

“... The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

— Luke 10:2 (NIV)

M BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

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February 8, 2018

2018 EVANGELISM CONFERENCE



Ron Herrod



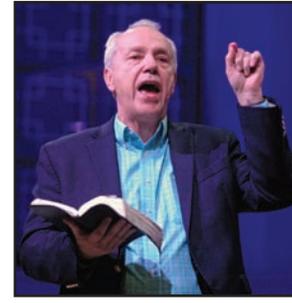
Rick Gage



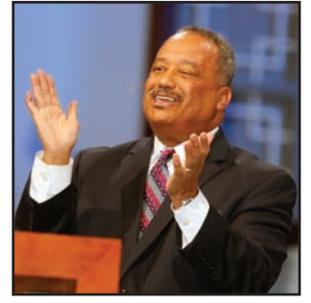
Brent Crowe



Karen Abercrombie



Sammy Tippit



Fred Luter

It's Time to Bring In The Harvest!



Doug Collier photo

A large crowd was on hand during the final moments of the 2018 state Evangelism Conference for the emotional send off of Wayne Jenkins, who retired Jan. 31 after serving 27 years as director of evangelism for Louisiana Baptists. A major focus of ECON was the Harvest, a statewide campaign that so far has enlisted nearly 900 of 1,650 Louisiana Baptist churches to “pray for every home and share Christ with every person” in the state.

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE — Ron Herrod said in a day when Southern Baptist churches are seeing a decline in baptisms, the time is now for Christ-followers to carry out God’s will — bringing in the harvest.

“May God break our hearts,” Herrod said during the 2018 Evangelism Conference at First Baptist Church, Pineville. “The harvest is there and we’re missing the harvest.”

Herrod was one of many speakers who emphasized this theme in their messages.

The program also featured Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Rick Gage, founder of GO TELL Ministries, Atlanta, Ga.; Sammy Tip-

pit, founder of Sammy Tippit Ministries, San Antonio, Texas; Greg Frizzell, founder of Greg Frizzell Ministries, Oklahoma City, Okla.; and, Karen Abercrombie, an award winning actress who played the spicy, 80-year-old prayer warrior, Miss Clara, in the film “War Room.”

Also, he was representative of the group’s emphasis on soul-winning as the needed focus of all Louisiana Baptist ministries.

“You can build houses,” said Herrod, founder of Ron Herrod Evangelism Ministries Association, Knoxville, Tenn. “You can meet human needs. You can feed people. And you can clothe them. But if you don’t win them to Jesus it’s like giving a cough drop to a guy with cancer. It’s just not going to meet their true need.”

See ECON on 5

Federal judge lets lawsuit against NAMB proceed

BY WILL HALL
Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) — U.S. District Court Judge Glen H. Davidson, the senior jurist for the Northern District of Mississippi, Aberdeen Division, ruled Jan. 18, 2018, that a federal lawsuit against the North American Mission Board may proceed.

Will McRaney, the former executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, filed a complaint April 7, 2017, alleging NAMB President Kevin Ezell played a role in his termination from the state convention, and subsequently in McRaney being “unin-



Will McRaney



Kevin Ezell

vited” from speaking at a conference in Mississippi.

NAMB lawyers filed “answers and defenses” for the Southern Baptist Convention entity a little more than a month

later, May 18, asserting 19 defenses. But the Court focused on NAMB’s claim of a “ministerial exception” and its invoking the “ecclesiastical abstention doctrine,” as well as NAMB’s questioning of “[w]hether McRaney has adequately pled his claims.”

In denying NAMB’s motion with regard to the “ministerial exception” (which prevents a court from interfering in issues between a religious institution and its ministers) against McRaney’s assertion of defamation, Judge Davidson wrote that “McRaney was indisputably not employed by NAMB ... and thus the

See LAWSUIT on 13

Jenkins retires from LBC, but not from winning souls

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM)--Wayne Jenkins' call to fulfill the Great Commission has taken him from the bayous of south Louisiana to the streets of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during his 27 years as director of evangelism for Louisiana Baptists.

Jenkins retired Jan. 31, but his commitment to share the Gospel alongside Louisiana Baptists will continue with annual trips to Brazil.

He hopes to continue spending time with his children and grandchildren, but he is determined to assist with the Harvest

and other evangelism efforts that equip Louisiana Baptists with the tools needed to share their faith.

"I never thought I would work for the Convention," Jenkins said. "I always had high regards for the men and women who worked for the Convention and would never have felt qualified. When (Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director) Mark Short approached me about considering the position of evangelism director, it was the one position I would consider.

"Never would I have dreamed I would have been privileged to work here for 27 years and under three executive directors," he added. "To be able to work with pastors,



Doug Collier photo

David Hankins, Executive Director of Louisiana Baptists, leads prayer as staff, friends and family lay hands on Wayne and Martha Jenkins to close the 2018 Evangelism Conference Jan. 23. Jenkins retired Jan. 31 after 27 years as evangelism director for Louisiana Baptists.

directors of missions, staff and laymen for all these years has been such a rich blessing."

TRAINING FOR MINISTRY

A native of Baton Rouge, Jenkins surrendered his life to

Christ at the age of 16. Soon after, at Victoria Baptist Church, he sensed a call to ministry.

Upon the recommendation of his music minister, Jenkins enrolled at Louisiana College to prepare for a career in ministry. But he also set in motion a legacy that he passed down to his children and grandchildren. Three of his four daughters, three of his sons-in-law and six of his grandchildren have all graduate from LC, following in the footsteps of Jenkins, and his wife Martha, also an LC graduate.

Jenkins was an active member of the Baptist Student Union, served on the freshmen council and participated in summer missions to Jamaica.

"I couldn't have asked for a better place for me to help shape and prepare me for the calling on my life," Jenkins said. "I was an introvert when I went to LC and they brought me out of it. More importantly, I received much spiritual guidance from the BSU and my professors who taught me lessons that I have taken into my various roles of ministry.

"Also, I received a great deal of experience conducting youth-led revivals all over the state," he continued. "I owe LC

See JENKINS on 12

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LC continues enrollment trend; numbers up again

BY NORM MILLER

LCNews

PINEVILLE (LCNews)-A two-year trend of enrollment growth continues at Louisiana College, which reports an 18 percent head count increase since the 2017 spring semester.

Spring enrollment reflects a 53 percent increase in graduate students and an eight percent increase in traditional undergraduate students. High school dual enrollment also doubled.

The continuing increases have reversed a 5-year downward spiral in enrollment that began in 2010.

"There is no magical formula here," said Rick Brewer, president of the college. "Success still requires a vision and the hard work to fulfill it."

Particularly gratifying for Brewer is the number of transfer students. "These students have essentially recruited us and have left other good schools for what we have to offer. Some of them considered enrolling at LC last fall but attended elsewhere, yet they have come back saying that they should have begun here initially."

Brewer noted the struggles LC endured prior to his unanimous election by trustees in 2015 are continually overshadowed by the innovative strategies developed in, and implemented by, the college's President's Leadership Team.

"These enrollment successes require a team that's 'all in,'" said Brewer, noting that LC's leadership and faculty continually demon-



Addyson Baden photos

Twenty six high school seniors (photo above) vied for Louisiana College's prestigious Smith Scholarship competition Jan. 27 and the winner, Prospect resident Alena Noakes, was announced at a luncheon for the competitors. (left photo). Louisiana College President Rick Brewer presents the Smith Scholarship trophy to Noakes, a student at the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts in Natchitoches, after she was announced the winner of a full scholarship to Louisiana College. All of the competitors were judged according to their academic performance, leadership traits, and Christian commitment. Runners-up who enroll at LC this fall will be awarded an annual scholarship of \$8500 and admitted into the C.S. Lewis Scholars Honors Program.



strate the teamwork needed to achieve great goals. "Louisiana College has scores of leaders who work behind the scenes. They do the heavy lifting, and they deserve rightful credit for their successful efforts."

Brewer attributed continued growth to increased academic offerings for

undergraduate and graduate students, as well as a growing online studies presence. Several new scholarship opportunities have enhanced enrollment, as well as flat rate tuition inclusive of fees launched last fall.

"We are seeing a renaissance for which we are grateful. Such renewal underscores

the validity of our Vision to Prepare Graduates and Transform Lives," Brewer said.

The mayors of Alexandria and Pineville, along with Calvary Baptist Church Pastor David Brooks, recognize the strides LC has made.

"Dr. Brewer and Louisiana College have been moving the needle positively, and

we are so proud to have such a wonderful, faith-centered liberal arts institution here at home," said Alexandria Mayor Jacques M. Roy. "LC is recognized worldwide and we are delighted to share in its accomplishments by directly benefitting from them."

"There are many reasons we value a close relationship with Louisiana College. One is that we hang our economic development hat on LC. As the college goes, so goes Pineville," said Pineville Mayor Clarence R. Fields. "Our local retailers know when school is in session and when it is out for the summer, and that's one of the reasons why we promote LC in every way we can across Louisiana."

"The resurgence underway at Louisiana College is being noticed, experienced, and applauded by many. Not only is LC Preparing Graduates and Transforming Lives, but the college also is investing in and revitalizing our community. What is happening in the heart and through the hands of LC is making a healthy, spiritual, emotional, mental, social, and financial impact in CENLA and beyond," said Pastor David Brooks of Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria. "May God continue to bless and strengthen Dr. Brewer and the entire LC family as they devote their lives to God's purposes and plans for the college."

For additional comments from other notable Central Louisiana business and civic leaders, alumni and faculty go to www.baptistmessage.com.

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The Wayne and Martha Jenkins Center established at LC

BY NORM MILLER
LC News

PINEVILLE (LCNews) – Louisiana College President Rick Brewer announced the formation of the Wayne and Martha Jenkins Center for Evangelism and Missions that will reside on the college's campus.

Brewer made the presentation January 23 at the Louisiana Baptist Convention's annual Evangelism Conference, or E-CON, where Wayne's upcoming

January 31 retirement was noted, and his lifetime of Christian service was celebrated.

Keith Manuel, incoming director for Louisiana Baptists, preceded Brewer, noting Jenkins had completed 33 years of mission trips to Brazil that garnered more than 100,000 conversions to Christ and planted 65 churches.

"We are your legacy," Manuel stated as he gestured to the LBC staff, who had assisted Wayne and were assembled on

the platform. Wayne served as the LBC's Director of Evangelism and Church Growth Team since 1990.

The impetus for Louisiana College honoring the Jenkins originated at the LBC. Manuel brought the idea to Brewer, who conceived the Center as a starting place but did not rule out a scholarship in honor of Wayne and Martha at some time in the future.

Brewer said the new center would complement the Missions and Ministries degree recently launched at LC. "This will be a place that will forever in perpetuity honor the legacy of ministry of Wayne and Martha Jenkins," said Brewer, "and equip evangelists and missionaries, and those who will be transformational leaders."

Cheers and amens began to fill the room as Brewer read the inscription on a plaque he presented to the Jenkins, and the moment concluded with a standing ovation.

The plaque states:
On the occasion of your retirement and years of faithful



Doug Collier photo

Louisiana College President Rick Brewer surprised Wayne, who is retiring Jan 31 as evangelism director, and his wife Martha (right) with the announcement the school has formed the "Dr. Wayne and Martha Jenkins Center for Evangelism and Missions" as incoming evangelism director Keith Manuel (left), evangelism staff and members of Jenkins' family look on.

service to the Lord, the Evangelism & Church Growth Team, along with Louisiana Baptist churches and individuals, in partnership with Louisiana College establish the Dr. Wayne and Martha Jenkins Center for Evangelism and Missions on this the 23rd day of January, 2017.

"The Wayne and Martha Jenkins Center for Evangelism and Missions will be a resource of information and inspiration for Louisiana College students and Louisiana Baptist churches interested in training and mobi-

lizing for spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home and abroad," Brewer said in a later interview.

"The Center will sponsor events and activities directly related to evangelism and missions, including evangelism endeavors and mission trips undertaken by students and faculty, and will forge and enhance an ongoing partnership with the Louisiana Baptist Convention's evangelism and missions initiatives."

See CENTER on 7

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ECON from page one

Preaching from John 4:35, Herrod stressed that the Holy Spirit “will fill you and equip you and enable you to do what God has called you to do” – to share your faith as a witness for Jesus.

He also emphasized “the prayer room” as the place where spiritual combat is properly fought.

“The church that’s not praying is straying,” he said. “The pastor that’s not praying is playing. You are going to win the battle in the prayer room, on the altar, on your face before God.

“Pastors, I beg you have more than a wet noodle for a backbone and have the courage and the guts and the stamina to preach truth,” he said. “God will bless the preaching of truth to build His church and to draw the net and to draw people to Christ. The Holy Spirit will use the truth that you preach to convict the hearts of people that need Jesus.”

HARVEST EMPHASIS

The Harvest is a state-wide campaign that so far has enlisted nearly 900 of 1,650 Louisiana Baptist churches to “pray for every home and share Christ with every person” in Louisiana. State strategists spent 2016 to plan and enlist leaders and churches and in 2017 conducted state-wide evangelism training and piloted different methods. Now, Louisiana Baptists are joining together across the state in 2018 for prayer events and intentional soul-winning activities.

The cooperative effort will

include a diversity of approaches such as multi-church crusades, one-on-one evangelism, single-church revivals and other activities which leverage compassion ministries to share about the love of Christ.

The Evangelism Conference, which took place Jan. 22-23, featured the first large-scale Harvest event of 2018. During student night Jan. 22, youth gathered in the First, Pineville, gymnasium to enjoy a demonstration by the BMX bike team from Real Encounter ministry and take part in a pizza supper.

Afterwards, they joined other participants in the worship center to hear a message by Brent Crowe, vice president of Student Leadership University, Orlando, Fla.

At the invitation, three students came forward to declare Christ the Lord of their lives, four repented to restore fellowship with Christ, two responded to the Holy Spirit’s call to vocational ministry and one made an undisclosed spiritual commitment.

Keith Manuel, director of evangelism and church growth for Louisiana Baptists, told the *Baptist Message* that ECON “was extremely successful in solidifying the preparation and continuation of the work necessary for the Harvest events planned by the associations and churches.

“The Holy Spirit refreshed many who were tired and provided the boost to finish well the work He has led our congregations and pastors to undertake. It is always amazing to watch as the Lord takes the individual messages He places on the hearts of our speak-

ers and the sessions become a cohesive, power-packed time of equipping, learning, and worship.”

The praise and worship lineup included Ray Jones and the Community Bible Church praise team from San Antonio, Texas; Larnelle Harris, an award-winning Gospel singer; Voices of LC; and, a combined choir from central Louisiana.

The conference also included breakout sessions (geared toward equipping leaders for the Harvest initiative) and the senior adult lunch which drew 425 to eat and enjoy music by Harris and Voices of LC, as well as inspiring messages by Abercrombie and Frizzell.

ECON 2018 ended with a special presentation to Wayne Jenkins, who retired after serving the past 27 years as Director of Evangelism for Louisiana Baptists.

Video messages from ECON are available for free at <https://vimeo.com/labaptists/videos>.

Churches with Harvest events scheduled are encouraged to contact Manuel at 318.448.3402 or e-mail manuel@louisianabaptists.org.



Brian Blackwell photo

Brent Crowe, vice president at Student Leadership University in Orlando, Fla., prays with youth who came forward during an invitation at the Evangelism Conference Student Night Jan. 22.

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Ken Hemphill to be an SBC president nominee

BY WILL HALL
Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – Southern Baptist statesman Ken Hemphill will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to an announcement issued by a group of distinguished Southern Baptists.

ENTHUSIASTIC ENDORSEMENTS

“Some interested Southern Baptist pastors and leaders have been thinking together for several weeks about whom God might raise up to follow Dr. Steve Gaines as our SBC president,” said David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. “We desire to elect a man who is a Southern Baptist through and through, values our understanding of the Gospel, and, has an established record of affirming the cooperative work of our local churches through the associations, state conventions and national entities.

“We sought Ken out because of his record in these areas as well as his impeccable character, remarkable breadth of experience in Southern Baptist life, passion for missions and evangelism, and an active ministry of re-vitalization to pastors and churches.”

Numerous others added their endorsements in emails to the *Baptist Message*, including Richard Land, president of Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, N.C., and president emeritus of

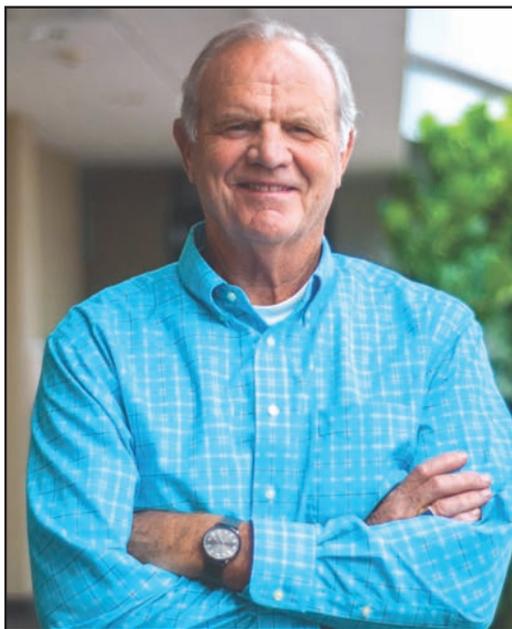
the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Land endorsed Hemphill, saying “Ken has served Southern Baptists his entire adult life, having been a successful pastor and seminary president.”

“He has championed the local church and has challenged Southern Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission,” he continued. “I believe that Dr. Hemphill’s entire ministry until now has been used by God to prepare him to serve as our Convention president at this propitious moment.”

Gene C. Fant, Jr., president of North Greenville University in South Carolina, where Hemphill currently serves, endorsed Hemphill as a “great Convention statesman.”

“Dr. Hemphill’s passion for the local church, for personal evangelism, and for intentional and careful cultural engagement is a model for all of us,” he said. “His desire for discipleship is exemplary, as is his love for cooperative missions. I



Ken Hemphill

am grateful for his willingness to extend his lifelong service to us in this way.”

Alex McFarland, a conservative apologist who heads the Christian Worldview Center at NGU and is a radio co-host for American Family Radio, called Hemphill “an internationally respected ambassador for Christ.”

“If the Lord puts Dr. Hemphill in this position,” he continued, “I am certain that it will mean great things for the future of the SBC, as we all work together to fulfill the Great Commission.”

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Hemphill has a notable record of commitment to Southern Baptists, having served as president of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, as well as in leadership roles with the North American Mission Board, the SBC Executive Committee and North Greenville University.

He is a member of the First Baptist Church in Hendersonville, N.C., where

Steve Scoggins is pastor.

According to the latest information entered in the Annual Church Profile database, FBCH has averaged giving more than 11 percent through the Cooperative Program each year over the last 20 years.

In 2016 and 2017, FBCH gave a combined \$867,000 through the Cooperative Program, while averaging about 1,460 in worship attendance. That is a Cooperative Program giving average of 12.5 percent over the two years and a per capita average of almost \$600 contributed by each worshiper through the Cooperative Program.

During the same two-year period the congregation contributed \$152,926 and \$150,445, respectively to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, as well as \$49,115 and \$42,219 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

ACP records show the congregation has been consistently strong in its support of these two mission offerings for at least 20 years.

HEMPHILL’S RESPONSE

Hemphill confirmed to the Baptist Message that he did not seek the nomination but was approached by a number of Southern Baptists who are concerned about the direction of the Convention, and asked that he allow his name to be placed before the Convention for consideration.

Hemphill was emphatic that his entry into the race was driven by his love

See **HEMPHILL** on 7

J.D. Greear to be an SBC president nominee

BY STAFF
Baptist Press

DALLAS (BP) – North Carolina pastor J.D. Greear will be nominated for SBC president, Florida pastor Ken Whitten announced Jan. 29.

WHOLEHEARTED ENDORSEMENT

Whitten, pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Fla., told Baptist Press that Greear, 44, “is all about what Southern Baptists have been all about.”

“We bleed missions. We bleed evangelism, and we bleed the Gospel of Jesus Christ ... J.D. Greear will give us the opportunity to impact another generation while continuing to honor the former generation of Southern Baptists,” he added.

GREEAR’S REMARKS

Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., released a statement to *Baptist Press*, announcing, “I am again allowing my name to be placed in nomination” after “a lot of prayer, encouragement and counsel, with the consent of our [Summit] lead-

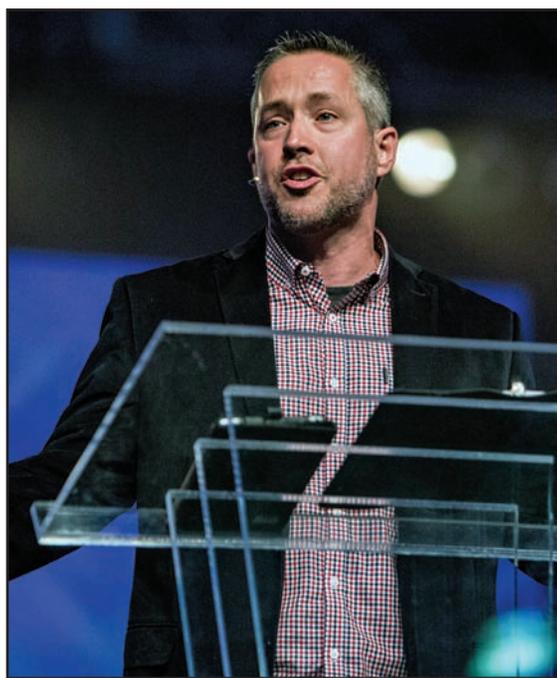
ership team and Veronica my wife.”

“The basic things that God laid on my heart haven’t changed from 2016 and I feel more committed to them than ever,” Greear added, according to *BP*.

BP attributed Greear with stating he would emphasize “the Gospel above all”; “cultural and racial diversity”; “intentional, personal evangelism”; “church planting”; and, “engagement of the next generation in cooperative giving and mission.”

BACKGROUND DATA

Greear has been pastor at The



J.D. Greear

Summit Church since 2002, and during that time average attendance has grown from 610 to 9,782, according to the information submitted by the church to the SBC Annual Church Profile database. According to their ACP records, Summit gave \$484,440 in 2017 and \$420,000

in 2016 through the Cooperative Program, about 2.4 percent (for each year) of \$20,184,998 and \$17,500,000, respectively, in undesignated receipts -- and a per capita average of about \$50 contributed by each worshiper through the Cooperative Program.

The year prior, 2015, it contributed \$69,940 in gifts through the CP, or half of one percent of \$14,629,207.

During the 16 years of Greear’s tenure, The Summit Church has averaged giving 1.5 percent through CP.

In 2017, Summit gave \$275,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and \$100,000 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

In the years prior, Summit has contributed generously to the LMCO, averaging \$234,452 per year going back to 2009.

From 2008-2016, Summit gave “0” each year to the AAEO, according to information Summit submitted to ACP.

From 2002-2008 for LMCO and 2002-2007 for AAEO, Summit supported both special offerings, averaging about \$92,851 and \$9,490, respectively, for the special offerings.

OTHER NOTES

In 2009, Greear was named to a

See **GREEAR** on 7

Hemphill from page 6

for Southern Baptists and their shared ministries which have been instrumental to SBC churches in sharing the Gospel across the nation and abroad.

“I am Southern Baptist by birth and by conviction,” he said. “My dad was a Southern Baptist pastor and instilled in me the value of cooperative ministry, and I have been engaged in Southern Baptist life at several levels for my entire ministry because I agree with our theology, our ecclesiology, our missiology and our polity.”

“I am committed to allocating our mission forces for maximum effect ... preaching an authentic Gospel ... and planting biblical churches,” he said, adding that he has been committed to the Cooperative Program for a lifetime, “because it demands Kingdom thinking, and does not demand credit or control.”

The Cooperative Program

only requires “shared conviction, vision, mutual trust, and voluntary participation,” he said.

BROAD SUPPORT

Kie Bowman, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, said he admired Hemphill and enthusiastically supported him. “Ken is a Southern Baptist leader with perspectives about our denomination drawn from years of experience at almost every level of involvement possible.

“He grew and led a mega church, served as president of one of our seminaries, led the way in developing materials for church revitalization through our agencies, has consistently and enthusiastically supported missions through the Cooperative Program, and has preached in churches of all sizes throughout our Convention,” Bowman said. “Southern Baptists

have a friend we can trust to lead us in Ken Hemphill and I pray he becomes our next SBC President.”

Eric Hankins, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fairhope, Ala., described the coming election as occurring “during a critical moment in our denominational history.”

“We need a leader with an absolute commitment to the Southern Baptist core conviction concerning the Gospel’s unlimited power and unlimited scope,” Hankins said. “Dr. Hemphill has demonstrated just such commitment as a pastor, as a denominational leader, and as a scholar, and this positions him perfectly to call us to a renewed focus on the tradition that has sustained our Kingdom effectiveness for so long.

“God has given Dr. Ken Hemphill a brilliant mind, a pure heart, a passion for souls, and a clear vision to make Southern Baptists great again,” said Rick Patrick, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Sylacauga, Ala. He described Hemphill as “an experienced leader exemplifying integrity and statesmanship, who will lead our churches to grow and keep us laser-focused on evangelism.”

John Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, added his endorsement of Hemphill as “the consummate Southern Baptist statesman.”

Citing Hemphill’s extensive Southern Baptist background, he said Hemphill “sees the big picture of who Southern Baptists are” with regard to reaching “all kinds

of people in every context.”

“We are excited that, after much prayer and deliberation, Ken and Paula have agreed to allow his name to be placed in

nomination for SBC President,” David Hankins said on behalf of the endorsing group. “I am looking forward to voting for him in Dallas.”

Greear from page 6

blue ribbon panel called the Great Commission Task Force which recommended sweeping changes to the organization and finances of the Southern Baptist Convention in a Final Report that was overwhelmingly approved by SBC messengers in 2010.

Also, BP noted that past SBC presidents Jack Graham, James Merritt and Bryant Wright all endorsed Greear’s candidacy for SBC president in emailed statements, but BP did not share any of their remarks.

However, Greear has received recognition and commendations outside of Baptist life that have been published.

Outreach magazine named The Summit Church and its nine campuses among the top 25 fastest growing churches in America, and, named one of its church plants, Mercy Hill Church in Greensboro, N.C. as one of the “Outreach 100 fastest-growing churches.”

Moreover, The Gospel Coalition, an exclusively Reformed (Calvinistic) network, named Greear as ranking number 52 on its January 26, 2018, list, “The Top 125 Influences on the Gospel-Centered Movement.”

The accompanying article defined “gospel-centered” as synonymous with “the young, restless and Reformed” and “neo-Reformed.”

Center from page 4

Brewer noted Wayne and Martha graduated from Louisiana College in 1970, and that 12 others – children, grandchildren and sons-in-law – have attended the school.

Manuel said, “God brought Wayne and Martha together at Louisiana College and used them as wonderful examples of what he can do with two lives totally surrendered to the calling of evangelism and missions. One day in heaven they are going to be surrounded by literally thousands of people who were saved directly or indirectly by their faithfulness to proclaim the good news of Jesus. Also, all over our state, nation, and world are men and women who were called to ministry and missions through the work of the Jenkins family. God will use the opportunities provided through this Center to shape the hearts of future generations of young men and women at Louisiana College, just as he did when Wayne and Martha were students, to carry the light of the Gospel to all peoples.”

Citing a book written by LR Scarborough, “With Christ After the Lost,” LBC Executive Director David Hankins said: “What an apt phrase for the man whose life and ministry we are honoring tonight. Wayne has spent his life with Christ after the lost.”

Wayne has encouraged all within his sphere of influence “to do the number one task given to us by our Lord, and that is to tell people about Jesus, Hankins said. “We are better for it, and the

Kingdom of God is larger for it.”

Brewer said the “life lived by Wayne and Martha Jenkins in sacrificial service to our Lord and others is the life Louisiana College seeks to encourage and equip our students to live. Louisiana College is therefore deeply pleased and highly honored for the Jenkins to lend their name to the campus resource we happily call The Wayne and Martha Jenkins Center for Evangelism and Missions.”

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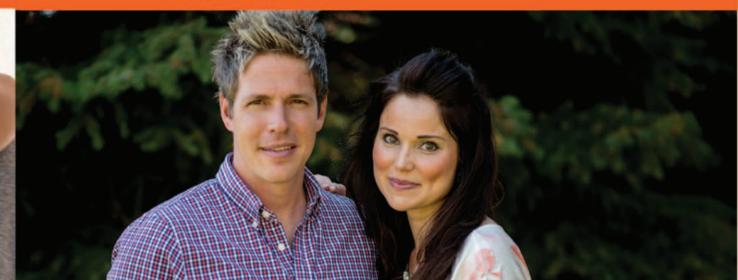
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“Would that we could realize that the success of missions and our prayers are linked together.”

ANNIE ARMSTRONG

Members of 117 churches humble themselves before God

By BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

BENTON – Nearly 700 members of the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association's 117 churches came together to cry out to God to bring revival during the local fellowship's third annual "Call to Prayer."

Hosted by Cypress Baptist Church, Benton, the Jan. 28 gathering brought together Christians of various ages and ethnicities to pray for law enforcement, the persecuted church, missionaries serving

around the world, pastors and other church leaders.

Just like the previous gatherings at First Baptist Church, Bossier City, and Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, this event was marked by prayer from the worship center stage, in small groups around the room and by individuals who pleaded with God for revival in their community, state and nation.

URGENCY TO SEEK GOD

During opening remarks, Lane Moore, NLBA director

of missions, said that without God there is no hope, and, he emphasized how great movements of God have followed focused times of prayer by His people.

"When Scripture talks about crying out to God, it is indicative of desperation," Moore said. "This gathering tonight is about all of us by the hundreds calling out to God.

"We are living in a country that is desperate," he continued. "They may not know what they're desperate for, but they are desperate."

John Fream, Cypress Baptist Church, said just one tragedy or crisis often draws people to their knees.

"There's an urgency to pray," he said. "But the greatest urgency is to seek God."

REPENTANCE AND RENEWAL

Brent Shoalmire, pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church, Plain Dealing, told the crowd for any real revival to sweep through Louisiana Baptist churches and for any great awakening to occur in the communities, the Holy Spirit must first move in the hearts of believers.

Shoalmire then challenged



Doug Collier photo

A pastor kneels at the altar inside the worship center at Cypress Baptist Church, Benton, during the third annual Call to Prayer. Pastors and members from the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association's churches came together to humble themselves before God.

each person to pray the words "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me," from Psalm 51:10.

"We need to kneel," he said. "We need to pray personally."

"For real revival to happen, we need to repent," he continued. "For real revival to happen we need to seek personal lasting deep genuine renewal."

RISE UP, CHURCH

Gregory Shyne, pastor of United Outreach Church,

Shreveport, said the world is burdened with disturbing news, much like what Nehemiah encountered when he learned the walls around Jerusalem were in need of repair.

Citing Nehemiah 2:18, Nehemiah called on his fellow Jews to "rise up and build" the walls of the city. Likewise, the church today must do the same by rising up and building an awareness of Christ.

"The world is wallowing in abject hopelessness because of the deadly consequences of sin," Shyne said. "It behooves all Christians to rise up and build a keen awareness of Christ and His cross to those who are struggling and stumbling in the depths of sin. It's time for the church to rise up and build up souls upon the safety and sure foundation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Shyne said the church must develop the same kind of singleness of heart displayed by the workers who rebuilt the walls.

"There is always good progress and value in joint cooperation in any worthy cause, especially when the whole purpose is directed to the glory of God," he said.

See PRAYERS on 11



Doug Collier photo

John Fream, pastor of Cypress Baptist Church, Benton, emphasized the urgent need to seek God during a Call to Prayer Jan. 28. The night brought together the 117 churches of Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association.

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Horse carries young girl to the cross

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE – Alyssa Rayette Altenberger struggled with emotional setbacks for several years until, in 2014, she encountered a horse named Tony who served as a means for the youngster to develop a relationship with Christ.

Since meeting Tony at the Cross Branded Cowboy Church, Pineville, he has been present for a number of special moments for Altenberger that took place inside the church's arena -- including her baptism in a galvanized horse trough during a November 2017 worship service.

Altenberger is one of five new believers at the Cross Branded Cowboy Church baptized in 2017.

Another four are awaiting baptism.

"Some people might ask,

"How do you ask Jesus to be your Savior?" Altenberger told the *Baptist Message*. "Well you just have to ask him. You have to love Him enough to go to Heaven with gold streets, and you will never cry, go thirsty or hungry in Heaven."

"If you want to be forgiven, you have to ask Christ to forgive you of your sins," she added with conviction.

CROSS-FOCUSED

While Cross Branded opens its services to anyone, it especially appeals to those who are part of the cowboy culture.

An amateur horse trainer, Pastor Herb Dickerson said many times he will use stories about the relationship he has with his horse to share details about how to have a relationship with Christ.

"Before you train a

horse, you have to get his attention on you," Dickerson said. "Before God can deal with you, He has to get your attention. It's then that He speaks to us."

Started in 2008 as a mission of Pine Grove Baptist Church in Ruby, this cowboy-style congregation began with 20 people.

After Dickerson became pastor a year later, the church grew to 30 faithful attenders for Monday worship services.

The church added an arena in 2012 and soon after attendance began to increase not only for Monday nights but also for "Prayer and Practice" Thursdays, when horse enthusiasts pray together and then practice various horse riding skills.

The church also added a monthly rodeo in 2012, which takes place the third Friday of every month from March through October.

On Mondays, the church now averages 80 people, the maximum amount its worship center can hold. But anticipating more growth, the church will begin construction in the spring on a new 280-seat facility on its property.

Typically, its highest at-

ten," he continued. "This is the greatest day of opportunity that we have ever seen in our nation. People have had everything but they are still searching. They need the Gospel and we have the answer."



Submitted photo

Members of Cross Branded Cowboy Church, Pineville, celebrate the baptism of Hunter Ray in 2017. Ray was one of five new believers the church baptized last year. Another four are awaiting baptism.

Prayer from page 10

For too long, Shyne believes the church has ignored the evil that has taken place in the world.

He said now is the time for the church to awake and rebuild those things that have fallen by the wayside.

"This project embodies the cause of Christ, the cross of Christ and a commitment to Christ," he said. "In every good and noble endeavor, may we be found always to say 'Let us rise up and build.'"

CALLING FOR REVIVAL

Collin Wimberly, pastor of Trinity Heights Baptist Church, Shreveport, said the time has come for a great spiritual awakening in a country suffering from moral decay.

Wimberly said the United States is at the point of spiritual darkness, where many forms of heresy and dark spiritual forces are influencing young people.

Referencing Romans 13:11-12, Wimberly said it is past time for the church to awaken and push back the darkness.

"If there is anybody in here who needs revival it's me," Wimberly said. "It's not just the church but me. And I hope you feel the same way."

"It's time for us to awak-

tended gathering in any year is its rodeo.

Between 150 and 200 people attend the festivities that include rodeo events, a message delivered on horseback and sometimes a baptism.

Beyond the arena and church building, the congregation has an on-mission attitude to reach its community and world with the love of Christ.

Through its coupon min-

istry, items are purchased at area stores for delivery to needy individuals.

Other outreach efforts include holding benefit rodeos to raise money for individuals in need and packing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

"We want to be Christ-like," Dickerson said. "This is a church. It's not just horse games but coming together to make an impact to the kingdom."



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- ◆ South Africa Safari – July 23-Aug. 6
- ◆ Alaska Land – Aug. 15-24
- ◆ Ireland – Aug. 27-Sept. 5
- ◆ Ireland / Scotland – Aug. 27-Sept. 10
- ◆ Scotland – Sept. 4-10
- ◆ San Francisco – Sept. 6-11
- ◆ Brazil / Argentina / Chile – Oct. 22-Nov. 1

Jenkins from page 2

and the BSU a huge debt.”

Upon graduation Jenkins served 22 years on church staffs in Texas and Louisiana, including Lake Lilly Baptist Church, Jonesville, First Baptist Church, Broussard, First Baptist Church, Lafayette, First Baptist Church, Morgan City, and Cook Baptist Church, Ruston.

“Seeing God move in local churches helped shaped me for this job,” Jenkins said. “God has you where are to use you and prepare you for something else unknown down the road. These mentors I worked alongside helped pour into me lessons about reaching others and working in the local church, both small and large.”

Jenkins was serving as pastor of Cook Baptist when Short asked him in October 1990 to serve as director of evangelism for Louisiana Baptists.

“My heart was with pastoring the local church,” Jenkins said. “But Dr. Short asked me to consider it. I prayed about it and came to the conclusion that God was in it and wanted me to take on this calling.”

GREAT COMMISSION HEART

Jenkins has initiated a number of projects as evangelism director, but two

are especially dear to his heart – annual mission trips to Brazil and Harvest, the largest joint evangelistic effort in the state ever among Louisiana Baptists.

Since taking the first group to Brazil for mission trips, Jenkins and other team members have seen more than 100,000 people come to Christ and 65 church buildings erected.

“I have been fortunate to see God move and use our pastors and lay people,” said Jenkins, who has taken all his children and all but four of his grandchildren to Brazil (he is waiting for the others to reach 10 years old). “Brazil has been where I have poured in a lot of time and effort. I have even watched God raise up mission trip participants to go on the mission field full time.”

Jenkins said returning to the same country every year allows relationships to develop as well as a better understanding and knowledge of the people “we are trying to reach for Christ.” But, he said sharing the Gospel “must begin at home.”

In that regard, Jenkins is excited about how God may use the Harvest to reach his home state, especially now that almost 900 of 1,650 Louisiana Baptist churches have signed on.



Doug Collier photo

Incoming Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Director Keith Manuel hugs an emotional Wayne Jenkins following the announcement LC had established the “Dr. Wayne and Martha Jenkins Center for Evangelism and Missions” as Louisiana College President Rick Brewer offers encouragement to Martha Jenkins.

However, he cautioned, “It’s one thing to sign up. It’s another thing to implement.”

If churches will implement what they have committed to do, “We will see a great harvest that impacts the state,” he said.

“God is the one who determines when revival takes place,” he continued. “But we have to be ready for it, and be faithful.”

HEARTS FOR JENKINS

“I am so thankful for

Wayne Jenkins’ friendship and ministry across the years,” said Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director David Hankins. “He has been the premier director of evangelism for a long time. His own commitment personally to soul-winning and his ability to teach and inspire churches to be evangelistic has advanced the Lord’s work remarkably. I pray that Wayne and Martha will be blessed greatly as they enter a new era of service.”

Keith Manuel, who is

following Jenkins as the next evangelism director, echoed Hankins’ thought.

“Wayne’s ministry has taken the message of Jesus from the bayous to the piney woods of Louisiana, as well as to the remotest parts of the Amazon and the largest cities of Brazil,” Manuel said. “His heart beats for men and women to hear the Gospel, no matter the personal sacrifice he has to make to see the task to completion. Thousands have been equipped to share the Gospel and inspired to be on mission at home and abroad because of his faithful service to the Lord.”

Beau Colle, who served on staff with Jenkins at the Baptist missions building, said he appreciated how Jenkins promoted Sunday school and evangelism, hand-in-hand.

“Wayne is totally committed to sharing Christ, anywhere and everywhere,” Colle said. “He understood when Sunday school is growing, the church is growing. His role as evangelism director he continued that same philosophy there, supportive of the Sunday school or any organization that needs to be involved in sharing the Good News.”

RETIREMENT PLANS & PRAYER REQUESTS

“I have reached the point where I’m 70 and feel it is time to step aside,” Jenkins offered. “We have a great evangelism director following me in Keith Manuel and a wonderful team working with him.”

“Now is the time for someone else to carry on with helping our churches carry out the Great Commission,” he said.

Jenkins said he is seeking “God’s plan” for his next steps and asked Louisiana Baptists to pray for him in a variety of ways.

“Pray God would open doors,” Jenkins said. “Pray my health would be such that I could walk through doors with complete healing. Pray that I would have an effective ministry during these days and years to come.”

For additional stories on Jenkins, including thoughts and stories from friends and colleagues, please go to www.baptist-message.com.

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Small Church HAPPENINGS

Kay Wilbanks, 66, may consider herself just an ordinary grandmother, but ever since she prayed in 2013 that her son Brock would accept Christ, God has been doing extraordinary things in her life and in the lives of many youth at Flactor Baptist Church, Leesville.

Once a youth leader at Flactor Baptist, Wilbanks took a hiatus from her leadership position – after her children graduated from high school.

When God placed a burden on her heart for Brock, who eventually accepted Christ, Wilbanks felt led to reach many more of the area's young people.

Though Flactor Baptist did not have anyone active in the youth group, Wilbanks did not let that hinder her from taking 14 students to the 2013 Youth Evangelism Celebration in Alexandria.

EMPOWER THE YOUTH

When Charles Wesley became the supply preacher of Center Point Baptist Church, Jonesboro, the last Sunday of August 2016, the average attendance in Sunday school was in the upper 20's with mostly senior adults coming.

Later Wesley became the interim pastor and then the pastor in October 2017.

Understanding that young families were important to the future of the church, Wesley challenged the congregation to prioritize times of prayer to reach young families with children and teenagers.

At the same time, the church's leaders took part in a series of development opportunities such as the study "Experiencing God" and they focused on a model of servant leadership.

Out of that, the members became passionate about missions, increasing their giving to the Lottie Moon

BE THE CHURCH

Since becoming pastor of Old Zion Hill Baptist Church, Independence, in April 2014, Gary Dennis stands amazed at the countless miracles God has performed within his congregation.

He has witnessed Sunday

Seven of the students accepted Christ.

Over the next few months, the youth group was re-established, with 15 in attendance on a Wednesday evening.

Wilbanks said she was tempted at one time to quit because she believed she was too old to relate to the students. But God used the situation as a reminder that He has Wilbanks there for a reason.

"I'm not a minister, just an ordinary person who loves the Lord," Wilbanks said.

"The Lord has given me an exceptional love for teenagers. I see how much they go through in life these days and how much they need God's help. My message to everyone is the Lord can use ordinary people like me and He can use ordinary people like you. All we have to be is available."

Christmas Offering, Samaritan's Purse and the Cooperative Program.

Additionally, the church provided gifts for two children at the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and 86 bags of personal care items for those served by His Hands Ministry in Jonesboro.

God has answered the prayers by sending several young families and increasing attendance at Sunday morning worship and Sunday school. Attendance is more than 40 for Sunday school and more than 50 for worship, including one-third who are children and teenagers.

"The exciting thing is to see how God is working in the lives of leaders within the church to bring about an attitude and atmosphere of growth in the congregation," Wesley said. "It's good to see how God has worked through the leaders to get out of the rut."

school attendance increase from 90 to 200 and worship attendance grow from 100 to 375, and he was a first-hand recipient of God's restorative care after the historic flood of August 2016 damaged most

See HAPPENINGS on 15

Lawsuit from page one

ministerial exception does not apply to mandate dismissal of any of McRaney's claims."

On the matter of the "ecclesiastical abstention doctrine" (which prevents a court from interfering in decidedly church issues such as theology), Davidson affirmed the U.S. Supreme Court position that churches have the "power to decide for themselves, free from state interference, matters of church government as well as those of faith and doctrine." However, regarding NAMB's claim that "adjudicating McRaney's defamation claim would require the Court to decide matters of internal church governance," he said he "disagrees."

"[O]n the face of the complaint, the Court can adjudicate this claim without delving into impermissible religious inquiries ... and NAMB's motion to dismiss this claim on this basis is denied," he ordered.

Furthermore, he ruled that McRaney's two claims of "intentional interference" (Maryland and Mississippi) met the "initial pleading burden" and declined to dismiss those

claims "at this juncture."

As for McRaney's charge of "intentional infliction of emotional distress," Davidson wrote "The Court finds that McRaney met his pleading at this stage."

Davidson did rule in NAMB's favor regarding McRaney's claim of "intentional interference in business relations" regarding an incident in Florida, in which McRaney alleges Ezell, or his representatives, attempted, unsuccessfully, to have him canceled from the Florida State Convention Pastor's Conference.

The pastor's conference president rebuffed the attempt, according to McRaney. Thus,

Davidson said this claim by McRaney could not proceed.

"Because an essential element is that the plaintiff suffer some damage or loss, the Court holds that McRaney's claim that NAMB intentionally interfered with his scheduled appearance at the Florida Pastor's Conference fails," he wrote.

Moving forward, the Court now will establish a scheduling order which will set up a strict time frame for pretrial activities such as interrogatories, subpoenas, requests to produce documents and the taking of depositions by both sides. This schedule had not been set as of the publishing of this article.



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PASTOR NEEDED
East Winnfield Baptist Church in Joyce, LA (Winn Parish) is seeking a full-time pastor
Please email your résumés to ewbcb@suddenlinkmail.com or mail your résumés to Search Committee, P O Box 11, Joyce, LA 71440.

ORGANIST NEEDED
For a Schantz pipe organ with 43 ranks
First Baptist Church, Pineville
Please send résumés to Pastor Stewart Holloway at sholloway@fbcpineville.net

FULL-TIME PASTOR
First Baptist Church Delhi, Louisiana is in search for a full-time pastor.
Email résumés to: delhifirstbaptist@yahoo.com

PASTOR NEEDED
Liberty Baptist Church, Union Parish, Linville, LA is seeking a full-time or bi-vocational pastor.
Email résumés to: lbclinville@gmail.com or mail your résumés to: Search Committee Chairman, 109 Reynolds Rd. • Marion, LA 71260

Philadelphia Baptist Church Deville is now accepting résumés for
EDUCATION & OUTREACH MINISTRY ASSISTANT
Must possess good people skills and communication through phone and electronic means; Knowledge of Microsoft Office – specifically: Excel, Outlook, Publisher, and some PowerPoint is required. Position involves detail oriented tasks with database and participation/attendance tracking by someone with a heart for the vision of reaching people. The right candidate needs to be self-motivated & have familiarity with ACS (Automated Church Services) or data-base management software which would be helpful.
Please send resume to: andrew@pbcministry.com.

FULL TIME PASTOR
Ebenezer Baptist Church in Jackson Parish is seeking a full time pastor. Any person interested should submit a résumé to
Pastor Search Committee,
Ebenezer Baptist Church,
211 Ebenezer Church Road,
Jonesboro, LA 71251

NEW CHAPEL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
West Monroe, LA seeks a full time
CHILDREN'S MINISTER
Email résumés to melinda@nchbc.net or mail to 61 New Chapel Hill Rd. West Monroe, LA 71291

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.

MUSIC MINISTER BEING SOUGHT
Martin Baptist Church is seeking a Music Minister.
Please send résumés to mbcmusiccommittee@gmail.com or Martin Baptist Church, Attn: Music Search Committee, 3191 Hwy 507, Coushatta, LA, 71019.

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Concord Baptist Church, a vibrant and growing church in Anderson, SC is seeking an Associate Pastor for Worship and Music. This person must have the calling, gifting, training and heart to lead a large and diverse ministry of worship. We are excited about our future! For a job description and/or to submit a résumé/profile please contact jjames@concordbaptist.com.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR/ ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Balboa Baptist Church, Hot Springs Village, AR, is receiving résumés for Church Administrator/Associate Pastor. Candidate must have a College degree; a Southern Baptist related Seminary degree; excellent computer skills such as maintaining a website, Facebook, email, powerpoint, etc.
Go to www.BalboaBaptist.church/Who-We-Are/employment

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Mailing address: Houston River Baptist Church
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Happenings

from page 13

of his members' homes.

Dennis credited prayer for each of these blessings.

He added that the congregation's desire to follow God has helped the church thrive and to minister freely in the midst of difficulty.

Even in the throes of the flood, the church did not give up.

Instead, members opened the fellowship hall and Sunday school classrooms to welcome hundreds of volunteers who had come from across the country to help with disaster response and rebuilding efforts.

He was moved when so many of his members stepped up to volunteer even though they had lost so much.

"Eventually we recovered enough to begin focusing on our new building project," Dennis said. "In the meantime, we had a better understanding of how much more dirt we would have to haul in for the foundation.

"Our people continued to give faithfully and we not only met our budget but they gave approximately \$200,000 to the building fund," he continued. "Even though their homes were destroyed, they faithfully gave to the Lord and His church."

ON THE MOVE

■ **Adam Hughes** is the interim pastor at Red Bluff Baptist Church, Folsom.

■ **Gerald Burton** is the new pastor at Antioch Baptist Church, Tickfaw.

■ **Matt Pinckard** is the new Next Gen pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Albany.

■ **Russell Osborne** is the new pastor at Lighthouse Baptist Church, Independence.

■ **Courtney Rainey** is the new pastor at Greenacres Baptist Church, Bastrop.

■ **David (wife Celina) Rice** is the new pastor at Brookwood Baptist Church in Shreveport.

■ **Larry Alton** is the new music minister from interim at First Baptist Church, Keithville.

REVIVAL

■ Fullerton Baptist Church, Pitkin: **Revival**, February 21-25. Evangelist: Lyndon Longoria Pastor: Steve Squires.

LAGNIAPPE

■ Calvary Baptist Church, Forest Hill is seeking **committed musicians to form a praise team**. Positions needed are: lead guitar, rhythm guitar, bass player, drummer, and keyboard/piano player. Singers are also encouraged to reply. Anyone interested (serious inquires only) in filling any of these positions can contact Aaron Dunn at 337.655.0237 or Wayne Dunn at 318.733.0248.

■ Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: **The Erwins in concert**, February 8, 7 p.m. A love offering will be received. Pastor: David Newton.

■ First Baptist Church, Slidell: **Mardi Gras Parade Outreach**, February 9,

4 p.m. during the Selene Parade. The event will take place on the front lawn with food, cups, candy, and hot chocolate. Pastor: Casey Stark.

■ Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: **Second Annual Fishing Tournament**, February 10, at Midway Marina on Red River in St. Maurice. All proceeds from the tournament benefit the mission trip to Malawi, Africa in June 2018. For more information call the church office, 318.627.3131. Pastor: Carl Gulde.

■ First Baptist Church, Bastrop: **DPAT Active Shooters Police Officer Standard Training (POST) class** for Churches, February 10, 8 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Requirements to participate: must already have concealed carry license in hand; must have a minimum of 360 rounds of ammunition; must bring no less than a 9mm weapon to course; must be physically able to kneel, stand, and/or be in prone shooting positions and must have Pastor's consent in writing. Cost: \$125 (facility, training site, and lunch provided). Register by calling the church office at 318.281.6885. Pastor: Richard Gambill.

■ Woodland Park Baptist Church, Hammond: **Allen Family Ministries in concert**, February 11, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Scott Thompson.

■ Camp Living Waters, Loranger: **Youth Winter Retreat**, February 11-12, starting at 4 p.m. on February 11 and ending at 4 p.m. on February 12. Speaker: **David Odom, NOBTS**. Music: **First Ponchatoula Praise Band**. Take some time off with your youth this winter for a quick getaway. Cost: \$75 (includes 1 night lodging, 3 meals) (\$10/person deposit). Registration closes February 4. To register go to clw@camplivingwaters.net or call 985.345.1831 for more information.

■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **Marriage Retreat 2018**, February 16-17 at Cypress Bend Resort, Many. Cost: \$255 per couple (Registration is transferable but non-refundable). Price includes conference, room and food. Register and pay online/www.pbcministry.com. Retreat includes conference, room and food. For more information, contact Pam Keith at pam@pbcministry.com or call 318.715.0936. Pastor: Philip Robertson.

■ First Baptist Church, Hornbeck: **Wild Game Feast**, February 16, 6 p.m. Guest Speaker: **Chad Sanders, hunting videographer**. Pastor: Jack Bell.

■ First Baptist Church, Covington: **Work as Worship Conference simulcast**, February 23, 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Join thousands of business leaders across the country for a full one-day retreat to hear from experts, be encouraged, and discuss how to connect your faith and work. Visit fbccov.org for more information. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.

■ Northshore Baptist Church, Slidell: **Work-as-Worship Conference simulcast**, February 23, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join thousands of business leaders across the country for a full one-day retreat to hear from experts, be encouraged, and discuss how to connect their faith and work. For more information or to register, go to www.northshorechurch.org. Pastor: Larry McEwen.

■ Immanuel Baptist Church, Hammond: **Work-as-Worship Conference simulcast**, February 23, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join thousands of business leaders across the country for a full one-day retreat to hear from experts, be encouraged, and discuss how to connect their faith and work. Cost is \$25.00. For more information or to register, go to www.workasworshipretreat.org. Pas-

tor: Mark Goree.

IN REMEMBRANCE

■ **SLIDELL -- Charles Edward Starnes**, 83, passed away in Slidell December 29 after a lengthy illness. Born on Dec. 7, 1934 in Pell City, Alabama, he was the son of the late Charlie and Inez Starnes. Starnes, who obtained his Masters of Divinity from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, pastored churches for more than 50 years. He served as pastor at Empire Baptist Church, Empire, La.; Wayside Baptist Church, Anniston, AL; Memorial Baptist Church, Bogalusa, and Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell. He also served as chaplain at Allied Systems in New Orleans and volunteered as chaplain at Slidell Memorial Hospital where he logged over 4,500 volunteer hours. Starnes was a strong supporter of missions and went on mission trips to Korea, Zimbabwe, Guatemala and helped form several missions in the Slidell area. Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Sandra Carriere Starnes; son and daughter-in-law, Glenn and Caroline Starnes; daughter and son-in-law, Cara and Tim Huber; grandchildren, Chris Starnes, Kyle Starnes, Bethany Brewer and husband Taylor, Brent Starnes, Garrett Huber, Gavin Huber; great grandchild, Ellie Starnes; brother and sister-in-law Paul and Elizabeth Starnes; brother-in-law, James Copeland and many beloved nephews, nieces and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, Ruth Copeland, Juanita Copeland and husband Jim; brother, Roy Starnes and a sister-in-law, Linda Starnes. A memorial service honoring Starnes will be held Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. at the Calvary Baptist Church house, 1615 Old Spanish Trail, Slidell.

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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.

owm twszqf hphmkzah jmwozehb qzeeqh: tye

xwsqzghaa za jmwozedtqh ygew dqq ebgza, bdizgx

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

za ew kwvh.

ozmae ezvwebf owym:hzxbe

Clues:
A = S; W = 0

Answer to January 25 Scripture Crypto:
Hebrews eleven: eleven



John (97) & Hernie (93) LeJeune
Married: 78 years
Wedding Date: May 10, 1939
First Baptist Church – Basile



Scott (97) & Doris (94) Tatum
Married 75 years
Wedding Date: June 17, 1942
Broadmoor Baptist Church – Shreveport

Proverbs 3:3
Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.

A LIFETIME OF LOVE

Russell (92) & Marie Adams (90) • Wedding date: May 7, 1943
Married 73 years • Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Farmerville



Fred (89) & Aline (88) Robertson
Wedding Date:
September 12, 1947
Married 70 years
Start Baptist Church,
Start



Robert (91) & Betty (90) Rivet
Wedding Date: February 21, 1947
Married 70 years
Broadmoor Baptist Church – Shreveport



Howard (97) & Julia (89) Gates
Wedding Date:
December 21, 1947
Married 70 years
Calvary Baptist Church,
Alexandria



John Wiltcher (92) & Bessie (87) Wiltcher
Wedding Date: July 26, 1947
Married 70 years
Mt Vernon Baptist Church – West Monroe



Soc (92) & Jane (87) Lorant
Wedding Date: February 1, 1948
Married 70 years
St George Greek Orthodox Church

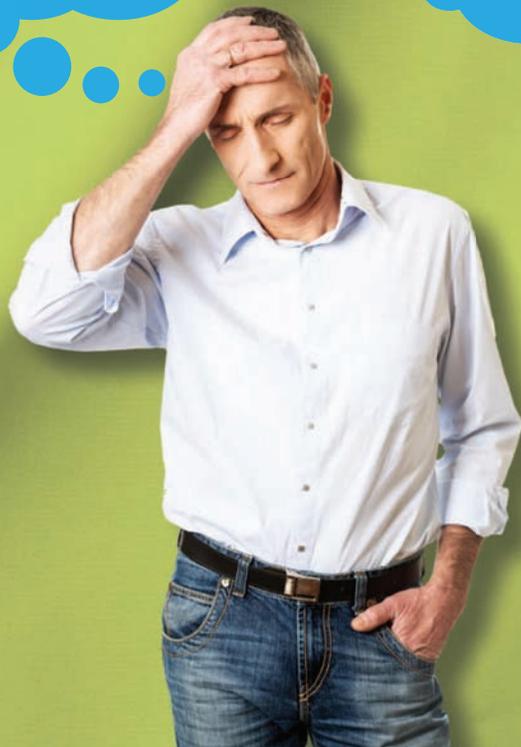
THE NORM

I wonder how much money I'll have when I turn 67 ½?

What if I don't have enough money to retire in Florida?

Will the stock market crash this year?

How soon can I get to a million?



NOT THE NORM

How can I bless the work of our church and missionaries all over the world with the resources I have?

I can't wait to see what God does in our family as we continue to increase our generosity.

How can I give God the most glory with my income?

When I think about eternity, how can I make my mark?



WWW.NOTTHENORM.LA