



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

March 14, 2019

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Family's badges, faith are legacies at New Light

William Waller, pastor of New Light Baptist Church in Mangham, (left) stands with three generations of law enforcement officers who are members at the church, Jerry Sr., Jerry III and Jerry Spencer Jr. The men were honored during a special worship service Dec. 16 at New Light Baptist.



By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

MANGHAM – New Light Baptist Church recently paid tribute to three generations of law enforcement officers in its congregation.

The three men – Jerry Sr., Jerry Jr. and Jerry Spencer III – were recognized during the Dec. 16 service at New Light Baptist, which averages about 35 worshipers on Sunday mornings.

“It was unusual we had three generations of families that have been

in law enforcement,” Pastor William Waller told the Baptist Message. “We thought it needed to be a special time in our service to ask for blessings in light of what has happened in recent months with law enforcement officers throughout the country.

“We recognized them not only as servants to the community but servants to this church for so long,” he added. “It is real heart-warming to know what these gentlemen have done.”

See **BADGE**, page 2

Worldly grief turns to godly sorrow for Spearsville woman

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

SPEARSVILLE – Cheryl Upshaw was held captive by grief following a motor vehicle accident that left her partially paralyzed in 2004. But Upshaw experienced release from the spiritually oppressive emotions related to the tragedy after someone cared enough to question her about her eternal destiny.

Upshaw's “2 Corinthians 7:9-10 moment” took place during an in-home visit.

“When I asked her about her salvation experience she began to cry because, while she had spent many years in churches, no one had ever asked her if she had one,” explained Marcell McGee, pastor of Union Baptist Church in Spearsville. “After I led her to the Lord, I wanted to make it special for her and used water from the Jordan River I had

See **SPEARSVILLE**, page 11



Brian Blackwell photo

Gevan Spinney, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Houghton, and Eddie Rhymes, director of missions for Deer Creek Baptist Association, participate in a time of worship at the First Baptist Church in Winnsboro. Spinney was a guest evangelist during the Deer Creek Baptist Association simultaneous revival Feb 17-22. The multi-pronged effort featured messages and music at a different church each evening simultaneously in the north and south regions of the parish.

Cluster revivals challenge churches to reach area

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

WINNSBORO – Churches in Deer Creek Baptist Association held prayer meetings and individual times of prayer leading up to their first-ever simultaneous

cluster revivals, which took place February 17-22.

The multi-pronged effort featured inspiring messages at a different church each evening by Gevan Spinney, pastor

See **REVIVALS**, page 3

Badges from page one

A FAMILY LEGACY

Collectively, the Spencers have served nearly 63 years in law enforcement.

The eldest Spencer developed a passion for becoming a peace officer when Lorell Graham, his cousin and Mangham police chief at the time, allowed the then-teenager to accompany him in a cruiser during patrols in the town.

When he turned 25

years old, in 1975, Spencer achieved his dream, earning a position on the Mangham police force. He worked there until he joined the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office in 1987, and retired 25 years later.

Jerry Jr. joined his father at the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office in 1995, and remained there until his dad retired in 2012. After a two-year stint as sergeant with the University of Louisiana at Monroe

campus police, he became an investigator with the Louisiana State Police.

The youngest Spencer, Jerry III, joined the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office after graduating in early December from North Delta Regional Academy in West Monroe.

TO PROTECT

Jerry Sr. said he is thankful for the opportunity to invest in the next generation of law enforcement, but especially in the Kingdom of God.

"In law enforcement,

many times we have children and grandchildren who will follow us," he said.

But he said instilling a desire to follow Christ in his progeny was even more important.

"Leaving a legacy is very important to me and my wife and we are proud of them," he said. "It's been a blessing to see my son and grandson baptized and serving so faithfully. I thank God that He has allowed me to experience being a part of His blessings."

TO SERVE

When they are not in the field, the Spencers are active members of New Light Baptist: Jerry Sr. assists with fellowship gatherings, Jerry Jr. serves as a deacon and Jerry III volunteers with the youth

ministry.

"I believe they have used their faith in the Lord on the field," Waller said. "Jesus said He didn't come here to be served but that He came here to serve -- which the Spencers have done in their profession."

"My faith is what steers me through a lot of stuff I have dealt with," Jerry Jr. said. "We don't deal with people at their best many times, but rather with people at the worst time in their lives. My faith really helps carry me through the tragedies and what they have to go through. Having a faith background is what has carried me through."

"We are all put here to serve the Lord," he continued. "Service to others is how we do that. Serving others is what the Lord intended us to do. It's a satisfaction when you are able to serve someone and help people. A lot of times in law enforcement we are looked at as bad guys, and that is the only time the public deals with us, when they go through hard times or get traffic tickets. It gives me satisfaction knowing you can help someone to break the stigma."



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Revivals from page one

of the First Baptist Church, Haughton, in the southern half of churches and Rubin Weaver, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Farmerville, in the northern half of churches.

By the end of the revivals, several repented to turn to Christ and many more repented to restore fellowship with Him.

"We focused not only on evangelistic services but preaching to and challenging the church for the church to be all it could be and go outside the church doors into the community," said Eddie Rhymes, director of missions for Deer Creek Association. "Our churches were challenged to move beyond our buildings and out into our communities."

In the past, churches in Deer Creek Association held cluster revivals at different locations, but never two revival services taking place at different churches on the same evening. This year, associational leadership opted to change up its outreach with the simultaneous services.

"We've had many of our churches mention they really hope we can do this again because of the unity we experienced as many congregations coming together as one for six nights," Rhymes said. "There is something about pulling people together from all the

churches. It strengthens the spirit and enhances it, which will set us up wonderfully for another harvest of souls."

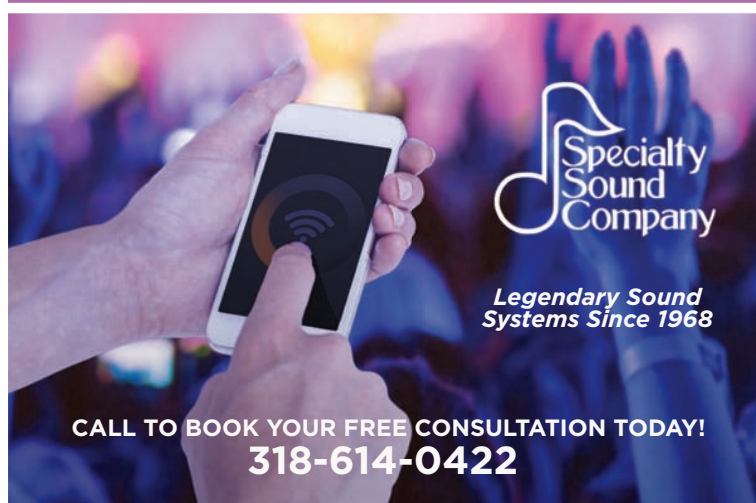
Leading up to the simultaneous revivals, 10 pastors gathered in the associational office for a prayer meeting, and members of churches were reminded to pray individually. Others gathered to pray at the altar prior to the start of the revival services each night.

"The prayers strengthened the spirit of our revivals and the speakers who delivered their Gospel messages," Rhymes said. "And it also strengthened those who did the praying. When we come together to pray, it affects us as well as those we pray for. We saw entire families come down and kneel at the altar each night as they asked God to send revival to themselves."

Association moderator Craig Beeman, also pastor of the First Baptist Church, Winnsboro, was moved with a challenge from Spinney to share Christ with their community.

"I feel God spoke through Brother Gevan to move us to consider where we are in service to Him," Beeman said. "As churches, we are not where we should be in reaching out to those who are lost. I feel Brother Gevan helped us to focus on being who we say we are."

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Dr. Emma J. Bush is a business consultant for strategic planning, organizational development, and performance optimization. She is the former Grants Officer for the Red Cross and was the National Director for Chuck Colson's Prison fellowship Ministries. In 2010, Emma received the *Best Practice Recognition* from the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.



Mr. Blake Chatelain, President/CEO and a founder of Red River Bank, earned a B.S. in Finance from LSU. He served on the LSU Board of Supervisors, is Chairman of CLEDA, and serves on The Rapides Foundation, Alexandria Rotary, United Way, Caring Peoples Pharmacy, and The Red Cross. Hailing from Bunkie, La., Blake is a deacon at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, La.

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SBTS, elders rule among Greear's nominees

By Will Hall
Message Editor

RALEIGH, N.C. (LBM)—J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has named the 68 members of the Committee on Committees.

Greear praised the diverse makeup of the committee, highlighting groups he said were underrepresented in the past that are well-represented by his nominees, noting

the large number of women and racial minorities in the group along with other profile characteristics.

But Greear did not share any information about the possible theological leanings of his nominees -- an issue of ongoing discussion in many Southern Baptist circles, and a significant one during his campaign for SBC president.

However, the Baptist Message looked at public sources of information, including church web pages and online documents,

Facebook, LinkedIn, self-posted biographies and personal websites and found two distinct characteristics among Greear's nominees: a large number of ties to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and, a higher percentage of elder-rule/elder-led church structures or other Reformed theology associations than estimated for the rest of the SBC.

BY THE NUMBERS

With regard to female representation, the latest U.S. Census data shows a population split of 49.2 percent males and 50.8 percent females. But across the Convention this ratio likely skews higher to females, 60 percent as opposed to 40 percent males, based on multiple church studies.

Meanwhile, the Committee on Committees has 45 men (66 percent) and 23 women (34 percent), according to the information Greear released to Baptist Press.

SBC congregations are about 80 percent white



Baptist Press photo

J.D. Greear (left), Russell Moore and Amy Whitfield answer reporters' questions in an informal gathering after Greear's address to the SBC Executive Committee Monday, Feb. 18.

and 20 percent ethnic (with respect to how they describe themselves pertaining to race and ethnicity). However, in the United States the racial composition is 61 percent White (non-Hispanic), 18 percent Hispanic, 13 percent Black, 6 percent Asian and 2 percent other ethnic identities.

Greear reported his nominees included: 34 Whites (50 percent), 10 Hispanics (15 percent), 16 African Americans (24 percent), 5 Asians (7 percent) and 3 people identified as "other/multi-ethnic" (4

percent).

As for the sizes of the 68 congregations represented on the Committee on Committees, Greear indicated 24 percent averaged fewer than 100 in attendance, another 27 percent hosted 100-250 for corporate service, and 49 percent (nearly half) had 251 or more worshippers each week.

The average attendance for the group was 597, per Greear.

But among all SBC congregations, only an

See GREEAR, page 5

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GREEAR from page 4

estimated five percent have 500 or more in Sunday worship services, data from the Annual Church Profile shows.

Moreover, more than 80 percent of SBC churches average fewer than 150 weekly worshipers, as reported by the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Greear said that among committee members' churches the average number of yearly baptisms was 26 (about 4.4 percent of the 597 average worship attendance for the group).

In contrast, all SBC churches combined baptized about 4.8 percent of the average worship attendance for the Convention (5.5 percent based on revised LifeWay estimates that account for non-reporting congregations).

As for giving through the Cooperative Program, the nominees' churches averaged contributions of

7.66 percent of undesignated receipts, according to Greear. The CP giving average for all SBC congregations was about 4.86 percent, as stated in the 2018 SBC Annual.

TIES THAT BIND

Out of the 68 committee members, seminary affiliations were found for 50 – with 39 nominees connected with SBC seminaries. In the case of an individual or the person's pastor having earned multiple degrees from the same institution or holding degrees from multiple seminaries, only the highest degree earned or underway was counted for the purposes of the computations that follow.

Of the 39 committee members associated with one of the six SBC seminaries, 15 had ties to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary – almost

double the next highest number, eight, connected with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Seven identified with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, four with Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, three with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and two with Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (now known as Gateway Seminary).

Moreover, 21 committee members or their pastors or congregations were tied to Calvinism through church governance (elder-led or elder-ruled in practice or in the statement of beliefs) or by aligning with one or more groups that identify themselves as exclusively Reformed, such as The Gospel Coalition and Acts 29, or are Calvinist leaning like the Pillar Network.

The 31 percent of the committee with Calvinistic ties compares to 10 percent of pastors in the rest of the SBC as determined by LifeWay Research, and is

slightly higher than the 30 percent of recent graduates who are Calvinists, also estimated by LifeWay.

Having such high numbers of nominees affiliated with SBTS follows a national trend with SBC entity leadership. Nine of the 13 SBC institutions are led by SBTS graduates, former faculty members or past administrators (Refer to the entity list at the end of this article).

As for the high numbers of elder-ruled or elder-led congregations, Greear's congregation is led by "directional elders." Greear also has organizational or personal ties with each of The Gospel Coalition, the

Pillar Network and Acts 29.

GREEAR'S HIGH VIEW OF SBC INSTITUTIONS

In the run up to the 2018 SBC presidential vote, Greear explained his reasons for belonging to the SBC in terms of the SBC's institutions.

Responding to the question, "Why are you in the SBC?" during an interview with The Gospel Coalition, Greear said, "Networks, denominations, which are just really glorified networks, are tools. They are tools for the Kingdom,

See **GREEAR**, page 7

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Dean quits after university bans Chick-fil-A

By Will Hall
Message Editor

NEW JERSEY—Cynthia Newman, dean of the College of Business at Rider University, resigned

her position to protest the school's seeming denouncement of Christian values in banning Chick-fil-A from the campus.

In a 2017 survey students voted to allow one

CULTURAL NEWS

of the popular fast-food restaurants to open on campus. But administrators nixed the idea, saying Chick-fil-A opposed "the LGBTQ+ community," FoxNews.com reported.

The founder of the restaurant chain and his family are Christians and it is as well known for closing on Sundays as it is for its chicken sandwiches. The corporate website states the business exists "To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that

is entrusted to us and to have a positive influence on all who come into contact with."

Newman told Campus Reform she is a "very committed Christian" and that her views mirror Chick-fil-A's. Consequently, when Rider denounced Chick-fil-A, she said she "felt like I had been punched in the stomach."

"I really felt it very personally," she said.

The university released talking points to staff to control what they said to anyone who criticized the decision to ban Chick-fil-A, and Newman said that was unacceptable.

"I am not willing to compromise my faith and Christian values and I will not be viewed as being in any way complicit when an affront is made to those values," she said.

Meanwhile the university contends that "choosing an on-campus restaurant franchise was in no way a judgment on religious values." Instead, according to CNN, Kristine Brown, a Rider spokeswoman, said that Chick-fil-A was banned in order "to foster a sense of respect and belonging of all members of

the campus community."

'There are no atheists in foxholes' may be more true than not

MASSACHUSETTS—Harvard researchers studied the relationship between religion and war around the world within the specific context of how religion creates social groups and discovered that the trauma of war caused many individuals to become more religious.

The research involved interviews of 1,700 persons from war-torn areas in three countries and the results showed that among those most exposed to combat there were significant rises in religious affiliation, as many as 41 percentage points in one nation.

The researchers also found that these individuals were likelier to worship regularly and to say that religion plays an important role in their lives.

Moreover, the social scientists said the effects are enduring, showing no

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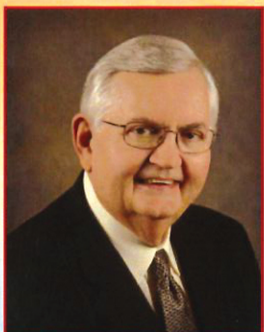
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They are not eternal realities. The church is eternal.

"If it's dull, you sharpen it. If it gets to the point that it's no longer helpful to sharpen it, you throw it away and get a new tool," he said. "But, getting a new tool can be really, really, expensive."

Quoting Tim Keller, retired pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, Greear went on to explain the symbiosis between movements and institutions and how "they both need each other," noting in particular that "movements without institutions lack staying power."

Describing Acts 29 as a movement, Greear said "Mark Driscoll was just, everybody knew him, and he had a bazillion Twitter followers."

But Greear pointed out that "when you actually had done the number of church planters" Acts 29

was turning out and "compare that like to the SBC, which has the institutions" that just the sheer number of SBC seminary graduates each year was evidence of "the staying power of an institution."

"I have been very attracted to remain within the SBC because in large part the staying part of the institution when it comes to international missions, their theological training," Greear continued to explain. "I'm pretty excited about the leadership of most of them right now: Kevin Ezell at the North American Mission Board is fantastic. He's very humble and approachable. Of course David Platt at the IMB. Russell Moore is a great representative at the ERLC. Our seminaries, several of them are led by people who are willing to do things differently in how they do it."

"We've just felt like it's worth being a part of the

conversation with them to keep it going in the right direction," Greear said.

The Committee on Committees is instrumental to the oversight of Southern Baptists' cooperative missions and ministries in that it determines the makeup of the Committee on Nominations which selects the trustees for the six seminaries, two mission boards, publishing arm, retirement and health insurance board, and, public policy commission, as well as the standing committee that acts on behalf of the Convention when messengers are not convened to conduct business. The SBC's women's ministry is an auxiliary organization that voluntarily relates to the Convention and selects its own leaders.

SBC entities (* entity head has SBTS ties)

Gateway Baptist Theological Seminary
*Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
*Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
*Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
*Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
*International Mission Board
*North American Mission Board

*LifeWay Christian Resources
GuideStone Financial Resources
*Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission
Executive Committee
*Woman's Missionary Union

Committee on Committees (listed by state)

AL: Terrence Jones (The Master's Seminary), Strong Tower (elders), Montgomery; Whitney Alexander (husband & Pastor Mat, SBTS), First, Gadsden.

AK: Dinna Natcher, Filipino Bible, Anchorage; Brian Hicks (Pillar Network), True North, Girdwood.

AZ: Delia Comon (Pastor Noe Garcia, SBTS), North Phoenix (elders), Phoenix; Shannon Jennings (husband & Pastor Josh, SBTS), Aletheia, Sedona.

AR: Matt Hubbard (SWBTS), Immanuel, Little Rock; Courtney Reissig (SBTS, TGC), Midtown (elders, deaconesses), Little Rock.

CA: P.J. Tibayan (SBTS, TGC), Bethany, Bellflower; Shirley Pugh, Reach for the Son, Poway.

CO: Kathy Routt (husband & Pastor Mike, SBTS), Redemption Hill, Colorado Springs; Kenna Moreland (husband & Pastor John, GBTS), Denver Christian Bible (elders), Denver.

FL: Jose Abella (Pillar Network), Providence Road (elders), Miami; Ashlyn Portero (MBTS; info only: Pastor Dean Inserra, SBTS), vice chair, City Church, Tallahassee.

GA: Sky Pratt (SWBTS), chair, Prince Avenue, Bogart; Milton Campbell (Luther Rice), Midtown Bridge (elders), Atlanta.

HI: Arjay Gruspe (SBTS), Pawa'a Community, Honolulu; Sterling Lee (SBTS), First, Pearl City.

IL: Michael Allen (Trinity Intl. Univ.), Uptown, Chicago; David Sutton, Bread of Life Missionary, Chicago.

IN: Reginald Fletcher (MBTS), Living Word, Indianapolis; Alan Scott (SBTS), Oakhill, Evansville.

KS/NE: Jonathan Castillo, First Southern, Topeka, Kan.; Diane Ravenstein, CrossPoint, Hutchinson, Kan.

KY: Beth Holmes (husband Chris, SBTS), Yellow Creek, Owensboro; Todd Linn (SBTS), First, Henderson.

LA: Ryan Rice (NOBTS), Connect Church of Algiers, New Orleans; Michael Wood (SWBTS), First, West Monroe.

MD/DE/DC: Dan Hyun (Missio Seminary), The Village (elders), Baltimore, Md.; Ken Fentress (SBTS), Montrose, Rockville, Md.

MI: Josh Tovey, Redemption (elders), Grandville; Eric Stewart (SBTS), ONElife, Flint.

MS: Dawson Zhang (Moody Bible Institute), Hattiesburg Chinese Christian, Hattiesburg; Reid Guy (NOBTS), Carterville, Petal.

MO: Sam Bierig (MBTS), Liberty

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Louisiana Baptist women get R.E.A.L.

By Holly Jo Linzay
Regional Reporter

PINEVILLE – About 300 women gathered for a two-day conference simply to soak in the presence of the Lord and to dwell in the Word as a respite from the world's interruptions, organizers told the Baptist Message.

The R.E.A.L. women's conference, which stands

for Relationships, Embrace, Authenticity and Love, took place Feb. 22-23 at First Baptist Church in Pineville. The theme of the event was "Still My Soul" based on the scripture Psalm 46:10.

Janie Wise, women's mission and ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists and coordinator for the event, said participants were offered

15 breakout sessions to engage in diverse topics such as spiritual growth, discipleship, personal development, overcoming sexual sins, finding your identity in Christ, worship and making connections in a multicultural world.

They were treated to a number of gifted speakers in these small groups and in the general sessions, she said.

NICKI KOZIARZ

"How's your soul?" asked Nicki Koziarz. "That is the most important question we can engage you in this weekend. What will it take for it to be 'well' with your soul?"

Koziarz, who served as the keynote speaker for R.E.A.L., is a best-selling author and speaker with Proverbs 31 Ministries from Charlotte, North Carolina.

In a passionate message blended with humor Koziarz shared a message that paralleled the premises published in her book, "Rachel and Leah: What Two Sisters Teach Us About Combating Comparison."

"Comparison is a battle whose truth we will align our lives with. The battle of comparison is not a new struggle," Koziarz said, referencing when the serpent challenged Eve in the Garden of Eden.

With the story of Rachel and Leah, Koziarz talked about how the sisters first were compared by their looks, and then by their fertility in terms of giving their shared husband Jacob sons.

"Comparison can compromise the promises of God," Koziarz warned, adding, "There's something that the enemy is trying to compromise in your soul."

Disappointment in

life is inevitable, Koziarz noted.

"We can compromise and compare or do a shift and praise," she explained.

"Shift from disappointment to praise," she urged. "Develop a battle plan. I take whatever is trying to compromise my soul and align it with God's promises."

The devil will unleash an unending cycle of comparison and name-calling, Koziarz said, but as a child of God, "You need to believe what God says about you."

The next day, Koziarz pointed out five habits in the book of Ruth that could help women move forward in their faith.

Calling the story of Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, one of the most dramatic events in all of scripture, Koziarz

See REAL, page 9



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REAL from page 8

said the habits could be summed up in two words, "emotional generosity."

Throughout the book, Naomi displays bitterness, but Ruth extends a nurturing stance toward Naomi with grace," Koziarz said.

"Ruth had lost as much as Naomi, but she is full of hope," she explained, adding how Ruth stayed open to the movement of God. Because of that faith Ruth, a Moabite, ended up in the generational line of Jesus Christ because her son with Boaz became the grandfather to King David.

"We need to be willing to follow after God no matter what," Koziarz noted.

KELLIE & KRISTEN FUSELIER

At the R.E.A.L. event, sisters Kellie and Kristen Fuselier, Christian recording artists and worship leaders in Nashville, Tennessee, ministered to the crowd through music.

Halie Oliver with Kisatchie Baptist Church in Leesville said the duo prepared her heart to receive the Word.

"Kellie and Kristen were so anointed, and the way they prayed and shared scripture was a mini message all on its own," Oliver enthused about the worship.

TROQUELL JENKINS

TroQuell Jenkins, founder of Bible Ministry in New Orleans, shared parts of her testimony both days of R.E.A.L., formerly known as Kaleidoscope. Her mother was addicted to drugs, and her father was killed before her second birthday, she shared.

"My dad's family raised me. But I grew up out of place with a lack of love. I felt abandoned," Jenkins recalled.

She said she eventually joined a girl gang in New Orleans, and got into fights.

When she was 17 years old, the boy she had been dating shot her three times in the back, chest and arm after she refused to go to a dance with him.

"We had broken up, and had got into an argument. I remember falling to the ground with blood all over my shirt, not knowing where I was shot," Jenkins said, adding that she was completely paralyzed and could not breathe on her own. She spent the next three months in the hospital.

"I became a burden to my family. I couldn't do anything for myself. I was angry at God and angry at the guy who shot me. I fell into depression," remembered Jenkins. Then a friend invited her to First Baptist Church in New Orleans, and at 19 years old her life changed.

"I got saved, and almost instantly God started changing my heart. God has started to use me for His glory and now I have peace and joy. I'd rather be in this wheelchair with God than to walk without Him," Jenkins testified.

Doors have opened up for her to share her testimony in Haiti, Brazil and she will travel to Africa this year, Jenkins noted in drawing a contrast with her troubled past. She has even started a Bible ministry where she sends out pink Bibles to women, and will even highlight scriptures to help them with a particular area in their life or according to their prayer requests.

Jenkins has started a T-shirt and sweatshirt line to fund her ministry.

"God has blessed me with a new life. I'm supposed to be dead or in jail, but for me to be here speaking to ya'll, that's only God," she said.

RAVE REVIEWS

Linda Thornhill with Trinity Baptist Church in Sulphur came to the conference with high expectations that were exceeded.

"Getting away to a women's conference gives you a different perspective. It's refreshing and renews your mind. Everything was first-rate. The breakout sessions

give you an opportunity to have things personalized, geared toward your own Christian walk," Thornhill said.

Tonya Thrapp of First Baptist Church in Logansport believes the conference armed her with new information that she can take back to her church and put into action, with special praise for Chris Adams' "Discipling Women: What Does Spiritual Maturity Look Like?"

"Chris was very authentic. The session emphasized how it's our job to not only dig into the Word, but to teach others to take the steps to disciple other women. I love how it all comes back to the Great Commission," Thrapp said.

Rhonda Mann, a member of East Leesville Baptist Church, said the entire conference was phenomenal.

"I want to go home and share with my girls at church. My heart was so touched. I was filled up and now I want to spill out,"

See **REAL**, page 11

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Kids learn ‘to plug into missions’ at M-NOW

By Holly Jo Linzay
Regional Reporter

WOODWORTH – Giggles bubbled up from the cluster of children gathered around the youth throwing a block party at an Alexandria apartment complex. Jump ropes twirled, little artists colored with chalk on the sidewalk and a rousing game of kickball took place on the nearby field. The day of fun was all part of M-NOW, a ministry opportunity for teens in grades 7-12.

M-NOW, a two-day retreat hosted by the Louisiana Baptists women’s missions and ministry team, stands for Missions Now. The weekend was designed to engage students in mis-

sion action and witnessing so that they may discover similar needs in the context of their own communities. About 75 youth, youth leaders and program staff from seven churches across the state participated in M-NOW on Feb. 15-16 at the Tall Timbers Conference Center.

“M-NOW has been an amazing experience,” Rachael Smith, a 16-year-old with First Baptist Church of Tullos, said with a big grin on her face.

“It’s something I will remember forever,” Smith said, adding that coming together with other like-minded youth has made it easier for her to share her faith in a community outreach setting.

Matthew Jambois, a

senior with Lakeshore Baptist Church in Monroe, agrees. “Becoming mission-minded can start in your own backyard. It does not have to be overseas or in another country,” Jambois said. He has plans to serve as a camp counselor this summer, and he said M-NOW served as a launchpad into mission work for him.

“M-NOW has helped me grow in my faith and how to use the Gospel in real-life situations,” Jambois said.

Jess Archer, the children and youth mission education strategist for Louisiana Baptists, said the end goal of M-NOW is to help build disciples who



Holly Jo Linzay photo

At this year’s M-NOW, teens held a block party at an Alexandria apartment complex as part of an outreach effort by the 75 participants.

See M-NOW, page 13

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REAL from page 9 —

Mann said.

Susie Buchmann, who helps with the women's ministry at Norwood Baptist Church, said she felt the Holy Spirit touch her soul in the "Everyday Worship" break-

out session.

"I need to seek the Lord first thing in the morning, make Him my priority," Buchmann admitted. "I've been discouraged in my women's ministry, but I got enough hope and encouragement from this conference not to give up."

Spearsville from page one

taken back with me in some bottles on a prior visit. It was special because of Cheryl's desire to be a witness of what God did in her life."

"Coming from the Jordan River where Christ was baptized made it so sentimental," Upshaw said. "I still have a little bit of it in a vile that I like to show people as part of my testimony. I have gone from a person who had so much guilt into one who now is free through Christ."

UNITED IN MINISTRY

Since he arrived in February 2012 as interim pastor at Union, and five months later as senior pastor, McGee has baptized 28 people among a congregation that averages around 50 for its Sunday morning worship services.

The church, as part of a Concord Union Baptist Association joint effort, collects items that are placed

in shoeboxes for delivery to children in Mexico. They also donate care packages that are sent to the Louisiana Baptist Convention for distribution to women at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women in St. Gabriel, hand out books to community members at an area grocery store, host a Trunk or Treat in October and deliver Bibles and baked goods to homes in the community during door-to-door visits.

"We try to do a community outreach once a quarter to get out of the church," McGee said. "The

Angie Wakefield echoed her sentiments. "The Lord definitely led me to come to R.E.A.L. It was a God-thing because we have been wanting to reinvent our women's group, and so many of the sessions really touched me. They were so uplifting," she noted.

Melanie Chandler, who recently moved to Central Louisiana, said the conference was a spiritual encounter she needed in her life.

"I didn't know my special gift, but this session really helped me. I've been struggling with my identity in Christ, but I was so encouraged by being around a large group of women all seeking a deeper walk with Jesus," Chandler said.

Jessica Johnson told the *Baptist Message* she is not affiliated with a church but came with a friend and that the breakout session on "Crafting a Blessing" made her think "outside the traditional box."

"I never even thought of writing out a blessing

for someone. The session brought such fresh ideas. Biblical blessings can change people's lives because they are intercessions that carry us toward future grace."

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Cultural from page 6

decline, in one instance, even 13 years after the conflict.

"Because it has this psychological effect, when you shock a population ... new institutions that were impossible previously are more likely to emerge,"

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Joseph Henrich told the *Harvard Gazette*. "So these war shocks may redirect history in different directions by reshaping institutions and influencing how people think."

Henrich is the chair of the Department of Human and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University and the lead investigator in the study.

Teen sues abortion clinic for killing his unborn child

ALABAMA—In what

is described as a first-of-its-kind lawsuit, a teenage father is suing an abortion clinic, the abortionist and the pharmaceutical company in a wrongful death case brought on behalf of his unborn child.

Ryan Magers, who is 19 years old, told the ABC affiliate WAAY-TV 31 that he is pursuing the legal matter "for the men who actually want to have their baby. I believe every child from conception is a baby and deserves to live."

The case arises just four months after Alabama voters overwhelmingly passed a personhood amendment to acknowledge the rights of each unborn child.

The month prior to that, the Alabama Supreme Court decided an eight-week-old unborn child was "a life worthy of respect and protection ... no less the value of lives of other persons" in a case where a man was convicted of the intentional killing of his wife and their unborn child.

Meanwhile, Mager's attorney Brent Helms issued a statement reported

March 6 condemning the violence against "Baby Roe" as "profiteering" by the abortion clinic.

"While no court will be able to bring Baby Roe back to life, we will seek the fullest extent of justice on behalf of Baby Roe and Baby Roe's father,"

Helms said, according to LifeNews.com. "The time is ripe for consistency in Alabama's jurisprudence: either we fully acknowledge the personhood of the unborn or we cherry pick which innocents we protect and which ones we trash for profit."

Greear from page 7

(elders), Liberty; Kyle Hubbard, The Gate (elders), University City.

NV: Heiden Ratner (SEBTS), WALK (elders), Las Vegas; Danny Reyes-Escobar (Pastor Vance Pitman, Mid-America), Hope, Las Vegas.

NEW ENGLAND: Kaleigh Adams, Harbor (non-denominational), Hyannis, Mass.; Itamar Elizalde, Iglesia Casa De Oracion, Worcester, Mass.

NM: Kyle Bueermann (Rockbridge), First, Alamogordo; Amber Celoria (husband & Pastor Matt, SWBTS), Bethel Baptist, Alamogordo.

NY: Roscoe Lilly (Liberty), Starpoint, Clifton Park; James Roberson (SEBTS), The Bridge (elders), Brooklyn.

NC: Kallie Wade, Mercy Church (elders), Charlotte; Betsy Bolick (SEBTS), Perkinsville (elders), Boone.

NORTHWEST: Audrey Evans, Pathway, Gresham, Ore.; Matthew Savage (SBTS), Journey (elders), Everett, Wash.

OH: Peyton Hill (SEBTS), Highland, Grove City; Robin Smalley (husband & Pastor Travis, Liberty), Lakota Hills, West Chester.

OK: Vanda Wall (Pastor Jon Wohlgenuth, SEBTS), Henderson Hills (elders), Edmond; Sophia Geiger (Pastor Nick Johnson, MBTS), First, Snyder.

PA/SOUTH JERSEY: Carlos Pacheco, Iglesia Central Hispana, Morris Plains, N.J.; Venus Sanders, Ezekiel, Philadelphia, Pa.

SC: Philip Pinckney (SEBTS), Radiant, North Charleston; Stephanie Powell (Pastor D.J. Horton, SEBTS), The Mill, Moore.

TN: Damon Conley (Mid-America), Brown Missionary, Southaven, Miss.; Bruce Raley, First (Pastor Bruce Chesser, SWBTS), Hendersonville.

TX: Alexandra Canales (Pastor Juan Sanchez, SBTS), High Pointe (elders), Austin; Michael Criner (SWBTS), First, Bellville.

UT/ID: Bryan Catherman (GBTS), Redeeming Life (elders), Salt Lake City, Utah; Daniel Savage (NOBTS), Redemption, Ogden, Utah.

VA: Vernig Suarez, First (Pastor Eric Thomas, SWBTS), Norfolk; James Ford, Remnant (Acts 29), Richmond.

WV: Mason Ballard (SEBTS), Resurrection, Charleston; Timothy Marr, North Charleston, Charleston.

WY: David Grace, Trinity, Laramie; Don Rushing, First Southern, Powell.

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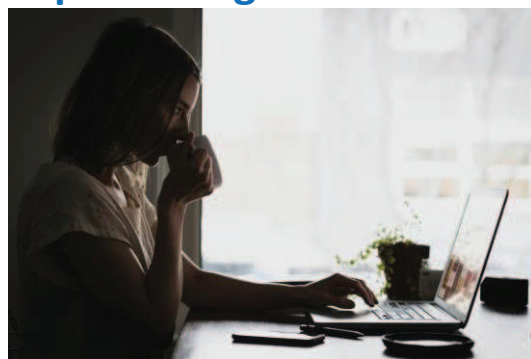
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M-NOW from page 10

adopt a missional life-style that glorifies God.

"We want the youth to plug into missions right where they are right now, in whatever context God has for them," Archer noted.

During the retreat for both the Friday night and Saturday sessions, the Louisiana College Baptist Collegiate Ministry band led worship. J.D. Jones, the former youth pastor from Trinity Heights Baptist Church in Shreveport and now children's pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Shreveport, addressed the theme "Freedom" through Bible study.

The youth were able to select two breakout sessions Friday night to participate in which included how to find your worth, life on the mission field, waiting on the Lord, preparing for college, how to lead in a world of followers, tough

topics for teens and how to plan and what to expect for an overseas mission trip. Saturday, the breakout sessions added were compassion ministry opportunities, sharing your testimony in three minutes and beyond M-NOW – next steps for missions' discipleship.

On Saturday, the youth teams served in different areas of Alexandria and Pineville, and had the opportunity to share their faith. At the block party, youth played games and completed crafts with neighborhood children. In addition, a salvation message was presented. One group of youth helped with food preparations at Manna House, a ministry which serves an average of 240 people hot meals daily. Many of the people who go to Manna House are either homeless or living on meager earnings.

Another group assisted Main Street Baptist Mission in Pineville by prayer walking, sharing their faith and visiting folks in the community. Helping sort items at a women's shelter and cleaning vans for a local church's van ministry were also ministry opportunities in which the youth participated. One group of youth even helped paint cabins at Tall Timbers.

Jayden Austin, a junior from First Baptist Church in Boyce, said the opportunity to serve in a community outreach helped to bond her youth group together more. The five youth that came together to M-NOW will be going on a mission trip to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico in April.

Samantha Maw, an eighth-grader with First Baptist Lafayette, worked with the youth who helped paint the cabins at Tall Timbers.

"It's great to be able to give back. M-NOW has



Holly Jo Linzay photo

Students volunteer at the Manna House in Alexandria during one of several M-NOW mission opportunities, Feb. 16.

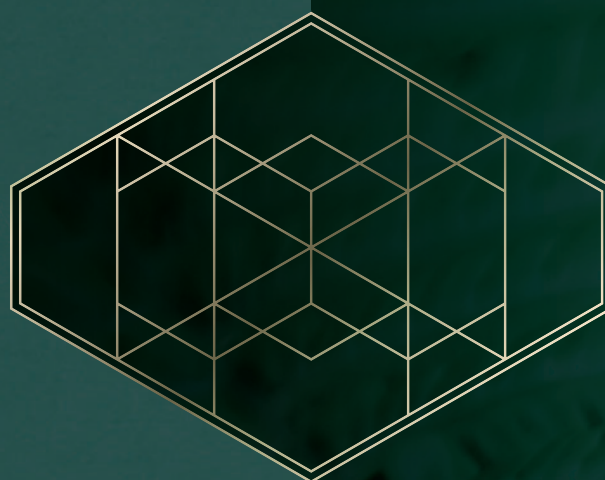
been fun," Maw said.

Lee Marsh, the youth pastor at Hessmer First Baptist Church, and his youth served at Hope House, a women's shelter. They helped sort items in the clothes pantry and food pantry for the 35 residents in the shelter.

"It's been a blessing for our youth to 'give

back.' Helping a little can make a big difference to someone," Marsh said.

In closing, Jones challenged the youth to take the "momentum" of the weekend of serving others through Christ with them. "Have it be a benchmark. Decide 'I'll be on mission every single day.'"



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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

- **Wesley Coleman** is the new student pastor at Swartz First Baptist Church, Monroe.
- **Jimmy Pitson** has resigned as pastor of Clark Springs, Eros.
- **Caleb (wife Katrina) Richardson** is the new children's minister at Woodridge Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Doug Allen** retiring as pastor at First Baptist Church, Blanchard.
- **Brandon Lewis** is the new Louisiana Baptists youth strategist.

HOMECOMING

- Cotile Baptist Church, Boyce: **Homecoming**, March 17, 11 a.m. There will be dinner on the grounds following the service. Evangelist: **Ryan Perry**. Pastor: Johnny Miller.
- Airline Baptist Church, Metairie: **65th anniversary**, March 24, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The church address is 421 N Lester Ave, Metairie, LA 70003. For more information, call Tiffany at 504.756.7024. Pastor: Eric Benoy.

REVIVAL

- Louisiana College, Pineville: Campus revival, March 12-14, 11 a.m. Evangelist: **John Fream**. Worship: **Voices of LC (Tuesday) and Elevate (Wednesday and Thursday)**.
- Cotile Baptist Church, Boyce: Revival, March 14-16 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Ryan Perry**. Pastor: Johnny Miller.
- Open Door Baptist Church, Ragley: **Dedication of new worship center**, March 15, Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Sonny Simpson.
- First Baptist Church, Maringouin: 2019 **Spring Revival**, March 17-19, 7:00 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Sunday, **Freddie Rodrigue**; Monday, **Chad Bolfa**; Tuesday, **Wayne Romig**; Special Music: **Hunter Bolfa and Emma Ellis**. There will be food & fellowship. The church is located at 10970 Hwy 77, Maringouin, La. 70757.
- Creston Baptist Church, Creston: Revival, March 17-20. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Truman Leach.
- Norwood Baptist Church, Norwood: **Revival**, March 17-20, Sunday 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Evangelist: **Darel Daniels, pastor of Improve Baptist Church, Improve, Mississippi**. Worship: **Raymond Taylor, First Baptist Church, Slaughter**. Pastor: Jimmy Womack.
- Blood River Baptist Church, Albany: **Spring Revival**, March 17-20. Evangelist: **Brandon Digilormo**. Worship: **Broken Vessels**. Pastor: David Collins.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Oakdale: Revival,

March 17-20. Evangelist: Lyndon Longoria. Pastor: Dennis LaFleur.

- Martin Baptist Church, Coushatta: Revival, March 17-20, Sunday, 10:45 a.m. & 7 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Joe Aulds. Worship: Johnny Dunn. Pastor: Richard Kaufman.
- First Baptist Church, Ruston: Special speaker, March 17, 8:45 and 11 a.m. Guest Speaker: **Chad Williams**, former Navy Seal. Pastor: Chris Craig.
- East Ridge Baptist Church, Lake Charles: **Revival**, March 23-26. Saturday evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. **Paul's Journey in concert**; Sunday service times will be 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday service times will be 7 p.m. Evangelist/Worship: **Paul's Journey**. Pastor: Alan Weishampel.
- First Baptist Church, Farmerville: **Concord Union Baptist Association Evangelism Rally**, March 24, 6 p.m. Guest Speaker: **David Hankins**. LBC Executive Director: Worship: **Frank Nihart**. Everyone is encouraged to transfer your worship service to First Baptist Church, Farmerville for that evening. Pastor: Kurt Auger.
- Bonita Road Baptist Church, Bastrop: **Spring Revival**, March 24-27, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Craig Franklin**. Worship: **Broken Vessels**. Pastor: Casey Johnson.
- First Baptist Church, Montgomery: **Spring Revival**, March 24-27. Pastor: Lloyd Whitman.
- New Hope Baptist Church Dequincy: **Revival**, March 24-27. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Roland Hebert.
- Freedom Baptist Church, Pitkin: **Family Crusade**, March 24-27. Evangelist: **2TALK42 Ministries**. Pastor: Jeff James.
- Bayou Baptist Association, Houma: **The Churches United Evangelism Crusade**, March 28-30, Thursday, 7 p.m. at the Cut Off Youth Center (205 W. 79th Street, Cut Off, LA 70345); Friday, 7 p.m. South Terrebonne High School (3879 Highway 24, Bourg, LA 70343); Saturday, 5 p.m., Nicholl's State Peltier Auditorium (906 East 1st St., Madewood South, Thibodaux, LA 70301).

LAGNIAPPE

- Alabama Baptist Church, Arcadia is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Send résumés to Alabama Baptist Church, Attention Pastor Search Committee, 16061 Highway 151, Arcadia, LA 71001. Résumés may be emailed to bonniewoo@hughes.net or call Bonnie Woodard at 318.263.2555.
- First Baptist Church of Eunice is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please email résumés to suecormier@fbce.net.
- Global Maritime Ministries, New Orleans: **Lighthouse Gala**, March 15, 6:30 p.m. Audubon Tea Room in New Orleans. Two special awards will be presented to pay tribute to outstanding members of the maritime community -- U.S. Coast Guard Sector New Orleans and U.S. Customs and Border Protection New Orleans have been named as this year's recipients of the Crystal Lighthouse Award, which celebrates the Maritime Persons of the Year. Petty Officer Cory Ciekot has been named as this year's recipient of the John P. Vandercook Service

Award, which celebrates the Maritime Humanitarian of the Year. Cost: \$75. Enjoy live entertainment while dining and bidding in the silent auction. All proceeds from this event will benefit Global Maritime Ministries. Order tickets online: www.myegiving.com/f/f2?formid=e29496ef-95c7-4626-976d-213251becb52.

- Beauregard Baptist Association Women's Event, March 15, 6 p.m. at the Beauregard Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall. Guest Speaker: **Iris Blue**. Worship Leader: **Sarah Fortenberry**. Cost: \$15. For more information, call the Beauregard Baptist Association at 337.202.4043.
- Toledo Bend Baptist Resort Ministry, Zwolle: **2019 Spring Workday**, March 16, 8 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Please bring tools/supplies according to participate in raking/yard care, sorting, cleaning, etc. For more information, call Mary or Danny at 318.645.6601.
- Jerusalem Baptist Church, Hammond: **Craft and Car Show**, March 16. Vendor spots are open. For more information, call the church office at 225.294.2001. Pastor: Phil Weaver.
- Shiloh Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Excellence in Ministry Conference**, March 16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Speakers: **Shateek Nobles, pastor of My Redeemer; Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, Leroy Fountain, vice president of Louisiana Baptist Convention**. Attendees will learn how to build effective leadership teams; stimulate church growth and utilize 21st century Outreach Techniques. The goal of this year's conference is to equip attendees with resources to make a difference to make a difference in their community, Church and their family. Cost: \$15. RSVP @ Eventbrite, by phone 504.948.4599 or by

email rsvp2019nola@gmail.com. Pastor: Michael B. Raymond.

- Trinity Baptist Church, Turkey Creek: **Sixth Annual Ladies Conference - (The Table)**, March 16, 9 a.m.-noon. Cost: \$12 per person with lunch included following event. No childcare provided. Speaker: **Kathy Nelson, author and Founder of Speak It Ministries**. Praise/Worship: **Michelle Tolar**. Contact Jodie Nugent at janugent2010@gmail.com or call the church at (337.461.2300) Please leave a message and it will be returned ASAP. Pastor: Eddie Douglas Jr.
- Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: **2nd annual Gulf Coast Baptist Association Music Celebration**, March 17, 6 p.m. Each participating church will be presenting a maximum of 2 musical selections from choirs, ensembles, and solos. There will be a gumbo fellowship following the service. Music Minister: Bobby Powell. Pastor: Steven Kelly.
- First Baptist Church, Haynesville: **Man Church**, March 19, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Luke Hockenios**. Come enjoy a free hamburger and sides. This event is sponsored by Men of Courage of Louisiana. Pastor: Jeff Tinsley.
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Men of Courage**, March 19, 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Speaker: **Nick LeBrun**, FLW Pro and All American Champion. Meal: fried catfish. For more information, contact John Alford, men@fbchaughton.org or 318.455.2916. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- First Baptist Church, Jena: **A Walk to Remember Women's Conference**, March 22-23, Friday 6-9 p.m. (supper will be provided); Saturday 9 a.m.-noon (snacks will be provided). Speaker: Sheila Breazeale. Cost: \$10. Childcare provided each day with reservation. For more information, call the church at 318.992.4184. Pastor: Dominick C DiCarlo Jr.

■ Amite Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference**, March 23, Pastor: Michael Luce.

■ Goldonna Baptist Church, Goldonna: **Jericho Prayer March**, March 23, 10 a.m. The march for all U.S. troops and also for all suicide survivors. Participants will leave the church taking the route south down Ash Street, following onto Main Street, back up the hill on Vine Street next to the post office circling back through Talley Street. The group will make this loop around town several times. On this march, prayers will be offered for our troops, their families, and any other individuals who have been touched by suicide. Tickets will be sold in the weeks prior to this date for grilled chicken plates for \$7.50. The participants will be asking friends and family to pledge a monetary amount per lap with a maximum of 7 laps (about 1 ¾ miles). All proceeds will go to the "Faith Comes by Hearing" ministry for Military Bible Sticks. This ministry produces and provides Military Bible Sticks which have the New Testament loaded onto them in a MP3 player format. These devices are small, come with ear buds and have been coated so they do not reflect light if worn on the uniform of soldiers. The sticks are paid for through donations (\$25 per device) and given to Military Chaplains in the different branches of our armed forces. When a soldier comes in for counseling with their chaplain and requests a Bible, they are then gifted a Bible Stick. If interested in this ministry, please contact Womack at 318.727.4527 or 318.533.0023. Pastor: Jason Womack.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **Hosting Richard Blackaby**, March 24, 6 p.m. Guest Speaker: **Richard Blackaby, president of Blackaby Ministries International**. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

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.

ukt zl ujdcl, ukt ilkv skvd vzl zdpcl; ukt zl ndpjlt vzl

dse dk zsc zlut, ukt cust pkvd zsqa, vzpc cusvz vzl edjt

fdt dy scjule, s zubl ukkdskvlt vzll xskf dblj vzl nldnel

dy vzl edjt, lblk dblj scjule.

clgdktxskfc kskl:csa

Clues:
Z = H; D = O

Answer to February 28 Scripture Crypto:
Acts twenty-eight: sixteen

Foundation starts new year with new members, new reports

By Jerry Love

Director of Planned Giving

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) -- Louisiana Baptist Foundation trustees met Feb. 5 to discuss investment performances and welcome three new board members.

Fran Barbato, member of FBC Lafayette, Errol Wilken, member of Metairie Baptist Church, and Chad Hardbarger, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Shreveport, were introduced at the meeting and then joined the other 11 board members in receiving reports and approving policies regarding the work of the Foundation.

MARKET NEWS

Lee Morris with Graystone Consulting addressed the recent difficulties experienced by equity markets.

Morris said the fourth quarter in 2018 reversed many of the gains made during the year through the

third quarter, and shared that the last three months of last year represented the worst performance for a fourth quarter since 1931. He added that the equity market downturn in early October was led by large growth (tech) stocks.

According to Morris, the Global Investment Committee of Smith Barney had warned of this decline since early summer 2018. Moreover, he said, GIC has concluded that the "rolling bear" market ended when the S&P 500 index bottomed at 2400 in the fourth quarter.

He said the equity markets are now in a "rolling bull" market with an anticipated S&P 500 trading range between 2400-3000.

Fixed income portfolios are performing in line with expectations, Morris said, adding that the GIC has forecast that rates will remain at coupon value or less because the Federal Reserve Board likely will keep rates flat for a period of time.

The Foundation can expect alternative investment allocations (preferred stocks, MLP's, covered calls) to add value at both the performance and diversification/risk control level, he said, adding that equity securities are positioned for growth relative to fixed income, especially in Japan, Europe, emerging markets and the United States, in that order.

Finally, Morris said the economic news cannot get much better in the U.S., and that slowing growth in earnings is likely the biggest challenge going forward with regard to U.S. equity markets.

YEAR-END NUMBERS

Chuck Murray, LBF controller, reviewed the LBF portfolio performance, reporting the following end-of-year returns:

-- Short Term Fund: 1.38 percent actual annualized yield;

-- Group Investment Fund (comprising various

market sectors): -5.90 percent total return; and,

-- Diversified Income Fund (conservative income-oriented fund): -0.39 percent total return.

The funds generated returns that were in line with their respective benchmarks and adhered to the investment policies established by the LBF Board, Morris said, with the net assets under management standing at \$149,926,843 as of December 31.

OTHER BUSINESS

Murray reported the Foundation was blessed with a net operating budget surplus for last year. He said gifts from the Cooperative Program were fewer than projected, but that increased income from interest and cost recovery fees made up the shortfall and more.

Jerry Love, planned giving director for the Foundation, reported the receipt of approximately \$1.15 million in new gifts in 2018, largely

composed of stock donations that benefited Baptist churches and LBC agencies.

Executive Director Wayne Taylor reported that the LBF had entered into a contract with U.S. Computers in Lafayette to update and rewrite the Foundation's existing accounting system.

Taylor noted that quite a bit of work already had been completed and offered that the updated software will provide additional long term data security and expand the range of services the Foundation can offer clients in the future.

Trustees also approved a spending policy of 2.85 percent in terms of the rate paid from permanent endowment and trust funds to beneficiaries. The spending policy ensures a steady flow of money to the recipients while aiding in the growth of the funds under the Foundation's management.

The next LBF trustee meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2019.



SUMMER CAMPS 2019

Find yours at: talltimbersbcc.org/summercamps

- Kids Camp 1**
June 10-13
- Kids Camp 2**
June 17-20
- Champion's Camp**
June 20-22
- High Pursuit Youth Camp**
June 27-29
- Clear Youth Camp 1**
July 1-5
- Clear Youth Camp 2**
July 8-12
- Clear Youth Camp 3 (Sold Out)**
July 15-19
- Children's Mission Camp**
July 22-25
- Kids Camp 3**
July 29-August 1