

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted; and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

— Psalm 34:18 (NASB)

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December 3, 2015

Healing souls in Haiti

October mission trip allows team to minister to Haitians in need

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

HAITI — Lane Howe and his interpreter had just entered the 8 x 10 foot home when they were offered the only food the 28-year-old Haitian woman named Garline had in her entire house — eight bananas.



A young Haitian mother waits with her sick child to be seen at the makeshift clinic.

Though she owned very little and had lost 17 family members during a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that devastated the country on Jan. 12, 2010, Garline demonstrated she had all she needed — a relationship with Jesus Christ.

The encounter forever etched in Howe's mind a picture of Christ-likeness, and is a constant reminder of

why he and 42 other Louisiana Baptists went to Haiti for a mid-October mission trip.

"She had it all figured out and showed me it's not about the material things that matter," said Howe, a member of Calvary Baptist Church in

See **HEALING** on 7



Submitted photo

Retired International Mission Board missionary Ron Greenwich prays with a medical clinic patient after sharing the gospel with her in Haiti through an interpreter.

LCIW Revival brings freedom to 32 behind bars

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

ST GABRIEL — Inmate Chelsea Daigle had decided to follow Christ during one of the revival services at Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women the day before when she went forward with a request.

"I want to be baptized tonight," she proudly exclaimed.

For Janie Wise, those words represented a beautiful picture of Christ's love and forgiveness, a freedom found in a place where many inmates spend many years behind bars.

"The tears, joy and the women saying, 'Thank you, Jesus,' made this a special weekend," said Wise, women's missions and ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists which co-sponsored the revival at the prison. "The women who followed through with baptism knew what they were doing. It was a step that said to their peers right there, I have decided to follow Jesus."

During four revival services from Oct. 3-4 at the maximum security prison about 10 miles east of Baton Rouge, 32 women made professions of faith and 28 of them were baptized.

Approximately 160 volunteers

See **LCIW REVIVAL** on 2

Steven Maltempi introduced as LBC's new youth strategist at YEC

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA — A long-time student ministry specialist with strong ties to Baptist life in the state is the new youth strategist for Louisiana Baptists.

Steven Maltempi assumes his new role on Dec. 1 and will be introduced during a youth ministers fellowship at next week's Youth

Evangelism Celebration in Lafayette.

Most recently the lead associate of student and collegiate ministry for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Maltempi also served in a similar position at the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.

While attending seminary, Maltempi said God placed in his heart a

See **MALTEMPI** on 5



Photo courtesy of Southern Baptist of Texas

Steven Maltempi, shown introducing himself to the college interns before a training session began, was introduced as the LBC's new youth strategist at YEC. He assumed his new role on Dec. 1.

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LCIW Revival from page one

from 28 Louisiana Baptist churches participated in the revival, which included a gift box distribution to the inmates, three worship services on Saturday, a worship service on Sunday and a baptismal opportunity on Sunday night.

The Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge hosted a bar-b-que lunch Saturday for the prisoners, guards and jail staff with help from Dick Debusk, retired pastor of Alpine Baptist Church, who brought in large grills to cook the chickens and helped enlist a cook.

Many others helped but did not travel to St. Gabriel for the revival--they were donors and volunteers who helped provide gift boxes to the female inmates.

Fifty-six churches were represented in packing boxes at locations in Alexandria, Kenner, Ruston and St. Gabriel, and more than 100 churches contributed items included in 1,700 gift boxes that were distributed.

Another 300 Ziploc bags with personal items were left as gifts to future inmates.

The Georgia Barnette

Offering for State Missions provided funds to purchase the boxes and pay for transporting them to the prison.

"From donating items for the gift boxes to volunteering inside the prison, the revival provided something just about anybody could have volunteered for," Wise said. "We were able to include churches from all over the state."

This is the 15th year the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge has sponsored the LCIW Revival and the eighth year the LBC women's missions and ministries team has been involved.

"It's exciting to see the local churches coming in and investing in the revival," said



Submitted photo

The 15th annual LCIW Revival helped women to find freedom behind bars as 32 made professions of faith and 28 of them were baptized. The revival drew 160 volunteers from 28 Louisiana Baptist churches.

Tommy Middleton, director of missions for the association. "The revival reminds us that even though the inmates are in prison, everyone is precious in God's sight."

FINDING FREEDOM BEHIND BARS

Lena Bourgeois soon will exit LCIW but will leave with more than just a release from a prison.

She will leave with the freedom found in Christ, thanks to efforts by Louisiana Baptists.

Now, she describes herself as a "praying woman and praying mom."

Her son and mother accepted Christ while she was behind bars and she "can hardly wait to gather her family to her and pray with them."

For Jeannie Hebert, the revival meant a new life in Christ, as well. After responding to the altar call during the Saturday

evening service, Hebert's first words were "I want Jesus."

Hebert -- who was baptized that next evening -- spoke with Wise about her decision.

Wise said Hebert ended their time with one of the sweetest prayers she has ever heard -- "I want you in my life, Lord."

Wise said seeing changed lives keeps her going back and believes the volunteers are obeying Christ's command to do unto the least of these.

"It never gets old," Wise said. "It's a new reason to go every year and there are always women needing to hear."

"The revival is part of carrying out the command to share the Gospel into all the world. It's Jerusalem and Judea because it's right here in our state," she added. "We are building relationships that will last beyond our life here on earth."

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Food distribution event at NOLA Baptist clinic draws huge crowd

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS – Getting in and out of the Baptist Community Health Services clinic was a bit more difficult than usual on a Saturday in late November.

For several blocks, cars in this Lower Ninth Ward neighborhood lined the streets to create a traffic jam as they waited their turn to get their hands on a coveted possession – boxes of food to feed their families for up to a week.

Some volunteers unload boxes from one of three Feed the Children trucks while others walked the boxes of food to cars as they arrived on a street next to the clinic. By the time all boxes are given out, some 1200 families are served.

Provided through a partnership of New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton's Play It Forward Foundation and the Baptist Friendship House, the boxes were distributed by 40 volunteers who are members of churches from the New Orleans Baptist Association, along with others who helped from Baptist Friend-

ship House and clinic staff.

Among the many volunteers who gave of their time was Ken Taylor, pastor of Gentilly Baptist Church not far from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he serves as professor of urban missions.

"Jesus told us to love our fellow man and of the importance of helping him," Taylor said, just before picking up a few more boxes to hand off. "A lot of hungry families struggle in New Orleans, so this is a huge help to them. This was a good opportunity to bless these families right before Thanksgiving."

The event was scheduled to begin at 10 am but started much earlier, with some recipients waiting in line at 6 am. Baptist Friendship House Director Kay Bennett said that speaks volumes about the problem of hunger in New Orleans, a city whose 30 percent of households with children suffer from food hardship according to the No Kid Hungry campaign.

"The majority of people who received the boxes today are in poverty," Bennett said. "Jesus said I was hungry



Brian Blackwell photo

People wait in line to receive boxes of food the week before Thanksgiving. The event at the Baptist Community Health Services clinic was scheduled to begin at 10 am but started much earlier, with some recipients waiting in line at 6 am. Baptist Friendship House Director Kay Bennett said that speaks volumes about the problem of hunger in New Orleans, a city whose 30 percent of households with children suffer from food hardship according to the No Kid Hungry campaign.

and you gave me something to eat. To me, giving out the food boxes is the same as if I am giving them to Jesus. I am telling them I care about you and am here to help."

One of the many people receiving the food boxes was Carolyn Campbell. She was so moved by the generosity of those giving the boxes that she felt led to give

back what she could – by singing a song she wrote just for the occasion.

"I needed the food and was so glad to get it that I wanted to give them a song," she said. "There are a lot of people out there that if we could get this going all around the city, we'd have a lot more

See **DISTRIBUTION** on 6



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Paris attacks: ISIS trying to goad Jesus' return and the apocalypse

BY WILL HALL

Message Editor

PARIS – Ironically, the death of 130 civilians as well as the related stepped up air attacks against Islamic State militants in Syria are both successes for ISIS.

On the one hand its strategic objectives have been enhanced by the terror and chaos created within Western nations it considers enemies – France, Belgium, Germany and the United States among them.

On the other hand, the severe military response ISIS has provoked fits into the bizarre end time prophecies that are prompting the group to be so barbaric in its atrocities against the countries it has incited.

TERRORISM & THEOLOGY

Paris was placed under curfew, the first since 1944, after gunmen and suicide bombers coordinated separate attacks targeting restaurants, a rock concert and a sports stadium Nov. 13, killing 130. France's President Hollande also ordered the country's borders sealed and lawmakers voted to extend a national state of emergency through at least

February 2016.

Brussels officials, meanwhile, declared a terror alert Nov. 22, closing schools and putting troops on patrol in the streets while conducting raids (21 arrests so far) to locate suspects connected to the Paris terrorism. The rest of Belgium remains on high alert, but below level four which engulfs the country's capital — home to the headquarters of the European Union.

While both countries have launched sweeping operations to track down terrorists within each nation's borders, France also is taking the fight to the terrorists' strongholds.

In a message before both houses of France's parliament last week, President François Hollande declared France was "at war" with ISIS and vowed to "destroy them."

Moreover, he demonstrated his resolve by tripling the country's air power in the Middle East with the deployment of the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle to the eastern Mediterranean for combat strikes into Syria and Iraq.

But France is just one of three superpowers that have ramped up operations against ISIS, or promised

to do so, in the last ten days.

Russia announced Nov. 23 it had increased its air attacks in the region, hitting 472 ISIS targets in Syria (primarily related to black market oil operations) in just two days, after confirming last week that an ISIS bomb had brought down a Russian airliner last month.

Additionally, China's President Xi Jinping has proclaimed his country would join the war on ISIS after the Islamic terrorists executed an abducted Chinese citizen in Syria, and, killed three more Chinese nationals during an attack on a hotel in Mali, also last week.

"China will strengthen cooperation with the international community, resolutely crack down on violent terrorist operations that devastate innocent lives and safeguard world peace and security," he said.

Incredibly, this intensifying military response fits the prophetic vision which is driving ISIS' brutality – they welcome a crushing defeat, believing its near-annihilation will trigger events which will culminate in ultimate victory and establishment of world-wide Islamic rule.

Meanwhile, the United States continues to conduct air strikes



ISIS terrorists welcome the increased combat strikes by France, Russia, China and the United States believing its near annihilation will trigger events such as the return of Jesus and "end of days" apocalypse which will culminate in ultimate victory and establishment of world-wide Islamic rule.

against ISIS targets, focusing on infrastructure and the tools of waging

See ATTACKS on 6



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Maltempi from page one

a calling for student ministry. Though he enjoyed serving in Texas, Maltempi said he is looking forward to what lies ahead in his home state of Louisiana.

"As Louisiana Baptists we must have as our goal to evangelize, disciple, and involve students in ministry and missions," he said. "When they graduate from high school they must be ready to minister at work or college. To

prepare them we must capture their imaginations and passions for Christ.

"Teenagers are a mission field and a mission force," he continued. "Our focus must be evangelism; discipleship, much more than a transfer of knowledge; and letting students engage in ministry and mission on an ongoing basis."

Before assuming roles at the state conventions in Texas and Virginia, he served as student and collegiate pastor at Ironbridge Baptist Church in Chester, Va. But much of Maltempi's life has been spent ministering in his native state.

Maltempi has worked as a youth minister at several churches in Louisiana including Alpine First Baptist Church in Pineville where he was baptized, licensed and ordained to the ministry, Westwood Baptist Church in Westlake and Calvary Baptist Church in Thibodaux.

He also has volunteered with numerous organizations in the state including YEC steering committee member, youth seminar sight coordinator in Central Louisiana, president of First Priority of Central Louisiana, special

youth trainer for the Louisiana Baptist Convention and associational youth minister for Carey Baptist Association.

In addition to youth ministry

experience in Louisiana, Maltempi holds degrees from Alexandria Senior High School, Louisiana Tech University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He also earned a doctor of philosophy from Oxford Graduate School in Dayton, Tenn.

He and his wife, Joy, have three children, Joe, Rebekah and Abigail. A fourth child passed away on Feb. 1, 2013, after a six-year battle with brain cancer.

Louisiana Baptist leaders expressed excitement about Maltempi returning to the state.

"We're excited about Steven coming here," said Wayne Jenkins, evangelism and church growth director for Louisiana Baptists. "He's got local church experience as a minister of youth. He's got state convention experience as a youth and college strategist both in Virginia and Texas.

So he understands the role of both the local church and his responsibilities in working with local churches. He's from Louisiana, so he knows Louisiana.

"I think there's lot of positives," he said. "We look forward to his leadership in this area."

David Hankins, executive director for Louisiana Baptists, echoed the thought.

"We are excited to welcome home Dr. Steve Maltempi and family," Hankins said in an e-mail statement. "Steve was born and raised in Louisiana and has effectively served the Lord in local churches and denominational positions in Louisiana, Virginia and Texas. God placed a call on his life for student ministry in seminary and in Steve's own words 'that calling has never wavered.'"

"I'm confident God will use Steve to lead Louisiana Baptists to reach and engage the next generation as we move towards our 2020 objectives and beyond," he continued. "Please join me in praying for Steve and his family as they return home and begin their ministry among us."



Steven Maltempi



Submitted photo

New Louisiana Baptist youth strategist Steven Maltempi enjoys a few moments with his family. Maltempi has worked as a youth minister at several churches in Louisiana and earned degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Louisiana Tech University. He assumed his new position on Dec. 1.

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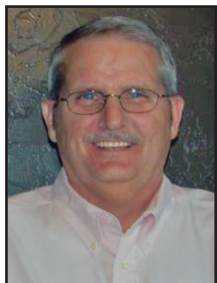


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Attacks from page 4

war, not people, reportedly dropping leaflets ahead of time so personnel can abandon equipment and sites before its planes drop munitions.

ISIS BELIEFS

Earlier this year, the Islamic State revealed some of its "end times" tenets in a glossy propaganda magazine Dabiq (seventh edition) -- named for the Syrian city, surrounded by plains, where ISIS adherents believe the armies of Rome (figurative of any non-Islamic country and believed to be the United States) will meet

their doom at the hands of the armies of Islam.

It is this "end of days" apocalypse for which ISIS exists and it undergirds their interpretation of Islam as a "religion of the sword not pacifism."

Indeed, in the ISIS literature U.S. leaders are mocked for "obstinately" claiming that "Islam is a religion of peace."

Peace will only come through the sword, an article in the magazine explains - when Isa (Jesus) kills the Antichrist. Thereafter infidels will be destroyed and "Islam and its justice will prevail on the entire Earth."

Graeme Wood, in The Atlantic earlier this year, offers even more detail.

After victory against the infidel armies in Dabiq (which starts a seven-year countdown), ISIS will establish an Islamic government (a caliphate) that includes Istanbul, perhaps beyond, Wood shared.

"An anti-Messiah, known in Muslim apocalyptic lit-

erature as Dajjal, will come from the Khorasan region of eastern Iran and kill a vast number of the caliphate's fighters," he wrote, "until just 5,000 remain, cornered in Jerusalem." It is here that "Jesus—the second-most-revered prophet in Islam – will return to Earth, spear Dajjal (the Antichrist), and lead the Muslims to victory."

WE ARE AT WAR

France's president declared the nation at war in a message he presented to both houses of the country's parliament Nov. 16.

"We are not in a war with a civilization, because these people are not one," he said. "This is a war against the jihadist menace that threatens not just France."

He offered that the attacks on Paris were launched from Belgium with the help of confederates in France, but he named Syria as the place where the plot was hatched.

"Our enemy in Syria is D.A.E.S.H.," he said, using the pejorative acronym for ISIS.

"It's not about containing this organization," he added, "but destroying it."



Volunteers load a box of food into a vehicle at the Baptist Community Health Services clinic in New Orleans Nov. 20. More than 1,200 families received the food boxes, which were provided by the Baptist Friendship House and New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton's Play It Forward Foundation.

Distribution from page 3

love and a lot less problems."

Also picking up some of the food boxes was Anna Hawk, who found sobriety through the Baptist Friendship House. She showed up not only to receive food but also to help give some away. Hawk felt it was a way she could do her part to help out her neighbors in need.

"The Baptist Friendship House helped me find a renewed spirit," Hawk said. "They teach us at the Friendship House about helping others when you can, so I figured I'd come out here to do just that."

Though Baptist Friendship

House has participated in the food distribution for the past 10 years, this was the first year the clinic has teamed up and hosted the event. Hannah Pounds, a medical doctor with the clinic, said the partnership allowed for the two compassion ministries of the New Orleans Baptist Association to meet the needs. The two organizations each distributed 600 vouchers to families in the neighborhood in the days leading up to the event, creating a buzz in the area among residents. The end result was blessing 1200 families a week before Thanksgiving.

"Our mission at Baptist Community Health Services is to provide primary care in the most medically underserved communities in the city for the glory of God and love of Christ," Pounds said. "It's great for our organizations to work together in events like this so we can have a greater impact together than we could do separate."

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Healing from page one

Alexandria. "Here was someone who had lost 17 family members and still had some injuries visible from the earthquake, yet she showed me how we are supposed to live our lives – devoted to Christ and excited to have Him in us.

"Just like she wanted to share all the food she had, we should be willing and excited to share what we have as Christ-followers," he continued. "It's our obligation because Haiti is in need.

"How can they hear the Word if we don't go?" he asked.

Howe was part of a team comprising 18 Louisiana Baptist churches which ministered in the city of Croix-des-Bouquets and the rural area of Canaan, Haiti.

During the seven-day trip, the team cared for more than 800 men, women and children at a medical clinic, hosted a pastor's conference, installed

safe drinking water systems for 16 families, led a Vacation Bible School for at least 300 children each day, led a Bible



Lauryn Onstead, a member of Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, takes this little girl's temperature as the parents look on at the medical clinic that was part of a mission trip to Haiti.

club for 25 youth daily, participated in neighborhood evangelism and preached at area Haitian churches.

By the date of their departure Oct. 23, 181 people had received Christ as Lord and Savior and had been connected with Haitian Baptist churches in their prospective neighborhoods.

The trip was sponsored by the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries and the Louisiana Baptist Convention in conjunction with the Louisiana/Haiti Partnership, partnership between the Louisiana Baptist Convention and the Haitian Baptist Convention.

Since 2012, teams have provided orphan support with a focus on establishing a children's village in Haiti. More than 50 churches have been involved.

Haiti was devastated by the earthquake in 2010 that killed more than 250,000 people and left hundreds of thousands homeless. Louisiana Baptists were among those who

provided disaster relief soon after the earthquake and that effort has continued through the partnership.

The vision is to build a mission center with a church plant as well as a children's village, a housing community, micro businesses and trade schools.

There are even hopes to build a hotel that will be oper-

ated by Haitians, and a school for educating the children.

The mission center will be Louisiana Baptists' base for planting churches across Haiti.

Beth Green, director of church and community ministries at the Children's Home, said Haitian Christians are praying for a new nation and she believes the work done by the teams over the years is helping to make that dream a reality.

"We are walking alongside them to change their country for Christ," Green said. "We are not just going over there one time to provide physical needs but actually are working hand-in-hand with our Haitian brothers and sisters to transform Haiti.

"Children are children wherever they are," she continued. "What is so amazing to see is the beautiful hearts of the children and the joy of their worshiping. By the world's standards, the children have so very little, but by God's standards, they have everything if Christ is their Lord and Savior. To know we will have a part in prayerfully helping children to grow in their walk with Christ and ultimately change their country for Christ is the greatest blessing of all."

Wayne Sheppard, Louisiana Baptist executive assistant to the executive director, echoed the thought.

"I believe our partnership is

See **HEALING** on 9



Submitted photos

A 43-member team representing 18 Louisiana Baptist churches ministered in the city of Croix-des-Bouquets and the surrounding rural area of Canaan, Haiti, during a mission trip there in October.

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BY JERRY LOVE

LBF Communications

The Thanksgiving holiday has just passed when we express our gratitude to God for his care and blessings for the year.

The celebration of Christmas is beginning in earnest as we thank God the Father for God the Son – Jesus – and the salvation that was given through His birth, life, death and resurrection.

But there are times in our lives that we reflect and give thanks, not because the calendar says it's time. We reflect because of the changes in the seasons of life and the effect on our hearts.

I find myself at one of those junctures of life. Recently my dad passed away and joined my mom in heaven where they are eternally praising God and living "true" life. I am grateful that in the last days of his life, my dad repeatedly said he was ready to see Jesus.

As I reflect on the past, and the present, I am grateful for many things.

I am grateful for parents who served the Lord. My mom and dad didn't send us to church, they took us every Sunday (both services) and Wednesday.

Some of my earliest memories are of dad "leading the singin'" and mom playing the piano at St. Rest Baptist Church on the White Lightning Road in north-west Lincoln Parish.

Later, at Cook Baptist in Ruston,

Mom and Dad were involved in many aspects of the church – deacon, choir, committees – too many to elaborate in a short space.

One memory that stands out is their work leading a Sunday School class for international students. Over a number of years this class hosted students from Asia, South America and the Middle Eastern, all who came to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ taught and enjoy the warm fellowship my parents provided.

corner of my desk.

And although I never knew him, my mom's dad, John L. Hood, made sure he shared Jesus with anyone who visited the general store he and my grandmother Katie ran.

Hanging under the front porch of the store was a sign that stated "PRAISE YE THE LORD."

On the back of the sign for the patrons to see as they departed was the scripture verse Matthew 6:33, "But seek

Lord who have impacted your life?

■ Hold their memories close and share their legacy of faith with others. Tell your children and family members and friends about those who influenced your own faith. Also become a mentor to others.

Deuteronomy 6:7-9 tells us to teach the ways of God to our children in every aspect of our lives and also to be bold in public display of our faith.

■ Give in honor and memory of those who influenced your walk with Christ. Your church presents many opportunities for you to give in support of its ministry that could also honor your spiritual mentors.

Also the Georgia Barnette Conference Center under construc-

tion at Tall Timbers is providing the opportunity to honor or memorialize your loved ones by purchasing bricks or pavestones with their name inscribed (<https://louisianabaptists.org/gbcc>).

One other way is to establish a family ministry fund that allows you and your family to contribute in memory of deceased loved ones or in honor of family birthdays.

At family gatherings you can discuss how to put the funds to use to further the Gospel of Christ.

■ Finally give thanks to God on a regular basis. Pause and reflect on the impact that each of these persons had on your life and how the prayers they have offered on your behalf have sustained and refreshed along your life's journey.



I am truly thankful for their example.

I am grateful for my in-laws, who likewise have served the Lord and made church attendance and service to God a family priority.

They have served at FBC in Zachary for more years than I can count as deacon, Sunday School teacher, treasurer and more.

They recently returned from a mission trip to south Texas where they were a part of a team that did construction and ministered to some of the poorest families in the US. Again, I am thankful for their example.

I am grateful for Grandparents who loved the Lord. One of my earthly treasures is the Bible of my dad's mother, Lavara Garriss Love, which sits on the

ye first the Kingdom of God..."

I am grateful for a Godly wife who, in spite of me, managed to raise five wonderful children all of whom know the Lord as their personal savior.

I'm even grateful for three sons-in-law (so far) who also love the Lord and are active in serving their local church. I am especially grateful for four very special grandchildren who are growing in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

I realize that not everyone is blessed to have the Christian family heritage that I have. But there is someone or many "someones" who influenced you, mentored you and pointed you towards God. So the question is: How do you honor the lives of these servants of the

The gift with a lot of benefits — a charitable gift annuity

Charitable gift annuities are a great way to enhance your financial picture and take advantage of tax benefits while making a lasting gift to God's Kingdom work.

A gift annuity is a relatively simple contract between you and the Louisiana Baptist Foundation.

You transfer cash or other liquid assets, such as stock, bonds, or mutual funds, to the Foundation; the Foundation pays you a fixed income – an annuity – for life. The contract can be written for the life of an individual or for two lives.

The gift annuity agreement allows you to name the ministry that will receive the remainder of the fund after your lifetime. That beneficiary can be your church, a Baptist institution or ministry, or divided among several ministries.

Creating a charitable gift annuity (CGA) offers several tax advantages to you, the donor.

■ Gift Annuities qualify for a partial income tax deduction in the year the gift is made.

■ A portion of each annuity payment

is considered to be "return of principle" during your projected life expectancy and is not subject to income tax.

■ Capital gains tax on appreciated securities can be partially avoided at the time of the gift. Federal estate and gift taxes are generally avoided on the amount donated to a gift annuity for you and your spouse.

One thing to keep in mind: Recently several non-profits and ministries are suggesting that CGA's can be used as a retirement plan.

While the annuity can enhance income during retirement years, it should not be viewed as a retirement plan on its own merits.

The stream of income from a gift annuity is "guaranteed" by the organization that issues the contract. Particularly

in today's cultural climate, changes in legislation could affect the ability of the organization to honor its agreement.

The CGA should always be viewed as a gift first, then as a potential stream of income.

Here are a couple of stories of Charitable Gift Annuities issued by the Louisiana Baptist Foundation.

THE BOWERS:

Rev. St. Clair and Annie Bower

gave so much of their life to so many, especially in South Louisiana where they established many churches. They are still giving even now that they have gone home to be with the Lord. In 1986 the Bowers established a gift annuity with the Louisiana Baptist Foundation.

Subsequently they received an an-

nual income over the next 18 years until Mrs. Annie's death. The total income they received exceeded the amount of the original gift.

The remaining gift balance, which also exceeded the original gift, continues to provide Bibles to people in the community where they lived and for scholarships for students pursuing Christian vocation.

PASTOR AND HIS DAUGHTER:

A well-known Louisiana pastor and theologian established a gift annuity that paid an income to himself first and then to his daughter after his death.

The original Charitable Gift Annuity was established in 2003 with \$30,000.

Over the next 11 years the annuity payments to the pastor and his daughter totaled \$19,800. The remainder was left to benefit scholarships for Christian education was \$18,500.

For more information regarding charitable gift annuities or other types of gifts that can benefit Baptist ministries, contact the Foundation at 877.523.4636 or go to www.LBFinfo.org.

AGE	RATE
65	4.7%
70	5.1%
75	5.8%
80	6.8%

Call the Louisiana Baptist Foundation for additional rate scenarios

Healing from page 7

is going to be a long-term effort to transform Haiti," he said.

"Our vision that we are raising up a new generation to transform Haiti. That's our goal and we go.

"God has placed a real burden on our hearts for the love of Haiti," he said. "To know that some of these people who come to know Christ are people we may never see again here but in Heaven is reassuring because we'll walk the streets in Heaven together one day. We leave each time knowing we made an investment in the Kingdom of God and the work will continue in the hearts of those we have touched."

Construction on the children's village will begin once property is purchased. Sheppard is optimistic the deal for 3.2 acres of land will be finalized by December 31, 2015.

SEEDS PLANTED

A highlight of the trip for Jeff Hulett, student minister at Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, was seeing his translator work up the courage to share the Gospel with his

fellow Haitians and commit to discipling them after the team returned to Louisiana.

When Hulett first began sharing Christ, he noticed his translator retaining some of what he shared. Near the end of the week, the translator indicated his desire to share on his own. After receiving some initial coaching from Hulett, the translator was able to present the Gospel without any assistance.

"I told him that I knew God was doing some great things in the country and the greatest thing I saw was how he could witness to others," Hulett said. "He was very excited and I could tell God was doing a work in his life. We ended up discipling a brother in Christ who is now better prepared to share his faith in his own country.

"Even if I don't go back to Haiti in the future, I know there is a person I have trained and equipped who is continuing to do the work we had been doing," he said.

Hulett's wife, Stephanie, minister of missions at Jefferson Baptist, was touched by how

God provided throughout their time in Haiti, such as when medical supplies seemed to be so low that the clinic would need to be shut down early. However, with the exception of a few bottles of cough syrup, all the prescriptions were able to be filled just before the clinic closed for the day.

"One doctor said we would have to shut down early and 200 still need to be treated," she said. "We prayed that medicine would be multiplied and miraculously everyone was treated. That reminded us that no matter what situation we are placed in, God will provide the people and resources to accomplish it and every resource for the gospel to be spread."

For Scott McKenzie, seeing church members participate in

a mission trip for the first time was a highlight.

"As difficult as it was in many ways for them, they wanted to go back again," said McKenzie, minister to senior adults and single adults at First Baptist Church in Lafayette. "I was also impressed that despite us having different cultures, speaking a different language and living in different countries, our basic needs are the same. We want to love and be loved, we want the best for our children and we want to be healthy. We were able to minister to some of those needs, spiritual along the way with the physical."

While working at the medical clinic, McKenzie witnessed at least two incidents where God intervened:

■ A woman was on the brink

of death but team members were able to take her to the hospital in time, and she recovered after a treatment which cost the equivalent of 60 dollars.

■ A young girl had a terrible infection on her leg, but the medical team took her promptly to the hospital as well. She began to recover almost right away and she returned to the clinic the next day to thank the team.

"God put us in place at the right time to help them," he said.

Construction teams will travel in the spring to begin work on the new Children's Village, and another mission trip is planned for Oct. 15-21, 2016. For more information on these and other future trips, contact email Wayne.Sheppard@louisianabaptists.org or call 318.448.3402.

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Bellview Baptist Church of Woodruff, SC is seeking a SENIOR PASTOR

The candidate should have at least 3 years of experience as a senior pastor, have a seminary degree from a Southern Baptist Seminary, and be willing to relocate to within a 10 mile radius of the church.

Information about our church and church family, as well as a list of our desired qualifications can be found on our website at www.bellviewbaptistchurch.org/#/contact-us.

Résumés including statement of faith, references, DVD/CD can be mailed to the Pastor Search Committee, Bellview Baptist Church, 901 Bellview Rd., Woodruff, SC 29388 or emailed to secretary@bellviewbaptistchurch.org no later than December 31, 2015.



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Please send résumés to 1852 Lewisville Rd • Minden, LA 71055
or email to northacresminden@gmail.com
Phone: 318.377.4315 • Fax 318.382.9777



Galilee Baptist seeking a

SENIOR PASTOR

Galilee Baptist Church, located in Zachary, is seeking candidates for its senior pastor position.

Résumés can be sent to Galilee Baptist Church
Attn. pastor search committee

11050 Greenwell Springs Port Hudson Rd. • Zachary LA 70791
or emailed to secretary@galileebc.com



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Harmony Baptist Church in Glenmora is seeking a bi-vocational pastor.

Please send résumés to:
Harmony Baptist Church,
Pastor Search Committee,
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or email to richardh61143@gmail.com



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ON THE MOVE

■ Robert (wife Suzanne) Jameson new as bi-vocational pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Arcadia.

LAGNIAPPE

■ Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Ferriday: **A Southern Christmas to Remember Christmas Tour featuring Mark Lanier and the Stephens** from Northport, Ala., Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m.

■ Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport: Bringing to the Ark-La-Tex the first ever **Ice Skating Rink and Christmas Village**, Dec. 4-22. For three weeks, a massive 102 foot by 52 foot rink will be placed in our parking lot visible from HWY 3132, and will offer to the community the time honored Christmas tradition of ice-skating in a safe and family-friendly environment. Near the rink will be a Christmas Village which will offer children the opportunity to create Christmas crafts for free, enjoy bounce houses and a Christmas movie at the Summer Grove movie theater. There will also be hot chocolate and concessions for purchase. Cost: \$10 per person/student for those wishing to skate. The fee covers ice skating rental. Pastor: Aaron Burger.

■ First Baptist Church, Port Allen: **"A Night in Bethlehem"** Dec. 4-6, 6-8 p.m. Experience a fresh look of the little town of Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born. This is a **walk through tour** running every 10-15 minutes (wheelchair and stroller accessible). Cost: Free and open to the public. Pastor: Gray Pearson.

■ Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, DeRidder: **"That Night in Bethlehem," a drive - through nativity experience**, Dec. 4-6, 11-14, 18-20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Come drive through the streets of Bethlehem and observe what life was like when Jesus was born. Maximum height of vehicle entering Bethlehem is nine feet. Pastor: Danny Wilson.

■ Pine Grove Baptist, Livingston: **A Southern Christmas to Remember Christmas Tour featuring Mark Lanier and the Stephens** from Northport, Ala., Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m. There will be a meal at 6 p.m.

■ First Baptist Church, Sulphur: **'Christmas ... a Time for**



Lee and Barbara Dickson were honored with a retirement reception on Nov. 14 at Clara Springs Baptist Encampment by friends, family and ministers from District Eight Baptist Association. Dickson retired after 38 years in ministry as the Coordinator of Missions and Ministry on Oct. 1 and Barbara will retire on Dec. 31.

Singing presented by the Agin' Cajuns, Dec. 6, 6 p.m.; 'That's the Good News' presented by worship choir, orchestra and drama team, Dec. 11-12, 6 p.m. Cost: 6 p.m.

■ North Acres Baptist Church, Minden: **A Southern Christmas to Remember Christmas Tour featuring Mark Lanier and the Stephens** from Northport, Ala., Dec. 6, 10:15 a.m.

■ First Baptist Church, Minden: **Christmas Musical**, Dec. 6, 6 p.m. and **Sounds of Christmas**, Dec. 13, 6 p.m.. Pastor: Leland Crawford.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **Preschool, children and youth concert**, Dec. 6, 6 p.m.; **'Under a Starry Sky'** presented by the sanctuary choir and orchestra, Dec. 13, 6 p.m.; **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

■ New Life Baptist Church, DeRidder: **Christmas Celebration**, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. Cost: free and free child care will be provided. Guest soloist: Leo Day, dean of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Pastor: Lynn

Clayton.

■ First Baptist Church, Many: **'I Have Seen the Light,' Christmas Musical**, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. **Children's Christmas Musical**, Dec. 20, 11 a.m. Pastor: Johnathon Bost.

■ Temple Baptist Church, Jena: **A Southern Christmas to Remember Christmas Tour featuring Mark Lanier and the Stephens** from Northport, Ala., Dec. 6, 6 p.m.

■ First Baptist Church, Jena: 'The First Day of Christmas' children's choir, Dec. 6, 6 p.m. Sanctuary Choir presents 'Joy, Unspeakable Joy,' Dec. 13, 6 p.m. Pastor: Dominick C. DiCarlo, Jr.

■ Cook Baptist Church, Ruston: **Christmas Music** presented by the choir, Dec. 6, 6 p.m.; Dec. 11, **Christmas Music** presented by the choir at Lincoln Parish Library, 6 p.m.; Choir will present **Christmas music at Calvary Baptist Church**, Ruston, 6:30 p.m.; **'Deck the Hall' Children's Event**, Dec. 20, 9-10 a.m.

■ Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **'You Light the World,'** Dec. 6, 6 p.m. presented by HBC Choir and Drama Team; **A Family Christmas** presented by HBC Children's Choirs, Dec. 13, 6 p.m.; **'Share the Light,'** Community Outreach, Dec. 16, 6 p.m.; **'Follow the Light'** presented by One Way Singers, Dec. 20, 10 a.m.; **Christmas Together**, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. Pastor: Danny Mann, interim senior pastor.

■ Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe: **'The Joy of Christmas'** presented by the adult and children choirs followed by the annual church-wide Christmas reception, Dec. 6, 6 p.m. Pastor: Waymond Warren.

■ Emmanuel Baptist Church, Monroe: **Hanging of the Greens and Tasting Tea**, Dec. 6, 6 p.m. **'Breath of Heaven' Christmas musical**, Dec. 20, 6 p.m. Music leader: Preston Allen. Pastor: Terry Mims.

■ First Baptist Church, Bogalusa: **Children's Christmas Program**, Dec. 6, 6 p.m.; **Christian Fine Arts Academy**, Dec. 13; **Sanctuary Choir Christmas Musical**, Dec. 13, 6 p.m.; Snow Night, Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m.; **Christmas Eve vespers**, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. Pastor: Greg Whaley.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **FIRST@FIRST Business Leader Luncheon**, Dec. 7, 12-1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Speaker: **State Representative Julie Emerson**. She is the newly elected representative from District 39 (CarenCro area)

and is an up-and-coming Christian politician. Admission: \$10 (lunch included). The luncheon is held each first Monday and is open to the business community. Please RSVP to mlangford@fbcpineville.net by 8 a.m. on the day of the meeting. For more information, visit www.fbcpineville.net.

■ Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Let's talk about how to make your marriage better, a godly perspective presented by Airline Baptist Church's ladies bible study group**, Dec. 9, 6 p.m. Men are welcome to attend. Speaker: Donna & Sylvester Johnson, both of whom are licensed clinical Christian Counselors with the National Christian Counselors Association. What question would you like to ask? Write it down and submit it and it will be addressed. Call the office at 318.746.3495 or sign up online to attend this informative session on marriage.

■ First Baptist Church, Mandeville: **A Mandeville Christmas**, Dec. 11-13, 6-8 p.m. This is our gift to the community. Pastor: Ken Schroeder.

■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **"No Greater Love" Christmas Musical**, Dec. 12-13, 6:00 p.m. Dec. 12 and 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Dec. 13. Tickets can be gotten during the week at the church office by calling 318.442.0754, by emailing Jacey@pbcmistry.com or by going to the church's website at www.pbcmistry.com. Pastor: Philip Robertson.

■ First Baptist Church, DeRidder: **'It's Christmas Again' living Christmas tree**, Dec. 12-13, 5 p.m. Dec. 12 and 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 13. Tickets are required for the 5 p.m. presentation. Pastor: Lindsey Burns.

■ First Baptist Church, Vidalia: **Christmas begins with Christ**, Dec. 13, 6 p.m. This will be a night of celebration which includes worship with candlelight service, special music and congregational singing. Pastor: Bill McCullin.

■ First Baptist Church, Haynesville: **Sanctuary Choir Christmas Musical**, Dec. 13, 6 p.m. Pastor: Shelby Cowling.

■ First Baptist Church, Baker: **'That's Where the Story Begins' Christmas musical**, Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m. Cost: free and a nursery will be provided. Pastor: Jay Avance.

■ First Baptist Church, Tioga: The children will present **'A Tree Lot Christmas'**, Dec. 16, 6 p.m. and the adult choir will present **'O Holy Night'**, Dec. 20, 10 a.m. Pastor: Tim Hisaw.

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Scripture Crypto

By CHERYL VAUGHN
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The Scripture Crypto is a Bible verse in which one letter has been substituted for another, thus encoding the verse. To find out what the verse is, you must determine what each letter is a substitute for. An "a," for example, may stand for a "t" in this week's issue of the ScriptureCrypto. Next week, "a" could stand for a "d." Each week, each letter is different. Solve by trial and error. The answer will be given next week. Note: All numerals, such as those in the scripture reference after the verse, are spelled out.

obi pxbi wtrp qxopj, obi btj wtrp copkxbjd, obi jrbp

rbjt jqx atpi wtrp cti; stp qx md cpoumtrd obi

kxpumsra, datf jt obcxp, obi ts cpxoij gmbibxdd, obi

pxyxbjxjq qmk ts jqx xnma.

ztxa jft:jqmpjxxb

Clues:
P = R; O = A

Answer to November 19 Scripture Crypto:
Romans eight: eighteen

Fund set up at Whitney Bank to help Slidell's Bayou Baptist Church

SLIDELL – A fund has been set up to help Bayou Baptist Church in Slidell with rebuilding costs following a fire on Oct. 22.

According to Pastor Frank Treme, the fire which he believes to have been arson caused extensive damage to all of the buildings on the church grounds.

The fire destroyed a part of the building that houses classrooms, a nursery and the kitchen.

While the sanctuary did not burn to the ground, the interior sustained a

significant amount of damage from the smoke and water.

"We have brought in the adjustors and engineers and it looks as if none of the buildings can be saved," Treme told the *Message*. "We are going to demolish all of the buildings and rebuild back again on this spot."

"We did it once with God's provision and we will do it again because we are faithful to Him," said Treme.

"Right now we are proceeding slowly to see what the cost will be for the demolition and the rebuilding,"

Treme continued. "We are a small congregation so to help with some of those costs not taken care of by insurance an account has been set up at Whitney Bank and anyone who would like to donate to our rebuilding efforts can go to any branch in the state and say this donation is for Bayou Baptist Church."

Whitney Bank has branches conveniently located across the Gulf South. In Louisiana there are 110 locations with most of them located south of Alexandria.

Meanwhile, the congregation is holding worship services temporarily in a building about four miles from the church on Robert Boulevard in Slidell.

This is the second time in 10 years the church is going to rebuild a new sanctuary. After Hurricane Katrina heavily damaged its sanctuary, volunteers from throughout the US came to help in the effort.

But just like before, Treme said his congregation of 50 will come together and rise to the occasion.

