

“... he that shall
humble himself
shall be exalted.”

– Matthew 23:12

M BAPTIST Message

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March 22, 2018

When First Baptist Pineville Pastor Stewart Holloway wanted to begin an Upward Basketball program at the church, he needed someone to lead the program. It took some convincing but his mother Kathy Holloway, an outstanding high school player, coach and administrator who has been inducted into two Hall of Fames, finally agreed.

John Marcase photo



First Pineville shares

Hoop dreams & Christ through 'Upward'

BY JOHN MARCASE • *Baptist Message*

PINEVILLE (LBM) – When Stewart Holloway took over as pastor of First Baptist Church Pineville in August 2008 he saw an empty gymnasium and had a vision of it being filled with Upward Basketball teams.

But, his vision remained just that – year after year. Until, finally, someone stepped up to lead the program – a person Holloway was not expecting to take on that leadership role.

“I kept putting it off and putting it off,” said Kathy Holloway, Stewart

Holloway’s mother.

“Finally, I told Stewart that I didn’t want to get to Heaven and have God say to me, ‘Well, they still don’t have Upward Basketball at First Baptist,’” she said.

See UPWARD on 7

LC revival: Find your identity in Jesus Christ!

BY VICTOR VILLAVIEJA
Baptist Message

PINEVILLE (LBM) – D.A. Horton, pastor of Reach Fellowship in North Long Beach, Calif., led Louisiana College’s revival March 6-8, urging students to find their identity in Christ.

Horton, Chief Evangelist for the Urban Youth Workers Institute, warned that searching elsewhere will lead to a dissatisfying life.

“This new generation of believers struggles with the issue of identity. They are trying to find themselves, and they are trying to find who they are, and sometimes they root their identity in their experience and in their preferences,” Horton explained.

“I help them understand that their identity can be found in the finished work of Jesus,” he continued. “It allows them to live out[side] this cloud of uncertainty.”

Horton underscored that “Jesus meets us wherever we are,” contrasting that biblical truth with the endless search people make in trying to find themselves in possessions, or status, or accomplishments.

The three services, held at the Martin Performing Arts Center, were

See LC REVIVAL on 8



Submitted photo

Faith Baptist Pastor Bodie Spicer prepares to baptize Brittany King September 2017. She is among 32 baptized since early 2016.

Seniors in Faith observe a 'youth movement' in baptisms

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

BASTROP (LBM) – Kristian Musgrove, 16, had lost all hope that first Wednesday she stepped inside Faith Baptist Church in Bastrop for a youth Bible study.

Years of a strained relationship with her father combined with difficulties in school had taken its toll on Musgrove – until that June 2016 evening when she learned about the love Christ has for her.

That night Musgrove turned over her troubles to God, declaring Jesus as Lord, and the following Sunday she was baptized.

Musgrove now enjoys spending time with her father, and even hopes one day to attend college as she pursues her dream of becoming a surgeon.

“Jesus has truly changed the way I see life,” Musgrove said. “My home life has changed to the point that my dad is

See MOVEMENT on 6



Brian Blackwell photo

Pastor Carl Griffith believes the dedication of a new worship center March 4 will help Georgetown Baptist Church to become a spiritual hub in the rural community.

Georgetown Baptist Church builds community with new worship center

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN – The newly constructed worship center at Georgetown Baptist Church represents more than just a building, serving as a spiritual hub for this community of 350.

Dedicated March 4, the 5,600-sq.-ft. facility seats 256 – enough to accommodate the

growing number of worshippers on Sunday mornings.

Since moving into the building, attendance has averaged 140, a 28 percent increase from the 117 who were worshipping each week in the early part of last year. The church also has baptized 50 new believers in the last four years, including 10 in 2017.

“God is at work in our rural communities,” Pastor Carl Griffith told the *Baptist Message*. “We have seen an influx of young married couples with young children at Georgetown Baptist Church. These families have joined our congregation, and they have become actively involved in our church work, which has led to further

growth.

“We see our new sanctuary as an opportunity for our ministry right now, but this new building also represents for us an opportunity to preserve ministry in Georgetown into the future,” Griffith said. “We are thankful for the growth and how God has blessed and moved in our small community. This building gives us the opportunity to do even more.”

VISION TO REALITY

The idea to construct a new worship center was born out of prayer, Griffith said.

Since 2012, when 70 came for Sunday morning worship, the church has seen attendance grow by an average of 10-15 new people annually.

“We knew that we were reaching a point in which we were going to have to step out on faith and build a new facility if we were going to continue to grow,” Griffith said.

Over the course of 10 days in June 2017, a group of 90 men from the Alabama Carpenters for Christ built

See GEORGETOWN on 8

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Volume 133 March 22, 2018 Number 6

Ken Hemphill to speak at LC, two local churches in March

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

Ken Hemphill, noted author, pastor and Southern Baptist leader will make three visits in Louisiana at the end of March.

Hemphill is a candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and will be officially nominated during the 2018 SBC Annual Meeting, June 12-13, in Dallas, Texas.

On March 27 Hemphill will speak during the 11 a.m. chapel service at Louisiana College in the Martin Performing Arts Center. Later that day, 6:30 p.m., he will meet with Louisiana Baptists at McClendon Baptist Church in West Monroe.

Wednesday, March 28, he will be the featured speaker at a noon event at the First Baptist Church in Bossier City.

A free lunch will be served and registration is requested by e-mailing lorine@firstbossier.com.

The chapel service will be livestreamed at lacollege.edu/content/livestream-chapel-spring-2018.

The First Bossier luncheon will be streamed live on the church's Facebook page, facebook.com/firstbossier.

bossier.

According to a prior *Baptist Message* report, Hemphill has an established 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 during the last 20 years.

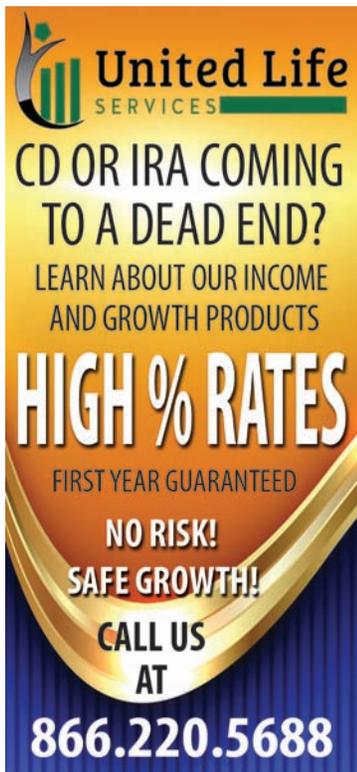
In 2016 and 2017, FBCH gave a combined \$867,000 through the Cooperative

Program, while averaging about 1,460 in worship attendance. That is a Co-operative Program giving average of 12.2 percent over the two years — and a per capita average of about \$300 contributed each year 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, averaging \$110,103 (LMCO) and \$36,779 (AAEO) in annual gifts for two decades.



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WMU Mission Celebration to 'Embrace' role of Esther

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH – Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director/treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, will challenge ladies attending the upcoming Louisiana Baptist WMU Mission Celebration to embrace their God-given mandate to fulfill His purpose.

Scheduled for April 13-14 at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth, the event will highlight how women are participating in what God is doing in the state, North America and around the world.

The meeting's theme is "Embrace," based on Esther 4:14b.

"Young Queen Esther, with human trepidation and courageous faith in God,

approached the king to make a bold request that would save her Hebrew people," said Janie Wise, women's missions and ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists. "God equipped her for the moment and for the mission. That is where women are in this day – living in a world, in a state, where we are surrounded by the lost, the lonely and the hurting.

"We find ourselves making bold requests of the Father," she continued. "But He is faithful and He has equipped us. He has "made [us] queen for such a time as this."

The event kicks off Friday evening with dinner at 5 p.m. and a general session at 6:15 p.m. Four breakout conferences and a



Sandy Wisdom-Martin
Executive director/treasurer
of the SBC's WMU

"Refugee Loss" simulation highlight Friday's session. The simulation is an interactive awareness designed to help the women begin to understand what it means to be refugee.

Saturday morning at 7:15 a.m., the Louisiana Baptist Nursing Fellowship will hold its annual breakfast.

All nurses and other interested health care professionals are welcome to attend.

A mission brunch will conclude the weekend.

Wisdom-Martin will be joined by a family serving in central Asia, Shannon Brown, ESL coordinator for Louisiana Baptists, and Trent DeLoach, North American Mission Board Send Relief missionary and pastor of Clarkston International Bible Church in Clarkston, Ga.

RAISING UP ESTHERS

New to this year's celebration is the acTEENS Girl Weekend, a simultaneous retreat for teen girls.

Activities on site for the girls in grades 7-12 will include a missions tasting party, adventure race, popcorn bar, assembling prayer journals, missions lunch and devotion time.

"We are committed to guiding girls, especially teen girls, to find their value in discipleship and missions," Wise said. "Jess Archer, children's/youth mission education strategist, has planned this weekend, for all teen girls, to do just that."

The WMU Missions Celebration is sponsored by Louisiana Baptists' Women's Missions and Ministry and partially funded by the Cooperative Program.

Costs to attend the celebration vary depending on housing preferences and meal selections.

A fee of \$60 to attend the acTEENS Girl Weekend includes dorm housing, three meals and program fee.

An additional \$20 fee is required for Baptist Nursing Fellowship breakfast.

Registration deadline is April 4 and reservation forms for the Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast, along with program information are available at LouisianaBaptists.org/WMC. E-mail wmm@louisianabaptists.org or call 318.448.3402, for more information.

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LC's Preview Day has record 120 registrants signed up

BY NORM MILLER
LC News

PINEVILLE (LCNews) – Louisiana College's Preview Day attendance has seen exponential growth since 2014, growing from double- to triple-digits.

With more than 120 high

school students registered for the March 24 event, Preview Day registration continues to steadily grow.

"We shifted the start time from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.," said Vice President for Enrollment Management Fred Holt. "This makes Preview Day more convenient for our visitors who

live several hours away from LC, such as those traveling from neighboring states or southeast Louisiana."

Previous days have drawn people from Colorado, California, Nevada, and as far away as Hawaii.

"The growing awareness of Louisiana College's turnaround is one reason for the increasing Preview Day attendance," said LC President Rick Brewer. "Our innovative strategies of a flat rate tuition, creative scholarships, and the history of our outstanding academics all have intersected

to bring the college further into a favorable light. These, among other reasons, are why our total enrollment for this spring is 18 percent more than last spring."

High school students of all grades, as well as transfer students, may attend Preview Day, which provides an overview of campus and academic life.

Preview Day includes extensive information on academics, scholarships, financial aid, and overviews of the opportunities for athletics, ministry, and international

study programs.

Students will also meet faculty and current students, enjoy a campus tour, and have the evening meal in LC's cafeteria.

Check-in will be at 1 p.m. in front of the Martin Performing Arts Center, with a rain location in the Hixson Student Center. Register now by calling 800.487.1906, or visit www.lacollege.edu/previewday to register online.

High school seniors who bring a completed LC application to Preview Day will not be required to pay an application fee.

LC accepts CLT entrance exam

BY NORM MILLER
LC News

PINEVILLE (LCNews) – Louisiana College now accepts the Classic Learning Test as an alternative to the ACT and SAT for certain students. And LC is slated as a test site for the April 17 Classic Learning Test (CLT).

Louisiana's TOPS program still requires the ACT or SAT, however.

"Louisiana College is very pleased to announce our acceptance of the CLT as an option to other college entrance exams," said Rick Brewer, president of LC. "We are particularly pleased to see many prestigious institutions from across the United States such as Hillsdale College, The King's College, and Houston Baptist University among the dozens now accepting the Classic Learning Test."

Many of these institutions offer academic scholarships for students who test well on the CLT, and Louisiana College will be no exception, Brewer said.

The CLT is "accessible to students from any educational background that elevates the good, the true, and the beautiful," states CLTExam.com. "The ancient Greek philosophers stressed the same basic ideas about education that homeschool parents and classical school educators affirm today. How students learn to think, what they read, and how they live are all intricately connected. Many homeschooled students who have taken the exam have earned high scores."

"As a liberal arts college built upon a Christian worldview, we are encouraged by the CLT because it accentuates our curricular emphases," Brewer said. "As such it helps underscore our vision of preparing graduates and transforming lives."

Pertinent points regarding the test include:

- students provide their own computer, laptop, or tablet with software/hardware for the test;

- students may not use iPhones, iPods, or other electronic devices other than a computer, laptop, or tablet;

- a practice test at CLTExam.com helps determine an electronic device's compatibility for the test;

- test sites are not responsible for providing a test-taking device, but must provide Internet access;

- the test duration is approximately 150 minutes; and,

- test proctors reserve the right to dismiss a student from the test for using an unacceptable testing device.

Extensive information regarding the CLT may be accessed at www.cltexam.com.

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Movement from page one

thrilled when I come inside the same room to hear me sometimes sing for the Lord. I am truly not the same girl that I was when I came to Faith Baptist Church two years ago.”

OLDER REACHING YOUNGER

Musgrove is one of 32 youth baptized since January 2016 at Faith Baptist, a church that has seen Christ move miraculously among its adult members, with an average age of 70, resulting in this effective outreach to youth.

Pastor Bodie Spicer said the catalyst for the change occurred during a Morehouse Baptist Association crusade in January 2016.

Many of the members in the congregation volunteered to serve as decision counselors, completing the training and then each night sharing Christ with those who came forward during the invitation.

Church members Don and Francis Willard did not have any children in school, but the couple felt led to bring some of the unreached youth to the evangelistic outreach.

Spicer said church members were transformed by the salvation experiences they were part of, but were especially moved by the youth who submitted their lives

to Christ, including half of the eight young people who attended Bible study at the church Wednesday evenings.

Now between 60 and 80 teens and their siblings attend Bible study each Wednesday evening because the adult members were inspired to reach the youth in the community, and, the four new teen believers in their youth group began to reach their friends.

Spicer is amazed at the changes God has brought, with the church now ministering to teens not just from families in the congregation but to many young people in the community who struggle with addictions or come from troubled homes.

The pastor also has been blessed by the upbeat attitude of his older members, who have taken on the challenge of assembling care packages, holding corporate prayer, and purchasing clothing and school supplies for the youth.

OPEN ARMS MINISTRY

“We have kids who have been in terrible situations at home,” Spicer said. “I didn’t really know how my members would take to these kids, but



Submitted photo

Several youth from Faith Baptist Church in Bastrop made decisions for Christ during Cross Camp at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas, July 2017. Since 2016, 32 youth in the church have been baptized.

they have been tremendous to welcome them with open arms.

“We are excited about all the Lord has done and what He has planned for us in the future with the kids He has entrusted us with.”

Willard admits he did not expect the God-sized change that has taken place, but is thankful.

Seeing young lives changed has made this labor of love worth every ounce of effort the adult members are putting forth he said.

“We do what we can and love them,” Willard said. “They’ve been told so many times they aren’t loved. But we tell them that God loves them.

“You beat your head against the wall and don’t think you’re doing any good one day, and then all of a sudden they walk up there and give their life to Jesus to remind us that this is worthwhile,” he continued.

“It gets my blood pumping

a little harder to join Christ in stepping out in faith to reach these kids with His love. That’s something they will have with them, no matter what life puts in front of them.”

MORE BLESSINGS AHEAD

Now, Faith Baptist members are preparing to take part in an area youth evangelistic rally, April 23-25, at the First Baptist Church in Bastrop.

Casey Johnson, pastor of Bonita Road Baptist Church in Bastrop, will be the guest evangelist and Broken Vessels, a Christian band from DeRidder, will provide the special music.

“Our church embraced what took place that [January 2016] night and developed a burning desire to continue reaching out to those who needed Christ,” Spicer said. “The spirit in the church hasn’t gone away and we’re looking forward to what God will do with this youth crusade.”

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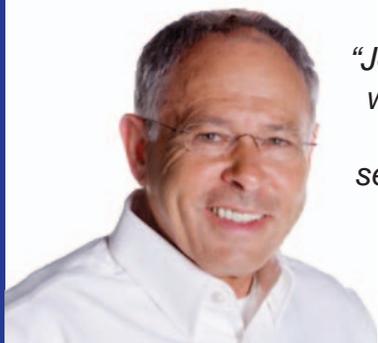


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Upward from page one

“As the pastor’s mother, I wanted to give someone else the opportunity,” she explained.

“I’m fortunate that (God) gave me the ability to work with people,” she continued, emphasizing that with any ministry effort, “The key is finding people to help.”

GIFTED & CALLED

“It’s obvious there was some ‘call’ in there – that she felt she needed to do it and use her gifts,” said Stewart.

And Kathy Holloway’s gifts were tailor-made for running a basketball program.

Kathy Holloway was a standout basketball player for Poland High School in rural Rapides Parish, leading the school, now closed, to the 1965 Class C state championship.

A few years later, she coached the Tioga High School girls team to a pair of state runner-up finishes in three consecutive years, 1972-1974.

Holloway stepped away from the Tioga program after 23 years, only to return to the bench as an assistant to longtime Bolton High School girls team coach Danny Dotherow, helping lead the Bruins to the 2003 state semifinals.

Holloway’s true talent, though, may have been as an administrator.

She was the first female president of the Louisiana High School Coaches Association as well as the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

The NHSACA inducted her into their Hall of Fame in 2012, while she was elected to the LHSAA Hall

of Fame in 1998.

“I figured she would be involved,” said Stewart Holloway. “It made sense to have Upward – we had a gym and some former coaches in the church. You look around at what you have and what God might do.

“I never dreamed she would take it on and lead it.”

UPWARD & ONWARD

The program just completed its sixth season of play, with 190 players and cheerleaders taking part this year – up from 90 participants when the program started.

A year ago, 215 children played ball and cheered, a high water mark for the program.

“It’s fun and it’s a needed ministry,” said Kathy Holloway, who also teaches Sunday School at FBCP. “I like working with people and planning things.

“It takes on game day about 130 people to run the games, from set up to clean up,” she said, adding that even more First Pineville members are involved, serving as prayer partners assigned to pray for a specific player or cheerleader during the season.

Game day begins around 8 a.m. to prep the gym and concession stand for the start of play at 9 a.m., and the last round of games ending at 4 p.m. – with many of the same people who worked the first games cleaning the gym to have it ready for church the next morning.

Additionally, Holloway and the program’s assistant director, Gene Jones, spend 3 nights a week at the gym coordinating practice sched-

ules.

“I enjoy working with people and finding out what they are good at,” she said. “I’m fortunate to have Gene Jones as my right-hand man. He helps me with everything, including with lining up officials.”

Aside from the players and cheerleaders, everyone who participates in Upward as a coach, official or worker is a volunteer.

“I would say it’s better than I thought it would be with the whole scope of it and the number of people involved,” said Stewart Holloway. “That’s been the amazing thing to watch happen and the machine it has become.”

Of course, Stewart Holloway expected that once his mom stepped up to lead the program.

“No, I didn’t have a single doubt,” said Stewart. “I know my mom. She is detail oriented and works herself to the bone to make

it work.”

SHARING HOOP DREAMS & CHRIST

Holloway officially retired from teaching in 2000 and from coaching a few years later.

She plans to continue directing the program for a while longer, but said, “We are looking for younger people who will shadow us and who aspire to do this.”

“I thought I was done with basketball and had no idea what an Upward Program would entail. I had no idea at the beginning how much time was involved,” she reflected.

“But now, it’s the only Upward Basketball Program left” in the area.

Stewart Holloway noted that several players and coaches attend other churches throughout Central Louisiana.

But, he said the basketball league has been a great way to reach people in the community who have no church home.

A number of players have made decisions for Christ, while FBC has gained new members because of families visiting the church campus for practice and games, he said.

“This has been a great outreach tool.”

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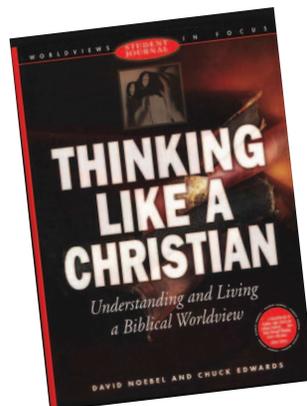
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Francis A. Schaeffer

CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW SCHOLARSHIP



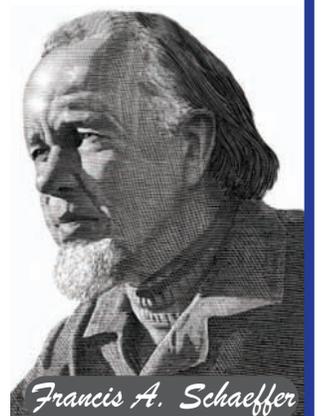
High school students who successfully complete the 12-lesson “Thinking Like A Christian” workbook under the direction of a church pastor or youth leader may qualify for a \$2,500 annual scholarship for four years when they enroll as freshmen at Louisiana College.

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“Arguably, there was no clearer thinker, more cogent writer, and respected biblical theologian in the 20th Century who challenged Christians to engage the culture with the truths of God than Schaeffer.

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Dr. Rick Brewer, PhD, MBA
President, Louisiana College



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LC Revival from page one

based on different focal passages, but each emphasized God's immeasurable capacity to forgive and wash away the human sin.

"You can never 'out-sin' the bloodshed of Jesus Christ," said Louisiana College freshman Maddie Starns. "We really need to focus on that in this generation. If you are a true Christian, show that to other people. Lead with your example. Today, the Holy Spirit definitely moved people, and I believe that their lives are going to be different from now on."

Horton used Matthew

5:8-12 to expose the hypocrisy in trying to "play the part" of a Christian without actually being pure of heart.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven," he recited.

"Pride takes its best pose as humility. Pride is false humility manifested through a life of someone who doesn't know God, and then tries to play the role of someone who is meek," Horton stated

on Wednesday's gathering. "Meekness doesn't naturally come from your flesh. The source of meekness is God."

LC freshman Aaron Howe told the *Baptist Message* the three-day event helped refresh his personal relationship with Christ.

"This whole revival has been a blessing to me. D.A. Horton relays the Gospel in a way we can understand it better. As Christians we don't need to hide our sins from God, we need to be honest. There is this reliance with God that we have to make sure we express every time we come in contact with Him. This revival has taught me that I have to show people that I am relying on God, not just in myself."

Louisiana College Voices opened the last service with the songs "What A Beautiful Name" and "In Christ Alone."

In the final service Horton was somewhat critical of patriotism, relating his belief that Christianity wrapped in patriotism sometimes leads to segregation and racism dressed up as religion.

"Christianity wasn't born



Victor Villavieja photo

D.A. Norton challenges students and community members to find their identity in Christ at a session of the Louisiana College revival March 6-8. Norton is pastor of Reach Fellowship in North Long Beach, California.

in America. Christianity wasn't born in 1776," Horton declared.

Horton praised an international faith, a religion that does not know races, ethnicities, or social status, pointing out how difficult is to be a Christian in certain countries, citing in particular the persecution many face around the world because of their faith – even to the point of death.

Horton closed the 2018 Louisiana College revival

by urging students to live for those brothers and sisters in need as a way of honoring their Lord and Savior.

Senior Ace Sylvester, once a missionary in Ecuador, believes the three-day revival will lead many students to do just that.

"I felt like God has been moving a lot of student's hearts. I know people's lives are going to change, and hopefully, many more will be dedicated to helping others," Sylvester said.

Georgetown from page 2

the facility. They raised the walls of the facility, installed the plumbing and electrical wiring, and put in trusses during this brief period of time, Griffith shared. The team also built the stage for the new sanctuary and installed the baptistry.

Additionally, the facilities were outfitted with television monitors and a state of the art sound system in the worship

center.

"The Carpenters for Christ were such a blessing to us," Griffith said. "It was really their work in coming and being willing to come and do this work that gave us the boost that we needed to get the project done. Their help combined, with other volunteer labor that has come along the way, has helped us to get into this building."

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LC international student dreams of spiritual, political renewal for Africa

BY VICTOR VILLAVIEJA
Baptist Message

PINEVILLE (LBM) — Louisiana College senior Lievin Manisha returned to Africa on a mission trip last Christmas break.

The student from Burundi took part in an expedition that visited one of the biggest settlements of refugees in Central Africa, Nakivale Refugee Camp in Uganda, where he helped distribute backpacks to school kids, and buckets and water filters to over 100 families. Importantly, he also used the opportunity to share the Gospel with some of his 8,000 expatriated Burundian compatriots living in Nakivale.

“I was very touched. I encouraged them to keep going,” Manisha recalled. “I told them that I had been in their shoes; that I am not better than them. I told them not to give up.”

It was Manisha’s first visit to Africa since he moved to the United States in 2014.

Manisha was 6 years old when he lost his family in the civil war between the two predominant Burundian ethnicities - the Hutu majority, and the Tutsi minority.

In June 1993, after 25 years of Tutsi totalitarian regimes, Burundi’s first multi-party elections were held, and Melchior Ndadaye became the first democratically elected Hutu president. Four months later, Tutsi extremists assassinated Ndadaye and violence broke



Submitted photo

Lievin Manisha gives a school backpack to a Burundian student in the Nakivale Refugee Camp in Uganda.

out nationwide. Manisha’s parents and two younger siblings were murdered during those Hutu genocidal attacks against the Tutsi minority that erupted in October.

The Hutu’s mass killing of Tutsi civilians was followed by a lengthy armed conflict between the two ethnic groups that did not end until 2006.

It was during that extended conflict that a group of rebels kidnapped Manisha when he was 12 years old. He survived that ordeal and in 2005 arrived in South Africa as a refugee, living there for 9 years, mostly in

while attending high school in the mornings. When he quit that job and could not afford paying for rent any longer, he moved to a shelter run by the Jesuit Refugee Service and graduated from Jules High School in Johannesburg.

Louisiana College was his bridge to the United States, providing him passage across the Ocean.

“I did not choose Louisiana College. LC chose me,” Manisha told the *Baptist Message*. “It was God’s will. I realized that all I had lived was part of God’s plan.”

An orphan who had fled a war-torn country, who had worked for his daily bread while also managing to graduate from high school, Manisha had been fighting to survive all his life. Then, all at once, he did not have to anymore.

“Louisiana College brought me peace. Believe me when I say that I had seen hell,” Manisha said emphatically. “It was an opportunity for me to grow, to

understand how things were away from Africa.”

Lievin Manisha was not always a religious man. He was exposed to the Catholic faith, but the harsh reality of

See RENEWAL on 12

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All résumés must be received by April 8, 2018.

SEEKING PASTOR CANDIDATES

Central Baptist Church, Marshall, Texas seeking pastor candidates, send résumés to rrobinette@cbcmarshall.org. Small, downtown congregation, affiliated with SBC and BGCT, supporting several local ministries, seeking to meet needs and share the gospel with surrounding community.

SEEKING A FULL-TIME WORSHIP PASTOR

Greenwell Springs Baptist Church in Greenwell Springs, LA is seeking a full-time worship pastor. Please email résumés to Andy at andy@greenwellsprings.com.

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ON THE MOVE

- David Rice is the new pastor at Brookwood Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- Steve Palmer is the new pastor at New Ramah Baptist Church, Castor.
- David (wife Norah) Scott is the new pastor to youth & collegiate students at University Baptist Church, Thibodaux.

REVIVAL

- First Baptist Church, Crowville: Craig Franklin of Franklin ministries speaking, March 25, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- First Baptist Church, Anacoco: Revival Emphasis Sunday, March 25, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Evangelist: Lyndon Longoria, Pastor: Durhl Davis.
- New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong: Revival, March 25-28, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Joe Aulds. Worship: Price Harris. Pastor: Trey Lewis.
- First Baptist Church, Larose: Revival, March 25-28, Sunday, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Gary Hanberry.
- Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold: Resurrection Week Revival, March 25-April 1, Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor: James Hester.
- St. James Baptist Church, Bunkie: 2018 Spring Revival, March 28-29, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Aill Harris, Jr. Pastor: Reginald Arvie.
- Deer Creek Baptist Association: Harvest Rally, April 2-7, 6:30 p.m. nightly at Winnsboro Elementary Auditorium. Evangelist: Bill Britt (Monday-Wednesday) and Casey Johnson (Thursday-Saturday).
- New Beginnings Baptist Church, Castor: Revival, April 5-8. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell, chalk artist. Pastor: David Boyler.

LAGNIAPPE

- First Baptist Church, Covington: The Collingsworth Family in concert, March 23, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at www.fbccov.org. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.
- First Baptist Church, Calhoun: Annual Run to the Cross, March 24. The 5k and 10k runs start at 8:15 a.m. The fun run will start once the walkers and runners have completed the course. Cost: \$30 for walking or running 5K; \$35 for 10K; no charges for 1 mile fun run. Late registration for 5k is \$35 and 10k is \$40. This a community-wide outreach that is a fun, carnival-type event. Food and fellowship are abundant. Pastor: Neil Everett.
- LifePoint Community Church, Mansura: Community easter Egg Hunt, March 24, 1-3 p.m. This event is for pre-K to 12 years old. There will be a slide, jumper, music, snow cones, cotton candy, games and the egg hunt. Pastor: Jacob Crawford.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Turkey Creek: 5th Annual Ladies Conference – "Reclaimed, Repurposed & Renewed," March 24, 9 a.m.-noon. Cost: \$12 per person (lunch included following the event). Speaker: Kathy Nelson. Special Music: Michelle Tolar. Registration prior to March 9 is appreciated but there will be event morning registration 8-8:45 a.m. No child care provided. For more information, contact Jodie Nugent jarnugent2010@gmail.com or call the church at 337.461.2300. Pastor: Eddie Douglas Jr.
- First Baptist Church, Haynesville: Easter Egg Hunt, March 24, 10-11 a.m. at the Fairgrounds, April 30, Good Friday service at 6 p.m. at the church; Easter Sunrise service at Red Franklin Memorial Football Stadium, April, 7 a.m.; regular services at 11 a.m. at the church. Pastor: Jeff Tinsley.
- Live Oak Baptist Church, Watson: Retirement reception for Howard Turner, March 24, 2-5 p.m. There will be a walk-through style reception in the fellowship hall at Live Oak. Food and refreshments will be provided. Everyone is invited to attend.
- First Baptist Church, Vidalia: Easter Egg Hunt, March 24, 10 a.m. – noon at the Vidalia Recreation Center "old ball field." Pastor: Wes Faulk.
- Sale Street Baptist Church, Lake Charles: Easter

- Celebration, a free community event, March 24, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. under the Indian Bay Pavilion at Prien Lake Park. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors. There will be food, games, face painting, a photo booth, the Easter story, and of course an egg hunt. Pastor: Randy Edwards.
- Belle River Baptist Church, Pierre Part: Community Outreach Eggstravaganza, March 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Veterans Park in Pierre Part. The Easter egg hunt will be broken up into the following age groups: 1-3, 4-7, 8-10 and a scavenger hunt will be available for ages 11-17. The event is free and the church will be serving hot dogs and drinks. Pastor: Ronnie Mabile.
- First Baptist Church, Vidalia: Easter egg Hunt, March 24, 10 a.m.- noon There will be a bounce house, games, eggs with prizes and an Easter egg hunt. Bring your own basket. Solemn Assembly, March 28, 6:30 p.m.; Good Friday Service with the Lord's Supper, March 30, 6-7 p.m.; Worship the Risen Savior, April 1, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Wes Faulk.
- University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: Easter Egg Hunt, March 24, 9-10:30 a.m. Bring your own basket or bag; Sunrise service, April 1, 7 a.m., at Peltier Park in Thibodaux. Pastor: JP Cox.
- First Baptist Church, Bogalusa: Holy Week, March 25, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir will present "Jesus, No Other Name." March 26 -- March 30, noon. Each day during Holy Week, the church will host simple and sacred worship moments at noon. These services will be led by area pastors and musicians and will last approximately 50 minutes. Good Friday Services, March 30; Day of Prayer, March 31. On the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, our church is open from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for an all day prayer event. Easter Sunday, April 1, 7 a.m. sunrise services at Cassidy Park & Easter morning, Bible study, 9:15 a.m.; worship services, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Greg Whaley.
- Longview Baptist Church, Deville: Choir will present "Redeemed: By the Blood of the Lamb," March 25, 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds. The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be immediately after lunch. Easter services, April 1, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. at the worship center. Pastor: Robby Poole.
- First Baptist Church, New Orleans: Easter Egg Hunt, March 25, 4-5:30 p.m. This FREE event is for children birth through 6th grade & their parents and includes arts & crafts, the telling of the Easter story, snacks, and our annual Easter Egg Hunt. For more information or to register, contact faye.scott@fbno.org. Pastor: David Crosby.
- Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Slidell: Adult Choir and Orchestra will present the musical, "Where Love and Mercy Meet," on Palm Sunday, March 25, 10:15 a.m. Pastor: Dennis Phelps.
- First Baptist Church, Mandeville: Easter Egg Hunt, March 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Pastor: Jake Roudkovski.
- Family of Grace, Alexandria: Easter Celebration, March 25, 10:30 a.m. at the Coughlin Saunders Performing Arts Center. Pastor: Brad Webb.
- Bellaire Baptist Church, Bossier City: Annual Easter Musical "He Is," March 25, 10 a.m.; Bellaire Baptist Church Cross Walk, March 30, 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. p.m. Walk will begin at Parkway High School at 8 a.m. and carry the Cross through the neighborhoods of South Bossier and ending at the Bellaire Baptist Main Campus. Easter services, April 1, 8:15 and 11:45 a.m. Pastor: Randy Harper.
- First Baptist Church, Shreveport: Palm Sunday Service, March 25, 10:30 am, with special musical guests; Good Friday Service, March 30, 6 p.m. in Frost Chapel; Scramble Up South Highlands, March 31, 9 a.m. This giant egg scramble will have over 10,000 eggs; Easter Sunday Service, April 1 10:30 am, with full orchestra. Stations of the Cross will be open in the sanctuary, March 30, noon- 6 p.m. and March 31, 9 a.m. This interactive activity will lead you through Christ's journey to the cross. Pastor: Jeff

- Raines.
- Barksdale Baptist Church, Bossier City: "The Road to Calvary" presented by the choir, March 25, 6 p.m. There will be a fellowship afterwards. Community Easter Egg Hunt, March 31, 2-4 p.m. There will be food, games, crafts, bouncy houses and egg hunts for toddlers- 5th grade. Pastor: Calvin Hubbard.
- Zoar Baptist Church, Central: Easter egg Hunt, March 25, 4 p.m. This is for babies to sixth grade. Easter sunrise service, April 1, 7 a.m. at Central High School Wildcat Stadium; 10 a.m. at Zoar. Pastor: Kevin Hand.
- First Baptist Church, Lafayette: Hosanna Celebration, March 25, 8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m. for preschool through grade 6 will experience Jesus' triumphant entry during Sunday School; "Hope Alive in Me," a worship experience, March 25, 9:45 & 11 a.m. The Lord's Supper, March 25, 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Good Friday, March 30, we will offer Lord's Supper services at 11:00 a.m., Noon, and 1:00 p.m.; Easter Sunday, April 1, Sunday school (8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m.) and worship (9:45 & 11 a.m.) as we celebrate Christ's resurrection. Pastor: Steve Horn.
- University Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: Family Fun Day Eggstravaganza, March 25, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. There will be a petty zoo, buggy ride, games, Face painting, inflatables, and the egg hunt. There will be a \$5 hamburger lunch.
- Parkview Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: Annual Easter Egg Hunt, March 25, 12:15-2 p.m. Kids from toddler to 4th grade will hunt for 10,000 Easter eggs on our football field. Lunch starts at 12:15 PM and the age divided hunts will begin promptly at 1:00 PM. There will be food, fun and prizes. Easter sunrise service at Resthaven, April 1, 7 a.m.; Easter services at Parkview Baptist, April 1, 8:30 & 10 a.m. Pastor: Michael Hardaway.
- The Bayou Church, Lafayette: Annual Spring picnic and Easter Egg Hunt, March 25, 4:15 p.m. All children (birth-5th grade) are invited to search for 10,000 eggs packed with candy and prizes in one of four designated fields. Then, we'll continue the festivities with family fun games such as sack races, three-legged races, and more. Pack a picnic for your family or order a meal from local food trucks. There will be live music and a good time. Communion Service March 30, 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium; Easter at the Bayou, March 31-April 1, Saturday, 5 p.m. in the Auditorium only (no childcare); Sunday, 8 a.m. in the Auditorium only (no childcare); Sunday, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Pastor: Mike Walker.
- Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs: Eggstravaganza, March 25, following worship services the children will hunt for Easter eggs and lunch will be provided (hamburgers & hot dogs).
- Taylor Baptist Church, Taylor: Good Friday service, March 30, 6 p.m.; Pastor: Jimmy Eppinette.
- Watson Baptist Church, Watson: Good Friday Services, Fish Fry & Children's Egg Hunt, March 30, 6 p.m.; Easter Sunday, April 1, 10:15 a.m. choir will perform "Were You There." Pastor: John Pemberton.
- First Baptist Church, Tioga: Children's Easter Celebration, March 30, 10 a.m.; Good Friday service, March 30, 6 p.m.; Youth 'Glow in the Dark' Egg Hunt, (for students 7th – 12th grades) March 30, 6:45-8:15 p.m. There will be food, craft, games, and story time for the children and food, games and fun for the youth. Easter Sunday, April 1 10 a.m. Pastor: Tim Hisaw.
- Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: Good Friday services, March 30, 6:30 p.m.; Jefferson Kids Easter Eggstravaganza, March 31, 9 a.m.; Easter, April 1, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m. Pastor: David Goza.
- Kingsville Baptist Church, Ball: Easter Egg Hunt, March 30, 10 a.m.; Good Friday Services "Remember His Sacrifices," March 30, 6:30 p.m.; Easter Services, April 1, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Bart Walker.
- First Baptist Church, Bossier City: Easter Eggstravaganza, March 31, 10:30-noon. There will be Easter Egg hunts for toddlers - 5th graders, inflatables, fun photos, face painting, candy, music and more. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich.
- First West Baptist Church, West Monroe: Easter services, West Monroe Campus, March 31, 6:00 p.m., April 1 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.; Fairbanks Campus, April 1 at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.; Calhoun Campus April 1 at 10:30 a.m.
- Houston River Baptist Church, Sulphur: Risen Son Spring Festival, March 31, 3-5 p.m. This community-wide event is free. There will be games, food, balloons, bike drawing and Easter Egg Hunt. Pastor: Lonnie Gothrup.
- Bethlehem Baptist Church, Albany: Community-wide egg hunt, March 31, 10 a.m. There will be activities, food, games, prizes, face painting, bounce house and the Easter egg hunt. Easter services, April, 10 a.m. Pastor: Preston Nix.
- Trinity Heights Baptist Church, Shreveport: Community wide Easter Egg Hunt, March 31, 10:45 a.m.- noon. This is for children ages birth to sixth grade. There will be 20,000 eggs and great door prizes. Pastor: Collin Wimberly.
- Milldale Baptist Church, Zachary: Easter Egg hunt and Fellowship event, March 31, 10 a.m.-1p.m. Cost: Free. Everyone is welcomed. For more information, call 225.654.8168. Pastor: Dennis Terry.
- Elm Grove Baptist Church, Bossier City: Easter Egg Hunt, March 31, 11 a.m. There will be more than 3,000 eggs and this is for children from birth thru 5th grade. Easter Sunrise Service, April 1, 7 a.m. at the Red River Marina Pavilion Pastor: Brian Prucey.
- First Baptist Church, Winnfield: Community Eas-

- ter egg hunt, March 31, 10 a.m.-noon at the Earl K. Long Memorial Park. There will be the egg hunt, face painting, inflatables, picture with the Easter bunny, snacks and refreshments. Community Easter sunrise service, April 1, 7 a.m. at the Earl K. Long Memorial Park. This event is sponsored by the Winn Ministerial alliance. Pastor: Steven Smithson.
- North Monroe Baptist Church, Bastrop Campus: Eggstravaganza, March 31, 10 a.m.- noon. In addition to the Easter egg hunt, there will be pony rides, a petting zoo, free popcorn & water, face painting and hamburger plate fundraiser.
- Barksdale Baptist Church, Bossier City: Community Easter Egg Hunt, March 31, 2-4 p.m. This Easter egg hunt is for toddlers through the fifth grade. Come join the fun. There will be food, prizes and bounce houses. Pastor: Calvin Hubbard.
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: Community Easter Egg Hunt, March 31, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Lawson Bo Brandon Sports Complex. There will be inflatables, face painting, and over 10,000 filled eggs. Easter Sunday, April 1, sunrise service, 6:30 a.m., at Hill Crest on Hwy 80; 8 & 10 a.m. at the worship center. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- Temple Baptist Church, Ruston: "In the gathering" Celebration Choir, April 1, 11:15 a.m. Pastor: Reggie Bridges.
- First Baptist Church, Ruston: Easter Services, April 1, 9 a.m. (traditional worship), Eggstravaganza for the kids, located inside FBC; 11 a.m. (contemporary worship). Pastor: Chris Craig.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles: Easter Celebration Services, April 1, 9 & 11 a.m. Pastor: Steve James.
- Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: Easter Sunday Services, April 1, 7 a.m. sunrise services (outside by the Family Life Center); 8 a.m. Breakfast in the Family Life Center; 9 a.m. Easter Worship Service with music by the Bethel Choir and solo specials: Pastor: Carl Gulde.
- Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: Easter at Istrouma, April 1, 9:15 & 10:45 a.m. (Baton Rouge); Ascension, 10:45 a.m. and En Espanol, 10:45 a.m. Programming for babies - 5th grade (BR) and babies - 1st grade (ASC). Pastor: Jeff Ginn.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville Easter services, April 1, 9 & 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Philip Robertson.
- Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe, Easter Services, April 1, Pastor: Waymond Warren.
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: First@First Business Leader Luncheon, April 2, noon. Speaker: Sandy Gilliland, assistant professor at LSU- Alexandria. Cost: \$10 and you may pay at the door. Please RSVP to Stewart Holloway (sholloway@fbcpineville.net). 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.

ksj quls ul qkd vfgl, fro fi oul dumx, mggljmkolpn oulwl

glo umg fro fi oul ofgyd k gks qmou ks rsvplks dxmwmo.

gkwh imal:oqf

Clues:
D = S; M = I

Answer to March 8 Scripture Crypto:
Obadiah ten

Renewal from page 9

his life made it hard for him to believe in God.

"I used to make fun of people who went to church," the college senior

confessed. "I did not understand why they participated in the service - with the terrible situation they were facing."

However, through the work of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry of Louisiana State University, in South Africa in 2010, he was transformed from an orphaned child of war to an adopted child of God.

The LSU BCM team helped him to encounter God, and he asked for forgiveness of his sins and from that moment sincerely revered Christ as Lord in his heart.

"I saw God's hand in my past," Manisha explained. "I looked back, and I could see His presence in my life."

After his salvation experience, Manisha worked

with an American family of missionaries to establish a church in the 133-year-old town of Upington in the Northern Cape province of South Africa. Swahili Baptist Church became a spiritual home for immigrants who could not attend other services because of language barriers.

He understood then that his life was more than a dramatic tale, but instead was a compelling testimony about salvation, and he has written a novel which will be published soon.

"I do not want fame," Manisha said. "I wrote my own story to inspire others, to offer hope to those who are struggling."

The Burundian is studying Political Science and will graduate with a degree in Public Administration next December. Once a political activist, he now is a missionary dedicated to spiritual change while also engaging the political process to improve the lives of the poor.

Moreover, he hopes to

challenge others like him around the world to come back home to Africa to help implement change.

"Well-educated Africans living abroad do not want to look back," Manisha lamented. "I do not understand why they do not come back to help."

Once called the dark continent because of what was not known about it, Africa now is called the dark continent as a reference to the lack of everyday services that most of the modern world now enjoys such as a reliable electrical system and safe drinking water.

"A leader who provides for his people would not let them live in those conditions," Manisha observed. But he also is mindful that the northern part of the continent is a large part of the 10/40 Window, where spiritual darkness persists. "Likewise, a compassionate Christian cannot allow these hundreds of millions of people to die without hearing the Good News of Jesus," he declared.

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Evangelist Gary Bowlin has over 38 years in full-time evangelism across America and overseas. Former President of Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, he has done more than 200 revivals in Louisiana.

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