



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

June 30, 2022

Volume 137 • Issue No. 7

John 3:16

Share the Message

www.baptistmessage.com

TO REPORT A
NEWS ITEM
OR TO BUY
AN AD, CALL
877.234.3832

2022 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

CONDUCTING BUSINESS



Baptist Press photo

More than 8,000 messengers (above) voted overwhelmingly to adopt the recommendations of the SBC's Sexual Abuse Task Force at the 2022 SBC Annual Meeting in Anaheim, Calif., June 14-15. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Jamie Dew (bottom left) presented his report on NOBTS to the messengers on June 15. Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn (bottom right) offered an invitation to attend the 2023 Annual Meeting in New Orleans and the closing prayer for the 2022 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting.



Messengers adopt resolutions, budgets and elect new officers

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. (LBM) – Messengers to the 2022 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting enjoyed fellowship and inspiring worship, but also conducted a great deal of important business, June 14-15, in Anaheim, California.

ELECTIONS

Bart Barber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Farmersville, Texas, was elected SBC president, winning a runoff vote against Florida Pastor Tom Ascol by a margin of 1,229 votes, 3,401 votes (60.87 percent) to 2,172 (38.88 percent).

In the first round of voting, Barber received 3,258 votes, or 47.58 percent compared to Ascol's (pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Cape Coral, Fla.), 2,332 votes, or 34.06 percent; Frank Cox's (pastor, North Metro Baptist Church, Lawrenceville, Ga.), 887 votes, or 12.95 percent; and Robin Hadaway's (professor, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.), 340 votes, or 4.97 percent.

In other elections, messengers

See **BUSINESS**, page 2

Bahamian church re-dedication July 24

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

PELICAN POINT, Bahamas (LBM) – Most work on the rebuild of the structures of the St.

Matthew Baptist Church is complete, making way for a July 24 re-dedication of the facilities leveled by Hurricane Dorian in 2019.

According to Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief

Strategist Stan Statham, only carpet installation and some interior painting need to be done.

A LBDR team of six

See **BAHAMIAN**, page 13

Business from page one

elected Victor Chayas-irisobhon (pastor, Faith Fellowship Church, LaPalma, California) first vice-president; Alex Sands (pastor, Kingdom Life Church in Simpsonville, South Carolina) second vice-pres-

ident; Don Currence (administrative pastor, First Baptist Church, Ozark, Missouri), registration secretary; and Nathan Finn (provost, North Greenville (S.C.) University) recording secretary.

INSURANCE FOR CHURCHES
Since 1916





Call 318.442.0269

lardoin@spenglerstewart.com
www.spenglerstewart.com



LORI ARDOIN & PAUL D. STEWART

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENINGS
On Monroe Campus

COTTAGE PARENTS:
 Husband and wife teams are needed. Full-time positions include salary, benefits, paid vacation, and training. Basic job description is to provide love, care, and hope in Christ for children in need. Applicants should not have children living at home under the age of 18. Applicants must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and be active members of a local Southern Baptist church. Part-time positions are also available.

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

COTTAGE MANAGERS:
 Full-Time and Part-Time Positions Available: Christian women needed to serve in HomePlace, a transitional living ministry for homeless children and their mothers. Must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and families.

Please send resume to: Jonann Byargeon at jonann@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.



NOBTS REPORT

Five seminaries offered reports, including New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

NOBTS President Jamie Dew reported that his students have shared the Gospel 11,724 times this year with 1,120 salvation decisions resulting from the conversations. Dew added that 393 students graduated in December 2021 and May 2022 commencement ceremonies.

He said the faculty continues to serve faithfully beyond the classroom. He noted that more than 50 percent of faculty members serve in vocational ministry at a church, and more than 100 faculty, staff and students serve in church plants in the New Orleans area.

"When I think about what God is doing in the city of New Orleans, when I think about what God is doing on our campus at NOBTS and Leavell College, two words come to mind: hope and favor,"

Dew said.

SADDLEBACK INDECISION

The Committee on Credentials delayed a decision to disfellowship Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, California in response to a motion by Shad Tibbs, a messenger and pastor, Fellowship Baptist Church, Trout, Louisiana, made during the 2021 SBC Annual Meeting. Tibbs had asked for a determination about whether the SBC should break fellowship with Saddleback Church because it ordained three women in May 2021, a contradiction with the Baptist Faith and Message's ban on female ordination.

Chair Linda Cooper said the committee was not yet ready to make the decision "until clarity is provided regarding the use of the title 'pastor' for staff positions with different responsibility and authority than that of the lead pastor." She also said there is a difference between the "gift" of pastor and the "of-

fice" of pastor.

Warren was allowed to address messengers from the floor.

"I owe you all so much," he said. "So, I sincerely say thank you Southern Baptists for shaping my life."

But he indicated this might be his last SBC Annual Meeting.

"As western culture grows more dark, more evil, more secular, we have to decide are we going to treat each other as allies or adversaries," he said. "Are we going to keep bickering over secondary issues, or are we going to keep the main thing the main thing? We need to finish the task and that will make God smile."

HORN PRAYER

Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn closed the meeting with both an invitation to attend the 2023 SBC Annual Meeting, June 13-14, in New Orleans, and a prayer for messengers, outgoing SBC President Ed Litton and Barber.

"As we have resolved much over these last two days, now let us go resolving as the Apostle Paul said to know nothing except Jesus Christ in him crucified," he said. "We pray, oh, God, as we leave that you will give us the continuing prayer of our hearts that you, oh, God, will search us and know us, test us, see if there be any wicked way in us and that you, oh, God, will lead us in the everlasting way."

LAGNIAPPE

This year's SBC Annual Meeting drew 8,133 messengers, including 291 from Louisiana.

See **BUSINESS**, page 18

COOK BAPTIST CHURCH
RUSTON, LOUISIANA



Help us celebrate CBC's 100th anniversary. Do you have a testimony about something awesome God has done in your life while being a member or attending Cook Baptist Church? Please write out your testimony, limit to one page, to be submitted by August 1, 2022. Testimonies from all ages are welcome.

Ways to submit:

*Mail: 100 year Anniversary Committee
 2000 Cooktown Road,
 Ruston, LA 71270*

Email: debcorley@suddenlink.net

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Testimonies will be published in a booklet for September 25th, Celebration Sunday.

<p>LOUISIANA BAPTIST MESSAGE</p> <p>Will Hall, Editor</p> <p>STAFF</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Philip Timothy Managing Editor</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Rhonda Havens Advertising Director</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Brian Blackwell Staff Writer</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">JoAnne Timothy Office Manager</p> <p>Board of Trustees:</p> <p>Steve Arledge, Jeremy Blocker, Larry Evans, James Hester, Les Colvin Jeff Coleman, Lonnie Gothrup, David Cranford, Mike Evans, Carolyn Grigg, Jimmy Watson, Dale Goodman.</p>	<p>ADVERTISING</p> <p>Display [boxed] and classified [words only] advertising must be in writing, and may be submitted by email, U.S. mail or fax.</p> <p>To the best of our knowledge, all ads in the <i>Louisiana Baptist Message</i> represent legitimate companies and offerings. However, one should always exercise normal business caution in responding to ads.</p> <p>For all your advertising needs contact Rhonda Havens at the <i>Message</i> at 318.449.4351 or 877.234.3832.</p> <p>The Louisiana Baptist Message partners with:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">© Copyright 2022 Baptist Message. All rights reserved</p>	<p>SUBSCRIPTIONS:</p> <p>Individual: \$14/year Group rates available Call the Louisiana Baptist Message at 318.449.4343 or 877.234.3832 Fax: 318-445-8328 editor@baptistmessage.com PO Box 311 Alexandria LA 71309 www.baptistmessage.com</p>	<p>CHANGE OF ADDRESS</p> <p>Two weeks before change is desired, send new address (with zip code and street address) and mailing label from this copy of the <i>Louisiana Baptist Message</i>. Periodicals postage paid in Alexandria, Louisiana, and additional mailing offices.</p> <p>POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Baptist Message, 1250 MacArthur Drive, PO Box 311, Alexandria LA 71309-0311</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(USPS 042-860) (ISSN 0740-2104)</p> <p>Published biweekly Thursdays by the <i>Louisiana Baptist Message</i>, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana 71303.</p>
Volume 137 June 30, 2022 Number 7			

NOLA BCM chaplain shares Hope with hopeless

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS, La. (LBM) – Since 2020, Baptist Community Ministries Chaplain Doug Daspit has been on a mission to give Christ-centered hope to the people on the streets of New Orleans.

Daspit, who joined BCM two years ago, has used even the darkest circumstances as an opportunity to shine Jesus' light.

"Chaplaincy is a cool ministry," Daspit told the Baptist Message. "It allows me to engage my community in places that a lot of other ministers don't have the opportunity to step into. There have been lots of ministry conversations, people I have prayed with, individuals I have counseled with and many I shared Scripture with that I never imagined I would be able to do."

During his time with BCM, Daspit has responded to 144 incidents, with the most memorable, so far, a May 2021 shooting outside a Mid-City coffee shop, he said.

Hearing a cry for help from a man who was shot, he issued a call via a police dispatcher, Daspit shared. Within a minute, officers and emergency medical services personnel responded. He remained at the scene to offer prayers and comfort until the victim was taken to a hospital, where he recovered. Leaving the coffee shop, Daspit thanked God for allowing him to be used for such a purpose.

"My goal in that moment was to get him help as quickly as possible, and then to be a source of peace to keep him calm in that moment," Daspit explained. "This is what we do as chaplains. When we sign up, we know this is the kind of situations we are stepping into. To be able to pray and remind him of God's presence was comforting."



Chaplain Doug Daspit

Daspit, a former church planter of Crescent City Community Church, New Orleans (a Baptist General Conference congregation), said responding to an incident at a crime scene can be emotionally trying but he said BCM chaplains understand they must be faithful to offer encouragement in those difficult times.

"When you walk into a crime scene you are often times walking into the worst day of someone's life," he said. "We have the privilege of just being there and being present in those moments."

"Just us being there is this reminder, is this symbol, to that person that God is present to them in this extremely difficult day," he continued. "There are times where we might be there for hours and not say a lot. We are offering prayers and listening. We are a non-anxious presence and can be a source of peace with somebody in the midst of that chaos. It's a humbling moment for us to walk into and to be present for."

Daspit is one of five full-time chaplains who have built strong relationships with officers in all eight districts of the New Orleans Police Department, according to BCM officials. Another six chaplains minister at hospitals and other health care facilities throughout the city.

The BCM website notes that its chaplains are theologically educated, clinically trained and nationally board-certified by either the Association of Professional Chaplains or the National Association of Catholic Chaplains.

The ministry was formed from the proceeds of the 1995 sale of Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans; and through the years the ministry has furthered the Gospel through partnerships formed with 150 churches and 95 non-profit organizations in the city — investing in health, education and public safety.

BCM officially marked its 25th anniversary in 2020.

"The fact that BCM allows us to do this full time is a blessing," he said. "Police departments around the country may have one full time chaplain or possibly several who do it voluntarily, but we are blessed to have five full-time chaplains that allows for such a fruitful ministry."

Daspit asked Louisiana Baptists to pray for police officers who risk their lives daily on the streets of New Orleans.

"Frankly, I have been taken aback by the sheer amount of trauma they see on a daily basis," he said. "I've seen firsthand how that can take its toll on them. Pray for spiritual healing and renewal for their souls."

"Secondly, pray for the welfare of New Orleans," he said. "Jeremiah 29:7 says, 'But seek the welfare of the city where I have

sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its be-

half, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.'"

The new book release on the rapture!

SCAN ME
Order your paperback or ebook today on Amazon.

THE GATHERING:
When the Rapture Really Happens

"Thorough. Compelling. Encouraging . . . a book for our time. These fresh insights will shift your view & understanding about the rapture and Revelation." — Charism Press Publishing

"I've never read a better book on the rapture. Enlightening!"
— Peggy Ellis, Christian author & editor



STEVE PAYSEN MINISTRIES

Steve has served on staff at some of the most evangelistic Bible proclaiming churches in America and understands how to confront the evangelical apathy many churches drift into. Steve has a tremendous passion to reach the lost and will encourage and refresh your church with his love for the Church.

706.716.0316 | STEVEPAYSEN@GMAIL.COM | P230.ORG

Messengers choose not to abolish ERLC

By Staff
Baptist Message

ANAHEIM, Calif. (LBM) – During the June 15 session of the 2022 SBC Annual Meeting, messengers voted against a recommendation that would have abolished the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. It was among 34 motions presented during the meeting, June 14-15, in Anaheim, California.

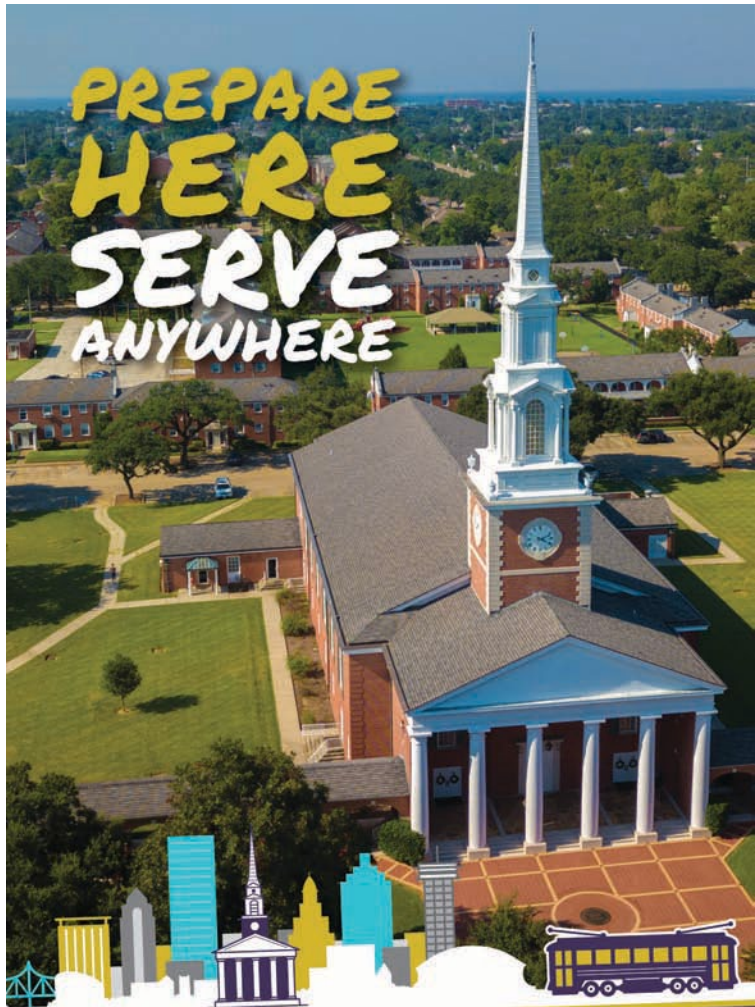
Joshua Scruggs, a messenger from Bethlehem Baptist Church, Jacksonville, North Carolina, moved for the ERLC’s elimination, saying some of actions of the ERLC have caused “needless divisions among Southern Baptists.”


Brent Leatherwood, acting ERLC president, said the entity takes the

Gospel and truth to the public square and contended the ERLC was needed more than ever, especially with a decision soon by the U.S. Supreme Court that could overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark case that legalized abortion.

“I admit that there has been frustration with the various personalities and stances over the years,” he said. “I hear you. When I was given this role, I told our team let us double down on our mission. Because regardless of the personality leading at any given point, our mission remains the same – to equip our churches to apply Christian principles to the moral and social problems of the day.”

See **ABOLISH**, page 7





LEAVELL COLLEGE
NEW ORLEANS, LA

OUR BACHELOR'S PROGRAM AND UNIQUE SETTING PREPARE YOU FOR SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST A JOB. LEAVELL COLLEGE PREPARES YOU TO ANSWER GOD'S CALL.

LEARN MORE LEAVELLCOLLEGE.COM



Baptist Press photo

Messengers to the 2022 SBC Annual Meeting in Anaheim, Calif., vote overwhelmingly to adopt the recommendations of the SBC’s Sexual Abuse Task Force.

Messengers adopt SATC recommendations

By Staff
Baptist Message

ANAHEIM, Calif. (LBM) – Southern Baptist Convention messengers, during a June 14 report on the Sexual Abuse Task Force, approved the creation of an Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force and a “ministry check” website.

The Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force will be authorized to operate for one year, but the time could be extended by messengers at each subsequent SBC Annual Meeting. The task force will work with entity heads to recommend how to pay for reforms and report about their work to messengers at the SBC Annual Meeting.

According to a June 8 article from *Baptist Press*, Send Relief will provide \$3 million to fund the proposed recommendations for sexual abuse reform, and an additional \$1 million to establish a survivor care fund to provide trauma care for



Baptist Press photo

North Carolina pastor Bruce Frank, chair of the Sexual Abuse Task Force, told messengers to the 2022 SBC Annual Meeting that June 14 was a day for Southern Baptists to “choose between humility or hubris.”

survivors and trauma training for pastors. Send Relief is a joint compassion ministry of the North American Mission Board

See **RECOMMENDATIONS**, page 8

Did you miss
Mission:Dignity SUNDAY?



Text MDORDER to 41444 to order materials.

Text MDSUNDAY to 41444 to give.



Mission:Dignity



Champion's Camp

Our special needs friends are amazing people.

This camp is designed especially for Kids & Adults with special needs who are age 8 and up. During the camp, Campers will enjoy games, activities, worship & Bible time designed with their special needs in mind.

SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2022
Tall Timbers, Woodworth



REGISTRATION AND MORE
INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT
talltimbersbee.org/champ

Messengers adopt nine resolutions

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. (LBM) – Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's 2022 Annual Meeting adopted nine resolutions submitted by the Resolutions Committee.

Resolution 1 expressed a commitment to and recognition of the mission field in rural places and pledged continue to support the work of the Cooperative Program to help spread the gospel in rural places.

Resolution 2 denounced teaching of the prosperity Gospel.

Resolution 3 condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine, called upon Russian President Vladimir Putin to withdraw immediately and urged continued prayers for the Christians and refugees there.

Resolution 4 addressed religious liberty and forced conversions of Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians and encouraged Southern Baptists to “decry methods of forced assimilation and conversion, as well as the dehumanization of fellow image bearers.”

The resolution was in response to a Bureau of Indian Affairs Investigative Report, released in May 2022, that found “the United States maliciously targeted Native American, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian children as part of a diabolical plan to dispossess these people groups from their native lands by forced assimilation through the establishment of mandatory boarding schools.”

The committee accepted a friendly amendment that added, “Resolved that we remain committed to the

evangelization of Native American peoples, calling them to freely repent of their sins and believe on Jesus for salvation, even as morally neutral aspects of their culture are preserved and celebrated.”

Resolution 5 asked U.S. lawmakers to pass laws that provide “consistent definitions and classification of sexual abuse by pastors, as sexual abuse committed by pastors constitutes a clear abuse of authority and trust (similarly seen in the relationships in the aforementioned professional settings).”

Resolution 6 denounced sexual abuse, publicly lamented actions that caused harm to sexual abuse victims and asked for forgiveness from the victims.

Resolution 7 encouraged Southern Baptists to pray for the overturning of Roe v. Wade (the case



Submitted photo

Resolutions Committee member Mike Keahbone, a Southern Baptist pastor with Native American heritage, cast his ballot for a resolution addressing religious liberty and forced conversions among Native Americans.

that legalized abortion), urged Southern Baptists to continue advocating for pro-life causes, increase efforts to serve and support pregnancy care centers, pro-life organizations, churches and foster care and adoptive families and asked the Supreme Court to overturn the case.

Resolution 8 pleaded with Southern Baptists to affirm the dignity and value of every person as created in God's image.

Resolution 9 expressed appreciation to the citizens of the greater Los Angeles, Calif., area for hospitality extended during the SBC Annual Meeting.

GBO

GEORGIA BARNETTE

MARK 1:38

LOUISIANA MISSIONS OFFERING

WEEK OF PRAYER
SEPT. 11-18, 2022

GEORGIA BARNETTE.ORG

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS



Submitted photo

Steven Bates, chairman of the committee on order of business and a member of First Baptist, Winnfield, instructed messengers about how to properly submit a motion at the 2022 Annual Meeting, June 14.

Abolish from page 4

Richard Land, ERLC president from 1998-2013, also urged messengers to vote against the motion.

"I cannot imagine a more damaging moment for the SBC to defund the ERLC, just at the precise moment where after nearly 50 years of effort we are on the verge of having *Roe v. Wade* overturned," he said.

"That will immediately lead to a battle in all 50 states and the state legislatures. Southern Baptists will be leading that charge," Land emphasized. "The ERLC is perfectly primed to be a resource to be a help and to help share information among the 50 states.

"Southern Baptists have a unique voice in Washington and around the world because of the ERLC," Land said. "To defund the ERLC because you're unhappy with some of what they have done would be like taking a cannon to destroy a mosquito. The mosquito dies but there are calami-

tous consequences overall."

OTHER MOTIONS

The following motions were determined to deal with the internal operations or ministries of Convention entities. Under SBC Bylaw 26B, these motions are automatically referred to the appropriate SBC entities who must respond to messengers of the 2023 SBC Annual Meeting:

-- To Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, a motion by Michelle Lesley, Woodlawn Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, that an investigation be made of a case of mishandling sexual abuse by employees of SEBTS.

-- To Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a motion by Dwight McKissic, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas, to study and report on the removal of any names of individuals associated with the school who were connected to "chattel

slavery."

-- To all seminaries, a motion by Ryan Ogle, Union Missionary Baptist Church, Cleveland, Tenn., calling for the creation of a library science program.

The following motion was referred to the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force, which has yet to be named:

--Greg Davidson, Trinity Church, Vacaville, Calif., asked the SBC to fully support the care of the sexually abused.

The following motions were referred to the Executive Committee for consideration:

-- Scott Smith, South Side Baptist Church, Mishawaka, Ind., moved for an internal evaluation of the SBC Executive Committee's organizational structure.

-- Parker Roberts, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Troy, Ala., moved to amend the Baptist Faith and Message Article I to add the phrase "therefore the Scriptures hold the ultimate authority over the Southern Baptist Convention, the church, and the individual and therefore hold the final say in doctrine and policy."

-- Timothy Livingston, First Baptist Church, Piedmont, Okla., moved to amend the bylaws to allow for the slate of recommended consensus statements from the Resolutions Committee to be prepared and published earlier than they are now.

-- Bill Tackett, Deer Creek Baptist Church, Stroud, Okla., moved that Bylaw 26b be amended to insert the words regarding disposition of motions to avoid conflicts of interest by not referring an investigation to "the very institution" which would be investigated.

-- Scott Frady, West Hickory Baptist Church,

Hickory, N.C., moved to require all churches to adhere to the Baptist Faith and Message.

-- Craig Hartzog, Central Baptist Church, Warner Robins, Ga., moved for messengers to participate remotely in the SBC annual meeting via local associations using readily available technology.

-- Tom Rush, Liberty Baptist Church, Monroe, Ga., moved that the Executive Committee cease to use executive sessions during business meetings.

-- Michael Law, Arlington Baptist Church, Arlington, Va., moved that the Convention amend the bylaws about examples of cooperating churches to include "does not affirm, appoint, or employ a woman pastor of any kind."

-- Matt Dunn, First Baptist Church, Bates City, Mo., moved that a pro-Israel amendment be added to the BFM.

-- Samuel Gilliam,

See **ABOLISH**, page 8

We're your people.

If you believe a bank can be forward-thinking and still true to its roots. If you want both the convenience of mobile banking and the familiarity of friendly faces. Whether you're looking for a mortgage, a personal loan or just a Totally Free Checking Account, we're your people.



RED RIVER BANK

reddriverbank.net

Alexandria
Baton Rouge
Lafayette
Lake Charles
New Orleans*
Northshore
Shreveport



Member
FDIC

Subject to credit approval. *Loan and Deposit Production Office

Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

479-381-1170 evangelistsammoore@gmail.com

Sam Moore is a vocational evangelist. He has the gift of an evangelist and the heart of a pastor. He is available for revivals, crusades, Harvest Days and witness training. Call or email to schedule your 2022-2023 events.

www.evangelistsammoore.org



Abolish from page 7

Woodlawn Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, moved that trustees' email and similar personal contact information be published in the Book of Reports.

-- Toby Brogden, First Baptist Church, Calhoun, Tenn., moved that the EC study the use of all communication forms for communicating with all messengers.

-- Nathan Stuller, Sojourn Church, Belleville, Ill., moved that the SBC Constitution be amended to add Article XV "Transparency and Accountability."

-- Sherri Martin, Rocky Bayou Baptist Church, Destin, Fla.,

moved that the Executive Committee study the impact of waiving attorney client privilege.

-- Rob Collingsworth, Redemption Story Church, Fort Worth, Texas, moved that a work group be formed to study the editorial independence of Baptist Press.

-- Mark Spence, Mississippi Avenue Baptist Church, Aurora, Colo., moved that the Resolutions Committee be suspended.

-- Jerry Watts, New Hope Church, Foxworth, Mass., moved that a legal study be made about the polity and relationship of the larger body of messengers and the entity

trustees.

-- Jay Adkins, First Baptist Church, Westwego, moved that the recording secretary be removed as a member of the Executive Committee.

-- Jason Sampler, Mercy Hill Church, Kenesaw, Ga., moved that Bylaw 15 be amended regarding trustee selection to disallow anyone who has served two full terms on the board of an entity, commission or Executive Board from being on the board beyond that time, though that person may serve by virtue of a separate office.

-- Keith Myer, Harvest Baptist Church, Salisbury, Md., moved that a day be added to the SBC Calendar to raise awareness of "abuse of any kind."

The following motions were ruled not in order as they directed an entity or conflicted with the Convention's governing documents:

-- David Um, Antioch Baptist Church, Cambridge, Mass., moved that a task force be formed to audit use of funds by the North American Mission Board.

-- William Hester, Southern Hills Baptist Church, Jenks, Okla., moved that a more trans-

parent vetting process be developed for trustees of the Executive Committee.

-- Mike Haines, Deer Creek Baptist Church, Stroud, Okla., moved that executives' salaries from all SBC entities be disclosed.

-- Corey Smith, Heritage Baptist Church, Shreveport, moved that Lifeway provide teaching resources related to the covenant sign of the rainbow to counteract the promotion of the LGBTQ+.

-- John Jones III, Cadet Baptist Church, Cadet, Mo., moved that the International Mission Board provide a freedom of conscience exemption for missionaries regarding mandated vaccines that are tainted by aborted fetal tissue cell lines in the development, production or testing phases.

-- Matthew Boyle, Old Lexington Baptist Church, Lexington, S.C., moved that the Convention develop and fund a mental health commission.

-- Jacob Jackson, Covenant Life Church,

Henrico, Va., moved that the SBC take the necessary steps to equip, fund and support "sidewalk" ministers who support pro-life causes.

The following motions were ruled not in order as they directed the president or made a request beyond the scope of the president's authority:

-- Brant Frost, Flat Creek Church, Fayetteville, Ga., moved for the formation of a task force to study all the governing documents of the Convention and its entities.

-- Christopher Whitney, Foothills Southern Baptist Church, Yuma, Ariz., moved the new president obtain all the records from Guidepost Solutions and turn them over to proper law enforcement.

-- A motion by Kirby Shepherd, Crossroads Memorial Church, Great Falls, Mass., that the SBC boycott the Disney Corporation, was ruled not in order as it was not submitted in the form of a motion.

Baptist Press contributed to this report.

Recommendations from page 4

and International Mission Board.

The task force, in coordination with the Executive Committee, will create a "ministry check" website that will maintain a record of pastors, denominational workers, ministry employees and volunteers who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse and who have been or are associated with a cooperating Southern Baptist church or entity. This website will be maintained through an independent company selected by the Credentials Committee in consultation with the task force.

"It is a start," SATA Chair Bruce Franks said in a news conference after the June 14 vote. "We are very grateful for the process that even started last year when messengers demanded it be looked into and the process began, even going back a little further, go back several years when people began to say this has to take place."



MASTERS-4
SOUTHERN GOSPEL QUARTET

They love to spread the word about Jesus through their songs - a mixture of contemporary and southern gospel music.

WILL APPEAR ON A LOVE OFFERING BASIS
+ NO BOOKING FEE REQUIRED

FOR BOOKING INFORMATION OR TO CONTACT THE QUARTET:
Call: Dave Parker 337.855.3292 • Mark Fallon 337.930.1699
E-mail: dtparker55@camtel.net • Website: <http://www.masters4.webs.com>
Follow us on facebook at MASTERS4 Southern Gospel Quartet



RATES SURE TO MAKE A SPLASH

HIGHEST RATE IN STATE FOR CHURCHES AND OTHER MINISTRIES ON CASH SAVINGS**

► Increase your ministry influence with a better rate of return on your church savings
Learn more: 877-523-4636 • contact@LBFinfo.org

*Rates subject to change. **Based upon internal data. Please let us know if you hear of a higher rate.

 **LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION**

SHORT TERM FUND RATE
1.50%
CURRENT YIELD*

Ukrainian refugees accept Christ in Poland, Belarus

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

WARSAW, Poland (LBM) – More than 100 years after Jake Roudkovski's great-grandfather accepted Christ in World War I, Roudkovski witnessed for himself how God could use war to bring others to a relationship with Jesus, this time with at least 75 Ukrainian refugees.

Roudkovski, a professor with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as well as interim pastor with First Baptist Church, Zachary, accompanied four of his church members, as part of a 12-member team, to minister to Ukrainian refugees and Belarusian pastors, May 25-June 2. The trip, which included volunteers from Florida and Georgia, was organized by Byelorussian Mission in-country ministry.

Team members led Bible studies and worship services for Ukrainian refugees at a hotel leased by several churches in Warsaw, Poland, and they witnessed at least 75 profess Jesus as Lord. The team also led a training conference for 250 pastors in Korbin, Belarus.

"God is at work in spite of the brutality of war,"

Roudkovski told the *Baptist Message*. "My great-grandfather was saved in the trenches during World War I in Russia when a British chaplain led him to faith in Christ. God told me back in March -- when we could have canceled the trip -- that there would be many saved during this war and lives will be changed. I didn't want to abandon this trip; and what happened was God using bad circumstances to change so many lives."

ENCOURAGEMENT OFFERED

Roudkovski said one woman's salvation, especially, was a highlight of the trip.

The team met Kamila, a resident of Russian-occupied Izium, in a 12-story-hotel-turned-shelter in Warsaw, which for up to six weeks provides Ukrainian refugees with food, water and clothing, and offers Bible studies and worship services.

"We invited her to worship, and she got saved," he said. "She testified that she was thankful for the war. If it had not been for war, she said she would not have been saved and transformed. I explained to her that God is not the author



Submitted photo

Andrew Ryzhkov, founder of the Byelorussian Mission, speaks to Ukrainian refugees after distributing Good and Evil Illustrated Bibles. Ryzhkov's ministry has distributed more than 12,000 Bibles as well as numerous overseas conferences and summer camps coordinated by the Byelorussian Mission.

of war, but God has the power to redeem even the worst of circumstances."

Denise Burdette, a member of FBC Zachary, led a breakout session at the pastors' conference on

"how to become the person who moves when God moves." She was encouraged by the spirit of the 25 pastors who attended her session.

"I gave my testimony

of what God has done for me and how I have learned through my Christian walk how to follow Him daily," Burdette said. "We just

See REFUGEES, page 11

ABC KIDS CAMP 2022

Location: 1202 Academy Road,
Eunice, LA 70535

JESUS IN MY PLACE

ABC KIDS CAMP 2022

Dates: July 18-21, 2022

Grades: Completed 1-6

Cost: \$195 (\$40 deposit due upon registration) To register go to:
<https://abccamp.com/eventsandretreats/> or call 337.457.9047

**Does Your
Church Have
a Bus or Van
to Sell?**

**Carpenter
Bus is
Buying!**

America's #1 Church Bus Dealer, Carpenter Bus Sales, wants to buy under-utilized buses or vans, refurbish them, and make them available to churches looking for transportation solutions.

If you have a bus or van you would like to sell, go online to
www.carpenterbus.com/buymybus

Carpenter
BUS SALES

www.carpenterbus.com
Nationwide Delivery
800-370-6180

**America's #1
Church Bus Dealer**



Church planting milestone within reach

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Since January, 11 churches have been planted in the state, a pace that will allow Louisiana Baptists this year to achieve a goal of establishing 300 new congregations “in a decade,” originally intended to be completed by 2020. But COVID-19 was a major factor in the two-year delay, Louisiana Baptist Church Planting Director James Jenkins said.

The milestone is one of 10 action steps identified in the President’s 2020 Commission Final Report, which was affirmed by messengers during the 2013 LBC Annual Meeting.

Jenkins said reaching this benchmark is evidence of a commitment to do whatever it takes to sustain

the spread of the Gospel throughout Louisiana.

“The continued push forward to plant churches in the state tells me we are still an evangelical group,” Jenkins told the Baptist Message. “Our churches are committed to the Great Commission and are generous to help us start new churches that further the Gospel in communities around the state.”

STRATEGIZE, EVANGELIZE

The strategy for church planting has been to target the regions of the state where most Louisianans live, with an emphasis on cities and communities along the I-10 corridor and southward, where 3 million residents call home (out of the 4.65 million state population).

According to Jenkins, 202, or about 70 percent,

of the new church plants are in southern Louisiana.

Moreover, he said the 289 church plants also reflect a goal to emphasize diversity — of the new congregations, 168 are non-Anglo: 89 are African American, 41 Hispanic, 13 Asian and 25 have a largely multi-ethnic makeup.

Most importantly, he added, the 289 church plants represent a focus on soul winning, amassing a combined 14,140 faith decisions and 3,816 baptisms since 2010 among these congregations.

Looking toward the future, Jenkins said Louisiana Baptists will continue to have a great opportunity to sow a bountiful spiritual harvest.

Louisiana Baptists Executive Director Steve Horn has identified 33


See MILESTONE, page 12



Submitted photo

Matthew Tyson, church planter/pastor of 3:18 Church in Shreveport, baptized his first church member recently. 3:18 Church is one of Louisiana’s newest Southern Baptist churches, and is sponsored by Brookwood Baptist Church, Shreveport.

Ray & Dorothy
Young
School of Business






LOUISIANA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY


Jonathan E.
Martin
Master of Business Administration

An MBA founded on
**BIBLICAL VALUES
& A CHRISTIAN
WORLDVIEW**

1 (800) 487-1906
lacollege.edu/mba

Preparing Graduates · Transforming Lives



Refugees from page 9

loved the people of Belarus and I felt like I took a piece of them home with me.”

Burdette said she was thankful her team could offer the pastors encouragement and the refugees the hope of Christ.

“We wanted the refugees to know God has a plan for them and they have hope in Christ,” Burdette said. “It was amazing to see the Ukrainians raise their hands and come forward and want to be prayed over.”

COURAGEOUS STAND

Andrew Ryzhkov, founder of the Byelorussian Mission, commended the team for their willingness to participate amid possible danger. He said Louisiana Baptists, since 2014, have faithfully donated money to the ministry, provided thousands of Good and Evil Illustrated Bibles for distribution at events and sent teams to Belarus.

The financial gifts have helped the ministry provide food, Bibles and transportation from Ukraine to other countries such as Poland, England and Israel. Among the most pressing needs are money to continue ministry to Ukrainians and additional Bibles to distribute at refugee sites as well as the overseas conferences and summer camps coordinated by Byelorussian Mission.

Ryzhkov said his supply of Bibles has been depleted because more than 12,000 of them have been handed out to refugees. He added that, historically, four out of ten people who have received the special Bibles have turned to Christ, and such evangelistic success only costs just \$10 per Bible.

“With Louisiana’s help, we can help get Bibles in the hands of Ukrainians and Belarussians,” Ryzhkov said. “What a great project this would be for churches to have a collection to buy Bibles so refugees could receive them.

“We are thankful for the courage of all the team members and the dedication of others from Louisiana,” he continued. “In

the 20 years I have been involved with this ministry I have not seen people manifest courage as this team did. God performed a miracle of protection for them. That’s the spirit of Louisianians. They are people ready to persevere and go to the end until they fulfill their mission.

“God will use this war for good,” he said. “Pray for the salvation of people, for revival and for boots on the ground for this lengthy mission that I believe will bring so many to a relationship with Jesus.”

Another mission trip to Belarus is planned for Sept. 14-22 -- for information on how to participate, email andrew@byelorussianmission.org



Submitted photo

(right, blue suit) Jake Roudkovski (right, blue suit), a professor with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as well as interim pastor with First Baptist Church, Zachary, accompanied four of his church members, as part of a 12-member team, to join with Andrew Ryzhkov (center, white shirt), founder of the Byelorussian Mission, to minister to Ukrainian refugees and Belarussian pastors, May 25-June 2. The team witnessed 75 Ukrainian refugees declare Jesus as Lord.

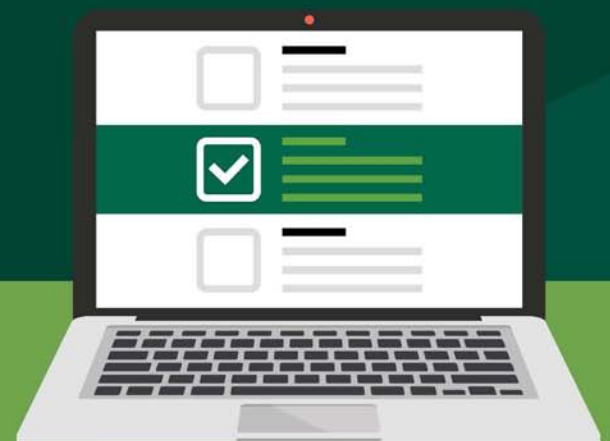
mation on how to participate, email andrew@byelorussianmission.org

or tommymiddleton@bagbr.org. To support ministry efforts in

Ukraine and Belarus, visit <https://byelorussian-mission.org/ukraine/>.

Take the SURVEY

2022 SBC Church Compensation Survey



[GuideStone.org/CompensationSurvey](https://www.guidestone.org/CompensationSurvey)

Trinity celebrates 33 consecutive Sundays of baptisms

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

LAKE CHARLES, La. (LBM) – Sutton Trombatore had been curious about Jesus for a while but finally realized his need for a Savior in late 2021.

Soon after witnessing a baptism at Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, in December, the youngster, 6, had an in-depth conversation about salvation with his parents, Chris and Dani, and church staff members. Sutton accepted Christ at the meeting and on April 24 was baptized by his dad.

“I told Sutton that day that he had always been my son, but I now got to baptize him and call him my brother,” Chris Trombatore told the *Baptist Message*. “There is no bigger reward for a father than getting to baptize your son.”

Trombatore is among 119 new converts the church (which averages 1,400 for worship) has baptized, collectively, every Sun-

day since Oct. 31. Another 53 have professed Jesus as Lord and are awaiting baptism.

Pastor Steve James said his goal each year is for at least 100 people to decide to follow Christ and get baptized. Since Jan. 2, Trinity Baptist has baptized 89 and is on pace to have its most baptisms (187) since 2012.

James credits the wave of baptisms to the congregation inviting others to attend worship, which many times leads either to a decision at the service, at a pastor meet-and-greet after worship or at an in-home visitation later.

“People ask me all the time ‘What’s the reason for all these salvation decisions and baptisms?’ and I tell them there is no special plan or magic formula,” James said. “People come to see us, we see them, we tell them about Jesus, they get saved. We give God the glory for all of this.”

Student and Evangelism



Trinity Baptist Church photo

Pastor Steve James of Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, baptized Kendall Daley while his wife, Morgan, watched. Since Jan. 2, Trinity has baptized 89 and is on pace to have its most baptisms since 2012.

Pastor David Doyle said he is excited that so many lives are being changed every week as they encounter Jesus.

“Our church is fired up about the vision and what

God is doing,” Doyle said. “It normally takes years to recover from things like the pandemic, hurricanes and flood. But we have experienced growth during the first year we’re back. All glory to God. With Jesus, the best days are always ahead of us. We continue to move forward as a church and look toward Jesus.”

LIGHTHOUSE FOR HOPE

Trinity Baptist, which sustained heavy damage from Hurricanes Laura and Delta, was a lighthouse to the community during multiple natural disasters in 2020 and 2021, serving as a hub for ministry to hurricane survivors, relief workers and law enforcement personnel.

Disaster relief volunteers with state Baptist conventions from around the country joined workers from organizations and

up to 50 Trinity Baptist members each day to use the church as a launching pad for ministry as part of disaster relief efforts. Moreover, local law enforcement teams utilized the campus as a staging area, creating even greater visibility for the church’s ministries within the community.

The church, in March, collected more than \$90,000 that was forwarded to Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief, who in cooperation with SEND Relief, has used the funds to purchase emergency food supplies, shelter, transportation, medical care and hygiene kits for displaced Ukrainians. A portion also offset costs for a team that traveled to Poland in early May to minister to Ukrainian refugees.

Trinity Baptist also collected enough medical supplies to fill 28 large boxes (1,337 pounds) that were shipped to Ukraine.

James said the church has long been known as a beacon of Christ to the community, but the disasters since 2020 have given members an even greater chance to show their neighbors the love of Christ.

“People are a little more open since then,” James said. “They see in Trinity a genuine love and compassion for people. They remember the part we played in hurricane relief and being the base church where they could come and get meals and get supplies. We realize we have had a lot of help from the state and outside Louisiana, but people look at Trinity as the place to help them when difficulties arise.”

Milestone from page 10

Louisiana municipalities with populations of more than 3,000 people who do not have a Louisiana Baptist church or ministry presence. According to Jenkins, his team has developed a “33 Towns Strategy” that targets some of those municipalities in the coming years for planting a new church or establishing a compassion ministry.

According to Jenkins, the work to reach the identified 33 municipalities is an ongoing commitment to spread the Great Commission in the state, “Therefore, go and make disciples of everyone, everywhere in Louisiana; in the barrios and bayous, in every community, in all parishes, from border to border, and beyond.”

More than 250 churches served.

HAHN ROOFING
An Owens Corning PLATINUM Contractor

Your family is protected under our roof.

800.368.7833
www.hahnroofing.com

Bahamian from page one

people put most of the finishing touches on the project, May 2-11. While there, the team installed doors on the worship center and classrooms, completed work on restrooms and placed air conditioning units throughout the building.

"This is a 'Thank you, God' moment," Statham told the *Baptist Message*. "When you think of COVID-19, and another tropical storm that hit the island, you can't help but praise the Lord. The project has given people in the community hope that they will get through the rebuild of the island."

LBDR member Howard Turner, who participated in the most recent trip to St. Matthew Baptist, said he is awestruck at God's faithfulness throughout the project.

"The reward of being part of the St. Matthew rebuild for many trips is two-fold," he said. "First, it's the joy and privilege of

serving an awesome Lord and Savior. And the second has been watching a community come back to life and be reunited in worshipping God."

St. Matthew Baptist is one of nine Baptist churches (there are a total of 13 Baptist churches on the island) severely damaged or destroyed by the storm that packed 185-mile per hour winds at the height of Hurricane Dorian on Sept. 2, 2019.

Louisiana is among several states participating in 'Bahama Rebuild,' a partnership with the International Mission Board and Baptist Global Response. Louisiana and Mississippi have sent numerous teams to rebuild the church while the Baptist state conventions of Alabama and North Carolina are sending additional teams to undertake other projects on the islands.

Since the first team arrived in late December 2019, teams have completed the foundation, driveway, walls,

ceiling, floors, electrical lines, bathrooms and doors. The project also encountered such difficulties as a border closure in July 2020 that prevented Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief teams from working in the country for the next 12 months. Meanwhile, Hurricane Isaias, August 2020, dumped heavy rain and caused additional damage to the island (but not to the church facility).

Pastor Freddie Lang said his members are thankful for the work LBDR teams have done and is grateful for how God has moved since Dorian. He is excited about the dedication that will include messages from LBDR representatives and Bahamian Prime Minister Philip Davis.

The 70 members have worshiped inside the tarp-covered fellowship hall since May 2021. Before then, they met in another church 55 miles away; inside vehicles on the church grounds; and under a tent on the campus.

"This has been a very humbling experience and



Submitted photo

Members of the Louisiana Disaster Relief team put the finishing touches on St. Matthew Baptist Church in the Bahamas in early May. The church will be re-dedicated in a special ceremony July 24.

we all are very excited for July 24 to come," Lang said. "The fact that God still al-

lows me to be alive and a part of what He is doing is so amazing."



It all began with the stark reality that you need more space. Your family grew and your house seemed to shrink. On a sleepless night, you binge-watch HGTV and you see the allure of open-concept living complete with shiplap, marble countertops, and lots more room. Suddenly, you remember a term your dad talked about, "Sweat Equity!" It came like a sudden eureka! "I can self-contract and build my dream house!" All you need to do is watch some DIY videos on YouTube, invest a little good old-fashioned sweat equity and voila – you're doing a live broadcast with Chip and Joanna Gaines on the front lawn of your new home. However, you soon discover it takes more than a little sweat equity – it takes barrels of it. And there's no way to avoid it – no sweat equity – no dream house.

Jesus tells us the harvest is plentiful but the laborers – not so much. By definition labor implies sweat equity. It will take effort, lots of effort, to gather the promised harvest. It's not always fun. We have to be willing to get our hands dirty. It takes time, usually more than

we planned. We have to understand that we will never gather the harvest Jesus has prepared unless we're willing to invest some sweat equity. *No sweat equity – no harvest.*

Without question our numbers are down. Most, if not all, of the major indicators tell us we have fewer people in worship. Fewer people in Sunday School and small groups. Fewer people being baptized. However, *the issue is not the people who are not coming – it's the lack of people who are going.*

Why is sweat equity so important?

1. **Sweat equity indicates value.** When you believe that something or someone has value, you're willing to invest your time and effort to secure them. Your sweat equity tells them they are important. If we want to see people saved, baptized and set on the road to discipleship, it's going to cost us something.
2. **Sweat equity requires desire.** The old sports adage says "you have to want it."

We talk about the harvest. We study the harvest. We gaze at the harvest. But do we really want it? If so, this God-honoring desire will drive us to invest our sweat equity to bring in the ready harvest.

3. **Sweat equity yields an exciting reward.** All of the prayers, all of the effort is worth it when the harvest responds to God's gift of grace! The angels celebrate. Hearts are changed. Families restored. The pews begin to fill up with new people. It's rewarding to those who go as well as those who come.

Only one question remains: Are we willing to invest the sweat equity required to gather the harvest efforts such as "Who's Your One" and *Here for You* will generate? God will not waste His Word so let's not waste this opportunity.

The harvest is waiting – just as Jesus promised – for those willing to invest the sweat equity to bring them in. *Who's up for a little perspiration?*

2022 Wrap up: Bittersweet legislative results for religious liberty, the unborn, women's sports, pot

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

BATON ROUGE, La. (LBM)—Louisianan Christians and social conservatives can celebrate several sweet victories won during the 2022 Regular Session of the legislature, but several developments likely will leave a bitter taste.

PIVOTAL ISSUES

Governor John Bel Edwards vetoed H.B. 953 which would have improved R.S. 13:5233, the state's Preservation of Religious Freedom Act, by preventing the state from putting a greater burden on houses of worship than it enforces on any secular business, service, or assembly.

In a letter to House Speaker Clay Schexnayder, Edwards said that the bill "would go far beyond" the lawful protections of religious liberty deemed constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court, adding that "a regulation would fail under this bill if it treats any business or entity differently than religious organizations, not just comparable entities. This would lead to unfair, and, in the case of emergencies, a potential danger to the public."

Rep. Alan Seabaugh, a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport and the sponsor of the legislation, rejected the governor's rationale, saying such logic had already been rejected by the Louisiana Supreme Court in a case that tested the principles of his bill.

"The people of Louisiana overwhelmingly want their churches protected from government intervention," Seabaugh told the Baptist Message. "That is one of the reasons the bill passed both Houses of the legislature with 2/3 of the vote or more."

The bill garnered supermajority support in

both the Senate (26-8-4) and the House (71-20-14), but it is not clear if such strong backing will translate into calls for a veto override session. Speaker Schexnayder (office, 225-342-8336) and Senate President Page Cortez (office, 225-342-9990) have not hinted whether such action is possible.

On the other hand, Edwards signed into law S.B. 342 and allowed S.B. 44 to become law without acting on it.

The first (S.B. 342), now known as Act 545, tightens up existing pro-life measures in anticipation of a favorable ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which would trigger several Louisiana laws and ban abortions in the state. Rep. Julie Emerson, a member of First Baptist Church, Lafayette, championed the bill on the House floor and offered compelling testimony in favor of it, while articulately defending it against eight attempts to negatively amend it.

The second (S.B. 44), known as the Fairness in Women's Sports Act, which prohibits biological males from competing as females on teams designated for girls or women, won overwhelming support last year, but was vetoed by Gov. Edwards. In a specially called veto override session, it fell two votes short of a needed supermajority. This year the House approved the measure 72-21-12 and the Senate, likewise, 29-6-3 -- both were supermajority totals needed to override a second potential veto by the governor.

However, Edwards allowed the bill to become law as Act 283 without his signature (allowing him to avoid another showdown over a veto).

Last year and in 2022, the legislation was championed by Sen. Beth Mizell, a member of First



Message file photo

The 2022 legislative session came to an end on Monday, June 6. For Louisiana Baptists, it was a bittersweet session. Success in strengthening protections for the unborn and women's sports, was off set by defeats to protect religious liberty, and oppose "medicinal" marijuana.

Baptist Church, Franklinton, and the Senate President Pro Tempore.

Another bill could have triggered a call for an override session, if it had been vetoed. However, S.B. 388 has been signed into law as Act 548. This law was carefully drafted to prevent an end run by Planned Parenthood and other pro-abortion groups around a potential ban on abortions in the state (depending on the U.S. Supreme Court decision on *Dobbs v. Jackson*) by outlawing the purchase of abortifacients (abortion-inducing chemicals) via mail.

Although the primary author was Sen. Sharon Hewitt, several Louisiana Baptist lawmakers were co-sponsors: Sen. Mark Abraham (Trinity, Lake Charles), Sen. Stewart Cathey, Jr. (First, West Monroe), Sen. Barry Milligan (Brookwood, Shreveport), Sen. Robert Mills (First, Bossier City), Sen. J. Rogers Pope (First, Denham Springs), Rep. Raymond Crews (First, Bossier City), Rep. Rick Edmonds (retired pas-

tor, Calvary, Shreveport), Rep. Gabe Firment (First, Pollock), Rep. Dodie Horton (First, Haughton), and Rep. Alan Seabaugh (Broadmoor, Shreveport).

OTHER KEY BILLS

Edmonds authored H.B. 274, which Gov. Edwards signed into law as Act 456, that expands adoption awareness instruction in high schools to include the benefits of adoption to society; types of adoption available; difference between foster care and infant adoption; reasons adoption is preferable to abortion; public and private resources and agencies available to assist in the adoption process; statistical data on abortion, adoption, and childbirth; and public and private resources available for pregnant mothers and parents.

Gov. Edwards also signed into law as Act 386, a significant bill, H.B. 402, authored by Rep. Jason Hughes (a member of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans), which provides additional

remedy for children who are abuse victims. The heart of the measure adds three years to the statute of limitations to file legal "action against a person for sexual abuse of a minor, or for physical abuse of a minor resulting in permanent impairment or permanent physical injury or scarring ..." regarding "the physical, mental, or emotional health and safety of the child."

Louisiana Baptists also worked to defeat some bad legislation.

Rep. Raymond Crews (First, Bossier City) was unwavering in his opposition of H.B. 605, which appeared to target Christian counsellors because it would have banned "any practice or treatment ... intended to change the person's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions, or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex or gender."

See BITTERSWEET, page 16

Sex abuse lawsuits begin to stack up against SBC

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM) – As early as April, lawsuits have been stacking up against the Southern Baptist Convention, then, in large part, due to the Executive Committee having waived attorney-client privilege in response to a messenger's 2021 motion pertaining to the handling of sexual abuse allegations and survivors.

Now, lawsuits are being filed and claimants are being sought in national ads launched by legal firms after the release of the controversial "Report of the Independent Investigation" by Guidepost Solutions, and the subsequent adoption of recommendations from the SBC Sexual Abuse Task Force by messengers at the 2022 SBC Annual Meeting.

LAWSUITS MOUNT

In an April 12 report by *The Pathway*, the news service of Missouri Baptists, Rolland Slade, pastor of Meridian Baptist Church in El Cajon, California, and the then-chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, announced that as of April 1 there were 23 lawsuits against the SBC related to sex abuse issues, with 19 cases in North Carolina and 4 in Virginia.

After the release of the Guidepost report, however, scores of law firms began running ads online and elsewhere seeking clients to join class action cases.

One ad read: "People who experienced any misconduct from the clergy or staff of the Southern Baptist Church [sic] may qualify for a claim for significant compensation."

Another announced, "Hundreds of Southern Baptist Church [sic] ministers, leaders, workers and volunteers sexually abused children, women and men over the last 20 years, according to a recently released report. The Report revealed the Church [sic] was well aware of the abuse, and kept an internal, secret list of 703 people suspected abusers [sic]."

All the ads appear to

equate the non-hierarchical fellowship of Baptist churches with the top-down governed Catholic Church which owns its congregations' facilities and assigns priests to each.

Even the Pensacola, Florida, law firm of the now-deceased Fred Levin, who won billions of dollars of settlements in the 1990s after filing a landmark suit against the five largest tobacco companies, has joined the fray.

Now a sexual abuse survivors network has called on "every attorney general in the U.S. to work within the strictures of their state and to launch investigations into SBC abuse within their borders."

NOT-SO-SECRET LIST

The secret list that has been referenced is actually a collection of news

reports, compiled by SBC EC staff, about men who already had been arrested and convicted – it was not a collection of accusations and allegations that had not been addressed. But the list garnered a major mention by Guidepost Solutions in its \$2.1 million, 288-page exposé.

"The most recent list prepared by the EC staff member contained the names of 703 abusers, with 409 believed to be SBC-affiliated at some point in time," Guidepost wrote. "Our investigative team reviewed the list and conducted significant research to assess whether any of the alleged abusers were still associated with an SBC church. Based on these efforts, it appears that nine (9) people remain in active ministry or connected to ministry. Two (2) of those people appear to be associated with an

SBC church. The remaining seven (7) appear to be associated with churches that are not SBC-affiliated."

Despite concluding that only two of 703 people on the informal list were still "in active ministry or connected to ministry" and "appear to be associated with an SBC church," Guidepost excoriated the SBC EC for not taking "any action to ensure that the accused ministers were no longer in positions of power at SBC churches."

CONTROVERSIES WITH GUIDEPOST

Multiple media outlets published that the report had been secretly edited

in early June to delete a wrongful accusation against an SBC leader, but only after he confronted the person who had secretly recorded a conversation and released it publicly. That person contacted Guidepost Solutions to explain the quote published in the report had been taken out of context.

Other errors in the report have been pointed out, including the misidentification of the SBC's former (56-year) lawyers, who also called out the report for "misstatements of fact and quotations from us which are misleading because they are reported

See LAWSUITS, page 16



davidhannaministries.com

Call **NOW** to book your 2022 **revival** meetings with Southern Baptist Evangelist

David Hanna

318.932.3433 / 318.286.7520

"David preaches as if today is the last day for every person to be alive. Your church just can't go wrong by using David Hanna Ministries. I highly recommend him for your next revival."

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

LOUISIANA CHURCH INSURANCE

"Three generations of Galloway's serving Louisiana Churches."



Call us for your church insurance needs

www.louisianachurchinsurance.com • 800.256.0700

LOUISIANA LEGACY FAMILY & KINGDOM™

OUR GOSPEL, OUR LEGACY

Tithing Your Estate

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



LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Contact the Foundation for information on giving ideas that can benefit your family and advance God's Kingdom.



LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

- + Money Management **for Churches**
- + Planned Giving **for Individuals**
- + Estate Stewardship **for Churches**
- + **ChurchBiz Central™**
 - Church Loans
 - Payroll Services
 - Capital/Stewardship Campaigns

ADVANCING THE KINGDOM

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

1-877-523-4636
contact@LBFinfo.org
www.LBFinfo.org

Bittersweet from page 14

Crews strongly challenged the fact that the bill did not ban anyone from trying to convert children to identify as LGBT or prevent anyone from causing children to question their natural biological sex. He also adamantly opposed a clause in the bill that negated parental consent.

With no end to the withering scrutiny from Crews and others, including witnesses against the bill, the sponsor withdrew H.B. 605 from consideration by the House Health and Welfare Committee.

Rep. Seabaugh was equally steadfast against H.B. 506, a measure that originated with the LSU Law Institute, which is tasked, in part, to harmonize legislation. Proponents presented the bill as not making "substantive changes," claiming it merely ensured "consistency between the Domestic Abuse Assistance Act in Title 46 and the Domestic Abuse Assistance Act in the Children's Code."

However, the bill deleted a major protection for minors against "coercive abortions." Seabaugh demanded the clause not be deleted from the Children's Code but instead be added to Title 46 to ensure consistency between the two laws. In the end the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure killed the bill.

Unfortunately, lawmakers passed legislation, H.B. 135 and H.B. 137, that expanded pot smoking in the state, despite testimony that Colorado is backpedaling after legalizing recreational and medical marijuana (because of skyrocketing health hazards to children) and after concerns were expressed about the measures' likely negative impacts on Louisiana high school students who already lead the nation in alcohol abuse (#1) and injecting illegal drugs (#1), and were ranked only #14 in pot smoking before "medicinal" pot smoking became legal in the state at the beginning of this year. Both H.B. 135 and



File photo

Among measures filed by Louisiana Baptists and adopted by both chambers of the legislature, Gov. John Bel Edwards has signed 93 bills into law, vetoed six and 40 are awaiting his decision. Louisiana Baptist lawmakers also offered 112 resolutions that have been filed with the Secretary of State.

H.B. 137 dealt with "medicinal" marijuana, and national public health experts have publicly declared that

"people are using a medical excuse for their recreational marijuana habit."

Despite a direct plea from the Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy, Gov. Edwards signed both bills into laws as Acts 438 and 439, respectively, bringing Louisiana closer to becoming a destination state for pot smoking.

LOUISIANA BAPTIST LEADERSHIP

Louisiana Baptist lawmakers heavily shaped the legislative agenda in 2022, filing at least 248 bills -- and offering 112 resolutions of various types that were filed with the Office of the Secretary of State. Overall, 93 of the bills were enacted as law, six were vetoed, and 40 await a decision by the governor.

The remainder did not make it through the legislative process.

SENATE (number filed: enacted-vetoed-awaiting action): Abraham (10: 4-0-

6); Cathey (20: 8-1-1); Jay Luneau, Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria (21: 11-0-0); Milligan (11: 3-0-5); Mills (12: 5-0-3); Mizell (15: 10-0-1); Pope (2: 1-0-0); Gary Smith, First Baptist Church, Norco (9: 2-0-1).

HOUSE: Roy Daryl Adams, First Baptist Church, Jackson (7: 1-1-0); Crews (7: 1-0-1); Edmonds (19: 5-0-5); Emerson (6: 2-0-1); Firmont (10: 2-0-3); Horton (8: 2-0-1); Hughes (14: 9-0-1); Mike Johnson, First Baptist Church, Pineville (10: 2-0-3); Sherman Mack, Carney Lake Baptist Church, Chatham (1: 1-0-0); Danny McCormick, Trees Baptist Church, Vivian (11: 0-0-1); Jack McFarland, First Baptist Church, Denham Springs (12: 8-0-2); Wayne McMahan, Central Baptist Church, Springhill (9: 5-2-0); Buddy Mincey, Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs (17: 6-0-4); Seabaugh (13: 3-2-2); Malinda White, First Baptist Church, Bogalusa (4: 1-0-0).

LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA



Our sales staff can assist you with personalized group itineraries, hotel leads, planning guides, and tours. Being centrally located in the middle of the state, the area offers a wide variety of venues, historical sites, and unique Louisiana experiences in and around the "Heart" of Louisiana.

Randolph
Riverfront Center

1.800.551.9546 • 318-442-9546 • randolphriverfrontcenter.com

Lawsuits from page 15

out of context." Additionally, a former executive with the SBC EC rejected Guidepost's allegation that he was aware of a secret list.

Finally, many Southern Baptists called for rejection of the Guidepost Solutions' report after the firm tweeted its pro-gay sympathies, July 6.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Do you have a Revival, Homecoming, a new pastor, a community outreach or a concert? The Baptist Message would love to share your church news with the rest of the state. It is very easy to do, just send in your information (who, what, where and when) to philip@baptistmessage.com or call 318.449.4345. To get your event in the paper, please submit your information three weeks prior to the event.

ON THE MOVE

- **Richard, wife Lee, Ainsworth** is the new traditional worship leader at First Baptist Church, Ruston.
- **Katie, husband Kevin, Dyer** director of youth at Elm Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Joseph Cumberland** resigned as youth minister at Rose Park Baptist Church
- **Darryl Robinson** is the new pastor at Ludington Baptist Church, DeRidder.
- **Jason Frazier** is the interim pastor at Shreve City, Shreveport.
- **Stacey Morris** is the new director for Camp Living Waters, Lorange.
- **Brian Prukey** is interim pastor at Woodridge Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Faye Scott** retires after 30 years as children's minister at First Baptist Church, New Orleans.

HOMECOMING

- First Baptist Church, Jackson: **187th Homecoming, June 26**, 11 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Pastor: Joe Nesom.
- Gray's Creek Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **75th Anniversary**, June 26, 10:30 a.m. Music: **Greg Sullivan Min-**

istries. 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.
- Pisgah Baptist Church, Forest Hill: **Homecoming**, June 26, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: **Roland Hebert**. Pastor: Mike Schultz.

REVIVAL

- Trinity Baptist Church, Pineville: **Ter-rific Tuesdays in July**, July 5, **Jacob Crawford, Pastor of City Life NOLA**, Meal: Shepherd's Pie; July 12, **Beau Guidry, Director of Small Groups, FBC Moss Bluff**, Meal: chicken spaghetti; July 19, **Clay Fuqua, Pastor of FBC Blanchard**, Meal: pork loin; July 26, **Jason McGuffie, Pastor of FBC West Monroe, Calhoun Campus**, Meal: Lasagna. Meals served at 5:30pm \$5/person \$15/family. Pastor: Kevin Roberts.
- New Hope Baptist Church, Elmer: **Summer Revival**, July 8-10. Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Monday-

- Wednesday, 6:30 nightly. Evangelist: **Randall Creel**. Music: **The Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor: Robert McClane.
- Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church, Doyline: **One night revival**, July 10, 7 p.m. Speaker: **Bill Britt, evangelist**. Pastor: Ed Smith.
- First Baptist Church, Keithville: **Harvest Sunday**, July 17, 10:15 a.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Mike Stowell.
- Pisgah Baptist Church, Florien: **Revival**, July 21-July 24, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Mike Courtney**. Worship: **Lon Almeida**. Pastor: C.M. Kelly.
- First Baptist Church, Princeton: **Harvest Sunday**, July 25. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Darrell Cooper.

LAGNIAPPE

- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Pollock: **Pastor is needed at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church**. Send resumes to pleasanthillbapt@bellsouth.net or P.O. Box 520, Pollock, LA 71467.
- Richey Baptist Church, Deville: **VBS 2022 - Spark Studios**, June 25-29, 6-8:30 p.m. Friday night will be family night. This is for children ages 4-12 years old. Pastor: Grady Dodge.
- Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Lisbon: **Spark Studios - Vacation Bible School**, June 27-July 1, 5-8 p.m. This is for children 4 years old through the sixth grade. Pastor: Chris Stephens.
- Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Logansport: **Trevor Thomas Live**, July 1, 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy listening to this Christian entertainer and actor. Pastor: Richard Tull.
- First Baptist Church, Minden: **Brian**

- Free & Assurance in concert**, July 1, 6 p.m. Pastor: Leland Crawford.
- First Baptist Church, Zwolle: **July 4th Freedom Sunday**, July 3, 10:30 a.m. To celebrate July 4th there will be a picnic luncheon after the worship service. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and drinks. Members bring any side and dessert. Pastor: Marty Williams.
- Stonewall Community Center, Stonewall: **Men of Prayer**, July 7, 6:30 p.m. Speaker: **Chris Wilcutt, Grawood Baptist Church, Shreveport**. Men of all ages are urged to join together for food, fellowship and God.
- First Baptist Church, Winnfield: **Family and Fireworks Celebration**, July 4, 7-9 p.m. There will be music, hamburgers and hot dogs, inflatable jumpers and fireworks. Pastor: Jerry Pipes.
- Refuge Baptist Church, Marksville: **VBS 2022 - Spark Studios, July 4-8, 5-8 p.m. This is for kids kindergarten to sixth grade**. A light supper will be served every night. Registration can be made via phone or Facebook Messenger or in person at the Refuge Care and Prayer Center, Mondays and Wednesdays, noon-4 p.m. Phone: 318.500.2536.
- First Baptist Church, Keithville: **Vacation Bible School 2022 - Monumental**, July 10-13, 6-8:30 a.m. This is for children who have completed K-4 through 5th grade. Pastor: Mike Stowell.
- First Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Vacation Bible School 2022**, July 11-15, 9 a.m. 12:30 p.m. Pastor: Chad

Gilbert.

- Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill: **Vacation Bible School - 2022**, July 11-15, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Everyone is invited to come learn, love and enjoy what God's message has in store for you! Elwood Baptist Church is located behind Forest Hill Elementary School. Pastor: Michael Evans.
- First Baptist Church, Jackson: **VBS 2022 - The King is coming!**, July 11-15, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Learn about God's covenant with man, beginning with creation and ending with the new heavens and the new earth yet to come. You can register online at www.fbcoj.com and look for REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. Pastor: Joe Nesom.
- Cheniere Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Louisiana Melody Boys in concert**, July 17, 5:30p.m. **Vacation Bible School, 2022** July 18-22, 6-8:30 p.m. Pastor: Zach Anderson.
- Mt Vernon Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Vacation Bible School 2022**, July 24-29, 6-8:30 p.m.
- First Baptist Church, Mangham: **Vacation Bible School - Monumental**, July 25-29, 6-8:30 p.m. Registration is online on our website (www.manghambaptist.org) and our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/manghambaptist/). **Kick-Off Party** will be July 24, 4:30-6:00 p.m. There will be jumpers, snow cones, nachos, corn holes, face painting, and balloons. Pastor: Rick Aultman.
- Friendship Baptist Church, Baskin: **Louisiana Melody Boys in concert**, July 31, 11a.m. Pastor: Prentis Gandy.

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 Scripture Crypto. 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.

ZPW GYCMDW HD H DLQ LAUC YMD LJQ YLPDU; JYLDU

YLPDU HCU JU, MN JU YLSO NHDW WYU GLQNMUQGU HQO

WYU CUXLMGMQT LN WYU YLVU NMCE PQWL WYU UQO.

YUZCUJD WYCUU:DMB

Clues:
Y = H; M = I

Answer to May 26 Scripture Crypto:
Numbers thirty-one:twenty four



Nugent Music & Audio
192 Pinegrove Drive
Pineville, LA 71360
Tel: 318.473.9999
Email: info@nugentmusic.com





Nugent Music & Audio is a church's one stop location for all their audio and video needs. We offer audio, video, lighting design, installation, training. We also can set up your church service to stream on all the most popular platforms.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS
 Orange Beach, Alabama
 Rent direct from a Christian family
LOWEST PRICES ON THE BEACH!
 Efficiencies - 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms and 3 bedrooms
www.gulfshorescondos.com
 Call: Don at 251.752.2366 • Donna at 251.656.4935

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 Attn: Forest Baptist Church

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.

HIXSON BROTHERS FUNERAL HOMES
 Since 1907
 701 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA 71301 • 318.442.3363
 2701 Military Hwy • Pineville, LA 71360 • 318.640.1678
 11886 Hwy. 84 West • Jena, LA 71342 • 318.992.4158
 445 W Bontemps St. • Marksville, LA 71351 • 318.253.5979
www.hixsonbrothers.com

Family Health Insurance at Group Rates
 GROUP, INDIVIDUAL, MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS, DENTAL
Melvin Thomas
 318.465.1006
melvin.thomas@bcbsla.com
 411 Ashley Ridge Blvd., Shreveport, LA 71106

CHILDREN'S MINISTER
 Maplewood First Baptist in Sulphur, LA is looking to hire a Children's Minister
 We would love to talk to you. Please send us your résumé.
 Email: resumes@maplewoodfbc.com

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

SEEKING SENIOR PASTOR
 Searching for a full-time Senior Pastor at Salem Baptist Church, located in the heart of the Ouachita Mountains in Mena, Arkansas. Our church adheres to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. For more information about the church/community go to Salem-Mena.com or VisitMena.com. Please submit résumé to SalemBaptistPSC@gmail.com or P.O. Box 28, Mena, Arkansas, 71953.

Business from page 2

The Unify Project, "an innovative movement of Southern Baptist churches working toward racial unity together so the world will encounter the hope of Christ," was unveiled. Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, is among those on the steering committee for the project that will launch in the fall. More information can be found at unifysb.org.

International Mission Board President Paul Chitwood, in his report, said that last year missionaries serving with the entity worked with national partners who recorded 176,000 salvation decisions, baptized 107,000 new believer and started 22,000 new churches. During a sending celebration, the IMB commissioned 52 missionaries. Prior to the annual meeting, IMB reported a force of 3,451 paid missionaries, the lowest number of deployed field personnel since 1984, despite record giving by Southern Baptists to the IMB.

North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell, in his report, said that the IMB and NAMB have partnered for conferences to help inspire others to answer the call to missions. Ezell also highlighted disaster relief responses to a tornado in Mayfield, Ky., and the war in Ukraine. Messengers also were told that 2022 Crossover evangelistic events across the Los Angeles area drew 572 volunteers, served more than 2,400 kids and families and recorded 547 professions of faith.

A multi-year summary shows that evangelism number is up from last year, but considerably lower than 2010 just prior to Ezell becoming NAMB president: 1,940 (2010, Orlando); 1,131 (2011, Phoenix); 1,140 (2012, New Orleans); 582 (2013, Houston); 214 (2014, Baltimore); 345 (2015, Columbus); 556 (2016, St. Louis); 151 (2017, Phoenix) [plus 3,398 during Harvest America by Greg Laurie]; 1,015 (2018, Dallas) [plus 3,214 during Harvest America by Greg Laurie]; 364 (2019, Birmingham); 0 (2020 pandemic); and 176 (2021, Nashville).

BAPTIST MESSAGE CLASSIFIED Ad FORM

PRINT YOUR AD HERE

BUSINESS/CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PHONE _____

MAIL AD/CHECK TO: Baptist Message • P.O. Box 311 • Alexandria, La. 71309

LIST DATES TO RUN: _____

CLASSIFIED AD RATE:
 Cost is \$6 per line (5 words per line); 25 word minimum.
 Advertisement must be accompanied with payment in advance and there are no discounts for classified line ads.

To place a classified ad, complete this form and fax to 318.445.8328 or mail to Baptist Message Advertising, 1250 MacArthur Drive, P.O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309 For questions, please call Rhonda at 318.449.4351 or email rhonda@baptistmessage.com



DAVIS CHURCH PEW UP-HOLSTERY, 4313 Hwy. 18 East Quitman, Mississippi 39355 Melton & Sandra Davis. 30-plus years of experience, Family-Owned and Operated. Variety of fabrics available. Work done on-site. **ALL WORK GUARANTEED.** Call for estimates: 601.776.6617. If remodeling your sanctuary, please give us a call about upholstering your pews!

HISTORIC Appalachian Pine 1x6 Bead Board/V-Groove or Ship Lap/Nickel Gap - 99 cents a foot by the board or 95 cents a foot bundle quality. Call 318.757.8482 for more information.

EARNEST LITTLE available for supply, interim and revivals in the Central Louisiana area. Please call 318.663.2770.

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

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 or for additional information call the church at 225.567.3666.

FULLTIME SENIOR PASTOR
First Baptist Church Amite located at 117 E Olive St., Amite LA is seeking a fulltime senior pastor Please send résumés to amitefbc@gmail.com

FULLTIME WORSHIP PASTOR
Bonita Road Baptist Church is currently seeking a fulltime Worship Pastor Please email all inquiries to simple7ministries@yahoo.com

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.

F.B.C. St. Francisville
Loving God. Loving People.
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

Prayerfully seeking an **Interim Preacher**
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

Prayerfully seeking a Full-Time **Senior Pastor**
First Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a full-time Senior Pastor. Mail resumes to Pastor Search Committee 100 N Hickory Street Vidalia, LA 71373 or email careers@fbcvidalia.com

The JBC Caring & Learning Center of Judson Baptist Church in Walker, La is seeking a **FULL TIME DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL & DAYCARE**
Size:180 children, 30 employees
Job Description & salary range: jbcla.com
Email: jbcclcommittee@gmail.com

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. Parsonage is available. Call 318-315-0332.

SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR
Rio Vista Baptist Church in Jefferson Parish is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. We are seeking a Godly man who wants to reach our community for the Lord and to grow our church. Please e-mail résumés to riovistanola@gmail.com.

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.

THE BAPTIST MESSAGE
John 8:16
Share the Message
Advertise Here!
NOW HIRING
FOR SALE
Call Rhonda Havens at 318.449.4351 or 877.234.3832 to place your ads!

PASTOR NEEDED
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Pollock is in need of a pastor. Please send your résumés to or P.O. Box 520, Pollock, LA 71467 pleasanthillbapt@bellsouth.net

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 pdbcla@gmail.com

Petrus
FEED & SEED
FEED / SEED / FERTILIZER
FARM / LAWN & GARDEN
SUPPLIES
2914 N Bolton Ave,
Alexandria, LA
318.443.5929 / 318.442.2325

**RUBBER STAMPS
SIGNS - BADGES
SEALS - FLAGS
BRONZE PLAQUES**
ED. SMITH'S STENCIL WORKS est. 1867
Manufacturers of
MARKING DEVICES
SINCE 1867
4315 Bienville St. - New Orleans
504.525.2128

Mandeville's FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
BI-VOCATIONAL WORSHIP LEADER
Mandeville's FBC in Mandeville, LA is searching for a bi-vocational Worship Leader. Please email résumés to cwfancher@gmail.com or mail to MFBC Personnel Committee, 1895 HWY 190, Mandeville, LA 70448.

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

THE CLASSIFIEDS
HIT THE MARK EVERY TIME

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS ETHNIC WORK
The Robertson County Baptist Association in Springfield, TN, is seeking an Associate Director of Missions Ethnic Work. General responsibilities include church planting, ELL, Theological Education, and various other ministries to our multi-cultural community. Applicant must speak English and Spanish, and have, at minimum, a bachelor's degree and 5 years related experience. Interested applicants should send a résumé to jbierod@rcbatn.org

PEWS FOR SALE
Call 504.487.1470 for information

Louisiana Baptists' premiere training event for
Sunday School and Small Group leaders.

ReGROUP

CONFERENCE 2022

Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022 • 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, LAFAYETTE

General Session, Worship and Age-Graded Breakouts.
Bring your team for one-stop training.



Featuring

KEYNOTE & PASTORS/STAFF



John Fream
Pastor
Cypress Baptist Church
Benton, LA

ADULT MINISTRY



Phillip Herring
Assoc. Pastor of Education,
First Baptist Church,
Norfolk, VA



Ken Braddy
Director of Sunday School
& Network Partnerships,
LifeWay, Nashville, TN

YOUTH MINISTRY



Kevin Flattmann
NextGen Pastor,
Cypress Baptist Church,
Benton, LA



Adam Whitney
Assoc. Pastor of Students
and Education,
First Baptist Church,
Broussard, LA

PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN



Donna Peavey
Prof., Christian Education,
Dir., Innovative Learning,
NOBTS, New Orleans, LA



Lauren Brown
Children & Family Minister,
Brookwood Baptist Church,
Shreveport, LA

For more information and to register:

Visit LouisianaBaptists.org/ReGroup22

Call 318.448.3402

Sean Keith, Sunday School/Discipleship Strategist • Sean.Keith@LouisianaBaptists.org

Jeff Ingram, Adult Ministry/Church Administration Strategist • Jeff.Ingram@LouisianaBaptists.org

ReGroup for All



Digital training resources for small group
leaders to use anytime, anywhere.

Launching September 9

ReGroup Español

@ ReGroup Conference • 9:00am-3:00pm

E3 Partners Evangelism Training & Practice

To Register, email:

Carlos.Schmidt@LouisianaBaptists.org