

“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus ...”

– Philippians 3:8 (NIV)

BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

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September 14, 2017



Submitted photo

A crowd attending “The Revival” at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles responds to evangelist Jay Lowder’s message as they praise God for doing a mighty work in August.

Saying ‘yes’ to Christ is ‘all or nothing’

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

LAKE CHARLES – Saying “yes” to Christ years earlier was a lot easier than being obedient in baptism, until Melody Jackson was convicted about her failure to fully commit to Christ during a message by evangelist Jay Lowder.

Lowder, founder of Harvest Ministries in Wichita Falls, Texas, was speaking at “The Revival” held Aug. 20-23 at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles.

Jackson said she further realized the significance of her reluctance when she witnessed her grandson Carter’s hesitance to be baptized, although he had made a profession of

faith at a WinShape Camp last year.

But, he, too, had said “yes” to Christ without understanding it was either “all in” or not at all.

Jackson said she shared with him about her decision to be baptized and that helped him realize the importance of being obedient, too.

See **THE REVIVAL** on 6

Louisiana Baptists respond in wake of Hurricane Harvey

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

LAKE CHARLES – Hurricane Harvey left a wide swath of damage in Texas and Louisiana, killing dozens, displacing hundreds of thousands and causing an enormous loss of homes and other property.

An estimated 746 Southern Baptist church properties were flooded in Texas, according to North American Mission Board senior marketing director Greg Teffertiller.

It appears Louisiana Baptist congregations that were in Harvey’s path were spared. Unfortunately, more than 800 houses in the same region were damaged by high water.

Now it is a matter of neighbors helping neighbors, especially through disaster relief teams and church volunteers, Gibbie McMillan, Louisiana Baptist disaster relief strategist, told the *Baptist Message*. More trained disaster relief teams are needed, he said. But, he has been encouraged by the “all hands on deck” attitude he has encountered so far, among all ages across the state.

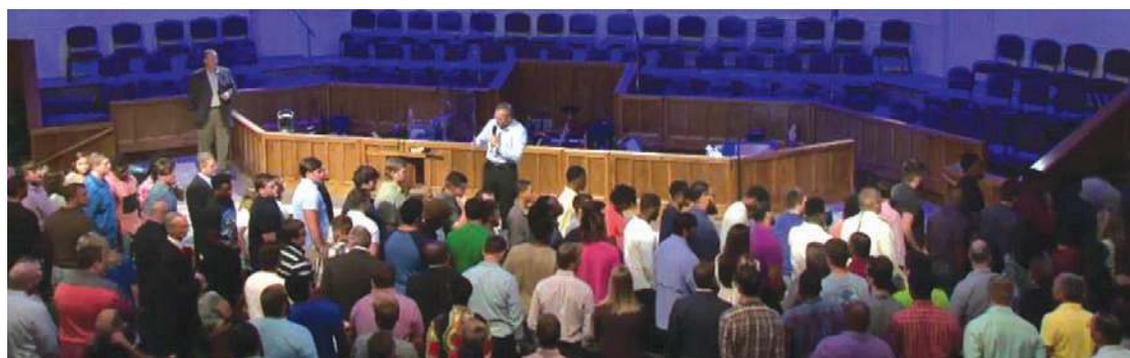
DANGER PASSES, DAMAGE LINGERS

Louisiana Baptist Executive Director David Hankins agreed with McMillan’s assessment.

“It will take volunteers from Louisiana and

See **HARVEY** on 7

31 LC Wildcats enjoy victory in Jesus



Submitted photo

Thirty-one members of the Louisiana College football team exit the worship center of Philadelphia Baptist Church in Deville to receive counseling shortly after they stepped forward and surrendered their lives to Jesus.

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

DEVILLE – On August 27, the season had yet to open for the Louisiana College football team, however, members of the Wildcats experienced a victory more meaningful than any margin posted on a scoreboard when 31 players came forward to humble their hearts to Christ and surrender their lives to

See **VICTORY** on 3

Georgia Barnette Offering helps expand the Gospel

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

CALHOUN – Josh Elliff was at a spiritual crossroad in early 2016. He was a staff member for a congregation that was growing, thriving, and reaching their city... but still he was not at peace, believing God was about to move him and his wife.

He and Jacqueline were happy at Fielder Church in Arlington, Texas, but he knew he had been called to be a pastor, and that God had him there to prepare for this next step.

After a season of prayer, the Arkansas native was offered the possibility of leading a Calhoun, Louisiana, campus of First Baptist Church, West Monroe, which was expanding as a multi-site congrega-

tion.

“God just put a burden on our hearts,” Elliff said. “He really just broke our hearts for the people here, just the need, the lostness that was in the community.”

EXPANDING THE GOSPEL

According to local pastors and demographic studies conducted by First West Monroe, roughly 6,900 out of the 7,745 people in the Calhoun zip code do not attend a worship service at any church on Sunday. With a five percent annual population growth rate projection, that number is likely to grow, further solidifying the need for expanding the Gospel there.

“The fact is there are some great churches in the area but there also are a lot of people,”

Elliff said. “There is a need for another Gospel-centered church. As my wife and I began to pray about this church and this campus and what God wanted to do through us, God said ‘No matter what happens, My call to you is to be faithful, and if you will be faithful to this community, this word, my pursuit, then that’s the standard I want to measure you against.’”

Elliff is thankful for God’s faithfulness throughout the process, especially for His provision for the new congregation through the financial and spiritual support of First West Monroe.

But he said the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering was critical, too.

“The Georgia Barnette Offering has helped us launch and to launch well to reach people,” Elliff said. “The offering is huge, but the prayers we have received along with knowing we have partnered with a larger group of people who are praying for the lost to come to Jesus are important as well.”

FIRST STEPS, BIG IMPRINTS

Shortly after Elliff arrived in the area in late January, he



First West photo

Amy and Kayleigh Toncrey, members of First West’s campus in Calhoun, celebrate their baptism at First West’s Riverfest, Aug. 20. They were among 24 people baptized during the annual event involving the church’s campuses in Calhoun, Fairbanks and West Monroe.

assembled his launch team of roughly 30 people.

Small group meetings were held through early February, but the team conducted its first official assembly as a congregation at Calhoun Middle School, March 4, and celebrated its public launch at the school, April 15, with 148 in attendance.

Although the congregation has met for just a few months, their impact already is being felt in the community.

Life groups meet weekly in homes as a way to enhance the opportunity to reach out to neighbors who have a need for Christ. Already, two people have surrendered their hearts to Christ and were baptized Aug. 20.

The student ministry also is growing rapidly.

Each Wednesday, a coach from Calhoun Middle School leads between 20 and 25 youth in Bible study and activities to help them grow in Christ and in fellowship with each other.

Members have held block parties in neighborhoods, distributed gift baskets to families moving into the area, and gave away 258 backpacks filled with school supplies at a back-to-school bash.

PENETRATING LOSTNESS

Michael Wood, lead pastor of First West Monroe, said the launch of its Calhoun campus reflects what the church is about.

See GBO on 15

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Victory from page one

Him during a special service held by evangelist Rick Gage at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Deville.

Coach Justin Charles said he was overcome with emotion as he watched so many of his players, one-by-one, walk to the front of the worship center to speak with Gage, himself a former college football player and coach.

"That day was more fulfilling than winning a football game," said the first-year head coach for the Wildcats. "Knowing you had 31 young men all turn their lives to Christ is a feeling that is hard to describe for this coach."

Devyn Allen, a sophomore linebacker from Baton Rouge, said he was convicted that he was not living the way Christ intended and that he needed to repent.

"I believed I was a Christian but I wasn't living my life right," Allen said. "His message hit me hard, so I felt convicted and raised my hand."

Allen said the fact that 30 other players came forward that day was a bonding experience beyond team sports, adding that "it was something I don't think anyone was expecting."

Already, Allen and this group of born again Wildcats are engaged in discipleship -- being spiritually mentored by mature Christians on the team, and, attending small group

Bible studies on campus and weeknight church gatherings at area churches.

The players also receive the encouragement of mentors from Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria as part of the first-year "Adopt A Cat" program, which is a mentoring relationship with a deacon fostered in a home environment among a family.

"It's encouraging to have them walk alongside me," Allen said. "It's so hard to do this journey on your own. To know so many people are willing to help me grow spiritually means a lot."

As the players continue their spiritual journey, Charles is confident their passion for Christ will not wane.

"It's been a really good change for this team," he offered. "These young men are serious about their newfound faith and that is creating a different feel on this team. When you have players getting serious about their walk with Christ, it's definitely fulfilling, and I'm excited to watch these young men grow as the season progresses."

LC President Rick Brewer considered the worship service at Philadelphia a divine appointment.

"Rick Gage's background as a football player and college coach created an immediate connection with our football team," Brewer said. "During the service I prayed



Submitted photo

Rick Gage leads 31 members of the Louisiana College football team in a time of prayer moments after they came forward to surrender their lives to Jesus during a special service at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Deville.

and when I wasn't praying I noticed several students genuinely under the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

"Glory to God for the public response of 31 of LC's student athletes to the call to follow Christ," he continued. "I'm grateful for head coach Charles and a coaching staff who daily provide a faithful witness for Christ."

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EDITORIAL: Louisianans should not pay for AMC's pornographic portrayal of Christ



DR. WILL HALL
Editor
Louisiana
Baptist Message

I am urging all Louisiana Baptists to contact:

Gov. John Bel Edwards
gov.louisiana.gov/email-the-governor
225.342.7015
and
Secretary Don Pierson
don.pierson@la.gov
225.342.5388

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – The AMC series “Preacher” has portrayed Christ in a graphic sex scene that combines blasphemy with pornography, and regrettably Louisiana tax payers appear to be on the hook to pay for it ... MAYBE.

The August 21 episode titled, “Dirty Little Secret,” showed an actor playing the role of Jesus having sex with a married woman in an extended, graphic scene with explicit vocals.

The director used shadows and silhouettes to soften the two figures as they engaged in various sexual positions, but these cinematic techniques did not disguise the pornography.

FAST MONEY

According to news reports, Season 2 for the series was filmed in New Orleans earlier this year – presumably, including the offending episode.

This makes the show eligible for state tax credits under a Louisiana law passed in 2002 intended to foster growth in the state’s film industry, also known as “Hol-

lywood South.”

The statutory program offers a 30 percent transferable tax credit for qualified in-state production expenses, including resident and non-resident labor. On top of that, in-state labor costs receive an extra 10 percent payroll tax credit.

Using the data AMC filed with Louisiana Entertainment (a state government office under the umbrella of the Louisiana Economic Development, a cabinet level department in the governor’s administration), the network stands to earn a \$14.4 million tax credit on the \$48 million amount they said they were going to spend in the state and another \$1.8 million tax credit on the \$18 million in-state payroll estimate they submitted.

NOT SO FAST

So, AMC stands to gain \$16.2 million in tax benefits from our state ... EXCEPT ... in 2012, state Senator A.G. Crowe crafted S.B. 513 (enacted into law as Act 560), “pertaining to the certifying of certain film projects” with regard to qualify-

ing for tax credits. Indeed, at that time Crowe told the *Times-Picayune* he wrote the bill specifically “to make certain state taxpayers’ money is not used in producing pornography.”

Importantly, at least one federal law dealing with pornography defines such content as “any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct.” Other laws interpret pornography to be the depiction of “sexual acts ... intended to cause sexual arousal.”

Moreover, at least one of the show’s producer’s was boastful about the controversial nature of the offending content.

Although he was less clear about whether he was acknowledging the pornographic nature of the seven minute scene or simply referring to the religious bigotry it portrayed.

In a tweet promoting the “Dirty Little Secret,” Seth Rogen was gleeful about offending community standards of decency, telling followers, “Tonight’s episode of #Preacher has some stuff I’ve been ex-

See HALL on 5

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Hall from page 4

cited to bring to life for years and I'm SHOCKED they let us do it."

I am not shocked AMC approved the script, but I am appalled AMC is poised to be rewarded with Louisiana tax dollars for having produced the lewd material ... UNLESS ... our government leaders do the right thing and call the content what it is, pornography, and refuse to certify the project for tax credits.

STAND FAST

So, I am calling on the governor or his secretary of economic development, who has oversight of the certification process, to disqualify AMC's Preacher from participating in the tax credit program for the recently filmed Season 2.

Additionally, I am urging all Louisiana Baptists to do the same:

Gov. John Bel Edwards
gov.louisiana.gov/email-the-governor
 225.342.7015

Secretary Don Pierson
don.pierson@la.gov
 225.342.5388

BEWARE OF FAST TALK

But, be forewarned so you are ready to counter possible push back about your complaint:

-- Some defenders of the show likely will argue this is a First Amendment issue, but it is not. AMC is within its constitutional rights to produce such filth, within the limits of the law, and adults are within their constitutional rights to view these lewd acts, within certain limits as well. No one is arguing otherwise. But the case is being made that this content should not be rewarded with Louisiana tax dollars.

-- Others will counter that Rogen has a right to express his secular beliefs, and he does. This obvious point is simply another strawman distraction from the real controversy -- the use of tax dollars to support the production of pornography. But, I would point out the obvious hypocrisy of Rogen, AMC and leftist Hollywood, who dare not insult Islam and Mohammed, or Hinduism and Gandhi, but think nothing of attacking Christi-

anity and Jesus.

-- All, presumably, will try to claim that any punitive action against Rogen and AMC would harm Louisiana's film industry, thus threatening a desperately needed revenue stream for the state. But do not be fooled. *The Advocate* reported that a "2015 study for Louisiana Economic Development found that the program generated only 23 cents in tax revenue for every dollar paid out by taxpayers in 2014." In other words, the program does not even pay for itself.

What is at stake is good stewardship of tax dollars.

This was such an important issue for a majority of legislators in 2012 that they took the time to cement their concerns into law -- legislation which was written with the specific intent, according to the author, to ban the use of state tax dollars for under-

writing pornography.

FAST AND PRAY

It is up to our government leaders simply to do the right thing and declare this episode what it is -- pornography -- and reject the show's claim for tax credits, according to the law.

But I am aware of the politics that typically come into play in such matters -- pressures from industry lobbyists and ideologues that tend to sway politicians, elected and appointed.

So, I urge Louisiana Baptists to fast and pray for these leaders.

But, I also strongly encourage you to use your political influence on them as well.

Let state officials know Louisianans should not be on the hook to fund obscenity of any type, including AMC's pornographic portrayal of Christ.

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The Revival from page one

ALL IN

“As soon as I made the decision to go through with it, God just gave me a sense of peace,” said Jackson, who was baptized with Carter during the Aug. 27 morning worship service at Trinity. “This was an experience I’ll never forget. My heart was so full and still is.”

Moreover, Jackson was not the only person impacted so strongly during the nightly services.

By the conclusion of “The Revival,” 198 people had repented and surrendered their lives to Christ, with 51 getting baptized during revival services, plus 134 individuals made other spiritual commitments, including many who repented to restore their fellowship with Christ.

Leo Day, professor of music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, had teamed up with Lowder for the revival

services, leading the crowds in worship by song.

COVERED IN PRAYER

During the day, Lowder visited area high schools to present educational messages about anti-bullying, suicide prevention, and the consequences of drug and alcohol use and abuse.

After Lowder’s presentation at LaGrange High School, the quarterback of the football team approached his coach and asked if the team could attend Student Night. That evening, the football team sat together and after Lowder offered an invitation, many of the players came forward to make a decision for Christ.

“It was a moving experience for the church to see all those purple football jerseys at the altar,” said Greg Bath, associate pastor for Trinity Baptist Church. “For over a year we have been praying for



Three young boys are all smiles as they prepare to be baptized at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles. One hundred ninety eight people made spiritual commitments with 51 getting baptized during “The Revival.”

dry bones to be filled with the breath of God and made alive once again. We have no doubt that we have seen God glori-

fied and the church revived.” For nearly a year and a half, the congregation had prayed for such a revival to

take place; and, in the month before “The Revival” 123 congregants gathered each Wednesday night to pray over every area of the church where some revival-related activity would take place.

ALL GLORY TO GOD

Steve James, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, emphasized that the numbers are worthy of celebration, but only in context of the transformed lives represented in the results and the obvious mercy of God manifested in each.

Moreover, he is convinced his congregation’s work has only just begun in the community.

“As great as the week was,” James said, “I woke up the Thursday after, “The Revival” rejoicing over all about what God did in the hearts and lives of people.”

“There was a verse God put on my heart that stayed with me all day Thursday, Friday and Saturday,” James

See **THE REVIVAL** on 13



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Harvey from page one

beyond to meet the tremendous need," he told the *Baptist Message*, referring to the havoc wreaked both here and in neighboring Texas.

"We must meet this need with fervent prayer and sacrificial generosity of time and resources," he urged. "My prayer is God's grace, comfort and love will exceed the record-setting rain that saturated the area. The old saying says tough times bring out the best in us. I'm praying they will bring out the Jesus in us."

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR

Despite having just experienced widespread flooding, first in the northern part of the state and then in the south because of record rainfalls in March and August of last year, Louisiana Baptists have not hesitated from rushing to the aid of others both in this state and Texas, according to various reports.

According to NOAA, in those two Louisiana episodes, a record 26.96 inches of rain fell in North Monroe from one storm, and months later a record 31.39 rainfall overwhelmed Watson from a single weather system.

By comparison, Harvey dropped 51.88 inches of rain on the Houston area, a United States record for one storm, amounting to 27 trillion gallons of water or enough water to fill almost 86,000 Astrodomes.

Among those who already have been engaged in Harvey recovery efforts are men

from Christ's Community Church in Denham Springs. They joined hundreds of other members of the Cajun Navy to rescue Texans trapped by raging waters. Over the course of a three-day mission, they helped transport nearly 200 people to safety, including residents of a nursing home, from a neighborhood in Humble, Texas.

Though the crew worked long shifts, team member Joshua Drummond said the effort allowed him to show the love of Christ to those in need of hope.

"With all of the devastation around, just take a second to watch and you will see the true nature of people," Drummond said shortly after returning from Texas. "It truly brings out the best in everyone."

"The nursing home rescue was amazing," he continued. "People answered the call in force. When we showed up to the area there were a few boats and by the time we left there were over 100. People were lined up, waiting to help transport patients and supplies. With all the chaos it actually went pretty smoothly."

Such spontaneous responses by Louisiana Baptist churches have now transformed into more formal engagements through the Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief organization.



Christ Community Church photo

A member of Christ's Community Church in Denham Springs was among the hundreds of Louisianians who used their boats to rescue evacuees in Houston.

Since early September, Rolling Hills Ministry in Ruston and First Baptist Church in Franklinton have responded with teams. Additionally, combined units from Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association, Webster-Claiborne Association and the District 8 Convention have joined recovery efforts in Louisiana and Texas.

Mike Ebert, a spokesman with the North American Mission Board, reported that as of Sept. 5, there were 105 Southern Baptist disaster

See HARVEY on 8

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Harvey from page seven

relief units of different types and capacities from across the country that were ministering in impacted areas by Harvey. Joining Louisiana's teams are Southern Baptist outfits from Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Oklahoma and Virginia.

Various reports on social media and elsewhere indicate

hundreds of individual Louisiana Baptist churches are also serving as collection points for suppliers, feeding centers for first responders in addition to sending volunteers into impacted areas.

VALUE OF 'SHOWING UP'

Fellowship Church in Prairieville is one of the many

Louisiana Baptist congregations that responded almost immediately after Harvey made landfall in Texas.

Last year, areas around Prairieville flooded, including the homes of Fellowship Church members. Now, some of these same people plan to help Texas communities rebuild.

"When you've been through this and you've been loved on by so many people, you realize how valuable it is to have people come to you," Pastor Kirk Jones said. "When your area has been through a disaster and others showed up, you know how badly people need you and now we have the opportunity to help them out in their time of need."

Fresh off a three-day disaster relief trip to the Houston suburb of Kingwood, Texas, Jones said his takeaway from the experience is simple.

"Show up," Jones said.

"It meant the world to those families that we were there," he said. "One homeowner told me how worried he was, but when he heard we were coming, he said,



Brian Blackwell photo

A member of a Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief team from First Baptist Church in Franklinton works inside a Lake Charles home damaged by flooding from Tropical Storm Harvey. The team arrived in Lake Charles Sept. 5, with plans to stay five days performing disaster relief work.

"There's my Louisiana army! He said he knew everything was going to be alright then."

"Sometimes people were emotionally overwhelmed when we prayed," Jones said. "It's a great reminder that in those times, you are the pres-

ence of Jesus for people."

COMPASSION HAS NO AGE RESTRICTION

Three-year-old Carter

See HARVEY on 13



Brian Blackwell photo

Martin Prescott unloads debris that was inside a home he and others from First Baptist Church in Franklinton cleaned out Sept. 6.

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Senator Gerald R. Long

A life-long Louisiana resident, Senator Long grew up in Winn Parish, graduated from Winnfield High School, and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education with Social Studies and Minor in English from Northwestern State University. Senator Long taught in public schools before launching a successful insurance business from which he retired in 1999.

Gregory S. Baylor, JD - Alliance Defending Freedom, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Baylor is a liberty consultant to the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities. He strives to protect the First Amendment freedoms of students, faculty, and the staff at public colleges across the nations. Dr. Baylor earned his JD at Duke University School of Law, where he graduated with high honors. He is admitted to the state bar of Texas, the U.S. Supreme Court, and numerous federal appeals and district courts.

Warren Cole Smith - Vice President, Colson Center for Christian Worldview

Mr. Smith previously served as Vice President of WORLD News Group. He hosts the radio program/podcast "Listening In," heard by thousands. He has appeared on Fox News, CBS News, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and NPR. His most recent book is a collaboration with Colson Center President John Stonestreet, "Restoring All Things: God's Audacious Plan To Change The World Through Everyday People."

Beckett Gremmels, PhD - System Director of Ethics, CHRISTUS Health, Irving, Texas

A prolific contributor to journals focusing on Health Care Ethics and Bioethics, Dr. Gremmels earned his Doctorate in Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University, Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics, and his BA in Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. He also has studied in Italy and France.

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Clear Camp is clearly a soul-winning success



Students enjoyed recreational activities during Clear Camp 2017. They also worshipped and spent meaningful time in spiritual growth.



Brian Blackwell photo

Campers line up to register at Tall Timbers Conference Center. The four camp sessions were attended by 1,071 students and 102 surrendered their lives to Christ.

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – Louisiana Baptist Youth Strategist Steve Maltempi has reported there were more than 216 total spiritual decisions during the four sessions of the 2017 Clear Camp.

Attended by 1,071 students, the summer camps provided opportunities for spiritual growth, with leaders recording 102 salvation decisions combined, as well as two commitments to vocational ministry and a number of other spiritual declarations, including repentance to restore fellowship with Christ, Maltempi told the *Baptist Message*.

Maltempi credits staff preparation and the broad range of activities supported by the facilities at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth as contributing factors to the camps' success.

"The strengths of our camps are our staff, program and facilities," Maltempi said. "Our camp leaders are mentored for a full six months and are ready to fully engage campers spiritually and relationally."

"They go past knowing the student's names and get to know their life," he continued. "Our staff members pursue opportunities to build relationships with campers."

"The campers get to have fun and build relationships with staff during morning celebration, Bible study, recre-

ation and free time, Maltempi added. "Staffers even hang out with students during late night activities."

The camps included inspiring messages by speakers, music by a worship team and group-building recreational activities.

"Attendance continues to build each summer," Maltempi said. "Next year we expect to push Tall Timbers' capacity with record numbers, with several camp dates as options."

"This ministry continues

See Clear on 13

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IMMEDIATE OPENING: Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth, LA has an opening for a full time **Maintenance Technician**. Apply at Tall Timbers Administration Building. Call 318.445.6797 for additional information.

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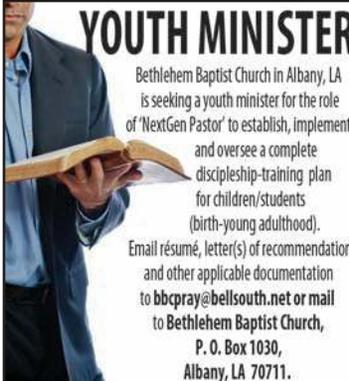
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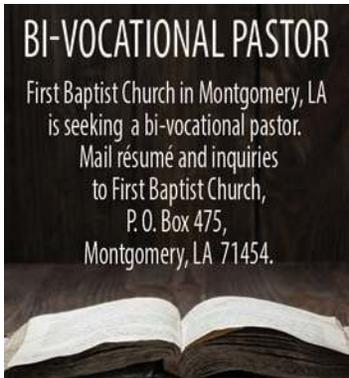
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ON THE MOVE

- **Scarlyte Collette** is the new minister to preschool and children at First Baptist Church, Swartz.
- **Alex Spiers**, worship associate, resigned at North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe.
- **Chuck (wife Lisa) Clinton** is the music/education minister at Pineroft Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Bill Stroud** is interim pastor at Bethesda Baptist Church, Ida.
- **Mike Loftin** is the interim pastor at Mansfield Road Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Matthew Montgomery** resigned as pastor at Belcher Baptist Church, Belcher.
- **Brett Fuller** resigned as music minister at Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport.

HOMECOMING

- University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: **45th Anniversary**, September 15-17, Friday, 6 p.m. a night of Gospel music and share memories; Saturday, 2-6 p.m. bring the family for games, BBQ, and fellowship; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., Worship. Following Worship services there will be lunch at Pel-tier Park Community Center. Guest Speaker: David O. Cofield. Pastor: **J.P. Cox**.
- Hebron Baptist Church, Bush: **Homecoming services**, September 16-17. On Saturday at 6:30 pm the adult choir will be presenting "A Summer Night of Gospel Music Concert." On Sunday morning homecoming service 10:30 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow immediately after the morning worship service. Pastor: **Reggie Ogea**, Interim Pastor.
- Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Lecompte: **Homecoming**, September 17, 10:30 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow the service. Special Music: **Ben Waites**. Pastor: **Lee Taylor**.
- Sandy Bayou Baptist Church, Columbia: **100th Homecoming**, September 17, 10 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Guest Speaker: Shane Duke. Pastor: **Larry Russell**.
- Grace Baptist Church, Monroe: **Homecoming Service**, September 24, 10 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Special Music: **Sanctuary Quartet**. Pastor: **Ricky Baker**.
- Alto Baptist Church, Alto: **Homecoming 2017**, September 24, 10:30 a.m. with dinner on the grounds to follow at noon. Speaker: **Rick Aultman**, Pastor of Mangham Baptist Church. Special music: **Southern Grace of Monroe**. All friends, families and former church members are invited to attend. Pastor: **Alan Miller**.

REVIVAL

- Coteau Baptist Church, Houma: **Renew**

Sandy Bayou Baptist celebrates its 100th anniversary Sept. 17

INFORMATION BY SANDY BAYOU

COLUMBIA – Sandy Bayou Baptist Church is having a birthday Sept. 20 that was 100 years in the making. Scheduled during its Sunday morning worship service Sept. 17 at 10 a.m., the event will mark its 100th anniversary. To celebrate the occasion, the congregation will welcome former members and families for the service that will include a message by Shane Duke, pastor at Crossroads Baptist Church in Columbia, and lunch on the grounds.

Organized Sept. 20, 1917, the church has been led by Larry Russell as pastor for 13 years. According to the Annual Church Profile, in 2016 the church baptized six people and averaged 30 people in Sunday morning worship attendance.

The congregation also ministers outside its walls, using a school bus drop-off for Wednesday evening activities to reach area youth. Additionally, they have an active Christmas shoe box program in which they sent 680 gifts on the church's trailer to Mexico last year.

"I invite everyone to attend this historic event," Russell said. "We'll have a great time of worship, fellowship and old memories."

To submit a card with a memory of the church, contact **Judith McKee at 318.649.7696**.

- **Refresh Revival**, September 14-17, Thursday-Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. Speakers: **Fred Luter**, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, (Thursday) and **Bill Robertson**, LBC Pastoral Leadership Director (Friday – Sunday). Special Music: **LeFevre Quartet**. Pastor: **Wayne Hunt**.
- Bisteneau Baptist Church, Heflin: **Revival**, September 17-20. Evangelist: **Rubin Weaver**. Music: **Brad Mount**. Pastor: **Mike Welch**.
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Arcadia: **Revival**, September 17-20, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Guest speaker: **Jason Cole**. Worship Leaders: **Jake & Rachel Chapman**. Pastor: **Bob Jameson**.
- Bank's Springs Baptist Church, Columbia: **Revival**, September 17-20, Sunday 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Joe Aulds**. Pastor: **Eddie Riley**.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Oakdale: **Revival**, September 17-20, Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Al Gist**. Special Music: **Mackey Willis**. Church address is 210 W. Beck Ave, Oakdale. Pastor: **Dennis LaFleur**.
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Hurricane Community/Arcadia: **Revival**, September 17-20, 6:30 p.m. nightly, Speaker: **Jason Cole**. Worship: **Jake & Rachel Chapman**. Pastor: **Bob Jameson**.
- Northeast Louisiana Baptist Association: **Senior Adult Fall Progressive Revival**, September 18-20, Monday, Parkview Baptist, Monroe; Tuesday, New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe; Wednesday,

Lakeshore Baptist Church, Monroe, 10 a.m. each morning. Speaker: **Joe McKeever**. Music: **The Foto Sisters**. Cost: \$5 per person for a fellowship lunch daily. A love offering will be taken each day DOM: **Jerry Price**.

- Faith Baptist Church, Bastrop: **Revival**,

September 24-27, Sunday 10:45 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Joe Aulds**. Special Music: **Steve Pace**. Pastor: **Bodie Spicer**.

- Washington Baptist Association, Bogalusa: **Senior Adult Revival**, September 25-27, 9 a.m. fellowship, 9:30 a.m. choir practice, 10 a.m. worship, followed by lunch. Speakers: Monday -- **Keith Sheridan**, Plainview Baptist Church; Tuesday -- **Bob Adams**, First Baptist Bogalusa; Wednesday -- **Mark Morelock**, Memorial Baptist Church. Music: **Jeff Walker** leading choir and congregational music. DOM: **Stan Statham**.

LAGNIAPPE

- New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: Seeking a full time youth/family minister and a part time office assistant. Computer skills are a must for the office assistant. Send resumes to 61 New Chapel Hill Rd., West Monroe, LA 71291 or email melinda@nchbc.net. Pastor: **Marty Black**.
- Marantha Singers, Christian praise band from the Dominican Republic, will be in the Monroe/West Monroe area September 15 – 16. Venues are pending. Concerts will be for a love offering. If anyone is interested, call **Dennis Hensley** at 318.376.3634.
- Lone Cherry Baptist Church, Mangham: Sanctuary Quartet in Concert, September 16, 7 p.m. Pastor: **Doyle Adams**.
- New Zion Baptist Church, Covington:

Blessing of the Hunt, September 21, 6-8 p.m. Cost: Free. Jambalaya will be prepared by Louisiana Disaster Relief Volunteers and more than 60 door prizes given away. For more information, go to www.blessinghuntla.com or www.newzion.net. Pastor: **Clark Stewart**.

■ First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Big Buck Banquet & Contest**, September 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Speaker: **Steve Nichols**, owner of Specialty Trackhoe. There will be some great door prizes. In order to participate in the contest, you must attend the banquet. Cost: \$10. For more information, please contact the church office, 318.949.2441.

■ North Shreve Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Mark Lanier** in concert, September 24, 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: **Cecil Marr**.

■ First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Tony Nolan** guest speaker, September 24, 8:45 & 11 a.m. Pastor: **Chris Craig**.

■ Trees Baptist Church, Vivian: **Bobby Bowen Family Concert**, September 24, 6 p.m. Pastor: **Mark Cook**.

■ First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **Refresh 2017**, September 30, 12 – 11:59 p.m. Speaker: **Debbie Stuart**. Special Music: **Kellie and Kristen**. For more information contact: **Andrea McKenzie**, Minister of Missions, Community Ministries, and College Students by calling 337.593.3655 or by email andrea.mckenzie@fbclaf.org. Pastor: **Steve Horn**.

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.

ltq jk qklun nb kykhm btk bz dahlku, ebnj clt

ltq gbclt, nb kykhm btk l ublz bz ehklq, ltq l wbbq

idkxk bz zukaj, ltq l zulwbt bz gdtk.

zdhan xjhbt dxuka adrnkkt:njhkk

Clues:
K = E; X = C

Answer to August 31 Scripture Crypto:
Second John eight

"The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy." Psalm 126:3



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LOUISIANA COLLEGE: *Update*

LifeWay Fuge Camps Yield 35 Professions of Faith

From seven states, 630 middle and high school students came to LC for two Fuge camps. When they left, 35 had professed faith in Christ; 27 were Fuge campers. Daily the students gathered for worship and Bible study, and then dispersed to neighborhoods, churches and other local ministries, where they held back yard Bible clubs, worked in a community vegetable garden, sorted donated clothing, served food to the homeless, and more. “We were pleased to partner with LifeWay Christian Resources in hosting the Fuge camps,” said LC President Dr. Rick Brewer. The response of hundreds of students, Brewer said, make him “confident of our plans to add more weeks of camps for next year and beyond.”

SACSCOC Approves Four Academic Initiatives

LC received approval from SACSCOC in June for an MSN, MSW, BS in Computer Science, and for 100 percent online programs. In addition to its MEd in Leadership and MAT, LC offers four graduate programs. “These academic advancements confirm our commitment to provide a foundational liberal arts curriculum as a solid framework for multiple professional programs to build from in the days ahead,” said President Brewer. “Indeed, STEM becomes STEAM at Louisiana College.”

Enrollment Trend Continues Upward

Our Fall 2017 Freshman Class is 24 percent larger than last year’s, and LC’s overall enrollment growth 9.2 percent. When the BS in Criminal Justice launches in October, enrollment will be even more. Dr. Brewer attributes this growth to “the great team of leaders we have, who have implemented several innovative initiatives. Our newly launched scholarships and our intentionality to recruit more and better prepared students all are part of this blessing from God.”

Campus Facility Improvements

We met the challenge! A year ago, one alum gave \$100,000 to the College for campus improvements and beautification as a challenge to other alums and friends of LC. The response was commendable. About the time we had received \$50,000 toward meeting the challenge, alumnus Don Hill (64) gave the remaining amount. When Mr. Hill learned that our Student Government Association had a long-term goal for landscaping and lighting for the Quad, he responded to the need as he once was the SGA president. Today, the Quad already reflects transformation. Irrigation for new plant beds is already watering shrubs and flowers. If you haven’t visited us lately, at least take drive through and see all the upgrades.

Student Success Center

LC’s Student Success Center is a comprehensive one-stop-shop for academic support services with a goal of increasing retention by providing students with access to free tutoring in core courses, thus fostering independent, critical thinking skills they need to succeed in college and beyond. “I love student success,” said SSC Director JoLynn McConley, who noted the following message from an LC professor: “Give my regards to the tutor helping our students. They are passing with A’s and they say the tutor is doing a great job -- so much so that more students want in on the tutoring.”

Fund Raising

Our Board of Visitors continues to grow, with 146 generous people giving more than \$200,000 annually in tuition support to qualified students. Every penny of these funds goes wholly and solely to these students as each receives \$1,000 tuition assistance per academic year. If you wish to join the BOV or know someone who would, please contact LC’s Office of Institutional Advancement at 318.487.7118.

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Harvey from page 8

Hornsby delivered bags of pillows to First Baptist Church in Lafayette as gifts for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

The pillows had a special meaning for his family, relating to the time their Lafayette home was flooded in August 2016. During their first night inside a temporary apartment they realized they did not have any pillows.

His mom, Monica, said the gesture of helping those impacted by Harvey was a great opportunity for Carter and his brother to experience what others did for them in their time of need.

“As we were buying supplies to help others, loading pillows into our basket was especially memorable,” she

said. “To think that many don’t have the option of going to the store to get basic needs due to the flooding is heart wrenching.

“My boys do not understand the impact of this tragedy, but they do understand the generosity of people and the church meeting needs because of what others did for us and what we are now having the opportunity to do,” she continued.

“We prayed over the supplies we bought and the people it would help and specifically over the heads those pillows would touch,” she said. “It is our prayer they will know an overwhelming sense of peace and feel the love.”



Submitted photo

Evangelist Jay Lowder shares during “The Revival” that there is a great need for a face-to-face, one-to-one encounter with Jesus Christ.

Clear from page 9

to grow because it is really a national quality camp at a fraction of the price of a national quality camp,” he continued. “I have been to all of the big camps over my 26 years of student ministry, and this one is as good or better than all of them.”

Registration for next year’s Clear Camp will open Feb. 1, 2018. Maltempi encourages all student leaders to promote the camp in December and January, leading up to the date of registration.

Two other state youth events are scheduled for next summer for students who meet certain requirements.

The first, a senior trip to Cancun, Mexico, is scheduled for May 22-26, and is open only to youth who are active in serving through their youth group and church, and are consistent in being part of discipleship groups, including

Sunday School.

The second, Super Summer, will take place a month later at Louisiana College in Pineville.

Scheduled for June 11-15, Super Summer is a discipleship camp for those who have a record of attendance in Bible study and worship. Participants must be active in ministry, regularly share their testimony and faithfully memorize scripture. Participation requires an interview and recommendation by either their youth pastor or pastor.

Students who are accepted to participate in Super Summer will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to attend Louisiana College for each of the four years they attend, for a maximum award of \$10,000.

For more information about all three events, visit labaptistyouth.com.

The Revival from page 6

said. “I couldn’t shake it off.

“On Sunday morning I shared it with our church family,” he continued. “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. (Jeremiah 8:20). I shared with them that I knew there were still some out there who were not right with the Lord, and I urged them not to leave without

making sure they were saved.”

James also said that although “The Revival” has ended, the real work has only just begun.

Moreover, he hinted at the lasting impact of the revival among church members in terms of their commitment to discipling the new converts.

Despite the chaos Hurricane Harvey created in the days following “The Revival,” 95 members showed up that weekend to visit those who had made salvation decisions and other spiritual commitments, James said.

“Our folks have just caught God’s Spirit and what He is doing here,” he said.

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BCM students use holiday weekend for service, not self

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM)—Students with three Louisiana Baptist Collegiate Ministries took time out of a holiday weekend and a television schedule full of college football to minister to survivors of Hurricane Harvey.

Saturday through Monday, Sept. 2-4, 130 BCM students and leaders from LSU, Louisiana-Lafayette and McNeese State, with assistance from Living Hope Fellowship in Baton Rouge, gutted homes that had been flooded by rainfall from the epic storm.

They formed 14 different teams that each worked in one of four areas – Lake Charles, Moss Bluff, Orange, Texas and Port Arthur, Texas.

Blake Grundy, BCM campus minister at McNeese, told the *Baptist Message* that the trip was well suited for college students who have a heart of service.

“Many of the students



Submitted photo

One hundred thirty students from Louisiana Baptist Collegiate Ministries gave up their Labor Day holiday to assist in the cleanup of homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey.

who went on this trip have done mud-out work before, so they know the heartache the destruction causes the homeowner,” he said. “College students have time and the one thing our students love to do with it is to serve. They

love to bless people for whom hope seems lost. For them, it’s one aspect of putting faith into action.”

Grundy said many of the students indicated their desire to make return trips to the hard-hit areas. He said they

realize the needs are great and that it will take an army of volunteers like them to help rebuild communities impacted by Harvey.

“It’ll be neighbor helping neighbor, student helping student,” he said. “Trips like the one we took are a picture of what the kingdom of God is like. It’s not always the people you know and hang around with, but made up of people from all over the world. It’s a great picture of what the body of Christ is to look like.”

McNeese BCM student Mikey Hebert of DeQuincy said he was humbled when he prayed with a Moss Bluff homeowner whose house flooded for the fourth time this year.

“The guy was thankful for the work we did,” Hebert said. “I got to see the community that we are supposed to be as Christians -- coming together for a common cause. We don’t do it for money or trophies but because we are called to do so. It was cool to

see people coming together to love people we have never met.

“To see the outcome and how grateful the homeowner was made it worth it,” he continued. “It doesn’t take a lot of skill or practice to clean out the home like we did. You have to be willing. It’s rewarding because you get to spend time with brothers and sisters in Christ to do kingdom work. Even if you’re not saying a whole lot, you’re sharing Christ with your actions. It’s a blessing to improve someone else’s life for Christ.”

LSU BCM member Kaitlyn Bracey of Houston, Texas, said the trip lifted her up emotionally after she was unable to travel back to her hometown after Harvey made landfall.

“When we presented the Bible to the victim in one of the homes, she was in tears telling us that she didn’t believe people like us existed in this world that were so happy and willing to help without compensation for our work,” Bracey recalled. “She said Southern Baptist Disaster Relief inspired her to make it a point to go out and help people in need. I can’t wait to go back to more areas affected by Harvey.”

Fellow LSU BCM member James McCann of Zachary worked alongside others on his team to mud out homes in Lake Charles and Orange. McCann said it was an opportunity to give to others and to remember this world is only temporary.

“Meeting other people’s needs in this difficult time is what every Christ follower is called to do,” McCann said. “It was a reminder as I helped

See BCM on 15

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others carry out so many precious possessions and memories that were water logged that this is not our eternal home. Though it may feel like it because we earn the many possessions around us, I am reminded that my life is not built around my security in materialistic items, but in love and grace of His kingdom."

Joe Wood, director of the Louisiana-Lafayette BCM, was encouraged to see his students mesh with the other BCM members and the homeowners.

"I saw students talking to house owners, encouraging them," Wood said. "You bring three BCMs from all over the state, and to see them come together was a blessing.

"A lot of my students had homes that were flooded last year," he continued. "They experienced that and wanted to give back because they were on the receiving end of help from disaster relief."

Josh Causey, pastor of Living Hope Fellowship,



Submitted photo

A grateful homeowner poses with a team of students who volunteered their Labor Day holiday to assist in disaster relief.

said disaster relief trips such as this one was an effective way to engage college students.

"During the Baton Rouge flood in 2016 and our most recent trip to Port Arthur to help with Hurricane Harvey recovery, it was amazing to see God bring these age groups together in an effort to serve those in need of help," Causey said. "There is a unique bond that forms in response to a crisis, between

everyone involved, whether you are on a relief team or you are someone who flooded. I believe this bond will carry forward into more on-the-ground opportunities for ministry there, and for discipleship between students and adults here in our church family."

GBO from page 2

"We learned when we were looking at the community that less than 10 percent of the population of Calhoun was in a church on Sunday morning," he said. "We saw an opportunity to reach lost people.

"That's been our heart-beat," Wood said. "We can come in and partner with churches that already are there to try to impact that lostness."

Looking to the future, Elliff asks Louisiana Baptists to lift up the congregation in prayer, remembering to pray for his family and church leaders, especially that they not grow weary as they press on toward reaching the lost.

He also asks others to pray that God opens doors for them to continue reaching the lost.

"What we do matters," Elliff said. "To know there is a whole Baptist family that is praying with us and that potentially could be praying for the lost in Calhoun to know Jesus is huge."

Named for the first executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, the Georgia Barnette Offering's annual Week of Prayer is set for Sept. 10-17. The

THE GBO'S IMPACT



LANE CORLEY

Church Planting Strategist for Louisiana Baptists

The Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering is one of our best tools for planting the next generation of churches in Louisiana, and I have benefited from the GBO as a

church planter myself.

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Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

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WAIT

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