



GOOD NEWS

Aug / Sept 2007

Acts 1:8 "and you will be my witnesses..."

Volume 38, Issue 5

Relationship Based

Evangelism Centered

Service Oriented

Training Focused

An afternoon with Dr. John Bisagno

Open to church staff and leadership
to be followed by

**118th Association Annual Meeting
Tuesday, September 25, 2007**

*Community Bible Baptist Church
3535 Mohican Street Campus
Baton Rouge*

(Old Weller Avenue Baptist Church)

Details of both events will be mailed to your church. Pastors, please elect your messengers.



Blitz on the Bayou

2007 Sunday School Leadership Training
Saturday, August 18, 2007
Istrouma Baptist Church Baton Rouge
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

More details at www.bagbr.org
or call (225) 296-3943.

Turn to page 4 for speaker details.

Helpers needed at LSU September 8 (VA Tech game)

Riverdale Baptist Church will be sharing tracts, feeding people, praying, and counseling with those attending the game. If you can help with this event, please call the church at (225) 753-3556 or email Pastor Preston Thompson at pastor@riverdalebc.org.

IN THIS ISSUE

Communication is a Wonderful Thing...2 NOBTS Schedule...3 New pastors...6 Retreat Center News...7

www.bagbr.org

Communication Is a Wonderful Thing

By Rodrick E. Conerly, Executive Director

Recently Pastor Red Brick had experienced an odd sensation in his life as a pastor. For some reason his ministry had begun to feel like WORK rather than ministry. A realization occurred to him that the normal tasks of church life had begun to feel – well, they just felt routine. The specialness he usually felt about things like hospital and nursing home visits, sermon and Bible study preparations, meetings with church leaders and the like just felt routine. Something seemed to be missing, but he could not pinpoint it. He likened the feelings to his morning Starbucks tall double shot skinny latte coffee suddenly becoming a cup of regular Folgers instant coffee.

That morning as he sat in Starbucks, he saw Pastor Onya Knees at a table in the corner. Pastor Onya served the Small And Thriving Church, a good sized country congregation that usually had between 50 and 100 on Sunday morning. Red had noticed through the years that Small And Thriving Church had produced a number of missionaries and pastors, some of whom had begun to serve on the state and national convention levels. God seemed to have His hand on that church.

As Red walked over to Onya's table, he said, "Brother Onya. How are you doing?"

Red noticed that Pastor Onya's head was over his cup of coffee and that he did not immediately respond. After an awkward moment, Red began to step away, but then Pastor Onya raised his head and said, "Sorry, Brother Red, but I was listening to God. Please. Have a seat."

"Oh," Red replied, "Well, the Bible does say to pray without ceasing. But isn't the coffee shop an odd place to have a prayer meeting?"

"I guess it seems that way, Red," responded Onya, "but at our mid-week prayer meeting last week after I encouraged our people to get into the community to witness, Sister Constance came to me after the meeting with a challenge."

"A challenge," said Red, "What kind of a challenge?"

"Well, Red, do you know Sister Constance?" asked Pastor Onya.

Pastor Brick replied that he had met her at some of the association meetings and other church related functions. She seemed to be a spiritually mature Christian.

"You are right, Red. She has been a Christian for over fifty years and God has given her a wonderful spiritual insight," replied Onya. "She challenged me that if we pastors expect our members to get into the community to reach people for Christ, shouldn't we first engage their environment, their normal day to day routine, with prayer?"

"Now, Pastor Red," said Onya, "I am guilty of fussing at my flock for not getting into the community to invite them to church. I felt that if they would just get out there, then more people would come to church. But I have got to tell you Red, God used Sister Constance to convict me that I can't expect my people to do what I do not do. So, I committed to Sister Constance that I would begin the workweek on Monday morning and end the week on Friday morning in a place where the people in the community begin and end their workweek. What better place than a coffee shop? People are in and out in a few minutes."

Pastor Onya continued that he had realized that communication with God is a wonderful thing, when it happens. As he sat in the coffee shop praying for people as they came in and went out, he realized that prayer takes time to hear from God. Prayer is the way that God communicates with His people. Pastor Onya concluded that too often prayer serves as a one way conduit to God funneling people's needs, concerns, complaints, and more often than not, their gripes to God. God had spoke to him that he had to develop an understanding of the priority of prayer in his own life personally. He had made some notes on a napkin. He read his notes to Pastor Brick.

The notes on his napkin included the following:

1. God **grows** His church. Church growth is spiritual warfare. God grows His church by breaking down spiritual barriers and strongholds. Prayer is a major resource for bringing down these barriers and strongholds.
2. Prayer is **indispensable** in the life of a church that is relevant to its community. The priority of prayer is a clearly established pattern in tracing the movement of God in the book of Acts.
3. Prayer is the **vital link** between God and the pastor of the church. Prayer in the life of the pastor allows him to stay sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit for the growth of His church.

Pastor Onya continued, "Brother Red, I have been here for over an hour praying for people I don't know, but it

seems like just fifteen minutes have passed. Just before you walked over, I asked God what He wanted me to do next. As I listened, He told me that I need to get more people involved. And then you appeared at my table. So God must have sent you. What do you think we ought to do?"

Suddenly, Pastor Red Brick's feeling of his work being ordinary vanished. He realized he needed more interaction with men committed to engage the community where the people live. Pastor Red confessed that he did not know what to do next, but he wanted to be a part of this new way of praying for the church.

"Well, brother Onya, let's talk about creating a team of church leaders in each of our churches to do what you are talking about," said Red. With that, Pastor Onya reached for another napkin, and as they talked he made more notes.

First, they decided to create a new environment of prayer in their churches. Prayer needed to be more than bookends to start and end the worship services.

Second, as pastors, they would no longer assume that their people knew how to pray. They would intentionally begin to model and to teach prayer in every setting of the church. They determined to begin with their staff, deacons, Bible study leaders, everyone including the maintenance staff.

Third, Red would contact the association office about different kinds of prayer ministries. He knew the association had a Prayer Coordinator and he had heard about Prayer Walking and Community Prayer Drive - Throughs. They committed to elect a Prayer Coordinator in their churches. They wanted to learn more about all types of prayer ministries.

Fourth, they would create Intercessory Prayer Teams in their churches to specifically pray for lost people by name. They decided to personally invite people to be on the team (1) who had a passion for the lost, (2) who already were known to be committed to prayer, (3) who had an interest in the growth of the local church, and (4) who could keep a confidence.

As Pastor Red and Onya left the coffee shop, they had realized that the power of prayer and the presence of God are inseparable. As God's people pray, God's power becomes evident in them and begins to affect their church and their community. © 2007 Rodrick E. Conerly.

Thank you Granberry Counseling Center!

Granberry is a ministry of the LA Baptist Children's Home. It has 2 offices located in the Baton Rouge area. The main office is located in the BAGBR building; the other office is at Zoar Baptist Church.

Dr. Fred Selby is Associate Director of the Granberry Counseling Centers. Dr. Selby provides therapy to couples, individuals, and families at both locations. He has a pastoral 20 years of years or pastoral experience. He has experience in trauma and grief issues; he also works with both parents and emotionally disturbed teens. He has 2 Master's degrees- from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is dually licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist and as a Professional Counselor/Supervisor. He is credentialed in both fields of Traumatic/Stress and Death, Dying, and Bereavement. Brother Fred is married to Genie and has a daughter, Courtney. You can contact him at Fred@lbch.org or (225) 223-1497.



Emily Kirby has been with Granberry Counseling Centers since June 2005. She received her Masters of Divinity in Psychology and Counseling at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University. She provides counseling to individuals, couples, and families of all ages in both the Baton Rouge and Central areas. She specializes in self-esteem issues, sexual and physical abuse trauma, grief, and parenting. Emily lives in Covington with her husband Brad. You can contact Emily by phone at (225) 485-5280.



NOBTS Schedule for Fall 2007 - BR Ext. Ctr.

Monday

Personal Spiritual Disciplines
Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Professor: Rodrick E. Conerly

Christian Doctrine
Time: 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Professor: Rodrick E. Conerly

Integrating Academics & Ministry
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Professor: Richard Blue

Thursday

New Testament Interpretation: Acts
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Professor: Tommy Middleton

Go to nobts.edu or bagbr.org or call (225) 296-3943.

Blitz on the Bayou



August 18, 2007
Istrouma Baptist Church
Baton Rouge
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bruce Raley, Guest Speaker

For registration and session details,
go to www.bagbr.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHEDULE

<u>REGISTRATION</u>	8:00—8:50 AM
<u>OPENING SESSION</u>	9:00— 9:50 AM
Bruce Raley - <i>First Class Sunday School</i>	
<u>SESSION 1</u>	10:00—10:50 AM
<u>SESSION 2</u>	11:00 —11:50 AM
<u>LUNCH</u>	12:00—12:50 PM
<u>SESSION 3</u>	1:00—1:50 PM
<u>SESSION 4</u>	2:00—2:50 PM

BLITZ SESSION LEADERS

GENERAL OFFICERS / STAFF

Bruce Raley – Manager, National Education Ministry, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN

Shawn Keith – Sunday School / Discipleship Strategist, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, LA

ADULT

Libby Bridger – Executive Director of Sunday School / Discipleship & Assimilation, Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, GA

Doyle Cooper (Senior Adults) – Minister of Education and Senior Adults, First Baptist Church DeRidder, LA

Calvin Crowe (Singles) – College and Singles Pastor, Greenwell Springs Baptist Church, Greenwell Springs, LA

Keith Rhodes – Associate Pastor to Families and Children, Eastwood Baptist Church, Haughton / Bossier City, LA

Mark Robinson (Collegiate) – Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry Team, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, LA

Paul Williams – Minister of Outreach / Education, First Southern Baptist Church, Bryant, AR

Ron Thomas – Minister of Education and Senior Adults, First Baptist Church Swartz, Swartz, LA

Randy Thompkins – President, Cornerstone Consultants Ministries, Alexandria, LA

YOUTH

Kevin Boles – Youth Ministry Strategist, Evangelism / Church Growth Team, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, LA

Tabby Hallman – Minister of Youth, First Baptist Church Luling, Luling, LA

Rick Morton – Assistant Professor of Christian Education, New Orleans Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA

CHILDREN

Caroline Evans – Children's Director, Woodlawn Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, LA

Judy Latham – Managing Director, Childhood Ministry Publishing, LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC, Nashville, TN

Greg Bath – Associate Pastor, Evangelism and Assimilation, Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, LA

Pam Keith – Freelance author and contributor to LifeWay

PRESCHOOL

Jessie Smith – Student, Religious Education Major, LA College, Pineville

Marion Skiles – Chair, Division of Education, LA College, Pineville

Faye Scott – Minister to Children, Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City, LA

Casey Thomas – Director of Childhood Education, Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, LA

Gloria Thompson – Member 2007 Blitz Team, Preschool / Children Outreach, Consultant with Louisiana Baptist Convention

Alan Wilson – Minister to Children and Families, Longview Heights Baptist Church, Olive Branch, MS

LIBRARY

Sue Berthelot – Library Director, Baptist Association Greater Baton Rouge, National Specialist Church Libraries, LifeWay Christian Resources

PRAYER

Carol Hand – Member Istrouma Baptist Church, wife of Rev. Pat Hand (Missions Minister, Istrouma Baptist), Baton Rouge, LA

John R. & Sue Ellen Williams – Prayer Coordinators, First Baptist Church Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA

Sherri Ingram – Prayer Coordinator, Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA

August 2007

- 3 - 4 LA Baptist Church's Music Conference, Calvary, Alexandria
- 17 LA Youth Ministry Network Friday Forum
- 17 - 18 LA Baptist Singing Women's Retreat, TTBCC
- 18 Blitz on the Bayou, Istrouma Baptist, Baton Rouge
- 21 State WMU Council Meeting, Baptist Bldg.
- 25 Ridgcrest in CENLA, Alexandria/Pineville

BCM at LSU

Steve Masters, Director

The BCM at LSU requests your help with our building renovation. We had a couple of groups cancel and we are in real need of volunteers. Two project managers teach the volunteers and supervise the overall construction, so no experience is needed. All meals are provided and we can arrange free lodging for out of town workers.

We are asking all of our BAGBGR churches send us the names and contact information for graduating high school students. We will distribute contact information to the respective college BCM so that each student will be contacted by a campus ministry. We want to make every effort to help our youth make a smooth transition to college and remain active in local churches throughout their adulthood.

This fall we will resume our International Coffee House on Sundays from 3:00-5:00pm. Interested persons may contact Mandy Trammell at MTrammell@bcmlsu.net or (225) 343-0408.

Attention Criminal Justice Volunteers!

If you are currently serving or would like to volunteer in our criminal justice system program, please make plans to attend one of the following annual training sessions.

- ❖ Saturday, August 18th at 5:00pm
- ❖ Saturday, October 6th at 5:00pm

Both sessions will be held at the Catholic Life Center on 1900 South Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge.

If you have questions, call us at the BAGBR office at (225) 296-3943.

September 2007

- 2 Day of Prayer for University / College students
- 3 Labor Day Holiday
- 8 Ridgcrest on the River, NOBTS campus
- 8 FOCUS: Equipping Bible Study Leaders for Excellence, Monroe
- 9 Single Adult Sunday
- 10 - 11 LA Baptist Singing Men's Retreat, TTBCC
- 11 Missionary Parents' Fellowship, Baptist Bldg.
- 15 Southwest LA Sunday School Connection, FBC, Lafayette
- 16 - 23 Week of Prayer for State Missions and Georgia Barnette
- 20 Senior Adult Praise Fest
- 21 LA Baptist Children's Home, Board of Trustees Meeting
- 23 Minister's Wives Appreciation Day

**LA Correctional Institute for Women
& Elayn Hunt Correctional Center for Men
in St. Gabriel, LA
Announce Tent Revivals
October 5, 6, and 7, 2007**

LCIW Tent Revival

- ◆ **Volunteers are needed for this event**
- ◆ Required clearance must be obtained by September 7, 2007
- ◆ Please call BAGBR for information and instruction at (225) 296-3943

Elayn Hunt Correctional Center Revival

- ◆ **100 volunteers are needed for this event!**
- ◆ Special training is required for the Hunt Correctional Center Annual Tent Revival
- ◆ The first training class will be **August 18**.
- ◆ Training is free, but there is a \$12 donation for packet (t shirt and material)
- ◆ Please contact George Goudeau (225) 261-7291 or email at goudeaug@bellsouth.net. You may also contact the BAGBR Office.

Sponsored by Baptist Association Greater Baton Rouge

Join us in welcoming our newest pastors!



Matt Surber serves as the Senior Pastor of *Istrouma Baptist Church* in Baton Rouge. Before coming to Istrouma, Matt served 9 years on the staff of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas as Student Pastor and Pastor of Prestonwood's North Campus. He is a sought after speaker and preacher at conferences and retreats across our country. He loves sports and spending time with his wife Becky, and their two sons, Caleb and Joshua. Matt is excited about what God is doing at Istrouma! His ministry verse is Ephesians 3:20.



Fellowship Baptist Church of Central has called Gerald Martin out of retirement to serve as their pastor. He began serving as a pulpit supply the last Sunday in December of 2006. He was then called to be the Interim Pastor in February 2007; on Sunday, June 17th he was called to serve as Pastor. Rev. Martin received his education at St. Francisville High School, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Mildred White of Florence, MS. They have three children and six grandchildren. His recent pastorates include Riverside Baptist Church of Watson, Woodlawn Baptist Church of Vicksburg, MS, and Amite Baptist Church of Denham Springs, LA.



Dr. Collin Wimberly is the new Senior Pastor of *Parkview Baptist Church*. He previously served as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Swartz, LA. Dr. Wimberly received his Doctor of Ministry at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and his Master of Arts in Religious Education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is also a graduate of Louisiana College in Pineville, LA. Dr. Wimberly and his wife, Gina, have eight children.

Christmas in August

Pat Caudill, Gonzales Seamen Center Director

The Gonzales Seamen's Center strives to offer God's love by providing a safe and reliable haven for seafarers from around the world. Because seafarers are far from home and cannot connect with loved ones on a regular basis for months at a time, we offer assistance with making international phone calls home as well as access to their country through the internet. In addition, they are able to mail letters and send money to their families. Seafarers also use this time to shop, as well as relax by shooting pool, playing the piano and guitars, ping-pong, air hockey, soccer, checkers, dominoes, and watching television.

As seafarers are taken back to ships, all are given "ditty bags" which contain wash cloths, bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouth wash, deodorant, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, pens, pencils, writing tablets, envelopes, hand lotions, combs, and cards. In addition, each receives Bible Tracts and a Book of John. Bibles are also available in their languages for them to take. Each ship is provided "Jesus" films in the language of its crew. The DVD in English and Spanish cost \$6 each; other languages cost \$10 each.

We are short of supplies for the "ditty bags" and would ask that you consider helping us meet this need. Please pray that the churches will respond and encourage your church to participate. Please ship any items you collect to Gonzales Seamen's Center, c/o Pat Caudill, Director, 8880 Antioch Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70817 or call him at (225) 715-4991. Since shipping has become expensive, you may want to consider donating money with a check payable to Gonzales Seamen's Center with an indication of whether you want the money used for "ditty bags" or "Jesus" films. Checks can be mailed to the Gonzales Seamen Center or to the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge.

If you would like to schedule a visit to the Center, please contact me at home (225) 752-0109 or the Seamen Center at (225) 647-1617.

Judson Baptist Retreat Center

Eugene Morris, Coordinator

Our Upper Room is complete and already being used to minister to all groups at JBRC! We've had banquets, women's groups, Teens In Action, and Woodlawn's Kid's Camp utilize this new, exciting facility! Check out our website for pictures!

As you receive this publication, our summer will be history! But as we go to press, we are in the middle of an awesome summer! We've had Victory Harvest Children's Camp, Istrouma Kid's Camp, Teens In Action Camp with 48 girls, Cornerstone Fellowship Kid's Camp, Boys' Missions Camp with 136 boys and counselors and Woodlawn Kid's Camp! Our Boys' Missions Camp had a missions offering of \$400.00, and we had twelve professions of faith!

Our Girls' Missions Camp has 544 girls and counselors registered and looks to be one of our best yet! There will be a report in the next Good News about God's work during the last half of the summer!

God answered our prayers for a buckboard wagon, and we have added wagon rides to our activities and the campers are really enjoying getting to ride to breakfast in the back of a buckboard wagon! We will end our summer with Equestrian Camp, University Kid's Camp and Christian Life Kid's Camp! No time for rest right now!

Our hearts are full as we begin to get reports of lives that have already been touched this summer. One of our campers was asked by his mother if he was ready to go home at the end of his week of camp and his reply was, "No!" She asked him why and he replied, "Because Jesus lives here!" If that doesn't bring tears...well!

A father to one of our TIA Campers was a counselor at Boys' Missions Camp and he reported that prior to TIA camp they had been having conflict in their home over music, friends, etc. and that after his 7th grade daughter returned home, she threw away her secular music and apologized to them for not honoring them as parents! What an awesome job our college staff did teaching these 7th-8th graders about spiritual purity!

New Fall Adventures!

Did your camper miss out on our summer Equestrian Camp? No worries! We will have our first Fall Weekend Equestrian Camp October 19-21. We will begin our weekend with "horse stuff" and horsemanship classes that are Biblically based. Our weekend will end with a

demonstration on Sunday afternoon for family and friends. This weekend will be especially designed for campers who have completed 4th - 6th grades!

Need to spend some quality time with your daughter and you both love horses? We have just the weekend for you! Come to the rolling piney hills of JBRC...get away from all the distractions of the city and take time to relax, recreate, and ride! Our equestrian weekend for mothers/daughters will be October 26-28. Daughters need to be at least six years old...no age limitations for moms! Take time to renew your relationship with your daughter and deepen your relationship with the Lord!

Are you looking for a family weekend adventure that will provide not only an enjoyable time, but will also serve to knit your family's hearts together and challenge you in your walk with the Lord? Come check out our new Weekend Family Camp November 9-11. Activities will include family worship, family games, horseback riding, volleyball, basketball, breakfast trail ride, and much more! Accommodations will be in the Fluker/Wallace Adult Building; RV sites are available!

Finally, please keep our son and his family in your prayers: Ben, Renee', Justin, Colton, and Colby Morris. Ben deploys overseas with the 769th Engineer Battalion FSC. Continue to pray for all our soldiers and their families as they defend our country!

Feel free to check out our pictures at <http://www.bagbr.org/retreatcenter.htm>.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Park Forest Baptist is seeking a Youth Director. This is a paid part-time position. Interested persons may call the church at (225) 275-3003 or fax a resume to (225) 275-6319, attention Youth Director Search Committee.

Woodlawn Baptist Church is in need of a Mother's Day Out teacher on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am - 1:30pm, beginning in August. Please call the Mother's Day Out office at (225) 755-2636 and ask for Leigh MacKenze.

YOUR GOOD NEWS HAS CHANGED!

Please be patient with us as we work toward bringing you an effective ministry tool. Send your comments to Norma at norma@bagbr.org.



(Formerly Judson Baptist Association)

Adoniram Judson, Jr. Missions and Ministries Center
10560 Airline Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

EXPERIENCING PRAYER CONFERENCE!

Coming February 15 and 16, 2008
Guests: Henry and Richard Blackaby
More details coming soon!



Cortana Baptist Church has changed its name!
It is now God's Vineyard Baptist Church.

First Baptist Church Gonzales
celebrated their 100th anniversary
July 7, 2007.

False River Baptist Church
celebrated their 50th anniversary July 14,
2007.

- OakCrest Baptist Church will celebrate its 47th anniversary August 19th. Special guest will be Dr. Wilton Wall. Service begins at 10:20am. Call 924-6258 for details.
David Lukachick, a sophomore from FBC Gonzales won in the sophomore division at the Youth Speakers Tournament in May.
Anna Lukachick, a senior from FBC Gonzales, won the senior division at the Youth Speakers Tournament in May.
Fourteen LSU and McNeese BCM students served on a mission trip to East London, South Africa from May 13 to June 1. They were able to share the gospel with thousands of South Africans and saw many come to Christ!

Widows in Ministry

Florida Boulevard Baptist Church invites you to a potluck luncheon Thursday, August 9th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall (Eastside parking lot). Meat (baked ham) and bread will be provided. Bring a salad, a vegetable, or a dessert.

Special guest will be Rev. Joe McKeever - Caricaturist Extraordinaire. His message: Laughing in the Face of Tragedy

Thursday, September 13th at 6:00pm, we will meet in Room A-143 (Westside parking lot).

Special guest will be Christee Gabour Atwood - local author and humorist. Her message: Lessons Learned Along the Way (Growing Older With Humor)

Bring a widowed friend!

Deadline for submission of articles for "Good News"

October/November Issue...Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007

Dec. 07/Jan. 08 Issue.....Friday, Nov. 2, 2007

Dr. Rodrick E. Conerly.....Executive Director.....roddy@bagbr.org
Donald Davis.....Coordinator of Missions & Ministry.....donald@bagbr.org
Jan Terral.....Administrator of Office Operations.....jan@bagbr.org
Norma Palma.....Administrative Assistant.....norma@bagbr.org

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