We must start using this modern music if we are going to survive."

I do hope our churches are about more than just surviving. You see, surviving usually means maintaining what is in place. It appears that this man, along with many others in our churches today mistakenly believe that if the church is going to attract lost people, it has to discover the latest fad or program to attract them. The error here is that modern music or the latest fad or program does not attract people to Christ. People attract people. Christ stated "If I be lifted up, I will draw all people to me."

Many people and even some preachers must be reminded of the purpose of the church. It would do us all good to read Acts 20:27-28. The church was purchased with the blood of Christ. It is a scary thought to me to think a person can have their name on a church roll and miss heaven yet that is exactly what Jesus says to the church of Laodicea. Let me give you another text that would be good reading: Matthew 7:22. The TRUTH is, what we must do is preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Here is a brief outline on the church that I hope you may be able to use in some way.

#### **The church does not belong to us. It belongs to Christ.**

- The church is the bride not the boss.
- The church is not for our purpose but for Christ's.
- The church is not for entertainment but for service.

#### **What does Christ expect from His church?**

- The church's commission is given with the highest authority (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).
- The five basic principles of the church are:
  1. EVANGELISM = Reaching people for Christ.
  2. DISCIPLESHIP = Christians helping others become more like Christ.
  3. FELLOWSHIP = Being part of Christ's family.
  4. MINISTRY = Meeting human needs, helping one another in the name of Jesus.
  5. WORSHIP = Having an encounter with God.

**Conclusion:** When the church does these things (the things it should do), it will increase in number, spiritual growth will take place, missions will develop and Christ will draw others to Himself!

We see our churches grow when our hearts become broken over sin and the lost. Modern music may attract some to our services, but what will keep them coming is our efforts to know, love and win them.

Thanks Dennis. My sentiments also.

David E. Brown

Associational Missions Coordinator

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES  
JUNE 2009**

Deposits through 07-14-09

Contributions	JUNE 09	TOTAL
Agape'	134.45	707.00
Amite	0.00	34,739.19
Beech Ridge	236.61	2,470.73
Bethel	97.95	1,449.87
Calvary	0.00	0.00
Carroll	0.00	2,237.04
Central	0.00	731.86
Christ's Community	300.00	3,000.00
Colyell	846.28	9,580.55
Denham Springs	471.96	5,714.86
Don Avenue	198.42	2,490.22
Doyle	0.00	0.00
Eden	0.00	680.63
Emmanuel	0.00	5,768.74
Faith	0.00	1,898.16
French Settlement	194.00	3,301.06
Gray's Creek	416.00	3,977.55
Greater Third Zion	0.00	0.00
Head of Island	242.14	2,628.96
Hebron	2,503.87	20,336.44
Holden	362.48	1,800.38
Judson	1,638.24	19,882.87
Life Giving	86.10	1,608.55
Live Oak	1,272.71	11,138.47
Livingston	550.00	4,407.00
Macedonia	0.00	300.00
Magnolia	556.00	3,944.00
Maurepas	0.00	1,543.61
Midway	390.99	2,201.04
New Bethlehem	25.00	250.00
New Covenant	0.00	700.00
Northside	103.47	3,573.64
One Life	71.15	833.73
Pine Grove	437.00	4,540.54
Red Oak	200.00	2,200.00
River of Life	0.00	2,002.25
Riverside	749.08	8,923.12
Salem	0.00	0.00
Satsuma	229.07	2,838.39
South Walker	151.77	1,173.26
Southside	125.18	670.34
The New Beginnings	143.94	1,320.21
Victory	0.00	881.95
Walker	1,643.43	18,382.29
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>14,377.29</b>	<b>197,560.36</b>
Interest Income	767.15	3,857.39
Total Designated Income	1,120.00	93,934.56
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>16,264.44</b>	<b>295,372.31</b>
Capital One Total		105,886.65
Louisiana Baptist Foundation Total		264,993.08
<b>Total Checking &amp; Savings</b>		<b>370,879.73</b>

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

**DON AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH** in Denham Springs welcomes **Dr. Tom Higginbotham** as Interim Pastor..

**RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**, 36890 LA HWY 16, Denham Springs, LA 70706, invites you to join them for Revival Services on Sunday, August 2 at 10:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and Monday, August 3 through Wednesday August 5 at 7:00 p.m.. Revival Speaker is **Dr. Chuck Quarles**. Music will be led by **David Chelette**, Minister of Music, Riverside Baptist Church. **Larry Hubbard** is pastor.

**SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH**, 36474 Weiss Road, Walker, invites everyone to attend Revival Services at 6:00 PM each night, August 16-19. **Bro. Price** is the evangelist. **Greg Hayden** and his wife will be leading the music. **Bobby Duncan** is pastor.

**SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH** in Denham Springs welcomes **Stan Anders** as Interim 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.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 15<sup>th</sup>**

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

EMAIL: [elbamissions@elba.brcoxmail.com](mailto:elbamissions@elba.brcoxmail.com)

FAX: (225) 664-9349

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

**WMU CHURCH LEADER TRAINING**

*Equipped—Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength*

**First Baptist Church of Opelousas**

**August 8, 2009**

**8:30 AM—2:35 PM**

**Cost: \$10 per person**

For more information and a list of breakout sessions call 1-800-622-6549 or go to [wmm@LBC.org](mailto:wmm@LBC.org).

**Week of Prayer for**

*Georgia Barnette*  
**STATE MISSIONS OFFERING**

**September 13-20, 2009**

# Church Growth Corner

Freddie Arnold

Hi Folks:

It is a joy and a privilege to be back in ELBA. Elaine and I are "Excited" and "Delighted" to be "Invited" to serve you and with you in this great association. I want you to know that I am available to assist our churches in any way that you need assistance. So, call on me and share you need, cry on my shoulder, talk about old times and dream about what God wants for his church. My cell phone number is 225-362-9103 and my email address is [freddie@elba.brcoxmail.com](mailto:freddie@elba.brcoxmail.com).

Summer is quickly passing and fall is coming. It's time to begin gearing up for the new church year. I know summer is not over yet, but the Nominating Committee needs to be enlisting leaders, leaders need training, committees need updating and so on and so forth. These thoughts lead me to remind you of some training events that are coming up in the very near future. These events will help you accomplish some of the preparation for the new church year.

**BLITZ ON THE BAYOU** is August 15 at Parkview Baptist Church beginning at 8:30 A.M. until 3:00 P. M. The cost is early registration \$15.00 and at the door it is \$20.00. This is Sunday School Leadership training at its best right here at our door step. Get a group of present leaders and potential leaders, yes I said "Potential Leaders", together and take advantage of this opportunity. Conference schedule is on the website [www.bagbr.org](http://www.bagbr.org). Plan to be there with a team of leaders.

**RIDGECREST ON THE RIVER** Church Leadership Training Conference is September 12 at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Early registration can be done online at [www.bagnola.org](http://www.bagnola.org) and click on the ROTR link. All information, fees and schedule of sessions are on the website, and the office number is 504-282-1428. Every church leadership position is covered by a conference. Take advantage of this premier training opportunity. Also, don't leave early and miss the Celebration Worship Service at the end.

**Fixing Your Church's Finances** is coming to Greenwell Springs Baptist Church on August 6 beginning at 9:00 A.M. ending at 4:00 P.M. Every church treasurer, pastor or any interested church member needs to be involved in this important conference. The information to be covered relates to every church regardless of size or organization. Register online with [www.lbc.org](http://www.lbc.org).

**Church Secretaries/Clerks it is ACP time again.** This provides vital, important, necessary, must have, critical and relevant information about your church. Is it mandatory? No, but it is an act of cooperation as a Southern Baptist Church that helps keep our facts and figures up-to-date and available. This helps provide a more accurate study of changes and trends occurring in our denomination.

## "The Forge"

August 21-22, 2009

Live Oak Baptist Church

35603 Coxe Ave., Denham Springs 70706



## "Organic"

Living the Christian Life Without  
Any Unnecessary Additives!

Friday, August 21: 6:30 PM—8:15 PM

Saturday, August 22: 8:30 AM—6:00 PM

CONCERT featuring "the voice of PETRA",  
John Schlitt begins at 6:30 PM.

## Fixing Your Church's Finances

Thursday, August 6, 2009

Greenwell Springs Baptist Church

19421 Greenwell Springs Rd. ♦ Greenwell Springs, LA

**Cost:** \$20 (\$25 at the door)  
(includes conference workbook & lunch)

**Schedule:**  
9:00 am—Registration  
9:30 am—4:00 pm—Conference

Register online at [www.LBC.org](http://www.LBC.org).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TRAINING EVENT

**BLITZ ON THE BAYOU**

Parkview Baptist Church

Baton Rouge

August 15, 2009

8:30 am—3 pm

Keynote Speaker: **Rob Zinn**

Cost: Early—\$15 / Door—\$20

Contact Jan Terral at Baptist Association of Greater  
Baton Rouge, [jan@bagbr.org](mailto:jan@bagbr.org), for more information.



## 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

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WALKER LA

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### AUGUST 2009

- 3 Fellowship Meal, Faith, 5:45 PM
- 3 Executive Board Meeting, Faith, 6:30 PM
- 6 Stewardship Conference, Greenwell Springs
- 8 WMU Leadership Training, FBC, Opelousas
- 9 On Mission Together: Praying for Students
- 15 Blitz on the Bayou, Parkview, Baton Rouge
- 16-22 Church Music Emphasis Week
- 20 Missions Team Meeting, ELBA Office, 10:00 AM
- 21-22 "The Forge" Youth Event, Live Oak
- 30 Day of Prayer for College Students

### 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
- 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



*On Mission  
Celebration  
May 1-2, 2010*



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2009

5:45 PM—FELLOWSHIP MEAL  
6:30 PM—EXECUTIVE BOARD

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH  
17884 LA HWY 42, Livingston, LA 70754

All Executive Board Members are  
invited and encouraged to attend this  
business session of the ELBA.

## 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**

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