



HEART TO HEART **FROM GRATEFUL HEARTS**

Jenelle and I want to again express our deep gratitude to all of you who make up the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association for your love and generous Christmas gifts. We are blessed beyond measure to serve among you and pray the Lord's richest blessings on all. Thanks abundantly, David and Jenelle.

I HAVE A BOOK in my library entitled, *These Gracious Years, Being the year-end Messages and Addresses of Dr. George W. Truett.* Dr. Truett is the former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas. The book was published by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1929. I'm not sure how I came to have this volume, but am extremely grateful for it. In the introduction, written by I. J. Van Ness, he states, the messages "represented year by year, out of the circumstances then prevailing, the informal messages this pastor wished to send to his own people." The messages cover a 19-year period, beginning in 1910. A previous owner of the book had glued the messages from 1930 and 1931 inside the back cover and even had an old page from the Texas Baptist Standard of his address from 1942.

I want to share with you what Dr. Truett wrote for his Christmas, 1917 – New Year, 1918 message. On April 6, 1917, the United States Congress declared war which officially entered the nation into World War I. This is the backdrop for this message. In America today, we have 30,000 more troops that will be sent to Afghanistan. The nation is embroiled in debate over healthcare and we are facing an uncertain economic future. In light of these circumstances, I thought it would be worth reading what Dr. Truett wrote. "The Seasons Greetings are herewith sent you and yours, in an hour calling for all the wisdom and heroism of which we are capable. We have reached the fateful time when stupendous forces are rapidly remaking the world. In such hour, the urge is upon us, as never before, to build all life on the granite foundations of righteousness, to meet all life with a larger helpfulness and deeper tenderness, and continually to sing the angel symphony: 'Glory to God in the Highest, on Earth Peace, Good Will Toward Men.' Though the world is now in the shadows, let us face the coming days with the prayer that they may be filled with the water of gladness, if that will be best for us; and if some days must be filled with the water of grief, let us trustingly cleave to Him who can turn the water into wine.

"In this hour of incomparable imperatives, we need to see in a truer perspective than heretofore, what supremely concerns us and others, and vicariously to dedicate our best for humanity's safety and usefulness, both for today and the great tomorrow. Let us specially seek to cleanse our hearts of all arrogance and easily besetting selfishness, and to exemplify lives of simplicity, equity, lofty patriotism, and true neighborliness, remembering that the obligations of neighborliness are as wide as humanity. Let us be Good Samaritans to the wounded, and weak, and suffering, and unfriended, and to all mankind, so improving every opportunity to help others, as shall cause them to think of Him who went about doing good, and trusted in His Father with a perfect heart.

"As we confront the larger duties now challenging us, let us diligently intone our consciences to all the higher calls of life, realizing that fidelity, and not rank, is life's crowning objective; and that the self-seeking life is the negation of God, the maladjustment of existence, the suicide of greatness, the defeat of opportunity, and the downfall of the soul. In all our goings, may we be given the discerning mind, the sympathetic heart, the kindly face, the golden tongue, the benevolent hand. In our quest to solve the problems of life, let us not forsake the Master of Life for some dream, or phantom, or abstraction, but let us be confidently anchored to that infinite and unforgetting Friend, finding in Him the answer to life's deepest searchings and the solution of its most baffling questions. Whatever comes, may we ever be able to find the rose that smiles in the storm, and to see the light that shines behind the clouds.

"And when we shall have finished all the errands of God in this life, and have come to the river, where on this side is 'Good Night,' and on the other the welcome of the Eternal Morn, may He dispel all the shadows, and bring us and ours to that Better Country, where are no anguished hearts, where no tear dims the eye, and where severed friendships and sundered loves are to bask in reunion eternal."

How fitting, some 93 years later, are these thoughts from one of Baptists' great preachers.

For the sake of the kingdom,

David E. Brown

Associational Missions Coordinator

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES
NOVEMBER 2009**

Deposits through 12-14-09

Contributions	NOV 09	TOTAL
Agape'	233.60	233.60
Amite	0.00	0.00
Beech Ridge	223.25	836.62
Bethel	139.77	439.46
Calvary	0.00	0.00
Carroll	865.13	1,135.09
Central	0.00	0.00
Christ's Community	300.00	900.00
Colyell	784.92	1,636.87
Denham Springs	674.80	1,784.22
Don Avenue	230.65	660.99
Doyle	0.00	464.83
Emmanuel	0.00	2,918.72
Faith	307.02	1,910.64
French Settlement	0.00	567.84
Gray's Creek	375.00	1,055.00
Greater Third Zion	0.00	0.00
Head of Island	236.29	800.24
Hebron	1,816.00	6,208.00
Holden	120.91	460.69
Judson	2,032.06	5,257.79
Life Giving	0.00	270.14
Live Oak	1,395.57	3,516.76
Livingston	364.00	1,330.00
Macedonia	0.00	0.00
Magnolia	342.00	1,115.00
Maurepas	0.00	0.00
Midway	205.05	381.36
New Bethlehem	25.00	75.00
New Covenant	0.00	0.00
Northside	136.60	388.28
One Life	85.00	294.36
Pine Grove	566.51	1,373.95
Red Oak	200.00	600.00
River of Life	775.00	775.00
Riverside	691.63	1,812.99
Salem	0.00	0.00
Satsuma	296.60	848.82
South Walker	0.00	397.88
Southside	0.00	116.98
The New Beginnings	155.94	377.58
Victory	0.00	406.55
Walker	2,171.75	5,634.95
Total Contributions	15,750.05	46,986.20
Interest Income	0.00	541.35
On Mission Celebration	800.00	800.00
Party Trailer User Fees	200.00	900.00
Total Income	16,750.05	49,227.55
Capital One Total		99,300.20
Louisiana Baptist Foundation Total		241,534.43
Total Checking & Savings		340,834.63

News from the Churches...

DOYLE BAPTIST CHURCH welcomes **Tommy Shipp** as Interim Pastor.

Steve Jones resigns as Youth Minister at **EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH** to accept position as Youth Minister at East Jena Baptist Church in Jena. **James Cowell** is pastor.

JUDSON BAPTIST CHURCH, 32470 Walker N Rd, Walker LA, invites all youth to "Silver Ring Thing iTour apps for life" on Friday, February 5, 2010, 7-9 PM. Doors will open at 6:15 PM. Tickets are \$5 online or \$8 at the door. For tickets or more information go to www.silverringthing.com.

LIFE GIVING CHURCH in Denham Springs welcomes **Jonathan Dupree** as their new 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: elbamissions@elba.brcoxmail.com

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

Associational Mission Trip

July 17-23, 2010

Broken Arrow, OK

Host Church: Arrow Heights Baptist Church

ALL ARE WELCOME! WORK FOR ALL AGES!

Cost: \$140 per person (Deposit of \$50 due by March 31, 2010)

For more information contact the Associational Office or visit our website, www.easternlabaptists.org, "Downloads."

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORMS

for the 2010-2011 Associational Scholarships are available and may be picked up from the Associational Office at 32470 Walker Rd N, Walker, LA. The forms are also available in a PDF document under "Downloads" on our website, www.easternlabaptists.org.

The Association awards 4 scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each year. Two scholarships are awarded to paid staff members of ELBA churches planning undergraduate or graduate level work at an accredited theological institution. The additional scholarships shall be awarded to students who have applied for admission to or are currently enrolled at Louisiana College or the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. [The complete Scholarship Policy is also on our website.]

Deadline for returning completed forms is **March 25, 2010**.

The Scholarship Committee will report to the May 3, 2010 Executive Board Meeting.

Church Growth Corner

Freddie Arnold

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

It is that time of year again when we look back and ask, "Where has this year gone?"

It is also a time when we stop and think about the importance of this time of year. Regardless of the rush of the season or the stress of the time schedule, the world cannot refuse to recognize the reason for the season. They may refuse to recognize or accept Jesus, but they can't refuse to realize the focus that is placed upon Jesus at this time of the year as Christians stop to pay honor and tribute to him. Therefore, we as Christians must be mindful of our actions as we celebrate, because we are a living testimony of our faith. Elaine and I are excited to be back here to celebrate and serve with you in ELBA. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Disaster Relief Training Jan. 22 and 23, 2010

Did you know ELBA now has a Disaster Relief Shower Trailer? LBC has donated a shower trailer to the association with the understanding that we would train people to operate and maintain it during a disaster. We also have the freedom to use it in our association for local events when additional shower facilities are needed at a local church. It will be necessary that trained teams be available to operate and maintain the unit while it is being used. I share this to inform you that training will be available January 23, 2010 at Camp Living Waters in Robert, LA. The cost is \$20.00 per person for Shower Trailer Training. This cost will provide you with training about the unit, a D R cap and shirt and an identification badge. These are necessary essentials for ministry. We need a minimum of four teams of three people to be trained and able to operate this unit. To register you may go online to www.lbc.org and click on Disaster Relief and fill out the registration form or you may call 1-800-622-6549 and ask for Christi Bates and she can register you. Registration deadline is January 8, 2010. What a blessing God has provided, come and get trained for this opportunity.

ELBA Sunday School Leadership Training



LEADERSHIP TRAINING

On February 27, 2010 we are planning an age-graded training for all Sunday School Leaders and prospective leaders. It will be held at Walker Baptist Church from 9 AM to 12 PM. The plans have not been totally completed at this time but I want you to get the date on the calendar. I will be sending out further information as it becomes available.

OMC Commitment Cards:

We need your On Mission Celebration Commitment Cards returned by January 17, 2010 if possible. The time is fast approaching and we must request our missionaries.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



The Heart of a Woman

2010 ELBA Women's Conference

Friday, January 29, 5:00—8:30 pm

Saturday, January 30, 8:00—12:00 pm

Judson Baptist Church

32470 Walker N Rd, Walker, LA 70785

Conference Leader: **Glynnis Whitwer**

Registration: **\$10.00** (includes dinner on Friday, breakfast & lunch on Saturday)

Registration forms are available from the Associational Office and on our web site, www.easternlabaptists.org, under "downloads."

TRANSFORMED

ROMANS 12:2

OPTIMAL MINDS

2010 Student Winter Retreat

February 14th, 15th, & 16th

Camp Living Waters

Loranger, LA

Guest Speaker: **Rick Stanley**

Cost: \$60 (includes program, meals, lodging, & t-shirt)

Disaster Relief Training Roundtable



January 22-23, 2010

Camp Living Waters

Loranger, LA 70446

January 22-23—Chaplaincy Training—**\$25**; & Chainsaw Training—**\$125** if needing safety gear (Chaps, Helmet, Safety Glasses & Gloves); **\$25** if not needing to purchase gear.

January 22—Fellowship Banquet, 6:00 pm—**\$10**

January 23—Feeding, Shower, Mudout, Assessment & Blue Hat—**\$20**; *Cost includes: Meal, Cap, Shirt, Badge & Training materials

Pre-registration is required by **January 8, 2010!**

Questions? Call 318.448-3402, ext. 280.

Kaleidoscope

"Transitions"

"A Journey into Oneness with God"

February 6, 2010

First Baptist, Pineville

Speaker—**Leighann McCoy**

Cost: **\$25** (includes lunch)

For more information: 1-800-622-6549 or WMM@LBC.org

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
POSTAGE PD
PERMIT #1
WALKER LA

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

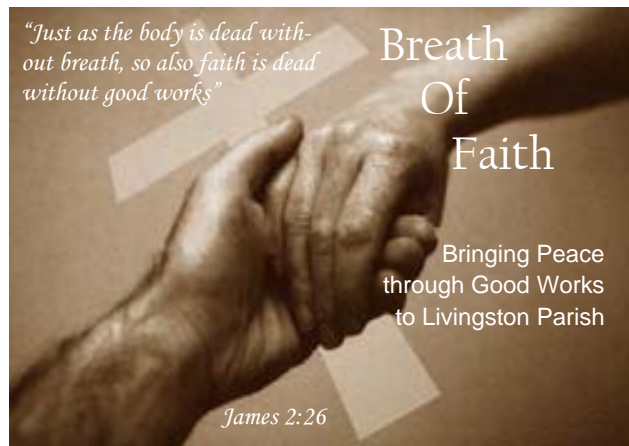
☑ MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JANUARY 2010

- 3-6 January Bible Study—Stories for Life:
Parables of the Kingdom in Matthew
4 Ministers Conference, Red Oak, 10:30 AM
11 Youth Ministers Meeting, Live Oak, 6:30 PM
14 Missions Team Meeting, ELBA Office, 9:00 AM
14 OMC Steering Committee, ELBA Office, 10 AM
15-16 Bible Drill Training Retreat, Tall Timbers
17 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
18 Associational Council Meeting, ELBA Office,
10:00 AM
22-23 Disaster Relief Roundtable & Appreciation
Banquet, Camp Living Waters, Loranger
25-26 LBC Evangelism Conf., Istrouma, Baton Rouge
26 Sharing the Peace of Jesus Training, Istrouma
29-30 ELBA Women's Conference, Judson

FEBRUARY 2010

- 1 Fellowship Meal, Christ's Community, 5:45 PM
2 Executive Board Meeting, Christ's Community,
6:30 PM
4 Fixing Your Churches Finances, Covington
5 Area Keyboard Festivals, Baton Rouge
5-6 Collegiate Evangelism Conf., Calvary, Alexandria
6 Kaleidoscope, FBC, Pineville
14-16 Youth Winter Retreat
15-16 Bible Drill Training Retreat, Tall Timbers
15-21 Focus on WMU
18 Missions Team Meeting, ELBA Office, 9:00 AM
18 OMC Team Meeting, ELBA Office, 10:00 AM
26-27 State Acteens Convention, Tall Timbers
27 Sunday School Training, Walker, 9:00 AM-Noon



January Minister's Conference Monday, January 4, 2010 10:30 AM

Red Oak Baptist Church
28760 S Red Oak Rd, Livingston, LA 70754
Our guest is Mrs. Julie Stanley
Director of the Family Resource Clinic

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

Wishing you joy as we
celebrate the birth of our
Lord and Savior

May your Christmas be brightened by the light
of Jesus' incredible love and overflowing with
the Heavenly joy that only He can bring.

David Brown

Freddie Arnold

Jenelle Brown

Ginger Glascock

Lorraine Pankey