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THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

October 22, 2020

Volume 135 • Issue No. 11

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Brian Gunter photo

Hurricane Delta followed a path through Louisiana almost identical to Hurricane Laura's nearly six weeks earlier. At 7:30 a.m., Saturday, Sandy Creek along Hwy 366 in Pollock had overflowed its banks and flooded nearby homes.

Delta adds 'gut punch' six weeks after Laura

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) — Louisiana received a "gut punch," Friday, Oct. 9, as the second hurricane in six weeks made landfall in the state.

The eye of Hurricane Delta crashed ashore at 5 p.m., Oct. 9, as a Category 2 storm with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph in Creole, nearly 13 miles east of Cameron,

where Laura made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane (150 mph winds) on Aug. 27.

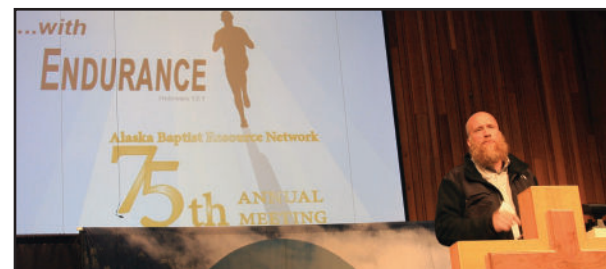
According to the National Weather Service, Delta had weakened to barely a tropical storm (35 mph sustained winds) as it exited into Mississippi at 7 a.m., Saturday, having followed a nearly identical path as Laura.

More than 565,000 businesses and homes in the state were without power as of 10:15

a.m., Oct. 10.

Delta also dumped heavy rain on parts of the state, which resulted in numerous road closures. AccuWeather reported late Friday that approximately 17.02 inches of rain fell in Iowa, just east of Lake Charles. Meanwhile, Bell City, about 7 miles south of Iowa, received 16.31 inches of rain and Lake Charles, 15.68 inches.

See GUT PUNCH, page 13



Scott Belmore, ABRN first vice president and director, Mosaic Campus Ministry, University of Alaska Anchorage presided over the final business session of the 75th annual meeting of Alaska Baptists. Belmore is a native Louisianian and graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Alaska Baptists vote to defund SBC's NAMB

By Will Hall
Message executive editor

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (LBM)—Messengers to the annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Resource Network, Sept. 28-30, approved a motion that will remove the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist

See ALASKA, page 16

LifeWay's Mandrell indicates trustees were unaware of sweetheart deal for Rainer

By Will Hall
Message executive editor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM)—A recording made by an unknown LifeWay employee purports to contain remarks by Ben Man-

See LIFEWAY, page 2

Green Oak blessed with revival since Laura

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

MERRYVILLE, La. (LBM) — Michael Burgess prayed for God to move when he accepted the call

in July to pastor his first church, Green Oak Baptist Church in Merryville, but he never imagined the revival the Lord would bring among the congregation and a community of 1,100 in

the weeks following Hurricane Laura.

Since the August storm, the church has grown from 20 in Sunday morning worship to 75 in late September,

See GREEN OAK, page 13

LIFEWAY from page one

drell, LifeWay's president and CEO, claiming that the lucrative deal given his predecessor Thom Rainer

was negotiated without the input, oversight or knowledge of the board of trustees elected by the Southern Baptist Convention.

The alleged Oct. 7 exchange with LifeWay employees was in response to the recent whirlwind of controversy surrounding a LifeWay lawsuit against Rainer for breaking terms of his severance agreement which included at least \$1 million and a non-compete clause that was to run until October 2021.

BACKGROUND

Rainer was CEO of LifeWay from February 2006 through February 2019. Before that he was a professor for 12 years at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

During his tenure at



Baptist Press photo

In this 2006 Baptist Press photo at Lifeway's former Gloria Conference Center (sold in 2013 for \$1) CEO Thom Rainer is shown telling trustees "Being a Christian resource provider is a tough business. I don't like to talk about competition, but we've got to do something different if we are going to be an effective, viable ministry in the future." He also said LifeWay Christian Stores had a "breakout year" with a proven business model that separates it from competitors and that future prospects are encouraging, according to the Baptist Press report.

Lifeway, the \$500 million publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention experienced eight consecutive years of multi-million dollar losses prior to Rainer announcing in 2017 his intention to resign in 2018. He stayed in leadership through February 2019, the month before the announced closing of all 170 LifeWay bookstores. A Baptist Press analysis of LifeWay's 2010-2017 audits showed "total operating expenses exceeded sales," growing in deficit each year from \$2.3 million to

\$35.5 million. Additionally, LifeWay sold its downtown headquarters for \$125 million and relocated to the Gulch, a toney and pricey area of Nashville. At the time of that decision, in 2016, Rainer told the Nashville Business Journal that "we're willing to pay a premium to stay in downtown Nashville compared to other opportunities."

Now, Lifeway has placed for sale its venerated Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina and is contemplating the same for its three-year-old headquarters.

At this time, the nearly new nine-story Nashville property, known as Capitol View Plaza, is listed for lease with Colliers International at \$32 per square foot and includes "a full floor conferencing center with seating for up to

700, full workout facility, cafeteria, spacious outdoor terrace with Wi-Fi, on-site security, structured parking."

Mandrell has been directing Lifeway about a year, since August 2019.

LEAKED DETAILS

Both Mandrell (in the leaked recording) and LifeWay's trustee officers (in a leaked memo) indicated that the sweetheart deal for Rainer, one of the top paid executives in the SBC, was made without the consent or even knowledge of the trustees responsible for such decisions.

Mandrell said that in an effort to save some jobs at LifeWay he had contacted Rainer to seek return of some of the money given him, telling his predecessor, "such a generous transition agreement in my opinion should have been approved with a larger set of eyes."

Meanwhile, a supposed Oct. 3 letter from LifeWay's trustee officers states that the "transition agreement" with Rainer was "signed by then Board Chairman Jimmy Scroggins and former Senior Vice President of Organizational Development Selma Wilson ... without being reviewed by or with knowledge of the Compensation Committee of Executive Committee."

Scroggins is pastor of Family Church, formerly the First Baptist Church, in West Palm Beach, Florida. He has been a LifeWay trustee since 2014 and served as chairman of the LifeWay board from 2018-2020. His second term ends in 2022. Lifeway has published materials by Scroggins in 2016 and 2020 and a book is slated for re-

See LIFEWAY, page 14

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Credentials Committee: Messengers must register for 2020 annual meeting

By Staff

Baptist Message

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM)—In order for a church to be represented during the business portions of the Louisiana Baptist Convention to be held Nov. 10 in the Guinn Auditorium on the campus of Louisiana College in Pineville, it will need to elect messenger(s), who then must register and be certified by the Committee on Credentials.

Chairman Todd Free noted to the *Baptist Message* that there are five ways for messengers to register and be approved:

— The first and simplest way is for messengers to pre-register using www.LaOne.org and printout the registration card to bring to the annual meeting. This way allows messengers to be certified within a matter of minutes, Free said.

— Second, a messenger

LBC seeks resolutions

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) -- Louisiana Baptists are invited to submit resolutions for possible consideration by messengers at the 2020 Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Resolutions may be submitted for review and consideration not fewer than 15 days prior to the LBC annual meeting, Nov. 10, providing a window of opportunity through Oct. 26

Resolutions should be typewritten, titled and dated, and, accompanied by a letter --from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention--certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing. The letter should include complete contact informa-

tion for both the person submitting it and his or her church.

No person may submit more than three resolutions per year.

Steve McAlister, Westside, Natchitoches, is the Committee on Resolutions chair.

Proposed resolutions may be faxed, 318.449.4287, emailed, Policy@Louisiana-Baptists.org, or mailed (ATTN: Resolutions Committee, LBC Office of Public Policy, P. O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309).

If you desire assistance with wording or formatting, please contact LBC Public Policy Director Will Hall by phone, 318.448.3402, or email, Policy@Louisiana-Baptists.org.

official votes of the annual meeting.

NOTICE TO CHURCHES

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing requirements we ask messengers to make every attempt to pre-register, AND BRING YOUR CARD WITH YOU. Scanning the card you print out at home or work will result in fewer touches at the annual meeting site.

Pre-registration letters were sent Oct. 2. Please use the provided login information to pre-register your messengers at www.LaOne.org.

If you have not received your letter, or if you have questions about the process, please contact LBC Information Services by email (Messengers@LBC.org) or phone (318.448.3402 ext. 242 or 210).

may bring a note on official letterhead signed by the pastor or church clerk, stating that the individual was elected by the congregation.

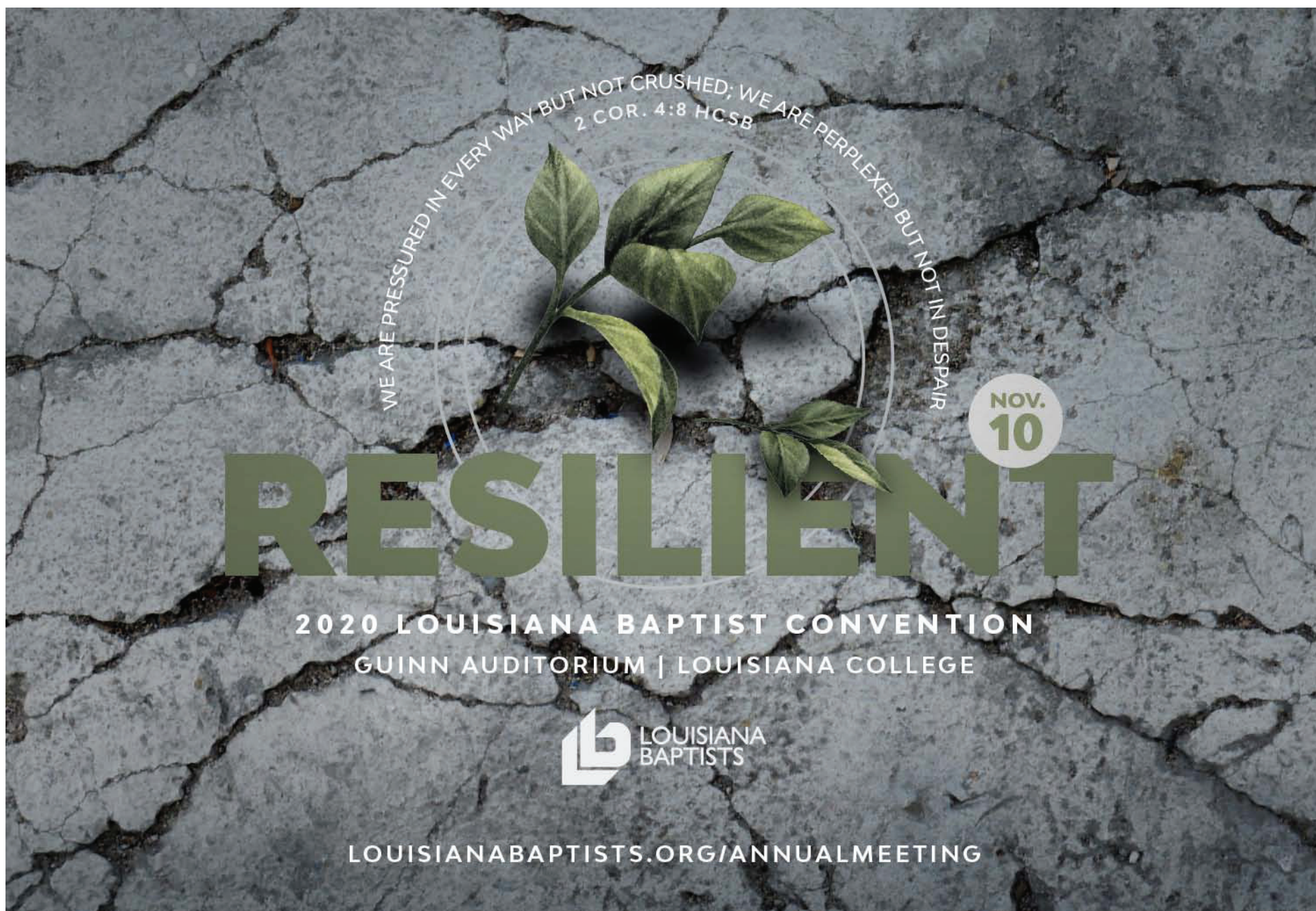
— Third, a church officer can phone in the names of elected messengers.

— Fourth, a person can be vouchsafed as a duly elected messenger by a fellow registered church member.

— Finally, when there is no other means by which to validate a person, a meeting of the Committee on Credentials may be

called to make a determination.

Free emphasized that pastors are not automatically registered as messengers and said they must follow the same procedure as other messengers in order to participate in the business discussions and



WE ARE PRESSURED IN EVERY WAY BUT NOT CRUSHED; WE ARE PERPLEXED BUT NOT IN DESPAIR
2 COR. 4:8 HCSB

NOV. 10

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2 CORINTHIANS 6:2 NLT

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All Georgia Barnette gifts support missions and ministries in Louisiana! Online giving now available at:

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'Here for You' impacts lost, encourages saved

By John Kyle

Louisiana Baptist
communications director

ALEXANDRIA, La. – Without the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering, the multi-media outreach, "Here for You," would not exist.

That's according to John Kyle, director of communications for Louisiana Baptists.

"In a sense, Georgia Barnette and 'Here for You' are a marriage made in 'missions heaven,'" Kyle noted. "Missions mean go – go to places and people who need to hear the Gospel. That's exactly what 'Here for You' is doing. Only we're doing this inside the borders of Louisiana."

Launched in the summer of 2014 as part of the President's 2020 Commission, "Here for You" is attempting to impact the estimated 2 million people in Louisiana who do not have relationships with Christ.

"We talk a lot about those two million people and occasionally we'll pray for them. 'Here for You' is an intentional effort to consistently go where they live and work, and creatively seed God's truth in their hearts."

Georgia Barnette gifts supported pilot campaigns in three of Louisiana's seven markets from 2014 – 2018. "Here for You" launched statewide in February 2019.

Kyle says much was gleaned from the pilot campaigns.

"'Here for You' started out as the tagline for the commercials and the website was LouisianaBaptists.info. People were getting confused so we rebranded everything to 'Here for You,'" said Kyle. "We also learned that while people were visiting the website, they were not staying and viewing the Gospel presentation. This led us to revamp the website with the goal of making the visitor experience more engaging and directing them to various areas on the site including finding a church, learning more about Louisiana Baptists, viewing the commercials and of course, the online Gospel presentation."

Perhaps the most significant addition to the strategy is the partnership with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

"A friend of mine works with Franklin Graham and told me about their internet evangelism effort

which has seen more than 15.5 million website visitors indicate decisions for Christ around the world," Kyle explained. "The BGEA is seeing in excess of six thousand visitors from Louisiana to their website each month. They designed a special landing page for 'Here for You' and that portal has seen over 4,300 views of the Gospel presentation and just under 900 have indicated they made decisions for Christ this year."

IF NUMBERS COULD TALK

"If numbers could talk, 'Here for You' is definitely getting a hearing," Kyle noted.

"In the second quarter of 2020, during the beginning of the quarantine, Louisiana Baptists seeded God's word into 95 percent of television households across the state during the weeks the commercials aired. An average of 250,000 people each month are being reached via social media and streaming services. When you include the reach of our Billy Graham partnership, the numbers indicate people are hearing God's word as it's seeded in their hearts and homes."

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Each month, the BGEA includes comments from those indicating decisions for Christ through the 'Here for You' landing page. Kyle noted these provide a glimpse of how God is using this effort in the hearts of people across the state.

"When I read these comments, which often include the addictions and struggles being experienced, Jesus' words 'he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd,' come to mind," Kyle reflected. "You can't help but pray for them and thank God for the opportunity to engage them with the Gospel."

Comments received over the last several months include:

"My life feels upside down, I'm not having any good luck.... Please help me to find way back to my heavenly Father."

"How do I know God has forgiven me?"

"I believe there is a God but I

See **HERE FOR YOU**, page 15

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2 CORINTHIANS 6:2 NLT

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PROVIDING FOR FAMILY NEEDS AND IMPACTING THE KINGDOM



Christians are motivated to meet the needs of family members because of our love and loyalty to them. Many have minor children who are understandably heavily dependent on parents for their needs to be met. There are others who have parents depending upon their children because of unforeseen circumstances in life. Some have adult children who have special needs and are financially dependent upon their parents. Others are the legal guardians of grandchildren because of challenging circumstances and those grandchildren are financially dependent upon their grandparents. Life seems to have some unusual circumstances placed before us occasionally. What most individuals have in common is the motivation to step-up and help family members in times of need.

The above provides some real life circumstances that occur in the lives of many. There are charitable tools to help address some of these life circumstances as well as impacting the Kingdom one day. Consider the significance of that last statement. You have the ability to meet the needs of family as well as impacting the Kingdom one day! For more information, please contact the Foundation at 877-523-4636.

Providing For Family Needs and Impacting The Kingdom:

PLANNING RESPONSIBLY

Individuals in charge of minor children need to have a Will in order to name a primary guardian and backup guardian as well as having other plans in place through the Will. From a planning standpoint, consider reflecting your values in the beneficiary section of your Will such as your family and church.

HELPING PARENTS FINANCIALLY

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) can help parents financially in retirement years. An amount of cash or stock can be given to a CGA and it provides retirement income to one's parents for the rest of their lives. Afterwards, the remainder can benefit a church or other ministry.

RECEIVE RETIREMENT INCOME, BENEFIT CHILDREN, IMPACT THE KINGDOM

A Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) can receive cash, stock, real estate, business interest and/or other assets. The CRT provides retirement income for life, benefit the children for a term of years after mom and dad pass away, and the remainder benefits a church and/or other ministry.

Please feel free to reprint these ideas in your church's publications to encourage estate stewardship from your members.

Contact the Foundation for a "Special Gifts" publication that can be customized with your church's logo and contact information or download it at www.LBFinfo.org.



Dr. Jeffrey Steed
Executive Director



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2020 Commission update: Impacting the culture, strengthening families

By Staff

Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists are in the final year of implementing the President's 2020 Commission Report, an initiative undertaken during the leadership of Waylon Bailey, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Covington, and the LBC president in 2012-2013.

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. Ten "key actions in reaching our state" – known as KAIROS – were developed to engage two audiences – the next generation and every people group. These measures for improving the spiritual health and growth of the state were adopted by messengers at the 2013 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual

Meeting.

This is the final article in a series published by the *Baptist Message* to report what successes have been achieved toward the ambitious goals of the statewide initiative, as well as to note what objectives remain to be done.

KAIROS 10 – *Lead Louisiana Baptists to maximize their collective influence in the arena of moral and cultural concerns, especially in strengthening families.*

The 2020 Commission recommended three specific goals:

- Continue to expand the interaction between the LBC Office of Public Policy and the State of Louisiana Administration, Judiciary, and Legislature.
 - Create a network for informing and involving Louisiana Baptist members and congregations about legal, social, and moral issues that need Christian engagement.
- The Office of Public Policy

will report on progress.

- Continue to develop strategies that help Louisiana Baptists minister to children in distress. The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home will keep the LBC informed on progress.

The Office of Public Policy represents Louisiana Baptists regarding moral issues, social concerns and religious liberty matters and works at all levels of government to develop public policy that represents Louisiana Baptists' consensus views.

Since 2015, the Office of Public Policy has helped translate 11 Louisiana Baptist resolutions into state laws that: established separate legislative task forces to reduce divorce and to protect children from online pornography; provided immunity for churches who, in trying to prevent sexual assaults, show good faith in reporting to future employers about concerns regarding a former

employee's suspected sexual misconduct; and, defeated the attempt to move a riverboat casino to Tangipahoa Parish.

The Office of Public Policy also has worked with a coalition of like-minded groups and individuals to pass essential pro-life legislation and has taken a lead role in the statewide ballot measure known as the Love Life Amendment, a constitutional change that will prevent a state judge from overturning common sense protections for mothers and their unborn babies.

Finally, the Office of Public Policy has worked on issues important to Louisiana Baptists life, work and ministry, helping to push to expand broadband internet into the 40 percent of our state that is rural, and working with national leaders to include churches, evangelists and ministries in the C.A.R.E.S. Act so that those seeking PayRoll Protection

Program loans would have access to them.

The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries, has continued long-time ministries such as housing children in on-campus cottages, but since 2012 has begun several new ministries:

- Connect 1:27 foster care and adoption network provides individuals and churches a toolkit to be a "helper to the orphan." Louisiana Baptist families have cared for more than 400 children through this program.

- Compassion for Kids offers ministry designed to meet the basic life needs of 2,700 economically-challenged children and their families in Northeast Louisiana. Projects are conducted in partnership with local churches and include providing food, clothing,

See KAIROS, page 11



Louisiana College 5th Annual Values & Ethics Series

**Nov 4th, 6:00 p.m.
Guinn Auditorium**

Guest Speakers Senator Katrina Jackson & Dr. Greg Bevels

**Nov 5th, 11:00 a.m.
Virtual Event**

Guest Speaker Chris Singleton

***The link to watch virtually will be available via LC social media and lacollege.edu prior to event**

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LBC Articles of Incorporation (Article XVII) Amendment

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Pineville, Louisiana, November 10, 2020, amend Article XVII (Amendments) of the LBC Articles of Incorporation as follows:

Proposed amendments originating in the Executive Board of the Convention are posted to the LBC website and published in one (1) issue of the BAPTIST MESSAGE (print edition or digital edition) no later than fifteen (15) days before the meeting of the Convention.

LBC Articles of Incorporation Amendments

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Pineville, Louisiana, November 10, 2020, amend LBC Articles of Incorporation as follows:

1. The ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION of the LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC. as they exist prior to the adoption of these amendments shall remain in place and shall not change except as specifically amended herein.
2. The ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION of the LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC. article headings shall be amended and renumbered as follows:
 - a. ARTICLE XXX. INDEMNIFICATION heading shall be amended and renumbered to read as follows: "ARTICLE XIV. INDEMNIFICATION"
 - b. ARTICLE XIV. INCORPORATORS heading shall be amended and renumbered to read as follows: "ARTICLE XV. INCORPORATORS"
 - c. ARTICLE XV. AGENT FOR SERVICE heading shall be amended and renumbered to read as follows: "ARTICLE XVI. AGENT FOR SERVICE"
 - d. ARTICLE XVI. CONSTRUCTION heading shall be amended and renumbered to read as follows: "ARTICLE XVII. CONSTRUCTION"
 - e. ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENTS heading shall be amended and renumbered to read as follows: "ARTICLE XVIII. AMENDMENTS"
3. The ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION of the LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC. shall be amended to add a new article with the heading XIII. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES to read as follows:

"XIII. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency declared as provided in this article, the following procedures shall control the operations, finances, officers, meetings, and purposes of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. until such time as the emergency is terminated. When the emergency has been terminated, then in that event, all provisions of the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC. which were last in effect prior to the emergency shall again take effect until such time as another emergency may be declared, if any, as provided in this article. These emergency provisions and procedures are as follows:

1. "Emergency" means any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. by a majority vote of those present and voting, that the usual and customary conduct of business by the Convention must be curtailed or suspended because it is not feasible to comply with applicable provisions of the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. due to the existence of an emergency which may endanger lives, health, property, and/or safety, may increase the threat to lives, health, property and/or safety, and/or conditions are such that it is not possible to conduct the usual and customary business of the Convention in a manner provided by the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the Convention.
2. In the event that the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. cannot meet to

consider an emergency declaration or termination, then the last elected officers of the Convention and the Executive Committee of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc., may jointly declare an emergency which invokes the provisions of this Article XII and/or terminate a previously declared emergency.

3. In the event that the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. or, in its absence, the officers of the Convention and the Executive Committee of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. cannot meet to declare an emergency, then the Executive Director of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention may declare an emergency which invokes the provisions of this Article.

4. In the event that an emergency is declared invoking the provisions of this Article as provided in paragraphs 1, 2 or 3 above, then all Convention officers, Convention committee members, and board members of Convention agencies and members of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. shall continue in office until such time as the emergency declaration is terminated and his/her successor is duly elected as provided by the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

5. In the event that an emergency is declared invoking the provisions of this Article as provided in paragraphs 1, 2 or 3 above, then all budgets, financial expenditures and operations authorized and last approved by the Convention prior to the emergency declaration shall remain in force and effect until such time as the emergency declaration is terminated and new budget, operational, and financial programs are duly adopted by the Convention as provided by the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

6. In the event that an emergency has been properly declared, then all meetings of the Convention Messengers whether Annual or otherwise shall be suspended until such time as the emergency declaration is properly terminated and Messengers are able to meet and conduct business as provided by the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

7. All meetings of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc., officers of the Convention and the Executive Committee of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. may be held in any manner whether in person, by telephone, electronically or otherwise during the period an emergency has been properly declared and/or to consider whether to declare an emergency or terminate an emergency declaration.

8. In the event that an emergency has been properly declared, THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST MESSAGE shall remain the official publication of the Convention. However, the BAPTIST MESSAGE may be published in any manner possible whether by print, by hand, electronically or any other method feasible during the emergency declaration. If the BAPTIST MESSAGE cannot be published in any manner, then any reasonable method of communication to Convention Messengers, cooperating churches, officers, or other necessary persons or organizations may be used.

9. An emergency declaration may be terminated by the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc., jointly by officers of the Convention and the Executive Committee of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. by a majority vote of those present and voting, or by the Executive Director of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. in the same order and manner as provided by paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this Article at such time as the conditions creating the emergency as defined in paragraph 1 above no longer exists.

10. Any provision of the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC. in conflict with this ARTICLE XIII during the period that an emergency has been properly declared and

has not been terminated, shall be suspended until such time as the declaration of emergency has been properly terminated."

LBC Bylaws (Article III, Section 11) Amendment

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Pineville, Louisiana, November 10, 2020, amend Article III, Section 11 (Composition and Duties of Committees and Boards) of the LBC Bylaws as follows:

A report of all meetings of boards of the Convention shall be printed published in The BAPTIST MESSAGE (print edition or digital edition) as soon as possible after the meeting with the understanding that specifics concerning financial conditions and personnel relations must often be confidential for the welfare of the institutions and their employees and may be reported in only general terms.

LBC Bylaws (Article VII) Amendment

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Pineville, Louisiana, November 10, 2020, amend Article VII (Amendment of Bylaws) of the LBC Bylaws as follows:

These bylaws may be amended at any regular session of the Convention by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the messengers present and voting. Amendments sponsored by the Executive Board shall be posted to the LBC website and published in one (1) issue of the BAPTIST MESSAGE (print edition or digital edition) no later than fifteen (15) days before the meeting of the Convention.

LBC Business and Financial Plan (Article XII) Amendment

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Pineville, Louisiana, November 10, 2020, amend Article XII (Amendments) of the LBC Business and Financial Plan as follows:

This Business and Financial Plan may be altered by two-thirds of the messengers present and voting at any time except during the last session (of the Convention), provided that recommended changes shall have been presented to the Executive Board and published in the BAPTIST MESSAGE (print edition or digital edition) at least one month in advance of the Convention.

Executive Board Articles of Incorporation (Article III) Amendment

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Pineville, Louisiana, November 10, 2020, amend of Article III [last sentence] of the Executive Board Articles of Incorporation as follows:

Any other vacancy in the office of member of the Executive Board of this corporation for any reason deemed sufficient by the member shall only be declared by a two-thirds majority affirmative vote of the messengers to the Louisiana Baptist Convention and only after the affirmative recommendation of the Convention Committee on Nominations has been published in the BAPTIST MESSAGE (print edition or digital edition) not less than twice in the thirty days immediately preceding the meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention."

Executive Board Articles of Incorporation (Article VIII) Amendment

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Pineville, Louisiana, November 10, 2020, amend Article VIII of the Executive Board Articles of Incorporation as follows:

The Articles of Incorporation may only be amended with the approval of two-thirds majority of the Executive Board and the approval of two-thirds majority of the membership at the annual meeting, six months' notice having been

given prior to the annual convention to the President of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and also notice of the proposed amendments having been published in the BAPTIST MESSAGE (print edition or digital edition) for three consecutive weeks preceding the annual meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Executive Board Articles of Incorporation (Article X) Amendment

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Pineville, Louisiana, November 10, 2020, amend Article X [last sentence] of the Executive Board Articles of Incorporation as follows:

Notice of any special meeting of the member of this corporation shall be published in the BAPTIST MESSAGE (print edition or digital edition) not less than twice in thirty days immediately preceding the meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention."

Executive Board Articles of Incorporation (Article XI) Amendment

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Pineville, Louisiana, November 10, 2020, amend Article XI of the Executive Board Articles of Incorporation as follows:

Before any dissolution or merger of this corporation, transfer or sale of substantially all of this corporation's assets and/or the formation of other corporations, limited liability companies or other forms of doing business by this corporation may be implemented, the proposed action shall be approved by the member by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the messengers present and voting and only after the resolution authorizing the action has been published in the BAPTIST MESSAGE (print edition or digital edition) not less than twice in the thirty days immediately preceding the meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention."

Executive Board Articles of Incorporation Amendment

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Pineville, Louisiana, November 10, 2020, amend the Executive Board Articles of Incorporation as follows:

1. The ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION of the EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC. as they exist prior to the adoption of these amendments shall remain in place and shall not change except as specifically amended herein.

2. The ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION of the EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC. shall be amended to add a new article numbered as ARTICLE XII to read as follows:

"XII EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency declared as provided in this article, the following procedures shall control the operations, finances, officers, meetings, and purposes of the Executive Board until such time as the emergency is terminated. When the emergency has been terminated, then in that event all provisions of the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC. which were last in effect prior to the emergency shall again take effect until such time as another emergency may be declared, if any, as provided in this article. These emergency provisions and procedures are as follows:

1. Emergency" means any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. by a majority vote of those present and voting, that the usual and customary conduct of business by the Executive Board must be curtailed or suspended because it is not feasible to comply with applicable provisions of the ARTICLES

OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the Executive Board due to the existence of an emergency which may endanger lives, health, property, and/or safety, may increase the threat to lives, health, property and/or safety, and/or conditions are such that it is not possible to conduct the usual and customary business of the Executive Board in a manner provided by the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the Executive Board.

2. In the event that the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. cannot meet to consider an emergency declaration or termination, then the Executive Director of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc., may declare an emergency which invokes the provisions of this Article and/or terminate a previously declared emergency.

3. In the event that an emergency is declared invoking the provisions of this Article as provided in paragraphs 1 or 2 above, then all Executive Board officers, Executive Board committee members, and Executive Board members shall continue in office until such time as the emergency declaration is terminated and his/her successor is duly elected as provided by the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

4. In the event that an emergency is declared invoking the provisions of this Article as provided in paragraphs 1 or 2 above, then all budgets, financial expenditures and operations authorized and last approved by the Executive Board prior to the emergency declaration shall remain in force and effect until such time as the emergency declaration is terminated and new budget, operational, and financial programs are duly adopted by the Executive Board as provided by the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

5. In the event that an emergency has been properly declared, then all meetings of the Executive Board shall be suspended until such time as the emergency declaration is properly terminated and board members of the Executive Board are able to meet and conduct business as provided by the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

6. In the event that a special meeting of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention may be safely and is reasonably necessary, then such meeting may be held with reasonable notice to the Executive Board members in any manner whether in person, by telephone, electronically, or otherwise during the time an emergency has been properly declared and/or to consider whether to declare or terminate an emergency.

7. In the event that an emergency has been properly declared, the BAPTIST MESSAGE shall remain the official publication of the Executive Board. However, the BAPTIST MESSAGE may be published in any manner possible whether by print, by hand, electronically or any other method feasible during the emergency declaration. If the BAPTIST MESSAGE cannot be published in any manner, then any reasonable method of communication to Executive Board members, officers, or other necessary persons or organizations may be used.

8. An emergency declaration may be terminated by the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc., or by the Executive Director of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Inc. in the same order and manner as provided by paragraphs 1 or 2 of this Article at such time as the conditions creating the emergency as defined in paragraph 1. above no

longer exist.

9. Any provision of the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and BYLAWS of the EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC. in conflict with ARTICLE XII during the period that an emergency has been properly declared and has not been terminated, shall be suspended until such time as the declaration of emergency has been properly terminated."

Louisiana College Articles of Incorporation (Article IV) Amendment

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Pineville, Louisiana, November 10, 2020, amend Article IV (Membership) of the Louisiana College Articles of Incorporation as follows:

4.2 The Board of Trustees shall be composed of thirty-three twenty-one persons, each of whom shall be a member in good standing of a Baptist church in Louisiana cooperating with the Louisiana Baptist Convention and a resident of the state of Louisiana, plus the President and Executive Director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. The President of Louisiana College shall be a member of the Board of Trustees, ex officio, and without a vote.

LBC RESOLUTION

The Committee on Resolutions is submitting the following resolution for adoption by messengers:

RESOLUTION: ON GOSPEL RESOLVE

WHEREAS, messengers to the annual meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention have a long history of adopting resolutions to express positions on an array of issues that are important; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of issues that could easily justify a response by the messengers to the 2020 Convention; and

WHEREAS, our entire nation generally has been ravaged by COVID-19, political division, incidences and accusations of racial inequality; and

WHEREAS, our state, specifically, was devastated by the catastrophic Hurricane Laura; and

WHEREAS, the Bible gives evidence that Jesus came with singularity of purpose to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10, 1 Timothy 1:15); and

WHEREAS, the Bible gives us the example of the early Church being totally focused on the proclamation of the Gospel above all other matters (Acts 2, 3, 4) even more determined when confronted with various divisive issues (Acts 5, 6, 15) and even persecution (Acts 7); and

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul in his most challenging cultural context, Corinth, resolved to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2); and

WHEREAS, the uncertainty of the time of Jesus' appearing (Matthew 24:42) calls for Gospel urgency as well as the billions of those who have yet to respond to the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the Biblical vision of Heaven is that a "multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one can number stands around the throne" of God forever and ever (Revelation 7:9); now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Pineville, Louisiana, November 10, 2020, affirm that the Gospel is the ultimate answer to every problem in our lives and culture; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we use this historic occasion to announce that we desire to be a people known by one purpose—to know Him and the power of His resurrection (Philippians 3:10) and determine to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we display our commitment and unity by adopting this one and only resolution.



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SEEKING A FULL-TIME OR BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR
Liberty Baptist Church in Linville, LA is seeking a full-time or bi-vocational pastor. Please send résumé to lbclinville@gmail.com.

SEEKING FULL-TIME PASTOR
Friendship Baptist Church in Pine Prairie, LA is Seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume to Friendshipbaptistchurchpp@gmail.com

SEEKING
Erwinville Baptist Church seeks either a pulpit supply preacher, interim pastor, or bi-vocational pastor. Specify the position you are applying for. Please send résumés to ebcpsc2020@gmail.com or call 225.329.8149 with questions.

SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR
Sorrento Baptist Church in Sorrento, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please mail résumés to Sorrento Baptist Church P O Box 192, Sorrento, LA 70778 or email to pastorsearch@eatel.net.

SEEKING
FBC Lake Saint Louis, MO, is seeking an Associate Pastor of Worship and Outreach. Visit www.fbcls.org/job-opportunities for additional information.

SEEKING FULL-TIME PASTOR
Trinity Baptist Church in Oakdale, LA is seeking full-time pastor. Please send résumés to: Pastor Search Committee, P O Box 748, Oakdale, LA 71463.

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.

BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR
West St. Charles Baptist Church in Boutte, LA, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor
Please send your résumés to wscbcoffice@bellsouth.net

SEEKING A SENIOR PASTOR
First Baptist Church in New Roads, LA, seeks a Senior Pastor. Candidates should possess a Masters of Divinity or greater from seminary & have five + years experience as a senior pastor. Send résumés and/or questions to Nancy Pourciau: fbcnrpsc@gmail.com

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EDITOR'S NOTE: *Do you have a Revival, Homecoming, a new pastor, a community outreach or a concert? The Baptist Message would love to share your church news with the rest of the state. It is very easy to do, just send in your information (who, what, where and when) to philip@baptistmessage.com or call 318.449.4345. To get your event in the paper, please submit your information three weeks prior to the event.*

ON THE MOVE

- **Richard Ainsworth** retires as Traditional Worship Pastor at North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe.
- **Brett Cook** is the new pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Minden.
- **Michail Baldwin** is the new pastor of Weldon Baptist Church.
- **Joe Stutson** is the new pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell.
- **James & Jazz Delatte** are the new youth ministers at Westside Baptist Church, Ponchatoula.
- **Robert Robinson** is the new pastor at Covenant Baptist Church, Slidell.
- **Ernest Graham** is the new pastor at Woodland Baptist Church, Springfield.
- **Cory Taylor** is the new pastor at Evans Creek Baptist Church, Pearl River.

REVIVAL

- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Harvest Sunday**, October 25. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: **Community Tent Revival**, November 1-4, 7 p.m. Speaker: **Sam Greer, pastor of River Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.** Pastor: J.P. Cox.
- Serenity Baptist Church, Tickfaw: **Revival**, November 18-20, 6:30 each night. Evangelist: **Gary Bowlin**. Pastor: Keith Wagner.

LAGNIAPPE

- Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: **Fall Family Day**, October 25, 9:45 a.m. (Sunday School), 11 a.m. (Worship Service). Following the service, there will be hamburgers, hot dogs, and other food items under tents behind the church. This is mixed with carnival-type games for the kids, a hayride, a photo booth, and a softball game for all who would like to participate. Pastor: Steven Kelly.
- First Baptist Church, Winnfield: **The Great Pumpkin Mask-erade**, October 25, 5-7 p.m. There will be fun for the entire family. The event will be held in the FBC annex. Pastor: Jerry Pipes.
- First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Party in the Park**, October 25, 4-6 p.m. Join us for some hamburgers (to go style), festival games, and some fun in the open air at Lincoln Parish Park. Sign-up at First Baptist Ruston. Pastor: Chris Craig.
- Watson Baptist Church, Watson: **Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat**, October 25, 4-6 p.m. In case of inclement weather it will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1. Trunk or Treat judging will be by donation (\$1 donation) at each vehicle. The vehicle with most donations wins first place trophy and bragging rights. Proceeds will go to Camp Living Waters. Kids wear your family friendly costume (nothing scary). There will be candy, hot dogs and chips for all kids. Pastor: John Pemberton.
- First Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Treasure Quest 2020**, October 25, 4:30-7:00 p.m. Families will use a map directing them to fun games and activities at different homes where they will also receive clues that will lead them to the Family Treasure Chest filled with candy, silver and gold mardi gras beads. Once found, boys and girls will reach inside the treasure chest to claim their loot.
- First Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **Fall festival**, Oct. 25, 5 p.m. **Entertainer Mark Lippard** will headline an event that also will feature a trunk or

- treat afterwards. Pastor: Leo Miller.
- Cypress Baptist Church, Benton: **Fall Festival**, Oct. 28, 6-7:30 p.m. The annual event will feature food trucks, free candy and games. Pastor: John Fream.
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Trunk or Treat**, October 28, 6-8 p.m. There will be lots of candy and family fun beginning at 6 p.m. Area food trucks will be on-hand for guests to purchase their choice of food. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- Tioga First Baptist Church, Tioga: **Fall Festival**, October 28, 5-7 p.m. Pastor: Tim Hisaw
- Philadelphia Baptist Church at Horseshoe Drive, Alexandria: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5:30 – 8 p.m. **Featuring 3-time American Ninja Warrior Competitor Jared Greer**, not to mention plenty of candy for all. Pastor: Stuart Sasser.
- Longview Baptist Church, Deville: **Fall Festival**, October 25, 5-7 p.m. Pastor: Robby Poole.
- Cotile Baptist Church, Boyce: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 4-6 p.m. in the church's parking lot. Pastor: Johnny Miller.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Pineville: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5-7 p.m. Come enjoy an evening of safe, family fun with candy, games and fellowship. Pastor: Kevin Roberts.
- The Church at Marksville, Marksville: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5-7 p.m. There will be lots of candy, prizes, a cake walk, games, hot dogs and more. Come join us for a night of family fun in a safe environment. Pastor: Kenneth Austin.
- Mt. Union Baptist Church, Spearsville: **Halloween Blood Drive & Trunk or Treat**, October 31, in the church parking lot. The blood drive will be from 1-5 p.m. followed by the Trunk or Treat from 5-7 p.m. Pastor:
- Mangham Baptist Church, Mangham: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, Pastor: Rick Aultman.
- First Baptist Church, Zwolle: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5-7 p.m. at the church. There will be plenty of candy and fun for the kids. Pastor: Marty Williams.
- Ouachita Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Fall Festival featuring a drive thru Trick-a-Trunk**, October 31, 5-7 p.m. Pastor: Mike Holloway.
- University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: **Fall Family Fun Fest**, October 31, 6-8 p.m. at the corner of Percy Brown and Ardoyne. There will be a **Trunk or Treat**, free food and a bounce house. Pastor: J. P. Cox.
- First Baptist Church, Houma: **Trunk or Treat**, Oct. 31, noon-3 p.m. The church will have plenty of candy, games and fun. Pastor: Steve Folmar.
- Pine Grove Baptist Church, Pineville: **Trunk or Treat**, Oct. 31, 2- 4 p.m. **Evangelistic juggler Matthew Geisel** will headline an event that also includes lots of candy. Pastor: Brent Romero.
- First Baptist Church, Moss Bluff: **Light the Bluff**, Oct. 31, 5-8 p.m. A safe alternative to Halloween will feature free food and lots of fun. Pastor: Steve Bennett.
- West Lake Baptist Church, Doyline: **Trunk or Treat**, Oct. 31, 5-7:30 p.m. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be served, and the church yard will be filled with trunks of candy. Pastor: Michael Sanders.
- First Baptist Church, Vidalia: **Trunk or Treat**, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Wes Faulk.
- Esler Baptist Church, Pineville: **Harvest Festival**, November 1, 4-7 p.m. Come enjoy a bonfire, food, candy, games and fellowship. Pastor: Joshua Timothy.
- Cook Baptist Church, Ruston: **Celebrate LIFE!** November 1-3. Speaker: **Scott Klusendorf, a nationally acclaimed pro-life speaker**. Pastor: Jeff Smart.
- Trinity Heights Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Laughing All the Way to Christmas Celebration**, November 29, 6:00 p.m. Speaker: Dennis Swanberg, America's Minister of Encouragement. The celebration is free to the public. A loving offering will be collected. Minister of Music: Darrell Robertson.

Revised YEC plans announced

By Staff
Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The 2020 Youth Evangelism Celebration is going on the road this year for three one-night events called “YEC: Limited Edition.” Originally, YEC was scheduled to convene at the Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria, Nov. 22-23, but novel coronavirus pandemic attendance restrictions caused the event to move to a regional format.

First Baptist Church in Haughton will host the first of these smaller gatherings, Nov. 8, 6-8 p.m. Eddie Briery, pastor of The Church at Red River in Shreveport, will be the main speaker. Louisiana College will host the second in the series, Nov. 11, 6-8 p.m. Derek “Griff” Griffon, student pastor at The Bayou Church in Lafayette, will be the main speaker. This event also will be live-streamed on the Louisiana Baptist website for groups who can’t attend. First Baptist Church in Lafayette will close out YEC: Limited Edition, Nov. 15, 6-8

p.m. Shane Pruitt, National Next Gen Evangelism Director for the North American Mission Board, will be the guest speaker. Nick Parish, interim worship leader at Grawood Baptist Church in Keithville, will provide music at all three regional events. All participants will be required to wear a mask at the three events, and group lead-

ers must take temperatures of each participant prior to arrival at the venues. Additionally, groups will be seated together and distanced from other churches. **YEC will cost \$10 per person and pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Julie Mitcham at 318.449.4217 or email julie.mitcham@lbc.org.**

Karios from page 7

shoes, school supplies, and more.

- HomePlace offers homeless women and their children a place to stay for six to 12 months at no cost to the residents, and their stay can be extended. More than 500 women and their children have participated in the program since its inception in 2010. While there, the women may work toward their high school equivalency and receive life and job training through the Christian Women’s Job Corps. Perry Hancock, president

and CEO of the Children’s Home, said future plans include the development of care strategies for child victims of human trafficking and residential care for women who are victims of domestic violence. “The development of new ministries since 2012 has been made possible through the many ways our churches and convention support the Children’s Home,” Hancock said. “Louisiana Baptists have a strong desire to provide love, care, and hope in Christ for children and families in need. We are so grateful for the life-changing support.”

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.

JT VCHV VCL AHIL TA H PHG FHJ VTFHUN VCL WHEP VULL TG

VCL TGL JQNL, HGN VCL AHIL TA H OTZGR EQTG VTFHUN VCL

WHEP VULL TG VCL TVCLU JQNL: QV FHJ PHNL VCUTZRC HEE VCL

CTZJL UTZGN HSTZV.

LDLYQLE ATUVO-TGL:GQGLVLLG

Clues:
A = F; T = O

Answer to October 9 Scripture Crypto:
Second Kings nine:six

LC makes key additions to leadership team

By Elizabeth Christian
Louisiana College News

PINEVILLE, La. (LCNews) - Louisiana College President Rick Brewer has announced three new key leaders have joined the school: Will Smallwood, Eric Pratt and Mary E. "Beth" Poole Palmer.

WILL SMALLWOOD

As executive vice president, Smallwood will oversee enrollment, advancement, marketing and communications. He previously served as senior vice president for advancement and university relations for more than 10 years at Oklahoma Baptist University.

"We are thrilled Dr. Will Smallwood has joined the leadership team at Louisiana College," Brewer said. "Will brings a proven track record of success and experience in business and higher education to Louisiana College. His

calling and passion for the mission of Christian higher education will greatly benefit LC. Coupled with his keen vision, relentless dedication and focus on strategic goals and objectives, he will enhance our already strong leadership team. I am confident that prospective students and their families, as well as friends and alumni, will come to appreciate his servant-heart and passion for Christian liberal arts."

In his role, Smallwood will serve as LC's chief development officer, chief enrollment officer and development and enrollment, as well as donor and alumni relations. He will direct the college's programs in student recruitment and resource development, which brings together four public-facing units of the college that share many common goals and audiences.

"I am grateful and honored to join the Louisiana College family in this



Smallwood



Palmer



Pratt
ERIC PRATT

crucial role," Smallwood said. "LC has a rich history of preparing graduates and transforming lives, and I am excited to stand on the Hill with President Brewer in fulfilling this vision.

"Now more than ever, our world needs the excellent Christian liberal arts education found at LC," Smallwood added. "Graduates are equipped for lives of learning, serving, and leading that matter for Louisiana, for our nation, and our world. This is the incredible power and legacy of a Christ-centered collegiate education."

Pratt is the new vice president of administration. He previously served 17 years as the vice president of Christian development at Mississippi College and most recently as a higher education and retention strategist for SpotterEDU.

"Dr. Pratt will provide leadership for campus infrastructure, facilities maintenance, technology, and auxiliary services," Brewer shared. "His extensive background in Christian higher education leadership and administration will add significant value

to the president's leadership team's service to the college's internal and external constituencies."

Pratt added: "my wife Penny and I are excited to join the LC family. Louisiana College is becoming a world class Christian university and I want to assist the administration, faculty and staff in demonstrating the love of Christ, developing followers of Christ, and delivering a college education and experience, which is preparing graduates and transforming lives."

MARY E. "BETH" POOLE PALMER

Also this fall, Palmer was appointed executive director for development and alumni affairs.

"The College is blessed to add Dr. Beth Palmer to the president's leadership team as our new executive director for development and

See ADDITIONS, page 15

You Want Us to Do WHAT?

Football is back!

When I was a youth minister I worked out with a local high school football team as part of their "optional" summer conditioning program. During one of the workouts, the coach took us to the practice field and announced that we were going to run 50 forty-yard sprints. They wouldn't dare say it, but I knew what those young athletes were thinking, "**You want us to do what?**"

Translated – are you crazy? Do you know what you're asking?

I can't help but think this was going through the mind of Jesus' disciples at the end of the long day of ministry. Realizing it was late in the day, the disciples wanted Jesus to send the crowd away. The reason they gave was so the people could get something to eat before dark. The truth was they were tired and hungry. They had just returned from their mission trip, if you will, and Mark tells us the "apostles gathered around Jesus and reported all that they had done and taught." Jesus invited them to a remote place for some rest, but the crowds wouldn't let Jesus out of their sight. In fact, so many people were coming that Mark noted the apostles "did not even have time to eat."

Fast-forward to the end of a long, meal-less day of ministry. The disciples encouraged Jesus to send the crowd away. What Jesus said next caught them by surprise, "You give them something to eat." Mark 6:37.

Wait for it... **You want us to do what?**

The New Living Translation puts it this way, "With what?" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people."

The New Testament is sprinkled with "**you want us to do what?**" assignments:

- Lazarus had been dead four days and Jesus said, "move the stone."
- The daughter of the religious leader died as Jesus was on His way to his house. Jesus said, she's not dead, only sleeping. Let's keep going!
- He told Peter to go catch a fish so they could pay their temple tax.

The next thing He asks is "what do you have?" When Jesus assigns us the task of reaching Louisiana, He's not going to ask us for more than we have, but He will ask us for what we have.

When Louisiana Baptists launched *Here for You*, a strategy to seed God's truth inside every heart and every home in the state, we asked the same question: **You want us to do what?** You want us to create 30 second, cinema quality messages on secular media outlets to share the Gospel? We did and God is honoring our obedience.

How has God used what you've given?

- In the second quarter of 2020, you've seeded God's truth in roughly 95% of TV households across Louisiana
- Social media and digital efforts are reaching over 250,000 people each month.
- Since January 1, 2020, our partnership with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has produced 4,323 gospel presentation views and 897 indicated decisions for Christ.

The task before us is great and Christ's directive is clear – you give them something. Instead of responding with "**you want us to do what?**" let's show the same compassion Jesus showed the crowd and give what we have. *Let's work together, do whatever He tells us to do, and see what happens next. It may just be miraculous!*

HereforYou.org
LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

Visit LouisianaBaptists.org/hereforyou and enter the password, luke1423 to see how your church can connect with *Here for You*.

Green Oak from page one

and has baptized five new converts, with additional baptisms scheduled in the coming weeks.

Many days, whether from the pulpit or at a feeding line for those impacted by Laura, Burgess marvels at how God has breathed life into the church within a short time.

"When I pull onto the church grounds I know this is where God is working," Burgess told the Baptist Message. "I've seen Him multiply our congregation and have seen people who left come back."

"One of my prayers to God when I took this church was 'let me see you work. If I preach, let me be good at it for you. But let me see this through your lens.' I thought

it would be in baptisms but never knew it would occur out of a hurricane. Never did I think I would see it in lives turned upside down."

UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS

Nearly every day since Laura, the church has received supplies from individuals and churches locally, statewide and around the nation, which have been distributed to the community -- more than 1,500 food boxes and another 2,000 items such as personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, baby food and clothes. Additionally, the church hosted 300 community members in September for a family fun day that included

a cookout, inflatables and games.

Rayna Pajares, a recipient of grocery staples, began attending worship services in early September after watching members ministering to the community. Shortly afterward, she was convicted of her need for a Savior and publicly declared her newfound faith through baptism, Sept. 20.

"With all that was going on with the hurricane and the church, I felt it was time to make a commitment to Christ," Pajares said. "I have been overjoyed to have a part in helping others in need. This is what God wants us to do as His children."

Charlie Casner, already a believer, also joined the church after receiving food and subsequently volunteered to help other needy individuals at Green Oak Baptist.

Casner said he has received a blessing from giving of his time to help his fellow community members.

"It feels great to see those faces light up when you help them," he said. "The people just have this excited look on their face knowing someone cares."



Pastor Michael Burgess baptizes Brandi Aden during a worship service Sept. 20 at Green Oak Baptist Church in Merryville.

Gut Punch from page one

While reported damage was still unknown, *Baptist Message* learned Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth received water damage in the Indian Creek Lodge, as well as the activities building and the game room, according to Louisiana Baptists Executive Director Steve Horn.

"We are in the process of assessing the needs, making decisions about locations for our base of disaster relief operations and bringing back online the operations we had in place responding to Laura," Horn told the *Baptist Message*. "These will continue to be challenging times, but the beauty of this morning can be a reminder to us that God's faithfulness is new every morning."

PRAY FOR THE WEARY

Bruce Baker, director of missions for Carey Baptist Association, said people are weary. Many were repairing their homes that were damaged by Laura and must now deal with the aftermath of a second hurricane.

"Adding damage from Delta to the area will be devastating for many," he said. "I am praying that I suffer well. That people will remember how much we love Jesus and our neighbors and not how much we suffer. In many ways it is better that the storm followed a track similar to Laura. No reason for someone else to

get new damage."

DR RESPONSE

Meanwhile, Gibbie McMillan, state strategist for Louisiana Baptists' disaster relief efforts, said a preliminary response plan has been put into place.

"We have Texas Baptist Men going to Trinity in Lake Charles to do feeding," he said. "Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief is on the way to Bayou Church in Lafayette and will set up a drive-in feeding center at First Baptist Church in Welsh, too."

He added that a team from Rolling Hills Ministries in Ruston was assigned to set up a feeding center at First Baptist Church in New Iberia and that the North Carolina Baptist Men incident command center was locating at First Baptist Church in Lafayette.

McMillan also gave an update on the ongoing response to Hurricane Laura.

"Arkansas Baptists will continue to operate the incident command center at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles," he advised. "Southern Baptists of Texas Convention is sending a team to Philadelphia Baptist Church, Horseshoe drive, in Alexandria, as the incident command center for Laura and Delta. A Mississippi feeding team is on standby and we could send them to Oakdale First Baptist Church."



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LifeWay from page 2

lease in 2021, according to advertising on lifeway.com and amazon.com. Consequently, his service as a LifeWay trustee since 2016 appears to be in violation of SBC Bylaw 15. F. which states that no person or their spouse is eligible to serve on the board of an SBC entity "from which the person receives, directly or indirectly, any form of payment or financial benefit ... or, which provides funds for which he/she has a duty of administration. When such conditions become applicable, that person or that person's spouse shall be considered as having resigned and such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with established Convention procedure."

The leaked memo explained that Scroggins had agreed to retain Rainer as "an employee of LifeWay and provided him with full salary and benefits until Oct. 31, 2020 and gifted him a new car." Since "retiring" in February, Rainer has been paid a transitional salary of more than \$1 million, plus benefits, not including royalty payments on his books published by LifeWay, according to the memo.

The LifeWay officers identified with the letter are: Todd Fannin, chairman, a businessman and a member of Life Fellowship Church, Pryor, Oklahoma; J.D. Perry, vice chairman, a businessman and a member of Woodlawn Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and, Amy Mielock, secretary, [unknown vocation], a member of First Baptist Church, Cary, North Carolina. They said Rainer abrogated the terms of his transition agreement by seeking a book contract and other business relationship with Tyndale House Publishers, a LifeWay competitor.

WHAT NOW?

According to Baptist Press, Sept. 30, LifeWay had paused its lawsuit in order to allow both parties to explore "the possibility of an agreed upon resolution of the differences."

The Nashville Business Journal provided an update, Oct. 7, that LifeWay and Rainer had resolved their differences, citing a joint statement that said "Rainer has agreed to honor the transition agreement, including the non-compete clause. He has agreed not to move forward with his business partnership with Tyndale House Publishers, which was a violation of his non-compete agreement."

Meanwhile, in the recording Mandrell is heard telling LifeWay employees his top priority is to create a new ethos at the company.

"So the most important thing I'm doing in my first year as president is resetting the culture," he said, adding that such a change "starts at the top."

"So I have to live out the values, I have to embody them. Otherwise, they are just fancy words and cool fonts on a wall," he explained. "So when we say, when I say, that we care about character, what do we mean by that? We mean that we are far more interested in who we are before God than what we do for people. We must model integrity, we must keep standards high."


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Protect the UNBORN, vote YES on #1

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM)—Voters will be offered the opportunity to protect state pro-life laws by approving Amendment #1 on the ballot, Nov. 3.

Known as the Love Life Amendment, the change to the state constitution is needed because of developments in 14 other states, where in each case a state

court ruled that in the state constitution there was a right to abortion or the right to force the state to pay for abortions – but based on a creative interpretation of a general phrase or vague wording and not on anything that specifically stated such rights.

The Love Life Amendment does not outlaw abortion or address such controversies as excep-

tions for rape and incest. The language simply makes clear that there is no stated right to abortion in the Louisiana Constitution:

Amendment #1: *Do you support an amendment declaring that, to protect human life, a right to abortion and the funding of abortion shall not be found in the Louisiana Constitution?*

Please protect the unborn and vote “yes” on Amendment #1.

Here for You from page 5

need help really feeling He is there and to stop having thoughts that He's not real. Please help me.”

“I'm wondering what happens to you after you pray the 'Sinners Prayer'?”

THE PROMISE

Almost two years into the statewide campaign, Kyle believes “Here for You” comes with a promise.

“When Jesus was explain-

ing the parable of the sower to His disciples, He told them the seed represents the word of God and that ‘some’ of the seeds find good soil,” Kyle continued. “The Georgia Barnette Offering makes that ‘some’ a reality. It provides the seed.

“So the promise is two-fold: First, some of seeds find good soil. In other words, the scattering of the seed is not in vain. Second, seeds that find good soil provide a return 30,

60 or even 100 times more than what was scattered. That's a promising worth pursuing.”

Pastors and churches desiring to connect with Here for You are encouraged to visit LouisianaBaptists.org/hereforyou and enter the password, luke1423.

To support Here for You via The Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering visit georgiabarnette.org/give.

Additions from page 12

alumni relations,” Brewer said. “Beth's extensive higher education administrative experience and love for her alma mater will translate into years of success for the College. Welcome home, Beth Palmer.”

Palmer comes to LC after 24 years at Texas Woman's University, 35 years in higher education, and six years in middle and high school public school systems. She holds a bachelor's degree from Louisiana College, an MBA and Ph.D. from Texas Woman's University and a master's degree in education from North Texas State University.

A former member of a Louisiana College Lady Wildcat basketball team that was nationally ranked two of the four years she played, Palmer, a standout at Rapides High, played a pivotal role for LC. She finished her career as holder of the school's highest individual career field goal percentage (50.7 percent).

“I am excited about being back at LC and looking forward to serving our alumni and helping to develop the

Wildcat Club,” Palmer said.

ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS

LC also announced that Evelyn Dean has been hired as executive director of finance and chief financial officer. She is a certified public accountant and previously worked for the accounting firm Payne, Moore & Herrington for 11 years.

Brewer also has engaged other faculty and staff, using their various backgrounds, to step into additional and increased roles. Those include: Shannon Tassin, executive director of human resources; Renee Melder, executive director of enrollment management; Elizabeth Barfoot Christian, director of college communications; Jennifer Dykes, director of marketing; Brian Manuel, coordinator of student behavior and accountability; Hannah Nyman, director of residential life and student engagement; and, McKayla King, director of recreational services/assistant director of residence life.

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- **Residential Child Care** – You provide neglected, abused, and abandoned children with a safe place to live where they can experience God's love.
- **HomePlace Residential Family Care** – You provide this transitional living program that offers compassionate care to single women and their children who are homeless due to difficult life circumstances.
- **PathFinders** – You provide this transitional living program for campus residents turning 18 and for young adults ages 18-21 who are aging out of state foster care.
- **Granberry Counseling Centers** – You provide affordable, professional, Christian counseling for individuals, couples, and families in 12 statewide locations.
- **Christian Women's Job Corps** – You provide women age 18 or older a place to receive unconditional love, encouragement, Bible study, and other tools for a better life and future for themselves and their families, including HiSET training.
- **Connect 127 Foster & Adoption Ministries** – You provide Foster & Adoption Specialists across the state who connect children in need with families and churches who care.
- **Compassion for Kids** – You provide this ministry to meet the basic life needs of economically-challenged children and families in Northeast Louisiana.
- **Orphans Embrace** – You provide this ministry to serve poor and needy children in strategic areas around the world through mission volunteers.



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Alaska from page one

Convention from its Cooperative Program budget in 2022 and retain those funds to support state missions and ministries “until such time there is a collaborative, cooperative and mutually agreed upon strategy” with that national entity.


Alaska is one of six non-south Baptist state conventions (Alaska, California, Hawaii-Pacific, New Mexico, Northwest and Ohio) that have formally complained about NAMB’s new “Strategic Partnership Agreement,” saying it is not an agreement but a unilateral set of conditions being imposed upon smaller and mid-sized state conventions. In a recent exchange of letters, NAMB trustee officers dismissed the specific concerns, saying, “We’re not sure you could make a more complimentary accusation of us!” with regard to the situation being “centralized” and “directive.”

The action by Alaska Baptists, which will impact 22.79 percent of \$156,171 of their annual contributions to national causes through CP (based on 2019 numbers), is the most drastic step taken,

to date, by a state convention against NAMB which had an annual budget of \$131 million in 2019 that included \$50 million that used to be spent in partnership with state conventions.

NAMB is setting up what is described by some as a “competing state convention” in a number of non-south state conventions, establishing “Send Networks” to conduct church planting instead of working with these state conventions. Meanwhile, the new SPA requires these state conventions to request grants for church planting and evangelism projects in able to access some of the \$50 million in funds that were contributed to NAMB by all 42 state conventions.

The motion submitted to Alaska Baptists was presented Sept. 29 by Michael Procter, a former executive director and treasurer for Alaska Baptists who retired in 2016 after five years in that position. It was adopted by messengers gathered in the First Baptist Church, Anchorage, with only 4-5 in attendance raising a hand in opposition, according to reports.




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JANUARY BIBLE STUDY 2021



Due to the pandemic and disaster relief efforts, the January Bible Study Previews will not be presented via the normal regional events. This year Dr. Philip Caples, our Bible study leader, will provide video lessons for the 2021 Preview, which is, “John’s Epistles: Living with Assurance.”


These free lessons will be available on the Louisiana Baptists website by October 26, so pastors and teachers will have time to prepare for leading This study in their churches in 2021.

LouisianaBaptists.org/JBSpreview


You may purchase the Living Assurance: Adult Leader’s Guides and the Personal Study Guides at LifeWay.com. There is a digital format option for both resources.

Session Outline


I.	Fellowship with God.....	1 John 1:1-2:2
II.	Remaining with God.....	1 John 2:3-27
III.	Living as God’s Children.....	1 John 2:28-3:10; 4:1-6
IV.	Living with Love.....	1 John 3:11-24; 4:7-21
V.	Living as Conquerors.....	1 John 5:1-21
VI.	Faithful to Truth.....	2 John
VII.	Hospitable in Truth.....	3 John



Led By: DR. PHILIP CAPLES
 Pastor, FBC Harrisonburg, LA
 Adjunct Professor at Louisiana College



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