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John 3:16

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Doug Collier photos

Robert Jeffress, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, encouraged those attending the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association's 50th anniversary celebration to stay faithful until the very end of life.

NWLBA honors M.E. Dodd during 50th celebration

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

SHREVEPORT (LBM) – The Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association paid tribute to Cooperative Program father M.E. Dodd during its 50th anniversary celebration, Sunday, Oct. 20.

Throughout the evening, Louisiana Baptist and Southern Baptist leaders honored the association with video tributes and statements of appreciation at Summer Grove Baptist Church in Shreveport.

NWLBA Director of Missions Lane Moore stood behind the pulpit used by Dodd during his ministry as pastor



M.E. Dodd was the father of the Cooperative Program.

of the First Baptist Church in Shreveport from 1912-1950 and shared how the legendary pastor helped lead an effort to form the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' main channel of giving to fund cooperative mission causes.

Moore recounted how during Dodd's 1919 SBC Annual Meeting convention sermon, SBC leaders and messengers took up his challenge to increase the Convention's missions fundraising goal from a previously planned \$50 million to \$75 million in a difficult post-World War I economy.

See NWLBA, page 7



Lane Moore, NWLBA Director of Missions, stands behind the pulpit while detailing the impact M.E. Dodd had in helping to establish the Cooperative Program.

Annual Meeting will highlight progress of 2020 Commission

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – Messengers to the 2019 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Nov. 11-12, will have the opportunity to learn about the status of the various goals and action steps outlined in the President's 2020 Commission which is nearing its final year.

Approved by messengers at the 2013 Louisiana Baptist Convention annual meeting, the 2020 initiative, led by then LBC President Waylon Bailey, pastor of First Baptist Church in Covington, seeks to reach every generation and every people group in Louisiana with the Gospel by the year 2020 through the avenues of congregational revitalization, church planting, communications and collaboration.

The 2020 recommendations were crafted collaboratively by a commission of 400 Louisiana Baptist leaders, staff members and laypeople, working in 20 subcommittees of 20 members each.

"I believe Louisiana Baptists will be encouraged by some of the progress made over the last six years," said recently elected Louisiana Baptists Executive Director Steve



Doug Collier photo

Recently elected Louisiana Baptists Executive Director Steve Horn will share with messengers the progress and goals reached on the 2020 Commission.

See ANNUAL MEETING, page 12

Free indeed at St. Gabriel!

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ST. GABRIEL (LBM) – The temptation to forgo baptism was strong just a day after an inmate named

Leann accepted Christ during a revival service at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. But a nudge by the Holy Spirit helped her stay the course toward obedience.

"She told one of her friends on the way to the [Sunday baptism] service she may not go through with it," LCIW Lead Chaplain

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Skills of a church planter: Effectively Building Relationships

ALEXANDRIA (LBM)—A few weeks ago my wife posted a picture of the two of us on Facebook and one of my cousins in Ohio commented, or rather questioned in a comment, “Why is Kitty taking a picture with Uncle Huey” (my Dad)?

I thought to myself, “Very funny,” but did not post a response.

The way we look, certain traits, characteristics, and even parts of our personalities are linked to genetics and is the result of the



JOHN HEBERT
Team Leader
Louisiana Baptist
Missions & Ministry

DNA contributions by our ancestors. Our progenitors set in motion elements of our health, our height and probably our disposition.

In the same way that genetics shape our lives, ancient cultures have shaped our society. The ancients made many contributions to modern society:

- the Egyptians developed mathematics;
- the Mesopotamians the wheel, plow and first code of laws;

-- the Chinese made contributions to the arts and sciences; and,

-- the Greeks gave us philosophy, democracy and the Olympic Games.

The Romans, of course, gave us cement.

Actually they gave us much more than that, but this contribution led to the actual building of the Roman Empire -- tunnels, bridges, aqueducts, Roman arches and amphitheaters all were possible because of the invention of “pozzolanic” cement -- and it was a key factor in the later development of the modern world.

The Romans found that pulverized volcanic ash added to limestone created a physical bond so significant that it would set, or stick together, even under water.

Successful church planters and pastors know what makes their organizations “stick together.” The cement that holds them together is relationships,

and if practitioners are to be successful they need to know how to effectively build relationships.

All successful organizations are defined by relationships: leaders to followers; followers with other followers; and, internal with external groups.

Successful organizations create solid, “stick together,” relationships among members.

I was fortunate as a teenager to play on a very successful basketball team. We were state champs. While there are many other skills to master to be a state champ, the importance of good relationships among teammates ranks very high. We were like brothers.

In what I think was author Stephen Ambrose’s best book, “Band of Brothers,” Ambrose wrote of the relationships between the members of “Easy” Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division: “Within Easy Company they had made the best friends they had ever had, or would ever have. They were prepared to die for each other; more important, they were

prepared to kill for each other.”

They thought highly of each other. In one of his last newsletters, Mike Ranney, a member of E Company wrote: “In thinking back on the days of Easy Company, I’m treasuring my remark to a grandson who asked, ‘Grandpa, were you a hero in the war?’

“No,” I answered, “but I served in a company of heroes.”

In his remark you can clearly see the point is not the “killing.” Instead, it’s the bonding that occurred.

These troops were considered to be some of the most effective in World War II, and the bond they shared was certainly a major factor in their success.

So the successful church planter should master the skill of building these kinds of relationships between him and his team of leaders, as well as with rank and file team members, too.

To some people the art of building relationships is a natural ability. It is connected to the DNA they received from their parents in the form of their

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Please send résumé to Dr. Perry Hancock (phancock@lbch.org) or Susan Nolan (snolan@lbch.org) or P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

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Relationships from page 2

personality. To put it short, they are very "likable" and are naturally interested in people. They connect through social networks of their own construction and because they are interested in people they are empathetic and the bond comes natural.

For others the skill must be acquired.

To gain mastery of this skill, start with Scripture references with obvious meaning so no explanation is needed:

-- Ephesians 4:2 says "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

-- 1 Peter 4:8 also makes "love" a priority, saying, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

Learn to empathize with others and your social network will swell in numbers.

Develop your ability to relate to a diverse group of people and take advantage of opportunities to respond to the needs of others, whether physical or emotional in nature.

These skills will help you to be an initiator in relationships and serve as the cement that will hold

your organization together.

Being effective in building relationships is described as cementing relationships in 1 Peter 2:5: "You, also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Develop your own approach to cementing relationships -- find ways to invest yourself in others and to cultivate closeness. You can't effectively develop relationships without closeness.

A personal conversation is one of the best ways to relate to others. But simply spending time with those you are cultivating -- doing things they like to do -- is also effective.

Go out of your way to be a friend, and you will be rewarded with quality relationships.

Next time you see a Roman, thank him for inventing cement!

Also, don't forget to thank your parents and grandparents for the DNA they gave you.

Most importantly, thank the Lord Jesus for helping us create the bond that holds everything together... relationships.

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St. Gabriel from page one

Debi Sharkey told the *Baptist Message*. "Then she felt like she heard the Lord say, 'Come as you are.'"

"She said she didn't expect to feel anything except the sensation of the cold water. But to her surprise she felt refreshed, renewed," Sharkey continued. "She said she felt 'lighter' like she knew Jesus carried her sins away."

During revival services attended by 413 women Sept. 27-29 at the maximum security prison nearly 10 miles east of Baton Rouge, 24 inmates made professions of faith and 17 of them were baptized.

Approximately 65 volunteers from 15 Louisiana Baptist churches participated in the revival, which included three worship services on Saturday and a worship service and baptism opportunity on Sunday.

Additionally, gift boxes were distributed to the inmates.

The Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge hosted a barbecue lunch Saturday for prisoners, guards and jail staff. Retired Louisiana Baptist Pastor Dick Debusk brought in large grills to cook 700 chickens and 200 pounds of sausage that were provided by the association.

Many others helped

offsite, some serving as donors and others as volunteers who helped put together the gift boxes for the female inmates.

More than 30 churches were represented in packing boxes in the Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center, Woodworth, in the Louisiana Baptist Building, Alexandria, and in Brownfields Baptist Church, Baton Rouge.

More than 100 churches contributed items included in the 600 gift boxes that were distributed.

Another 760 gift sets of personal items were left as gifts for future inmates.

The Georgia Barnette Offering for State Missions provided funds to purchase the boxes and pay for transporting them to the prison.

"It's not an easy place to live or minister," said Janie Wise, women's missions and ministry team leader for Louisiana Baptists.

"But there is a love that is really felt when you step inside the prison. I can't imagine what they did to get there, but they understand what it's like to have redemption through Christ."

HUMBLE SPIRIT

Debusk was overcome with a feeling of humbleness as he baptized each new convert from the previous day.

"The expression on the faces of those ladies was amazing," Debusk told the *Baptist Message*. "You could see a transformation at the moment they were immersed and then raised out of the water. They were the perfect picture what Christ meant when he said, 'You came into prison and visited me.' I heard so many of the offenders rejoicing that while they were in prison, in a sense they were set free."

Prior to the baptisms,

Debusk preached a Sunday morning message based on the account of Jesus in the house of Simon the Leper, found in Matthew 26, Mark 14 and John 12.

"Each of these ladies may be in prison, but they have something special to give to Jesus," Debusk said. "Like Mary who gave the alabaster box to Jesus, the St. Gabriel women have a gift they can present to Christ, too."

Checkerz Williams, pastor of Renew Church in Baton Rouge, and Manuel Pige, pastor of United Believers Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, also preached at the revival

services. The praise teams from Grace Community Baptist Church in Baton Rouge and Fellowship Church in Prairieville led music. Graduates of the prison's New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary extension center served as decision counselors, and assisted with follow-up efforts.

Williams said the revival has become a highlight each year.

"I am always overwhelmed with joy and gratitude as they sing and perform drama skits when I am there," Williams said

See ST. GABRIEL, page 10

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Louisiana College honors Hixsons at Founders Day

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE (LBM) – Louisiana College honored Carroll and Elizabeth Hixson with the unveiling of a historical marker in front of the student center that bears their name during its annual Founders Day celebration Oct. 24.

“The Hixsons believed that everyone should have access to a Christian education,” LC President Rick Brewer read from a description on the marker. “Their gift of the Hixson Student Center testifies to the unified hearts, shared convictions and exemplary lives of Carroll and Elizabeth Hixson.”

Carroll Hixson was a long-time co-owner of Hixson Funeral Homes, with multiple locations in the state, and served faithfully for 56 years at

the First Baptist Church in Lake Charles in various roles that included deacon and Sunday school teacher.

His love for Louisiana Baptists eventually led him to serve as a trustee with LC for 28 years, including a stint as chairman.

The Hixson heritage traces back to 1907, when his father, J.E. Hixson, was an adjunct professor, according to the LC Office of Communication.

In the ensuing years, other family members enrolled as students: Lauren Hixson Philips, an alumna and accountant in Lake Charles; Emma Hixson, a pre-med student and member of the Wildcats tennis team, and Meggie Hixson, an alumna and doctor serving as a missionary in Tanzania.

Lauren Philips and Emma Hixson both at-

See HIXSONS, page 15



Brian Blackwell photo

(L-R) Emma and Paul Hixson, Lauren Hixson Phillips, and John and Sheila Hixson proudly stood by a historical marker dedicated in front of the Hixson Student Center at Louisiana College. The building is named after Carroll and Elizabeth Hixson, who were honored during the school's annual Founders Day celebration, Oct. 24.

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NWLBA from page one

"Chairman Dodd and his committee went back to work and for several more years revised, re-worked and re-structured a detailed plan that was presented at the 1925 Southern Baptist Convention," Moore said. "The Cooperative Program was born. And today all 45,000-plus Southern Baptist churches cooperatively work with their state, national and international mission partners to fund ministries and missions at home and abroad."

Steve Horn, executive director for Louisiana Baptists, said while many things have changed since the association was founded in 1969, the one common denominator is the world is filled with hopeless people. Citing 1 Peter 1:3, Horn said Louisiana Baptists have a hope found in Jesus.

"Peter said if we believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, then we have a living hope inside of us," Horn said. "Peter tells us if we have this living hope inside of us then that living hope calls us to a holy lifestyle. God has called us into a relationship with him that ought to be marked by holiness. We ought to be ready to share with anyone who asks a reason for the hope that is within us. So my challenge for all of you and for me is that for those of us

who believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, even though we might live in a hopeless world, we are not hopeless. We ought to be filled with hope and we ought to be sharing that hope with others. May our 'next days' prove to be our 'best days.' May they prove we are folks who are filled with hope and share that hope with others."

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Robert Jeffress, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, was the guest speaker and congratulated the association for its 50th year of ministry.

"It's good to be here with you on this occasion the 50th anniversary of Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association as you celebrate the ministry of M.E. Dodd," Jeffress said. "What an impact he made, not just on Louisiana but our country and the entire world. He was a friend of our church. He was in our pulpit often."

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It's such an honor to stand behind his pulpit tonight. His life is an illustration of what we are going to talk about tonight."

Jeffress, who has authored several books on Heaven, drew his message from 2 Corinthians 5. He said many people he has encountered know very little about Heaven and God's plans for them there.

"This world is not as God intended it to be," he said. "And the good news is this world is not where we will ultimately be. There is a better world God is preparing. And that better world is a place called heaven. That is the world that God has planned for us."

He said non-believers and believers both will face a judgment at the end of time. After those who do not believe in Christ are condemned to an eternity in Hell, believers will be judged according to their faithfulness while on earth.

"Good works are actually useless in securing

your 'place' in Heaven, but good works are invaluable in securing your 'position' in Heaven," he said.

"Good works are meaningless to God before we are saved, but they are priceless after we are saved," Jeffress explained. "We are not saved by good works but we are saved for good works. Those works are going to be the basis for our judgment, what we do after we are saved."

Jeffress encouraged those attending the meeting to stay faithful until the end of life.

"When you become a Christian God gives you the gift of Jesus Christ.

He is the foundation of your life. Every believer has that same foundation. That is a gift from God. But you decide what kind of life you are going to build on that foundation. What are you going to do with the time, the opportunities, the treasure God gives you? Are you going to spend that time, that treasure, those opportunities on building your kingdom or on God's Kingdom. It's one or the other. We are all building some kind of life with the time, talents and treasure that God has entrusted to us. Is your life built around the eternal or the temporal?"

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Louisiana College trustees elect officers; approve scholarships

By Norm Miller

Louisiana College News

PINEVILLE (LCNews) – The Louisiana College Board of Trustees unanimously approved two scholarships and elected officers in their Oct. 28 meeting.

By unanimous vote trustees elected as chairman, David Jeffreys, associate pastor of Highland Baptist Church in New Iberia; as vice chairman, Michael Evans, pastor of Elwood Baptist Church in Forest Hill; and as secretary, David Lane, pastor of Judson Baptist Church in Walker.

The President's Leadership Award and a STEM to STEAM scholarship were unanimously approved.

Based on academic performance and need, the STEM to STEAM full tuition scholarship

is limited to five qualified students, total, from the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts or other STEM accredited high schools.

"We believe the Arts are no less important than science, technology, engineering, and math are to a holistic liberal arts education," said Louisiana College President Rick Brewer. "This scholarship reflects our commitment for STEM to become STEAM at Louisiana College and adds our collegial support to what the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts in Natchitoches and other STEM accredited schools are consistently accomplishing."

"While meeting other admissions requirements at LC, STEM applicants must submit three letters of recommendation: one each from an instruc-

tor or faculty advisor, from a current or former employer, and from a character reference who is not a family member. The letters must have requisite contact information, be signed by the writer, and the original sent to Louisiana College's Office of Admissions.



Rick Brewer

The successful applicant will major in one of the following: chemistry, mathematics, pre-engineering, pre-med, nursing, biology, computer science, graphic design, convergence media, theater, or music.

"Research shows that concentrations in these

subjects help synthesize the student's total academic experience and can produce a well-rounded student," Brewer said.

The STEM to STEAM application deadline for the fall 2020 semester is Jan. 31, 2020.

Desiring to reward students who have demonstrated Christian character and leadership abilities, as well as academic skills, Brewer designed the award for exceptional

See LC, page 15

Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

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THE CELEBRATION EQUATION

Whether it's car keys, glasses, etc., everyone has asked the question "where did I put ..." – and the search begins. It seems the older we get, the more frequently this question arises. Frustration and panic often set in when we're unsuccessful in finding the lost item. Frustration and panic give birth to blame as we're confident that – "someone" moved whatever you're searching for.

As Luke followed Jesus and recorded his teachings, he recorded the familiar parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin.

Notice the repeated words/phrases **until** and **and when**.

These words form what I call the **Celebration Equation**. Start with **until**, add **and when**, and these equal a celebration when what was lost has been recovered.

The celebration cannot begin unless we have an **until** moment. This part of the equation begins when we realize

something of value has been lost. Think about it. If we're not looking, searching for something that is lost, it's probably not important.

This realization triggers an urgency which requires an expenditure of energy, resources and time. **We put things on hold until the lost is found.** We leave the ninety-nine, we light a lamp, sweep the floor and search diligently. **Until** releases a wave of energy that fuels perseverance. We are willing to look high and low, far and wide, over and under **until** ...

Until doesn't begin unless we notice that something or someone is missing. The sheep didn't realize it was lost. The coin had no idea how it got under the couch or in the crack in the floor. Could it be in our multi-tasking, always-connected culture that we fail to notice that someone is lost?

The great thing about **until** in these stories is the promise of **and when**. "**And when** she found the coin." "**And when** he found the sheep." **Until** paid a dividend of **and when**.

We need an **and when** moment in our churches. But this will never occur unless we have an **until** moment. When we're willing to expend more time, effort and resources outside of our buildings than inside. **We need to be re-convinced that what is lost is so valuable it requires an all-out until effort.**

God's **and when** promise is still good if we'll engage in the **until** phase.

Maybe the reason we're not celebrating more is we've omitted part of this equation? Without **until** there can be no **and when**. And without **and when** there is no celebration.

There's something exciting and fulfilling about finding what was lost! The shepherd returned home and called his friends and neighbors to "rejoice with me." "**And when**" she found her coin, she did the same.

That why efforts such as *Here for You* are so important. When Jesus said go into the highways and hedges, He meant keep going to the highways and hedges **until** ... I believe Jesus is challenging us to keep going to those intersections

of life where people live and work and compel them come in – that is, give them a reason to check out the Gospel.

Since the state-wide launch of *Here for You* in February, more than 2,500 people have viewed the gospel presentation on *HereforYou.org*. Just under 425 of those have indicated a decision for Christ. This does not include the thousands of people who have seen the commercials on television and digital platforms. **God's seed is being scattered and it's finding good soil.**

Our state enjoys a good celebration. But these celebrations are short-lived and one dimensional – that is, they're limited in their geography and duration. But God's celebration is different. It's ongoing and occurs whenever one person repents and receives His gift of eternal life. It also occurs in multiple realms - i.e. the celebration takes place in heaven and on earth.

The **celebration equation** begins with us. We must notice that someone valuable is missing. A missing person demands an **until** search. As we expend spiritual and material resources in this **until** search, God will open the door to the **and when** promise, and, as the old hymn says, "**what a day of rejoicing that will be!**"



Discover how you can connect with *Here for You* at LouisianaBaptists.org/hereforyou, enter the password, luke1423.

St. Gabriel from page 5

"Jesus said, 'When I was in prison you visited me.' And when the people asked, 'When Lord?' Jesus replied, 'Whenever you did it for the least of my children you did it to me.' The women of LCIW

may have a different past than those outside the fences, but the dozens who accepted Christ will share the same future as every other believer. And hundreds of seeds were planted in the hearts

and minds of those who haven't accepted Christ yet. That is why I look forward to this opportunity every year."

GRATEFUL SPIRIT

Sharkey said the inmates appreciated the gift boxes and the caring attitude shown by the volunteers.

"This is a positive exposure to the Gospel for these ladies, many who have never darkened the doors of a church" Sharkey said. "They are able to hear about life transformation and what Jesus has done for them. The volunteers sacrificed time and resources to give the gift boxes, set up

the tent, participate in worship services and visit the ladies in the dorms. The ladies feel like they are not forgotten - that people actually love them and care about them. It is a tangible way to express Christ's love."

Jana Endris, a member of Fairview Baptist Church in Coushatta, has participated in 13 revivals but this was the first time she shared her testimony. She told the women the revival reminded her of a family reunion.

"I love those ladies like my sisters and was honored to share with them the work that Jesus has done and continues to do in my life," Endris said. "My testimony is

one of growing up with a loving Christian family, realizing I was a sinner in need of a Savior at seven years old, giving my life to Christ, being disciplined by a strong church family and surrendering my life to the Lord, alongside my husband, in pastoral ministry. I let them know that even with Christ as my Savior I have had sin struggles and experienced heartache in my life but He was always with me to forgive me and help me through those difficult times.

"It is easy to allow Satan to make me believe that my testimony is not exciting and one that people don't want to hear-especially women who have been saved out of a rough past," she continued.

"It was an overwhelming, humbling privilege to share with my friends at LCIW what God has done for me and for them and that they are loved unconditionally by Him," she said.

ATTENTIVE SPIRIT

Sharing Christ also took place outside the prison.

Rhonda Mann was inspired by the revival services to look for opportunities to have a Gospel conversation, and her divine appointment took place at the hotel lobby in Zachary where the Louisiana Baptist volunteers were staying.

Mann, ministry assistant at the Vernon Baptist Association, was at the front desk where she overheard fellow guest Mary Spencer mention some setbacks in her life.

Spencer, who has congestive heart failure, was living in the hotel while her home was undergoing treatment for damage from mold.

Mann felt led by the Holy Spirit to approach and pray with her, and moments later Spencer repented for salvation, declaring Jesus to be her Savior.

"The Lord showed his glory that day," Mann said. "It was such a sweet, sweet spirit at LCIW and so much love and Jesus being shared."



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James Jenkins
David Burton

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Chad Williams

TUESDAY EVENING

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Annual Meeting from page one

Horn. "On the flip side, they'll also discover many areas that need our continued prayers, attention and resources as we continue to work towards fulfilling the goals outlined in the report."

Horn will share more about the update during the Monday evening session of the annual meeting, which will take place at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria. The theme of this year's meeting is "Renew," based on Isaiah 40:31.

"I need to be renewed," continued Horn, "every person and every church would benefit from God's renewing touch so I'm praying Louisiana Baptists will turn out for this year's meeting and let's ask God to do what He wants to do if we'll yield to His word and His will."

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Messengers also will vote on a Cooperative Program budget that is leaner than

the previous year, yet not as large of a reduction as messengers approved in three previous years.

Approved during the Executive Board's Sept. 24 meeting at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth, the 2020 financial plan is based on expected Cooperative Program contributions of \$18,653,700, a decrease of \$160,118. Cooperative Program projections are based on actual receipts from August 2018 through July 2019.

The allocation formula for distributing Cooperative Program gifts between the Southern Baptist Convention and Louisiana Baptist Convention causes remains unchanged, with 63.26 percent supporting ministries in the state and 36.74 percent forwarded to fund national entities.

This equates to \$12,206,651 in Cooperative Program funds for Louisiana Baptist missions and ministries.

OTHER BUSINESS

The update on the 2020 Commission and a vote on

the budget are just two of a number of important items which will be addressed this year.

Highlights for Monday include a message by newly installed International Mission Board President Paul Chitwood and Horn's first convention report as Louisiana Baptists executive director. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Professor Jake Roudvoski will share the first of two Bible study lessons and motions will be introduced.

Tuesday will feature messages from Jeffery Friend, pastor of Suburban Baptist Church in New Orleans; and Clint Pressley, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. Other items on Tuesday's agenda include reports by the convention's entities; updates on state missions; approval of motions and election of officers.

At press time, David Cranford, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ponchatoula, and Jeff Ginn, pastor of Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, are the two known candidates whose names will be placed in nomination for the office of LBC president. Eddie Wren, pastor of First Baptist Church in Rayville, is completing his second term as LBC president and is ineligible to run again for re-election.

Leroy Fountain, church health strategist for New

Orleans Baptist Association, is expected to have his name placed in nomination for the office of first vice president, and Marc Taylor, a layman from Cook Baptist Church in Ruston, is expected to have his name placed in nomination for the office of second vice president. They are the only known candidates for their respective offices.

NOTABLES

Gatherings for Nov. 11 include:

--Louisiana Baptist Christian Education Association Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., First Baptist, Pineville

--African-American Fellowship, 4 p.m., Randolph Riverfront Center, Room H

--New Church Reception, 4:45 p.m., Randolph Riverfront Center, Area J

Gatherings for Nov. 12 include:

--Louisiana Right to Life "Pro-Life" Breakfast, 7:00 a.m., Randolph Riverfront Center, Area J

--Partnership Missions Breakfast, 7 a.m., Randolph Riverfront Center, Room H

--Start Something Missions and Ministry Luncheon, 12 noon, Randolph Riverfront Center, Area J

--New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Luncheon, 12 noon, Baptist Building, Mezzanine

--Retiree/Bi-vocational Luncheon, 12 noon, Randolph Riverfront Center, Room H



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Fountain to be re-nominated for first vice president of LBC

By Staff

Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA (LBM)
— Leroy Fountain, church



Leroy Fountain

health strategist with the New Orleans Baptist Association, will be re-nominated for a second consecutive

term as first vice president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention during the 2019 annual meeting.

Jack Hunter, associational missions strategist for NOBA, notified the *Baptist Message*, Oct. 18, of his intention to make the

nomination.

The LBC annual meeting is scheduled to be held in the Alexandria Riverfront Center, Nov. 11-12.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

"Our association has never had a more experienced strategist, a keener exegete of culture or a more humble pastor," Hunter said. "Leroy is a consummate gentleman and an unflinching follower of Christ."

CANDIDATE'S RESPONSE

"I'm honored that Mr. Jack Hunter has agreed to stand on the stage before Louisiana Baptists and express his trust in me," Fountain said. "I'm excited about the possibility, if I

should be so fortunate to be elected, of serving with Dr. Steve Horn, our newly elected state executive director, as he sets a course and leads Louisiana Baptists through the last half of the first quarter of the 21st century. I'm excited to have served with the outgoing president, Dr. Eddie Wren, and the recently retired Executive Director David Hankins. It has been a blessing to serve with them."

PERSONAL DATA

According to the NOBA website, Fountain came to the association after many years of service as a church planter and pastor in Georgia and Alabama, denominational servant in Texas, regional manager for church financial planning with GuideStone Financial Resources, and strategy coordinator with

the church planting group of the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga.

Fountain earned his bachelor's degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge and his master's degree in religion at the Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta.

Leroy and his wife Carolyn have been married for 41 years and have three adult children: Charena, Marsha and Bridgette, and five grandchildren.

BY THE NUMBERS

The database of the Annual Church Profile shows that Franklin Avenue Baptist has consistently supported cooperative missions and ministries, contributing nearly 6 percent of undesignated receipts, \$299,000 in 2017 (the latest stats reported) through the Cooperative Program, up

from .2 percent in 2008.

The congregation also gifted \$136,741 in 2017 to the New Orleans Baptist Association as well as \$7,926 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, another \$4,564 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and \$88 to the Georgia Barnette State Mission Offering.

Franklin Avenue Baptist averaged 3,000 in worship attendance in 2018 and baptized 75 new believers.

Moreover, the congregation has witnessed 1,617 baptisms since 2008.

AVAILABLE

Bob Colquette is available for pulpit supply, interim or pastorate. Call 337.401.6553 or 337.401.6551

Taylor to be nominated for second vice president

By Staff

Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA (LBM)
— Marc Taylor, a member of the Cook Baptist Church in Ruston, will be nominated for second vice



Marc Taylor

president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention during the 2019 annual meeting. Mike

Holloway, pastor of Ouachita Baptist Church in West Monroe, notified the *Baptist Message*, Oct. 18, of his intention to make the nomination because of Taylor's deep commitment to Jesus Christ and the LBC. He is a man of integrity and well respected by all of his peers, Holloway noted.

The LBC annual meeting is scheduled to be held in the Alexandria Riverfront Center, Nov. 11-12.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Holloway said he has

known Taylor since 2005, when he became pastor of Cook Baptist. Even after Holloway resigned in 2015 to become pastor of Ouachita Baptist, he continued his friendship with Taylor.

See TAYLOR, page 14

Scheduling Revivals, Crusades, Harvest Days for 2020-2021

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JAN 11-13 - LUFKIN, TX
JAN 18-30 - ROBELINE, LA
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FEB 10 - EVANGELINE, LA
FEB 11-16 - NEW ORLEANS, LA
FEB 17 - BOURG, LA
FEB 22 - HAMPTON, AR
FEB 24 - BERRYVILLE, AR
MAR 01-03 - WEST MONROE, LA
MAR 10-13 - YANKEE SPRINGS, LA
MAR 18-22 - PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL
MAR 24-27 - LUFKIN, TX
MAR 31 - BETHANY, TX
APR 03 - BRANSON, MO
APR 06 - SILVER DOLLAR CITY
APR 07-10 - RINGGOLD, LA
APR 13-17 - WASHBURN, MO
APR 24 - FARMERVILLE, LA
APR 26-28 - GOLDEN MEADOW, LA
MAY 05-12 - COUSHATTA, LA
JUN 03-05 - LORANGER, LA
JUN 06-08 - WACO, TX
JUN 10-12 - LORANGER, LA
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AUG 04-07 - FOUKE, AR
AUG 09 - NASHVILLE, TN
AUG 17-18 - PRENTISS, MS
AUG 28 - RUSTON, LA
SEP 14-15 - BOGALUSA, LA
SEP 16 - CASTOR, LA
SEP 22-27 - STRONG, AR
SEP 28-30 - ROBINSON, TX
OCT 01-03 - ROBINSON, TX
OCT 13 - WARREN, AR
OCT 19 - COUSHATTA, LA
OCT 20-23 - HEFLIN, LA
OCT 27 - MONTICELLO, AR
NOV 6 - ROANOKE, LA
NOV 10 - SULPHUR, LA
NOV 13 - DEQUINCY, LA
NOV 16 - ELDORADO, AR

Taylor from page 13

"Each year in the LBC we seek qualified and committed laypeople to serve our convention," Holloway said. "I felt God placed Marc's name on my heart because he is a committed Louisiana Baptist and a private business



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owner who has the time to serve our Convention, as he has in the past, as a trustee of Louisiana College. He will do Louisiana Baptists a great job while serving as our second vice president.

"He believes in the inerrancy of the scriptures and the importance of missions and evangelism," he continued. "He leads teams to New Mexico each Christmas to deliver shoeboxes to the Navajo Nation and to share the Gospel message with the Christmas story. Children are saved every year. Also, each summer he leads teams to Mesa Baptist Church on the Navajo reservation and helps conduct Vacation Bible School, participates in construction projects and helps lead a crusade. It is my privilege to nominate such a trusted and dedicated man to be our second vice president. We need to keep our lay people involved in the daily work of our Convention. He

will serve honorably."

CANDIDATE'S RESPONSE

"I am thankful to the Lord Jesus for providing salvation to me and a lost and dying world through His death, burial, and resurrection," Taylor said. "The Lord has blessed me beyond measures in a loving wife, great children and a wonderful church home. I thank Him for my church and the people who ministry there. I considered it a privilege to serve my fellow Louisiana Baptists. God has great plans for our state through us going on mission with Him. If elected, I would count it an honor to serve the Lord and Louisiana Baptists in this capacity."

PERSONAL DATA

Taylor earned his Bachelor of Science from Louisiana Tech University and his Master of Animal Breeding from Louisiana State University. He is the owner of Marc S. Taylor Appraisal in Ruston.

He has served as a Sunday school teacher for more than 35 years, chairman of deacons for three separate terms, a stewardship committee chairperson three times, treasurer since 2011 and chairman of the board of trustees at Cook Baptist.

Likewise, he has served on the Louisiana College Board of Trustees (2006-2010), including chairman (2010-2012).

He and his wife, Berthanne, have been married for 44 years and have three adult children.

BY THE NUMBERS

The database of the Annual Church Profile shows that the Cook Baptist has consistently supported cooperative missions and ministries, contributing nearly 11 percent of undesignated receipts, approximately \$123,000 in 2019, through the Cooperative Program, up from nearly 10 percent in 2009.

The congregation also gifted more than \$13,297 in 2019 to the Concord Union Baptist Association as well as \$12,953 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, another \$23,239 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and \$9,256 to the Georgia Barnette State Mission Offering.

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Guidelines for the making of motions at Annual Meeting

ALEXANDRIA (LBM)

– It is important to remember that motions may only deal with one topic at a time. When making a motion, you should be as brief as possible and always begin with the phrase "I move that..."

If you are making a subsidiary motion (one that deals with a motion already on the floor), it must be relevant to the motion currently under consideration and not be a motion that is the same or substantially similar to one already dealt with by this convention.

If your motion is a privileged motion, it must not be dilatory (unnecessary or made only to delay the conduct of business). If your motion seeks to amend the Louisiana Baptist Convention Articles of Incorporation or Louisiana Baptist Convention Bylaws, please review these documents in advance for special rules regarding the process of amendment prior to offering your motion.

A copy of the LBC Articles of Incorporation and LBC Bylaws are found in your Book of Reports.

Important steps in wording your motion:

- A motion should direct that the Convention take some sort of action or refrain from taking some action. Include only the action you want to see taken in your motion.
- Do not include supporting reasons for adopting your motion in the motion itself. This is done during debate and as the maker of the motion, you will have first opportunity to speak to your motion.
- Do not make a motion that the Convention not adopt some other main motion or attempt to amend a main motion in such a way that it becomes the opposite of its original intent. If you are against a certain motion, simply vote no.
- If you wish to amend a motion, you may move to strike out words from that motion and replace them with other words or you may move to simply add or take away words from the motion. It is not proper to make a "substitute motion" which seeks to completely change the words

See **MOTIONS**, page 17

PROPOSED MOTION TO THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION

Name of Messenger: _____
Name of Church: _____

The wording of any motion should easily fit on the lines below. When making your motion, please state your name and the church from which you are a messenger. Then address the chair as follows:

Mr. President:

I move that:

Louisiana College from page 9

students who will be first-time freshmen and who already are proven servant-leaders at church, school, and community.

Note that the awarding of this scholarship has no basis nor relationship to athletics leadership, ability, participation, or performance.

"This scholarship is a strong reflection of our goal to further develop

students in the maturity of intellect and of Christian character," Brewer said.

Recommended for consideration by a pastor, or headmaster of a Christian school, or principal of a public school, applicants for the President's Leadership Award must have a 23 ACT score and a 3.0 GPA. Once accepted to LC, awardees must maintain a 2.5 GPA and meet other participatory requirements.

Leaders making such recommendations must

develop and implement a process for selecting applicants to the scholarship. LC urges a committee process and not a unilateral decision.

"This award offers is one of the many avenues we employ to fulfill our Vision of Preparing Graduates and Transforming Lives," President Brewer said. "The standards for tomorrow's leaders must not be compromised; rather, they must be emphasized if we will have an impact for today

and the future."

April 30, 2020 is the application deadline for this scholarship if applied to the Fall 2020

semester.

Find more information by emailing admissions@lacollege.edu or calling 800.487.1906.

Hixsons

from page 6

tended the Founders Day event.

Family and close friends joined administrators, faculty, staff and students at the Hixson Student Center for the unveiling of a historical marker honoring the Hixsons. The school named the student center in their honor on Dec. 12, 1994. Recently, the building has undergone several additions including a new game room, Starbucks coffee shop and a Chick-fil-A.

John Hixson, the son of Carroll Hixson and a member of the LC board of trustees, reflected moments earlier inside Guinn Auditorium on how his father showed Christ-centered integrity as a businessman in Lake Charles, and challenged students to make Jesus their foundation upon entering the work force.

"That foundation will be with you forever," Hixson said. "And you can make a difference in whatever you are doing, and that matters."

"God has given you talents and abilities you can use for the Kingdom," he continued. "The Kingdom of God is relational. Think and pray about those talents and blessings that God has given you."

Paul Hixson, another son of Carroll Hixson, asked students to reflect on how they can impact their world for Christ.

"You are at a time in your life when you have some decisions to make," he said. "What's your legacy going to be? The decisions you make are going to prepare you for the rest of your life."

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Pastors Conference: 'Called to a great work'

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE (LBM) – Pastors will be reminded why they are called to carry out a great work during this year's Pastors' Conference, scheduled for Nov. 10-11 at the First Baptist Church in Pineville.

The annual gathering's theme is "Called To A Great Work," based on Nehemiah 6:3.

"Our calling from God as ministers of the gospel of Jesus should be one the highest honors any of us ever experiences," Justin



Ben Trueblood



Dennis Watson



Paul Chitwood



Robert Smith Jr.



Leroy Fountain



Steve Horn

Clark, president of the Pastors Conference and pastor of the First Baptist Church in Lake Providence, told the *Baptist Message*. "I believe we need to be reminded that we have a great calling, by a great

God. My prayer in that we as ministers will be reminded of that calling and leave here more energized than ever to proclaim the Good News of Jesus.

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

The conference begins 5 p.m., Nov. 10, with music led by First Baptist Pineville's worship team, and with messages shared by Robert Smith Jr., professor of Christian preaching at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., and Paul Chitwood, president of the International Mission Board.

A fellowship supper will

follow the opening session.

The next day, the conference will begin at 8:30 a.m., also with music by First Baptist Pineville's worship team.

The morning session will include messages by Steve Horn, executive director for Louisiana Baptists, and Dennis Watson, lead pastor of Celebration Church in the New Orleans area.

After a lunch break, the final session will feature Ben Trueblood, director of student ministry for LifeWay Christian Resources, and Leroy Fountain, church health strate-

gist for the New Orleans Baptist Association.

The second day also will include election of officers for 2020 and the presentation of the three winners of the annual Louisiana College Preacher Award. LC is giving the

awards to three winners, in the categories of Sunday morning worship attendance of up to 100, up to 500 and more than 500.

Spouses will have the opportunity to attend a Ministers' Wives lunch Nov. 11 featuring Shellie Tomlinson, an author and radio talk show host from Lake Providence.



Shellie Tomlinson

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- Do you know how preserving assets can better assure a patient's quality of care and quality of life?**
- Is a loved one already in a nursing home or receiving care? Find out why it may not be too late to save their estate!**

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Willis Prather was a member of the famed 82nd Airborne.

WWII veteran so thankful at 100

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

COLFAX (LBM) – On his most recent birthday, World War II veteran Willis Prather celebrated a century of memories, with special appreciation for his time of service to the country.

The 100-year-old Prather was a member of the famed 82nd Airborne Division.

As he scanned the crowd during the Sept. 22 party at the Bethel Baptist Church in Colfax, he was speechless while remembering those who served with him overseas and those who were waiting for him when he returned home.

“It was just a time when we had to be very, very, very thankful,” Prather, who accepted Christ when he was eight, told the Baptist Message. “I knew the good Lord had to be there taking care of His people. He wasn’t visible, but in your heart you knew He was there right beside you in each battle. I prayed and talked to Him many times, and thanked Him for the day He brought me home.”

Prather joined the 82nd Airborne



Brian Blackwell photo

Pastor Carl Gulde presents Willis Prather a plow share with an inscription to commemorate his 100th birthday at a ceremony at Bethel Baptist in Colfax.

Division in 1943 as a 23-year-old from Eunice, and was assigned to a field artillery regiment at Fort Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma.

From there, he traveled to several states and countries until he reached Normandy, France, on D-Day, June 6, 1944 -- when Allied forces invaded northern France by means of beach and air landings. D-Day was the largest seaborne invasion in history, and began the liberation of German-occupied France from Nazi control, and laid the foundations of the Allied victory on the Western Front.

“Being part of the Airborne Division I landed in a glider airplane behind enemy lines not far from Normandy Beach,” he said. “I wasn’t injured but a lot of soldiers were. They landed in bushes and trees, and on fence posts and buildings. After we landed ashore, we dug fox holes and found protection in hedge rows.”

Seven months later, Prather was part of a surprise attack by the Germans in the Ardennes forest, 339 miles from where he had fought on D-Day.

After an all-night drive to load and unload supplies at Camp Suippes in Sissonne, France, his unit stopped in Bastogne, Belgium, to help fellow soldiers who had been surrounded by German troops.

For six weeks, Prather and his fellow servicemen stood down the enemy in waist-deep snow without access to a bath.

Despite the daunting weather and intense battle conditions, Prather and his friends refused to give up hope, he said. He added he witnessed Christ followers like him place their hope in the Savior, confident He would deliver them.

See PRATHER, page B2

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WWII veteran 'just wanted to do my part'

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

POLLOCK (LBM) —Seventy-three years have passed since Gene Tiley served in World War II as a member of the U.S. Navy; but rarely does a day go by when he does not think about friends who perished in battle.

Known as the Greatest Generation by historians, those who fought in the last large-scale war are largely known to shy away from any attention given to the heroics they might have displayed.

For many war survivors, some memories are painful to recall but at the same time each is an important reminder about the necessity to be vigilant in defending the freedoms won by the many sacrifices made in combat.

"I think about those old boys that I fought alongside, especially those who lost their lives," Tiley, 93, told the Baptist Message. "People risked their lives during the war, and others made significant sacrifices at home."

"When I hear the word 'Greatest Generation' a sense of pride comes across me," he said. "I was always proud to

be a part of it."

Tiley, who is a deacon at the First Baptist Church in Pollock, entered the Second World War at the age of 17 in May 1944, a year before



Brian Blackwell photo

Gene Tiley (left) shares with his pastor, Brian Gunter, and his daughter, Janet Cheveallier, about the many medals he earned as a member of the U.S. Navy during World War II. Tiley is a member of the First Baptist Church in Pollock, where he has served faithfully as a deacon since 1967.

the war officially ended.

"If you were warm and breathing, you were expected to defend our country," Tiley said. "I just wanted to do my part. It was a great feeling to know you were a part of it. I was 17, figured there was a war and I should get in it."

Tiley was deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Panama Canal, Panama, as well as to Saipan and Okinawa in Japan, and, to Manila and Luzon in the Philippines. He was a signalman on a landing ship that delivered tanks, vehicles, cargo, and troops directly onto shore with no docks or piers. He returned with a Victory Ribbon, American Area Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbon and Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

He was delayed from returning home for a while after the war ended. But he arrived back in Pollock in 1946 and joined his father, Roscoe A. Tiley, and brother-in-law, Bracie E. Montgomery, to open Johnson's Café. He also was co-owner of Tiley Montgomery Grocery and later the owner of Tiley's Supermarket in the community.

Tiley believes God spared him from death during the war so he would have an opportunity to accept Christ in 1951 during a revival at the First Baptist Church in Pollock. Until then, Tiley had not attended any church service.

But he accepted the invitation of a friend to go that night. Since then, he has been a faithful member of First Pollock—volunteering as Sunday school general secretary for 25 years, and, serving as deacon since 1967.

Brian Gunter, pastor of First Baptist Pollock, said Tiley is a shining example of a man who served his family, church and country well.

"Gene is a good example of what a deacon should be," Gunter said. "He has the respect of people in the community. He is one of our longest continuous church members. Gene is last World War II veteran I know personally. I have great deal of respect for all veterans but in particular those who fought in World War II because the stakes were so high. The world was being overtaken by some very evil people and they had to be stopped."

Janet Cheveallier, one of Tiley's two daughters, said men like her father make her proud to call herself an American.

"I'm very proud of all of them," she said. "You can see the patriotism they had, but you don't see as much of it as was shown by this generation. We've always had a flag flying at our house. We used to go to VFW meetings, and had covered dish meals with other veterans and their families."

"This whole generation deserves our respect for their service."

Prather from page B2

Finally, on Christmas morning, the sun broke through the clouds and planes arrived with much-needed supplies to sustain them as they won their battle against the Germans.

"The 101st and 82nd were fighting in this same battle," he said. "One of the things that I remember is the Germans tried to get us to surrender, but one of the U.S. generals replied 'nuts.'"

"Some of the Germans dressed in American uniforms and tried to direct our soldiers into German territory. But it didn't take long to catch on to what they were plotting and to foil their plans," he continued. "The weather had been too inclement for our planes to get through with supplies and support. But when the sun broke through, the sky was full of our planes and the enemy was defeated, and they began to run. It was a glorious sight."

As they continued their move into Germany, Prather and his brother in arms continued the assault on the enemy, capturing the entire 21st German Army Group in Cologne, Germany. His company also stumbled upon several concentration camps, which were filled with Jewish prisoners that were weak and barely able to stand or

keep their eyes open.

Prather was able to return to the United States on Christmas Day, 1945, and found his wife, Ina Vera, and newborn son, Winnfred, waiting for him. His family moved to Colfax in early 1946 and bought 60 acres to build a home where he still resides today.

Prather joined Bethel Baptist on Aug. 8, 1946. He became a deacon in 1952 and taught an adult men's Sunday school class for nearly 60 years. He also ministered away from his church by sharing the Word through a local radio show for seven years.

Prather retired in 1981 from E.S. Voelker Company in Alexandria, where he fixed hay balers for 31 years.

Despite their busy schedules, Prather and his wife prioritized raising their children in Christ. His daughter, Joan Futrell, said her father "gave us a godly legacy that will be



Willis Prather poses with fellow members of the 82nd Airborne following basic training.

felt for many generations to come."

"He has set the bar for our family all these years," Futrell said. "He made sure that we were at church and that we knew what church was all about and was very instrumental in giving us the foundations that led me, my brother Winnfred and my sister Sharon Turner to Christ. He's my hero."

Looking back at his experience in World War II, Prather said many of his friends died on the battlefield during that time and that he is thankful God spared him.

"It was heart touching," he said. "You had to be grateful for all you saw and went

through.

"Today I am so thankful that I am one in that generation," he continued. "I'm just thankful that the good Lord fought the battles for us and let me come back to raise my family. I have so much to be thankful for at 100."

West Point grad 'promotes' from military to ministry

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE (LBM) – Jeff Vincent was running from the call to pastor after he completed his tour of duty with the Army in 2010, but a burden to see his community reached with the Gospel prompted him to reverse course and plant Hope Church in Baton Rouge six years later.

Vincent's obedience has allowed him to see the church grow from just a handful in 2016 to more than 50 in early October.

"We planted Hope Church at a moment in our lives when we really needed hope," Vincent told the *Baptist Message*. "We were recovering from some pretty serious hurt and disappointment, and struggled and wrestled with God because we thought we had hit a dead end. After some serious prayer and investment into our healing by other leaders, we realized that this pain had a

purpose and there are no dead ends when living on mission for Jesus."

Vincent was raised near Jennings in an impoverished family closely tied to the biker culture. His desire was to flee the situation one day, and the only way out was through the military.

After graduating from the United States Military Academy, also known as West Point, injuries abruptly ended his military career. Vincent then moved with his wife, Katie, and started teaching at Christian Life Academy in Baton Rouge while restoring homes in his spare time.

"I saw churches doing great work and outreach, but recognized some folks were slipping through the cracks," he said. "I felt led to reach the tough ones."

"God helped me find purpose to my pain, to my past, and gave me a testimony to connect with folks -- from going through that rough time and season in my life. We recognized our niche was reaching people who were going through a broken season. We try to help them understand that God works out all things to His good and to His purpose. We help people see that He is a restoring God and He can restore people to his Kingdom."

Vincent started Hope Church with a handful of people meeting in home-based Bible studies a few months before the great flood of 2016 in Baton Rouge.

After the waters receded, the congregation relocated to the Hyatt Place Hotel and met there until Cedar Crest Baptist Church offered them some gymnasium space in early 2018.

This year, the church began receiving a church planting supplement through the Louisiana Baptist Missions and Ministry Team, and was given the opportunity to build its own facility off Highway 73 in Prairieville.

The congregation expects to

complete the worship center and education space by April 2020 to accommodate a growing congregation that now numbers 50 in worship service. Four new believers have been baptized since January.

Vincent said the future is bright for Hope Church, which continues to reach the impoverished residents of the Gardere neighborhood in Baton Rouge through ministries such as

handing out school supplies in August and hosting a fellowship meal and toy giveaway in December.

The congregation also meets every Tuesday evening for home-based discipleship groups throughout Baton Rouge.

"We always are on the mission field," Vincent said. "We always are out there witnessing for Christ. We are grateful for the opportunity to reach this community with the hope of Jesus."



Submitted photo

Pastor Jeff Vincent baptizes Asala Mohammad during a worship service June 23 at Hope Church in Baton Rouge.



Submitted photo

Jeff Vincent has experienced a life of service to his country as a graduate of the United State Military Academy and member of the Army, and later as a church planter with Hope Church in Baton Rouge.

Softball player finds family, faith at Louisiana College

By Staff
LCNews

PINEVILLE (LCNews)–Samantha Downey is a psychology major from Redondo Beach, California, and was heavily recruited to play collegiate softball. She chose to play for the Lady Wildcats because of the new challenge and a change of scene.

Meeting the members of the softball team allayed one apprehension Downey

had: "I knew I'd be far from my family, but I'm still going to have family here."

While playing softball, Downey sustained an injury that caused her to reevaluate why she came to Louisiana College.

Appreciating the close-knit environment and "homelike atmosphere" of Louisiana



LC softball player Samantha Downey

College, Downey said her initial visit to the campus inspired her. "I fell in love with LC because of the one-on-one connection students have with professors."

"Before I came to LC, I had no relationship with God. I didn't even know you could have a relationship with God," she said. "My mom

and dad believed in God but I never knew anything about that."

"And I didn't understand why things happened," she said.

With a history of bad experiences with churches, Downey had difficulty even entering one. "But when I came here, my best friend -- and she's my roommate -- she kind of introduced me to Christ. And the first day I went to her, I was like, I need a

Bible."

Today, Downey attends church with her college friends. "It's easy because all of my friends have their lives centered around Christ. It's just easy to be in that environment. Everyone I know is just helping me to learn more."

Downey attended a camp sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and made her

See DOWNEY, page B4

Truckstop Ministries reaches ‘highways and hedges’

By Brian Blackwell
 Message Staff Writer

ANACOCO (LBM)—In the past Bill Blackmon drove his big rig cross-country in pursuit of big hauls and big bucks. But since 1993, after repenting for salvation at Good Hope Baptist Church in Anacoco, he has been driven by the desire to share Jesus among truckers, treating them as a unique people group who need to hear the hope of the Gospel.

“I didn’t go to church growing up and the trucker lifestyle was re-

ally all I knew,” Blackmon said “The last thing I was thinking about was where I would spend eternity. But when I found Jesus, my purpose changed from hanging out at the bars, during my off time, to spending time with others to share with them the Good News of Jesus.

“Truckstop Ministries has given me another tool to share the hope that is found in Jesus with so many people whom I share a common bond with across our country,” he added.

Since 2017, Blackmon has served as a chaplain with Truckstop Ministries and has seen hundreds saved at nearly 80 truck stop chapels in 29 states. He is among 600 volunteer chaplains and “missionary” truckers who have a presence at the ministry’s designated truck stop chapel buildings.

According to the group’s website, the

Jackson, Georgia-based Truckstop Ministries was founded in 1981 by Joe and Jan Hunter and is directed by an executive board of “born-again” Christians, led by the Holy Spirit and dedicated to fulfilling a God-given vision. The ministry’s main focus is operating chapels but also offers a 24-hour trucker prayer hotline that is manned by staff and volunteers.

“The mission field is huge,” said Blackmon, a member of the First Baptist Church in Anacoco. “It’s like another people group. Most people who work are not like truck drivers who are gone three to four weeks at a time. When troubling things happen back at home and they are on the road without a way to physically be at their town, talking to the chaplains is helpful.

“One time I had a great conversation with a truck-

See **TRUCKSTOP**, page B9



Submitted photo

A volunteer spruces up one of the chapels used by Truckstop Ministries as a location to share the Gospel. The ministry has nearly 80 chapels in 29 states as a means to see many come to know Christ

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Downey from page B3

“big decision,” she shared.

“It was just, it was amazing and empowering and you feel vulnerable, but like, vulnerable in a good way. And it was just that I saw everyone around me and I knew I wanted to be a part of that,” she recalled. “It was January 20 I think I decided that I wanted to start my walk with Christ, and it’s been amazing.”

“I had no idea that I would be brought to LC by God. Like, I didn’t think

that was a thing. But I thought I was just coming for softball and I ended up getting hurt in softball and so that wasn’t really my outlet anymore,” she said.

“I was brought to LC because I was lost and I needed saving. God brought me here and I truly believe in my heart that I am here because I needed to have a relationship with God. I have that now, so I’m just continuing my walk with Christ every day.”

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John MacArthur rebukes SBC stance on Critical Race Theory

By Will Hall

Message Executive Editor

SUN VALLEY, Calif. (LBM) --During a "Truth Matters Conference" held in mid-October, noted theologian John MacArthur, pastor of the Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, criticized the Southern Baptist Convention for passing Resolution 9 during its annual meeting in June in Birmingham, Alabama.

This resolution described two controversial ideologies, Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality, in neutral terms, suggesting that in some cases both have been misused "by individuals with worldviews that are contrary to the Christian faith" to come to wrong conclusions.

However, the two theoretical frameworks actually arose from radicals in academia.

Critical Race Theory is traced to the Harvard Law School and the founding theorist Derrick Bell who insists that "the law," for instance, is a power structure based on "white supremacy" and "white privilege."

Meanwhile, the idea of Intersectionality is tied to the UCLA School of Law and Kimberlé Crenshaw, the pioneer of the concept, who developed this abstract idea to help her advance the notion that "privileging of whiteness or maleness" is prevalent throughout society and the cause for the oppression of women of color.

The resolution, meanwhile, strongly underscored "Scripture as the first, last, and sufficient authority with regard to how the Church seeks to redress social ills" and promised "Southern Baptists will carefully analyze how the information gleaned from these tools are employed to address social dynamics."

Regardless, MacArthur said the acceptance of Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality was a sign of "liberalism" taking



Submitted photo

Noted theologian John MacArthur, pastor of the Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, has criticized the Southern Baptist Convention's stance on Critical Race Theory as a sign of liberalism. MacArthur condemned Resolution 9, which approved of the theory, that was passed during the SBC's Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, in June.

over the SBC and called the approval of the resolution by messengers "a watershed moment" for decline of the denomination.

"I guess that in some ways it is remarkable that they lasted as long as they did when all the other denominations have been gone 30, 40, 50, 60 years ago," he said.

"But when you decide to let the culture interpret the Scripture and you need cultural cues to translate the Bible, the horse is out of the barn."

MacArthur is not alone in his condemnation of the SBC resolution.

R. Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, was among the first public critics to harshly condemn the resolution's endorsement of the two secular concepts.

Just two days after the 2019 Annual Meeting adjourned, Mohler criticized the resolution as not saying enough about the "political" nature of Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality.

During his June 14 podcast, "The Briefing," he condemned both concepts as "Marxist" in origin and as emerging from "worldviews and from thinkers who were

directly contrary to the Christian faith."

He also rejected the Committee on Resolution's contention that these ideas are just "analytical tools," saying that "in the common discourse in the United States and especially in public argument and higher education, both Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality are far more than analytical tools."

"The main consequence of Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality is identity politics, and identity politics can only rightly be described as antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have to see identity politics as disastrous for the culture and nothing less than devastating for the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ."

CULTURALNEWS

Al Mohler explains women cannot be pastors nor preach

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (LBM)—LOUISVILLE, Ky. (LBM)—The discussion of women pastors continues to expand among Southern Baptists with some choosing to make a distinction between "being the pastor" and simply performing the pastor's function of "preaching."

The latest dustup resulted from comments by noted theologian John MacArthur, pastor of the Grace Community Church and founder of the Master's Seminary, both in Sun Valley, California, that he made as part of a panel during a "Truth Matters Conference" held in mid-October.

Panelists were asked to give a gut reaction to phrases, and MacArthur was given a name, instead, "Beth Moore," the top selling writer of Bible studies for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

MacArthur was trite, replying, "Go home," apparently in reaction to Moore's Twitter war during the summer against Southern Baptist leaders who spoke out against women preaching in place of the pastor after Moore had announced she was "speaking" at a church on Mother's Day.

MacArthur connected

the issue with the #MeToo movement and his observation that feminists wanted power, not equality.

In reply to a follow up question on the matter, MacArthur was equally to the point in stating women are not allowed to preach.

J.D. Greear, Southern Baptist Convention president and pastor of the Summit Church in Raleigh, N.C., weighed in on Twitter the next day, writing that Moore was "welcome in our home any time," apparently referring to the Southern Baptist Convention. As if to underscore his point, he added a hashtag referring to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.

However, this consensus statement about key biblical doctrines specifically rejects the notion of women pastors, stating, "While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."

Now, R. Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has shared his position on the matter while responding to a question during his podcast, "The Briefing," on Oct. 23.

Asked about the influence of complementarianism -- the idea that men and women have different but complementary roles in life, marriage and ministry -- in the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, Mohler was unequivocal that only

See CULTURAL NEWS, page B9



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YEC to strengthen teens' resolve for Christ

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – Three years after sharing his testimony of overcoming adversity with more than 6,000 students at the 2016 Youth Evangelism Celebration, Ed Newton is scheduled to inspire Louisiana Baptist teens once more at the annual youth evangelistic event.

Scheduled Nov. 24-25 at the Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria, the largest annual gathering of Louisiana Baptists will feature messages by Newton, pastor of the 27,000-member Community Bible Church in San Antonio, Texas, high-energy music, times of fellowship and much more.

Last year's event drew more than 6,000 youth and resulted in countless changed lives.

"For many years, God has moved mightily at YEC," said Brandon Lewis,



Louisiana Baptist Youth Ministry photo

Much like the 2018 Youth Evangelism Celebration, more than 6,000 Louisiana Baptist students will be challenged to celebrate what Christ has done in their lives at this year's youth evangelistic event, Nov. 24-25.

youth ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists. "Thousands of teenagers have experienced salvation. Others have been trained and encouraged to share their faith with friends. Many have expressed a call to ministry during the event.

"In addition to all

of that, YEC provides a unique opportunity for Louisiana teenagers to see with their own eyes that they are not alone," Lewis continued. "They have 6,000 friends all across the state standing for Christ and inviting Him to use their lives to impact their cities. We are so excited

for all that God has done through YEC and we're looking forward to all that He has in store for YEC 2019. You do not want to miss it."

The theme for this year's YEC is Resolve, based on Paul's instruction in Ephesians 5:15-17 to "Pay careful attention, then, to how you

live...making the most of the time...understand what the Lord's will is."

Throughout the two-day event, Louisiana Baptist teens will be challenged to celebrate what Christ has done in their lives and to share their stories of how Christ changed their lives, and they will be engaged in a number of different ways to experience a message about Him:

-- Central Worship of Community Bible Church will offer worship music.

-- Jared Hall of Baytown, Texas, will present illusions, comedy and serve as master of ceremonies.

-- The conference will close with a concert by Zach Williams, an award-winning Contemporary Christian artist.

The event kicks off Sunday at 7 p.m. and is scheduled to end at approximately 10 p.m. Monday. For more information on YEC, visit yeclouisiana.org.



Cultural News from page 5

men should pastor and only men should preach.

"Southern Baptists have stated confessionally that we are complementarian in the home and in the Church. We don't mention all the Church offices, but the office of pastor is really clear," he explained. "In Baptist life, we've understood from the beginning that 'function' and 'office' are the same thing.

"I'll just state emphatically," he continued. "I believe that consistency with the Baptist Faith & Message means that someone who is understood to be 'preaching' and fulfilling that preaching task on Sunday morning where ... someone holding the teaching office would be fulfilling that task ... I think it would violate the Baptist Faith & Message in letter and in spirit for a woman to do that."

Mohler was a member of the high-profile Committee on the Baptist Faith & Message who made revisions, approved by messengers in 2000, "intended to clarify our doctrines for this present age, and to define our beliefs against the backdrop of modern confusion."

Concerns circulate NAMB's lawsuit response erodes historic SBC doctrine

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM) — Two disparate fig-

ures have circulated concerns raised about legal positions staked out by the North American Mission Board in response to a lawsuit alleging tortious interference by the entity in the ministry of Will McRaney, the former executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

Morris H. Chapman, former president and chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and widely recognized for defending the interests of SBC churches, and Robert Downen, a Houston Chronicle reporter who was a major figure in an exposé which negatively portrayed Southern Baptist churches regarding sexual abuse, individually have circulated on social media a report by Baptist News Global that contains allegations that NAMB's lawyers' claims in their legal brief is putting Southern Baptists' cooperative ministries in danger of liability with regard to lawsuits about sexual abuse or personal injury, for instance.

At issue is the historic position stated in the Southern Baptist Convention Constitution that the Convention is "independent and sovereign in its own sphere" and that "the Convention will never attempt to exercise any authority over any other

Baptist body, whether church, auxiliary organizations, associations, or convention."

This principle of autonomy at every level has protected Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program funds from being drained by any lawsuit that could develop against any of the nearly 50,000 congregations who claim cooperative fellowship with the SBC.

McRaney has charged that NAMB played a key role in his forced termination — exerting influence over his board with the threat to withhold \$1 million in an annual jointly-funded partnership with the state convention — because he would not agree to turn over control of church planting in Maryland and Delaware to the national SBC entity.

NAMB's legal response included claims that the entity "had the legal 'right to interfere'" as well as "an absolute privilege and/or a qualified privilege" with regard to its actions relating to McRaney's employment with the state convention.

Moreover, NAMB stated it also enjoyed "an absolute privilege with regard to any statements it may have published" about McRaney, essentially arguing that they are shielded from defamation charges because of the "ministerial exception" allowed in U.S. law that says a court cannot interfere between a religious institution and its

CULTURALNEWS

ministers.

But McRaney says that claim does not apply with regard to his situation because Southern Baptists are not hierarchical in their organizational structure and so he was not an employee of NAMB or the SBC, but an employee of the BCM/D.

Moreover, he told the Baptist News Global that if NAMB prevails in claiming such a hierarchical relationship that it would only be a matter of time before a lawyer uses this argument to hold NAMB or the entire SBC liable for a lawsuit emerging from a local church, association, or state convention.

According to the Baptist News Global, McRaney said the "dangerous, false arguments" put all denominational assets at risk.

McRaney filed his lawsuit in April 2017.

On Jan. 18, 2018, U.S. District Court Judge Glen H. Davidson, senior judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, denied McRaney's claim against NAMB for intentional interference in a speaking engagement, but allowed him to move ahead in his lawsuit with regard to "two claims for intentional interference with contractual relations" as well as his "facially stated ... plausible claim for relief for intentionally inflicted emotional distress."

Davidson subsequently

ruled against NAMB, Feb. 22, 2018, with regard to its interlocutory appeal of his initial opinion that denied NAMB's request for dismissal based on the principles of "ministerial exception" (the hiring or firing of employees by religious organizations is a matter for that religious organization) and "ecclesiastical abstention" (that a religious organization should decide its own religious doctrine).

However, on April 22, 2019, Davidson reversed himself on the issue of "ecclesiastical abstention," deciding, after all, that the lawsuit would require the court to determine religious elements and so he dismissed the case.

McRaney has since filed an appeal with the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, citing the SBC Constitution that says the Convention is an independent organization and has no control over "any other Baptist body, whether church, auxiliary organizations, associations, or convention." He also quotes other SBC documents that describe the Convention as a "network" and explain that "each autonomous Baptist church, association, ethnic fellowship, and state convention participates in SBC causes voluntarily."

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Truckstop from page B4

er who opened up to me outside one of our chapels about everything that was happening in his life," he said.

"He was a Christian already but just needed another believer to talk with and pray with as he was trying to live for Jesus on the road. It's amazing how people tell you their life story and they don't even know you," he said. "Because you are the chaplain they unload and tell you their struggles and concerns. Stories like that one give me encouragement about how valuable our ministry is to so many truckers."

Blackmon, who also

is a vocational evangelist with the Louisiana Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, said even with a force of 600 volunteers and a few paid staff members, many more people are needed to partner with the ministry as it strives to carry out its mission of encouraging thousands of truckers.

"We've seen lives changed, from the drivers who get saved and put their marriages back together to the lesbian lady who is led to Christ and then walks away from that lifestyle," he said. "It's the power of the Gospel that does the work but the chaplain is

a vessel for the Gospel to work through. Sometimes it's a Christian driver that just needs to know someone cares and someone to talk to other than a dispatcher. "Most of all, we do what we do because Jesus first loved us," Blackmon said. "We share the love of Christ and will continue to do so as representatives of Him through Truckstop Ministries."

For information about how to volunteer with Truckstop Ministries, call Blackmon at 337.353.2746, follow the ministry at facebook.com/truckstopministries, or, visit truckstopministries.org.



Submitted photo

Bill Blackmon has seen hundreds of truckers saved since he became a chaplain with Truckstop Ministries. He is a member of the First Baptist Church in Anacoco.



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

- **Johnny Wagner** is the new pastor at Colfax Baptist Church, Colfax. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry during an October 6 ordination ceremony followed by a fellowship. He is the fifth generation grandson of Joseph Willis.
- **Kevin Funderburk** is the new Pastor for Discipling and Worship at First Baptist Church of Lake Charles. Kevin and family had previously been serving in East Asia.
- **Delmar Bennett** has resigned as Minister of Education & Outreach at Florida Blvd. Baptist Church, Baton Rouge.
- **Galen (wife Robyn) Leger** is the new music minister at Ellerbe Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- Trinity Heights: **Collin Wimberly** has resigned as pastor at Trinity Heights Baptist Church in Shreveport to church plant in Red River Parish.

HOMECOMING

- Mangham Baptist Church, Mangham: **Annual Homecoming Celebration**, November 10, a.m. Guest Speaker: **Jimmy Eppinette**, MBC's pastor from 1986 to 1993. Special Music: **Richard Davis, Jerry Gandy, Wane Smart**. There will also be a flag retirement and a Salute to our Veterans. A covered dish lunch will follow morning worship. Pastor: Rick Aultman.
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Hurricane Community: **Annual Homecoming Celebration**, November 10, 10 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Speaker: **Rick Feazell**. The church is located at 2042 Hwy. 519, Arcadia. Pastor: Bob Jameson.

REVIVAL

- Pioneer Baptist Church, Pioneer: **Harvest Day**, November 10, 10:30 a.m. There will be a fellowship meal after the worship service. Guest Speaker: **Bill Fowler**, former pastor. Pastor: Gary Wolfe.
- First Baptist Church, Castor: **Revival**, November 10-13. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Preston Young.
- First Baptist Church, Larose: **Revival**, November 10-13, Sunday, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Gary Hanberry.
- Beulah Land Baptist Church, Haughton: **Revival**, November 17-20. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Chad Mills.
- Westview Baptist Church, DeRidder: **Fall Revival**, November 17-20; Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Speaker: **Philip Robertson**, pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church. Special Music: **Westview Worship Team**. Pastor: Jason Hoychick.

LAGNIAPPE

- Washington Baptist Church, Washington: **Volunteers carpenters needed** to install a stud wall inside a metal building. Approximately a 2-3 day project. Visit historic Washington and enjoy good Cajun hospitality with us. Call Pastor Louis Charrier at 337.308.0336 or email louis.charrier@yahoo.com if you can help.
- SAFE Planning is holding a **free public workshop** at Broadmoor Branch Library in Shreveport, November 7, 6-8 p.m. The workshop will present information on Estate Rescue. SAFE routinely helps families already paying thousands every month for someone in a nursing home to save 65-100 percent of their estate. Reserve seats easily online at //safeplanningseminars.net/event or call 318.869.3133.
- Nurturing Heart's Women's Event, November 8-9 at the Carey Baptist Association Office, located at 1701 W. Prien Lake Road, Lake Charles, LA 70601, 12 -3 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon.

Ladies will be given ideas for gifts, organizational tips and innovative ideas to get them prepared for the fun and family festivities of the season. Speakers: Darlene Creasman, certified performance movement coach and speaker, and Marla Regan, certified productivity coach and speaker, will be sharing on a variety of topics. Cost: \$25 and you can choose either Friday or Saturday. Your ticket includes workbook and workshop materials. If you would like, join Darlene and Marla for an early lunch on Friday at 10:30 – 11:30 at Salata on Nelson Rd. (Dutch-Treat Lunch) Please text Marla at 281.682.0127 w/name and MES-SAGE: 'Joining for lunch'. The workshop includes: easy DIY gift ideas, recipes for self-care, helping to create an action plan for all the details that need attention so you can enjoy this season, helping to keep our eyes focused on Jesus and balancing our times to enjoy his presence, and an 'Ugly Sweater' contest.

- Trinity Height Baptist Church, Shreveport: **All Keyed Up III Piano & Organ Concert**, November 10 at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. and a freewill love offering to be received. Pianist: **Dan Gibbs**. Organist: **Aaron D. Wilson**. The church is located at 3820 Mooringsport Road.
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Annual Harvest Banquet**, November 17, 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center. There will be a Mexican Indian Training Center (MITC) themed evening, featuring, special testimonies, videos of people who have been to MITC, and worship. Items will be collected for the medical team for its trip to MITC January 11-18. Bring large count (400-600) bottles of adult and children vitamins and large count (400-600) bottles of ibuprofen or acetaminophen. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- East St. Mary Ministerial Alliance **Thanksgiving Service**, November 17, 6 p.m. at Bethel Pentecostal Fellowship, Patterson. Pastor **Steven Kelly** of Bayou Vista Baptist Church will deliver the message.
- Greenwell Springs Baptist Church, Greenwell Springs: **Chonda Pierce Still Laughing Tour**, November 21, 7 p.m. Cost: \$29 and \$55. General admission group rates of 10 or more are available.



Nathan Lott, shown with his wife Dawn, daughters Alyssa, Alayna and Brayden, is the new pastor at Ethel Baptist Church, Ethel an He replaces John "Ed" Jelks who retired July 31 after having served as pastor of Ethel for the past 12 years. In a celebration service, Jelks, who served as a Mission's Builder, was recognized for his long service to the church and Mission Builders by having the newly completed children's center named after him.

Submitted photo

- Tickets may be purchased at www.eventbrite.com/e/chonda-pierce-still-laughing-tour-tickets-69103700027. Pastor: Brian Robertson.
- Bellaire Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Fresh Grounded Faith Conference featuring Jennifer Rothschild**, November 22- 23. For tickets and more information, call 318.746.3914 or go online to www.freshgroundedfaith.com. Pastor: Randy Harper.
 - Longview Baptist Church, Deville: **Thanksgiving Pig Roast**, November 24, 6 p.m. Pastor: Robby Poole.

- Mangham Baptist Church, Mangham: **Annual Community Thanksgiving service**, November 24, 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome as our community of faith joins together for an evening of giving thanks to the Lord. Pastor: Rick Aultman.
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Area Churches Together in Our Neighborhood community-wide service**, November 24, 6 p.m. at Central Assembly. Those attending are asked to bring canned food items to help stock the pantry or an offering to help support the ACTION ministry. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.

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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 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.

qef p fbxvej mwcm mwb zgqqbfjpkz eq mwpz

ufbzbjm mpyb cfb jem hefmwn me rb xeyucfbl hpmw

mwb kdefn hwpwxw zwcdd rb fbsbcdbl pj gz.

feycjz bpkwm:bpkwmbbj

Clues:
M = T; B = E

Answer to October 24 Scripture Crypto:
James two:five

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MARCH NEAR YOU!**



NORTHWEST

SHREVEPORT-
BOSSIER

Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020
2PM-4PM

SOUTHWEST

LAKE CHARLES

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020
6PM-8PM

SOUTH

BATON ROUGE

Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020
10AM-NOON

NORTHEAST

WEST MONROE-
MONROE

Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020
2PM-4PM

CENLA

PINEVILLE-
ALEXANDRIA

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020
10AM-NOON

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