



# THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

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Submitted photo

Pastor Courtney Rainey baptizes Gracie Smith at Trinity Baptist Church, Oak Grove. The church has seen 24 new believers baptized since January.

## Discipleship emphasis results in baptisms

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

OAK GROVE, La. (LBM) – During his first Sunday as pastor of Trinity Baptist, February 2020, Courtney Rainey presented a vision to 75 worshipers that they could reach and baptize 50 people in one year.

Two years later the congregation is on pace to meet that goal, having baptized 24 new believers since January, while now

averaging 135 in Sunday morning worship. For comparison, the church baptized 21 people, combined, in 2020 and 2021.

Rainey told the *Baptist Message* that “when they asked God to move in our own lives and the community” that they did not anticipate they would see the results “in such a short time.”

“I’ve never been part of a movement like this,” he said. “We are not just going through the motions.

Lives are being changed and it’s exciting to see what God has in store for us.”

Rainey said members have embraced a lifestyle of discipleship that has fueled growth, both spiritually and numerically.

Since June 2021, 40 members have met together on Sunday evenings for discipleship. During the week, four discipleship groups also gather for further accountability and encouragement.

Additionally, several groups have seen increased participation compared to February 2020, including children (30, an increase from 10) and youth (also 30, an increase from six).

During the remaining months of 2022, Rainey

## Horn will promote traditional CP giving

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – After looking at options adopted by Baptists in Missouri and Georgia that allow churches to restrict funds to Southern Baptist entities, Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director Steve Horn pledged not to lead Bayou State congregations to follow suit.

“With 1,600 churches theoretically having multiple ways to split their cooperative pie, we would need to expand our accounting team, forcing us to shrink our missions and ministry teams,” Horn said during the LBC Executive Board meeting, May 3, at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center, Woodworth. “I don’t want to do that.

“I will not lead us to do that,” Horn said. “And



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Baptists Executive Director Steve Horn speaks to Executive Board members at the spring meeting held May 3 at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center.

I don’t think Louisiana Baptists, if faced with that reality, really would want us to do that. I may well be told that is what we are going to do, but until then I’m not going to lead us to change the way we give to the Cooperative Program.”

See CP GIVING, page 3

## Abortion controversy divides LBC lawmakers

**By Will Hall**  
Message executive editor

BATON ROUGE, La. (LBM) – A similar controversy that roiled the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, regarding the best approach to end abortion in America, erupted among Louisiana Baptist state lawmakers with a battle over H.B. 813, titled, “The Abolition of Abortion in Louisiana Act of 2022.”

The legislation, offered by Rep. Danny McCormick, a member of Trees Baptist Church in Vivian,

and championed by Brian Gunter, recently elected pastor of First Baptist Church in Livingston after serving as pastor of First Baptist Church in Pollock for eight years, mandated that the state ignore federal laws and court rulings that do not immediately abolish abortion; and that do not equally apply criminal penalties for murder to both the abortionist and the woman who has an abortion.

Pro-life lawmakers pushed to amend the bill to remove unconstitutional

See CONTROVERSY, page 6

See BAPTISMS, page 6



# Three candidates to vie for SBC president

By Staff  
Baptist Message

ANAHEIM, Calif.  
(LBM) – Following the

announcements that incumbent Ed Litton, pastor, Redemption Church, Saraland, Alabama, will not run for a second term and that his presumptive replacement, Willy Rice, pastor of Calvary Church, Clearwater, Florida, had withdrawn his name for consideration, three individuals have declared their candidacy for president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Litton has been plagued by revelations of extensive sermon plagiarism, and Rice came under fire for ordaining a

deacon who as a teacher had sexual relationships with a high school girl.

## CANDIDATES

*As a basis for assessing the data provided for each candidate's home congregation, the following averages (based on worship attendance for a per-capita comparison) are provided for the SBC:*

-- attendance to baptisms, 23:1 ratio (how many people in the pew it took to win a soul to Christ)

-- portion of congregation baptized that year, 4.3 percent

-- per-capita giving through the Cooperative Program, \$53.30

**Tom Ascol** is pastor of Grace Baptist Church in

Cape Coral, Florida and president of the Founders Ministries, a network of Calvinist Southern Baptists.

His bio on founders.org states he earned a bachelor's from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, and a master's and doctorate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

*Baptist Press* reported "Ascol's lone service role in the SBC on the national level was in 2012-13 when he was a member of a Calvinism Advisory Committee."

A five-year digest of information from the Annual Church Profile database shows his congregation did not report

See CANDIDATES, page 4

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## CP Giving from page one

But, he said, a growing number of Louisiana Baptist churches have asked for their gifts through the Cooperative Program to be used exclusively for Louisiana Baptist missions and ministries, thus withholding funds from Southern Baptist Convention causes; and such requests are being honored.

### BACKDROP

News related to Horn's report indicates growing unrest with the SBC. Most recently, the SBC Executive Committee hired a pro-LGBT law firm, prompting additional worries about giving funds to national ministries.

In that regard, the Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Board responded by authorizing an alternative giving option. "Plan B" allows churches to withhold funds from selected SBC entities without withdrawing from CP support altogether, according to the Missouri Baptist Convention's newspaper, the Pathway. Churches in Missouri still can participate in "Plan A," which is the MBC's traditional way to give through the CP. This option forwards a set percentage of total undesignated gifts received by the state to the SBC Executive Committee for distribution to SBC entities according to the allocation plan approved each year by Southern Baptist messengers at the SBC annual meeting.

The Georgia Baptist Mission Board allows its churches to exclude up to two CP budget lines, the Pathway added.

*The Baptist Press*, a division of the communications department of the SBC Executive Committee, noted, too, that "North Carolina, Wyoming and Oklahoma periodically forward church gifts to the [SBC] EC with some type of designation or restriction."

### ALL IN

"I want Louisiana Baptists to know that today I am fundamentally opposed to these plans," he said.

"Indeed, churches are autonomous, and they can do whatever they want to do. As my predecessor

at First Baptist, Lafayette (Perry Sanders) used to say, 'Baptists are a people who believe 'ain't nobody going to tell us what to do but Jesus.'"

However, Horn urged churches not to give up on cooperation with other state Baptists, explaining that withholding money from SBC causes hurts the cooperative spirit that has long defined the fellowship among state Baptist groups. Furthermore, he asked board members to remain unified and to lead Louisiana Baptists in unity.

"Regardless of your particular position, opinion, and knowledge of issues regarding the Southern Baptist Convention, these conversations certainly present challenges for us," he said. "There is the challenge of accuracy and flow of information. There is the challenge of the perception of these issues by the people in the pew. There is the challenge of very public battles being waged on social media.

"I believe what is needed as it relates to these challenges is prayer and wisdom," he continued. "We need to pray for God's direction and protection. Our enemy, the devil, is the author of confusion and would love to divide us. Let's don't provide ammunition for him to

use against us. We also need to pray for wisdom for those preparing the recommendations and reports."

Horn shared specifically about the SBC Executive Committee's hiring of the Bradley law firm, which has been a sponsor of the gay pride parade in Nashville, Tennessee, where the firm is

based.

"From every conversation that I have had with SBC leadership, they recognize this error, agree that it was an error, and are actively working to hire a new interim law firm to serve the Executive Committee until a permanent CEO/president is hired," Horn said. "Now

is the time to wait for this change to be made instead of throwing away a plan of cooperation that has served Southern Baptists well for almost 100 years and that was masterminded by a Louisiana pastor (M.E. Dodd)."

See CP GIVING, page



# Candidates from page 2

baptisms or total undesignated receipts for 2017-2021. Average worship attendance was 215

(including "0" reported for 2020), and the congregation forwarded an average of \$23,304 through

the Cooperative Program to support Southern Baptists' cooperative missions and ministries.

For 2021, the congregation cannot be compared to the averages for

SBC churches regarding baptisms, or percent of undesignated receipts forwarded through the Cooperative Program to support cooperative missions and ministries. Per-capita CP giving was \$109.50.

**Bart Barber** is pastor of First Baptist Church in Farmersville, Texas.

His bio on [fbcfarmersville.com](http://fbcfarmersville.com) states he earned a bachelor's from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and a master's and doctorate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

*Baptist Press* reported Barber was appointed by Litton to serve as chairman of the 2022 SBC Committee on Resolutions, having been appointed a member of the 2021 committee by former SBC President J.D. Greear (pastor, The Summit, Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina). Previously, Barber served as SBC first vice president (2013-2014), a trustee over the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas (2009-2019) and a member of the SBC Committee on Committees (2008).

A five-year digest of information from the Annual Church Profile database shows his congregation reported an average of 13 baptisms per

year, 2017-2021, and averaged annual undesignated receipts of \$914,677. Average worship attendance was 344, and the congregation forwarded an average of \$97,406 through the Cooperative Program for Southern Baptists' cooperative missions and ministries (10.65 percent of undesignated receipts for the period).

For 2021, the congregation reported 14 baptisms and average worship attendance of 320, for a ratio of 23:1, equal to the average evangelistic effectiveness for the SBC. The congregation witnessed 4.4 percent of the average worship attendance baptized, slightly higher (0.1 percent) than the SBC average. Per-capita CP giving was \$438.16.

**Robin Hadaway** is a retired missionary with the SBC International Mission Board, having served 18 years in the foreign mission field as a church planter (North Africa, Tanzania) and later as a regional leader supervising 350 missionaries (Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay). He has served as senior professor of missions with Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary since 2003, now teaching online and in-person doctoral seminars since moving to Southern California last year.

His bio on [mbts.edu](http://mbts.edu) states he earned a bachelor's from Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee, a master's from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth Texas, and doctorates from Gateway Seminary, Ontario, California, and the University of South Africa, Pretoria, Gauteng, South Africa.

*Baptist News Global* reported that in 2012, Hadaway "was tapped to serve eight months as interim president at Midwestern. His other administrative roles there included interim CFO and administrative vice president for institutional initiatives, and dean of students."

He is a member of New Song Community Church in Oceanside, California. A five-year

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## CP Giving from page 3

### 'CHANGE ME' GROWS

Horn also updated board members about the 'Change Me' personal revival effort, and highlighted Louisiana Baptists' numerous cooperative efforts.

Since Louisiana Baptist state mission services staff on May 5, 2021, began 'Change Me' to focus on personal revival, more than 12,500 books have been given away or purchased, he said. The 28-day revival guide is based on Psalm 139:23-24.

"Let us continue to pray that we allow God to 'search us, know us, and test us to see if there is any wicked way in us,'" Horn said.

### SOUL WINNING

Horn highlighted several efforts by Louisiana Baptists to win the lost to Christ:

--The 'Here for You' media campaign in the first quarter of 2022 reached 92 percent of TV households across the state, social media touched an average of 120,470 people per month and 51,792 people were impacted through streaming services. Moreover, in partnership with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association there were 1,578 views of the Gospel presentation in the first quarter and 292

people indicated having made a decision for Christ;

--Grambling State University Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director George Lee presented 100 leather-bound Bibles to every football player on the school's team. The Bibles were donated by Louisiana evangelist Luke Hockenjos' Just Give 'Em Jesus Ministries;

--Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief teams in cooperative efforts with three other states (Kentucky, Mississippi and Ohio) are traveling monthly to Gdańsk, Poland, to minister to Ukrainian refugees for at least six months. The Louisiana team, which went on April 13-18, remodeled an apartment that soon will house 16 Ukrainian refugees, led a Bible class for the children of the refugees and showed "The Jesus Film" to around 40 Ukrainians and a handful of members at First Baptist Church, Gdansk (the host church); and

--Louisiana Baptist, Texas Baptist Men and South Carolina Disaster Relief teams recently completed a pilot project involving a two-week rebuild of 20 homes, two churches and the Bayou Associational office in the Houma/Gray area. Louisiana Baptists have ample experience responding to disasters with feed-

ing and cleanup efforts for communities, but typically have limited their rebuilding efforts to the restoration of church facilities and pastor's homes. The added ministry focus will assist homeowners throughout communities, and DR officials are hoping the Rebuild Program will help give residents more opportunities to find hope in Jesus Christ. Additional teams are scheduled this summer to continue the rebuild project in the area impacted by Hurricane Ida.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Horn asked for continued prayer for the work of the Sexual Abuse Task Force. He said the staff, in January, were trained by Ministry Safe, a national ministry that equips churches and ministry programs to better protect children from sexual abuse, with particular emphasis on recognizing signs abusers are "grooming" victims.

Other related measures include:

--Continued discussions by administrative staff on how the LBC is responding

to sexual abuse prevention.

--Addressing changes related to sexual abuse prevention in the personnel manual.

--Reevaluating use of space at Tall Timbers for camps and retreats. Rules have been modified re-

garding registration in Lee Lodge, and we anticipate even more changes in the future.

--Horn and LBC President Reggie Bridges attended a meeting in Nashville on April 4 for an update from the Sexual Abuse Task Force.



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## Controversy from page one

clauses and make other changes with the hope of adding protections for the unborn in Louisiana -- aware that the bill in its original form was headed for a veto by the governor and lacked the votes to override him.

### SBC SEMBLANCES

The Louisiana dustup mirrored in part the heated discussion of the 2021 SBC Annual Meeting about a

resolution, "On Abolishing Abortion," that had been declined by the SBC Committee on Resolutions but was accepted for consideration by at least two-thirds of the messengers. That resolution declared "abortion is murder" and rejected "any position that allows for any exceptions" to the protection of the life of an unborn child. Likewise, it called for punishment to be meted out "equally under the law" in

the case of the murder of an unborn child.

The resolution was amended by messengers to reject the apparent condemnation of the pro-life movement's 49-year "incremental" effort to overturn Roe v. Wade -- and then it was adopted.

H.B. 813 differed at least in one way from that resolution in that the SBC statement declared Southern Baptists "will engage, with God's help, in establishing equal justice and protection for the preborn according to the authority of God's Word

as well as local and federal law." The Louisiana bill called for ignoring federal laws and court rulings.

### LAWMAKERS' DIFFERENCES

In presenting H.B. 813 on the House floor, McCormick dismissed other pro-life bills that also were being considered and competed with the ideas in his measure.

"If you are pro-life and believe that life begins at conception and you believe that we must protect that life, H.B. 813 is the only bill

providing equal protection to the born and pre-born people alike," he said.

He also anticipated arguments against his bill.

"You can't be pro-life and vote to kill H.B. 813 by amendment," he said.

"The vast majority in this room claim to be pro-life," he added. But, he said, there was a "clear opportunity to end abortion in the state" via his bill and that they were "faltering and trying to explain it away."

See **CONTROVERSY**, page 12

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## Baptisms from page one

said the church plans to equip even more members for discipleship and evangelism -- with the hope to share Christ in every home within a two-mile radius of Trinity Baptist.

"Discipleship not only includes studying the Word but includes evangelism," he said. "Our goal is to make disciples that make disciple makers. We want to know Christ and

make Christ known.

"If we do what God has called us to do, we will reach a community and change a community for Him," he continued. "Revival is happening. Through that we will reach the lost in our community."

Church member Matthew Harper said he is grateful for the spiritual influence of Rainey and other godly men in the church, who have held him accountable and encouraged him to grow deeper in His spiritual walk. Harper previously accepted Christ but was convicted of the need to share his story through baptism on Feb. 20.

"Being at Trinity has

truly put me back on the path that God planned for me," he said. "I have accountability partners that help me stay in His Word and are always a phone call away when I need prayers. Having the church family behind me has made it easier for me to feel confident and bold in my faith to share with the softball team my wife and I coach and help them in their walk with God.

"I'm just trusting God and His will for my family's life, like Proverbs 3:5 calls us to do. Having the church community always there for me makes it so much easier to stay strong even in the tough times. I'm beyond grateful."

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# Grambling State BCM uses Gospel to heal campus

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

GRAMBLING, La. (LBM) – Soon after an October fatal shooting rocked the Grambling State University community, Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director George Lee IV stepped up and organized a prayer and worship service at a local church.

What followed was a movement of the Holy Spirit that helped bring healing to a hurting community.

Around 60 students participated in a time of prayer on Oct. 21 at the Springs Church, a church plant of Temple Baptist Church, Ruston. Two students at the event restored fellowship with the Lord and many more cried out to God for an end to the violence during the service at the church that is less than four miles from the Grambling State campus.

“God has a way of using tragedy for His glory,”

Lee told the *Baptist Message*. “When there is loss of life there ought to be an appreciation for life. We ought to appreciate every moment we’re given.”

“The campus got closer in the days following the shooting and the worship service,” he continued. “Prayer began to be more and more a part of students’ lives. I spoke with several students on the heels of that tragic event who shared how that incident basically was the straw that broke the camel’s back. An incident like that was so jarring that

it led them to talk about other issues that they were dealing with, and it pointed several students to Jesus that week.”

Since the service, Lee and his students have continued to see God move.

Lee, who also serves as the chaplain for the football team, has ministered to players and coaches who lost loved ones during the 2021 season. Recently, the Grambling State BCM partnered with Ruston evangelist Luke Hockenjos to distribute 150 leather-bound Tony Evans study Bibles to players

and coaches.

Additionally, a BCM leadership team of 15 has met weekly for planning and Bible study since the beginning of the school year. Most recently the leadership team

helped re-launch a time of weekly prayer called “Prayer on the Yard,” which takes place at the hub of campus. They have invited students

See HEAL, page 8



George Lee, campus director of the Grambling State University Baptist Collegiate Ministries, encourages students and others during a prayer gathering on campus.

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# Congressman Johnson, wife launch ministry podcast

By Brian Blackwell  
Message staff writer

BOSSIER CITY, La. (LBM) – Congressman Mike Johnson and his wife, Kelly, have teamed up to launch a podcast focused on hot topics and current events from a Christian perspective.

“‘Truth be Told’ with Mike and Kelly Johnson” launched March 7 on their website, [mikeandkellyjohnson.com](http://mikeandkellyjohnson.com). The couple, who are members of Cypress Baptist Church, Benton, discuss such topics as how America can be saved, why conservatism matters, what Christ followers must do to preserve western civilization and the biblical basis for border security.

Johnson, who represents 15 parishes in Louisiana’s 4th Congressional District and has 20 years of experience litigating constitutional law cases, said he and his wife, who is a licensed Christian counselor, wanted to give others a glimpse through the podcast of what their fam-

ily talks about at the supper table. They have been married nearly 23 years.

“We have been working in ministry side by side and together for our whole marriage,” Johnson told the *Baptist Message*. “It’s sort of a natural thing for us. This is what we talk about and do every day. It is neat to share it with others.

“Kelly has a lot of insight and a different perspective than I do on so many things because she is a woman and her angle is Christian coun-

seling,” he continued. “I am really looking forward to the upcoming episodes where we dig deeply in those areas because there so many biblical insights she has in Christian counseling that can really be healing and liberating for people when they know the truth. People have commented they really enjoy the interaction between the two of us, a husband and wife, because we look at things a little bit differently, but we have fun with it.”

Johnson said he hopes the

podcast will equip Christ followers with information they can use to defend their faith and be salt and light that Jesus has commanded.

“Our objective is to go right to the heart of big issues that people are grappling with right now and issues on which there are not always readily available, biblically-based answers,” Johnson said. “That has turned out to be a real niche. There are a lot of political people talking about politics, and there are pastors and evangelists talking about

ministry, but there are not a lot of people who have a foot in both who address spiritual things from what is perceived as a political platform.

“We are trying to bring very compelling content and address hot topics and current events from an eternal and a biblical perspective,” he continued. “It’s very different than what people hear in most places, and it’s been very encouraging to a lot of people. They are being encouraged in their faith and in what they know intuitively.”

## Heal from page 7

and pastors of the community to pray each week for God to continue impacting the campus and area for Him.

“At one point, Prayer on the Yard was common but over the years it kind of fell off,” Lee explained. “Since I arrived at the BCM in early 2020, campus-wide prayer has been a huge focus of mine.

“When we had our

first prayer meeting on the yard, you could feel God’s presence,” he continued. “There was so much positive feedback we received from the administration and the student body about how it allowed for people to come with burdens and leave refreshed. To see students, some of whom are called to ministry, lead alongside our local pastors and ministry leaders was amazing. The mission of the GSU BCM is to show and share the love of Christ on the campus and in

the community. Our aim is to do this through reaching, connecting, strengthening, and mobilizing our campus for God’s glory. I believe God is going to unify our campus and our community and prayer will be the key to revival at Grambling.”

God has moved mightily since the shooting, Lee said, but he believes the best is yet to come.

“I’m blown away by what God has done,” Lee said. “The past two years of campus ministry have been

challenging, but God has been faithful in the midst of that challenging season.

“It’s my hope we go from ministry to movement on campus and that students will grow in their faith,” he continued. “If students know how to share the Gospel, they know how to study God’s word, they understand the importance of being a part of the local church, and they have developed the heart posture of living on mission, I have done my job.”



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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. Send in your information (who, what, where and when) to [philip@baptist-message.com](mailto:philip@baptist-message.com) or call 318.449.4345. Submit your information three weeks prior to the event.

## ON THE MOVE

- **Adam, wife Felicia, Rainey** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Lake Providence.
- **Terry, wife Denise, Barnes** is the new pastor at Parkview Baptist Church, Monroe.
- **David McCormick** is the interim pastor at First Baptist Swartz, Monroe.
- **Matthew Cormier** ordained into the Gospel ministry at Bayou Jack Baptist Church, Plaquemine.
- **Caleb Parks** ordained into the Gospel ministry at Baskin Baptist Church, Baskin.
- **Chuck McInturf** retiring as pastor at Woodridge Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Scott Mercer** has resigned as director of Camp Living Waters, Loranger.
- **Mark Robinson** has resigned as pastor at First Baptist, Bunkie.

## HOMEcoming

- Esler Baptist Church, Pineville: **74th Annual Homecoming**, May 29, 10:30 a.m. Dinner on the grounds following service. Speaker: **Jesse Garrison**. Worship: **Gordon Roy Whately**. Pastor: Joshua Timothy.
- Pine Hill Baptist Church, Leesville: **129th Annual Homecoming**, June 5, 10 a.m. There will be dinner on the grounds in the Christian Life Center. Special Music: **Master4 Southern Gospel Quartet**. Pastor: Keith Dowden.
- Gray's Creek Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **75th Anniversary**, June 26, 10:30 a.m. Music: **Greg Sullivan Ministries**. Pastor: David Brown.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **150th**

- Anniversary celebration**, June 26, 10 a.m. The celebration will begin on the Deville Campus with a single service at 10:00 AM where there will be a special worship service with former staff and special friends, a historical walk-through, followed by a meal and plenty of fellowship. Morning worship at Horseshoe Drive will be at 10:30 AM and will also include a special time of celebration. Pastor: Philip Robertson.
- First Baptist Church, Baker: **90th Anniversary**, June 26, 10:30 a.m. There will be potluck lunch following worship. Please call the church at 225.775.0520 if you are interested in celebrating with us. Pastor: Corey Olivier.

## REVIVAL

- First Baptist Church, Port Barre: **Revival**, June 5-8, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Tyler Gaulden**. For more information call 337.945.7880. Pastor: Benji Richard.
- New Ramah Baptist Church, Castor: **Revival**, June 5-8, Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday June 6-8, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **David Hanna**. Music: **The Lisemby Family**. Pastor Steve Palmer.
- Sharon Baptist Church, Hico/Dubach: **June Revival Mondays**, June 6, 13, 20, 27, 7 p.m. nightly. Speakers: **Rubin Weaver, Michael McIntosh, Paul Watts, Kelly Coleman**. Music: **Robert Grafton**. Pastor: Jeff Roberts.
- Open Door Baptist Church, Ragley: **Harvest Sunday**, June 19, 10 a.m. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Sonny Simpson.
- Palestine Baptist Church, Grant: **The Mackey Willis Family in concert**, June 19, a.m. Pastor: Hardy Estes.

## LAGNIAPPE

- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Pollock: **Pastor is needed at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church**. Send resumes to [pleasanthillbapt@bellsouth.net](mailto:pleasanthillbapt@bellsouth.net) or P.O. Box 520, Pollock, LA 71467.

- New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Ben Waites in Concert**, May 29, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Marty Black.
- French Corner Baptist Church, Ponchatoula: **Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert**, May 29, 11 a.m. Pastor: Eric Hattaway.
- First Baptist Church, Winnfield: **Vacation Bible School – Shipwrecked on Lava Island**, June 5-8, 6-8 p.m. This is for kids who completed pre-k – sixth grade. Pastor: Jerry Pipes.
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: **VBS 2022**, June 5-9, 5:30-8:45 p.m. Pastor: Stewart Holway.
- Highland Baptist Church, Bogalusa: **Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert**, June 5, 10:20 a.m. Pastor: Dennis Allen.
- First Baptist Church, Winnsboro: **SPARK – Vacation Bible School**, June 6-9, 5:15-7:30 p.m. Pastor: Craig Beeman.
- First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Vacation Bible School – Making Waves**, June 6-10. VBS will be for children who have completed kindergarten through the fifth grade. Pastor: Chris Craig.
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Vacation Bible School**, June 6-10, 8 a.m. – noon. This summer kids (who have completed K5-through sixth grade) will learn that God's creativity didn't stop in Genesis. Through Bible study, art, music and game, children will have 5 days of learning they are God's workmanship and a masterpiece in the process. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- Mandeville First Baptist Church, Mandeville: **Vacation Bible School – Monumental**, June 6-10.
- Longview Baptist Church, Deville: **VBS 2022 Spark Studios**, June 6-10, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Children who have completed pre-K through seventh grade are invited to Spark Studios. Pastor: Robby Poole.
- First Baptist Church, Zwolle: **VBS 2022 Spark Studios**, June 6-10, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Pastor: Marty Williams.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **VBS**

- 2022 Spark Studios**, June 6-10, 6-8:30 p.m. This is for grades kindergarten through sixth grade. Preregister for VBS @ Philadelphia Baptist Church – Deville. Pastor: Philip Robertson.
- First Baptist Church, Bunkie: **VBS 2022 Spark Studios**, June 6-10, 8 a.m.-Noon. There will be a closing family rally, June 10, noon.
- First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula: **Spark Studios – Vacation Bible School**, June 6-10, 8:30 a.m.-noon. This is for pre-k to completed sixth grade. Pastor: David Cranford.
- First Baptist Church, Covington: **VBS 2022 -- Spark Studios**, June 7-9, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. For children who have completed K-through sixth grade. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.
- Gray Baptist Church, Jefferson: **SIMPLE FAITH in Concert**, June 10, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Roy W. Davis.
- Esler Baptist Church, Pineville: **VBS 2022 -- Backstage with the Bible**, June 10-12, p.m. Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Friday, 5:30-8 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. includes a light breakfast and lunch. **Family Day** on Sunday with a hamburger cookout, waterslides and worship. Pastor: Joshua Timothy.
- Grangeville Baptist Church, Pine Grove: **Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert**, June 19, 11 a.m. Pastor: Mike Cotton.
- New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: **VBS 2022**, June 20-24, Pastor: Marty Black.
- First Baptist Church, Jackson: **Vacation Bible**

- School**, June 20-24. Pastor: Joe Nesom.
- Lakeshore Baptist Church, Monroe: **Vacation Bible School**, June 20-24, 8 a.m.- Noon. Pastor: William Smith.
- First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **Vacation Bible School**, June 20-24. Pastor: James Pritchard.
- Coteau Baptist Church, Houma: **Trevor Thomas Live**, June 22, 6:15 p.m. Come enjoy listening to this Christian entertainer and actor. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Wayne Hunt.
- Oak Forest Baptist Church, Leesville: **Trevor Thomas Live**, June 24, 7 p.m. Come enjoy this Christian entertainer and actor. Pastor: Joe Call.
- Hodge Baptist Church, Hodge: **Trevor Thomas Live**, June 26, 5 p.m. Come enjoy listening to this Christian entertainer and actor. Pastor: Keith Thomas.
- First Baptist Church, Baker: **'America – We Must Not Forget'**, June 26, 5 p.m. You will not want to miss this Patriotic program performed by the community choir from area churches. Pastor: Corey Olivier.
- Welcome Home Baptist Church, Hebert: **VBS 2022**, June 26-30, 6:30-9 p.m. There will be a family night as well as VBS for children and adults. Pastor: Jim McKeithen.
- First Baptist Church, Basile: **VBS 2022 -- Spark Studios**, June 26-30, 5:30-8 p.m. To register online: [www.fbcbasile.com/vbs2022](http://www.fbcbasile.com/vbs2022). Pastor: Mike Fontenot.



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## 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.

LDY MH NALQQ GLNA MVJU KQVFAHN VD FAH NHPH DFA

YLM, LDY MH NALQQ EH KQHLD, LDY LSFHUGLUY MH

NALQQ KVBH RDFV FAH KLBI.

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Clues:  
K = C; H = E

Answer to April 28 Scripture Crypto:  
Exodus sixteen: two



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**Seeking a full time STUDENT MINISTER**

Houston River Baptists Church in Sulphur, La. Seeks a full time student minister. Send resumes to: Email: [HRBCStudentMINS@bellsouth.net](mailto:HRBCStudentMINS@bellsouth.net) 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.



**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER**

Emmanuel Baptist Church located at 5850 Buncombe Rd, Shreveport, LA 71129 is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please email résumés to [ronroseturner@bellsouth.net](mailto:ronroseturner@bellsouth.net)

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## Candidates from page 4

digest of information from the Annual Church Profile database shows his congregation reported an average of 37 baptisms per year, 2017-2021, and averaged annual undesignated receipts of \$1,582,689. Average worship attendance was 721, and the congregation forwarded an average of \$15,759 through the Cooperative Program for Southern Baptists' cooperative missions and ministries (1.0 percent of undesignated receipts for the period). For 2021, the con-

gregation reported 26 baptisms and average worship attendance of 749, for a ratio of 29:1, meaning the congregation was less evangelistically effective than the SBC. The congregation witnessed 3.5 percent of the average worship attendance baptized, almost one percentage point lower than the SBC average. Per-capita CP giving was \$22.36. Messengers to the 2022 Southern Baptist Convention will meet in Anaheim, Calif., June 14-15.

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**ASSOCIATION MISSIONARY STRATEGIST (AMS)** position available for Northeast and Morehouse associations. Resumes are being accepted for this full-time position through June 15. Interested candidates should email résumés to Administrative Team Search Committee at office@nelba.net or mail to 7103 DeSiard St., Monroe, LA 71203. Minimum Education and Experience: A master's degree or equivalent from an accredited seminary or experience deemed sufficient to functioning in the position. Ten years of experiences as a pastor or serving as a staff member of a Southern Baptist Church or convention agency.

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

**BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR**  
Pelican Baptist Church in Pelican, LA, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please send résumés to Pelican Baptist Church, P.O. Box 108, Pelican, LA 71063 or email to henrytouchton@gmail.com. Parsonage is available.

**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 pdbcfa@gmail.com

**Bethel Baptist Church of Colfax, Louisiana** is prayerfully seeking a **Full-Time Pastor**. Please send résumés to: Attn: Pastor/Search Committee Bethel Baptist Church 8789 Hwy 8, Colfax, Louisiana 71417 or email Bethelbaptistcolfax@hotmail.com

**SEEKING FULL-TIME PASTOR**  
Bethlehem Baptist Church, Albany, La., is searching for a full-time Pastor. Please send your résumés to [pastorsearchbethlehem@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsearchbethlehem@gmail.com) or for additional information call the church at 225.567.3666.

**FULL TIME PASTOR**  
Cooper Baptist Church, Leesville is seeking a full time pastor. Please send résumés to 853 Cooper Church Rd. Leesville LA 71446. Call 337.537.3735 with any questions.

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First Baptist Church is seeking an Interim Preacher. Mail resumes to Interim Preacher Search Committee 100 N Hickory Street Vidalia, LA 71373 or email [careers@fbcvidalia.com](mailto:careers@fbcvidalia.com)

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The JBC Caring & Learning Center of Judson Baptist Church in Walker, La is seeking a **FULL TIME DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL & DAYCARE**  
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**BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR**  
Midway Baptist Church in Converse is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please send résumés to PO Box 70, Converse, La 71419 or email to [webb386@bellsouth.net](mailto:webb386@bellsouth.net). Parsonage is available. Call 318-315-0332.

**SEEKING SENIOR PASTOR**  
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**SEEKING A PASTOR**  
Seeking a Pastor for First Baptist Church of Abbeville. We are a Southern Baptist church searching for a Pastor who is loving, humble, a strong leader and able to reach out to the community. If you think you are the right man of God to help lead and help us grow, please send your résumés to us at [pgayneaux@aol.com](mailto:pgayneaux@aol.com)

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**SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR**  
Flactor Baptist Church in Hicks, LA is seeking a God-filled man to serve as a bi-vocational pastor able to reach the community. If you feel led, please mail your résumés to Flactor Baptist Church P O Box 183, Slagle, LA 71475.

**SEEKING A PASTOR**  
Forest Baptist Church in Forest, LA is seeking a pastor. Résumés can be sent Attn: Forest Pastor Search Committee P.O. Box 669, Epps, LA 71237 or emailed to [bayoumac@bellsouth.net](mailto:bayoumac@bellsouth.net) Attn: Forest Baptist Church

**SEEKING A LEAD PASTOR**  
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Description: Work closely with the pastor in creating worship services and teams that help with the congregation (Planning weekly worship service, and recruiting musicians).

**CHILDREN'S MINISTER**  
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Email: [resumes@maplewoodfbc.com](mailto:resumes@maplewoodfbc.com)



# Controversy from page 6

Rep. Alan Seabaugh, a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, representing a group of 37 pro-life lawmakers, offered amendments. Chief among the changes were steep increases in fines and jail times for abortionists. Also, clauses were removed that

called for ignoring the rule of law and the separation of powers (between the state and federal governments; and between the three branches of government).

In speaking for the amendments, Seabaugh rejected McCormick's claim about the potential effect of

the original bill.

"This bill will not prevent a single abortion from occurring, not one," he said. "If anyone has told you that passage of H.B. 813 will prevent a single abortion, they misled you or they don't know how the law works."

He also pointed to the leaked Supreme Court draft opinion on *Dobbs v. Jack-*

son and suggested *Roe v. Wade* will be overturned; and said pro-life proponents should be unified at the prospect.

"We should not be at each other's throats over a bill that is blatantly unconstitutional, makes criminals out of women, would not prevent a single abortion and as far as I can tell was only presented to

give a couple of misguided people a platform," Seabaugh concluded.

## DIVIDING LINE

The final vote for the amendments was 65 yays and 26 nays. One Louisiana Baptist joined McCormick in opposing the amendments. Ten Louisiana Baptists joined Seabaugh in passing the amendments, and one was absent.

McCormick, unhappy with the amendments, withdrew H.B. 813 by returning it to the calendar for future consideration. But it likely will not be reheard.

## LBC VIEWS

Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director Steve Horn provided a statement to the *Baptist Message* to address some of the heated public discourse that has taken place since the vote on H.B. 813.

"Though Louisiana Baptists have spoken numerous times throughout the years to state our unequivocal pro-life position, as a whole, we have never taken a position on several of the tenets of House Bill 813, namely the charging of mothers with murder," Horn said. He pointed to Louisiana Baptists' leading role in passing the 2020 Love Life Amendment statewide ballot measure as "great evidence of the unquestionable pro-life stance of Louisiana Baptists." That initiative added wording to the state constitution to make clear there is no written or implied right to abortion in it.

Horn said faithful Louisiana Baptists held varying opinions about H.B. 813 and should be free to express those views "without being labeled by the other side as enemies."

"For me personally," he continued, "it is disingenuous to label a person as non-pro-life or worse, pro-abortion, if he/she opposed House Bill 813 in its unamended form. With the imminent decision of the Supreme Court regarding *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, now is the time to be able to celebrate the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* with great joy and unity."

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## Our Gospel, Our Legacy

**W**e are instructed to take our Gospel to the ends of the Earth. For Christians, the significance of our Gospel drives us to share it with the many who do not know it. The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ has led to a change within us, redeemed us, purified us and saved us. We cherish it because it brought us from spiritual death to life and brought light to our darkness. Unmistakably, our Gospel has forever made a difference in our lives. We are convicted by its truth. We are humbled by its saving grace. We are awed by the sacrificial gift of our Lord. The power of the Gospel stands alone!

As Christians, how do we respond to the Gospel in our daily lives? For most, we desire to share it verbally and model its change in our lives that provides a testimony to the lost. Opportunities to share it abound to the point that the task may seem to overwhelm. However, it is a matter of attempting to impact one life at a time with the power of the Gospel.

For Christians that Gospel becomes a part of our legacy to our family and the world around us. The Louisiana Baptist Foundation is a ministry that helps individuals think through additional ways of how to further one's legacy to advance the Kingdom through spreading the Gospel. How can the Foundation privately and confidentially help you?

Jeffrey Steed, Executive Director  
Jerry Love, Director of Planned Giving



### JUNE 2022

Our Gospel, Our Legacy

### Special Gifts Now

There are many great types of non-cash assets that can be invested in the Kingdom now to spread the Gospel. Examples of these non-cash type assets include stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, mineral interests and other types of assets.

Phone: 877-523-4636  
Email: [Contact@LBFinfo.org](mailto:Contact@LBFinfo.org)

### JULY 2022

Our Gospel, Our Legacy

### Tithing Your Estate

Consider leaving an impact to your family, but also the Kingdom with at least a tithe (10%) through your Last Will and Testament to impact your church in spreading the Gospel.

Phone: 877-523-4636  
Email: [Contact@LBFinfo.org](mailto:Contact@LBFinfo.org)

### AUGUST 2022

Our Gospel, Our Legacy

### Endowment for Missions

An endowment can have a tremendous impact on mission efforts through your church and/or other ministry organizations that can be funded now with a special gift and later through an estate gift.

Phone: 877-523-4636  
Email: [Contact@LBFinfo.org](mailto:Contact@LBFinfo.org)

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