



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

January 13, 2022

Volume 137 • Issue No. 1

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Vision 2030: Bold goals for Louisiana Baptists

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The Louisiana Baptist church planting team has a bold vision to increase the number of state convention-affiliated churches from 1,611 to

2,000 by 2030.

Known as “Multiply Louisiana Vision 2030,” the plan is an effort to plant, replant and revitalize churches through multiplication of disciples, groups, ministries and churches. Ultimately, the goal is to increase evangelistic

outcomes across the state, Louisiana Baptist Church Planting Strategist Lane Corley said.

BOLD PLAN

The plan encompasses four parts:

-- connect 125 churches

(increase the rate of new affiliates connecting with the Louisiana Baptist Convention from 4.7 to 12.5 per year)

-- save 125 churches (slow the rate of closures by 50 percent over the next decade, from 25 to 12.5 per year)

-- replant 125 churches (increase the rate of replanting from 6.5 to 12.5, annually)

-- plant 225 churches (increase the rate of planting from 16.2 to 22.5, annually)

See VISION 2030, page 13

Lee Strobel to headline 2022 ECON

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

COVINGTON, La. (LBM) – Lee Strobel, an atheist-turned-Christ follower who authored the best-selling book “The Case for Christ,” will headline the 2022 Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference, Jan. 24-25, at First Baptist Church, Covington.

Strobel, whose message was cut short at the 2019 ECON at FBC Covington because of an area-wide power outage, said the conference is a prime way to train Louisiana Baptists to reach their community,

See ECON, page 2



Lee Strobel



Brian Blackwell photo

Pro-life supporters will gather for multiple marches around the state in January and February to declare opposition to the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in 1973.

Five ‘Life Marches’ planned for Louisiana

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

BATON ROUGE, La. (LBM) – Thousands of Louisianians will stand “together for life” at five pro-life marches scheduled throughout the state in the coming weeks.

COVID-19 pandemic concerns caused the

marches to be changed to “socially-distanced” rallies in 2021.

“Together for Life” is the theme for this year’s events, which will once again bring together pro-life supporters of different denominations, ages and ethnic backgrounds to declare opposition to the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in 1973. The current 6-3 majority appointed by Republicans to this highest federal court has led to speculation that Roe v. Wade could be overturned.

“As the Supreme Court reconsiders the unjust decision of Roe v. Wade,

we must march united in defense of every precious unborn baby with a strong commitment to support moms, both now and in a post-Roe Louisiana,” Louisiana Right to Life Executive Director Ben Clapper told the *Baptist Message*. “Please march with us in 2022 and spread the word.”

The Life Marches will kick off Jan. 22 with three events:

-- Participants will gather for a candlelight vigil, 6 p.m., in Veterans Memorial Park at the Lake Charles Civic Center for the march to the downtown courthouse.

See LIFE MARCHES, page 6

Christine Gill named WMU strategist for La. Baptists

By Philip Timothy
Message managing editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Christine Gill did not go looking for the job; the job came looking for her, she told the *Baptist Message*.

“I learned about the pending retirement of Janie [Wise, Women’s Mission & Ministry strategist] in October when I was at a minister’s wife retreat at Tall Timbers,” Gill said. “I remember thinking to myself who would be able to do that job?”

“When they were seeking applicants, I didn’t apply.

My name, though, was given to John Hebert, who reached out to me and asked if I would be interested in the position,” she said. “I was shocked but excited to be given this opportunity.

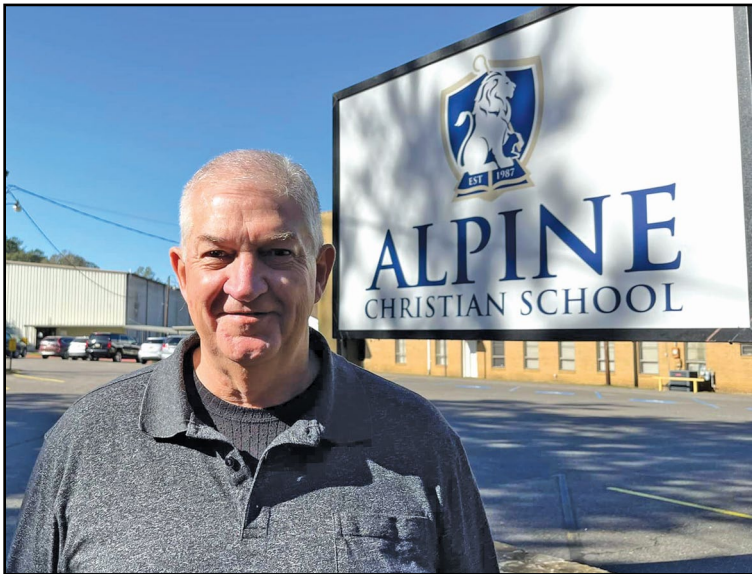
“I always have had a heart for women and a call to missions,” Gill continued. “So, when John called with the news, I was shocked but



Christine Gill

See GILL, page 4

Alpine Christian School shaping next generation of leaders



Brian Blackwell photo

Sammy Morrow has seen God move at Alpine Christian School, Tioga, since he became administrator in the summer, 2021.

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

TIOGA, La. (LBM) – Sammy Morrow was senior chaplain at Raymond Laborde Correction Center, Cottonport, when he received an invitation by Pastor John Willie to serve as administrator at Alpine Christian School.

Now in his second semester with the school, Morrow has embraced his role in shaping the next generation of Christian leaders.

“We’re not educating children to one day get a job,” Morrow told the *Baptist Message*. “We’re educating children to take their stand for Christ in the workplace and com-

munity.”

Alpine Christian School, a ministry of Alpine First Baptist Church, welcomed its first class in 1987 and 34 years later has increased its pre-k to eighth grade student enrollments to 135 (an increase from 95 in 2020). The school uses the faith based Abeka curriculum, prayer and daily devotions to build a solid biblical foundation for its student body.

Morrow said he is thankful for the alumni who have been equipped with tools to reach their respective communities with the Gospel. Some have received degrees from Louisiana Christian University, Louisiana State University, Louisiana Tech

University and Northwestern State University, and have gone on to work in such fields as computer science, education, logistics, operations and forestry.

Twelve students attend Alpine First Baptist, but the majority do not regularly participate in any type of worship service outside the school’s chapel services.

“Each teacher views their classroom as their mission field,” Willie said. “We have kids growing up in tough homes and we want to provide continued training to be Christ in the classroom. Some of our students may have difficult circumstances they deal with at home, and we can be that person who comes alongside a child and comfort them.”

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ECON from page one

state, nation and world for Christ.

“When I was at Billy Graham’s funeral, the big question was, ‘Who’s the next Billy Graham,’” Strobel told the *Baptist Message*. “I don’t think it’s just one person -- I believe it’s millions of contagious Christians who are equipped, motivated,

See ECON, page 9



<p>LOUISIANA BAPTIST MESSAGE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Will Hall, Editor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STAFF</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Philip Timothy Managing Editor</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Rhonda Havens Advertising Director</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Brian Blackwell Staff Writer</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">JoAnne Timothy Office Manager</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Board of Trustees:</p> <p>Steve Arledge, Jeremy Blocker, Larry Evans, James Hester, Les Colvin Jeff Coleman, Lonnie Gothrup, David Cranford, Mike Evans, Carolyn Grigg, Jimmy Watson, Dale Goodman.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ADVERTISING</p> <p>Display [boxed] and classified [words only] advertising must be in writing, and may be submitted by email, U.S. mail or fax.</p> <p>To the best of our knowledge, all ads in the <i>Louisiana Baptist Message</i> represent legitimate companies and offerings. However, one should always exercise normal business caution in responding to ads.</p> <p>For all your advertising needs contact Rhonda Havens at the <i>Message</i> at 318.449.4351 or 877.234.3832.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Louisiana Baptist Message partners with:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">© Copyright 2022 Baptist Message. All rights reserved</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUBSCRIPTIONS:</p> <p>Individual: \$14/year Group rates available Call the <i>Louisiana Baptist Message</i> at 318.449.4343 or 877.234.3832 Fax: 318-445-8328 editor@baptistmessage.com PO Box 311 Alexandria LA 71309 www.baptistmessage.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHANGE OF ADDRESS</p> <p>Two weeks before change is desired, send new address (with zip code and street address) and mailing label from this copy of the <i>Louisiana Baptist Message</i>. Periodicals postage paid in Alexandria, Louisiana, and additional mailing offices.</p> <p>POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Baptist Message, 1250 MacArthur Drive, PO Box 311, Alexandria LA 71309-0311</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(USPS 042-860) (ISSN 0740-2104)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Published biweekly Thursdays by the <i>Louisiana Baptist Message</i>, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana 71303.</p>
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No
Registration
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Willie
MCLAURIN



Shane
PRUITT



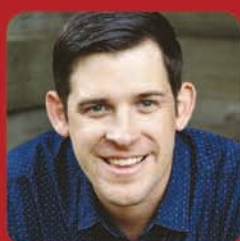
Richard
ROSS



David
EVANS



Steve
BECKHAM



Michael
WOOD



Jason Lovins
BAND



Point of
GRACE



Russ
LEE

Schedule

Monday, 1:30 pm

Jason Lovins, Steve Beckham
Shane Pruitt

Monday, 6:00 pm

Jason Lovins & FBC Covington
Willie McLaurin, Richard Ross

Tuesday, 9:00 am

Jason Lovins, Michael Wood
David Evans

Tuesday, 1:15 pm

Point of Grace, Lee Strobel

3:00 pm Breakout 1

3:50 pm Breakout 2

Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Russ Lee & Jason Lovins
Lee Strobel

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Gill from page one

excited.”

The forty-two-year-old former missionary with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention was chosen to become the new Women’s Missions and Ministry strategist on Dec. 22 and began her ministry with the Louisiana Baptist Convention on Jan. 1, 2022.

“I spoke with WMU leaders across the state and asked them to describe what attributes they would like to see in the next strategist,” said John Hebert, director of Missions and Ministry for Louisiana Baptists. “Using their input, we interviewed some worthy candidates, but Christine met all the requirements they requested.”

There was one last detail Hebert attended to before completing the hire.

Gill’s husband, Brad, is the newly hired Baptist

Collegiate Ministry director with Louisiana Christian University, and so he sought agreement among Louisiana Baptist Convention staff leaders about hiring the spouse of another employee. The administrative council was unanimous in their support.

Gill grew up in Mansfield, Louisiana and attended the First Baptist Church, Mansfield, where her dad was the music minister. She said that growing up in that Southern Baptist congregation helped to prepare her for the job, because she was able to participate in Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Acteens, and Women’s Missionary Union.

She graduated from Mansfield High School, and then in 2001 earned bachelor’s degrees in psychology and history from Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

“To learn about missions is great but to be able to actually go and do missions gave me a whole different perspective,” said Gill.

Following her studies at Baylor, she was commissioned as an IMB journeyman and served, 2003-2005, in Francistown, Botswana. She dedicated her time in Africa to sharing the love of Christ with young people while educating them about HIV/AIDS prevention.

During her three years in Botswana, she worked with a team to develop and teach a government-approved curriculum within four middle schools in Francistown. She also provided counseling to her students.

Upon returning from overseas, she enrolled at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (2006) to pursue a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling. While working towards her degree, she joined Metairie Baptist

Church, where she taught GA’s and was involved in the Women’s Ministry.

Gill completed her master’s degree from NOBTS in 2009 and completed the requirements to become a licensed professional counselor in 2012. Since then, she has worked in the mental health field in a variety of settings.

“My getting this job has God’s handwriting all over it,” said Gill. “I really wasn’t sure I would get it because I have been doing secular work for the past 11 years. I guess He has been preparing me for this day all this time.”

She married Brad Gill in 2013 and joined First Baptist Church, Lafayette, where Brad was on staff from 2006 until December 2021. While there, she was involved in a variety of ministries, including leading Acteens, singing in the choir and teaching Sunday school to college, high school and middle school students.

The couple also led mis-

sion trips to India, South Africa and Botswana.

“It is one of my passions,” said Gill. “Missions and women’s ministry has a special place in my heart and always will. I firmly believe the women who teach and lead the youth are the backbone of our mission effort in Southern Baptist churches. They are the ones that lay the foundation and nurture it.”

“I would like to get younger women involved while also building on our strengths which is mission education and training, the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong giving. I have a lot to do so I will be leaning heavily on Janie getting started.”

“Because she has such a strong background and will be able to bridge the two groups,” said Hebert, “she will do fine. She is a great hire and I think she is going to do a tremendous job leading the WMU for a long time to come.”



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SHANNON KENDRICK
Regional Alliance Director-ADF Church & Ministry Alliance



February 22nd, 2022
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2021 LIFE MARCHES

Southwest

LAKE CHARLES
FRIDAY, JAN. 22, 2021
6PM-8PM

South

BATON ROUGE
SATURDAY, JAN. 23, 2021
10AM-NOON

Northwest

SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER
SATURDAY, JAN. 23, 2021
10AM-NOON

Northeast

WEST MONROE-MONROE
SUNDAY, JAN. 24, 2021
2PM-4PM

Cenla

PINEVILLE-ALEXANDRIA
SATURDAY, JAN. 30, 2021
10AM-NOON



LaLifeMarch.com 1.866.463.LIFE

Events will follow all
State Covid-19 Guidelines.

'Shepherd's Rest' ministry offers encouragement to pastors

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist Pastoral Leadership Director Ray Swift announced that resources are available for ministers who need someone to lean on.



Ray Swift

Swift said the Convention's 'Shepherd's Rest' ministry provides support for a pastor to take a brief sabbatical (up to four Sundays) with the assurance that the church where he serves will have pastoral oversight. This ministry is provided at no cost to the pastor or congregation.

"Pastors should know they don't have to face it alone," Swift told the Baptist Message. "The reality is every pastor, every church, is facing similar distractions, difficulties and problems. The best resource we have is to reach out to one another

and speak to another pastor and engage in guidance from the LBC. Most of all we have God. His promise is He is going to build the church and no pandemic or hurricane can stop that."

Swift also shared that the Pastoral Leadership

team is available to help congregations seeking a permanent pastor – by providing training for search committees, something he said should be helpful at this time when 257 of 1,611 congregations are without pastors.

For more information about the

'Shepherd's Rest' ministry visit www.louisianabaptists.org/pastoral-leadership/shepherds-rest. Swift also may be contacted at 318.448.3402 or via email ray.swift@louisianabaptists.org.

Life Marches from page one

-- Further east, the Baton Rouge march will begin, 10 a.m., in the grassy area of the Capitol and end in Galvez Plaza on the site of the Old State Capitol building.

-- Meanwhile, the march in Shreveport/Bossier City will start, 9:45 a.m., in the Boardwalk area of Bossier City, crossing over a bridge before ending in Shreve-

port's Festival Plaza.

The next day, pro-life supporters will gather for a march, 1:45 p.m., on the campus of First Baptist Church, West Monroe, and end in Anna Grey Noe Park of Monroe.

Central Louisiana will host the final Life March, Feb. 5, beginning, 10 a.m., on the campus of Louisiana Christian University in Pineville and ending in downtown Alexandria.

The Louisiana Life Marches will feature

pro-life supporters from various denominations and organizations. Louisiana Baptists scheduled to speak are: Tim Keith, senior pastor, Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge march); Congressman Mike Johnson, member, First Baptist Church, Bossier City (Shreveport/Bossier City march); and Brian Gunter, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pollock, and director of outreach for Louisiana

Right to Life (Alexandria/Pineville march).

According to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, preliminary numbers for the state (latest data available) showed that 7,448 abortions were performed in 2020, a decrease from 8,144 reported in 2019.

For more information on the Louisiana Life March, visit the Louisiana Right to Life website or call 866.463.5433.

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Churches celebrate baptisms to end 2021

By **Brian Blackwell**

Message staff writer

LEESVILLE, La. (LBM) – Several Louisiana Baptist churches ended 2021 on high notes with baptismal celebrations.

CANAAN BAPTIST

Vernon Baptist Association Director of Missions Morris Goins experienced the blessing of baptizing a second great-grandchild in 2021.

In a moment shared by family and friends, Goins baptized Beckham Hajighassem, 10, at Canaan Baptist Church, Leesville, Dec. 5. Just two weeks earlier, Goins had the privilege of counseling him after he had accepted Christ.

Goins previously baptized his great-granddaughter, Kaylee Pew, at Canaan Baptist, March 28.

"It's brand new and

fresh with each one I have the honor of baptizing," Goins told the *Baptist Message*. "Next to my own salvation experience, it's the greatest joy I have felt."

Hajighassem's baptism was number 16 for Canaan Baptist in 2021, which averages 135 in Sunday worship service.

Pastor Jason Nolde said the baptism reflects the importance of discipleship.

"Through the many ups and downs the last 24 months, the Lord has continued to bless Canaan and our precious community," Nolde said. "There have been tough times, indeed, but the Lord always shows up and shows out. Seeing Brother Goins have the most wonderful blessing to minister to and baptize another one of his great-grandchildren has been spiritually uplifting to us all. The blessing that Brother Goins has been to me, our church and our

community is priceless."

RESURRECTION FELLOWSHIP

Resurrection Fellowship, Castor, commemorated its one-year anniversary with four baptisms, Dec. 12.

Pastor Max Rasbury said the baptisms were a reminder of God's faithfulness to the church plant, which held its first service at the Castor Community Center, December 2020. Since then, the church has increased attendance to 60 for Sunday worship and has moved to a permanent building.

Members have been faithful to reach their community through personal invitations. Also, in October they hosted a "Trunk or Treat" event that was attended by 300 people.

"It's been a blessing to watch the Lord work and move in a mighty way," Rasbury said. "The growth



Submitted photo

Max Rasbury baptized Brittney Rowell during the one-year anniversary celebration for Resurrection Fellowship, Castor.

has nothing to do with me but God, who has done every bit of this."

Brittney Rowell, who was among those baptized, said the church has helped her grow in her faith and become a better Christ-like example to her three

children.

"The church has meant everything to me," Powell said. "Getting baptized was a very exciting moment to share with my kids," Powell said. "For them to

See **CELEBRATE**, page 10

WHO'S READY FOR A MESS?

Perhaps it's happened to you. You're driving down the interstate and right between the lanes there's an egg crate, then a box and then something even bigger, like a recliner! Someone left a mess on the interstate. Something came untied in the back of the truck and a few things, large and small, came tumbling out for drivers to dodge like a live action game of Mario Kart. What a mess!

If you're a parent, you've probably had a few moments when you came home from work and were greeted by a mess. You saw pizza boxes, toys, gym clothes, empty juice boxes and dirty dishes – everywhere. As you prayed for patience, you felt your blood pressure rising as your inner prosecuting attorney demanded accountability, "who made this mess?" and "who is going to clean up this mess?"

Mess-aversion is a generational issue. Your parents didn't like it when you made a mess and you don't like it when your kids leave a mess.

But the truth is a mess indicates activity. A mess indicates life, in all its aspects. It's evidence that someone was there, that something happened.

Solomon shares some God-given wisdom in Proverbs 14:4 when he says "without oxen a stable stays clean, but you need a strong ox for a large harvest." (NLT)

As I read this chapter, this verse caught my spirit – especially the word harvest. I want to see a harvest – a harvest of souls. We need to see a harvest and better yet, God promises a harvest. Don't miss what it takes for this desire to become reality – a strong ox. A strong ox equals a large harvest.

Let that visual sink in – a strong ox. More than likely this implies the ox is fairly large. An animal of this stature can be temperamental and stubborn. A large ox takes up a lot of space, requires a lot of attention, needs a lot food and yes – leaves a big mess, an unpleasant mess!

However, the question God left in my spirit was, "are we willing to put up with a mess to see a large harvest?" A harvest of this magnitude is going to be messy. The harvest may make a mess of your schedule. A harvest of this nature may make a mess of your finances.

Clean. We like clean. Organized. Everything is where we put it. We can afford clean. There's minimal preparation for clean. But don't miss it – clean equals no oxen. No harvest.

Reaching those far from Christ is often messy. Sin has wrecked their relationships, their finances, their reputations and even their health. Messy people sometimes scare us because we're not sure what to do with them.

But the larger truth is if we are going to see a harvest – the harvest that God promises exists, we will have to get in the middle of messes. Our hands will get dirty. Our schedules will be interrupted. At times it may be unpleasant – even costly. However, we need to remember Jesus is with us and He's the Master over the messes.

A clean stable requires little effort, but a messy one requires constant attention.

A clean stable keeps the people content. A messy stable causes the angels to rejoice.

Watch the news. Check your social media feed. How much longer can we stay in our clean stables and watch the lost pass by?

Where is that big ox? Who's ready for mess?

HereforYou.org
LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

Learn how you can connect with this effort by visiting LouisianaBaptists.org/hereforyou and entering: luke1423.

Grace-driven outreach embraces, mentors unwed mothers, fathers

By Diane Chandler
Baptist Press writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) – Unmarried mother Lila DiBias was afraid and ashamed. She had become pregnant just a month before the COVID-19 pandemic and had not been able to attend church when she needed it most.

Her son John was 7 months old when she returned to Fruit Cove Baptist Church. That is when she learned of Embrace Grace, an international Christian ministry for single women facing unplanned motherhood and single men facing fatherhood.

DiBias found a friend in Fruit Cove's Embrace Grace leader Windy Keene, a married mother who had been single and pregnant decades earlier at 17.

"She changed my life," DiBias said of Keene, "and I truly wouldn't be in the place that I'm in now if it weren't

for her, because she just showed me the grace of God, quite literally.

"The more she learned about me and my situation and my son, the more I learned about her and I realized how passionate she was about this group and helping the girls, and how big of a love for God that she had in wanting to tell us that He just wanted to love us with open arms, not just them and the leaders."

Keene sees a responsibility for the church as a whole in responding to the needs of mothers as well as the unborn.

"As a church we are really great at being anti-abortion. Women are abortion-minded because of life's uncertainties or their situation. When they choose life all of those fears and anxieties come to fruition," Keene said. "As a church we have to make sure that we're coming alongside them. We can't just be pro-life; we have to be pro-love.



Baptist Press photo

Embrace Grace's discipleship groups have helped encourage and mentor single mothers and fathers.

And programs like Embrace Grace help the church to facilitate just that."

Florida ranks fifth among U.S. states with the highest abortion rates, suffering 20.6 abortions per 1,000 women ages 15-44 years old in 2014, according to the Guttmacher Institute. That same year, 17 percent of women receiving abortions described them-

selves as mainline Protestant, 13 percent as evangelical Protestant; 24 percent, Catholic and 38 percent, no religious affiliation, Guttmacher reported.

Christina Crowder, who leads Embrace Grace at Normandy Park Baptist Church in Jacksonville, faced an unplanned pregnancy decades ago while single and 21.

Her church and parents were supportive, Crowder said, but no one assured her of God's faithful love.

"I didn't have what Embrace Grace teaches these young ladies about God's love," Crowder said. "I knew that I was loved, but I guess I wasn't instructed that I was loved even though I was single and pregnant."

Her child's father wanted her to have an abortion, and deserted her when she refused.

"Looking back, I wonder 'Why did I have to go through all this?'" said Crowder, now a widowed mother of two, the oldest her 36-year-old son. "And I think, even 35 years later, 'The Lord is using me to minister to other girls because of what I experienced.' And the ministry is great, it really is."

Embrace Grace co-founder and President Amy Ford understands the plight

See **EMBRACE**, page 12



Thank you to Louisiana Volunteers and other State Convention volunteers. Also thank you to individuals that have given to support DR in southeast Louisiana.

Training Dates and Information:

New Orleans

Jan 28-29, 2022

First Baptist, New Orleans

Baton Rouge

Feb 4-5, 2022

Jefferson Baptist Church

Lake Charles

Feb 18-19, 2022

Trinity Baptist Church

Ruston

February 25-26, 2022

Temple Baptist Church

Denville

March 4-5, 2022

Philadelphia Baptist Church

LouisianaBaptists.org/drtraining

Construction volunteers needed for projects in 2022

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Mike Shumock has issued an urgent call for volunteers to help remodel several Louisiana Baptist churches.

Shumock, the Mission Builder strategist for Louisiana Baptists, said all projects scheduled for 2022 originally were to take place in 2020 and 2021. However, multiple hurricanes, the COVID-19 pandemic and rising construction costs forced delays.

Now, he said, the ministry is playing “catch up” and needs some Kingdom-minded people for the tasks ahead.

“I need churches and associations who will step up and commission skilled workers to come and help these churches with their facilities,” Shumock told the *Baptist Message*. “Everyone has something to offer, whether they are skilled or have just very basic knowledge of construction. We need people in churches that are willing to say we have skills, and these are God’s

gifts to be able to utilize His glory for Kingdom work.”

JANUARY

-- The FBC Avondale campus sustained heavy damage from Hurricane Ida in August and there is a critical need to reroof the 10,000-sq.-ft. main facility.

-- Ban Suk Korean Baptist needs help to demolish its old worship center and fellowship hall to make way for a new 8,000-sq.-ft. multi-purpose center.

-- Volunteers also are

needed immediately to frame the second floor and to compete electrical work at Pine Ridge Baptist Church in Melder. In mid-June more workers will be needed to install insulation, sheet-rock and flooring inside the 27,000-sq.-ft. multi-purpose facility.

MARCH

-- The worship center at Marlow Baptist was destroyed by a tornado in 2019 and work has begun to rebuild the structure. A team from Virginia will frame

the walls of the building but other volunteers are needed to complete electrical work and install insulation and dry wall.

-- Immanuel Community Church is constructing a 10,000-sq.-ft. multi-purpose facility. Teams are needed to frame the building, complete the roof and work in other phases of construction as the project moves forward.

Groups interested in bringing a team to work on any of these projects should contact Mike Shumock at 225.975.0848.

ECON from page 2

and deployed to share the Good News far and wide. That’s why this conference is so important. How can churches encourage and train their congregations to be stronger salt and brighter light in our increasingly skeptical culture? This conference is a strategic opportunity to offer ideas and proven approaches.”

Strobel originally went on a search to disprove Christianity but instead found a relationship with Jesus on Nov. 8, 1981. He said apologetics is an important evangelistic approach Christ followers can use.

“Evangelism is ever-more important today, but so is apologetics, or offering

reasons for why we believe what we believe,” he continued. “My friend J. Warner Wallace, an atheist detective who came to Christ after his investigation of the Gospels, went so far as to say, ‘evangelism in the 21st Century is spelled apologetics.’ I think he’s on the right track. We need to help people know why we believe that Jesus is the unique Son of God. That’s going to be vitally important as we face a nation and world that are skeptical and sometimes even hostile toward our faith.”

The first two sessions on Jan. 24 will feature Steve Beckham, pastor at First Community Antioch Baptist Church, Litcher, and mis-

sion strategist for Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge; Shane Pruitt, national NextGen evangelism director for the North American Mission Board; Willie McLaurin, vice president for Great Commission relations and mobilization for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, and Richard Ross, professor of student ministry at South-

western Baptist Theological Seminary.

The final day of ECON will feature Michael Wood, pastor at First Baptist Church, West Monroe; David Evans, pastor at Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield, Tennessee; and Strobel.

“We are thrilled to be back in Southeast Louisiana,” Louisiana Baptist Evangelism and Church Growth Direc-

tor Keith Manuel said. “It is a perfect time to encourage evangelism, especially with all the tremendous work our churches continue to do since the hurricane. We are praying that the Lord will use this event to refresh and reinvigorate our wonderful congregations and pastors from all parts of the state after this long season of ministry and rebuilding.”

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FBC members 'geaux' on mission in Zachary

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ZACHARY, La. (LBM) – More than 100 members of First Baptist Church, Zachary, recently celebrated baptisms and then ventured into the community to share Christ.

During "Geaux Sunday," Dec. 12, four teams planted Gospel seeds in homes neighboring the church.

The first team delivered 100 bags that included a coffee shop gift card and an invitation to attend

various Christmas activities, another reconnected with 50 families who had not attended the church in 12 months, the third team wrote encouraging cards that were mailed to individuals in Zachary and the final team prayed for the effort that took place.

Before venturing into the community, the church celebrated the baptism of four new converts and observed the Lord's Supper.

Jake Roudkovski, interim pastor since late October and a professor

with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said the day was fruitful because members stepped outside the four walls of the church and shared the love of Christ with their neighbors.

"God favored our efforts when we intentionally decided to go to the community," Roudkovski said. "Going is part of the Great Commission. When we go, good things happen in the church and in our lives."

"I commend the people at First Baptist Zachary that they were not willing to just wait for God to move only when a new senior pastor was called," he continued. "They refused to press the pause button but instead decided they would 'ramp it up' for Jesus."

Colby Rimes, facilities manager and minister to college students at FBC Zachary, said so many



Submitted photo

Four teams from First Baptist Church, Zachary, mobilized into the community and planted Gospel seeds Dec. 12.

members embraced the opportunity to engage with their community and subsequently received a blessing.

"Our emphasis was centered around several core components of outreach

to our community," Rimes said. "We engaged with our community and our truly family was blessed for not only those whom we reached but also from those who participated in this special day."



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

Celebrate from page 7

be there and see that is a memory we all will share for many years to come."

REDEEMED LIFE FELLOWSHIP

Ryleigh Young, 10, celebrated her physical birthday and spiritual rebirth during a special baptism service, Dec. 5, at Redeemed Life Fellowship, Patterson.

Young, who became the first member of Redeemed Life Fellowship to stir the baptistery waters, accepted Christ in the summer. However, her family chose to delay the baptism until December because of COVID safety concerns. Her mother, Jessica, credits Sunday school and family discipleship for planting the crucial Gospel seeds that eventual yielded a precious spiritual harvest.

"After she gave her life to Christ, we noticed a difference in her obedience and respect," Jessica Young said. "It's gradually gotten better too. She also apologizes now when she's wrong, so the Lord has definitely humbled her in some ways."

Pastor Ronnie Mabile said that two of Ryleigh's friends who witnessed the baptism have expressed interest in how they too can accept Christ.

"It's a testament," Mabile said. "The Bible talks about baptism being a believer's first public profession of faith. Public baptism is so important because this



Submitted photo

Ronnie Mabile baptized Ryleigh Young, Dec. 5, at Redeemed Life Fellowship, Patterson.

act of obedience can allow the Holy Spirit to move in the heart of others."

The church, which averages 30 for Sunday worship, has been active in outreach to the community since they began meeting Easter Sunday last year. Their ministry efforts have included providing 130 meals twice a month as part of a city-wide community outreach to seniors; participating in the city Christmas parade; and hosting an outreach in the city park that featured music, the Christmas story and hot chocolate.

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Fauci to MSNBC: Don't rely on 'hospitalization' numbers

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

NEW YORK (LBM)-During a broadcast interview, Dec. 29, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Chief Medical Advisor to President Joe Biden, addressed the troubling number of children who have been hospitalized during the recent spike associated with the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

Fauci, who has served under seven presidents as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, cautioned MSNBC host Ayman Mohyeldin that there were two factors contributing to the rising numbers among children.

"Quantitatively, you're having so many more people, including children, who are getting infected," Fauci said. Additionally, hospitals are "overcounting the number of children who are hospitalized 'with COVID' as opposed to 'because of COVID.'"

On his first point, Fauci explained that "hospitalization among children is much, much lower on a percentage basis than hospitalizations for adults, particularly elderly individuals." But he offered that with such a large volume of infections among children, "even with a low level of rate of infection, you're going to still see a lot more children who get hospitalized."

Following up on his second point, Fauci offered that "if a child goes in the hospital, they automatically get tested for COVID, and they get counted as a

CULTURALNEWS

COVID-hospitalized individual when in fact they may go in for a broken leg or appendicitis or something like that."

Fauci's concerns about the skewed numbers are evident in both state and national data for deaths caused by COVID-19 and its variants. In the United States, for 2020 and 2021 combined there were 678 coronavirus-related deaths among children (0-17 years old). This compares to 66,234 deaths from all causes for that age group, meaning COVID-19 was the cause of 1 percent of all deaths among children for the two-year period. Meanwhile, for all age groups combined there were 814,806 deaths attributed to COVID-19.

In Louisiana, during the 22-month pandemic, 18 children have died from COVID-19 complications, according to the Louisiana Department of Health (compared to 15,001 COVID-19 deaths for all ages combined).

Two governors of large states also have expressed concerns about overcounting the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations and are taking action to get a more reliable count for all age groups to help understand the actual impact the COVID-19 Omicron variant.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul (D) announced Jan. 3 her plans to reduce uncertainty about COVID-19 data for her

state.

"We don't have clear data right now," she said, adding that she had conducted random calls to hospitals to confirm her suspicions about overcounting of COVID-19 patients. "Beginning tomorrow, we're going to be asking all hospitals to break out for us how many people are being hospitalized because of COVID symptoms [and] how many people ... happen to be testing positive, just while they're in there for other treatments."

Meanwhile, the same day, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (R) lauded the Jackson Health System in Miami for their precision in recording patient COVID-19 data and urged all hospitals to do likewise. He said the facility took care to differentiate between patients who are admitted because of the pandemic and others who might happen to test positive while there for other reasons, noting that "about half of their COVID-positive patients within their system were not being treated for COVID."

"Looking to see who is being admitted 'for' COVID versus who may be admitted 'with' COVID is going to be important to really chart the severity of what we're seeing," DeSantis said.

U.S. military purges Christians

WASHINGTON (LBM)—The United States Department of Defense has begun discharging military personnel after denying every vaccine religious exemption request to date.

As of Dec. 29, 2021, there were 18,548 combined religious exemption requests among active-duty forces in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy. None had been approved, although some cases are pending.

Meanwhile, the Marine Corps already has discharged 206 of those who made religious exemption requests and the Air Force



USA.GOV photo

A federal judge in Texas recently issued a preliminary injunction against the vaccine mandate in a lawsuit brought by members of the U.S. Navy.

has separated 27 airmen. Both the Army and Navy have said they will wait until January to begin proceedings against those who have been denied a religious exemption to the vaccine mandate.

Now, a federal judge in Texas has issued a preliminary injunction against the vaccine mandate in a lawsuit brought by elite members of the U.S. Navy.

U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor, with the Northern District of Texas in Fort Worth, ruled, Jan. 3, that the DoD has violated the sailors' constitutional right to refuse the vaccine based on

their religious beliefs.

The plaintiffs are 26 enlisted or chief warrant Navy Sea, Air and Land (SEAL) members, five enlisted special warfare combatant craft crew members, three enlisted Navy divers and an enlisted explosive ordnance disposal technician.

Their complaint states in part that because of "sincerely held religious beliefs regarding life and abortion, multiple plaintiffs are unable to receive any of the COVID-19 vaccines due to what they believe and understand it

See CULTURAL NEWS, page 13



USA.GOV photo

Anthony Fauci, Chief Medical Advisor to President Joe Biden, recently addressed the troubling number of children who have been hospitalized during the recent spike associated with the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

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LOUISIANA BAPTIST
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Embrace

from page 8

of unwed mothers. She has been married 23 years to her "high school sweetheart" Ryan, the father of the child the two considered aborting when Ford was 19.

At that time, abortion seemed a quick fix. She scheduled the abortion, went to the clinic and paid for the procedure.

"When I went in and they were telling me how they were going to do the procedure I ended up hyperventilating and passing out in the abortion room," Ford said. "And when I came to, the nurses were fanning me and trying to get me enough water, and one of the nurses said, 'You're too emotionally distraught to make this decision today. You can come back another day, but today you are not getting an abortion.'"

She and Ryan decided to keep their son, now 23-year-old Jess, and prepared for the disappointment they

expected from their parents.

"We decided to get married because we knew we wanted to get married someday, not necessarily in this order, but we had decided to get married when I was 16 weeks pregnant."

Ryan asked a pastor who earlier led him to the Lord to perform the ceremony, but the pastor refused, citing Ryan's and Amy's sin.

"We were like, 'Oh my gosh, we are such horrible people. We can't even get married and be blessed,'" Amy said, adding that they found another pastor to perform the nuptials. "We got married and it definitely was a beautiful wedding, but I felt like I was wearing a scarlet letter on our wedding day."

Realizing the power of the church, Ford surmised how her experience might have been different had she consulted a church instead of an abortion clinic. What

if she had sought prayer for wisdom, guidance and support from the church, before going to the abortion clinic. After all, she was a weekly worshiper.

"But because of the way the church was structured, plus because no one ever really talked to me about this issue, plus with my own shame," Ford said, "it was the last place I wanted to go."

"We want to change that, and we want the church to be one of the first places a girl runs to in that situation -- instead of the last because of shame and guilt. So, we (she and Ryan) started Embrace Grace."

Two years after the Fords were married, the pastor who had refused to perform their wedding called and apologized, and recemented his mentorship of Ryan. Eventually, he apologized to him -- and to Jess for rejecting him while he was yet in his mother's womb.

Amy calls Embrace Grace a pro-love movement.

"We believe pro-life is a stance, it's a belief system," she said, "but pro-love is the action." Even with the advent of the latest abortion legislation in Texas that prevents abortions past six weeks of incubation, Ford said, many churches have done nothing to help mothers who may now carry their babies to term unless they seek procedures out-of-state.

"As the church, we have to not only vote a certain way," she said, "we have to be the church in this situ-

ation and welcome these girls in, and say we're going to walk with you, and no single mom should have to walk alone."

DiBias describes the unexpected open arms she experienced when she began attending Embrace Grace at Fruit Cove Baptist.

"The welcome arms I was received with was just overwhelming. Going to church and being in the kind of situation that I and the other girls had been in, open arms is not the first thing that really comes to mind," DiBias said. "Windy and the other group leaders that did welcome us with open arms truly were life changers for not just me, but all of us."

"I think more of us would be there if we didn't feel so scared by the church. And I don't believe it should be that way; it is, unfortunately, because you can't control what people are going to think or what they're going to say. That in itself is probably the biggest fear for pregnant girls, in a relationship or out of a relationship."

Women learn of Embrace Grace support groups through the Love Boxes the ministry leaves at pregnancy care centers for patients. Some receive word-of-mouth referrals.

At least 454 pregnancy care centers have participated since Embrace Grace was founded and have distributed the boxes featuring a letter of hope, a journal and such gifts as baby onesies and a motivational book featuring testimonies from

single mothers.

Many are benefitting from and mentoring others through Embrace Grace, a ministry with nearly 700 support groups in 49 states and 10 international countries. Embrace Legacy, the support groups launched in March for men, has about 40 groups in the U.S., according to the Embrace Grace website.

The ministry is designed for easy implementation in churches of various denominations. Ford is a member of Gateway Church, the nondenominational megachurch founded by Robert Morris in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

To start a group, pastors sign an agreement form to conduct the ministry at church. Embrace Grace sends the curriculum and digital training. The only costs to churches are printed materials and class accessories, with costs averaging \$30 per participant in the average class size of 5. If churches are unable to cover the costs, materials are provided at no charge.

"We wanted to make it as simple as possible administratively, so that each leader can have the most time to build relationships with these moms," Ford said. "It's a really powerful curriculum. It's not over their heads, but yet, we know that there's healing that's happening in their hearts, and changing the way they think, and helping them know about God's Word, and even their identity and their value and their worth in Jesus."

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Cultural News from page 11

is a connection between these vaccines and their testing, development, or production using aborted fetal stem cell lines.”

According to the Louisiana Department of Health, the mRNA vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna do not contain fetal cells. However, during the early development phase of mRNA vaccine technology, “fetal cells were used in a ‘proof of concept’ (to demonstrate how a cell could take up mRNA and produce the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein) or to characterize the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.”

In his 26-page order, Judge O'Connor, a George W. Bush appointee, declared “there is no military exclusion from our Constitution.” Additionally, he described the Navy’s religious accommodation process as “theater.”

“The Navy has not granted a religious exemption to any vaccine in recent memory,” he said. “It merely rubber stamps each denial.”

In April 2020, the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission joined the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and 19 other

pro-life religious, medical, and political organizations to ask the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ensure “Americans have access to a vaccine that is produced ethically,” adding “no American should be forced to choose between being vaccinated against this potentially deadly virus and violating his or her conscience.”

“[W]e urgently and respectfully implore you to not only ensure that Americans will have access to a COVID vaccine that is free of ethical concerns, but to encourage and incentivize pharmaceutical companies to use only ethical cell lines or processes for producing vaccines.

However, none of the \$10 billion dedicated to Operation Warp Speed and the development of COVID-19 vaccines was designated to provide a 100 percent pro-life ethical option.

There are approximately 1.3 million active-duty military members, and for the entirety of the 2020-2021 pandemic there were 82 COVID-19 related deaths among them (compared with 814,806 COVID-19 deaths for the whole nation).

Vision 2030 from page one

BOLD VISION

Corley hopes “Multiply Louisiana Vision 2030” eclipses the results of the most recent church planting strategy undertaken by Louisiana Baptists: from 2010-2020, 284 new churches were planted; but even more importantly, those congregations reported 15,000 new commitments to Christ.

He is hopeful that more than 25,000 new commitments will result from the new plan.

“What excites me are the lives changed through efforts like this,” Corley told the *Baptist Message*. “There has been some significant evangelistic momentum in these last

10 years, and we want to see that continue.”

John Hebert, Louisiana Baptist missions and ministry team director, added that Louisiana is one of three Southern states with fewer than 2,000 member churches. He feels “Multiply Louisiana Vision 2030” could help the Louisiana Baptist Convention reach that number in 10 years.

“We feel to have adequate coverage of the Gospel in our state, we have to get to 2,000 churches in our state convention,” Hebert said. “We must continue to plant churches, revitalize churches in decline and reopen at least half of the churches that close each year.”



USA.GOV photo

During the first year of Joe Biden’s presidency, 40 circuit and district court judges were confirmed, the most since Ronald Reagan was president.

Biden’s 2021 judicial appointments outpaced Trump, Obama, Clinton and Bushes

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The White House released a statement celebrating President Biden’s success in appointing federal judges during his first year in office.

In 2021, “40 circuit and district court judges were confirmed – the most since Ronald Reagan

was president,” the press release noted, adding that another 35 nominees have been announced although not acted upon by the U.S. Senate. “Eighty percent of those confirmed judges are women, with 53 percent being people of color.”

The announcement

comes amid controversy about the claimed conservative makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court and former President Donald J. Trump’s remaking of the federal benches following the eight-year term of former President Barack Obama.

When Obama took office, there was only one liberal bench among the 13 U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal, but when he left there were nine Democratic majority appointed courts. He also appointed two judges to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Trump was successful in appointing three judges to the Supreme Court and also shifted three federal appeals courts from a Democrat majority of appointments, so that seven of 13 were conservative leaning. He also nearly flipped the liberal 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, falling just two nominations shy of a majority of Republican appointments.

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ON THE MOVE

■ **Jack West** will be retiring as pastor of Holloway Baptist Church on January 23 after 37 years. Following the 11 a.m. worship service, everyone is invited to dinner on the grounds and for the reception honoring West for his 37 years of service. The dinner and reception will take place at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to share their stories and their memories on this special day according to the church.

■ **Randy, wife Chelby, Ziegler** is the new pastor at South Bossier Baptist Church, Bossier City.

■ **Greg Gill** is the new pastor at Hopewell Baptist Church, DeRidder.

■ **John, wife Kelsey, Prose** is the new pastor at Mooringsport Baptist Church, Mooringsport.

■ **Chris Wales** is the interim pastor at First Baptist Church, Carlyss.

■ **Jerry Masters** is the interim pastor at Red River Baptist Church, Benton.

■ **Brad, wife Christine, Gill** is the new Louisiana Christian University Baptist Collegiate Ministry director. **Christine** is the new Women's Mission & Ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists.

■ **Corey Fontan** resigns as pastor at Mandeville First Baptist Church,

Mandeville to take pastorate at First Baptist Church, Union, Mississippi.

■ **Adam, wife Holly, Hughes** is the interim pastor at Mandeville First Baptist Church, Mandeville.

■ **Bryanna Iles** is the new children's minister at Mandeville First Baptist Church, Mandeville.

■ **Tina Angoluan** is the new ULM Baptist Collegiate Ministry associate director.

■ **Cory, wife Kayla, Barnes** is the new discipleship pastor at First Baptist Church, New Orleans.

■ First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Pastor's 20-Year Anniversary Celebration**, January 22-23. Ladies are invited to a "come and go" reception for Andrea Spinney on Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The men are invited to the Family Life Center from 5-7 p.m. for a **steak night with Dr. Johnny Hunt** to honor Pastor Gevan Spinney. This is a limited seating event, so please RSVP to whitney@fbchaughton.org, if you would like to attend. Sunday we will celebrate as one church family with one service at 10:30 a.m. Speaker: **Johnny Hunt**. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.

■ **Chase, wife Rachel, Sanders** is the new college minister at First Baptist Church, Ruston.

■ **A.F. Ott, Jr.** is available for supply, revivals, homecomings, short interim pastorates in West Central Louisiana. To reach him call 337.789.0514.

REVIVAL

■ Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: **Friend Day**, January 16, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Steve Kelly.

■ Elizabeth Memorial Baptist Church, Branch: **Revival**, January 16-



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19, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday through Wednesday, 6 p.m. nightly. There will be dinner on the grounds after the worship service Sunday. Evangelist: **Mac Cockrell from Life Action Ministries**. Worship: **The Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor: Micah Collins

■ First Baptist Church, Columbia: **Life Action Refuel Conference**, January 16-19. Sunday, January 16, 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Monday, January 17, 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, January 18, 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday, January 19, 6:30 p.m. There will be Christ-exalting worship and Bible-centered teaching sessions each night. Evangelists: **Members of the Life Action Red Team**. Pastor: Eric Harriman.

■ First Baptist Church, Haynesville: **Revival**, January 30-February 2, 6

p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Worship: **Mark Lanier**. Pastor: Jeff Tinsley.

LAGNIAPPE

■ Bayou Rouge Baptist Church, Evergreen: **Furniture for sale. 22 15-foot long pews (light maple in color) padded back and seat; matching Lord's Supper table; matching pulpit; two matching flower stands and two matching pulpit pews.** If interested, please contact David Townsend at 337.945.3866, if no answer leave your number and he will call you back or Sam Pearce at 318.346.2166. To see the pews or to come pick them up call for an appointment. The church is located 100 Church St., Evergreen, LA 71333.

■ Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: **Associational Wild Game Supper event**, January 15. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Steven Kelly.

■ Main Street Baptist Church & Mission, Pineville: **Community Breakfast Fellowship**, January 16, 9 a.m. Speaker: **Jacob Crawford, CityLife NOLA**. Breakfast will be at 9 a.m. with a Q&A time for Jacob. Pastor: Sam West.

■ Airline Baptist Church, Bossier: **Students One WKND Winter Camp 2022**, January 21-23, 6 p.m. at Camp Bethany. Speaker: **Derek Griffon**. Worship: **Jason Lovins Band**. Register at www.airlinebaptist.com/events. Pastor: Terry Young.

■ Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold: **Celebrate the Harvest sportsmen event in Hall Summit**. January 29. **Personal Evangelism Training**, January 30. Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor: James Hester.

■ Magnolia Baptist Church, Saline: **Mark Lanier in concert**, January 30, 6 p.m. Pastor: Duane Moreno.

■ Woodridge Baptist Church, Shreveport: **7th annual Call to Prayer by the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association**, January 30, 6 p.m. DOM: Lane Moore, Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association.

■ Jamestown Baptist Church, Jamestown: **Wild Game supper event**, February 5. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Stan Foster.

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.

XMKJGMV, HE SMPIQMZ SJMWXJMV, XKWX VIW NIZ

LXIBMV WXM UIIJ IYWXFB DIJPZ JFLX FVYKFWX, KVZ XMFJB IY

WXM GFVNZIH DXFLX XM XKWX UJIHFBMZ WI WXMH WXKW

PIQM XFH?

OKHMB WDI:YFQM

Clues:
X = H; M = E

Answer to December 16 Scripture Crypto:
Second Timothy three: fifteen



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Eola Baptist Church near Bunkie, LA is seeking a music minister. Send résumé to
EOLA.Pastor@gmail.com
or call Pastor Bryan Canup 318.268.9953.

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Mt. Olive Baptist Association is seeking a part-time Director of Missions. Mail résumés to the DOM Search Committee
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Houston River Baptists Church in Sulphur, La. Seeks a full time student minister. Send resumes to:
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Mail: 110 W. Houston River Rd. Sulphur, La 70663
Description: Be an advocate for youth and young adults and educate the youth about the hopes, concerns and the needs of the youth in the church.

HOUSTON RIVER BAPTISTS CHURCH Sulphur, LA Seeks a Full Time Worship Minister
Applicants must be capable of leading multiple styles of worship
SEND RESUMES TO:
Email: Search CommitteeHRBC2021@gmail.com
Mail: 110 W. Houston River Rd. Sulphur, LA 70663
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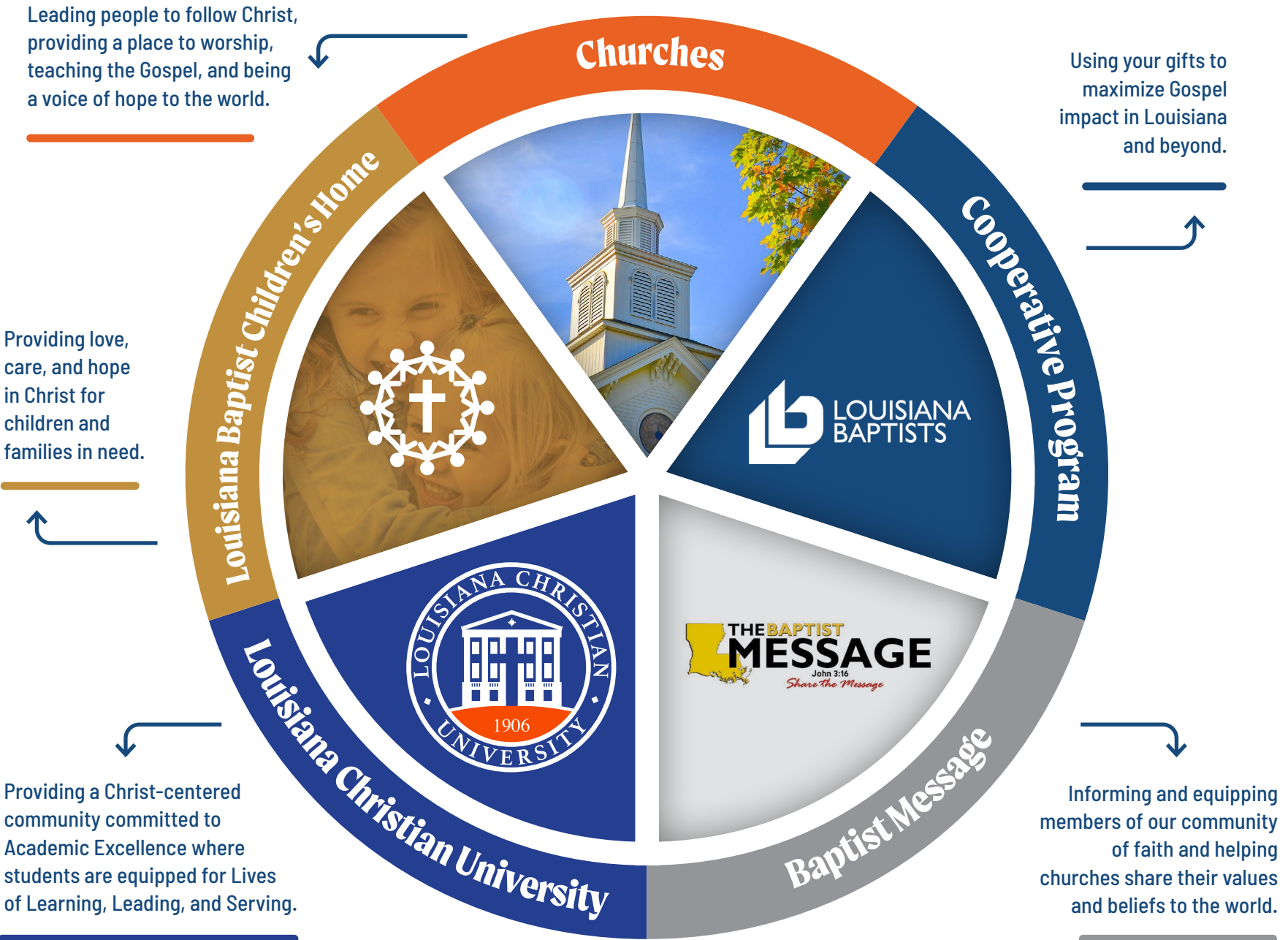
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