



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

February 24, 2022

Volume 137 • Issue No. 3

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First Kenner congregation gives big to fix Ida damage

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

KENNER, La. (LBM) – Members of First Baptist Church, Kenner, recently accepted a God-sized challenge and raised, in one day, much of the \$450,000 deductible needed to repair the worship center damaged by Hurricane Ida.

By the end of the Dec. 12 worship service, members had raised \$367,361 that, when combined with another \$80,000 given from the New Orleans Baptist Association and Louisiana Baptist Convention, provided enough to begin renovations.

Interim Pastor Reggie Ogea, who also is a professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said he was amazed that 71 families stepped out in faith and committed to help their church rebuild.

"I am still astounded, and the folks are, too," Ogea told the *Baptist Message*. "When you consider that many of our families were still struggling themselves to make repairs to their own homes after Ida, they truly gave sacrificially. They have a strong sense that God is about to do something."

TRANSITION TIME

FBC Kenner has been in

See KENNER, page 19



Executive Pastor Jerry Medlin baptized Everett Dilmore.



Minister of Education Scott McKenzie baptized Akeem Rhine during a special baptism service Feb. 9 at First Baptist Church, Lafayette.



Submitted photo

Minister of Music and Worship Frank Reeve baptized Joyce Johnson.

A MIGHTY MOVEMENT OF GOD

First Lafayette prayed for revival, 56 baptized!

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

LAFAYETTE, La. (LBM) – Pastor James Pritchard knew God could do something miraculous when he

scheduled a four-day revival for February, but was amazed, nonetheless, when 56 baptisms took place during the final night of the revival meeting at First Baptist Church, Lafayette.

A crowd of more than 900 cheered as individuals from 6 to 95 years old stepped either into a horse trough or the baptistery inside the worship center to symbolize death,

burial and resurrection with Christ, Feb. 9.

"What happened was the answered prayer of what we hoped the Lord would do," Pritchard told the *Baptist Message*. "When He showed up like that, all we could say was 'God showed up, look what God did!'"

See MOVEMENT, page 4

Parents warned... Local youth saved from sex-trafficking scheme

By Craig Franklin
Baptist Message special

JONESVILLE, La. (LBM)-- When 19-year-old Daniel Bordelon of Jonesville, Louisiana, agreed to travel to Ohio with two men he had met in an internet chat room, he had no idea what was awaiting him.

But his father, Emile

Bordelon, a Louisiana Baptist pastor, did, and he launched a rescue mission for his son from what the elder Bordelon described as a "sex-trafficking abduction."

The rescue, which the elder Bordelon described as miraculous, began on Feb. 8, when a text from Daniel to his mother, Cindy, revealed he was riding in a vehicle to Alexandria along LA 28 bound for the Alexandria International Airport with two men, and that he was scared.

Upon learning of his son's situation, Bordelon, pastor of Clayton Baptist Church, Clayton, and owner of Emile Bordelon Transport, Jonesville, im-



Craig Franklin photo

Only quick action by Pastor Emile Bordelon (left), his wife Cindy, and local law enforcement prevented his 19-year-old son Daniel (right) from becoming a victim in a sex-trafficking scheme.

mediately took to social media to call upon everyone to pray for his son. He also contacted Catahoula Parish Sheriff Toney Edwards who launched law

enforcement efforts in the rescue operation.

Hours later, Bordelon believes, a miracle oc-

See SEX TRAFFICKING, page 3

Mission Builder's Shumock to retire

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – For the last five years, Mike Shumock has helped restore numerous Louisiana Baptist churches

as Gospel mission centers by leading the rebuild or repair of their facilities. Shumock is set to retire Feb. 28 as the mission builder strategist for Louisiana Baptists, but his calling to help churches with construction projects

is far from over. "I realize God gifts everyone," Shumock told the *Baptist Message*. "God gifted me to build and use my hands and come alongside and work with people in need. It's satisfying to know without a doubt people who needed help rebuilding were able to fulfill that through the efforts of myself and so many volunteers who had a common love and that is to help others in Jesus' name."

CALLED

Shumock's journey began in 1974 at Wade Baptist Church, Moss Point, Mississippi, when he realized he was a sinner and needed to surrender his life to Jesus. A year later, he accepted the call to



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Baptist Mission Builder Strategist Mike Shumock goes over architectural plans with Mission Builder Founder Ed Jelks at Marlow Baptist Church.

ministry and became the church's youth minister.

For the next four decades, Shumock combined his passion for construction with a love for ministry.

Shumock worked for several construction companies in the early 1980s, before he pastored

his first church, Valley View Church, Eagle River, Alaska (1984-1990). He also served as pastor of two other churches: Bellevue Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi (1990-2002), and East Fork Baptist Church, Kentwood (2009-2016).

During his time at the three churches, Shumock oversaw their respective building projects: adding a worship center and education wing at Bellevue Baptist; remodeling the fellowship hall and kitchen at Bellevue Baptist; and renovating the worship center and fellowship hall at East Fork Baptist.

In August 2016, Shumock received a request from Louisiana Baptist Missions and Ministries Director John Hebert to recruit volunteers to rebuild churches and pastors' homes that had sustained significant damage from a historic flood in southern Louisiana.

As much as two feet of rain fell within 48 hours on parts of East Baton Rouge, Livingston and St. Helena parishes during Aug. 12-13, 2016, in what was

See SHUMOCK, page 19

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By Josh Eubanks

Josh is pastor of Cherry Grove Baptist Church and a freshwater fish biologist who uses observations from creation to illustrate Biblical principles that challenge men to live like Jesus.

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Please send resume to: Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

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SEX TRAFFICKING from page one —

curred, when the plane bound for Ohio from Alexandria was mysteriously delayed, allowing just enough time to catch up with Daniel and bring him safely home.

THE DECEPTION

Although the drama culminated on Feb. 8, the nearly tragic event was set into motion months earlier when Daniel joined a chat room called “Discord.”

“This is how innocent teenagers can easily be caught up in the human trafficking trap,” Emile said. “Like all parents wanting to allow their children to have a little freedom and privacy, we did so without checking on him. We trusted Daniel would use good judgment and we trusted he would rely on the moral values we had taught him.”

Unfortunately, like many teens today, Daniel felt more comfortable finding friends and confiding in them in these chat rooms than talking with his mom or dad. It’s an all-too-familiar trend today.

“‘Discord’ is the chat room that Daniel got into, and he was talking to numerous people,” his dad said. “They tricked him into believing he was living in an abusive environment. He was told he did not have to follow any rules or submit to any disciplinary conduct.

“They told him he shouldn’t have any responsibility and they could offer him a better lifestyle,” said Emile Bordelon.

“These are professional con artists,” he said. “In today’s internet world, teenagers want to be liked and they want as many followers as they can get, and these con artists knew exactly what to say to Daniel to convince him to trust them.”

Bordelon said as time went on, the predators continued to chat with his son, urging him to move to Ohio to live with them, promising a life free from all the rules of his parents.

“After Christmas, they really began to pressure him into moving there with them,” he continued.

“Daniel has been raised to be honest and to believe people are also honest, but he is also gullible and believes what folks tell him.”

According to his dad, the Ohio men promised Daniel a house to live in and even sent him a picture as proof. They offered him an allowance and a life

where he could play video games all day long with no responsibilities. They even told Daniel he could bring his two pet cats with him. The invitation was so alluring Daniel finally agreed.

“So, these men flew to Alexandria on that Tuesday, purchased return flight tickets for themselves and Daniel, rented a car at the airport, and drove to T-Town (a small

gas station named Texaco Town near the intersection of LA 28 and US 84 close to the LaSalle/Catahoula parish line) where Daniel met them,” his dad said. “They even brought along two pet taxis to place his cats in so he would feel comfortable.”

THE ‘ABDUCTION’

Daniel voluntarily got

into the car with the men but as they headed to Alexandria, he became scared and sent a text to his mom.

“He told her he had left his truck at T-Town with the keys locked in it and that’s when we knew something bad was happening,” Emile said. “Cindy notified me, and I quickly went there and found the

See SEX TRAFFICKING, page 17

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A good starting point in considering how to have an impact through our estate is to at least tithe one’s estate to the Kingdom. In other words, leaving at least 10% of one’s estate to churches and ministries that you have invested time and financial resources during your life. After honoring the Lord with part of your estate, consider family members who may be dependent on you or that you simply want to bless. Also, there may be other individuals such as neighbors and others who mean something special that you also want to provide a gift. By having properly established estate plans, we have the privilege to benefit and bless what we have valued in life.

For more information on estate planning, please call the Louisiana Baptist Foundation at 877-523-4636 or email contact@LBFinfo.org.

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Movement from page one

Leslie Hale was among the first to be baptized. During the first revival session, Feb. 6, Hale was convicted of her need to come forward and declare her faith in Christ.

"It was like someone was pushing me forward that morning and I was obedient," Hale said. "Once I came out of the baptismal waters, I felt completely clean. Seeing so many people baptized is something that is hard to describe, and I can't wait to see what the Lord does with all of us who participated in baptism."

PRAYED

Pritchard recognized that for the Holy Spirit to move, the congregation needed to enter focused times of prayer ahead of the revival meetings. During a 40-day period prior to the first revival service, more than 300 members participated in times of prayer and fasting. Pritchard also

led the church in focused prayer moments during Sunday morning and Wednesday evening prayer services in January and February.

And, on the Wednesday evening before the revival, Adult Sunday School classes organized on-campus to hold "cottage prayer meetings."

"We can do all the planning we want to do, and it can come to nothing," Pritchard said. "So, we knew for us to have any type of success we had to be praying. Revival starts with church people and if you don't have that then you can't expect soul winning to take place."

"We put up the sails, but it was up to Him to make the wind blow," he continued. "He honored the work, prayer and faithfulness of the church and brought a great victory. We are basking in the glow of what He did."



Submitted photo

Minister to Students Nick Watts baptized Kelsie Hughes, 94, during the final night of a four-day revival at First Baptist Church, Lafayette. The church baptized 56 new converts Feb. 9.

REVIVED

Each night of the revival featured messages by evangelist Ronnie Hill of Fort Worth, Texas, and there was a dedicated focus: high attendance on Sunday for Bible study (888 attended, the most since before March 2020), student night on Monday, family night on Tuesday and steak night on

Wednesday.

Pritchard said his members became more excited as each night passed and believes the best is yet to come for his faithful congregation.

"The revival was successful because it got our people praying, serving and inviting lost friends to church," Pritchard said. "And it got our people excited about

the Great Commission. The week of revival really was 'the cherry on top' because, while preparing for the revival, the Lord changed the hearts of our people, and that resulted in the renewal of our church. What a revival does to a church -- it says 'If God can do this, what's next? What else can He do and what else can we try?'"

God used you to spread His truth across Louisiana in 2021 via *Here for You*. Here's a glimpse of some of the fruit:

Covered more than 90% of TV Households	Reached an averaged of 134,455 each month via social media	Reached an additional 34,756 people, each month, via streaming services	4,648 views of the Gospel presentation	1,013 indicated decisions for Christ	Pray God will provide an even greater harvest in 2022!
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Visit LouisianaBaptists.org/hereforyou, enter: luke1423 and discover how God can use you to connect people to the Gospel and the church via *Here for You*.

'Roundup' set for starting cowboy churches, ministries

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ZACHARY, La. (LBM) – Cross Creek Cowboy Church, Zachary, will host a summit, March 12, for those interested in starting cowboy churches and ministries.

Scheduled from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the event at 21160 Plank Road in Zachary will include fellowship, a barbecue lunch provided by "United by Barbecue"

(a non-profit organization) and messages from speakers: Louis Husser, pastor of Crossgate Church, Robert; Lane Corley, church planting strategist for Louisiana Baptists; Josh Morris, pastor of Cross Creek Cowboy Church; Randy Smith, pastor of Cross Brand Cowboy Church, Loranger; and Phillip Gilliland, church planting catalyst for the American Fellowship of Cowboy Churches.

The summit is sponsored by Crossgate Church and the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

"The main purpose is to encourage those who are either considering planting cowboy churches or those involved in one to receive encouragement and instruction," said Husser, who is co-organizing the summit. "Our vision is to see multiple cowboy churches planted out of this summit. We are praying for a great harvest in the future and believe this summit could help play a key role in making that happen."

Corley echoed the thought. "Our desire is to plant all kinds of churches for all kinds of people in Louisiana," he said. "Cowboy churches and ministries have seen success reaching a population segment with a unique culture and lifestyle."

According to Corley, LBC cowboy churches have baptized 540 new believers across Louisiana since 2015.

"We're not done yet," said Husser, whose church has planted four cowboy churches since 2004. "We are just getting started. The summit will be a great

day of meeting those ready to start a cowboy church and catching onto the vision among the cowboy church culture.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/louisiana-cowboy-church-summit-tickets>

Louisiana women prepare to 'Embrace' their purpose

By Staff
Baptist Message

LAFAYETTE, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist women will be challenged to embrace their God-given mandate to fulfill His purpose during the upcoming Louisiana Baptist women's missions and ministry celebration, March 18-19 at First Baptist Church, Lafayette.

"We want women to boldly accept the opportunities they have on a daily basis to share God's love with others," Louisiana

Baptists Women's Missions and Ministry Strategist Christine Gill told the *Baptist Message*. "We want to equip them to be Gospel-minded by keeping missions at the forefront of their everyday lives."

Embrace kicks off Friday, March 18 at 4 p.m. with check-in, and the evening celebration will begin at 6 p.m. The conference will include messages from Florida-based Bible teacher Courtney Veasey and National Woman's

See EMBRACE, page 7

Summer Camp 2022 Dates

June 13-16	Kids on Mission #1 (1st-6th grade)
June 26-28	IMPACT Camp (7th-12th grade)
June 30-July 2	GRIT (Boys 1st-6th grade)
July 4-7	Bloom (Girls 1st-6th grade)
July 8-9	Pre-Camp (PreK-2nd Grade)
July 11-14	Kids on Mission #2 (1st-6th grade)
July 17-21	Journey Camp (7th-12th grade)

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6 LOUISIANALIFEMARCHES



U.S. Rep. Julia Letlow encouraged national March for Life participants to advocate, pray and fight for life.



Louisiana Life March Central participants held signs as they made their way down Main Street in Pineville.



Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry encouraged participants in the Louisiana Life March Central.



The Louisiana Life March Northeast in Monroe/West Monroe, Jan. 23, drew a crowd of 1,000.

Despite subfreezing temperatures, thousands of Louisiana residents, collectively, came out to march for life in five communities Jan. 22-23 and Feb. 5. Individuals gathered in Baton Rouge (1,000), Monroe/West Monroe (1,000), Shreveport/Bossier City (650), Lake Charles (500) and Pineville (1,500) to show their support for the unborn. Among those at the various marches who encouraged participants to “champion the cause for life” were Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry; Tim Keith, senior pastor, Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge; Congressman Mike Johnson, member, First Baptist Church, Bossier City; and Brian Gunter, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pollock, and director of outreach, Louisiana Right to Life.



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Churches: Apply now for VBS helpers from BCM

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Applications are open for Louisiana Baptist churches who need a team of college students to coordinate their Vacation Bible School this summer.

In its 15th year, GOLA (Go Louisiana) VBS is an emphasis by the Louisiana Baptist Collegiate Ministry that allows college students to serve on teams who spend the

Embrace

from page 5

Missionary Union President Connie Dixon, WMU highlights and annual reports, Bible study, worship, prayer for missionaries, a dessert fellowship, and shopping. Breakout sessions will include such topics as spiritual growth, discipleship, personal development, missions, leadership methods, and family dynamics.

Additionally, the conference will feature two sessions for Hispanic women, which will be taught in Spanish.

Lunch on Saturday, March 19 will be provided by Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers. Embrace is sponsored by Louisiana Baptists' women's missions and ministry team and partially funded by the Cooperative Program.

Register online registration: <https://louisianabaptists.org/event/embrace-womens-conference/> (deadline is March 10). Attend all sessions, including Saturday lunch (\$50); or Saturday only, lunch included (\$40); or Friday only (\$30). A Baptist Nursing Fellowship breakfast (for BNF members and other healthcare professionals) is scheduled for Saturday, 7:15 a.m. (additional \$12). For more information: email WMM@louisianabaptists.org; or call 800.622.6549 (or 318.448.3402).

summer sharing God's love through what is the largest evangelistic outreach of the year for many congregations.

Churches in which the teams conduct a VBS normally have low baptisms and would have trouble coordinating such an event without the help of the GOLA VBS team.

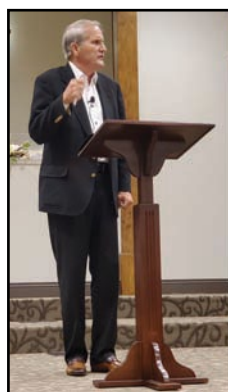
GOLA Strategist Ashley Jones expects to field two teams, each will comprise five college students. She also is seeking to hire two 23-25-year-old individuals to serve as team leaders.

In addition to VBS, GOLA will utilize college students in three other areas of service this summer: as church staff, North American missionaries and international missionaries.

Jones said the students who serve on GOLA teams are a blessing to both students and churches alike.

"Our students are excited to serve, and we love our Louisiana Baptist churches," Jones told the *Baptist Message*. "We want to serve them in any capacity we can, and our students are ready to love on kids and churches. We would like to see church members our students visit this summer rise up and be a part of the spiritual harvest in their communities."

For more information or to obtain an application for churches and team members that should be submitted as soon as possible, contact Ashley.jones@louisianabaptists.org.



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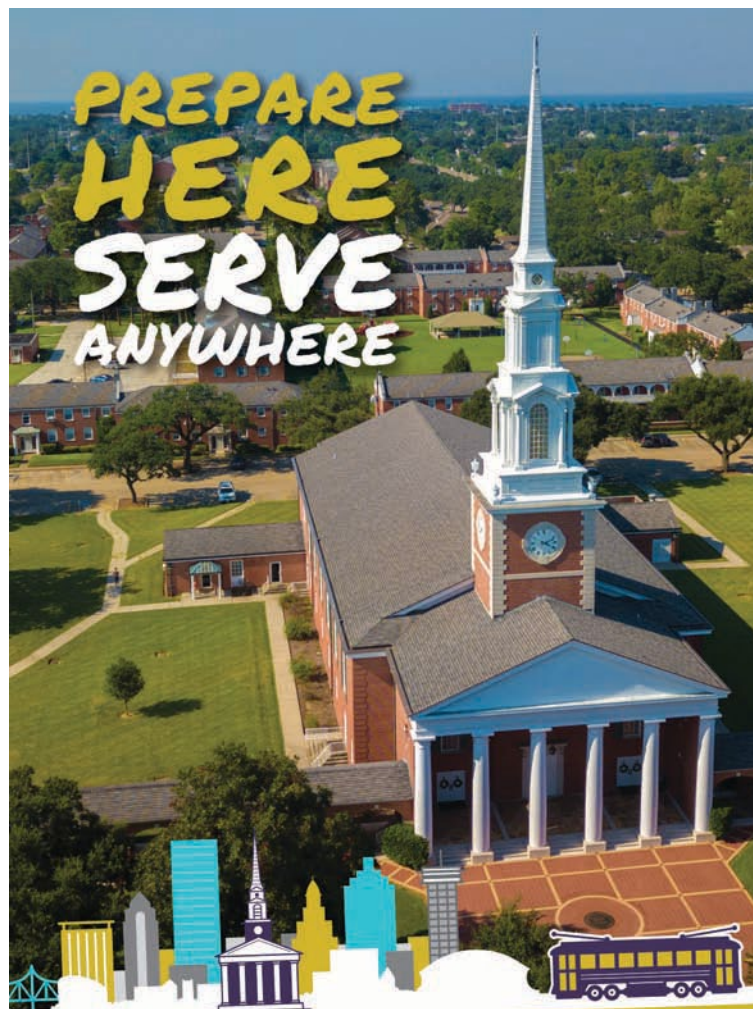
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— The late Dr. Roy Fish, Former Director of Evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary



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Brian Blackwell photos

All messages from the 2022 Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference are available online at <https://louisianabaptists.org/2022-econ-recap/>. The conference featured a diverse lineup of speakers (ranging from atheist-turned-bestselling author Lee Strobel to state leaders to national personalities) and a time of worship with the Jason Lovins Band, Russ Lee and Point of Grace. All who gathered at the First Baptist Church, Covington, Jan. 24-25, were urged to join the fight to share the Gospel.

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March 5

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LouisianaBaptists.org/KidMinExpo

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

VBS Retreat

NWLBA churches seek revival through prayer

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

SHREVEPORT, La. (LBM) – More than 250 members of the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association's churches came together to cry out to God to bring revival during the fellowship's 7th annual "Call to Prayer."

Hosted by Woodridge Baptist Church, Shreveport, the Jan. 30 gathering brought together Christians of various ages and ethnicities to pray for law enforcement, the persecuted church, missionaries serving around the world, pastors and other church leaders.

As in previous gatherings, this event was marked by prayer in multiple formats: from the worship center stage; in small groups around the room; and by individuals who pleaded with God for revival in their community,

state and nation.

Thirty pastors either shared a message or prayed for a variety of needs. The event also included a special designed time of prayer for area schools, teachers and students. The "Dads On Duty" from Southwood High School in Shreveport were present for a time of corporate prayer. These men recently were featured in national news reports for their efforts to have a strong male presence through daily visits to the school as a means to curb violence.

REVIVE US

Lane Moore, NLBA director of missions, reminded the crowd of the need for revival.

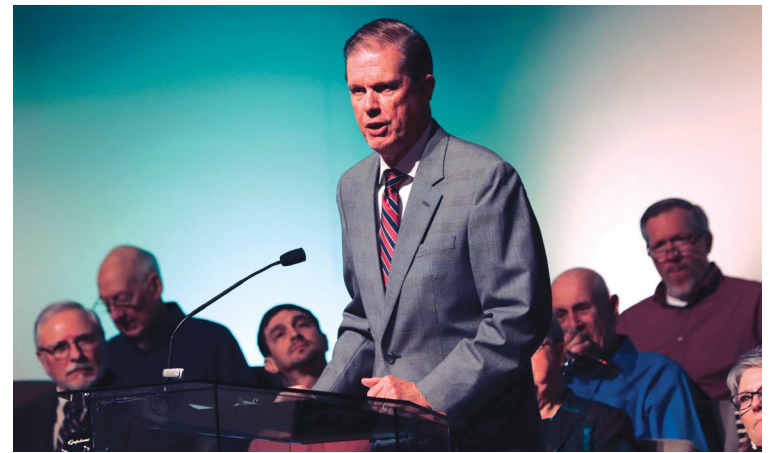
"Revival either prepares us for the hope of the future of what God's going to do or it may sometimes prepare us for the tribulation that may be coming

our way," he said. "I'm sure many think that they would like to see a revival but I'm not sure all of us would like to know that we've got to go through what we're going to go through if revival happens. Many times, revival will upend what God is going to do through us."

PREPARE OUR HEARTS

Chuck McInturf, pastor of Woodridge Baptist, reminded the crowd that from biblical times until

See NWLBA, page 10



Submitted photo

Northwestern Louisiana Baptist Association Director of Missions Lane Moore reminded this year's Call to Prayer participants of the need for revival. The yearly gathering brought together more than 250 members of NWLBA churches.

Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

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NWLBA from page 9

the present God longs for His children to abide in Him. Drawing from Psalm 22:3, McInturf said that “abiding in Him” starts with each believer preparing his or her own heart.

“God’s presence is the best when we are most focused upon him,” McInturf said. “Let’s tonight remember we have a God who wants to be with us. And we want to be with Him.”

PREPARE OUR CHURCHES

Thomas Myles, pastor of New Birth Baptist Church, Shreveport, encouraged unity among believers who are part of the Church.

“God is in the building business,” said Myles, drawing from 1 Corinthians 3:16. “He’s not concerned about specific architectural styles or floor plans, but rather He is concerned about constructing great things in His people and building great things

by His people.

“God’s church, His temple, is not a building or a movement or an organization,” he continued. “It is the sum-total of all believers and what we call Church is a local expression of the greater reality. True followers of Jesus Christ together are the Church, God’s temple and His temple is holy. We are God’s temple, His sanctuary, and the Spirit of the living God has His permanent dwelling in us.”

TO ENGAGE THE CULTURE

Heath Peloquin, pastor of Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, said Christ followers should follow the example of Paul and Barnabas who, in Acts 14, effectively engaged the culture.

Doing so requires boldness, fleeing from sin and sharing the Gospel, he said.

“The Church of Jesus Christ exists today



Submitted photo

Prayer was the main focus for a gathering of more than 250 members of the Northwestern Louisiana Baptist Association churches. Participants prayed for law enforcement, the persecuted church, missionaries and pastors.

to engage the culture by preaching the Gospel,” said Peloquin. “We have no other news but ‘Jesus Christ crucified and risen.’ He is alive and we need to live in such a way that they know who He is.”

TO MINISTER TO THE BROKEN

Dennis Sims, pastor of Ellerbe Road Baptist Church, Shreveport, speaking from Luke 4:18-21, asked the crowd to be

more aware about those who are hurting in their communities.

“There are a lot of problems, and we can make them so much more

See NWLBA, page 15

Engaging Leadership to Connect Multi-Culturally



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Dr. Jeff Iorg, President
Gateway Seminary, Ontario, CA

March

14

11:30am-1:30pm
Brookwood, Shreveport
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Philadelphia/Horseshoe Dr., Alexandria

March

15

11:30am-1:30pm
First, Lafayette
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
First, Denham Springs

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FEMA announces grants, information opportunities

By Staff

Baptist Message

WASHINGTON (LBM) - The Federal Emergency Management Agency has announced it is offering opportunities for faith-based organizations to learn how to apply for funding from the 2022 Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

Grants are provided on a competitive process for facility hardening and other security enhancements. So, FEMA is offering a se-

ries of webinars (each will present the same information and allow open forum questions) for applicants to learn how to make the best case for their respective needs regarding protection against attacks and other emergency preparedness issues.

Each presentation will start at 2 p.m. (CT) and is accessible using the respective web link; ID; and passcode:

-- March 4; <https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1614042372>; ID,

161 404 2372; Passcode, FY22NSGP

-- March 10; <https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1602354220>; ID,

160 235 4220; Passcode, FY22NSGP

-- March 16; <https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1619667216>; ID,

161 966 7216; Passcode, FY22NSGP

-- March 25; <https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1612960254>; ID,

161 296 0254; Passcode, FY22NSGP

-- April 01; <https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1610707162>; ID,

161 070 7162; Passcode, FY22NSGP

Additional information: www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/nonprofit-security.

CEC to collegians: 'Proclaim' truth

By Brian Blackwell

Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS, La. (LBM) - The next generation of young professionals will be challenged to be a voice for biblical truth during the upcoming Collegiate Evangelism Conference, set for March 11-12 at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The theme for the conference is "Proclaim," based on 1 Chronicles 16:23.

CEC will feature three speakers: Louisiana Baptists Executive Director Steve Horn; NOBTS President Jamie Dew; and Franklin Avenue Baptist Church Associate Pastor Chip Luter.

Leading music will be Jon Reddick, a worship pastor and song writer.

Students also will have a chance to attend breakout sessions taught by International Mission Board staff, NOBTS professors and BCM directors.

LSU-Shreveport Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director Stephen Craver is among those excited about the upcoming evangelistic event.

"We're going to be encouraging hundreds of students from across Louisiana to engage their whole life for the cause of the Gospel," Craver said. "There's nothing more important for our Christian students than to be the largest evangelistic generation and CEC is going to challenge them to become that."

CEC registration begins

5 p.m., March 11, with the main session at 7 p.m. CEC will conclude 5 p.m., March 12. Information: <https://louisianabaptists.org/event/collegiate-evangelism-conference/>.

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National Goal:

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International Mission Board: Financial highs, missionary lows

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

RICHMOND, Va. (LBM)—In a Feb. 3 press release, Paul Chitwood, president of the International Mission Board, celebrated “record-breaking offerings” and the appointment of 52 fully-funded missionaries.

Chitwood cited improved giving through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering as well as the Cooperative Program as evidence that support for international missions is growing. According to the imb.org statement, for the first four months of the current fiscal year:

-- LMCO gifts are up 16.1 percent compared to the same timeframe last year.

-- CP gifts are up almost 10 percent for the same referenced period.

-- Overall, combined revenue from all sources is



Baptist Press photo

Despite record-breaking offerings, the number of missionaries remain stagnant with 3,507 fully-funded IMB field personnel at the end of January 2022, up only slightly from the end of the first year of the pandemic.

running 13.6 percent ahead of the previous year's pace.

Despite the financial windfall, field missionary numbers continued to remain about the same as the 1985 tally of 3,597, although

CULTURALNEWS

up from the nearly four decades low of 3,485 missionaries who were on board at the end of the first year of

the pandemic.

In reply to an inquiry from the *Baptist Message*, Julie McGowan, IMB's assistant vice president for communications, shared that there were “3,507 fully

funded IMB field personnel” at the end of January 2022.

Personnel numbers vary month-to-month. However, numbers have lulled since the departure of 983 missionaries from the field and 149 stateside personnel under David Platt, during 2015-16, when missionaries who were 50 years old with five years of experience were targeted for early exits while IMB was still commissioning new missionaries. Platt also closed the Richmond communications office of 30 writers and photographers.

Meanwhile, McGowan shared information indicating the Richmond support staff numbers had largely recovered from the losses under Platt. Prior to the large-scale field personnel reduction stateside support persons numbered about 450, according to a

See IMB, page 15

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NAMB dealt another legal setback in McRaney lawsuit

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (LBM)—In January, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi denied the request of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for a summary judgment in its lawsuit with Will McRaney, the former executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

In his ruling, Senior Judge Glen H. Davidson said it was premature to decide the case ahead of the discovery process, the stage during which McRaney's legal team would be allowed to depose NAMB leaders, staff and trustees under oath.

Subsequently, in February, NAMB entered into a stipulation agreement with McRaney, pledging "it will not withhold any discovery responses on the basis of its First Amendment defenses or objections, including in response to discovery requests served by [McRaney] prior to the date of this Stipulation."

Judge Davidson's decision is consistent with the instructions by a three-

CULTURALNEWS

judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals (later affirmed by the full bench), who rejected NAMB's request to dismiss the case, finding instead that "many of the relevant facts have yet to be developed" in the case.

The federal circuit court sent the case back to the federal district court instructing the lower court to determine (1) whether NAMB intentionally and maliciously damaged McRaney's business relationships by falsely claiming that he refused to meet with [NAMB President Kevin] Ezell, ... (2) whether NAMB's statements about McRaney were false, defamatory, and at least negligently made, ... and (3) whether NAMB intentionally caused McRaney to suffer foreseeable and severe emotional distress by displaying his picture at its headquarters ... These are among McRaney's claims about NAMB's alleged interference with the BCM/D, which he says contributed to his departure from that independent state organization of

Baptist churches.
The federal district court ruling against

NAMB followed a snub by the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined to hear

NAMB's appeal of the ruling by the federal circuit court of appeals.

IMB from page 14

January 2016 statement by McGowan. In her recent reply to the **Baptist Message** she shared that the Richmond support staff numbered 436 at the end of January 2022.

NWLBA

from page 10

complex than sometimes they really are. Jesus says the Gospel, simple kindness, acts of love, sacrifice, justice and compassion, really aren't that complicated," he said. "It's just that we have to have that burden; we have to have that vision; and we have to have that strength that the Lord God Almighty has for the hurting, the oppressed, those that are in difficult and hopeless situations. May God prepare our hearts to minister to the hurting."



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For more details: LouisianaBaptists.org/KWOW



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Louisiana Drug Board rejects recreational pot

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

BATON ROUGE La. (LBM)—The Drug Policy Board within the Louisiana Office of the Governor has adopted a resolution stating it “opposes efforts to legalize marijuana for recreational use in Louisiana.”

The January 27 vote was 8-0-6, a reversal of the 6-0-8 vote by the Board in October.

The minutes from the January meeting indicate that during the interim Warren Montgomery, district attorney for St. Tammany and Washington Parishes and the sponsor of the resolution, had opportunities to make presentations to the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy and the Louisiana Highway Safety

Commission, whose representatives on the Drug Policy Board had abstained in the October vote because their organizations had not spoken to the issue.

Their representatives voted in favor of the resolution in January.

The vote took place as smoking pot and consuming THC, the psychoactive compound in marijuana, became legal in Louisiana in January if a licensed Louisiana physician “recommends” either as “therapeutic use by any patient clinically diagnosed as suffering from a debilitating medical condition,” which includes 31 specific or broad categories.



COLORADO'S REMORSE

Meanwhile, Colorado, which legalized medical marijuana in 2010 and recreational marijuana in 2014, passed historic legislation last year, H.B. 21-1317, to create a scientific review council to make recommendations to address the surging public health crisis in the

state due to marijuana, especially the dramatic rise in psychotic and suicidal victims.

Public health expert, Dr. Chris Rogers, medical director of child and adolescent services at the Medical Center of Aurora, Colorado, testified before the Colorado legislature that person after person was being duped about the effects of pot.

“They’ve been taught to believe this is a harmless plan and a medicine that is good for everything from headaches to cancer to anxiety – [that] it’s natural, without side effects without the risk of addiction. This is the lie that is ruining the lives of far too many people in our state.”

Colorado Attorney General Philip J. Weiser, a Democrat, blamed medi-

cal marijuana laws for a “rise in teenage use of high-potency concentration THC marijuana” that he described as “alarming.” He cited a statewide survey showing student use of THC leapt from 4.3 percent in 2014 to more than 20 percent in 2019.

LOUISIANA'S FUTURE?

If so, the Colorado situation would suggest a potential disaster looms for Louisiana youth because of the legalization of so-called medical marijuana this year. Already high school students in the state lead their peers in the nation in alcohol use and the injection of illicit drugs, according to national data compiled by ProjectKnow.com. They only rank 14 out of 50 in marijuana use, for now.

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Sex Trafficking from page 3

truck. What I feared the most – a sex-trafficking abduction -- was happening.”

After contacting Sheriff Edwards, the sheriff dispatched deputies and detectives to T-Town where they reviewed the video surveillance and obtained a vehicle description and physical description of the men involved. The information was immediately forwarded to other law enforcement agencies.

A short time later, Daniel and the men were discovered in a car rental parking lot at the Alexandria airport and after a combined group of area officers intervened, Emile was able to bring his son safely home.

Because Daniel is 19 years old and voluntarily went with the men, no charges were filed, and no one was arrested.

A HAPPY ENDING

Still, Emile was thankful his son had been rescued.

“I can’t say enough about how wonderful Sheriff Edwards and his department were and all the law officers involved,” he said. “It was due to their fast thinking, great training, and quick response that this story had a happy ending.”

While Emile gave a lot of credit to law enforcement officers, he gave the most praise to Almighty God.

“When we knew what was taking place, I put it out on Facebook and a prayer chain began across denominations,” he said. “Folks began to pray, and God began to work – there is just no other explanation. God answered our prayers and brought our son safely back to us.”

He credits those prayers for causing the plane delay that allowed officers to get to Daniel just in time.

“According to statistics, sex trafficking is at its highest percentage during Super Bowl week,” he said. “I know that people reading this will say it will never happen to them, but

the truth is it can.

“I realize many parents raise their children to do things properly, know right from wrong, but please, please be aware of your teenagers’ activi-

ties, especially online,” he continued.

“There are many signs that we need to be aware of and these chat rooms are the perfect opportunity for these predators to lure our teenagers into believing they can offer them a better lifestyle,” he

said. “While not all chat rooms are bad, parents should still take time to check them out.”

After the ordeal, Bordelon took to social media to thank everyone that had taken time to pray during their time of need.

“It is a real blessing to

know people have brotherly and sisterly love for each other,” he concluded. “Thank you for your prayers and it is because of your prayers our family can be together again. I pray you never have to experience anything like this.”

Congrats

The below four churches have recently obtained church financing through the Louisiana Baptist Foundation and we want to say congratulations to them:



▲ Fellowship Baptist Church, Converse



▲ Immanuel Community Church, New Orleans



▲ Anchor Baptist Church, Monroe



▲ First Baptist Church, Port Barre



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f t in

Treadwell named recipient of LCU's Smith Scholarship

By Elizabeth Clarke
LCU News

PINEVILLE (LCU News) – Morgan Tradewell, a senior at Buckeye High School in Deville, was awarded the Louisiana Christian University's Smith Scholarship for 2022.

The annual competition, held Jan. 29 on campus, drew 11 contestants from Louisiana and

Texas. Competitors must have at least a 28 ACT score and are further evaluated based on their leadership qualities and Christian character. The winner receives a four-year full tuition, room and board scholarship.

"The Smith Scholarship program represents the Best of the Best at Louisiana Christian University," LCU President Rick Brewer said.

"This year's competition was extremely competitive including exemplary students from several states. Congratulations to Morgan Tradewell for being selected as this year's winner.

"At LCU we celebrate the maturity of intellect and the maturity of Christian character," he continued. "Indeed, the Smith Scholarship recipient is emblematic of this desired outcome."

Tradewell, a member of Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, plans to study biology and added that throughout school she learned of the challenges to equip mentally and physically disabled children with resources needed to succeed because each student's struggles are unique.

"Because of this, I am called to pursue a career in pediatric occupational therapy, and return to

the classroom," Tradewell said. I hope to make a difference in the lives of students with special needs by helping them with their unique struggles by equipping them to succeed in the classroom.

"I am grateful and honored to be chosen as LCU's 2022 Smith Scholar," she continued. "In a world that is rapidly moving away from Christ, as a student, I value the freedom to express my Christian faith and values. While taking a Dual Enrollment composition class in high school, my eyes were opened to the censorship of Biblically-based thought and the discouragement of students to think freely."

Tradewell chose LCU after attending a preview day in 2020. Brewer shared about the importance of critical thinking among students and how

he desired for students to grow in their faith while achieving academic success.

"I cannot wait to become a Wildcat in the fall, and I believe that attending LCU will not only help me achieve my goals academically but will also encourage me to continue growing in my faith and character" Tradewell said.

Philip Robertson, pastor of Philadelphia Baptist, Deville, said he is excited about the path before Tradewell at LCU:

"She has always been an exceptional young lady who loves the Lord and excels in everything she does, whether it's academics, sports, cheerleading or her Christian walk," he said. "She is very committed and very driven, and I know God is going to use her in a great way and has great things in store for her."

First Baptist Church, Covington, LA



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Kenner from page one

transition since Ogea became interim pastor in April 2021. The congregation recognized the need to revitalize, and on June 27 voted to become the fourth member of First Baptist Church, Covington's network of churches.

The move allows the two churches to work together in ministry to reach the south shore region of Lake Pontchartrain for Christ. FBC Kenner, which averages between 175-180 wor-

shippers for Sunday morning worship, joins Metairie Church, Metairie Korean Church and Hope Church, Bush, in this effort.

The partnership is unique from the others, with FBC Kenner remaining autonomous – meaning it retains a senior pastor and receives revitalization support from FBCC.

FUTURE VISION

Just two months after

Shumock from page 2

described as a "1,000-year" rain event in these areas according to the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center. Other parishes saw a two-day rainfall determined to be a "100-year" event — these included Tangipahoa, East Feliciana, Washington, Ascension, Lafayette, Iberville and St. Martin.

The result of the two-day inundation was historic flooding in southern Louisiana with tens of thousands of homes and hundreds of thousands of people impacted, including more than 60 Louisiana Baptist churches and the houses of at least 20 Louisiana Baptist pastors.

A year later, Shumock became the mission builder strategist and coordinated 16 projects while serving in that position.

APPRECIATED

Hebert said he is grateful for Shumock's service.

"He has been a vital part of the missions team and has saved churches and missions hundreds of thousands of dollars during this time," Hebert said. "He has worked to secure individuals and

groups to help the Louisiana effort to reach this state

with a Gospel witness. His work has stabilized our volunteer mobilization ministry within our state and elsewhere, and our program is in better shape than it's been in years. Louisiana Baptist should be grateful for his ministry."

Jeffery Friend, pastor of Suburban Baptist Church, New Orleans, formed a close friendship with Shumock during the rebuild of the church's worship center and education building that had sustained heavy damage from an EF-3 tornado on Feb. 7, 2017.

"My friend had one rule on the job, which is, 'There's one boss -- and it was him,'" Friend quipped. "We talk regularly, and friends are expected to do. The greatest joy I have from what took place five years ago is that we are still holding services because of what God did through Mike Shumock. God blessed me with a lifelong friend and brother."

In retirement, Shumock plans to still be active in preaching and church construction projects. He also will spend more time with

they became a member of FBC Covington's network of churches, the congregation was dealt a blow when Hurricane Ida's fierce winds caused significant damage to the roof, blew out the windows and destroyed much of the worship center's interior, Aug. 29.

Fortunately, the fellowship hall (which at one time had served as the worship center) had minimal damage, so services have been temporarily moved inside that facility. Mold remediation has

been completed in the permanent worship center and repairs have begun on the roof.

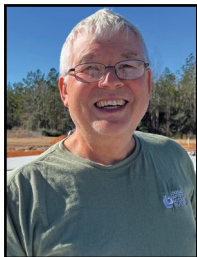
The church continues to move forward, sharing the Good News with the community while in the process of finding a permanent pastor, Ogea said.

"The people of FBC Kenner possess the most resilient and optimistic spirit of any of the churches I've served as interim pastor," Ogea said. "Their future is ripe for revitalization and turn-

around."

Waylon Bailey, pastor of FBC Covington, said he also is anticipating even greater things in store for FBC Kenner.

"First Baptist Covington is pleased to be a part of the good things happening at FBC Kenner," Bailey said. "We believe that God will continue to bless the church and use it to bless many people on the south shore and around the world. We are very thankful to be a part of what they are doing."



Mike Shumock

his children and grandchildren, all who reside in Brandon, Mississippi.

"I appreciate all the volunteers and people I have met over the years who have come alongside us to work on the churches and projects," Shumock said. "I have lifelong friends that I've made who will keep helping build the Kingdom through Mission Builders long after I am gone. For that, I am grateful to God."

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MONROE, La. (LBM) – First Baptist Church, Monroe, was at a cross-roads in 2020 when they

The congregation, which had worshipped at the same location since the church's founding in 1854,

After months of prayer and fasting and a series of congregational meetings,

Pastor James Doughty said the experience has been humbling. He believes God has opened doors for a move that will position the church to reach future generations for many years to come.

“Through the whole process, God has been so faithful,” Doughty said. “Everything in his timing has worked out perfectly. God aligned everything perfectly. God did it. The way God opened doors, the favor we had through the negotiations, it excites me to see the church be willing to do whatever it takes to reach people with the Gospel.”

Construction on the multi-purpose facility is expected to begin in early February, and the move is being facilitated by a friendly relationship



James Doughty

The new First Monroe building will be located adjacent to the community health center of St. Francis Medical Group, which purchased the current First Monroe building.

St. Francis will allow the congregation to continue meeting where they are until the new campus is completed, estimated to be ready by Easter 2023.

Doughty said the congregation's unity about the change says a lot about the members' spiritual health and growth.

"I'm excited about the church's decision," Dougherty said. "We told our members that the church isn't a building, it's the people. The thing that has excited me through this process is to see the church embody that in the vote. Their excitement about moving forward reminds me that God is not done with us at First Monroe."

Riverside Baptist makes room for one more soul

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

VIDALIA, La. (LBM) –
Pastor Glen Harrigill can

attest that God is on the
move in a mighty way at
Riverside Baptist Church.

Last year, the Vidalia church, which averages 70 for Sunday worship service, witnessed 10 people profess Jesus as Lord, and six already have been baptized.

Harrigill said his congregation has embraced the Holy Spirit's call to reach the lost.

"It's 100 percent pure excitement," Harrigill told the *Baptist Message*. "Our members are reaching out to others and bringing them in. With this church family, it is unlimited what God can do through our congregation."

In early 2020, the congregation moved Sunday assembly from the 1,680-sq.-ft. worship center to the 4,000-sq.-ft. family life center. Since then, members have recreated

See **RIVERSIDE**, page 21

More than 250 churches served.

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Riverside from page 20

the space for worship services and Sunday school.

Bobby Mulvihill said working alongside other members on the construction project has created an even stronger bond within the congregation.

"We all have pitched in to help make this building happen in some way," Mulvihill said. "Jesus has

truly blessed our church. We are small in numbers but huge in heart."

Willie Gillespie, a member of the building committee, said the congregation is excited about how God will use the multi-purpose facility to build His Kingdom.

"The people are excited and that is the key,"

Gillespie said. "The Lord is allowing us to come alongside Him and be a part of His story at Riverside. When we open this up, we are praying and believing that God will send even more folks our way who need to hear about the Good News they have through His Son."

Harrigill believes oth-

ers are hungry for truth and Riverside Baptist hopes to continue providing them with the answer which is hope in Jesus.

"I think our country needs to hear the Word of God," Harrigill said. "Our people are pointing folks to Jesus and letting them know how they, too, can have a relationship with Him."

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Submitted photos

(Above) Jerusalem Baptist Church's WMU met Jan. 13, 2022 to listen to Gideon representatives L. D. Barringer and Jimmy Gilmore (from the Ponchatoula, LA, Camp) share about the Gideons International ministry. (below) Following their presentation, WMU Director Ann Coats presented an offering for \$800 to help the Gideons to purchase and distribute Bibles. Phil Weaver is pastor Jerusalem Baptist Church, Hammond.



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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 phil-ip@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

- **Tom, wife Amy, Bruce** is the new associational mission strategist for the Beauregard Baptist Association.
- **Michael, wife Lois, Bergeron** is the new associate pastor at Mandeville First Baptist Church, Mandeville.
- **Walter Edwards** is the new pastor at Memorial Baptist Church, DeRidder.
- **Cody Roberts** is the new pastor at Red Bluff Baptist Church, Folsom. He moves up after serving as the church's youth minister since September 2019.
- **Darryl Hoychick** is the new interim pastor at Texas Avenue Baptist Church, DeRidder
- **Autrey Brown** is the new music minister at First Baptist Church, Benton.
- **Reese, wife Tiffany, Gill** is the new student minister at Mandeville First Baptist Church, Mandeville.
- **Stan Taylor** retires as music minister at Highland Baptist Church in West Monroe after 32 years. He was honored with a reception on January 30.
- **Kade McKee** is the new youth minister at Christ's Community Church, Denham Springs
- **Lisa Cooper** is the new hospitality ministry director at First Baptist Church, New Orleans.

REVIVAL

- Bayou Macon Baptist Association, Epps:

- Senior Adult Revival**, February 28-March 2, 10 a.m. daily. Monday, FBC Oak Grover; Tuesday, Goodwill Baptist Church; Wednesday, Trinity Baptist Church. A potluck lunch will follow each service. Speaker: **Jacob Crawford, director of City Life NOLA**. Worship: **Keith Welch, music leader FBC Delhi**. Associational Mission Strategist: Jay Morgan.
- First Baptist Church, Sulphur: **Renew Week**, March 6-9, 2022; Sunday – Women's special session, 9:15 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday – fellowship meal 5:15 p.m., Worship 6 p.m.; youth and children breakout sessions following music portion of services (Sunday p.m. – Wednesday). Speakers: **Reset & Refresh - Ed Litton** (Sunday 10:30 and 6 p.m.); **Reveal – Andy Buckley**, Monday 6 p.m.; **Refocus – Adam Greenway** (Tuesday 6 p.m.); **Restart – Marcus Hayes**, (Wednesday, 6 p.m.); **Remind – Fred Luter** (March 13, 6 p.m.); **Youth – Josh Eubanks** (Sunday-Wednesday, 6 p.m.) and **Children – Jess Archer** (Sunday-Wednesday, 6 p.m.). Worship – **Quint Adkins** (Sunday-Wednesday). Pastor: Michael Linton.
- Grace Community Church, Iota: **Spring Revival**, March 6-9, Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Kevin Colson.
- Riverside Baptist Church, Vidalia: **Change Me Revival Mondays**, March 7, **Steve Horn**; March 14, **Casey Johnson**; March 21; **Rubin Weaver**; March 28, **Eddie Wren**. Pastor: Glen Harrigill.
- First Baptist Church, Gilbert: **Spring Revival**, March 13-16, Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Bubba Ezell.
- Boeuf River Baptist Church, Winnsboro: **Liddieville Spring Revival**, March 13-16, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Lee Faler, pastor First Baptist Church, Terry, Mississippi**. Pastor: Kevin Goodman.
- Lismore Baptist Church, Jonesville: **Spring Revival**, March 20-23, Evangelist: **Bob Pit-**

- man**. Pastor: Ken Gilmore.
- Richland Baptist Association: **Senior Saint Revival**, March 21-23, 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dunn Baptist Church, Tuesday, First Baptist Rayville, Wednesday, Mangham Baptist Church. Lunch (fried fish and all the trimmings) will be provided daily. Evangelist: **Tim Post**. Associational Mission Strategist: Johnny Smith.
- First Baptist Church, Morgan City: **Revival** March 27-30. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Tracey Smith
- Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold: April 3-6, 6 p.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: James Hester.

LAGNIAPPE

- **Jay Johnston** is available for pulpit supply or interim by calling 615.260.4752.
- New Life Baptist Church, DeRidder: **Soup for the Soul: Sowing Seeds of Hope**, March 4, 11:20- 1p.m., lunch with entertainment. Lunch will consist chicken and sausage gumbo, potato salad, dessert, drink. Take outs are available. Entertainment: **Masters4Him, Southern Gospel Quartet**. Cost: \$12. This is a fundraiser for the Beauregard Christian Women's Job Corps. Tickets may be purchased at the door or at the following locations - Beauregard Christian Women's Job Corps (call 337.463.4451 or 318.663.0489) or Beauregard Baptist Association Office, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Curious Cargo. Pastor: Keith Manuel.
- Waller Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Westward Road in Concert**, March 6, 10 a.m. The trio is comprised of **Scott Roberts, his wife, Kelli, and their son, Garrett**. We are located at 456 Waller Ave., Bossier City LA 71112. Pastor: Gary Johnson.
- Belcher Baptist Church, Belcher: Louisiana **Melody Boys in concert**, March 6, 10

- a.m. Pastor: Gabriel McCormick.
- Northeast Louisiana Gospel Music week-end, March 10-12, Thomas Jason Lingo Community Center (10284 Hwy 17), Oak Grove. Worship: Thursday, 7 p.m. **Greater Vision, Mark Trammell Quartet, Josh & Ashley Franks**; Friday, 7 p.m. **Triumphant Quartet, Joseph Habedank, Erwins**; Saturday 6 p.m. **Kingsmen, Jeff & Sheri Easter, Lefevre Quartet**. No tickets required but a \$15 donation per person per night at the door, plus love offering received during the concert. Doors will open one hour early each evening. **Josh & Ashley Franks** will minister in chapel services on Friday and Saturday at 10 a.m.
- Woodlawn Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: **Counseling and Discipleship classes Spring 2022**, March 11-12, April 8-9 and May 13-14, Friday evening to Saturday after. This course is open to everyone. Register at BiblicalCounseling.com. For more information, contact Travis McNeely at travis@wb-cbr.org. Pastor: Lewis Richerson.
- First Baptist Church, Covington: **Adults 55+ Spring Celebration with THE VICTORY BELLES vocal trio of the National WWII Museum** performing at FBC Covington, March 15, 10 a.m. ONLINE registration is required at www.fbccov.org/adults-55. Cost is \$10, which includes lunch, payable at the door. Deadline to register is March 11 at noon. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.
- Houston River Baptist Church, Sulphur: **The Magic of David Garrard**, March 18. Pastor: Lonnie Gothrup.
- Old Saline Baptist Church, Castor: **Louisiana Melody Boys in Concert**, March 20, 11 a.m. Pastor: Michael Reed.
- First Baptist Church, Covington: **Phil Wickham in concert**, March 20, 2022, 7 p.m. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: **A Night with Stephen Curtis Chapman**, March 20, 7 p.m. Music: Five-Time Grammy and

- multiple Dove award winner Steven Curtis Chapman along with an all-star band of instrumentalists. Cost: General Admission: \$27.50; Early Admission: \$49.50; General Admission Group (4+): \$24.75; Early Admission Group (4+): \$44.55. To reserve your tickets go to: https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/3978711/?partner_id=3096. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.
- First Baptist Church, Bunkie: **Refresh: My Joy**, March 26, 6-8 p.m. Speaker: **Shea Smith**. Worship Leader: **Angela McCann**. Pastor: Mark Robinson.
- Westview Baptist Church, DeRidder: **Flourish**, March 26, 4 p.m. Flourish is sponsored by the Beauregard Baptist Association women's ministry invites ladies to a tea party. Cost: \$15. Speaker: **Cindy Fowler**. Make plans to come and be renewed as we share how to Flourish in our walk with the Lord. Please RSVP by March 14 to the BBA office. Pastor: Jason Hoychick.
- Cypress Baptist Church, Benton: **Fresh Grounded Faith, an area-wide women's event sponsored by several area churches**. March 25-26. Cost: Tickets are \$45. Speaker: **Jennifer Rothschild, Liz Curtis Higgs, best-selling author and Meredith Andrews, recording artist and worship leader**. To reserve your tickets go to: www.itickets.com/events/450691?aff=BIT; www.Fresh-GroundedFaith.com or call 800.859.7992. Pastor: John Fream.
- Cypress Baptist Church, Benton: **Rural to Regional Conference (Helping rural churches make a regional impact)**, March 30-31, 2022. Check-in 4 p.m. Wednesday, Worship/Service " The Cypress Way" 6:15 p.m. 7:15 p.m. guest speaker **Johnny Hunt**. Thursday, 9 a.m., opening service; break out session 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; closing service 2 p.m. Additional speakers: **John Fream, Steve Horn**. Pastor: John Fream.

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.

JQFKU AFJQ QSPNPARNP OK QSP XOZPNQV LSPNPLOQS

BSNOJQ SFQS DFUP HJ ANPP, FKU ZP KRQ PKQFKMXPU

FMFOK LOQS QSP VRTP RA ZRKUFMP.

MFXFQOFKJ AOYP:RKP

Clues:
X = L; P = E

Answer to January 27 Scripture Crypto:
Ezra four: fourteen



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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH in Natchitoches, LA is seeking a person called by God to serve as our pastor. Resumes may be mailed to Pastor Search Committee, 4473 Hwy 3278, Natchitoches, LA 71457 or emailed to ncelkins@hotmail.com.

TALL TIMBERS CONFERENCE CENTER in Forest Hill, LA is hiring **part-time in maintenance and food service and looking for a full-time associate director.** Call 318.445.6797 for details or visit //talltimbersbcc.org/employment.

SEEKING A FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER
Plain Dealing Baptist Church, Plain Dealing, LA is seeking a full-time Student Minister. Please send résumés to: Search Committee Plain Dealing Baptist Church PO Box 543, Plain Dealing, LA 71064 Or email to pdbc1a@gmail.com

SEEKING PART-TIME WORSHIP LEADER
First Baptist Church in Bernice, LA is seeking a part-time worship leader. Please mail résumés to FBC Bernice, Attn: Music Search Committee, P O Box 567, Bernice, LA 71222 or email to fbcbernice@gmail.com.

Seeking a YOUTH MINISTER
Woodland Park Baptist Church
www.hope4hammond.com/jobs

Position could be part-time or full-time depending on candidate.

CLARA SPRINGS SEEKS A MAINTENANCE & MINISTRY ASSOCIATE
Clara Springs Baptist Camp & Conference is looking for someone to join our ministry team. This job position will oversee maintenance, grounds up keep, and assist in the ministry of our camp and conference center. Applicant must have advanced skills in carpentry, electrical, and plumbing. HVAC knowledge is a plus! Housing is provided. Please send emails to: brobubba@clarasprings.com


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SEEKING A LEAD PASTOR
First Baptist Church, Coushatta, LA is prayerfully searching for a full time, God-filled man to serve as our lead pastor. If you feel called by God to serve in this position, please email your résumé to habrown7@aol.com.

YOUTH AND STUDENT MINISTER
First Baptist Church, Haynesville, LA, is seeking a full time Youth & Student Minister. For job responsibilities and inquiries please email c_sogden@yahoo.com. (Cookie Ogden, Chairman of Committee)


CHURCH SEEKS OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Seeking full-time, experienced church Office Administrator in Denham Springs, LA. A working knowledge of Microsoft Office products and the ability to learn church applications for maintaining membership records needed. Looking for someone that demonstrates helpful and cheerful qualities. Some financial experience preferred. Email cover letter and résumé to hebron.personnel@gmail.com.

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

SEEKING A PART-TIME DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS
Mt. Olive Baptist Association is seeking a part-time Director of Missions
Mail résumés to the DOM Search Committee
P.O. Box 643, Oakdale, LA 71463


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PASTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP
First Baptist Church in St. Francisville, LA is seeking a full-time pastor of youth and family discipleship. Visit our website at www.fbcstla.com for a job description. Résumés can be sent to resume@fbcstla.com

SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC
First Baptist Church in Anacoco, LA is accepting résumés for a part-time minister of music. AFBC is committed to a blended worship experience that incorporates both traditional and contemporary music. Résumés should be mailed to: First Baptist Church, Anacoco, P.O. Box 130, Anacoco, La 71403 or emailed to cking@anacocofbc.org


SEEKING LEAD PASTOR
First Baptist Church, Dry Prong, which is located in Dry Prong, LA is seeking a fulltime, God-filled man to serve as our Lead Pastor. If you feel called by God for this position, please send your résumé to FBCDP@bellsouth.net.


SEEKING A PASTOR
The First Baptist Church of Napoleonville is seeking a new pastor that possesses the following qualifications:
• He must have 3 to 5 years of experience in ministry and church leadership.
• He must unapologetically preach the truth that is found in the Bible.
• He must have experience in taking a leadership role in the expansion of a small church.
• He must have experience in obtaining Church growth through an ambitious youth and children ministries.
• He and his family must be willing to relocate.
Candidates can forward a résumé, along with professional and personal references to: Attention: The Pastor Search Committee • First Baptist Church of Napoleonville 148 Homerun Parkway • Donaldsonville, Louisiana 70346


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


CHILDREN'S MINISTER
Maplewood First Baptist in Sulphur, LA is looking to hire a Children's Minister
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