

Horn: 'Humbled and blown away' by positive response to 'The Pledge'

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – Enthusiastic. Burdened. Inspired. Confident.

That was the mood inside a room of more than 20 pastors from Louisiana Baptist congregations of all sizes and locations during a recent meeting in which they sought to reignite a passion for the Cooperative Program and cooperative missions through an initiative called "The Pledge."

"I need to be challenged," said First Lafayette Pastor and current LBC President Steve Horn. "I need to be challenged in every area of my life. If not challenged to give, we always fall back to status quo."

"We believe we can do more together than we can do by

ourselves," Horn told the May 14 meeting of 20 pastors. "And we believe in the methodology of our cooperative endeavors and our Cooperative program. It has served us well and will serve us well in the future."

First announced during the Louisiana Baptist Executive Board meeting on May 5, The Pledge is a plan to challenge churches giving less than 3 percent to the Cooperative Program to move to 5 percent; churches giving between 3 and 8 percent are encouraged to increase by 2 percent; and churches giving between 8 and 9.9 percent to go to 10 percent. Churches who already give 10 percent in their Cooperative Program gifts will be thanked and encouraged to prayerfully give something more; that could be increasing

by 1 percent or just reaffirming a commitment to continue giving.

The meeting, held in the Louisiana Baptist Building in Alexandria, was the first Horn and others on his leadership team plan to attend throughout the next six months as they visit, mostly through one-to-one meetings, with pastors to encourage them to say yes to The Pledge. Among the pastors who have agreed to serve on the leadership team are former LBC Presidents Waylon Bailey of First Covington and Philip Robertson of Philadelphia Baptist in Deville. Eddie Wren, pastor of First Rayville and current president of the Pastor's Conference, Lonnie Gothrup of Houston River in Sulphur, and Aaron Burgner, pastor of Summer Grove Baptist Church in Shreveport along with first vice-president Lonnie Tucker, pastor of Still Water Baptist Church in Hammond, and second vice-president Joe Senn, pastor of Crockett Point Baptist Church



Brian Blackwell photo

LBC President Steve Horn, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lafayette, held a meeting of captains of The Pledge initiative at the Louisiana Baptist Building on May 14. Announced during the LBC Executive Board meeting last week, the Pledge supports Louisiana Baptists Advance Plan which increases the percentages forwarded to SBC missions and ministries as churches increase their Cooperative Program gifts.

in Crowville.

The eight pastors on the leadership team have agreed to accept The Pledge and secure five additional Louisiana Baptist pastors, bringing the total to 40 captains. Those 40 are then asked to enlist three recruiters. Each recruiter then enlists one partner, bringing the total to 288.

The goal is for the 40 captains to have recruited three recruiters by July 1. The next goal is for those 120 recruiters to each enlist one partner by Aug. 15.

Horn is hoping and believes the nearly 300 members of The Pledge team will lead their churches to accept The Pledge by the time the 2015 LBC Annual Meeting convenes at First Baptist Church in Bossier City in November.

Already, other captains have indicated they have recruited fellow pastors to serve on the Pledge team.

Jessie Charpentier, pastor of Jenkins Memorial Baptist Church in St. Martinville, said he plans to begin recruiting soon. He is confident the Cooperative Program is the best way for all churches to support missions in the state and beyond.

"When you see the genius of this thing, it blows you away," Charpentier said. "This is the way to do it."

Chad Gilbert, pastor of Edgewater Baptist Church in New

See PLEDGE on 3

CLECO
SHAREHOLDERS:
Give stock to
support your
church or other
ministry and avoid
capital gains taxes.

For more information go to
<http://www.lbfinfo.org/news/>
or call the Louisiana Baptist Foundation.

Louisiana Baptist
FOUNDATION
318-445-4495
Toll Free 1-877-523-4636
1250 MacArthur Drive
Alexandria, LA 71303

Affordable Beachside Vacation Condos
Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, Al.
Rent direct from Christian family
LOWEST PRICES ON THE BEACH!
www.gulfshorescondos.com
Call: 205.752.1231
205.556.0368 • 251.752.2366



Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

479-381-1170, sam@evangelistsammoore.com

Sam Moore is a vocational evangelist. He has the gift of an evangelist and the heart of a pastor. He is available for Revivals, Crusades, Harvest Days and Witness Training. Now scheduling for 2015.

www.evangelistsammoore.com

[LOUISIANA]
BAPTIST MESSAGE

Will Hall, Editor

STAFF

Philip Timothy
Managing Editor

Rhonda Havens
Advertising Director

Brian Blackwell
Staff Writer

JoAnne Timothy
Office Manager

Nikki Mayer
Marketing Director

Board of Trustees:

Patsy Barber, Craig Beeman, Jack Bell, William B. Blanton,
Mike Canady, Sarah Clancy, Tim Hisaw, Bill Inman, Gary Myers,
Jimmy Watson, Betty White.



ADVERTISING

Display [boxed] and classified [words only] advertising must be in writing, and may be submitted by email, U.S. mail or fax.

To the best of our knowledge, all ads in the [Louisiana] Baptist Message represent legitimate companies and offerings. However, one should always exercise normal business caution in responding to ads.

For all your advertising needs contact Rhonda Havens at the Message at 800.376.7728.

The [Louisiana] Baptist Message partners with:



© Copyright 2015 Baptist Message. All rights reserved

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Individual: \$14/year
Group rates available
Call the
[Louisiana] Baptist Message
at 800-376-7728 or 318-442-7728
Fax: 318-445-8328
editor@baptistmessage.com
PO Box 311
Alexandria LA 71309
www.baptistmessage.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Two weeks before change is desired, send new address (with zip code and street address) and mailing label from this copy of the [Louisiana] Baptist Message. Periodicals Postage paid in Alexandria, Louisiana, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Baptist Message, 1250 MacArthur Drive, PO Box 311, Alexandria LA 71309-0311

(USPS 042-860) (ISSN 0740-2104)

Published biweekly Thursdays by the [Louisiana] Baptist Message, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana 71303.

Volume 130 June 4, 2015 Number 12