

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

— John 8:36 (NIV)

BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists



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May 3, 2018

Deer Creek Harvest Revival sparks long-awaited decision



Submitted photo

A large crowd filled the gymnasium at West Ouachita High School on the opening night of the Ouachita Baptist Association Harvest Crusade at West Ouachita High School April 8. By the end of the crusade, 44 people indicated decisions to accept Christ as their Savior.

Speakers challenge celebration attendees to embrace missions

By HOLLY JO LINZAY

Regional Reporter

WOODWORTH — It's time to embrace your own inner "Queen Esther" to fulfill God's purposeful plan for your lives.

This was the challenge participants at the Louisiana Baptist WMU Mission Celebration were encouraged to embrace by Sandy Wisdom-Martin, the event's keynote

See CELEBRATION on 2

By BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

WINNSBORO — For three years, Zach Smith planted Gospel seeds in the life of his father-in-law, Frank Knox, with the hopes of seeing a great harvest.

Smith's persistence paid off in early April, when Knox, 46, accepted Christ as his Savior during a session of the Deer Creek Association Harvest Revival in Winnsboro.

"My wife, Hailey, and I cried to God for his soul for so long, and to see him alive in Christ is so beautiful,"

said Smith, youth minister at Temple Baptist Church in Winnsboro. "Glory be to God for what transpired during the revival and for what God has planned for him."

Knox was so passionate about his newfound faith that he made it known the following Sunday in his desire to join Temple Baptist and share his testimony through baptism. A week after joining the church, Knox was baptized April 15 by Smith.

"I was blind my whole life and now my eyes have been

See HARVEST on 3

MEXICO TRIP NO SPRING BREAK



Joseph Kim photo

LSU BCM student Dennis Rivera (front) spruces up the area around the basketball court of a camp where the team stayed during a mission trip to Mexico March 23-30. Nearly 200 members of the LSU, New Orleans Metro and Southern University BCM also shared the Gospel at Bible clubs, led sports clinics and distributed food.

Collegians' efforts result in salvations south of the border

By STAFF

Baptist Message

MEXICO — Nearly 200 members of the LSU, New Orleans Metro and Southern University Baptist Collegiate Ministry took a trip south of the border over their spring break to give the gift of salvation to more than 60 people.

During the March 23-30 evangelistic outreach, they witnessed a mighty movement of the Holy Spirit in a variety of ministry opportunities in which they participated, according to LSU BCM Director Steve Masters, including seeing five members of their own team put their trust in Jesus Christ.

UNIFIED FOR SERVICE

The team included 178 LSU, 11 New Orleans Metro (comprised of Loyola and Tulane University students)

See MEXICO on 8

Celebration

from page one

speaker.

"God's best for us lies just beyond our comfort zone. God calls us to remember our past, but He does not want us to stay there. You have been made 'queen' for such a time as this," Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, told the attendees at the two-day conference.

The celebration, which was the 118th, was held at the Georgia Barnette Conference Center at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center April 13-14.

Courage, passion and humility are three traits needed to be like Queen Esther for "such a time as this," Wisdom-Martin said in the afternoon session on Saturday.

"What fear is holding your heart captive?" she asked, adding that God has a

plan for everyone's lives and we need to stand with courage. "The future requires boldness."

With boldness, Wisdom-Martin explained, God's providence for everyone's life can unfold. "There is no such thing as consequences. God's timing is perfect."

Friday evening, in the opening session, Fanny Mangieri, a cancer survivor with Istrouma En Espanol in Baton Rouge, told the attendees through interpreter Phyllis Rodgers, Evangeline Association WMU director, it was "time for missions."

"If Christians do not do something, no one will," Mangieri said in speaking about her time working with refugees in Turkey and Syria.

Mangieri shared how God healed her, and gave her a heart to help refugees and to share Jesus with them.

Trent DeLoach, North

American Mission Board relief missionary who works with refugees at a resettlement center in Clarkston, Ga., spoke about the "strangers in our land." He said there are more than 65 million refugees today that have been forcibly displaced from their home. The refugees have been persecuted and forced to flee because of war or violence or famine.

"Less than 1 percent of refugees get relocated to host countries. So many have lost everything. These people will never hear the gospel if we don't go to them. There are many ways to show them the love of Jesus," DeLoach said.

He conducted a "refugee loss simulation," which was an interactive awareness exercise designed to help the women begin to understand what it means to be a refugee.

"Our natural response is to step away from people who are different than us," DeLoach said, but he challenged the women to "step forward to be able to see others as Jesus sees them."

In the business portion of the meeting, Cameron Mullins, FBC Lafayette, and Dot Chappelle, Pleasant Grove, Jonesville, were re-elected as president and vice president respectively while Carolyn Fountain, Franklin Ave.,



Submitted photo

Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, and keynote speaker at this year's 118th Louisiana Baptist WMU Mission Celebration, challenged participants to go beyond their comfort zone just like Queen Esther had.

New Orleans, will serve as the recording secretary, and Susan Cheatwood, Magnolia, Saline, will be the assistant recording secretary.

Brenda Blackman, First, Lafayette, was elected the scholarship committee chair, and Cathy Jenkins, Baptist Bible, Shreveport, will serve as the MK representative on the scholarship committee, and Julia Parker, Calvary, Alexandria, will serve as the seminary representative. Mary Floyd, First Baptist Pecan Island, Kaplan, will be the Louisiana College representative on the scholarship

committee.

This year, the acTEENS Girl Weekend, a retreat for teen girls, was held. The girls engaged in several activities throughout their retreat including a missions tasting party, adventure race, popcorn bar, assembling prayer journals, missions lunch and devotion times.

Amanda Wilson, from Grace Community Baptist Church, said the entire weekend showed her how WMU was a part of "something bigger." "All the talk of missions and refugees gave me new insight," she said.

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Harvest from page one

wiped clean," Knox said. "Having my son-in-law and my daughter not give up on me means so much. My plan now is to reach out to as many people as possible to let them know about Jesus."

Knox was one of five people to come forward and accept Christ during the Deer Creek Association Harvest Revival April 2-7 at Winnsboro Elementary School auditorium. The crusade is one of several held so far this year dedicated to the statewide Harvest campaign to "pray for every home and share with every person."

Nearly 900 of 1,650 Louisiana Baptist churches have signed up to participate in concentrated prayer and soul-winning activities such as multi-church crusades, door-to-door outreach, one-on-one evangelism, single-church revivals and other activities which leverage compassion ministries to share about the love of Christ.

DEER CREEK CRUSADE

In the past, churches in Deer Creek Association held multiple simultaneous revivals at different locations. But in 2018, the churches opted to have one single revival to coincide with the year of the Harvest.

"By doing so, we involved a lot of churches which will benefit us greatly down the road," said Director of Missions Eddie Rhymes. "In fact, we believe that this Harvest event not only brought about a revival of souls, but a revival within our own churches."

Prayer was a major focus in preparing for the crusade. Churches received prayer guides the first Sunday of January, and were encouraged to use those in the months leading up to the event. Individuals also gathered in

Winnsboro for periodic times of prayer at the associational office, park and gazebo.

"Prayer was a big part in everything we did," Rhymes said. "We are hoping churches continue that spirit of prayer now that the crusade has ended."

Craig Beeman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Winnsboro, was excited to be a part of a unified coalition of churches whose mission was to share the good news of Christ for one week.

"In a day where people seem to be very politically divided, it was so refreshing to come together as believers from different churches for a week and rally around Christ," Beeman said. "Decisions to follow Him were made as well as some who rededicated their lives to Him. I was strengthened in my faith to be reminded that the church I serve is not alone in the effort to share Christ with others. We have brothers and sisters all across this parish seeking to reach the lost."

Casey Johnson, pastor of Bonita Road Baptist Church in Bastrop, and Bill Britt, evangelist with Compel Outreach International in Wylie, Texas, shared preaching responsibilities, leading three of the services apiece.

MOREHOUSE CRUSADE

Paul Daily, founder of Wild Horse Ministries in Trout, used the taming of an unbroken horse during the Morehouse Association Harvest Roundup at the Morehouse Activity Center in Bastrop April 6-8.

While the weather was cold and rainy most sessions, Daily sensed the event was a success.

"The Lord was lifted up and He says if I am lifted up, I will draw men unto me,"

Daily said. "This outreach was a different approach in a thought provoking way of show and tell with a horse. By all means God's presence was definitely there. All praise and glory goes to Him."

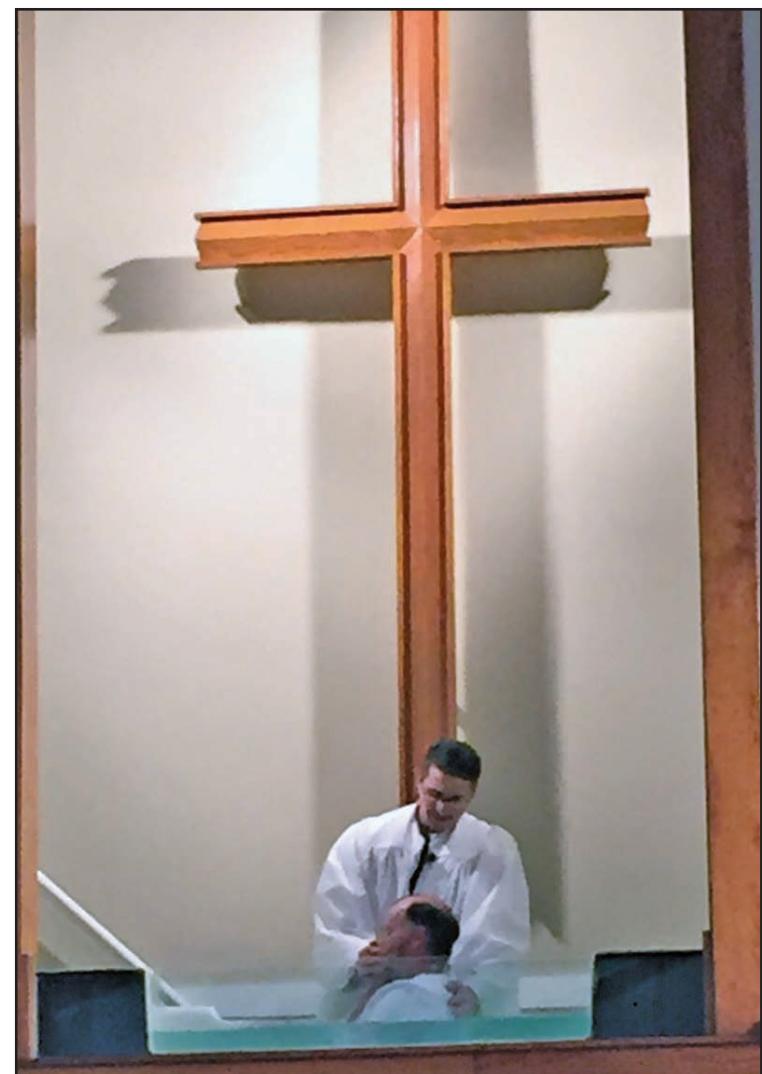
Association Evangelism Director Andy Myrick said Daily's message connected with those attending the event. Though no salvation decisions were recorded, several people came forward to repent and return to living for Christ.

"He was able to really hit home with those there, from the cowboy type to the kids," said Myrick, pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church in Bastrop. "The times when Daily invited the crowd to come to a saddle near the horse and pray were a powerful moment in the time of the roundup."

The association also set up a block party trailer for children to enjoy games.

Tim Post, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Bastrop, was impressed by Daily's ability to use a horse to share the Gospel.

See HARVEST on 9



Zach Smith, youth minister at Temple Baptist Church in Winnsboro, baptized his father-in-law Frank Knox April 15. Knox made his decision to accept Christ during the Deer Creek Baptist Association Harvest Revival.

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Jeremy Shepherd: I support J.D. Greear and here is why

I am proud and thankful to be a Louisiana Baptist. As the pastor of Pineville Park Baptist Church, I do not pastor one of the larger churches in our state. While this is true, I have been pleased to learn firsthand that every Louisiana Baptist can have a voice.

I have been concerned with the amount of politicking that feels so pervasive in our state convention right now regarding the upcoming SBC presidential election.

I have also felt that the *Louisiana Baptist Message* has been one-sided in its coverage concerning the candidates participating in this event. Others have expressed those same concerns. It has been my experience as a pastor that I much prefer an individual coming to me with an issue rather than speaking with everyone else first, so I sought to do the same.

As Louisiana Baptists, we have the opportunity to address our concerns through the trustee system of our various state Baptist entities and to speak directly with the heads of those organizations. In the last week, I have had the opportunity to address these matters with the board of the *Louisiana Baptist Message* and Will Hall. Without exception, every board member has been incredibly kind and has listened to those concerns.

I have found Will Hall to be a friendly, approachable

man. I am especially thankful to him for his willingness to listen to a different viewpoint.

At his invitation, I am writing this opinion piece to give a different perspective than what you may have read or heard recently.

SUPPORT J.D. GREEAR

I support J.D. Greear for President of the Southern Baptist Convention.

As I recall, it was in 2009 that I went to the first ever Advance the Church Conference in Raleigh, NC. I was a student at SEBTS and was pastoring a church plant in Goldsboro, NC.

Like many other young pastors, I was questioning where God would have me serve after seminary. Advance the Church is a conference usually centered on church planting.

I still have my notes from J.D.'s message that day. It was entitled, "Church Planting is for Wimps: Revitalize a Church."

Before anyone uses this as more fodder to paint J.D. as "other," he admitted that his title was a little bit tongue in cheek. Greear acknowledged church planting is incredibly hard, but his message was a call for young pastors to

prayfully seek whether God would have them step in and pastor one of our many hurting existing churches. You know the churches I am talking about: the many thousands of our churches in decline.

His message was a call to young pastors to love those churches. It was a call to be willing to plant your life there. It was just one of the things God used in that last year of seminary to set me on the current trajectory of my life. After leaving seminary, I pastored a 125 year old Baptist Church in Texas, and I am currently pastoring a church that has its own history of ups and downs.

Please let me tell you where my support is not coming from.

NOT A J.D. GREEAR FANBOY

I am not "young, restless, and reformed" (this would not describe most "reformed" pastors I know). I am not a J.D. Greear fanboy who thinks J.D. can do no wrong and is perfect in all of his ways.

To be completely honest, I don't agree 100% with anyone. J.D. has shared that he believes a missiological starting point with Muslims might be to use the words Allah and

God interchangeably.

On his personal blog he states, "This is not the same as saying that Muslims are really "proto-Christians" or that becoming a Muslim is like a "first step to becoming a Christian" or that Christians are "completed Muslims" or anything like that."

He further states, "We are certainly not saying that Muslims have an alternate way of getting to heaven outside of faith in Jesus Christ, God's only Son."

I don't agree with him on this particular issue of mission methodology; however, I wholeheartedly agree with him that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.

The ironic thing is, I believe many who are complaining about his methods of sharing the Christian faith with Muslims and using it as an opportunity to paint him as "a strange outsider" could not tell you that they have ever shared the Gospel with a Muslim man or woman.

Again, I am using this as an example to demonstrate that I do not agree 100% with everything J.D. has ever said.

GREEAR IS A SOUTHERN BAPTIST

J.D. is a Southern Baptist who loves all Southern Baptist Churches, not just the really big ones.

The Summit Church, where J.D. pastors, is a sending

church.

They support missions through the Cooperative Program and through sending and equipping every member of their church to go and share the gospel locally and all over the world. He is a good man who cares about the SBC and the churches who make her up.

So I've shared why I support J.D.

Let me share with you why I and many others are tired. There has been a lot of effort to paint J.D. Greear as an unacceptable choice. There have been efforts to make him look like "he just isn't really one of us."

- "His CP giving percentage just isn't high enough."

- "I don't like his way of sharing the Gospel."

- "He isn't a traditionalist!"

The list goes on and on. I am grieved by believers tearing down each other, no matter who they are, and the excessive politicking will continue to push young pastors away from denominational life.

Can we just stop?

Can we acknowledge that Ken Hemphill is a godly man? Can we acknowledge that J.D. Greear is a godly man?

As reported in the *Baptist Message* on April 10, Brad Jurkovich of FBC Bossier interviewed both men.

You can find those interviews at firstbossier.com/sbcpresident. Watch both men answer questions and speak in their own words.

BELIEVE GREEAR WILL BE NEXT SBC PRESIDENT

I believe J.D. will become our next Southern Baptist Convention President in June. If that happens, my prayer is that those in our Louisiana Baptist leadership who have so staunchly thrown their weight behind the other candidate will reach out to J.D. and use their same collective strength to cooperate with all Southern Baptists for the sake of the Gospel.

That is what I plan on doing if Dr. Ken Hemphill wins.

We have a lot of work to do together.

Paul warned the church at Galatia by saying, "But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another."

Let us not alienate any brother or sister. Let us work together to see all of Louisiana come to know Christ.



May 15

Christ's Community Church, Denham Springs

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J.D. Greear and Ken Hemphill 'by the numbers'

By WILL HALL

Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) — The Southern Baptist Convention is defined by the voluntary cooperation of more than 46,000 congregations for the sake of sharing the Gospel with the lost in local areas, states, the nation and around the world.

There are a number of ways to measure cooperation, including commitment of resources as well as service together. Meanwhile, the ultimate measurement of effectiveness of sharing the Gospel is winning souls.

The *Baptist Message* has compiled information about the churches of Ken Hem-

hill and J.D. Greear from the Southern Baptist Convention's records of data submitted by the churches via Annual Church Profile surveys.

Previously, the *Baptist Message* reported information about the First Baptist Church in Hendersonville, North Carolina, for Hemphill.

But, to provide a more appropriate comparison of leadership, in this article we are including data for the First Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia, where Hemphill last served as a pastor. He served there



J.D. Greear

12 years, so we include 12 years of history for both FBCN and The Summit Church in Durham, North Carolina, led by J.D. Greear, for a consistent basis of comparison.

As for service to Southern Baptists, in addition to pastorates, the following information was drawn from the official bio for Hemphill:

-- founder, Church Planting and Revitalization Center, North Greenville University, Tigerville, South Carolina

-- national strategist

for Empowering Kingdom Growth, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tennessee

-- president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth Texas

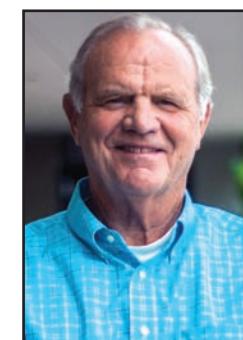
-- director, Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth, Atlanta, Georgia

-- member, SBC Resolutions Committee

-- member, Virginia Baptist General Board

Greear's bio, on The Summit Church website does not list denominational service. However, researching materials on the *Baptist Press* and other sources, the *Baptist Message* found the following information:

-- journeyman missionary, SBC International Mission Board



Ken Hemphill

-- member, SBC Great Commission Task Force

-- member,

Leadership Council of the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission

-- founder, Summit Network, a church planting partnership

Greear also was an early member of the Acts 29 Network, described by

Christianity Today as "reformed in their theological approach" and "a part of a larger tribe, The Gospel Coalition" [another Reformed network]. Neither Acts 29 or TGC are affiliated with the SBC, but both include a number of Southern Baptist leaders and attract a number of Southern Baptists to their membership. Greear is active with TGC as a speaker.

THE SUMMIT

YEAR	PERCENTAGE	CP	UNDESIGNATED
2006	1.8	36,325	1,996,053
2007	1.4	36,000	2,558,437
2008	1.8	55,500	3,139,456
2009	1.5	60,333	4,025,966
2010	---	NR	NR
2011	0.9	55,000	6,299,934
2012	1.1	89,000	7,912,000
2013	0.7	90,000	13,296,760
2014	1.0	150,000	14,851,916
2015	0.5	69,940	14,629,207
2016	2.4	420,000	17,500,000
2017	2.4	484,440	20,184,998

YEAR	ASSN	STATE OFFERING	AAEO	LMCO
2006	6,450	0	10,512	92,844
2007	6,600	0	11,037	93,815
2008	4,125	0	0	181,780
2009	3,300	NR	NR	289,666
2010	NR	NR	NR	NR
2011	459	0	0	227,400
2012	625	0	0	200,000
2013	500	0	0	200,000
2014	500	0	0	237,050
2015	500	0	0	237,050
2016	458	0	0	250,000
2017	3,542	0	100,000	275,000

YEAR	BAPTISMS	WORSHIP	PERCENTAGE
2006	86	1,600	5.4
2007	128	1,900	6.7
2008	87	2,600	3.3
2009	312	3,530	8.8
2010	477	NR	--
2011	359	5,750	6.2
2012	895	5,465	16.4
2013	735	6,518	11.3
2014	928	7,186	12.9
2015	397	8,061	4.9
2016	736	8,810	8.4
2017	631	9,782	6.5

NOTE: Not Reported (NR)

FIRST-NORFOLK

YEAR	PERCENTAGE	CP	UNDESIGNATED
1981	---	22,814	NR
1982	8.5	34,085	401,759
1983	5.9	37,046	628,445
1984	7.3	64,806	886,365
1985	---	NR	900,605
1986	---	NR	NR
1987	10.0	181,604	1,811,085
1988	8.0	149,849	1,866,325
1989	10.6	224,682	2,127,415
1990	9.1	220,390	2,421,395
1991	9.3	223,035	2,394,375
1992	9.6	241,919	2,522,845

YEAR	ASSN	STATE OFFERING	AAEO	LMCO
1981	9,394	826	2,234	NR
1982	12,431	4,928	NR	NR
1983	8,772	668	932	NR
1984	12,306	1,927	NR	NR
1985	NR	NR	NR	NR
1986	NR	NR	6,036	NR
1987	17,054	3,157	6,019	NR
1988	11,953	2,237	NR	NR
1989	17,893	2,409	NR	30,390
1990	19,394	4,542	11,414	28,878
1991	19,897	4,860	12,149	34,388
1992	23,764	5,560	13,637	35,482

YEAR	BAPTISMS	WORSHIP	PERCENTAGE
1981	63	NR	--
1982	62	NR	--
1983	124	NR	--
1984	202	NR	--
1985	212	NR	--
1986	208	2,377	8.8
1987	191	NR	--
1988	203	NR	--
1989	172	NR	--
1990	234	2,838	8.2
1991	202	2,937	6.9
1992	183	3,120	5.9

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Robert Jeffress, Bobby Welch endorse Hemphill for SBC president

By WILL HALL

Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA (LBM)

-- Two iconic leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention have endorsed Ken Hemphill for SBC president.

Robert Jeffress, pastor of the historic 13,000-member First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, in an email, said, "I enthusiastically endorse Dr. Ken Hemphill for president of the Southern Baptist Convention," noting that Hemphill "is a proven leader

with a consistent track record of supporting all the various ministries of our denomination."

"As our Convention faces so many critical decisions that will determine our denomination's future for decades to come," he continued, "we need a leader who has both the ability and the desire to unite, rather than further divide, Southern Baptists."

Bobby Welch, who served as SBC president from 2004-2005 while then pastor of the 4,100-member First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Florida, shared similar thoughts through a social media message about the need for Hemphill's seasoned leadership at a critical time in the life of the Convention.

"There are a number of



Robert Jeffress



Bobby Welch

Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and a former trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary when Hemphill served as its president, and James Hester, pastor of Social Springs Baptist Church in Ringgold, Louisiana.

Scoggins called

Hemphill "a hero to me," for his extensive service to Southern Baptists, adding that he is "a faithful member of our church."

He called Hemphill "a gracious leader at Southwestern Seminary" and "a constant help to churches seeking revitalization since leaving the seminary." He added that Hemphill and his wife Paula have been champions of the church's strong commitment "to supporting missions through the Cooperative Program."

Dean said Hemphill "is a man of deep personal and doctrinal integrity" and noted that he has "selflessly served Southern Baptist churches and causes."

Finally, Hester shared that he made up his mind after listening to both candidates speak on separate occasions as part of an interview series conducted by Brad Jurkovich, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Bossier City, Louisiana.

Hester wrote to the *Baptist Message* that after hearing both men he decided to "wholeheartedly and unequivocally endorse and pledge my support, and that of all messengers of Social Springs Baptist Church in Ringgold, LA, for Dr. Ken Hemphill."

Hester explained his decision in terms of Hemphill's "understanding and vision for our convention" as best representing "Scripture and the traditionalist values that the vast majority in our churches hold dear."

"It matters to me that every church that Dr. Hemphill ever pastored knew that they were Southern Baptists," he said. "We are, first and foremost, a people of the Book. That is nothing for which we should ever be ashamed."

"May we each prayerfully consider the future of our denomination, and be intentional in voting our convictions."

These leaders join 29 Louisiana pastors and others who announced their combined endorsement of Hemphill on April 5.

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- YELLOWSTONE – JULY 1-10
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TOURS ARE ESCORTED
FROM BATON ROUGE

Why you should be an SBC messenger in Dallas this June

BY EDDIE WREN

LBC President

Why should you volunteer to be a messenger for the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas?

I am so glad you asked!

I believe four reasons prevail.

First, to witness the Southern Baptist Convention.

Oh, some will say the SBC is nothing but an oversized business meeting, but the meeting is fascinating nonetheless. Get the business meetings from your grandmother's church out of your head. The SBC is not like her meetings.

Instead, there will be reports and presentations from the major entities of the SBC.

The Executive Committee of the SBC, The North American and International

Mission Boards, Lifeway, Guidestone, the seminaries and others will give presentations and answer questions. The meeting can actually be fascinating, or at least entertaining.

Second, in the couple of days that are the SBC, you will also be privileged to hear good preaching from preachers you may otherwise only hear on television or the radio. If you go early you will hear lots of good preaching at the SBC Pastor's Conference.

But if you cannot attend the Pastor's Conference there will still be opportunities to hear good preaching. Steve Gaines, Ravi Zacharias and Paige Patterson will all preach during the convention. Perhaps you have heard them on disc or audio of some type, but there is nothing like hearing the preaching of God's Word in person



Eddie Wren
LBC President

with the gathered church.

Third, you should attend the SBC and experience the fellowship that attending allows. Whether it be at dinner, in the display hall, the hall outside the convention hall, or on the sidewalk, you will meet someone or see someone you know and experience wonderful fellowship.

Each year I get to see pastor friends I have known since seminary days and with whom I have remained friends. Each year the SBC seems to initiate new friendships as well. The SBC is great for fellowship.

The last and probably most obvious reason to attend the SBC is to elect a new president.

This year is not like some years when only one nominee is announced. At least two men will be nominated to be president of the SBC this year.

The presidential election is important because the president is a representative of all Southern Baptists. He also performs important tasks such as making appointments to various boards.

The election of the president should not be taken lightly.

Louisiana Baptists should take this election seriously enough to investigate the two candidates, discover which one holds the values Louisiana Baptists hold dear, and then vote for that candidate.

If you need information on the candidates, it is available in abundance. Simply google Ken Hemphill and J. D. Greear and you will find all you need.

The SBC presidency is important to our work and worthy of your participation in the election of the president.

With the SBC in close proximity this year, take this opportunity to enjoy the SBC, enjoy friends, and vote for a president.

Eddie Wren is pastor of First Baptist Church, Rayville and president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

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Joseph Kim photos

LSU student Catarina Kim shares a laugh with a resident of the special needs orphanage her team visited during a mission trip to Mexico.

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Mexico from page one

and five Southern University students, BCM staff, pastors and van drivers. Masters said the cooperation among the three BCMs with churches in the Baton Rouge area made for a memorable trip.

"The Mexico mission trip was a great week of missions, ministry, sharing and connection," Masters said. "The participating students slept on the floor, worked long hours, had to take cold showers, much of the time ate sandwiches for lunch each day, gave up time with their families and loved every minute of it."

Florida Boulevard Baptist Church, Istrouma Baptist Church and Woodlawn Baptist Church in Baton Rouge; Comite Baptist Church in Central, Hebron Baptist Church and Southside Baptist Church in Denham Springs; Faith Baptist Church in Livonia; and, Zachary Baptist Church in Galilee provided vans for transportation.

SHARING FOR CHRIST

Fourteen teams were formed

to work with more than 790 children in Bible clubs in 10 different cities. Teams painted churches and parsonages, installed sheetrock, constructed bunk beds and plumbed hot water heaters at the ministry center in Piedras Negras.

The students also led sports clinics attended by more than 150 people each day; distributed food to the poor; and saw more than 100 patients who came through nine medical clinics.

They saw the most decisions at the Bible clubs, where 50 children professed Christ as Savior. The sports clinic also yielded results, with 10 making a commitment to follow Jesus.

Danny Currie, associate BCM director at the Loyola and Tulane BCMs, said four students from LSU responded to the Holy Spirit after a devotional with the entire team Monday night. The students were then assigned to a BCM staff member for discipleship.

"For me, it was a really special night because I really felt

like the Holy Spirit was speaking through me in a powerful way and the engagement by the students was very high," Currie said. "In fact, I didn't plan on giving an invitation but it kind of just happened. That night set the tone for the rest of the week to encourage our students as they were out in the mission field."

Jason Thomas, director of the Southern University BCM, said joining with the other BCMs was a rewarding experience for his students.

"Our students came back with a new outlook on giving back, as well as learned valuable lessons on serving and sharing God with language constraints," Thomas said. "It is often the first mission project some of our students have done and it is invaluable for them learning to give up a spring break for ministry."

Throughout the trip, God reminded students about the importance of trusting Him despite

See MEXICO on 9



Ally Spring (left) and Carly Moore (second from left), students at LSU, distribute a flier advertising a medical clinic held later in the day.

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Mexico from page 8

hindrances, such as overcoming a language barrier, several students said.

"The Lord revealed to me that we still serve the same God despite language barriers and cultural distances," said LSU student Mallory LaBorde. "God reminded me of how good I have it in the States. I fell in love with the children and the family of the church. Seeing their love for each other has inspired me to love my family the same way."

LSU student Brittany Freeman said the Holy Spirit convicted her of the need to step outside her comfort zone to be a bold witness for Christ.

"If we step back because we aren't comfortable and feel we can't do it, we are dulling our light that the Lord gives us," Freeman said. "It doesn't matter if we feel we can do it ourselves or not, because God is powerful and can do all things."

COMMITTED FOR LONG HAUL

The LSU BCM has been involved with a Mexico missions trip from 1992-2009, when they worked with churches in Piedras Negras and just to the south of the city in the Casa Hogar orphanage. With the exception of 2010-2015 when they did not travel back due to drug cartel violence, the LSU BCM has returned to work there annually.

Masters said after conducting extensive research by

visiting with pastors in the country, IMB representatives, border patrol officers and other government officials, he is confident that working in the Piedras Negras area is safe for mission teams; and, he encourages others to consider going there to share Christ's love.

"There is a great need for other groups to work in Mexico all up and down Rio Grande River," he said. "The drug cartel violence is still occurring in parts of Mexico, but it has subsided in the Piedras Negras area. It's time to re-partner with churches in that region."

Masters said the mission trip has become an annual tradition for his family. Though his three daughters are no longer participating because they have moved out of state, Masters said they still have fond memories of time spent in Mexico.

"I started taking my three daughters on the BCM Mexico mission trips when they were seven years old," he said. "They all went each year until they graduated from college. It was one of the best things I did for them as a parent."

"It helped them understand our God is a God of all people," he continued. "It helped them see that material possessions are not as important as faith in God, family, and the Church. It helped them learn the importance of service. Our 2018 Mexico mission trip participants had the same experience and feelings."

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Harvest from page 3

"The first thing that came to my mind was incredible," Post said. "In his presentation he brought it all to a culmination that this is how God works in our lives. Though the weather hurt attendance, those who did come out on the rainy and cold days were blessed and received Daily's message well."

Luther Sanson, pastor of Twin Oaks Baptist Church in Bastrop, enjoyed the fellowship with other churches as they coordinated the roundup.

"We are trying to build fellowship with other churches and this is another way to do just that," Sanson said. "This roundup is going to hopefully lead to a great outreach in the community, which is one thing I really like about this Harvest initiative. If we as individuals would tell someone and then they would tell someone else, we could reach the whole world."

OUACHITA CRUSADE

The Ouachita Baptist Association Harvest Crusade resulted in 77 people mak-

ing a decision, including 44 who indicated their desire to trust in Jesus as their Savior. Between 800-900 came every night it was held at West Ouachita High School in West Monroe April 8-11.

Prayer coordinator Mike Holloway said prayer played a key role in the success of the crusade. Churches were asked to form prayer teams, and pray at least two months prior to the event. A prayer rally was held the evening prior to the crusade opening night.

"We had people who came forward for salvation decisions, but we also had some express prayers for assistance to overcome addictions, freedom from bullying and help with marital problems," said

Holloway, pastor of Ouachita Baptist Church in West Monroe. "I personally talked with one person who was at one point saved, but got away from the church. His desire is to now rejoin with my church after being away for 10 years."

Holloway said 12 churches played a pivotal role in the crusade. He received numer-

ous comments about the desire for churches in the association to get together for joint events.

"The benefits were more than just the salvations," Holloway said. "It was the spirit of partnership. They left, even if they were believers, encouraged to see other fellow Christians coming together. Our churches really enjoyed getting to see each other and doing something together, all for the glory of God."

Neil Everett, pastor of First Baptist Church in Calhoun, said the crusade offered his members the rare chance to fellowship with those from other churches.

"One of the great blessings from it was the fellowship," Everett said. "We don't have enough opportunities to get together with members of other churches. We saw members really growing closer together and forming strong bonds. When you worship together, you grow closer together. I think out of this we may have another big crusade down the road where our members get together again for a time of fellowship and service."

Bill Britt presented the Gospel message each night of the crusade.

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ON THE MOVE

- Matt, wife Erin, Mallette and his wife Erin is the new youth minister at Unity Baptist Church, Deville.
- Kenneth, wife Peep, Austin is the new interim pastor at The Church at Marksville.
- Jerry Penfield has resigned as pastor at First Baptist Church, Zwolle.

REVIVAL

- Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Spring Revival**, May 7-8, each night 6-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Pastor: Fred Luter.
- Franklinton Area Senior Adult Revival, "A Clean Heart Revival," May 7-11; Monday, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Franklinton, Speaker: Michael Thomas; Tuesday, Bethel Baptist Church, Franklinton, Speaker: Mike Stafford; Thursday, Bogue Chitto, Mt. Hermon, Speaker: Joey Miller; Friday, First Baptist Church, Franklinton, Speaker: Breaux Tageant.
- Beulah Baptist Church, Many: **Revival**, May 13-16, Evangelist: Scotty McDowell, chalk artist. Pastor: Kenneth Leach, Sr.

LAGNIAPPE

- First Baptist Church, Ruston: **National Day of Prayer**, May 3, 7 p.m. Concord Baptist Association will hold a special prayer service at First Ruston for people to pray for their church, their community, and the country. Pastor: Chris Craig.
- First Baptist Church, Lafayette will host a National Day of Prayer luncheon May 3 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They will be praying for America, especially the leadership and citizens of our city, community, state, and nation to make wise biblical decisions. Pastor: Steve Horn.
- First Baptist Church, Hornbeck: National Day of Prayer Prayer Walk at Hornbeck Town Hall, May

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4, Noon. Refreshments will be provided after walk.
Pastor: Jack Bell.

■ **13th Annual Toledo Bend Fishing Derby**, May 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., San Miguel Park beach area, Ages 3-15. Preschoolers must have a parent or guardian present. School-age children groups must have one adult for each 5 children. Bring a fishing pole or rod & reel and bait. A complimentary lunch will be provided. For more information, call Mary Gore at 318.452.9731 or Danny Warmack at 318.315.0713.

■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **Community-wide service for National Day of Prayer**, May 3, 6:30 p.m. The community is invited to come together the National Day of Prayer with a powerful prayer and praise service. Pastors and churches are invited to come together to praise the name of our Lord, to pray and to act His blessings on the nation. Pastor: Philip Robertson.

■ **Inaugural Youth Bass Tournament**, May 5, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Weigh-in at 1:30 p.m. at Toledo Bend Resort Ministries (3840 Carters Ferry Road, Zwolle). For additional information and rules, call Toledo Bend Baptist Resort Ministry at 318.645.6601 or Mary Gore at 318.452.9731 or Danny Warmack at 318.315.0713.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, May 7, noon. Speaker: Erin Stokes, principal at Pineville Elementary. Cost: \$10 and you may pay at the door. Please RSVP to Stewart Holloway (sholloway@fbcpineville.net.) Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

■ First Baptist Church, Tallulah: **An Evening with Hank**, May 9, 6 p.m. Speaker: Hank Parker is a noted TV personality, outdoorsman, and BASS angler who has a wonderful testimony to share. For more information, call the church at 318.574.3737. Pastor: Jason McGuffie.

■ First Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Men's Golf Tournament**, May 19, 1-5:30 p.m. at the Joe Bartholomew Golf Course. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$45. For more information or to sign up, con-

tact Taylor.Rutland@fbno.org.

■ Cross Branded Cowboy Church, Pineville: **Southern Revelation Gospel group in concert**, May 21, 6 p.m. For more information or to book Southern Revelation, call Mark Goodman at 318.450.0768. Pastor: Herb Dickerson.

IN REMEMBRANCE

■ Bobby Dunn, 80, of Dry Prong, passed away Monday, April 16, at Rapides Regional Medical Center. He was a minister at Fairfield Baptist Church in Dry Prong and a retired parts manager in the automotive industry. He was preceded in death by his children, Bobby Andrew Dunn, Stacy Lynn Dunn, and Shannon Kaye Dunn and his wife of 35 years, Annie Lea Dunn. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Joyce Dunn; grandson, Nathan Lucas; stepson, Alvin M. Packard, Sr.; daughter in law, Jenny Packard; stepson, Timothy D. Packard; granddaughter, Sara Chea Packard; grandson, Zach Packard; grandson, Alvin Packard, Jr.; grandson, Caleb Packard as well as many nieces, nephews and friends.



Price Harris (third from the left) was among four alumni inducted into William Carey University's Hall of Fame on April 20 during the school's homecoming weekend. As president of Price Harris Evangelism, he is a familiar face at conferences and revivals around the state. He is active in evangelism in Jamaica, Romania, Mexico, Brazil, and the Philippines with a strategy of returning to the same places several times, developing a continuing ministry and strong relationships with the people.

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.

wkl pebtieqlo zrsl e oplyy, ebt ew jhi zewlo eil eyy

pebbli jd xyleoebw dihrwo, blg ebt jyt, gkrmk r kesl

yert hx dji wkll, j pn ulyjslt.

wkl ojbz jd ojyjpjb olslb:wkriwllb

Clues:
B = N; R = I

Answer to April 19 Scripture Crypto:
First Thessalonians four: eleven



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President's Report

Spring Update, 2018

FAITH INTEGRATION

Published third edition of Faith Matters -- six essays by faculty highlighting the value of a Christian liberal arts education.

Launched annual "God in the Workplace Conference," featuring Dr. Richard Blackaby, Doug Hunter, Dallas Hixson, and Jeff Draughon, all of whom presented methods to introduce and promote their Christian faith in the marketplace.

Hosted "An Evening with C. S. Lewis" -- a dramatic monologue by British actor David Payne well received by students, faculty, and the community.

Launched the Wayne & Martha Jenkins Center for Evangelism & Missions, which will augment our Missions & Ministries degree with emphases on evangelism and missions, and plans for scholarship opportunities for mission trips and education.

Hosted "Christ in the Passover" as presented by Jews for Jesus.

Completed an evangelism training initiative for staff and coaches, and will include students in the fall 2018 semester.

Faculty read Mark Noll's "Jesus Christ and the Life of the Mind" and discussed the book in cross-disciplinary study groups.

ACADEMICS

Launched a Master's of Social Work, a Master's in Educational Leadership, and a Master's in Nursing, bringing the number of Master's degrees at LC to four.

LC's teacher prep programs rank among the highest in LA for completers earning highly effective performance scores in the classroom, and LC's retention rate of current practicing teachers is among the highest in the state.

Nursing program has returned to "full approval" accreditation status under the Louisiana State Board of Nursing.

The Center for Excellence in Teaching faculty workshop featured Dr. Mark Taylor and the advantages of the "flipped classroom." Regular faculty meetings offer innovative teaching techniques and tools for using technology in the classroom.

Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Dr. Marilyn Cooksey successfully completed a test qualifying her as a Certified Nurse Educator, which certifies that she exemplifies the highest standards of education excellence in Nursing.

Two Art majors' works were juried into national and regional art exhibitions.

Convergence Media majors took top honors in the Southeast Journalism Conference and the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in February.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

LC continues with landscaping projects campus wide. These efforts have won two local garden club awards. The \$100K Campus Beautification and Improvements Donor Challenge was met and exceeded, garnering more than \$200K. Some of these funds also provided security lighting in several strategic campus locations.

Hattie B. Strother Cafeteria upgrades during Christmas break totaled \$200K. When completed this summer, additional upgrades will bring the total to \$420K.

The \$6.2 million Guinn Auditorium renovation to be complete in July 2018.

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ENROLLMENT

Increased by 19% -- 901 to 1072 students -- from spring 2017 to spring 2018.

Since fall 2015 enrollment has increased 24 percent.

Spring Preview Day attendance set a school record with a 52 percent increase over last year -- from 88 prospective students to 134.

Increase of 22 percent in TOPS recipients over last year, whose ACT score average is up from 22 to 23 in the same time period.

Dual enrollment has increased by 93 percent.

Bringing 780 high school students to the campus, the CenLa Literary Rally hosted by LC in February saw 17 CenLa high schools represented.

The regional Future Business Leaders of America spring convention brought 550 high school students to campus.

ADVANCEMENT

As of November 1, 2017, LC has received \$5,710,024 in gifts and pledges.

Alumni meetings this year include Baton Rouge, March 1; Lake Charles, March 20; Shreveport ArkLaTex, April 10; CenLa Alumni gathering in conjunction with Cochon de Lait, April 21; and June in Dallas, Texas, in conjunction with the SBC.

The Board of Visitors, now 177 members strong, are giving more than \$227,000 annually. This translates to more than \$1 million over a 4-year period in direct additional scholarship funds that wholly and solely support qualified students.

With a goal of \$500K by Oct. 1, 2018, the Cavanaugh Campaign has garnered \$290,181.88 in gifts and pledges thus far.

ATHLETICS

Sports Information Director Brad Welborn took top honors and best in show at the 2018 Louisiana-Mississippi AP Broadcasters and Media Editors Awards College Division Annual Awards Luncheon.

Grade point averages among LC student-athletes include Softball at 3.4, Women's Soccer at 3.3, and Men's Soccer at 3.1. Baseball, Women's Golf, Women's Cross Country, and Men's Tennis all are 3.0 or higher.

Responding to Hurricane Harvey, members of several Wildcats teams raised money, bought supplies, gathered canned goods, and traveled to the Houston area to distribute relief items and clean debris from homes and neighborhoods.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

The Center saw more than 1,400 visits in the spring semester. Services rendered through individual tutoring, study groups, and the Writing Center continue to generate notes, phone calls, and emails from students, parents, and faculty expressing gratitude for, and reports of students' academic improvements.

"Our calling, our Vision of Preparing Graduates and Transforming Lives remains dependent upon our Louisiana Baptist family's ongoing prayerful and financial support. Because of you, God continues to call students unto salvation and into the marketplaces of the world, where they will live out the Gospel. We are deeply grateful for you."

-- Dr. Rick Brewer, President
Louisiana College

