



THE WINDOW OF UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

5775 Highland Road • Baton Rouge, LA 70808-6557 • www.ubc-br.org • 225.766.9474



thinkCRITICALLY

PASTORS' PANE

Recently I spent a day with Baptist missionary Jenny Hodge at the Together For Hope ministries in Lake Providence, Louisiana, one of the poorest places in our country. It was an eye-opening experience.

It began as I drove up. There was a man working in the mission house yard. We exchanged pleasantries, and he showed me some of the work he had been doing. I was impressed with his work but became even more impressed when I found out that he was doing the work as a volunteer. You see he is one of those in Lake Providence looking for work. Thus, he was taking care of the missionary house's exterior for no pay, just the opportunity to show people the quality of his work. You might call it occupation without compensation.

It was the first evidence of the plight of hardworking people struggling to make ends meet. As Jenny gave me a tour of Lake Providence, I realized that my first encounter was not going to be an isolated event. She narrated the town's history – past and recent past – and how at one time Lake Providence had been a thriving community, benefitting from a robust rural economy augmented by a healthy tourism because of the secluded beauty of the place. However, with the advent of agricultural automation, farms no longer needed the manpower they once did, and a large part of the population lost their livelihood. Over the past fifty years or so the gap between the rich and poor has widened.

My guided tour evidenced that. On the north side of the lake there were beautiful homes with large manicured lawns. The south side was dramatically different, with weathered trailers and dilapidated sheds clustered closely together. As we moved through the south side I noticed that, although it was mid-day, a lot of people were sitting on their porches. Jenny told me that they were mostly folk out of work and were just trying to stay cool. I couldn't help but notice that Jenny waved and called them by name. And as we moved along she shared a brief history of each family.

In one sense the stories were heartbreaking because of the sad circumstances of those lives, but in another sense altogether, the stories were imbued with the hope and care shown by Jenny. I was moved by her efforts to share the love of Christ in that community.

Someone once came to me and complained about the theology of a fellow church member, describing it as disgustingly liberal. Ironically enough, while this person vehemently objected to the other church member's way of thinking, they voiced admiration for

the many Christian things this person did in the church and community. My response was something to the effect that theology is best articulated in deed versus word . . . Pay attention to the heart, and matters of the mind will make more sense.

There is a lot of misery in Lake Providence and some questionable theology in those who simply dismiss it as God's will. But there is also some good theology being espoused there. I saw it in the lives of our missionaries and others who articulate the Gospel with a compassion that would impress even the most astute theologian.

I am grateful for my time in Lake Providence and for the loving hearts of Jenny and others who seek to live out the Word of God. It makes me want to be in that number, don't you?

Blessed by thought and deed,

Mike (and Griff)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Worship Preparation: Throughout the week, please set aside time to study the following Scriptures for this coming Sunday.

The Call To Prayer: Glory to the Father, to the Son, & to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, it is now and evermore shall be.

The Daily Examination: In the last 24 hours, recall when you most vividly encountered God. Reflect on this experience. Offer gratitude for this.

The Daily Readings:

Sunday, September 6

[Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23](#) and [Psalm 125](#); [Isaiah 35:4-7a](#) and [Psalm 146](#); [James 2:1-10, \(11-13\), 14-17](#); [Mark 7:24-37](#)

Monday, September 7

[Isaiah 38:10-20](#); [Joshua 6:1-21](#); [Hebrews 11:29-12:2](#)

Tuesday, September 8

[Isaiah 38:10-20](#); [Joshua 8:1-23](#); [Hebrews 12:3-13](#)

Wednesday, September 9

[Isaiah 38:10-20](#); [Judges 15:9-20](#); [Matthew 17:14-21](#)

Thursday, September 10

[Psalm 116:1-9](#); [Joshua 2:1-14](#); [Hebrews 11:17-22](#)

Friday, September 11

[Psalm 116:1-9](#); [Joshua 2:15-24](#); [James 2:17-26](#)

Saturday, September 12

[Psalm 116:1-9](#); [Joshua 6:22-27](#); [Matthew 21:23-32](#)

love CONTINUALLY

MISSIONS MENU

September 5 Saturday - Manna Givers. 11:00 a.m. at St Vincent de Paul. Serve lunch to homeless women and children. Activity.

September 4, 11, 18 Fridays - English Conversation. 7:30 p.m. Help internationals practice English and develop friendships with American Christians. Activity.

September 14 Monday - International dinner at Baptist Collegiate Ministry. 5:30 p.m. Church of the Nations (international ministry of UBC) will provide meal and short program. Activity.

FUN FACTS

Sunday, August 30, 2015

Morning Worship	187
Guests	NA
Sunday School Total	134
Preschool	14
Children	10
Youth	NR
College	4
Young Adults	7
Median Adults	9
Inter-Generational	17
Senior Adults	73
Church of the Nations	44
Guests	NR
Weekly Offering from 8/30/15	\$7,130.65

MINISTER ON CALL

Week of September 6: Griff Martin | 281-750-9677

Special Called Business Meeting

A Special Called Business Meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 20, 2015, at 5 P.M.** in the Sanctuary. All members are invited to attend as we discuss attendance, ministry programming, finances, and our vision for UBC.



GIFTS AND OFFERINGS YTD SUMMARY



live CREATIVELY

CALENDAR

Friday, September 4

9:00 AM Grandmother's Prayer Group - E111
7:30 PM CON English Conversation - Chapel

Saturday, September 5

Sunday, September 6

9:15 AM Sunday Morning Bible Study
10:30 AM *Worship Service - Sanctuary
10:30 AM *Church of the Nations - Sanctuary
5:00 PM Youth Transformed - Martin Home

Monday, September 7 - Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8

8:30 AM Silent Prayer Vigil - Heritage Room
9:30 AM Mom's Group Coffee Social - Edu Building
6:00 PM Finance Team Meeting - Pastor's Conference Room

Wednesday, September 9

11:30 AM Weekly Bible Study - Chapel
1:45 PM Bells Jubilate - Music Suite
6:15 PM Grace Rising Rehearsal - Music Suite
7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Music Suite

Thursday, September 10

Friday, September 11

9:00 AM Grandmother's Prayer Group - Room E111
6:30 PM Family Movie Night - Youth Room
7:30 PM CON English Conversation - Location TBD

Saturday, September 12

Sunday, September 13

9:15 AM Sunday Morning Bible Study
10:30 AM *Worship Service- Sanctuary
10:30 AM *Church of the Nations - Chapel
12:00 PM Brunch Dedicating Fellowship Hall
Remodeling
5:00 PM Youth Transformed - Martin Home

*Childcare

New Study Starting September 20th
on Finance/Money Management by Andy Stanley
for the Better Together Sunday School Class
A class for Young Families
visit www.ubc-br.org for additional information



For a digital version of our upcoming **GR82B@UBC** September line up, please scan the QR code or visit our website at www.ubc-br.org.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RENOVATION \$350,000

Fellowship Hall Budget Requirements \$350,000

