



Good News

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

Relationship Based

Evangelism Centered

Service Oriented

Training Focused

February / March 2009

Volume 40, Issue 1

Save the Date!

Semi-Annual Association Meeting
April 24 – 25

Watch your mail for location and times.

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2009 Vacation Bible School

"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him." 1 John 4:9 (Holman CSB)



Boomerang Express is LifeWay VBS theme for 2009. Once again, your Association will be hosting clinics throughout the area to support churches in preparation for this very important annual event. The regional clinics are as follows:

North Region:	TBA		
South Region:	Broussard Grove Baptist Church	March 26 th	6:00 p.m.
West Region:	Westside Fellowship	March 26 th	5:30 p.m.

Be sure that you register with the Association before the scheduled clinic. Watch your mail for postcards and letters with more details.

Also, if you are using material other than *Boomerang Express*, please let us know. We are here to help you. Email Norma at norma@bagbr.org or call the Association office at 225-296-3943.

Brother Vision Nary's Quandary

Rodrick E. Conerly, Executive Director

Brother Vision Nary reached for his camera on his way out the door to his truck. A rare snow shower was blanketing everything in white, and he was going to create a photo journal of his trip to the office that morning. As he left his driveway, daylight was just revealing the beauty of the snow that had begun to fall an hour earlier. The snow had taken the local weather forecasters by surprise. About every five years a winter storm would paralyze the capital city with sleet and ice. Real snow came to the city only once every twenty years or so.

He thought to himself as he pulled onto Highway 42 *Folks around here have trouble driving in the rain, let alone the snow.* Sure enough, not two miles down the road, there was a car in the ditch. The driver had slid through the curve and off the road. As Vision passed with the passenger window down he snapped a picture of the driver standing beside his car with his cell phone to his ear calling someone for help. Vision was glad he had bought his four-wheel drive pickup some four months earlier.

As the snow continued to fall, it forced everyone to slow down. Brother Nary's usual twenty minute trip to work was going to take a lot longer. As he came to a stop to allow someone to make a u-turn in the middle of the road he thought *She must have heard the radio announcement that the schools are closing and that she needs to pick up her kids.*

As the traffic waited for her to complete the u-turn, Vision thought about the question that Pastor Red Brick had asked the week after the Pastors' Conference. Usually he could respond quickly to almost any question a pastor or church member would ask, but this time he was in a quandary.

His dilemma had grown over the past three weeks from Pastor Red Brick's question immediately following the quarterly Pastor's Conference. One of Red's new members had questioned him concerning the scriptural basis for the local Association. Following the pastors' meeting Red had taken Brother Nary to eat at his favorite seafood restaurant where they discussed the question. Fortunately, Vision had completed his own search of the Book of Acts the week before and was able to show Pastor Red Brick the scriptural basis for a group of churches working cooperatively together (see *Good News* vol. 39, issue 6).

With the scriptural basis for the local Association established, Pastor Red Brick had called the next week with another question from his new member Babe N. DeFaif. Babe had asked, "What does the Association do and how does it do its work?"

Red explained to Brother Vision that when he gave his usual answer, "The Association helps churches do together what they are unable to do by themselves," he saw that the answer did not register with Babe.

Babe rephrased the question, "No, Pastor. You do not understand. I want to know 'With what ministries does the Association assist the churches in which I can participate?'"

Although Pastor Red Brick had led the White Column Church to participate in most of the ministries with which the Association aided the churches, he did not know all of them. During his conversation with Babe he realized that he needed to ask Brother Vision Nary for a list of all the ministries with which the Association assisted the churches. He also realized that he needed to become more involved in the work of the Association so that he would be more aware of all that the Association helped the church do.

Another traffic stop due to the snow on the road allowed Vision to photograph a crepe myrtle with its red and yellow leaves and black seed pods covered in snow. *What a beautiful world God has made.* Brother Nary thought to himself.

As traffic began to move again, Vision pondered his dilemma and realized that here was an opportunity. In all his years of service no one had ever asked him a question quite like Pastor Red Brick. For the first time a new church member from a background completely foreign to the denominational structure wanted to be involved but did not know how.

He thought to himself *How do you explain to someone with no denominational background all that we do?* As he considered this, he realized that as the number of ministries with which the Association assisted the churches had grown over the years, no concerted effort had been made to educate the church members about those ministries. In reality, no effort had been made to discover all the different ministries in which all of the churches were involved.

As traffic slowed to a halt again, Brother Nary reached for a bulletin from Sunday's worship service and began to make a list of the ministries with which the Association assisted the churches. Before long he realized that he needed to create two lists, one for **ministry** and one for **administration**. The two lists included some of the following:

MINISTRY LIST

- *Association Retreat Center*
- *Baptist Collegiate Ministry*
- *Block Party Ministry*
- *Church Revitalization*
- *Criminal Justice Ministry*
- *Disaster Response*
- *New Church Starts*
- *Language Ministries*
- *Pastor Church Relations*
- *Pastor Search Committee Training*
- *Prayer Ministry*
- *Seamen's Centers*
- *Seminary Extension Scholarships*
- *Transitional Interim Pastor*
- *Women's Ministry*
- *Youth Ministry*

(Continued on next page)

ADMINISTRATION LIST

- Administration of Designated Gifts
- Bible Distribution
- Christian Counseling Center
- Church Staff Planning Center
- Pastor/Staff Retreat at Judson Retreat Center At No Cost
- Prison Discipleship Training Materials Distribution
- Media Resource Center
- Sunday School (small group) Leadership Training
- Transitioning Neighborhood Strategy Center

Vision thought to himself *I need to create a brief description of each of these. Some of these will need to be put in brochure form so the church members will know how to get involved.*

If you would like more details of the many ministries and administrative functions of the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge, please call or visit us.

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Looking Ahead to 2009...

- VBS Regional Clinics, March 23 & 26
 - Association's Spring Meeting, April 24 – 25
 - Bible Drill, Sunday, April 5, Florida Blvd. Baptist Church
 - Association Emphasis Week, May 17 – 23
 - Blitz on the Bayou, Sunday School Leadership Training, Saturday, August 15, Parkview Baptist Church
 - Association's Annual Meeting, October
-

Widows in Ministry

February 12

Thursday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Room A-143 (Westside parking lot)

????? BRAINSTORMING ?????

Come prepared to offer suggestions and share ideas.

March 12

Thursday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Room A-143 (Westside Parking)

Musical Bells

Come and bring a widow friend.

Florida Blvd. Baptist Church, 10915 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, 70815. Office 225-272-3740.

Praying for Our Churches...

BAGBR churches seeking pastors include:

- Erwinville Baptist
- First Baptist Baker
- First Baptist Gramercy
- Fordoche Baptist
- The Church at River Bend
- Westside Fellowship
- False River Baptist
- First Baptist Baton Rouge
- First Baptist Plaquemine
- Northside Baptist
- Vietnamese Hope Baptist



Notes from Dennis Allen

Assistant to the Executive Director

Challenges and changes always have been a part of life and they always will be. This is our time to face some very difficult challenges and changes. The question is how will we respond to them? Those Baptists who have gone before us seem to me to have met their challenges and changes very well. They faced a Civil War, economic depression, world wars, civil unrest. I know they made some mistakes but from my view point they did a great job and responded with faith and courage.

Now it is our time to face our challenges and changes. Once again I will ask the question *How will we respond and what will those who come after us have to say about us?* The challenges and changes we face are enormous. We face global terrorism, an economy in freefall, a nation clamoring for change without knowing what change it wants! Moral values and common sense seems to have gone out to lunch.

I believe our greatest challenge is to our faith in Jesus Christ, the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and our worship. For example, the Cooperative Program plan of giving and the idea of churches working together for the glory of God is being questioned by some in our midst who must not know our history.

How do we respond? Our Bible tells us plainly how we are to respond to such challenges. It says let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. What would it mean to have the mind of Christ? It would mean to have complete trust in the Heavenly Father, love for all men, compassion for those who are suffering and are in darkness; it is to always edify the church, share the Gospel message of salvation and forgiveness of sins. There has never been a time in history when we need to stand together as churches united to reach out to a hurting world than the present.

I look forward to working with Dr. Conerly and all our churches to meet the challenges and changes of 2009. Remember your Associational staff is here to serve you.

BAGBR 4Q08 Contributions

ASSOCIATION CHURCHES	4Q2008	2008 (Jan - Dec)	2007 (Jan - Dec)	ASSOCIATION CHURCHES	4Q2008	2008 (Jan - Dec)	2007 (Jan - Dec)
Addis, First Baptist Church	360.00	1,170.00	1,080.00	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Prairieville	—	1,372.83	1,385.77
Ascension Baptist Church	2,618.32	10,535.53	10,645.31	Oakcrest Baptist Church	830.82	3,675.16	4,134.14
Baker, First Baptist Church	3,477.92	14,376.52	14,688.99	Park Forest Baptist Church	1,257.30	5,254.18	5,687.90
Baton Rouge, First Baptist Church	5,087.30	2,3131.08	22,827.76	Parkside Baptist Church	1,533.19	6,867.15	6,088.10
Bayou Plaquemine Baptist, Plaquemine	1,271.24	4,233.60	4,439.70	Parkview Baptist Church	6,886.92	42,809.62	41,165.61
Bayou Sorrel Baptist Church, Plaquemine	562.00	1,692.35	1,931.37	Plaquemine, First Baptist Church	897.95	3,592.00	4,182.00
Bethel Baptist Worship, Morganza	—	240.00	360.00	Port Allen, First Baptist Church	1,276.21	4,864.19	7,301.78
Broadmoor Baptist Church	—	—	—	Riverdale Baptist Church	1,517.71	5,869.82	3,631.29
Brookstown Baptist Church	458.86	2,041.39	2,119.20	Sharon Baptist Church	1,895.00	8,323.15	7,861.25
Broussard Grove	666.68	2,000.04	2,166.71	Sherwood Baptist Church	1,590.67	7,269.90	8,961.79
Brownfields Baptist Church	419.29	1,955.15	1,845.97	Sorrento Baptist Church	436.03	1,977.81	1,852.64
Cane Brake Baptist Church, Lottie	241.30	1,171.21	635.38	Southside Baptist Church	2,490.27	10,431.71	11,038.44
Cedarcrest Baptist Church	1,080.00	4,733.00	6,031.00	Starlight Baptist Church, Morganza	—	—	—
Central, First Baptist Church	400.00	1,200.00	1,250.00	Stevendale Baptist Church	150.00	650.00	600.00
Comite Baptist Church	900.61	4,513.54	4,411.39	The Church at Riverbend	—	—	150.00
Community Bible Baptist	600.00	3,000.00	3,600.00	The Lord's Church, Kentwood	811.59	1,211.48	1,178.53
Courtableau Baptist Church, Port Barre	108.28	813.80	681.32	Trinity Baptist Church	302.94	1,391.98	1,663.22
CrossPoint Baptist Church	2,250.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	Unity Baptist Church	—	—	—
Donaldsonville, First Baptist Church	—	240.00	360.00	University Baptist Church	4,793.78	23,099.27	21,790.12
Douglas Avenue Baptist Church	423.00	1,647.00	236.00	Victory Baptist Church, Plaquemine	639.07	2,594.28	2,404.37
Dutchtown Baptist Church	300.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	Vietnamese Hope Baptist Church	196.46	1,332.45	1,684.63
Erwinville Baptist Church	511.06	2,305.63	2,275.79	White Castle, First Baptist Church	204.78	1,046.88	1,057.19
Faith Baptist Church, Baker	200.52	1,621.96	2,743.51	Winbourne Avenue Baptist Church	516.26	516.26	511.91
Faith Baptist Church, Livonia	176.66	971.63	3,280.05	Woodlawn Baptist Church	13,207.22	52,738.20	53,616.80
False River Baptist Church, Ventress	286.89	1,362.09	2,118.81	Zoar Baptist Church	6,496.59	32,477.45	58,185.94
Fellowship Church, Prairieville	1,834.71	7,379.79	5,160.00	ASSOCIATION MISSIONS			
Fellowship Church, Greenwell Springs	3,596.00	8,053.26	2,665.66	Bridge Church, Gonzales	228.84	228.84	—
First Baptist Deaf Church	20.00	80.00	120.00	Christian Fellowship Int. - Filipino	—	—	80.00
Florida Boulevard Baptist Church	10132.28	42150.70	47,575.19	Christ Way Mission, Vacherie	32.00	185.00	145.00
Fordoche Baptist Church	1,778.94	5,200.70	4,078.44	Church of the Nations	89.40	392.72	364.39
Foster Road Baptist Church	1,605.56	6,415.16	6,700.93	Circle Baptist Mission, Baker	—	200.00	350.00
Friendship Baptist Church, Baker	—	—	—	Community Baptist Mission, Gnsbg.	—	—	—
Glen Oaks Baptist Church		270.00	620.00	Gonzales Hispanic	116.22	344.76	360.73
God's Vineyard Baptist	100.00	150.00	30.00	Grace Fellowship Baptist Church	—	—	50.00
Gonzales, First Baptist Church	800.00	2,400.00	3,200.00	Haven	—	774.41	41.05
Goodwood Baptist Church	300.77	1,426.82	1,038.58	Hispanic Mission - FBC, BR	—	34.18	28.39
Grace Baptist Church	674.80	674.80	962.15	La Croix	—	218.00	151.20
Graceworks, Prairieville	—	—	1,120.00	LifeGiving	—	—	428.00
Gramercy, First Baptist Church	378.13	2,236.10	1,180.00	LifePointe	—	160.25	45.00
Greenwell Springs Baptist Church	8,361.00	33,698.00	28,044.00	New Covenant Christian Center	—	—	135.00
Grosse Tete Baptist Church	696.00	2,932.00	2,576.00	North Highlands Community Baptist	—	—	50.00
Hooper Road Baptist Church	—	—	60.00	Reserve, First Baptist Church	—	1,650.00	2,040.15
Immanuel Baptist Church, Baton Rouge	817.00	3,907.00	3,954.00	Ring Community	885.33	3,196.38	3,698.20
Immanuel Baptist Church, Gonzales	121.63	354.08	199.51	Salvation Ministry of Jesus Christ	—	—	—
Indian Mound Baptist Church	1,627.24	7,117.81	7,391.89	Sojourn Church	—	—	—
Istrouma Baptist Church	10,326.70	51,1931.35	47,474.73	Vietnamese Baptist Fellowship	—	—	—
Jefferson Baptist Church	9,077.06	38,335.92	35,734.67	Westside Fellowship, Brusly	—	800.00	1,060.00
Krotz Springs, First Baptist Church	450.00	1,650.00	1,800.00	CONTRIBUTING CHURCHES			
Lake Martin Baptist Church, Prairieville	—	413.34	165.00	DaySpring, St. Gabriel	375.00	1,575.00	1,000.00
Lanier Baptist Church	2,739.77	11,873.71	9,976.98	Korean Baptist Ch - Burgin Dr.	600.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Latanache Baptist Church, Batchelor	—	1,292.00	2,045.79	Mid City Baptist Fellowship	103.00	417.00	321.00
Little Prairie Baptist Church, Prairieville	—	574.04	1,760.45	Mt. Bethel Baptist Church	—	300.00	1,200.00
Maringouin, First Baptist Church	118.89	504.65	493.39	Misc.	—	661.02	100.00
New Life Church of Baton Rouge	784.68	3,171.58	2,529.67				
New River Baptist Church	325.78	1,207.21	958.76	Total Contribution Receipts	132,324.42	574,897.87	589,423.58
New Roads, First Baptist Church	2,747.00	12,779.00	10,298.00	*denotes 2008 greater than 2007 YTD = January - December			
Northside Baptist Church, Plaquemine	150.00	600.00	600.00				



May Day! May Day! Pirates on Board!!!

*Sylvester Wilson
Gonzales Seamen's Center Director*

At the Gonzales Seamen's Center, Captain Nico Mobach (Holland), speaks into my tape recorder and points to areas on the world map. He vividly explains reasons for navigating his ship (M/V Pac Deneb) along an extreme southern detour route from Indonesia, around South Africa's Cape of Good Hope, then across the Atlantic Ocean, and finally to our United States' Mississippi River ports. He had determined to avoid the typical, shorter route via the Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden, into the Red Sea and out through the Suez Canal; into the Mediterranean Sea then across the Atlantic to the United States. In a passionate Dutch accent, metered with professional poise, Captain Nico declares that he navigated his ship along that route of extra days sailing and costly fuel consumption for one reason – the safety of his crew! All because the regular route through the Gulf of Aden would expose his ship and crew to the ominous threat of attack and hijacking by heavily armed Somali pirates in speedboats!

The Gonzales Seamen's Center is a cooperative ministry of the churches of the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge. It is a long-established ministry to international seafarers and local port workers. In view of the shifting dynamics of world trade, regional merchant vessel traffic, U.S. Customs and Border Protection regulations, individual port policies, and our own operating capacities, the year 2008 yielded some interesting ministry statistics:

- Seafarers Visiting Center 1080
- Countries Represented 32
- Int'l & Domestic Phone Calls 1150+ (est.)
- Bible Studies at Center 12
- Bible Studies on Ship 2
- Plan-of-Salvation Presentations 1013
- JESUS Film DVDs & Mini-CDs 180

Perhaps well over one million merchant seafarers labor aboard ships that ply the oceans and waterways of the Earth. Many visiting the Gonzales Seamen's Center profess to be Christian. Others are Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Animist, or declare no profession of faith as agnostics or atheists. One call for Bible study and prayer in our little chapel was attended by Roman Catholics, Hindus, and a Muslim! A majority of seafarers are at sea from six to nine months at a time. This prolonged separation from family and spiritual support systems could be their most grueling hardship. These men and women who work aboard ships have common physical, emotional, and spiritual needs that are common to us, but often those needs are intensified by difficulties and dangers only seafarers themselves can explain.

“May Day!!!!...May Day!!!!...May Day!!!!...Pirates on board!!! . . . Then, silence.” An officer of the M/V Lucia Bulker was describing to me what he and fellow officers heard squawking over their ship's radio as they navigated open waters of the Gulf of Aden between Yemen and Somalia.

The officer explained that another ship, carrying Russian military tanks, M/V Karagol, was coming “under attack” by pirates. “It was 12 nautical miles away from us. We could see it on radar and read its AIS signature,” he explained with a gaze half a world away. He described how merchant ships are required to sail across the Gulf of Aden inside a security path called a “zone” patrolled by allied warships. But the “Gulf of Aden is too big!” Pirates in speed boats still attack ships. Warships just run them off. So, then they come back and attack ships again. For defense, “we prepare water cannons and some metal [objects],” but the pirates have guns! “So we hear the radio distress call: ‘May Day...May Day...May Day...’ Then nothing – no reply from any warship. Then we hear: ‘Pirates on board!’ Then, silence. Nothing. That ship was behind us in the ‘zone,’ but, what good is the ‘zone’ [patrolled by warships] if pirates still attack you in the ‘zone?’ The life of a seaman is already very hard. Now we have to worry about pirates” – being attacked, hijacked, or killed at sea!

Visiting the Seamen's Center at the same time, were five Polish seamen, in addition to those nine from the M/V Lucia Bulker. Amidst handling international phone cards, providing cookies and drinks, figuring out laptop PC hookups, taking photographs, giving directions, answering questions, solving dialing dilemmas, discerning spiritual needs, showing individual attention, formulating Bible study, prayer and counseling approaches, I heard the pirate attack drama a total of three times from three different men. Yet how many times will they relive that frightening episode while coursing lonely seas on the 32 day journey to China – against a backdrop of sun, stars, and life's toughest questions?

With ditty bags and a JESUS Film DVD in hand, M/V Lucia Bulker crew members heard the powerfully encouraging words of the Apostle Paul read from Romans 8:28-39. Then, I looked into each man's eyes and prayed for them, their crew, and families back home. After hardy handshakes and gleaming expressions of gratitude, each man left the Center to go wait for a taxi ride back to their ship.

In these statistics and stories, do you see the pressing need for more volunteers to regularly minister at the Seamen's Center – minister to the nations for Christ's sake? (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). God bless you and thanks to those who already volunteer and support this ministry in so many ways! May you keep up the Lord's good and mighty work of salvation among the nations and just go right ahead inspiring others to do the same to stand together as churches united to reach out to a hurting world!

Below: Captain Nico Mobach, points to areas on the world map as he explains about pirate attacks.



Ministry Opportunities*

Goodwood Baptist Church is in need of a secretary. Candidate must have excellent organizational skills, working knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word, Publisher, Power Point), good phone skills, and be a team player. Hours are 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Monday – Friday. This is a part-time paid position. Please send resume to: Goodwood Baptist Church, Attn. Personnel Committee, 7125 Goodwood Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 or you may email a resume to: pastorgdwd@bellsouth.net.

Port Allen Baptist Church, 4200 Rebelle Lane, is seeking a part-time Youth Director to work between 15-20 hours per week. Any interested / qualified person that has such a calling may mail a resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 437, Port Allen, LA 70767, Attn: Youth Director Search Committee. Or email tracyhebert@cox.net.

Baptist Collegiate Ministry is asking for donated sewing machines. They will be offering an 8 week sewing class at the BCM and are in need of sewing machines. If you would like to help, please contact the BCM at 225-343-0408.

Call or email us if you have a church or ministry need or opportunity! Please note that announcements will run for 2 issues, unless BAGBR is contacted with other instructions. Call Norma at the BAGBR office at 225-296-3943 or email norma@bagbr.org to update.

February 2009

- 7 **BAGBR** West Region Pastors' Fellowship, Sharon Baptist Church, Port Allen
- 9 **LBC** Week of WMU Focus
- 9 – 10 **LBC** Preschool/Children's Ministers Retreat, Tall Timbers, Woodworth
- 19 **BAGBR** Blitz on the Bayou Team Meeting, Parkview Baptist Church, Baton Rouge
- 20 – 21 **BAGBR** Staff Retreat, Judson Baptist Retreat Center (office closes at noon)

March 2009

- 1 – 8 **LBC** Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 7 **LBC** M-JAM for GAs and Children in Action, Louisiana College, Pineville
- 10 **BAGBR** North Region Pastors' Fellowship, Zoar Baptist Church, Baton Rouge
- 26 **BAGBR** South Area and West Area VBS Clinics
- 27 – 28 **LBC** WMU Annual Meeting, McLendon Baptist Church, West Monroe

LBC = LBC sponsored event

BAGBR = Association event

For further details, please visit www.lbc.org or www.bagbr.org.



LSU BCM

Steve Masters, Director

In December, the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at LSU returned to the Bowery Mission in New York City for the third year. During the seven-day trip, eighteen BCM students served alongside the staff as they offered three meals and three chapel services a day to the homeless and poverty-stricken in Manhattan.

In addition to the daily services that the mission offers, it hosts a six-month residential Discipleship Institute that helps people transition out of destructive patterns and living situations. Their holistic approach addresses everything from drug and alcohol addictions to family reconciliation and career training; all of this is taught with Christian principles and the call for absolute dependence on God. Residents in the institute are exposed daily to biblical teaching and participate in scripture memorization.

As the LSU BCM students led these residents and the homeless community in several chapel services, two very different worlds joined together in authentic worship of the one Sovereign Lord. The residents made requests for songs and offered encouraging feedback during meal times about all the scripture readings, testimonies, and sermons led by students. "We like it when you teach us the hard stuff," one resident shared.

The students were able to model the biblical truth they shared as they helped the mission in dozens of projects ranging from cleaning and organizing to assisting with food preparation and wrapping presents for the residents. Clothing closet organizers were particularly grateful because students helped with the sorting and distribution of the particularly high volume of donations that came during the Christmas season. Whether handing out food in the parks or preparing toiletry kits, everyone served and loved the people of New York.

*The BCM began traveling to New York annually to minister to firefighters after the September 11 attacks. Even though primary efforts of the December trip switched to the Bowery mission in 2007, the BCM has cooked jambalaya for Ladder 20 in the Bowery neighborhood during the trip each year.

LEADERSHIP 
Is Like a Box of Chocolates

Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center
 Talladega, Alabama
 February 19–22, 2009

LEADERSHIP STYLES are as varied as a box of chocolates: some are mild and sweet, others strong and bitter, some are filled with surprises, and then of course, some are just a little nutty! For details, www.wmu.com/events/chocolate/index.asp.

Judson Baptist Retreat Center

Eugene Morris, Coordinator

Upcoming Events:

- **March 6 – 7** *Sistas Come Together!*

This retreat will welcome Miss Chocolate (From the Heart Ministries) and Miss Becky Brown (Little Brown Light Ministries). What a wonderful, delightful pair to lead us in a time of good eating, good singing, storytelling, and Bible teaching. Cost is \$60.00/person for double occupancy in our Motel or \$48.00 in cabin.

- **March 27 – 29** *Mother / Daughter Retreat*

This event is FULL. Look for fall dates soon!

- **April 3 – 4**

The Church has Left the Building

This retreat is designed to teach families about evangelism outside the walls of the local church. Calvin and Amy Crowe with Crowe Family Ministries will be leading this retreat along with their four boys! Features of this retreat will include using balloon animals, clowning, Gospel Presentation, Improvisational Evangelism, and worship times. Go to www.crowefamilyministries.com for information on this inspiring family.

For further information, www.bagbr.org/retreatcenter.htm. You may also call us at (225) 634-7225 or (888) 490-8263.

GOOD NEWS DEADLINES FOR 2009

April / May Edition:	March 6
June / July Edition:	May 7
August / September Edition:	July 6
October / November Edition:	September 4
December / January (2010) Edition:	November 6

BAGBR Welcomes Halena Nguyen!



Your Association is pleased to announce the addition of Halena Nguyen to the staff. Halena is a member of Vietnamese Hope Baptist Church in Baton Rouge where she serves as Children's Activities Coordinator. She works in the office Monday through Thursday. Feel free to stop by the office and welcome Halena.



Praying For Our New President

Mary B. Smith, BAGBR Prayer Team Volunteer

No matter what your political persuasion, our new president needs your prayers and mine. If you are having trouble praying for the president, let me make some suggestions on how to pray:

- He has a **family**. You know what that is like. Pray that he will be a strong father. Pray for Michele to be a loving and wise mother. Pray for safety for their children as they adjust to their new home, school, and city. Pray that their family will be cemented together with love in spite of the hectic schedule that they have to keep.
- You and I believe in the **security** of this country. Pray that the President will seek wise counsel and make wise decisions regarding the families of this nation. Pray that God will protect our nation from invasion from evil and those who hate the things that God loves.
- You love **God** and His Word. Pray that the President will be a seeker of God. Pray that he will realize that God is Sovereign and all wisdom comes from His Word. Pray that President Obama will be a man of the Word and have a hunger for the Word of God that drives him to the Bible daily. Pray that he will clearly acknowledge that his position and power comes from God.
- We are all very busy and caught up in the chaos of our world. Pray for President Obama know **peace** and to hear God's voice above the chatter of the world. Pray that he will seek to please God and not people.
- Do you fear the **future**? There are negative prognosticators out there that can strike fear in our hearts. Pray that God will keep his heart steadfast and that he will trust in the Lord who is His shield and defender.
- He should be a man of **integrity**. Pray that the president will live a life of character that is beyond reproach. Ask God to teach him to fear Him rather than what man can do to him.
- Do you ever question where you stand **spiritually**? Pray that President Obama knows that he knows the Lord Jesus Christ as His Savior and will not be ashamed to speak out about his salvation.
- Do you ever face circumstances that you have no answer for? James 1:5 says that if anyone lacks **wisdom**, let him ask of God. Pray that President Obama will unashamedly seek God first for the wisdom that he needs in unknown and all decisions.
- Pray that our president will have **discipline**. He must remain faithful to his marriage, pure in spirit and self-controlled, and quick to repent of sin so that he can keep the prayer line to God open. These are disciplines we as Christians should strive for.

As we pray for one another, remain encouraged that you are being a blessing to others. On a related note, the Association Prayer Team is in dire need of volunteers. Please email norma@bagbr.org or call the office at 225-296-3943 to inquire. Thanks to all the prayer warriors in our churches!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



BAGBR BIBLE DRILL!

Does your church participate in Bible Drill? The Annual Bible Drill for the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge will be held at **Florida Boulevard Baptist Church, 10915 Florida Boulevard, Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** As soon as your church has completed its drill, please forward your information to the Association. You may fax your forms to 225-296-3946. As a courtesy, please call Norma at the Association office as soon as possible to alert her that you will be participating this year.

If you would like to view verse cards, sample drills, or need to print other drill information, go to www.lbc.org/bibledrill.

2009 Department of Corrections Volunteer Training Dates

If you are interested in volunteering in one of the Association's prison ministries, please be aware that there is an annual mandatory training class prior to being approved. Once you have attended a class, please notify Jan in the Association office. The training classes will be as follows:

- Saturday, February 21 at 8:00 a.m. at South Baton Rouge Church of Christ, 8725 Jefferson Highway, 70809
- Saturday, May 23 at 5:30 p.m. at Catholic Life Center, 1800 S. Acadian, 70808
- Saturday, August 22 at 5:30 p.m. at Catholic Life Center, 1800 S. Acadian, 70808
- Saturday, October 17 at 8:00 a.m. at South Baton Rouge Church of Christ, 8725 Jefferson Highway, 70809

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