

“Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his[a]; we are his people ...”

— Psalm 100:3 (NIV)

M BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

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May 18, 2017

Competitors excel at State Bible Drill

BY HOLLY JO LINZAY
Regional Reporter

PINEVILLE – Imagine if you only had just one month to live. Would you spend the time to please yourself or make a lasting impact after you have gone?

Maddi Stennett, a 17-year-old junior from First Baptist Church, Covington, posed the question in her speech during the State Youth & High School Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament April 29 at First Baptist Church, Pineville.

Stennett, who placed first in the 11th-grade competition, received a \$4,500 annual college scholarship. Although it was her first year to compete in the tournament, Stennett said the experience has impacted her life by inspiring her to share her faith in Christ more openly.

“I want to share my faith with an urgency now,” Stennett said, adding that the months of preparation for the tournament made her grow spiritually.

“It made me think in a way

See **BIBLE DRILL** on 5



Doug Collier photo

This elderly woman prays feverently, May 1, at the Real Hope Crusade, which was sponsored by the North Central Baptist Association. The four-day crusade drew more than 700 people each night and saw 25 people make a first time profession of faith, 35 rededications and two others surrender to vocational ministry.

‘Focused’ prayer brings ‘real hope’ to NCBA Crusade

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

JONESBORO – Organizers of the North Central Baptist Association crusade are citing focused prayer gatherings as a key factor for nearly 60 people making spiritual decisions.

Held April 30-May 3 at Jonesboro-Hodge High School and Winnfield Middle School, the Real Hope Crusade drew around 700 people each night. By the end of the four-day revival, 25 people made a first-time



Doug Collier photo

Well-known evangelist Bill Britt ignited the crowd with his fiery message at the Real Hope Crusade sponsored by the North Central Baptist Association, April 30-May 3.

public profession of faith in Jesus, another 35 recommitted their lives to Christ and two others surrendered to ministry.

Leading up to the crusade, churches in the

See **CRUSADE** on 3

Motorcycle legend ‘Panhead’ Billy professes F.A.I.T.H. in Christ

BY WILL HALL
Message Editor



Seventy-year-old motorcycle riding legend “Panhead” Billy Burrows gave his life to Christ in the witness of F.A.I.T.H. RIDERS recently at a ‘Hog’ rally in Alexandria.

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM)— “Panhead” Billy Burrows is known as a nomadic adventurer, some might call a highway and byway gypsy, credited with riding more than a million miles since

1976 while living on the road on his famous piecemealed “Hog.”

But now friends and admirers can call the nearly 70-year-old motor-

cycle riding legend a child of God, too, according to some F.A.I.T.H. RIDERS who had providential

encounters with him, including one on the day Burrows had a divine encounter with Christ.

DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

F.A.I.T.H. RIDERS is a Southern Baptist motorcycle ministry, with a chapter affiliated

See **PANHEAD** on 2

Philadelphia Baptist Church
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Name: Panhead Billy
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Is this your first visit to PBC? YES NO
Do you regularly attend church? YES NO
If so, where? _____ Age Group (circle one)
Child Teen Adult

I learned about this event from:
 I prayed and asked Jesus to save me. *Youse Sr.*
 I would like to know more about Philadelphia Baptist Church.

Thanks for being our guest!

Panhead from page one

with Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, and members also at the Horseshoe Drive campus in Alexandria.

On April 6, 7 and 8 (Thursday through Saturday), an estimated 2,000 bikers from around the country descended on Renegade Harley Davidson in Alexandria for a Hog Rally and the local F.A.I.T.H RIDERS were there, offering an opportunity to win a daily drawing of \$100 to anyone who sat down and listened to a three-minute testimony about Christ.

"That's the way we get people to visit our tent," Jesse Littleton, Jr., told the

Baptist Message.

But it was in the dealership restroom Saturday morning that Littleton met "Panhead" Billy.

"He was in there washing up," Littleton said.

Outside, just minutes later he learned that Burrows had crashed his bike the night before when a driver ran him off the road on a round-about in town known as the South Circle.

"I was admiring his bike which is just bungee-corded together," Littleton recalled about the iconic bike.

The famous ride is a bare-bones combination of a 1960 transmission and pan-

head engine, a '93 Springer front end with a disk brake, a 15-inch rear tire (actually a car tire) and a '48-'53 wishbone frame with dual four-gallon tanks.

As Littleton was standing there, Burrows mentioned the Friday night accident. "He said what hurt the most was the driver didn't even ask if he was O.K."

"We tried to get him to go to the doctor," Littleton said, but Burrows insisted he was "all right."

Then Littleton felt compelled to check on Burrows' spiritual health.

"I asked him, 'If you had been killed last night, where you would be spending eternity?'"

To Littleton's surprise, Burrows said, "In Heaven."

"I asked him how he could know that, and he said, 'Because I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior!'"

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

Later, Jesse Littleton, Jr., found out his father had

shared about Christ with Burrows Friday morning in the F.A.I.T.H. Rider tent.

"Saturday night I was going through the cards looking at the salvation decisions and 'Panhead' Billy's name was on a card and Daddy was the one who had shared about Christ with him," the younger Littleton beamed.

Jesse Littleton, Sr., who also serves at Philadelphia Baptist Church, Horseshoe Drive, said he viewed Burrows as just a man who needed Christ.

"To look at him he was just an old biker," Littleton observed. "I asked him where he was from and he said 'No particular place.'"

"He said, 'All I do is travel. My motorcycle is my home,'" Littleton recalled. "Very nice guy -- but nice people don't go to Heaven. Christians go to Heaven."

"I asked him a F.A.I.T.H. question, and he couldn't give a faith answer," Littleton continued, "so I shared F.A.I.T.H. with him and he prayed to receive Christ."

Afterward, Burrows offered sincere appreciation for Littleton's ministry to him, Littleton said. "He

thanked me for being there that day [Friday] and for sharing Christ with him, and he told me he didn't think it was an accident how we met."

"He told me, 'You never know when you might leave this world,'" Littleton added.

Later that night Burrows was in the accident on South Circle.

POST SCRIPT

Jesse, Jr. said his group has been trying to reach out to "Panhead" Billy to help disciple him, but so far have only been able to track the high-mileage traveler after-the-fact in Mississippi and Oklahoma and places in between (via social media posts by others).

In the meantime, the younger Littleton said the group has been busy.

During the three-day evangelism outreach the team spoke with 145 bikers, with 35 making salvation decisions. Already, after some basic discipleship, five have been baptized at the Horseshoe Drive campus.

Victoria Aycock as well as Bridget Lowery and her fourth grade daughter Chelsie Lowery are three of those new believers.

But Littleton used the example of Victoria's brother, a dealership employee whose life was transformed under the ministry team's tent, to sum up the importance of intentional outreach efforts like the one at the Hog Rally.

"We baptized Shawn Aycock last Sunday," he said. "He works at Renegade's and he's in a local bike club here. If he goes on and lives like he's supposed to live, he can -- by himself, that one -- go on to impact many in this area."

That impact already has begun.

Aycock's wife Jordan was baptized one week later.



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Crusade from page one

association participated in eight prayer rallies that totaled a combined attendance of around 1,000 at various locations in Jackson and Winn parishes. Many of the association's 54 churches took part in one of the prayer gatherings that were held from the summer of 2016 until just before the crusade began.

Director of missions Marty Black said prayer was a solid foundation for a mighty movement of the God throughout the four-day crusade.

"What I have seen these past few months is churches willing to come together to pray," Black said. "Just watching their desire to do so and then to see barriers come down and spiritual decisions made during those prayer rallies made me so excited about the crusade and how God could move in our churches."

The revival is one of several Harvest events planned in 2017. Harvest officially launched Louisiana Baptists' campaign to "pray for every home and share Christ with every person" in Louisiana.

Harvest events that have taken place this year include Student Night Jan. 24 at the Louisiana Baptists Evangelism Conference at Temple Baptist Church in Ruston and a Hope, Love and Freedom crusade April 3-5 at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

Bill Britt, an evangelist and native of Haughton, preached each night and ODE, a Christian band from Quitman Baptist Church, led the music. Britt's messages included exploration of how religion hinders someone from knowing Jesus, how God can melt a hard heart and the power of the cross.

Even before he preached

his first message of the crusade, Britt said he could feel a mighty movement of the Holy Spirit inside the gymnasium at Jonesboro-Hodge High School.

"Because of their intentional prayer before the crusade, people came expecting God to move," Britt said. "A big percentage of success of a crusade is preparation before the crusade even happens, and prayer is a major factor in that preparation."

Like other crusades where God moved mightily, Britt believes prayer and fasting preceding the event makes a difference such as the revival he preached at Crockett Point Baptist Church in Crowville in 2015. There, a revival which was originally scheduled for four days was extended three times and lasted for two weeks.

"What happened at Crockett Point, at this week's crusade or at any other location where we saw God move, there have been prayer meetings and a time of fasting preceding it," Britt said. "When a pastor tells me his church has fasted and prayed before a crusade, I get excited. I know God is about to do something really special."

SEEDS PLANTED

Now the crusade has ended, organizers are following up with those who made decisions. Black believes seeds were sown and more decisions will follow in the months ahead.

"Moving forward we will see an impact on our communities," Black said. "From seeing how we can come together to pray for a crusade, the community hopefully saw the love our churches share for one another and for our



Doug Collier photo

A father holds his son tightly and responds to the call by Evangelist Bill Britt during the Real Hope Crusade sponsored by the North Central Baptist Association.

community. They also saw how everyone worked so well together. This effort has laid the ground work for the movement to continue."

Donald Rudd, pastor of Quitman Baptist Church, expects God to use the crusade to impact the community for

many months to come. He also praised Black and area churches for pulling off an event of this magnitude.

"It was (Black's) vision and leadership, but it was the cooperative effort of all the churches to come along side and embrace all God was

and is doing in our area," Rudd said. "The months of prayer for Bill Britt, ODE, the church and those lost and wandering souls have made the difference. Praise God for His mighty power. We will see more fruit come from this crusade."

On the Road ... with Dr. Rick Brewer, President LOUISIANA COLLEGE



MAY

- 2 - FBC Bossier, "Man Church"
- 4 - Nat'l Day of Prayer @ Alexandria Mall
- 6 - LC Commencement
- 7 - FBC Haughton
- 17 - University Academy Commencement
- 20 - Christian Home Educators Fellowship, Baton Rouge
- 25 - Sr. Adults, Calvary BC, Alexandria
- 28 - Worship Leader, Calvary BC, Alexandria

JUNE

- 11 - Journey Church, Pineville
- 18 - Outreach Church, Kirbyville, Texas

JULY

- 2 - FBC Lake Charles
- 9 - Calvary BC Alexandria
- 15 & 16 - FBC Covington
- 18 - FBC Covington
Concert for Sr. Adults
- 23 - Fairview BC Coshatta
- 30 - FBC Winnfield

SEPTEMBER

- 19 - Parkview BC, Monroe
Sr. Adults "Joy Group"

OCTOBER

- 1 - Philadelphia BC, Sr. Adults Day
- 17 - Temple BC, Sr. Adults Luncheon

DECEMBER

- 7 - Emmanuel BC, Shreveport,
N'west Louisiana Baptist
Associational Meeting



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Doug Collier photo

Evangelist Bill Britt gives the invitation during the NCBA Real Hope Crusade May 1 at Jonesboro High School. Twenty-five people made a first time profession of faith, 35 rededications and two others surrender to the ministry.

There's no obstacle too big for God says speaker

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Baptist Message

WOODWORTH – Jared Greer, a former contestant on the TV show American Ninja Warrior, had just breezed through the obstacle course at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center.

He stopped and posed a question to the crowd, the largest to ever attend an event at the center, “Have you overcome the ultimate obstacle in life?”

“Today is all about overcoming obstacles,” Greer told more than 600 children and adults at Missions Jamboree, also known as M-JAM, Saturday, May 6.

“You can overcome any obstacle with Jesus. He overcame the biggest obstacle – death,” he continued. “Do you believe Jesus to forgive you? Have you asked Him to do that?”

In the end, a dozen chil-

dren indicated their desire to follow Christ.

Since May 2016, Greer has traveled the country telling his story about how God has allowed him to use his skills displayed on the TV show to share the Gospel. He told the kids, first through sixth graders, Saturday that when he did not complete the obstacle course on the show in 2014, he felt crushed and defeated.

“I was so frustrated and God whispered to me what do you do when you fall down?” he said. “You get back up.”

In 2015, Greer was allowed a second chance at completing the course. While he did not finish again, Greer told the M-JAM crowd he learned God had other purposes for his life beyond American Ninja Warrior.

“Sometimes all we have is our best,” he said. “What’s your gift? What can you use



Doug Collier photo

Jared Greer, a former contestant on the TV show American Ninja Warrior, runs an obstacle course at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center during the recent Missions Jamboree while participants watch. A record crowd of 610 children and adults attended this year's event.

to tell people about Jesus?”

The day-long M-JAM featured Louisiana and international missionaries and was held at two locations, allowing for youngsters and

their leaders to attend M-JAM closest to where they live.

The event also took place March 18 at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, which featured musician Jeff Slaughter. Slaughter has led worship for kids and has written songs for LifeWay Christian Resources Vacation Bible School curriculum, including the hit “We Believe” from 2005’s Ramblin’ Road Trip VBS curriculum.

The conference theme

was “My Best Yes!,” based on 1 Corinthians 9:22-23.

“More than anything else, we wanted this entire event to glorify God,” said Jess Archer, children/youth mission education strategist for Louisiana Baptists. “We felt it was vitally important to teach children about how they can have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ and also teach them about missions.”

Children attending

See **M-JAM** on 15

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Joe & Denise Yeakley

Bible Drill from page one

that I don't normally think. I think, 'Is my life lining up to what I'm telling people?' I can't tell people about Jesus, without living for Him," she added.

"One month to live" was one of 15 different topics participants in the Speakers' Tournament could select to prepare a 4 to 6 minute speech. About 360 children and youth competed in the annual State Bible Drill, which was held at three different sites including Temple Baptist Church, Ruston, FBC Covington and FBC Pineville.

The participants in the Bible drills and Speakers' Tournaments go through a three-step process which begins in the church before moving on to the district level and then finally advancing to the state level.

The Bible Drill competition is part of a discipleship program designed to assist youth in developing useful skills and knowledge of the Bible.

During the tournament, youth compete in Bible Drills that test their knowledge in the books of the Bible, scripture references, different approaches to the plan of salvation and scripture references on basic beliefs and doctrinal convictions.

Carson Porter, a senior, has competed for the last nine years in the Bible Drill tournament. The experience has helped shape his life, Porter said.

"At first, I competed because my mom made me. Then I enjoyed winning the medals. But then, I didn't care about competing or the gold medals," Porter said. "I started to realize it was about knowing scripture and being prepared. I know key verses in the Bible, and I know them instantly. It's changed my life.

"I'm always ready to share about Jesus," Porter said, adding he was able to implement his training on a recent mission trip to Costa Rica.

Gina Nielsen, a 14-year-old from Dunn Baptist Church, echoed his sentiments. "Hiding His word in your heart will help you live for Christ. And you'll have it there in your heart when you need it, even later in life," Nielsen said.

Ninth-grader Alisa Richardson, from First Baptist Church, Montgomery, has

competed in the Bible Drill tournament for the last three years. She said memorizing scriptures and key verses has intensified her faith.

"It's enabled me to apply God's word to real life. In school, you are always getting judged. But I'll just think about Luke 6:37, and it brings me happiness," Richardson added.

FBC DeRidder Bible Drill coach Janet Reichley practices with her youth group once a week. "I believe the Bible drill preparations can give them the foundation they will need for the rest of their lives."

Pineville's Jessica Johnson agreed, and said she has seen the difference the Bible Drill tournaments have made in her children's lives.

"The Scripture gets into their hearts and nourishes their souls. There is nothing better for children to read and learn than the word of God. And the Bible Drill tournament is just a big blessing," she said.

In the 12th Grade Speakers' Tournament, Steven Peacock, FBC Covington, was chosen to represent Louisiana Baptist at the National Youth Bible Drill Tournament in Georgia.

Other winners for the Youth Bible Drill include:

7th Grade Bible Drill - There were six people recognized as winners in two 7th grade groups: Milain Marcel - Ascension, Gonzales; Kellan Hall - Beulah, Oak Grove; Cameron Lindsay - Woodlawn, Baton Rouge; Thomas Garbarino - FBC, Lafayette; Emily Nevels - FBC, Oak Grove; and Shane Rowe - FBC, Quitman.

8th Grade Bible Drill - There were four people recognized as winners in three 8th grade groups: Hannah James - Fellowship, Greenwell Springs; Josh Pugh - Ascension, Gonzales; Ellis Hathaway - FBC, Covington; Mollie Grubbs - Grace Memorial, Slidell.

9th Grade Bible Drill - The first and second place winners of each of the two 9th grade Bible Drill groups were: Florence Curaza - FBC, Quitman; Abby Pruitt - Fellowship, Greenwell Springs; Thomas Davis - Woodlawn, Baton Rouge; Anna Starnes - FBC, Gonzales.

9th Grade Bible Drill- A "Drill-Off" was held, composed of 11 of the 9th grade participants with the highest overall scores to determine the overall winner. The Drill-Off participants were: Thomas Davis - Woodlawn, Baton Rouge; Florence Curaza - FBC, Quitman; Anna Starnes - FBC, Gonzales; Abby Pruitt - Fellowship, Greenwell Springs; Jinny Schober - Heritage,



These youngsters were among 360 children and youth who competed in the annual State Bible Drill in late April, which was held at three different sites including Temple Baptist Church, Ruston, FBC Covington and FBC Pineville. The participants in the Bible drills and Speakers' Tournaments go through a three-step process which begins in the church before moving on to the district level and then advancing to the finals.

Shreveport; Tristen Bueche - Amite, Denham Springs; Alisa Richardson - FBC, Montgomery; Ethan Groom - FBC, Slidell; Hayden Alsept - Fellowship, Greenwell Springs; Liliana Talazac - FBC, Covington; Logan Davis - Woodlawn, Baton Rouge.

9th Grade Drill Off Winner - Abby Pruitt - Fellowship, Greenwell Springs was chosen to represent Louisiana Baptist at the National Youth Bible Drill Tournament.

10th Grade Bible Drill- The overall winner of the 10th grade Bible Drill groups was Hannah Copeland - FBC, Gonzales.

11th Grade Bible Drill- The three 11th grade winners with the highest overall scores, were awarded scholarships to Louisiana College. They were:

First Place: Joshua Wilhem - FBC, Gonzales received a \$4,500.00/year scholarship.

Second Place: Hunter Thomas -

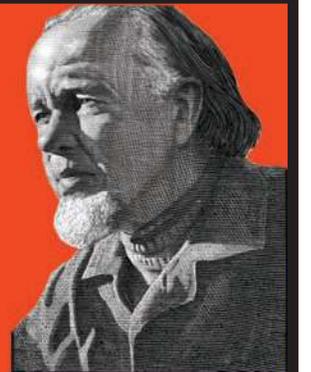
Dunn, Dunn received a \$3,500.00/year scholarship.

Third Place: Haley Thiels - Kingsville, Pineville received a \$2,500.00/year scholarship

12th Grade High School Bible Drill - The overall winner of the 12th grade was Abby Ainsworth - FBC, Kilbourne

12th Grade National Bible Drill - The overall winner of the 12th grade was Kendra Wilson - FBC, Lafayette

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Report: Investments increase, Bell reception highlight LBF meeting

BY JERY LOVE

LBF Foundation

ALEXANDRIA – Positive economic news, a significant increase in assets, continued progress in a software upgrade and a reception for retiring LBF controller Barbara Bell highlighted the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees meeting April 25.

INVESTMENT UPDATES

E.L. Paulk, trustee from Deville, chaired the morning meeting of the investment committee and had Lee Morris, Investment Consultant with Graystone, give an update on the performance of the LBF portfolio

According to Morris, active management is beginning to see traction versus passive management following the 2016 election and thus far in 2017. The overall portfolios are doing well. The expectation is domestic equities along

with developed international equity will continue to perform well through the remainder of the year.

Fixed income will continue to present a challenge in the current rate environment with this segment of the portfolio performing in line with expectations. The Federal Reserve has indicated it may raise rates two or three times by year end.

Alternatives allocation, which includes smaller investment allocations in preferred stock, convertible securities and other types of securities, is performing well and adding value at both the performance and diversification level.

Fielding questions from the board, Morris was asked about earlier signs of recession, he said, “those signs have been pushed down. Economic indicators at this time are not pointing to recession before the latter part of 2018.”

The investment returns for the major components of the LBF portfolio for the



Submitted photo

Barbara Bell (center) is flanked by Kim Deville (left) and Tami Willis at a retirement reception April 25 following the quarterly board meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation. Bell is retiring at the end of June after serving as the LBF's controller for 27 years.

first quarter of 2017 were as follows:

- Short Term Fund: 0.70% Annualized Yield
- Group Investment Fund, comprised of various market sectors: 3.92% total return.

-- Diversified Income Fund, conservative income-oriented fund: 1.21% total return.

In reviewing the Foundation's financial positions for the first quarter of 2017,

Barbara Bell, CPA and LBF controller, reported assets under management were \$169,764,480. This is an increase of approximately 4.6 million dollars in the first 3 months of the year.

She noted much of this change came as a result of positive market movement. Jerry Love, director of planned giving, reported new contributions of approximately \$789,000 reflected in the net increase of the assets.

The committee agreed with Morris' recommendations to:

- Increase the allocation to passive in the Domestic Equity portfolio;
- Terminate Abbey Capital Managed Futures and to add those funds to International Equity allocation;
- Move up to \$1 million from Infrastructure to International or Domestic Equity.

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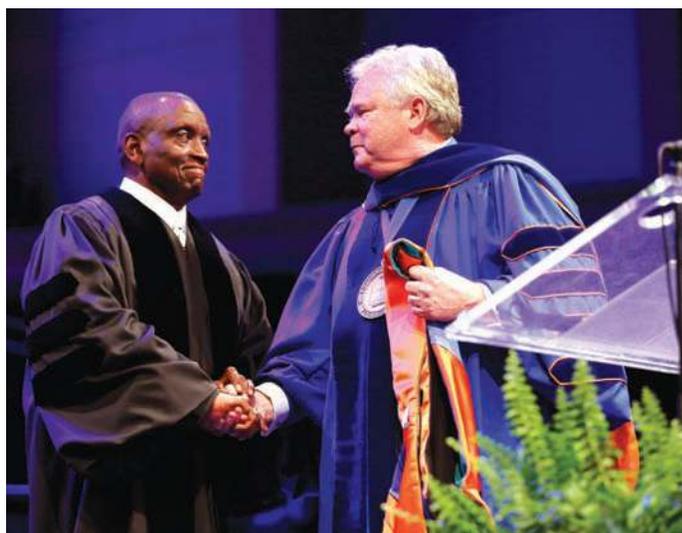
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A student's mortarboard declares her attitude of perseverance to become a graduate of Louisiana College.



Pineville Mayor Clarence Fields (left) shakes hands with Louisiana College President Rick Brewer during the school's commencement.



Honors graduate Caitlin Sellars says her LC experience showed her what the grace of God looks like.

LC awards degrees, honorary doctorate

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA – Louisiana College bestowed degrees to 114 graduates and awarded Pineville Mayor Clarence Fields an honorary doctorate for public administration during its commencement May 6 at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria.

The school gave 33 students degrees with honors, seven as cum laude with a 3.5 GPA, 15 as magna cum laude with a 3.7 GPA, seven as summa cum laude with a 3.9 GPA, and four graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

“I can say with confidence that these young people are the leaders of the 21st Century,” noted Brewer, referring to LC’s entire Class of 2017.

Before Fields’ keynote address, Brewer read a resolution noting the mayor’s leadership, civic commitment and numerous accolades, noting the school has a wonderful relationship with the city of Pineville.

In his keynote address, Fields challenged the graduates to be servant leaders.

“In today’s world traditional leadership is about my goal, my dream, my vision, my ideas,” he said. “But servant leadership is about empowering others. And it’s about a jointly owned dream and vision and it celebrates the ideas of others. Servant leaders are more others focused than me focused.”

Fields encouraged the graduates to follow the greatest example of a servant leader – Jesus Christ.

“Living like Jesus is about giving yourself when you don’t have to,” he said. “It’s about lovingly serving not just your friends but the one who’s about to deny you, even the one who’s about to abandon you, even the one who’s about to walk out of the room to betray you.”

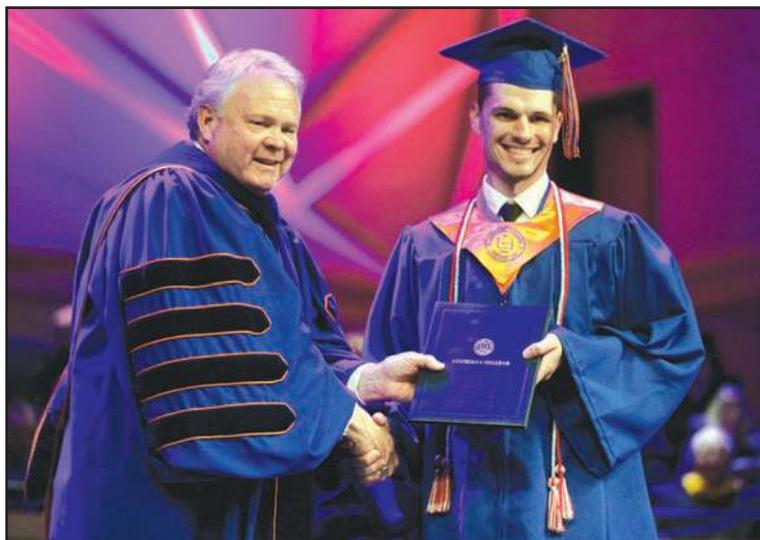
Addressing her classmates and others in the audience, graduate Caitlyn Sanders said her friends, staff and professors at LC have demonstrated the true picture of grace.

“They have been the ones to walk alongside me and weep with me, to encourage me and to point me back to the grace that flows from the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” she said. “They have also been the ones to challenge me to pursue academic excellence and opportunities that I never thought were possible.”



Doug Collier photos

(Top photo) During the May 6 commencement, Louisiana College officials awarded degrees to 114 graduates. (Right photo) A member of the Voices singing group raises his hands in praise during graduation ceremonies at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria. (Bottom photo) LC President Rick Brewer presents a happy graduate with his diploma.



Reports, messages at Executive Board meeting are hopeful, encouraging

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH – With its first enrollment increase in five years, Louisiana College is optimistic it may reach its goal of a 1,500-strong student body by 2020, school President Rick Brewer told Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board members, May 3.

“The bleeding has stopped,” Brewer said during the board’s spring meeting. “Finally we had our first uptick.”

The school experienced a 14.5 percent year-to-year increase in freshmen and transfer student enrollment, enrolling 255 new freshmen and 61 transfer students in 2016. The college’s new Certificate in Pastoral Ministry and Missiology program also enrolled 21 new students, but they are not reflected in the 14.5 percent increase. Overall headcount was up 1.5 percent from 1,109 to 1,126, and dormitory occupancy is up by 6.5 percent.

Brewer also announced that early signs indicate enrollment will be even better this year.

“It looks promising moving forward,” he said, particularly with new scholarships, infrastructure improvements and strategic marketing strategies.

Historic precedent witnessed at meeting; progress being made toward 2020 goal

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH – Although no formal report was given on headway made toward the goals outlined in the Report of the President’s 2020 Commission, approved by Louisiana Baptists in 2013, observers did comment on one sign of progress that was apparent during the Executive Board reports, but not formally noted from the floor.

Louisiana Baptists Church Planting Director James Jenkins told the *Baptist Message* that for the first time three black committee chairmen gave reports to the Executive Board: Jeffery Friend, pastor of Suburban Baptist Church in New Orleans, delivered the Missions Support Committee report; Lee Wesley, pastor of Community Bible Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, gave a report from the Convention’s Committee on Nominations; and George Guillory, pastor of Glen Oaks Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, shared the Properties Committee report.

Moreover, he beamed at how natural this historic precedence took place, without fan-

fare or hint of tokenism, just the result of an intentional focus on reaching every people group.

“This is an exciting and historic time because it shows the Louisiana Baptist Convention is moving into the future. It represents who we are becoming as a state,” Jenkins said. “In keeping with our population growth and trends we are trying to move toward including more multi-ethnic churches as part of our Convention.”

The final report of the 2020 Commission concluded there were two avenues Louisiana Baptist must concentrate on in the future – reaching the next generation and reaching every people group. Since the final report, the People Group Engagement Standing Committee has worked with the LBC Executive Director to guide the work of the convention toward reaching every people group.

One of three mandates of this committee is to create avenues for input and involvement in Louisiana Baptist life by non-Anglo leaders and congregations, including par-

See PRECEDENT on 12

He said more incoming freshmen and transfer students attended the “Front Of The Line” event – designed to better acclimate students to campus life – this spring than last year, with attendance of 169, compared to 141 in 2016.

“I’m hopeful,” Brewer said. “We are working hard. We are out there speaking at places. We are out there using every strategy we can afford.”

Brewer encouraged Executive Board members to share with high school students at their respective churches about the college’s scholarship opportunities, including a number of new ones designed to better equip young people to develop a Christian worldview. A complete list is available on lacollege.edu with amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$8,500 annually, and some can be combined.

“We have made this the most affordable Baptist education in America,” Brewer

said. “We’re trying to remove any excuses for why your kids wouldn’t come there. We plan to grow.”

OTHER ENTITY REPORTS

In his report, Louisiana Baptist Foundation Executive Director Wayne Taylor said the entity is celebrating its 73rd year of encouraging people to give money to Louisiana Baptist churches and entities.

Taylor said that 37 percent of regular givers would likely leave a bequest to a church or ministry in their will if they were asked, and he offered that his staff is there to help Louisiana Baptists with that

task.

“A way to express your faith is by giving,” Taylor said. “We look for opportunities to come to your church and talk to donors on how to give money to ministry.”

During his report, Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home Executive Director Perry Hancock thanked individuals and churches for making a difference in the lives of children.

This year, the Children’s Home has ministered to more than 4,000 children and families, which led to more than 100 professions of faith. Hancock shared that its foster care and adoption program has now placed more than 100 children in the homes of Louisiana Baptists.

He reminded Executive Board members that the Annual Children’s Home Sunday Offering is June 11 and asked for their support in its promotion.

“Pray for us that day,” Hancock said. “Make people aware every week through the Cooperative Program they are supporting your Children’s Home.”

For his part, *Baptist Message* Editor Will Hall provided updates on the paper’s operations and production, and, also covered key issues and developments in his work as director of the Office of Public Policy.

Hall said the paper had managed to eliminate about \$136,000 in expenses from the previous year, placing the ministry in a much better financial footing. Changes include aligning health care benefits with those of the LBC for both active and retired employees; eliminating the marketing position with those

See MEETING on 12



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Executive Board issues firm counsel to ERLC, pledges 'to pray'

BY WILL HALL
Message Editor

WOODWORTH – The Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board has forwarded a letter to the Ethics and Religious Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention acknowledging an apology from the ERLC trustee officers and Russell Moore, the embattled president of the entity, relating to the rift Moore created in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The letter is a balance of firmly stated counsel and an attempt “to look for a positive, rather than punitive ways to work with the ERLC going forward,” following a second statement issued by Moore that was more direct than his first attempt in apologizing for controversies that led to a motion, made at the 2016 LBC Annual Meeting by Clark Stewart, pastor of New Zion Baptist Church in Covington, to “study the recent actions of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission with regard to issues of concern to Louisiana Baptists.”

The letter cites Moore’s latest statement as “key in helping the Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board arrive at a proper response to the referred motion.”

BACKGROUND

Moore was a strident opponent of then-candidate Donald J. Trump, and he castigated Trump’s evangelical supporters, calling them drunks and “doctrinally vacuous” among other things; and, he even created a hierarchy of sorts to describe evangelical voters during the Republican primary campaign season, saying, “Ted Cruz is leading among the ‘Jerry Falwell’ wing, Marco Rubio (whom Moore favored) is leading in the ‘Billy Graham’ wing, and Trump is leading the ‘Jimmy Swaggart’ wing.”

But he also attacked evangelicals in general, calling Millennial Christians “far more theologically rooted” than their parents and describing the legacy of Boomer Christians as “a pseudo-Christian culture;” and, he specifically referred to the Bible belt (a region heavily populated by Southern Baptists) as perpetuating an “almost Christianity” a kind of “God-and-Country civil

religion that prizes cultural conservatism more than theological fidelity.”

Moreover, he took positions that also raised concerns among Southern Baptists:

-- Regarding same-sex marriage, which he opposes, he said he would not attend a gay wedding but that he would go to the reception (which he suggested showed “I love you” but also “I disagree with you.”).

-- He flouted the 2006 SBC Resolution on Alcohol, appointing to his leadership council two young pastors (one subsequently was removed after revelations about inappropriate relationships) who are supportive of Christians who consume alcohol.

-- He was a signer of a friend of a court brief, indicating support (in principle, not financially) for the right of a Muslim group to construct a mosque in New Jersey.

The situation grew to such proportions that the ERLC was named in Baptist Press, Southern Baptists’ official news service, as having caused “more letters, more calls, more emails ... in memory,” and two panels were formed by the SBC Executive Committee to study the way “churches are responding” to all SBC entities.

Reports indicate at least 100 congregations are withholding contributions normally given through the Cooperative Program, and that 49 congregations withdrew membership from the SBC last year—more than eight times the normal amount of such requests.

MOORE’S STATEMENTS

Moore’s first statement, “Election Year Thoughts at Christmastime,” published Dec. 19, last year, blamed the situation on “misunderstandings,” specifically citing “a handful of Christian political operatives” as the target of his harsh insult.

Referring to his statements about others during the 2016 presidential campaign as “pointed criticisms,” he said, “Pastors and friends who told me when they read my comments they thought I was criticizing anyone who voted for Donald Trump.

“I told them then,” he wrote, “and I would tell anyone now: if that’s what you heard me say, that was

not at all my intention, and I apologize.”

In his second statement, included with separate comments from ERLC trustee officers in a March 20 release titled, “Seeking Unity in the Southern Baptist Convention,” Moore broadened his apology beyond others’ “misunderstanding.”

He said he was not “intending to talk about Southern Baptists” but was meaning to target “most often prosperity gospel teachers.”

He also said he regretted his “contextless or unhelpful posts on social media,” but that he could not “go back and change time, and I cannot apologize for my underlying convictions.”

“But I can — and do — apologize for failing to distinguish between people who shouldn’t have been in the same category with those who put politics over the gospel and for using words, particularly in social media,



Brian Blackwell photo

During the spring Executive Board Meeting at Tall Timbers, Eddie Wren, board president, discusses a letter and a motion relating to Russell Moore of the SBC’s Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

See ERLC on 13



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Cameron tells audience without God selfishness will poison a marriage

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

HAUGHTON – While communication and money are common problems in marriages, Kirk Cameron believes the main problem is selfishness.

“Selfishness poisons everything,” Cameron said. “The heart of the problem in my marriage is the problem of my heart. I know without the intervention of God I will destroy the most precious relationship I have on the planet and that is my wife. I am bent toward selfishness by nature. It is only God who can cure a selfish heart.”

Cameron shared his thoughts on marriage at the Love Worth Fighting For conference Sunday, April 30, at First Baptist Church in Haughton, and at First Baptist Church in West Monroe on Saturday, April 29. In addition to Cameron’s message, speaker and singer/songwriter Warren Barfield also shared some inspirational thoughts on the subject.

Known for his role as young Mike Seaver on the ABC sitcom “Growing Pains” in the 1980s, Cameron now uses

his notoriety on the big screen to share the Gospel. He can be seen alongside evangelist Ray Comfort presenting Christ on the video series “Way of the Master” and has starred in such films as “Left Behind” and “Fireproof.”

LEARN FROM ‘FIREPROOF’

During Love Worth Fighting For, Cameron made several references to the character he portrayed, Caleb Holt, in “Fireproof.” In the film, Holt and his wife, Catherine, have a troubled marriage but in the end find restoration through Christ.

Cameron said couples can learn many tips and techniques about marriage, but such efforts will be wasted if they do not have a spiritual transformation of the heart.

“It’s baked into you and me to become selfish,” he said. “If the heart of your problem is the problem of your heart, then Dr. Ruth, Dr. Phil and Dr. Laura can’t help you. You need to pay a visit to the only qualified soul doctor in the universe and his name is Jesus Christ.”

Alluding to the character he played in the movie Fireproof, Cameron said Holt’s greatest threat to his marriage was the selfishness of his own heart. Once he realized it, Holt then recognized the need to overhaul his own life. This is what enabled him to then love his wife in a way that was genuine, true and lasting.

“I know you want a great marriage, a strong marriage,” he said. “You and I do not have the equipment it takes naturally speaking to make our marriage blossom and flourish and work. It won’t help without you coming to God

than what he wasn’t getting from his wife.

“He was overwhelmed with a sense of conviction about his own selfishness and rebellion and sin,” he said. “And he was overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude for the kindness and the mercy God was willing to show him in spite of what he deserved. And it changed him. It was the turning point in his mind and in his heart.”

For those with spouses who are just like the character Catherine, Cameron said to do like Holt and stop trying to change the other person.

“God reserves the privilege of changing your spouse for Himself,” he said. “Get your part right. If you can do that, then you can trust God to use you as a vessel through whom he will bring about change in your spouse in His time.

“It’s not about getting a new spouse,” he said. “It’s about giving your spouse a new you.”

SIN THREATENS MARRIAGES

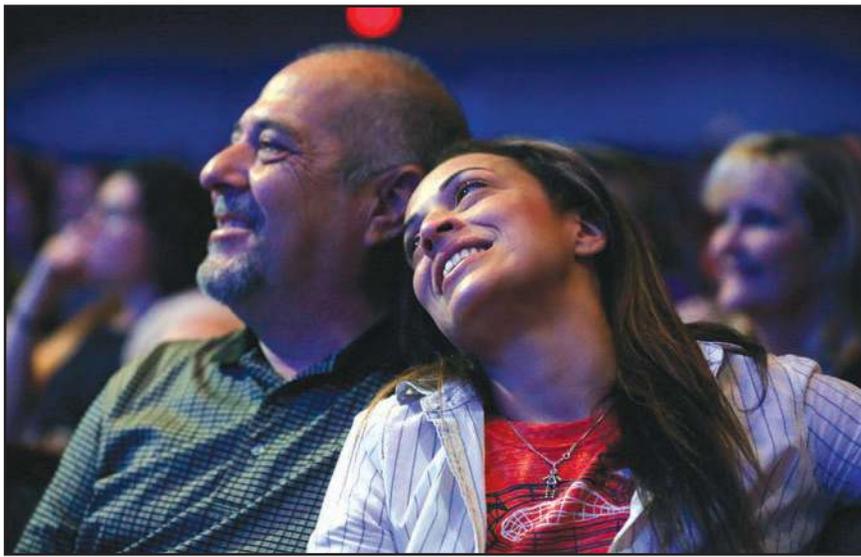
Cameron said in this fight to preserve and save one’s marriage, another particular sin threatens a fruitful marriage – pornography.

He said this sin devours one’s marriage and family, but yet can be hidden and concealed.

While many restraining devices such as an accountability partner and filter can help to a certain degree, there are ways around such safeguards. Rather, a better solution is to remove that which is the root of the problem.

He referenced in “Fireproof” a time when Holt removed his home computer, which he used to access pornographic images. After throwing the device away, Holt then placed flowers for his wife in the place where his computer once stood.

“He calls it what God calls it,” Cameron said. “He identifies it as the enemy. He calls them the parasites because they are draining the life out of him and his marriage. And he drags it to out to the street, wages war and cuts its head off like a viper. He dealt violently with it because he understood how violently it was dealing with him. He then transferred all of that desire to where it belonged, to something that was good and beautiful and true. And he replaced the altar where his lust once worshipped at the computer desk with a large bouquet of roses for his



Doug Collier photo

A couple listen to actor Kirk Cameron share about marriage at the Love Worth Fighting For Conference at First Baptist Church in Haughton. The event also featured singer/songwriter Warren Barfield, who shared some inspirational singing and thoughts with more than 1,100 in attendance at the event.

with a genuine desire to surrender to His will and His ways.”

Cameron said in “Fireproof,” Holt and his wife were under one roof but living separate lives. Once Holt began the Love Dare series of challenges designed to help save his marriage, he became frustrated during the first few days he started following the action steps. Eventually, Holt realized he first had to confront his own problem of selfishness and lay it down at the cross of Christ, coming face to face with his biggest problem.

“He could see this stark contrast between the love of God demonstrated for Him and that while he rejected God all these years, God lays down His life for him,” Cameron said. “Contrast that with the sad and lame picture of what he was showing toward his wife simply to get what he wanted from her in return. That’s not love.

“When he stopped looking down on his wife and lifted his eyes up to the cross, suddenly all of Catherine’s cruel and hurtful responses no longer mattered to him,” he said. “He was overwhelmed with something much greater



Actor Kirk Cameron mimicks the character he played in the 1980s sitcom “Growing Pains.” He shared God-centered advice about marriage during the Love Worth Fighting For Conference, April 30.

wife with a note ‘I love you more.’”

EYE OPENING

Kyle Williams, a member of First Baptist Church in Greenwood, said the conference was eye opening.

“It focused on our relationship with Christ being first,” he said. “Everything flows from that. And he reminded us that all problems start from selfish needs.”

Deanna Triplet, a member of First Baptist Church in Haynesville, said the conference was beneficial even for those like herself who have a healthy marriage.

“We personally think we have a great marriage, but like our spiritual lives there is always room for improvement and to have the knowledge and wisdom to fight for your marriage if needed,” she said.

Kristin Canterbury, a member of Salem Baptist Church in Farmerville, attended the conference at First Baptist Church in West Monroe. Canterbury said the conference was a reminder of the importance of a God-centered marriage.

“Often life gets us so busy we forget about taking care of why we fell in love and what we loved most each other,” she said. “This mini conference helped my husband and I realize we can’t lose sight of protecting our marriage and treasuring it. Our marriage is worth fighting for because no one else will.”

INTERVIEW

Dr. Rick Brewer, President, Louisiana College

April marked two years of Dr. Brewer's presidency at Louisiana College. Since his arrival, LC has resolved accreditation issues, reversed a 5-year trend in declining enrollment, retooled and added to its curricular offerings, reinvigorated its donor base, remodeled numerous campus facilities, and continues to repair its public image.

In this "State of the College" interview, Dr. Brewer shares how God has blessed LC and the team that has, under Dr. Brewer's leadership, wrought significant, positive change to the once-troubled institution.

Q: To what would you attribute the turnaround at LC?

A: The short answer is God's grace, elbow grease and a great team. As I have reached into the toolbox of my near-30 years of experience in Christian higher education, our President's Leadership Team and others have embraced and helped refine and implement our vision for the future.

Q: Was it not a leap of faith to accept the presidency of LC when it was on probation with its accrediting body?

A: Well, at first it was obedience to God. Cathy confirmed what I sensed in my heart: God was calling us to Louisiana. When that happens, the faith just seems to be there. It was a God-thing.

Q: Why do you speak in churches, schools and civic organizations?

A: My travel schedule is full because I have a sense of accountability to those who support the College through the Cooperative Program, and I want everyone to hear the good news of what God is doing.

Q: The uptick in enrollment last year reversed a 5-year downward trend. How does 2017-18 look?

A: We were elated with last fall's 14.5 percent increase in new students and transfer students. This year we see several encouraging indicators. We had 169 students at our recent "Front of the Line" freshmen enrollment day; 140 attended last year. So far, 690 students have applied, whereas we had 652 at this time last year. And 223 students have paid tuition deposits as compared to 148 last year. Our recruitment strategies are bearing fruit and the results forecast an increase in enrollment. We remain prayerful that the increased interest in LC will help us reach and surpass our new student enrollment goals for the coming year.

Q: Why is LC offering several new scholarships?

A: We are trying to dispel the common impression that LC's tuition is not affordable. Even before we launched these initiatives, our tuition was competitive locally and across the nation. We are the 4th most affordable Christian liberal arts college in the US. However, if we will reach this world for Christ, we need to reach more students. Closing the affordability gap will help do that.

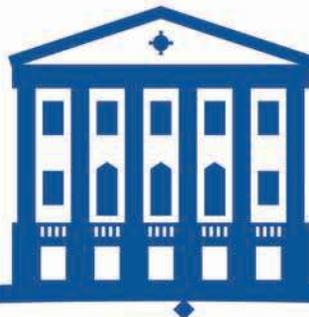


Q: What would you say are the successes thus far?

A: First, we attribute them to God and then our team. We continually hear positive comments from our alumni and other constituents. Alums who had quit giving to LC in recent years have returned. We have 125 members on our Board of Visitors. In 2016 we received \$5.5 million of support from the Cooperative Program and from private and corporate donations. We launched new curricular offerings -- a 3+2 agreement with Louisiana Tech regarding engineering and a 3+3 with Union University that leads to a PharmD degree. We've added a BA in Leadership in Missions & Ministries, Communications and Business Management. We await responses from SACSCOC regarding three proposed academic programs -- a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, a Master of Science in Social Work, and a 100 percent online RN to MSN. If the latter is approved, then we will offer additional online studies. We have underway feasibility studies for more curricular expansion that will enhance the College's mission to strengthen CENLA, the state and beyond. The College also increased its NCAA Division III sports to 18 from 13. All of these initiatives reveal and bode success. Far and away, though, our successes are the students themselves. To hear them consistently credit their professors' compassion and ongoing interest is a success. To see students leave LC and go to medical school or law school or seminary or the mission fields of the world -- those things reflect the best success. I know we have had God's blessings and experienced success when I hear testimonies from our students. In various ways they all applaud LC's academics, but the overt message is always about how God has used the College to change their lives, increased their faith, and informed their Christian walk. This is the success of Christian higher education -- to know that wherever our graduates will go, they will take the message of Jesus Christ with them as culture changers. This is how we know we are fulfilling our vision of Preparing Graduates and Transforming Lives.

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Meeting from page 8

duties being absorbed by him and the staff; and, restructuring commission incentives for the advertising position.

Hall also said advertising revenue is about \$8,000 above goals for the year, to date.

He also emphasized the news organizations commitment to the Harvest initiative and soul-winning in general.

“We’re going to continue to highlight stories about salvation experiences and baptisms,” he said, giving the example of an article about SBC President Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in the Memphis, Tenn. area, who was scheduling 400 baptisms as a result of just offering an invitation during the church’s Christmas program.

Hall also ran down a list of issues he was pursuing with the state legislature on behalf of Louisiana Baptists that included protecting children from exposure to pornography, rescuing children from human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and making moral rehabilitation a priority in justice reform for non-violent offenders.

He also unveiled an internet tool for mobile phones (a project completed jointly by the Office of Public Policy and the Louisiana Baptists Communications Team) that combined with a PowerPoint slide and talking points from the Office of Public Policy will help pastors engage their congregants with lawmakers about key legislation.

“In about 60 seconds, pastors can inform their members about the proposed bill and, by using SaltandLightLa.com, send an email to the respective senator and representative for that district and let them know how Louisiana Baptists would want them to vote.”

HARVEST REMINDER

Keeping in step with sharing Christ, Louisiana Baptists Evangelism and Church Growth Director Wayne Jenkins updated board members on the Harvest, one of the largest joint efforts for evangelism ever undertaken in the state. The end goal of this initiative is to involve at least 700 churches to pray for every home and share Christ with every person in Louisiana.

One way Louisiana Baptists can participate is by visiting louisianabaptists.org/harvest for updates and resources.

Jenkins also asked churches to sign up as partnering churches and to urge their members to join BlessEveryhome.com and become a “light.”

Each day for 20 days, these members will receive an email containing the names (heads of household) and addresses for five neighboring homes each day as a reminder to pray for the salvation of members of that household. By the end of that time period, each member will have prayed for 100 of their neigh-

boring families.

“It is extremely possible that if we have 700 churches involved in this, we can pray for every single dwelling place in Louisiana,” Jenkins said. “What would it be like if your whole area was prayed over? I think it would change it. I hope you would get involved.”

STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

Facing challenges from the economy and natural disasters in the state, Louisiana Baptists leaders reiterated the challenge from KAIROS 3 to “challenge congregations to regularly and intentionally promote Biblical financial stewardship.”

KAIROS (Key Actions In Reaching Our State) were originally outlined in the final report of the President’s 2020 Commission in 2013.

Videos and inserts teaching and promoting tithing are currently available at LouisianaBaptists.org/giving. Additional resources, including ways to integrate stewardship education and promotion as part of the weekly offering, are also under development and will be ready by the fall.

“We want to see God rise up a lot more tithers in our churches, especially from our emerging younger generations,” Louisiana Baptists Executive Director David Hankins said. “We are now as a staff working on preparing materials that will be useful to you. We want to help pastors and congregations solve this problem because it will bless their ministries. We believe



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Baptist Convention President Gevan Spinney closed the spring Executive Board meeting with a message reminding pastors to lead by example.

as their ministries are blessed, they will bless the world through missions including Louisiana Baptists missions.”

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Louisiana Baptist Convention President Gevan Spinney closed the meeting with a reminder to pastors to lead by example.

Citing 1 Peter 5:1-7, Spinney said God has called pastors to love them as Christ loved and sacrificed himself for the church. He said that when a congregation sees that their pastor is passionate about spiritual matters, they will follow his lead.

“If you’re passionate about theology, you will have sheep that become passionate about that,” he said.

“If you are passionate

about soul winning, then you will have a flock that follows the example. They will love and care for, and be burdened for, their neighbors and be passionate about winning souls for the Kingdom.”

Spinney cautioned pastors not to become prideful and to have an intentional prayer life.

“If we are not careful we can tend to believe everything that happens in our ministry is because of us,” he said. “Don’t forget without the move of the Holy Spirit and His anointing in us, you and I can do nothing.”

Precedent from page 8

pation on Convention boards, and the Executive Board has led the way to get more involvement by non-Anglos in the work of the Convention, Jenkins said.

Executive Director David Hankins was pleased with the special milestone, and also was impressed with how the multi-racial makeup of the leadership team seemed just a matter of course.

“The 2020 Commission Report challenged us to engage more people groups and to strive toward ethnic diversity,” he said. “I believe we are making good headway as evidenced today.”

“The People Group Engagement Task Force has been tirelessly working for the last three years to create avenues to get more of our non-Anglo leaders involved,” Hankins continued. “What we witnessed this afternoon shows progress is being made.

“We are not there yet,” he offered, “but we are making steady strides.”

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ERLC from page 9

that were at times overly broad or unnecessarily harsh. That is a failure on my part," he wrote.

EXECUTIVE BOARD LETTER

The LBC Executive Board letter, May 4, commended Moore "for plainly confessing his failings that had resulted in the serious breach of fellowship we were observing in our Southern Baptist family" and encouraged him "to listen carefully and respectfully to Southern Baptists even as we listen to him."

"We hope that we will be able to forge consensus among Southern Baptists as we attempt to bear witness in cultural conflicts," board members wrote, calling for the ERLC "to tread carefully in those matters where our people have genuine differences of opinion."

Thanking him for his stances on "sanctity of human life, the biblical view of marriage and sexuality, and racial justice," they emphasized that "Southern Baptists are most encouraged when they are confident their ERLC is vigorously representing their cherished spiritual convictions in the public square."

"For our part, we pledge to pray for our Lord to make the ERLC 'strong and courageous,'" they offered. "Neither will we leave it to our agency to fight the battles alone but will engage the task as the church of the Lord. Furthermore, we will encourage our people to be thoughtful in their judgments, forbearing in their disagreements, and generous

in their continued financial support for all our convention work."

FOLLOW THROUGH

The letter completes the Executive Board's action related to the referred motion from messengers to study ERLC actions "of concern to Louisiana Baptists," and represents multiple meetings by the Executive Committee of the Executive Board to research articles and other inputs about the ERLC and Moore, as well as a four hour meeting with Moore and his staff in Nash-

ville – set up by Executive Board President Eddie Wren, pastor of First Baptist Church in Rayville, who was joined on the trip by LBC President Gevan Spinney, pastor of First Baptist Church in Haughton, and LBC Executive Director David Hankins.

Based on what Wren described as "a good meeting" and Moore's March 20 statement, the Executive Committee recommended a motion, approved by the full Executive Board during its spring meeting May 3, to report to messengers at the 2017 LBC Annual Meeting, "that it has evaluated the complaints lodged against the ERLC, that its leadership has met with Dr.

Moore and has sent a letter to the trustees of the ERLC and encourages the churches to continue their generous financial support for all our convention work."

ETC.

The 40,000-member Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, one of the largest Southern Baptist congregations to announce (Feb. 16) it was escrowing funds to the SBC because of the ERLC, reversed itself (April 26) and said it will resume giving through the Cooperative Program.

The decision followed two months of "prayerful evaluation," according to Baptist

Press.

Jack Graham, Prestonwood Baptist's pastor and a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, previously had rebuked Moore for his "disrespectfulness" toward other evangelicals.

Following Moore's most recent apology, Graham tweeted that it was "a gracious and unifying" statement.

Read the LBC Executive Board letter:
<http://baptistmessage.com/louisiana-baptist-convention-executive-boards-letter-russell-moore-erlc/>

Read the ERLC statement:
<http://baptistmessage.com/seeking-unity-southern-baptist-convention/>

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First Baptist Church in Leesville, LA seeking a Bi-Vocational Youth Minister email résumé to search committee robbienrosa@cebridge.net

For more information call **Robbie Giles** at **337.208.4381**

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

The Acadia Baptist Association is receiving résumés for a Director of Missions position. Send your résumés to FBC, Opelousas, P.O. Box 1938, Opelousas, LA 70571 or email: fbpraise@bellsouth.net.

Emmanuel Baptist Church
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Emmanuel Baptist Church in Shreveport, LA is seeking a part-time youth minister. Email résumés to Youth Search Committee ronroseturner@bellsouth.net

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Canaan Baptist Church of Leesville, LA is **SEEKING A PASTOR**

For more information, call Derrel Kay at 337.208.1962 or Clarence Harmonson at 337.208.4900.

Resumes may be sent to: Pulpit Committee, Canaan Baptist Church 19190 Highway 8 Leesville, LA 71446

Bi-Vocational MINISTER OF MUSIC

Pisgah Baptist Church in Forest Hill, LA is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music to lead worship service.

Email résumés to cjrob928@aol.com or for more information, call 318.446.4320.

Part-Time Director of Missions

The Mount Olive Baptist Association is taking résumé for a part-time Director of Missions of their 39 churches. Résumés will be taken until May 31, 2017.

Applicants should have a Master's Degree from an accredited seminary by regional accrediting agencies, or experience deemed sufficient to function in the position. (Ten years of ministry experience)

Please mail resumes Attn: Neil Treme Glenmora Baptist Church P. O. Box 237 • Glenmora, LA. 71433

Houston River Baptist Church, Sulphur **Seeks a Full Time Worship Minister**

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SEND RÉSUMÉS TO:
Email: worshipsearchhrbc@gmail.com Address: Houston River Baptist Church 110 N. Houston River Rd • Sulphur, LA 70663

Calvary Baptist Church Mangham
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Please send résumés to:
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P.O. Box 295
Delcambre, LA 70528

First Baptist Church Arcadia is seeking a permanent MINISTER OF MUSIC

Send résumé to First Baptist Church, Arcadia, Attention: Search Committee 2249 Hazel St. • Arcadia, LA 71001 or email: fbcofarcadia@bellsouth.net

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University Baptist Church seeks a **Bi-Vocational Worship Leader** to lead an established worship team using a creative blend of traditional and contemporary worship. Candidate must be multi-media proficient.

Email résumés to rmoody@ubcthibodaux.net or mail résumés to University Baptist Church, 904 Menard St., Thibodaux, LA 70301.

ON THE MOVE

- **Scottie Gray** is the new pastor at New Hope Baptist Church, Monroe.
- **Ken Ronaghan** is the new pastor at Bonita Baptist Church, Bonita.
- **Brent Avara** is the new music minister at Cheniere Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- **Jimmy Brock** resigned as student minister at North Monroe Baptist Church, Bastrop.
- **Jeremy Glascock** is interim pastor at Colyell Baptist Church, Livingston.
- **Scott (wife Bethany) Shirley** is the youth minister at Ellerbe Road Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Roy Davis** is interim pastor at Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Cecil Marr** is interim pastor at North Shreve Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Scott Mercer** is the new director at Camp Living Waters, Loranger.

HOMECOMING

■ Longview Baptist Church, Deville: **94th Homecoming**, May 28, 10:30 a.m. Dinner on the Grounds will follow the services. Speaker: Mike Belgard. Pastor: Robby Poole.

REVIVAL

- Welcome Home Baptist Church, Hebert: Revival, May 21-24. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. Special music: **Kerry Longoria**. Pastor: Jim McKeithen.
- Red River Baptist Association, Coushatta: **Red River Crusade**, May 21-28. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Evangelism director: Richard Kaufman, pastor of Martin Baptist Church.
- Pisgah Baptist Church, Bernice: Revival, May 28-30. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist**. Pastor: Jeff Hurst.
- First Baptist Church, Marthaville: Revival, May 14-17, Sunday 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Monday – Wednesday, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Mike Courtney**. Special Music: **Four Days Late**. Pastor: Matt Haggard.
- First Baptist Church, Melville: May 14, a.m. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. Worship: **Kerry Longoria**. Pastor: Nat Dutton.
- Grand Ecore Baptist Church, Natchitoches: Revival, May 28-June 2. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Wayne Hicks.
- Southside Baptist Church, Mansfield:

M-JAM from page 4

M-JAM at Tall Timbers raved about Greer's Gospel presentation using the obstacle course.

"This was so awesome and cool when he climbed all the way up to the top of wall that was so high," said Faith Webb, a first grader from Bentley Baptist Church. "He believed in God and did not give up. I learned that when we don't give up, we can ac-

complish so many things."

Eli Whitstine, a fourth grader from Bethel Baptist Church in Colfax, enjoyed fellowship with friends from his church and others he met for the first time.

"It was cool for all of us to be able to watch someone like the ninja warrior," Whitstine said. "He showed us we have to have Jesus to get through the obstacles we may face."



Submitted photo

Carolina Baptist celebrates 175th Homecoming May 21

By Carolina Baptist Church

SALINE – Carolina Baptist Church will celebrate its 175th homecoming May 21.

Established in 1842, the church was founded when a group from the Carolina region of the U.S. was traveling by wagon and upon reaching Saline Creek discovered the water was too high to cross. The group then set up camp and had a revival, which was the first meeting of Carolina Baptist Church.

Many of the founders of the church are buried in the nearby cemetery.

The service will begin at 10 a.m., with Carolina Baptist Pastor Ken Roberts delivering the message and music performed by church members. Dinner on the ground will follow.

■ **11th Annual Bible Conference**, May 29-31, sessions begin at 9 a.m. each morning and 7 p.m. each evening. Pastor: Larry Pridmore.

■ Lake St. John Community Baptist Church, Ferriday: Revival, May 31-June 3, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist**. Pastor: Mark Richardson.

LAGNIAPPE

■ **If your church has an organ that it no longer needs and would donate it to a church that flooded**, please contact Tommy Hayes at 225.362.2464 of Gray's Creek Baptist Church, Denham Springs.

■ New Zion Baptist Church, Covington: **Kingsmen Quartet**, May 20, 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$20 at the door. Pastor: Clark Stewart.

■ First Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Men's golf tournament**, May 20. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. and golfers tee off at 1 p.m. at the Joe Bartholomew Golf

Course. Cost: \$40. For more information or to sign-up, contact Taylor.Rutland.fbno.org. Pastor: David Crosby.

■ Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Slidell: **"Follow-U" presented by the Children's Choir**, May 21, 10:15 a.m. Pastor: Dennis Phelps.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, June 1, noon. Speaker: **Chuck Kelley, President of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**. Cost: \$10 and you may pay at the door. Please RSVP to Melinda Langford (mlangford@fbcpineville.net). Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

Foundation from page 6

within the policies set by the Board, no motion or official action was necessary.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Executive Director Wayne Taylor updated the operating committee, chaired by John Carroll of Columbia, on the progress of the new accounting system.

The upgrade to a new platform for the Pooled Accounting System (PAS) is moving along well with the staff having already begun testing.

Negotiations for transferring the upgraded PAS to a third party vendor are underway, with contract review being conducted by Jay Bolen, the LBF's legal advisor. Once completed, the transfer would assure the Foundation would have a well-supported accounting software system at an economical cost for many years. The existing version of PAS has been in use for 18 years and is no longer supported.

Taylor and Love also reported on their ongoing efforts to increase the knowledge of the LBF and to remind pastors of targeted Baptists associations the benefits of encouraging Estate Stewardship among their members.

Several video clips produced by another state foundation were shown to the committee.

The LBF is hoping to utilize generic versions of the videos to assist with promotion of Estate Stewardship and Estate Planning that includes gifts to Baptist

churches and ministries.

Chuck Murray, the Foundation's CPA, in his review of the operating budget for the first quarter said there was a net surplus so far in 2017.

According to Murray, income received thus far from the Cooperative Program and cost recovery is ahead in both budgeted categories. Also, some fees related to the accounting software have been lower than expected.

GENERAL SESSION

During the afternoon, Board President Waymond Warren, West Monroe, led a review of the information presented by the Investment and Operating Committees in earlier sessions. There were no actionable items reported.

In his director's report, Taylor reiterated his excitement with the progress of the accounting software upgrade.

The meeting concluded with board members honoring Bell, who is retiring at the end of June after 27 years as the Foundation's CPA/Controller.

Following the meeting the trustees hosted a reception to honor her for her many years of dedicated service.

The next meeting for the Louisiana Baptist Foundation Trustees is scheduled for July 25, 2017.

To learn more about the work and ministry of the Foundation, to review investment returns for its managed funds, or to see a list of current trustees, go to www.LBFinfo.org.

Scripture Crypto

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.

gsviv rh lmv ozdtrevi, dsl rh zyov gl hzev zmw

gl wvhgilb: dsl zig gslf gszg qfwtvhg zmlgsvi?

qznh ulfi:gdvoev

Clues:
R = I; W = D

Answer to May 4 Scripture Crypto:
Hosea eight: fourteen

Children's Home receives campus gift, a new host for pregnancy care center

By BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

MONROE – The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home has established the newest Trail Life USA troop in the state.

"Trail Life enhances what we do here at the Children's Home," said Children's Home President Perry Hancock, who shared the news during the entity's board of trustees meeting May 5. "It's all about Christian character and principles, which we teach at devotionals on campus and in churches they attend."

A faith-based alternative to the Boy Scouts of America, Trail Life USA teaches biblically-based character, adventure and leadership skills to thousands of young men in troops throughout the U.S. The Children's Home is the eighth troop to be established in Louisiana.

Unlike other troops, the one at the Children's Home will have membership open just to its male residents.

Hancock said while the majority of its activities will take place with fellow residents, he expects the troop to join the troop from First Baptist Church in Farmerville for special events, campouts, and other adventure activities.

NEW MOBILE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER HOST

Since 2011, the Children's Home has operated a mobile pregnancy care center, which travels statewide with a registered nurse offering free pregnancy testing, counseling and ultrasounds to women who think that they may be pregnant as well as to those facing an unplanned pregnancy. But because 80 percent of the women the care center served were in New Orleans, the entity transferred the center in early May to New Orleans Baptist Association's Baptist Community Health Services.

CAMPUS GIFT

Just in time for summer,

the Children's Home has received a donation for a small pavilion on campus. Located on the east side, the pavilion donated by an anonymous donor will allow residents to enjoy gatherings outdoors.

The pavilion is the latest in improvements on campus the trustees learned about in the meeting. Last year, the Children's Home dedicated its first cottage in more than 40 years when it opened HomePlace Cottages for its ministry that provides transitional living for women and their children as they prepare for independent living. Additionally, the entity completed renovations to all eight residences on campus that were built in the 1970s.

END OF SCHOOL YEAR CELEBRATION

After the trustee meeting, the day concluded with the Children's Home annual celebration banquet at North Monroe Baptist Church. Attended by nearly 400 people including donors, house par-



Louisiana Baptist Children's Home photo

Matt Hancock, LBCH Director of Campus Life & Educational Services, recognized the residents of Rucker Cottage Children's Home at the annual celebration banquet hosted by North Monroe Baptist Church. Pictured from left: Stephanie, Parker, Kenny, Matt Hancock and Randal.

ents, trustees, residents of the Children's Home and school teachers, the event recognized each child on campus with awards and other presentations.

Bruce Marchiano, an actor who portrayed Jesus in several films, gave an inspirational message on hope, which is the theme of the Children's Home Sunday Offering June 11, and some of the residents provided special music.

Women who are residents of its HomePlace ministry were also recognized, including three women who were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society. A number of women will graduate Thursday, May 11, from the program.

"We are grateful for our Louisiana Baptists," Hancock said. "Without our churches, our children would not have these successes."

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