

*“As the father
hath loved me,
so have I loved
you: continue ye
in my love.”*

— John 15:9 (KJV)

BAPTIST Message

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Louisiana Baptist youth leader, NOBTS student, dies on mission field

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

NAKARU, Kenya – Even as family and friends mourn the loss of a loved one, they are celebrating the Christ-honoring legacy left behind by Emily Martin, an interim youth leader at Hebron Baptist Church in Bush, who died Jan. 1 while serving on her

third mission trip to Kenya.

Martin, 21, passed away following complications from a blood clot that developed inside her lungs shortly after arriving in the country.

Martin organized the trip, traveling with her brother, Joshua, cousin, Ashtin Mullett, and friend, Vally O'Connor. While in the country, she worked alongside missionaries

Len and Susan Eastwood, who represent Neighbors Outreach Worldwide ministry in Nakaru, Kenya.

Her father, Scot, told the *Baptist Message* his daughter spent her final days in a place she loved.

Even before her first visit to Kenya,



See MARTIN on 4 Emily Martin



Submitted photo

Istrouma Pastor Jeff Ginn (left) helps Dalton Mayberry to his feet during a special outdoor baptism service Oct. 22 at the church. Mayberry was one of 20 new believers baptized as part of the church's 'One Another Sunday.'

New believers brave temps to show 'hearts on fire' for Christ

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE – Despite cool fall temperatures, 20 new believers braved the brisk conditions to be part of a special outdoor baptism service Oct. 22 at Istrouma Baptist Church.

One by one, each stepped into a brimming horse trough, restated his and her individual faith in Christ, was plunged beneath the water and raised to symbolize being born again in Christ – and was greeted with hugs and cheers from friends and family among the several hundred supporters in attendance.

Scheduled as part of its “One Another Sunday,” the baptisms brought together Istrouma Baptist’s Baton Rouge, Prairieville and Hispanic campuses.

See ISTROUMA on 3

Searcy prays big, God blesses big

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

TROUT (LBM) – Searcy Baptist Church had planned in 2013 to build a new worship center on a four acre plot adjoining its campus. But God had even bigger plans for the congregation, leading a local businessman in 2016 to donate 30 acres of land less than a mile away.

Dedicated Nov. 19, 2017, the new facility (nearly 15,000 square feet under roof)

See SEARCY on 2



Brian Blackwell photo

Searcy Baptist Church Pastor Terry Reid says the church's new facility, which was dedicated Nov. 19, has 15,000 square feet under roof and includes a worship center with a seating capacity of 300, education space, an office suite and a fellowship area.