



Philip Timothy photo

First Baptist Lafayette Pastor Steve Horn is the candidate recommended to become the next Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director.

Steve Horn 'a leader who loves Louisiana Baptists'

By Will Hall
Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – Steve Horn is a leader among leaders in the Louisiana Baptist Convention and someone who loves Louisiana Baptists, Waylon Bailey shared with the *Baptist Message* in announcing Horn as the candidate the search committee will present May 7 to the LBC Executive Board for a vote.

Also, in a special called meeting, April 11, the administrative committee unanimously

voted to move forward the LBC presidential search committee's recommendation of Horn, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Lafayette to become the convention's next executive director.

The full Executive Board will vote on his nomination during its regularly scheduled spring meeting at the Tall Timbers Camp and Conference Center in Woodworth.

If elected, Horn will replace David Hankins, who is retiring June 30 as LBC executive director.

"He lived in the northern

part of the state early in his life and has served in the southern part of the state, so he understands the great uniqueness among Louisianans and has a deep appreciation for the great variety among the congregations that make up the fellowship we call a 'Convention,'" said Bailey, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Covington and chairman of the search committee.

"Likewise, he has been an exceptional friend and leader to other pastors on a personal level

See HORN, page 3

Friends, family celebrate Hankins's LBC, SBC leadership

By Staff
Baptist Message

WOODWORTH – Family and friends from around the nation paid tribute to outgoing Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director David Hankins during a special retirement banquet, Thursday, April 11.

GRATEFUL GOODBYES

"Our hearts are full of gratitude, gratitude to God for the blessings of this life," Hankins told the crowd gathered at the Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth. "I would be the most ungrateful person on the earth to have one complaint or one gripe about what has happened in my existence. God is so good -- a great expression of that is you all.

"From the first to the last, I know it's been good for us, every bit of it," he continued. "I'd do it all over again. I trust it's been good for the people we work with, our staff and our friends



Brian Blackwell photo

State Sen. Gerald Long presented a copy of Senate Resolution 3, recognizing outgoing Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director David Hankins's contributions to "the success of the state of Louisiana" and "the strength of our communities." He also delivered a proclamation from Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards that described Hankins as "a beacon of hope."

and our pastors and our convention and our denomination."

Hankins, who officially retires June 30 from a post he has held since 2005, previously served a pair of Texas Baptist churches from 1971-85 before becoming pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles in 1985.

Upon leaving Trinity in 1996, Hankins became vice president for convention policy with the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, and was named vice president for the Cooperative Program in 1998 to expand Southern

See CELEBRATE, page 9

Baptisms billow a tide of revival at New Hope

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

DEQUINCY – Revival has come to New Hope Baptist Church in Dequincy and all signs point

to the spiritual renewal continuing for the foreseeable future.

Since February, 22 people have professed faith in Christ, with 16 coming forward during the revival,

March 24-27.

Many have been baptized already.

Pastor Roland Hebert said a mighty move of the

See NEW HOPE, page 7

Bridging the racial divide begins with me

VIDALIA (LBM) -- It is easy to see the division in the town I live in. As I go to pick up my kids from school I cross the highway which separates one side of the city from the other. One side of the city is primarily white; the other side is mostly African American. Our town is home to two separate communities which share the same Walmart, school

system, and Dollar Tree but not church. Sunday morning is still a segregated hour in our community.

I love my church. The folks at FBCV would gladly welcome any person, no matter race, economic status, or cultural background. I can attest to my folks' desire to see healing when it comes to race. We just don't know how.

Our city needs recon-

ciliation -- two communities living together in one town is not ideal.

God has placed it on my heart that the church is called to help heal the wounds which have formed over centuries of division. Reconciliation needs to come from the people of God.

Over the past few months, I have read books which chronicle the history and racial divides of the region I live in. I am purposely reading books written by African American Southern Baptist leaders to see the world from a point of view that I cannot see on my own.

One of the major ideas I have gleaned from my study is that our (mostly Anglo) churches struggle to bear the burdens of our African American brothers. We don't walk a mile in their shoes. Whenever

the cultural storm arises, we all tend to retreat into our predetermined responses.



WES FAULK
Pastor
First Baptist Church
Vidalia

I know the rebuttal. Wes, you're talking social justice. We need to be busy with the Great Commission.

In my town, I cannot reach my neighbor, my children's friends, and the very folks who live in my community if I am not willing to sit, listen, understand, and empathize with my African American neighbors.

If we are honest, in most communities across the South, racial tensions still exist. Most communities are held together by an uneasy ceasefire where we all stay in our own lanes. As believers,

we have a Great Commission responsibility to build relationships outside of our comfort zone, political party, and race. For the sake of the Gospel we have a responsibility to heal the brokenness that racism has borne in our communities.

How does this happen?

I am learning every day.

What I do know is that Gospel healing cannot happen in our communities if believers are not willing to invest in relationships with people they do not know. We have a responsibility to build relationships which look like the throne room of Heaven where God is magnified by the variant cultures and peoples around the throne.

As a pastor, it starts with me.

Wes Faulk is pastor of the First Baptist Church in Vidalia.

Louisiana readies for National Day of Prayer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) -- Louisiana Baptists will gather at churches and other venues throughout the state, May 2, with the single purpose of calling out to God as part of the annual National Day of Prayer.

Jay Johnston, coordinator for the Louisiana National Day of Prayer Task Force, believes prayer is near to the heart of God.

"Prayer unifies our hearts and lives and is used by God to change us not change Him nor our circumstances," said Jay Johnston, associate pastor of the First Baptist Church in Covington. "I hope you will take time in your home

or your church, neighborhood, school, city hall or at the state Capitol to pray on Thursday, May 2, 2019."

This year's National Day of Prayer theme is "Love One Another," based on John 13:34 -- "Love one another, just as I have loved you."

Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Ronnie Floyd is national chairman of what the National Day of Prayer Task Force describes as a "grass roots movement" in which local churches or communities plan how, when and where they want to pray, and the specific content of those prayers.

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

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

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Search team names Steve Horn, Louisiana Baptists respond

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist pastors and leaders offered resounding support for Steve Horn as the next executive director of the state convention.

The search committee announced Sunday, April 7, that Horn, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Lafayette since 2005, was their recommendation to succeed David Hankins, who is retiring effective June 30. The LBC Ex-

ecutive Board will vote on Horn's nomination during its spring meeting, May 7, at the Tall Timbers Conference Center in Woodworth.

LBC President Eddie Wren told the *Baptist Message* he is excited about the opportunity to work alongside Horn.

"I am thankful Dr. Horn has been recommended and has agreed to serve as executive director for Louisiana Baptists," said Wren, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Rayville. "I can't think of anyone I would

rather serve as executive director or anyone that is better prepared for the task. Steve is a man who loves the Lord, loves his family, the church and the state of Louisiana. I look forward to all God will do through his leadership."

Gevan Spinney, senior pastor of the First Baptist Church, Haughton, followed Horn as LBC president. He said he believes the search committee has found the best man to lead Louisiana Baptists into the future.

"I had the privilege of following Dr. Steve Horn as president of the LBC, in doing so I noticed his ability to navigate through difficult issues, while remaining focused on the main mission," Spinney said. "This quality alone will suit him perfectly for his potential new role as executive director. Please join me in praying for him, his wife, Linett, their family and the First Lafayette family."

Mike Walker, pastor of the Bayou Church, Lafayette, considers himself a long-time mentor of Horn.

Walker has known Horn since he was a young man and entrusted to serve as a sitter for Walker's four sons; and, Horn surrendered to vocational ministry and preached his first sermon at Walker's church.

"I am thrilled that Dr. Steve Horn is the candidate to lead our Louisiana Baptist Convention as executive director," Walker said. "His fully devoted heart for God, his impeccable character, his zeal for

evangelism, his passion for the local church, his deep love for Louisiana Baptist ministries, his strong leadership skills and his statesmanship will serve and lead LBC well."

Jeff Ginn, pastor of Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, noted his deep respect for Horn. He served on the Executive Board when Horn was president of the LBC from 2014-2015.

"His integrity and steadfastness set him in good stead as Louisiana Baptists' next servant-leader."

See RESPONSE, page 4

Horn from page one

and in how his congregation has participated in the cooperative missions and ministries of the LBC during his entire tenure."

Horn has served as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Lafayette since 2005. The database of the Annual Church Profile shows his congregation has baptized 775 new believers since then and contributed more than \$2.9 million through the Cooperative Program in just the last six years.

First Lafayette averages about 1,100 in worship and 1,000 in Sunday school, according to ACP records.

Horn also has served in a number of leadership roles as a Louisiana Baptist and Southern Baptist.

He was president of the LBC (2014-2015) as well as a member of the LBC Executive Board (2006-2011), serving as vice president (2009) and president (2010-2011). Currently, he is a trustee of Louisiana College, having joined that board in 2017.

He is in his second year as a trustee with the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and previously was a member of the SBC Committee on Order of Business (2012-2015).

Additionally, Horn served on the Committee on Committees for both the LBC (2012-2013) and the SBC (2009).

"Steve also has a love for reaching out to other pastors," Bailey said. "He expressed a strong conviction to our committee

about helping our pastors succeed in reaching our state with the Gospel."

"He is loved by his congregation and by pastors from around the state, and our committee is convinced Louisiana Baptists will love him as executive director," he added. "Most importantly, we believe God led us to this decision."

Horn has served as pastor to three other Louisiana congregations: Highland Baptist Church, New Iberia (1999-2005); Satsuma Baptist Church, Livingston (1995-1999); and, New Haven Baptist Church, Natalbany (1992-1995).

He and Linett have been married nearly 27 years and have two sons, Josh (21) and Dru (8).

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Bayou Baptists unite, 12 join Christ

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

THIBODAUX, La. (LBM) -- The 33 churches of Bayou Baptist Association united around a call to share the Gospel with their respective communities, and 12 people turned to Christ during an area-wide evangelistic outreach.

Attendance averaged 150 each session of the 'Churches United' Crusade, March 28-30, at three separate locations, nightly, records show.

The harvest of souls included 11 acts of repentance for salvation during the first night at Cut Off Youth Center and another the final evening at Peltier Auditorium on the Nicholls State University campus in Thibodaux, officials shared.

No one repented for salvation or restoration

during the second night of the crusade at South Terrebonne High School in Bourg, but many cried out to God for personal revival,



Preston Nix, an evangelism professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, shared a message during the final crusade session.

said J.P. Cox, the crusade director.

The crusade included powerful messages by Preston Nix, an evangelism professor at New Orleans

Baptist Theological Seminary, and Duane and Iris Blue, Mission Service Corps volunteers with the North American Mission Board, said Cox, pastor of the University Baptist Church in Thibodaux, adding that special music was presented by a multi-denominational praise team.

"The Spirit moved mightily in all facets, from worship to the testimonies to Dr. Nix's messages," he shared. "The Spirit moved not only in getting people saved but also uniting our churches, and reigniting the passion among existing believers."

"It was pretty powerful to look around and see people from churches representing multiple denominations," he said. "There was a spirit of unity in that



Brian Blackwell photo

A time of praise moved many to seek personal revival during sessions of the Bayou Baptist Association Crusade, March 28-30. Crusade organizers reported a unified spirit among the participating churches.

place. People were ready for something like this -- for the Lord to move and work. It was overwhelming in a lot of ways to see the Spirit move so mightily."

Joe Arnold, director of missions for Bayou Baptist Association, echoed the thought.

"I was truly pleased to see our people come together as one to strive to

make an impact for Jesus," he said. "We may not have seen the numbers we wished to have or the decisions we hoped to have but I believe we planted seeds, developed relationships, opened eyes and made an impact that we pray will bring forth additional fruit in the days, months and years to come."

See BAYOU, page 12

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Response from page 3

er," Ginn said. "I enthusiastically welcome him."

David Carlton, director of missions for Evangeline Baptist Association, said several pastors prayed for Horn and First Baptist Lafayette during a Bible study Monday afternoon, April 8. First Baptist Lafayette is a member of the association.

"As I thought of who would be the right person, he was the first and only person who came to mind," said Carlton, a member of First Baptist Lafayette. "I love his deep commitment to the Cooperative Program and his desire to see Louisiana Baptists have an impact for the kingdom of God to share the Gospel. That's who he is and that's who we need. In every encounter I've had with him, he has given wise counsel and focuses on kingdom work."

Both Louisiana College President Rick Brewer and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Chuck Kelley

said Horn has demonstrated superlative leadership that will help him better serve Louisiana Baptists, should he be elected executive director.

Horn serves on the board of trustees at LC and NOBTS.

"Steve embodies a pastor's heart and a leader's vision and is therefore abundantly equipped to receive this weighty mantle from Dr. Hankins," Brewer said. "I know Steve envisions Louisiana College as a flourishing member of the LBC family, and I have every confidence that he will guide us all deep into the 21st Century while emphasizing salvation for lost souls, as well as church planting and discipleship."

"Dr. Steve Horn is one the most effective leaders amount Louisiana Baptists today," Kelley said. "He has excelled as a pastor and been fully engaged for many years with the work of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Terrific choice!"

Arsonist accused churches of being 'brainwashed'

By Will Hall
Message Editor

OPELOUSAS (LBM) – The suspect in the burning of three historically black Baptist churches claimed members were “brainwashed people,” according to CNN.

Holden Matthews, 21, also reportedly commented via Facebook that he “can’t stand all these Baptists around here” and accused them of “trying to find happiness in a religion that was forced on their ancestors just as it was on mine,” lamenting that “more blacks” did not pursue “ancient beliefs of pre Christian Africa.”

Police arrested Matthews, April 11, for setting fire to the St. Mary Baptist Church in Port Barre, March 26, as well as the Greater Union Baptist Church, April 2, and the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, April 4, both in Opelousas. The congregations have been ministering in their respective communities for more than 100 years each.

On social media Matthews described himself as “a metal fan to the bone,” an apparent reference to black metal music, a genre connected with musician Varg Vikernes, who was convicted for the 1992 burning of three churches in Norway. CNN described Matthews’ belief system as “paganism” with interests in Norse mythology.

Matthews faces three state counts of arson as well as three state counts of a hate crime, a charge in Louisiana to punish violence committed because of the victim’s race, age, gender and religion.

Generous donations have poured in from around the state and the country to help rebuild

the three churches, each affiliated with the National Baptist Convention. In just a week, 35,000 individuals donated more than \$1.9 million via GoFundMe.

The Louisiana Baptist Convention missions team is connecting with the pastors of the three burned churches to find out what needs are still not met.

Likewise, four LBC congregations (St. James Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, Bayou Church, all in Lafayette; and, the First Baptist Church, Opelousas) as well as two LBC associations (Evangeline Baptist Association, Acadia Baptist Association) are offering local support.

‘Unplanned’ an unbelievable pro-life box office success

The pro-life movie “Unplanned,” based on the true story of former Planned Parenthood clinic director Abby Johnson, who quit the organization in 2009 after witnessing an abortion at 13 weeks, has exceeded critics’ expectations.

The film ranked fourth in money made during its opening weekend (behind “Dumbo,” “Us,” and “Captain Marvel”) and remained in the top 10 after its second weekend in theaters, grossing more than \$16 million, so far, while costing only \$6 million to make, reported BoxOfficeMojo.com.

The hit movie overcame the obstacles of an R rating by the Motion Picture Association of America (despite no profanity, nudity or immodesty) and having its ads banned on major television channels as well as a temporary ban by one

CULTURAL NEWS

of the largest Christian radio networks – until fans objected.

Only Fox News and the Christian Broadcast Network aired television commercials for Unplanned. Meanwhile, K-LOVE, which says its mission is to encourage a meaningful relationship with Christ, had to backtrack from its position of not promoting anything “political” after a severe backlash from listeners, according to The Blaze.

Twitter also piled on with an “accidental” suspension of the movie’s account, which prevented even the lead actress, Ashley Bratcher, from following her own movie.

However, one Twitter user managed to reach 732 million people with his endorsement.

Vice President Mike Pence called “Unplanned” a “deeply inspiring new pro-life film” and said, “More and more Americans are embracing the sanctity of life because of powerful stories like this one.”

Faith-based studio Pure Flix, which created “Unplanned” based on the book by the same name, also produced “God’s Not Dead,” “Do You Believe?,”

I’m Not Ashamed” and “The Case for Christ.”

My Pillow founder Michael Lindell, a born-again Christian, co-financed “Unplanned.”

Despite attacks, Chick-fil-A set to surpass Subway

Airports in San Antonio, Texas, and Buffalo, New York, have rejected Chick-fil-A stores as did Rider University in New Jersey.

But, despite these and other political attacks, Chick-fil-A, a faith-based company, is on pace to become the third largest restaurant chain in U.S. sales this year, leapfrogging from seventh place.

A Kalinowski Equity Research report indicates Chick-fil-A sales were up 15.5 percent last year (about \$10.4 billion) – a nearly \$1 billion increase from 2017, when the chain experienced a sales jump of 14.2 percent.

Chick-fil-A only has 2,100 stores, which are closed on Sundays, but its market strength is demonstrated by remarkable per store sales of \$4.1 million each in 2017, beating Macdonald’s, Starbucks and Subway’s combined per store take of \$4.0 million.

Moreover, despite activists’ efforts to shut

down the chain, Chick-fil-A has been named number one in food quality and customer service among fast-food eateries (limited service), but its scores best even the top dine-in restaurant, Texas Roadhouse (full service).

Now, a 2019 survey of 8,000 teens, with an average age of 16.3 years, shows Chick-fil-A is the restaurant of choice among Generation Z, preferred 20 percent more than Starbucks and four-to-one over MacDonald’s.

Regardless, critics continue to attack Chick-fil-A because its foundation provided financial support to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (\$1.5 million), the Salvation Army (\$145,000) and the Paul Anderson Youth Home (\$132,000) in Georgia – all three had policy statements that promoted the biblical understanding of marriage as between a man and a woman.

Chick-fil-A said the donations were used, respectively, to: “fund sports camps for inner-city youths” conducted by the FCA; pay for “several programs” run by the Salvation Army, including the “Angel Tree program in Atlanta”; and, provide for the daily “operations” and “a Christmas dinner” for the youth home.



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RA Congress nets 10 more ambassadors for Christ

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH – A movement of the Holy Spirit during the recent Royal Ambassador Congress prompted 10 young men to commit their lives to Jesus, said Mike Collie.

The RA consultant added that the decisions resulted from seeds being intentionally planted, cultivated and harvested throughout the weekend.

“Oh what a joy it is to see God working in the hearts and lives of these young boys ... to know these 10 young men had the courage to step out and overcome all obstacles to surrender their hearts to Christ,” Collie shared.

Held March 29-30 at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Wood-

worth, RA Congress drew 202 students and adult leaders from 14 churches. The two-day conference featured American Ninja Warrior contestant Jared Greer, who used a portable obstacle course to present the Gospel.

The event also included missionaries who shared about the dangers of substance abuse.

Additionally, the young men had opportunities to make a gun out of pipes and participate in the Pinewood Derby and Soap Box car races as part of the “Mind and Body” theme, based on 1 Corinthians 9:24.

In his presentation, Greer shared with the boys strategies to overcome obstacles. When he first appeared on the TV show in 2014, he felt crushed and defeated

after he did not complete the obstacle course.

A year later, he was given a second chance to complete the course.

He was unsuccessful, again, but Greer told the boys he learned through that experience that God had other purposes for his life beyond American Ninja Warrior.

He now travels the country to tell his story about how God has allowed him to use his skills displayed on the TV show to share the Gospel. Greer will have another opportunity to compete on the show during the upcoming season in June.

“We’re going to face challenges and obstacles in life,” Greer told the boys. “If we trust in Jesus we can overcome anything.”

During the Pinewood

Derby competition, participants competed in a series of heats to determine a first place winner for each grade level. These victors advanced to the finals to determine the top three overall champions.

The RAs and leaders also took part in a Soap Box Derby race.

PINEWOOD DERBY

Most Unusual: First Place, Bryce Wilson, First Baptist Church, Opelousas; Second Place, Nolan Hogan, Temple Baptist Church, Ruston; Third Place, Caleb Stryzewski, First Baptist Church, Opelousas.

Best Design: First Place, Caleb Bennett, Kingsville Baptist Church, Ball; Second Place, Luke Rowe, Quit-

man Baptist Church; Third Place, Ryan McIntyre, First Baptist Church, Lafayette.

SOAP BOX DERBY

RAs: First Place, Daniel Asher, Temple Baptist Church, Ruston; Second Place, David Asher, Temple Baptist Church, Ruston; Third Place, Nolan Hogan, Temple Baptist Church, Ruston.

Leaders: First Place, Jeremy Asher, Temple Baptist Church, Ruston; Second Place, John Ward Sr., First Baptist Church, Lafayette; Third Place, Jimmy Kimmel, First Baptist Church, Lafayette.

The annual Louisiana Baptist event allows the boys to learn from godly men about biblical manhood, according to Collie.

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- Clear Youth Camp 3 July 15-19 **SOLD OUT**
- Clear Youth Camp 4 July 22-25 **SOLD OUT**
- Kids Camp 3 July 29-August 1

New Hope from page one

Holy Spirit has been an unexpected blessing.

"It thrills me," he said. "That's what preachers live for. I can't tell you anything we did to cause it to happen. It was a God thing. God opened the doors of Heaven and poured out a blessing."

During recent revival services, the worship center was filled to capacity

each evening.

A men's wild game supper in the family life center the day before the revival was a catalyst for 12 people turning to Christ. Four more people repented during the nightly services and committed to live for Christ, and another person surrendered to the ministry.

Evangelist Sam Moore,

who shared the Gospel each evening, said the church embraced the effort.

"The Gospel was preached with a lot of hunting illustrations, and a Gospel invitation given after each message," Moore said. "The Spirit moved and 12 men surrendered their lives to Jesus as Lord and Savior. This helped set the tone for the revival for the rest of the week."

Since the revival ended, Hebert has talked with many who attended, including some who expressed a desire to follow Christ.

"Seeing God move,



Submitted photo

Roland Hebert baptized Cher LaRocque during a worship service, March 24, at New Hope Baptist Church in DeQuincy. The church has seen 22 new people profess faith in Christ since February, 16 who came forward during a revival at the church, March 24-27.

you are in awe of what He did," Hebert said. "We saw many make decisions, from teens to a

73-year-old woman. When that happens, you know it's not anyone in your church who was responsible but that it was all God."

Hebert said prayer was the catalyst for spiritual renewal among the congregation that averages 120-140 on Sunday mornings.

The church began praying 40 days before the start of the revival, which led to six people turning to Christ and following through with obedience through baptism.

Members also were encouraged to pray for one person who was not a Christ follower.

"God is continuing to bless," Hebert said. "We will keep asking the Lord

of the harvest to send harvesters and we will do our part to continue to bring in the harvest."

State churches urged to apply for DHS grants

By Will Hall
Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – The Department of Homeland Security has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity relating to the 2019 Nonprofit Security Grant Program which offers funds to upgrade the security of facilities as protection against threats of violence due to "ideology, beliefs or mission."

Churches and religious schools have about two weeks to submit grant requests to the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness.

If nonprofits are unable to meet the tight deadline for 2019, they should submit requests this year in order to be considered for the 2020 program.

The U.S. Congress provided \$60 million for the FY19 program, which also covers synagogues and mosques, and Louisiana is expected to receive about \$200,000 to \$300,000 of that allocation. Last year, the state approved four grant requests.

IMPORTANT: The

church is making the request to FEMA, but the state will submit the actual application based on the information the church provides (if the state approves the request).

Based on the process used in previous years:

1. The first step is to apply for a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.

2. The church also must complete a vulnerability assessment.

3. An Investment Justification form must be completed.

4. Finally, a budget must be submitted.

Contact the state office, 225.358.5599, for specific forms and instructions, and, ask for both the region and parish contacts in your area.

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Governor's Prayer Breakfast centers capital on Christ

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE. (LBM) -- For more than an hour, clergy, community leaders and public officials prayed for Gov. John Bel Edwards, the military, law enforcement, first responders and the state, April 10, at the Raising Canes Center in Baton Rouge, unit-

ing more than 1,000 legislators, pastors, businessmen and others as the body of Christ just days after the start of the 2019 state legislative session.

Ray Swift, administrative pastor at the First Baptist Church in Lafayette, delivered an invocation and Charles Harper, steering committee chairman, introduced the head table of program personalities and other special guests.

State Rep. Katrina Jackson, Assistant District Attorney Ken Fabre, state Sen. Sharon Hewitt, Ascension Parish Sheriff Deputy and Chaplain Ken Spivey, state Rep. Thomas Carmody, Jr., and steering committee member Phillip Juban were among others offering prayers and reading scripture during the annual the Governor's Prayer Breakfast.

Keynote speaker Ken Boa, president of Reflections Ministries in Atlanta, Georgia, reminded the crowd to live out God's purpose for them.

"His desire for you and me is that we will live a life that will so reflect a life of Christ in us that you live a life that demands an explanation," he said. "And that is my desire for all of you, that you will live well, that you love well, learn well and live well. And that God will then be pleased. And your desire is to be pleasing to Him."



Dennis Patrick photo

Ken Boa, president of Reflections Ministries in Atlanta, Georgia, shared about the need to live out God's purpose during the 55th annual Governor's Prayer Breakfast. More than 1,000 people attended the event, April 10, at the Raising Canes Center in Baton Rouge.

He also told them how they should run the race.

"Those who finish well learned how to love well, learn well and live well," he said. "They have learned to understand intimacy with Jesus is the key to finishing well."

In his closing remarks, Edwards, who was introduced by his wife Donna, thanked the crowd for their commitment to pray for him and legislators as they make critical decisions in the coming months.

"We're called upon to [pray] every day," he said.

"Let us not be caught asleep in our faith. I believe we are called, those of us in public service, to be servants. Through our service we actually have the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of others."

Edwards, citing Proverbs 31:8-9, said elected officials are called to speak up for those who are unable to do so themselves. Likewise, he said all Christ followers are charged with a similar task.

"The Bible is replete with references that God will order our steps," he said. "But we have to move our feet. We

have a role to play in that. So, as we return to our daily routines, I ask that you continue to pray for our country and for our state and leaders at all levels that we will reason together and that we will do what is in the common interest."

Jay Johnston, associate pastor of the First Baptist Church in Covington and a member of the steering committee for the event, said he was pleased that so many turned out early in the morning to pray.

"The Governor's Prayer Breakfast offers the people of the state of Louisiana to come together and publicly pray for our governor and elected officials," Johnston said. "I encourage all Louisiana Baptist pastors to commit to making this a priority in the future."

Tim Hisaw, pastor of Tioga First Baptist Church, left with a sense of encouragement and hope for the state.

"This was my first time to attend the Governor's Prayer Breakfast and I was amazed by the number of attendees," he said. "There was genuine, heartfelt prayer offered up to God for our nation, our state, our elected officials and first responders. The keynote speaker, Ken Boa, brought a winsome and challenging message about living in relationship with Christ. I was honored to be there and my outlook and hope for our state was encouraged for having been in attendance."

For the rest of the story go to www.baptistmessage.com.

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Celebrate from page one

Baptists' involvement in supporting world missions and ministry.

He began his tenure as executive director with Louisiana Baptists on February 1, 2005.

David and Patty Hankins have been married since 1969 and have three grown sons – Andy, Eric and Adam. He and she are members of the Philadelphia Baptist Church, Horseshoe Drive, in Alexandria.

Patty Hankins told the audience she was brought to tears as she reflected on how much she loves all of those in attendance.

"I love you," she said. "What's more important than that is Jesus loves you; and, I'm so proud to have served with you, alongside of you. God bless you in all the great days ahead, in your life and for the Convention, for how you affect our world and our culture that need you so much. I love you and God bless you."

LOVE & APPRECIATION

Throughout the evening, friends from around the LBC and SBC as well as members of the state and federal governments honored Hankins with video tributes, gifts and statements of appreciation.

Waylon Bailey, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Covington and president of the LBC Executive Board, said the setting of the celebration banquet – the Georgia Barnette Conference Center – was a testament to Hankins' lasting legacy among Louisiana Baptists.

Hankins initiated construction of the facility, named after the first elected and paid Woman's Missionary Union executive director/treasurer in Louisiana, in order to have a place for large joint assemblies of Louisiana Baptists.

"Just the very fact that we're in this building to me is a way of saying to Dr. Hankins that we appreciate his ministry and leadership through the years," he said. "What a great place for us to meet."

Philip Robertson, pastor of the Philadelphia Baptist Church (Hankins' home congregation) with campuses in Deville and Alexandria, voiced a prayer of Thanksgiv-



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Baptist Convention President Eddie Wren presented David Hankins with a certificate of special congressional recognition on behalf of U.S. Rep. Ralph Abraham, a member of Alto Baptist Church.

ing.

"You gave us an incredible gift when you sent Dr. Hankins and 'Miss' Patty to Louisiana," Robertson said in his prayer. "We are so grateful for how You have worked through them to minister; to serve; to preach; to pray; to share the Gospel; and, to touch so many lives. Lord, only you know how many people over these past 14 years have been saved and been born again into Your Kingdom because of Dr. Hankins' fingerprints through the ministries that he has led and worked and labored with and in and through."

LBC President Eddie Wren presented Hankins with a certificate of special congressional recognition on behalf of U.S. Rep. Ralph Abraham, a member of Alto Baptist Church.

Wren, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Rayville, said Hankins served as a mentor to him and countless others. He added that Deuteronomy 31:6 epitomizes Hankins' ministry and life.

"The reason that we can stand today and say that he is a man of integrity, that he is a man of boldness, that he is a man of principle, is because he believes that verse," Wren said. "He believes the Lord is with him wherever he goes. And he serves Him. And so he can stand and he can be bold and he can oppose something that's wrong and



After Waylon Bailey thanked them for their service, David and Patty Hankins said they were grateful to God and thankful to friends for the many blessings they received during his five decades of ministry that included his serving 14 years as LBC executive director.

not worry what anyone else thinks. And I'm so grateful for it."

Wren also presented, as a gift from the LBC Executive Board, the title of the business car Hankins has used to travel the state during his LBC ministry.

Louisiana Sen. Gerald Long, state Senate president pro tempore, announced passage of Senate Resolution 3, recognizing Hankins' contributions to "the success of the state of Louisiana" and "the strength of our communities," and shared a proclamation from Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards that described Hankins as "a beacon of hope" in the state and lauded him for his "exceptional leadership as the Executive Director of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention."

Augie Boto, executive vice president and general coun-



Brian Blackwell photo

David Hankins accepted a certificate of appreciation from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, as presented by SBC EC Executive Vice President and General Counsel Augie Boto.

ment ceremonies, May 4, at the Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria.

Louisiana Baptist Business and Information Services Director Dale Lingenfelter said he found Hankins to model integrity in every area of his life.

"I found him to be the same man behind those closed doors as he was behind your pulpits, pastors, all across the state," Lingenfelter said. "He's a man of great integrity and high character. It didn't matter in our discussions whether

I was talking to him about the cutest little thing my grandson had just done or whether we were talking about the biggest financial decisions we would make that year, he listened with the same great interest. He always had a wise thoughtful response and I appreciated that about him."

Lingenfelter shared how Hankins had been serving as executive director for less than a year when in August 2005 Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Louisiana, and how he saw, up close, Hankins' keen sense of leadership during the months that followed.

"I learned that he loved and was concerned about our churches, no matter how big, no matter how small," Lingenfelter said. "I learned how concerned he was for our

sel for the SBC Executive Committee and most recently interim president of the national entity, said Hankins and his wife have been close friends to him and his wife, Cindy.

"You are and you have been and have always been an iconic and legendary leader in Southern Baptist life," Boto said. "You have been a faithful and patriarchal family man. You have been a loyal and a true pastor and a great friend. And you've been a very fruitful servant of God. Dr. Hankins, your life has been a model of persistence, consistency, decisiveness, principle and undaunted leadership. To sum it all up, you are truly, truly unforgettable and in the very best way."

Louisiana College President Rick Brewer announced the school will present Hankins with an honorary doctorate during commence-

See CELEBRATE, page 11

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Please send your résumé to P.O. Box 778 • Doyline, La 71023 or e-mail Jennifer Lewis at jenniferlewis95@hotmail.com

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
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211 Ebenezer Church Road
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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 fellowshippbctrout@yahoo.com. Résumés should be mailed to Fellowship Baptist Church, 487 Fellowship Rd., Trout, LA 71371, C/O Mrs. Joy Bond.

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SEEKING A PASTOR

Beulah Baptist Church in Cheneyville is seeking a bi-vocational/student pastor for 11 a.m. Sunday services. Housing is available. Send résumé to P.O. Box 356 Cheneyville, LA 71325 or call Carole at 318.452.5048 for more information.

Seeking a part-time YOUTH MINISTER

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

Bi-Vocational MINISTER OF MUSIC
Pisgah Baptist Church in Forest Hill, LA is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music to lead worship service. Email résumés to cjrob928@aol.com or for more information, call 318.446.4320.

SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

Sorrento Baptist Church in Sorrento, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please mail résumés to Sorrento Baptist Church P O Box 192, Sorrento, LA 70778 or email to pastorsearch@eatel.net.

WORSHIP & MEDIA PASTOR

FBC McAlester, OK is seeking a FT Worship/Media pastor. For more information and to submit a résumé visit www.fbcmcalester.org

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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

- **James H. Miller** retired April 14 as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Spearsville.
- **John Elliott** will retire April 28 from Emmanuel Baptist Church, Natchitoches.
- **David Correia** has resigned as pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, Ponchatoula.

HOMECOMING

- Old Union Baptist Church, Benson: **160th Anniversary/Homecoming**, May 5, 11 a.m. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. A covered dish luncheon will follow with the **Southern Plainsmen** providing

special music. Pastor: Alton Middleton.

REVIVAL

- Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Ferriday: **Associational Evangelism Rally**, April 28, 5:30 p.m. Speaker: **Philip Robertson**. Worship: **Sanctuary Quartet**. DOM: Mickey Hudnell.
- Bethel Baptist Church, Bastrop: **Spring revival**, April 28-May 1, Sunday, 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Rubin Weaver**. Pastor: Tim Post.
- Palestine Baptist Church, Grant: **Family Crusade**, May 5-8. Evangelist: **2TALK42 Ministries**. Pastor: Hardy Estes.
- **Red River Association Parish Crusade**, Coushatta: May 5-11. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Worship: **WeRCalled**. Crusade Coordinator: Richard Kaufman.

LAGNIAPPE

- **John Elliott** is available for supply, interim or bi-vocational pastorate. He can be reached at 318.332.5483.
- **Sam Wheat**, Minister of Education & Outreach at Emmanuel Baptist Church s

retiring in May. A reception will be held for him May 19 from 2-4 p.m. in the Family Life Center of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ruston.

- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Praise Jesus Outdoors two man team bass tournament**, April 26-27, Friday, registration banquet, 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Guest Speaker: Pro Fisherman Nick LeBrun. The winning team will receive \$500 and big bass will win \$250. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ruston is searching for a **fulltime Minister of Education & Outreach**. Please send résumés to paul@ebcruston.org.
- Colyell Baptist Church, Livingston: **Second Annual Springfest**, April 27, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.; Car Show, registration, 9 a.m., Cost: \$25. There will be live music, a silent auction, monster trucks, inflatables, Jacob's Ladder, rock climbing wall and mechanical bull. There will also be lots of good food – fried catfish plates, jambalaya, BBQ pork sandwiches, hamburgers, blooming onions, boiled peanuts, Nachos, candy, soft drinks and water. There will be fun for the entire family. Proceeds go to CBC Youth and Van fund. For more information, call 225.698.6243. Pastor: Jeremy Glascock.
- First Baptist Church, Rayne: **French Rally**, April 27, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: **Louis Charrier**. The rally includes breakfast, a rally in all-French language and lunch. Pastor: Gene Lee.
- Mt. Patrick Baptist Church, Bernice: **Sanctuary Quartet in concert**, April 27, 6 p.m. The church is located at 1232 Patrick Church Rd., Bernice.
- Heflin Baptist Church, Heflin: Special Services, April 28, Evangelist: **Price Harris**. Pastor: Ronnie Osborne.
- First Baptist Church, Winnfield: **39th**

Annual Max Kelley Memorial Bar-B-Cue, April 28, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. Cost: \$10 per plate which includes Half Bar-B-Cue Chicken, Potato Salad "Skid Row" Baked Beans. Pastor: Steven Smithson.

- Woodland Park Baptist Church, Hammond: **DivorceCare series**, every Wednesday, 6 p.m., beginning May 1, 2019. The church is located at 1909 JW Davis Drive, Hammond, LA 70403. For more information, contact WPBC 985-345-4012 or email: divorcecaregrp@gmail.com or visit website: www.divorcecare.org. Pastor: Tim Moffett.
- Coteau Baptist Church, Houma: **2nd Annual 'Hope is Risen' Cancer/Survivor Banquet**, May 4, 5 p.m. Speaker: Marcie Gray, guest speaker and singer. The banquet is free to all cancer patients and survivors. There will be a full concert May 5 at 9 a.m. Pastor: Wayne Hunt.
- Mt. Union Baptist Church, Spearsville: **Women's Conference**, May 4, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: **Tessa Black**. Music: **Jennifer Michaels**. Lunch will be served. There is no admission fee. Pastor: Marcell McGee.
- First Baptist Church, DeQuincy: **Annual Ladies Banquet "Flavors of Life" – an afternoon tea**, May 4, 12-4 p.m. Guest Speaker: **Vanita Gibbs**. Lunch will be provided. Cost: \$20 donation suggested. Childcare will be provided. For more information, call Yvette Pharris: 337.405.9627 or Debbie Morgan: 337.309.6579. Pastor: Gil Arthur.
- Rocky Branch Baptist Church, Farmer-ville: **Ben Waites in concert**, May 5, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Woodson McGuffee.
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, May 6, noon. Speaker: Al Quartermont, news director at KALB-TV Cost: \$10 and you may pay at the door. Please RSVP to Stewart Holloway (sholloway@fbcpineville.net).

Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

■ First Baptist Church, Zwolle: **29th annual Adult Day at Clara Springs Baptist Camp**, Pelican, May 9, 10 a.m.-1 pm. Special Guest: **Brent Lamb**, former lead-singer for Shenandoah, a Christian recording group. Lunch will be complementary. Please RSVP to the church office 318.645.4492 by May 1 if you plan on attending. Pastor: Marty Williams.

IN REMEMBRANCE

■ **Durhl R. Davis**, 75, faith was made sight April 15 as he entered Heaven and heard his Lord and Savior say "well done." Over 50 years ago he received the call to preach the gospel, and he has done so all over the United States of America. He served on the Baptist Mission Board and planted many churches all across the United States. In November of 1993 God moved him to Anacoco to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Anacoco. He was a man of great faith, and love, and his legacy will live on in every family member, church member, and soul that he has helped to lead to Christ. Davis also was a faithful servant to Louisiana Baptists. He served on the Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board (1998-2004) and the Committee on Committees (1996-98). Left to Cherish his memory are his wife of 56 years: Sheila Davis of Anacoco, LA; Three Children: Durhl Davis, Jr. (Candace) of Anacoco, John Davis (Dana) of Leesville, Shonda Wilcher (David) of Baton Rouge; One Sister: Patricia Bruce (Don) of Leesville; His Grandchildren: Jacob & Anna Davis, Josh & Julie Davis, Sarah & Andrew Crawford, Holly Davis, Jordan & Jake Dalme, Katie Davis, Matthew Davis, Scott Wiggins; three great grandchildren: Cora Mae Davis, Ann Marie Davis, and Carson Davis.

Celebrate from page 9

staff as we were spread thin trying to meet all the many, many needs out there, and, of his concern for seizing every opportunity to share the Gospel.

"And I learned he could rally the troops," Lingenfelter said, adding, "and that, he did."

Kevin Roberts, regional representative of LifeWay Christian Resources, honored Hankins with a plaque of appreciation for his faithful service as executive director, and a "Legacy of Faith Collection" of books.

Eric Hankins, Hankins' son and pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fairhope, Alabama, shared a story of how his dad displayed integrity after he lost the election for LBC president in 1993. He said in the moments following the defeat, he looked toward his dad and thought about how he had handled himself with integrity, in this situation and in life, and was overcome at that moment with a longing to be that same kind of man.

"It really became a prayer – Lord, help me to be just like him, a man of integrity," he said. "And together we've watched, haven't we, some through these 14 years of ministry, some longer into the days back at Trinity, and we've watched, Dad, and we've seen your integrity, and it's stood the test of time. And we've been

blessed. Congratulations. I love you and I'm going to do my very best along with my brothers and my family and the generation coming behind to take what you've handed to us and to hand it to as many people as we possibly can."

Steve Horn, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Lafayette, and the LBC Presidential Search Committee nominee to succeed Hankins as LBC executive director, closed out the banquet with a prayer.

"All of us who are here tonight certainly join together in great thanksgiving to you, oh God, for allowing our lives to intersect at whatever moment it has been and whatever season of life it has been for all of us to intersect this life with Dr. David and Mrs. Patty Hankins," he said. "We give you thanks, oh God, for indeed the relationship has been good, and we are thankful for Dr. Hankins' ministry to us. We are thankful for all of the good things that have been said tonight and know them to be true, and so we give thanks for his leadership. We give thanks for his theological conviction. We give thanks, oh God, for his faithfulness to endure and to run the race that you, oh God, have set before him. We are thankful for a lifetime of ministry of faithfulness unto you."

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.

owm twszqf hphmkzah jmwozehb qzeeqh: tye

xwsqzghaa za jmwozedtqh ygew dqq ebzgx, bdizgx

jmwbzah wo ebh qzoh ebde gwl za, dgs wo ebde lbzkb

za ew kwvh.

ozmae ezvwebf owym:hzxbe

Clues:
A = F; T = O

Answer to April 11 Scripture Crypto:
First Samuel twenty-five: eleven

Three days, thirty changed lives at Hineston Crusade

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

HINESTON – Prayer proved to be the catalyst for a powerful movement of the Holy Spirit during a crusade at the Hineston rodeo arena, the key organizer shared with the Baptist Message.

Over the three-day period, April 10-12, 30 people made spiritual decisions, including six who made first-time public professions of faith in Jesus and another 24 who restored fellowship with the Lord through repentance. The

harvest resulted from prayerful planning and preparation by many for the Hineston Crusade, said Brandon Smith, also pastor of Dixie Baptist Church in Sieper.

Glenn Price, worship minister for the Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, accompanied by his praise team members, led music and evangelist Bill Britt brought the message each night.

“You could sense the Holy Spirit moving all through the arena,” Smith offered. “It gave me goose bumps.

“It was a special moment when I looked into the eyes of those who finally came to the realization they are lost or needed to restore their lives with Christ,” he continued. “The youth, especially, had this glow on their faces when they came forward to declare their decisions for Jesus. I’m praying they continue with that same excitement and become on fire for God in their homes, schools and community.”

The crusade was a multi-denominational, community-wide effort.

Dixie Baptist Church

provided most of the volunteers, Smith said, and New Sunrise Baptist Church in Otis, Hineston Tabernacle (a full Gospel church), Amiable Baptist Church in Glenmora and Mount Olive Baptist Association helped with financial and equipment support.

“It was good to see the community come together like that,” Smith declared. “The vision was given to us a year ago about this, and to see it come to fruition was amazing.

“To see multiple churches and denomina-

tions worshipping together under one rodeo arena roof was hard to put into words,” he said. “And to see God move in a small crowd like this was amazing.”

Without prayer, Smith believes the number of decisions would have been much fewer and attendance would not have reached the average of 75 nightly.

“Prayer was a big reason for what we saw happen over the three nights of our crusade,” he said. “God was working behind the scenes in ways we may never know until we get to heaven. Going forward, we may see this community come together even stronger and change this area for Christ even in ways we can’t imagine.”



TRUTH DECAY

“You can’t handle the truth!” is an often-quoted line in a popular movie from the 1990’s but today, the truth is we don’t want to hear the truth. Educators and scholars lecture that there’s no such thing as “absolute truth”. “You can’t handle the truth” has been replaced with “I don’t want to hear the truth,” as we place our hands over our ears (and our hearts) and in effect say, “I’m not listening!”

Paul warned Timothy, “... there is going to come a time when people won’t listen to the truth but will go around looking for teachers who will tell them just what they want to hear.”

2 Timothy 4:3 (TLB)

That time has arrived.

Truth decay wreaks havoc in our culture, in our relationships and even in our churches. It’s piped into our homes and devices through the internet, through television and through social media.

How do we combat “truth decay”?

The only remedy for “truth decay” is to return to the One who said I am the way, the truth and the life. The implication of Jesus’ declaration confounds the culture. It remains the only hope for the world. This is the unaltered, unfiltered, unapologetic truth.

Jesus declared God’s words are truth (**John 17:17**). It needs to be applied generously and frequently.

Here For You is a multi-media evangelism effort designed to scatter the truth of God’s word inside every heart and every home almost every day.

Pray for these seeds of truth to find good soil in the hearts of those who’ve seen the spots. Ask God to protect and nourish those seeds and continue the process of drawing people to Himself.

The people in Louisiana, and our entire country, desperately need a “**truth infusion**”. No legislation coming out of Baton Rouge or any parish office can stop the cultural decay. Only God’s truth can change a heart and correct the course of a culture.

You can be a part of this “truth infusion”. Go to **HereForYou.org** and share these spots on your preferred social media platforms. Every time you share, you’re helping seed God’s truth in the hearts of those who view your posts.

Let’s pray together, let’s work together and let’s give together to take God’s truth into the highways and hedges of people’s hearts and homes.



Have you brushed your teeth? You’ve heard that question since you were young.

Sometimes the answer was, “Yes,” other times, “No.” But the truth would be somewhere in the middle. As kids we’d have lots more important things to do. Ten strokes back and forth on the front teeth and most kids think they’re good to go.

Our parents, and TV commercials, drilled into our minds that we didn’t want the dreaded tooth decay! Instead, our parents longed to hear, “Look, Mom, no cavities!” (And then they rewarded us with candy!)

Tooth decay is painful. When the dentist says, “You’ll only feel a slight pinch.” – they lie! They also know it’s expensive.

Today our society suffers from “**truth decay**”. Our courts require us to place our hands on a Bible and “*Promise to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God,*” and yet the truth eludes us.

Bayou

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Prayer was a major focus leading up to the ‘Churches United’ crusade.

Since March 2018, the crusade planning task force met monthly to pray about reaching Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes through a joint evangelistic effort. Soon after they began meeting, Cox said the Holy Spirit confirmed the crusade as a desire of their hearts.

Every two weeks, the planning team continued to hold focused times of prayer at its meetings. Churches also were asked to devote dedicated times of prayer in worship services the weekend before the crusade.

“Without prayer I don’t know if this would have happened,” Cox said. “It reminded me the Lord is not done in our communities and is still at work. It’s a difficult culture in which to serve. But I think the Lord showed me through the power of prayer and people coming together at the same time to discern the Lord’s will in unity and purpose is the result of that, and what could be.”