



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

October 14, 2021

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SBC EC waives attorney-client privilege as Louisiana members split votes

By Will Hall

Message Executive Editor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM)—The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, which is charged by SBC Bylaws to serve as the fiduciary, the fiscal, and the executive entity of the

Convention (in all matters not assigned to other SBC entities), voted 44-31, Oct. 5, to waive attorney-client privilege in an investigation of the Executive Committee about mishandling sexual abuse allegations in the SBC and the mistreatment of sexual abuse survivors.

There are no accusations of sexual abuse against Executive Committee staff or trustees.

The action is a result of a motion adopted by messengers to the 2021 SBC Annual Meeting, presented by Grant Gaines, pastor of Belle Aire Baptist Church in Murfrees-

boro, Tennessee, and son of Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in the Memphis, Tennessee-area, and former SBC president. The elder Gaines was accused of a sexual abuse coverup in 2006, according to Baptist Press, and the Religion News Service reported that his

church was sued in 2020 for allegedly ignoring warnings about a part-time employee now charged with the sexual abuse of a teen. Both incidents fall within the time-frame, 2000-2021, set by the younger Gaines's motion for

See **WAIVES**, page 3

Executive Board meeting highlights personal revival, disaster relief

By Brian Blackwell

Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) — Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn encouraged Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board members to seek revival, and others shared an encouraging update on the massive disaster relief response to Hurricane Ida during the Sept. 28 meeting.

DISASTER RELIEF UPDATE

Horn distributed copies of his newly published devotional, *Change Me*, and invited the Executive Board to be part of the 28-day expe-

rience that is shaped to spur personal revival.

He also thanked those who have led and re-

sponded in the wake of Hurricane Ida, and shared a large portion of the time allotted for his report to allow disaster relief officials to present an update on recovery efforts.

"It's one thing to just hear a report but it's another thing to be encouraged that mission dollars that have been given through churches, individuals, other state conventions," Horn said in a prayer he led at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in

See **MEETING**, page 8



LBC Executive Director Steve Horn



LBC Disaster Relief strategist Stan Statham



Brian Blackwell photo

Pastor Philip Robertson baptizes Brendan Wiley, an offensive lineman on the Louisiana College football team. He was among six players baptized during a special service Oct. 3 at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Deville.

LC football players experience victory in Christ

By Brian Blackwell

Message Staff Writer

DEVILLE, La. (LBM) — On Oct. 2, the Louisiana College football team posted their first victory as a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, but the following day scored an even bigger

win as six players shared their newfound faith before classmates and friends during a special baptism service at Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, which also has a campus on Horseshoe Drive in Alexandria.

Coach Drew Maddox said he was overcome with emotion as he watched so

many of his players, one-by-one, stir the baptismal waters. Fifteen other new believing wildcats were unable to attend the special service but have since been baptized at other churches or they plan to take part in baptism soon.

See **VICTORY**, page 4

Georgia Barnette Offering assists Angola graduate to pursue his ministry dream

By **Brian Blackwell**
 Message staff writer

NEW OR-LEANS, La. (LBM) – Bobbie Wallace was headed on a path of hopelessness when he was sen-tenced to a 66-year sentence on two counts of armed robbery, but his



Bobbie Wallace

life was forever changed when he found restoration through Christ inside the walls of the Louisiana State Peniten-tiary at Angola.

Through the encouragement of New Orleans Baptist Theological Semi-nary staff and other Louisiana Bap-tists, Wallace earned his bach-

elor’s degree through the seminary classes taught in the prison and became a sold-out follower of Christ.

Wallace, who miracu-lously was released in 2014 after only 20 years at Angola, used the years of biblical knowledge gained inside the prison to be-come a missionary outside the walls and eventually met Jacob Crawford, direc-tor of City Life NOLA.

Crawford presented Wallace with the oppor-tunity to offer the hope of Christ to others in the city who were struggling and overlooked. Since 2020, Crawford has helped former Angola inmates like Wallace grow deeper in their faith and participate



Submitted photo

Jacob Crawford, director of City Life NOLA, joined others in prayer for the lost to discover the hope found in Christ.

in missions opportunities in New Orleans.

“I believe that the Lord has a special calling on these men’s lives,” Craw-ford said. “God has put them in positions of influ-ence, and they have a heart for Jesus and His church.”

Crawford’s three-fold vision is to equip formerly incarcerated individuals

and others in the city with the tools to make more disciples of Christ, to es-tablish a network of Bible studies, and, to help form small, simple churches.

Crawford expressed his appreciation to Louisiana Baptists for their contin-ued commitment to the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering.

Crawford said, “There would be no way for City Life NOLA to do what we do without the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering. Communities are being transformed by the Gospel of Jesus, because of your faith-fulness in giv-ing.”

For more information on mission opportuni-ties or how to support City Life NOLA, visit citylifnola.com. Sept. 12-19 has been set aside

See GBO, page 6

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Waives

from page one

investigating whether the Executive Committee properly addressed such matters.

The charges against the Executive Committee followed the report of the third task force of the Executive Committee that had investigated the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and its now former president, Russell Moore (regarding harm to cooperation among SBC churches that was caused by Moore and the ERLC), baptistnews.com reported. The task force, led by Mike Stone, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Blackshear, Georgia, immediate past Executive Committee chairman and an SBC presidential candidate in 2021, found that Moore had caused some churches to depart the Convention and other congregations to withhold gifts through the Cooperative Program, the main channel for funding cooperative missions and ministries among Southern Baptists, according to the released report.

So far, eight persons of the 86-member Executive Committee have resigned, according to The Alabama Baptist, the news service of the Alabama Baptist Convention, and there are reports that more are considering resigning.

Several members who opposed waiving attorney-client privilege argued that a thorough investigation was possible without endangering innocent individuals with liability or putting the entire Cooperative Program at risk (by losing liability insurance because of such a waiver).

Some critics accused opponents of the waiver of attempting to protect guilty parties using attorney-client privilege to the point that extreme rhetoric was posted via Twitter, with some calling to “burn the house down” (referring to the Executive Committee and the SBC) in response to statements that waiving attorney-client privilege would endanger the Cooperative Program and endanger the viability of SBC entities.

There are three Louisiana Baptist members of the SBC Executive Committee. One voted to waive attorney-client privilege and two voted to oppose such action.

The *Baptist Message* invited all three to provide written statements or to be interviewed by phone or Zoom -- basically asking each to share how they voted and why.

Philip Robertson, pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, with a Horseshoe Drive campus in Alexandria, and Mike Holloway, pastor of Ouachita Baptist Church, West Monroe, spoke with the *Baptist Message* via Zoom.

Carolyn Fountain, a member of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, who recently moved to Monroe, was the third Executive Committee member from Louisiana. She provided a written statement sharing her thoughts.

NOTE: Robertson is the senior pastor of the Baptist Message executive editor.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Fountain offered that she is a 40-year Southern Baptist who believes in the Cooperative Program and noted that she and her husband served as church planter missionaries for the SBC's North American Mission Board for 30 years, thus benefiting from CP gifts.

Both are active in leadership with their local association as well as the state convention and are known for their hearts for evangelism and discipleship.

“I value every penny of SBC Cooperative Program dollars, but my conviction is to always do what is right toward those He has called and entrusted us to serve,” she said.

Fountain elaborated on this point, noting that she was burdened for the victims of sex abuse.

“As I meditated on how I would vote, I just could not get Micah 6:8 out of my heart,” she wrote. “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

Apparently referencing the argument that the act of waiving attorney-client privilege endangered the Cooperative Program and the missions and ministries it supports, she said that

“no amount of Cooperative Program dollars or any other offerings could be sacrificed to Him until we, Southern Baptists, are ready and willing to do what He requires of us.”

“I believe that every word of Scripture is inspired by God and is true,” she continued. “My heart is determined to do what is right for all people.”

“With that said, I voted, ‘yes,’ to the Wellman motion [the Executive Committee motion to waive attorney-client privilege],” she said.

Robertson and Holloway shared they both opposed the motion to waive attorney-client privilege and both men said the decision was weighty and the circumstances were strained.

“We were put in a very difficult situation,” Robertson said. “We were in this tension between abiding by the will of the messengers while also protecting, potentially, the viability of not only the Executive Committee but the entire Southern Baptist Convention.”

“In the end I voted ‘no’ on the Wellman motion. Jared Wellman [a Texas pas-

tor and Executive Committee member] presented the motion that did pass, and his motion was to waive privilege in accordance with the motion in June,” Robertson explained.

Holloway offered additional comments into the possible ramifications of the vote.

“It can turn our whole structure upside down. And that’s what they really are after,” he said. “They are after a way to say the Executive Committee governs these organizations.”

According to SBC polity, each national entity is autonomous and cannot interfere in governance of any other entity.

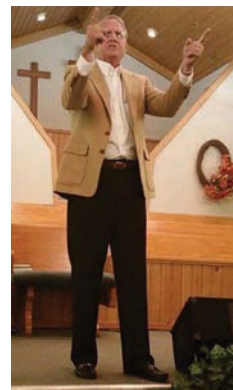
“These sexual abuse allegations have not been brought up against the EC,

but against SBC entities,” [such as Southern Seminary, Southeastern Seminary, Midwestern Seminary and Southwestern Seminary] Holloway clarified. “The EC has consistently told survivors, ‘This is not our jurisdiction. You need to go to the seminary or church where you were hurt. They have their own insurance policy. They have their own board of trustees.’”

“The EC has not been able to do anything about it because that is not how we are structured. I believe that getting into the deep pockets of the Cooperative Program is where a lot of this is coming from,” Holloway said.

“The five attorneys who serve on the EC as trustees

See **WAIVES**, page 12



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5:30pm Homecoming Celebration Banquet for Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame*

8:00pm Homecoming Choral Experience

9:30pm Wildcat Pep Rally & Bonfire

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7:30am Fun “Color” Run 5K*

8:00am Alumni Breakfast*

9:30am Coffee Social and Reunion of Fraternal Clubs

11:00am Homecoming Parade

11:30am Wildcat Family Carnival & Tailgate

2:00 pm Homecoming Game: Wildcats vs. Langston University

*Space is limited, registration is required. Register online at lacollege.edu/homecoming

Victory from page one

"It's such a great feeling seeing these guys take such a bold step in their faith," Maddox told the Baptist Message. "From the first day we meet as a team, I share with them my testimony and use others to also plant those seeds that hopefully will result in some of them accepting Christ. Anytime you meet the Lord it's bigger than football."

Jaden Conley, a freshman from Springfield, said he was convicted to give his life to Christ after hearing Maddox share his testimony during a team devotional.

"It's like a thrill, a happy thrill," Conley said moments after his baptism. "Coach Maddox told us we need to live out Christ every play and every day. I have since started reading the Bible and that has helped me to grow in my faith."

La'Corey Buckley, a

freshman from Center, Texas, turned to Christ during a worship service the team attended at Heart of Worship Church, Pineville. During his childhood, Buckley's grandmother, Lodi, poured spiritual truth into him that finally bore fruit as a college student.

"I heard my Granny talk about Jesus all the time and it kind of hit home when I heard the Gospel presented at the worship service we attended," he said. "My baptism was a way to set an example to other guys and I'm praying those who don't know Jesus will accept Him. That's my prayer."

The players are among 40 students who have professed faith in Jesus during the fall semester through the "Awakening" worship services featuring evangelist Curtis Zackery of Franklin, Tenn. (Aug. 14-16); a campus fall revival featuring Don Wilton, pastor of First Baptist Church



Brian Blackwell photo

Six of the 21 Louisiana College football players who have accepted Christ since the start of the fall semester were baptized Oct. 3. The school reported more than 40 students have made decisions for Jesus since August.

in Spartanburg, S.C., (Sept. 28-30) and the "Arrival" Baptist Collegiate Ministry weekly gathering led by Dave Edwards, founder of Dave Edwards Speaks in Oklahoma City, Okla.

"We give God the glory

for the continuation of His Holy spirit working through intentional ministry encounters since the beginning of this academic year at Louisiana College," LC President Rick Brewer said. "Indeed, we pray for

Kingdom advancement as we faithfully prepare graduates and transform lives in and out of the classroom. May a new Jesus generation rise up among our students at Louisiana's Baptist university."

THEM

HereforYou.org

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

I was eating with a friend and the subject of *Here for You* came up. We talked about the creativity and quality of the commercials and the way we were using the campaign to reach people who have never set foot in a Louisiana Baptist Church. My friend said, "I hope it goes well because I know how important *Here for You* is to you." Their sentiments and wishes were greatly appreciated – but as I pondered that comment over the next several days I thought, "Here for You is not about me. It's not for me. I know where I'm going. I have a relationship with Jesus. Here for You is about **them**."

Them. Let that sink in for a few seconds ... *Here for You* is about **them**...

In his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren begins with this statement, "It's not about you."

In our self-focused, narcissistic culture this truth often gets lost. It's not about us, it's about **them**.

On one occasion when the Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus, they asked him "What is the greatest commandment?" Without hesitation Jesus responded "to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind and

strength" and before the Pharisee could insert his cleverly-devised follow up question, Jesus continued "and the second one is like it – love your neighbors (them) as you love yourself."

Jesus always kept the focus on **THEM!**

- He came to seek and to save that which was lost – i.e. **them**
- When He saw **them** (the crowds) He had compassion on **them**.
- Go into all of the world and make disciples of all nations – **them**.

Even as He was dying on a cruel Roman cross, He thought about **them**– "Father forgive them for they do not realize what they are doing."

Over the course of time, have we subtly, but consistently, transitioned our focus from **them** to **us**?

Don't misunderstand, we know about **them**. **Them** is a topic of frequent dialogue within the walls of the church.

- We talk about **them**
- We'll occasionally pray for **them**
- We'll even give money every now and then to help reach **them**

But we rarely go get **them** – even though Jesus said the fields are full of **them**.

Them is so important that in one of his parables Jesus instructed us three different times to go into the highways and hedges and compel **them** to come in (Luke 14).

Understand this, **them** is one the reasons why we're still here. As long as Jesus delays His return, we have the opportunity, the responsibility and the assignment to reach **them**.

You can begin reaching **them** by regularly praying for those you pass every day, going to *HereforYou.org* and sharing your favorite *Here for You* commercial via social media, or by identifying your "one."

Paul asked the believers in Rome this question and I believe it's still applicable today, "How can they hear unless someone tells **them**?" Romans 10:14.

No matter your age, health, experience, vocation or location, there is something you can do to reach **them** – and **them** is counting on us!

The ends of the earth come to Rayville to hear the Gospel

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

RAYVILLE, La. (LBM) – First Baptist Church in Rayville, located in an area filled with acres upon acres of farmland, recently opened their doors for a special outreach to South Africans with the hopes of one day reaping a spiritual harvest.

Members, on June 20, hosted a catfish and shrimp meal, distributed 60 Bibles provided by the Gideons, and gave away gift cards. They also invited a Christian South African farmer to present an encouraging devotional for the sake of the congregation and the visiting South African farm laborers.

While none of the South Africans made professions of faith, Pastor Eddie Wren said the love shown through this event has opened doors for future outreach opportunities.

“Who would have ever thought Rayville, Louisiana,



Submitted photo

Members of First Baptist Church in Rayville hosted a special supper, June 20, for South African farm workers. The evening also included distribution of Bibles, a testimony by a Christian South African farmer and a gift card giveaway.

would be a hotspot for South Africans to visit,” Wren told the Baptist Message. “And imagine we were given this opportunity to minister to this group of people.”

The idea was born after the congregation was studying “The Church in Babylon,” a book that included a chapter on how the church

can respond to immigration. While Wren admits the issue is a hot topic, the dialogue was civil and led to the members exploring ways to reach foreign farm workers in Richard Parish and other areas of northeast Louisiana.

Wren estimates between 125-150 south Africans work at area farms and his mem-

bers developed a plan to host a dinner with the intent of planting Gospel seeds.

“They are far, far from home,” Wren said. “We thought having a dinner in their honor and then doing some unique things for them would give us an opportunity to share the Gospel and see some of them changed by the

Gospel and sent home as missionaries when they go back to Africa.”

Long-time member Edward Greer, who distributed the Bibles on behalf of the Gideons, said that after the meal he felt led to continue building relationships with the South African workers on his farm. He frequently will take time to share more about how Jesus has changed his life with them, he said.

“There’s such a great opportunity in our community because we don’t have to go to them but, rather, they are coming to us,” Greer said. “Whenever I have the chance, I will share how Jesus has impacted my life and ask more about their relationships with Him. These guys who work for us say, ‘We do believe in Jesus,’ and I pray they will be missionaries when they return home.”

Hugo Benade, who shared his testimony as part of the

See RAYVILLE, page 7



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Baptism services in Honduras are highlights for teams from Louisiana and other states who take annual mission trips to the country.

Local congregation makes global impact with Honduras ministry

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message Staff Writer

LA ESPERANZA, Honduras (LBM) –Verona Langford felt humbled and privileged to witness new converts step into the local river for baptism as part of a multi-church worship service in Honduras.

One by one, eight individuals came in and out of the water and were greeted with applause and

hugs from the 60 Hondurans in attendance for the occasion. Langford, who has taken multiple trips to the country with her husband, Marlyn, said the service that took place in 2017 signifies the fruits of the labor reaped from a multi-church, multi-state partnership that frequently sends teams to share Christ in La Esperanza.

“The people were so excited to gather for what was, at the time, a rare thing,” Langford, a member of Woodridge Baptist Church in Shreveport, told the *Baptist Message*. “You could just see the excitement on the faces of those baptized and the gathered crowd. Another team witnessed 27 new believers baptized this spring. We return year after year there, and this was a blessing to see a visual picture of the harvest from

See **HONDURAS**, page 7

GBO from page 2

as the “Week of Prayer” for state missions and ministries. Resources, including videos demonstrating the scope and impact of the Georgia Barnette Offering have been mailed to churches across the state. Additional resources are available online at www.GeorgiaBarnette.org. This year’s offering goal is \$1.7 million.



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Honduras from page 6

the seeds that have been sown."

Woodridge Baptist, joined by First Baptist Church, Dry Prong, Forest Hill Baptist Church and Sweetwater Baptist Church, Quitman, are among 12 churches in six states who, since 1999, have taken mission teams to La Esperanza, a city of more than 30,000 Hondurans. The teams, through the organization Honduras Ministries Incorporated, assist four full-

time missionaries that the churches support through funding annual salaries and other living expenses.

Since they began taking mission trips to the area, the teams have constructed five church buildings, operated dental, medical and sports clinics, held Vacation Bible Schools, conducted street evangelism, distributed food to households, installed a water purification system and rebuilt a bridge. The teams also have constructed

a lodge where teams reside when they take mission trips to the community.

Ray Ford, worship pastor at First Baptist Church, Dry Prong, said the Hondurans are appreciative of the support and encouragement by the teams that return each year to spread Christ's love. He also said he did imagine that the partnership would span several decades.

"The ultimate goal is to see people saved," To be a part of that just feels you up with blessings. It was such a blessing to be a part of that."

Monty Huckaby, a member of Sweetwater Baptist, said those Hondurans who accept Christ inspire him to return annually to the country. He referenced an incident where two Hondurans were led to Christ after

inquiring about the team's motivation for building a church.

"As the interpreter shared Jesus with these men, one could sense the presence of the Holy Spirit," Huckaby said. "We quit our work and allowed Dario Delarca, our

Honduran minister, to share the Gospel message. The two old men accepted Jesus as their Savior. This event stirred my heart so much that I have been returning year after year. The Honduran people are so hungry for the message of Jesus."

Rayville from page 5

event, was appreciative of the love shown by the First Baptist Rayville congregation. He prays the Gospel seeds planted will one day result in a harvest among those from his country who do not know Christ.

"Most of the South Africans working at the farms in this area grew up in Christian homes and are familiar with God," Benade said. "I ask that you join me in praying for every South African who needs to go deeper and have a relationship with His Son. The church was able to show the South Africans a picture of the servant Jesus was and I'm hoping that those from

my country will understand they too can be His servant and follow Him."

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Meeting from page one

Woodworth. He asked anyone present who had been impacted by the hurricane to stand, and for the remaining Executive Board members to silently pray for them.

"We rejoice in the salvations, some 150 that have been reported, over 500 Gospel presentations, we rejoice in that," Horn prayed. "I know there is a different feeling for these individuals standing before us. I pray for each of these standing now. God would you encourage them. Would you give them hope for a bright future. Would you remind them this day they are never alone. And would you send others to help them to be positioned to be better than ever before."

Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief strategist Stan Statham shared that 32 state conventions were deployed to the state at various times to minister at 13 sites. He said that since Aug. 29 there have been 150 professions of

faith and 935 Bibles distributed through late September. Moreover, the multiple feeding units had prepared 704,762 meals, completed 672 chainsaw jobs and installed 297 tarps on homes, he added.

Moving forward, Statham said additional work will focus on areas hit hard by the storm further south.

"Pray as we continue in the work," Statham said. "We have a lot to do. Our system is not perfect. We learn and grow from these and we will continue to make changes. But I'm grateful for all our volunteers. Thank you to our staff at the Louisiana Baptist Building. In these things almost every person is tasked with something. It's all hands on deck."

Louisiana Baptist State Missions and Ministry Team Director John Hebert added that 83 pastors' homes and 116 churches were damaged, including 28 congregations which sus-



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Baptist Executive Board members devoted a portion of their meeting, Sept. 28, to pray for pastors and churches impacted by Hurricane Ida, which made landfall Aug. 29.

tained catastrophic losses. Hebert said state missions services staff traveled to churches and delivered \$500 to each pastor who had lost homes, cars or belongings. In all, \$42,000 was distributed from the pastoral leadership fund.

He expressed appreciation for the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering committee, who approved distribution of offering funds to pay an ad-

ditional \$100,000 for disaster relief expenses in order to continue the massive disaster relief operations. Hebert added that another \$305,000 was given by other state conventions, partners in ministry and individuals, and he said these funds will be shared among the 116 damaged churches.

"Please support the state missions offering," Hebert said. "It is so important that we press our position on the

state missions offering. I'm grateful for the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering committee and churches that furnish this money that allows us to do this. These 116 churches will be very grateful for that also."

BUDGET REPORT

Board members approved the business and finance committee's 2022 financial plan based on Cooperative Program contributions of \$17,626,136, a decrease of \$1,027,564, or 5.5 percent. Cooperative Program projections are based on actual receipts from August 2020 through July 2021.

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

The budget will be presented to messengers for approval during the 2021 LBC Annual Meeting.

Change ME

LBC ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

NORTH MONROE BAPTIST CHURCH

LOUISIANABAPTISTS.ORG/ANNUALMEETING

LBC entities share reports with Executive Board

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries' campus is bustling with activity lately, President and CEO Perry Hancock told Executive Board members, Sept. 28.

He said that three years after the project was announced, a new recreation and activity center has opened that replaces the former gymnasium and pool, which were more than 60 and 40 years old, respectively.

Hancock also said Hope Cottage has been transformed into a building that houses the Ministerial Care Residential Program, which was restarted after COVID-19 temporarily halted it. Louisiana Baptist terminated ministers, and International Mission

Board missionaries on stateside assignment, transitioning to a new ministry or recently retired are eligible to receive a free apartment on the LBCH-FM's campus in Monroe for up to one year.

"It is very easy to overlook the needs of pastors and missionaries in crisis," said Dennis Phelps, director of the Ministerial Care Residential Program and director of church and alumni relations. "And we hope that this relaunch of this ministry will respond to the desperate need of our pastors as well as missionaries."

Hancock thanked Louisiana Baptists for their continued commitment to those who benefit from their programs and asked for their continued support.

"You're the best friends our children have," he said. "Cooperative Program is

the best friend our children have."

LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

In his report, Louisiana Baptist Foundation Executive Director Jeff Steed said the foundation helped Louisiana Baptists over the last 12 months establish: \$1.3 million in special gifts for churches and other ministries; a short-term fund that yielded another \$1.3 million in income for church and other ministry accounts; and long-term accounts that provided returns of \$28.9 million.

He noted the foundation can visit churches and educate Louisiana Baptists on other services such as church loans, payroll services and capital campaigns.

"We are humbled God would use Louisiana Baptists and this foundation for the sake of getting

more money out the door for the sake of doing His work," he said. "How can we help you? We would be honored to do that in any possible way to add value to you and your church for the sake of advancing the Kingdom."

BAPTIST MESSAGE

Baptist Message Executive Editor Will Hall said soon after Hurricane Ida passed through the state, the news outlet had its staff and also a team from the Association of State Baptist Papers on the ground covering the storm through photos, videos and stories that were pushed to other state convention media outlets.

"Since Hurricane Ida, the *Baptist Message* has been busy reporting about the catastrophic devastation but more importantly about the incredible re-

sponse by Louisiana Baptists, as well as other state convention disaster relief teams that have been partners in the Gospel with us in this massive recovery operation underway," he said.

He added that the Baptist Message has reduced its print publication schedule from 24 to 14 and is working on providing a web-only edition and an RSS feed that churches can use to upload frequent updates from the news outlet to their own website.

Hall, who also serves as director of the Office of Public Policy, said his office testified and provided key resources to legislators and committee members on several key pro-family bills.

He said Louisiana Baptists were instrumental in calling a special veto over-

See ENTITIES REPORT, page 11

NOVEMBER 15, 2021
NORTH MONROE BAPTIST

MORNING: 9:30-12:00
AFTERNOON: 2:00-5:00
EVENING: 7:00-8:30

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LOUISIANABAPTISTS.ORG/EVENT/2021-PASTORS-CONFERENCE/

RESOLUTION: ON GRATITUDE FOR DISASTER RELIEF 'PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL'

WHEREAS, The Bible declares the church as Christ's instrument to effect His will on earth (Ephesians 3:10) and that we are created for good works (Ephesians 2:10); and

WHEREAS, In the New Testament, one of the ministries of the Church was to bring relief to those experiencing calamity (Acts 11:27-30); and

WHEREAS, Disaster Relief is one of the most established and highly visible cooperative ministries among the state conventions of Baptists across the nation, providing emergency aid to churches, pastors and communities without strings attached or government assistance; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has experienced multiple disasters in 2020-2021 (four hurricanes, two named storms, and an ice storm), each with devastating impacts that created long-term recovery needs; and

WHEREAS, Despite these enormous natural disasters, each a federally declared emergency taking place during an extended and surging coronavirus pandemic, Baptist state convention partners from around the nation responded generously with financial resources and donations of goods as well as thousands of compassionate volunteers to assist Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief efforts; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, this "partnership in the Gospel" (Philippians 1:5) – for recovery efforts related to Hurricanes Laura and Delta alone -- resulted in: Gospel presentations to 1,911 people, with 456 professing Christ; distribution of 2,860 Bibles; preparation of 430,669 meals; provision of 12,073 showers; and completion of 2,390 chainsaw assignments, 259 temporary roofing projects as well as debris removal from 202 sites; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, from August 29 through September 20, in response to the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Ida, 29 state conventions have deployed Disaster Relief teams to 25 ministry sites around southeast Louisiana, and already have: presented the Gospel to 513 people, with 87 declaring "Jesus is Lord"; distributed 715 Bibles; prepared 638,660 meals; assessed 3,163 damaged properties; completed 494 chainsaw jobs; provided 7,558 showers; and finished 5,243 loads of laundry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 174th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Monroe, Louisiana, November 16, 2021, express our heartfelt gratitude to the thousands of Baptist volunteers in our state convention and from the state conventions of our Baptist partners who are helping Louisianans to recover from the havoc wrought by Hurricane Ida and who aided us after the devastating natural disasters in 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to pray diligently for the safety and well-being of our brothers and sisters who are volunteers in the massive recovery efforts that are underway, as well as for the churches, pastors and other fellow Louisianans who are seeking to rebuild their lives and livelihoods in the midst of difficult circumstances; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we pray for God to continue to use this vital ministry to bring physical and emotional comfort to the hurting

during desperate times of need, and, especially, to use Disaster Relief ministry as a means to bring the message of "hope in Christ" to those who are living in spiritual darkness and in need of salvation.

RESOLUTION: ON EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, many individuals and groups have had a part in planning, preparing and conducting the 174th annual meeting of our Louisiana Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, the messengers of this convention desire to warmly recognize and express appreciation to the following:

Dr. Bill Dye, pastor of North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe, his staff and the congregation for their assistance with details and for providing the use of their facilities for this annual meeting; and

Dr. David Cranford, Convention president, and pastor of First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula, for his warm, gracious spirit in leading, speaking and listening to Louisiana Baptists this year, and his gentle firmness in moderating this annual meeting; and

First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula, for its commitment to sharing the Gospel in our state by graciously supporting Dr. Cranford's leadership of all the churches of the Louisiana Baptist Convention this past year; and

Blake Davis, music director for this annual meeting, and worship pastor for North Monroe Baptist Church, for planning and coordinating the music, and the musicians and singers for their contribution of instrumental and vocal talents; and

Stewart Holloway, chairman of the Order of Business Committee, and pastor of First Baptist Church, Pineville, and the members of the Order of Business Committee for planning this informative and inspirational annual meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the 174th Session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Monroe, Louisiana, November 16, 2021, express to each of the above, and to all who contributed, our deepest heartfelt gratitude.

RESOLUTION: ON THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE FOR RACE AND RACIAL RECONCILIATION

WHEREAS, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 states, "all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy" (Article I); and

WHEREAS, "God created man in his own image" (Genesis 1:27); and

WHEREAS, "From one man [God] has made every nationality to live over the whole earth" (Acts 17:26); and

WHEREAS, In his prophetic vision John saw "a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9-10); and

WHEREAS, "Sin entered the world

through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12); and

WHEREAS, "Through faith [we] are all sons of God in Christ Jesus ... There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26-28); and

WHEREAS, "God ... has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18); and **WHEREAS**, The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 states, "Christians should oppose racism" (Article XV); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 174th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Monroe, Louisiana, November 16, 2021, affirm the sufficiency of Scripture on race and racial reconciliation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our agreement with historic, biblically-faithful Southern Baptist and Louisiana Baptist condemnations of racism in all forms; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we reject any theory or worldview, specifically Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality, that finds the ultimate identity of human beings in ethnicity or in any other group dynamic; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we reject any theory or worldview, specifically Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality, that sees the primary problem of humanity as anything other than sin against God and the ultimate solution as anything other than redemption found only in Christ; and be it further

RESOLVED, We, therefore, reject any theory or worldview, specifically Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality, that denies that racism, oppression, or discrimination is rooted, ultimately, in anything other than sin; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, understanding we live in a fallen world, we reaffirm the 1995 Resolution On Racial Reconciliation On The 150th Anniversary Of The Southern Baptist Convention, which includes, "That we apologize to all African-Americans for condoning and/or perpetuating individual and systemic racism in our lifetime; and we genuinely repent of racism of which we have been guilty, whether consciously (Psalm 19:13) or unconsciously (Leviticus 4:27)," applying this disposition to every instance of racism; and be it finally

RESOLVED, We affirm that our reconciliation in Christ gives us the opportunity and responsibility to pursue reconciliation with others so that we can display and share the hope of the Gospel with the world.

RESOLUTION: ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE

WHEREAS, The example of Paul and Barnabas in bringing a report to the church in Antioch (Acts 14:26-27) established a precedent for the value of giving testimony to the work of God through our efforts; and

WHEREAS, Our present work of teaching the Gospel and creating disciples through the church is equally important to the health and growth of the Kingdom and should be evaluated regularly by the local church and pastor, as well as by leaders in the local association, state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention; and

See RESOLUTIONS, page 11

RESOLUTIONS from page 10

WHEREAS, The Annual Church Profile system is an essential tool for gathering information to identify some of the visible results of the work of our churches, thereby helping us see trends and better understand the effectiveness of our methods and strategies; and

WHEREAS, Completing and submitting the ACP annual survey reflects support of the cooperative effort and contributes to the cooperative spirit that characterize our Great Commission fellowship; and

WHEREAS, This yearly administrative exercise offers a beneficial opportunity for self-evaluation to churches and pastors; and

WHEREAS, The ACP survey data is used to determine the representation of Louisiana Baptists on the SBC Executive Committee, the LBC Executive Committee, the trustee boards for NAMB, the IMB, as well as to set the number of messengers each church qualifies to send to the state and national conventions; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 15 percent of Louisiana Baptist Churches do not return a completed ACP survey form; and

WHEREAS, Users and administrators across the denomination have collaborated to simplify the ACP survey, reducing the number of questions and making it easier to understand; and

WHEREAS, The ACP survey can be completed online as well as in paper form; and

WHEREAS, Associational and state leaders offer help with completing the ACP survey; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 174th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Monroe, Louisiana, November 16, 2021, call on all pastors and churches to complete and submit the ACP survey each year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm the value of an accurate, yearly testimony to the work of Christ in Louisiana through local Baptist

churches; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we urge associational and state convention leaders to actively promote participation in the ACP process, by highlighting its importance at annual meetings and also using other forums and means to encourage pastors and churches to take part.

RESOLUTION: ON SUPPORT OF FAIRNESS IN WOMEN'S SPORTS ACT

WHEREAS, The Bible teaches that man and woman shared in the dignity of creation, both being made "in the image of God," yet each being distinct and complementary of the other (Gen. 1:26-27); and

WHEREAS, Radical activism across the country is attempting to redefine human sexual identity in casual and fluid terms dependent only on the subjective self-sense of an individual's mind and not on the biology that has always defined it; and

WHEREAS, Transgender politics now have invaded sports, allowing biological males to compete on teams designated for biological females despite the science which documents biological male advantages even with cross-sex hormone treatments (denser and stronger bones, tendons, and ligaments; larger hearts, greater lung volume per body mass, higher red blood cell counts, higher hemoglobin, as well as higher natural levels of testosterone -- all of which result, in general, in greater degrees of strength, speed, and endurance); and

WHEREAS, Already, biological females have been displaced by biological males in competitions on multiple levels from high school to the Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, Ultimately, such policy changes deny biological girls and women opportunities to simply enjoy competition and receive recognition, but also to earn scholarships as well as to experience personal growth and leadership development (which are critical advantages when competing for positions of responsibility in

business, government, military and other career fields); and

WHEREAS, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 was enacted specifically to provide girls and women opportunities in education and activities, including athletics; and

WHEREAS, Since that historic political victory, girls and women have earned hard-fought battles for equal support of female-specific sports teams; and

WHEREAS, During the 2021 Louisiana legislative season, Sen. Beth Mizell, Senate president pro tempore and a member of First Baptist Church, Franklinton, championed S.B. 156, Fairness in Women's Sports Act, to level the playing field for women athletes by barring biological males from competing on teams designated for biological females; and

WHEREAS, S.B. 156 passed overwhelmingly during the regular session (29-6-4 by the Senate; 78-19-8 by the House) but was vetoed by Gov. John Bel Edwards and failed in a special override legislative session requiring a two-thirds vote in both chambers (successful in the Senate, 26-12-1; missed the threshold by two votes in House, 68-30-6); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 174th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Monroe, Louisiana, November 16, 2021, commend Sen. Mizell for her courageous stand to defend the rights of girl and women athletes with legislation to bar biological males from competing against biological females; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge her and the other sponsors of the legislation to present these protections, again, during the 2022 schedule of the state legislature; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we strongly counsel the governor and all lawmakers to represent the overwhelming will of the people of our state on this matter, which figures to impact this important sphere of life for so many of the daughters and granddaughters of Louisiana.

ENTITIES REPORT from page 9

override session in the most recent legislative session. Hall noted that 400 of the 500 pastors who signed a letter in support of the special session were Louisiana Baptists.

The session included a bill, authored by Senate president pro tempore Beth Mizell (R), also a member of First Baptist Church in Franklinton, that would have prevented biological males (as transgender women) from taking women's sports team spots away from biological females. In the spring, the Louisiana Senate passed Mizell's measure to guard against males on female teams, 29-6-4, and the House, too, 78-19-8. However, Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) vetoed S.B. 156, causing an uproar among the faith community across the state, leading to the historic override

session.

But it was defeated, July 21, during the veto override session in the Louisiana House, when 10 representatives either defected or did not vote after having previously supported the legislation in the regular session.

Hall is optimistic the legislation could be taken up again.

"I'm happy to tell you that Senator Mizell is ready to step forward and present that legislation again this next year," Hall said. "And we may have to call on you to help us to make sure that those that supported it before continue and those that defected come back from the dark forces to the light."

LOUISIANA COLLEGE

In his report, Louisiana Col-

lege President Rick Brewer said the school remains committed to preparing graduates and transforming lives of its students.

Since the start of the fall semester, more than 40 students have accepted Christ as their personal Lord and Savior through: the "Awakening" worship services which featured evangelist Curtis Zackery, a youth evangelist from Franklin, Tenn. (Aug. 14-16); the "Arrival," a Baptist Collegiate Ministry gathering held every Tuesday evening that is led by Dave Edwards, founder of Dave Edward Speaks in Oklahoma City, Okla.; and the campus fall revival with messages by Don Wilton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C. (Sept. 28-30).

"We're part of the Jesus movement," he said. "I'm praying for that."

Brewer said this year the school launched the Center for Calling and Career for students seeking internships, career advice and information about jobs available in their majors. The center also helps students gain an understanding of how their values and spiritual gifts should be assessed to fully know what God is calling them to do in their lives and careers.

"We have a center where we want students to connect where God is calling them to," Brewer said. Vocation comes from the word vocatio, which literally means the voice of God. And I'm constantly asking our students, 'Where is God voicing you into the future.'

Waives from page 3

were opposed to this and had very serious concerns,” Robertson said. “Our legal counsel -- both our SBC legal counsel, Jamie Jordan and Jim Gunther, but also the new legal counsel that the Executive Committee hired just for this specific issue, Locke Lord LLP is the firm -- all attorneys, including the task force attorneys and our insurance coverage attorney, advised us that this action would put our insurance in jeopardy, and therefore could lead to the demise of the Southern Baptist Convention.”

Holloway agreed. “It was very clear,” he said. “They couldn’t say with 100 percent certainty, but they definitely said, ‘We’ve never even dealt with this

before. Nobody waives their privilege up front.’

Holloway and Robertson underscored that they felt waiving attorney-client privilege was a violation of fiduciary responsibilities because it would jeopardize insurance coverage. Thus, instead of the insurance company, Brotherhood Mutual, footing the bill, Cooperative Program gifts will be used, not only for all the investigation costs, but for any future costs related to any litigation, frivolous or not.

They both pointed out that Guidepost Solution’s contracted fee (Guidepost Solutions is the organization that has been hired to conduct the investigation) is estimated to be \$1.6 million and that the attorney costs

for representing the Executive Committee will be on top of that amount.

“If you lose your insurance company, and we’ve been told it is not just possible, but probable, then the money to cover all this is coming from the pockets of the little widow ladies who sit on the front rows of my church and Mike’s church and the churches all over the Southern Baptist Convention who did not give their tithes for the purposes of paying lawyers and investigations,” Robertson explained. “They gave it for the work of the Gospel. That’s the reason you have insurance. You have insurance so your mission dollars don’t have to pay for this. But we just voided all that, potentially.”

The two Executive Committee members also agreed that “hundreds if not thousands” of similar thorough internal investigations are done by major corporations and governmental entities without having to waive attorney-client privilege, including those conducted by Guidepost Solutions.”

Guidepost Solutions reportedly has been used by other SBC entities and churches to investigate sexual abuse-related cases.

The Religion News Service reported that Guidepost Solutions was hired by The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, to investigate J.D. Greear’s (their pastor and then the SBC president) 2020 hiring of a Memphis, Tennessee, pastor, Bryan Loritts, despite an alleged sexual abuse coverup by Loritts in Memphis involving Loritts’s brother-in-law, Rick Trotter, who was found to have taken voyeuristic pictures of women and children.

Holloway said Guidepost Solutions offered a compromise but that those who opposed attorney-client privilege “dug their heels in.”

“Their lawyer, Julie Woods from Guidepost, presented the Michigan Model [a plan to ensure a full, fair and independent investigation while protecting privileges] as a workable solution. We looked at it and said, ‘We can work with that.’ The other side said, ‘We don’t want that.’”

Fountain underscored that it was her hope that the Executive Committee officers and the task force could find a way to balance attorney-client privilege during the open investigation.

“The Michigan Model seemed to be one option that might have led to a path forward with guarded attorney-client privilege,” she shared.

“It was not accepted,” she noted. “So, there will be an open investigation with

all privileges related to these claims waived.”

Holloway and Robertson took exception to some on the other side of the debate who had asserted that attorney-client privilege would provide cover for guilty deeds.

“Let me be clear, those who voted ‘no’ to waiving attorney-client privilege did not do so to protect anyone or to hinder in any way the uncovering of any alleged wrongdoing,” Robertson underscored. “Every member of the EC welcomed the investigation. This was clearly demonstrated when the overwhelming majority of the committee voted to allocate \$1.6 million to fund the investigation.”

“Furthermore, attorney-client privilege does not protect people who are guilty,” he continued. “You can’t hide behind attorney-client privilege if there has been fraud, or criminal activity. Attorney-client privilege doesn’t protect that.”

Holloway expressed disappointment that “the EC is being treated as if they’re guilty and that we need to offer evidence to prove our innocence.”

Both were adamant that there are no public accusations of sexual abuse committed by an EC staff or EC member, as far as they know.

They also recognized

See WAIVES, page 13

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Waives from page 12

that a public whistleblower report by an ERLC trustee has connected the dots of this investigation of the Executive Committee with the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and their former president, Russell Moore, who was investigated three times by different task forces formed by the Executive Committee.

"The allegations are all in Moore's leaked letter. That is what prompted this investigation," Robertson said.

There were two leaked letters, one written to J.D. Greear and another written to Moore's trustees but not sent, according to multiple public reports.

The one to trustees was leaked about three weeks prior to the SBC annual meeting. It contained accusations that the Executive Committee (officers and staff, not trustees) mishandled abuse allegations and mistreated survivors.

These same accused officers and staff of the Executive Committee responded by initiating their own investigation, including the

hiring of Guidepost Solutions, which is the company now being hired by the task force named by SBC President Ed Litton.

This apparent link between the investigation of the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee's investigation of the ERLC and Moore caused Robertson to question the nature of the investigation of the Executive Committee.

"If the true motive behind the motion is care for survivors across the Convention, then why didn't the motion call for an investigation into every SBC entity?" Robertson asked. "What about the possible survivors who may have been harmed in cases outside of the Executive Committee...do we not care about them? The whistleblower report by an ERLC trustee claims that Russell Moore and the Chairman of the ERLC trustees, covered up these very allegations for more than a year. Surely, the messengers will call for a similar investigation at the ERLC for the sake of these abuse victims."

Fountain, Robertson and Holloway appeared to agree in part about concerns regarding what transpired at the SBC annual meeting.

"I do not believe the 2021 messengers had all the details of the ramifications of the motion that was passed," Fountain said.

But Fountain believed messengers "felt enough was enough and it was time that we do the right thing to investigate allegations, identify responsible parties, and hold offenders and supporters accountable for injustices."

"The whole truth needs to be told," she emphasized.

Holloway's concluding thoughts seemed to summarize both men's sentiments.

"In the end, I could not vote for something that could eventually lead to the bankruptcy of the Southern Baptist Convention in the next few years, causing us to have to call home some 8,000 missionaries from all over the world," Holloway said. "I couldn't vote that with a good conscience."

Fountain closed out her statement asking for "all of the SBC to come together in prayer for the accusers and the accused as well as for the

Convention as a whole.

"We have thousands of missionaries whose life's work is entrusted to us," she reflected. "Sin is very alive and thriving in our world. He has hearts prepared to hear of His saving grace."

Regarding the potential departure or escrow of financial gifts by some churches because of the controversy, she urged that "Now is not the time to take our Cooperative Program dollars and leave because we do not like the way the vote went."

"Have we become a people who trust God only when things go our way?" she asked. "If ever there was a time for prayer and revival, that time is now."

POSTSCRIPT

The ERLC whistle blower mentioned by Robertson is Jonathan Whitehead, a Harvard-trained attorney and an at-large ERLC trustee from Missouri.

The Baptist & Reflector, the news service of Tennessee Baptists, reported that Whitehead accused Moore and then-ERLC board chair David Prince, an SBTS as-

sistant professor and pastor of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington, Kentucky, of plotting to trigger a crisis at the SBC annual meeting "to produce political ends."

He said the letter was withheld from trustees and then leaked just prior to the June SBC gathering.

According to the *B&R*, Whitehead alleged that the ERLC staff responded similarly to the SBC Executive Committee to sexual abuse survivors under the leadership of Moore, noting that "ERLC staff believed that the SBC and ERLC could 'never satisfy' some of the victim advocates, namely Christa Brown who called for the SBC to initiate a sexual offender database."

The ERLC trustee further decried the "blatant deception," claiming the leaked letters "were written and leaked to shake messengers trust and confidence at an SBC annual meeting. The leak avoided disclosure to fiduciaries (trustees) and a dispassionate investigation because the goal was to deprive the Convention (messengers) of confidence in the entire fiduciary system."

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH in Choudrant, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send résumés to the Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 217, Choudrant, LA 71227 or email fbccchoudrant@gmail.com.

Call Rhonda Havens at 318.449.4351 or 877.234.3832 to place your ads.

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FULL-TIME PASTOR
Beech Springs Baptist Church in Quitman, LA is searching for a full-time pastor. Please send résumés to: Bobby Linton 185 Gladway Road Quitman, LA 71268

SEEKING PASTOR
Meridian Baptist Church in Crossett, AR is seeking a pastor. Please mail résumés to Meridian Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 4592 Ashley 703, Crossett, AR 71635 or email hammerhinton@gmail.com. Résumé deadline is November 15.

FULL-TIME PASTOR
Unity Baptist Church in Cotton Valley is seeking a full-time pastor. Please mail résumés to Unity Baptist Church, P O Box 606, Cotton Valley, LA 71018 or email rwc.handyman@yahoo.com.

FULL-TIME PASTOR
Board Camp Baptist Church, Board Camp, Arkansas is seeking a full time pastor. Board Camp is located 10 miles east of Mena, 72 miles west of Hot Springs. Please send résumé to Bill McCourtney, 228 Dogwood Springs Lane, Mena AR 71953 or barmcranch@yahoo.com

Sandy Creek Baptist Church is seeking a **WORSHIP MINISTER**
REQUIREMENTS:
-Has a personal and growing relationship with Jesus Christ
-Possess fundamental music and media skills
-Ability/desire to lead traditional & modern worship styles
Email your résumé to sandycreekinfo@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTER
First Baptist Church in Coushatta, LA, is seeking a full-time youth minister. Email résumés to jnathandavis@yahoo.com or mail to First Baptist Church, P O 465, Coushatta, LA 71019. For more information call 318.932.4023. www.fbccoushatta.com

SEEKING FULL TIME ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF WORSHIP
First Baptist Church, Lafayette, LA, is seeking a full-time Associate Minister of Worship. This position will serve as the Worship Leader for our Contemporary Service. Résumés should be submitted to: johnfrank.reeve@fbclaf.org

SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC
Watson Baptist Church in Watson, LA is accepting résumés for a part-time minister of music. WBC is committed to a blended worship experience that incorporates both traditional and contemporary music. Résumés should be mailed to Watson Baptist Church, P.O. Box 675, Watson, LA 70786-0675 or emailed to watsonbaptistchurch@gmail.com.

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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 LEAD PASTOR
Satsuma Baptist Church is seeking a lead pastor. Please send résumé to Satsuma Baptist Church Attn: Pastor Search Committee 29880 S. Satsuma Rd Livingston, LA 70754 or email psc@satsumabaptist.org

HOUSTON RIVER BAPTISTS CHURCH Sulphur, LA Seeks a Full Time Worship Minister
Applicants must be capable of leading multiple styles of worship
SEND RESUMES TO:
Email: Search CommitteeHRBC2021@gmail.com
Mail: 110 W. Houston River Rd. Sulphur, LA 70663
Description: Work closely with the pastor in creating worship services and teams that help with the congregation (Planning weekly worship service, and recruiting musicians).

Seeking a full time STUDENT MINISTER
Houston River Baptists Church in Sulphur, La. Seeks a full time student minister
Send resumes to:
Email: HRBCStudentMINSC@gmail.com
Mail: 110 W. Houston River Rd. Sulphur, La 70663
Description: Be an advocate for youth and young adults and educate the youth about the hopes, concerns and the needs of the youth in the church.

Immediate Job Openings
Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries
Full-Time Cottage Parents on Monroe Campus!
Husband and wife teams are needed. Full-time positions include salary, benefits, paid vacation, and training. Basic job description is to provide love, care, and hope in Christ for children in need. Applicants should not have children living at home under the age of 18. Must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and be active members of a local Southern Baptist church. Part-time positions are also available.
Send resume to: Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.
LOUISIANA BAPTIST Children's Home & FAMILY MINISTRIES

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

- **Roland Fontenot** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, New Iberia. His first day at the church was Oct. 10.
- **Aaron Watson** is the new music minister at Calvary Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Will Englerth** will be ordained for the Gospel ministry October 17, 3:00 p.m. at Conway Baptist Church, located at 4323 HWY 549 in the Conway community in Union Parish. The council will meet at 2 p.m. Friends and family are invited to attend.

HOMEcoming

- New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong: **97th annual Homecoming**, October 10, 10 a.m. Dinner will be served after the service. Speaker: **John Willie, pastor of Alpine Baptist Church**. Worship: **Robert Willie**. Pastor: Trey Lewis.

REVIVAL

- New Hope Baptist Church, Elmer: **Revival**, October 10-13; Sunday 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday 6:30 p.m.. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Worship: **Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor Rob McLane.
- Diamond Baptist Church, Rosepine: **Bible Prophecy Conference and Revival**, October 10-14; Sunday 10:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Al Gist**. Pastor: Bill Smith.
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Hurricane: Revival, October 17-20; Sunday 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Luke Hockenjas**. Worship: **WeR**

Called. The church which is located on Hwy 519, 5 miles north of Arcadia, will be broadcasting for those wishing to drive up and listen. Pastor: Bob Jameson.

- Philadelphia Baptist Church at Horseshoe Drive, Alexandria: **Saints Alive- Senior Adult Bible Conference**, October 17-19, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Speaker: **Jacob Crawford**. A meal will be provided each evening. Pastor: Stuart Sasser.
- Wild Horse Ministry, Trout: **Old-fashioned tent revival**, October 17-20, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Don Savell, a pastor and evangelist from Union, Miss.** Worship: **Area church choirs**. The revival is being put on by the LaSalle Baptist Association. For more information, call 318.992.2703 or 318.992.8864

■ Pioneer Baptist Church, Pioneer: **Revival**, October 23-27, Saturday will be a Revival Kick-Off Concert at 6:30 p.m. with **Ben Waites**, Sunday 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Speaker: **Tim Post, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Bastrop**. Worship: **Ben Waites**. Contact pastor, Gary R. Wolfe, at 318.282.8653 for more information. Pastor: Gary Wolfe.

■ Georgetown Baptist Church, Georgetown: **Revival**, October 24-27, Sunday 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the groups and 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 nightly. Evangelist: **David Hanna**. Worship: **The Lisemby's**. Pastor: Carl Griffith.

■ First Baptist Church, Benton: Revival, October 24-27. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Robert Beadle.

■ First Baptist Church, Jonesboro: **Fall Revival**, October 24-27, Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Ed Lacy**. Pastor: Brian McAllister.

■ Cooper Baptist Church, Leesville: **Revival**, October 24-27, Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Casey Johnson**. Music: **Jared Pruitt**. Pastor: Edgar Evans, Sr.

LAGNIAPPE

- First Baptist Church, Haynesville: **FAM Church – Fellowship for the entire fam-**



Children's sermon teacher Donna Deanat of Sharon Baptist Church, Dubach was recognized Sept. 26 for her years of faithfully teaching the children of the church. Dean, who is shown holding a light, was presented a gift basket and a surprise lesson on her 'being the light' to so many. A number of her former students were in attendance and gathered around her to show their love and appreciation.

ily, October 12, 6 p.m. Free fried fish dinner, Big Buck Contest, door prizes (must be present to win). Speaker: **Eric Goble, pastor Brister Baptist Church**. Worship: **Cox Family**. Pastor: Jeff Tinsley.

■ First Baptist Church, Winnfield: **Judgment House 2021**, October 13, 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, 27, 30 and 31. Pastor: Jerry Pipes.

■ **Might of Hope Benefit Concert for St. Jude's**, Rayville, October 16., 2 p.m. This annual event will be held at the Rayville Performing Arts Center. Talent includes **The Allens, Dennis Swanberg, 3 Heath Brothers, Josh and Ashley Franks and The Freemans**. Cost: \$20 to \$28.50. For more information call 318.417.3929 or email SJ-NightofHope@gmail.com.

■ Mount Paran Baptist Church, Shongaloo:

Mark Lanier Ministries in concert, October 17, all day. Pastor: Ed Bryan.

■ First Baptist Church, Marion: **The Todd Allen Family in concert**, October 17, 11 a.m. Pastor: Bubba Hoggatt.

■ Philadelphia Baptist Church at Horseshoe Drive, Alexandria: **Gospel Hymn Sing**, October 22, 7 p.m. Philadelphia is hosting Gospel Hym Sing featuring **Greater Vision, The Whisnants, Mark Trammell Quartet, Jim & Melissa Brady, Mylon Hayes Family**. Cost: \$10. To order tickets www.itickets.com/events/455547?aff=BIT or call 318.443.3692.

■ First Baptist Church, Bossier: **Fall Fest**, October 24, 5-7 p.m. This is a free event at Freedom Fields. There will be games, inflatables, food trucks and candy. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich.

■ Emmanuel Baptist Church, Shreveport:

The Todd Allen Family in concert, October 24, 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Chad Hardbarger.

■ CenLa Baptist Association, Pineville: **The Smaller Church Hymn Sing**, October 24, 6:30 p.m. at Tioga First Baptist Church. Churches from all across Rapides will gather to sing rich, solid hymns. This is a project of the CenLa Baptist Association.

■ Brookwood Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Fall Fest**, October 24, 4-6 p.m. There will be food trucks, Trunk or Treat, a car show and much more. Pastor: David Rice.

■ First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Night of Worship with the Todd Allen Family**, October 24, 6 p.m. **Be the Light**, October 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Host a light the night location at home in your neighborhood to shine a light for the Gospel to the families that come by trick-or-treating. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.

■ Norris Ferry Community Church, Shreveport: **Family Fest**, October 24, 4-6 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and join us for an afternoon of live music featuring Firm Foundation. Kids will enjoy the petting zoo and bounce houses and everyone is sure to enjoy the food trucks. Children are welcome to wear costumes, but please nothing scary. Pastor: Tracy Graham.

■ First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Fall Fest**, October 27, 5:30-7 p.m. Pastor: Chris Craig.

■ First Baptist Church, Haynesville: **Fall Festival**, October 27, 6-7 p.m. Pastor: Jeff Tinsley.

■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **Fall Family Fest**, October 27, 6-8 p.m. There will be inflatables, rides, Trunk or Treat, and concessions. Pastor: Philip Robertson.

■ Central Baptist Church, Springhill: **Harvest Fest**, October 27, 5 p.m. at McMahan Farm in Taylor, Ark. Hot dogs with all the trimming, roasting marshmallows, and hayrides. Bring your lawn chair. Trunk or Treat on the parking lot, October 31, 6 p.m. Pastor: Terry Hughes.

Scripture Crypto

The Scripture Crypto is a Bible verse in which one letter has been substituted for another, thus encoding the verse. To find out what the verse is, you must determine what each letter is a substitute for. An "a," for example, may stand for a "t" in this week's issue of the ScriptureCrypto. Next week, "a" could stand for a "d." Each week, each letter is different. Solve by trial and error. The answer will be given next week. Note: All numerals, such as those in the scripture reference after the verse, are spelled out.

QEF P FBXVEJ MWCM MWB ZGQQBFPJKZ EQ MWPZ

UFBZBJM MPYB CFB JEM HEFMWN ME RB XEYUCFBL HPMW

MWB KDEFN HWPXW ZWCDD RB FBSBCDBL PJ GZ.

FEYCJZ BPKWM:BPKWMBB

Clues:
M = T; B = E

Answer to September 30 Scripture Crypto:
Haggai two:seventeen

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We must go to the nearby towns, so that
I can tell the good news to those people.

MARK 1:38 CEV



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