



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

October 27, 2022

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John 3:16

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99-year-old WWII veteran completes *Mission: Baptism*

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

SLIDELL, La. (LBM) – Wilbert Terry, 99, successfully completed numerous missions as a World War II veteran but he said none of those compared to the assignment he undertook to be obedient through believer's baptism with the help of the congregation of Northshore Church, Slidell.



Wilbert Terry, a U.S. Army veteran who was part of battles in Europe and the Pacific, was baptized July 31.

Terry, a U.S. Army veteran who was part of battles in Europe and the Pacific, had surrendered his life to Christ when he was 15, but he was only sprinkled as a member of a Methodist church.

When he started attending Northshore Church several years ago, Terry learned of his need to become baptized through immer-

A retired firefighter, a police officer, a former law enforcement officer and a U.S. Coast Guard veteran picked up the wheelchair-bound Terry and placed him in the baptistery while Pastor Larry McEwen baptized him during the July 31 service.

Terry, a U.S. Army veteran who was part of



Submitted photo

Several men at Northshore Church picked up the wheelchair-bound Terry and placed him in the baptistery while Pastor Larry McEwen baptized him.

See **VETERAN**, page 21

Messengers to 'Dwell' on God's goodness in La.

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Under the mantle of "Dwell," adapted from Philippians 4:8-9, messengers to the 2022 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting will be challenged to celebrate how God is moving through Louisiana Baptists.

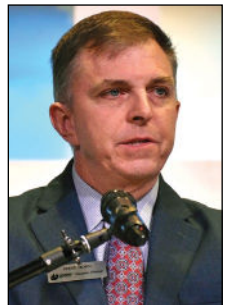
The annual meeting will take place Nov. 15 at Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria.

"We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Central Louisiana," Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn told the *Baptist Message*. "We hope Louisiana Baptists will come for both Monday and Tuesday to participate in the Pastor's Conference, the annual meeting and other meetings that will occur during these days. It's always a joy to gather with friends from across the state."



LBC President
Reggie Bridges

"I will share updates on each of our ministry areas and help us dwell, as our theme suggests, on the good work God is doing through our cooperative missions and ministries," Horn continued. "After several years of being challenged by COVID and hurricanes, I'm praying God will use these days as a catalyst to



Executive Director
Steve Horn

ones, and others, around the state.

Held at the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home

See **DWELL**, page 13

Granberry Counseling celebrates 25 years

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

MONROE, La. (LBM) – Supporters of Granberry Counseling Centers recent-

ly gathered to celebrate the ministry's 25th year of helping improve the emotional, mental, physical and spiritual health of ministers and their loved

ones, and others, around the state.

Held at the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home

See **GRANBERRY**, page 2



Submitted photo

LBCHFM President and CEO Perry Hancock speaks with participants at the 25th anniversary of Granberry Counseling Centers during a special celebration.

Granberry from page one

and Family Ministries campus in Monroe, the Sept. 30 event included remarks by entity President and CEO Perry Hancock, past LBCHFM Executive Director John Williams and Granberry Director Kathy Eichelberger. LBCHFM trustees, Granberry counselors from around the state, former Granberry staff and other guests also were in attendance. Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn closed the event with a prayer of thanksgiving.

"We have offered so many people healing and hope," Eichelberger told the Baptist Message. "So many people come to us who have lost hope, whether it's in a marriage relationship or some other area of life."

"We help and encour-



John Williams, retired president and CEO of the Children's Home, shares about Granberry's formation.

age our clients through our counseling, and if they are Christians, we also do our best to help strengthen



Kathy Eichelberger, director of Granberry Counseling Centers, thanks supporters and staff at an anniversary celebration.

their personal relationship with the Lord," she continued. "We combine Christian counseling with discipleship by encouraging clients to have a daily prayer and devotion time, and to worship and be in community with other Christians."

The ministry was established through the vision and generosity of Ray and Mary Anna Granberry. Their million-dollar gift in 1996 helped launch the Christ-centered counseling ministry a year later.

Since 1997, Granberry counselors have served more than 30,000 clients, including 600 pastors and their families. Today, the ministry employs licensed, professional Christian counselors who operate out of 12 locations around the state.

Counseling is available at no cost to Louisiana Baptist ministers, their spouse and/or dependent children through a

See GRANBERRY, page 7

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LBCHFM & ELBA partnership aims to improve foster care, adoption

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

MONROE, La. – The Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association has become the first participant in the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries' new model to help associations better engage churches in foster care and adoption ministry.

Adopted by messengers during its association annual meeting, Oct. 3 at Walker Baptist Church, the partnership encourages a coordination of efforts to serve the foster care community as an associa-

tion and provides a more streamlined approach to meet urgent needs.

LBCHFM President and CEO Perry Hancock encouraged messengers and guests at the meeting to consider how God is calling them to serve.

"Everyone is not called to foster and adopt, but everyone can help in some way to care for vulnerable children and families," Hancock said. "By becoming a foster parent, you can show a child the hope and healing that is found only in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Under this new approach that was introduced

during a meeting at Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association in late January, an associational foster care and adoption ministry coordinator (trained by LBCHFM staff) will organize foster care and adoption ministry efforts throughout his or her association. Through this model, the association can establish support groups for foster parents, provide life essentials for foster children and sponsor events for foster families.

The coordinator will serve multiple roles:

- recruit a foster care and adoption ministry director in each associational church;
- work closely with Connect1Child staff to develop relationships (among Department of Children and Family Services and community partners) to identify resources and understand ongoing needs within the foster care community; and
- serve as a point-of-contact for DCFS and

community partners to communicate needs to associational churches.

Larry Hubbard, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Denham Springs, and association moderator, expressed excitement about the partnership.

"Our Louisiana Baptist Children's Home ministry, Connect1Child, has provided the vision, structure, and practical advice to minister to foster care parents in Livingston Parish," said Larry Hubbard, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Denham Springs, and ELBA moderator. "In a day when many families have been devastated by destructive behavior, leaving children isolated from the essentials of family life, Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association is proclaiming and living out the Gospel through Connect1Child which will transform the hearts of these children and their parents."

Richard Blue, associational missions coordinator,

added that the partnership will provide another opportunity for children and families to hear the Gospel.

"Connect1Child will provide churches with the opportunity to engage in a Matthew 25:40 ministry, 'And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of Mine, you did it for Me,'" he said. "Connect1Child will be a step in helping to mend broken families and providing children with hope for their future."

The move comes on the heels of "Stand Sunday." On Nov. 13, churches will be encouraged to dedicate one Sunday to call their congregations to care for vulnerable children and families.

For information about Stand Sunday and foster care through Connect1Child Ministry, call 318.343.2244 or visit lbch.org.

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Praying for the annual meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention November 15th at Calvary Baptist Church, in Alexandria to be a memorable time of worship, Bible study, fellowship, and inspiration. We have a compelling theme before us encouraging all to "dwell" on "whatever is true, honorable" (Philippians 4:8-9). These words of the Apostle Paul should remind us to remain faithful and true during these turbulent times by keeping our focus on the priorities of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Please stop by the Louisiana Christian University display for gifts, fellowship, and a photo with LCU's mascot Alex the Wildcat.

I look forward to visiting with you November 14th and 15th at Calvary Baptist.

Press On!


Rick Brewer, PhD, MBA
President & CEO



Judson Retreat Center to close

By Brian Blackwell

Message staff writer

SAINT FRANCISVILLE, La. (LBM) – Judson Baptist Retreat Center, a camp owned by churches of the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge, has voted to cease operations, and to sell the property.

During the BAGBR annual meeting Oct. 16, a task force that was formed to study the camp's future presented their motion to close the facility and messengers approved the recommendation.

BAGBR Director of Missions Tommy Middleton told the *Baptist Message* he has spent the last 36 years leading camps and enjoying all that Judson Retreat Center offered. The decision was not easy, Middleton said, but the task force spent a great deal of time in prayer in coming to this conclusion.



Submitted photo

Judson Retreat Center may be closing its doors, but its supporters pray that whoever eventually purchases the camp will continue and even expand this ministry that has been effective for many years.

"Our task force was composed of 10 members, most of whom have been very active in the work at Judson Retreat Center over the years," Middleton said in a statement to the Baptist Message. "Our chairman, Keith Horton, was outstanding in leading this group; and we are grateful for his excellent shepherding of the entire process."

"Our camp director, Justin Busby, and his wife Kim, have done incred-

ible work to continue the ministry, going above and beyond the call of duty over these last five years. We could not have asked for a finer leader than Justin or a more precious family than the Busbys to be there during this season," said Middleton.

"Our task force has worked and consulted with Justin throughout this deliberative process

See JUDSON, page 23



Submitted photo

A cross stands as a reminder to supporters and staff at Judson Retreat Center, St. Francisville, that the camp was grounded in Christ.

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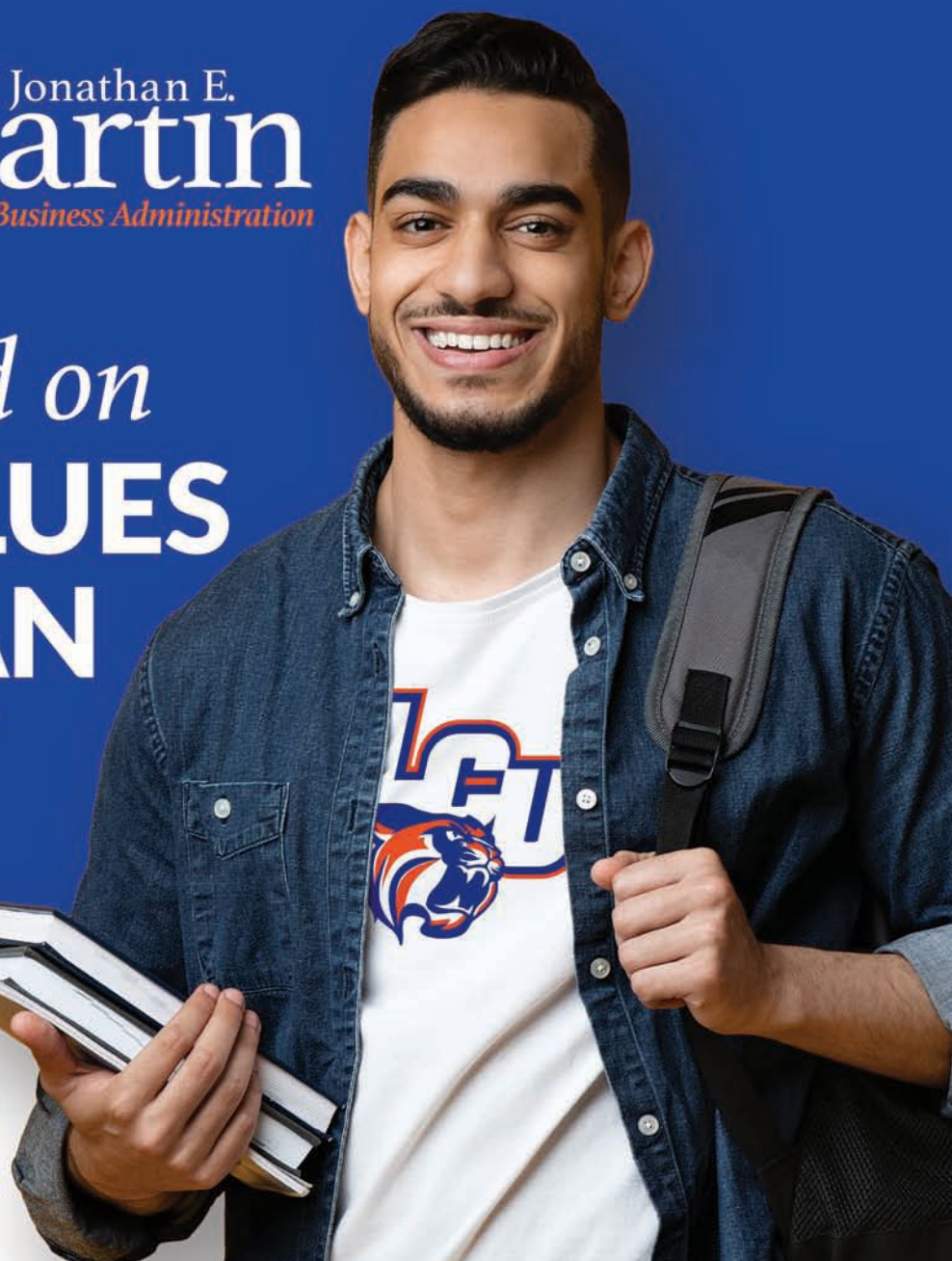
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Operation Christmas Child Collection Week, Nov. 14-21

By Staff
Baptist Message

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists soon will have the opportunity, through Operation Christmas Child, to share the ultimate gift to children in other countries without ever leaving the state.

Formed in 1993 by Samaritan's Purse, the effort allows churches and individuals to bring gift-filled shoeboxes to relay stations across the country that are then processed and

shipped to local partners around the world with a means of reaching out to children in their communities with the good news of Jesus Christ.

National Collection Week is Nov. 14-21.

Though simple, gifts such as small toys, hygiene items and school supplies bring a smile to children who may be affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease.

OCC regional spokesperson Mary Deen, also a member of Journey

Church, Pineville, told the Baptist Message the effort provides an opportunity for Christ followers to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children who may not receive any other gift.

"What captivated me when I filled my first box in 1993 was how this allows you to be a missionary in a box," Deen said. "I can't go over there and give gifts to children, but I can send a box filled with them."

"It's a joy to send not just a tangible gift but the greatest spiritual gift you can give them, which is the hope of Jesus."

According to OCC's website, shoeboxes have reached 198 million children in 170 different countries and territories.

The nationwide goal this year is to reach 11 million

children.

See OCC, page 20

Granberry from page 2

partnership with Granberry and the LBC Pastoral Leadership team. The maximum fee for others is \$90 per 50-minute session, but financial assistance is available. No one is refused help due to financial reasons.

During the coronavirus pandemic, all Granberry counselors received training and board certification in tele-counseling so clients could continue their counseling uninterrupted.

"One of the things that was so difficult during COVID was the isolation and lack of community which increased anxiety among so many people," Eichelberger said. "God created us to be in relationships and it was very rewarding to see people helped and encouraged through the tele-counseling we were able to offer them. It was a privilege to help them walk through those hard times and recognize God at work in their lives."

Because of the increasing need for counseling, there are plans to add two additional counselors to the Granberry team.

"We want to continue to offer affordable, professional Christian counseling and help individuals and families improve their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health," Eichelberger said. "We pray for God's wisdom and discernment in our counseling ministry. We don't have all the answers, but we know He does."

For more information about Granberry

Counseling Centers,
call 877.345.7411 or visit
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"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Romans 1:16

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11 a.m. Lunch	
3 p.m. Carl Gulde	with Worship Leader Glenn Price
4 p.m. Eddie Brunson	with Worship Leader Glenn Price
5 p.m. Supper	
6:30 p.m. Scotty McDowell	with Worship Leader Harrigill Family

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Louisiana F.A.I.T.H. Riders 'patch' 81 for Christ at Arkansas rally

By Brian Blackwell

Message staff writer

ROGERS, Ark. (LBM) – A tent at a motorcycle rally served as a tabernacle of sorts for 81 new believers who offered themselves as “living sacrifices” in turning their lives over to Christ during the recent “Bikes, Blues and Barbecue Rally” in Rogers, Arkansas.

Bikers from around the country rallied, Oct. 6-8, in the mountainous community, and 22 members of several Louisiana F.A.I.T.H. Riders were there, offering an opportunity to win a daily drawing of \$500 to anyone who listened to a three-minute testimony about Christ.

By the end of the three-day event, the members from chapters with Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, and Calvary Baptist Church, Ruston, joined other F.A.I.T.H. Riders chapters from across the United States to share Christ with 755 people. The F.A.I.T.H. Riders chapter of Cross Church, a multi-site congregation with a campus in Rogers, hosted the event and will follow up with those who made decisions for Jesus.

Jesse Littleton, assistant state director for Louisiana F.A.I.T.H. Riders, was among those who led a biker to Christ.

After one woman admitted she would spend eternity in hell, Littleton shared she had another option.

“She questioned a lot of why God allowed difficulties into her left, and I told her God gave us Jesus, who would have died for just her,” he said. “She was moved to tears when I said she could change where



Submitted photo

During the recent “Bikes, Blues and Barbecue Rally” in Rogers, Arkansas, members from F.A.I.T.H. Riders chapters at Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, and Calvary Baptist Church, Ruston, joined other F.A.I.T.H. Riders chapters from across the United States to share Christ with 755 people inside a tent, and witnessed 81 profess faith in Christ.

she spends eternity and her kids’ opportunity for their destination. This lady prayed to receive Christ and said God reached down and touched her heart. It was an honor to be able to be used for God.”

Joe Gentry, a member of First Baptist Church, Pollock, and a member of the Philadelphia Baptist chapter, said that while he was honored to be used by God to lead 15 former unbelievers to Christ at the rally, the final conversation with a man named Miguel (an atheist) was the most memorable.

“At first he said he didn’t need to believe in God because he was an atheist and he drifted out in a philosophical talk about new world stuff,” he said. “I managed to lead him to realize those beliefs were wrong, and he prayed to receive Christ. When he finished his prayer of salvation he jumped straight up, and tears started flowing.”

David Lemmons, pastor of Harmony Baptist

Church, Glenmora, and member of the Philadelphia Baptist chapter, participated with his wife, Allison. Lemmons led two people to Christ inside the tent while his wife was a “catcher” (those who invite

people into the tent).

“It’s always truly special to witness someone going from death to life,” he said. “And it also was extra special sharing the moment with my wife. All the work and effort we put into it is

tiring, but at the same time we left refreshed.”

For more information about becoming a part of F.A.I.T.H. Riders, contact Littleton at 318.613.3578 or Deerhunter020470@aol.com.

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Indian's courageous act in Jamestown saved La. pastor's ancestors

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

DRY PRONG, La. (LBM) – An attack by the Powhatan tribe on the colony of Jamestown, Virginia, was imminent on March 22, 1622, but a warning from an Indian convert to Christianity saved the life of settler Richard Pace and many others.

Upon learning of the plot, Pace immediately traveled by boat across the James River into Jamestown to warn those living in the area. While 347 died in the attack, many more were saved.

Kevin Goodman, a descendant of Pace, and pastor of First Baptist Church, Dry Prong, is thankful God used the Indian named "Chanco" to alert the family of the planned attack.

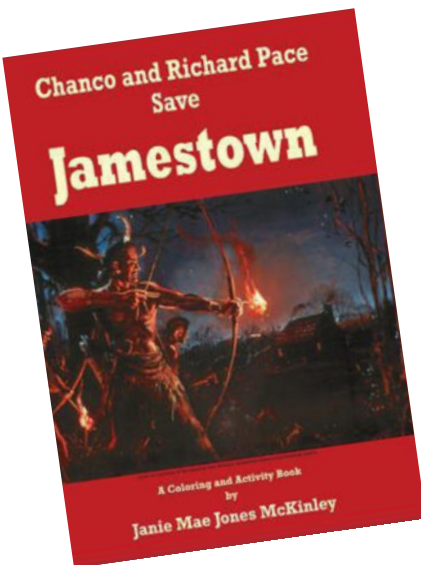
"Somehow, somehow, God was working behind

the scenes," Goodman told the *Baptist Message*. "This Indian could have sat on the information and not told Richard about it, but he had the courage to speak up and alert him."

"Richard then rowed his boat across the river to warn his countryman and save some lives," he continued. "It's a reminder that when God stirs something up and wants us to share it, we don't need to just sit and be idle."

William Stith, a historian and third president of the College of William and Mary, documented the impact Chanco had in saving Pace and his bloodline.

In his book, "History of the first discovery and settlement of Virginia," Stith said: "This Slaughter was a deep and grievous Wound to the yet weak and Infant Colony;



but it would have been much more general, and almost universal, if God had not put it into the Heart of a converted Indian, to make a Discovery.

"This Convert, whose name was Chanco, lived with one Richard Pace, who treated him, as his own Son."

"The Night before

the Massacre, another Indian, his Brother, lay with him; and telling him the King's Command, and that the Execution would be performed the next Day, he urged him to rise and kill Pace, as he intended to do by Perry, his Friend. As soon as his Brother was gone, the Christian Indian rose, and went and revealed the whole matter to Pace; who immediately gave Notice thereof to Captain William Powel, and having secured his own House, rowed off before Day to James-Town, and informed the Governor of it."

Goodman said he learned five years ago that he was a descendant of Pace after his uncle, David, alerted the family about their famous relative.

Now, Goodman and his family take the opportunity each Thanksgiving

to reflect on the courage of Chanco and Pace, among other blessings. Though his children are three and five years old, Goodman looks forward, one day, to in-depth discussions about the day in March 1622 that saved the descendants of Pace.

"Thanksgiving a few years ago was the first time he shared it with me, and that memory of his legacy has stuck with me ever since," he said. "You always hear talk about pilgrims, Indians and the Mayflower and the obstacles they had to overcome. But knowing that I am a descendant of a man who had an impact on an Indian, who also was a Christian, that led to saving many lives is pretty special and an incredible story. I would encourage everyone to take the time this Thanksgiving and thank God for all He gives us."

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R.V. Couch takes light into darkness of jails

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

TROUT, La. (LBM) – For the last 20 years, Pastor R.V. Couch has devoted his life to sharing how Christ can set men free, especially inside prisons.

“It’s been such a joy,” said Couch, interim pastor at Dunbarton Baptist Church, Ferriday, and a 2021 Louisiana Baptist Convention Exemplary Bi-vocational and Retired Pastor of the Year award winner. “I never thought that I would ever do this as a child. I have enjoyed it thoroughly and everywhere I have gone there is a purpose that God has equipped me to do.”

CALLED AMID DARKNESS

A lifelong resident of Jena, Couch was working as a repairman in 1990 when his wife, Malcolm, was undergoing treatment for cancer. While she was having surgery, Mickey Hudnall,

then pastor of Summerville Baptist Church, Olla, and now associational missions strategist for Ouachita Baptist Association, paid a visit to the hospital and prayed with the couple. At that moment, Couch’s eyes were open to the Gospel, and soon afterward, he accepted Christ.

A year later, Couch felt a call to ministry during a revival service with Aimoch Baptist, Olla.

Then he began accompanying Hudnall to Raymond Laborde Correctional Center, Cottonport, to minister to prisoners.

At first, he rarely shared a Gospel message with the inmates. However, with time he grew bolder and became a visible and vocal witness for Christ within the prison to prisoners and guards, alike.

Since then, Couch has shared Jesus at seven other prisons.

He also has served as pastor with four congregations: Kidron Baptist Church,



Brian Blackwell photo

Michael Tradewell, a member of First Baptist Church, Jena, Aimoch Baptist Pastor Bobby McGuire, Dunbarton Baptist Pastor R.V. Couch and East Jena Baptist Pastor Michael Wilkinson were on hand a year ago when Couch was awarded the 2021 Louisiana Baptist Convention Exemplary Bi-vocational and Retired Pastor of the Year award.

Harrisonburg (1998-2015) and Calvary Heights Baptist Church, Jena (2015-2018). Since August, Couch has been the interim pastor with Dunbarton Baptist, where he has seen worship attendance increase from 20 when he arrived to 30 in late September.

Hudnall attested to Couch’s steadfast commitment to area churches.

“From the day he accepted Christ, every faction of his life has changed,” Hudnall said. “R.V. is a man with many talents but best of all is a great friend to many people.”

Couch said he does not know how much longer he will serve at Dunbarton or minister in prisons. But he said he will serve Christ

faithfully wherever the Lord may lead.

“God calls us, equips us and commissions us,” Couch said. “The only way out of being commissioned is through death and I’m hoping that the Lord has more years left for me. I’m excited the Lord has used me and allows me to continue in His work.”

Thank You for Meeting Needs and Changing Lives Through the Christ-Centered Ministries of Your Children’s Home...



- **Residential Child Care** – You provide neglected, abused, and abandoned children with a safe place to live where they can experience God’s love.
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- **Residential Minister Care** – You provide housing, professional Christian counseling, vocational ministry assessments, and Christian mentoring at no cost for Louisiana Baptist Convention ministers and Southern Baptist Convention missionaries in transition.
- **Granberry Counseling Centers** – You provide affordable, professional, Christian counseling for individuals, couples, and families in 12 statewide locations.
- **Women’s Learning Center** – You provide women age 18 and older the opportunity to prepare for the High School Equivalency Test and receive career and life skills training at no cost in a caring, Christian environment.
- **Connect 1 Child Foster & Adoption Ministries** – You provide foster and adoption specialists across the state whose vision is to connect all Louisiana foster children to Christian families and churches.
- **Compassion for Kids** – You provide basic life needs and a gospel witness to economically challenged children and families in Northeast Louisiana in partnership with local churches.
- **Orphans Embrace** – You provide this ministry in partnership with LA Reach Haiti that supports a children’s village in Croix des Bouquets, Haiti.

Our Christ-centered ministries make immediate and eternal differences for children, individuals, and families across Louisiana and beyond. Whether it’s a child who needs a safe place to call home, a homeless child and mom who need support and encouragement, or a married couple who needs help restoring a shattered relationship, our caring ministry team is ready to help. www.lbch.org

Primeaux reflects on more than seven decades of ministry

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

LAFAYETTE, La. (LBM) – Wallace Primeaux, retired director of missions and pastor, was moved to tears, recently, while recounting his time as a mess sergeant in World War II.

A member of the “Greatest Generation,” Primeaux said his two years as a cook for the U.S. Army in Japan helped prepare him for 73 years of service to Louisiana Baptist churches.

“I am overwhelmed when I think of it now,” Primeaux told the Baptist Message. “I matured during that time and learned responsibility and obedience, which are necessary for service. It was just a real blessing to serve my

country.”

While he was serving in Japan, Primeaux sensed the call to ministry. Once he finished his tour of duty in 1946, he enrolled at Louisiana College (now Louisiana Christian University) to begin what he described as preparation for a lifetime of service to Louisiana Baptists.

Primeaux served just three churches: Oak Grove Baptist Church, Grand Chenier (1948-1958), Jenkins Memorial Baptist Church, St. Martinville (1958-1973) and Esther Baptist Church, Kaplan (1994-2020). He also was director of missions for Evangeline, Gulf Coast and Adolphe Stagg Baptist Associations (1973-1994).

One of his most challenging moments in min-

istry took place in 1957, he said, when Hurricane Audrey devastated southwest Louisiana as a Category 3 storm (125 mph winds). Primeaux buried 14 members of Oak Grove Baptist, but also shared Christ’s love with many community members who were searching for hope.

Primeaux said the encouragement received from other pastors helped sustain him through that difficult time.

“I had good friends in our association of churches who stood with me,” Primeaux said. “The friendships with the pastors were real blessings, and they supported me, with the help of the Lord.”

Jessie Charpentier,

See PRIMEAUX, page 22



Submitted photo

Louisiana Baptist Adult Ministry Strategist Jeff Ingram congratulates retired Evangeline Baptist Association Director of Missions and Pastor Wallace Primeaux (with daughter, Becky Primeaux).

Evangelist Tim Lee

*Celebrating 50 Years Preaching,
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Contact Evangelist Tim Lee today
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RESOLUTION 1: ON THANKING GOD FOR THE SUPREME COURT'S PRO-LIFE RULING IN DOBBS V. JACKSON

WHEREAS, Scripture reveals that all human life is created in the image of God, and therefore sacred to our Creator (Genesis 1:27; 9:6); and

WHEREAS, The Bible affirms that the pre-born child is a person, bearing the image of God, from the moment of conception (Psalm 139:13-16; Luke 1:44); and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Baptists have historically recognized the sanctity of life in the womb and repeatedly reaffirmed our pro-life ethic, our opposition to the heinous act of abortion, our support for abortion-vulnerable women as well as our commitment to the sanctity of marriage and the health and growth of families; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Baptists have prayerfully sought God's favor in moving the nation's highest court to affirm the truth that life begins at conception and that the preborn are worthy of dignity and protection; and

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court ruled in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* to overturn its harmful decisions in *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992); which, combined, led to more than 63,000,000 preborn lives lost during the past 49 years; and

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Legislature, the governors of Louisiana, and the citizens of our state had enacted laws to end abortion in our state once *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* were overturned; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 175th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 15, 2022, praise God and thank Him for His favor in the long-term effort to overturn the disastrous pro-abortion precedents set in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we applaud Associate Justices Samuel A. Alito, Jr., Amy Coney Barrett, Neil M. Gorsuch, Brett M. Kavanaugh and Clarence Thomas for their courageous unity in the face of threats of violence against them and their families to stand firm in returning "the authority to regulate abortion ... to the people and their elected representatives," allowing Louisiana and other states to ban abortion, thus protecting the lives of the preborn and upholding the sanctity of the parent-child relationship; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commend the churches and individuals who have worked tirelessly to cultivate a pro-life culture in our state through prayer, spiritual health and growth of our citizenry about pro-life matters, and public policy action (including the overwhelming passage of the 2020 statewide ballot measure, the Love Life Amendment); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we implore Louisiana Baptists to increase their efforts to serve and support local pregnancy resource centers, pro-life organizations, foster-care and adoptive families, doing invaluable and often under-recognized work in the care of mothers and children at every stage of life and the support of fathers so they may effectively bear their parental responsibilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commit to stand with and pray for abortion-vulnerable women and the fathers of preborn children, to eliminate any perceived need for the horror of abortion, and to oppose Planned Parenthood and other predatory organizations or institutions who exploit vulnerable women for profit; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we urge the Louisiana Legislature to designate the month of June as "Sanctity of Preborn Life Month" in celebration of the Supreme Court's historic ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

RESOLUTION 2: ON PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM THE PERMANENT PHYSICAL HARM OF SEX CHANGE SURGERIES AND DRUGS

WHEREAS, Worldwide there has been an unexplained surge in the number of children who claim a transgender identity; and

WHEREAS, Research indicates that "childhood-onset gender dysphoria has been shown to have a high rate of natural resolution," with Paul R. McHugh, the renowned psychiatrist who led Johns Hopkins University Hospital to stop sex reassignment surgery in part because of a study at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, Tennessee) and the Portman Clinic (London, England) which found "70 percent to 80 percent" of children who experienced gender confusion "spontaneously lost those feelings"; and

WHEREAS, There is no evidence that long-term mental health outcomes are improved or that rates of suicide are reduced by hormonal or surgical intervention; and

WHEREAS, Instead, the preponderance of the scientific literature shows that suicide rates, psychiatric morbidities, and mortality are higher after gender reassignment or hormone therapy; and

WHEREAS, So-called sex change surgeries, puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones cause permanent harm in children, including cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, irreversible infertility, liver dysfunction and increased cancer risks; and

WHEREAS, Children lack the mental and emotional maturity to give informed consent for such drastic measures; and

WHEREAS, Puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones are a growing source of lucrative income for pharmaceutical companies; and

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood is now the second largest provider of cross-sex hormone therapy in the United States; and

WHEREAS, LGBT political considerations rather than medical evidence now appear to be the driving force behind sex reassignment surgeries and the prescription of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormone treatments for children; and

WHEREAS, At least four European countries (Finland, France, Sweden, United Kingdom) have reversed course and banned gender reassignment procedures for minors, and

WHEREAS, Even Sweden's Karolinska Institute, home of one of the Nobel Prize advisory panels and a pioneer in surgical and chemical sex reassignment procedures, has ended all use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for patients under the age of 18 years old; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 175th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 15, 2022, do restate our belief that "God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them," (Genesis 1:27); and be it further

RESOLVED, We understand that this means the sex of an individual is determined biologically at conception; and be it further

RESOLVED, We reject the culture's increasing objectification and sexualization of children, making them vulnerable to predatory grooming and using questionable medical pretexts to justify

drastic chemical and surgical procedures to alter physical organs in attempts to reject the child's biological sex; and be it further

RESOLVED, We rebuke attempts by some in the education system to undermine the rights of parents by exposing students to the ideas of gender confusion, and luring them to adopt pronouns other than those which identify the child with his or her biological sex; and be it further

RESOLVED, We declare our commitment to protect the "little ones" as commanded in Scripture (Matthew 18:6); and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we call on state and federal lawmakers and government authorities to ban the abuse of children via so-called "sex change" surgeries and drugs.

RESOLUTION 3: ON PROTECTING LOUISIANA'S YOUTH FROM THE HARMS OF MARIJUANA

WHEREAS, We are commanded to protect the "little ones" (Matthew 18:6, 10, 14); and

WHEREAS, Louisiana rushed headlong into the legalization of so-called "medical marijuana" in 2016 without respecting the preponderance of scientific research or the opinions of known experts in the field who strongly cautioned against such public policy; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has rapidly expanded from "limited" use (supposedly to alleviate "a debilitating medical condition" involving glaucoma, chemotherapy for cancer and spastic quadriplegia, while prohibiting "inhalation, and raw or crude marijuana") to now specifying 30 conditions and any "condition not otherwise specified ... that a physician ... considers debilitating" and permitting smoking pot as a treatment; and

WHEREAS, Use of what is accepted as "medical marijuana" in Louisiana is not controlled either by specifying which compounds found in the pot plant are contained in any pot product nor by specifying the dosage of such compounds (lacking research into the effects of such); and

WHEREAS, Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content (the psychoactive ingredient in the pot plant) has surged in pot products from about 2-4 percent as late as 1990 to as much as 30 percent today; and

WHEREAS, Even the New York Times has warned that "Medical Marijuana Is Not Regulated as Most Medicines Are"; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Finn, a noted pain management specialist in Colorado who published the 544-page, "Cannabis in Medicine: An Evidence-Based Approach," has concluded that "People are using a medical excuse for their recreational marijuana habit"; and

WHEREAS, California, which legalized "compassionate use" of marijuana in 1996 and recreational marijuana in 2016, is now moving to place warning labels on all pot products due to increasing incidences of psychosis, paranoia and schizophrenia in their state; and

WHEREAS, Colorado passed H.B.21-3-17 in 2022, to regulate THC content due to surging medical emergencies (psychosis, paranoia, schizophrenia) among children and youth, with Democratic Attorney General Phil Weiser declaring, "Medical marijuana laws are enabling teens access to high potency marijuana"; and

WHEREAS, Already, Louisiana high school students ranked #14 in the nation in marijuana use before medicinal pot was legalized for smoking in January; and

WHEREAS, The CDC has stated that "Marijuana products that contain tetrahydrocannabinol"

See RESOLUTIONS, page 9

Credentials Committee: Messengers must register for annual meeting

By Staff

Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) — In order for a church to be represented during the business portions of the Louisiana Baptist Convention to be held Nov. 15 in Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, it will need to elect messenger(s), who then must register and be certified by the Committee on Credentials.

LBC Credentials Committee Chairman Steven Kelly noted to the *Baptist Message* that there are five ways for messengers to regis-

ter and be approved:

— The first and simplest way is for messengers to pre-register using www.LaOne.org and print out the registration card to bring to the annual meeting. This way allows messengers to be certified within a matter of minutes, Kelly said.

— Second, a messenger may bring a note on official letterhead signed by the pastor or church clerk, stating that the individual was elected by the congregation.

— Third, a church officer can phone in the names of elected messengers.

— Fourth, a person can be vouchsafed as a duly elected messenger by a fellow registered church member.

— Finally, when there are no other means by which to validate a person, the Committee on Credentials may be called into session to rule on the registration request.

Kelly emphasized that pastors are not automatically registered as messengers, explaining that they must follow the same procedure as other messengers to participate in the business discussions and official votes of the annual meeting.

Pre-registration letters were

mailed or emailed by Sept. 23. Please use the provided login information to pre-register your messengers at www.LaOne.org.

If you have not received your letter, or if you have questions about the process, please contact LBC Information Services by email (Messengers@LouisianaBaptists.org) or phone (318.448.3402 ext. 242).

Registration and credentials representatives will be available on site to assist messengers on Monday, Nov. 14, 2-7 p.m. and on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS from page 8

nol (THC) can have health risks regardless of how they are used because THC is impairing and can affect memory, attention, decisions-making, and risk-taking"; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 175th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 15, 2022, call for lawmakers to enact a moratorium on THC for medical uses, as well as a prohibition on smoking any part of a marijuana plant; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on the Louisiana Legislature to appoint the Louisiana Board of Medical Examiners and the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, and other scientific and research experts as these two bodies determine, to robustly examine the scientific literature to determine what safety concerns need to be addressed in the state's medical marijuana program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Louisiana House and Senate to require the Louisiana Department of Health to develop and publish a database (similar to the COVID-19 dashboard it created) with cumulative data about adverse health events related to marijuana, especially involving anyone under the age of 21 years old; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the state require approved marijuana growers to include genetic markers in their respective strains of plants to ease the tracking of pot products in the state, facilitating medical safety and legal accountability; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we call on Louisiana legislators to roll back the medical marijuana program until such time as vigorous testing leads to conclusive evidence about what, if any, part of the marijuana plant or the hemp plant offers relief for a medical condition and to the development of proper dosing protocols commensurate with any other medical product.

RESOLUTION 4: ON A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THOSE EXPERIENCING MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, RELATIONAL AND ADDICTION ISSUES

WHEREAS, God made all things perfectly good for His glory and the good of humanity (Genesis 1-2); and

WHEREAS, Adam and Eve rebelled against Him, choosing their own way and the way of

the evil one, and consequently ushered sin and disorder into our world, negatively impacting the whole human race (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21; 8:22); and

WHEREAS, As a consequence of this fall, humanity is subjected to many kinds of mental, emotional, relational and addiction issues, spanning a broad spectrum, including autism disorders; intellectual disabilities; conditions like schizophrenia, clinical depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorders, and eating disorders; diseases of the aged such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease; as well as a host of addictions that take captive so many; and

WHEREAS, God did not abandon fallen humanity but loved the world (John 3:16-17) and launched a plan of redemption—a restoration that is incomplete in this age but will be perfected in Heaven (1 Peter 1:3-9); and

WHEREAS, Those experiencing mental, emotional, relational and addiction issues, like all people, are crowned with honor and dignity, being made in the image and likeness of God (Psalm 8:4-6; James 3:9); and

WHEREAS, Those experiencing mental, emotional, relational and addiction issues often feel isolated, stigmatized, and rejected, sometimes resorting to self-destructive behaviors, including suicide; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is a tragedy, leaving heartache, pain, and unanswered questions in its wake; and

WHEREAS, God has called us to share the Gospel of Christ with all people, including those experiencing mental, emotional, relational and addiction issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 175th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 15, 2022, affirm that those experiencing mental, emotional, relational and addiction issues are of immeasurable value to God, and we commit to proclaim liberty to them by supporting biblically sound counseling ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we oppose all stigmatization and prejudice against those experiencing mental, emotional, relational and addiction issues (as well as their loved ones) and declare, instead, that we must offer care, concern, and compassion, including the assurance that those in Christ cannot be separated from the eternal love of God that is in Jesus; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge Louisiana Baptists to support the Granberry Counseling Centers provided through the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries, and other ministries such as Celebrate Recovery, and

encourage those experiencing mental, emotional, relational and addiction issues to engage with these biblical counseling opportunities; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we call on Louisiana lawmakers to establish a task force on mental, emotional, relational and addiction issues to investigate the safety nets available through governments, businesses, churches and other non-profits to ensure that the totality of the care and compassion system for these citizens is sound and that the process is secure such that no person is ever without the help they need.

RESOLUTION 5: ON EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Many individuals and groups have had a part in planning, preparing and conducting the 175th annual meeting of our Louisiana Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, The messengers of this Convention desire to warmly recognize and express appreciation to the following:

Dr. David Brooks and Rev. Todd Strain, pastors of Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, Louisiana, their staff and the congregation for their assistance with details and for providing the use of their facilities for this annual meeting; and

Dr. Reggie Bridges, Convention president, and pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Ruston, for his warm, gracious spirit in leading, speaking and listening to Louisiana Baptists this year, and his gentle firmness in moderating this annual meeting; and

Temple Baptist Church, Ruston, for their commitment to sharing the Gospel in our state by graciously supporting Dr. Bridges's leadership of all the churches of the Louisiana Baptist Convention this past year; and

Jeremy Christ, music director for this annual meeting, and worship pastor with Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, for planning and coordinating the music, and the musicians and singers for their contribution of instrumental and vocal talents; and

Scotty Blackwell, chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, and minister of music with First Baptist Church, Minden, and the members of the Committee on Order of Business for planning this informative and inspirational annual meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 175th Session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 15, 2022, express to each of the above, and to all who contributed, our deepest heartfelt gratitude.

Guidelines for the making of motions at annual meeting

By Staff
Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – It is important to remember that motions may only deal with one topic at a time. When making a motion, you should be as brief as possible and always begin with the phrase “I move that...”

If you are making a subsidiary motion (one that deals with a motion already on the floor), it must be relevant to the motion currently under consideration and not be a motion that is the same or substantially like one already dealt with by this Convention.

If your motion is a privileged motion, it must not be dilatory (unnecessary or made only to delay the conduct of business). If your motion seeks to amend the Louisiana Baptist Convention Ar-

ticles of Incorporation or its Bylaws, prior to offering your motion, please review these documents in advance to review the rules for how to amend each.

A copy of the LBC Articles of Incorporation and its Bylaws are found in your Book of Reports.

Important steps in wording your motion:

-- A motion should direct the Convention to take some sort of action or to refrain from taking some action. Include only the action you want to see taken in your motion.

-- Do not include supporting reasons for adopting your motion in the motion itself. This is done during debate; and as the maker of the motion, you will have the first opportunity to speak to your motion.

-- Do not make a motion that instructs the Convention to not adopt

some other main motion. Also, do not attempt to amend a main motion in such a way that it becomes the opposite of its original intent. If you are against a certain motion, simply vote “no.”

-- If you wish to amend a motion, you may move to strike out words from that motion and replace them with other words or you may move to simply add or take away words from the motion. It is not proper to make a “substitute motion” which seeks to completely change the words of a motion so that it is no longer what was originally offered.

-- If you offer a motion during the report of a convention entity or the Executive Board, do not address the person making the report; only address the chair and state

See MOTIONS, page 17

PROPOSED MOTION TO THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION

Name of Messenger: _____

Name of Church: _____

NOTE: The wording of any motion should easily fit on the lines below. When making your motion, please state your name and the church from which you are a messenger. Then address the chair as follows:

Mr. President:

I move that:

A decorative graphic for the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering. The background is dark blue with a subtle pattern of trees and leaves. The text "GBO" is in a small, stylized font at the top. Below it, "GEORGIA BARNETTE" is written in large, bold, orange letters with a white outline. To the right of the name, "MARK 1:38" is written in a small, stylized font. Below the name, "LOUISIANA MISSIONS OFFERING" is written in white letters inside a light blue rounded rectangle. At the bottom left, a white pelican is shown. In the center, "STATE GOAL \$1,700,000" is written in white. To the right, "GEORGIA BARNETTE.ORG" is written in orange. At the bottom right, the Louisiana Baptists logo is shown, consisting of a stylized "L" and "B" in light blue and white, with the words "LOUISIANA BAPTISTS" next to it.

Pastors Conference: 'Endure'

By Staff

Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Organizers of this year's Louisiana Baptist Pastors Conference hope to equip participants with the tools needed to endure trials of the culture.

"These past few years have been really tough on pastors and ministry leaders," said Pastors Conference President James Doughty, also pastor of First Baptist Church, Monroe. "So, this year we wanted the Pastors Conference to focus on the call to endure even amid hard times, discouragement and trials. My prayer is that this pastor's conference will encourage and challenge us to endure for the sake of the Gospel."

Scheduled for Nov.

14 in the facilities of Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, the annual gathering's theme is "Endure," based on Hebrews 12:3.

The program will begin, 8:30 a.m., with music led by Shane Longoria, minister of music, FBC Monroe, and a praise team comprised of various churches, and messages by Todd Strain, pastor, Calvary Baptist, and Vince Smith, pastor, The Circle Church, Alexandria.

After lunch, the conference will continue, 1 p.m., with an afternoon

session featuring messages by Bill Dye, pastor, North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe, and Eddie Wren, pastor, First Baptist Church, Rayville, who was a late replacement for Ben Mandrell of LifeWay.

Matt Carter, vice president of mobilization, North American Mission Board SEND Network, will close out the conference with a message during the 6:30 p.m. session.

For more information, visit louisianabaptists.org/event/endure-2022-pastors-conference.

— Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries —

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENINGS!

FOSTER & ADOPTION SPECIALISTS NEEDED:

Two full-time social workers needed, one for Baton Rouge and one for Shreveport. Positions include salary, benefits, and paid vacation. LMSW licensure required. A minimum of two years' experience in child welfare or related field preferred. Must demonstrate proficient speaking and writing skills. Must be able to work independently. Some travel required. Must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and families and be an active member of a local Southern Baptist church.

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



Motions

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your motion directly to him.

The following may be used when making motions on the floor during the annual meeting. Please provide a copy to the president or secretary of the LBC before making your motion.

SAMPSON
ARCHITECTURE LLC
CHURCH DESIGN
Jeff Sampson AIA
2825 HILL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301
tel: 318.613.6760
esampsonarch@gmail.com

LOUISIANA BAPTIST
ENDURE
HEBREWS 12:3

MATT CARTER
NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

BILL DYE
NORTH MONROE BAPTIST CHURCH

VINCENT SMITH
THE CIRCLE CHURCH

TODD STRAIN
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

EDDIE WREN
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RAYVILLE

PASTORS' CONFERENCE
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
5011 JACKSON STREET
ALEXANDRIA, LA 71303
NOVEMBER 14, 2022

LOUISIANABAPTISTS.ORG/PC

YEC to celebrate 35th anniversary, Nov. 20-21

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist youth and adult leaders are gearing up for the 35th anniversary of the Youth Evangelism Celebration, a statewide assembly focused on preparing the next generation to share Christ with the world.

Scheduled Nov. 20-21 in the Rapides Parish Coliseum, Alexandria, YEC will continue its storied mission of changing lives and equipping students with the necessary tools to share their faith with their classmates.

“Since its beginning in 1988, the heartbeat of YEC is the Gospel,” Louisiana Baptist Youth Strategist Brandon Lewis told the Baptist Message. “The two-fold goal has been to share the Gospel’s message of salvation through Jesus and to equip teenagers to share the Gospel in their hometowns. Each session is designed to accomplish this goal and an opportunity to respond is offered. All of this is packaged in an exciting event and gathers youth groups from across the state.”

Since 2,100 students attended the first YEC held at the Rapides Parish Coliseum in 1988, the event has grown to be the largest annual gathering of Louisiana Baptists. While Alexandria has hosted the event the most, YEC also has taken place in Houghton, Kenner, Lafayette, Pineville and Shreveport.

Notable past musical acts



Brian Blackwell photo

More than 700 students made decisions for Christ during the 2021 Youth Evangelism Celebration. The two-day gathering of Louisiana Baptist youth will celebrate its 35th year next month.

have included Mercy Me, Audio Adrenaline, Skillet, the Newsboys, Zac Williams, For King & Country and Crowder.

One of the most challenging years took place in 2020, when COVID-19 attendance restrictions caused the event to move to three smaller gatherings. The three gatherings drew a combined 1,100 students and resulted in 69 students making some type of faith decision.

Over the years, more than 8,000 participants have made spiritual decisions, including more than 3,000 who surrendered their hearts and lives to Christ.

“We have prayed over YEC 2022 for an entire year, and we are super excited to see everyone in Alexandria,” Lewis said. “Join us as we continue to pray and make final preparations.”

Throughout this year’s two-day event, Louisiana Baptist teens will be challenged to celebrate what Christ has done in their lives and to share their stories of how Christ changed their lives. Furthermore, they will be engaged in multiple ways to experience a message about Him:

— Shane Pruitt, National Next Gen Evangelism Director for the North American Mission Board, will share evangelistic messages;

— Rush of Fools will lead worship in song;

— Jared Hall will be emcee and entertainer; and

— We Are Messengers, an award-winning Contemporary Christian artist, will close YEC with a concert.

During the Monday afternoon session, Pruitt will teach students a clear, practical way to share the Gospel.

After completing YEC, participants will be equipped to share the Gospel with their peers throughout the state.

This will be the sixth of a multi-year rotation to equip students with various tools

and their own testimony to share Christ. Those who began the training as seventh graders during the 2016 YEC will be familiar with seven different evangelistic tools by the time they are seniors.

“We fully intend to have a blast at YEC,” Lewis said. “But if that’s all we do then we’ve missed our purpose. We really want to see students return to their hometowns excited to share Jesus and equipped to do so in a clear and compelling way. That’s what YEC is all about.”

Beginning Nov. 1, Louisiana Baptists can find a YEC daily prayer guide on the event Instagram (@labaptistyouth) and Facebook pages (@louisianabaptiststudentministry). YEC kicks off Nov. 20, 7 p.m., and is scheduled to end Nov. 21, 10 p.m. For more YEC information, visit // labaptistyouth.org/yec.

Proposed change to LBC Articles of Incorporation

By Staff
Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board adopted a recommendation, Sept. 27, to amend the LBC Articles of Incorporation, regarding what constitutes a “cooperating church.”

The change would allow congregations to give solely to the cooperative missions and ministries of Louisiana Baptists, when previously membership required giving “to the work of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program.”

According to Article XVIII. Amendments of the LBC Articles of Incorporation, any proposed amendment “originating in the Executive Board of the Convention” must be “posted to the LBC website and published in one (1) issue of the Baptist Message (print edition or digital edition) no later than fifteen (15) days before the meeting of the Convention.”

The complete motion adopted by the Executive Board is presented in italics immediately below with the proposed change underlined:

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 15, 2022, amend Article VI, Section 5 (Membership), of the Louisiana Baptist Convention Articles of Incorporation as follows:

“Section 5. A cooperating church with the Louisiana Baptist Convention 1) is of like faith and order with Southern Baptists as expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message of the Southern Baptist Convention, 2) is sympathetic to the purposes and work of the Convention, 3) contributes to the work of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program or the work of Louisiana Baptists through contributions to the Louisiana Baptist Convention for its use in state programs and agencies and 4) has applied for membership in the local association and, upon recommendation by the LBC Committee on Credentials, has been approved to send messengers to the Convention.”

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Chad Gilbert to be nominee for LBC vice president

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) — Chad Gilbert, pastor of the First Baptist Church, New Orleans, will be nominated for vice president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention during the 2022 annual meeting.

Steve James, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, notified the *Baptist Message*, Oct. 10, of his intention to make the nomination because Gilbert “is a genuine Christ follower, a man of devotion, integrity, and wisdom.”

The LBC annual meeting is scheduled to be held in the facilities of Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, Nov. 15.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

James said he has known Gilbert for several years but that they worked closely together when Gilbert joined the staff at Trinity.

He said he was able to observe Gilbert’s leadership

strengths and servant’s heart especially in the aftermath of Hurricanes Laura and Delta, when Trinity became a hub of ministry to hurricane survivors, disaster relief workers and law enforcement personnel.

“Chad did a great job in reaching out to the community,” James told the *Baptist Message*. “He was our point person here and coordinated all the things that took place, from supplies coming in ... to where feeding was ... to handling calls ... to donations that were made ... to directing where disaster relief would stay.”

“I just got to see his administrative ability, and really, really, appreciated it,” James shared.

BY THE NUMBERS

The database of the Annual Church Profile shows that under Gilbert’s leadership the First Baptist Church, New Orleans, has increased its support of cooperative

missions and ministries, contributing 7.0 percent of undesignated receipts, or nearly \$152,219 of \$2,185,582 in 2022, through the Cooperative Program (up from 3.12 percent, or \$56,416, in 2021 and 1.93 percent, or \$38,063 in 2020, the year before he arrived at FBCNO).

First New Orleans contributed \$23,102 to the New Orleans Baptist Association, or 1.06 percent of undesignated receipts in 2022. The congregation also gifted \$1,854 in 2022 to the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Mission Offering, as well as \$4,818 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and another \$16,418 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Regarding attendance, FBCNO averaged 307 for in-person worship and another 85 online; and baptized 8 new believers.

CANDIDATE’S RESPONSE

“I am grateful to serve the Lord as a local church pas-

tor, and to the extent that the LBC can help strengthen local churches and pastors, I am honored to serve on a state level,” Gilbert shared with the *Baptist Message*.

“My greatest desire for Southern Baptist churches in our state is to cultivate partnerships in bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth in concert with the IMB. When we labor together to make disciples of all nations, we are at our finest,” he said.

PERSONAL DATA

Gilbert earned the Master of Divinity from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and his bachelor’s degree from Louisiana Christian University (formerly Louisiana College).

He has served as senior pastor of First Baptist New Orleans (2021-present), as well as Edgewater Baptist Church, New Orleans (2008-2018).

Prior to joining FBCNO, he was the associate pastor

of community and missions with Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles (2018-2020).

Gilbert has been active in denominational service, as a member of various LBC committees as well as serving on the administrative committee of the New Orleans Baptist Association. He is a board member for Global Maritime Ministries, New Orleans; Crossroads (formerly Crossroads NOLA), New Orleans; and New Orleans Baptist Ministries.

He and his wife Cole have been married for 19 years and have four children: Ava, Grayson, Brogan, and Livy.

FINAL THOUGHTS

“Chad is a man of God. He loves the word of God and shares the word of God very simply, very plainly,” James emphasized. “I believe he will bring a whole new dynamic in this LBC leadership role. Folks look at him and see this is the kind of guy we would like to lead us.”

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Penfield grateful for the great adventure of ministry

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message Staff Writer

ZWOLLE, La. (LBM) – Jerry Penfield traveled around the world as a member of the U.S. Air Force, but he said that even that thrilling part of his life’s journey paled in comparison to the great adventure he has experienced as a minister for the past 44 years.

“I have enjoying seeing people grow in their spiritual walk,” Penfield told

the *Baptist Message*. “It’s so exciting to see people come to Christ and then begin their walk on the path to a great rest of their life with God.”

In 2021, Penfield was named a Louisiana Baptist Convention Exemplary Bi-vocational Pastor of the Year for his dedication to ministry.

Born in Aberdeen, South Dakota, Penfield spent his childhood traveling with his family to Alabama, Alaska and Japan

(his father, Ray, served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War as a member of the Air Force). While the family was stationed in Montgomery, Alabama, an 11-year-old Penfield attended a revival service at Court Street Baptist Church and gave his heart to Christ.

“I somehow got separated from the rest of my family one night during the service and remember the Holy Spirit speaking

to me that night,” Penfield said. “That evening changed the course of my life forever and I’m grateful God met me that day.”

Several years later, Penfield was called to the ministry, but he said he felt inadequate to serve with

a congregation. Instead, he chose to attend Northwestern State University in Natchitoches (1966-1970), serve as a member of the Air Force in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, and

See **PENFIELD**, page 22

OCC from page 7

Children who receive the shoebox gifts also can enroll in OCC’s 12-lesson discipleship program,

The Greatest Journey. Introduced in 2009, this program teaches children about God’s amazing love and guides them through what it means to faithfully follow Jesus Christ.

Vital items like a toothbrush (no toothpaste), a bar of soap and washcloth, coloring book, crayons, and other school supplies, as well as combs, brushes, and hair accessories should be included. A stuffed animal and small toys may be added to each gender-specific box.

For those who are unable to shop for items to fill a box, the Samaritan’s Purse website offers a “Build a Box” option where participants can submit a \$25 donation and the organization will build it for you.

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Tippit: Take the prayer challenge!

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

SAN ANTONIO (LBM) – Evangelist Sammy Tippit has issued a prayer challenge based on the Model Prayer that he hopes will spark revival within the hearts of Louisiana Baptists – and it is interactive.

The challenge features 13 dramatic monologue videos based on 13 biblical truths in the Model Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15), Tippit said, adding that there is no better example than Jesus' about how to pray.

Participants will receive a link each day throughout the 13-day challenge, giving them access to a brief video and helpful tips about how to pray the biblical phrase for that day. Additionally, each person

will receive a section of "Simply Prayer," a book on prayer by Bill Eliff, directional pastor of the Summit Church, Little Rock, Ark.

After completing the challenge, participants will receive a chapter from Tippit's book, "Praying for Your Family."

Tippit, who was saved at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge and ordained at the First Baptist Church in Walker, said the challenge will help each participant develop a deeper prayer life. He offered that that within two days of its release in August, the challenge had produced results, based on messages he has received.

"One Christian leader said that he had experienced depression for a

long time," Tippit told the *Baptist Message*. "After the first dramatic monologue, he slept through the night for the first time in two years. Others told him of how God had met needs in their lives as they prayed through the Model Prayer."

Members of First Baptist Church, Blanchard, are among those who have accepted the challenge already.

Shortly after a July staff meeting, during which leaders discussed the need to begin a church-wide time of revival in 2023, Pastor Clay Fuqua learned of Tippit's prayer challenge. After the church completed the challenge in early September, they felt led to have a prayer emphasis in December and begin the "Experiencing God" series in January.

"Brother Sammy used his life journey to give illustrations of how each

See CHALLENGE, page 23



Submitted photo

Evangelist Sammy Tippit, who was saved at Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, and ordained at the First Baptist Church, Walker, has developed an interactive prayer challenge to help others develop a deeper prayer life.

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Veteran from page one

sion. But health concerns delayed his baptism for more than a year, until Terry finally celebrated alongside friends and family on a day when four others were baptized.

"It felt good because when I think of all the Lord has done for me, importantly dying for me, I have to live for Him," Terry told the *Baptist Message*. "To God be the glory. I'd love to see everyone come to Christ."

McEwen believes God protected Terry in World War II so he could share the hope of Jesus with others.

"He knows the good Lord got him home from the battlefield and all the time since was a gift from God," McEwen said. "Painting that picture of a new life in Christ through baptism is something he has wanted to do for a while. He wanted to honor the Lord for the way he saved his life not only spiritually but also physically on the battlefield."

"With Wilbert being a World War II vet, our people love and honor him," he continued. "They gave him a standing ovation and there was hardly a dry eye in the place. The people singing the song

after the baptism struggled to start because they were so emotionally moved."

Since January, 25 new believers have been baptized at Northshore Church, which averages 566 for Sunday worship. McEwen said the baptisms reflect the congregation's passion to see others come to Christ.

Started in 2001 as a plant of Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Slidell, the church has grown from just a handful who met in McEwen's living room. The church has seen hundreds accept Christ and 394 baptized since its formation.

Their outreach has included ministry to first responders, construction of homes in Haiti and Mexico and acts of service for community members by its men's ministry.

"I'm so thankful to be a part of a denomination that places a priority on planting churches to reach the lost with the good news of Jesus Christ," McEwen said. "Our church purpose is 'to see the One who gave His life exalted and the ones He gave His life for transformed!' Thank you for your partnership in helping us fulfill our God-given mission."

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Penfield from page 20

Altos, Oklahoma, during the Vietnam War era (1970-1974) and become a counselor with the Coordinating and Development Council of Northwest Louisiana, serving out of the agency's office near Natchitoches (1974-1978).

Still, the Holy Spirit continued to remind him of that call to ministry, he shared, and in 1978 he enrolled with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Upon graduation, his first pastorate was with Old

Saline Baptist Church, Castor (1980-1981). He later was education and youth minister with Lakeshore Baptist Church, Monroe (1981-1984), minister of education with Oakwood Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas (1984-1991), pastor of First Baptist Church, Zwolle (1991-2006 and 2013-2018), and pastor of First Baptist Church, Leesville (2006-2013).

Though he no longer serves in full-time ministry, Penfield (who in 2004 received a D.Min. from Louisiana Baptist University, Shreveport) remains active as Sunday school director with FBC Zwolle and supply preacher at nearby churches.

Looking back on his more than four decades of ministry, Penfield said he is grateful for the opportunity to have led multiple mission trips and baptized one of his three children and five of his seven grandchildren.

"It's been a thrill to lead my grandchildren and children to the Lord," he said. "It's a real special memory that we share."

For those pastors who



Brian Blackwell photo

District 8 Baptist Convention Director of Missions Ron Thompson congratulates retired Pastor Jerry Penfield and his wife, DiAnne.

are just starting in ministry, Penfield recommends they preach the Word, love other people and promote Sunday school, which he said fuels church growth.

"Love covers a multi-

tude of sins," he said. "That makes up for many things, including things I am deficient in. Even if you're wrong at times, people will support you if they know you love them."

Primeaux from page 12

moderator for Evangeline Baptist Association and pastor of Jenkins Memorial Baptist, said he is thankful for Primeaux's steadfast commitment and godly example of service.

"It's pretty significant to serve our country and to be a pastor and director of missions for this long," Charpentier said. "He's well respected and has such a solid witness and testimony. Wallace Primeaux is a man of integrity

who I am blessed to have learned so much from."

Primeaux, who preached his final sermon on Dec. 27, 2020, at Esther Baptist, said he has been blessed to run a race marked by purpose and unity.

"Everywhere I have gone, I felt welcome," Primeaux said. "The Lord has provided every step of the way and I am so thankful that I accepted his call many years ago."

Matthew 6:19-21

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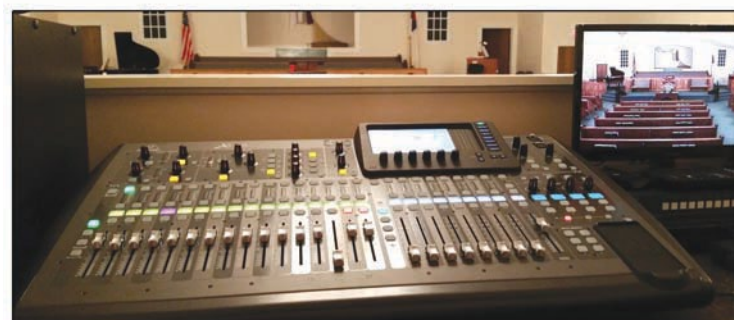
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Judson from page 5

before making their recommendation," he continued. "They then brought their recommendation to our Administrative Council, who after much discussion and prayer, agreed with the task force's recommendation that was then brought before the association at our annual meeting, Oct. 16, 2022. Going forward, we are praying that those who eventually purchase JRC will continue and even expand this ministry that has been so effective over the years."

The move came after the camp announced in February it was suspend-

ing operations from May to December because of COVID-19-related financial challenges. Subsequently, a task force was formed to study the center's future.

Busby said in a Facebook post on his page that while supporters of the camp should grieve over its closure, they also should rejoice over the memories and changed lives that happened at Judson Retreat Center.

"And above all else I want you to know that even with the Judson Retreat Center facility closing for good, the ministry of Judson Retreat will continue," Busby said. "It

will continue because that ministry doesn't belong to Judson, it belongs to the Lord. And those lives that were changed and those who were called, they carry that ministry

with them. They carry it into their homes, into their churches, into their communities and around the world. Truly we can say, the sun will never set on the multi-generational

impact that the Lord has made in the lives of people here at Judson. It is finished, yet it continues, may the Lord be glorified in His faithful work here through the years."

Challenge from page 21

verse impacted his prayer life and how it could help change my prayer life," Fuqua said. "It is well put together and helpful for anyone's daily prayer time. I would recommend the prayer challenge to anyone needing encouragement in their personal prayer life. God hears our prayers."

Tippit said those who have participated noted that God was working deeply in their lives, and that many are sharing the challenge with others.

"One lady in a small town in Texas said that the prayer challenge spread from one group of praying women to another," he said. "Now, women from all the churches in the town are taking the challenge. The pastor of the largest church is preaching on the Model Prayer. She said, 'there is a prayer revival in our community.'"

To sign up for the prayer challenge, visit sammytippit.org/the-prayer-challenge.

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FBC Luling rededication celebrates God's provision

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

LULING, La. (LBM) – Members of First Baptist Church, Luling, celebrated the miracles of God during the recent rededication of its worship center that was heavily damaged by Hurricane Ida on Aug. 29, 2021.

A crowd of more than 70 gathered to reflect on how God brought them through both a pandemic and a major hurricane and allowed them to see His goodness amid trying times.

Interim Pastor Gerald Stevens, who retired in July after serving 34 years as a professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, called the Aug. 28 service a watershed moment for the church, which is surrounded by damaged homes that still have not been rebuilt a

year after the storm.

"We are a lighthouse to this community," Stevens told the *Baptist Message*. "We give everyone hope because they see that you can recover from this. Even the presence of a reconstructed church in a devastated area gives this area hope things will get better for them."

"FBC Luling is the church that keeps chugging along," he continued. "Even though we are small in numbers, we are dynamic in presence and heart."

PERSISTENCE THROUGH TRIALS

FBC Luling faced multiple trials even before Stevens became interim pastor in August 2020.

The coronavirus pandemic caused the church to conduct small



Submitted photo

Nearly a year after Hurricane Ida caused significant damage to First Baptist Church, Luling, members and guests gathered to remember how God showed His goodness amid trying times.

group Bible studies and worship remotely before regathering in the summer.

Then, on Aug. 29, 2022, Ida made landfall as a Category 4 storm, and its fierce maximum sustained winds of 150 mph caused significant damage to the worship center, and the Weekday Early Education Center.

Rather than fold, the members pressed forward.

For the first few weeks after the storm, Stevens held an online service. Once electricity was restored, members began meeting in the fellowship hall for worship.

Even though many members were unable to occupy their homes, they became the hands and feet of Christ as they ministered to the community. Members cooked meals for neighbors, transformed a part of the fellowship hall into a donation center and hosted various relief teams on the church parking lot.

BLESSINGS RECEIVED

Additionally, God provided the funding for what Stevens identified as five miracles God performed:

-- an insurance deductible that was 45 percent of its operating budget was paid off in an unexpected way;

-- money, manpower and equipment already were on site (because of hurricane recovery efforts) to implement a permanent flood mitigation plan that helped make the effort financially feasible;

-- the W.E.E. Center was repaired and reopened in August;

-- a semi-grand piano gifted to the church many years ago was damaged but replaced with an exact replica; and

-- the pastoral search committee extended its pastoral candidate a call to come to the church in October.

Rachel Mire, a 20-year member as well as the church administrative assistant and children's

See LULING, page 27

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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

■ **Kenneth Austin** has resigned from The Church at Marksville pending selection of another pastor.
■ **Cody, wife Margaret, Cunningham** has been called as pastor at First Baptist Church, Luling.
■ **Ferran, wife Lynda, Bertrand** is the new Associational Missions Strategist for Mt. Olive Baptist Association.
■ **Brett Faulk and George Johnson** will be ordained as ministers of the gospel and Travis Burnett and Richard Humphries to deacon December 4 with an ordination service beginning a 3 p.m. at Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill. The ordination council will meet at 2:30 p.m. A reception will follow the ordination service in the fellowship hall.

HOMECOMING

■ New Ebenezer Baptist Church, Castor: **Homecoming**, October 23. 10 a.m. Speaker: **Luke Hockenjos, evangelist**. Special Music: **Stephen Dickerson**. Pastor: Austin Hand.
■ Parhams Baptist Church, Parhams: **Homecoming Celebration**, October 30, 11 a.m. Speaker: **Pastor Tony Ganey**. Worship: **Ervin and Jan White**. Special Music: **Janice Aplin**. A catered lunch will follow the service. A memorial offering for the cemetery fund will be taken during the service. Friends and families of present and former members are invited to attend. Pastor: Tony Ganey.
■ Riverbend Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: **25th anniversary celebration**, November 6, 10 a.m. fellowship; 11 a.m. Worship, and Dinner on the grounds following the service. The church is located at 25837 Kendalwood Rd, Baton Rouge, La 70817. Please RSVP at 225.485.859. Pastor: Trae Norsworthy.
■ First Baptist Church, Farmerville: **175th Anniversary Celebration**, November 12-13, Saturday 2-4 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. pre-worship social, 10:30 a.m. worship celebration. Lunch and fellowship will follow the worship service in the Family Life Center. Pastor: Kurt Auger.
■ Larto Baptist Church, Jonesville: **70th Annual Homecoming Celebration**, November 20, 11 a.m. Special Speaker: **Scotty McDowell**. Pastor: Kenny Smith.
■ First Baptist Church, Zwolle: **125th Anniversary**, November 27, 10 a.m. Lunch will be served after the worship service in the FBC Zwolle Activity Building. Former and present members are invited to attend and renew old acquaintances and reminisce about the church's service to the Lord. Pastor: Marty Williams.

REVIVAL

■ Sweetwater Baptist Church, Quitman: **Harvest Day**, October 23, 10:30 a.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Wilton Wall.
■ Heflin Baptist Church, Heflin: **Revival**, October 23-26, Evangelist: **Luke Hockenjos**. Pastor: Ronnie Osborne.
■ Fellowship Baptist Church, Trout: **Inaugural Fellowship Baptist Bible Conference and Revival**, November 2-6, Wednesday. Speaker: **Scottie McDowell**. Worship: **Scott Windham**; Thursday- Saturday -- Speaker: **Philip Robertson**, Worship: **Mike McCartney**; 10 a.m., Speaker: **Malcom Ellis**; 3 p.m. Speaker: **Carl Gulde**. Worship: **Glenn Price**. 4 p.m. Speaker: **Ed-die Brunson**. Worship: **Glenn Price**. Speaker: **Scottie McDowell**. Worship: **Harrigill Family**. Sunday, 10:30

a.m., Speaker: **Scottie McDowell**. Worship: **Scott Windham**. 6 p.m., Speaker: **Eddie Brunson**. Worship: **Scott Windham**. For more information, please contact Shad Tibbs at 318.992.2874 or 313.374.0235 or email: broshadtibbs@aol.com. Pastor: Shad Tibbs.
■ Gloster Baptist Church, Gloster: **Stronger Together**, Nov. 6-9, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Speaker: **Micah Mariano**. Worship: **Ben Waites**. Pastor: Ron McLellan.
■ Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Ringgold: **Harvest Sunday**, November 20. Special Speaker: **Sam Moore, evangelist**. Pastor: Danny Slack.

LAGNIAPPE

■ **Alton Achord** is available for supply. Call 318.715.8874.
■ Bethany Camp and Conference Center, Bethany: **Branson at Bethany**, November 29, Showtimes 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Cost: \$17 and tickets are on sale now (No credit cards). A meal will follow each show. Checks must accompany ticket sales. Make checks payable to NLBA/B@B, 5875 W. 70th St., Shreveport, La. 71129S or call 318.686.5736. Featuring **Williamson Branch from Nashville, Matt Adams, Master illusionist, Harold Ashcraft, Shreveport's own Southern Gospel Tenor**.
■ First Baptist Church, Haynesville: **Fall Festival**, October 25, 5-7 p.m. There will be plenty of activities, inflatable obstacle course to booths filled with fun and food. Pastor: Jeff Tinsley.
■ Antioch Baptist Church, Florien: **Fall Festival**, October 26, 5 p.m. There will be pumpkin painting, Trunk or Treat, food, bounce house, games, music and much more. Pastor: Wayne Chance.
■ First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Community Trunk-or-Treats**, October 26, 5:30 p.m. Reserve a parking spot, come up with a great theme, pop your trunk or tailgate, and show our community some love by passing out candy or having a fun game. Use the church website or app to register for the Trunks-of-Treats. Pastor: Chris Craig.
■ Journey Church, Pineville: **Fall Fest**, Oct. 26, 5-7 p.m. The event will feature trick or treating, local vendors, jumpers, food trucks and a mystery box give away. Pastor: James Greer.
■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **Hallow Him Family Fall Fest**, October 26, 6-8 p.m. Preschool through 6th Grade will receive a candy bag -- while supplies last. Preschoolers & Children are encouraged to wear family friendly costumes. There will be 18 extreme inflatables and interactive activities. Visit and complete five tent stations to be entered into the door prize drawing for these awesome prizes -- PlayStation 5, 75" TV. \$75 WayBack gift certificate and \$75 family bowling gift certificate. Hamburgers, hot dogs, cold drinks and snow cones will be available to purchase. Pastor: Philip Robertson.
■ Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: **Fall festival**, Oct. 29, 4-6 p.m. There will be games, food, worship and will conclude with a trunk or treat. Pastor: David Newton.
■ Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Coushatta: **Fall Festival**, October 29, 5 p.m. There will be food, games, face painting, bounce house, hayride and prizes. Pastor: Mike Fort.
■ Mandeville First Baptist Church, Mandeville: **Fall Fest**, October 29, 5-7 p.m. This Trunk-or-Treat style Fall Fest will be a great opportunity to outreach to the community. For more information contact Bryanna Iles at children@FBCmandeville.org to sign up.
■ Richey Baptist Church, Deville: **Fall Festival**, October 29, 6-8 p.m. Free admission. Wear your costumes. There will be hot dogs and drinks. The church is located at 999 Effie Hwy, Deville, La. Pastor: Grady Dodge.
■ First Baptist Church, Luling: **Trunk or Treat**, October 29, 5-7 p.m. There will be fun activities for the kids, great photo opportunities and a lot of candy. Pastor: Cody Cunningham.

■ Emmanuel Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Fall Fair Trunk or Treat** 2022, October 29, 2-4 p.m. in the church's back parking lot. Come enjoy the fun, food and fellowship. There will be old-time cars, fair food, and a bounce house.
■ New Zion Baptist Church, Covington: **Fall Festival**, October 29, 5-7 p.m. There will be food, fun, games for all ages and lots of candy. There will be a cake walk and chili contest the day of the festival. The winner of the chili cook-off will receive a \$50 gift card. Pastor: Clark Stewart.
■ Bonita Road Baptist Church, Mer Rouge: **BRBC Trunk or Treat**, October 29, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Pastor: Casey Johnson.
■ Vick Baptist Church, Vick: **Fall Festival and Chili cookoff**, October 29, 6-8 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Pastor: Dobie Perkins.
■ First Baptist Church, Bunkie: **Trick My Trunk**, October 29, 4-6 p.m. The event will feature fun activities for the children including scripture-filled games, candy, face-painting and a variety of activities. There will be fellowship for adults, hamburgers, snacks and fall photos at the photo station. There will also be a hayride.
■ Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: **Family Day**, October 30, 11 a.m. worship service and Family Day will be afterwards. There will be food, games and plenty of fun. Pastor: Stephen Kelly.
■ First Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Fall Festival**, October 30, 5-7 p.m. There will be plenty of free food, games, and activities that will teach kids about the Full Armor of God. Pastor: Chad Gilbert.
■ Longview Baptist Church, Deville: **Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat**, October 30, 5-7 p.m. Come out and enjoy fun, food, candy, and games. Pastor: Robby Poole.
■ New Sharon Baptist Church, Husser: **Harvest Fest**, October 30, 5-7 p.m. There will be Trunk or Treat, face painting, fun games, chili cookoff, and more. Pastor: Jeremy Ingram.
■ First Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Fall Fest on Freedom Fields**, October 30, 5-7 p.m. Costumes are welcome but please no scary costumes. This is a free event with games, inflatables, food trucks and tons of candy. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich.
■ Tioga First Baptist Church, Tioga: **Fall Festival**, October 30, 5:30 p.m. There will be food, games, inflatables. Everyone is invited to this free event. Pastor: Tim Hisaw.
■ Mangham Baptist Church, Mangham: **Trunk or**

Treat Sunday, October 30, 5:30-7 p.m. Pastor: Rick Aultman.
■ First Baptist Church, Slidell: **Fall festival**, Oct. 30, 4-6 p.m. Games, candy, a box maze and tractor rides are among the activities to enjoy. Pastor: Casey Stark.
■ First Baptist Church, Dry Prong: Fall Festival, Oct. 30, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Come enjoy food, games, candy and a costume contest. Pastor: Kevin Goodman.
■ First Baptist Church, Sulphur: **Light up the Night**, Oct. 30, 5-8 p.m. Hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, s'mores, glow sticks and hot cocoa will be available. This event is in conjunction with First United Methodist Church, Sulphur. Pastor: Michael Linton.
■ New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong: **Fall Fest**, October 30, 4-6 p.m. There will be lots of fellowship, food, cakes and cookies for the cake walk and candy at Trunk or Treat. Pastor: Trey Lewis.
■ Gateway Baptist Church, Ball: **Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat**, October 30, 5:30 p.m. There will be food and drink (sold for \$1), games, face painting, a silent auction for cakes and much, much more. Pastor: Bill Edwards.
■ First Baptist Church, Lecompte: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5-7 p.m. There will be plenty of cars, candy and costumes. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.
■ Plainview Baptist Church, Bogalusa: **Trunk or treat**, Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m. Pastor: Scott Breland.
■ First Baptist Church, DeRidder: **Trunk-or-Treat**, October 31, 5:30-6:30 p.m. There will be fellowship, candy and fun. Pastor: Steve Graves.
■ First Baptist Church, Zwolle: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5-7 p.m. in the church parking lot. Come enjoy an evening of fellowship and fun. Pastor: Marty Williams.
■ Philadelphia Baptist Church Horseshoe Drive campus, Alexandria: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5:30-8 p.m. There will be lots of free candy, door prizes, food and inflatables. Pastor: Stuart Sasser.
■ Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: **Harvest Fest**, October 31, 6-8 p.m. This is family friendly free event and features inflatables, games, candy, food and lots of fun.
■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, November 3, noon. Speaker: Mark Morelock, Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief associate/volunteer mobilizer. Please RSVP to https://fbcpineville.secure2.agroup.com/events/firstatfirst/2022-01-05+11%3A50%3A00. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

■ Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Gold City Quartet in concert**, November 5, 5 p.m. Pastor: Terry Young.
■ Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Lisbon: **Fall Festival**, November 5, 4-6 p.m. Come join us for food, fellowship, games and fun. The church is located at 423 Rocky Springs Road, Homer, La. Pastor: Chris Stephens.
■ Reeves Baptist Church, Reeves: **Women's Conference -- Restored from a Mound of Rubble (A study from the book of Nehemiah)**, November 5, 9 a.m. -- 3 p.m. Cost: \$25. Payments can be made by PayPal, check or cash. The church's physical address is 13725 La-113 Reeves, La 70658 and their mailing address is Reeves Baptist Church, P.O. Box 69, Reeves, La. 70658. Speaker: **Paula Mitchell**. Worship: **By His Design**. Lunch and door prizes will be provided. For more information or to register call or text Sue Granger at 337-375-4351. Pastor: Charlie Carroll.
■ Fairview Baptist Church, Coushatta: **Mark Trammell Ministries in concert**, November 11, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Matt Endris.
■ Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: **Free Bridges in concert**, November 12, 6 p.m. Pastor: David Newton. Midway Baptist Church, Jena: **The Southern Plainsmen Quartet with GraceWay Quartet**, November 12, 6 p.m. Pastor: Daniel Breithaupt.
Gulf Coast Baptist Church, Golden Meadow: **Fishing Rodeo**, November 12-13, Saturday, scales open at 10 a.m., free lunch (open to the public) at noon, food box distribution (open to the public) at 2 p.m., kids activities (bounce house); Sunday, scales open 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., chapel service, 11 a.m., lunch/awards (participants only) at 11:45 a.m. Come join us for a family friendly weekend of fishing. No registration required. Pastor: Shane Terrebonne.
■ New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Winnfield: **The Southern Plainsmen Quartet in concert**, November 13, 5 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Bruce Weatherford.
■ First Baptist Church, Martin: **Mark Lanier in concert**, November 13, 11 a.m. Pastor: Richard Kaufman.
■ Old Pisgah Baptist Church, Marthaville: **The Browders in concert**, November 19, 5 p.m. Pastor: Dean Johnson.
■ Faith Baptist Church, Livonia: **Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert**, November 20, 10 a.m. Pastor: Freddie Rodrigue.

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.

EUR NEGNBU NEKR YUWB VLJ, KP WVLA SKUR GL QKWV

NLFLU DJLLU QKWVN WVEW QLJL ULFLJ RJKLR, WVLU NVEOO K

SL QLEC, EUR SL EN EUBWVLJ GEU.

ZYRDLN NKIWLLU: NLFLU

Clues:
L = E; N = S

Answer to October 13 Scripture Crypto:
Galations three: twenty-three



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

SEEKING BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR
Community Baptist Church in Lafayette is seeking a Bi-Vocational Pastor. Please send résumé to Community Baptist Church, P.O. Box 60265, Lafayette, LA 70596-0265.

SEEKING PASTOR
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Arcadia, LA is seeking a bi-vocational or a full-time pastor. Send résumé to Bill Bolton
486 Hwy 519, Arcadia, LA 71001 or call 318.243.5741

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

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

SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Please send résumé to:
11109 Jerusalem Church Road
Hammond, LA 70403
or email résumé to:
jbc@jbcpc.org

PASTOR
Long Leaf Baptist Church is seeking either a bi-vocational interim pastor or full-time pastor. Résumés can be mailed to P.O. Box 76, Long Leaf, La 71448 or e-mailed to longleafbaptistchurch@outlook.com

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION STRATEGIST
"Are YOU a catalyst for evangelistic church planting and revitalization? The Evangeline Baptist Association is searching for an Associational Mission Strategist. This is not your typical AMS position, for more information visit www.ebalaf.com/ams or email Ginger@ebalaf.com."

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

WOMEN'S MINISTER
First Baptist 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, 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 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.

BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR
for a small rural church in NE LA
Newton Baptist Church, Delhi, LA, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. A parsonage is available for full time residence or part-time use. Please send résumé by email to NewtonBaptistDelhi@gmail.com, or mail to Newton Baptist Church, PO Box 236, Delhi, LA 71232.

SEEKING PASTOR
New Ouachita Baptist Church in Enterprise, LA is searching for a pastor. Please send résumés to New Ouachita Baptist Church Attn: Pastor Search Committee
226 Ouachita Church Rd
Enterprise, LA 71425
or email your résumés to diana_roark@hotmail.com

FULL TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH
First Baptist Church of New Boston, Texas is seeking a full time Minister of Youth.
Please send résumés to FBCNBYouthSearch@gmail.com
A full job description is available at:
www.fbcnewboston.com/student-minister-search/

Luling

from page 24

director, said the assistance from so many churches and individuals encouraged them to keep pressing forward during the difficult days.

"We had a lot of ups and downs, so to come full circle to our dedication service was a miracle," Mire said. "We felt the dedication service was confirmation from God that we are supposed to be here and do his work. Every step of the way he was there to guide and help us through it and afford the things we did."

"During the days of COVID and Ida we didn't understand, 'Why?' but we did know God had a plan," she continued. "Now, we have a revitalization that is going to happen, and we are excited for the future and our community. For those churches who are going through hard times, look at our situation and know that it might not be as devastating as you think because in the end God can do anything more than you ever can imagine."

BRIGHT DAYS AHEAD

Stevens believes the best is yet to come for FBC Luling.

"They have high prospects," he said. "The miracles that took place were impossible financially and practically. For them to come to fruition all at the same time leaves me almost dumfounded."

"God has a future and ministry for this church," he continued. "The dedication service reminded the church that God is rooting for you. I am here with you and now let's go reach this community for me."

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SEEKING A FULLTIME OR BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

New Hope Baptist Church of Elmer, LA is prayerfully seeking a dedicated full-time or bi-vocational pastor. Please send résumés to:
Search Committee
9308 HWY 112
Glenmora, LA 71433
or email your résumés to: newhopebc90@gmail.com

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www.hixsonbrothers.com

SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Bethany Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Bethany is located in Caldwell parish in the community of Hebert. It has an excellent school system. The parsonage is a modern three-bedroom house located across the road from the church on the banks of Beouf River (which has excellent fishing). Salary and traveling expenses are negotiable. Send résumé to: randymillsh2o@aol.com or call 318.758.0318. The mailing address of the church is: 1740 Hwy 133, Columbia, LA 71418.

SEEKING A FULL TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC

The First Baptist Church of New Boston, TX is seeking a full time Minister of Music. Please send résumés to office@fncnewboston.com. For additional information go to <https://www.fbcnewboston.com/music-minister-search/>

SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

Mystic Baptist Church in Fields, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Résumés can be sent to Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 187 Mystic Church Rd, Merryville, LA 70653 or email to mystic.baptist@yahoo.com.

SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR & YOUTH MINISTER

Grand Lake Community Church, located in Cameron Parish, is looking for someone with youth and/or pastor experience, with a burden and passion to reach the youth and young families in our rural area. Please send résumé and/or contact visionteacher56@yahoo.com for more information

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