



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

October 11, 2018

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Chuck Kelley announces his retirement

By Gary D. Myers
NOBTS Communications

NEW ORLEANS – New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Charles S. (Chuck) Kelley Jr., announced his plan to retire at the end of the current academic year during Founders' Day chapel Oct. 2.

Kelley will continue to lead the seminary through July 31, 2019.

"This is the biggest decision of my life in a lot of ways," Kelley said in an interview. "I have been a part of almost half of the 100-year existence of NOBTS, it is very much the fabric of my whole life, and it has been a joyful, wondrous journey."

"This is a happy decision for us," Kelley said. "We have served the seminary in a variety of ways and are thrilled to do so now in a completely different way."

The public announcement came during Kelley's Founders' Day presentation called "A Walk through the Presidents." In the presentation, Kelley noted the highlights of the seven other presidents who have served since the seminary launched 100 years ago. He concluded with the story of his presidency and the announcement about his future.

See KELLEY, page 7



Boyd Guy photo

During Founders' Day chapel Oct. 2, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Charles S. "Chuck" Kelley Jr., announced his plan to retire at the end of the current academic year.

Baptism journey stretched from Belarus to U.S.A.

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – Baptism for several years seemed like it would remain just a dream for Belarusian teen Anna Atrohkina.

Although Atrohkina accepted Jesus as Savior in 2015, she had not been able to attend the annual baptism services at her church in Mogilev,

Belarus in either 2016 or 2017.

The church does not have a baptistery and, because of extreme weather

conditions in the winter, only baptizes once a year in a nearby river.

So when the opportunity was presented August 5 at Calvary Baptist Church

in Alexandria, she jumped at the chance to be baptized.

Surrounded by a few friends and several hundred others inside the worship center, Atrohkina stepped into the water for her long-awaited



Submitted photo

Belarusian teen Anna Atrohkina was baptized at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria August 5.

moment.

"In my understanding, baptism for me is immersion in the death of Jesus

See JOURNEY, page 3

TOMORROW'S HOPE CRUSADE



Doug Collier photo

Evangelist Rick Gage walks students through a prayer of repentance inside Jena High School's auditorium September 26. A total of 119 persons turned to Christ during the Tomorrow's Hope Crusade. Another 109 individuals repented to restore their fellowship with Christ, and 15 men and women made other decisions.

Jena athletes turn to Christ at Tomorrow's Hope crusade

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

JENA (LBM) – The Jena High School football and men's basketball teams scored a win of a different kind when 38 players, combined, came forward to humble their hearts before Christ during the Tomorrow's Hope GO TELL Crusade in late September.

Nine football players de-

clared Jesus as Lord of their lives, and 24 football and five basketball players repented to restore fellowship with Christ at Jena High's gymnasium.

Among those was Cameron Jackson, a junior safety and wide receiver who turned to Christ during the opening night of the crusade.

"Though I was nervous, I knew this was what God

wanted me to do," said Jackson, whose father, Anthony, is principal of Jena High. "Now I'm excited about praying and reading my Bible, and I hope to influence others on my team and at school for Christ."

Jackson said his newfound faith helped him persevere through the aftermath of an injury sus-

See ATHLETES, page 2



Doug Collier photos

The final night of the Tomorrow's Hope Crusade targeted students. Among those who accepted Christ throughout the four-day crusade were athletes from Jena High School. Nine football players declared Jesus as Lord of their lives, and 24 football and five basketball players repented to restore fellowship with Christ.



Athletes from page one

tained during a game against Alexandria Senior High the following Friday evening. He expects to recover from the injury before the state play-offs begin in November.

Terry Townsend, youth and recreation minister at the First Baptist Church in Jena, said he was overcome with emotion as he watched many of the same players he knew walk to the front of the Jena High gymnasium to declare their faith in Christ. They were among 119 persons who turned to Christ during the Tomorrow's Hope Crusade September 23-26. Another 109 individuals repented to restore their fellowship with Christ, and 15 men and women made other decisions.

"It's unbelievable because I've prayed for some of them for quite some time," Townsend said. "This is proof

that God answers prayers. He showed up and showed off during those nights they walked down in front to declare their faith in Christ."

Jena High Football Coach Jay Roark said he is delighted whenever a student, especially one of his players, makes a decision to change.

"These decisions seem to have a profound effect on not just the team but the student body," Roark said. "It takes a lot for a teenager to come down in front of their peers and do that. By them doing so, it tells me what happened was a real deal for these young men."

The Tomorrow's Hope Crusade featured Gospel messages by Rick Gage, founder of GO TELL Crusades in Duluth, Georgia, and Scott Camp, founder of Scott Camp Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas, as well as

music by GO TELL vocalists and an area choir. Each night, 700-800 attended the crusade.

Buddy Willis, director of missions for LaSalle Baptist Association, said the area churches were unified in their mission to reach others for Christ during the crusade.

"We have a pretty strong ministerial alliance that works together, but this full cooperation among the different denominations has positioned us to work even closer together," he said. "It has promoted unity in our churches and created an even greater interest in reaching the lost."

"I'm so thankful that the state leadership came up with the Harvest," Willis said. "It's allowed our churches another chance to join in and reach others in our community for Christ. We give God all the glory for what he did here in LaSalle Parish."

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La. Baptists reaching 'next generation'

WOODWORTH – Louisiana Baptist state missions staff updated Executive Board members on progress made to reach the next generation with the Gospel by 2020.

"It's axiomatic that if you do not reach the next generation that you won't have another generation of the church," Louisiana Baptists Executive Director David Hankins said during the September 25 Executive Board meeting at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth. "We know the Lord has promised that won't happen because the gates of death will never be

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Journey from page one

Christ and renewal to a new life," Atrohkina said in an e-mail to the *Baptist Message*. "The past is behind. Jesus gave me the chance to write a new book of my life."

Wayne Taylor, who is executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation, and his wife, Joanna, served as the host home during her Louisiana visit.

They both beamed with excitement as Atrohkina stepped into the baptistry.

"While in Louisiana, Anna challenged me with her life style to be different than the world and to be set apart from the world," he told the *Baptist Message*.

"It is easy for Christians in the USA to blend in and not stand out or be different than the world, at least in our part of the southern US," he added.

DIVINE APPOINTMENT

Taylor met the young Belarusian and her sister, Liza, in September 2016 when he and a group of Louisiana Baptists participated in a mission trip in her hometown of Mogilev.

The Louisiana Baptist Convention in 2014 began to encourage Louisiana Baptist churches to send teams to partner with Byelorussian Mission.

The friendship blossomed, and after a second mission trip to Belarus in 2017 he and his wife arranged for Atrohkina to visit Louisiana.

"I could feel the Holy Spirit in Anna, that God had His hand on her and

that God will use her in some special way," Taylor told the *Baptist Message*. "I wanted Anna to visit the USA and let people know how God is at work in Belarus and how we can encourage the believers and help them spread the Gospel there."

"Once Anna Atrohkina came to share with Louisiana Baptist how Christ changed her life, we were able to see how wonderful that the Gospel is a worldwide message for everyone and how we can encourage each other to be strong in our faith and spread the Gospel."

BRAVE HEART

Like others who are baptized at Calvary Baptist, Atrohkina chose a word to appear on a shirt she wore for the special occasion.

Her word, 'brave,' signifies how courageous a Christ follower must be to live out his or her faith in Belarus.

Seth Carnes, education minister at Calvary Baptist, told the congregation shortly before the baptism that it was a privilege to baptize and celebrate the moment with Atrohkina.


"It's a good reminder for us all that God is not a God of just Central Louisiana or the United States or the English speaking world," Carnes said. "But God is a God with a global mission, a global purpose, and He is at work all over this world where she came to faith in Christ in her home country several years ago."


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Filling in the gaps of science education

By Kirbi Cochran
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE (LBM) – Louisiana College professor Wade Warren wants to provide Louisiana’s science teachers with the necessary stepping stones to begin teaching a more complete curriculum on evolutionary biology. So he is writing a book, “Education Standards and Evolution.”

Warren, who holds a doctorate in zoology with an emphasis in neuroscience, specializes in anatomy, physiology and teaches a master’s degree course on the significance of teaching. “The teachers don’t know their rights – what they can and cannot do. So, my book is a launching pad for them to be informed,” he told the *Baptist Message*. Warren’s book will provide teachers with a simple framework for lessons that will allow them to teach

evolution from a perspective that includes contradicting information. He said many teachers in Louisiana are not aware of the large gaps in evolutionary theory, and that they also are unaware of the freedom, guaranteed by law, to expose these gaps to their students by presenting opposing research. In June 2008, Louisiana enacted the Louisiana Science Education Act, which allows teachers to use supplemental information that presents an opposing view to information provided in the curriculum. The law was enacted to ensure students received a fully-orbed view of a subject. Moreover, it is included in the Louisiana Science Standards. Warren said this law is extremely important because many middle school and high school materials tend to present the theory of evolution as unopposed fact. Yet many

of the ideas included in this theory cannot be fully proven and even greatly disputed among scientists, he pointed out. Warren said teachers are protected by law to be able to provide students with opposing views that will cause them to think critically and figure out the truth for themselves. “Good teachers don’t tell their students what to think,” said Warren. “Good teachers present evidence and let students make up their own minds.” Warren’s book, which is scheduled to be published in November, provides teachers with explanations of the standards and key wording with literature citations, as well as a model for presenting students the opposing views on Darwinian evolution. Various evolutionary topics covered in the work include the fossil record, DNA sequencing, embryology, and common ancestry. The book provides teachers



Kirbi Cochran photo

Louisiana College professor Wade Warren has written a book on evolutionary biology detailing how Louisiana teachers may teach evolution in the state by presenting opposing views.

with all of the necessary sources to properly present both sides of the argument. This teaching method allows students to build vital critical thinking skills that will help them greatly in the future, he said. “Students will learn to not just absorb everything that they are told but to truly

think about and research the information that they are consuming daily.” “Let’s go where the evidence takes us,” he continued. “Because the evidence today is suggesting that the Darwinian model is failing and that life itself was intentionally designed.”

Generation from page 2

strong against the church on the earth. There will always be another church. But we have a duty to give ourselves to that.”

The next generation is one of two groups identified as a target audience in the President’s 2020 Commission Report. Adopted by messengers at the 2013 Louisiana Baptist Convention annual

meeting, the 2020 initiative seeks to reach every generation and every people group in Louisiana with the Gospel by the year 2020 through the avenues of congregational revitalization, church planting, communications and collaboration.

For the remainder of the story go online to www.baptistmessage.com.

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Will Hall photo

LC President Rick Brewer welcomes guests to the grand reopening of Guinn Auditorium on September 30.

LC's Rick Brewer celebrates Guinn Auditorium reopening

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH – Louisiana College President Rick Brewer beamed with excitement as he shared with Executive Board members how God provided funds to renovate Guinn Auditorium, a facility that reopened August 23 after construction work forced its closure for the last two years.

"To God be the glory for what He has done," Brewer said during the Executive Board meeting September 25 at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center. "We're going to enjoy this building for many, many years to come."

The 1,661-seat facility, which is used for chapel services, commencement exercises and other large gatherings, received new

lights, sound system, HVAC, roof, ceiling, walls, floor and seats.

Guinn Auditorium is one of 18 buildings on campus that received interior and exterior improvements after GuideOne Insurance approved a claim for \$18 million of projects that stem from an April 2015 hail storm. The school contacted GuideOne to request an inspection, which revealed the refurbishment would be rather costly but the insurer agreed to cover all the repairs.

Brewer invited Executive Board members to attend a re-dedication celebration of Guinn Auditorium September 30. Special guests were to include the husband and wife team of Ragan Courtney and Cynthia Clawson, as well as accomplished organist Rodney Pendell from

Charleston, South Carolina. For the rest of the story go online to www.baptistmessage.com.

Executive Board approves a leaner budget for 2019

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

WOODWORTH – Louisiana Baptists will be operating in 2019 with a leaner Cooperative Program budget.

During a September 25 meeting at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth, the Executive Board approved the Business and Finance Committee's 2019 financial plan based on Cooperative Program contributions of \$18,813,818, a decrease of \$693,587.

Cooperative Program

projections are based on actual receipts from August 2017 through July 2018.

The allocation formula for distributing Cooperative Program gifts between the Southern Baptist Convention and Louisiana Baptist causes remains unchanged, with 63.26 percent supporting ministries in the state and 36.74 percent forwarded to fund national entities.

This equates to \$11,901,622 in Cooperative Program funds for Louisiana Baptist missions, a decrease

See **BUDGET**, page 11

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Harvest Fest nets decisions for Christ

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

VIDALIA – Former American Ninja Warrior contestant Jared Greer used an obstacle course to share the Gospel with more than 1,100 attending Harvest Fest on the Vidalia Riverfront September 30.

By the end of the evening, five people came forward to accept Christ and another three indicated their desire to restore fellowship with the Lord during the Delta Baptist Association-sponsored festival.

The event featured inspiring messages by Greer and Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, as well as music by the First Baptist Church in Vidalia band.

Harvest Fest was among the events held or sched-

uled this year as part of the statewide Harvest campaign to “pray for every home and share with every person” in Louisiana.

“You never know the Kingdom results that might come from the seeds that were planted,” said Beau Colle, director of missions for Delta Baptist Association. “From the time this committee began working for a year and a half to put this together, everybody just jumped in to do something to reach lost people and plant seeds of the faith.

“Our churches are diligent, week by week, preaching the Gospel,” he continued. “But sometimes you have to go outside the lines and do things that are out of the ordinary to try to plant seeds to reach people for the Kingdom.”

Leading up to the crusade, the 14 churches in the



Philip Timothy photos

(Left) Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, told a crowd of 1,100 attending the Harvest Fest in Vidalia that America needs a touch of the Master’s hands. (Right) Jared Greer, a two-time contestant on the TV show “American Ninja Warrior,” shared in his message that God can provide encouragement among difficult circumstances.

association participated in individual prayer times, a day of prayer and “Bless Every Home,” a computer-based program for targeting neighborhoods with prayer.

Wes Faulk, pastor of the First Baptist Vidalia, said many in his church found Bless Every Home an effective tool to intentionally pray for their neighbors. For 20 days, Bless Every Home participants received

a daily email containing names (heads of household) and addresses for five neighboring houses as a reminder to pray for the salvation of members of that home – for a total of 100 of their neighboring families.

“Many people in our churches said it was so neat to meet their neighbors because they got to pray for them,” he said.

“The push for our church has been to go beyond our walls and build relationships.

“We don’t need to be just the First Baptist Church in Vidalia but to serve as the First Baptist Church for Vidalia. This event was one of many things working towards that mission of our church. We are a church in the city that exists for the city.”

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Kelley

from page one

After much prayer and several years of planning, Kelley said the conclusion of the centennial celebration offered a great opportunity to announce the transition. Kelley expressed his desire to see new leadership in place that will set the course for the next era of ministry.

"Why now?" Kelley asked rhetorically. "As I look back at how intertwined my life has been with nearly half of the first century of the school, it seems appropriate to let the next leader start fresh with the second century of NOBTS."

Kelley notified trustee chairman Frank Cox, senior pastor of North Metro Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, Ga., of his retirement plans in a written statement on Sept. 24. Shortly before the chapel service, Kelley announced his plans to the executive committee of the NOBTS trustee board who were on campus for their regular fall meeting.

"Dr. Kelley has been committed to training and equipping young ministerial students all of his life, first as a professor of evangelism and then serving as the longest-tenured president of our institution. We applaud him," Cox said on behalf of the board. "I think the future is bright for him and Rhonda and the future is bright for our seminary."

Cox praised Kelley's leadership following Hurricane Katrina, when the school faced its greatest challenge. The board has great appreciation for Kelley's accomplishments at NOBTS, his commitment to evangelism, and for the many contributions he and his wife, Rhonda, made to the SBC as a whole, Cox said.

In his retirement years, which will be spent primarily in Fairhope, Ala., Kelley plans to begin a renewed focus on research into the SBC's evangelism issues. Kelley, who has studied evangelism practices and baptism statistics in the SBC since 1982, believes that the decline in baptisms represents a profound crisis for Southern Baptists. He intends to write and speak on evangelism and discipleship with a frequency and fervor that simply was not possible while leading the seminary.

"We know that he will be

an ambassador for NOBTS and contributing to Southern Baptist life through his research and writing on evangelism," Cox said.

The trustees will enact the seminary's presidential search protocol during their fall meeting Oct. 3. The seminary bylaws call for Cox to appoint a committee with 11 voting members—including the board chairman, the immediate past chairman, one faculty member, one student, and seven other board members.

"By making the announcement now the trustees have a reasonable chance to have someone in place by the start of the next academic year," Kelley said.

THE KELLEY PRESIDENCY

The board of trustees unanimously elected Kelley as the eighth NOBTS president in 1996 following a 20-year tenure by Landrum P. Leavell II. A professor of evangelism at NOBTS since August 1983, Kelley assumed the office of president March 1, 1996. Since his election, Kelley has led NOBTS through a rapidly changing academic and ecclesiastic landscape and rebuilt the campus twice — once due to extensive Formosan termite damage and a second time in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. His tenure will be remembered both for innovation and for faithfulness to God's call in the face of stiff challenges.

Kelley set the tone of his presidency in 1997 by

working with the faculty to identify the core competencies graduates needed to serve in a local church. They identified seven and restructured the entire curriculum around the needs of the local church ministry.

Another important local church initiative serves as a bookend for his tenure. In 2014, the seminary launched the Caskey Center for Church Excellence with the help of a multi-million-dollar anonymous gift. The center offers full scholarships and other assistance for bivocational and small church ministers. The program which emphasizes personal evangelism has resulted in 26,359 Gospel conversations and 2,887 new believers.

Kelley received high marks for his steady hand of leadership in the immediate aftermath of Katrina. Part of the reason for the swift recovery was the seminary's combined use of educational technology and extension centers. Online technology and new instruction methods allowed professors to keep teaching and students to keep learning just weeks

after the storm. Though enrollment declined in the initial aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, it rebounded to reach an all-time high enrollment of 3,955 students in 2015.

Distance learning has been another hallmark of the Kelley presidency. Through the implementation of extension centers, Internet and hybrid courses and non-residential doctoral studies, Kelley has helped the school offer God-called men and women the opportunity to pursue theological education that would otherwise have been unattainable. A new emphasis on mentoring is preparing the next generation of church leaders with real-world leadership opportunities in the local church. Non-traditional students have become the NOBTS tradition.

Early in his tenure, Kelley was presented with a radical idea -- to offer training at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, La. Sensing God's call, Kelley's team launched an undergraduate program at Angola. The effort led to a

church-planting movement at the prison, with many coming to Christ resulting in a transformation of the prison's culture. The idea spread quickly as NOBTS started similar programs at men's prisons in three other states and at Louisiana's prison for women. Other seminaries have followed the NOBTS lead.

More recently, NOBTS weathered the challenge of a national economic downturn and a sea-change in theological education.



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	Homecoming Golf Tournament	OakWing Golf Club	11:30AM
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	LC Chorale Reunion Concert	Guinn Auditorium	6PM
	Pep Rally and Bonfire	Lynn Alumni Center	9PM
	Tennis Exhibition featuring 1978 Tennis Team	LC Tennis Courts	9AM
	Reception for Class of 1968	Formal Lounge	9AM
	Registration for Banquet and Other Activities	Granberry Atrium Area	10AM
	Reception Honoring our Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Inductees	Formal Lounge	10:45AM
	Homecoming Celebration Banquet	Granberry Conference Center	11:30AM
	Homecoming Parade	Around the Circle	3PM
	Tailgating with the LC Student Body and Alumni	Tailgating Area at Wildcat Stadium	4PM
	Introduction of the 1958 Rice Bowl Team, Distinguished Alumni, and Hall of Fame Inductees	Wildcat Stadium	5:40PM
	Homecoming Game: LC Wildcats Vs. Belhaven	Wildcat Stadium	6PM

FRIDAY, 26TH

SAURDAY, 27TH

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Notice of intention to amend Baptist Message Charter

Amendments to the *Louisiana Baptist Message* Articles of Incorporation require a “two-thirds majority of the Board of Trustees and the approval of a two-thirds majority of the messengers at any annual or special meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, after notice of the intention to amend the charter together with the proposed amendment have been published in the *Baptist Message* not less than twice in the thirty days immediately preceding the meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.”

Baptist Message trustees approved a number of changes in May 2018, and this article is the first notice of the intention to amend the charter.

The following amendments are recommended (deletions are indicated with a ~~strike through~~ and additions by **bolded text**; all changes are underlined :

1. NAME

The Name of the Corporations ~~shall~~ be BAPTIST MESSAGE.

2. OBJECTS AND PURPOSES

(B) To own and operate ~~printing plants and~~ all necessary appurtenances for the ~~printing publishing~~ **publishing** of the *BAPTIST MESSAGE*, and such other ~~publications~~ **publications** products as may be ~~published~~ **desired** by the corporation; ~~to engage in job printing of religious literature and materials for churches and church-related institutions;~~ to sell advertising in the publications of the corporation to help defray the costs of such publications, and generally to do everything incidental and necessary to its stated objects and purposes.

3. A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

This is a non-profit corporation as defined by ~~R-S-12:101(H)~~ **Louisiana Revised Statutes** organized on a non-stock basis.

12. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The affairs of this corporation shall be directed by a Board of Trustees consisting of two-ex-officio members, to wit, the Executive ~~Secretary~~ **Director** of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the President of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and Twelve (12) trustees to be elected by the Membership at the annual meeting hereof, said election shall be held in conjunction with the report of the Nominating Committee of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, which said trustees shall be members in good standing of Baptist churches constituent of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

13. FIRST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The names, addresses and terms of office of the first Board of Trustees are as follows:

Name	Post Office Address	Term of Office
Jesse Cutrer, Jr.	Bogalusa	Three (3) Years
Charles Blackmon	Baton Rouge	Three (3) Years
T. Sloane Guy	New Orleans	Three (3) Years
Ray Rust	Bastrop	Three (3) Years
Clifton Tennison	West Monroe	Two (2) Years
George May	Lafayette	Two (2) Years
Clarence Young	Winnsboro	Two (2) Years
John D. Akins, Jr.	Alexandria	Two (2) Years
H. C. Abbott	Shreveport	One (1) Year
Jimmy Fogleman	Lake Charles	One (1) Year
Truman Aldredge	Minden	One (1) Year
Luther B. Hall	Farmerville	One (1) Year
Executive Secretary	PO Box 311	Ex Officio
Robert L. Lee	Alexandria	
President of LA Baptist Convention		
Luther B. Hall	Farmerville	Ex Officio
Robert L. Lee	Alexandria	Ex Officio (LBC Ex. Dir.)
Luther B. Hall	Farmerville	Ex Officio (LBC President)

19. BEGINNING OF TERMS OF OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The terms of office of new members of the Board of Trustees hereof shall begin at ~~the first meeting, regular or special of the Board of Trustees held following their election~~ **the close of the annual meeting during which they were elected.**

20. TRUSTEES CONTINUE IN OFFICE UNTIL SUCCESSORS ELECTED AND QUALIFIED

Members of the Board of Trustees shall continue to serve until their successors have been elected ~~and qualified by attending a meeting of the Board of Trustees.~~

Missouri army base sees 3,300 soldiers accept Christ

PULASKI, COUNTY, Mo. (LBM) – *The Pathway*, the multi-media news service of the Missouri Baptist Convention, is reporting a spiritual movement among the soldiers stationed at Fort Leonard Wood.

Since March of this year, about 3,300, and counting, soldiers and trainees have professed faith in Christ, according to Southern Baptist Chaplain (Cpt.) Jose Rondon.

Fort Leonard Wood is home to about 6,000 permanently stationed active duty personnel and about 12,000 trainees at any one time.

Rondon, originally from Venezuela where an International Mission Board missionary shared the Gospel with him, said the “key” to so many people coming to Christ could be summed up in one word, “INTENTIONAL.”

Baptist Press, the national news service of the SBC reported Rondon as defining “intentional” as being “faithful to Christ and obedient to His Great Commission.”

“We will not succeed in making disciples until the lost make the first step to follow Christ as their Savior,” Rondon said.

Citing Colossians 4:2-4, Rondon offered that he believes “our nation, our churches and our military are on the verge of seeing God like we have never seen Him before. All glory to Christ alone!”

U.N.: EXCESSIVE DRINKING KILLED 3 MILLION WORLDWIDE

NEW YORK (LBM)—The United Nations World Health Organization has released findings that nearly 3 million deaths worldwide were caused by alcohol, with men composing nearly 77 percent of those who died from excessive consumption.

About one-third of alcohol-related deaths resulted from car crashes and self-harm, while about one in five were due to either digestive disorders or cardiovascular diseases. Cancers, infectious

diseases, mental disorders and other health conditions also were to blame.

The mortality resulting from alcohol consumption was higher than that caused by diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and diabetes.

According to CBSNews.com, Dr. Vladimir Poznyzk, coordinator of WHO’s management of substance abuse, said it was “imperative for the governments to put in place measures that can mitigate the harms associated with this increase.”

However, the Distilled Spirits Council, which advocates for the industry in the U.S., said it has concerns “with some policy recommendations such as increasing alcohol taxes,” calling these “misguided” and claiming they “don’t effectively address harmful consumption.”

RESEARCH: VIDEO GAMES CAUSE VIOLENCE; LIMIT SCREEN TIME FOR KIDS

ALEXANDRIA (LBM)—Separate studies have released

findings with key information for parents with regard to raising children: One found violent video games do cause players to become more physically aggressive. The other concluded children’s cognition (ability to learn and understand) is negatively impacted by too much screen time.

Dartmouth researchers conducted a finely structured meta-analysis of 24 already completed studies, according to USAToday.com, to conclude that violent video games, whether played frequently or infrequently, increased violent behavior in the players.

The researchers stopped short of suggesting video games led to crimes, but offered that their findings indicate “players may practice riskier behaviors such as

reckless driving, binge drinking, smoking and unsafe sex.”

One of the lead writers said “either these games are having a warping effect on right and wrong” or the players already “have a warped sense of right or wrong and that’s why they are attracted to these games.”

“Either way you should be concerned about it,” he said.

Meanwhile, CNBC.com reported the National Institutes of Health had found in a study of 4,500 children ages 8 to 11 that kids who spent more than two hours in front of screens were linked to poorer cognition, causing learning difficulties.

Researchers said the next step is to study “the impacts of different forms of screen time, such as educational versus entertainment experiences.”

Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries, Monroe, LA

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Please submit résumé to Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

CAMPUS FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED!

Husband/wife teams needed. Full-time positions include salary, benefits, paid vacation and training. Provide love, care, and hope in Christ to children in need. Applicants should not have children living at home under the age of 18. Must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and be an active member of a local Southern Baptist church.

Please send résumé to Dr. Perry Hancock (phancock@lbch.org) or Susan Nolan (snolan@lbch.org) or P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

FOSTER & ADOPTION SPECIALIST NEEDED

Full-time position needed for Alexandria, LA. Position includes salary, benefits, and paid vacation. Requires master's degree in social work. Minimum of two years' experience in social work field preferred. Must demonstrate proficient communication and writing skills. Some travel required. Must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and be an active member of a local Southern Baptist church.

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Hope4U coming to Central Louisiana

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – Momentum is building for what could be one of the largest multi-denominational evangelistic outreaches ever in Central Louisiana.

The Hope4U GO TELL Crusade will be held Oct. 14-17 at the Rapides Parish Coliseum, and has support from at least 50 churches in the CenLa Baptist Association as well as congregations from other denominations.

Rick Gage, founder of GO TELL Crusades in Duluth, Georgia, team evangelist Ken Freeman, founder of Ken Freeman Ministries in Martindale, Texas, and Scott Camp, founder of Discover Joy Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas, will bring Gospel messages. Meanwhile, award-winning Christian bands Rush of Fools and NewSong will be joined by an area-wide mass choir as well as the GO TELL worship team to share about Christ through music.

"When the body of Christ comes together, works together, prays together, and fasts together, it builds unity and builds a synergy where the body of Christ can have a huge spiritual impact in a community," Gage said. "The key to a successful outreach event in addition to the leadership and preparation it builds unity, as one, for the purpose of reaching the lost. That's one of the byproducts of these events



Rapides Parish Coliseum
October 14-17
6:30 p.m., nightly

that it builds unity among the body of Christ. This outreach event is crossing over all denominational and racial barriers as the family of God comes together to reach the unchurched in central Louisiana."

The crusade is part of the statewide Harvest campaign to "pray for every home and share with every person" in Louisiana through the end of 2018.

UNIFYING THE CHURCH

Philip Robertson, pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church that has campuses in Alexandria and Deville, said the crusade is a precursor of what he believes will be a mighty move of God in Central Louisiana. His members are among 400 who have trained to serve as crusade ushers, decision and follow up counselors and prayer warriors.

"Years ago in the 'Experiencing God' study, I learned that God is at work all around us, and we should join Him," Robertson said.

"I am convinced that God has been at work preparing a great spiritual harvest in central Louisiana this October. It's been decades since I've seen so many churches crossing denominational and racial lines to unify together for the Gospel. I believe a Great Awakening is coming."

Joshua Joy Dara, pastor of Zion Hill Family Church in Pineville, has enjoyed the unified spirit of area churches.

"I am excited about the opportunity to win souls for our Lord Jesus Christ," he said. "Likewise, I get excited watching the Body of Christ working together in Unity for the glory of God. It is quite refreshing."

REACHING THE YOUTH

Organizers have planned several events to reach the area's youth, including a Field of Faith student revival Oct. 7 at Louisiana College's Wildcat Stadium, conducted in conjunction with the area Fellowship of Christian

Athletes.

There will be food and a contest giving a student the chance to win a \$24,500 truck.

Wednesday, October 17, the final night of the crusade will be a youth emphasis night with free pizza accompanied by music by national recording artist Gawvi.

Also, there will be a contest to give a student the chance to win \$25,000.

Gage said everything is being done to attract youth to hear the Gospel.

"We will remind the students they can be winners, but it starts with making the right decisions," Gage said. "We want students to know the greatest days are not behind them but in front of them. We have to go to the extra mile to put on a full court press to reach the youths of America."

"As we studied the history of revivals, there has never been a revival where it didn't begin with young people," he continued. "I'm thrilled we are put-

ting a special emphasis on reaching youths across the region."

PRAYING PURPOSEFULLY

Gage emphasized for a great harvest to take place during the area-wide outreach effort, prayer must be a central activity.

"The need to evangelize the lost has never been greater; and at the same time, the opportunities to evangelize the lost have never been greater," Gage said. "This GO TELL Crusade is an incredible opportunity for the people of God to come together to reach the unchurched. This is not an event for the saints of God. This is an event for the saints of God to bring lost classmates, family members and co-workers."

"Prayer is what moves the hand of God," he said. "That will be the key to the success, the spiritual impact and the key to the presence and anointing of God on every service because of the prayers of God's people. Prayer was the key to the spiritual impact and the success Billy Graham had in his outreach events and crusades all over the world. Evangelism is the work of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, prayer becomes our greatest priority. Pray, invite and bring."

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Caucus created to expand Interstate 14 through CENLA

WASHINGTON - Congressmen Ralph Abraham, M.D., R-Alto, and Brian Babin, R-Texas, have created a bipartisan I-14 Caucus with the goal of expanding Interstate 14 through Central Louisiana.

This news follows the announcement this summer of legislation, HR 6111, the I-14 Expansion and Improvement Act of 2018, to designate existing roads into the congressionally designated I-14 corridor to include communities from Midland, Texas, to Laurel, Mississippi within a strategic corridor effectively connecting military bases from El Paso, Texas, to Charleston, South Carolina, with strategic ports where military equipment can be shipped in support of our armed forces deployed around the world.

In Louisiana, portions of LA 8, LA 28 and US 84 would be included in the I-14 corridor, giving Fort Polk and Camp Beauregard



quicker access to the deployment port in Beaumont, Texas. Other state and federal highways near Goodfellow Air Force Base near San Angelo, Texas, and north of the Beaumont would also be added into the I-14 corridor. But the interstate will extend through Mississippi and Alabama and continue to Augusta, Georgia, where it would connect, presumably,

with Interstate 20 which connects with Interstate 26 to the Atlantic Coast.

Charter members of the caucus include congressmen from Texas, Louisiana and Georgia, but it is anticipated that Mississippi and Alabama lawmakers will join the coalition, too, as military readiness for bases in their states will benefit as well.

"Expanding I-14 would give many communities throughout Central Louisiana with direct interstate access, which will lead to more economic growth. This project is a great opportunity to enhance the state of Louisiana, and I look forward to continuing to work with Rep. Babin and other members of Congress to see that it gets done," Dr.

Abraham, a member of Alto Baptist Church, said.

Babin, a member of the First Baptist Church in Woodville, Texas, added, "Our interstate highway system truly connects our nation from coast to coast and represents American ingenuity at its best, but as populations shift and

new economic and military centers emerge, the need to strengthen those connections requires action."

Joining Dr. Abraham and Babin as charter members of the I-14 Caucus are U.S. Reps. Drew Ferguson, R-Ga.; Roger Williams, R-Texas; Mike Conaway, R-Texas; Bill Flores, R-Texas; Mike Johnson, R-La.; Gene Green, D-Texas; and John Carter, R-Texas.

The bill is currently pending before the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

Budget from page 5

of \$438,579 from 2018.

"According to a recent news story, unemployment in Louisiana has increased over the last several months, in spite of a stronger economy nationally," Louisiana Baptists Business and Information Services Director Dale Lingenfelter told the *Baptist Message*. "The 2019 budget reflects this reality.

"However, we know God is faithful, and so are His people, so we are confident we'll have the resources necessary to accomplish what God wants done in Louisiana," he continued. "We're also confident as our churches successfully navigate these challenges, they will increase their support for our cooperative missions and ministries."

The budget will be brought to messengers for approval during the 2018 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, scheduled to be held Nov. 12-13 at Temple Baptist Church in Ruston. It is the fifth consecutive decrease in the Cooperative Program budget.

Upon the committee's recommendations, the Ex-

ecutive Board approved the second quarter 2018 financial report, the 2017 annual audit and the 2019 State Missions Service budget of \$12,413,708, a decrease of \$176,533 from the previous year.

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Stagg to serve Big Creek, CENLA associations



Brian Blackwell photo

After serving in the Midwest for the past two decades, Daryl Stagg has returned to his home state as director of missions for Big Creek and CENLA Baptist Associations. He was baptized at the First Baptist Church in Pineville and was pastor of several churches in Louisiana before moving away from the state in 1996.

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – A long-time Louisiana Baptist pastor who moved out of state in 1996 has returned as the new director of missions for the Big Creek and the CENLA Baptist associations.

Daryl Stagg, who is a native of Tioga, has served in the Midwest for the last two decades, but he said the allure of coming back to Louisiana proved too enticing to ignore.

"I got to a point where I was tired of the heat and moved to a colder climate," quipped Stagg. "Now being older you get tired of shoveling snow and battling ice on the streets. Coming home and seeing the pine trees and having a lot longer climate is a blessing. I look forward to being around my family, my children and grandchildren."

He began his work as director of missions on Sept. 1.

CALL TO MINISTRY

Stagg repented for salvation and was baptized at the First Baptist Church in Pineville when he was nine years old. Eleven years later, he accepted a call to vocational ministry when he was a summer missionary in Bangladesh.

During the years that followed, Stagg served as pastor of the Bayou des Glaises Baptist Church in Moreauville, Fellowship Baptist Church in Converse, First Baptist Church in Calhoun, and Fellowship Baptist Church in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

After 19 years of serving churches, Stagg was called to serve as director of missions for the Lake County Baptist Association in Waukegan, Illinois, and later for the Harmony Baptist Association in Sedalia, Missouri. He also served as a church planter in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

PASSION & VISION

Stagg's vision is three-fold: He will focus on church revitalization, church planting and leadership development.

"All three play a part together in helping the association advance the Gospel in the local area," Stagg said. "Church planting is espe-

cially important because new churches have a higher rate of evangelism and winning souls than longer established churches," he told the Baptist Message. "Sometimes churches reach a plateau and are stuck and need to be revitalized. I'd like to help revitalize those churches and help them have a fresh vision that results in greater ministry impact. Also, we need leaders to accomplish that. We need new leaders as older pastors are retiring. We need more pastors to take their places and lead those churches."

Stagg will serve an association that has been newly formed from the merger of the Central Louisiana and North Rapides associations. Messengers for each voted for the measure during separate meetings March 15.

Big Creek Baptist Association considered joining the other two associations, but opted to maintain their long-time status as Grant Parish's Big Creek Baptist Association. Though it will remain a separate association, those churches will continue to share the director of missions with CENLA Baptist Association.

The CENLA Baptist Association will finalize a constitution and bylaws during its annual meeting Oct. 25 at Philadelphia Baptist Church Horseshoe Drive in Alexandria. The new association is made up of more than 60 churches.

The merger marks the end of a process of meetings that began in April 2017, when Robert Daniel announced his upcoming retirement effective October 31, 2017, as director of missions of Big Creek, Central Louisiana and North Rapides associations. Daniel remained as interim director of missions to assist in the transition of the newly elected leader Daryl Stagg.

Stagg said by unifying into one association, they will be in position to add their strengths together to better evangelize, educate and minister to all of Rapides Parish.

"I am excited to serve the pastors and churches in the two associations," Stagg said. "I look forward to seeing growth in the Kingdom of God as we make disciples together."

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First Simsboro embraces mission to 'love the locals'

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

SIMSBORO (LBM) – The sounds of hammers pounding and electric saws buzzing were music to the ears of Pastor Jason Cole as he surveyed members of the First Baptist Church in Simsboro tirelessly refurbishing a home in their community.

Some installed shingles on a roof while others painted the siding and the porch on a home they have been remodeling for nearly four months. The members are there to renovate the house, he offered, but also to build a Christ-centered relationship with the homeowners through project Mission Simsboro.

"We do this because we want people to see doing missions is not just foreign, national or state," Cole said. "It's local and all of the above."

"We want people to be involved in missions as much as possible and have a chance to tell the good news of Jesus with those around us and encourage believers that we run

into," he emphasized to the Baptist Message.

Since 2013, as many as 40 members from among the 90 persons who attend Sunday morning worship services have participated in various acts of kindness every fourth Sunday through Mission Simsboro, Cole said. They have hosted backyard Bible clubs, visited prospects and prayer walked neighborhoods, all of which have resulted in people repenting to turn their lives over to Christ.

"It's a way for us to put feet to missions, and try to reach our community as we're reaching our state, nation, and world," Cole emphasized. "This is more of letting people hear the Gospel, see the Gospel and give us a chance to live out the Gospel."

Mission Simsboro began out of a desire to minister closer to home, Cole explained. The members participated in mission trips throughout the state, nation and world, but felt they could do more to fulfill Christ's command to share about Him "in their Jerusalem."

Church member Ron Cathey said he was among those who sensed the Holy Spirit leading First Simsboro to focus more on local outreach.

"For years we did international missions, and one day we woke up and said let's do a mission trip to Simsboro," Cathey said. "We discover ways to minister by just taking the time to stop and notice those who really are in need."

"For me it's doing what Jesus told us to do," he continued. "It's an opportunity for us to serve someone else to meet their needs which opens door to share Gospel. And it's a practical way to do evangelism. When you come in and are able to sit down to get to know them, it provides a way to share Gospel."

The outreach also has sparked interest in expanding campus facilities to accommodate those who they reach in the community, Cole shared. In September the church began construction on a 10,000-sq-ft. multi-purpose building, and has committed to finish the project debt free.

"The church in Simsboro believes," Cole offered, "that as God calls them to obediently follow Him, He will be glorified and the Gospel will be proclaimed."



Jason Cole and his son, Alexander, paint the side of a home in Simsboro. Cole, who is pastor of First Baptist Church in Simsboro, said his members have embraced efforts to reach those in their community with the Gospel.



Jim Hayes paints the side of a home in Simsboro as part of an outreach by First Baptist Church in the community. Mission Simsboro began out of a desire to minister closer to home.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: *Do you have a Revival, Homecoming, a new pastor, a community outreach or a concert? The Baptist Message would love to share your church news with the rest of the state. It is very easy to do, just send in your information (who, what, where and when) to philip@baptistmessage.com or call 318.449.4345. To get your event in the paper, please submit your information three weeks prior to the event.*

ON THE MOVE

- **Marlene Williams** is the new communications minister at Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- **Josh, wife Carrie, Cagle** is the new pastor at Oak Hill Baptist Church, Plain Dealing.
- **Lance, wife Debbie, Rolland** is the new pastor at Westwood Baptist Church, Keithville. He comes from Summer Grove Baptist Church.
- **Adam Hughes** is the new pastor of Red Bluff Baptist Church, Folsom.
- **Mark Long** is the new pastor of Bogue Falaya Baptist Church, Folsom.
- **Robert Fontenot** is the new minister to students at Jerusalem Baptist Church, Hammond.
- **Devan and Tiffany Rodriguez** are the new youth directors at Loranger Baptist Church, Loranger.
- **John Rushing** is the interim pastor at Sardis Baptist Church, Farmerville.

HOMECOMING

- Trinity Baptist Church, Hammond: **65th Homecoming Celebration**, October 13-14, on Saturday, 6 p.m. there will be an old-fashioned sing along; on Sunday, October 14, 10:45 a.m. worship service. Following the worship service, there will be dinner on the grounds following the worship service. Pastor: Avery Dixon.
- Welcome Home Baptist Church, Dod-

- son: **Homecoming**, October 14, 10:15 a.m. Special Music: **The Sanctuary Quartet**. Pastor: Aubrey Lavelle Spillers.
- Bethlehem Baptist Church, Calvin: **Homecoming**, October 14, 10:30 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Speaker: **Charles Malone**. Special Music: **Beverly Taylor**. Special Performance: **Renita Wall and the children in the church will sign Hand in the Dark**. Pastor: Charles Malone.
- Pine Hill Baptist Church, Sicily Island: **110th Homecoming**, October 14, special music by **Chronicle** at 10 a.m., worship service 11 a.m. Lunch will follow the worship service. Speaker: **Dennis Hensley**. Pastor: Harrell [Bubba] Tucker.
- First Baptist Church, Chatham: **108th Homecoming**, October 14, 10 a.m. Special Music: **Southern Plainsmen of Hornbeck**. Pastor: Tim Atkins.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Monroe: **97th Homecoming**, October 14, 10 a.m. A covered dish lunch will follow the worship service in the fellowship hall. Guest Speaker: **Bill Robertson, former pastor and present LBC director of Pastoral Leadership**. The church is located at 1155 Hwy 594 Monroe, LA. For more information, call 318.345.1220. Minister of Music: **LaFaye Price**. Pastor: David Willoughby
- Pritchard Baptist Church, Jena: **Homecoming**, October 21, 10:15 a.m. Lunch will follow worship services. Speaker: **Todd Norris**. Everyone is invited to attend services and lunch. Pastor: Terry Doughty.
- First Baptist Church Waverly, Delhi: **Homecoming**, October 21, 10 a.m. A potluck lunch will be held after the worship service. Special Speaker: **Jay Morgan**. Special Music: **Liberty Boys**. Everyone is invited to attend. Pastor: Marion Spence.
- Sandy Creek Baptist Church, Zach-

ary: **178th Homecoming**, October 21, 9 a.m., Bible study; 10:15 a.m., Worship service. There will be a covered dish lunch immediately following the worship service. Special Speaker: **Philip Robertson**. Special Music: **Danny Greig**. Pastor: Tim Norris.

REVIVAL

- Watson Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Homecoming & Revival**, October 14-17, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday 7 p.m. Speaker: **Marty Black, pastor of New Chapel Hill, West Monroe**. Special music: **Ben Waites**. A covered dish lunch will follow the morning service. Pastor: Bob Holloway.
- Baptist Mission Center, Alexandria: **Hope4U2018 Crusade**, October 14-17, 6:30 p.m. at the Rapides Parish Coliseum, Alexandria. Evangelist: Rick Gage.
- First Baptist Church, Anacoco: **Revival**, October 21-24. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Durhl Davis.
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Arcadia: **Revival**, October 21-24, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Paul and Vanessa Cherry**. Pastor: Bob Jameson.
- Sandy Creek Baptist Church, Zachary: **Revival**, October 21-24, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, supper at 5:30 p.m. and services at 7 p.m. nightly. Speaker: **Philip Robertson**. Music: **Danny Greig**. For more information, call the church at 225.654.6590. Pastor: Tim Norris.
- Siloam Baptist Church, Many: **Revival**, October 21-24. Evangelist: **Joe Aulds**. Pastor: Wilton Anthony.
- Bethlehem Baptist Church, Calvin: **Revival**, October 21-24. Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Speaker: **Craig James, Director of Missions of North Central Baptist Association**. Pastor: Charles Malone.
- Harmony Baptist Church: Deville: **Revival**, October 21-26. Evangelist: **Casey**

Johnson & 2TALK42 Ministries. Special Music: **Brad Mount**. Pastor: Grady Dodge.

LAGNIAPPE

- Cooper Baptist Church, Leesville: **2nd Annual Craft & Vendor Fair**, October 13, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Pastor: Edgar Evans Sr.
- Watson Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Ben Waites in concert**, October 14, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Bob Holloway.
- First Baptist Church, Moss Bluff: **Masters4 Southern Gospel Quartet in concert**, October 14, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Steve Bennett.
- First Baptist Church, Jonesville: **Fall Festival**, October 17, 6-8 p.m. There will be candy for the kids, good food, and fellowship. Pastor: Todd Whittington.
- First Baptist Church, Covington: **Gerald Wolfe and Greater Vision in Concert**, October 19, 7 p.m. Cost: \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Tickets are available at FbcCov.org. For more information, call 985.893.4561. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.
- First Baptist Church, Winnsboro: **Johnny Morgan and Obedience 2 Death Ministry**, October 19, 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Pastor: Craig Beeman.
- Cotile Baptist Church, Boyce: **Annual Fish Fry and Singing**, October 20, 5 p.m., singing begins at 6 p.m. Music: **The Southern Plainsmen**. A love offering will be taken for the singers only. For more information, call 318.793.8847. Pastor: Johnny Miller.
- Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Melder: **Karen Peck & New River**, October 20, 6 p.m. Cost: Free admission. A love offering will be received. For more info contact Casey Boone: casey@pineridge.church or call 318.664.3581. Pastor: Jason Townley.
- Bethlehem Baptist Church, Albany: **WorldCrafts Marketplace event**, October 20, 9:30 a.m. WorldCrafts is a division of WMU, providing a sustainable income for artisans worldwide. We'll

showcase some items, and have catalogs and order forms for you. Guest Speaker, special music, a time of fellowship, shopping, door prizes, and lunch. RSVP for lunch and nursery by October 15: office@northshorebaptists.net or 225.567.5086.

- Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Coughatta: **Southern Plainsmen in concert**, October 21, 10 a.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Mike Fort.
- Benson Baptist Church, Converse: **Southern Plainsmen in concert**, October 21, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Delmon Rogers.
- Red Bluff Baptist Church, Folsom: **Worship Celebration with the Riverside Revival Band** Sunday, October 21, 6 p.m. The event will be held in the church sanctuary. A love offering will be received. Pastor: Adam Hughes.
- Oak Grove Baptist Church, Jonesville: Evangelism Rally sponsored by the Ouachita Baptist Association, October 21, 5:30 p.m.
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Trunk or Treat**, October 24, 6-8 p.m. Area food trucks will be here for guests to purchase their choice of food. There will be inflatables, a place set up for family photos and lots of candy for the kids. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Fall Family Festival**, October 24, 5:30-7:30 p.m. There will be a chili cook-off, lots of candy and snacks for the kids, plus games and activities. Everyone is invited to attend. Pastor: Chris Craig.
- North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: **Night of Hope, benefit gospel concert for St. Jude's Children's Hospital**, Friday, October 26 at 7 p.m. Special Speakers/Singers: **Gordon Mote, The Talleys, Mark Bishop and Dr. Phil Hoskins**. Group rates are available for churches. For tickets, email SJNightofHope@gmail.com or call 318.417.3939. Pastor: Bill Nye.
- Milldale Baptist Church, Zachary: **Brian Free and Assurance in concert**, October 26, 7 p.m. Pastor: Dennis Terry.

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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.

lsw z bzyy xqzsi xlkx lyy puj rjfryj cspf pujj: puj

gls bufg pufc djhhjd p zd ld zv lyy qjpcqsjw: df lyy puj

rjfryj dullyy xj zs rjlkj.

djkfsw dlgcjy djojspjjs:puqjj

Clues:
D = S; J = E

Answer to September 27 Scripture Crypto:
Luke nineteen: forty



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