



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

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Brian Blackwell photo

Steve Carrier, a member of MegaForce Ministries, counselled those who made a decision for Christ during the two-day Momentum Family Crusade in Mansura. The event was sponsored by the Louisiana Baptist Association.

Acts of repentance reflect 'power' of Avoyelles crusade

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

MANSURA – Powerlifter Steve Carrier performed feats of strength throughout the two-day Momentum Family Crusade in Avoyelles Parish, March 15-16.

But it was the power of the Holy Spirit that was on display in the 100 acts of repentance for salvation and restoration that took place among the 500 people who attended one or both services at the Cochon De Lait Center in Mansura.

The Louisiana Baptist Association-sponsored event was described by organizers as one of the largest evangelistic outreaches for Louisiana Baptists in Avoyelles Parish, with nearly half of the 28 churches in the association participating.

A STRONG PRESENCE

Carrier, who has traveled around the world with MegaForce Ministries to present the Gos-

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Naming of next LBC executive director on track for May 7

By Staff
Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) — The search committee seeking the next executive director for the Louisiana Baptist Convention has narrowed its list of candidates, and hopes to have a nominee to present at the next LBC Executive Board meeting, search committee chairman Waylon Bailey told the *Baptist Message* March 18.

“As you know, our committee has been given the challenging task of making a recommendation that will affect the work of Louisiana Baptists for decades to come,” Bailey, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Covington and also chairman of the LBC Executive Board, said in an e-mail statement. “We have not taken this task lightly.

“When we learned of our responsibility at the state convention in November, we immediately set a goal of having a candidate to present at the next Executive Board meeting, May 7, 2019,” he continued. “We have been working diligently to meet that self-imposed deadline.

“Our committee of 15 individuals from around the state has been fully engaged in this process,” he said. “I am deeply appreciative of their prayerful



Waylon Bailey, chairman of LBC Executive Board and pastor of First Baptist Covington.

See **NAMING**, page 8

LifeWay to close all bookstores

By Will Hall
Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) -- After announcing in January that “some” stores would be closing due to “an accelerated rate of erosion” of sales “in the brick and mortar chan-

nel,” LifeWay announced March 20 that it would shutter all of its bookstores.

The January announcement was accompanied by a Baptist Press analysis of LifeWay’s 2010-2017 audits showing “total operating expenses exceeded sales” eight

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Power from page one

pel using stunts that feature his unique physical strength to attract crowds, let the Holy Spirit do the heavy lifting in reaching out to those who attended.

"We're all born with a God-shaped void," Carrier told the crowd. "You can try to fill it, but you'll

never have complete confidence and peace. What one thing would hold you back tonight from a relationship with God? So many people put God off until tomorrow. But the Bible says today is the acceptable time."

Prior to the crusade,

volunteers from Life Point Community Church, Mansura, and Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, distributed 2,000 fliers to homes and businesses in Mansura. Meanwhile, churches in nearby communities passed out an additional 4,000 leaflets.

Philadelphia's youth group also got the word out about the crusade through a "trashcan drumline" concert in Mansura, March 16.

Director of Missions Jacob Crawford said prayer was a solid foundation for a mighty movement of God throughout the crusade.

"We have been praying for months for this weekend," said Crawford, also pastor of Life Point Community Church. "Through the association we prayed. We had several churches come together to put this on. Without prayer there never would have been



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Baptist Association Director of Missions Jacob Crawford led a time of prayer during the Momentum Family Crusade in Mansura. He said prayer was key to a mighty movement of the Holy Spirit during the event.

nearly the response."

A MIGHTY MOVE FORWARD
Presley Bordelon, student pastor of Life Point Community Church, believes seeds were sown and more decisions will follow

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Ageless Webber's legacy is encouraging others to serve the Lord

By Joey Martin

Special to the Message

RUSTON (LBM) – To spend 68 years in ministry is a milestone. To be able to encourage others to serve the Lord is a legacy, and a remarkable one at that.

During the most recent annual meeting, the Louisiana Baptist Convention honored 88-year-old Ralph Webber, a Jonesville native and former pastor of First Baptist Church Vidalia, as Louisiana Retired Pastor of the Year. He was further honored with a donation to a scholarship fund at Louisiana College designated for a future student in honor of Webber and his wife Ann. The couple has been married for 64 years.

"There have been some wonderful people God has brought into my life," Webber said. "And it's through the grace of God and to Him be the glory. This is a wonderful honor. I feel it is undeserved, but I am appreciative of them doing it. Being a Christian and being able to serve our Lord has been reward enough."

Webber, who retired as the Louisiana Baptist director of missions and ministry in 1997 but still serves as a supply pastor, got his start at Utility Baptist Church in Jonesville in 1954.

"We made so many friends here, we decided to move back," Webber

said of returning to Vidalia after his retirement.

In addition to serving as a supply pastor, Webber also leads Bible studies – he is just completing a study on Revelation at First Vidalia – while also conducting funerals.

"I'm not able to do as much as I used to," he said. "It's not as easy as it used to be."

Webber said his mother and father were "strong, wonderful" Christians. He was baptized at age of seven and at the age of 10 began feeling the need to look into ministry work.

"After my father died at age 39, J.O. McNair, a preacher in Jonesville, took me under his wing and became like a father to me," Webber said. "I started preaching at the age of 16."

Webber was ordained in 1950 while he was attending Louisiana College where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree. He went on to obtain his Master of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry degrees from New Orleans Theological Seminary.

The Webbers arrived in Vidalia in 1969 after serving at Suburban Baptist Church in New Orleans.

"I just felt like this is where the Lord wanted me," said Webber, who would pastor First Vidalia for 13 years before going to work for the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

At First Vidalia, Webber



Brian Blackwell photo

Ralph Webber (second from left) was named a Louisiana Baptist Convention Retiree of the Year. Also photographed are Beau Colle, director of missions for Delta Baptist Association, Webber's wife, Ann, and Bill Robertson, director of pastoral ministry for Louisiana Baptists.

stayed busy and headed one of the church's first expansion projects.

As a matter of fact, Webber, who served as pastor at seven churches and interim at 10 others, led every church he pastored in expansion projects.

"We had so many people coming, so we

decided to build a larger auditorium," Webber said. "We built it to hold 600 people. It's been expanded even more since then."

Webber was also responsible for the 63-foot steeple on the church. One of the first things he noticed when he arrived in Vidalia was a tall whiskey bottle sign by Mc-

Donough's Liquors.

"I thought how much better it would be to have a steeple as a sign of Christianity," he said.

The whiskey sign stood for many years before a storm brought it tumbling down. But the steeple still stands, having been moved to the top of the new sanctuary when the latest renovation was completed.

While working for the Convention, he supervised transitions at 78 churches.

Webber said one of the top highlights of his ministry was spending two weeks in South Korea in the 1990s near the North Korea border.

"That was quite an experience," he said. "We also visited Israel."

The Webbers attend First Baptist Church in Vidalia.

"Dr. Webber is the model for pastoral humility," said FBC Vidalia pastor

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Gilder honored for still going strong, 10 years after retiring

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

MORGAN CITY – Charles Gilder practiced what he preached during his 39-year tenure at Bayou Vista Baptist Church, especially the importance of steadfast commitment. “One benefit of long-term

ministry is you get to know people and they build a trust with you,” Gilder said. “That opens doors that aren’t open initially. “It was not that other churches didn’t approach me, but I felt that when you don’t stay very long, you can’t really get to know the people that well,” he contin-

ued. “They accepted us. The area did not grow on us at first. It was the people that grew on us. It was developing relationships with people and families. We became a part of a family. I’m grateful that continued throughout the years.” Gilder was honored for his dedication and hard

work in ministry as a Louisiana Baptist Retiree of the Year award winner at a reception for bi-vocational and retired pastors during the 2018 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting at Temple Baptist Church, Ruston. A native of Greenville, Mississippi, Gilder accepted Christ as his Savior during a city-wide revival at age 15. Shortly after, Gilder accepted the call to preach the Gospel.

baptized “hundreds” of people and built relationships that are strong 10 years after his retirement, including one with current pastor Steven Kelly. The two first met during a 2009 LBC Executive Board meeting shortly after Gilder had announced his retirement. Gilder offered to leave and join another church, but Kelly insisted Gilder remain and continue to share his wisdom at Bayou Vista.

“He was being considered at the time and we had a nice 45-minute conversation,” Gilder recalled. “Steven told me he wanted me to come and pray over him if he became pastor, which happened. “We made visits together and that bridged some gaps in the community and church,” he continued. “It’s developed a bond that he doesn’t feel threatened by me and I certainly don’t want to be a threat to him. We share things together and spend time together. It’s been a very meaningful

During his time at Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Gilder

See GILDER, page 8

Christmas musical offered gift that keeps giving

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

DEVILLE – Christmas of 2018 is now just a memory for most, but 21 new believers in Christ are growing in their faith as a result of the gift they each received during the Christmas program held at the Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville.

Moreover, according to Philip Robertson, pastor of the multi-site congregation which has another campus on Horseshoe Drive in Alexandria, F.A.I.T.H. visits in 2019 through early March, including to see guests who attended the Christmas program, have added another eight new

believers to Heaven's rolls.

Robertson said the spiritual growth PBC is experiencing is a result of purposeful evangelistic planning and training.

"Our worship teams worked super hard preparing for Christmas because they know we will have an opportunity to touch people we wouldn't normally reach," he told the Baptist Message. "Our job is simply to share the message and let the Holy Spirit do the work."

Robertson said the same of the work put into the F.A.I.T.H. weekly outreach program, which began on both campuses in February.

"There is no greater

miracle than the miracle of salvation," he said of the combined evangelistic effort by the congregation. "When you experience the miracle of all miracles, there is a cause for celebration. We are grateful the Lord continues to work, and the fact that He would see fit to use us is very humbling."

The church, which averages 630 for its Sunday morning worship service at Deville and 180 at the Horseshoe Drive campus, conducts a number of other outreach ministries which include: partnering with the Food Bank of Central Louisiana to feed the hungry; cooperating with other churches to provide clothes to the homeless once a month in the parking lot of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Alexandria; operating a clothes closet three days a week at the Horseshoe Drive campus; and, lead-

ing an annual field day of games and other activities at Brame Middle School in Alexandria.

They also show they care about the community through an annual Love Out Loud emphasis by washing cars for free, handing out bottled water, giving out donuts and hosting block parties.

Additionally, a number of members take part in mission trips annually to Brazil and other countries, subsidized in part by the congregation.

Robertson said PBC members know that meeting the physical needs of others through the various compassion ministry efforts is important, but that the main need of most of those they serve is spiritual.

"Sometimes to speak into someone's life you have to speak the love of Christ by meeting their physical needs first. But it's

very important to provide for their spiritual need which is the Gospel," Robertson said. "If you build someone a house and put a roof over their head, and

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Power from page 2

in the months ahead.

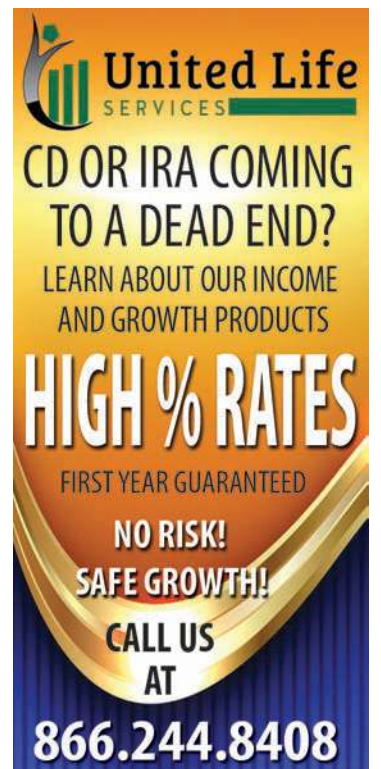
"Seeing God take all the efforts that went into the planning and turn it into a great harvest was very rewarding," Bordelon said. "We prepared, prayed and just turned it over to God. He did more than we could have ever imagined. So many lives were changed and I believe the effects of this crusade will be felt for many, many months."

Moving forward, Crawford hopes his association of churches continues to catch the vision of cooperation for the Kingdom.

"It was exciting to see

a lot of our churches come together for this event," Crawford said. "We want our churches to worship, serve and grow together. This was a way we sought to make this happen."

"This crusade helps build momentum evangelistically in the local church," he continued. "They see the benefit of these mass outreaches and see how effective they are for repentance and revival. Through this, there will be baptisms and excitement in congregations. And that's worth everything we put into the planning of the Momentum crusade."



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LC revival urges students to be champions for Christ

By Brian Blackwell
 Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE – Do not be satisfied with a participation trophy, but rather go all out for Jesus Christ and hold nothing back, urged John Fream, pastor of Cypress Baptist Church in Benton, in his challenge to students during a Louisiana College campus revival March 12-14.

“God has called us to be champions in everything we do,” said Fream. “Do everything you can to be your best for the glory of God. We’re not called just to participate.

“Part of the problem in the Christian world is that we think we’ve just got to show up, to do just enough ... , he declared. “No, we need to be the best in everything that we do.”

Drawing from 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Fream said the first step on this journey is totally trusting in Christ.

“What does it profit a man or woman to win a Super Bowl, to win a Grammy, to win an Oscar, to make millions and millions of dollars, but yet lose their soul for eternity?” Fream asked.

“If you’re going to be a spiritual champion you had better set your gaze, set your mind, set your eyes on Jesus Christ,” he said. “That’s the focus. Everything comes through the cross. Set it on the cross hairs. That’s how I focus my life.”

Fream also offered some practical insights about leadership health and growth.

He encouraged students to develop a passion for hard work in order to separate themselves from others

competing for the same internships and jobs.

“If you know how to work, you’ll blow past your peers,” he said. “There are people who are smarter, better educated, better looking, better in all kinds of things than you, but you’ll smoke them if you’ll outwork them.”

Fream also told the students to become positive “influencers.”

“Champions know about influence,” he said. “They know the difference between building people up or tearing them down. A champion understands it’s more awesome to help others succeed than it is to succeed themselves.”

Additionally, Fream addressed three other traits great leaders possess, urging students to develop: the ability to focus on the task;



Brian Blackwell photo

John Fream, pastor of Cypress Baptist Church, Benton, challenged Louisiana College students to be champions for Christ. Fream was the main speaker at the 2019 spring campus revival.

a “can-do” attitude; and, a “won’t quick” reputation.

The Voices of LC as well as Elevate led music for the three-day revival at Guinn Auditorium.

LC President Rick Brewer said the revival was important because a “continuing emphasis on spiritual devel-

opment goes hand-in-glove with our commitment to integrate faith and learning.”

“We are especially grateful to Pastor Fream for his adept communication of the Scriptures that spoke to our students, as well as to the rest of us, in a relatable and understandable way.”

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LifeWay from page one

years in a row, growing in deficit each year from \$2.3 million to \$35.5 million.

Moreover, the revised March plan to shutter “all” and not “some” of its stores comes amid a leadership change for LifeWay.

Thom Rainer announced in August 2018 his intentions to “step down” as president and CEO “when the new CEO is named, or in one year, whichever comes first.” He had served as LifeWay CEO since February 2006 when he left the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he was

the dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism for 12 years.

On March 4 LifeWay announced that Rainer had expressed “a desire to move forward with his retirement effective Feb. 28” and the trustees named Executive Vice President Brad Waggoner as “acting president and CEO of LifeWay until a new president is named” in accordance with its bylaws dealing with “the absence of a president.”

Waggoner also has been with LifeWay since 2006 when he departed SBTs where he had been the dean of the School of Leadership and Church Ministry for

more than five years and on staff since 1999.

According to the *Baptist Press*, Waggoner was upbeat in announcing the closures, describing LifeWay as “fortunate to have a robust publishing, events and church services business.”

“Our retail strategy for the future will be a greater focus on digital channels, which are experiencing strong growth,” he said. “LifeWay is moving into a new era with a strategic digital focus that will prepare us for the future and allow us to better serve our customers.”

LifeWay will close its 170 brick-and-mortar stores in 2019, which follows a number of multi-million dollar transactions in recent years.

The company sold its 2,400-acre Glorieta Conference Center for one dollar in 2013 and its 14.5-acre Nashville headquarters for \$125 million in 2015. LifeWay subsequently purchased 2.5 acres in the choice downtown Gulch area of Nashville for \$5.5 million and moved into a new \$75 million headquarters in 2017.

As late as 2016, LifeWay employed 4,000 workers in 29 countries and operated 186 bookstores, distributing resources in 164 nations and licensing resources in more than 60 languages.

In Louisiana, LifeWay operates stores at Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Monroe, New Orleans and Shreveport.

Webber from page 3

Wes Faulk. “He served and continues to serve FBC Vidalia faithfully. The reason FBC Vidalia is a healthy church is because of Dr. Webber’s leadership.”

Webber has seen several changes during his ministry.

“When I was growing up people would go to Sunday school and then leave,” he said. “You don’t have as many people going to Sunday school now.”

The ageless Webber said he plans on continuing to serve the Lord.

“I will do whatever He intends me to do,” he said.

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Brian Blackwell photo

Charles Gilder (third from left) received his award as a Louisiana Baptist Convention Retiree of the Year for his dedication and hard work in ministry at a reception for bi-vocational and retired pastors during the 2018 LBC Annual Meeting at Temple Baptist Church, Ruston. Gilder was former pastor of Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City. Also photographed are Steven Kelly, pastor of Bayou Vista Baptist and director of missions for Gulf Coast Baptist Association, Gilder's wife Marsha and Bill Robertson, director of pastoral ministry for Louisiana Baptists.

Gilder from page 4

thing that I'm glad can still continue."

Kelly echoed the thought.

"When I was dealing with the search committee from Bayou Vista and learned that the pastor that

had just left had retired after 39 years, I was a bit hesitant," he said. "Some might believe it is too hard to follow a pastor with such influence, much less to serve with him still in the congregation. Instead, what I

have experienced in nearly 10 years of serving alongside Brother Charles is a mentor and friend. I could not have asked for a greater supporter and friend. I could not have asked for a greater supporter and encourager."

Gift from page 5

they die and spend eternity separated from God, what good is that in the scope of eternity?

"As a church we can do a lot of meeting physical needs, but that makes us no different than any secular

organization," he continued. "Certainly, secular organizations do so many good things for their community.

"What sets the church apart is not only should we help meet their physical needs, but we have what

they ultimately need and that is salvation in Christ," Robertson explained. "It's important that we be as intentional as we can to share the Gospel with them in order to meet their spiritual needs as well."

Naming from page one

participation and hard work."

The 15-member search committee first met Nov. 27 to begin the process to nominate a successor to LBC Executive Director David Hankins, who announced Nov. 2 his plans to retire June 30. The LBC

Executive Board will vote on the nominee, as stated in the state convention's Articles of Incorporation.

Search committee member Jason Hoychick, pastor of the Westview Baptist Church in Deridder, told the *Baptist Message* that a spirit of humbleness has prevailed in every meeting, with members huddled together in prayer and then gathered together corporately to lay before God the task at hand.

"When I got into the very first meeting, it was evident from the begin-

ning there was no one in the room who had an idea, mindset or personality that they were bigger or better than anyone else," he said. "There were no politics. There were no one-sided opinions. It was a group of believers together seeking God's will and laying out all options and praying through the process to this point.

"From the beginning we wanted to avoid making this a popularity contest," he continued. "Our primary objective was to ask, 'God, Who do you want in this position?' That's where it's been from the start of the process to now. When the time comes that someone is elected and appointed to the position of executive director, I can say with 100 percent confidence this was a process of prayer and God's direction. It truly will be in my opinion the person God has selected for it."

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American Ninja Warrior experience awaits RAs

By Staff
Baptist Message

WOODWORTH – First through sixth grade boys will have a chance to experience the life of an American Ninja Warrior during

the 2019 Royal Ambassador Congress.

The March 29-30 event at Tall Timbers Conference Center in Woodworth will feature former American Ninja Warrior contestant Jared Greer, who will al-

low each boy to test out their skills on the obstacle course used in the popular TV show.

Each boy also will participate in a Pinewood derby race and learn from missionaries about the

dangers of substance use.

All activities will coincide with the theme of this year's RA Congress, "Mind and Body," based on 1 Corinthians 9:24.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for those who dream of being an American Ninja Warrior to give in a try," said Mike Collie, RA consultant for Louisiana Baptists. "There will be numerous ninja activities and a great time of fun, learning and worship with Christian men."

The cost for RA Congress varies and is based on

multiple-occupancy.

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

M-JAM to 'set free' Louisiana Baptist youth

By Staff
Baptist Message

ALGIERS – Nearly 220 youngsters will learn how Christ can set them free during the upcoming Missions Jamboree.

Known as M-JAM, the multi-site event will take place March 30 at Connect Church in Algiers and again May 4 at the Tall Timbers Conference Center in Woodworth, offering a couple of options for first through sixth graders and their ministry leaders to attend at least once.

The "Set Free" theme for M-JAM is based on John 8:36.

"I'm looking forward to this exciting missions event," said Jess Archer, children and youth missions strategist for Louisiana Baptists. "M-JAM

is one way that we can celebrate what God is doing around the world and here at home. We want to encourage and challenge children to understand that God calls missionaries to serve, churches to support, and ministries to partner so all people will know what it means to be set free from sin by our Lord Jesus Christ. Both events will feature IMB missionaries, a clear presentation of the Gospel, and people who serve in different areas of compassion ministries. M-JAM also gives a taste of what Children's Mission Camp is about."

Balloon artist Dan Bellamy, founder of Inflatable Stories, will be the main speaker. Bellamy has traveled around the country and used balloon sculptures to share the Gospel.

Breakout sessions will center around the conference theme.

The conference will start at 10 a.m., with check-in from 9:00-9:45 a.m., and end at 2:30 p.m.

The cost to attend M-JAM is \$28, which includes a snack and lunch. T-shirts are \$10.

To register, visit <http://louisianabaptists.org/mjam> or call the Women's Missions and Ministry team at 1.800.622.6549 or 318.448.3402 or email WMM@LouisianaBaptists.org.

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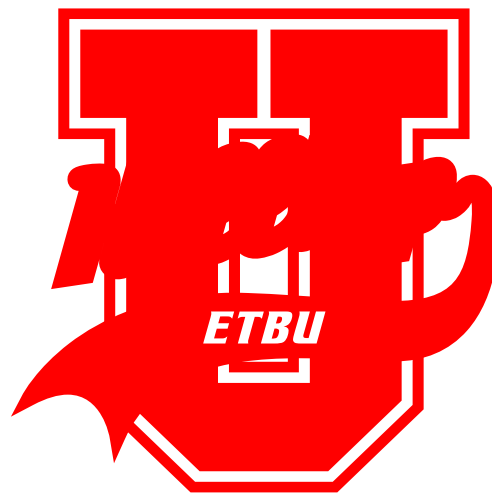
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YOUTH MINISTER

First Baptist Church, Luling, LA is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please email résumés to sandymaxwell5@gmail.com.

SEEKING A FULL-TIME
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First Baptist Church, Blanchard is seeking a Senior Pastor. Mail résumés to: Cathy Peck P.O. Box 81 Blanchard, LA 71009



SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL
MINISTER OF MUSIC/WORSHIP

Fellowship Baptist Church in Trout, LA is seeking a bi-vocational (part time) minister of music/worship. We are seeking someone who is committed to using their gifts and talents to lead our congregation (choir) in worship through music. For full job description email request to fellowshipbctrout@yahoo.com. Résumés should be mailed to Fellowship Baptist Church, 487 Fellowship Rd., Trout, LA 71371, C/O Mrs. Joy Bond.

Minister of Worship and Families

Ebenezer Baptist Church of Jonesboro, LA is currently seeking God's person to serve in the role of full time Minister of Worship and Families. The ideal person would have proficiency in music as well as experience directing a choir, including special events, leading worship, teaching/ministering to families, and other ministry experience. Some Theological education is preferred but not required.

Email résumés to: office@ebcchurch.com
Mail-in résumés to: Ebenezer Baptist Church
211 Ebenezer Church Road
Jonesboro, LA 71251

CHILDREN'S MINISTER

First Baptist Church of Vivian, LA is seeking a full-time children's minister. Please email résumés to fbc@fbcvivian.org or mail to First Baptist Church, 311 North Pine, Vivian LA 71082.

Bi-Vocational MINISTER OF MUSIC

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

Email résumés to cjob928@aol.com or for more information, call 318.446.4320.

SEEKING PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER

Ouachita Baptist Church is looking for a part-time Youth Minister to teach & lead our youth ministry. Please send your résumés to mike@ouachitabaptist.org or call 318.278.2712 for more info.

PASTOR

Trinity Baptist Church, Natchitoches, La. is seeking a pastor.

Send résumé to:
Trinity Baptist Church
527 Howard Street
Natchitoches, La. 71457
or email: secretary@tbcnla.net



SEEKING A FULL-TIME
SENIOR PASTOR

Central Baptist Church in Springhill, LA (near Shreveport) is looking for a full-time Senior Pastor. We are located at 504 W Church St, Springhill, LA 71075. Please submit your résumé either by mail to our address or by email at tjudd28@yahoo.com.



Seeking a part-time
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Faith Baptist Church is looking for a part-time Music Director to lead Sunday morning, and Sunday and Wednesday night worship sessions. Must be willing to use traditional & contemporary music. Director would need to have at least one choir practice each week at the director's discretion. Applicants need to have musical knowledge/talent/abilities. Send résumé to: Attention: Personnel Committee Faith Baptist Church 15880 Plank Road • Baker, LA 70714 Email: fbc1baker@yahoo.com



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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

■ **Kenny Moore** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church of Boyce.
 ■ **James "Bubba" Courtney** is the new pastor at Bethel Baptist Church, Livingston.
 ■ **Jed Glascock** is the new associate pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Livingston.
 ■ **Shane West** is the new interim pastor at Mansfield Road Baptist Church.
 ■ **Roy Strother** resigns as pastor at Mooringsport Baptist Church, Mooringsport.
 ■ Ordination service into the Gospel Ministry for **Jacob Guillory**, April 7 at 2 p.m., at Centerville Baptist Church, St. Landry. Pastor: Jerry Adams.

HOMECOMING

■ Kisatchie Baptist Church, Kisatchie: **151st Homecoming and Anniversary Service**, March 31, 10 a.m. A covered dish lunch will follow the service. Speaker: Doug Chance.

REVIVAL

■ Bayou Baptist Association, Houma: **The Churches United Evangelism Crusade**, March 28-30, Thursday, 7 p.m. at the Cut Off Youth Center (205 W. 79th Street, Cut Off, LA

70345); Friday, 7 p.m. South Terrebonne High School (3879 Highway 24, Bourg, LA 70343); Saturday, 5 p.m., Nicholl's State Peltier Auditorium (906 East 1st St., Madewood South, Thibodaux, LA 70301). Speakers: Preston Nix, an evangelism professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Duane and Iris Blue.

■ First Baptist Church, Patterson: **Revival**, March 29-31. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist**. Pastor: Mark Norwood.
 ■ Area-wide Crusade: Saline High School Auditorium, March 31-April 4. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Worship: **WeRcalled**. Crusade Coordinator: Duane Moreno.
 ■ Gulf Coast Baptist Church, Golden Meadow: **Spring Revival**, April 7-10, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Herman Callais**, pastor of Christ Baptist Church, Houma. The church is located at 1606 S. Bayou Dr., Golden Meadow. Pastor: Shane Terrebonne.
 ■ Emmanuel Baptist Church, Natchitoches: **Harvest Day**, April 7, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Evangelist: **Joe Aulds**. Pastor: John Elliott
 ■ Hinston Crusade, Hinston, April 10-14. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Evangelism coordinator: Brandon Smith.

LAGNIAPPE

■ Kingston Road Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Fifth Sunday Singing**, March 31, 5-7 p.m. Everyone is invited. Pastor: Jeremy Spurling.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Zwolle: **Easter Music**, March 31, 10:30 a.m. First Baptist's Choir will present an Easter musical during the morning worship service on March 31. Pastor: Marty Williams.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, April 1, noon.

Speaker: **Gene Mills**, Louisiana Family Forum Cost: \$10 and you may pay at the door. Please RSVP to Stewart Holloway (sholloway@fbcpineville.net). Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

■ First Baptist Church, Covington: **2019 Freedom Tour**, April 5, 7-10 p.m. Tour information and a link to purchase tickets will be available at www.FbcCov.org beginning in February. Childcare will be offered by registration only. For more information, contact Julie Smith at juliesmith1020@hotmail.com. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.

■ Cedar Crest Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Parenting Conference**, April 5-6, Friday, 6-8:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Speakers: **Sissy Goff and David Thomas, Daystar Counseling Ministries in Nashville, TN**. Cost: \$15 per person. The conference will cover topics that will relate to preschoolers, elementary age, and teenagers. For more information got to www.ccbchurch.org and click the "Gospel Parenting Conference" link on the menu line. This event is being sponsored by Cedar Crest and New Chapel Hill Baptist churches of West Monroe. Pastor: Greg Clark.

■ First Baptist Church, DeRidder: **The Tribute Quartet and The Bowling Family in concert**, April 6, 6 p.m. Cost: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Pastor: Josh Eubanks.

■ Northside Baptist Church, Montgomery: **Men's Conference**, April 6. Bible Study by Gary Wright begins at 9 a.m. Speaker: **Ed Harrison**. Special Music: **Brad Mount**. Lunch will be served, please RSVP to servant66@live.com or call 318.628.0597 or 318.646.2266. Pastor: Scott Tilton.

■ Vick Baptist Church, Vick: **"God Is Enough" Women's Conference**, April 6, 9-10 a.m. Registration/breakfast; 10-3 conference (2 sessions). There will be no child care. Guest

Speaker: **JoAnn Forbes**, Hessmer. Artist: **Maria Jean Clinesmith, Hebrew Word Pictures**, New Orleans. Creative Ministry Team: **Johnnie Johnson, Sherry Calvert, Missy Grant, Hartselle, Alabama**. Cost: Free. Please register by March 23 by contacting Beverly Dupont, 318.253.6421 or Sharon Hargis, 318.253.8362. Pastor: Dobie Perkins.

■ First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Community-Wide Easter joint community celebration**, April 7, 6 p.m. Churches in Ruston will join together for evening services.

■ Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: **Big Creek Baptist Association Youth Evangelism Event**, April 7, 5-8 p.m. This event is for all ju-

nior high and high school age students. There will be awesome worship with **United 1 Worship Band, One Voice Choir, Rhythm 1 Trashcan Drum Line, One Move Stop Team and Act One Drama Team**. There will be food, fun and games. This is a free event. For more information and to RSVP, please call the Bethel church office at 318.627.3131.

■ First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Messiah in the Passover**, April 10, 6:15 p.m. Speaker: **Gregg Hagg, Chosen People Ministries**. His presentation explains the traditional elements of the Passover Seder and clearly shows God's wonderful plan of redemption. Pastor: Chris Craig.

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.

lfs dlnzycvd dqlgg kypj cw yf pycfo mzyf oy hcsij

oqj pycfo yr jdlc; lfs oqj xzfsyp dqlgg tj oqj gyvs'd.

ytlszlq objfoa-yfj

Clues:
D = S; C = U

Answer to March 14 Scripture Crypto:
Second Kings nine:six

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Haughton's Lewis joins LBC staff

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – A long-time Louisiana Baptist student minister has begun serving as the new youth strategist for Louisiana Baptists.

Brandon Lewis, who began his new role Feb. 11, most recently was the student minister at the First Baptist Church, Haughton.

Lewis said he is excited about pouring into student ministers and the next generation of church leaders, and what this new opportunity affords.

“So many people invested in me as a young man through the years, and this is my opportunity to give back to them and others throughout the state,” he said. “As I became a parent, the Deuteronomy 6 mandate for parents to become the primary discipler of kids really was something we held to. I have a great

desire to work and partner with parents as they work to disciple their kids. It’s important for youth pastors to know we aren’t the answer to discipleship but a re-enforcer of what parents are teaching their kids.”

A native of Ruston, Lewis has served on staff of churches throughout the state, as well as in Texas when he was a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He was a student minister at Baskin Baptist Church, the First Baptist Church, Winnfield, and the First Baptist Church, Oxford, Mississippi, before coming to First Baptist, Haughton.

He also has volunteered on numerous youth ministry planning committees and groups for the Louisiana Baptist Convention and Mississippi Baptist Convention.

In addition to youth ministry experience in

Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, Lewis holds degrees from Ruston High School, University of Louisiana at Monroe and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Lacey, have three children, Karen, Gabriel and Ryan.

Throughout his 14 years in student ministry, Lewis has formed kindred relationships with many Louisiana Baptist student ministers.

One of his goals as youth ministry strategist is to establish and expand a student ministry network statewide that will allow for input from fellow student ministers, as a way to share and receive tools with each other in order to pour even more of themselves and God’s Word into the next generation. He also hopes to grow youth camps and Youth Evangelism Celebration, the largest annual gathering of



Brian Blackwell photo

Brandon Lewis assumed the role of youth strategist for Louisiana Baptists Feb. 11. He most recently was student minister at the First Baptist Church, Haughton.

Louisiana Baptists.

“It is essential we give some attention to the next generation,” he said. “It’s crucial we engage them, and help students find out the mission and adventure God has planned for them. We can help them to understand the Christian life is not boring but God has a plan for them.

“The goals for students

I had at First Haughton are the same statewide – for them to know about their faith, own their faith and make known their faith. Those things are important for us to engage the next generation so they are prepared. They are not the church of tomorrow but today, and we need to engage them now to be a part of our churches.”

SUMMER CAMPS

2019

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Kids Camp 1
June 10-13

Kids Camp 2
June 17-20

Champion's Camp
June 20-22

High Pursuit Youth Camp
June 27-29

Clear Youth Camp 1
July 1-5

Clear Youth Camp 2
July 8-12

Clear Youth Camp 3 (Sold Out)
July 15-19

Children's Mission Camp
July 22-25

Kids Camp 3
July 29-August 1