

The Gatekeeper

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East Bayou: Reaching people and making baptism special

BY GARY D. MYERS

LAFAYETTE, La. -- Tucked away in two small rooms behind the sanctuary at East Bayou Baptist Church in Lafayette, La., hundreds of handwritten names cover the walls. Each name represents a person who came to faith in Jesus Christ and followed Him in believer's baptism.

Just before baptism at East Bayou, the staff encourages new believers to sign their names on one of the changing room walls. Some leave notes expressing joy about their salvation. Others make sure to sign their names near other family members who have been baptized at East Bayou.

According to Pastor Mike Walker (MDiv '77), the "Changed Lives" walls represent East Bayou's intentional commitment to evangelism and believer's baptism.

East Bayou seeks its growth through conversions – especially adult conversions. Out of the 165



additions to the church in 2010, only 29 have come through transfer of letter. Eighty-two percent of those entering the membership have come through conversion.

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