



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

August 27, 2020

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John 3:16

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COVID-19 Pandemic is “The Right Time” to share the Gospel

By John Kyle

Louisiana Baptists Communications

ALEXANDRIA, La. – Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, Louisiana Baptists are convinced this is “The Right Time” to reach the state.

“When the Lord led us to the theme ‘The Right Time’ for our

2020 Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering emphasis, little did we know what 2020 would bring,” said John Kyle, director of communications for Louisiana Baptists. “Obviously, God knew the fear and uncertainty that would accompany COVID-19 thus making this ‘The Right Time’ to share the assurance and

hope found in a relationship with Christ.”

Kyle noted the theme for this year’s state missions offering was taken from Paul’s second letter to the church in Corinth in which he challenged the early believers to realize “Indeed, the ‘right time’ is now. Today is the day of salvation” (2 Cor.6:2,

NLT).

“These words speak to the current condition of our culture,” said Louisiana Baptists Executive Director Steve Horn. “We’ve been reminded how quickly things can change. How quickly our health can turn. How quickly

See RIGHT TIME, page 7

Modie Phillips’ retirement turns page on her story, 28-year ministry

By Brian Blackwell

Message Staff Writer

LEESVILLE, La. (LBM) – Modie Phillips initially wanted only to console an emotional child whose mother had been deployed to Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, but God had even greater plans for her.

So, what began as a simple act of kindness in 1991 quickly evolved into a ministry that has reached thousands in Leesville and Vernon Parish.

Desiring to encourage children of servicemen and women, she organized a monthly food distribution drive for military families with the help of churches in the Vernon Baptist Association, eventually leading to the formation of the Helping Hands Storefront in 1992.

On Friday, July 31, after 28 years of faithful service, Phillips retired as the ministry’s long-time director, saying she is grateful for the opportunities He gave her to serve.

“God just led the way all this time,”

See PHILLIPS, page 9



Brian Blackwell photo

Modie Phillips and a volunteer help fill boxes for distribution to needy families in the Leesville area. Phillips retired July 31 after 28 years of faithful service at Helping Hands Storefront Ministries.

Sunday drive changes spiritual destination for Kenner man

By Brian Blackwell

Message Staff Writer

KENNER, La. (LBM) – A leisurely drive around Kenner on a Sunday morning in June turned out to be more than a joy-

ride for Jaicoven Johnson and his family.

That fateful road trip took them past the campus of the Family Church where they saw members gathered outside in fellowship before entering

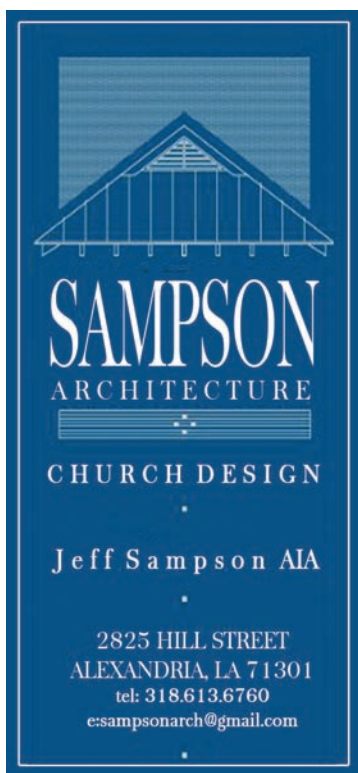
the worship center.

Intrigued by the love and joy on display, they began attending services, and on Aug. 16 church members gathered

See CONVERSION, page 7

Skills of a church planter: Exercising your faith

ALEXANDRIA, La. - "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed



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by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8, NASB).

This verse describes the exercise of faith as accurately as any in the Bible. Abraham exercised faith by obeying and going. He didn't even know where he was going, yet he acted. Exercising faith is an essential skill for all church leaders.

In the past year, I have tried to present the skills of successful church planters and church leaders; and, hopefully these articles have benefited readers. The idea behind my writing has been manifold:

-- present a complete list of necessary skills;

-- clearly define each skill;

-- describe them in such a way that individuals could assess their skill development on a practical rather than academic level; and,

-- challenge all leaders to continue in the pursuit of skill development.

FAITH DEFINED, EXEMPLIFIED

The skill of exercising faith is harder to describe than to illustrate -- but the writer of Hebrews 11 does both well. The New International Version (NIV) Bible offers this definition: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." To illustrate faith, this writer gives examples of how faith helped our predecessors to survive and thrive in the face of challenges.

Exercising faith is essential to involvement in the Lord's work at all levels.

The story of David and Goliath is not only one of the best examples but it is also one of the most popular stories in the Bible.



JOHN HEBERT
Team Leader
Louisiana Baptist
Missions & Ministry

David was visiting his brothers in the army of King Saul when he heard Goliath, the giant of the Philistine army, challenging and cursing Israel every day.

When David heard the challenge, he was sure God would not put up with this blasphemy and probably wondered why "someone did not do something." When no one came forward about Goliath, he volunteered.

Imagine that!

But a boy willing to challenge a giant is not, by itself, necessarily faith. Instead, it could simply be the foolishness of a mere lad -- and to everyone around him that was the prevailing perception.

However, a boy believing that God would use a mere lad to strike down such a mighty man -- that

is faith.

David was sure of what he hoped would happen, and certain of what he could not see. He acted in faith, just like Abraham had, and just as we should.

To be successful as a church planter or church leader one must be adept at exercising his faith. This begins with our calling.

I've often heard people state that leadership is a calling.

Nowhere is this more true than in pastoral leadership -- it all begins with a call to action from the Lord, just like with Abraham, and that call requires obedience and going forward.

As I write this I am reminded of my calling and the actions undertaken when I came to understand and pursue that calling.

Getting my wife Kitty on board was easy, but preparation for ministry, moving to Fort Worth for seminary, supporting my family (including five kids), going to school full time, working full time, time management and rethinking life were challenging. It required a confidence that God had called me to these tasks, which could only be accomplished by walking in faith.

While this work begins with a call, it certainly doesn't end there, because exercising faith is an outgrowth of spiritual vitality.

In David's life there was an obvious vitality to his spiritual life. Many of the Psalms were writ-

See **SKILLS**, page 11

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2020 Commission update: Create mentoring and ministry networks

By Staff
Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists are in the final year of implementing the President’s 2020 Commission Report, an initiative undertaken during the leadership of Waylon Bailey, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Covington, and the LBC president in 2012-2013.

The 2020 recommendations were crafted collaboratively by a commission of 400 Louisiana Baptist leaders, staff members and laypeople, working in 20 subcommittees of 20 members each. Ten “key actions in reaching our state” – known as KAIROS – were developed to engage two audiences – the

next generation and every people group. These measures for improving the spiritual health and growth of the state were adopted by messengers at the 2013 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting.

This article is the eighth in a series published by the *Baptist Message* to report what successes have been achieved toward the ambitious goals of the statewide initiative, as well as to note what objectives remain to be done.

KAIROS EIGHT

Create mentoring and ministry networks.

Since 2012, the number of networks and fellowships has grown from two

to 10, according to James Jenkins, director of church planting for Louisiana Baptists.

Using ethnic fellowships as a means of non-Anglo church planter recruitment, the church planting team has focused on African Americans, Hispanic and Asian groups -- and their efforts have helped facilitate 25 annual events among these groups around the state, including at the LBC Annual Meeting, state Evangelism Conference, Hispanic Evangelism Conference, Hispanic Vacation Bible School training and Hispanic disaster relief training. Additionally, the church planting team has created mentoring and ministry networks such as “Multi-

ply Louisiana” for promoting church sponsorship, recruitment and training of church planters.

Jenkins said each year more than 500 leaders attend network meetings in eight regions: New Orleans, the I-12 corridor in south Louisiana, Baton Rouge, the Bayou region south of Lafayette and east of New Orleans, Acadiana, Lake Charles, central Louisiana and the I-20 corridor in north Louisiana.

“Multiply Louisiana” also helps recruit, train and fund a church planter for the SEND North America network in New Orleans, which is among 32 cities targeted by the North American Mission Board for church planting.

“Our teamwork to

create mentoring and ministry networks forms the framework for all that we do to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and then to train them to reach other people with the gospel of Jesus Christ,” Jenkins said. “We build the body of Christ as we form new mentoring and ministry networks. As we work to form mentoring and ministry networks we are following in the footsteps of Paul who said in 2 Timothy 2:1-2, ‘You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.’”



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The Louisiana Baptist Foundation is pleased to publish its Statement of Financial Position for the year 2019. The Foundation presents this statement on-line and annually in the Louisiana Baptist Message for public review.

The financial statement presented was prepared from the books and records of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation. A copy of the audit report for the calendar year that ended December 31, 2019, issued by independent certified public accountants can be reviewed upon request and is available at the office of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation.

Please call the Foundation if you have further questions regarding its financial position.

Louisiana Baptist Foundation
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“In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Louisiana Baptist Foundation as of December 31, 2019..., and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

from the 2019 Independent Auditor’s Report dated July 10, 2020, prepared by Payne, Moore and Herrington, LLP, Certified Public Accountants; presented to the Louisiana Baptist Foundation Trustees, July 28, 2020.

Statement of Financial Position - December 31, 2019

| ASSETS | | 2019 |
|---|----|-------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ | 23,641 |
| Accrued receivables | | 11,740 |
| Prepaid expenses | | 15,424 |
| Investments in LBF managed accounts | | 1,185,789 |
| Investments held for donor advised funds | | 2,296,516 |
| Beneficial interest in trusts and endowments | | 16,702 |
| Beneficial interest in split interest agreements | | 227,377 |
| Furn., equip., leasehold improvements - net of depreciation | | 138,674 |
| Other assets | | 721 |
| Assets held for agencies and trusts | | 159,273,283 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ | 163,189,867 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ | 12,477 |
| Accrued liabilities | | 160,608 |
| Liabilities for split-interest agreements | | 104,830 |
| Due to agencies and trusts | | |
| Short Term Fund managed accounts | | 49,527,830 |
| Realized/Unrealized gains (losses) not allocated | | 994,381 |
| Other managed accounts | | 108,751,072 |
| Total Liabilities | | 159,551,198 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions | | |
| Operating | | 952,904 |
| Designated for Short Term Fund Losses | | 250,000 |
| Designated for donor advised funds | | 2,296,516 |
| Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions | | 3,499,420 |
| Net Assets With Donor Restrictions | | 139,249 |
| Total Net Assets | | 3,638,669 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | \$ | 163,189,867 |

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The Right Time

STATE GOAL:

\$1,700,000

Indeed, the “right time” is now.

2 CORINTHIANS 6:2 NLT

GeorgiaBarnette.org



Louisiana College starts new year with revival on campus



Brian Blackwell photo

Youth evangelist Curtis Zackery challenged Louisiana College students to center their lives on Christ during the "Awakening" revival series that opened the fall semester.

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – Curtis Zackery challenged Louisiana College students to move beyond only knowing about the Bible and to enter into a life centered on following Christ.

"Right now in this cultural moment some of us have been wooed and have been deceived to think the most important thing is we need to know stuff," Zackery said during the "Awakening" revival series. "What we really need is to understand the power of Jesus Christ.

"We don't need to just know in our heads ideas about the Bible," he continued. "We need to believe in our hearts that awakening can actually happen in our city, in our country, in our world."

Zackery, a youth evangelist from Franklin, Tennessee, shared from Mark 8 about how Jesus used the healing of a blind man to move the disciples from knowing about Christ to understanding Him.

"This is going to be the thing

that will help as a community going into the school year with some purpose, some vision and direction," he said. "This difference between knowing and understanding is such a big deal that I think it can be the key for us to navigate our current cultural moment."

Zackery's message during the revival, Aug. 14-16, was among many activities scheduled during the school's Welcome Week. Classes for all students began Aug. 17.

"Louisiana College's Welcome Weekend provided opportunities for new students to gain important academic information, establish new relationships, and, above all, encounter the truth of Scripture from the preaching of Curtis Zackery," LC President Rick Brewer told the *Baptist Message*.

"We believe it is significantly important for new student orientation to give priority to Christ-centered teaching and worship as a foundation for a new academic year," Brewer said. "The impact of CZ's time with us will be recognized in the days ahead."

WEEK OF PRAYER

September 13-20, 2020

The Right Time

Please join us in praying for:

- Celebration Iglesia in Kenner
- The women inmates at LCIW
- Disaster Relief teams
- Recruiting and training of church planters
- Living Hope Vietnamese Church in New Orleans
- Shade Tree Missions in Rayville
- The Springs in Ruston
- Here for You (multi-media outreach)

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Indeed, the "right time" is now.

2 CORINTHIANS 6:2 NLT

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Global prayer event seeks repentance, revival

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Several Louisiana Baptist churches will simulcast “The Return: National and Global Day of Prayer and Repentance,” a global prayer event planned for Sept. 26 at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and their pastors are asking other Louisiana Baptists to join them in this time of repentance and revival, a special need, they said, during a time of division and unrest in the United States.

The tentative schedule includes scripture reading, prayer and times of

praise and worship, and the preliminary list of speakers includes: author Ruth Graham Lotz, Gateway Church (Dallas, Texas) Pastor Robert Morris, Focus on the Family founder James Dobson, Christian Broadcasting Network founder Pat Robertson, country music artist Pat Boone, and actor Kevin Sorbo.

Dustin Stockstill, pastor of Bedico Baptist Church in Ponchatoula, said his congregation chose to host the event to help their community refocus on God.

“A lot of good can come out of it,” Stockstill told the Baptist Message. “Revivals in America always started

with a prayer meeting, whether it was a few or a large group of people. They realized the need for repentance and change and it grew from there. We are in a day when too many are letting fear drive them. We need to shift from worry to being the church. God is still God and is in control.”

Robbie Rollins, pastor of First Baptist Church in Oakdale, said “The Return” simulcast is a biblical response to a spiritual problem facing America.

“Our human solutions to the chaos in our land have failed and even worsened our dire conditions,” he said. “When we utilize the power of prayer as individuals and the compounded power of corporate prayer, the heart of God is stirred and the hand of God moves. Old and New Testaments alike point God’s people to prayer at all times, especially times of uncertainty.”

Beau Colle, director of missions for Delta Baptist Association, plans to



attend “The Return” at the National Mall with his wife, Jo, daughter, Kimber, and son-in-law, Danny.

“Our country is facing challenges from all angles,” he said. “The answer is a return to God, to prayer and asking forgiveness. If we just get people

to pray and pour out their hearts to God we can see a return to Him.”

Elwood Baptist Church in Forest Hill will not host a simulcast but plans to enlist three people to pray each day from Aug. 24 until Election Day on Nov. 3.

“We just need to pray for repentance individually and as a nation, and return to Him,” Pastor Michael Evans said. “Our nation certainly is going through some rough times. All we are asking is for the Lord to heal us and heal our land.”

For more information on hosting a simulcast, visit TheReturn.org.



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Conversion from page one

around him to celebrate his walk of faith from confession through baptism.

"Something on that day in June told us to check out Family Church," Johnson told the *Baptist Message*. "I felt an instant connection that only grew stronger. Instead of waiting, I wanted to get baptized the day I accepted Christ. It's been everything I could have asked for, and more."

MERGER TO BAPTISM

Johnson's baptism was the first for Family Church, a congregation that was formed in March from a merger between Restoration Church in Metairie and Crossroads Church in Kenner.

Crossroads Church had seen a decline in membership from 183 in 2012 to 20 in 2019, according to the Annual Church Profile. Meanwhile, Restoration

Church had been meeting on the campus of their parent ministry, Williams Boulevard Baptist Church in Kenner, from August 2018-March, preparing to relaunch at a new location.

After multiple meetings from late 2019 until early March, the two congregations agreed they could do more to impact their community together.

While the official first Sunday service is Sept. 13, Family Church has been holding a series of pre-

launch services since June.

During each service, various Zoom meetings and other gatherings, prayer has been a major focus, with the 40 or so members opening each meeting

with a 10-15 minute prayer time, asking especially for God to bring them in contact with the lost.

Pastor Dean Ross said



Pastor Dean Ross (right) baptized Jaicoven Johnson during a worship service Aug. 16 at Family Church in Kenner. Johnson was the first baptism for the church plant.

Johnson's baptism has served as a tangible reminder that prayer works and God is in control.

"Our members need to see the baptism during the middle of this pandemic,"

Ross said.

"We remind them often God is in control. None of this caught God off guard. It's a good reminder prayer works."

Right Time from page one

our finances can evaporate. People are looking for what Jesus has to offer and Louisiana Baptists have the opportunity to share His promise of peace and provision to the state."

Named after Georgia Barnette, the first full-time executive director of the Women's Missionary Union in Louisiana, the offering is used exclusively for missions and ministry across the state.

The goal is \$1.7 million for this year's offering, and the Week of Prayer for State Missions will take place Sept. 13-20.

"It's truly been a tough year," said Janie Wise, women's missions and ministries strategist for Louisiana Baptists. "Every day we pray for a vaccine to cure COVID-19. But even in a pandemic, each of us has a responsibility to share the Gospel whether it's through a church being planted, a compassion ministry, a children's mission camp, or the emergency response of Disaster Relief."

Missions and ministries featured this year show how God's Spirit is at work in Ruston to Rayville all the way to Kenner.

"God is using Backyard Bible Clubs, prison ministries and the planting of new congregations who are engaging Vietnamese and Hispanic people groups living in south Louisiana," Kyle continued.

"It's humbling and

exciting to witness the hand of God at work. It's even more humbling to realize how much more needs to be accomplished to reach the people we all agree need to be reached," he concluded.

John Hebert, director of the missions and ministries team for Louisiana Baptists, believes this is a crucial year to pray hard and dig deep.

"Most of us have never witnessed or lived through a pandemic," Herbert noted, "However, this pandemic is opening the doors to people's hearts, even in their isolation. This is a huge opportunity for

Louisiana Baptists to flood God's throne with prayers and sacrificially give what He's provided to share His good news with those who have become receptive to hearing it."

Resources supporting this year's state missions offering have been mailed to every church.

Pastor's and mission leaders are encouraged to utilize online and social media resources to promote prayer and participation in the offering due to COVID restrictions relating to onsite attendance. The website is georgiabarnette.org.

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SUMMER GROVE | SHREVEPORT

H.B. Charles to headline E4 Preaching Conference

By Staff

Baptist Message

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – H.B. Charles, the first black president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference, is the keynote speaker for the 2020 E4 Preaching Conference.

Charles, who is pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., will bring messages during three sessions of the annual conference Sept. 8 at First Baptist Church Pineville.

In addition to serving as the 2017 SBC Pastors' Conference president, Charles has been a speaker at several previous LBC Pastors' Conferences.

The conference will feature music by the First Baptist Pineville praise team, and, present breakout sessions on such topics as preaching from John's Epistles, I Corinthians, and the prophets; planning an effective invitation; spiritual warfare; and more (led by professors from Louisiana College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and pastors from other states).

"We are looking forward to an

exciting E4 this year," First Baptist Pineville Pastor Stewart Holloway told the *Baptist Message*. "We will follow social distancing protocols in order to provide you with an engaging and safe conference opportunity."

The E4 Conference began in 2009 with a vision to exemplify, encourage, equip and empower our pastors to preach expositional sermons.

Past speakers have included Don Wilton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC; Fred Lowery, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Bossier City; David Uth, pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando; and Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., and former SBC president.

The conference begins with registration at 8 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.

An early bird rate is \$60 for ministers and an additional \$20 for their wives, and \$20 for students, if registered by Aug. 31. Lunch is provided at the church.

Participants can register online at fbcpineville.net by clicking on the "E4 ad" at the bottom of that webpage.



Baptist Press photo

The E4 Preaching Conference will feature H.B. Charles, pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla. First Baptist Pineville will host the event Sept. 8.

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Phillips from page one

Phillips told the *Baptist Message*. "All of these years He has sent reminders of how much of a difference this ministry has made in this area. Even though we have all these ministries to help people, our main purpose has been to let them know God loves them and His Son is their hope for Heaven. God has blessed us much more than I ever could have dreamed."

A native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Phillips accepted Christ in 1957 while stationed with her husband, J.D., an airman, at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. During a worship service at a church on the outskirts of town, the Holy Spirit convicted Phillips to seek the Savior.

The couple transferred to a number of bases during the years that followed, and ultimately relocated to Anacoco in 1971.

Twenty-two years later,

Phillips started Helping Hands Storefront, a compassion ministry of Vernon Baptist Association and the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

While Helping Hands began as a food ministry to 64 military families, it gradually added additional services, such as a clothes closet, chapel services, tutoring, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, home supply center, school supply distribution to area students every August; and, "Shop With A Cop" for children during Christmas.

While Helping Hands Storefront has expanded its services over the years, its largest ministry remains feeding families which have grown in number from an average of 330 before March to 470 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 60 volunteers assist Phillips each month with the ministry. Those same volunteers also

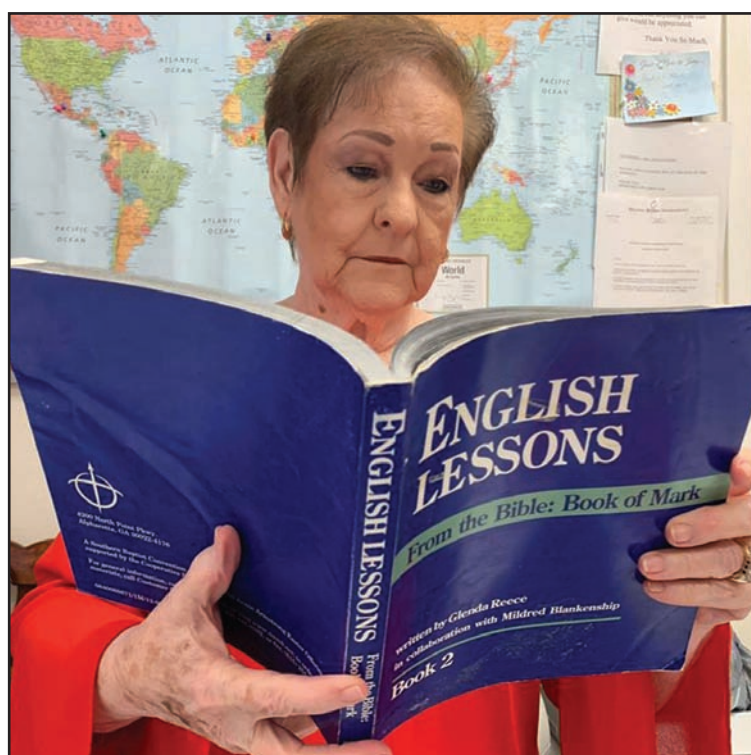
provided her with encouragement when she lost her husband, J.D., in 2008 and her daughter, Janie, 10 years later.

"The fact they were both Christians brought me comfort," Phillips said. "Those experiences have helped me minister to others here at Helping Hands who have lost loved ones and needed someone to offer an uplifting word."

While Phillips, 83, has closed this most recent chapter in her life, her story is far from complete.

She plans to spend more time with her three daughters and one son, read, enjoy bird watching from her front porch, and, continue to serve in various ministries with the Anacoco First Baptist Church.

"God is not through with me yet and He will give me something else to do in His work," Phillips said. "I know God is going to keep me going and helping others just as I have done all these years at Helping Hands. I will be ready when He calls."



Brian Blackwell photo

When Modie Phillips started Helping Hands Storefront, a compassion ministry of the Vernon Baptist Association and the Louisiana Baptist Convention, its focus was on being a food pantry to 64 military families. However, it gradually expanded to offer services such as English as a second language (ESL) classes, a clothes closet and a home supply center.

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EDITORIAL: Use science to drive COVID-19 policies

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – COVID-19 continues to kill people in our state and across our nation even though government officials know what is causing the complications leading to hospitalizations, ventilations and deaths and why COVID-19 affects a very specific vulnerable population in such dramatic ways.

As of this writing, there have been about 4,500 deaths from the coronavirus in our state, with 41 percent of these lost lives being suffered by nursing home residents, according to Louisiana Department of Health data. Indeed, more than 3,000 deaths (67 percent) have stricken those 70 years old or more.

Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published information showing that half of the 176,000 COVID-19 deaths, so far, have taken the lives of those 78 years old or more.

But what these victims share in common is not age.

Instead, they have a condition also shared with younger victims of hospitalizations, ventilations and deaths – an increased volume of angiotensin converting enzyme 2, a protein that regulates blood pressure. It is a factor in hy-

pertension, diabetes, cardiac disease, chronic kidney disease and obesity, all of which are comorbid conditions among those who have been severely impacted by COVID-19.

Indeed, research appears to indicate that without such an underlying condition (CDC maintains a thorough list for adults and children) COVID-19 does not affect a person any worse than the flu.

Importantly, the science suggests the right policy is not to shut down a whole economy, but to focus laser-like only on those vulnerable to COVID-19 complications.

Instead of adding a trillion dollars of debt in pandemic relief payments (and perhaps another trillion dollars in the near future), a fraction of this money could have been spent to completely quarantine nursing homes from the outside world (keeping staff on campus and testing them to ensure they don't carry COVID-19 among residents), thus eliminating nearly half of the hospitalizations, ventilations and deaths from this virus.

Additionally, some of the funds could have been spent to identify those in the general population who have underly-

ing medical conditions associated with complications from COVID-19 (doctors know what patients are affected by such ailments) -- and to pay to isolate them from the world until a vaccine or treatment are available to immunize them from this disease.

Meanwhile, the data seems to indicate that even if the rest of the population becomes infected, there would be no greater impact than folks, young or old, having experienced a nasty cold.

We should isolate workers who are vulnerable to complications from COVID-19 and offer them financial relief until we receive the "all clear" signal from the science on the matter.

We can send students back to school and their normal routines -- except for students, teachers and staff who are susceptible to severe effects. Let these individuals learn -- in the near term -- using online classes, and contribute in other ways than through in-person attendance. Or, find other solutions that keep these individuals away from the rest of the population until it is safe to return.

Government officials should stop holding the whole state and the entire nation hostage to this disease, when a "surgical" approach (e.g. isolating only the vulnerable) is what we need.



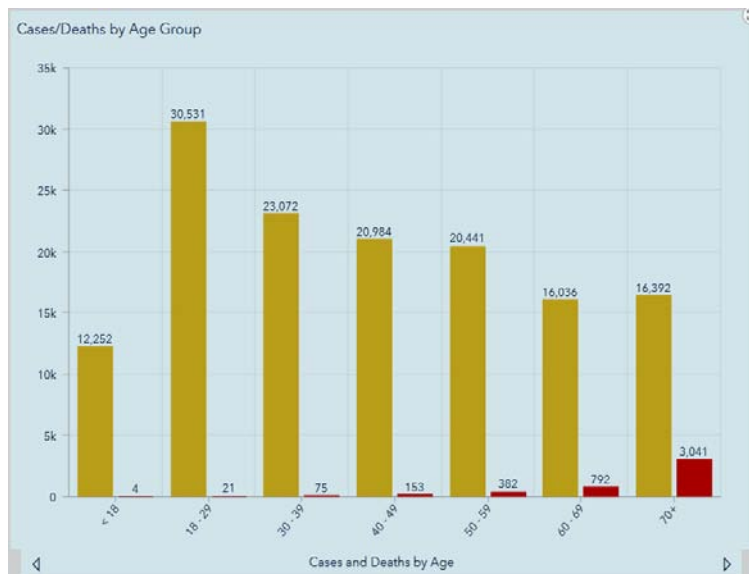
WILL HALL
Baptist Message
Executive Editor

Additional Data on COVID-19 Deaths in Louisiana (Through Aug. 12)

| Race | | Underlying Conditions | |
|---------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| Asian | 0.70% | Asthma | 3.68% |
| Black | 48.10% | Cancer | 7.13% |
| Native Hawaiian/PI | 0.20% | Cardiac Disease | 20.51% |
| Other | 0.40% | Chronic Kidney Disease | 19.30% |
| Unknown | 0.00% | Congestive Heart Failure | 16.76% |
| White | 50.50% | Diabetes | 34.04% |
| Ethnicity | | Hypertension | 56.14% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 2.60% | Neurological | 16.76% |
| Non-Hispanic/Latino | 91.20% | Obesity | 18.06% |
| Unknown | 6.20% | Pulmonary | 11.95% |
| Age (years) | | Gender | |
| Average | 75 | Female | 48.00% |
| Median | 77 | Male | 52.00% |
| | | Unknown/Other | 0.00% |

Information from the Louisiana Department of Health

CASES/DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS



Information from the Louisiana Department of Health

Churches' decisions produce Kingdom decisions at GO TELL camp

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

TOCCOA, Ga. (LBM) – The 2020 GO TELL Camp almost did not happen for two Louisiana Baptist churches, but divine intervention provided a way for the students to experience a mighty movement of God.

Like many others around the country, churches who planned on participating in the annual camp organized by GO TELL Ministries faced novel coronavirus pandemic-related challenges. While some opted not to attend, Spring Creek Baptist Church in Kentwood and First Baptist Church in Houma were among seven churches who attended the camp June 25-29 at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center in Toccoa, Ga.

Spring Creek brought 42 students and 16 adults and First Houma brought 14 students and four adults.

By the end of the week, Spring Creek Baptist reported four professions of faith, 19 restorations of fellowship with the Lord and one commitment to Christian vocational ministry. First Houma's students indicated a number of decisions for personal spiritual renewal.

"We are very grateful to GO TELL founder Rick Gage and his camp staff. They could have pulled the plug but they made the decision to make it happen," Spring Creek student minister Eric Latham told the Baptist Message. "That's 24 decisions that wouldn't have happened had the camp not taken place."

Before the participants

could board the church bus to camp, students and adult leaders had to produce a negative COVID-19 test result. Temperature checks were taken upon arrival at camp, twice daily at the conference center, and once before leaving the premises. They also were required to wear masks at all times and observed proper social distancing from other church groups.

Dylan Johnson, student minister at First Houma, commended the GO TELL staff for their diligence in taking the proper safety precautions.

"We felt very comfortable our entire time there," Johnson said. "GO TELL is a leader in how to do camp in every aspect, especially in safety, and they proved it the week we were there."

Johnson said his students, whose trip was delayed several

hours when mechanical issues temporarily sidelined their van 150 miles from their destination, took away the need to share Christ more in their community.

Third-year camp counselor and intern Faith Kirkland, a member of Philadelphia Baptist Church in Deville and a Louisiana College student, said she was blessed to experience a movement of God among the campers.

"This summer was one of the best summers of my life," Kirkland said. "I learned so much and I was stretched to my limits, but learned what I was capable of. I'm so thankful to have sat under the leadership of the GO TELL staff and to be trained on how to effectively lead the interns."

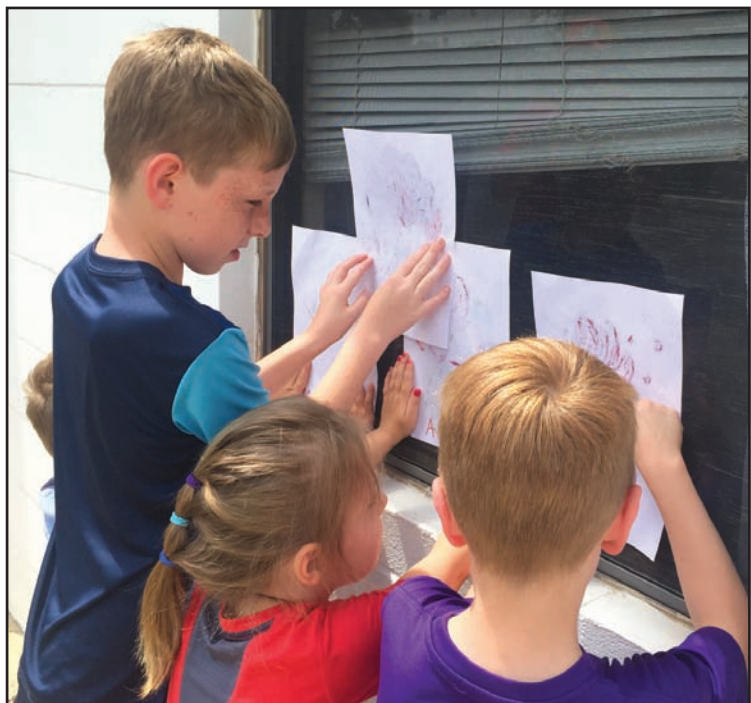
Gage added his thankfulness that so many of the

campers decided to attend.

"We are grateful to God for two strong Bible believing, evangelistic churches from the Louisiana Baptist Convention that were able to attend our 32nd year of GO TELL camps," Gage said. "More than 30 commitments to Christ were made as a result of Spring Creek Baptist Church and First Baptist Houma being here. And one of those commitments was for full time Christian service."

"Only Heaven can measure the impact that was made in the lives of the students and leaders that came from those two Louisiana Baptist churches," he said.

For more information on GO TELL Camp, please contact GO TELL Ministries at 866.I-GO-TELL or email info@gotellministries.com.



Submitted photo

A group from the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home held up birthday cards at the window of 104-year-old Oleta Gibson, a resident of Avalon Place Nursing Home in Monroe.

Children's Home youngsters' birthday gifts lift spirit of nursing home resident

By Staff
Baptist Message

MONROE, La. (LBM) – Oleta Gibson, a 104-year-old resident of the Avalon Place Nursing Home in Monroe, received a surprise visit in early April from some Louisiana Baptist Children's Home youngsters who delivered special birthday gifts.

The children surprised Gibson with homemade pictures and a rendition of the classic song "Happy Birthday" from outside her window.

"We try to teach these kids from an early age we need to serve as Jesus did and look for ways to encourage others," Lisa Vaughn, who serves as a cottage parent with her husband, Larry, told the *Baptist Message*. "It was such a blessing to see them on board with this from the time we told them about this idea."

A few weeks after the novel coronavirus pandemic shut out visitors to nursing home facilities in the state, Vaughn learned that Gibson's family would not be able to come to Avalon Place

for the birthday celebration.

The children quickly volunteered to color the pictures that subsequently brought smiles to Gibson on her special day.

"Larry and Lisa Vaughn do a great job serving as cottage parents," shared Marc Eichelberger, vice president of development and public relations for the Children's Home. "We are grateful for them taking this opportunity to show the children in their care how to express the love of Christ to others in need."

Health concerns force cancellation of LBC's popular Champions Camp

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The Champions Camp for individuals with special needs has been cancelled because of novel coronavirus pandemic concerns.

Originally scheduled

for June 11-13, the start of the camp was pushed to Sept. 18-20 in hopes of getting it in.

However, concerns over health issues of the campers forced the camp's cancellation.

"This is such a special camp that fills a great need that we did every-

thing we could to try and make it happen in 2020," David Anderson, children's ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists, told the *Baptist Message*. "Instead of just cancelling it this summer we chose to postpone it, hoping that things would look much better in September."

"At this point, however, we are not where we feel comfortable moving forward with the plans for Champion's Camp," he continued. "So many of our campers deal with so many various and unique health issues that we do not feel that we can take that risk of exposure at this time. We want to be clear though in that Champion's Camp will be back in 2021 stronger than ever."

Anderson said next year's camp is scheduled for June 10-12.

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Skills from page 2

ten by him and much of his life was dedicated to worship and intimacy with God. Samuel the prophet told Saul, "The Lord hath sought a man after his own heart."

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Six state executives say there's 'no partnership' in new NAMB 'strategic cooperative agreement'

By Will Hall

Message Executive Editor

VANCOUVER, Wash. (LBM) – Executive directors representing five Western state conventions and a Midwestern one have written a passionate letter, Aug. 12, 2020, addressed to Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, and his trustees, as well as the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and its president, Ronnie Floyd, repudiating what they describe as a lack of partnership in the new "Strategic Cooperative Agreement" that NAMB presented to "non-South Baptist state conventions, dated June 26-30, 2020."

The six leaders include Randy Adams (Northwest Baptist Convention), Bill Agee (California Southern Baptist Convention), Joe Bunce (Baptist Convention of New Mexico), Randy Covington (Alaska Baptist Resource Network), Jack Kwok (State Convention of Baptists in Ohio) and Chris Martin (Hawaii-Pacific Baptist Convention).

Saying "we work most effectively when working in collaboration and harmony, especially in our non-South states where the local context and cultures of our mission fields can vary so significantly," they described NAMB as becoming increasingly centralized and unilateral in its strategies and relationships with state conventions, adding "we are convinced the results reveal diminished fruitfulness, and guidelines. In spite of this, we have greatly reduced staff and state-directed ministry to provide Cooperative Program funds to the national SBC."

They specifically objected that the new agreement "leaves state conventions with little or no role in the assessment, supervision, or evaluation of church planters or statewide personnel" and that "evangelism funding through state conventions has been frozen since mid-March."

The letter further states that the new arrangements meant that "evangelism funding from NAMB in our annual

CULTURALNEWS

operating budgets would be reduced by half in 2021 and then eliminated in the years following" because of the uncertainties in the SCA.

NAMB now controls \$50 million previously used by state conventions for evangelism and church planting prior to Ezell's arrival at NAMB. Since he implemented new centralizing strategies in these areas, baptisms among Southern Baptists have plummeted from 349,737 in 2009 to 235,748 in 2019 and church plants have plunged from nearly 1,256 in 2009 to just 552 last year, according to data in the Annual Church Profile archives and information recorded in SBC annuals.

"Tens of millions of dollars that were once part of funding church planting and evangelism through non-south state conventions is now part of NAMB," the state executives noted. "An agreement that reflects little collaborative partnership and that promises much reduced investment in state strategies, offers little value to our state conventions. As a result of these and other concerns, many of us feel the proposed agreements are simply not in our best interest. Indeed, after years of attrition, many of us believe our longstanding partnerships with NAMB may finally be coming to an end in any meaningful sense."

In subsequent email communications among state executives, Adams

explained that Ezell amended the original agreements "when he was informed many were concerned." But Adams added that "it did not change the fact that non-South conventions will essentially have no funding, and no substantial partnership, by the end of 2021. The exception to this is that the agreement states that grant funding would be available for approved projects, which are quite narrowly focused."

Summarizing the position of the six state convention leaders, the letter notes "we must be ready to do what is necessary to support the ongoing work of the churches in our home states who look to us for contextualized assistance in church planting, evangelism, and missions."

Louisiana job losses due to COVID-19 double those lost after Katrina

LAFAYETTE, LA. (LBM) -- *The Acadiana Advocate* has published information from a report compiled by Gary Wagner, an economist with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, showing sharp job losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his report, Wager stated, "Louisiana lost more than 218,000 payroll jobs between the first and second quarters of 2020. This represents an 11% reduction and is the largest quarterly loss in jobs for periods in which we have economic data. To put this figure into perspective, the state lost just over 6% of

its jobs in 2005 because of Hurricane Katrina."

Wagner further noted that "More than 800,000 individuals have applied for initial unemployment claims since March 14, 2020 in excess of the state's historical average." For context, he shared that for the last 34 years, "the state averages around 3400 new unemployment claims per week in August."

But, even with the dire news regarding lost jobs and surging jobless claims, Wagner is optimistic about the economy in the near term, according to the Advocate.

The state economy will pick up, although Wagner predicts it will be 7 percent smaller than in 2019, the Advocate reported, noting that increased consumer "spending of late means there could be positive growth" by early next year.

'Pledge of Allegiance' changed at DNC

MILWAUKEE (LBM) -- At least three leaders of groups represented on the digital broadcast of the Democratic National Convention proceedings either deleted or added phrases to substantially alter the Pledge of Allegiance.

The DNC Caucus and Council Meeting: Muslim Delegates and Allies Assembly as well as the DNC LGBTQ Caucus Meeting were started by reciting the pledge, but "under God" was deleted both times.

Meanwhile, the DNC Environment and Climate Crisis Council began its meeting with the pledge, with an addition, "with liberty and justice for all ... some day."

Although available online, none of these controversial segments have been broadcast on network or cable stations except Fox News.

See CULTURAL NEWS, page 13



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LBC webinars offer encouragement to pastors, wives

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Pastors and their wives who may have experienced additional stress brought on by the novel coronavirus pandemic will have the chance to receive much needed encouragement during two webinars

Sept. 17.

First proposed by Louisiana Baptist Convention President David Cranford, the “Encourage” webinars are scheduled to include New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Jamie Dew, comedian Dennis Swanberg, the Bayou Church Founding Pastor Mike Walker and NOBTS

Associate Professor of Counseling Craig Garrett.

A webinar for ministers is scheduled for 3:30-4:30 pm and for wives from 7-8 p.m.

The first 200 ministers and first 250 ministers’ wives who register for the webinars will receive a special gift. Ministers participating in the 3:30 webinar will also receive

a gift courtesy of the Caskey Foundation at NOBTS,

“These have been the most difficult days in my almost 30 years of ministry,” Cranford told the *Baptist Message*. “I know that other ministers feel the same way. I simply want ministers and their families to know that they are not alone and that there is help and encouragement available to them from the Lord as well as their fellow saints.”

Steve Horn, executive

director for Louisiana Baptists, echoed Cranford’s sentiments.

“As we touch base with pastors across the state, the level of their discouragement is obvious,” Horn said. “We’re praying these webinars will provide much needed, practical encouragement that will bless them, their families and in turn, their congregations.”

For more information about the webinars, go to louisianabaptists.org/encourage.

Cultural News from page 12

Meanwhile, the DNC platform committee passed a resolution ahead of the virtual meeting of Democrats that applauds the religiously unaffiliated while at the same time condemns people of faith who do not support a liberal political agenda.

The “Resolution Regarding Religiously Unaffiliated Demographic” cites the growth of the number of religiously unaffiliated among Democrats, calling the demographic “the largest religious group within the Democratic Party,” and praises the fact that they “share the Democratic Party’s values, with 70% voting for Democrats, 80% supporting same-sex marriage, and 61% saying immigrants make American society stronger.”

Meanwhile, the same resolution denounces those who use their “religious views” to define their “morals, values, and patriotism” and rebukes anyone who believes “religious liberty” protects these views against the competing views of the LGBT community and other opposing groups.

The resolution was championed by the Secular Coalition of America, a group that lobbies for atheists, agnostics and humanists.

Aguillard loses appeal in LC lawsuit

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) -- The Associated Press has reported that Joe Aguillard, a former Louisiana College president, has lost his appeal in a federal lawsuit against the school.

The case was heard Aug. 19 by a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals who were unanimous in their opinion: James Graves (Barak Obama appointee), Carolyn King (Jimmy Carter), and Andrew Oldham (Donald Trump).

“After he was fired by Louisiana College, Joe Aguillard sent misconduct allegations to the college’s accrediting body,” they wrote. “Those accusations prompted Louisiana College to sue Aguillard in state court for defamation. Aguillard countered by suing the college in federal court, alleging—among other things—that the defamation suit violated anti-retaliation provisions found in the Americans With Disabilities Act and in Title VII.”

“The district court granted Louisiana College summary judgment regarding Aguillard’s claims,” the opinion noted, “and we

affirm.”

Aguillard was president of Louisiana College for nine years before he was removed in April 2014 under an agreement with the Board of Trustees that named him president emeritus, according to a May 2019 report by *thetowntalk.com*. He also was placed on a one-year sabbatical; and, the board stripped the president emeritus title from him in April 2016.



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~ The late Dr. Roy Fish, Former Director of Evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

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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

■ **Jason (wife Lori) McNaughten** is the new pastor of Walker Baptist Church, Walker from First Baptist Church, New Roads in Pointe Coupee Parish.

■ **Jeff May** is the new pastor at Cypress Baptist Church, West Monroe.

■ **John (wife Adrienne) McCatherty** is the new pastor at Rodessa Baptist Church, Rodessa.

■ **Scott Teutsch** is the new pastor at Trinity Heights Baptist Church, Shreveport from Plain Dealing Baptist Church, Plain Dealing.

■ **Ron Nation** resigns as pastor of Unity Baptist Church, Deville to plant NOW Church in Creola.

■ **James (wife Toni) Brown** is the new pastor at Unity Baptist Church, Deville.

■ **Darryl Hoychick** retires as pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, Pineville.

■ **Kevin (wife Bobbye) Roberts** is the new pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, Pineville.

■ **Bob Colquette** is the new pastor Bethany Baptist Church, Lake Charles.

■ **James Pritchard** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Lafayette.

■ **Brett Cook** is the new pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Minden.

■ **Jerry (wife Debra) Pipes** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Winnfield.

■ **Philip Caples** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Harrisonburg.

■ **Caleb (wife Paige) Winningham** is the new pastor at Belle River Baptist Church, Pierre Part.

■ **Jason Lawson** is the new associate pastor at First Baptist Church, Mandeville.

■ **Wayne Dubose** is the interim pastor at North Acres Baptist Church, Minden.

■ **John Anderson** is the new pastor at Northwoods Baptist Church, Shreveport.

■ **William Pianki** is the new the pastor of First Baptist Church, French Settlement.

■ **Jerry Smith** is the new pastor at Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Slidell.

■ **Bill (wife Denise) Housley** is the new Director of Missions of the Louisiana Baptist Association replacing **Jacob (wife Allyson) Crawford**, DOM and pastor of Life Point Community Church, Mansura, has moved to New Orleans, where he will be working with the Louisiana Baptist Convention through Gentilly Baptist Church in cooperation with Final Command Ministries to plant non-traditional churches in marginalized communities. His new ministry is called City Life NOLA.

■ **Noah Cox** is the new worship leader at First Baptist Church, Folsom.

■ **Austin Bedwell** resigns as youth minister at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Shreveport.

■ **Roger Dunlap** has retired as pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, Holden.

■ **Charle McCants** has retired as pastor of Midway Baptist Church, Livingston.

■ **Scotty (wife Jessica) Blackwell** accepts call to become new minister of music at First Baptist Church, Minden steps down as Worship Minister at Houston River Baptist Church, Sulphur.

■ **Kristen Bonnette** is the new children's minister at First Baptist Church, Houma.

■ **Michael (wife Hauwa) Aguilard** is the new BCM Director of Southern University in Baton Rouge.

■ **Kayla Frazier** is the new associate director at the University of Louisiana at Monroe Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

■ **Sarah Herrington** is the new children's director at Parkview Baptist Church, Monroe.

■ **Cam Hughes** is the new youth minister at Ouachita Baptist Church, West Monroe.

REVIVAL

■ Trees Baptist Church, Vivian: **Revival:** A Call to Repentance, Aug. 30-Sept. 2, Sunday 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday 6:30 p.m. To view online visit our website at www.treesbaptist.org and click the church online tab. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Worship: **Robbie and Ellen Briggs**. Pastor: Mark Cook.

LAGNIAPPE

■ Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City held a "**Charles Gilder Day**" on July 19 in recognition of 50 years of ministry at Bayou Vista Baptist Church. A special service took place that evening with a fellowship afterwards. Pastor: Steve Kelly.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **E4 Preaching Conference 2020**, September 8, 9 a.m. Speaker: **H.B. Charles Jr.**, Pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church of Jacksonville and Orange Park, Florida. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

■ **38th annual Men's Fish Fry Father and Son Night**, Sept. 14 at Bethany Camp & Conference Center. Serving Time: 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$10. Speaker: **B.J. Maddox**, pastor of Rose Park Baptist Church. Music: **Rocky Maddox**, Rose Park Baptist Church. To register, call Bethany Camp & Conference at 318.938.1221.

■ Rose Park Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Ladies Comedy Show**, Sept. 19, 10 a.m. -noon. To register for this free event call 318.687.8272. Pastor: B.J. Maddox.

IN REMEMBRANCE

■ **Paul "Preach" Carter**, 83, passed away May 12 while serving as pastor of Conway Baptist Church, Marion. Through his 65 years of ministry, Carter served as pastor of 14 churches, including serving two of the churches on three different occasions. During this time he was able to have a part in over 7,000 professions of faith. He was the founding pastor of First Baptist Church, Wasilla, Alaska. He engaged in the lives of all his church members, from the youngest to the oldest, establishing relationships that lasted a lifetime. He also was an effective evangelist and preached hundreds of revivals all over the United States. An accomplished outdoorsman, he loved to hunt and fish and his commercial fishing ability was unrivaled as he literally caught thousands of pounds of catfish. His love for catching fish was only surpassed by his love for be-

ing a "fisher of men." Preach is survived by his wife of 62 years, Audie Carter; sons, Rick Carter and wife Sissy, Randy Carter and wife Heather, and Reggie Carter and wife Norma; sister, Rosa Cain; brother, Jack Carter; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jeff and Myra Carter and his beloved grandson Dustin Carter. His race is run and his faith is now sight. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

■ **John Dore` Langley**, 86, passed away July 15, 2020. Born January 26, 1934 in Basile, he was the son of Columbus and Marceline (LeDoux) Langley. Dore` graduated from Louisiana College in Pineville with a degree in religious studies. He faithfully served throughout Louisiana for 60-plus years planting numerous churches, including Thornwell Baptist Mission, Pine Island Baptist, and First Baptist Church of Welsh and pastored Kaplan Baptist Church and Jenkins Memorial Baptist in St. Martinville. Even after formally retiring he kept on serving as interim pastor at a number of churches including First Baptist, Franklin, Calvary Baptist, Lafayette, Palestine Baptist in Grant, Woodlawn Baptist, Westwood Baptist in Westlake, Dry Creek Baptist Church and Cornerstone Baptist in Jennings. He enjoyed gardening and visiting with his community. e is survived by his wife of 65 years, Elinor Stozle Langley; son, David Langley of New Iberia, grandchild, Amber Langley (Brian Hoffpauir); great-grandchildren, Shylan Kay and Leland Dore` Hoffpauir; sister-in-law, Bonnie Langley. Bro. Dore` is preceded in death by his parents; step-mother, Nora Dukes Langley; son, Carl Langley; twin brother, John Noah Langley; brothers, Harold & L. B. Langley; sister, Nora Langley; grandson, Carson Kade Broussard.

Ralph E. Webber, Jr., 89, died on May 28, 2020, at his residence in Vidalia with his fam-

ily by his side. Born and raised in Catahoula Parish (Jonesville) Louisiana, Webber grew up under the watchful eye of James McNair, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jonesville, after his father passed away when Webber was only nine years old. Ordained to preach in 1950, at the young age of 20 by Jonesville First Baptist Church, Webber served the Lord for more than 70 years. Most recently a member of Vidalia First Baptist Church, he served as pastor of Utility Baptist Church, Jonesville; Sicily Island First Baptist Church; Osyka Baptist of Osyka, MS; First Baptist Church of LaPlace, La; Suburban Baptist Church, New Orleans, La; Vidalia First Baptist Church, Vidalia, La; Harrisonburg First Baptist Church, Harrisonburg, La. He also served as interim pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church, Natchez, Mississippi; and, numerous other churches in the Delta, LaSalle, and Ouachita Associations of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Webber also served on the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention as moderator for the Ouachita Baptist Association and the New Orleans Baptist Association. He was on the Building Committee to build an associational mission office in New Orleans. He served on the Board of Directors to establish the Seaman's Center in New Orleans that is now known as "Global Maritime Ministries." He preached in evangelistic crusades in Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Nevada, New York, Jamaica, and South Korea. He taught in seminary extension centers, lay evangelism schools, January Bible studies, doctrine studies and served as a church planter in Nevada. Webber served as Director of Missions with the Louisiana Baptist Convention for 16 years. He worked with 78 Churches in four parishes: Catahoula, Concordia, LaSalle, and Tensas. During this period, two new churches were established, two missions and four ministry centers were also formed.

In 1986, the Baptist missions building was built at 100 Mound Street in Jonesville, La. The building was fully equipped for the office work, and the three Associations (Delta/LaSalle/Ouachita) were incorporated as the East Central Baptist Associations. Another building was bought and paid for on Front Street in Jonesville and is being used to house the Bread Crumb Storefront Ministry. His work and ministry at the storefront were featured in a video production by the Home Missions Board. This success story led to three other storefront ministry centers (Jena, Ferriday and Newellton) being established under his leadership. Through the four centers, sponsored by the Associations and the Louisiana Baptist Convention, more than 1000 people were receiving food, clothing, and other necessities each month. During the Christmas season, toys were provided to needy children along with a Christmas dinner. Many other ministries are being conducted through these centers as well, such as Vacation Bible Schools, Backyard Bible Clubs and worship services. Additionally, two seminary extension centers were established to provide teaching and training for church leaders. All the associations provided programs for learning about and doing missions and keeping the needs of the world before the churches. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Sylvia Webber of Jonesville; a son, Ralph Edward Webber III; a great-grandson, Sean Jacob Orr; and a sister, Betty White of Bossier City, Louisiana. Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of 66 years, Ann Lewis Webber of Vidalia, one daughter Carolyn and husband, Steve Benson of Canton, Ms., one son, Paul Scott Webber of Jonesville, five grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, one sister Ama Rose and husband Tommy Dubell of West Palm Beach, Florida, also, many nieces, nephews, and friends.

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.

GKY PNQK PQ FGUQ WD BDUQ, WNQ FQKWIBVDK

YQXVSQBQY WNQ TBVJDKQBJ WD WNQ FGTWGVK DO

AIGBY; RIW TGIX PGJ JIOOQBQY WD YPQXX RL NVUJQXO

PVWN G JDXVQB WNGW EQTW NVU.

GFWJ WPQKWL-QVANW:JVHWQQK

Clues:
Y = D; G = A

Answer to April 9 Scripture Crypto:
Revelation fifteen:four

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION RESOURCES FOR MINISTERS AND CHURCH LEADERS:

adminprotoday.com [SUBSCRIPTION]

Resources for ministry assistants and church secretaries

brotherhoodmutual.com

Free resources on background checks, church and school safety, online training, podcasts, legal advice

childwelfare.gov

Federal statutes and resources for preventing child abuse, neglect, and human-trafficking

churchlawandtax.com [SUBSCRIPTION]

Church finances, taxes, legal issues, and safety

freechurchforms.com

Articles and documents

guidestone.org

Church staff insurance

irs.gov/publications

Federal forms for taxes and information

lifeway.com

Church resources, ministry articles, and background checks information

ministrysafes.com

Resources to help protect children and those who serve them

safechurch.com

Risk management resources for churches

smartchurchmanagement.com

Resources to help manage the day-to-day operation of ministry

4evervigilant.com

Security and safety training

BACKGROUND CHECK OPTIONS FOR CHURCHES:

ministrysafes.com

safehiringsolutions.com

protectmyministry.com

c4operations.com/background-check

group.com/category/ministry-resources

CHURCH INSURANCE OPTIONS:

Brotherhood Mutual - brotherhoodmutual.com

GuideOne - guideone.com

Church Mutual - churchmutual.com

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION CHECK-UP/BEST PRACTICES



“

MAY THERE BE PEACE WITHIN YOUR WALLS
AND SECURITY WITHIN YOUR CITADELS.

PSALM 122:7, NIV

”



FOR QUESTIONS AND HELP ON THESE TOPICS,
PLEASE CONTACT:

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YOUR GIFTS TO THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
MAKE THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE!



✓ CHECKLISTS

MONEY

- ☐ BUDGET
- ☐ PAYROLL
- ☐ CREDIT CARD POLICIES
- ☐ FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
- ☐ CHURCH COMPENSATION
- ☐ NEW OVERTIME RULES
- ☐ EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE
- ☐ BEST PRACTICES – HANDLING CASH
- ☐ REQUISITION/PURCHASE FORMS
- ☐ MINISTER HOUSING ALLOWANCE
- ☐ PARKING LOT TAX
- ☐ FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT (FLSA)

SECURITY

- ☐ BY-LAWS
- ☐ MARRIAGE POLICIES
- ☐ BACKGROUND CHECKS
- ☐ SEXUAL ABUSE POLICIES
- ☐ CYBER THREATS
- ☐ CRIME IN THE CHURCH
- ☐ PREVENTING AN ACTIVE-SHOOTER
- ☐ CHURCH SAFETY
- ☐ SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICIES
- ☐ CODE OF ETHICS FOR MINISTERS AND CHURCH MEMBERS
- ☐ PHOTOGRAPHING MINORS AT CHURCH EVENTS
- ☐ INCORPORATION

COMMITTEES/TEAMS

- ☐ NOMINATING COMMITTEE
- ☐ PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
- ☐ COMMITTEE TRAINING
- ☐ STRATEGIC PLANNING
- ☐ INACTIVE MEMBERS: MINISTRY AND RECLAMATION
- ☐ DEACON COVENANT

FACILITIES

- ☐ CHURCH BUILDINGS
- ☐ SHARING SPACE
- ☐ RISK MANAGEMENT
- ☐ MINIMIZING LIABILITY
- ☐ ANNUAL INSURANCE REVIEW

Information listed in this brochure is not an exhaustive list, nor an endorsement, but only for the purpose of shared information