

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

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Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge Adoniram Judson, Jr. Missions & Ministry Center 10560 Airline Highway ~ Baton Rouge, La.

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# The Adoniram Judson, Jr. Missions & Ministry Offering "Save Your Change To Make A Change!"

The time-tested truth that an Association of churches cooperating to accomplish together what a church usually cannot accomplish alone demonstrates why an annual Missions and Ministry Offering is needed. The offering will be named the Adoniram Judson, Jr. Missions and Ministry Offering after the father of modern day missions and missionary to Burma, Adoniram Judson, Jr. The offering will help provide the financial support of the various missions and ministries with which the Association assists the churches of the Greater Baton Rouge area. The challenge for each church will be an Annual Association Missions and Ministries Offering of \$1.00 per church member per year. Our goal for 2009 is \$10,000 for the missions and ministries needs of the Greater Baton Rouge area.

This is a concept whose time has come. The missions and ministry needs of Acts 1:8 related to "Jerusalem" (BAGBR) deserve a special annual offering. The concept of \$1 per member of the churches of the Association per year will help fund the growing ministry needs of our Association. *God is at work in our midst*.

#### MINISTRIES THIS OFFERING WILL ASSIST INCLUDE:

- Bible Study (SS) Leadership Training
- Block Party Ministry
- Church Revitalization
- Criminal Justice Ministry
- Disaster Response Center
- Judson Retreat Center
- Language Ministries
- Multi-Housing Ministries
- New Church Starts

- Pastor Church Relations
- Prayer Ministry
- Pulpit Committee Training
- BAGBR Seafarer Ministry
- Seminary Extension Scholarships
- Unlimited Partnership Interns
- VBS Leadership Training
- Women's Ministry



"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in **Jerusalem**, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NKV)

### A Look at the Past Forces Us to Face the Future Rodrick E. Conerly, Executive Director

On November 19, 1890 nine (9) churches convened to form the Beulah Baptist Association. The geographical area of the Association extended from Orleans Parish to the East and West Feliciana Parishes covering a large section of the southeast region of Louisiana. By 1915 the name changed to Judson Baptist Association in honor of Adoniram Judson, Jr., a missionary to Burma and the father of modern day missions. In August of 1915 the Association began holding annual meetings.

The annual report for the 1920 annual meeting minutes listed thirteen (13) churches in the Association with a membership of 1,525. The churches were located from Norwood, near the Mississippi state line, to Plaquemine. By 1940 the Association had grown to twenty-two (22) churches from Norwood (close to the Mississippi state line) to Thibodaux with 11,749 members. The Association covered a large portion of southeast Louisiana.

As the Baptist work grew, other associations were created across southeast Louisiana. By 1960 because of the newly formed associations, the geographical area of the Association was reduced to roughly East and West Baton Rouge Parishes. The Association had twenty-five churches with 31,230 members. Then, in 1989, the Ascension Baptist Association merged with the Judson Baptist Association. The 1990 annual report listed fiftyfive (55) churches with 51,772 members. Once again the geographical size of the Association covered a large region of southeast Louisiana with churches in Ascension, East and West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, and St. James Parishes.

In 2000, the Association annual report listed eighty-one (81) churches with a total membership of 45,265. Then, in the October 2005 annual meeting, after months of discussion, the Atchafalaya Baptist Association merged with the Judson Baptist Association. This brought the total number of churches to 100; however the total membership of the churches fell to 45,099. At the same meeting, the Judson Baptist Association adopted the name of the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge. The move to the new name reflected a new development taking place in association work and ministry across the Southern Baptist Convention.

During the period from 1990 to the present, a shift in the concept of the work and ministry of the Association across the Southern Baptist Convention has taken place. Prompted by the realization that the growth of the SBC churches since the 1960's has lessened and that membership has declined, a new attitude toward Kingdom work has developed among Directors of Missions. In southeast Louisiana, the work of the Association, formerly done along geographical boundaries of associations, has given way to a Kingdom growth mindset. Besides the historical work done together to strengthen existing churches, Directors of Mission work together and frequently plan how and where they can cooperate to start new churches. At present BAGBR is cooperating to start a new church in Port Vincent in the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association.

In the midst of this attitude toward Kingdom growth the diversity of the population of the Association also demanded attention. Not only is the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge one of the largest in the state, but it also is one of the most diverse. In addition to Anglo congregations, we have African-American, Korean, Hispanic, Vietnamese, and Filipino churches and missions. A primary goal is to start African-American new churches in the transitioning neighborhoods within the inner city and the north Baton Rouge area. An African-American work also is needed in Ascension Parish. Another major goal is to establish a strong Hispanic Baptist Church in the Association. To this date we have two Hispanic missions in Ascension and East Baton Rouge Parishes.

The Association has seen the development of a multichurch model with as many as three congregations meeting in one church facility at Florida Boulevard Baptist Church. In recent years new missions have met in coffee houses, fire station facilities, and warehouses. Geographically, our churches range from two works in St. Helena Parish on the north, to one church in St. James Parish and a mission in St. John the Baptist Parish on the south. Our church farthest to the west is Courtableau Baptist in St. Landry Parish. Stevendale Baptist is on the eastern edge of East Baton Rouge Parish.

The recent innovative approach to circumstances and opportunities reflects the broadened scope of the work of the Association. In the manner in which our forefathers began Baptist work back in 1890 stretching from New Orleans to the Mississippi state line, our Association has once again embraced a regional approach to extend God's Kingdom across southeast Louisiana.

With Greater Baton Rouge being one of the most economically stable areas of the nation, the potential for population growth within the Association is tremendous. Over the past few years, God has begun through our churches a number of new missions, some of which have formally become sister churches in the Association. At present, four areas are targeted for new Anglo missions, two areas are targeted for new African

#### A Look at the Past - Continued

American missions, and a renewed effort has begun to revitalize the Hispanic mission in Baton Rouge. However, the multi-housing segment of our population remains largely unreached.

Sufficient multi-housing units exist in the Greater Baton Rouge area to house one-third of the population. Historically, 90% of the multi-housing population does not attend church on any given Sunday. Multi-housing covers all spectrums of society from trailer parks to condominiums costing \$500,000 and more. Every ethnic group within the Greater Baton Rouge area has people living in some form of multi-housing. Yet, only two or three of our churches have ministries reaching those living in multi-housing facilities. Across the area of the Association and within a few minutes of any one of our churches is some sort of multi-housing facility with hundreds, if not thousands, of prospects. As these people are reached through ministries that touch their needs where they live, many of them will begin to attend our churches. Many of them, however, will prefer to have Bible studies and worship services in their own multihousing facilities.

The Southern Baptist Convention's global mission mindset must have a local mission perspective. God works to extend His Kingdom through the local church. The twenty year shrinking membership of our churches calls for new approaches to reach the lost for Jesus Christ. The tremendous un-churched, multihousing population is deserving of our prayers, our time, our efforts, and our money.

This certainly is an exciting time to be a part of what God is doing in the Greater Baton Rouge area.



## Biblical Basis for an Association

Although the New Testament should not be viewed as a "how-to manual," some indications of the early churches working together in association with one another may be discerned. Scripture shows that a ministry of famine relief for the brethren in Judea was accepted by the churches in Antioch, (Acts 11:29), Corinth and Galatia (1 Cor.16:1-3), and two groups of believers in Macedonia and Achaia (shall we call them churches?) (Romans 15:26).

#### **RELIEF FOR THE POOR**

Monies from the church in Antioch were collected and brought to a central point and placed in the hands of recognized and trusted men (Acts 11:30, Barnabas and Saul) for the distribution of those funds. However, in regard to the monies sent from the churches in Corinth and Galatia, Paul preferred not to personally receive or deliver the monies. Rather, he gave instructions for those churches to accredit delegates by a letter from their respective churches so that they could carry the gifts from their churches to Jerusalem as they traveled with Paul (1 Cor. 16:3-4). The instructions by Paul for letters accrediting delegates from one church to another church indicate a formal structure for recognition of delegates among a group of churches. Scripture indicates that a relationship (shall we call this an Association?) existed between the churches at Antioch, Corinth, Galatia, Jerusalem, and the two groups of believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

#### ISSUES OF FELLOWSHIP

Another indication of churches coming together in association with one another may be discerned in Acts chapter 15. One of the functions of the local Association is to deal with matters of the practical application of Christian fellowship. With the conclusion accepted by the early church that Gentiles could be saved without circumcision, practical problems of fellowship soon developed. The fellowship was broken by the refusal of some Jewish Christians to eat with the Gentile Christians. The refusal of fellowship reflected on the validity of the Gentiles' salvation and forced the early church to deal with the issue of salvation by grace or by observance of the Law.

continued on next page

# **Biblical Basis for an Association**

#### **C**ontinued

Acts chapter 15 demonstrates that delegates from the churches in Jerusalem and Antioch came together to decide policies related to the issue of fellowship. Paul and Barnabas and others were appointed to go to Jerusalem (15:2) and were sent on their way by the church (15:3). In addition, along the way to Jerusalem this group of delegates passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, reporting the conversion of the Gentiles, a report which brought joy to the brethren (15:3). An implication of 15:3 is that groups of believers (shall we call them churches?) existed in Phoenicia and Samaria.

As the delegates from the different churches came together in Jerusalem to deal with the issue (shall we call this an Association?), one of the most valuable strengths of churches associating together can be discerned. That strength lies in the capacity of delegates from different churches to council together and to bring a recommendation to deal with an issue.

Acts chapter 15 shows two churches in Jerusalem and Antioch and four groups of believers in Phoenicia, Samaria, Syria, and Cilicia. These six different groups had interest in and were affected directly by the recommendation presented by the gathering of delegates from different churches in Jerusalem.

Scripture highlights the process as follows:

First, the apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider the matter (15:6).

Second, recognized leaders gave their opinions (Peter, 15:7; Barnabas and Paul, 15:12).

Third, a recommendation by James, the recognized leader of the Church (15:13), was made to the group.

Fourth, the gathered delegates accepted the recommendation and established a policy to recommend to the churches (15:19-21).

**Fifth,** the policy, in the form of a letter, was sent to the Gentile brethren in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia (15:23). The implication of the naming of Syria and Cilicia is that groups of believers (shall we call them churches?) existed there.

**Sixth,** delegates from the churches in Jerusalem and Antioch (Paul, Barnabas, Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, 15;22) went to Antioch; gathered the congregation together, and delivered the recommendation (15:30). The church in Antioch received the recommendation and rejoiced (15:31). Scripture shows that churches in Antioch, Corinth, Galatia, Jerusalem, and the groups of believers in Achaia, Cilicia, Macedonia, Phoenicia, Samaria, and Syria cooperated together in a ministry relief effort for famine relief and accepted a policy dealing with an issue that threatened fellowship between believers in the local church.

Thus, an Association of churches for the purpose of ministry and deliberation on issues of fellowship resulting in recommendations accepted by the local churches, has scriptural precedent.

Rodrick E. Conerly, Executive Director

# Save the Date BLITZ ON THE BAYOU

Sunday School Leadership Training Saturday, August 15, 2009 <u>Parkview Baptist Church</u> 11795 Jefferson Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA 8:50 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

# ROCK THE RIVER JULY 18, 2009

BAGBR is partnering with The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association to bring **Rock the River** to Baton Rouge, July 18, 2009!

The purpose of **Rock the River** is to share the Good News of the Gospel with tens of thousands of young people and young adults along the Mississippi River basin from Louisiana to Minnesota in a fun, festival setting. The first stop on the tour is Baton Rouge!

Franklin Graham will share a presentation of the Gospel at each event. Musical guests include Flyleaf, Kirk Franklin, Red, Skillet, DecembeRadio, and Hawk Nelson in select cities. Attendees will have an opportunity to respond to the Gospel, be encouraged by trained peers and then related back to local caring churches.

Please be in prayer with us that God will use Rock the River to draw many to Himself.

For more detailed information, please visit the Rock the River website: <u>http://www.grahamfestival.org/rocktheriver/</u>

#### **GOOD NEWS**

### Notes from Dennis Allen Assistant to the Executive Director



The truth is working alone is less complicated than working with others. However, working alone may be a little selfish. Whatever we accomplish alone, we alone will get the credit. We also know that by working together to achieve a common goal we can accomplish much more than we could alone. I would go so far as to say that working with others is never easy but it can be the most rewarding and have the greatest results.

My hope is we will always have a strong Association of churches working together to advance the Kingdom of God. From the beginning of the New Testament Church, Christians and churches worked together to spread the Gospel, to meet the needs of believers, and to resolve issues. To me, it is just good common sense to know that by working together we can do more. We will grow in spirit, in knowledge of one another, touch more people, and do more good.

We do live in an age of individualism, where selfachievement has become very popular. However, I wonder can we work with someone else? Can we accept their leadership and give God all the glory? Ministry is not about what some individual can do but what many with Christ working through them can do! Our opportunities are so great. The February 12, 2009 Advocate headline read: Report Predicts Area Growth. The article was based on projections from the U.S. Census Bureau data. It stated the population of our area would more than double by 2030. For example, Ascension Parish has been projected to grow by more than 80% between 2010 and 2030. Its population will reach 242,780 people. I do not know how you receive this news but for me it says opportunity and challenge! This type of challenge will only be met if we work together and give Christ Jesus the glory.

# SAVE THE DATES

- October 23-24, 2009 2009 BAGBR Annual Meeting & Preaching Conference
- April 23-24, 2010 2010 BAGBR Spring Meeting & Mission Forum



## Judson Retreat Center: A Little Bit of History Eugene Morris, Coordinator

In the early 1970s, a group of men and women of the Judson Baptist Association began to meet and pray about the possibility of beginning a camping ministry for the Association. Over the next several years, with much prayer and hard work, this work that began as a dream evolved from renting a camp for two years to check out the feasibility of this ministry to purchasing 200 acres in West Feliciana Parish and building what is now Judson Baptist Retreat Center. A few years ago as the Retreat Center celebrated 25 years of ministry, it was awesome to delve into the past and see God's hand as this ministry came into being. And even more amazing was to know Debi's and my walks through those same years and see how God timed all of it so that we could be here as the Retreat Center opened.

Judson Baptist Association, now Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge, continues to support this ministry by providing our salaries and benefits, as well as providing funds to help with the operation of the Retreat Center. We continue to operate to undergird the churches of BAGBR as they reach out to their communities and as they educate and "come away" on retreat. Our mission statement for our summer camps, as well as our retreats, is: *"To raise up a generation passionate for Jesus Christ by providing opportunities for life changing experiences."* 

We have been privileged over the last 30 years to be a partner with BAGBR as we have witnessed God changing lives on a daily basis as a result of this ministry. We continue to hear almost daily of how God has used the Retreat Center to change lives and turn people to Him through time spent here on these hallowed grounds. Most who come here remark to us that they begin to feel His presence as they drive onto the Retreat Center grounds and as they leave their comment is always: "I really hate to go!"

Thousands of people have come onto these grounds and their lives have been changed forever because of JBRC and the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge and we give our God the Glory.

# 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 Winbourne Avenue

Details to follow



#### LSUBCM Steve Masters, Director

The Baptist Collegiate Ministry at LSU appreciates the great relationship we have with the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge.

The funding we receive from the Association helps pay the vast majority of our program ministry and utility expenses. The funding from the Association also pays the salaries of the BCM secretary, Mary Villar, and our part-time secretary. We receive some direct funding for these expenses from local SBC churches. We do not receive any funding from the Cooperative Program for program, ministry, and utility expenses of the BCM Center or ministry. The Cooperative Program pays the salary and benefits of the BCM Director and one-half of the salary of the Associate Director of the BCM, but provides no funding for the operating costs of the ministry. These expenses are the responsibility of the local associations.

This is the funding partnership between the state conventions and the local associations that is in existence across our Southern Baptist Convention and has enabled BCM ministries to exist on four times as many campuses as any other collegiate Christian organization.

The following are several of the partnerships the BCM has with churches in the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge.

1. The BCM at LSU just finished a major renovation of their BCM Center. The BCM Center was built in 1951 and was in desperate need of repair and renovation and update. Several SBC churches of the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge gave a total of over \$200,000.00 from 2004 to 2009 to help pay for the renovation.

2. The Advisory Council of the BCM at LSU is made up of ten representatives from the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge. This council helps oversee the BCM ministry and gives help and support to the BCM Center, the BCM budget, and the BCM program ministry.

3. The BCM at LSU partners with the youth/student ministers of the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge to sponsor two major youth rallies each year for the youth of our Association. Over 900 youth from over 30 different churches attend these rallies each year.

4. Over thirty different churches in BAGBR partner with the BCM outreach to LSU by providing a free lunch one Monday per school year. All LSU students are invited to attend the lunch which is followed by a devotion.

5. Twelve of our BAGBR churches have intentional ministries for college students attending LSU, BRCC, and Southeastern. These churches sponsor a college Bible study on Sunday morning, special events for college students, and they participate in specific outreach events with the BCM. 6. The BCM sponsors a Tiger Olympics event each year for kids in kindergarten through  $6^{th}$  grade. From 20 to 30 BAGBR churches participate each year.

7. The BCM sponsors monthly fellowships for juniors and seniors in high school. Many of the BAGBR churches participate.

8. The BCM at LSU has formed a chainsaw team and works with other such teams in BAGBR during and after hurricanes, ice storms, tornadoes, etc.

We are very thankful for our partnership with the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge. Please continue to pray for us, as our ministry grows on college campuses.



#### BAGBR Seafarer Ministry Sylvester Wilson Gonzales Seafarer's Center Director

Thanks and praise be to God the Father for the valuable work and support of the BAPTIST ASSOCIATION of GREATER BATON ROUGE continuously given to the Gonzales Seamen's Center international ministry to seafarers!



This ministry to seafarers exists, is enabled, and thrives on the wonderful support of the Association's competent staff and organizational resources.

I'm pleased to be able to tell you about some of the significant BAGBR support this ministry benefits from. They are:

- Communication of ministry status to all the churches via the Good News newsletter.
- Information hub for volunteer requests and inquiries.
- Budget and financial management support.
- Policy and procedures guidance.
- Facilitation of churches-to-ministry relations and networking.
- Evaluation and resourcing of ministry operation needs.
- Administrative oversight of ministry mission deployment and goal-setting.
- Lively and friendly corporate environment (but, more like a service-oriented, mission-driven loving family of diverse talents).
- Safe harbor, when needed, for friendly counsel and encouragement.

That's more than a wheelbarrow load of support! It's all mighty valuable and greatly appreciated! Amen!

### **GOOD NEWS**

## BAGBR Ministry Opportunities

**Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge** has a need for a full time Administrative Assistant. Hours are 8:30 – 4:30 Monday – Thursday and 8:30 – 3:00 Friday. Candidate must possess excellent clerical skills, proficiency in MS Office applications, and a heart for ministry. Email Jan Terral your resume and cover letter to jan@bagbr.org or mail to 10560 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, 70816.

*Foster Road Baptist Church* has upright pianos and an organ to donate. Some are in need of repair. Interested ministry leaders, may call the church at 225-775-0884.

**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.

**Parkview Baptist Church** is looking for a person interested in teaching a Spanish Bible Study. Please contact Becky Clausen, Coordinator of Community Ministries and Benevolence, at 225-315-8343 or via email bclausen@pbcbr.org.

**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 <u>tracyhebert@cox.net</u>.

Istrouma Baptist Church, "How to Study the Bible: July 10, 11, 2009. Classes for children, teen, and adult leaders learning this skill vital to Christians! For info, call Patsy @ 262-7480 or Diane @ 295-0775 ext. 124.

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 the BAGBR office at 225-296-3943.

GOOD NEWS DEADLINES FOR 2009	
June / July Edition:	May 7
August / September Edition:	July 6
October / November Edition:	Sept. 4
December / January (2010) Edition:	Nov. 6

#### Annual Bible Drills

The annual Bible Drill of The Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge was held Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at Florida Blvd. Baptist Church. The following churches were represented by Bible Drill teams this year: Fellowship Baptist Church of Central, First Baptist Church of Gonzales, First Presbyterian, Korean Baptist, Parkview and Woodlawn.

There were 57 participants including 29 children (grades 4-6), 14 youth (grades 7-9) and 14 high school students (grades 10-12). **Congratulations** to all of the participants who demonstrated an in-depth grasp of scripture memorization. Fifty students successfully advanced to the State Bible Drill to be held in late April (children) and early May (youth and high school students). The National Bible Drill will be held in Covington, LA this year at First Baptist Church – Covington on June 19, 2009.



A special "thank you" to the participants, adult leaders and judging teams who helped make this event so special.

**Coming soon...** A Bible Drill training retreat is scheduled for January 15-16, 2010 at Tall Timbers, LA for those adults working in the "Youth" (grades 7-9) Bible Drill program. If you would like to attend the retreat or if you are interested in learning more about how to establish a Bible Drill program in your church, please contact Linda Aguillard, LA Bible Drill Coordinator, at (225)744-0090 or LKAguil@aol.com.





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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED** 

## LCIW ANNUAL TENT REVIVAL

**OCTOBER 2-4, 2009** 

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED...

Contact the BAGBR Office for details (225) 296-3943



LCIW ANNUAL TENT REVIVAL

## 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, 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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