



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

August 25, 2022

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John 3:16

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GBO keeps alive 'Miss Georgia's' love for Louisiana

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Letters show that Georgia Barnette's first impressions of the Pelican state were love at first sight.

Arriving by train from Atlanta, Barnette remarked how moved she was by the landscape she saw.

"Surely God loved Louisiana because He made it so beautiful," she wrote to a friend.



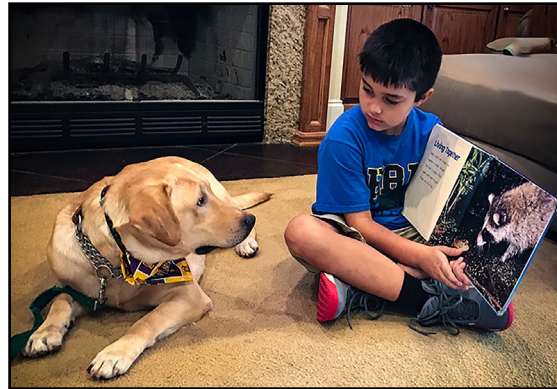
Years later, after having retired from serving 25 years as the director of the Woman's Missionary Union in the state, and awaiting her last breath, she lay in her bed praying for her "beloved Louisiana people."

In between these two bookends in her life, Georgia Barnette was motivated by her "value of one soul" and tirelessly worked to build up the body of Christ and minister to those in need, while inspiring Louisiana Baptists to take the Gospel across the state.

Her legacy of love for Christ and the people of Louisiana continues through the state missions offering that was named for her in 1936.

The goal for the 2022 Georgia Barnette Offering is \$1.7 million, an amount that supplements what Louisiana Baptists give through the Cooperative Program, the primary funding channel for state and national Baptist causes.

See GBO, page 12



Luke listened while a youngster reads to him. Keith Manuel, Luke's owner, said the Labrador retriever provides a calming effect to children struggling to read.

Labrador retrieves 160 souls for Christ in '22

By Brian Blackwell

Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Keith Manuel and his Labrador retriever, Luke, have traveled thousands of miles across the

state in 2022 to share the Gospel, and together have seen more than 160 individuals make decisions for Christ.

Manuel said they are eager and ready to visit other Louisiana Baptist churches, too, at no cost.

"Luke is a draw for people to come," said Manuel, Louisiana Baptist evangelism and church growth team leader. "He's a great evangelistic tool that people really seem to relate to."

Manuel purchased Luke in 2017 (his birth year) to calm victims of trauma he encounters in his law enforcement ministry. He also knew canines helped build confidence in children who struggled in school; and thought Luke might be useful to his wife, Wendy, a reading specialist with Rapides Parish Schools.

But most importantly, Manuel believed Luke could be an effective tool to lead others to a relationship with Jesus.

Earlier this year, Manuel noticed churches were beginning to re-engage in evangelistic outreach after COVID-related restrictions limited such efforts in 2020 and 2021. Several churches who were familiar with Manuel's special ministry asked him to bring Luke to their events.

Since March, Manuel and his furry friend have

See RETRIEVES, page 9



Submitted photo

Keith Manuel, Louisiana Baptist Evangelism and Church Growth team leader, and his dog, Luke, have traveled the state and seen 160 people turn to Christ this year.

Students, young professionals immerse in renewal at 'The Creek'

By Brian Blackwell

Message staff writer

PRIDE, La. (LBM) – Jolie Pruyn, 20, was a faithful attendee of church-related activities as a youngster

but an encounter with Jesus at Sandy Creek Baptist Church's summer camp left her convicted of her need for a Savior.

"That night I told myself, 'If not now, when?'"

Pruyn, a camp chaperon, told the Baptist Message. "Up until that point I felt ashamed of pretending to live a life for Christ and I

See IMMERSE, page 8

Families blessed with Gospel, school supplies

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists recently hosted backpack giveaway events that planted Gospel seeds in families prior to the start of the new school year.

NEW ORLEANS

Several ministries and churches teamed up, July 30, to distribute both 1,750 backpacks that were filled with school supplies and 500 bags of hygiene items at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Additionally, a Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief feeding unit from First Baptist Church, Slidell,



Submitted photo

Members of Trinity Baptist Church, Oakdale, gave away 40 backpacks to students at Oakdale Middle School.

and SEND Relief provided more than 800 meals; the Baptist Community Health Services administered

free health screenings to 49 families; and the LSU School of Dentistry administered dental care to 46 families.

The event was sponsored by Lakeshore Church, SEND Relief and Infinite Blessings (a non-profit organization that serves the schools, food banks, shelters and clinics in the city).

Joshua Durnell, worship pastor at Lakeshore Church and a SEND Relief missionary, said mission teams from Northbrook Baptist Church and Temple Baptist Church, Cullman, Ala., and Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., filled the backpacks at the church. Fifty members from Lakeshore Church later moved the backpacks to NOBTS and served as greeters and manned the cotton candy, snow cone and backpack giveaway stations.

Durnell said he was blessed by the show of unity among Christ's followers.

"I loved seeing the camaraderie among our members as we were able to come together and



Submitted photo

Twenty-four members of Satsuma Baptist Church, Livingston, partnered with several organizations to distribute 200 backpacks filled with school supplies. They also served a jambalaya lunch and snow cones, distributed school uniform pants and helped children play safely on party inflatables.

serve our neighborhood," he said. "We were able to meet a real need, have engaging conversations with neighbors we otherwise wouldn't have met, and encourage one another in joy in serving through both the heat and the rain, as we had more than 100-degree heat index temperatures and rain in the last two hours of the event."

Bruce Efferson, the blue hat for the LBDR feeding team, said they came away blessed with numerous opportunities to share Jesus with the families who were served hamburgers, hot

dogs and chips.

"You can't beat doing something that God has called you to do, which is to serve others at events like this," he said. "While we had so many good conversations, a memorable one was with a lady who said she was a Christian but wasn't attending church. I talked to her about the necessity about meeting with other Christians and hope she took to heart the need to do just that. All of the people like her seemed so appreciative and allowed us to be blessed."

LBDR Strategist Stan Statham added: "Brother Bruce and his feeding team are always ready to serve. I'm grateful to have them as part of our DR family."

TRINITY, OAKDALE

For their part, Trinity Baptist Church, Oakdale, Aug. 10, gave away 40 backpacks to students at the local middle school. The church purchased the school supplies and then

See **BACKPACKS**, page 20

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COTTAGE PARENTS:

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Richey Baptist restored and more after fire

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

DEVILLE, La. (LBM) – A fire damaged the worship center at Richey Baptist Church, Deville, in January 2021, leaving the congregation of 80 seeking God's help to rebuild their facility.

Fifteen months later, their prayers were answered in even greater ways than the congregation ever could have imagined, according to their pastor, Grady Dodge.

Dodge told the *Baptist Message* he was encouraged so many churches stepped up to assist in the rebuild, modeling the body of Christ.

"When the fire happened, I thought it was the end of the world," said Dodge, also the

Louisiana Baptist Building maintenance supervisor. "God showed me so much through it. He showed me unity in the community and unity in the churches."



Submitted photo

A fire in January 2021 destroyed the worship center but not the spirit of Richey Baptist Church.

The fire began at 11 a.m., Jan. 9, 2021, and engulfed the worship center. Fire

crews from Effie and Ruby-Kolin extinguished it later that same evening. While most of the worship center was destroyed, a steeple and Bible located near the front doors miraculously survived.

Rather than fold, the church, pressed forward with the insurance company paying half of the \$700,000 needed to rebuild, and churches and individuals from around the state donating the remainder.

During construction, the church worshipped in the fellowship hall, which had not been damaged.

The building, with seating for 300, was completed in late March for an April 1 open house. Two days later, the church

See **RESTORED**, page 5



Submitted photo

Pastor Grady Dodge and his wife, Shanda, said churches and others from the community helped sustain them as they rebuilt their worship center, dedicated earlier this year.

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Welcome to Louisiana!

Louisiana Baptists urged to ‘regroup’ and make disciples

By Brian Blackwell
 Message staff writer

LAFAYETTE (LBM) -- Pastor John Fream said Cypress Baptist Church has several “non-negotiable” practices they use in their mission to reach Benton and beyond for Jesus Christ.

Fream, during the ReGroup Sunday school training conference at First Baptist Church, Lafayette, Aug. 6, said his members at Cypress Baptist preach and live out the Word of God, are soul winners, follow the Great Commandment and use Sunday school, worship and big events to draw others to Christ.

Fream was the keynote speaker for ReGroup that focused on restrengthening discipleship efforts. The conference included breakout sessions for pastors/staff/key leaders;

preschool, children, youth and adult leaders.

Focusing on four areas – sharing the Gospel, developing biblical community, helping believers mature spiritually, and equipping believers to live missionally – the conference emphasized how to maximize your Gospel impact.

Since he became a pastor 14 years ago, Fream has seen Cypress Baptist grow from 450 in Sunday worship to 2,600; and each Sunday since January his congregation has baptized new believers, totaling 173 to date. Fream said he reminds his members they are on mission to share the Gospel wherever they go.

“Life’s too short,” he said. “The world is too lost. We believe passionately that everyone can be saved.

“The Gospel is power-



Submitted photo

More than 300 people were on hand at First Baptist Church, Lafayette, for this year’s ReGroup training conference on Aug. 6, 2022. Keynote speaker Pastor John Fream shared about Cypress Baptist Church’s use of four non-negotiable practices in their mission efforts to reach their community.

ful,” he continued. “Use it. It changes lives.”

Fream shared how he accepted Christ in 1991 during an Easter Sunday service -- after accepting his wife’s invitation to attend worship. He said a personal invitation is powerful and can go hand-in-hand to draw others to events where the Gospel is presented.

“We are going to use our events to get people to come to worship and Sunday school,” Fream said. “If we can get them coming to church, they can hear the Gospel. We will do whatever we can to get them there -- as long as it doesn’t compromise.”

An estimated 320 people from 32 churches

See REGROUP, page 20



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NOBTS Jamie Dew to headline E4 Preaching Conference

By Staff
Baptist Message

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Jamie Dew is the keynote speaker for the 2022 E4 Preaching Conference.

Dew, who was elected president of the seminary in 2019, will bring messages during general sessions of the annual conference Sept. 13 at First Baptist Church, Pineville.

"I'm thrilled to join pastors and preachers from all over Louisiana for this year's E4 Conference," Dew told the *Baptist Message*. "Our pastors work

hard to care for their people and proclaim the Word to the lost. The Gospel of Jesus is the only hope for the broken world, and we must be prepared to defend it with clarity, conviction and kindness."

The conference will feature music by the FBC Pineville praise team. Breakout sessions will include such topics as Contending for the Faith, Preaching Issues in our Culture and Preaching through Ephesians and will be led by professors

from Louisiana Christian University, NOBTS and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Mississippi Pastor Argile Smith.

Dew's wife, Tara, will lead a study track for ministers' wives.

"With all that is happening in our world, preachers must

be prepared to be biblical and relevant at the same time," Pastor Stewart Holway said. "This year's E4 will help all of us sharpen our skills for a changing world."

The E4 Conference began in 2009 with a vision to exemplify, encourage, equip and empower pastors to preach expositional sermons. Past speakers have included Don Wilton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Spartanburg,

SC; Fred Lowery, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Bossier City; David Uth, pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando; and Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., and former SBC president.

The conference begins

with registration at 8 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. An early bird rate is \$70 for ministers and an additional \$10 for their wives, and \$25 for students, if registered by Aug. 31. Lunch is provided at the church.

Participants can register online at fbcpineville.com.



NOBTS President
Jamie Dew

Restored from page 3

celebrated with a special service that included a baptism.

Dodge said the congregation has experienced growth from 80 in Sunday worship prior to the fire to more than 100 for the dedication of the new building.

Since April 3, Dodge has baptized four individuals, including Daisy Lachney, 17, who celebrated a spiritual rebirth three months after a heart transplant.

Upon the invitation of her friend, Jasmine Gunn, Lachney attended the grand opening service and was convicted of her need for baptism. She had accepted Christ several years earlier but not followed through with baptism.

The two friends decided to be baptized together on Easter Sunday, April 17.

"At that moment I felt like this pressure had been lifted off me," Lachney said. "I now feel so free."

Moving forward, Dodge said he is anticipating an even greater movement from God and is thankful for how so many came together to help restore the worship center.

"God has brought a revival in our church and His spirit has moved," he continued. "God has a purpose in the church. When the church was on fire, that's when the

people caught fire and went to work doing God's work and pulled together. That's when unity came."

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Rebuilt facilities dedicated in Bahamas

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

PELICAN POINT, Bahamas (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists, community leaders, and Bahamian officials were among those who gathered at St. Matthew Baptist Church, July 24, to dedicate rebuilt facilities on a campus that had been leveled by Hurricane Dorian in 2019.

Louisiana Baptists John Hebert (missions and ministry team director), Stan Statham (disaster relief strategist) and Reggy Saxon (disaster relief volunteer) were among more than 220 guests, leaders and officials who gathered inside the 4,655-square-foot multi-purpose facility to celebrate the completion

of three years of work. The building features a new worship center, covered driveway, restrooms, library, pastor's office and choir room.

During the dedication, church leaders thanked Louisiana Baptists for the prayers, financial support and numerous volunteers who steadfastly labored despite having faced multiple hurricanes, severe flooding, and ice storms, themselves.

The church also recognized the efforts of Ginnie McMillan, who was instrumental in organizing the rebuild.

McMillan, the former LBDR strategist, passed away in August 2021 due to complications from COVID-19.

"The rebuilding of the church is a perfect example of how the disaster

relief ministry is used by God to bring help, hope, and healing to those impacted by disasters," Statham told the Baptist Message. "The community began to rebuild only after the church started to rebuild."

Hebert said the rebuild has been an encouragement to the community to press forward on the reconstruction of their own homes that were damaged by Dorian.

"It was only after the rebuilding of St. Matthews was well underway that people in the community started rebuilding their own homes," Hebert said. "When they saw this work, they believed they could make a comeback. It's always a blessing when the church represents that kind of hope.



Submitted photo

Louisiana Baptist Missions and Ministry Team Leader John Hebert speaks at the re-dedication service for St. Matthew's Baptist Church in Pelican Point, Grand Bahama on July 24.

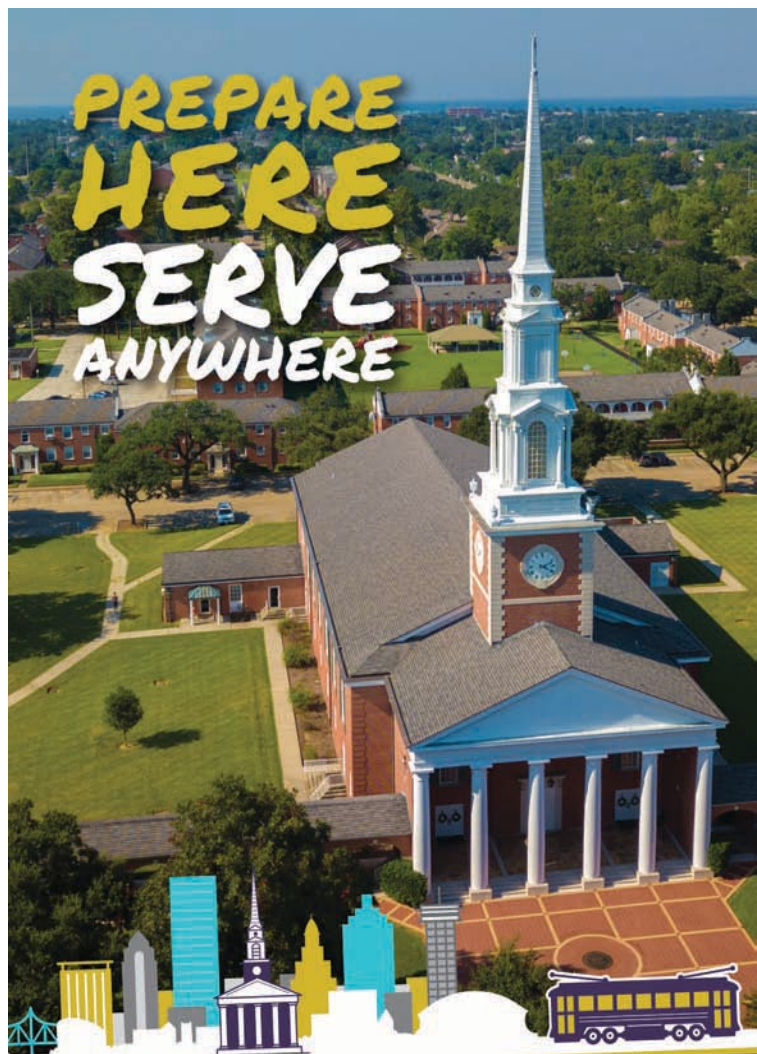
It was literally a physical manifestation of the hope of the Gospel."

Saxon, who participated in seven rebuild trips at the church, was grateful for how God worked throughout the project. "We could see the

hand of God from day one," said Saxon, a member of Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles. "Our people just rolled up their sleeves and went to work, even though they were dealing with our own weather-related problems. Every time we had an obstacle, God provided."

Louisiana is among several states participating in 'Bahama Rebuild,' a partnership with the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board SEND Relief. Since December 2019, Louisiana and Mississippi Baptists have sent numerous teams each to rebuild the church while the Baptist state conventions of Alabama and North Carolina have deployed teams to undertake other projects on the islands.

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.





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Submitted photo

Louisiana Baptist Children and Youth Education Strategist Jess Archer has been named the new executive director and treasurer for the South Carolina Baptist Convention Woman's Missionary Union.

Archer to lead South Carolina WMU

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists' Children and Youth Education Strategist Jess Archer has been named the new executive director and treasurer for the South Carolina Baptist Convention Woman's Missionary Union.

Archer will join the staff Oct. 24 and will assume her new role Jan. 1, 2023. She will follow Laurie Register, who retires Dec. 31 after serving South Carolina's WMU for more than 29 years (including 14 of those as executive director-treasurer).

"I am eternally grateful to the Lord for calling me by name to this new position," Archer told the Baptist Message. "And I am ready to see what God has in store for South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union."

A graduate of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Archer has spent the last eight-and-a-half years helping women and young people develop a deeper passion for missions.

During her time with the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Archer has served on the Women's Missions and Ministry team to catalyze mission's education through WMU for preschool, children and youth in the state's Baptist churches.

She also has trained countless leaders of all ages in local associations and churches and planned statewide camps and events such as Missions Jamboree, Louisiana Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Children in Action, M-NOW, a mission's event for Louisiana youth, and numerous children minis-

try events. Archer said she has enjoyed watching more youngsters embrace a missions lifestyle, which was reflected in the growth of summer mission's camps that have been sold out every year since 2019 (COVID-19 safety concerns canceled the 2020 camp season).

In 2018, mission's camps traditionally held separately for boys and girls combined into one and drew more than 375 boys and girls. A year later, attendance increased to 425. And in 2021 and 2022 an additional missions camp was added with an attendance of 500 and 600, collectively.

Looking to her new role, Archer expressed gratitude for the opportunity she has had to serve Louisiana Baptists.

"The Lord's given me a

See ARCHER, page 8

Ephesians

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Submitted photo

Terry Browning baptized his granddaughter, Joile Pruyn, during a service, July 17, at Sandy Creek Baptist Church, Pride.

Immerse from page one

was scared of what people would think. But the family I have become a part of at 'The Creek' was nothing but supportive. I have never felt more loved and uplifted in my life."

Pruyn is one of 25 students and young professionals at Sandy Creek Baptist Church who have decided to follow Christ in 2022.

Seventeen of those were baptized July 17 (the most the church has baptized in one service) and seven are awaiting baptism. Additionally, five new believers who are not youth or young professionals have been baptized since January in a church that averages 225 in Sunday worship.

Most of the decisions have taken place during Teen Extreme camp (attended by 95 students) in

Pensacola, Fla., June 27-July 1, and at Wednesday night student worship.

"It's been cool to hear students say the most genuine prayers as they talked with another adult individually about their desire to follow Jesus," Youth Pastor James Daniel Schopp said. "Those students have then gone out and invited their friends to our Wednesday meetings, where they heard and accepted Christ. Even the parents are coming on Wednesdays and have started to share Jesus with their families, friends and co-workers."

Not only have students been baptized, but many have grown deeper in their relationship with Jesus through a greater emphasis on discipleship.

Each week, the students meet in homes for Bible study (one for males and another for females).

The students also participate in accountability groups of five (30 groups overall), where they sharpen each other to become more fully devoted followers of Christ.

Eleventh grader Katelyn Easley, who trusted in Jesus during Teen Extreme camp, said her fellow students and adult leaders have helped her grow in her faith.

"The way everyone at Sandy Creek never gave up on getting me to go on a Wednesday night that led to my decision to go to camp was truly unreal," Easley said. "We need those people around us to encourage us and I never understood the importance of that until I was the person needing that in my life."

Schopp is excited about what this spiritual renewal could lead to this fall.

See **IMMERSE**, page 17

Archer

from page 7

love for missions, allowed me to serve with incredible people all around our state, and invited me to plan fun missions' events like M-JAM, M-NOW and camps," she said. "The memories that I have made and the incredible opportunities the Lord has given me will last a lifetime."

Those who have worked with Archer said she will be missed but are anticipating the impact she will have for Christ in South Carolina.

"She's been a blessing to Louisiana Baptists and has championed missions' education in our state," LBC Women's Missions and Ministry Strategist Christine Gill said. "I'm excited to see how God is going to use her in South Carolina. Her impact here in her home state will be felt for years to come and we're going to miss her."

LBC Missions and Ministry Team Director John Hebert echoed the thought.

"Jess has been a vital member of our team for these last nine years and has grown GA ministry awareness among our churches, helped increased our camp attendance, and trained leaders for the next generation," he said. "She has been a faithful servant to the churches of Louisiana and I'm certain she will be a blessing to South Carolina Baptists."

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Here are some ideas:

- Pray for them during a worship service
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- Give them a love gift (a love offering or gift cards to local restaurants)
- Include appreciation for the entire family
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- Offer to mow the yard, clean the house, or wash their car
- Be faithful in attendance and giving

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS PASTORAL LEADERSHIP
LouisianaBaptists.org/Pastors

Retrieves from page one

shared the Gospel at Vacation Bible Schools, children's and youth events, senior adult gatherings, camps, a revival, a reading program and worship services.

Manuel uses Luke to visually illustrate timeless biblical truths about obedience. Manuel concludes by sharing the Gospel and offering an opportunity to follow Jesus.

"Everyone wants his or her dog to be well behaved and obedient," Manuel said. "I can see a visual difference in people when they connect the concepts by watching Luke's obedience. They suddenly understand what it means when Jesus says, 'My sheep hear my voice ... and they follow me.'"

Many who respond make salvation decisions, but some come forward seeking to be discipled.

"They are responding with the desire to be obedient followers of Jesus," Manuel said. "I want people to leave our presentations

being confident of two things – their salvation and that they can live abundant lives as committed disciples of Jesus."

During Vacation Bible School in mid-June at Pisgah Baptist Church, Forest Hill, two children indicated a desire to know more about Jesus during a presentation.

"Having Luke there really got the kids' attention," Pastor Mike Schultz said. "Keith, with Luke's help, was able to explain some abstract ideas to the younger kids to help give some understanding -- like 'God always keeps his eye on you' for example. The kids were very attentive and were able to participate in the presentation which makes it more interesting to them."

Dustin Davis, pastor of New Era Baptist Church, Monterey, said Luke and Manuel planted Gospel seeds during a special event for children, May 15. Though none accepted Christ, Clark said at least



Submitted photo

Louisiana Baptist Evangelism and Church Growth Team Leader Keith Manuel interacts with Luke during Vacation Bible School at McClendon Baptist Church, West Monroe.

one girl expressed an interest in learning more about Jesus.

"Keith used the commands 'sit, watch, lie down, and come' to illustrate the Gospel," Clark said. "What stood out most to me was the command for Luke to

watch Keith. No matter where Keith went in the room, Luke kept his eyes on Keith. Keith explained how important it is to keep our eyes upon Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Therefore, not only was it a Gospel

presentation, but it was a great devotion for believers."

Churches interested in using Luke at an event may contact Manuel by phone, 318.446.2536, or reach out to him via his website, ConfidenceK9s.

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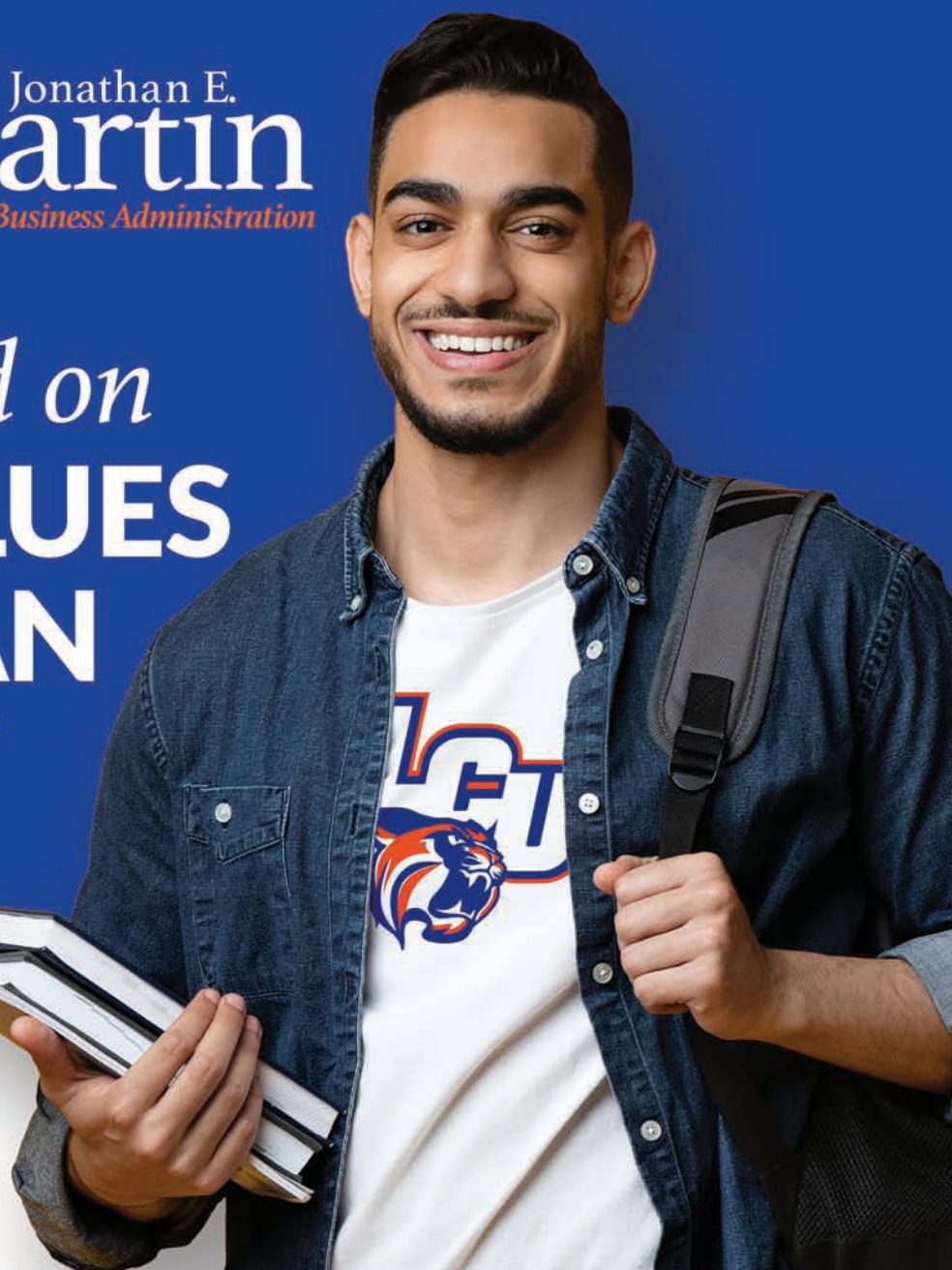
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~MARK 1:38~

LOUISIANA MISSIONS OFFERING

WEEK OF PRAYER
SEPT. 11-18, 2022

STATE GOAL
\$1,700,000

GEORGIABARNETTE.ORG



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MARK MITCHELL, PASTOR
NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH, KENNER/NEW ORLEANS



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CASEY JOHNSON, PASTOR
BONITA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, MER ROUGE



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MICHAEL AGUIARD, BCM DIRECTOR
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



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CONVERSATION, BUT GOD USES YOU
TO HELP MAKE THE CONNECTION.**

HereforYou.org

GBO from page one

for state and national Baptist causes. CP gifts provide the “fuel” for all the cooperative missions and ministries of Louisiana Baptists, meanwhile, the GBO provides support for specific operations.

Some of the largest ministries that benefit from the GBO are disaster relief and church planting, both critical efforts in the state:

-- During the last two years, Louisiana Baptists have been engaged in prolonged recovery operations after four hurricanes.

-- Meanwhile, Louisiana Baptists are about to celebrate their 300th church planted since 2010 as part of the President’s 2020 Commission Final Report goals (delayed by two years due to COVID-19 restrictions).

On top of that, Louisiana Baptists are about to launch Vision 2030, and a primary goal is to grow from 1,569 congregations to 2,000 constituted churches, with church planting a major factor in the initiative. GBO gifts will figure prominently in reaching this goal and in baptizing 25,000 new believers, also a part of the vision.

Indeed, gifts to the GBO support a wide range of cooperative missions and ministries of Louisiana Baptists: offering help to women and children who have been rescued from sex trafficking; providing groceries to families in dire need; giving hope to men and women formerly trapped by addictions; and discipling students on college campuses across the state.

HERE FOR YOU

One of the most unique and effective of the GBO-supported ministries of Louisiana Baptists is a statewide multimedia campaign, “Here for You!” -- and it is impactful.



WEEK OF PRAYER:
September 11-18, 2022
STATE GOAL: \$1.7 MILLION

In 2022, 773 churches combined to give \$1,581,099 to support the many missions and ministry projects through the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering. The following recognition is intended to honor the sacrificial giving of all Louisiana Baptists through the example of these representative congregations.

TOP FIVE GBO GIVING CHURCHES

Congregation	DOLLARS	Gift Amount
	Attendance	
Koran, Haughton	150	\$65,000
Temple, Ruston	700	\$40,754
Calvary, Alexandria	1,462	\$40,385
Cedar Crest, West Monroe	454	\$38,014
New Ebenezer, Castor	353	\$28,222
Congregation	PERCENTAGES (undesignated receipts)	Percentage
	Attendance	
Salem, Plain Dealing	40	91.1 %
Temple, Winnsboro	55	51.0 %
Wallace Ridge, Jonesville	16	43.8 %
Koran, Haughton	150	23.0 %
Pilgrim Rest, Eunice	45	15.4 %
Congregation	AVERAGES	Per Person
	Attendance	
Koran, Haughton	150	\$433
Welcome Home, Dodson	25	\$387
New Ebenezer, Castor	80	\$353
Don Avenue, Denham Springs	46	\$261
Pine Grove, Castor	20	\$209

Ads featuring different scenarios of life, sometimes posing deep questions and other times showcasing a positive Christian response, each end with the tagline, “Louisiana Baptists are here for you!”

John Kyle, director of communications for Louisiana Baptists and the creative force behind the “Here for You!” campaign, said the messages are designed to engage the unbeliever.

“We want the ‘nones,’” Kyle told the *Baptist Message*. “Sometimes our people don’t see the ads because they aren’t our target.

“We aren’t even try-

ing to buy ads on Sunday morning television,” Kyle explained. “We are trying to get in as many hearts and homes [of unbelievers] as many times as we can. If someone thinks about church, they will do it later in the week, so the ads run Wednesday to Saturday.”

The campaign reaches almost 94 percent of television households, and strategic ad buys -- such as during the Super Bowl -- give even more visibility to “Here for You!”

But television is not the only media focus.

“Here for You!” also has a strong internet

presence.

“We are averaging a reach of 187,324 people monthly through social media and streaming services,” Kyle said.

Moreover, because of a partnership with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, the television presence and social media push don’t just give visibility to Louisiana Baptists, but people are giving their lives to Christ because of the multimedia effort.

Kyle said the ads point viewers to the BGEA for prayer and contact with trained counselors who share the Gospel. He added that the partnership has

resulted in a harvest of souls in Louisiana.

“Their records show there have been 18,602 views of the Gospel presentation from our state since 2019, and 3,570 people have indicated decisions for Christ,” he said.

“We are the only state Baptist convention they are partnering with,” Kyle added, noting that the BGEA continually works to improve its internet strategy -- sometimes making simple tweaks that pay big dividends.

“They advised us to change our wording from ‘Find God’ to ‘How to find God’ and we had our highest number of Louisiana visitors to the landing page last month than we had in any one month during the previous 19 months,” Kyle noted. “Right now, we are averaging 400-500 views of the Gospel a month, but I’d like to get that to 1,000. Keeping the ratio [a third], we would see 300 people a month indicate decisions for Christ.”

LIVING LEGACY

The Louisiana Missions Offering ensures the legacy of Georgia Barnette’s passion for the people of our state will continue to result in the evangelization of the lost.

Last year, our 1,569 congregations combined to baptize 5,631 new believers, despite coming out of two years of COVID-19 restrictions and while still recovering from the cumulative effects of four hurricanes, multiple tornadoes and two major ice storms (with 135 church facilities and 69 pastors’ homes damaged or destroyed by Ida alone).

In that light, Barnette’s encouragement to a friend remains salient to Louisiana Baptists today.

“Do not become discouraged,” she wrote. “We are attempting great things for Him and expecting great things from Him.”

Church honors pastor, helps him beat cancer

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

FOREST HILL, La. (LBM) – Pastor Mike Evans recently missed two months in the pulpit during a fierce battle with cancer and other medical issues, but through those trials he experienced God's goodness through the love displayed by his church.

Meanwhile, his congregation, Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill, has experienced a personal revival with eight baptisms since April. Five other new believers are awaiting baptism.

"They stepped up," Evans told the Baptist Message. "Since this church was founded in 1912, we have had love, respect and unity. You can never underestimate the value of a prayer or receiving a card from someone. That helped get me through some very difficult days. They stood in the gap for me when I wasn't able."

Evans, from April 11-June 16, spent time in Alexandria and Baton Rouge hospitals and at home as he underwent surgery for prostate cancer and fought off pneumonia and multiple embolisms (obstruction of his arteries).

While he was away

from the pulpit, Evans said the members and other Louisiana Baptists never ceased showing their love.

His church continued paying his salary, cared for the facility and grounds and sent him numerous messages of encouragement.

Moreover, Elwood Baptist Music Minister Bobby Mills, Louisiana Baptists Executive Director Steve Horn, Louisiana Christian University Chief Operations Officer David Jeffreys, lay Pastor Clovis Christman, Philadelphia Baptist Church (Horseshoe Drive campus, Alexandria) Minister of Students Andrew Barber and International Mission Board Missionary (on furlough) David McCann filled the pulpit while Evans was unable to preach.

Once Evans returned, God continued to pour out his blessings through nine salvation decisions during children's and youth summer camps at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth.

Among those who decided to follow Christ since Evans' return was Owen Jenkins, who was baptized July 24.

For two months, Jenkins helped operate the sound system in worship

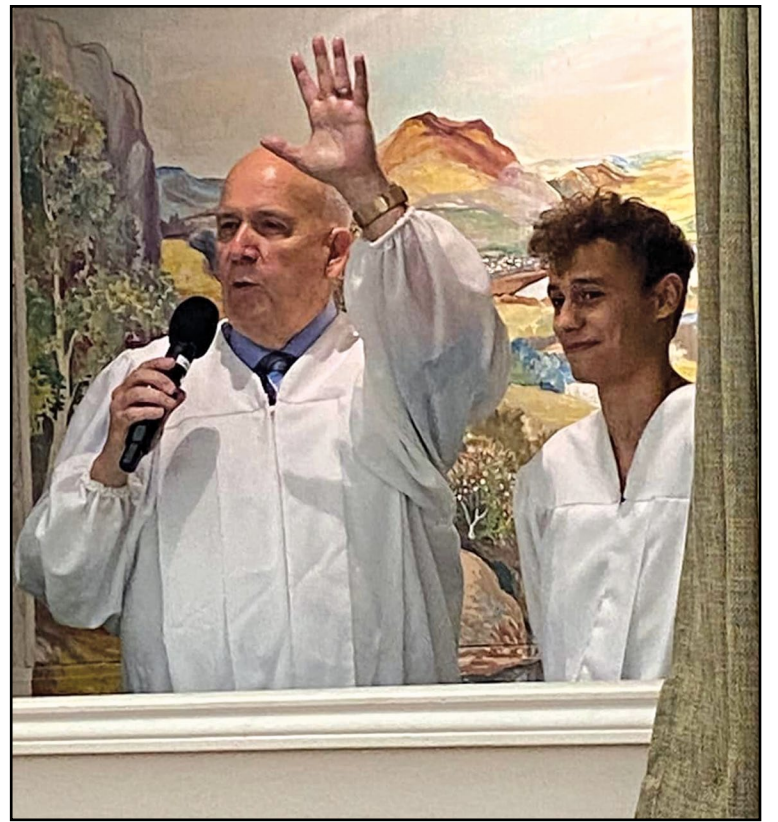
and on July 17 he finally realized he needed the Savior.

"At the end of the invitation, I saw him stand and he had his hand up in the air like he was going to 'high five' me," Evans recalled. "I thought he was just signaling, 'It was a wrap and all went well.'"

"But later that afternoon he called our youth minister, Brother Brett Faulk, and told him he wanted to be saved and did so over the phone," he continued. "I kidded him that my other thought had been maybe he was high fiving an angel."

Evans said he appreciates how his church rallied around him in his moment of need and is grateful for the subsequent revival the Holy Spirit brought.

"We knew our members loved us, but they loved the Lord too and were just like Nehemiah 4:6, as they 'had a mind to work,'" Evans said. "I told them that I wondered if they realized



Submitted photo

Pastor Mike Evans baptized Owen Jenkins, July 24. Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill, has baptized eight new believers since Evans returned following a successful battle against cancer.

that they did better without me than with me, but they were generous and

said it wasn't so. May the Lord bless them and all who prayed and helped."



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Gloster Baptist Church lives out GBO vision

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

GLOSTER, La. (LBM) – For many years, Gloster Baptist Church has helped carry the torch of Georgia Barnette, who served as a missionary with a passion for sharing the Gospel as the first elected and paid Woman's Missionary Union executive director/treasurer for Louisiana Baptists.

Not only does the church have boots on the ground in their own community and other towns throughout Louisiana, but Gloster Baptist gives generously to the annual state missions offering named after "Miss Georgia." According to Pastor Ron McLellan, the church (with an average of 100 in Sunday worship) in the last 12 months has given \$14,638 to the annual offering which honors Barnette's dedication to spreading the Good News in Louisiana; and they have set a giving goal of \$16,000 for 2022.

McLellan, who has served

as pastor since 1995, said his church's commitment to doing whatever it takes to further the Gospel nearby never ceases to amaze him.

"Our Gloster family amazes me with their willingness to go on mission with God to places like Sulphur, after hurricanes ravaged the southwest; to Plaquemine to do a music and arts camp; to a foster care camp held in North Monroe; and most recently to the inner city of Shreveport to support The Hub homeless ministry," McLellan told the Baptist Message.

Locally, Gloster Baptist serves meals to teachers; prayer walks and volunteers for events at a local school; assists widows with various needs; helps special needs persons make crafts at Holy Angels Residential Facility in Shreveport; leads worship for a community men's prayer gathering and periodically serves breakfast at The Hub ministry to human trafficking victims and the homeless in Shreveport.

The church also sends a team once a month to lead worship at 3:18 Church in Shreveport. Following the service, members prepare meals that are served to those in attendance.

Featured in the Week of Prayer Guide for the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering, 3:18 Church, pastored by Matt Tyson, spreads the hope of Christ among those living in Shreveport's inner city.

The partnership between the two churches began shortly after McLellan was diagnosed in December with cancer. Tyson learned about the situation and stepped up to fill the pulpit once a month from January to April.

In June, Gloster Baptist began sending its first team to 3:18 Church.

"I needed someone like Matt and trusted him in pulpit," McLellan said. "I'm thankful he had the servant's heart to come in, preach the Word, and help us to continue to have vibrant worship experience on Sunday

morning."

"We have caught onto his vision to reach the homeless community in Shreveport," he continued. "He's genuine in his desire to touch people's hearts and lives and (he) shows Christ's love to them."

Because of the generous giving of churches like Gloster Baptist, Louisiana Baptists are able to continue the vision of Georgia Barnette more than 114 years after she first led women to begin taking up an offering for state missionaries in 1907. The offering was named after her in 1937.

"This offering stays in the state of Louisiana," Louisiana Baptists Women's Missions and Ministry Strategist Christine Gill, said. "The idea is to encourage our church members to contribute to something tangible. Every dollar is used to minister to people who live in your area. The money given to the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering will literally benefit the person next door to you, whether

it's through disaster relief or planting a church in your community, engaging with a compassion ministry, or doing missions education in your church."

"Without Georgia, these ministries cease to exist in our state," she continued. "It's of paramount importance. We want to reach Louisiana for Christ, and the Georgia Barnette offering provides a way to do just that."

Sept. 11-18 has been set aside as the Week of Prayer for state missions and ministries. Resources, including videos demonstrating the scope and impact of the Georgia Barnette Offering, have been mailed to churches across the state. This year's offering goal is \$1.7 million, and churches are urged to begin promoting the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering now. Online promotional pieces can be accessed at GeorgiaBarnette.org.

How is God using YOUR church to help reach Louisiana?

Your church is helping give everyone in Louisiana the opportunity to say "yes" to Jesus via *Here for You!*

You've helped reach an average of 187,000 people per month via social media and streaming services.

Since 2019, you have seeded God's truth in approximately 94% of TV households across the state.

More than 3,570 people have indicated a decision for Christ through our partnership with the Billy Graham Association.

HereforYou.org
LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

Visit LouisianaBaptists.org/hereforyou, enter "luke1423," and see how you can maximize this opportunity for your church.

LBC seeks resolutions, nominees for committees, boards

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) — Louisiana Baptists are invited to recommend candidates to serve on state convention boards and committees, and, are asked to submit resolutions for possible consideration by messengers at the 2022 Louisiana Baptist Convention.

COMMITTEES

The Louisiana Baptist Committee on Committees will be conducting its work early this fall to fill 17 openings on five state convention committees: Credentials; Moral and Social Concerns; Nominations; Order of Business; and Resolutions.

Nominations should be sent not later than Aug. 12 to Jake Roudkowski, interim pastor, First Baptist Church, Zachary, who is the Committee on Committees chair. Please forward your recommendations via email, jaker@nobts.edu, or the U.S. Mail, Dr. Jake Roudkowski, 78689 Hwy. 25, Folsom, LA 70437.

BOARDS

The Louisiana Baptist

Committee on Nominations will begin its work, also in early fall, to fill 18 vacancies on the LBC Executive Board as well as the trustee bodies of the Louisiana Christian University, Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries, *Baptist Message*, and Baptist Foundation.

Nominations should be sent not later than Aug. 12 to Ron Thompson, member, First Baptist Church, Natchitoches, and coordinator, District Eight Baptist Convention which includes Desoto, Natchitoches, N. Sabine, Red River and Sabine Associations, who is the Committee on Nominations chair. Please forward your recommendations via email, coordinator@districteightmissions.com, or the U.S. Mail, Dr. Ron Thompson, P.O. Box 2880, Natchitoches, LA 71457.

BOTH

Please submit the candidate's name and identify the committee or board for which you are nominating him or her; and include information about the nominee's church membership and current employment.

Not more than the pastor and two members from any church may serve on all boards and committees, combined, at any one time. Likewise, not more than one member of the same church may serve on the same board or committee, at any one time.

RESOLUTIONS

The first Committee on Resolutions meeting is scheduled for Sept. 1 and submissions are requested to be sent as early as possible for consideration. Resolutions may be submitted for review and consideration not more than 90 days and not fewer than 15 days prior to the LBC annual meeting, Nov. 15, providing a window of opportunity from Aug. 17 through Oct. 31.

All statements should be typewritten, titled, and dated, and, accom-

panied by a letter — from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention — certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing. The letter should include complete contact information for both the person submitting it and his or her church.

No person may submit more than three resolutions per year.

Tom Harrison, executive pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreve-

port, is the Committee on Resolutions chair. You may send proposed resolutions to the committee via fax, 318.449.4287, email, Policy@LouisianaBaptists.org, or U.S. Mail, ATTN: Resolutions Committee, LBC Office of Public Policy, P. O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309.

If you desire assistance with wording or formatting, please contact LBC Public Policy Director Will Hall by phone, 318.448.3402, or email, Policy@LouisianaBaptists.org.



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DOJ opens sex abuse case against SBC

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

WASHINGTON (LBM) – The United States Department of Justice is investigating allegations of sex abuse against the Southern Baptist Convention.

The SBC Executive Committee revealed that it had been served a subpoena in a letter, Aug. 12, signed by the recently elected SBC president and all 13 national entity heads, stating their organizations are individually and collectively “resolved to fully and completely cooperate with the investigation.”

According to news reports, multiple SBC ministries are being targeted.

BACKGROUND

The investigation is being launched as lawsuits are stacking up against the SBC since the release of the

controversial “independent investigation” by the pro-gay Guidepost Solutions which was hired by the SBC Executive Committee to conduct an internal review. The SBC Executive Committee has since acknowledged there are 14 cases filed in North Carolina and 4 in Virginia, but scores of law firms are running ads seeking plaintiffs to join class action filings.

The legal situation is complicated by the fact that long-term SBC attorneys Jim Guenther and Jamie Jordan resigned when, against their counsel, the SBC Executive Committee waived attorney-client privilege in October 2021. The SBC had not lost a single lawsuit in the 56 years of representation by Guenther.

The SBC Executive Committee subsequently hired the pro-gay Nashville-based Bradley law firm, a move that caused 217 Missouri Baptist

CULTURALNEWS

churches to redirect giving away from the SBC and to the state convention. Such withdrawal of SBC support is in addition to the reported withholding of funds to the SBC by “250 churches in one convention, 94 in another and 46 in a third,” reported in March 2021 by an SBC Executive Committee task force that investigated the impact of controversies created by the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and its former president, Russell Moore.

ALLEGATIONS

Among those accused of wrongdoing in the Guidepost Solutions report was Johnny Hunt, who subsequently resigned as senior vice president of evangelism and leadership at the SBC North American Mission Board. The report alleged that Hunt

sexually assaulted a woman in a condo at Panama City, Fla., in 2010, but Hunt has denied the charge.

Meanwhile, the report also highlighted sex abuse allegations against former Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor David Sills. Sills resigned in 2018 with SBTBS declining to comment on the “personnel matter.”

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary also experienced faculty resignations that same year, with one “due to a personal moral failure” and the other “to address personal and spiritual issues” -- but neither seminary indicated sexual abuse was involved and neither was mentioned in the Guidepost report.

Meanwhile, capstonereport.com, which provides timely commentary on the SBC, reported Aug. 15 that a former employee of the SBC International Mission Board claimed that in 2021 the national entity “failed to help parents understand the potential exposure of children to a sexual predator.”

COMPOUNDING PROBLEMS

The SBC is not a denomination and has no top-down authority structure, however, the Department of Justice appears it will pursue the national

fellowship of churches in the same manner it has investigated the Roman Catholic Church, which controls personnel matters in a hierarchical system. According to an Associated Press report, “Nationwide, U.S. dioceses tallied complaints from 17,000 people and paid out about \$4 billion to victims since the 1980s.” With the FBI opening a probe of clergy sex abuse in New Orleans in June, there are now investigations in 23 states alleging coverups which allowed predator priests to move from congregation to congregation.

Guideposts Solutions reported that it had reviewed a list of 703 names contained in an alleged “secret list” of abusers maintained by the SBC Executive Committee – “with 409 believed to be SBC-affiliated at some point in time.”

“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,” Guidepost wrote. “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

See DOJ, page 17



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DOJ from page 15—

the accused ministers were no longer in positions of power at SBC churches.”

Meanwhile, the SBC likely faces self-made hurdles in the DOJ criminal investigation in defending itself against accusations of systemic coverups. In separate legal briefs filed in the lawsuit *McRaney v. North American Mission Board*, which alleges NAMB influenced the termination of a former state convention executive director, NAMB and ERLC claimed the SBC governs affiliated churches.

Conservative professor alleges ‘firing’ by SWBTS

FORT WORTH, Texas (LBM) – Long-time faculty member David Allen has released a letter alleging he has been fired. His action was in response to descriptions of his termi-

nation as “retirement” by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Allen was the seminary’s distinguished professor of preaching, and he also was the director of the Center for Expository Preaching, having served the seminary in multiple positions since 2004. He had been on a year-long sabbatical just prior to his departure, July 31.

Baptist Press reported, July 29, that SWBTS President Adam Greenway had informed Allen via email that “his full-time faculty position would be eliminated at the end of July.” Allen also said Greenway unilaterally had designated him for “retirement.” However, Allen declined to retire or resign.

Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary announced, Aug. 1, that it had hired Allen as the new Distinguished Visiting Professor of Practical Theology and Dean of the Adrian Rogers Center for Biblical Preaching.

Rogers, the now-de-

CULTURALNEWS

ceased pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Mem-

phis, Tennessee, who was a former SBC president and the leader of the conservative resurgence in the SBC, helped

co-found MABTS in the early 1970s in response to the liberal leanings of the SBC seminaries at that time.

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Immerse from page 8

“My hope is the kids continue to reach out to their classmates once they go back to school and they will make this year really count for Jesus,” he said. “This summer they have been reminded that they were created for a purpose and reason. They realize how they respond to what Christ commands them to do can impact others for eternity.”

Pastor Tim Norris said he is blessed to serve at a church that invests in the next generation.

“What’s going on with our youth is real,” Norris said. “It gives me hope for this generation right now, and into the future. We’ve seen them want willingly go to Bible studies outside our regular meeting times, pray with adults on Wednesday nights, help with our children’s worship services and step out to be who God wants them to be.

“They reflect a bigger picture of what God is doing here at Sandy Creek,” he continued. “I’m blessed

to be their pastor and to have seen God move in a mighty way.”

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

ON THE MOVE

- **James David Miller** was licensed to the gospel ministry at Alto Baptist Church on August 14. He will attend Mississippi College and study Christian Ministry and be on the MC track and field team as a thrower. His father, Alan Miller, is the Alto pastor. His grandfather is James H. Miller, who is a retired pastor living in Dubach.
- **Jerry Masters** is the new pastor at Red River Baptist Church, Benton.
- **Rick Draper**, the minister of worship and music, has departed from First Baptist Church, New Orleans.
- **Nate Jernigan** will begin serving as First Baptist Church, New Orleans interim worship leader on September 11.
- **Cassidy Richardson** is the new children/family associate at Grawood Baptist Church, Keithville.
- **Ashley Young** is the new children's minister at Grawood Baptist Church, Keithville.
- **Haley Kemp** is the new youth minister at New Hope Baptist Church, Choudrant.
- **Heath Watson** has been called as worship pastor to Watson Baptist Church, Denham Springs.
- **Henry Shelton** is the new pastor at Satsuma Baptist Church, Livingston.
- **Keith Zachary** has resigned as pastor of New

Covenant Baptist Church, Denham Springs.

- **Dana Trahan** has resigned as pastor of OneLife Church, Walker.
- **Bobby Duncan**, Pastor of Salem Baptist Church went home to be with the Lord on May 25, 2022

HOME COMING

- Occupy #2 Baptist Church, Pitkin: **100th Homecoming celebration**, September 4, 10 a.m. Guest Speaker: **Steve Horn, Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director**. For more information, call 337.423.6333. Pastor: Mike Crysel.
- Grove Baptist Church, Lecompte: **100th Anniversary**, September 18, 11:15 a.m. Speaker: **Jimmy Koonce**. Music: **Mike and Debbie Boone**. There will be "Dinner on the Ground" at noon. Special: **Brian Free & Assurance in concert**, 2 p.m. Pastor: Mike Mayeux.
- Cook Baptist Church, Ruston: **100th Anniversary**, September 25, 9:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 11 a.m. All those present are invited to attend. Former pastors, staff members and church members will be our guests. Pastor: Joseph Fowler.
- Jamestown Baptist Church, Jamestown: **100th Anniversary Celebration**, September 25th, 10:30 a.m. Covered dish luncheon and fellowship will follow the service. History, pictures, and articles of the past and present will be on display. Bring your family and friends to join us for this special day. The church is located at 5852 Hwy 154, Jamestown, LA 71045. For more information, call 318.894.8636. Pastor: Stan Foster.
- College Drive Baptist Church, Pineville: **75th Anniversary**, September 25, 10:30 a.m. Guest Speaker: **Mark Norwood**. Pastor: Richard Bullock.

REVIVAL

- First Baptist Church, Franklin: **Gulf Coast Baptist Association Unity Revival**, August 28, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Steve Berlin**, First Baptist Church, Berwick.
- Palestine Baptist Church, Grant: **Revival**, August 28-31, Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist**. Music: **The Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor: Hardy Estes.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles: **Revival**, August 28-31. Sunday, 6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 5 p.m. Evangelist: **Jay Lowder**. Music: **Dr. Leo Day**. For more information go online to Tblc.org/revival or call 337.480.1555. Pastor: Steve James.
- Occupy #2 Baptist Church, Pitkin: **Revival**, August 31-September 2, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Wednesday, Speaker: **Tom Bruce, Associational Mission Strategist of Beauregard Baptist Association**; Thursday, Speaker: **David Free, Magnolia Baptist Church, Ragley**; Friday, Speaker: **Jason Hoychick, pastor, Westview Baptist Church, DeRidder**. Pastor: Mike Crysel.
- Oberlin Baptist Church, Oberlin: **Revival**, September 4-6, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Evangelist: **Luke Hockenjos**. Worship: **Micah Stowell**. Pastor: Pascal Stowell.
- Jamestown Baptist Church, Jamestown: **Revival**, September 4-7, Sunday 11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Evangelist: **David Hanna**. Music: **Church Choir**. Pastor: Stan Foster.
- Antioch Baptist Church, Farmerville: **Revival**, September 11-14, Sunday, 10:30 a.m., **Jeremy Pruitt**, Sunday, 6:30 p.m., **Mike Courtney**; Monday, 6:30 p.m., **Casey Johnson**, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., **John Stroup, director of Freeway Ministries**; Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. **Josh Luellen**. Wor-

ship: **The Allens**. Pastor: Rubin Weaver.

- Four Church Harvest Celebration: **Harvest Celebration**, September 11-14, Martin Baptist Church, Social Springs Baptist Church, Amazing Grace Baptist Church, Coushatta, LA. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**.
- First Baptist Church, Dry Prong: **Revival**, September 11-14, Sunday 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **David Hanna**. Music: **church choir**. Pastor: Kevin Goodman.
- Open Door Baptist Church, Ragley: **Revival**, September 18-21. Evangelist: **Ron Lynch**. Worship: **Nicholas Costello and Open Door Worship Team**. Pastor: Sonny Simpson.
- First Baptist Church, Keithville: **Revival**, September 18-21. Evangelist: **Luke Hockenjos**. Pastor: Michael Stowell.
- New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy: **Revival**, September 18-20, Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Roland Hebert.
- Briarwood Baptist Church, Franklinton: **Revival**, September 18-21, 10:30 am, Sunday morning; 5 p.m., Sunday evening; 6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday. Evangelist: **Gary Bowlin**. Pastor: Eddie Henson.
- Outreach Baptist Church, Columbia: **Revival**, September 18-21, 7 p.m. nightly. **Evangelist**: Bill Britt. Pastor: CR Martin.
- New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy: **Revival**, September 18-21, Sunday 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Worship: **The Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor: Roland Hebert.
- Northeast Louisiana Baptist Association to host the **Senior Adult Fall Progressive Revival**, September 19-21 at Parkview, Lakeshore and Highland Baptist. Speaker: **Morris Anderson**. Music: **Brad Jett**.
- Louisiana Christian University, Pineville: **Fall revival**, Sept. 20-22, 11 a.m. daily. Speaker: Curtis Zachary.
- First Baptist Church, Quitman: **Tent Crusade**, September 25-28, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Worship: WeRCalled. Pastor: Wilton Wall.

LAGNIAPPE

- Open Door Baptist Church, Ragley: **A Night of Worship**, August 26, 7 p.m. Worship: Joseph Habedank and The Erwins. For more information call 337.370.4223 or 337.513.3483. Pastor:
- Milldale Baptist Church, Zachary: **Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert**, August 28, 10:15 a.m. Pastor: Dennis Terry, Sr.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Tullos: **Mark Lanier in Concert**, August 28, 11 a.m. Pastor: Norris Curry.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Summer Hymn Sing**, August 28, 4-6:30 p.m. Featured: **Aaron Watson, Price Harris, Johnny Par-rack and the Wonder State Quartet, Debbie Flowers, The Raab Family and Mark Lanier**. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: John Lary.
- Epps Baptist Church, Epps: **Bayou Macon/Madison Baptist Association Church Leadership Rally**, August 29, Meal at 5:30 p.m. Rally at 6 p.m. Speaker: **Shane Duke, pastor of Cross Roads Baptist Church, Grayson**. Music: **Southern Revelation**. Associational Mission Strategist: Randy Hales. Pastor: Edwin Fuller.
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, September 1, noon. Speaker: **Sandra Gilliland, associ-ate professor of phycology at Louisiana**

State University, Alexandria. Please RSVP to <https://fbcpineville.secure2.agroup.com/events/firstatfirst/2022-01-05+11%3A50%3A00>. Pas-tor: Stewart Holloway.

- Occupy #2 Baptist Church, Pitkin: **Free Gospel Concert**, September 3, 6 p.m. Music: **Masters4 Southern Gospel Quartet**. Pastor: Mike Crysel.
- New Zion Baptist Church, Covington: **The Al-len's in concert**, September 4, 8 & 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Clark Stewart.
- First Baptist Church, Iota: **The Southern Plainsmen Quartet in concert**, September 4, 10 a.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: David Fultz.
- First Baptist Church, Opelousas: **The South-ern Plainsmen Quartet in concert**, September 4, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Joel Murrah, associate pastor.
- First Baptist Church, Winnfield: **Honor our Heroes Sunday**, September 11, 10:45 a.m. A lunch for our honored guests (current and former military, first responders and their families) at 12:30 p.m. Special Speaker: **Lt. General William Boykin**. Pastor: Jerry Pipes.
- Longstraw Baptist Church, Choudrant: Special speaker, September 11, Evangelist: **Luke Hock-enjos**. Pastor: Larry Emory.
- Mission Point Baptist Church, Stonewall: **Sanctuary Quartet in concert**, September 11, 11 a.m. Pastor: Ron Johnson.
- Bethany Camp & Conference Center, Bethany: **40th Annual Men's Fish Fry**, September 12, 5:30 p.m. Speaker: **Brad Kirby, Pastor at East-wood Baptist Church**. Cost: \$10 and one can register with Bethany Camp & Conference Center at 318.938.1221. Come enjoy a delicious catfish meal, awesome music, a wonderful message, and great fellowship.
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: **E4 Confer-ence**, September 13, registration begins at 8 a.m. Featured speaker: **Jamie Dew, president of New Orleans Baptist Seminary**. The event is designed to equip, empower, and encourage pastors to preach biblical and anointed messages. At the same time, good preaching is exemplified through the keynote speakers. Breakout lead-ers include Matthew McKellar (SWBTS), Chris Osborne (SWBTS), Bo Rice (NOBTS), Preston Nix (NOBTS), Nicholas Maricle (LCU), and Argle Smith. Wives session will be led by Tara Dew. Pastor: Stu-art Holloway.
- Pine Grove Baptist Church, Livingston: **Sound Radio Appreciation Concert with The Down East Boys. The Powells and Chronicle**, Sep-tember 16, 7 p.m. Pastor: Paul Taylor.
- Bethany Baptist Church of Haywood, Clinton: **Mark Lanier in concert**, September 23, 11 a.m. Pastor: Jimmy Grainger.
- Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Columbia: **The Kinsmen in concert**, September 24, 6 p.m. Pas-tor: Jerry Hendrixson.
- Benson Baptist Church, Converse: **The South-ern Plainsmen Quartet in concert**, September 24, 6 p.m. Pastor: Delman Rogers.
- Oak Hill Baptist Church, Bastrop: **Melody Boys in Concert**, September 25 10:30a.m. Pastor Andy Myrick
- Clara Springs Baptist Encampment, Pelican: **See Youth at the Pole Rally**, September 25. Speaker: **Luke Hockenjos, evangelist**. Director: Chad Mills.
- Louisiana Christian University, Pineville: **Rend Collective – The Whosoever Tour**, September 29 in Guinn Auditorium.

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.

OWM TWSZQF HPHMKZAH JMWOZEHB QZEEQH: TYE

XWSQZGHAA ZA JMWOZEDTQH YGEW DQQ EBZGXA, BDIZGX

JMWVZAH WO EBH QZOH EBDE GWL ZA, DGS WO EBDE LBZKB

ZA EW KVVH.

OZMAE EZVWEBF OWYM: HZXBE

Clues:
L = W; W = O

Answer to July 28 Scripture Crypto:
Ezra four: fourteen



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

HAMMOND ORGAN, Model number H180, for sale. \$500 or best offer. Riverview Baptist Church in Alexandria. Please call Mike at 318.613.6505.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH in Vidor, TX is seeking a full-time director for Women's Recovery and Discipleship Ministries. This director will operate a Women's Care Center that is Christ-centered. Send resumes to Cara@fbcvidor.org.

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

SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER OF WORSHIP & MEDIA
Trees Baptist Church in Vivian, LA is searching for a full-time Minister of Worship and Media. Please email resumes to: mcrook@treesbaptist.org
A job description is available at www.treesbaptist.org/minister-of-worship-media

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

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. Please send your résumés to pgayneaux@aol.com or to P.O.Box 96, Abbeville LA 70511.

SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR
Rocky Branch Baptist Church, located at 109 Roan Rd, Farmerville LA 71241 is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Résumés can be mailed to the church address or emailed to kris_finkbeiner@yahoo.com.

WOMEN'S MINISTER
First Baptist Church, Ruston has a full time position open for a Women's Minister: to give leadership to the women of our church. Loving, evangelistic, discipling-making heart is essential. Please send résumés to First Baptist Ruston Church, c/o Brenda Martin, 200 South Trenton St., Ruston, LA 71270 or email to brenda@fbcruston.org

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

SEEKING A FULL-TIME EDITOR/PRESIDENT
The Baptist Courier, the oldest ministry partner of the South Carolina Baptist Convention (153 years), is seeking a full-time Editor and President. The position requires oversight of the print and electronic editions of the monthly magazine, the website, weekly podcast, social media, Courier Publishing (books), tours, and fundraising. Qualifications include significant experience as a Baptist communicator/writer who adheres to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message; active member of a Southern Baptist church; résumé with at least three references; and at least a master's degree. Deadline for receiving résumés and letters of reference is September 30, 2022. Please email résumés and letters of reference to: tarafreeman@fbccola.com.

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

SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR
Oak Hill Baptist Church in Many, La. is seeking a full-time pastor. Parsonage is available. Please send résumés to Oak Hill Baptist Church, 154 Pastor Dr., Many, LA 71449 or email to peacer@spsb.la.

SEEKING A MUSIC MINISTER & YOUTH MINISTER
Looking for Music Minister and Youth Minister to join the ministry team at Highland Baptist Church in West Monroe, La. Please send résumés to abonsall08@gmail.com. For more information, contact April Bonsall at 318.235.2898.

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 A SENIOR PASTOR
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Texarkana, AR, is prayerfully seeking the man chosen by God as our next senior pastor.
Cornerstone is an active SBC church in the Southwest Arkansas Baptist Association. Our goals are to bring glory to God in all our ministries; to share the love of Jesus; to nurture all those with whom we come in contact.
OUR CURRENT STAFF CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING:
--Bi-vocational Associate Pastor
--Bi-vocational Student Minister
-- Bi-vocational Music Minister
-- Plus office staff
SEND RÉSUMÉ TO:
Pastor Search Committee
Cornerstone Baptist Church
3900 Union Rd, Texarkana, AR 71854
EMAIL - psc.cornerstone@gmail.com

SEEKING FULL-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER
New Chapel Hill Baptist Church in West Monroe, LA is seeking a full-time Children's Minister. Please email your résumés to assistant@newchapelhill.org or contact us at 318.396.2433.

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Submitted photo

A Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief team from First Baptist Church, Slidell, served more than 500 meals at a backpack giveaway event at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Backpacks from page 2

placed them inside backpacks that were provided by SEND Relief.

Statham, who is interim pastor at Trinity Baptist, said teachers at the school were grateful for the kindness shown by the church. Members also prayed with some of the teachers when they delivered the backpacks.

“The members of

Trinity Baptist wanted to demonstrate the love of Christ to the community,” he said. “Providing school supplies to children in our community was a practical way to show love as we met a real need.”

SATSUMA BAPTIST, LIVINGSTON

Twenty-four mem-

bers of Satsuma Baptist Church, Livingston, partnered with several organizations, July 30, to distribute 200 backpacks filled with school supplies. They also served a jambalaya lunch and snow cones, distributed school uniform pants and helped children play safely on party inflatables.

Assisting Satsuma Baptist were members of the Livingston Parish Fire Protection District No. 5, Acadian Ambulance, Livingston Parish Public Schools, DEMCO electric utility company, Livingston Parish Sheriff’s Office, the Satsuma Parish Library and My Community Cares (a non-profit organization that strives to keep families together).

Satsuma Missions and Ministry Committee member Debbie Brock said the community was able to see Jesus at work throughout the event.

“We were on a spiritual high for a week after it ended,” Brock said. “We had prayed beforehand the Lord would use that event to serve our community and make a lasting impact on many of them.”

ReGroup

from page 4

(representing 18 associations) attended the event. Another 43 participants from four churches attended the Hispanic ReGroup at FBC Lafayette.

For those who were unable to attend ReGroup in person, Digital ReGroup will be offered Sept. 9. Additionally, video from the general and breakout sessions will be available for online viewing, along with other resources. Launch information will be coming soon.

“Sunday School and small group leaders need to be reminded they are a critical part of the work that God does through the local church,” Louisiana Baptists Sunday School Strategist Sean Keith told the *Baptist Message*. “They need to be equipped, challenged, and inspired. The ReGroup Conference does all three things very well.”

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How does this work? Simply transfer cash or other liquid assets (stocks or mutual funds) to the Louisiana Baptist Foundation. In return, we will agree to make payments for life to you, to you and a loved one, or to another person. Each payment is fixed with the amount based on the initial age of the person who receives the payments. The ministry (or ministries) you choose will benefit from what remains after all payments are made.

There are several variations on the Charitable Gift Annuity. You can specify a period of years (rather than lifetime), or you can defer payments until a later date. No matter how you choose to structure your CGA, the remaining funds will support sharing the Gospel to future generations!

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



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OCTOBER 2022

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NOVEMBER 2022

Charitable Gift Annuities provide income to the donor and a gift to ministry in the future. CGAs can also offer a charitable tax deduction, and a portion of the payments may be tax-free. Income, gift supporting God's Kingdom, and tax benefits—win, win, win!

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