



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

February 14, 2019

Volume 134 • Issue No. 3

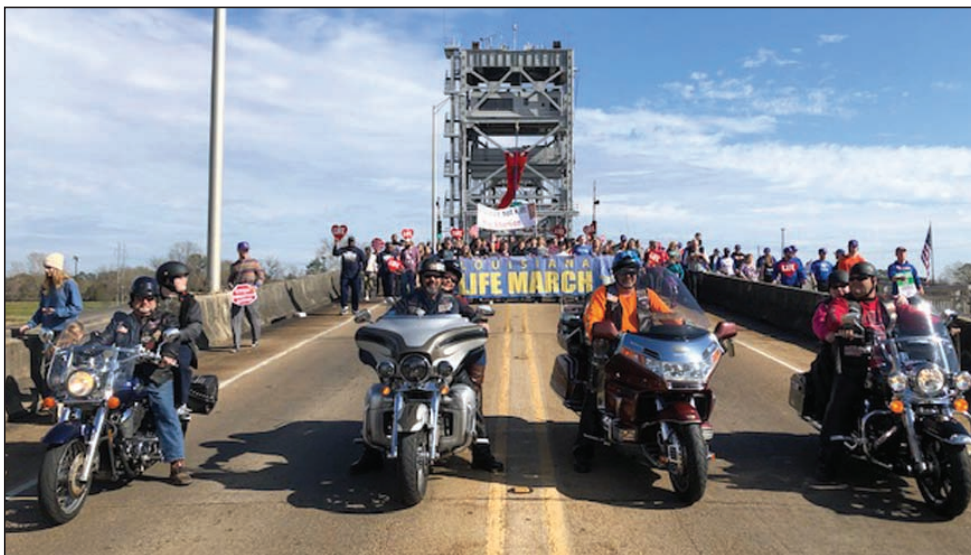
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Life movement marches on in Louisiana



Will Hall photo

Faith Riders, a ministry of Philadelphia Baptist Church, Alexandria and Deville, lead more than 7,000 participants in the Louisiana Life March CENLA as they cross over the Jackson Street Bridge in Alexandria. It was one of five marches held throughout the state in January and February.

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) –Even as the legislatures in New York and Virginia announced bills to legalize the killing of babies up to the moment of birth and even those who had survived abortion, Louisianans gathered on multiple weekends around the Pelican state to declare that the lives of the unborn and the just born matter here.

“Across Louisiana over the past few weeks, 20,000 citizens marched to show their love for life at our Louisiana Life March events,” said Benjamin Clapper, executive director of Louisiana Right to Life. “It was an amazing showing of the dedication our



Doug Collier photo

Louisiana Life March North participants hold up signs as they march from Bossier City to Shreveport Jan. 26.

citizens feel towards protecting unborn babies and supporting their moms. We encourage these citizens to take the inspiration

See MARCHES, page 6

EVANGELISM CONFERENCE 2019

Fathers-sons lead call to bring ‘next gen’ into family of God

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

COVINGTON – Eric Hankins believes next generation evangelism flows through the home.

“We have been given an incredible calling and responsibility, certainly, to all sinners and lost people everywhere,” declared Hankins during the 2019 Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference at the First Baptist Church, Covington, held Jan. 28-29.

“But we must not neglect our own children and grandchildren in the critical commissioning we have in our homes.”

Pulling his message from Deuteronomy 6, Hankins, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Fairhope, Alabama, encouraged parents to model for their children a life anchored in the faith.

“Children are wired to soak up a faith that you live,” he said. “Culture is no match for a home

where parents take seriously this mandate for next generation evangelism.”

Hankins urged parents to teach their children to seek and stand for truth.

“The next generation of children needs consistency in the message,” he said. “They need to hear it time after time after time. And the word needs to match the consistency of your actions.

“If you want your children and grandchildren to look like everybody else, to be popular, to be invited to all the things, then they’re not going to look like Jesus,” he said. “You must be willing -- if you are going to raise godly children, if you are going to pour things into the next



Brian Blackwell photo

(Top photo) Eric Hankins prays over his father, David, and (bottom photo) Fred Luter prays over his son, Chip, during the 2019 Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference. The father-son duos preached during the two-day event at the First Baptist Church, Covington, Jan. 28-29.



See ECON 2019, page 8

Oak Hill's Aaron wins prestigious Smith scholarship to LC

By Norm Miller
LC News

PINEVILLE (LCNews) — Louisiana College held its annual Smith Scholarship competition Saturday, January 26, with 23 entrants.

Oak Hill High School senior Samantha Aaron took the top prize: a scholarship to LC that includes tuition, books, room, and

board.

"I was just praying to God, asking him to give me clarity," Aaron said. "And if this was what he wanted from me that he would give me that clarity. Then they said my name, and I just couldn't believe that I was so blessed with this opportunity."

Aaron is a dual enrollment student at LC and said she was "excited to

continue my studies, here." She will pursue a Missions and Ministries degree but hasn't chosen a specific occupation yet. "I will do whatever God would like me to do," she said. "I've already taken some Missions and Ministry courses here through dual enrollment and I can't get enough."

A member of Homewood Baptist Church in Alexandria, Aaron said when she first became a Christian she "felt the call to talk to people about God. That call is for every



Samantha Aaron

Christian, but mine was a deeper call than just the average."

"We are very thankful for the students who honored us by entering the competition," said Louisiana College President Rick Brewer. "We are especially honored that Samantha has heard and answered God's calling and wants to begin preparing for that call at Louisiana College."

The annual competition drew contestants from the CenLa region, as well as Opelousas, Ville Platte,

Walker, Jarreau, Monroe, Branch, Rayne, Baton Rouge, Sulphur, and Houma. Competitors must have at least a 28 ACT score and are further evaluated based on their leadership qualities and Christian character.

Qualified contestants who enroll next fall at Louisiana College will be awarded an annual academic scholarship of \$8,500 and will join the C.S. Lewis Honors Scholars program.

An endowment donation from Tom and Beverly Durham to honor Mrs. Durham's mother, Elizabeth Smith, founded the Smith Scholarship in the early 1970s.



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Bossier agreement protects students' religious rights

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message Staff Writer

BOSSIER CITY -- The Bossier Parish School Board has reached an agreement with the Americans United for Separation of Church and State over a lawsuit dealing with claims of religious discrimination in its schools.

According to a Jan. 22 news release from the school district, the board submitted a slight revision to its current Religious Expression Policy as part of the preliminary agreement.

While the court has not issued a final decision, the school board is optimistic a federal judge will approve the revision.

"The settlement allows for the closure of this case without the loss of any student rights, which is of utmost importance to the Board," Bossier Schools Superintendent Scott Smith in the news release. "We are pleased to be able to resolve this matter without impinging upon our students' rights, which we see as a victory for all of Bossier Parish."

The agreement:

- protects the rights of students to pray at school and at school events;
- allows students to speak at school events;
- does not penalize employees who bow their heads out of respect for such prayers when offered;
- allows teachers of both substantive areas and the arts to teach about religion in an objective manner;
- allows student clubs of all kinds, including FCA, to continue to organize, meet, and be active on campus;
- allows students to express their own ideas verbally and to distribute literature; and,
- allows employees to wear items of jewelry that may include symbols associated with religion.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit against the Bossier Parish Schools in March 2018 on behalf of seven parents who claimed "students who have been identified as believers in minority faiths or no faith at all have been

subject to attacks, harassment, and ostracism by their classmates."

The parents and children who engaged the ACLU in the dispute have remained anonymous, saying via the legal filings that they desired "protection against public exposure of their private religious beliefs, as well as protection against harassment and increased ostracism of their minor children attending Bossier Parish's public schools."

Students, pastors and other community members responded to what was described as an attempt to squash the First Amendment freedoms of religion and expression of Christian students and school employees by scheduling rallies such as the Student

Freedom Summit and writing letters of support to school administrators in Bossier and Webster parishes.

Brad Jurkovich, one of eight area pastors who signed a letter dated Feb. 11, 2018, thanking school board leaders for fighting the lawsuit, voiced appreciation for the students who have taken a stance for Christ throughout the ordeal.

"Regardless of anybody's perspective on this issue, as a pastor I am very grateful that students' rights are once again affirmed so that all students have the ability to freely express their faith," Jurkovich told the *Baptist Message*.

John Fream, pastor of Cypress Baptist Church, Benton, echoed the

thought.

"We are thankful for our school leadership and their stand for the rights of Christians to be Christians," he said. "It is unfortunate that a lawsuit like this can even

have traction of any kind, but to God be the glory for the settlement. My prayer is that God be glorified and that Christians stand with love anytime our religious liberties are attacked."

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5:00pm--The Expo Hall is open & SYSCO food show begins

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TRUMP: Unborn reflect the image of God

By Will Hall
Message Editor

WASHINGTON (LBM)—President Trump made a bold pro-life statement during his annual State of the Union address declaring, “All children – born and unborn – are made in the holy image of God,” in apparent response to a bill passed in New York and a similar one rejected in Virginia, both containing provisions that allow abortion up to the moment of birth and also threaten the life of a baby who survives an abortion.

A CALL TO PROTECT LIFE

Trump’s proclamation was one of several addressing key life issues during his Feb. 5 presentation to Congress.

In his annual report he called for legislators and policy makers to “work together to build a culture that cherishes innocent life,” and he outlined how his proposed budget for the coming year would reflect that value.

Trump said his budget request would include a line item for “\$500 million over the next 10 years”

to fund “the fight against childhood cancer.”

Likewise, without specifying an amount, he said his plan asks for money to support “nationwide paid family leave – so that every new parent has the chance to bond with their newborn child.”

Moreover, with regard to protecting the unborn, he said he would offer legislation “to prohibit the late-term abortion of children who can feel pain in the mother’s womb.”

But he also expanded his defense of “the dignity of every person” beyond children to ask Congress to approve his budget priority for defeating AIDS in America, setting a 10 year target “to eliminate the HIV epidemic in the United States.”

The president also presented his request for a border wall in terms of the human misery that is resulting from swaths of unsecured shared boundary with Mexico.



White House photo

President Donald Trump proclaimed all unborn children are made in God’s image during the 2019 State of the Union Address.

Referencing “the savage gang, MS-13” and “ruthless coyotes, cartels, drug dealers and human traffickers” who “take advantage of wide open areas between our ports of entry,” he described the peril they posed in terms of smuggled children and women sold into “prostitution and modern-day slavery” and the thousands of U.S. citizens killed with the “meth, heroin, cocaine and fentanyl” being secreted into

U.S. cities.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Trump also made a case for civility and unity between the two major political parties, and, among the two congressional chambers along with the White House, being careful to mention joint successes among the accomplishments he high-

See TRUMP, page 13

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2018 YEAR-END CORRECTED CP GIFTS

In the 2018 year-end Cooperative Program spread that appeared in the January 24 edition of the Baptist Message a format adjustment caused a misalignment for the following associations. We apologize for the error. The corrected information is below.

CAREY ASSOCIATION

	2018	2017
Parkview, Sulphur	--	--
Pine Grove, DeQuincy	3,000.00	5,138.70
Roanoke, Roanoke	9,002.46	9,663.11
Sale Street, Lake Charles	60,000.00	60,325.17
Seeds of Faith, Lake Charles	--	--
Starks First	49,719.47	--
Sulphur Community, Sulphur	1,151.30	1,925.15
Sulphur First	76,794.95	74,974.58
Tom Hebert Road, Lake Charles	5,174.00	5,890.00
Topsy, Lake Charles	10,046.00	10,747.00
Trinity, Lake Charles	315,000.00	315,000.00
Trinity, Sulphur	16,209.70	11,856.57
Unity, Lake Charles	--	--
University, Lake Charles	650.00	600.00
Vinton First	6,970.07	10,979.01
Welsh First	12,793.45	13,433.36
Westlake First	48,883.82	50,722.05
Westside, Lake Charles	1,200.00	5,040.00
Westwood, Westlake	15,438.53	15,778.34
Woodlawn, Iowa	10,662.38	9,869.93

CENTRAL LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION

	2018	2017
Philadelphia at Horseshoe Drive, Alexandria	--	--
Philadelphia, Deville	227,601.00	289,382.00
Pine Grove, Ruby	11,313.81	12,885.14
Pinehurst, Ball	7,743.00	7,819.00
Pineville Park, Pineville	20,692.27	19,874.63

Poland, Alexandria	6,043.02	3,292.20
Richey, Deville	2,393.00	4,326.03
Riverview, Alexandria	16,511.67	16,116.50
Sharp, Lena	2,017.00	2,148.00
St Clair, Boyce	4,412.18	4,359.33
The Gathering Place West, Alexandria	2,305.77	2,586.97
Tioga First, Pineville	18,464.84	17,476.58
Trinity, Pineville	--	1,300.00
Twin Bridges, Alexandria	6,300.00	7,682.00
Union, Deville	--	--
Unity, Pineville	12,905.84	17,072.87
Vick, Vick	1,838.82	2,077.00
Wilda, Boyce	1,500.00	1,500.00
Wooddale, Alexandria	976.00	1,191.00

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION

	2018	2017
Grace Community Lighthouse, Krotz Springs	--	--
Grace Point, Simmesport	150.00	550.00
Hessmer, Hessmer	9,248.88	2,088.49
Life Point Community, Mansura	7,523.32	6,773.80
Marksville, Marksville	--	3,075.62
Moreauville Community, Moreauville	527.00	--
Morrow, Morrow	2,384.61	1,623.10
Point of Life, Plaquemine	1,496.07	2,213.64
Red River Community, Marksville	180.00	85.00
Refuge, Echo	--	350.00
St Landry, Saint Landry	1,294.56	1,031.14
St. James, Bunkie	1,650.00	550.00
The Church at Marksville	1,154.80	1,261.11

New believers abound at New Prospect

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message Staff Writer

DRY PRONG – Jackson Cooper was devastated after his mother, Laura, died in an automobile crash last October.

However, instead of dwelling in grief and anger about the sudden loss, Cooper, 32, went on a spiritual journey that led him to find hope in Christ.

TRUST IN HIM

“Even though my mom and I were very close, her death didn’t make me angry at God or anyone else, but just got me to thinking about God’s plan for my life,” Cooper said. “When the pastor at New Prospect Baptist Church asked me, during a visit to our home, if I was a Christian, I told him I had my doubts.

“Once I understood that I needed to move from know-

ing Him in my head to accepting Him in my heart, my life was reborn.”

LED BY HIM

Cooper asked his wife, children, sisters and father to witness his November baptism at his childhood church. Since then, Cooper’s faith has grown to new heights as he daily testifies how Christ forever changed his life.

“It felt great to show my faith and show that I do believe in Christ,” Cooper said. “I’ve learned to embrace the Lord more often and keep Him close to me. Also, I’ve learned to let God handle everyday problems. My stress and everyday life have improved and I feel like I don’t have a burden each day – that I can embrace His plan.

JOINED BY OTHERS

Cooper is one of 26 people baptized since September. Pastor Trey Lewis attri-

butes the wave of baptisms to his congregation, which averages 170 in its Sunday morning worship service, seeking humbleness in prayer. For the past two years, the men in his church have gathered every Monday morning to pray together and God has answered them.

Also, the people have embraced a vision to constantly engage the community with the Gospel, he said.

Last summer, 16 children professed faith in Christ either during Vacation Bible School or summer camp.

More decisions followed in the fall after a two-month Upward Soccer season and then the Hope4U GO TELL Crusade which was held at the Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria.

Others surrendered their lives to Christ from among about 165 people who received Christmas gifts and heard the Christmas story during a special event in



Submitted photo

Trey Lewis baptized Jackson Cooper during a worship service at New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong. He attributed the wave of 26 baptisms since September to a congregation focused on prayer.

December.

“It’s a great response to a simple Gospel message,” Lewis said. “It’s not any one thing we are doing but it’s all God. I’m grateful the Lord is stirring the hearts. This is a small community outside

of Pineville and we are one of the churches faithfully serving it. We wanted to reach our Jerusalem and have committed to go beyond our personal space to reach our Judea, Samaria and the rest of the world.”

2019 R.E.A.L.
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Nicki Kozlarz

Music/Worship:
Kristen & Kelle

Testimony:
TroQuell Jenkins

Schedule:

Friday, February 22
4-6:30 p.m. - Registration Opens
5:45-9 p.m. - Breakout Session & Worship

Saturday, February 23
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Breakout Sessions & Worship

Registration Info:
\$50 before February 5; (includes lunch on Saturday and program fee)
\$60 after February 6 through February 18; (includes lunch on Saturday and program fee)
Registration deadline is February 18

Online Registration: louisianabaptists.org/REAL
Full refund is NOT possible after February 18.

Marches from page one

from these events and put their convictions into action every day to advance a culture of life. We look forward to the day when every baby is protected by law and welcomed with love in our nation.”

According to information provided by Louisiana Right to Life, a crowd of 500 gathered in Lake Charles, Jan. 22; 3,000 assembled in Baton Rouge and 6,000 marched in Shreveport/Bossier, Jan. 26; 3,500 participated in Monroe/West Monroe, Jan. 27; and, another 7,000 rallied in Alexandria/Pineville, Feb. 2.

At each event, all under the theme of “Louisiana Loves Life,” participants held a large “Louisiana Life March” banner to lead the procession. Others held up signs proclaiming “Abortion Kills Children” and “Life Matters” while some held signs urging action by pro-lifers such as “Stop

Abortion Now.”

Organizers announced that the Alexandria/Pineville march was the largest pro-life gathering since Louisiana Right to Life began holding life marches in 2011.

PIVOTAL MOMENT

The Louisiana Life Marches, organized to declare mass opposition to the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in 1973, were held at a time when other states were making moves to pass radical pro-abortion legislation.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the Reproductive Health Act into law Jan. 22, legalizing abortion up until birth of the baby. Abortion already was legal during the first two trimesters, and the new legislation added legalized late-term abortions for the “health” of the mother,

without defining “health” – meaning that the language is broad enough to allow basically any possible late-term abortion.

The law also decriminalized abortion, moving the regulations from the criminal code to the health code, and it repealed a section of New York’s Public Health Law, which had mandated medical care for any baby born alive during an abortion. This last change essentially allows doctors to let a baby who survived an intended fatal procedure to simply die from lack of care on the operating table.

Pro-life lawmakers in the Virginia Senate, mostly Republicans, defeated a similar bill the following week after the legislation’s author, Kathy Tran, a Democrat, admitted during testimony that the proposed code would allow the abortion of baby even as it was being delivered at full term.

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam (D) added

to the firestorm against the bill by explaining during a radio broadcast that in the situation described by Tran that the baby would be delivered and “resuscitated if that’s what the mother and the family desired, and then a discussion would ensure between the physicians and mother,” leaving open the possibility of what would happen next.

Action taken in New York and Virginia are remarkably different from the continuing efforts by lawmakers in Louisiana to protect human life.

Known as one of the most pro-life states in the Union, Louisiana has enacted far-reaching protections for the unborn, including children diagnosed in the womb with a birth defect or a condition such as Down syndrome. Moreover, a bill prohibiting abortions after 15 weeks was signed into law and is awaiting enforcement while a similar Mississippi law is being reviewed in federal court.

Likewise, Act 620 was passed in 2014, requiring abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at a local hospital. The law was set to go into effect Jan. 28, but U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito issued an order Feb. 1 that delayed the decision until at least Feb. 7.

Louisiana Attorney General Jay Landry has filed a petition asking the U.S. Supreme Court to lift the stay and allow ACT 620 to be enforced as law.

ALEXANDRIA/PINEVILLE

Alexandria physician Greg Bevels shared how his then-14 year old mother made the decision to choose life for he and his twin sister, both who weighed less than 4 pounds when they were born nearly three months after Roe v. Wade became law. Bevels said he chose not to become involved in the pro-life movement un-

See MARCHES, page 7



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Marches from page 6

til, in 2018, the Holy Spirit convicted him to become active and host a prayer vigil outside his clinic opposing possible abortions performed by Rashonda Dean at her nearby facility in Alexandria.

He encouraged African-American ministers and other pastors to become involved in this movement during the post-march rally.

"Your pulpit is powerful," said Bevels, a member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria. "Your pulpit is where we give the unadulterated Word of God. Spiritual surgery takes place there."

"I want to charge you to speak about the pro-life issue from the pulpit," he said. "Our young people need to know within the womb the power of the womb lies the hope of a generation. I stand here today because my mother made a choice and the

hope of the generation I am serving in was not faltered as a result."

Bevels also urged young people to become active in supporting life.

"You are the hope of this generation," he said.

"Whatever decision that you make concerning this human rights issue we are facing is what is going to help bring about change. A few citizens that get their mind focused can bring about change."

"We've got to get in this fight right now because the hope of a generation is at stake," he said. "And we're going to change that."

Louisiana Right to Life CENLA Coordinator Brian Gunter, also pastor of First Baptist Church, Pollock, referenced the passage of the recent pro-abortion legislation in New York, telling the crowd such an effort is an example of how abortion lobbyists are attempting to destroy the

moral fabric of America.

"They want abortion to be legal on any unborn baby, at any time, and for any reason at all," he said.

"Gone are the days when they advocated for abortion as 'safe, legal, and rare.' The abortion industry is cruel, barbaric and unapologetic about killing babies. The mask is off, and the truth is ugly."

He encouraged the crowd to do their part to ensure that every baby in the womb is a person whose life must be protected.

"We must learn the lesson from New York and Virginia that all abortion is the killing of an innocent human being," Gunter said. "If we don't face reality soon, this nation's moral conscience will continue to devolve. I hope that we wake up, before it is too late to turn back. I pray that America once again becomes a place where we protect every person's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Claire Lemoine, director of the CENLA Pregnancy Center, said more than 225 women have been served since the center opened in December 2017. She told the crowd they now offer, in addition to pregnancy tests, consultation and education, a post-abortive Bible study.

"Many people are not aware the pregnancy center offers this kind of opportunity for mothers who have suffered an abortion," she said. "So often, we hear 'people who are pro-life only care about the babies up until birth and don't care about the mothers and what happens to them afterwards.'"

"This could not be further from the truth, and I am here to tell you we not only say we love our mothers and babies beyond birth, we put our love into action," she continued. "And we provide programs like 'Forgiven and Set Free,' which is our post-abortive Bible study."

Louisiana College President Rick Brewer

expressed disbelief that some pro-abortion groups advocate for an animal to have more rights than a human being in some states, such as New York. He said individuals who make such laws have not experienced the transformational power of the Gospel.

"The Bible states that spiritual matters are spiritually discerned," he said. "But those who do not have the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in their hearts have minds that are subject to all kinds of evil."

"Although we loathe the legislative decisions that lead to the murder of unborn children, we ought to have the same measure of passion in prayer for those who make such decisions," he said. "A great pastor-theologian once stated, 'the heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart.'"

For the rest of the story and photos, go to www.baptistmessage.com.



IN THE WILD
AMAZING ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS
JOHN 20:31

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ECON 2019 from page one

generation that last forever – you must be willing for your children to be different.

“I watch so many people give that away. They don’t help their kids learn to make the tough decisions of doing what is right instead of doing what is popular.”

Hankins’ children, J.D. and Emily, later joined him on stage to reaffirm how teaching children to live for Christ at a young age produces a harvest into adulthood. J.D. is the youth pastor at the First Baptist Church, Bruce, Mississippi, and Emily recently returned from a two-week mission trip to Cambodia.

“It is life changing to see that Jesus wins,” Emily said. “He is the one who is victorious. We can either be a part of it or we don’t get to be a part of it. But He wins anyway. Choosing to be a part of it is

super important to me. It has been instilled in me all these years of being poured into and loved and guided – and that I take that and I bring that into the world.”

J.D. added that a “lineage of faith” helped shape him through his journey in ministry.

Hankins closed his message by sharing God taught him the importance of his children following God’s will.

“The next generation of evangelism flows through the home,” Hankins said. “Let it be in your life. Let it be in your churches.”

DAVID HANKINS

Hankins’ message was preceded by one delivered by his father, Louisiana Baptists Executive Director David Hankins. They were one of the two father-son duos who preached during ECON as part of a central focus to reach the

next generation.

Hankins emphasized the need to finish well in the Christian race, based off Hebrews 12:1-3. Those who want to run the race for the prize must listen to the right crowd, lead the righteous cause and look to the risen Christ, he urged.

Hankins, who is approaching retirement, reflected on those who influenced him during his nearly 50 years of ministry. He was advised early on to preach the Word, and live consistently in season and out of season to finish his race well.

In a day when culture is increasingly antagonistic toward those who live out their Christian faith, Hankins urged Louisiana Baptists not to become discouraged.

“Pay attention to this great cloud of witnesses,” Hankins said. “Don’t listen to the wrong crowd.”

Hankins reminded the crowd to run the race with patience and perseverance.

“When the difficulties come – and they

will in this race – that’s not the time to quit,” he said. “That’s the time to persevere and lean into the problem. Keep doing what you know to do. Keep leading the righteous cause.”

CHIP LUTER

As Louisiana Baptists look to reach the next generation, they must do what it takes to reach them.

Referencing Mark 2:1-12, Chip Luter said the passage offers five key ingredients for transformational ministry: connection, compassion, collaboration, creativity and confidence in Christ. If Louisiana Baptists follow these guidelines, they will have the blueprint to reach the next generation.

“As we think about the next generation and beyond, we must not lose the most desired outcome we want to see – transformation,” said Luter, pastor of the Idlewild Baptist Church Sulphur Springs campus in Tampa, Flori-

da. “We want to see life change.

“God did not come into our lives for us to stay the way we were,” he continued. “He came into our lives to change us to be all that He wanted us to be and that happens through the cross.”

Luter said people must be intentional to seek to help the generations connect.

The culture is changing and churches must be willing to adapt their methods and models, not the doctrine and beliefs, he said.

“Are you and your local church creative enough to reach a generation that isn’t it interested in church,” he asked. “The next generation is not interested in church. They want community. They want to belong.

“The church is not like a family,” he said. “It is a family. We’ve got to get creative enough to get them in there because once they’re in there and they

See ECON 2019, page 11



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ECON 2019: Student night a spiritual appeal

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message Staff Writer

COVINGTON – Dozens came forward to pray at the altar during the final moments Student Night at the Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference, Jan. 28.

“Could we somehow tune our ear tonight to God wanting to do something significant in the state of Louisiana, all across this state from every border, every edge, that God would usher in an awakening, that the bells of heaven would ring because men and women and young people in this room would say yes to the call of making Jesus famous,” Ed Newton told the crowd moments earlier inside the worship center at the First Baptist Church, Covington.

Newton, pastor of Community Bible Church,

San Antonio, Texas, issued a challenge for Christ-followers to help others see their need for Jesus. Citing Luke 19:1-10, he used the example of Zacchaeus sitting in a tree as an allegory of how Christians can help others come to Christ.

“God’s called us to be sycamore trees, that we would be able through the platform of our lives be that branch for that person who may feel as if they are insignificant enough that Jesus would never see them,” he said. “Could we be that step for somebody to all of a sudden look up and see Jesus?”

Newton said bringing others to salvation was Christ’s life mission and if we are to imitate Him, we must make this our focus, too.

“Jesus came to seek and to save that which was



Brian Blackwell photo

Evangelism Conference participants humbled themselves before God after evangelist Ed Newton issued a call to prayer during Student Night.

lost,” he said. “When they were found, there was a tremendous celebration.”

At times, Satan tries to cast doubt, but there is no condemnation through Christ, Newton said. Instead, Jesus has called His followers to live in victory, because Satan loses in the

end.

“We have an enemy that seeks to remind you of your past,” Newton said. “Your past does not define you. But your future’s been written for you. We reject labels in Jesus’ name because the blood of Jesus that’s covered you won’t

allow the labels of the enemy to stick on you.”

Newton’s message resonated with students attending the event, which featured a pre-session pizza party and games at “The Rock” youth building of First Baptist, Covington.

“This is a great place to build relationships with other people, including some I met for the first time,” said Jaden Nitschke, a tenth grader from First Baptist, Covington. “It’s crazy how many people came to see this and be in this place for one reason – to celebrate God.”

Bethany Boesch, a twelfth grader from Bedico Baptist Church, Ponchartroula, echoed the thought.

“I saw him the last time Ed Newton was at YEC in 2017 and he once again connected us with the Gospel message,” he said. “It’s amazing how God can use someone like him to reach many students.”

“Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.” –C. S. Lewis



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Georgia Barnette Offering down, church planting to stay up

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – Louisiana Baptists remain committed to planting 300 churches by 2020, despite recent news that the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering, which helps fund new churches in the state, fell \$291,000 short of the \$1.7 million goal set for 2018.

The \$1,409,000 in GBO gifts will provide money for church

planting, but also for disaster relief, resort ministries, Mission Church Builders' projects, training conferences and leadership training/missions education events, as well as partially fund the missions and ministry team budget.

John Hebert, state missions and ministry director for Louisiana Baptists, said there some resources in place to handle the shortfall and continue the planned church planting pace.

"We will have to be cautious with the way we spend our money this year," Hebert said. "Our state executive board, missions committee of the executive board and the state missions offering committee will make sure we can tap into reserve funds if necessary. They won't let our church planting efforts suffer because they understand the importance of them in reaching our state for Christ."

The other ministries funded by the offering will not be impacted.

Hebert said he is thankful for the commitment Louisiana Baptists have made to church planting.

Since 2010, Louisiana Baptists have planted 234 churches, with special attention given to

New Orleans and along the I-10 corridor and southward because that is where 3 million Louisianans reside, about 67 percent of the state's population.

So far, 178 of the new church plants are located in those areas.

Ethnic diversity also has been a focus. Among the 234 church plants, 70 are predominantly African American in membership, 31 largely are Hispanic congregations, 10 describe themselves as Asian and 17 are multi-ethnic.

Importantly, since 2010 Louisiana Baptist church plants have experienced a harvest of more than 14,206 new believers with 3,810 baptisms resulting

"We made a commitment to be very strategic about our church planting among places we have not reached or don't have an impact yet," Hebert said. "Our churches are reaching places we have not previously reached, and that's exciting."

"Church planting has

found favor among our churches and associations since we set this goal in 2010," he continued. "I am thankful to our executive board and our executive director for their willingness to do whatever it takes to plant churches in our state. They have created a rich environment for church planting."

We believe God will continue to use Louisiana Baptists to reach the lost in our state with the Gospel through our church planting emphasis."

By The Numbers: GBO giving

2014
Goal: \$ 1,945,000
Received:

\$1,634,065.44

2015
Goal: \$1,800,000
Received:

\$1,544,830.65

2016
Goal: \$1,800,000
Received:

\$1,580,313.22

2017
Goal: \$1,700,000
Received:

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2018
Goal: \$1,700,000
Received:

\$1,409,090.22



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ECON 2019 from page 8

experience this, they want more of this because the world kicks them out of their cliques and clubs the minute they won't meet their standards. But if they get in here and they meet Jesus, they will see they are part of something as Christ would take us and would never let us go."

FRED LUTER

Following his son's message, Fred Luter said Christ followers must commit to make disciples of the next generation.

Citing Matthew 28:19-20, Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, said this can be accomplished if believers are to go to them, reach them and teach them the way to Christ.

"There are a lot of lost and unchurched people in our world," Luter said. "If we expect to win them to Christ, we must go where they are.

"We must get out of these four walls of our churches and penetrate the community," he continued. "We are living in a day and time when they are not coming to us. There was a time where people were expected to go to church every Sunday of their lives. But those days are over. That's why Jesus told us to go."

Luter said while attending church with other believers is important, going into the community to build relationships and share the Gospel is vital.

"We must scatter after we gather," he said.

"That's why Jesus told us we must go. We must be salt and light in a low sodium, dark and saltless society."

Moreover, Luter said others can be reached by sharing a testimony of how Jesus changes lives.

"We reach them by sharing our testimony, by sharing the Gospel, by lifting up our lord and savior Jesus Christ," he said. "If we are going to reach them, we must introduce them to someone that will change their lives forever.

"We must teach them there is a better way to live," he said. "We must teach them Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and Life. No matter what you go through, no matter what you have to deal with on this Christian journey, Jesus promises us, 'I am with you always.' He promised to never leave us, to never leave us alone."

ARGILE SMITH

To reach the next generation, Louisiana Baptists should look to the Good Samaritan who showed compassion to someone different, Argile Smith said.



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Smith, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church, Biloxi, Mississippi, citing Luke 10:25-37, said a religious leader believed he was justified in reaching only those who lived in his community.

However, Jesus corrected his errant notion by sharing the parable of the Good Samaritan, who stopped to help a man of a different people group -- after two religious men had already passed on by.

"This conference is about the next generation," he said. "It's about that group of people who have come upon us, who in some ways seem strange to us, people whose character traits are a little different from us. But at the same time that they are different from us, we have been given a responsibility to share Christ with them and the people who are older than they are and the people who are younger than they are, so that they can come to Christ and experience His wholeness."

Much like Jesus closed

the parable with a charge to the religious leader, Smith issued a charge to Louisiana Baptists.

"Have mercy," he said. "Have mercy on those kids -- who live at the end of that road in your community -- who need Jesus. Have mercy on the next generation of people who never have had the privilege of even having a Gideon New Testament given to them when they were in the fifth grade. Have mercy on the teen-

agers who are being swept away by one lie right of hell after another. Have mercy on families that are being torn apart because they have believed that big lie and it's caused them to suffer everything that matters for the future. My friends, have mercy on them."

For the remainder of the story and for additional photographs, please go online to www.baptistmessage.com.

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Louisiana College quits CCCU over LGBT policy

By Will Hall
Message Editor

PINEVILLE (LBM) – Louisiana College President Rick Brewer has notified the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities that the Louisiana Baptist school has withdrawn its membership from the organization.

The issue involves a policy passed by the CCCU board of directors which endorses so-called “Fairness for All” legislation which would add sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of federally-protected classes while also articulating pro-

tections for churches and religious organizations.

The CCCU describes itself as “a higher education association of more than 180 Christian institutions around the world” and states its mission is “to help our institutions transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to biblical truth.

According to CBN News, Shirley Mullen, vice chair of the CCCU board and president of Houghton College, explained the CCCU position on LGBT protections as one of practicality for Christian higher education.

CULTURAL NEWS

“[W]e are increasingly persuaded that the most viable political strategy is for comprehensive religious freedom protections to be combined with explicit support for basic human rights for members of the LGBT community,” she wrote in a position paper provided to the National Association of Evangelicals, a collaborator with CCCU in pushing for the controversial legislation.

However, Shapri D. LoMaglio, vice president for government and external relations for the CCCU, compiled an extensive justification for the CCCU position and appeared to suggest balance was the key issue, not necessarily the protection of religious rights.

“Fairness for All could preserve more freedom for more Americans into the future,” she wrote in the online CCCU Magazine.

Moreover, she framed

her position around a supposed need to “reestablish a positive perception of religious freedom,” which she claimed has been diminished “in large part because of the struggle around LGBT rights.”

“[W]e hope that by not just fighting for ourselves, but by also using our political power and privilege to stand up for the rights of our LGBTQ neighbors, loved ones, brothers, and sisters, we can help reclaim the Gospel’s witness, reminding all citizens – including those holding views different from ours – that Christ and the good news he brought are for everyone,” she summarized on behalf of the CCCU.

But some conservative Christians are calling the proposed compromise “a solution looking for a problem.”

Writing in the Christian Post, Dave Welch, president of the U.S. Pastor Council, called the FFA legislative initiative by CCCU and NAE “a dangerous situation that is at its core a hostile rejection of God’s created order of male, female, marriage, church, moral law and civil law.”

The USPC grew in national fame in 2015 when it helped lead the repeal of the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance that would have allowed biological males to violate the privacy of biological females in public bathrooms and showers.

Welch said equating “race, religion and (biological) sex to sexual behavior

and mental instability” would open up a legal “Pandora’s Box” and in the end would result in “special rights for a few.”

“Christians who still actually believe and follow the authority of the entire canon of Holy Scripture” would be at risk of “civil and criminal punishment,” he said.

In his letter to CCCU President Shirley Hoogstra, Brewer strongly objected to the action taken by the CCCU board.

“Sometimes the answer to such matters is to agree to disagree,” he wrote. “But the import and impact of the ‘Fairness for All’ initiative calls for Louisiana College to respectfully disagree with the CCCU’s stance.”

Describing what had been a “long and beneficial relationship” with CCCU, Brewer ended all ties, saying “by conviction I cannot endorse the ‘Fairness for All’ initiative nor be willfully associated with any entity that does.”

On Feb. 1, Greta Hays, CCCU director of communications and public affairs told the *Christian Post* no member institutions had dropped out of the CCCU because of its stance on “Fairness for All” legislation. However, Brewer shared with the Baptist Message that Louisiana College’s withdrawal notice was sent Jan. 9 and CCCU had responded that it would make the necessary changes to

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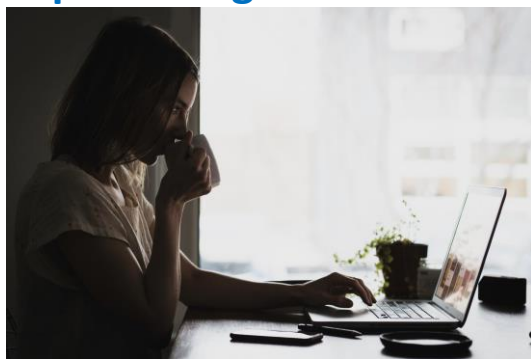
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Cultural News from page one

the organization's various databases that list member schools.

PEW: Active religious people more likely to be 'very happy'

In a survey of 26 countries, Pew Research Center found that people who regularly attend worship services are more likely to be happy as well as civically engaged than those who are not religiously active. This group also was less likely to smoke or drink, however, Pew did not link this tendency to greater health outcomes.

Regarding happiness, religiously active people in 19 countries were more likely to be "very happy" than their fellow countrymen.

Pew said "the gaps are striking" in a number of these countries, including an 11 percentage point difference in the United States (36% of the actively religious described themselves as "very happy," compared with 25% of the inactively religious and 25% of the unaffiliated).

Pew said their findings were "consistent with prior studies," adding that actively religious people in the United States are more likely to "vote in national elections" and are "more engaged in community life in the sense that they belong to at least one nonreligious organization."

As for physical health, Pew nuanced that its findings "are more complicated."

Religiously active people are less likely to use alcohol or tobacco, but "they aren't significantly different from the 'nones' in their frequency of exercise or whether they're overweight," Pew said.

Even a 'little' pot changes teen brains

A study published in the *Journal of Neuroscience* has found evidence "suggesting structural brain and cognitive effects" from as few as "one or two instances of cannabis use in

adolescence."

The report contextualized the importance of the findings by noting that "almost 35 [percent] of American 10th graders have reported using cannabis" suggesting that a crisis is looming due to the "long term neurocognitive effects" on these youth.

The findings are significant as well because of the ready availability of pot in the United States.

Ten states plus the District of Columbia have legalized adult recreational marijuana use, and New York and New Jersey are on that path. Also medical marijuana (which spans pot smoking to cannabis edibles and artisan cannabidiol oils) is legal in 33 states and the District of Columbia, including restricted use in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

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Trump from page 4

lighted from the first two years of his administration, including:

- cooperating to confront the opioid crisis;
- developing a sweeping new farm bill;
- creating historic VA reforms; and,
- working together on criminal justice reform, the First Step Act, to give non-violent offenders a second chance.

But, he also claimed victory in some contested policies, such as:

- enacting massive tax cuts for working families and essentially eliminating the estate tax on family businesses, ranches and farms ;
- removing the so-called Obamacare individual mandate penalty; and,
- cutting regulations, specifically for the oil and natural gas industries.

The vitality of the economy received special emphasis, with the president noting the 5.3 million new jobs cre-

ated since his election, including 304,000 jobs added last month, and highlighting the nearly 5 million Americans "lifted off food stamps."

He also mentioned international security successes or political-military progress in China, Iran, Iraq-Syria, Afghanistan and North Korea, as well as the new agreement among the United States, Mexico and Canada that will replace the NAFTA treaty that is in place now, and, the renewed budget commitment from NATO partners.

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COOPERATION OR CONFLICT?

Although calling for cooperation throughout his message, the president is facing another standoff with Democrat leaders. The funding bill crafted by Congress and signed by him that ended the record 35-day partial shutdown of government only extends through Feb. 15.

At the time of his national address, Feb. 5, there were no signs that he or his opponents were nearing an agreement on the key issue of building more of the wall along the border with Mexico.

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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.


PASTOR NEEDED
West Lake Baptist Church in Doyline, LA is seeking a pastor.
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
Mail-in résumés to: Ebenezer Baptist Church
211 Ebenezer Church Road
Jonesboro, LA 71251

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 **Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries**
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries in Monroe, LA is currently seeking individuals to fill the positions of:
CAMPUS FOSTER PARENTS
Husband/wife teams needed. Full-time positions include salary, benefits, paid vacation and training. Provide love, care, and hope in Christ to children in need. Applicants should not have children living at home under the age of 18. Must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and be an active member of a local Southern Baptist church.
Please send résumé to Dr. Perry Hancock (phancock@lbch.org) or Susan Nolan (snolan@lbch.org) or P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.
HOMEPLACE COTTAGE MANAGERS
Baptist women needed for full-time or part-time positions to serve as cottage managers in HomePlace, a transitional living ministry for homeless children and their mothers. The full-time position includes salary, benefits, housing, paid vacation, and training. Provide love, care, and hope in Christ to children and families in need. Both full-time and part-time positions require 24-hour work schedules.
Please submit résumé to Susan Clark at sclark@lbch.org or P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

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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

- **Don Pucik** is the Association Mission Strategist for the Northshore Baptist Association.
- **Caroll Holmes** has retired as pastor of Sharon Baptist Church, Dubach.
- **Robert Bannister** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Springfield.
- **Tim Moffett** is the new pastor Woodlawn Park Baptist Church, Hammond.
- **Briana Lemos** is the youth minister at Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell.
- **Joe Morse** is the new education outreach coordinator at Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell.
- **Scott (wife Tammi) O'Rear** is the new pastor at Belle Park Baptist Church, Haughton.
- **Jacob Ambrose**, local missions/evangelism, from Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport to Temple Baptist Church, Ruston.
- **Larry Baldrige**, pastor of Bayou Life Baptist Church, Cottonport, is the new worship pastor at First Baptist Church, Abbeville.

REVIVAL

- Deer Creek Baptist Association,

Winnsboro: **Cluster Revivals**, February 17-22. Deer Creek Baptist Association will host cluster Revivals in 12 churches in Franklin Parish. There will be six churches in the north Franklin Parish area and six churches in the south Franklin Parish area. Evangelist: **Rubin Weaver**, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Farmerville (northern churches); **Gevan Spinney**, pastor of First Baptist Church, Haughton (southern churches). North Franklin Parish – Sunday, 6:30 p.m., Crockett Point Baptist, Crowville; Monday, 7 p.m., Temple Baptist, Winnsboro; Tuesday, 7 p.m., Harmony Baptist Church, Delhi; Wednesday, 7 p.m., Baskin Baptist Church; Thursday, 7 p.m., First Baptist Church, Crowville; Friday, 7 p.m., Friendship Baptist Church, Baskin. South Franklin Parish – Sunday, 6 p.m., Calvary Baptist Church, Gilbert; Monday, 7 p.m., Fort Necessity Baptist Church; Tuesday, 7 p.m., South Central Baptist Church, Wisner; Wednesday, 7 p.m., First Baptist Church, Winnsboro; Thursday, 7 p.m., Chase Baptist Church, First Baptist Church Wisner. Director of Missions: Eddie Rhymes, Deer Creek Baptist Association.

■ North Central Baptist Church, Delhi: **Family Crusade**, February 17-20. Evangelist: 2TALK42 Ministries.

■ New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Encounter Weekend**, February 22 – 24, Friday 6:30 p.m., Saturday 6 p.m. with a chili and soup supper from 4-5:30 p.m. Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Evangelist: **Sammy Tippit**. Worship: **Ode**.

■ Lismore Baptist Church, Jonesville: **Revival**, February 24-27; Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Following morning worship services bring a dish for dinner on the

grounds. A light supper will be served Monday-Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. Nursery will be available for all services. Pastor: Ken Gilmore.

- Sweetwater Baptist Church, Quitman: **Revival**, February 24-27. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Wilton Wall.
- Wayside Baptist Church, Pollock: **Family Crusade**, February 24-27. Evangelist: **2TALK42 Ministries**. Pastor: Kevin Simmons.
- Little Pass Baptist Church, Charenton: Harvest Day, February 24, 10:45 a.m. and evening service. Speaker: Joe Aulds. Pastor Chris Holloway.
- First Baptist Church, Dubach: Revival, March 3-6. Evangelist: Lyndon Longoria. Pastor: Cory Bruce.

LAGNIAPPE

- Josiah Stephen Miller of Elmer, LA is available for interim, bi-vocational or supply pastorate. Please call 318.277.1616 or 318.466.5472.
- First Baptist Church, Hornbeck: **30th Annual Wild Game Feast**, February 15, 6 p.m. Pastor: Jack Bell.
- Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: **Third annual fishing tournament**, February 16, 5 a.m. – until 3 p.m. The tournament will be held at Chandler's Camp on Black Lake in Saline, LA. Cost: \$120 per boat/\$10 big bass per team. All proceeds go toward benefitting a future mission project or trip. There will be cash prizes, 100 percent payout for big bass and door prizes. For more information call Bethel at 318.627.3131 or Abby at 318.6643507. Pastor: Carl Gulde.
- Victory Baptist Church, Hammond:

5th annual Bayou Youth Rally, February 16, 4 p.m. Evangelist: **CT Townsend of CT Townsend Ministries**. Worship: The Dixons. Food will be provided following service. Youth choir practice at 3 p.m. The church is located at 43385 N. Little Italy Road, Hammond, LA. Pastor: Jonathan Watts.

■ Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles: **Louisiana Disaster Relief Training**, February 15-16, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. To register for the training, go to <https://louisianabaptists.org/event/2019-disaster-relief-training-lake-charles/> Pastor: Steve James.

■ Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Coushatta: Day Three in concert, February 17, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Mike Fort.

■ First Baptist Church, Haughton: Beast Feast and award the winners of the Big Buck Contest sponsored by the FBCH Men of Courage, February 19, 6:30 p.m., Family Life Center: Guest Speaker: Luke Hockenjos from "Give em Jesus." Pastor: Gevan Spinney.

■ Utility Baptist Church, Jonesville: **Women's conference**, February 21, 6 p.m. Speaker: LeeAnn Hart, wife of professional Bull Rider JW Hart.

■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **Marriage Retreat**, February 22-23 in Lafayette. Cost: \$225 per couple (includes overnight stay & meals). Online registration begins Nov. 1. Pastor: Philip Robertson.

■ Little Pass Baptist Church, Charenton: **Wild Game Supper**, February 23. Guest Speaker: **Joe Aulds**. Pastor: Chris Holloway.

■ First Baptist Church, Covington: **Triumphant In Concert**, February 22, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance

and \$20 at the door. Tickets are available at the FBCCov Bookstore and online here: <https://www.itickets.com/events/413274>. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.

■ Watson Baptist Church, Watson: **Ladies Tea**, February 23, 11 a.m. Guest Speaker: Barbara Pemberton. Cost: \$12. For more information, call 225.667.8818. Pastor: John Pemberton.

■ Trinity Baptist Church, Hammond: **Chronicle in concert**, February 24, 5:30 p.m. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Avery Dixon.

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Scripture Crypto

The Scripture Crypto is a Bible verse in which one letter has been substituted for another, thus encoding the verse. To find out what the verse is, you must determine what each letter is a substitute for. An "a," for example, may stand for a "t" in this week's issue of the ScriptureCrypto. Next week, "a" could stand for a "d." Each week, each letter is different. Solve by trial and error. The answer will be given next week. Note: All numerals, such as those in the scripture reference after the verse, are spelled out.

uiw visaa bwe jqsd eiqq, w awdk, sbk zawdpjt eit

bsxq? jwd eiwm wat sde iwat: jwd saa bsepwbv

visaa rwxq sbk uwdvipc lqjwdq eiqq; jwd eit

ymkzqxqbev sdq xskq xsbpjqve.

dqfqasepwbj pjeqqb:jwmd

Clues:

J = F, W = O

Answer to January 24 Scripture Crypto:

John nineteen:fifteen

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