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MESSAGE

October 8, 2020

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LBC 2020 Annual meeting changed to LC, format cut

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) –The site for the Louisiana Baptist Convention annual meeting in 2020 has been changed to Guinn Auditorium on the campus of Louisiana College in Pineville, the LBC Executive Board announced during its Sept. 29 business meeting.

The meeting will be held Nov. 10 from 12:45 to 5 p.m. and will not include exhibits or auxiliary meetings such as seminary luncheons. The Pastors' Conference also will not take place.

Originally, Franklin

Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans was named the host, but on June 30 the decision was made to change the venue due to possible attendance restrictions in the city relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The reason that we are recommending this is because this allows our messengers from most any point in the state to drive to Pineville in the morning, attend the meeting, and return home that evening if they would choose to do so,” Louisiana

Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn told board

See **ANNUAL MEETING**, page 10



Louisiana Baptists Executive Director Steve Horn announced Sept. 29 at the Executive Board meeting that the 2020 Annual Meeting would be held at Louisiana College's Guinn Auditorium.



Will Hall photo

Bill McCumbee, a member of North Carolina Baptist Men disaster relief team, stands in front of a massive root ball of a large pecan tree that fell across three homes on Dartmouth Street in Alexandria.

NC DR team gives storm victims victory

By Will Hall
Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Alexandria, Louisiana, is 130 miles north of the shoreline where Hurricane Laura made landfall with 150 mph winds. Still, a number of residents in this crossroads city were not spared catastrophe from the fierceness of the storm and yet some received blessings despite tragic damage

to their homes.

NEEDS ASSESSED

The North Carolina Baptist Men disaster relief teams were some of the first out-of-state responders to arrive in Alexandria to offer aid in the form of tarps, bottled water and food, and to deploy chainsaw crews to remove trees that had

See **VICTORY**, page 7

Live Oak's live broadcasts connect with believers and lost, alike

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

DENHAM SPRINGS, La. (LBM) – Angela Hernandez faithfully had watched the online services at Live Oak Baptist Church since the onset of the novel coronavirus pandemic, sensing something was missing in her life.

Hernandez, who accepted Christ years earlier, had seen Pastor Johnny Morgan baptize others via Facebook Live broadcasts and was moved to ask God to give her the courage to follow through in obedience to Him. Her chance came when Morgan came to her office July 21 to obtain a permit to demolish a building on church grounds.



Submitted photo

Pastor Johnny Morgan baptized Angela Martinez and her boyfriend, Jordan Head, during the worship service at Live Oak Baptist Church in Denham Springs Aug. 2. Screenshot

At that fateful meeting, Hernandez admitted to him about her failure to be baptized. Morgan extended the invitation to get right with God at an in-person

worship service on Aug. 2, and she accepted.

"In my heart I knew this was something I had been needing to do for quite some time but kept

putting it off," Hernandez told the *Baptist Message*. "Pastor Johnny coming to my office was a sign from God that He was reaching out to me and telling me now was the time. Once I followed through it was like a great weight was finally lifted off of me."

Hernandez is one of 21 new converts Morgan has baptized this year, including nine since mid-March (six who connected with the church by watching services online). The baptisms reflect the spirit of a congregation that has continued ministry despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19.

Adapting to restrictions against meeting in the worship center until mid-May, the congregation livestreamed its services

on Facebook. Four Sunday school classes met through the Zoom web conferencing platform and another used a weekly e-mail for its lesson.

The church, which now averages 140 for Sunday morning services, held a prayer service for local school leaders Aug. 2, and was part of a multi-church effort to distribute 500 meals to needy families from mid-April to late-May with Mighty Moms. Live Oak Baptist joined Christ Community Church in Denham Springs, Judson Baptist Church in Walker and Satsuma Baptist Church as they each cooked meals on an assigned Monday and then met at a central location to distribute the hot food to households throughout Livingston Parish.

Recently, 39 members worked as part of the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association Disaster Relief chainsaw and tarp teams, while 27 others went as members of the Live Oak Baptist chainsaw, tarp and feeding teams to help with Hurricane Laura clean-up efforts in the Lake Charles area.

"I have enjoyed seeing my members be the feet of Jesus as we ministered

See LIVE OAK, page 3

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Churches team up to rebuild storm-ravaged churches

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

HACKBERRY, La. (LBM) – Monte Rowse was speechless as he stood near a pile of debris inside the worship center of First Baptist Church, Hackberry, four days after Hurricane Laura passed through the community.

Though he knew the road to recovery would be lengthy and tiresome, Rowse was certain God would provide and renew the strength of the weary congregation.

Soon, multiple churches came alongside First Baptist Hackberry:

-- First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, gave the congregation \$10,000 to pay the insurance deductible, allowing the church to rebuild facilities.

-- Praise Church in Beaumont, Texas, donated money to cover the staff salaries through the end of the year, and continues to send teams to serve the Hackberry community. The Lone Star state congregation also provided lodging on their campus for the Rowse family while their home was being rebuilt.

Rowse said the outpouring of support by other churches in four states has been humbling.

"If there is a need, I just pick up and call my partner churches," Rowse told the Baptist Message. "God is meeting our needs every single day. We didn't go out

LIVE OAK

_____from page 2

to the community," Morgan said. "We have gotten outside our walls and lived out our mission which was to share Christ with our community."

Morgan said the future for Live Oak Baptist is bright.

"Ministry hasn't stopped and we are still moving forward," he said. "I believe Live Oak Baptist will come back stronger because of our presence in the community and the baptisms that have taken place. God has been doing a big work here."

searching for it but God is providing when we least expect it.

"If there's ever a time to help hurting churches, it's now," he continued. "Small things in the hands of a big God can help those hurting through and through."

First Baptist is one 35 Louisiana Baptist congregations who suffered catastrophic damage after Hurricane Laura and have received assistance through the Churches Helping Churches initiative. Assistance varies, but every bit of help makes a difference – especially prayers, according to state mission staff.



Submitted photo

First Baptist Church, Dallas, gave the congregation of First Baptist Church, Hackberry, a check for \$10,000 to pay the insurance deductible, helping the church to rebuild its facilities after being ravaged by Hurricane Laura.

Sean Keith, Sunday school strategist for Louisiana Baptists, said the state

mission services team has worked with directors of missions in Louisiana and

Texas to help identify best matches among churches. Since the effort began, Keith has been amazed at the close bonds that have emerged.

"The stories are really encouraging and impactful," Keith said. "Our focus is to help develop relationships that may last anywhere from two months to two years. Every week I get stories of pastors telling us and their partner churches thank you for helping provide encouragement in their time of need."

Steve Horn, executive director for Louisiana Baptists, added: "As I think

See REBUILD, page 13



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Rayville deacons set, meet high goal for disaster relief

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

RAYVILLE, La. (LBM) – Pastor Eddie Wren turned on his television hours after Hurricane Laura made landfall in southwest Louisiana and was heartbroken as he saw images of damaged homes and residents weeping.

He knew the needs would be great in the days ahead and believed First Baptist Church in Rayville would step up to help, just as they did for Suburban Baptist Church in New Orleans after it was destroyed by a tornado in 2017.

Wren, who recalled that Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn previously mentioned disaster relief response costs were high after storms like Laura, proposed during a Sept. 13 deacons meeting that they approve a \$25,000 donation to disaster relief efforts. One deacon, who thought the goal should be higher,

suggested the amount be doubled to \$50,000 and that the church should hold a supply drive to fill a 6 by 12 ft. trailer.

Both motions were approved unanimously, and on Sept. 24 Wren and two members of his church delivered the \$50,000 check to the state missions team at the Louisiana Baptist Building in Alexandria before they dropped off donated supplies at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles.

“We are thankful we are able to do that,” Wren told the *Baptist Message*. “The Lord has blessed and we certainly want to use resources he gives us to bless other folks.”

“All churches are different and all churches have different abilities to do different things,” he continued. “It’s kind of the way the body of Christ is.”

In the future, Wren said First Baptist plans to send teams to help with relief efforts once his members,



Brian Blackwell photo

First Baptist Church, Rayville, presented a \$50,000 donation to Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief efforts. (L-R) John Hebert, Louisiana Baptist missions and ministry team director; Dale Lingenfelter, Louisiana Baptist business and information services director; Eddie Wren, pastor, First Baptist Church, Rayville; and, Tim Allen and Rayland Trisler, First Baptist Church, Rayville, members.

many who are farmers, harvest all their crops in mid-October.

“Right now we don’t have a ton of people who are able to go, but the Lord has blessed us in resources we can send and help in that way as other people are able to go,” he said. “We are stronger

together. If all of our churches will work together and do the tasks the Lord gives, we will accomplish much for His Kingdom.”

Dale Lingenfelter, business and information services director for Louisiana Baptists, said the gift reinforces First Baptist Rayville’s

generous spirit and their willingness to reach others for Christ.

“One thing that amazes me is the Southern Baptist network and how faithful they are,” he said. “Our network is so efficient and effective in carrying out our mission, whether it’s a person we are trying to reach with a tree on their home or a sister church that is damaged.”

Rayland Trisler, a church member who accompanied Wren on the Sept. 24 trip, is anticipating a return trip to southwest Louisiana with others from First Baptist Rayville.

“I want to encourage anyone who can to go one day or one week -- go and volunteer,” he said. “The need is great. The need is going to continue for a while. There’s always someone who needs debris picked up in their home or a tree that needs to be removed from their house or they may need supplies. There is something for everyone to do.”

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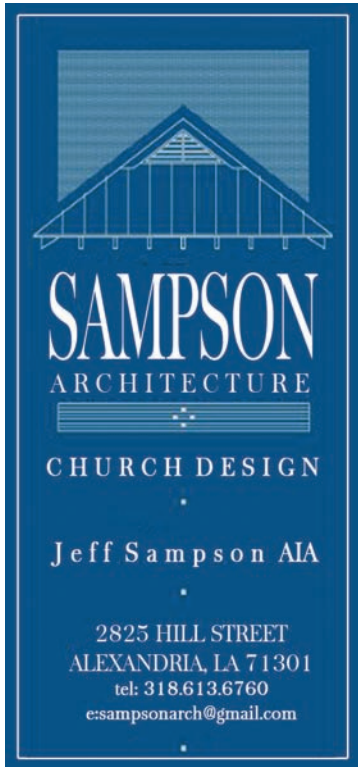
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LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

WMU Foundation helps six LBC ministries rebuild

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The Woman's Missionary Union Founda-



tion has gifted the Louisiana Baptist Convention \$25,000 to cover insurance deductibles for four Baptist Collegiate Ministry sites, as well as the Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center and the Baptist Building -- all damaged by Hurricane Laura.

While insurance adjusters have not completed full assessments for all the facilities, preliminary reports estimate there is at least a combined \$1.2 million in damages, according to Dale Lingenfelter, business and information services director for Louisiana Baptists.

The BCM facilities at McNeese State University, Louisiana Tech, University of Louisiana and Louisiana State University, Alexandria, will need either partial or complete roof replacements. The roof of the Louisiana Baptist Building, the state mission center

in Alexandria, also needs repairs. Meanwhile, Tall Timbers must repair one of its cabins, the ropes course and the loading dock that were damaged by Laura.

"The damage to McNeese BCM was extensive," Lingenfelter told the *Baptist Message*. "The roof damage allowed a lot of water inside which will call for a complete rebuild of the interior and replacement of all contents. We are working with insurance and work has already begun on the rebuild. We are grateful for all of our ministry partners in the Southern Baptist network, like the Woman's Missionary Union Foundation, that have blessed us and so many others in times of need."

The donation was given through the WMU HEART Fund, which stands for Humanitarian Emergency Aid (for) Rebuilding Tomorrow. Established in 2001, the fund allows for the WMU Foundation to respond to

requests from WMU leaders in humanitarian emergencies.

David George, president of the WMU Foundation, said his organization first learned of the need in Louisiana from Ann Marie Mills, a WMU Foundation Board member who is a member of Temple Baptist Church in Ruston. After discussing the situation further with Lingenfelter and Janie Wise, women's missions and ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists, the WMU Foundation was elated to help the six damaged facilities in the state.

"We realized that if the WMU Foundation could make a grant of \$25,000, we could cover the deductible for all six damaged buildings and sites," George said. "Praise God that WMU women and men have given so generously to the WMU HEART Fund over the years so that we can quickly respond to emergencies like these."

Both of Louisiana's

WMU Foundation Board members expressed appreciation for the grant.

"When I saw the devastation from Laura, the WMU Foundation Heart Fund quickly came to my mind," Mills said. "I'm so happy that the resources designated for disaster recovery were helpful to our Baptist family across the state."

Vice Chair Cindy Walker, a member of First Baptist Church, Minden, likewise was grateful the grant would go to "help fill a desperate need in my home state of Louisiana."

Blake Grundy, director of the McNeese State BCM, said he is grateful for the volunteers who helped with the cleanup, the emergency donations from the WMU Foundation, churches and others, as well as the emotional and spiritual support offered by many since Laura.

"We have truly been blessed by our brothers and sisters in Christ."

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VICTORY

from page one

fallen on homes or that threatened private houses.

Tony Hodge and Bill McCumbee, members of East Belmont Baptist Church in Belmont, North Carolina, were dispatched Sept. 16 to Dartmouth Street and later, Sept. 18, to 15th Street to perform needs assessment and also to prioritize work in these neighborhoods.

"We were writing up what it would take to help the people get back in their homes," McCumbee recalled. "They had such a story that touched Tony and me such that Tony decided to hold back the reports" (to personally oversee completion of the work orders instead of submitting them through normal channels).

The damage was "quite extensive," according to Hodge. "A single tree basically obliterated the back of two houses and was on top of a third. The exposed root ball must have been 12-15 feet high."

Back at Philadelphia Baptist Church, Horse-shoe Drive, which was hosting disaster relief volunteers from multiple states, Hodge and McCumbee were able to talk with team leaders from two North Carolina crews. Looking at the photos, they decided the massive job was a top priority because it would help three families in one project. The families were "elated" when he called that night to let them know teams would be on site in the morning, Hodge said.

"The next day we had 19 people working on that street, not counting the two of us" Hodge noted, pointing at himself and McCumbee. "The community was looking around, and one of the guys we call 'the preacher,' he goes and witnesses to six people."

NEEDS MET

Mike Wolff, a chaplain with North Carolina Baptist Men, is "the preacher" who shared the Gospel with the crowd of neighbors who were watching the disaster relief teams remove the giant tree.

"It was a mammoth

pecan tree," said Wolff, a member of City Ministry Church, Charlotte, North Carolina.

His first encounter that day was a young woman and her 10-year-old son who were sitting on their front porch across the street from the work site.

After checking on their safety and needs, Wolff felt the unction to talk with the boy about birthdays as a means to share with him about being born again.

"Kids love to tell you their birthday," he explained. "So I asked him about his birthday and about his birthday party. After he finished giving me some details, I surprised them both by telling him I had two birthdays."

"He cocked his head and looked at me; and, I could see the mother looking at me in disbelief, too," Wolff recounted, saying they were all ears by this time. He then related the account of Nicodemus's night-time encounter with Jesus, emphasizing the need to be born of the Spirit and the flesh – two birthdays.

"In order for you to go to Heaven you have to have a birthday from your mother, but you also have to have a day where you



Submitted photo

A Bobcat was utilized by members of the North Carolina Baptist Men disaster relief team in Alexandria as they worked to remove a massive pecan tree uprooted by winds from Hurricane Laura. The tree was so large that when it fell it damaged three homes on Dartmouth Street.

birth the Spirit of God in your life," Wolff said he told the young man. "My birthday is Oct. 16 and your birthday is April 27. But my second birthday is July 3. Do you have one of those?"

From that point, he shared the Gospel and what it means to be a child of God, and then had a similar conversation with the mother. Both shared with him that they had experienced changed hearts, and he helped them pray their first prayer as Christians.

That day, Wolff shared the Gospel with a family

of five on that same street with four accepting Christ.

Two days later on 15th Street, where a giant tree had fallen on two homes, the same crew and Wolff teamed up, again – bringing relief from the storm's

fury and giving hope through Jesus. Three persons received salvation when all was said and done that Saturday – a homeowner, a brother and his wife.

See VICTORY, page 13



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LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

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.

Annual Meeting from page one

at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth. "The annual meeting at Louisiana College at Guinn Auditorium also allows for us to have maximum social distancing guidelines that are important for us to maintain during this time."

Additionally, Executive Board members suspended the conservative budget

process and the CP Advance Plan for the 2021 budget.

"The conservative budget process sets the parameters for the next fiscal year's Cooperative Program allocation budget," Horn explained. "Relating to the 2021 budget, whatever was received from Aug. 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020 becomes

the budget cap for 2021. Since receipts have been adversely affected by the economic effects of the pandemic, it would have resulted in over \$800,000 in reductions. The motion suspends that process for one year and allows each entity to manage its cash flow accordingly using the same budget approved by messengers at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

"The CP Advance Plan provides a 50/50 split between the LBC/SBC with receipts that exceed the budget," he continued. "Due to the economics of 2020 combined with the hopes of a rebound in 2021, proceeding with this plan could have an adverse effect on Louisiana Baptists' missions and ministries."

In other business, the Executive Board approved the 2021 CP budget of \$18,653,700, identical to the 2020 budget, and amendments to articles of incorporation and bylaws for the Executive Board and the Convention.

ENTITY REPORTS

Newly elected Louisiana Baptist Foundation Executive Director Jeff Steed previewed the Foundation's vision for the future. Through the LBF Vision 200 strategic plan, the entity hopes to further partner alongside churches, other ministries and individuals to advance the Kingdom by \$200 million over the next 20 years. Steed will share additional details at the Foundation's October board meeting.

Will Hall, executive editor of the *Baptist Message* and director of the Office of Public Policy, said while COVID-19 resulted in a three-month temporary suspension of the print publication, the news outlet still covered the pandemic, Southern Baptists' response to relief efforts with Hurricane Laura and other SBC issues.

Meanwhile, Hall said the Office of Public Policy was successful in renewing task forces in the legisla-

ture to fight childhood exposure to pornography and to reduce the divorce rate in the state. He also mentioned success in passing a bill to expand broadband Internet into rural areas (giving churches in these underserved areas access to social media in reaching their communities) and another piece of legislation that limits liability for churches and non-profits in trying to prevent sexual assaults in which they show good faith in reporting to future employers about concerns regarding a former employee's suspected sexual misconduct. Finally, Hall urged executive board members to promote the Love Life Amendment (vote YES on #1), which if approved by voters Nov. 3 would prevent a rogue state judge from overturning pro-life laws in the state.

In his report, Perry Hancock, CEO and President of the Louisiana Bap-

See ANNUAL MEETING, page 13

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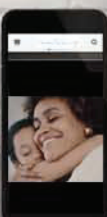




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EDITOR'S NOTE: Do you have a Revival, Homecoming, a new pastor, a community outreach or a concert? The Baptist Message would love to share your church news with the rest of the state. It is very easy to do, just send in your information (who, what, 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

- **Steve (wife Cindy) Graves** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, DeRidder.
- **Dylan (wife Samantha) Barnfield** is the new youth pastor at Esler Baptist Church, Pineville.
- **Bill Lott** resigned as pastor at Ferry Lake Baptist Church, Oil City.
- **Alan (wife Donna) Brown** is the new pastor from associate pastor at Plain Dealing Baptist Church, Plain Dealing.
- **Wayne Cooper** is the new music minister at Westwood Baptist Church, Keithville.
- **Jason (wife Braci) Lawson** is the new associate pastor at First Baptist Church, Mandeville.
- **Ronnie (wife Renee) Mabile** is the new pastor at Calumet Replant, Patterson.
- **Tracey (wife Marci) Smith** is the new pastor of First Baptist Church, Morgan City.

HOMEcoming

- Summerfield Baptist Church, Colfax: **Homecoming**, October 11, 11 a.m. There will be a lunch in the family life center afterwards. **Speaker:** Josh Dickson. Worship: **Valerie Dickson**. The address of the church is 171 Summerfield Road, Colfax, La. For questions, please call Jeremy Brister at 318.451.8317. Pastor: Jeremy Brister.
- Pritchard Baptist Church, Jena: **Homecoming**, October 18, 10:15 a.m. **Speaker:** **Carl Gulde**. All are welcomed to attend. Pastor: Terry Doughty.

REVIVAL

- New Hope Baptist Church, Elmer: **Revival**, October 11-14, Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Rob

McLane.

- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Harvest Sunday**, October 25. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.

LAGNIAPPE

- First Baptist Church, Bossier: **One day conference on Church RaCe in America**, October 11, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m. There will be a Q & A time during the evening session. **Speakers:** **Darrell Harrison and Virgil Walker**. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich.
- 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.
- 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 21, 4-6 p.m. in the church's parking lot. Pastor: Johnny Miller.
- 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.
- Mangham Baptist Church, Mangham: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, Pastor: Rick Aultman.
- New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong: **HARVEST FEST**, October 31, 2-4 p.m. at the park. The church will have burgers, hot dogs, popcorn, a cake walk and games around the walking trail. Pastor: Trey Lewis.
- First Baptist Church, Ruston: Special speaker, November 1, 8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m. Speaker: Don Piper, Author of 90 Minutes in Heaven. Pastor: Chris Craig.

Prayer warriors invade National Mall

By Staff
Baptist Message

WASHINGTON, D.C. (LBM) – The nation's capital became the center of a prayer movement Saturday, Sept. 26.

A number of Louisiana Baptists joined more than 100,000 prayer warriors around the National Mall and another 3.8 million from 57 counties who watched via livestream Prayer March 2020, for the spiritual march organized by Franklin Graham, president and CEO of the Billy Graham Association.

Many also participated in the Return, a global prayer event held on the National Mall the same day. Participants cried out to God for repentance and revival during a time of division and unrest in the United States.

Various Christian leaders spoke during prayer stops at seven locations during the two-hour march.

Leading prayer were



Submitted photo

Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen made a surprise appearance at Prayer March 2020 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., Sept. 26, and thanked the crowd for their prayers.

Greg Laurie, pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, California; Darryl Strawberry, a former Major League Baseball player; Andrew Brunson, a formerly imprisoned pastor in Turkey; and Kelvin Cochran, a former fire chief in Atlanta, Georgia.

Michael W. Smith, a Dove and Grammy award winning Christian contemporary artist, also prayed

and led the crowd in times of worship by song.

Vice President Mike Pence even made a surprise appearance and thanked the crowd for their prayers. He urged them to continue praying with confidence for the nation.

"In these challenging times, we are to remember that in everything by

See PRAYER, page 14

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.

UKT ZL UJDCL, UKT ILKV SKVD VZL ZDPCL; UKT ZL NDPJLT VZL

DSE DK ZSC ZLUT, UKT CUST PKVD ZSQ, VZPC CUSVZ VZL EDJT

FDT DY SCJULE, S ZUBL UKKDSKVLTVZLL XSKF DBLJ VZL NLDNEL

DY VZL EDJT, LBLK DBLJ SCJULE.

CLGDKT XSKFC KSKL:CSO

Clues:
F = G; D = O

Answer to September 24 Scripture Crypto:
John thirteen:one

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LBC seeks resolutions for 2020 Annual Meeting

By Staff
Baptist Message

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 information 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@LouisianaBaptists.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@LouisianaBaptists.org.

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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.



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.



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 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 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.



BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

Eola Baptist Church is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. A parsonage is available.

Send résumés to: EBC, P.O. Box 417, Bunkie, LA 71322 or e-mail résumés to mouliere_ms@yahoo.com



SEEKING

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



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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 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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Protect the UNBORN, vote YES on Amendment #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 con-

stitution 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 exceptions 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.

Annual Meeting from page 10

tist Children’s Home and Family Ministries, said the entity served more than 2,200 children and families in need last year. Through the Children’s Home, many accepted Christ, including nine youngsters who are residents of a children’s village the ministry sponsors in Haiti. Hancock added that a new cottage for homeless women and their children opened earlier

this year in Monroe and the campus has started construction on a new recreational center and pool that is scheduled for a 2021 completion.

Louisiana College President Rick Brewer explained the college has unveiled a new organizational structure and created a new mission statement for the school. He said LC will bring before the messengers at the

2020 LBC Annual Meeting a change that will reduce the size of its board from 33 to 21. The change would not take place immediately but would be phased in over a five-year period.

Additional reports from the Executive Board meeting on how Louisiana Baptists have responded to COVID-19 and Hurricane Laura can be found at baptist-message.com.

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Victory from page 7

REFLECTIONS

“I have been a corporate chaplain for 25 years, but I don’t have much time in crisis care,” Wolff offered. “But here is what I know: Adults come to Christ more often during a time of crisis in their lives. These people were living in the middle of a crisis, and so they were looking for something.”

Wolff also remarked about the energy and endless compassion the volunteers displayed on those two projects.

“I have been amazed, amazed, at these men. I worked this week with a man who is 74 years old, and he worked me to death,” he admitted.

“This morning as I was

packing up, I was thinking about this week,” Wolff reflected. “I’m 63 years old. I have four screws in my back. In February, I had my second surgery on my left knee and I’ve got bad feet. My feet have ached all week and then I’ve got poison ivy on my eyes. Yet, I wouldn’t trade this week for anything.

“Jesus was crucified, hanged on the tree until he died so that the entire world could see him. So I figure I can put up with a little discomfort for three or four days so that I can see nine come to know Him,” he shared. “So yeah, I will go home and it will take me days to get over this. But it’s been well worth it.”

Rebuild from page 3

about the overwhelming needs of our churches, the only way to survive and thrive is one-on-one partnerships between churches. Not only will this provide financial and volunteer assistance, but most valuable

will be the informed and personal prayer partnerships.”

For information on how to partner with a congregation in need, visit louisianabaptists.org/churches-helping

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JAN. 25, 2021

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Prayer from page 11

prayer and petition with thanksgiving, we are to present our requests to God," Pence said. "The Bible tells us to persevere in prayer. That the prayer of the upright pleases Him. That the effect of the fervent prayer of the righteous people availeth much."

PRAYING WITH PURPOSE

Deanne Denton, wife of David Denton, pastor of Highland Baptist Church in New Iberia, was moved by the mass gathering of people from all denominations and ethnicities whose sole purpose was prayer.

"It was a powerful day of prayer for repentance and revival made on behalf of ourselves, our nation, and our world," Denton told the Baptist Message. "There were no politics, no protest -- just the power of the Holy Spirit. It was an unforgettable, life-chang-

ing time that, we pray, sprouts seeds of revival we so desperately need."

Ricky Murphy, a member of Celebration Church in Metairie, recalled one participant who held up the sign "Jesus is King," which he said captured the essence of why thousands of prayer warriors had gathered at the National Mall.

"Believers must realize Jesus is King," he said. "We as believers cannot fail to forget that while we want righteousness in politics, it won't always happen. That's when we must be reminded who is in charge and whom we serve."

Immanuel Baptist Church in Morgan City was among several churches in the state who hosted a live simulcast of the prayer march and the Return. Pastor Jody Blaylock said the events reminded his congregation about the need to focus on God.

"We have been praying for a revival for quite some time," he said. "We are starting to see a move of God in our hearts. COVID-19 has caused a lot of difficulties, but also has caused a lot of examination of why we do church. I believe this is true, not just with Immanuel, but all the churches. I am very thankful for the people at the Return and Franklin Graham for organizing these events."

More than 250 attended the Beauregard Baptist Association prayer gathering Saturday morning. Associational Missions Strategist Tim Patrick said they were joined by individuals from other denominations who took part in praying for spiritual awakening, first responders, school workers, medical personnel and political leaders.

"We sought to encourage those who have served so faithfully through COVID-19, and in southwest Louisiana, Hurricane Laura," he said. "We feel God was honored."




Submitted photo

More than 100,000 members of multiple faith communities gathered Sept. 26 on the National Mall the Prayer March 2020, a two-hour spiritual event organized by Franklin Graham, president and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Bonita Road Baptist Church in Bastrop drew 30 for a prayer gathering Saturday evening. Pastor Casey Johnson said the spirit of prayer carried over to the worship service the following day at the morning worship service.

"I challenged our people on Saturday to realize that the revival fire must first burn in us as individu-

als if it is to ever impact our nation," Johnson said. "We closed out our prayer services by asking God to show us our greatest individual need and we flooded the altar, asking God to meet that need in us. The best way I can describe it is that it was a very intimate moment between God and His children. It was a special time for all of us."



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LIVING WITH ASSURANCE

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY 2021



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

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 1:2-2
- 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



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