

“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)

BAPTIST Message

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April 5, 2018

Executive Committee's Page resigns over 'personal failing'



Baptist Press photo

Frank S. Page resigned as president and chief executive officer of the SBC's Executive Committee, March 27 over "a morally inappropriate relationship in the recent past."

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

NASHVILLE (BP) — Frank S. Page has resigned as president and chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, effective March 27 over what is described as "a morally inappropriate relationship in the recent past."

Florida pastor Stephen Rummage, chairman of the Executive Committee, released a 300-word statement Tuesday afternoon

(March 27) in behalf of the EC's officers noting the circumstances of Page's resignation:

"Last evening, the officers of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee met via phone conference with Dr. Frank Page during which he announced his plans for retirement. Today, I spoke with Dr. Page and learned that his retirement announcement was precipitated by a morally inappropriate relationship in the recent past.

"This news will, we under-

stand, bring great sorrow. I have shared with the Executive Committee officers what Dr. Page shared with me, including Dr. Page's repentance and deep regret that his actions have caused pain for others.

"My heart is broken for Dr. Page, his family and everyone affected," Rummage, senior pastor of Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., stated. "I believe I speak for the entire Executive

See PAGE on 2

LBC pastors, presidents endorse Ken Hemphill for SBC president

BY WILL HALL

Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) — A growing list of Louisiana Baptist pastors, including the present and a number of former presidents of the Convention, have announced their support of Ken Hemphill as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The information found on KenHemphill2018.com includes strong statements extolling Hemphill's theology as best representing the consensus beliefs of Southern Baptists, and describing his

lengthy record of cooperation at all levels in SBC life as most consistent with what SBC leaders should personify.

Some referred to his extensive executive experience with the SBC as the key qualification in these times of turmoil within the Convention.

ENDORSEMENT STATEMENTS

Steve Horn said Hemphill's Cooperative Program record "resonates best with me." Horn is pastor of the First Baptist Church in Lafayette, and served as LBC president from 2014-2015.

"I am excited he is on record as saying, 'The traditional cooperative means of giving should be the default method of giving, receiving the majority of each church's mission dollars,'" Horn continued. "Mission trips and special initiatives that a church wants to fund should be above and beyond the normal means of supporting our seminaries and mission agencies."

"This is what separates us as being Southern Baptists," he added. "Our commonly held theology makes us 'Baptists' or more precisely 'Conservative, biblical Baptists.'"

See ENDORSEMENTS on 6

54TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST



Dennis Patrick photos

More than 1,400 attended the 2018 Louisiana Governor's Prayer Breakfast in Baton Rouge to join Gov. John Bel Edwards in prayer (top left photo), hear Lauren Daigle sing (top middle photo) and Reese Kauffman (top right photo) share about leadership. Kauffman, who is president of the international interdenominational Child Evangelism Fellowship, also reminded all in attendance that God has commanded everyone to pray for those in authority.

Page from page one

Committee in saying that we are committed to provide them the spiritual and emotional support they need in the coming days. We also recognize the stewardship we owe Southern Baptists and the watching world to communicate with truth and candor and to honor the Lord in our actions and decisions.



Frank Page

"I call upon all Southern Baptists to pray for everyone involved in a situation like this, and especially for Dr. and Mrs. Page. Please pray for the Southern Baptist Convention and all that is entrusted to the Executive Committee.

"As officers, we are committed to provide leadership that the Southern Baptist Convention

will recognize and trust. To those ends, in keeping with our Executive Committee by-laws, we will be working on a plan to provide for interim transition in the wake of Dr. Page's immediate departure and also to conduct a search for the next president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee. I am personally counting on the prayers of Southern Baptists, as I know are all who serve on our SBC Executive Committee."

Page released a statement as well Tuesday afternoon:

"It is with deep regret that I tender my resignation from the SBC Executive Committee and announce my retire-

ment from active ministry, effective immediately. As a result of a personal failing, I have embarrassed my family, my Lord, myself, and the Kingdom. Out of a desire to protect my family and those I have hurt, I initially announced my retirement earlier today without a complete explanation. However, after further wrestling with my personal indiscretion, it became apparent to me that this situation must be acknowledged in a more forthright manner. It is my most earnest desire in the days to come to rebuild the fabric of trust with my wife and daughters, those who know me best and love me most."

Page, 65, as EC president, has held a key role in coordinating the work of the SBC's national ministries, encompassing two mission boards, six seminaries and other entities, overseeing a Cooperative Program budget of nearly \$200 million yearly. Page's work also included

building relationships with 42 state and regional Baptist conventions and 47,000-plus Southern Baptist churches in all 50 states.

Page was the 2006-2008 president of the SBC, elected to the post as pastor of First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C. Before being elected as Executive Committee president in 2010, Page was serving as vice president of evangelization for the North American Mission Board, from 2009-2010.

Among the hallmarks of Page's eight years as EC president have been strong calls for personal evangelism, support for the Cooperative Program channel of Southern Baptist missions and ministry support, and inclusion of numerous ethnic groups, women, young leaders and small-church pastors in the life of the convention.

The Pages have two daughters, Laura and Allison; a third daughter, Melissa, died in 2009.

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LC President Rick Brewer endorses Ken Hemphill

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

PINEVILLE (LBM) — Ken Hemphill, candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention, spoke during the Louisiana College weekly chapel service, March 27, encouraging students to be available as instruments to advance Christ's kingdom. Afterward, he spent time talking with groups informally and answering questions.

Prior to the chapel message, LC President Rick Brewer introduced Hemphill, emphasizing Hemphill's passion for the Cooperative Program, which helps reduce tuition costs for students attending the state's only Baptist college, and endorsing Hemphill for SBC president.

"Dr Hemphill has pastored some great churches," he continued. "He's been in ministry over 40 years. He earned seminary degrees from Southern Seminary [master of divinity, doctor of divinity], then he went on to Cambridge, a little school 'across the pond,' to get his Ph.D.

"He's served the Convention in tremendous ways -- including as president of one of our seminaries -- and he's written over 45 books," he added. "But my 'claim to fame' about Ken is that he was an awesome football player at Wake Forest University.

"I don't know he's as awesome as he tells me he was,"

Brewer joked, "but he played football at Wake Forest University.

"It just so happened, many years ago in another lifetime, I served a church where Ken had been the first intern of Mark Corts, Brewer shared,

"and Mark always talked about Ken. I knew it was to encourage us to be like Ken, and so I am still trying.

"Maybe I'll get there one day," Brewer said laughingly.

"Dr. Hemphill works with one of our great Baptist schools in South Carolina

-- North Greenville University -- where he serves in a tremendous strategic role for them," Brewer continued.

"Many of you may know that we are supported by our Baptist family. I try to remind you often of that -- about Louisiana Baptists' support for LC," he said. "We are the only Baptist college in Louisiana. We have placed on your statements, so that every time you see a bill, you'll read 'through the generous support of Louisiana Baptists and the Cooperative Program, Louisiana College has maintained its status as one of the most affordable private colleges by reducing your annual tuition and fees by approximately 3,000 dollars.'"

"I know many of you borrow. You have grants. You have scholarships. You stretch. And you work extra jobs to pay your part of the tuition," he acknowledged. "Just imagine if it was \$3,000

more.

"But because of the support of our Convention, the leadership of our pastors, the leadership of (LBC Executive Director) Dr. David Hankins, we are able to keep the price down," he underscored. "But you see, fundamentally there is a belief [by the LBC] in

what we do here. There is a belief [by the LBC] in our mission of preparing graduates and transforming lives.

"Our Baptist family sees us as family members, and a partner in the Great Commission," Brewer observed. "I am just thrilled that Dr. Hemphill is willing to serve

as president of our Southern Baptist Convention, if elected by those who attend the annual meeting in Dallas in June, because I know of his commitment to the local church, to local associations, to state conventions, and to the Cooperative Program -- he's got my vote!



LC President Rick Brewer

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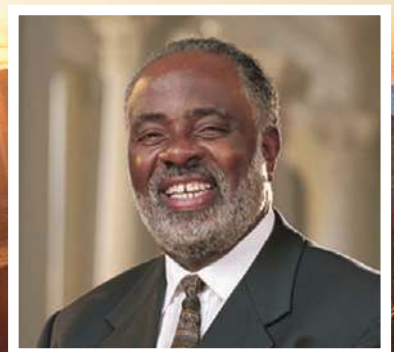
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4 Annual Governor's Prayer Breakfast

Attendees focus on God, not politics, at prayer breakfast

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

BATON ROUGE – Legislators, pastors, businessmen and others from Louisiana started off the first few days of the 2018 state legislative session with a focus on God during the Governor's Prayer Breakfast.

Keynote speaker Reese Kauffman, president of the in-

ternational interdenominational Child Evangelism Fellowship, and Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards were among those offering encouraging words to the more than 1,400 attending the event March 14 at the Raising Canes Center in Baton Rouge. Lafayette native and Grammy nominee Christian contemporary artist Lauren Daigle provided the special

music.

The event also featured times to honor the military, law enforcement, and the late evangelist Billy Graham, who died Feb. 21.

Kauffman reminded those at the Prayer Breakfast God has appointed them to serve in their various leadership positions. Citing Romans 13:1-3, Kauffman said God has ordained all

in authority.

Likewise, Kauffman said the Lord has commanded everyone to pray for those in authority.

"The purpose for that prayer is that we might live a peaceful life and that society might go on smoothly, that the authority structure would work," said Kauffman, citing 1 Timothy 2:1-4. "And people might come to know Jesus as Savior."

Jay Johnston, past chairman of the Prayer Breakfast Task Force and associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Covington, told the *Baptist Message* he was thankful for the opportunity to gather with others in the state to pray.

"I believe gathering to pray corporately encourages and strengthens the body of Christ," said Johnston, who serves as Louisiana National Day of Prayer coordinator. "To see 1,400 people gather in Baton Rouge from all parts of Loui-

siana to pray for and with each other postures us in a place of saying, God, we need you. The Governor's Prayer Breakfast is a time to be still and recognize that God is God."

The 54th annual Governor's Prayer Breakfast takes place annually during the first few days of the Louisiana Legislative session. According to the Prayer Breakfast website, the event's purpose is to "seek God's guidance for all leaders and citizens of our State, and to strengthen ourselves for the journey as we try to live as a responsible community of faith. It is an interdenominational event centered on the person of Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world and is intended to promote His glory."

For information on starting a prayer ministry or about ways to participate in the National Day of Prayer May 3, contact Johnston at jayjohnston@gmail.com.



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Dennis Patrick photo

Ministers lift their hands to pray for Baton Rouge Mayor Sharon Broome during the Pastors' Rally co-sponsored by Louisiana Office of Public Policy.



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Cypress Baptist is making a difference in and through men

By BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

BENTON – Michael Permenter, 34, was challenged recently at Cypress Baptist Church in Benton to get off the sidelines and live out true biblical manhood – and he agreed.

His decision to turn his whole life over to Christ helped Permenter better lead his family – as Jesus intended him to do – and also resulted in his baptism Feb. 11.

CONVICTION & OBEDIENCE

Although he had received Christ as a young man and had attended Cypress Baptist for five years, Permenter had not yet been baptized. But after counseling with Cypress Baptist Pastor John Fream, Permenter knew God was calling him to take this next step of faith as a public display of his relationship with Christ.

“God had been laying on

my heart for some time that I needed to get my baptism in order,” said Permenter, whose wife, Autumn, was baptized in 2013 at Cypress Baptist. “It took some time to soften my heart. I have no doubt that God led my wife and me here to a community where we didn’t have any roots, but yet had a purpose waiting for us.”

Permenter credits the men’s ministry at Cypress Baptist as a driving force behind his commitment to grow deeper in his spiritual walk. He attends one of six men’s Bible studies that meet throughout the week in homes, the church and other locations in the area.

Sharing life’s struggles with fellow Christian men is essential to surviving in a culture that is constantly growing more hostile toward family values, Permenter said.

“The men are leaders within the church,” Permenter said. “They are called to lead their wives and children. The reality is our community and



Submitted photo

Pastor John Fream baptizes Michael Permenter during a worship service at Cypress Baptist in Feb. 11. Permenter said the vibrant men’s ministry was a contributing factor to his decision to be baptized.

church have a large number of men who are willing to step up in the way the Lord wants us to lead. It’s one reason the church has been prosperous unto the Lord. To see the men want to step up and be more Christ-like is a testament to what’s going on in the church.”

PASTOR’S JOY

The commitment by Cypress Baptist men to live boldly for Christ fulfills a dream of Fream when he became pastor of the church in 2008. At the time, the church averaged 402 in Sunday morning worship and 468 in

Sunday school, and baptized 14 the year he arrived, according to Annual Church Profile statistics.

As the years passed, more men became involved in small groups and began to lead their families as Christ instructed. By the end of 2017, worship attendance had grown to 1,400, Sunday school attendance reached 1,077, and 95 were baptized that year. The growth resulted in the 2017 opening of a new 2,100-seat worship center and state of the art preschool space.

“When God starts stirring in the men, the excitement trickles down to other areas,” Fream said. “We are unapologetic in telling men they are biblically called to lead, ‘Now step up and lead.’ Their wives are embracing this too, knowing it’s not a lesser role for them but a biblical one.

“By getting men plugged in, we have seen marriages healed and restored because

See DIFFERENCE on 9

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Endorsements from page one

The Cooperative Program's practical methodology makes us Southern Baptists.

Philip Robertson, pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church in Deville and Alexandria, and past LBC president (2004-2005), echoed Horn's endorsement, saying, "I know the value of having a SBC president with a proven record of championing evangelism, Cooperative Missions, and the salt & light influence of Southern Baptists in our nation and the world.

"In my opinion, Ken

Hemphill is that man," Robertson said, "and I look forward to voting for him in Dallas!"

Several endorsers were direct about their support because of a single quality or issue.

"I support Dr. Hemphill because he values and supports the ministry of state conventions. He stands for the ministry we do every day with the churches of Louisiana," explained Bill Robertson, Louisiana Baptists' director of pastoral leadership, who was LBC president in 2006.

David Cranford, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Ponchatoula, declared his support because "Ken Hemphill supports the Cooperative Programs.

Steve James, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, and former LBC president, 2002-2003, summed up his support for Hemphill in spiritual terms.

"I have watched him

preach, teach and lead with a confidence in the Word of God and a dependency upon the Holy Spirit," James said. "I have the utmost confidence that Ken will lead this convention in a way that will exalt the name of Christ around the world."

Meanwhile, Kevin Stewart, pastor of McClendon Baptist Church in West Monroe, who also hosted a rally for Hemphill to meet Louisiana Baptists, said it was Hemphill's soul winning that garnered his commitment.

"He is a consistent and steady leader who believes and practices evangelism locally as well as worldwide," Stewart said, adding his admiration for Hemphill's record of executive service. "Experience goes a long way in leading a large organization like the SBC."

Indeed, it is Hemphill's extensive executive experience that has garnered the support of other Louisiana Baptist leaders.

Mike Holloway, pastor of

Ouachita Baptist Church in West Monroe, said the downward trajectory of the Convention concerned him, citing in particular "the decline in baptisms and the growing lack of support for the Cooperative Program."

"When I heard Dr. Ken Hemphill would be a candidate for president of our Convention I was ecstatic!" Holloway exclaimed.

Holloway was president of the LBC in 2008 and 2009.

"Dr. Hemphill has the experience we need to return to the days of fervent evangelism and missions with an emphasis on working together (CP) for the cause of the Kingdom of Christ," he emphasized. "Join me in supporting this great author and visionary leader."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Marvin Leleux, pastor of Springhill Baptist Church in Ringgold, who said, "Southern Baptists are facing one of the biggest challenges that we have ever faced before."

Clarifying that he does not endorse politicians or political parties from the pulpit, he said the issues are too critical to remain silent about the election of the SBC president.

"The battle that we are in the midst of has deep theological and doctrinal concerns that may affect our Convention, our denomination, in ways which cannot even be imagined," he warned. "Ladies and

gentlemen, we must adhere to Scripture in its proper context, and I feel with all of my heart and soul that Dr. Ken Hemphill does just that.

"His understanding of the Bible, in my humble opinion, is within the proper context. So I am extending my support, and the support of the church I pastor, to Dr. Hemphill because of seriousness of the issues at stake regarding theology and doctrine."

LIST OF ENDORSERS

Josh Adams, pastor, First Baptist Church, Harrisonburg; Waylon Bailey, pastor, First Baptist Church, Covington, LBC president, 2012-2013, incumbent LBC Executive Board president; Marty Black, pastor, New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe; Rick Brewer, president, Louisiana College; Chris Craig, pastor, First Baptist Church, Ruston; David Cranford, pastor, First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula; Nathan Davis, pastor, First Baptist Church, Coushatta; Matt Endris, pastor, Fairview Baptist Church, Coushatta; Mike Evans, pastor, Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill; David Goza, pastor, Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge; Carl Gulde, pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax; David Hankins, executive director, Louisiana Baptist Convention; Glen Harrigill, pastor, Riverside Baptist Church, Vidalia; Randy Harper, pastor, Bellaire Baptist Church, Bossier City; Tim Hisaw, pastor, Tioga First Baptist Church; Mike Holloway, pastor, Ouachita Baptist Church, West Monroe, LBC president, 2008-2009; Stewart Holloway, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pineville; Steve Horn,

See ENDORSEMENT on 8



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Hemphill tours state, with stops at FBC Bossier, McClendon BC and LC

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

BOSSIER CITY – Ken Hemphill, a candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention, wrapped up a two-day visit to Louisiana Wednesday afternoon (March 28) in which he met with pastors to share his heart and vision.

The noted author, pastor and Southern Baptist leader, who will be officially nominated during the 2018 SBC Annual Meeting, June 12-13, in Dallas, Texas, spoke to students at Louisiana College, and Southern Baptist pastors at McClendon Baptist Church, West Monroe (March 27) and at First Baptist Church, Bossier City (March 28).

Hemphill shared about his vision for the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Program and God's unlimited love.

"I wanted people to have the opportunity to meet me, to ask questions, and to be able to share my heart with everyone," said Hemphill. "This is why I speaking at these different places."

CHALLENGED STUDENTS

He challenged students attending the Louisiana College

weekly chapel service, March 27, to be available as instruments to advance His kingdom.

"When you pray, say, 'Today, Father, on campus, let me see what you are about, what you are doing,'" Hemphill said.

Drawing from John 5, Hemphill said to help accomplish this, students can ask God to help them see people as Jesus saw them, to help them respond to the need as He would and to show them where He is working.

"When you ask Him to show you what He's doing, He will," Hemphill said.

Hemphill ended his message with a challenge to the students and faculty.

"God is looking for a campus, God is looking for a young man and woman, looking for a faculty person, who will dare to say, 'I will embody your name, I will embrace your mission, and I will obey your will,'" Hemphill said.

UNVEILING HIS VISION

At McClendon Baptist Church in West Monroe, during a question answer session moderated by Ouachita Baptist Pastor Mike Holloway, Hemphill said he is optimistic about the future of the Southern Baptist Convention.

However, he wants to see a revitalization of churches and that to do so means congregations must focus more on prayer and spiritual awakening. To help accomplish this, Hemphill emphasized the importance of churches, associations, state conventions and the national convention working together through what has always before been a unique strategic relationship.

He said his passion is to see an increase in Sunday school attendance, worship attendance and baptisms, all which have seen declines in recent years.

"I believe we can turn this thing around," Hemphill said. "I really believe that – if we get a renewed zeal for our partnerships."

Speaking to First Bossier Pastor Brad Jurkovich, he reiterated the vision he had shared the night before at McClendon Baptist Church.

See TOUR on 9



Philip Timothy photo

Mike Holloway looks on as SBC presidential candidate Ken Hemphill answers a question during a campaign stop at McClendon Baptist Church in West Monroe March 27.

PASTOR OF WORSHIP/SENIOR ADULTS

Emory Baptist Church (70 miles east of Dallas) is seeking a full time Pastor of Worship and Senior Adults. However, consideration will be given to other combinations. This position will give leadership to a church-wide, comprehensive music ministry including but not limited to planning and leading two blended worship services each week and leading occasionally with an instrument and directing adult choir rehearsal. Additional responsibilities will include a comprehensive ministry to senior adults.

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RA Congress going 'sporty' to reach boys' mind and body

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

WOODWORTH – First through sixth grade boys will have the opportunity to learn how to be champions on the playing field and mission field during the 2018 Royal Ambassador Congress.

The event April 6-7 at Tall Timbers Conference Center in Woodworth will feature coaches and former professional athletes leading the boys in baseball, basketball, football and soccer mini-camps, as well as demonstrations by Todd Keene, president of the interdenominational Power Team

from Dallas, Texas.

The sports camps and Power Team demonstrations will coincide with this year's theme, "Mind and Body," based on Titus 2:11-12.

"Many times as ministers we focus on the soul and spirit but as Royal Ambassadors we focus on the mind and body as well," said

Gibbie McMillan, men's and ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists. "Our hope is to use the sports element to capture the attention of these young boys while they are developing. The power team will do amazing feats of physical strength. However their main purpose is to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

"We follow the RA track but are open to all young boys grades 1-6," he contin-

ued. "Some churches don't offer RA's and this event can help them get started. It is not too late to start, so register soon and expect a great adventure at Congress."

The cost for RA Congress is \$54.50 per person, based on multiple-occupancy.

For more information or to download a registration form, visit <http://talltimbersbcc.org/retreats/ra-congress/>.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL BLACKWELL AT 318.335.8200

Endorsements from page 6

pastor, First Baptist Church, Lafayette, LBC president, 2014-2015; Darryl Hoychick, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Pineville; Steve James, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, LBC president, 2002-2003; Marvin Leleux, pastor, Springhill Baptist Church, Ringgold; Bill Robertson, Louisiana Baptists' director of pastoral leadership, LBC president, 2006; Phillip Robertson, pastor, Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville and Alexandria, LBC president,

2004-2005; Jake Roudkovski, director, doctor of ministry program, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Gevan Spinney, pastor, First Baptist Church, Haughton, LBC president, 2016-2017; Clark Stewart, pastor, New Zion Baptist Church, Covington; Kevin Stewart, pastor, McClendon Baptist Church, West Monroe; Carl Sullivan, retired pastor, Gray's Creek, Denham Springs and Eddie Wren, pastor, First Baptist Church in Rayville, incumbent LBC president.

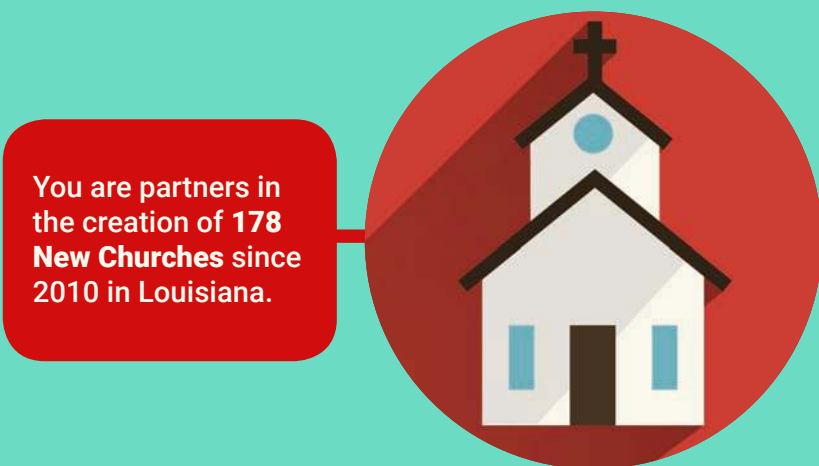
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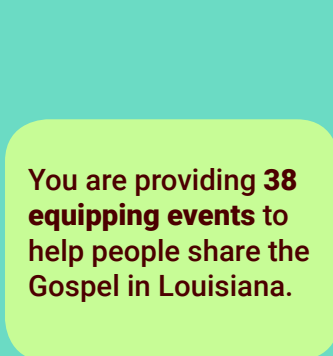
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Tour from page 7

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Through his Together We Can 2121 plan, Hemphill believes Southern Baptists can make headway into reversing the negative trends in baptisms, worship attendance and Sunday school attendance.

He said if churches would make a commitment to baptize two more people next year than in the present calendar year, it would produce a significant turnaround in baptisms.

Additionally, his plan calls for individual members and for churches to increase their giving to the Cooperative Program, respectively, by one percent.

"If your members give one more percent, your local church will have more money to do its ministry and mission in that area," he said. "Then if every church gives one more percent, the Louisiana Baptist Convention, when you begin to multiply it by the number of churches, will have additional funds and can give greater to IMB and NAMB and to other relation-

ships we have."

Finally, his plan calls for churches to start two new small Bible study groups. Through his website, kenhemphill2018.com, he will post resources to better equip churches in meeting that goal.

CP ADVOCATE

Hemphill said he is an advocate of the Cooperative Program, which he believes is the lifeline to fund the Kingdom work of Southern Baptists. Though he recognizes the autonomy of the local church, Hemphill expressed concern about a movement by some congregations to "pick and choose" causes they give to instead of giving through the Cooperative Program to support all state and national cooperative ministries.

"When I make a decision that says I know better how this money ought to be allocated, I think that's pretty frightening," he said. "I would not want it, as pastor, if my people came in and we had a unified budget and I had some of my givers come to me and say, 'Pastor we love you but we're going to give one

percent to the budget and we're going to give the other 99 percent to the music ministry."

"The problem is you can't budget, you can't plan," he continued. "If we're going to have a strategic plan as Southern Baptists, that strategic plan has to be backed by a unified budget. If we don't know how that's going to be supported, it is very difficult to plan your mis-

sion forces, to plan any of your church planting strategies."

GOD'S UNLIMITED CHARACTER

Hemphill shared from his book "Unlimited: God's Love, Atonement and Mission" that portrays how God's unlimited character is expressed through His unlimited atonement, mission, resources and presence.

"I believe the Bible teaches that anyone can turn to Christ," he said. "I don't think God created anybody for eternal damnation. I don't see it in His character. I don't see it in Scripture. I believe that anybody who turns to Jesus can be saved."

"It means, 'I cannot not witness to my neighbor,'" he offered. "It means, 'I have a mandate.'"

Difference from page 5

they get on fire for the Lord," he continued, "and it's infecting our entire church."

SERVANTS' HEART

Though God is working through the men, Fream is quick to emphasize others in the church also are passionate about serving.

Every Sunday, one class will forgo their meeting time so they can serve in the preschool and children's area. On their respective assigned Sundays, class members show up, as many as 40-50 strong, and wear a shirt that proclaims "Get Your Serve On."

Members also participate in mission trips worldwide. In 2008, the only trip taken was to India. Today, members serve in

as many as 20 cities and countries, including Dallas, Texas, Uganda, Panama, Guatemala and Ukraine.

The congregation also has a passion for ministering to area schools and needy families.

In December, Sunday school classes provide a meal and presents to families in need.

Once a month, the church assembles food kits that are delivered to teachers who identify students who cannot afford meals on the weekends, when school is not in session.

"That's why we are here — to bring people to the kingdom," Fream said. "Cypress gets that. It's not anything I've done but what the Lord has done. The members understand they are giving their lives away to someone who needs Christ."



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SEEKING A YOUTH MINISTER
Bayou Oaks Baptist Church in Monroe, LA is seeking a youth minister.
Please mail résumés to Bayou Oaks Baptist Church, Youth Minister Search Committee, 298 Joe White Rd, Monroe LA 71203 or email to bayouoaksbaptist@bellsouth.net.

Minister of Music
Gateway Baptist Church
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Is seeking a bivocational Minister of Music
Send resume and demo to: amysdufrene@icloud.com

SEEKING A PART TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER
Main Street Baptist Church and Mission in Pineville is seeking a part time Children's Minister for Sundays and Wednesday nights. Interested applicants can contact Pastor Sam West for more information by emailing samhwest@yahoo.com or by calling 318.442.5803

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Rayville, LA 71269
Or email your résumé to: William.Curry@hydro.com

SEEKING PASTOR CANDIDATES
Central Baptist Church, Marshall, Texas seeking pastor candidates, send résumés to rrobinette@cbcmarshall.org. Small, downtown congregation, affiliated with SBC and BGCT, supporting several local ministries, seeking to meet needs and share the gospel with surrounding community.

Philadelphia Baptist Church Deville is now accepting résumés for
OFFICE MANAGER/PASTOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
The applicant must possess good people and communication skills. Knowledge of Microsoft Office – specifically: Excel, Outlook, Publisher, and PowerPoint is required. The person filling this position will lead the support staff to insure the office is operating efficiently and effectively, perform detail oriented tasks with database and participation/attendance tracking, and must have a heart for the vision of reaching people. The right candidate needs to have prior leadership experience and be self-motivated. Familiarity with ACS (Automated Church Software) or data-base management software is a plus. Please send résumé to sandi@pbcmministry.com.
All résumés must be received by April 8, 2018.

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Hebron Baptist Church is seeking to hire a full-time Financial Secretary. The ideal candidate should have 2-5 years' experience in accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, maintenance of contracts and light office duties. Salary will be \$30,400 - \$38,000 depending on one's experience.
Please send résumé with reference to: Hebron Baptist Church
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ON THE MOVE

■ Charlie Westbrook, Jr., is the new pastor at Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs.
 ■ David Brown is retiring as Eastern Louisiana Baptist Associational Missions Coordinator June 30.
 ■ Gary (wife Becky) R. Wolfe is the new bi-vocational pastor at Pioneer Baptist Church, Pioneer.
 ■ David, wife Brooke, Scott is the new pastor to youth and collegiate students at University Baptist Church, Thibodaux. He begins June 1.
 ■ Roy Davis is the new pastor at Gray Baptist Church, Jefferson, Texas.
 ■ Brent Shoalmire resigned as pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church, Plain Dealing. He is now the new pastor at Red River Baptist Church, Benton.
 ■ Billy Pierce is the interim pastor at Oak Hill Baptist Church, Plain Dealing.

HOMEcoming

■ Old Union Baptist Church, Mansfield: 159th Homecoming, April 8, 11 a.m. A covered dish lunch will be held following Worship Services. Speaker: Lyndon Longoria. Special Music: Kerry Longoria. Music: Southern Plainsmen. Pastor: Alton Middleton.

REVIVAL

■ New Beginnings Baptist Church, Castor: Revival, April 5-8. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell, chalk artist. Pastor: David Boyler.
 ■ Morehouse Association Harvest Roundup, April 6-8 at the Morehouse Activity Center, Bastrop featuring Dan Daly and Wildhorse Ministry; Friday, 7 p.m. roundup kickoff; Saturday, 10 a.m., Paul Daly demonstrates how to tame a wild horse; Noon-2 p.m. fun for the family with jumpers, concessions, music and more; 2 p.m., Daly demonstrates how to tame a wild horse; Sunday, 2 p.m., Daly demonstrates how to tame a wild horse.
 ■ Pisgah Baptist Church, Bernice: April 8-10.

Evangelist: Scotty McDowell, chalk artist. Pastor: Jeff Hurst.
 ■ Union Hill Baptist Church, Glenmora: Revival, April 8-11. Evangelist: Lyndon Longoria. Music: Kerry Longoria. Pastor: Tony Doyle.
 ■ Ouachita Parish Harvest Crusade 2018, April 8-11, 6:30 p.m. nightly at the West Ouachita High School gymnasium. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Worship: Led by various groups from around the state. Monday will be a special youth emphasis and features a pizza blast at 5:15 p.m.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Provencal: Revival, April 8-11. Evangelist: Joe Aulds. Pastor: Bill Hudson.
 ■ His Church, Pineville: Spring revival, April 8-11. Evangelist: Jack Zimmerman. Pastor: Steve Speer.
 ■ Palestine Baptist Church, Grant: Family Crusade, April 8-11. Evangelist: 2TALK42 Ministries Pastor: Hardy Estes.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Dubach: Revival, April 9-12. Evangelist: Jerry Spencer. Pastor: Corey Bruce.
 ■ Lake St. John Community Baptist Church, Ferriday: Revival. April 11-14. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell, chalk artist. Pastor: Mark Richardson.
 ■ Mooringsport Baptist Church, Mooringsport: Harvest Sunday, April 15, 10:30 p.m. Evangelist: Joe Aulds. Pastor: Roy Strother.
 ■ Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: Big Creek Association Youth Evangelism Event, April 15, 5-8 p.m. This free event is for junior and senior high kids and will feature worship music by United 1 Worship Band, One Voice Choir, Rhythm 1 Trashcan Drum Line, One Move Stomp Team, food, fun and games. Pastor: Carl Gulde.
 ■ Pioneer Baptist Church, Pioneer: Revival, April 15-18. Sunday: 9:30 a.m.- Sunday School, 10:45 a.m. Worship, noon Potluck Lunch, 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Prayer Time, 5 p.m. Worship. Monday-Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: Bill Robertson of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Worship Music: Ben Waites. Pastor: Gary R. Wolfe.
 ■ Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold: Revival April 15-18, Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell, chalk artist. Pastor: James Hester.

■ Trinity Heights Baptist Church,, Shreveport: Harvest Week, April 15-18, Sunday, 10:45 a.m.; followed by Men's Night, Monday; Ladies Night - Bloom! - Tuesday. Both events will include great food, incredible door prizes, inspiring music and a Biblical message from Jay Lowder. Pastor: Collin Wimberly.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Castor: Family Crusade, April 15-18. Evangelist: 2TALK42 Ministries Pastor: Preston Young.

LAGNIAPPE

■ 59th Baptist Men's Rally, April 5, 6 p.m. at Bienville High School Gym. Speaker: Marvin Winham, First Baptist Church associate pastor. Cost: \$6.
 ■ First Baptist Church, DeRidder: Fifth Annual Spring Jubilee featuring The Kramers, Ernie Haase and Signature Sound and Joseph Habedank in concert, April 7, 5 p.m. Cost: Advance general admission, \$20; at the door \$25. No ticket required for children under 5. Pastor: Josh Eubanks.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Castor: 12th annual Fishing for Missions, April 7 on Grand Bayou in Coushatta. Registration will be \$100 per team. Big Bass (optional) will be \$20. Prizes include fishing, hunting, and cooking supplies, gift certificates to sporting goods stores, restaurants, and more. For more information call Preston Young at 318.540.9962 or David Lea at 318.550.1298. Leave a message. Pastor: Preston Young.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Winnfield: Joseph Habedank in concert, April 8, 11 a.m., worship; 6 p.m. concert. Pastor: Steven Smithson.

■ First Baptist Church, Minden: Saviour - An Easter Celebration of the Story of God's Passion for His People, April 8, 10:45 a.m. Featured singers include Larnelle Harris, Audrey Henry, Jake Cawley, Aaron Odom, Rachel Chapman, John Frank Reeve and the First Minden Celebration Choir and Orchestra. Pastor: Leland Crawford.
 ■ Leesville High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes presents "Fearless" on April 11, 5:30 p.m. at Leesville High School's Wampus Cat Stadium. Speaker: Derek Griffon. Worship: Stephen Hill, Advance the Light, and FTCA Worship Team. This is a Fields of Faith event. Students 7th through 12th grade are invited, along with school club and church youth groups. School clubs and church youth groups compete in team (10 per team) events for prizes. To register teams or just for more information, call Kevin McAllister at 337.424.8494 or email kevinmcallister@vpsb.k12.la.us.
 ■ Woodland Park Baptist Church, Hammond: Volunteers from Woodland Park will be facilitating Forgiveness & Set Free Bible Study (for post-abortive women) starting April 12, 6 p.m. Contact 985-542-0492 or email: free@rhprc.com, or visit website: www.resthse.org/recovery. All inquiries are confidential. Pastor: Mark Tolbert.
 ■ University Baptist Church, Lake Charles: The Lisemby Family in concert, April 13, 6 p.m. For more information, call 337.480.9410. Pastor: John Astling.
 ■ Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe: Annual Race2Grace 5k, 10k, and 1mile fun run, April 14. Proceeds from the race will help FPBC kids attend Centri-Kid Camp this summer. Pastor: Waymond Warren.

■ First Baptist Church, Winnfield: Mark Lowry What's Not to Love? Tour, April 15, 6 p.m. Cost: \$15 (general admission) at the church office or online at fbcwinn.com (additional fees may apply when purchasing online). Pastor: Steve Smithson.
 ■ Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City: The Nelons in concert. April 15, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received. Pastor: Terry Young.

IN REMEMBRANCE

■ Johnny L. Sanders, 80, of Monroe, passed away August 21, 2017. Born May 12, 1937 in Calhoun City, Mississippi, Sanders graduated from Mississippi College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Luther Rice Seminary. After being licensed to the ministry in 1956, he pastored several churches in Mississippi before moving to Louisiana in 1965. For the next 50 years, he pastored three churches in northeast Louisiana until his retirement in 2016. He was also active with local Southern Baptist associations and the Louisiana Baptist Convention. He served for two terms as a trustee for the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and two terms on the board of Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Rebecca Sanders, and his son and daughter-in-law, John and Robin Sanders and their children, Abigail and Jacob. He is also survived by his brothers, James Sanders and wife, Carolyn, Mike Sanders and wife, Susan, and his sister, Linda Furr and husband, Jimmy, as well as several nieces and nephews.

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.

gcl ugxy, gy ozy sgccpb agy, apcr zc xcrj rops,

gcl robpp ygttgro lgmy bpgyjcp1 azro rops jxr

jk rop yfbzurxbpy.

gfry yp1pcrppc:raj

Clues:
C = N; P = E

Answer to March 22 Crypto:
Mark five: two

GIRLS MISSION CAMP
+
RA CAMP

CHILDREN'S

MISSION CAMP

JULY 23-26
TALL TIMBERS
GRADES 1-6

LIFE ON THE EDGE

"I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."
- Phil. 4:13




HOW TO REGISTER CHURCH MESSENGERS

You can pre-register your church messengers online for the 2018 SBC Annual Meeting in Dallas.

Simply click on www.SBC.net/AnnualMeeting and enter your SBCID, which you can obtain from your local association, www.louisianabaptists.org/directory-of-doms, or the state convention offices, 318.448.3402.

1. When you pre-register a church messenger online, each messenger gets a unique 8 digit "Registration Code" printed on their Messenger Card.
2. Print out the Messenger Card, and give it to your church messenger. A copy of the Messenger Card also will be emailed directly to the messenger's personal email address.
3. The church messenger presents their Messenger Card at the Registration Desk for the 2018 SBC Annual Meeting in Dallas, TX.

Messengers elected by your congregation may also register on site by



Messengers raise their ballots to cast their vote at the SBC Annual Meeting.

presenting a letter on church letterhead signed by the pastor, clerk or moderator of the church certifying the individual has been duly elected as a messenger.

Under certain circumstances, the Credentials Committee may accept other documents (which may include a fax, email or other physical or electronically transmitted document) from the messenger's church which certifies the person as a church messenger.

HOW MANY MESSENGERS CAN YOUR CHURCH SEND?

Each church may be represented by **up to 12 messengers**, depending on church size and Cooperative Program giving amounts, ensuring equal accessibility for small and large congregations alike.

Every SBC congregation automatically qualifies to send two messengers — **plus up to 10 more** using either of the following two criteria. Congregations may send:

- (1) One additional messenger for each full percent of the church's undesignated receipts which the church contributed during the fiscal year preceding through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the

Convention's Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity; or,

- (2) One additional messenger for each \$6,000 which the church contributed during the fiscal year preceding through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention's Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity.


This collection of messengers, or representatives, from cooperating churches gathers to confer and determine the programs, policies, and budget of the Convention, and elect its officers.

BUS OFFER MAKES SBC TRIP AFFORDABLE

Cline Tours is offering a special travel package to Louisiana Baptists to encourage participation in the 2018 SBC Annual Meeting.

For a total of \$265, messengers can travel to this gathering in Dallas, leaving Monday June 11, and returning Wednesday, June 13, and the price includes two nights of lodging (Monday and Tuesday nights).

More details about this affordable travel and lodging option are available at www.SBCStrong.org



Cline Tours is offering a special travel package to Louisiana Baptists to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting