



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

March 26, 2020

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Brian Blackwell photo

Evangelist Sammy Tippit prayed with those who made decisions for Christ during the Sabine 2020 revival at Many High School's auditorium March 8, 2020.

Sabine 2020 shares hope for community

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

MANY (LBM) – Many High School's gymnasium became the center of a Holy Spirit movement during the Sabine 2020 revival, March 8-11.

See SABINE 2020, page 3



Brian Blackwell photo

More than 25 students came forward and prayed for personal renewal during LC's spring campus revival.

Revival springs forth on the LC campus

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE (LBM) – Twenty-five students came to the altar to cry out publicly to the Lord for personal renewal during the recent Louisiana College spring cam-

See REVIVAL, page 9

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES,



UNPRECEDENTED ACTIONS

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists are facing a new normal since the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) led to the shutdown of schools, restaurants, entertainment venues, other businesses and churches in mid-March.

President Donald J. Trump has essentially closed down U.S. borders, banning foreign travel to our country from coronavirus hot spots in Europe as well as Asia and the Middle East. He also has issued guidelines for protecting individuals from infection, asking Americans to work from home if at all possible and to limit assemblies to no more than 10 people.

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards is-



LBC Executive Director Steve Horn led prayer at the Baptist Building March 16 for God's hand to stay the coronavirus epidemic.

See UNPRECEDENTED, page 7



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER JBE 2020 – 30

ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, the Governor declared a Public Health emergency in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, in emergency proclamation 27 JBE 2020, the Governor supplemented the measures taken in his declaration of a Public Health Emergency with additional restrictions and suspensions of deadlines and regulations in order to protect the health and safety of the public from the threat of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the order was further supplemented on March 14, 2020 with additional measures necessary to ensure that goods and supplies can be delivered within the State of Louisiana; that health care providers can be available for treatment of those affected with COVID-19; that certain fees and fines for the Department of Health for those affected by the disaster are waived; that certain insurance regulations may be lifted by the Commissioner of Insurance; and that workers who lose employment because of this emergency are able to obtain unemployment benefits in a timely manner;

WHEREAS, in the days since the declaration of public health emergency, the COVID-19 outbreak in Louisiana has expanded significantly;

WHEREAS, additional measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public;

WHEREAS, these measures are in line with the best guidance and direction from the White House, the Centers for Disease Control, and state health officials;

WHEREAS, these measures relating to gaming establishments, restaurants, bars, cafes, and coffee shops are necessary because of the ability of the COVID-19 virus to spread via personal interactions and because of physical contamination of property due to its propensity to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time; and

WHEREAS, all of these additional restrictions and suspensions will run concurrent with the term of the initial emergency declaration; however, such term shall be extended or shortened as circumstances dictate.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: In an effort to reduce and limit the spread of COVID-19 in Louisiana, and to preserve the health and safety of all members of the public, all gatherings of 50 people or more between 12:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2020 and Monday, April 13, 2020 shall be postponed or cancelled. This applies only to gatherings in a single space at the same time where individuals will be in close proximity to one another. It does not apply to normal operations at locations like airports, medical facilities, shopping centers or malls, office buildings, factories or manufacturing facilities, or grocery or department stores. This order does not limit the ability of a local jurisdiction or political subdivision from enacting more restrictive limitations.

Revival fires lit at First Blanchard

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

BLANCHARD (LBM) – On a day when the nation faced uncertainty from the pandemic of the

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), members of the First Baptist Church in Blanchard witnessed the hope found in Christ with the baptism of four new converts on March 15.

BAPTIZED BY WATER

Andrew Roe, 18, was among those who shared their testimony of belief through baptism that day,

See BLANCHARD, page 9

Thrift store provides 'helping hand' to pregnancy

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) –
Helping Hands Thrift Store

in Pineville has donated a portion of its proceeds from the sale of its facility to the CENLA Pregnancy Center

in Alexandria.

Representatives of both organizations gathered at the pregnancy center office in Alexandria on March 11 to celebrate the unspecified gift that will help further the pro-life cause.

Although both parties preferred humbleness, over announcing the actual amount, both conceded it was a sizeable contribution. In that regard, CENLA Pregnancy Center Director Claire Lemoine said the generous gift will help expand services in such areas as: pregnancy decision coaching by trained advocates; pregnancy testing; ultrasound imaging; counseling about pregnancy options; distributing maternity and physical resources; and, providing post-decision support (parenting education and abortion recovery group classes).

"We are incredibly grateful to Mr. Ray Powell and



Brian Blackwell photo

Representatives from the CENLA Pregnancy Center received a gift from Helping Hands Ministries March 11. CENLA Pregnancy Center Director Claire Lemoine said the gift will help expand services in such areas as: pregnancy decision coaching by trained advocates; pregnancy testing; ultrasound imaging; counseling about pregnancy options; distributing maternity and physical resources; and, providing post-decision support (parenting education and abortion recovery group classes).

the board of directors of Helping Hands for a timely gift to us," Lemoine told the *Baptist Message*. "God has provided for our needs and continues to provide for the future needs of the center."

Ray Powell, director of Helping Hands -- who attends both the First Baptist Church in Pollock and the non-denominational Word of Grace Ministries in

Pineville -- said his organization sold the thrift store to Rolling Hills Ministries based out of Ruston so they could retool their ministry efforts.

Afterward, he said, the Helping Hands leaders decided to use the proceeds to bless a ministry whose mission is saving lives.

See **HELPING**, page 4



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Sabine 2020 from page one

By the end of the four-day event, 17 people came forward to declare Christ as Lord, 76 indicated a desire to restore fellowship with the Lord and one individual proclaimed a call to ministry. Attendance ranged from 800 to more than 1,200 for each of the sessions.

FIND HOPE

Throughout the revival, evangelist Sammy Tippit urged those attending the services to find hope in a relationship with Christ.

"Hope is here because Jesus is here," Tippit told 1,000 people gathered inside Many High School's gymnasium Sunday, March 8. "There is life in Jesus.

"He gives abundant life," he continued. "Do you have the Son living in you?"

Tippit shared how Christ transformed his life when he was a freshman at LSU in 1965. Although he was raised in church, Tippit never surrendered to Jesus

and eventually chose a life of partying. But during an evangelistic harvest event at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Tippit turned to Christ and surrendered to preach two nights later.

Since then, he has conducted evangelistic crusades and other events in more than 80 countries.

"I invited Jesus to take control of my life in 1965, and when I got on my knees to pray I have never been the same since," Tippit said. "What God did for me, He can do for you."

UNIFIED APPROACH

Sabine 2020 had the support from at least 46 churches in both the Sabine and the North Sabine Baptist Associations (two of five local associations in the District 8 Baptist Convention) as well as congregations from other denominations in the local area.

Pastors have prayed for more than 10 years for such



Brian Blackwell photo

More than 1,000 people gathered in the Many High School gymnasium for Sabine 2020 to hear evangelist Sammy Tippit give a message of hope.

a spiritual harvest to take place in Sabine Parish, organizers said.

Revival committee chairman Jay Begbie, who also is pastor at Bethsadia Baptist Church in Many, cast the vision shortly after he was released from four years spent as an inmate at Sabine Parish Detention Center in Many.

While in jail, Begbie eventually was promoted to trustee and was mentored by the late Vernon Stephenson, former missionary with Toledo Bend Baptist Resort Ministries in Many, associate pastor at First Baptist Church in Zwolle, and

chaplain to inmates. Through a conversation with Stephenson, Begbie was convicted by the Holy Spirit that he must share his testimony with others when he was finally released from jail, which happened in 2017.

"He told me there is no greater miracle on the planet than a man giving his life to Christ and I wished we could get people of the parish together to have a massive outreach one day," Begbie recalled. "When I got out, pastors who heard me preach in jail invited me to preach in their churches and eventually I met with District 8 Director of Missions Ron Thompson, who was encouraged by my vision.

"In 25 years, we have seen fewer people attend church and more people succumb to violent crime, divorce, bankruptcy and dropping out of high school," Begbie continued. "When you move Christ out of the parish, the devil moves in. I felt now was the time to bring Christ to a lost parish."

The crusade featured Gospel messages from Sammy Tippit, founder of Sammy Tippit Ministries in Dallas, Texas, as well as testimonies from Begbie and evangelist Luke Hockenjos of Haughton. Meanwhile, the Louisiana College praise band shared Christ through music.

UNITED OUTREACH

Sabine 2020 is believed to be one of the largest multi-denominational evangelistic outreaches ever to take place in Sabine Parish. Nearly 150 people were trained to serve as crusade ushers, decision and follow-up counselors, and as prayer warriors.

"We were encouraged to see so many churches and people come together for the purpose of giving the hope of Christ," said Cyle Clayton, a steering committee member and pastor

of Calvary Baptist Church in Many. "This has laid the groundwork for future outreach and ministry that wasn't there before. When we come together to work together to see many saved and moved by the Holy Spirit."

Matt Warren, chairman of the counseling and follow-up committee and pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Florien, expressed excitement about the decisions made for Christ and the united front formed among the churches.

"I saw churches from across two associations work together, pray together, and counsel together," he said. "I personally feel closer to these other pastors because of the crusade. It was truly a beautiful thing."

Jonathan Bost, a member of the steering committee and chair of the accommodations committee and pastor of First Baptist Church in Many, was excited to be part of an event that saw multitudes transformed by the Gospel.

"When the meetings closed on Wednesday evening, I sensed that this was not the end of Sabine 2020," Bost said. "It was only the beginning.

"The effects of the faithfulness by believers throughout Sabine Parish to intentionally pray for the lost within their community and, specifically, the lost within their circles of influence, to invite them to this event, and to share the Gospel will be apparent in the weeks, months, and years to come," he continued. "It is, and will continue to be, my prayer that the seeds planted through this area wide crusade will continue to be harvested well into the future."

Ron Thompson, associational mission strategist for the District 8 Baptist Convention, added: "Sabine 2020 was a true blessing. Seeing the churches - pastors and laypeople alike - joined together in a unified effort to share the Gospel with the lost was exciting and encouraging. I am grateful for the vision and leadership of everyone who served in each capacity to make the event a success. I believe God was honored, Christ was lifted up, the Spirit moved, and the parish was changed!"

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STUDY: In the beginning, the Earth was a void, watery expanse

By Will Hall
Message Executive Editor

AMES, Iowa (LBM)—A joint research team from the Iowa State University and the University of Colorado have helped dispel the long-held notion that the earth's oceans resulted from water transferred to the planet via ice trapped on objects from space and released upon impact of these comets, asteroids and meteors with the earth. Instead, they say, in a newly released report in the journal, *Nature Geoscience*, that from the

start the whole earth was covered in water, consistent with Genesis 1:1-2 which states that "In the beginning ... the earth was without form, and void ... and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." The research team had set out to measure the temperature of the early Earth. But they learned from measuring isotopes of ancient rocks that the chemical history of these rocks indicated the earth was covered by a continuous ocean, with no continents at that time. Basically,

CULTURALNEWS
they found an unexpected universal presence of oxygen-18, an isotope typically absent in areas with large landmasses. Now the team plans to pursue the answer to the question: When exactly did the continents emerge, pushed out of the ocean by tectonic plates crashing together? In this next step of their research, the team plans to investigate younger rock formations to piece together that timeline.

This discovery follows by about five years a finding that likewise disputed the extra-planetary explanation about the source of Earth's water, but also confirmed a key detail in the biblical account of Noah's Flood. In 2014, geologists found a rare diamond in Brazil containing a substance called ringwoodite, originating from the mantle of the earth, that layer of hot rock between the earth's core and crust. After careful analysis of the diamond, combined with extensive seismological experiments,

in 2017 scientists concluded that a "reservoir of water three times the volume of all the oceans [which covers 70 percent of the face of the Earth] has been discovered deep beneath the Earth's surface. "It's good evidence the Earth's water came from within," said Steven Jacobson, a geophysicist from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and one of the lead researchers in the study. Genesis 7:12 reads, "and on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth."

HELPING from page one

"My board of trustees is really passionate about what the CENLA Pregnancy Center is doing," Powell said. "If it's one just one baby who is saved from this sale, it'll be worth it." Located next to the Louisiana Baptist Building in Alexandria, with an actual address of 1254 MacArthur Drive, the CPC also has grown from a full-time director on Dec. 4, 2017, to three other full-time staff, now: a client advocate coordinator, volunteer coordinator and officer manager/director of the Avoyelles Pregnancy Center at 115 Ferdinand Street in Marksville. Moreover, the center has served more than 500 women since serving its first client on that launch date.

Importantly, Lemoine said, nearly 70 percent of the expectant mothers who have met with CPC staff have opted to forgo abortion. Moving forward, the CENLA Pregnancy Center expects to receive a new ultrasound machine, soon, provided by a donation from the Knights of Columbus. Additionally, Lemoine is excited about how God will continue to use the CPC to touch many more lives. "We have seen hearts changed and lives saved within this ministry," Lemoine said. "Through God's divine providence, we have all intentions to continue providing care and support to mothers in crisis pregnancies."

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1 1

PRAYER BREAKFAST: 'Live like you're dying'

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE (LBM) – Prior to the start of the second day of the 2020 Louisiana Legislative Session, U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black urged elected officials to live each day like it could be their last.

"I'm living on borrowed time, and I resolve never to do anything I would be afraid to be doing if I knew it were the last hour of my life," Black said during his keynote address at the 56th annual Louisiana Governor's Prayer Breakfast. "In other words, I am going to live like I am dying."

LIFE AND DEATH

Black told lawmakers and others gathered inside the Crowne Plaza Executive Center in Baton Rouge that no one is promised tomorrow and that they should

realize life is brief, uncertain and ultimately about eternity.

He explained his perspective in terms of a life and death experience that took place when he was a U.S. Navy chaplain.

Black said he had been consoling a sailor to whom he had broken the tragic news via a Red Cross message regarding seven family members who had died after their car stalled on a railroad track.

The helicopter which was transporting Black among the various ships in the destroyer squadron was hovering above the vessel unable to land because of the lack of a large enough landing pad; and, the commanding officer of the ship was telling the chaplain to hurry up so the helicopter could make its remaining schedule.

But, Black said, he arrived too late.

"I missed it," Black said. "Two minutes later it crashed. Everybody aboard -- except the pilot -- were killed."

LIFE CHANGE

"I started thinking about life in a totally different way," after that, he explained.

In particular, he said he began reading about death and dying and came across the writings of Jonathan Edwards, the first president of Princeton, who at the age of 19 wrote 70 resolutions that were especially profound, Black said.

"From those resolutions, I made a commitment: 'God, the rest of my life I'm living because you have loaned me some time that I don't deserve. I'm living on borrowed time. And I resolve never to do anything

See **BREAKFAST**, page 6



Dennis Patrick photo

U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black challenged lawmakers and others gathered for the Governor's Prayer Breakfast to live each day like it could be their last.

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Breakfast from page 5

I would be afraid to be doing if I knew it were the last hour of my life.

"In other words, I'm going to live like I'm dying," he emphasized.

He went on to explain the "need to live like we're dying" in terms of the principles that "... life is brief ... life is uncertain ... life is about eternity"; and, "... there are some things you can't save for the last minute."

Wrapping up his message, Black used the famous phrase "carpe diem" – which means "seize the day" -- from Shakespeare's "The Tragedy of Julius Caesar."

"If you're going to live like you're dying, you've got to seize the day," Black declared. "Seize the day!"

JOHN BEL EDWARDS

In his remarks, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, who was introduced by his wife Donna, thanked the crowd for their commitment to pray for him and legisla-

tors as they make critical decisions in the coming months. He also addressed concerns surrounding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which has delayed start of the legislative session.

Edwards noted that the state has never faced COVID-19, and vowed "to learn all we can about it" in order to "stop its spread."

"So we will be working extremely hard in partnership with the federal government, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], the vice president and the team he assembled," he promised. "And we will do all of those things that are incredibly important."

But he also urged the crowd to rely on God.

"Just like He raised His hand and rebuked the sea and made it calm," Edwards said, "He can do that to the coronavirus too. I believe that. So I am asking, like all challenges [presented today], that we pray."



Patrick Dennis photo

State Senate President Pro Tempore Beth Mizell offered a prayer for the citizens of Louisiana during the Governor's Prayer Breakfast.

Then Edwards, citing Mark 5, shared about how the woman who was ill touched Jesus's clothes and was healed, and he challenged Louisianans to follow her example of living out her faith.

"We do have challenges especially with what's happened in the last several weeks around the world and in our country and cer-

tainly in our state with the announcement we made yesterday concerning the coronavirus," Edwards said. "And I guess as governor I'm asking that you all join me in a concerted effort over the coming days and weeks and months and however long is necessary to make sure that we are offering the right prayers when it comes to the coronavirus."

"Now is not the time to panic," he said. "If you panic that's the exact opposite of having faith."

you will provide and lend to each of us as we have gathered today.

"Lord, hear our prayers," he continued. "We acknowledge you alone as creator and maker of this universe. And you are the one who has set time, space, and our universe in order. Give us wisdom today and the power to overcome the desires of the flesh and the worldly gratification that come to us. As your servants, keep us from being careless about our spiritual and civic duties."

"Oh Lord our God, giver of everlasting life, nothing can separate us from your limitless love," Harrison intoned. "Help us to remember that nothing is impossible to those who place their trust in you. May our faith create in us both the desire and the power to do your will."

"May your heavenly peace which transcends human understanding guard our hearts and mind together and always. May no partisanship mar the unity of spirit that will make Louisiana and America stronger, wiser and better," he asked. "Deliver us

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

Louisiana Baptists on the program included Prayer Breakfast Chairman Tom Harrison, also executive pastor at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, State Rep. Malinda White, a member of First Baptist Church in Bogalusa, and State Senate President Pro Tempore Beth Mizell, a member of First Baptist Church in Franklin-ton.

"Eternal God, thank you for the provision of our daily bread this morning," Harrison prayed. "And thank you for the spiritual sustenance

See **BREAKFAST**, page 8

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Unprecedented

from page one

sued a proclamation March 13 that mandated all events of more than 250 people in attendance be halted through April 13, but days later decreed even tighter limits, restricting gatherings to no more than 50 people, leaving many people of faith wondering how to worship on Sundays and hold other church-related activities.

In response to the directives from federal and state officials, the Louisiana Baptist Building in Alexandria closed March 18 and will re-open April 1. All state mission service personnel has been assigned specific tasks which can be done at home. LBC events are cancelled or postponed through the end of April.

"Thanks to technology, all of our state missions staff have been assigned tasks and are working remotely in order to comply with the president's request," according to Steve Horn, Executive Director for Louisiana Baptists. "We want to do our part to help prevent the spread of this virus."

Horn noted that resources and links can be found at LouisianaBaptists.org to help churches navigate these uncharted waters.

"While these are unprecedented times, these are also wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth and outreach," Horn continued. "If you've fallen behind in your Bible reading, now's a good time to catch up. If you're engaged with the 'Who's Your One?' emphasis, continue to pray for them and reach out to

them during this time.

"More than likely people will be in front of their TV's and on their devices more than normal, so visit HereforYou.org and share your favorite Here for You commercial," Horn offered. "Pray God will draw people's attention to the commercials they'll see on broadcast and cable TV as well on social media."

"Pray the seed of God's truth will find good soil and ask God to water the seeds that have already been scattered," he continued. "And ask God to prepare some of the hearts for harvest in the days ahead. Even the midst of uncertainty, God is faithful. May He find us faithful during this time as well."

SILENT ENEMY

Through close of business on March 18, the Louisiana Department of Health reported 280 cases of COVID-19 -- in 13 of 64 parishes -- with seven deaths. Six of the deceased lived in Orleans Parish and the other in Jefferson Parish, and four of the deaths took place in the Lambeth House retirement home in New Orleans.

Meanwhile, nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 7,038 confirmed cases and 97 deaths as of the same date. By comparison, the World Health Organization reported 207,855 confirmed cases have resulted in 8,688 deaths, so far.

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IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, stay home and away from other people.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.



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President Donald Trump asked Americans to work from home, postpone unnecessary travel and limit social gatherings to no more than 10 people.

He has signed proclamations that restrict travel to the United States from foreign nationals who recently have been in Europe, China and Iran. Trump also announced on March 18 the closing of the U.S.-Canada border.

"By making shared sacrifices and temporary changes, we can protect the health of our people and we can protect our economy, because I think our economy will come back very rapidly," Trump said in a news conference March 17. "If we do this right, our country -- and the world, frankly -- but our country can be rolling again pretty quickly. Pretty quickly."

"We have to fight that invisible enemy that, I guess, is unknown but we're getting to know it a lot better."

The president also urged Congress to pass a \$1 trillion stimulus package that would provide \$250 billion in checks that will be issued directly to American citizens by early April. The move is designed to fight off a possible recession.

GOVERNOR EDWARDS

During a March 18 news conference, Edwards urged Louisianans to heed his proclamation to avoid crowds larger than 50 people, and for those who are most at risk to avoid gatherings of more than 10 persons -- with these restrictions remaining in place through April 13, the day after Easter.

He encouraged people to cook at home, or use

restaurant delivery, take out and drive-through services -- since his proclamation closed public dining rooms. Also shut down were schools, casinos, bars, fitness centers and movie theaters.

Because of the suspected economic fallout, Edwards requested the Small Business Administration provide Economic Injury Disaster Loans for all 64 parishes. He encouraged those who have lost their jobs to file for unemployment benefits at www.louisianaworks.net/hire.

Those who may be suffering from mental health problems should call 866.310.7977, he noted.

"I want to reassure everybody that we are going to get through this," Edwards said. "It's going to be difficult. It's going to get worse before it gets better. But how much worse depends upon how we cooperate with one another. I believe in the people of Louisiana."

"I believe in the inherent goodness and decency and the generosity of the people of our great state," he continued. "I know that we are going to come together. One team, one heartbeat."

LBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HORN

Most churches will be unable to worship at their facilities on Easter, and

Horn said if he was still a pastor at a local church he would follow the guidelines set by the federal, state and local governments.

Horn most recently served as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Lafayette before he was elected as LBC executive director in May 2019.

Citing Luke 10:27, "Love the Lord you God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and will all your mind" and "your neighbor as yourself" Horn said loving one's neighbor is taking necessary steps to protect them.

"Think about it, we're not being told we cannot worship," Horn said. "We're not being forced to believe something contrary to Scripture. We're simply being asked to temporarily restructure the way we do things in order for everyone to benefit. From my perspective we can make these work. I base this decision on what I see in God's word."

"Love God and love my neighbor is the command," he continued. "In our present context, with all the information that I have at the moment -- that means protecting my neighbor."

"No, I am not afraid of getting COVID-19, but, I have an obligation to my neighbor to take necessary -- even unprecedented -- steps to not transmit this disease to those who might not be healthy enough to fight it," he continued. "I certainly have a neighborly obligation to not add to the potential crisis facing our healthcare providers."

"Therefore I'm going to participate and I'm leading our state mission staff to participate as well. I urge you, my fellow Louisiana Baptists, to join us in adhering to these guidelines. As we do, let's pray fervently that these guidelines work, allowing us to get back to assembling again sooner rather than later."

THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Work or engage in schooling **FROM HOME** whenever possible.

IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts -- **USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS.**

AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, shopping trips, and social visits.

DO NOT VISIT nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

CORONAVIRUS.GOV

School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools in communities that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address childcare needs of critical responders, as well as the nutritional needs of children.

Older people are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and halt social visits to nursing homes and retirement and long-term care facilities.

In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL



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Breakfast from page 6

from every unworthy motive as we labor to honor you.”

“Lord, lift our burdens, lessen our fears and give us your peace.

“Lord, we pray for our state and the coronavirus. Help us to be good citizens. Help us not to spread but help us to end this disease. We pray for our governor and all those who assist in eradicating the coronavirus from our state and from our nation. We pray these things in the name above all names, in the name of Jesus, amen.”

Harrison told the *Baptist Message* he was pleased so many people turned out early in the morning to pray.

“We are excited we can join citizens and legislators together for prayer as we lean on Jesus Christ,” Harrison said. “Our goal was to honor Him, and we did that as we all gathered for the purpose of praying over this legislative session.”

White read three passages:

-- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths,” (Proverbs 3:5-6, NASB).

-- “I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made the heaven and the earth. He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun will not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever,” (Psalm 121:1-8, NASB).

-- “Now to Him Who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen,” (Ephesians 3:20-21, NASB).

Mizell, meanwhile, was asked to pray for the citizens of Louisiana.

“Dear, Lord,” she began. “We thank you for hearing us this morning and always.

“Today we’re gathered in a place that we may be accustomed but it is not at all like the reality of most people in our state,” she continued. “Lord we ask you to make us mindful of the needs outside these doors and to keep us mindful of the needs of our citizens, born and unborn.

“Show us a Louisiana that is better for all of our people. Lord make us instruments that you use for the good of our people and not for political points. Make us willing to feel discomfort in order to change

See **BREAKFAST**, page 11



Patrick Dennis photo

Louisiana State University Head Football Coach Ed Orgeron emphasized spiritual character during his address at the Governor's Prayer Breakfast in Baton Rouge.

COACH ORGERON: ‘God had His Spirit upon this team’

By Will Hall
Message Executive Editor

BATON ROUGE (LBM)—Speaking, March 10, to the audience gathered for the 2020 Governor's Prayer Breakfast in the Crowne Plaza Executive Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Football Coach Ed Orgeron emphasized spiritual character as a defining quality of his daily coaching approach and as a key trait of his championship football team.

DAILY PRAYER

“Here’s how I start my morning, every day,” Orgeron offered.

“When I get to work -- at 6 o’clock that truck’s going to be in the parking lot -- I’m going to say my prayers; sit by myself; and, get my mind ready for the day, because I know something’s going to happen and I’m going to be ready for it.

“But I get outside -- I don’t know if you’ve been to our complex, but I’ve got a beautiful patio,” he said, offering the description: “you see the bridge; you see the stadium; you see the football field.”

“And here’s my prayer,” he shared. “God, thank you for letting me be the head football coach of Louisiana State University. Please give me the words and the wisdom that you want me to use to lead this team, today. In Jesus’s name we pray, amen.”

Orgeron also scored some laughter, adding that he also offers thanks “for bringing Joe Burrow, my friend!”

RECRUITING JOE BURROW

The head coach drew more chuckles by sharing insights about his efforts to secure Joe Burrow as his starting quarterback.

“You know, I’ve got to tell you a little recruiting story,” Orgeron laughed. “Joe came down. He was transferring from Ohio State and we needed a quarterback. He had two years left.

“His old coach that recruited him [to Ohio State] was at Cincinnati, and was recruiting him to Cincinnati,” Orgeron explained. “His girlfriend was living in Cincinnati. So the odds were against us, right?”

“So he came down to Baton Rouge,” Orgeron told the raptly attentive crowd. “He didn’t talk much, He was very quiet.

“So we were going to take him to a restaurant -- he wanted to eat crawfish,” he recounted. “This is how God works in my life. I promise you. So we go there -- the restaurant’s out of crawfish!

[Mimicking the making of a phone call] “Hey, Boudreaux. I need 20 pounds, real fast. Bring it through the kitchen and act like they cooked it.”

[Mimicking the response] “You got it -- 20 minutes.”

See **ORGERON**, page 11

(Copy and post this friendly reminder)

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Blanchard from page one

and one of nine believers baptized by the congregation in 2020. He professed his faith in Christ during a church-wide revival that saw 100 people turn to Christ, Feb. 16-21.

His dad, Jamie Roe, was given the honor of baptizing Andrew, and described the moment as emotional.

"I cried like a baby when I did it," the father told the Baptist Message. "I was so happy when we trusted God and we had worship that day. It does give us a sense of hope, knowing that Jesus

is still in the saving business."

Pastor Clay Fuqua credits prayer as a factor for the Holy Spirit moving during the revival, which drew as many as 211 worshipers for one of the sessions.

During the month prior to the revival, the congregation participated in 21 days of prayer, and fasted every Thursday. Additionally, they received a daily text message as a reminder about the prayer emphasis, and participated in a devotional that was posted on the

church website.

Additionally, in the weeks leading up to the event, Fuqua focused his messages on the power and importance of revival, and challenged each member to write on index cards the names of lost family members, friends and others they wanted to accept Christ.

BAPTIZED WITH FIRE

"We prayed with a burden for lost people and for us individually to be on fire for God," Fuqua said. "And we prayed for a fresh fire in our lives, which God delivered."

The passion for the lost has not waned for the congregation, which averages between 300 and 400 on Sunday mornings.

Louisiana Baptist Evangelism and Church Growth Team Director Keith Man-



Jamie Roe baptized his son, Andrew, during a worship service, March 15. Roe turned to Christ during a revival at First Baptist Church in Blanchard.

uel led a training session for the FAITH evangelism program, and 25 teams immediately signed up to participate.

Fuqua said that the teams, which totaled 100 people, have seen three people turn to Christ since the program began March 1. Moving forward, church

leadership will offer FAITH evangelism training online.

"This fires me up because evangelism and discipleship are my heartbeat," Fuqua said. "Their excitement is going to be contagious and I can't wait to see how the Lord uses our members to further the Gospel in Blanchard."

Revival from page one

pus revival.

Held inside Guinn Auditorium, March 10-12, the revival featured challenging messages by Blake Newsom, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama, and music led by the worship staff of Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, the LC Elevate worship band and the Voices of LC.

Philip Caples, the LC vice president for the integration of faith and learning, said the fruit of the revival will be seen in the months to follow both on campus and in the community.

"I am grateful to see our students praying over each other and for each other, which is a sign of revival happening on our campus," Caples told the Baptist Message.

In his messages, Newsom challenged students to reach out to Jesus and allow Him to rescue them from the abyss of their sins.

"We need someone outside the depths who can go into the depths and pull us out," Newsom said. "And that's what Jesus has done."

He encouraged the students to admit their need for repentance and seek God's forgiveness.

"Sin can grip us so tightly we don't think we can lose these bondages," Newsom said. "God is just so much powerful that he can set us free."

Students like Tobey Williams, a junior from Pineville, left the revival

more passionate about sharing Christ on campus.

"One point that hit home with me was that the Lord is the only thing truly worth living for," Williams said. "As I move forward, I have to put into perspective that in comparison to Christ everything else I could chase is worthless."

The revival was one of several spiritual gatherings the school is hosting this semester.

More than 130 students have participated in discipleship small groups, coordinated by Baptist Collegiate Ministry Campus Director Thomas Worsham. They meet weekly for in-depth discussions based on a study guide on 1 Peter 1, the focal passage for the chapel messages presented this semester.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGH-FILL, located in NW Arkansas is seeking a pastor. Send résumés to FBC Highfill, P O Box 623, Gentry, AR 72734 or email fbchighfill@gmail.com by 3/31/2020.

BEECH SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH in Minden, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Send résumés no later than March 31 to beechspringsbc2@bellsouth.net. Also send a DVD of a recent sermon you have preached to the church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 15910 Hwy 80, Minden, LA 71055.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH in Canton, TX is seeking a spiritually mature full-time worship leader. Must have a heart for worship and for connecting with a strong, growing church. As a multi-generational church, we love contemporary worship, but we also love a balance of traditional or hymn arrangements. Minimum 5 years full time experience, music degree preferred. Please send résumés along with a video or link of you leading worship to libby@firstcanton.com by April 10, 2020.

HARGIS BAPTIST CHURCH in the Hargis Community of Montgomery, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Parsonage is available. For more information please call Mr. Lonnie Little at 318.548.2384 or Irene Lunsford at 318.646.3712.

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MUSIC MINISTER
FBC in Hamburg, AR is seeking a full-time Music Minister. Résumés should be submitted to fbchbg.office@gmail.com or First Baptist Church; Attn: Music Minister Search Committee PO Box 352 • Hamburg, AR 71646

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS
Louisiana Baptist Association is seeking a Director of Missions. Anyone interested should reply to: Louisiana Baptist Assoc., P. O. Box 326, Mansura, LA 71350 or call Bill Housley at 318.229.8115.

SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR
Mowata Baptist Church Eunice, LA is seeking a Bi-Vocational Pastor Please send your résumé to: kabg11@gmail.com

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New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe, LA is seeking a full time Worship Leader — experience required. Send résumés to melinda@nchbc.net.

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Trinity Baptist Church in Pineville, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send résumé to tbcvpastorsearch@gmail.com.

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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

- Ron Nation has resigned as pastor at Unity Baptist Church, Deville.
- Bob Colquette is the new pastor Bethany Baptist Church, Lake Charles.
- James Pritchard is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Lafayette.

HOMECOMING

- Trinity Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: 80th Anniversary/Homecoming, March 28-29, Saturday, 4 p.m. Cary Kimbrell speaks followed by a snack reception in the Fellowship Hall; Sunday, 9 a.m. A Journey in Time; 10:15 a.m., Kimbrell preaching followed by a fellowship meal at noon; 1 p.m. Ken Courville preaching. Pastor: Dale Crawford.

REVIVAL

- Southside Baptist Church, Jonesboro: Revival, March 26-29, Thursday-Friday, 6 p.m. nightly; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: Dick DeBusk. Worship: Music will be under the direction of Cathy Venable. If anyone has any special music they would like to use at the revival, call 318.576.9918. Pastor: Wesley Venable.
- Downsville Baptist Church, Downsville: Revival, March 27-29, Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Luke Hock-

EDITOR'S NOTE

Due to the restrictions and 'social distancing' guidelines that have been placed on all gatherings because of the coronavirus, please take a moment to check with your church or conference to see whether or not the events listed below have been postponed, rescheduled or cancelled.

enjos. Pastor: John Miller.

- Cypress Baptist Church, Benton: Harvest Sunday, April 5. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: John Fream.

- New Ramah Baptist Church, Castor: Revival, April 5-8, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday; Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Sam Moore. The church is at 493 New Ramah Church Road, Castor, LA. Pastor: Steve Palmer.

- Oak Hill Baptist Church, Bastrop: Revival, April 5-8, Sunday 11 a.m., Speaker: Jerry Price; Sunday evening 6 p.m. Speakers: Tim Post and Gary Guice, Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. nightly. Pastor: Andy Myrick.

- Benson Baptist Church, Converse: Spring Revival, April 5-12. Evangelist: Daniel Rogers. Pastor: Delman Rogers.

- Alabama Baptist Church, Arcadia: Revival, April 9-11. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell, chalk artist. Pastor: Jeff Hurst.

LAGNIAPPE

- Michaela Malone-Fontenot is available as a music evangelist, special music, concerts, women's events, conferences, and retreats. To contact her, call 337.831.6089 or email her at mmalone4@hotmail.com.

Orgeron from page 8

"Joe ate crawfish."

CHARACTER COUNTED

"But you know what? God's been in our lives. God had His Spirit on this ball team. You could feel it," he insisted. "Our pastor, Ken Ellis, who was All-Pro cornerback at Green Bay, who played for Vince Lombardi, has a service

every Saturday or Friday night and has given us inspirational words. One of the things he said I'm always going to remember: 'With every opportunity there's going to be opposition.'"

"With every opportunity there's going to be opposition," Orgeron repeated. "You've got to learn how to fight. You've

got to learn how to fight the right way."

"This team had character," he said, bluntly. "This team decided character was cool: they're going to go to class; they're going to do the right thing; no bar-rooms during the season.

"You didn't hear of any of our guys getting arrested," he added. "Our guys wanted to go to school, wanted to represent LSU and the state of Louisiana in the best way they could – and they did it.

He closed, referencing the governor as "our quarterback" during these challenging times, and adding the reassurance, "we believe in you."

"Go Tigers!"

Breakfast from page 8

the status quo," she prayed. "Let us leave here with a resolve to provide opportunity where none currently exists, to provide avenues to success where our people see no road laid.

"You have blessed us with the privilege of service to Louisiana. We pray for answers that relieve the burdens carried by the citizens of our state and we ask for the courage and the will to bring those answers to life," Mizell said. "In the name of Jesus, and we ask for your

guidance every day of our lives, Lord, we say, 'Amen.'"



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Scripture Crypto

The Scripture Crypto is a Bible verse in which one letter has been substituted for another, thus encoding the verse. To find out what the verse is, you must determine what each letter is a substitute for. An "a," for example, may stand for a "t" in this week's issue of the Scripture Crypto. 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.

DQY MTUHXFT YT ZHGT VHSDPTDHDUT CWQV PZT RSDB'F

EHKHUT, HDL SP YHF DQP VTPP CQW XF PQ FTT PZT RSDB'F

LSFZQDQXW, PZTWTCQWT ZHGT YT FTDP HDL UTPWSCSTL PZT

RSDB;

TIWH CQXW:CQXWPTTD

Clues:
R = K; T = E

Answer to March 12 Scripture Crypto:
Hebrews three: six



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