



# THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

October 10, 2019

Volume 134 • Issue No. 20

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Brian Blackwell photo

Executive Board members surround Louisiana Baptists Executive Director Steve Horn in prayer at their annual fall meeting September 24 at Tall Timbers. It was Horn's first Executive Board meeting as director.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD: HORN UNDERScores 'WE'

By Brian Blackwell  
Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH (LBM) —In his first Executive Board meeting as executive director, Steve Horn challenged Louisiana Baptists to focus on “we” and on sharing the Gospel.

“The reason for our meeting today, the reason for the existence of the Louisiana Baptist Convention is ‘we,’” Horn said during the Sept. 24 meeting at the Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth.

“‘We’ believe ‘we’ can accomplish together what we cannot accomplish separately,” he explained. “‘We’ is the fuel behind opportunities such as YEC, ECON and others. ‘We’ is the reason Louisiana Baptists have planted more than 249 churches over the last nine years. ‘We’ have the ability, potential and power to get inside the hearts and homes of 4.6 million people through efforts such as Harvest and Here for You. Without ‘we,’

See HORN, page 6



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Baptists Executive Director Steve Horn in his first Executive Board meeting challenged Louisiana Baptists to focus sharing the Gospel and on “we.”

## LA Baptists prepare to rebuild paradise

By Philip Timothy  
Message Managing Editor

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) -- Louisiana has withstood its share of devastating hurricanes but the destruction left by Hurricane Dorian to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas is hard to process, according a leading authority on disaster relief.

“They have no electricity, no running water, no shelter, no trees on some parts of the island,” said John Hebert, missions and ministry team leader for Louisiana Baptists. “There are stories of rescuers on Sea-Doos riding 30-foot waves and going over raised bridges.

“I just can’t fathom how people were able to survive a storm of that magnitude,” he continued. “God just laid on

See PARADISE, page 4

## With Abraham’s help, LC receives \$2.2 million grant

By Norm Miller  
LC News

PINEVILLE (LCNews) – Louisiana College has received approval of a \$2.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to help expand online education capacity and quality.

A Sept. 27 press release from U.S. Rep. Ralph Abraham’s office said, “The education of our nation’s youth is among my highest priorities and I’m glad to see these federal dollars coming home to Louisiana.”

Abraham said the grant will help Louisiana College “to better serve the students of Central Louisiana as they

See GRANT, page 9

## Birthday becomes a spiritual celebration, for father & daughter

By Brian Blackwell  
Message Staff Writer

KEITHVILLE – Chris Willcutt spent nearly eight years on his knees, praying for his daughter, Brooklyn, to accept Christ. Then, a

month before her eighth birthday, his prayers were answered when her sister, Ryleigh, led her to a relationship with Christ.

Brooklyn was baptized on her birthday, August 25, to publicly declare her

newfound faith in the same baptistery where her father was obedient in believer’s baptism 18 years earlier.

“We prayed so long for

See BIRTHDAY, page 12



# Skills of a church planter: Relating to the lost & unchurched

ALEXANDRIA (LBM)— You may not consider yourself a “people person,” but if you want to successfully grow your church or church plant you better become one. It is one of the most important skills a leader must develop.

One of the masters of being a “people person” also happened to be the individual who launched the phrase, “What would Jesus do?”



**JOHN HEBERT**  
Team Leader  
Louisiana Baptist  
Missions & Ministry

Charles M. Sheldon was the son of a minister and became one himself in the Congregational Church, starting his ministry in Topeka, Kansas, in 1889.

He seemed to see things others could not or would not see and ministered in ways not imagined by others at the time. But his “secret” was that he actually put himself into situations to learn to empathize with others.

In an effort to understand and minister to the unemployed, during an economic depression, he put on old clothes and went to every store in town to apply for jobs, learning what it was like to be turned down by everyone.

Later, Sheldon noticed a colony of impoverished former slaves who had located near his church and took it upon himself to inspire Topekans to engage in relief projects for them. One of the outcomes of his efforts was the 1893 founding of

the first African American kindergarten west of the Mississippi River.

As a side note, one of the kindergarten graduates was young Elisha Scott, who eventually became an attorney and had two sons who also became attorneys, John Scott and Charles Sheldon Scott (named after Charles M. Sheldon). They later filed the original case of *Rev. Oliver Brown, whose fifth grade daughter Linda was denied entrance into the white Topeka School District. Brown v. Board of Education ended segregation in U.S. public schools.*

Charles M. Sheldon also pushed the concept of living like Christ in his wildly popular book “In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?” -- an estimated 30 million copies sold world-wide. Sheldon proposed that believers should simply ask the question, “What would Jesus do?” to guide them in making good moral decisions.

The movement renewed in the 1990s when Sheldon’s great-grandson, Garrett W. Sheldon, published “What Would Jesus Do? A Contemporary Retelling of Charles M. Sheldon’s Classic, In His Steps.” We’ve all seen the

bracelets that resulted from that and you even may be wearing one now, or have one in your office drawer.

Importantly, “What would Jesus do?” is a question we should ask ourselves with regard to being a “people person.” Matthew 11:19 and Luke 7:34 tells us that Jesus was a friend of sinners. Indeed, Luke 15:2 says he welcomed sinners. Mark 10:17-22 records that Jesus looked at the rich young ruler and loved him. Furthermore, Matthew 9:35-38 notes that when Jesus viewed the crowds following Him that He “was moved with compassion for them.”

Relating to lost and unchurched people is one of the most important skills for church leaders to possess, and for them to pass along to all Christians, because church growth is not about just gathering up the saved and incorporating them into your organization. It is about winning the lost and unchurched, making disciples, and, getting them involved in His Kingdom.

Not surprisingly, to master this skill simply do what Jesus did.

Start by taking the initial

See **SKILLS**, page 15

## Values and Ethics Conference

Featuring Mr. Ken Ham of  
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Guinn Auditorium

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Ken Ham is the CEO and founder of Answers in Genesis-US, the Creation Museum, and Ark Encounter. He is one of the most in-demand Christian speakers in North America.



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# Jeff Ginn to be nominee for LBC president

By Will Hall

Message Executive Editor

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) — Jeff Ginn, pastor of the Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, which has a campus in Ascension as well as a Hispanic congregation at the main campus, will be nominated for president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention during the 2019 annual meeting.

Kirk Jones, pastor of the Fellowship Church in Prairieville notified the *Baptist Message*, Oct. 3, of his intention to make the nomination because of Ginn's "faithful service" as a pastor and his "heart for the Kingdom of God and the cooperative work of our Convention."

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

## STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Jones noted that he has known Ginn since 2011, especially in Ginn's role of nurturing Fellowship Church, a congregation that averages nearly 1,000 in worship attendance now.

"Istrouma was the sponsoring church of our church plant," Jones told the *Baptist Message*. "Before Jeff arrived they had purchased property on our behalf and we had an agreement to pay them back when we were in the financial position to do so.

"About the time Jeff arrived, Fellowship had grown enough to start paying back the loan," Jones explained. "When I reached out to Istrouma to set up payments, Jeff led the congregation to forgive our debt. That gift changed our future ability to reach more people, and has given us the mindset to help other churches to grow, too."

## BY THE NUMBERS

The database of the Annual Church Profile shows that under Ginn's leadership the Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge has consistently supported cooperative missions and ministries, contributing 7 percent of undesignated

receipts, nearly \$400,000 in 2019, through the Cooperative Program, up from 2.2 percent in 2010, the year before Ginn arrived.

The congregation also gifted more than \$41,000 in 2019 to the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge as well as nearly \$26,000 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, another \$83,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and \$19,193 to the Georgia Barnette State Mission Of-

fering.

Istrouma Baptist Church averaged 2,047 in worship attendance last year and baptized 71 new believers.

Moreover, the congregation has witnessed 526 baptisms since 2011, while adding about 500 more worshippers, on average, each Sunday.

## CANDIDATE'S RESPONSE

"I thank God for the cooperation that marks our network of churches," Ginn

told the *Baptist Message*. "I have experienced the power and fruit of that partnership first-hand as a pastor and missionary.

"As someone who has served as a state executive-director, I would love to come alongside Dr. Horn and be an encouragement to him in his new role," he added. "God is at work in fresh ways. It is my prayer to help further that work by fostering our collaboration."

## PERSONAL DATA

Ginn earned the Doctor of Philosophy and Master

of Divinity degrees from the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tennessee, and his bachelor's degree from the Blue Mountain College in Mississippi.

He has served as pastor with Istrouma (2011-present), as well as Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Colonial Heights, Virginia, (2000-2008); and, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Ashland, Mississippi (1987-1990).

Likewise, he has extensive denominational service: executive director,

See GINN, page 15



## NORTHWEST LOUISIANA

### Baptist Association Annual Meeting

#### GUEST SPEAKER



**Dr. Robert Jeffress,**  
Pastor,  
First Baptist Church,  
Dallas, Texas



6:30 pm

Sunday Evening  
October 20, 2019



#### THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM: M.E. DODD'S LEGACY

Also honoring the legacy of Shreveport Pastor Dr. M. E. Dodd, founder of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program in 1925. Dr. Dodd served in the Caddo Association from 1912-1950 while pastor of First Shreveport.

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Host Church,  
SUMMER GROVE BAPTIST



# Paradise from page one

my heart the need for us, as a state, to come to the aid of these people. It is going to take a herculean effort to help get these people back up on their feet."

In the coming weeks Hebert wants to introduce Louisiana Baptists to a project called 'Bahama Rebuild' which will help restore the spiritual community on the island nation.

"The churches are the center of the Bahamian culture and the majority of them were severely damaged or destroyed," said Hebert. "We have pastors without churches and churches without congregations. I am currently trying to enlist the support of our churches to pay one pastors' salary for the next six months. We are in prayer that a couple or several of our churches will help out.

"We are partnering with Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, IMB and Baptist Global Response," Hebert explained. "In two weeks Gibbie McMillan [men's ministry and disaster relief strategist for Louisiana Baptists] and I will be traveling with other SBC DR leaders to the Bahamas to assess the needs and begin mobilizing our efforts."

Typically, when people think about the Bahamas, the image that comes to mind is an exotic destina-

tion, Hebert told the *Baptist Message*. But the storm destruction has made the island a primitive place with respect to infrastructure.

Hebert stressed that the job of rebuilding will not be easy.

"Logistically it is a nightmare because supplies, equipment and volunteers have to go to Fort Lauderdale [Florida] to make connections to Freeport through Nassau. Freeport is only 65 miles from the Florida coast but all commercial air traffic is routed through Nassau because of damage to the air flight control systems. Once we land in Freeport, we have another 8 to 10 miles to go to get to the sites we will be working.

"We are going to have to bring our own generators, lights, and an air-conditioned tent to house our volunteers. We are in the process of putting together a material list," said Hebert. "We are searching for a site coordinator for each of the sites and volunteers who would work a week at a time."

One of those sites will be the 128-year-old New St. Matthew Baptist Church, one of nine of the 13 Baptist churches on the islands that were either damaged or destroyed by the storm.

"It was a total loss,"

said Hebert. "So, Mississippi and Louisiana have adopted St. Matthew as our rebuild. North Carolina and Alabama have adopted two other Baptist churches close by. Together the four states are going to work to get these churches back up and running.

"This state has always answered the call and I am praying they will do it again," said Hebert. "We have all been impacted by the storms ... Andrew, Katrina, Rita, Ike, Harvey. Let our efforts show them the love of God. Let our efforts show them they are not alone."

The timing for the work could not be better according to Hebert.

"The late fall and winter months are the mildest and most pleasant temperatures in the Bahamas," continued Hebert. "The storm season virtually will be over by Nov. 1, and we have a window of calm and mild temperatures to get the church rebuilt so partnerships can develop to help churches connect for further community rebuild opportunities."



Tom Waites photo

The 128-year-old New St. Matthew Baptist Church in Freeport in the Grand Bahamas was a total loss following the passage of Hurricane Dorian on Sept. 2. The storm had sustained winds of 185-miles-per-hour.

## JOB OPENING HOMEPLACE COTTAGE MANAGER NEEDED!

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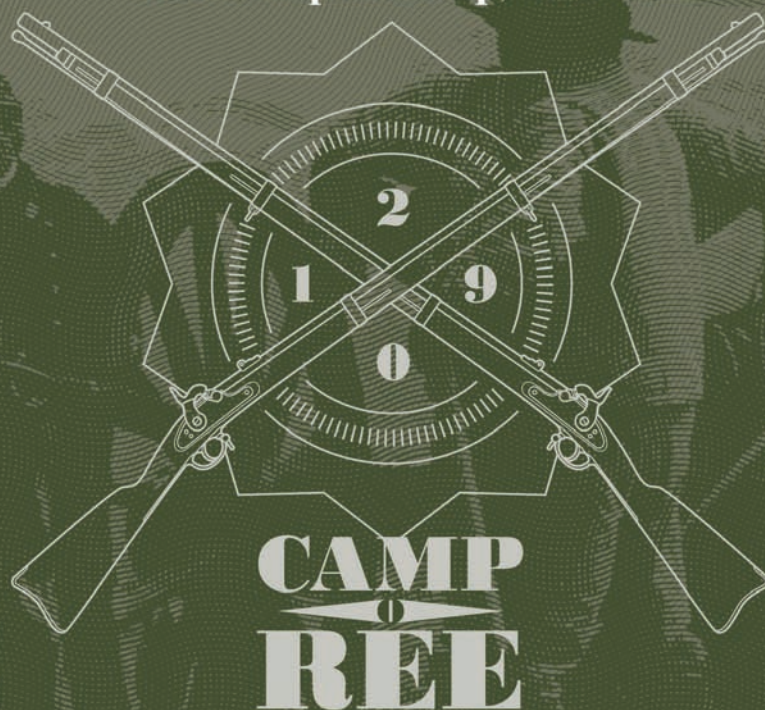
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At 5 p.m., a variety of wild game dishes will be available to enjoy, as well as booths and demonstrations related to outdoor sports. At 7 p.m. the program begins with guest speaker Gevan Spinney, Pastor, First Baptist, Haughton, and co-host of the outdoor show "The Way it Was" on the Pursuit Channel.

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### GUEST SPEAKER



**GEVAN SPINNEY**  
Pastor, First Baptist  
Haughton

Co-Host of Outdoor  
show 'The Way it Was'



## E4 conference elevates expositional exegesis

By **Brian Blackwell**  
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE (LBM)—God has the power to open even the most impossible door to make a way for sharing the Gospel, Stephen Rummage said during the recent E4 Preaching Conference.

"There is someone who sits on high and is in control," said Rummage, pastor of the Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. "God has the ability to open doors in ways we never could imagine."

"Sometimes He opens up big wide doors to reach communities with the Gospel. Sometimes He opens up individual intimate doors to people. But God has the ability to give us opportunities we may not see."

Citing Colossians 4:2-6, Rummage encouraged the 82 pastors and 10 pastors' wives in attendance at the First Baptist Church in

Pineville to use prayer as a tool to open doors.

"God who sits on high opens the door through prayer," he said. "Prayer has the power to open up the doors. Continue steadfastly and don't give up praying for someone. Being watchful and be alert. Give God thanks for the way He is answering the prayer."

Once that door is open, Rummage said Christ followers must be bold and take action by sharing the hope found in Jesus.

"There is no one on the earth who God will not save if they call on the name of Jesus Christ to save them," he said. "You can make an impact where you are to look for opportunities and to take the opportunities to take the message of Jesus through the open door."

"Jesus says I have set before you an open door that no one can shut," he said. "The door is already

See E4, page 12



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## Horn from page one

there is no reason for us to take time away from our busy schedules for meetings such as this.

"Southern Baptists and Louisiana Baptists believe in the power of 'we' to advance God's Kingdom in Louisiana and beyond," he declared.

Horn shared with board members that during his first four months on the job he has facilitated 11 listening sessions with pastors and an additional session with directors of missions. Horn said he discovered that, despite wide diversity, Louisiana Baptists agree on at least two things: Louisiana is lost and the only answer to that lostness is Jesus.

On that point, Horn said he has discovered that there are 33 Louisiana municipalities with populations of more than 3,000 people that do not have a Louisiana Baptist ministry presence. He emphasized that the LBC will make a specific effort to plant

churches in those 33 communities while continuing to share the Gospel with the lost in other areas of the state.

"Who's your one?" Horn asked. "If all of us would intentionally focus on one, what a difference we could make. If every Louisiana Baptist would catch the vision of 'one' what a difference we could make."

Before his report, five board members offered prayers of thanksgiving for Horn: Dwayne Monk, administrative committee chairman and pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Choudrant; Tim Hisaw, pastor of the Tioga First Baptist Church; Thumper Miller, Executive Board vice president and pastor of the First Baptist Church in Mansfield; Eddie Wren, LBC president and pastor of the First Baptist Church in Rayville; and Waylon Bailey, Executive Board president and pastor of the First Baptist Church in

Covington.

Board members, their wives and other guests surrounded Horn in corporate prayer.

### BUDGET REPORT

During the meeting, the Executive Board approved the business and finance committee's 2020 financial plan based on Cooperative Program contributions of \$18,653,700, a decrease of \$160,118, following three consecutive years of annual decreases of at least \$535,000 (\$693,587 in 2019, \$535,426 in 2018 and \$550,435 in 2017). 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 causes remains unchanged, 63.26 percent to support ministries in the state and 36.74 percent forwarded to fund national entities.

The budget will be presented to messengers

for approval during the 2019 LBC Annual Meeting, scheduled for Nov. 11-12 at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria. The budget continues to mirror a national downward trend; however, the proposed 2020 total is the smallest reduction in recent years.

Upon the committee's recommendations, the Executive Board received the second quarter 2019 financial report, the 2018 annual audit and approved the 2020 State Missions Service Budget of \$12,206,651.

### ENTITY REPORTS

In his report to the Executive Board, Louisiana College President Rick Brewer shared about a spiritual awakening that is taking place on campus. Since the beginning of the semester, 57 students have professed their faith in Christ at various events, including seven at the fall revival, Sept. 17-19.

Brewer said more students are needed to help fulfill its mission of training young people to make a difference in culture, and that LC offers numerous scholarships to help lessen the financial burden for families. These awards include a proposed President's Christian Leadership Award, given to a student from each Louisiana Baptist church or high school that meets certain criteria.

"We need more churches, more churches to invite us in to bring our kids to sing, to speak, more churches to bring their youth to events in, more churches to encourage their young people to seriously consider Christian higher education," Brewer said. "There's a battle out

there, folks, for the hearts and minds of students. I can tell you horror stories about what's being taught in our progressive, politically correct, public universities. I can tell you horror stories about professors are standing up and challenging our kids from our churches about the faith and belittling them if they are Christians, belittling them if they have values, belittling them if they don't agree with the political correct, progressive push today.

"We have a challenge, but we have an answer," he shared. "You have a college that is preparing and equipping students, transforming lives, equipping graduates for the future to go to the best medical schools, law schools, seminaries, etc. And she needs your help."

Before the meeting, Brewer shared with the *Baptist Message* how, since Oct. 3, the Chick-fil-A on Jackson Street in Alexandria is serving meals on campus during lunchtime Mondays and Thursdays, but could expand its days of operation based on demand. Responding to a question about whether something more permanent was possible, he said an on-campus store would benefit from students and faculty as well as the 50,000 or so motorists who drive by LC each day.

For his part, Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries President and CEO Perry Hancock announced a partnership with Lifeline Children's Services that will provide international adoption services for Christian families in the state.

See HORN, page 11

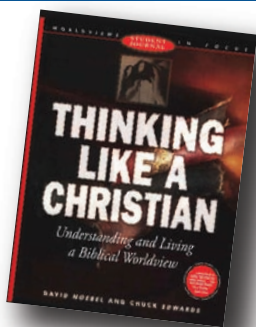
## DID YOU KNOW?

Only 20% of students highly-churched as teens remain spiritually active by age 29. 6 of 10 born-again freshmen entering public colleges abandon the Faith by the time they are seniors. Only 9% of born-again teens believe absolute truth exists.

To help remedy the decline of a Christian worldview among CHURCHED young people, Louisiana College strongly recommends the **THINKING LIKE A CHRISTIAN** 12-lesson workbook. Successful completion can lead to a \$10K scholarship applied over four years. (Additional parameters and conditions apply.)

**"THINKING LIKE A CHRISTIAN"** workbook can help students become salt and light in a spiritually needy world as we partner with churches in engaging the culture and advancing the Kingdom of God" - Dr. Rick Brewer, Louisiana College President.

For more info on the workbook and scholarship, contact Dr. Philip Caples: [philip.caples@lacollege.edu](mailto:philip.caples@lacollege.edu) or 318.487.7254. **PRE-APPROVAL from LC is REQUIRED.**



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Doug Collier photos

A large crowd gathers to celebrate the ground breaking of a \$20 million rebuild project at the First Baptist Church in Bossier City. Work is expected to take 18 to 24 months to complete.

Pastor Brad Jurkovich, his wife, Stephanie, and First Bossier’s leadership team, building team and other staff members broke ground September 29 on their new facility.

# First Bossier set to rise from the ashes

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message Staff Writer

BOSSIER CITY, (LBM)-Nearly a year after fire destroyed a large part of the congregation’s facilities, members of the First Baptist Church in Bossier City joined community members for a Sept. 29

groundbreaking ceremony to launch a \$20 million rebuild project. “First Bossier has endured and dealt with this incredible tragedy where we navigated a lot of things emotionally and on the practical side,” Pastor Brad Jurkovich told the *Baptist Message*. “Walking

through all of that made this groundbreaking so special. We had a great crowd of around 2,000 who joined us to help us celebrate moving forward.” Construction of the new 70,000-square-foot building could take 18 to 24 months to complete, Jurkovich said, and will

include a new chapel that will incorporate some of the more traditional features of the original building, such as pew seating, but will include modern elements, such as capabilities for multi-media presentations. The new facility also will feature a student center, foyer/event cen-

ter and space for Sunday school classes and other small groups to meet.

**ENGULFED IN FLAMES**

On Dec. 10, 2018, a three-alarm fire began at 5:30 a.m., originating with

See **FIRST BOSSIER**, page 10



# Spiritual movement builds at Louisiana College



**Brian Blackwell** photo

A Louisiana College staff member prays with students at the close of the first day of the campus revival. Seven students repented and professed Christ as Savior during the three-day revival, September 17-19., while countless others sought prayer.

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message Staff Writer

**PINEVILLE (LBM)-**  
-During the campus revival at Guinn Auditorium, Sept. 17-19, seven students repented and professed Christ as Savior, 20 repented and restored fellowship with the Lord, and, countless others sought prayer.

The seven new believers are among 57 students who have surrendered their lives to Christ since the start of the fall semester -- 25 during a seminar on personal evangelism in August.

LC President Rick Brewer told the Baptist Message the college's faculty and staff and local pastors have prayed many months for God to move among the students.

"The awakening has just begun," Brewer said. "We can sense what God is doing here. We're excited and are anticipating a mighty movement of the Holy Spirit."



Louisiana College President Rick Brewer opens the three-day campus revival with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to move during the event.

will be used to disciple new believers, Baptist Collegiate Ministry meetings will feature the studies, and, 35 discipleship small groups which meet weekly will use it for in-depth discussions.

## VALUED IN CHRIST

The revival services featured messages from Don Wilton, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and worship led by the LC chapel praise band.

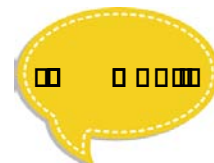
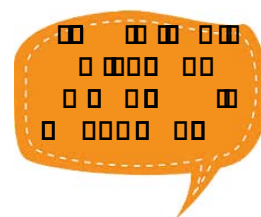
"As we launch our year-long emphasis on the study of 1 Peter, I can't think of a better person to start us off than Don Wilton," Brewer

See **MOVEMENT**, page 10

**DISCIPLED IN CHRIST**

Already, faculty and staff as well as local pastors have begun discipleship training with the 57.

In fact, the college has developed a study guide, "Joy Through Suffering," as part of this semester's eight-part chapel series on 1 Peter. It



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Louisiana College recently received a \$2.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. It was the single largest grant ever achieved in the history of Louisiana College, according to school officials.

## Grant from page one

seek to broaden their academic horizons.”

“We celebrate this single largest grant ever achieved in the history of Louisiana College,” said Louisiana College President Rick Brewer. “We spent nine months researching the needs of our community and how best to enhance technology to solve higher education access issues. We are beyond elated for what will become a transformational advancement in our curricular offerings and general overall enhancement.”

The grant underwrites a project called IDEA, Investing in Developing Expanded Access, with three main objectives:

- expanding educational access through online courses (upgrade general education and business programs; implement two fully online programs -- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a project management certificate);

- improving faculty capacity in online education (strengthen creation and delivery of online courses; improve use of technological advances); and,

- creating flexible online student services (develop online student support services; improve information technology infrastructure for increased online instruction and new online service delivery systems; add personnel to facilitate and maintain these advancements).

“These developments will increase enrollment, and the college will sustain the improvements beyond the five years of the grant,” Brewer said.

“Online support services will ensure that all students

have 24/7 access to the support they need to be successful,” Brewer noted. “But perhaps the most popular advancement will be the complete transformation of online access that will be upgraded ten-fold.” LC will join Louisiana Optical Network Infrastructure (LONI), which will bring a 10 Gbps Internet access point to the campus.

“There are several on our team who did the heavy lifting in the lengthy process of research and writing for this grant proposal,” Brewer said. “I want to thank Cheryl Clark, vice president for academic affairs; Henry Robertson, associate professor of history/coordinator of institutional effectiveness and sponsored programs; Adena LeJeune, chair, division of

business/associate professor of business; Randall Hargis, executive vice president for business affairs/CFO; Mark Shoemaker, vice president for information technology/CIO; as well as numerous

personnel in our registrar’s office, financial aid office, and others of our extended family who contributed through external consultations.”

“Our vision of ‘Preparing

Graduates and Transforming Lives’ just took a giant leap forward,” Brewer said. “While we are deeply grateful to many people, our ultimate gratitude is to the God we serve.”

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## First Bossier from page 7

an uninterruptible power supply backup battery for a computer. The flames began in an office space near Faith Chapel — the original worship center — and spread quickly to the attic and other buildings including the childcare center and various youth facilities. About 65 firefighters fought the blaze, finally extinguishing it about 3:30 p.m. that same day.

### ON FIRE TO REBUILD

Rather than fold, the church rallied like never before, Jurkovich said.

The congregation held a meeting in the Bossier Civic Center two days later to pray, worship and organize for recovery, and then gathered Dec. 16 to look ahead to the future during the first Sunday morning worship service after the fire.

The church was forced to be creative for educa-



Doug Collier photo

Pastor Brad Jurkovich, during First Bossier's Sept. 29 worship service, reveals to the congregation the site plan rendering for its new facility.

tion space while working through the planning stages.

Since January, the children's ministry has used part of the Tiny Town preschool area, the foyer and

additional preschool space until the new children's facility is built.

Meanwhile, the children's space that was not damaged has been completely remodeled and renamed "First Kids," which combines preschool through 5th grade; the

student ministry has been meeting in an area near the worship center for Sunday morning Bible study and Wednesday night worship; and, adult Bible study groups have used a nearby facility and the Bossier Civic Center, located about a block behind the First Bossier campus.

### NEW MINISTRIES IGNITED

New ministries also have formed, including First Women Strong comprising more than 300 ladies who have delivered food to fire stations throughout Bossier City and Shreveport as a way of expressing gratitude to the first responders.

"The biggest lesson we have been reminded of is that the church is not a building," Jurkovich said. "It's people. At the end of the day we rallied together and relied and trusted on God to move forward. Our church has come out stronger than ever before, and we are excited about how this next step will help us reach the community like never before."



Don Wilton, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, South Carolina, encouraged students to live for Jesus during the 2019 Louisiana College fall revival.

## Movement

from page 8

said of his long-time friend.

In his messages, Wilton urged students to turn to Christ, telling them that God values them, and, he encouraged them to keep Him first, now, and after graduation.

"I want to thank God because He's given you, through the new birth, a living hope," he said. "You are not hopeless. You have a reason to live. You've got a purpose. You're not a nobody. You're somebody in and through the Lord Jesus."

See MOVEMENT, page 12

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## Horn from page 6

Lifeline Children's Services is an accredited provider of adoptive services licensed in 13 states with adoption programs in 18 countries.

The organization based out of Birmingham, Alabama, ministers to adoptive families through intentional discipleship, pre-adoptive education, and intentional post-adoption support to help families be successful disciple makers with children who may come from complex, difficult circumstances.

"We are excited to work with Lifeline Children's Services to bring Christ-centered, adoption services to families in Louisiana Baptist churches," Hancock said in a news release distributed to the *Baptist Message* at the meeting. "Lifeline is one of the largest and most respected adoption agencies in America. In the past few

years, options for quality, faith-based intentional adoption services have been limited in our state. Lifeline will meet this need and serve our families and churches with excellence."

Wayne Taylor officially announced to the Executive Board his plans to retire, staying on with the Louisiana Baptist Foundation until the search for his replacement is completed. During his tenure, assets under management have soared by \$100 million, and another \$94 million has been distributed to Baptist causes, according to *Baptist Message* reports and LBF records.

"The Louisiana Baptist Foundation is here to help your donors give money to you and we do work for you behind the scenes," Taylor said. "But also we get to be part of sometimes a process that we cannot see until the end of it. Often times God

moves in people's hearts to do gifts that do not happen until much later but it's right on time."

Will Hall provided updates on the *Baptist Message* as well as the Office of Public Policy.

Hall, who is executive editor for the news outlet, highlighted some of the key stories covered since his last report to the board, including the Beth Moore Twitter war against Southern Baptists, the SBC resolution about Critical Race Theory, the 50th anniversary of Buzz Aldrin's celebration of the Lord's Supper on the moon, the opening of Louisiana

Baptists' orphanage in Haiti and 1,835 salvations recorded by a largely Louisiana Baptist mission team in Brazil.

He also mentioned ongoing efforts to add new features like the leadership series for pastors and church planters developed in cooperation with John Hebert, state director for missions and ministries.

Regarding his work as director of public policy, Hall said Louisiana Baptists scored a number of victories during the most recent legislative session. He cited the passage of multiple pro-life laws led by Louisiana Baptist lawmakers, and the defeat of

an Equal Rights Amendment intended to undo pro-life legislation. He also celebrated the defeat of two online gambling initiatives, fantasy sports "simulated games" and "live" sports betting, with both prohibited at least until 2021 unless a special session is called.

Hall also announced that the Office of Public Policy would focus on energizing Louisiana Baptists in 2020 to help pass the Love Life Amendment, which would modify the state constitution to clarify there is no absolute right to an abortion in this founding document.

### Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

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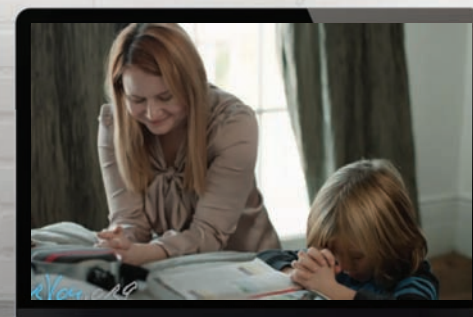
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\*<https://1079thelink.radio.com/blogs/kelly-meyers/heres-how-much-time-you-spend-looking-screens-lifetime>



## E4 from page 5

unlocked. The door to each your community for Jesus Christ is already unlocked. What Jesus is waiting for us to do as we pray with open eyes for open doors is for us to walk through the open doors and take the message of Jesus around us."

The Sept. 24 E4 Preaching Conference presented a program intended to "exemplify, encourage, equip and empower our pastors to preach expositional sermons."

Past speakers have included Steve Gaines, former Southern Baptist Convention president, and, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tennessee; Don Wilton, pastor, First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina; Fred Lowery, pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, Bossier City; and, David Uth, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida.

The conference also featured music by Scotty Blackwell, worship pastor at the Houston River Baptist Church in Sulphur.

Breakout sessions were led by conference organizer Stewart Holloway, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pineville; Argile Smith, pastor, Parkway Baptist Church, Biloxi, Mississippi; and, professors from Louisiana College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Sponsors included NOBTS, LC, North American Mission Board, First Baptist Church, Pineville, Louisiana Church Insurance and Logos Bible software.

Holloway told the *Baptist Message* the E4 Conference, now in its 11th year, began with a desire to sharpen and encourage pastors.

"This year's E4 Preaching Conference was one



Brian Blackwell photo

Stephen Rummage, pastor of the Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, reminded pastors who attended the E4 Preaching Conference that God has the power to open doors to share the Gospel.

of the best and largest attended conferences in the eleven year history of the event," Holloway said. "Stephen Rummage provided exemplary expository preaching that was true to the text and engaging, and Scotty Blackwell led us in worship with passion and skill. Our session leaders offered practical help from

everything from how to preach on certain section of the Bible to how to address controversial issues from the pulpit. We are so grateful for all of our partners who help make E4 possible."

## Birthday from page one

Brooklyn and to see our prayers answered, watching her spiritual journey, and, to be able to baptize her made it a special time for sure," Willcutt told the *Baptist Message*.

"That day, I was thinking about the faithfulness of God and how He brought my life from the ashes," he said. "To see what He has done with my own children is, oh, so special."

Brooklyn Willcutt was among 15 new converts who participated in the baptism and baby dedication service. The participants mostly were elementary-aged children, but included four adults and two high school students.

During the service, a video was shown of four other students who were baptized in the ocean during the church's summer camp in Panama City, Florida, in July.

Willcutt said he was blessed to baptize his daughter at Grawood Baptist, his home church and the place where he was baptized and surrendered to the ministry.

"The crazy thing is I am blown away by the faithfulness of God," he said. "I was baptized in that same baptistery and then got to watch two of my

## Movement from page 10

He reminded those who have placed their faith in Christ they are not residents of earth, but strangers in a foreign land.

"You don't fit in," Wilton said. "You're different. If, in fact, you are who you say you are, you're a stranger. We don't march according to the norm."

### STRENGTHENED IN CHRIST

Wilton pleaded for students to live for Christ and to endure trials with confidence, knowing they will be rewarded by God if they stand for the truth.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to be a Christian living in the world," he said. "We're going to face situations where we simply have to make the commitment, 'I'm a Christian and I'm going to live according to the way Jesus told me to live.'"

girls participate in baptism there too. When my wife and I left for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, we never anticipated coming back to Grawood. I remember when I surrendered to the ministry how cool it would be to preach here again. In 2010, I got to stand in that same pulpit and preach. I was thinking that Sunday about my baptism and call to the ministry and just how faithful God is. He didn't have to do that but by His power He worked mightily."

The special baptism service is reflective of a heart for sharing the Gospel among the members at Grawood Baptist, Willcutt said. The church, which averages 340 during its Sunday morning worship service, creates pillows that are sent to local hospitals, helps feed veterans, travels to Guatemala for mission trips, volunteers at nursing homes and builds beds for needy children through the ministry, Sleep In Heavenly Peace.

"My goal as a pastor is to help our congregation to love like Christ and serve like he would want us to serve," Willcutt said. "I believe we are ambassadors and we need to take that very serious."

## On the Road ...

### Dr. Rick Brewer, President Louisiana College

- 8/10 Jennifer Robertson Memorial Praisefest, North Monroe BC
- 8/29 Retired Ministers Fellowship FBC Minden
- 9/1 FBC Winnfield
- 9/9 Pastor's Conference, South Walker BC
- 9/15 Houston River BC, Sulphur
- 10/1 Shreveport Alumni Meeting, Brookwood BC
- 10/15 The Joy Club Senior Adults, Parkview BC, Monroe
- 10/20 Parkview BC Baton Rouge
- 10/20 Missions & Ministry Fair Assoc. Meeting Jefferson BC, Baton Rouge
- 10/27 FBC Ferriday
- 11/10 LBC Annual Meeting, Calvary BC, Alexandria
- 12/2 Deer Creek Assoc. Christmas Fellowship, FBC Winnsboro



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## Skills from page 2

tive to love them first.

Martin Luther said, "Sinners are attractive because they are loved, they are not loved because they are attractive." Their lives are often even repulsive, but Jesus loved them and so should we.

It may be helpful to remember that every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future. You were once very much like them. You will not reach them if you do not love them.

Loving the lost will help you be more merciful and less judgmental, and, you also will learn to be more truthful with them.

Jesus had mercy on the woman caught in the act of adultery and the woman at the well of Samaria, but he also told them the truth.

He shared mercy and truth with Zacchaeus and inspired him to repent.

Remember that Jesus did not compromise himself with the lost. He did not joke with them about their sin or participated in it. Instead, he met them on a personal level and maintained his integrity while imparting truth.

Take the initiative to get to know lost and unchurched people. Smile, make eye contact and ask questions that establish common ground with them.

Steer the conversation to spiritual concerns at the appropriate time.

It may take time to build rapport but it will be worth the effort.

After you have developed a connection with them, approach the issue about living for Christ, with the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Relating to the lost and unchurched is a skill and a spiritual endeavor. It is the connection of your faith with their initial experience with the power of the Holy Spirit. So be gentle, be prayerful, and remember, Jesus is a friend of sinners and we should be, too.

## Notables from page 13

■ Palestine Baptist Church, Columbia: **Ben Waites in concert**, October 13, 10 a.m. Pastor: Hudey Beaubouef.

■ Gulf Coast Baptist Church, Golden Meadow: **Masters4 in concert**, October 13, 11 a.m. Pastor: Shane Terrebonne.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **Chonda Pierce Let's Sit & Talk**, October 13, 7-10 p.m. Cost: \$29 and \$55. General admission group rates of 10 or more are available. Tickets may be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chonda-pierce-lets-sit-and-talk-tour-tickets-68822759727>. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

■ Greenwell Springs Baptist Church, Greenwell Springs: **35 Years of Friends Tour**, October 17, 7 p.m. Music: **Michael W. Smith**. Cost: \$75 (VIP), general admission (\$28.50). Pastor: Brian Robertson.

## Ginn from page 3

Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, Glen Allen, Virginia (2008-2011); director, Northeast Campus, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Schenectady, New York (1997-2000); International Mission Board missionary, Cali, Colombia (1990-1997); Liberty University trustee (2008-2015); LBC Executive Board member (2011-2017); IMB trustee (2004-2008); SBC Committee on Committees (2002); adjunct professor, School of Divinity, Liberty University.

He also has taught in various capacities for

Rockbridge Seminary, Springfield, Missouri; Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Southern California campus; and, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, New York City campus.

He and his wife Nell (Nichols) have been married for 33 years and have three adult children: Anna, Joshua and Zachary.


### FINAL THOUGHTS

Jones said he is excited at the possibility of Ginn serving as LBC president.

"He has the experience to help us under-

stand the breadth of the work our Convention shares and to challenge us as pastors to lead our churches to fully participate in it.

"I believe Jeff's experience will be helpful as he works with our executive director to lead our convention into a new era," Jones added. "He leads with integrity and generosity. I look forward to the things God will accomplish through our Convention in the days ahead and I believe Jeff can be a large part of helping us reach higher goals."



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Email résumés to: [office@ebcchurch.com](mailto:office@ebcchurch.com)  
Mail-in résumés to: Ebenezer Baptist Church  
211 Ebenezer Church Road  
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## FULL-TIME PASTOR

Leesville First Baptist, Leesville, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send résumés to: Roger Rolon, 399 Liberty Creek Road, Leesville, LA 71446 or First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 1568, Leesville, LA 71496.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Do you have a Revival, Homecoming, a new pastor, a community outreach or a concert? The Baptist Message would love to share your church news with the rest of the state. It is very easy to do, just send in your information (who, what, where and when) to [philip@baptistmessage.com](mailto: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

■ **Paul DeRousse** is retiring as associate pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Shreveport.

■ **James Franklin** has left First Baptist Church, Blanchard for Calvary Baptist Church, Harlingen, Texas.

■ **Scott Sullivan** has left First Baptist Church, Haughton as education minister to for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board (Discipleship).

■ **Kevin Smith** has resigned as pastor at Northwoods Baptist Church, Shreveport.

■ **Steve Efferson** is the new associate pastor at Woodridge Baptist Church, Shreveport.

■ **Katie Ashcraft** is the new music associate at Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City.

■ **Barry (wife Carol) Headrick** is the new music minister at Gray Baptist Church. He comes from Walnut Hill Baptist Church, Vivian.

■ **Alex Hawkins** is the new children's minister at Cheniere Baptist Church, West Monroe.

■ **Russ, wife Pam, Givens** is the new traditional worship leader/celebration choir director at First Baptist Church, Ruston.

■ **Clay, wife Christy, Fuqua**, is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Blanchard. He was at Philadelphia Baptist Church, Horse-shoe Drive campus, Alexandria.

■ **Jonah, wife Katie, Morrow** is the new youth pastor at Trinity Heights Baptist Church, Shreveport from First Baptist Church, Coushatta.

■ **Richard Davis** has been called as music director at First Baptist Church, Winnsboro.

■ **Carolyn Thomas** has been called as choir director at First Baptist Church, Winnsboro.

■ **Steven & Krista Campbell** are the new youth pastors at Natalbany Baptist Church.

■ **Steven Campbell** is the new church administrator at Natalbany Baptist Church.

■ **Chase Stanley** is the new associate pastor/student minister at First Baptist Church, Slidell.

## HOMECOMING

■ Holloway Baptist Church, Deville: **125th Anniversary Celebration**, October 12-13. October 12, 9 a.m., **Memorial Celebration breakfast**. Everyone is invited to come, eat and bring a treasured memory to the breakfast event to put on display. We would love to see any old tools, old photos, etc. that you may have and would want to share. Breakfast will be provided by the church. October 13, 10 a.m. **Sunday Worship Celebration** will be a special time of music, preaching, praise, testimonies, and historical review. Following the worship service there will be dinner on the grounds. The men are preparing gumbo and the ladies of the church are bringing desserts. Ole time games and activities will follow lunch. The church is located at Hickory Grove Road, Deville. Pastor: Jack West.

■ Welcome Home Baptist Church, Dodson: **82nd Homecoming**, October 13, 10:15 a.m. Special Music: **The Sanctuary Quartet**. Pastor: Charles Wesley.

■ Brushy Creek Baptist Church, Merryville: **Homecoming Celebration**, October 13, 10 a.m. Guest Speaker: **Lloyd Carroll**. The church is located at 125 Brushy Creek Cemetery Rd, Merryville, LA 70653. Pastor: Mike Streams.

■ First Baptist Waverly, Delhi: **Homecoming Celebration**, October 20, 10:30 a.m. There will be a potluck lunch after the services. Guest speaker: **Fred Hales**. Special Music: **Richard Ainsworth**. Everyone is invited. Pastor: Marion Spence.

■ First Baptist Church Belle Chasse, Belle Chasse: **75th Anniversary Celebration**, October 20, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Jason Allen

■ New Prospect Baptist Church, Dubach: **Homecoming Celebration**, October 20, 10:30 a.m. A covered dish lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Guest Speaker: **Dudly Poda**. Pastor: Marvin Winham.

■ Fardoche Baptist Church, Fardoche: **75th Homecoming Celebration**, October 20, 10:30 a.m. There will be fellowship with lunch following services. Guest speaker: **Gary Mitchell**. Fardoche Baptist is located at 5555 Fardoche Road, Fardoche, LA. For more information, call Phil Dozier at 225.637.2559.

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## REVIVAL

■ Harmony Baptist Church, Deville: **Family Revival**, October 14-8, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **2TALK42 Ministries**. Pastor: Richie Craig.

■ Cane Brake Baptist Church, Lott: **Fall Revival**, October 13-16, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Guest Speaker: **Raymond Willie**. Pastor: Merrick Henry.

■ Red Bluff Baptist Church, Folsom: **Revival**, October 19-21, 6 p.m. nightly. Guest speakers: **Bo Rice of NOBTS, Rhine Putman of NOBTS and Lewis Richerson, Woodlawn Baptist Church, Baton Rouge**. Pastor: Adam Hughes.

■ Columbia Heights Baptist Church, Columbia: **Revival**, October 20-23, p.m. Evangelist: **Bob Pittman**. Pastor: Warren Maxwell.

■ Bethel Baptist Church, Bastrop: **Revival**, October 20 - 23, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Jerry Chaddick**. Music: Phil Smith. Pastor: Tim Post

■ Heflin Baptist Church, Heflin: **Revival**, October 20-23, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: Luke Hockenjos. Special Music: We R Called. Pastor: Ronnie Osborn

■ Westview Baptist Church, DeRidder: **Revival**, October 20-23, Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Jason Hoychick.

■ Maple Springs Baptist Church, Logansport:

**Revival**, October 20-23; Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday 6 p.m. Teen night will be Sunday. Evangelists: **The Lisemby Family from Kingsland, Arkansas** will present the gospel by way of uplifting music, singing and preaching. The public is invited attend and be blessed. For more information, call 318.697.5439 or go to our Facebook page at Maple Springs Baptist Church Pastor: Lee McClintock.

## LAGNIAPPE

■ Union Baptist Church, Belmont: Union Baptist in Sabine Parish is seeking a full-time, experienced pastor for our church, who will also be the spiritual leader of our Christian school. We offer a beautiful parsonage and awesome church family. Applicants must be willing to pass a criminal and civil background check. Please send résumé to [mwcmax99@yahoo.com](mailto:mwcmax99@yahoo.com).

■ First Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Global Fest**, October 11, 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to an evening of music, fun and food benefitting Global Maritime Ministries. There will be food from around the globe as well as favorite local dishes; live entertainment, and live and silent auctions. Cost: \$25. <https://www.myegiving.com/App/Form/17d7dd86-6dcc-4d80-a2f9-98732671095d>.

■ First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: **SING! Keith & Kristyn Getty**, October 11, 9 a.m., Regional Summit, Keith Getty discusses topics such as A Vision for a Singing Church, The

Importance of Family Worship, and Singing into Mission; 11 a.m., Children's event, 1 hour interactive time with Kristyn and some of the Getty Band; 7:30 - 10 p.m. **Concert, join Keith & Kristyn Getty with their Irish and Bluegrass musicians**. Cost: \$20 & \$35. Pastor: Oren Conner.

■ First Baptist Church, Grand Isle: **Saturday evening with Masters4 Southern Gospel Quartet**, October 12, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Nathan Stanford.

■ Tower Baptist Church, Mooringsport: **Fall Festival**, October 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Pastor: Jim Gstohl.

■ Trinity (Pumpkin Center) Baptist Church, Hammond: **HIS KIDS Activity Time**, October 12 and November 9, 10 a.m.- noon in the fellowship hall. HIS Kids is a special needs ministry for ages 10-25 with crafts, music, and games.

■ Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: **Bayou Youth Rally 2019**, October 13, 5-7 p.m. Guest Speaker: **Derek "Griff" Griffon**. Worship Music: Istrouma Worship Band. This is for students sixth through 12th grade. To register your group go to <http://bit.ly/BayouRally>. For more information, contact Micah Cating at 225.295.0775. Pastor: Jeff Ginn.

■ Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles: **Nights of Worship - Cody Carnes**, October 13, 7 p.m. Pastor: Steve James.

■ Plainview Baptist Church, Bogalusa: **Gloryland Quartet in concert**, October 13, 11 a.m. Pastor: Scott Breland.

See NOTABLES, page 15

## 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.

gp sh immia cz yzuuleh sgcw cwhh, sgoc cwzl rh

xdghbhq? rlc swz yie sgcwwzoq wgumhop pdzu

mnhifgex? vzr pzld:csz

**Clues:**  
R = B; H = E

**Answer to September 26 Scripture Crypto:**  
Luke three: seventeen

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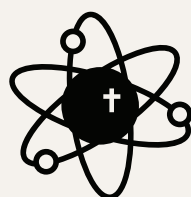


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