



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

October 28, 2021

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John 3:16

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2021 LBC ANNUAL MEETING



Brian Blackwell photo

Messengers at the 2021 LBC Annual Meeting in North Monroe Baptist Church will cast ballots on such business that includes the adoption of a reduced Cooperative Program budget. They also will be encouraged to seek personal revival.

2021 LBC messengers will be urged to seek personal revival

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Messengers and guests to the 2021 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Nov. 16, will be encouraged to seek personal revival.

At the meeting, a 28-day personal revival guide authored by Louisiana Baptist Executive

Director Steve Horn will be distributed and those in attendance will be encouraged to complete the “Change Me” booklet.

“Our Convention president, Dr. David Cranford, has been gracious in working with me to establish the theme of our meeting — ‘Change Me,’” Horn told the *Baptist Message*. “‘Change Me’ is the title of a 28-day personal revival guide

I’ve authored. Every messenger and attendee will have the opportunity to receive a copy of this resource during our Tuesday morning session. We’ve also enlisted the talents of ‘The Skit Guys’ to help us visualize and apply the themes of this emphasis. I’m asking God to use this year’s annual meeting, followed by hundreds of Louisiana

See **MESSENGERS**, page 10

Mike Stone files a defamation lawsuit against Russ Moore

By **Will Hall**
Message executive editor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM)—The attorney for Mike Stone filed a defamation lawsuit against Russell Moore, Oct. 19, with the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee in Nashville, claiming libel (publication of false statements), false light, invasion of privacy (misleading and offensive portrayal) and intentional infliction of emotional distress as the causes of action.

The lawsuit seeks \$750,000 from Moore and requests a jury trial.

Stone is pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Blackshear, Georgia, a member and former chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, and an unsuccessful 2021 candidate for SBC president.

Moore is the former president of the SBC’s Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, who now serves as “public theologian and director of the public theology project” for Christianity Today, a religious media outlet, according to Moore’s page on the CT website.

ALLEGATIONS

The 62 pages on file include 26 pages relating to the complaint, as well as 36 pages containing two letters penned by Moore that are at the heart of the lawsuit as well as a copy of the SBC Constitution.

The filing alleges that Moore “began a malicious, intentional, and egregious campaign” to harm Stone

See **LAWSUIT**, page 18

Disaster relief a long-term partnership in the Gospel

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Hurricane Ida operations are winding down at most sites around the

state, but Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief coordinator Stan Statham emphasized volunteers will be needed for years to help residents rebuild.

“The long-term rebuild

phase is Katrina-like,” said Statham, referencing a multi-year effort following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. “With 116 churches

See **PARTNERSHIP**, page 8

NOBTS honors Fred Luter for 35 years of ministry, influence

By Marilyn Stewart
NOBTS communications

NEW ORLEANS (NOBTS) – Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, was honored by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College, Oct. 12, with the announcement that a commemorative brick paver would be placed in his honor in the seminary's Legacy Plaza reading "Fred Luter, the pastor of New Orleans."

As he presented the award, NOBTS President Jamie Dew pointed to Luter's wide influence and the impact he has made for God's Kingdom.

"[God's] hand has been and is all over your life and

your preaching and your ministry," Dew said to Luter. "You are not just the pastor of Franklin Avenue, you are the pastor of New Orleans, and brother, we are grateful for you."

The presentation coincides with Luter's 35th anniversary as pastor of Franklin Avenue. The church will celebrate Luter's anniversary, Oct. 17.

Dew noted that Luter began as a street preacher in New Orleans, then stepped into the role of pastor for a "very small" congregation. Today, that congregation numbers in the thousands with satellite campuses in Houston and Baton Rouge. Franklin Avenue is Luter's only pastorate.

The chapel service marked Founders Day, held in October to commemorate that the seminary's first classes were delayed a month due to the 1918 Spanish Influenza outbreak in the city. Commemorative brick pavers placed at Legacy Plaza,

the courtyard at Leavell Chapel, honor friends and loved ones of NOBTS and Leavell College.

One of NOBTS' most popular chapel speakers, Luter spoke to a full audience, drawing from Lamentations 3:22-23 to remind listeners of God's faithfulness.

Noting that life is unpredictable, Luter quoted a phrase from the movie "Forest Gump" that compared life to a box of chocolates, meaning "you never know what you're going to get." The ups and downs of life, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, have affected everyone, regardless of station or position in life, Luter said.

"So, the question of the hour is ... how have the trials and tribulations of this life affected you?" he said.

Jeremiah, the author of Lamentations, experienced the same discouragement and despair that many today feel, Luter said, admit-

See LUTER, page 7

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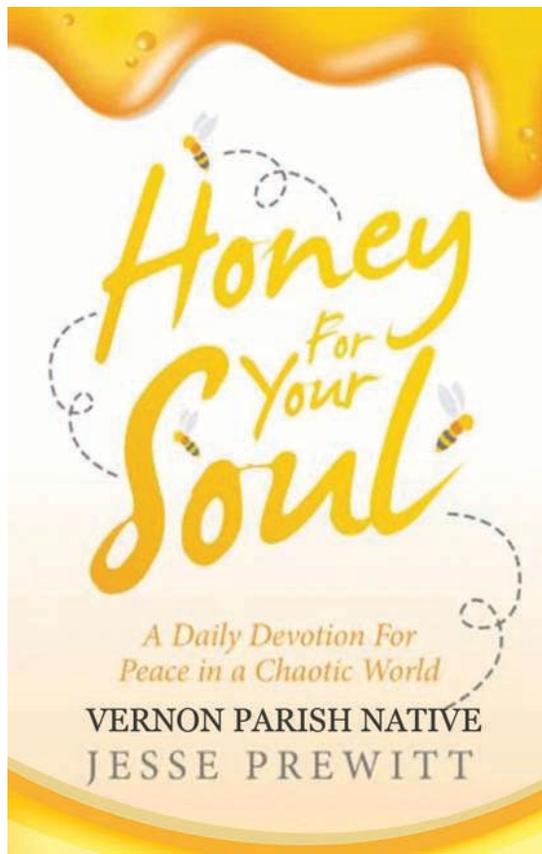


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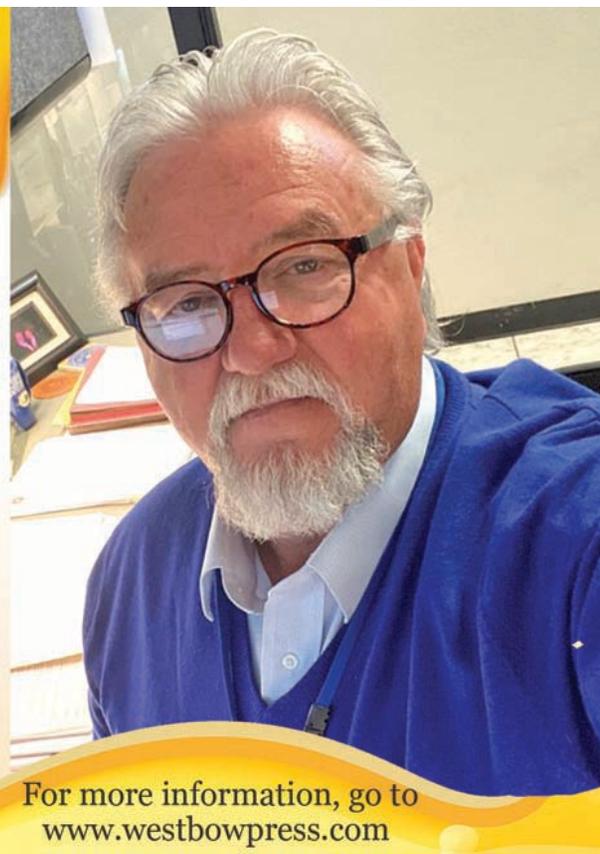
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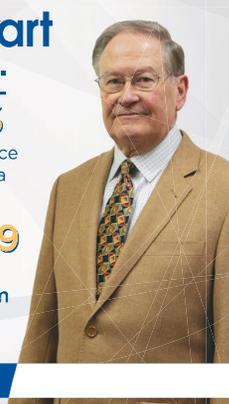
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Summer camp produces harvest among children



Submitted photo

Philip Caples baptized Briley McGuffee, Oct. 3, at First Baptist Church, Harrisonburg. Her brother and mom also were baptized that day.

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

HARRISONBURG, La. (LBM) – Mistin McGuffee's eight-year-old twins had just returned from Kids Camp at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center, Woodworth, when they boldly proclaimed to their friends and family their respective decisions to follow Christ and their desires to share their testimony through public baptism.

LIKE SONS, LIKE MOTHER

McGuffee, who previously had surrendered to Jesus but had not been baptized, felt compelled to join Briley and Braylon in baptism, Oct. 3, at First Baptist Church, Harrisonburg.

"I knew from previous conversations at home and then church camp that the Holy Spirit was beginning to convict my twins," McGuffee, who attended camp

with them, told the *Baptist Message*. "When I saw them raise their hands to indicate they had made a decision during one of the worship sessions, tears filled my eyes.

"As we walked outside to talk as leaders and children, I remember them looking up at me and saying, 'Momma, why are you crying,'" she continued. "I kept telling them these were happy tears, knowing I'd spend eternity with them."

AS LITTLE CHILDREN

Pastor Philip Caples said the decisions by seven children, who accepted Christ at camp in late July, have sparked a revival in the church. Since Aug. 1, five of the campers and five other church members have stirred the baptismal waters, surpassing the total number of baptisms (two) that took place during the first seven months of the year.

"To see the kids come

back and talk about how God moved in their heart to the point of being saved really became an exciting time for our church," Caples said. "It threw our church into a mini revival. Since that happened it created a big excitement across the whole church."

The excitement over the baptisms also has led to increased Sunday school and worship attendance. Since July, the church has seen a rise in Sunday worshippers (from 100 in July to 150-175 in mid-October) and Bible study attendees (75 in July to 100 in mid-October).

"Exciting things are happening in our church, and we are excited about what God is doing," Caples said. "And we are humbled about what God is doing."

Louisiana Baptist Children's Ministry Specialist David Anderson emphasized that summer

See HARVEST, page 8



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IMB missionaries with Louisiana roots reach 'ends of earth'

By Will Hall
 Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM)—The COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted life around the world since March 2020, even Southern Baptist missionary work. But even though their plans were reshaped, Kip and Janet Dwyer*, who are on assignment with the Interna-

tional Mission Board, have been given a rich opportunity to reach the lost among a globally diverse population in a Mediterranean country.

"Two and a half years ago we moved to Europe with other colleagues, to work with nationals as well as immigrants and refugees, primarily from Africa and the Middle East," Janet told the Baptist Message. "There are a lot of them there because the money in our country is in the north. They arrive in the south and then make the journey up into the northern part of our country hoping to find jobs. It's still a really, really hard time for them. So, a lot of our work since COVID has been with refugees because [of restrictions among nationals] they're a little bit easier to reach."

She explained that the lock down in the country was extreme to the point that it became illegal "to

even exit our apartment." Children were not allowed to exercise outside, and the couple witnessed an elderly lady ticketed by police for simply sitting on a park bench alone.

"There was so much fear over not knowing how it spread," Janet added. "Even though early on we knew it was mostly older people who died, most people are older or care for an older relative. There is a huge percentage of the population there that is over 80."

On top of that, they had been in their city only three months before the pandemic was declared.

"We had no native friends to even try to keep up with during lockdown," she shared. "That's pretty discouraging to get over there and not be able to do anything. Thankfully, we were still in language training, and we continued learning language online."

The missionaries were blessed that despite the severe government shelter-in-place mandates the immigrants in their city were open to the ministry the Doyers were offering.

Kip explained that in 2020, despite the government lockdowns, the couple worked to develop a ministry center.

"Janet is a licensed professional counselor and because the government there is not regulating counselors like they are psychologists and psychiatrists, we are able to fly under the radar a little bit," he said. "She's able to do counseling free for folks. There are so many folks from Africa and the Middle East who arrive with so much trauma."

There are refugees, immigrants and a large population of internationals who speak English and need counseling, and Janet is the only Christian counselor or psychologist in the city who speaks English. She will set up an office in the center, Kip said.

"This center is going to be a multi-functioning, multi-purpose facility," he added. "We are going to have counseling in there. We run a food program currently where we go to the grocery store and help people buy food. We trans-

late if they need translation. We provide them with money over the course of eight weeks, so we see them multiple times. It opens doors and avenues. At the baseline we are able to just say 'Jesus loves you; we love you. Here's some money.'"

"Otherwise, we simply say 'God be with you' if they don't want anything."

The couple shared that immigrants and refugees from Africa "don't have this idea of like no politics, no religion." Instead, they said, when these groups or individuals learn that the couple are Christians, they want to chat and challenge them on their beliefs.

"They want me to say what I believe, they want to hear what I believe, and they want to talk," Kip elaborated. "So, it opens the doors. We are happy about that. I'm all about it."

Janet said they want to offer classes in English as well as in the local language and enlist native citizens as volunteers to teach those classes. Meanwhile, Kip added that they have enlisted a local accountant who is willing to come and do a finance class.

"So often for Somalians there is no public education in Somalia, he said. "It's all private. Most people who arrive here, they haven't been educated. This guy will come and talk about issues ranging from just basic everyday finances like how to save money, how to budget to how to do I do my own taxes if I am a stateless resident living here."

Most of all, the couple said they want to train people to start churches.

"There are 4 or 5 evangelical churches in our city and there are millions who live in our metro area," Kip said. "We're not talking about a lot of churches."

"This is a dream," he continued. "We want to open our center and offer it as a location not just for a church plant, but for many church plants. We want to be a catalyst to help competent, qualified individuals to form churches."

Names of the missionaries and their location have been masked in accordance with IMB security protocol.

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Thousands of youths to gather in Rapides Coliseum for 'Celebration'

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The Rapides Parish Coliseum, which did not host Youth Evangelism Celebration last year because of

COVID-19 concerns, is gearing up once again to host several thousand students at the largest annual gathering of Louisiana Baptists, Nov. 21-22.

“We are fired up to have the big event

again,” Louisiana Baptist youth strategist Brandon Lewis told the *Baptist Message*. “All of us are looking forward to hosting everyone once again in the coliseum and are anticipating what the Lord has in store.”

Gospel message that was proclaimed during the previous 33 YEC events.

The three gatherings combined resulted in 69 students making some type of faith decision: 16 statements of belief, 44 acts of repentance to restore fellowship with Christ and nine commitments to vocational ministry.

has done in their lives and to share their stories of how Christ changed their lives, and they will be engaged in multiple ways to experience a message about Him:

– Clayton King, an evangelist from Anderson, South Carolina, the 2017 YEC speaker, will share evangelistic messages

– Jason Lovins Band will lead worship in song

– 321 Improv will offer comedic performances

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

During the Monday afternoon session, King’s son, Jacob, will teach students a clear, practical way to share the Gospel. After completing YEC, they should be equipped to share the Gospel with their peers throughout the state, King said.

This will be the fifth of a multi-year rotation to equip students with various tools to share Christ. Those who began the training as seventh graders during the 2016 YEC will be familiar with seven different evangelistic tools by the time they are seniors.

“Sharing our faith is what we are called to do as believers,” Lewis said. “We want students to hear the Gospel at YEC and be equipped to share Christ with their friends, family and others. YEC will provide them the tools that will make it easier to share the Gospel.”

“YEC has been prayed over and we are excited for how God will use it,” he continued. “For the last 33 years, God has chosen to use YEC in a special way to reach students. We are praying God does the same this year in a big way.”

The event kicks off Sunday, 7 p.m., and is scheduled to end Monday, 10 p.m.

For more YEC information, visit labaptistyouth.org/yec.



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— The late Dr. Roy Fish, Former Director of Evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

2020

Last year’s event moved to a regional format, a change from the usual event that draws up to 6,000 students each year. By the end of the three events, more than 1,100 students, collectively, heard the same

2021

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Luter from page 2

ting that today's shifting culture and sinfulness can make it seem that life is "like a box of chocolates."

"But for the believer, but for the Christian, but for the child of God, there must be a point in your life when your fear is replaced by faith ... where your anxiety is replaced by adoration ... where your hopelessness is turned into hopefulness," Luter said.

While Lamentations 3:1-20 shows the depths of Jeremiah's despair, Luter said he was grateful that Jeremiah's story did not end there. Jeremiah's despair was lifted when the prophet remembered God's faithfulness. Luter urged listeners to remember God's faithfulness and focus on Him despite weariness from the pandemic and the grief and discouragement it has brought.

"For the child of God, despair never has the last word," he said. "Despair is

not an option for the child of God. ... God, and God alone is our hope."

Luter said because of God's faithfulness, believers are not deleted, defeated or depleted.

"Mercy is God not giving us what we deserve," Luter said. "No one is righteous. All of us should have been deleted. ... However, because of God's mercy, we are not deleted. We are not consumed."

Believers are not defeated because God's compassions never fail, even if it seems "the enemy" is winning, Luter said, adding that he was weary of COVID and weary of funerals. The virus has claimed 15 in his congregation. Yet, God's compassion, mercy, grace, goodness, truth and faithfulness never fail, he said.

"The same God that raised Jesus from the tomb provides compassion for you and me," Luter said.



NOBTS Communication photo

Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was honored by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College, Oct. 12, for his wide-ranging influence and 35 years of ministry.

"Why? Because His compassions fail not."

In closing, Luter said believers are not depleted because God's mercies are new each day and cannot

be "used up."

"One thing you never have to worry about is the faithfulness of God. One thing you can hold onto is the faithfulness of God,"

Luter said. "Every day you wake up God gives us new mercies. They will never run out. They are never depleted. Great is His faithfulness."

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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Partnership from page one

damaged, including 28 significantly, it's going to be a while before this area begins to get back on its feet."

Ida came ashore near Port Fourchon around 11:55 a.m. Aug. 29 as a Category 4 storm (maximum sustained winds of 150 mph,

just seven mph short of Category 5 status), tying Hurricane Laura (2020) and the Last Island Hurricane (1856) as the most-powerful hurricanes to hit Louisiana. The storm dumped up to 15 inches of rain in some areas, knocked out power to more than 1.1 million at one

time and spanned a diameter of 414 miles, according to AccuWeather.

Statham praised the volunteers from 31 state conventions that deployed with Louisiana Baptist DR workers throughout the state at various times, ministering from 13 response centers. Through mid-October, there were 929 Gospel presentations, with 192 individuals surrendering to Christ. The multiple feeding units prepared and served 749,539 meals; and other workers completed 1,451 chainsaw and debris removal jobs and installed 365 tarps on homes.

He added that at the height of the storm, 1,000 volunteers were on the ground. But as of mid-October, only relief centers at First Baptist Church, Golden Meadow, and Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City, remain open.

"Ida has shown the commitment and resilience of disaster relief volunteers," Statham said. "Considering all we had to deal with such as other states responding to wildfires, mudslides and flooding after a year that

saw three major hurricanes, that's pretty incredible we had so many people come."

Statham added that in addition to churches, 83 pastors' homes were damaged by Ida. 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.

"There is a big need to help churches and families affected by Ida," he said. "The best way is going to be for people to connect with damaged churches. As they help churches function once again, the congregations can then be more empowered to help their community."

Statham said that while the disaster relief teams have been phenomenal, their work would be less impactful if they failed to fulfill the mission of giving

a cup of cold water in Jesus' name.

"That's why we do what we do," Statham said. "We want to help people physically but also want to tend to their spiritual health. With all the struggles we had this year, knowing that almost 200 people accepted Christ makes it all worth it."

Churches wishing to be matched with one or more of the churches having serious losses or desiring to volunteer with disaster relief efforts can register using <https://louisianabaptists.org/missions-ministry/disaster-relief/churches-helping-churches/>. Additionally, individuals desiring to offer general financial assistance for the ongoing disaster relief operations can sign up using <https://louisianabaptists.org/missions-ministry/disaster-relief/donate/>.

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Harvest from page 3

campus point children to a relationship with Christ through an extended week of Bible studies, music and fellowship. He said 107 children, during three Kids Camp sessions at Tall Timbers in 2021, made decisions for Christ, and campers raised \$4,400 for missions (City Life NOLA in New Orleans and the Well Church in Monroe).

"Children don't come to Christ from a vacuum and rarely from a one-time exposure to the Gospel," Anderson said. "There are many opportunities that

work together in a child's life to bring them to salvation. Camp is one of those vital opportunities. Camp gives kids a chance to get away and focus like no other moment. With no outside influences and a pure focus on the Word, the kids are practically in a bubble where we can help them see the truth of the Gospel in a fresh way. This piece of the puzzle in a kid's life is indispensable in my opinion and makes camp a unique chance that all churches should strive to be a part of."

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Baptist Community Ministries celebrates 25 years (plus one)

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS, La. (LBM) – “We believe money matters, but we believe everything is better with Christ,” Baptist Community Ministries Board Chair Slade Simons said.

For more than 25 years, Baptist Community Ministries has helped improve the physical, mental and spiritual health of the greater New Orleans metropolitan area by helping to generate funds as a foundation and through chaplaincy services and congregational wellness at the height of COVID-19.

“It’s just as humbling as it is exciting,” Simons said. “Not many people get the chance in life to have a very true meaningful impact on other people’s lives in such a positive way. When you sit on a board of a grant maker that is truly concerned with its community and with the Gospel, it really is remarkable, and it is very humbling. “We have been able to

pump a little over \$208 million into the community over the last 25 years,” he continued. “Money is not the only answer to problems that people deal with, but it can certainly help provide a lot of resources and a lot of help.”

The ministry was formed from the proceeds of the 1995 sale of Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans; and through the years the ministry has furthered the Gospel through partnerships formed with 150 churches and 95 non-profit organizations in the city -- investing in health, education and public safety. BCM officially marked its 25th anniversary in 2020 but muted its celebration activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

According to Jennifer Drummer, BCM’s director of fund development and communications, the ministry

employs 14 full-time chaplains who minister at hospitals, long-term care facilities and the New Orleans Police



Department. Since 2010, BCM chaplains have provided more than 1 million points of contact with individuals in the community.

Their chaplains played a key role during the coronavirus pandemic, she said. They encouraged doctors who were drained emotionally and provided spiritual support and comfort to families

of patients who passed away or were placed in medical facilities long term. They also were beside patients during Zoom calls with family members who were prevented from visiting loved ones -- who were patients in the hospital -- in person.

Likewise, BCM’s chaplains have built strong relationships with many officers in all eight districts of the New Orleans Police Department, Drummer added. Their chaplains are among the first to respond after a tragedy occurs and to accompany officers for neighborhood walks and on “ride alongs” in the community.

“Collectively, what I have heard from our chaplains is a lot of people are dealing with mental health issues during this time,” Drummer said. “They don’t know who to turn to. A lot of times our chaplains are ministering on the scene of a crime or walking the normal beat with

police officers and these first responders will turn to the chaplains and say, ‘I need to talk for five minutes.’”

“Police officers don’t want to burden their families with what they see on the job,” she continued. “A lot of times they go to the chaplain to talk. Our chaplains are seeing a lot more police officers open up and talk about what they see. It’s a great opportunity mental health wise for the chaplains to help people to cope with whatever experience they are going through.”

CONGREGATIONAL WELLNESS

While chaplains provided vital emotional support during COVID-19, BCM’s congregational wellness ministry assisted with providing valuable resources.

Through a partnership with the City of New Orleans, New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and Hanes Apparel, in 2020,

See BCM, page 19

Thank You for Meeting Needs and Changing Lives Through the Christ-Centered Ministries of Your Children’s Home...



- **Residential Child Care** – You provide neglected, abused, and abandoned children with a safe place to live where they can experience God’s love.
- **Residential Family Care** – You provide this transitional living ministry that offers compassionate care for single women and their children who are homeless due to difficult life circumstances.
- **Residential Minister Care** – You provide housing, personal and professional development, and Christian counseling at no cost for Louisiana Baptist Convention ministers and Southern Baptist Convention missionaries in transition.
- **Granberry Counseling Centers** – You provide affordable, professional, Christian counseling for individuals, couples, and families in 12 statewide locations.
- **Christian Women’s Job Corps** – You provide women age 18 or older a place to receive unconditional love, encouragement, Bible study, and other tools for a better life and future for themselves and their families, including HiSET training.
- **Connect 127 Foster & Adoption Ministries** – You provide Foster & Adoption Specialists across the state who connect children in need with families and churches who care.
- **Compassion for Kids** – You provide this ministry that helps to meet the basic life needs of economically-challenged children and families in Northeast Louisiana in partnership with local churches.
- **Orphans Embrace** – You provide this ministry, currently in partnership with LA Reach Haiti, that supports a children’s village in Croix des Bouquets, Haiti.

Our Christ-centered ministries are making immediate and eternal differences for children, individuals, and families across Louisiana. Whether it’s a child or teen who needs a safe place to call home, a homeless child and mom who need support and encouragement, or a married couple who needs help restoring a shattered relationship, our caring ministry team is ready to help. www.lbch.org

Messengers from page one

Baptists using this tool, to bring personal revival to all of us. I have become more and more convinced that 'great awakening' begins at the individual level. God

needs to work in us so revival can spread among us."

OTHER BUSINESS

Messengers also will consider whether to adopt a proposed reduced Cooperative Program budget. Approved during the Executive Board's Sept. 28 meeting at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth, the 2022 financial plan is 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.

Other highlights for the meeting include an update on the massive disaster relief response to Hurricane Ida and messages by Horn, Cranford

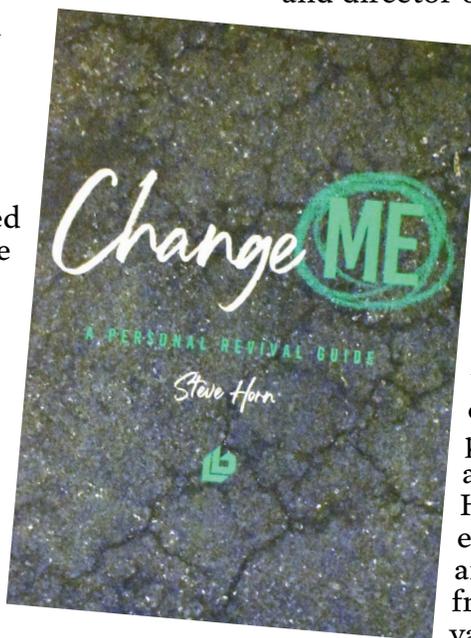
and First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, Pastor Oren Conner.

Additional items on the agenda include a Bible study led by Steve Echols, president of Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Georgia;

reports by the Convention's entities; other updates on state missions; consideration of motions and resolutions; and election of officers.

At press time, Reggie Bridges, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Ruston, will have his name placed in nomination for the office of LBC presi-

dent. Steven Kelly, pastor of Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City, and director of missions for Gulf Coast Baptist Association, is expected to have his name placed in nomination for the office of first vice president, and Price Harris, an evangelist and layman from Calvary Baptist Church in Shreveport, is expected to be nominated for the office of second vice president. They are the only known candidates for their respective offices.



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NOTABLES

Gatherings for Nov. 15

include:

- Louisiana Baptist Christian Education Association luncheon, 11 a.m., Fellowship Mall
- African-American Fellowship, 4 p.m., East Venue
- Asian Fellowship, 4:30 p.m., (location pending)
- Minister of Missions roundtable, 4:30 p.m., RJ 103
- Louisiana College Reception, 4:30 p.m., RJ 110
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary dinner, 4:45 p.m., Fellowship Mall

Gatherings for Nov. 16 include:

- Partnership Missions breakfast, 7 a.m., Fellowship Mall
- Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary lunch, 12:15 p.m., RJ 110 (may move offsite)
- Missions and Ministry lunch, 12:15 p.m., East Venue
- Retiree/Bi-vocational luncheon, 12:15 p.m., Fellowship Mall

LBC ANNUAL MEETING
 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16
 NORTH MONROE BAPTIST CHURCH
LOUISIANABAPTISTS.ORG/ANNUALMEETING

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 root-ed, 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

See RESOLUTIONS, page 13

Credentials Committee: Messengers must register for annual meeting

By Staff

Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM)— In order for a church to be represented during the business portions of the Louisiana Baptist Convention to be held Nov. 16 in North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe, it will need to elect messengers, who then must register and be certified by the Committee on Credentials.

LBC Credentials Committee Chairman Mark Morelock noted to the *Baptist Message* that there are five ways for messengers to register and be approved:

— The first and simplest way is for messengers to pre-register

using www.LaOne.org and print out the registration card to bring to the annual meeting. This way allows messengers to be certified within a matter of minutes, Morelock said.

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

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

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

— Finally, when there are no

other means by which to validate a person, the Committee on Credentials may be called into session to rule on the registration request.

Morelock emphasized that pastors are not automatically registered as messengers, explaining that they must follow the same procedure as other messengers to participate in the business discussions and official votes of the annual meeting.

NOTICE TO CHURCHES

Due to possible COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing requirements, we ask messengers to make every

attempt to pre-register AND BRING YOUR CARD WITH YOU. Scanning the card that you print out at home or work will result in fewer touches at the annual meeting site.

Pre-registration letters were sent Oct. 4. Please use the provided login information to pre-register your messengers at www.LaOne.org.

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

RESOLUTIONS from page 12

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

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.

LBC pastors to be urged to ‘stand strong, stand firm’

By Staff
Baptist Message

MONROE, La. (LBM) – Organizers of this year’s Louisiana Baptist Pastors Conference hope to equip participants with the tools needed to stand strong for Christ in a chaotic world.

“We are living in a very tumultuous time,” Pastors Conference President David Goza, also pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, told the *Baptist Message*. “We will encourage pastors to stand strong on Word of God. No matter what is going on in the culture, we need to stand firm without compromise.”

Scheduled Nov. 15 in North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe, the annual gathering’s theme is “Stand strong,” based on 1 Corinthians 16:13-14.



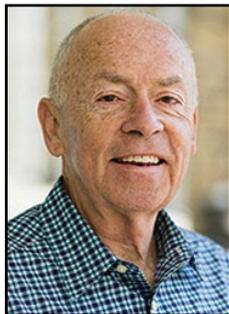
Titus White, pastor, Grace Community Baptist Church, Baton Rouge



Eddie Wren, pastor, First Baptist Church, Rayville



Steve Horn, executive director, Louisiana Baptist Convention



Waylon Bailey, pastor, First Baptist Church, Covington



Jamie Dew, president, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary



Tony Perkins, president, Family Research Council

The conference begins at 9:30 a.m., with music led by Cullen McDaniel, worship pastor, Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, and messages by Titus White, pastor, Grace Community Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, and Eddie Wren, pastor, First Baptist Church, Rayville.

After a lunch break, the conference will continue at 2 p.m. Those scheduled to preach dur-

ing the afternoon session are Jamie Dew, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn and Waylon Bailey, pastor, First Baptist Church, Covington.

Tony Perkins, president, Family Research Council, Washington, D.C., will close out the conference with a message during the evening session that will begin at

7 p.m.

Goza said organizers are excited to finally hold the event, noting that there was a one-year hiatus because of COVID-19 concerns.

“It’s obviously good for us to keep moving into a place of normalcy again and get all the preachers together in the state to worship together, recharge and exhort each other to press on,” he said.

PASTOR CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday, November 15
Speakers

Morning - 9:30-12:00

Titus White
Eddie Wren

Afternoon - 2:00-5:00

Steve Horn
Waylon Bailey
Jamie Dew

Evening - 7:00-8:30

Tony Perkins

NOVEMBER 15, 2021
NORTH MONROE BAPTIST

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

STAND FIRM

2021 PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

... STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH
... DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE.
1 COR. 16:13-14

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
TITUS WHITE, EDDIE WREN, JAMIE DEW
STEVE HORN, WAYLON BAILEY, TONY PERKINS

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

Five reasons why the Cooperative Program is so important

SPRING HILL, Tenn. (TBMD) -- Yes, Southern Baptists are legendary for lots of reasons:

-- We are the largest non-Catholic association of churches;

-- people see our Disaster Relief hats, trucks and chain saws on the news, and traveling down the interstate; and

-- our seminaries train over 23,000 students every year.

Some would say we invented the casserole!

But the greatest thing about being a Southern Baptist often flies under the radar: We work together.

While each Baptist

church is autonomous with no real hierarchy, we realize that the glue of our partnership is cooperative giving. Moreover, because churches give cooperatively, we comprise the greatest missions movement in the long history of the church. We know we can do so much more together, and the Cooperative Program makes it all happen.

It's been an unofficial tradition that we celebrate the Cooperative Program in October, and this is a great time to cast a worldwide vision for giving. Here are five great advantages of working together:

(1) Every church gets in on the action. The genius of the Cooperative Program is that no matter how small or large your church is, you have an opportunity to do missions all over your state, across the nation and around the world. Is your church planting a church in Istanbul, Turkey,

and Memphis, Tenn.? If your church gives through the Cooperative Program, then you are doing both and a million other things!

(2) The Cooperative Program is balanced and comprehensive. Before CP, Baptist churches were constantly trying to field requests of financial support for missions and ministries. Think about it: Seminaries, universities, independent self-funded missionaries and organizations, disaster efforts, children's homes, college ministries, and campgrounds were all presenting their cases of why the local church should give to their mission. With CP, a church can unify all their mission funds and have a balanced approach where everyone gets a share of the funds. It's a "set it and forget it" concept. (But really, let's not actually forget it. It's too wonderful to forget!)

(3) The Cooperative Program gives verification and integrity. When a church gives through the Cooperative Program, you can be sure that there is oversight and accountability in missions funding. We've all heard the stories of organizations receiving money from a local church and later the church realizes that the money they sent didn't go to the places the church intended it to go. Not so with the CP. CP partners are accountable to the churches who give. There is transparency and the funding is systematic.

(4) The Cooperative Program provides cover for our missionaries in dangerous locations. Through CP a missionary doesn't have to promote what they are doing. They remain safely on the field without having to reveal their mission to anyone other than the IMB. They can focus on their mission with an

added layer of safety.

(5) The Cooperative Program keeps the main thing the main thing. Let's face it, we are a diverse group of churches with different types of buildings, worship styles, and minor theological differences. This is nothing new. We have choir robes, holey jeans, outdoor worship, sanctuaries, middle school locations, responsive readings, hymns, coats and ties; and we fellowship within different ethnic, rural, urban, cowboy and traditional identity churches. We agree on the essentials and the Cooperative Program is the connector so that we can all do Great Commission work together.

October is a great time to educate and celebrate CP! Create a customized strategy for CP awareness as you roll into fall. Many churches are approving

See CP, page 17

THANK YOU LOUISIANA FOR BEING A BIG PART IN OUR MINISTRY

2021 DOVE AWARD NOMINATED ARTIST



weRcalled

2021 DATES

- 1/ 15-20 HOMER, LA
- 1/24-26 SHREVEPORT, LA
- 2/27-28 MARTIN, LA
- 2/28-3/3 SULPHUR SPRINGS, TX
- 3/5-7 WEST MONROE, LA
- 3/12-14 ROBELINE, LA
- 3/14-24 ROBELINE, LA
- 4/25-30 FOUKE, AR
- 5/2-5 DEQUENCY, LA
- 5/16-19 JUNCTION CITY, AR
- 5/22-23 LITTLE ROCK, AR
- 6/3-5 WACO, TX
- 6/10-12 WACO, TX
- 6/17-19 WACO, TX
- 6/24-26 WACO, TX
- 6/28-7/5 GRAND BOIS, LA
- 7/7-14 HAMMOND, LA
- 7/18-21 HAMMOND, LA
- 7/26-29 MINDEN, LA
- 8/2-8 ELLINGTON, MO
- 8/29-9/1 WASHBURN, MO
- 9/5-7 MARTIN, LA
- 9/10 HAMMOND, LA
- 9/11 MAGEE, MS
- 9/12 THOMASVILLE, GA
- 9/15 SALTVILLE, VA
- 9/16 GIBSONVILLE, NC
- 9/17 GIBSONVILLE, NC
- 9/19-22 CASSVILLE, MO
- 9/25 VADALIA, IL
- 9/26 GALVA, IL
- 9/27 Galesburg, IL
- 9/29 EAST PEORIA, IL
- 10/1 WILMINGTON, OH
- 10/5 ATKINS, AR
- 10/8 WARREN, AR
- 10/9 SPEARSVILLE, LA
- 10/10 MT PLEASANT, TX
- 10/11 LUFKIN, TX
- 10/17-20 ARCADIA, LA
- 10/27 QUITMAN, LA
- 11/02 - HAUGHTON, LA
- 11/21 - SULPHUR, LA
- 12/05 - ELDORADO, AR
- 12/31 - MINDEN, LA

- *TOURS WITH FULL SOUND & LIGHTING PRODUCTION
- *CONCERTS, DNOWS, STUDENT CAMPS, CONFERENCES
- *LIMITED DATES AVAILABLE FOR 2022

CONTACT 615.906.3834
weRcalled.com

Special gifts that will advance the Kingdom

Giving to a church or other ministry provides support for sharing the Gospel of Christ! Here are some ways to give, other than cash, that can “Advance the Kingdom!”

BEQUESTS

Bequests through a well drafted “Last Will and Testament” are a primary way to care for your family while providing a gift that will benefit God’s kingdom. You can leave a specific bequest such as a stated cash amount or a particular piece of property or specify a certain percentage of your estate to benefit a ministry. There are other ways of providing for family and leaving a gift to ministry. The Foundation staff can help you develop a plan when you are including at least a 10 percent gift to ministry.

GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK

“Charitable Remainder Trusts” and “Charitable Gift Annuities” are two types of deferred gifts that pay income to the donor (or a family member) during the lifetime of that individual. Upon the death of the income recipient, the remainder of the initial gift is then directed to a church or a ministry per the donor’s instructions. Although these two gift arrangements operate similarly, they are used for different reasons and can be modified to meet a variety of specific situations.

DONOR ADVISED GIVING

A “Donor Advised Fund” offers a donor quite a bit of flexibility in making gifts to ministry. The donor establishes a DAF with the Foundation and deposits cash or securities into the fund. When there is a church or ministry in need, the donor simply requests a distribution from the DAF to satisfy the need. The DAF offers a current tax-year deduction for contributions within the year, flexibility for distributions, and anonymity when desired.

MINISTRY AS A BENEFICIARY

Adding your church or other ministry to the “Beneficiary Statement” of an IRA, 401k, life insurance or annuity is a quick and simple way to direct a gift to support the Gospel. It usually involves a phone call or website download and filling out a new beneficiary statement.

NON-CASH ASSETS

Using capital assets -- held for more than one year and have appreciated in value -- may provide an income tax deduction and avoid capital gains tax when given to a church or ministry. These types of assets include land and other real estate, stocks, mutual funds and bonds.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

Those 70 1/2 years of age and older can make a distribution directly from an IRA to a church or other ministry. The distribution does count toward the required minimum distribution and is not included in taxable income.

FAMILY ENDOWMENTS

Establishing an endowment with the Louisiana Baptist Foundation invests the principle of the initial gift and any additions to it. The endowment then pays income to the church or ministry selected by the donor. A family endowment can teach stewardship to young children, allow adult children to contribute to it and provide for ministry for generations to come.

To learn more, go to LBFinfo.org, or call 877-523-4636.

ADVANCING THE KINGDOM:

One dollar at a time. One ministry at a time. One life at a time.

Estate planning is stewardship

By Jerry Love

LBF director of planned giving

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM)-Planning is a part of our daily life. We plan menus for the day or week, we plan vacations, we plan meetings ... the list goes on.

Why, then, is it difficult to make plans for one of the more integral parts of our life – our estate.

As followers of Christ, we should all be interested in the stewardship of our “stuff.” A prayerfully thought-out estate plan can be the largest single act of stewardship that you will undertake. Determining how to take care of others, be a blessing to others and how to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ through your personal planning is stewardship.

Take a look at some essentials of estate stewardship planning.



PEOPLE

The first step is as simple as making a list of the people who are most important to you. This should include anyone (children, spouse, grandchildren, parents) who are in your care during your lifetime and for whom you want to provide after your death.

This list can also include those that you want to “bless,” those extended family or friends to whom you would like to leave a gift, either a personal item or monetary. Also, in this list, you may include your church or another ministry organization to which you have a close connection.

POSSESSIONS

Make a list of your personal assets. This list will include bank and investment accounts, personal residence and other real estate, autos, boats and hunting vehicles, jewelry, firearms – anything that

has a value to you and possibly to the recipient. Some items may have more sentimental value than monetary value - put it on the list.

Keep in mind, there is a special class of assets that should also be included in this list. These assets are life insurance policies, annuities, IRAs and other retirement plans, along with pension plans. All these assets can provide benefits and blessings to others; however, these assets will not be governed by the language of your “Last Will and Testament.” Each of these assets has a beneficiary statement that designates who is to receive these assets after your death. This statement, signed by you, is a contract between you and the company backing the asset.

PROFESSIONALS

Seeking the advice and assistance of a planning professional is important. For most people, a relatively simple and straightforward “Last Will and Testament” will handle the transfer of assets to heirs and legatees. Others may need to seek the advice of a CPA or attorney if there is a complicated estate or perhaps a family business interest involved. The Louisiana Baptist Foundation staff can help with some of the more basic issues and may be able to help you determine what type of professional to seek out.

Many people have expressed concern about the cost associated with estate planning. It is worth spending time, energy and money to see that your plans are completed properly. One attorney friend has compared the cost of estate planning to the cost of a “good set of tires.” Tires have certainly gone up in price in recent years, but this is still a good rule of thumb. Proper planning is worth the expense.

PLANS

Your plans will determine what people and organizations from the first list will receive from the possessions identified from the second list with the help of the professionals who are named on the third list.



Sounds simple enough, right? But, as always there are additional things to consider.

For instance, it is typically better to leave tax deferred retirement assets to a ministry or charitable organization, which will not owe taxes, than to an individual, who will have to pay those taxes that have been deferred all these

years. Another thought: Giving real estate in joint ownership to your heirs could be a sticky situation if they cannot agree on what to do with the property. Additionally, leaving real estate, jointly, to family and a charitable organization may cause friction. The organization generally wants to be “cashed out” of the situation, forcing the heirs to raise cash to buy out the charity.

Yes, being a good steward of your estate is not necessarily a simple task and, in some cases, can be complicated.

Which brings us to the last “p.”

PRAY

This should be your priority.

Before listing people, before tallying up all your possessions, and prior to making an appointment with a legal or tax professional to help you with your plans, you should take time to PRAY. Seek God’s guidance on who should be included in your plans, how to distribute assets and what assistance you should seek.

Even in planning your estate, God is willing and able to direct your path.

Trust Him!

The Louisiana Baptist Foundation helps those who desire to give to churches and ministry organizations. We also serve as a resource to answer questions regarding estate planning.

For more information on the services provided by the Foundation, visit www.LBFinfo.org, or call (877) 523-4636.





Resort Ministry breaks ground

Toledo Bend Resort Ministry, established in 1972, broke ground, Oct. 10, on a new ministry center, which will be a two-story, 4,000-sq.-ft. facility, featuring increased meeting space and a storage area that could be converted to additional offices in the future. TBRM director Mary Gore said the new building will replace the current 49-year-old facility, and that construction will begin by the end of the year at an estimated cost of \$500,000-\$550,000. More than \$400,000 had been raised through mid-October. TBRM ministers at more than 30 parks, marinas and low-income housing projects through worship services, block parties, fishing tournaments and area fairs, she said. "God is continuing to show His faithfulness to this project as daily I am hearing from churches and individuals wanting to partner with the ministry," Gore told the *Baptist Message*. To contribute to the construction project or to volunteer, e-mail tbbaptist@gmail.com. Photo by Brian Blackwell.

CP from page 15

budgets for the coming year and so this also helps cast a vision for global impact through allocating budget funds into the Cooperative Program.

Perhaps your church leaders will decide to consider increasing the

amount allocated to the CP. Many churches find that when the church members understand how CP funds our missionaries, they see an increase in stewardship enthusiasm.

We hope you'll let your church in on the best kept

secret of missions, the Cooperative Program. Let's celebrate it and advance the Gospel together.

Matt Tullos is the assistant to the executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board.

Motions from page 11

of a motion so that it is no longer what was originally offered.

-- If you offer a motion during the report of a convention entity or the Executive Board, do not address the person making the report; only address the chair and state

your motion directly to him.

The following may be used when making motions on the floor during the annual meeting. Please provide a copy to the president or secretary of the LBC before making your motion.



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What's the SBC's future? It's up to us!

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (B&R)--What will become of the Southern Baptist Convention?

That question hangs above our denomination like an ominous cloud. The question is especially germane given the unprecedented decision by SBC Executive Committee members to waive attorney-client privilege in the third-party investigation of how the EC handled sexual abuse claims.

The discussion has become strained at times. People have gotten aggressively hostile on social media to the point nothing in their comments resembles the Christian love we are commanded to extend to one another.



RANDY C. DAVIS
President/Executive
Director of the
Tennessee Baptist
Mission Board

Attitudes toward EC members have become like chum in the Amazon River, feeding a frenzy of piranha. These EC members are people; brothers and sisters in Christ who stepped out from our churches to serve.

They are not the enemy.

The issue at hand, sexual abuse, is a serious matter that deserves rigorous consideration and a thoughtful response guided by the Holy Spirit whose counsel must be sought through rigorous prayer. And not just prayer by EC members and members of the SBC Sexual Abuse Task Force.

The work that lies before these men and women should be a prayer concern for every Southern Baptist. We should be praying for them much more than tweeting at them.

Unfortunately lost in the storm of negativity is all the great service being done for others. I agree with a statement recently made by my counterpart in Georgia, Thomas Hammond. He said, "I promise you, America does not want ... Southern Baptists to go away. We're the ones feeding the hungry, clothing the poor. We're the ones helping young women escape human trafficking. We're the ones coming alongside hurricane victims to get their lives back to normal."

We mustn't lose sight of that even in this challenging moment for our Convention of churches. Southern Baptists have had difficult times throughout our 176-year history. Adversity is not new, but the best of who we are rises to the surface when we work together in unity for the common cause encapsulated in the Great Commission.

I understand the frustration many pastors and churches feel in these days of division. Don't forget I served as a local church pastor for nearly 40 years, and I experienced frustration many

See **FUTURE**, page 20

SBC's lawyers resign after EC's vote to waive attorney-client privilege

By **Lonnie Wilkey**

Tennessee Baptist & Reflector editor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM) — The Nashville law firm of Guenther, Jordan & Price informed the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, Oct. 11, that the firm will no longer represent the SBC or the SBC EC because the SBC EC members voted to waive attorney-client privilege.

The letter, signed by James P. Guenther and James D. Jordan, was sent to Ronnie Floyd, SBC EC president and chief executive officer.

According to the letter, Guenther became the general counsel for the SBC and the SBC EC in 1966 and "that role devolved to now be filled by the firm of Guenther, Jordan and Price." The letter noted that the firm has "been privileged to work with some good people who have served Southern Baptists admirably. We have endeavored every day to faithfully serve the Executive Committee and the Conven-

tion with integrity, competence, and professionalism consistently throughout these 56 years."

The letter noted, however, that "the Executive Committee's board of directors, by a majority vote, has acted to prospectively and preemptively waive the Executive

Committee's attorney-client privilege without knowing the communications affected by the waiver and without knowing the effect it will have on the Executive Committee, the Convention, and those who have

served as members or employees of the Executive Committee. We recognize that the trustees had the sole responsibility to weigh the competing interests and be the ultimate arbiters of their legal and ecclesiastical duties to the Executive Committee and the Convention.

"Be that as it may, this vote fundamentally changed the under-

standing that has always existed regarding communications between our firm and the Executive Committee or the Convention. There has always been an expectation of privacy in these communications. We relied on that understanding, and we advised the Executive

Committee and its officers, employees, and committee members that they could also safely rely on that expectation.

"Because the attorney-client privilege existed, these persons have on occasion shared with us sensitive information which we needed in order to competently represent the Executive Committee.

Until now, a decision by the Board to waive attorney-client privilege was not reasonably foreseeable. However, going forward we can no longer assure Executive Committee and Convention personnel with whom we work that the privacy of their communications, with their lawyers will be secure," the letter stated.



James Guenther



James Jordan

Lawsuit from page one

within one week of the creation of the third task force formed Feb. 24, 2020, by the SBC Executive Committee — one which Stone chaired — that investigated Moore "to assess whether the actions of the ERLC (then led by the Defendant) and its leadership were negatively affecting the fiscal well-being of the SBC."

The case filing states that Moore wrote the two letters and "strategically concealed them from general distribution within the ERLC and the SBC but then subsequently surreptitiously released, or 'leaked,' to the news media" -- knowing that Moore's claims would receive wide news coverage.

Moore's first letter and the timing of its release were described as "retaliation" for Stone's leadership of the investigation by the task force, and were specifically intended to "defame ... and discredit" Stone's "campaign for the presidency of the SBC."

The second letter, dated May 31, 2021 and released to the public June 2, 2021, was addressed to J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit in Raleigh-Durham, and

the immediate past president of the SBC who presided over the 2021 SBC Annual Meeting. The court documents alleged that it also "contained numerous false allegations" against Stone.

The lawsuit identified several statements from Moore's two letters and offered information to refute the accusations Moore made against Stone, including:

— Moore alleged Stone and the SBC EC "exonerated churches, in a spur-of-the-moment meeting, from serious charges of sexual abuse cover-up" and that Stone "drove the motion, but also saw to it that he would be a member of the 'task force.'" Stone's attorney argued that the SBC EC is restricted to only make recommendations regarding whether a church is "in friendly cooperation" with the SBC — a sanction that only results in a church's ability to send messengers to register and vote at the SBC Annual Meeting.

— Moore accused the SBC of fostering a "culture where countless children have been torn to shreds, where women have been raped" and that he was forced to be "quiet about

molestation, for the sake of some title." The lawsuit counters that Moore delayed acting on the allegation, along with six members of the ELRC's executive board, for 15 months — not because they were being forced into silence but because of an "orchestrated" attempt to "negatively impact" the 2021 SBC presidential election.

— Moore alleged that Stone initiated the task force to impact the ERLC's purported work "to address the abuse," and that Stone drove the formation of the task force and named himself as chair. Stone's lawyer said, however, that the actual motion to form the task force was "initiated by senior employees of the Executive Committee, including Dr. Ed Upton, Mr. Jonathan Howe, and Mr. Bill Townes. These senior leaders initiated the discussion and drafted the motion that would eventually create the task force under the leadership of Dr. Ronnie Floyd, President and CEO of the SBCEC."

The lawsuit described Moore's actions as "malicious" and

See **LAWSUIT**, page 20

BCM from page 9

BCM received 23,500 masks made from Hanes materials and distributed them to 140 local churches for distribution.

BCM continued to distribute masks and hand sanitizer to residents as the Delta variant increased coronavirus cases once again. Four churches who partner with BCM also served as host sites for COVID-19 testing and 11 were food distribution centers.

BCM staff also hosted digital town halls with

faith leaders and provided on-site presenters who shared resources available to address housing, as well as legal and mental health needs during the pandemic.

“We are a people that believe everything is better with Jesus,” Simons said. “So, we know that our education, training and partnerships are instruments of God to use in helping with the healing; but there are elements that just go beyond those identifiable things that

we can put our hands to and that’s where our faith comes in. As we engage with our church partners, the first contact we have is with the pastors, but it’s also with those folks who are leaders in their church who are people of faith. And they understand this mission that BCM has which is to help heal humanity’s hurt through the love of Christ.”

ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES

Beyond the chaplaincy and congressional wellness programs, BCM also has been active on several

other fronts related to education, health, and public safety:

-- From 2011 to 2016 BCM helped reshape the delivery of healthcare by investing in quality, community-based health centers. This effort included working with 120 providers representing 14 community health centers to help local nonprofits such as Baptist Community Health Services attain Federally Qualified Health Center status.

-- Through a partnership with Crossroads NOLA, a faith-based nonprofit devoted to making a

difference through foster care in the city, BCM organizational support combined with BCM funding has helped to successfully recruit foster and adoptive parents and provide training to build trust with children who have experienced trauma.

-- More than 40 percent of individuals released from Louisiana state prison later return to incarceration within five years. BCM funds and partners with nonprofits, such as the First 72+ that mentors recently released inmates using Christian-based principles.

RESIGN from page 18

The letter observed that “the attorney-client privilege has been portrayed by some as an evil device by which misconduct is somehow allowed to be secreted so wrongdoers can escape justice and defeat the legal rights of others.

“That could not be further from the truth. In fact, the attorney-client privilege has been for centuries a pillar of this country’s jurisprudence and rules of evidence. The concept is rooted in a principle of judicial fairness and the belief that our nation of laws is best served if persons and entities can communicate with their legal counsel freely and confidentially. There is nothing

sinister about it. It does not corrupt justice; it creates the space for justice.

“Sadly, we understand the Executive Committee’s decision to convey a negative attitude about the attorney-client privilege which it and the Convention enjoy. The decision causes us to carefully consider the prospect of moving forward as we try to represent the Executive Committee and the Convention in an alien environment. We simply do not know how to advise a client, and otherwise represent a client, with the quality of advice and representation the client must have, and in keeping with

the standard of practice our firm tries to uphold, when the client has indicated a willingness to forego this universally accepted principle of confidentiality.

“For these reasons, we believe our commitment to a certain standard of professional conduct leaves us no choice but to advise you that we are withdrawing from our role as general

counsel to the Southern Baptist Convention and the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.”

The attorneys expressed that they do not want their decision to be harmful to the Executive Committee and that securing new general counsel “and getting that counsel up to speed” will take time. The attorneys

wrote they would be willing “to continue providing legal counsel during a transition and in a limited and specifically defined role going forward.”

The attorneys added that “it has been a privilege and an honor to represent the Convention and the Executive Committee during six decades. Thank you for your support in that journey.”

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Monroe, LA 71211.



Lawsuit from page 18

successful in causing Stone to narrowly lose “his bid to become the new president of the SBC.” Moore also is accused of causing “a decreased trust of and confidence in” Stone by the “religious community.” Additionally, Moore’s alleged defamation of Stone’s character is cited as potentially harming attendance and donations at Stone’s church as well as Stone’s ability to earn outside income in terms of speaking honorariums.

EXODUS

The lawsuit comes after the SBC Executive Com-

mittee voted 44-31, Oct. 5, to waive attorney-client privilege in accordance with a motion that was adopted during the last session of the 2021 SBC Annual Meeting – without comments from the SBC’s lawyers.

That motion called for an investigation of the SBC Executive Committee for how it has handled sexual abuse allegations from 2000 – 2021.

There are no known sex abuse accusations against SBC Executive Committee trustees or staff.

Proponents say the attorney-client privilege

would hinder a transparent process. Opponents, including the SBC’s attorney of record for 60 years, say attorney-client privilege cannot protect illegal behavior, and that it serves to deter frivolous lawsuits.

Since the vote, there has been an exodus of leaders, including the SBC’s attorneys, as well as the president and 12 of 86 members of the entity.

FINDINGS

The SBC Executive Committee task force that investigated the ERLC conducted a survey of the

41 state Baptist conventions regarding the impact of Moore and the ERLC on cooperation among SBC churches during 2020.

There were only 15 responses, but the corresponding state conventions serve 60 percent of SBC churches, which contribute 74 percent of gifts through the Cooperative Program to SBC national causes.

The task force noted in its report, Feb. 22, 2021, that many churches perceived a leftward or liberal drift in the SBC, and its report gave three examples from among the 15 conventions in which churches

withheld CP gifts or departed from the SBC — 250 churches in one convention, 94 in another and 46 in a third, for instance. In 2020 alone, actions by churches from the 15 state conventions resulted in losses of:

- \$4 million to state conventions;
- \$1.5 million to the International Mission Board;
- \$700,000 to the North American Mission Board;
- \$700,000 to theological education at the six seminaries; and
- \$100,000 to the Executive Committee.

Future from page 18

times. But I was resolved to stay the course because I truly believe we actually can do more together than we can individually.

Think about this. I’ve talked to dozens of pastors over the past several months about all that is going on with the SBC Executive Committee and I’ve probably talked to hundreds more over the past

few years about all that has gone on with the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. Many talk about pulling the plug on their Cooperative Program giving.

In my opinion, that’s a nuclear option, especially given that the SBC EC only receives 1.5 cents for every \$1 of Cooperative Program funds that your church gives. The ERLC distribution is less than one cent out of every dollar, or 78 cents for every \$100. Pulling away from the Cooperative Program more negatively impacts missions on the local, state, national and international levels and how we as Southern Baptists prepare students for ministry through our seminaries.

There is a lot at stake in our denomination, and now is the time to rally together. The SBC EC and the SBC Sexual Abuse Task Force

have an important journey ahead. I’d like to thank each person on each of those entities for giving of their time and for serving all Southern Baptists.

What will become of the Southern Baptist Convention? The outcome of that question can only be determined by how we individually and collectively respond to that question by our actions. May the Lord use this time to rebuild lost trust, cultivate unity and continue to use Southern Baptists to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

It is my joy to be on this journey with you.

Edited for length. Reprinted with permission from the Tennessee Baptist & Reflector. Randy C. Davis is the president and executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board.



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FULL-TIME PASTOR
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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 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.

Sandy Creek Baptist Church is seeking a **WORSHIP MINISTER**
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Trinity Baptist Church in Oakdale, LA is seeking a bi-vocational or full-time pastor. Please send résumés to: Pastor Search Committee, P O Box 748, Oakdale, LA 71463.

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Houston River Baptists Church in Sulphur, La. Seeks a full time student minister
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Mail: 110 W. Houston River Rd. Sulphur, La 70663
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HOUSTON RIVER BAPTISTS CHURCH Sulphur, LA Seeks a Full Time Worship Minister
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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

- **Jim Wallace** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Cotton Valley.
- **Keith Dowden** is the new pastor at Pine Hill Baptist Church, Leesville. He was the pastor at South Central Baptist Church, Wisner.

REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church, Trout: **Revival**, October 31, November 3, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell**. Music: **Glenn Price, Philadelphia Baptist Church**. A nursery will be provided. Pastor: Shad Tibbs.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Turkey Creek: **The Mackey Willis Family in concert**, November 7, Pastor: Eddie Douglas.
- Goodwill Baptist Church, Oak Grove: Revival, November 8-12. Evangelist: **Malcolm Ellis**. Pastor: Lucas House.
- First Baptist Church, Bernice: Revival, November 11-14, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist Stephen Laughlin. Music: Ted Bertand. Pastor: Michael McIntosh.
- First Baptist Church, Larose: **Harvest Sun-**

day, November 14. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Gary Hanberry.
 ■ St. Clair Baptist Church, Boyce: **The Mackey Willis Family in concert**, November 21, 6 p.m. Pastor: Dennis Ellis.

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- New Zion Baptist Church, Covington: **Harvest Hayday**, October 29, 6-9 p.m. (registrations begins at 5 p.m.) Speaker: **Shellie Rushing Tomlinson**. Cost: Free/A love offering will be received. Sign up online @ newzion.net or call the church office at 985.892.471. **Fall Festival**, October 30, 5-7 p.m. There will be a chili cookoff with door prizes and gift cards for the best pot of chili. There will be food, games and a petting zoo. Pastor: Clark Stewart.
- Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Melder: **Trunk or Treat on the Ridge**, October 29, 6-8:30 p.m. In addition to Trunk or Treat, there will be chili cookoff, jumpers and a hayride. Pastor: Brandon Gill.
- Esler Baptist Church, Pineville: **Tickets around the world (Fall Festival)**, October 30, 4-7 p.m. There will be games from around the world, candy galore, s'mores that can be made on the open fire, fellowship, a jumped and the playground will be open to all the children that come. This is an opportunity to come an experience how the world has fun and enjoys the fall season. There will be gumbo for the adults and chicken nuggets and tater tots for the children. Pastor: Joshua Timothy.
- First Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Treasure Quest**, October 30, 4:30-7 p.m. Participants

will begin the Treasure Quest at FBNO to pick up a to-go meal of hot dogs and chips. There they will also receive their official Treasure Quest Map. Families will use the map to direct them (in no particular order) to fun games and activities at each home, where they will also receive a clue that will lead them to the Family Treasure Chest! This is not a race! Once the family has all the clues, they will solve the riddle that will lead them to the Treasure Chest. Each family will unlock the Treasure Chest and receive their very own family treasure packet (created specifically for each family). Pastor: Chad Gilbert.

- Trinity Baptist Church, Hammond: **Fall Festival**, October 30, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Join us for food, games, Trunk or Treat, Country store, inflatables, climbing wall, face painting, cupcake walk, chili cook off, hot dogs and music. Invite friends and family to this free event. Cost: \$10 to enter chili cook off. Pastor: Avery Dixon.
- Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: **Annual Community Fall Festival**, October 30, 4:30-6:30 p.m. There will be games, hayride, face painting, hot dog supper and devotion. The event will conclude with Trunk or Treat at 6:15 p.m. Pastor: David Newton.
- First Baptist Church, Zwolle: **Trunk or Treat on the church grounds**, October 30, 5-7 p.m. There will be lots of candy, appropriate Halloween costumes and decorated cars and trucks. Pastor: Marty Williams.
- Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: **Churchwide Bonfire Fellowship**. October 31, 5 p.m. until. Everything will be provided by the church. Pastor: Steven Kelly.
- Trinity Heights Baptist Church, Shreveport:

Family Fall Festival, October 31, 5-8 p.m. at The ROC and Outside. Everyone is invited to come join us for food, family and fellowship. Pastor: Scott Teutsch

- Calvary Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Fall Family Night**, October 31, 6-8 p.m. There will be rides, carnival games, slides, food trucks and lots of candy. Pastor: John Lary.
- Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Fall Fest**, October 31, 4-6 p.m. We'll have Trunk or Treat, inflatables, hayride, and hot dogs among other things. Pastor: Chuck Pourciau.
- Gray Baptist Church, Jefferson, TX: **Trunk or Treat**, Sunday, October 31 from 5 - 7 p.m. Pastor: Roy W. Davis.
- Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5-7 p.m. Pastor: Terry Young.
- First Baptist Church, DeRidder: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5-7. Pastor: Steve Graves.
- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, DeRidder: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pastor: Danny Wilson.
- Pineville Park Baptist Church, Pineville: **Fall Festival**, October 31, 11:30 a.m. We will have food (including hotdogs, popcorn, and snow cones), games, trunk or treat, door prizes... and it's all free! We will begin in the parking lot between Dairy Queen and CC's Coffee House. Pastor: Jeremy Shepherd.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church at Horseshoe Drive, Alexandria: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5:30-8 p.m. Pastor: Stuart Sasser.
- First Baptist Church, Tioga: **Fall Festival**, October 31, 5-7:30 p.m. There will be food, games, jumpers and face painting. Everyone is invited to this free event. Pastor: Tim Hisaw.
- New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong: **Harvest Fest**, October 31, 2-4 p.m. There will be games, trunk or treat, hamburgers and hot dogs. If inclement weather, it will be cancelled. Pastor: Trey Lewis.
- Bellaire Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Fall Fest**, October 31, 2-4 p.m. at Bellaire South. There will carnival games, food, inflatables, and lots of candy. Pastor: Randy Harper.
- Antioch Baptist Church, Farmerville: **Fall Festival**, October 31, 6 p.m. Games and activities for the kids will be offered. No scary costumes please. Pastor: Reuben Weaver.
- Longview Baptist Church, Deville: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5-7 p.m. Come out and bring the whole family to enjoy the fun. Pastor: Robby Poole.
- Zoar Baptist Church, Central: **Turn Your Light On**, October 31, 6-8 p.m. On Halloween Night set up a table or chair and pass our gospel tracts and candy in a neighborhood. Pastor: Clint Newsom.
- Centerville Baptist Church, St. Landry: **Fall Fest**, October 31, 12:30-2:30 p.m. There will be story time, hay dive, photo booth, kissing

booth, rope a steer, pumpkin bowling, sack race, mummy wrap, Noah's Ark, ring toss, poke a pumpkin, Fishers of Men and a Pinata. Pastor: Jacob Guillory.

- Westview Baptist Church, DeRidder: **Fall Festival**, October 31, 6-8 p.m. The event will have face painting, ballon animals, games and fun. Pastor: Jason Hoychick.
- First Baptist Church, Longville: **Children's Fall Festival**, October 31, 4-6 p.m. There will be snowcones, games, candy pony rides, and a petting zoo. Pastor: Corey Townsley.
- Magnolia Baptist Church, Ragley: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 6 p.m. Pastor: David Free.
- Bethel Baptist Church, Bastrop: **M-night**, November 1, 7 p.m. **Rick Brewer, president of Louisiana College**, will share his talent on the piano and bring the message at the Morehouse Association annual M-night. Everyone is invited. Pastor: Tim Post.
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **A Night of Joy presented by Insane Ministries**, November 2, 6 p.m. Featured: **Bob Smiley**. Worship: **WeRCalled**. Cost: \$15. To purchase tickets go to: insaneministries.brushfire.com/nightofjoy/517027. You are invited to enjoy a night of laughter, worship and fellowship. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, November 4, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Speaker: John Valenzuela, executive chef/owner of Quebedeaux's Cajun Café in Pineville. Cost: \$10 (lunch catered by Southern Creations) and open to the business community. Please RSVP to https://fbcpineville.secure2.agroup.com/events/firstatfirst/2021-11-04+11%3A50%3A00. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.
- Greenwell Springs Baptist Church, Greenwell Springs: **An Evening with Steven Curtis Chapman and special guest Mac Powell**, November 11, 7:30 p.m. Cost: Starting at \$15 to \$75. To purchase tickets go to https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/7783657/?partner_id=3096#_=_ Pastor: Preston Nix.
- Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: **Tribute Quartet in concert**, November 12, 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: David Newton.
- First Baptist Church, Slidell: **Fishing Rodeo**, November 13. The Men's Ministry will be hosting a fishing rodeo. Anglers of all ages are invited to join in the fun and dinner will be provided at the end of the day. Awards will be presented for largest redfish, biggest haul, tackiest clothing, etc. All proceeds from the tournament will go to disaster relief. For details & registration, visit www.fbcslidell.org/mens-ministry. Pastor: Casey Stark.
- First Baptist Church, Ferriday: **The BibleTones in concert**, November 21, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Kevin Ulmer.

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.

OBI PXBI WTRP QXOPJ, OBI BTJ WTRP COPKXBJD, OBI JRPB

RBJT JQX ATPJ WTRP CTI; STP QX MD CPOUMTRD OBI

KXPUMSRA, DATF JT OBCXP, OBI TS CPXOJ GMBIBXDD, OBI

PXYXBJXJQ QMK TS JQX XNMA

ZTXA JFT:JQMPJXXB

Clues:
P = R; O = A

Answer to October 14 Scripture Crypto:
Romans eight:eighteen

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SOUTHWEST

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