

## ECON 2023: PRAY, WIN SOULS DAILY

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

WEST MONROE, La. (LBM) – Five months ahead of evangelistic events tied to the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in New Orleans, participants at the recent Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference were challenged to share the hope found in Christ each day.

Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn told the ECON crowd that they can change the state if they

would commit to pray for and share Christ with others “daily.”

ECON was held in the facilities of the First Baptist Church, West Monroe, Jan. 23-24.

“Would it be said of us that we could be known as a group of churches, a people, that are known to have a culture of evangelism,” Horn said. “What does that look like? When I read the book of Acts, I see ‘daily.’”

“The Bible says in a variety of places in the book of Acts that ‘daily’

the Lord was adding to His church. I know that you as Louisiana Baptists believe every word of God’s Word. Would you believe that word with me – ‘daily?’”

Horn previously said he has prayed for 2,023 people to be saved through two evangelistic events tied to the SBC Annual Meeting: “Crossover,” a large-scale evangelistic effort held before the SBC Annual Meeting, and the North American Mission Board “Serve Tour,” an effort that seeks to involve

participants in service projects as the foundation for evangelism the weekend before the SBC Annual Meeting.

The LBC state missions center is helping to coordinate sign up for both initiatives, he said, and he hopes to have a team from each association to participate in each of “Crossover” and “Serve Tour.”

ECON featured Louisiana Baptist pastors, seminary professors, an apologetics professional

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A participant at the 2023 Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference worshipped as the Jason Lovins Band played. The two-day conference featured noted singer Michael W. Smith and a variety of speakers.

## First Person: My Asbury Journey

**By Don Pucik**  
special to the Louisiana Baptist Message

ASBURY, Ky. (LBM) -- It began with a phone call from a friend on Thursday afternoon. He had heard that a spiritual awakening was underway at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. In February 1970, Asbury was the epicenter of a campus revival that impacted hundreds of college and seminary campuses across North America. After reaching out to other friends and searching online, I began piecing together a few facts.

On Wednesday, Feb. 8, following a routine 10 a.m. chapel service in Hughes

Auditorium, a small group of students remained behind to worship and pray. As students made their way to the altar rail across the front of the stage, the Holy Spirit ignited a deeper, heart-level work.

Word spread swiftly as students began to message one another “you need to get back to Hughes!” As I write this account 180 hours later, the worship of our Father continues without pause. Two other campus chapels and a local church building have been opened to accommodate the crowds that now exceed three thousand students, faculty, and guests.

See ASBURY, page 13



Brian Blackwell photo

Emma Sparks of Ashland, Ky. drove 2 1/2 hours with five of her friends to be a part of history at Asbury University on Monday. The high school senior said, “This is once in a lifetime. You don’t see things like this every day.” Sparks encouraged others to “go and feel the Spirit for yourself.” (Kentucky Today/Robin Cornet)

## NLBA prayer event: Seek God for revival

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

BLANCHARD, La. (LBM) – Nearly 400 members of the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association’s 108 churches came together, Feb. 5, to cry out to God during the local fellowship’s eighth annual “Call to Prayer.”

See PRAYER, page 9



Brian Blackwell photo

The 2023 Louisiana Life March Central drew more than 500 participants in Pineville. Similar marches were held throughout the state in January. This year’s theme was “Everyone Deserves a Birthday.”



# Life March Central: Keep fighting for life

By **Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) - More than 500 Louisiana Life March Central participants were encouraged to continue fighting for the rights of the unborn, seven months after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade (a decision in 1973 that legalized abortion), triggering a ban on abortions in Louisiana.

"Though Roe v. Wade has been overturned that battle is not over," State Rep. Mike Johnson, a member of First Baptist Church, Pineville, said Saturday, Feb. 4. "I'm proud to be part of a legislature that has stood up for life long before Roe v Wade was

overturned. We have to be pro-life. We have to give the children love."

Men and women, young and old, from various denominations and ethnicities joined together to make the journey from the Louisiana Christian University campus to the riverfront in Pineville.

Other speakers included State Rep. Gabe Firmant, a member of First Baptist Church, Pollock; Kim Lyons, director of the CENLA Pregnancy Center, Alexandria; and David Jeffreys, LCU executive vice president and chief operations officer.

The life march was the last of five held in the state over the past few weeks.

According to Louisiana Right to Life officials, a

crowd of 750 gathered in Baton Rouge and also in Monroe/West Monroe, 1,500 in Shreveport and another 500 in Lake Charles in marches that took place over several weekends in January.

"Everyone deserves a birthday" was the theme for this year's events.

Jeffreys told the crowd to show love.

"We know it's not the end of the fight," he said. "We pray for continued victories, one life at a time, one family at a time."

Firmant shared how his mother chose to give him life, even though she was told he would be born prematurely.

"The world says, 'Don't take a chance,'" he said. "At the time it was legal to take a baby's life. Thank God she didn't. Thank God we have legislators like Mike Johnson



Brian Blackwell photo

State Reps. Mike Johnson and Gabe Firmant declared their love for life during the Louisiana Life March Central. Johnson is a member of First Baptist Church, Pineville, and Firmant is a member of First Baptist Church, Pollock.

and others who are willing to fight for what's right, especially when it comes to life.

"The other side already is working on us," he said. "They say, 'We need exceptions for this or that.' A child

is never an exception. Every child is a precious unique gift from God."

Lyons shared that the CENLA Pregnancy Center continues to serve women by providing many resources, including pregnancy decision coaching (by trained advocates), free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, information about pregnancy options and, most recently, abortion pill reversal services. The center is listed on a national hotline that connects CENLA Pregnancy Center staff with women seeking to reverse the effects of the first pill taken for chemical abortion.

"In this post-Roe generation, we are here to stand in the gap," she said. "We are here to stand and journey with women."

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# Vendors being sought for CENLA missions, ministry fair

By Staff

Baptist Message

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – The Central Louisiana Baptist Association is seeking vendors for its upcoming missions and ministry

fair.

Slated for March 5, 5-7 p.m., at Kingsville Baptist Church, Pineville, the event schedule includes worship, a message of encouragement from Louisiana Baptist Church Plant-

ing Director James Jenkins and a time for participants to visit tables of various state and national missions organizations.

Organizer Richard Bullock, also pastor of College Drive Baptist Church,

Pineville, said the event will inform participants about the mission opportunities in the area as well as motivate them to pray for, give and become involved in missions and ministry groups. Likewise,

it will provide a venue for mission entities to “tell their story” through the mission fair and to champion missions in their own churches.

Bullock expects more than 20 vendors at the event.

“Last year’s event was a tremendous success, and we expect this year’s missions and ministry fair to be even better,” Bullock told the *Baptist Message*. “I encourage everyone to come to the fair and learn about the amazing variety of missions and ministry opportunities available to Louisiana Baptists.”

**Contact Bullock for more information, gm-bull50@yahoo.com, or 318.729.7199.**

## Winnfield’s Gates joins SBC WMU to disciple young men in missions

By Julie Walters  
SBC WMU

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (SBC WMU) – Keith Gates, a judge and member of First Baptist Church, Winnfield, has joined the Southern Baptist Convention’s Woman’s Missionary Union staff as a ministry consultant for Royal Ambassadors, Challengers and Youth on Mission.

“RAs changed my life as a camp staffer in the early 2000s,” Gates said. “Developing a better RA program, at least in my circle of influence, has been a passion of mine since then.”

Gates brings ample experience with RA programs in multiple churches and the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

He has served as a leader of RA chapters at First Baptist Church, Lafayette, Goldonna Baptist Church and FBC Winnfield. Gates also is on the state RA Council, and he will continue to help plan

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## ECON from page one

and evangelism associates from the North American Mission Board. The event also included times of worship led by the Jason Lovins Band and Michael W. Smith, an award-winning Christian contemporary artist, as well as breakout sessions.

Louisiana Baptist Evangelism and Church Growth Director Keith Manuel charged the crowd to share their faith.

"You will be a blessing to those you share with, but you will reap the rewards of Heaven you will not believe," he said. "Someone is waiting on you. Find a way. Share the Gospel!"

### JOHN FREAM

John Fream, pastor of Cypress Baptist Church, Benton, said too many Christ followers have lost their passion for soul winning.

"It works and sometimes we lose sight of what we really are supposed to be

doing," he said. "We've lost what really, really matters.

"We've got to remind our people Hell is hot and time is short," he continued. "We have a mandate to go out there and get things done."

### JAMIE DEW

Jamie Dew, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, told the crowd not to "overthink" sharing the Gospel.

Referencing Matthew 10, Dew said baptisms have decreased in churches because Southern Baptists are less evangelistic than they were 20 years ago. He challenged Louisiana Baptists not to focus on a specific style of evangelism, but rather just be intentional about sharing Christ.

"Don't overthink it," he said. "Get every bit of training you can get. Train your people as much as they can possibly get. But at the end of the day, preach the Word and share the Gos-

pel!"

### JAKE ROUDKOVSKI

"Whatever you do, do it for Jesus," New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Professor of Evangelism and Pastoral Leadership Jake Roudkovski said. "Do it for Jesus because Jesus alone is worthy."

Drawing from Revelation 5, Roudkovski said Jesus is worthy because He is the Lord of history, victory and glory.

Roudkovski urged the crowd not to forget what Jesus has done for them.

"Our problem is we have gotten over what Jesus Christ has done for us when He shed His precious blood for our sin," he said. "A reason we have seen a decline in evangelism is we have gotten over Jesus. In eternity we will be praising Jesus who will be the theme of our worship. May we never get over Jesus in this life."

### J.J. WASHINGTON

J.J. Washington, NAMB national director of personal evangelism, said

that simplicity, humility and the right motive – not eloquence – are needed to share the Gospel.

Summarizing 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Washington said the Apostle Paul planted the church in Corinth not to glorify Himself but rather to give praise to the Creator.

"He had come to Corinth to glorify the Lord," he said. "We need to do it and we need to do it for Jesus' name, not ours. You don't need eloquence, friend. Just open your mouth and let the Gospel out."

### TIM DOWDY

What America needs today is a holy boldness, according to Tim Dowdy, NAMB vice president of evangelism.

"What's going to make the biggest difference in the life of the people you and I know is to start telling 'the story,'" Dowdy said. "With all the bad news, there is good news. 'There is hope. God is at work.'"

Basing his message on Acts 4:31, Dowdy said the early church had a boldness to share Christ despite the opposition.

"The hope that we need is only found in Jesus," he said. "And He gives it to us, one heart at time."

### MARK MITTELBERG

Mark Mittelberg, executive director of the Lee Strobel Center for Evangelism and Applied Apologetics at Colorado Christian University, closed ECON by reminding the crowd that Christ has given each believer a mission to lead others to join His family.

He shared that each Christ follower has at least one of the five contagious faith-sharing styles to use in evangelism: friendship-building, selfless-serving, story-sharing, reason-giving and truth telling.

"We are all called to share the Good news with other people," he said. "But we all don't have to do it the same way."



# Evangelists reap 15 souls for Christ on Harvest Sunday

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

MONROE, La. (LBM) – Ten harvest evangelists and one music evangelist filled the pulpits of 11 churches in the Monroe-West Monroe area during Harvest Sunday, Jan. 22, and 15 people come to faith in Christ.

The evangelistic effort preceded the Louisiana Baptist state Evangelism Conference, Jan. 23-24, in the facilities of First Baptist Church, West Monroe.

Louisiana Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists President Gary Maroney told the *Baptist Message* that Steven Kelly, director of missions of Morehouse and Northeast Baptist associations, was instrumental in rallying support for churches to host the evangelists.

"God had heard and answered our prayers to provide a church for every

one of our evangelists that had indicated a desire to participate in Harvest Sunday," Maroney told the *Baptist Message*. "When LACOSBE met at our annual luncheon and business meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 24, there was such a spirit of rejoicing and thanksgiving for what God had done."

Louisiana Baptist Evangelism and Church Growth Team Director Keith Manuel added: "I thank the Lord for the work of our evangelists and their willingness and faithfulness to help local area churches as part of the evangelism conference each year. God always uses

them to bring a harvest where He leads them."

During a service at Lakeshore Baptist Church, Monroe, five individuals responded to a call for salvation offered by Sam Moore, an evangelist from Bentonville, Arkansas.



**Keith Manuel**  
Louisiana Baptist Evangelism and Church Growth Team Director.

Pastor William Smith said the Harvest Day provided a revival within his church after a "dry spell" when

they had not seen any new converts come to Christ for several months beforehand. Smith baptized four of the new converts during a worship service, Jan. 29.

"We had been praying for Harvest Day since we knew we would host Sam

Moore," Smith said. "We prayed for a harvest of souls and saw just that. It was such a blessing for our entire congregation."

Gary Bowlin, an evangelist from Summit, Miss., preached at the morning and evening services at Sweetwater Baptist Church, Quitman. Two individuals came forward

to accept Christ, and 20 more made other types of decisions.

"We had people come to repent for restoration and numbers of people praying on the knees at the altar," Bowlin said. "There was a great presence of the Holy Spirit in both services."

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# Win 2,023 souls during 2023 SBC

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists have a golden opportunity to reap a harvest of souls during a pair of evangelistic efforts preceding the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for June 13-14 in New Orleans.

The “Send Relief Serve Tour,” an effort that seeks to involve participants in service projects in Houma and New Orleans as the foundation for evangelism, will take place June 9-10. A celebration service will be held June 10 at First Baptist Church, New Orleans, with a meal at 5 p.m. and service at 6 p.m.

Additionally, “Crossover,” a large-scale evangelistic effort, will take place in the New Orleans Baptist Association and North Shore Baptist Association, June 10.

The “Serve Tour” and “Crossover” weekend will wrap up with a Harvest Sunday, June 11. Churches in these areas will be encouraged to utilize evangelists to fill the pulpit that day.

Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn has set a combined goal for soul-winning through these two evangelistic efforts. In his report to the Executive Board in September and then again at the LBC Annual Meeting in November, he shared that he is praying for 2,023 people to be saved.

“We know that the harvest is ripe for abundance in New Orleans,” Horn said during the annual meeting. “And, now we can say that the workers in that harvest are going to be more than usual at least for this abbreviated time. We cannot miss this strategic opportunity.”

Jacob Crawford, the

“Crossover” point person for the New Orleans area and director of City Life NOLA, shared during a breakout session at the 2023 Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference, Jan. 24, that prayer will play a key role in both evangelist efforts.

“Even the smallest church can do this and be a part of seeing communities come to know Jesus,” Crawford said. “Whether it’s ‘Crossover’ or ‘Serve,’ God is calling us to live on mission and share our faith. We could see God do something huge, but it all starts with prayer.”

“It’ll be so encouraging to know your brothers and sisters are serving that day,” he continued. “You are the piece of a bigger puzzle. We will have to think outside the box in some communities to communicate the Gospel. I’m excited about what God will do.”



Brian Blackwell photo

Jacob Crawford shared during a breakout session at the 2023 Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference that prayer will play a key role in the upcoming Crossover and Serve Tour.

Alex Brian, “Serve Tour” local project manager, said tour opportunities will include rebuilding homes impacted by recent hurricanes in southeast Louisiana, partnering

with a mobile dental and medical clinic operated by Baptist Community Health Services and assisting churches with various

See SOULS, page 20

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# Former Angola inmate Hyde begins Mississippi prison ministry

By Brian Blackwell  
Message staff writer

way to give back.”

## ROAD TO REDEMPTION

PARCHMAN, Miss. (LBM) – Robert Hyde, the immediate past pastor of Grace Baptist Church in the Louisiana State Penitentiary, who was granted parole in March 2022, has begun discipling inmates at the Mississippi State Penitentiary.

In his role as a program supervisor, Hyde oversees more than 300 men who are taking classes in vocational school, adult basic education, Mississippi Delta Community College courses, careers services, book clubs via Zoom from Mississippi Library Commission and Jackson State University, and the extension center of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary classes. He also is an adjunct professor with the NOBTS extension center.

Hyde, who began working at the prison in July 2022, said his new role is a way for him to give back to those who helped turn his life around while as an inmate.

“It feels right to be here doing this,” Hyde, who shared his testimony at the 2023 Louisiana Baptist state Evangelism Conference, told the Baptist Message. “This is exactly where I am supposed to be, which is helping guys. I finally get to be for these guys what other men were for me at Angola. It’s the ultimate

Hyde grew up in Baton Rouge with an abusive stepfather, and the domestic violence eventually led to his mother’s death from a gunshot wound. He then went to live with his grandfather, whose aloof attitude left Hyde with no parental leadership. This led to a life of drugs, alcohol, the occult and eventually manslaughter in 2001 of another man at a party in Rayville at age 28.

While in Richland Parish Detention Center in Rayville, the Holy Spirit brought him under conviction and in his cell, Hyde turned to Christ.

Two years later, Hyde was given a 35-year sentence for manslaughter and was transferred to the Louisiana Department of Corrections. At Winn and Dixon correctional centers, Hyde began to lead Bible studies and eventually learned of an opportunity to transfer to Angola, enrolling in 2012 with the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Extension.

Hyde earned associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s degrees with the extension program, and was ordained by Grace Baptist Church in 2017. In 2015, he was called to be the associate pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Angola; and, during that time, October 2015, Wash-

ington Baptist Association unanimously voted to accept the congregation into its fellowship. He served in that role until 2019, when he succeeded Paul Will as senior pastor.

Hyde spent the final two years of his time in

Angola helping to establish a Christian-based substance abuse recovery program. Using the Celebrate Recovery model, Hyde witnessed 150 inmates turn from drug addictions to changed lives with Jesus.

First Baptist Church,

Saint Francisville and the Washington Baptist Association provided the materials, but the inmates have paid for uniforms of mentors, the speaker system and most other costs.

See HYDE, page 8

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## Hyde from page 7

Now, Hyde supervises programming and education at the Mississippi prison. Burl Cain, the former warden at Angola who started the seminary program in 1995 and now is the commissioner of the Department of Corrections in Mississippi, encouraged Hyde to apply for the position.

Hyde said the seminary was instrumental in preparing him for his new role.

"It's a real honor because the seminary meant so much to me," Hyde said. "Every penny of our seminary education was taken care of by Louisiana Baptists. The professors and pastors who poured into me and the others were the spiritual dads we at Angola never had. I never could have done it without Louisiana Baptists."

### PATH TO FORGIVENESS

Securing his release from Angola and landing a job at Parchman have been tremendous gifts from God, Hyde said. But he empha-

sized that reconciling with three of his four daughters has been a special blessing from Him.

When he entered prison in 2001, Hyde already knew two of his daughters, Pamela and Kyra, who were 7 and 9 years old at the time. Through the years he maintained ongoing conversations with them.

He later learned he had a third daughter, Janae, whose adopted parents finally agreed, 14 years after he entered Angola, that she would meet Hyde in 2016.

Once he was released, Hyde was reunited with his two oldest daughters in Baton Rouge. In December, he met his youngest daughter for the first time in Monroe. Hyde is praying that one day he will be able to reconcile with his fourth daughter.

Despite the crime he committed, Hyde said his daughters have shown unconditional love.

"If you are a parent and you have done something stupid, you know what it's

like to experience the deep forgiveness of a child," he said. "There is something in the forgiveness from a child that is so pure because you know there is no ulterior motive. When you mess up as badly as I did, forgiveness is the one metric you have to verify you are back on even ground with your relationships."

"I have learned there is nothing more important, besides Jesus, than your blood and Christian family," he continued. "I took that for granted before I knew Jesus. Now I can appreciate it and I will never take it for granted again."

Hyde asked for continued prayers as he ministers to Mississippi inmates.

"Thank you, Louisiana Baptists, for helping me learn how to be the man of God that Jesus Christ asked me to be," he said. "Without your contributions, without your ministry, without your churches, without the brothers and sisters in Christ, I wouldn't have stood a chance of becoming the man I am today."



Brian Blackwell photo

Former Angola inmate Robert Hyde shared how God used Louisiana Baptists to turn his life to Christ.



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Prayer rom page one

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

Just like the previous gatherings at NLBA churches, this event was marked by prayer from the worship center stage, in small groups around the room and by individuals who pleaded with God for revival in their community, state and nation.

URGENCY TO SEEK GOD

“We are in an uncertain hour all across this nation,” NLBA Director of Missions Lane Moore said in his opening remarks. “These last couple of years have been challenging in ministry. We are obviously living in a more wicked and fallen world every day. However, we also know from Scripture, that the Father has us in His hand. Let’s remind ourselves of that truth tonight.”

Clay Fuqua, pastor of FBC Blanchard, told the crowd to ask the Lord to

search their hearts, as King David did in Psalm 139:23-24. A spiritual cleansing will follow, he said.

“This could be your prayer for every day,” he said. “Search me, know me, look inside me. Search me introspectively.”

Mark Crook, pastor of Trees Baptist Church, Vivian, said Christ followers must stand strong. By doing so, they will experience His power.

Referencing Ephesians 6:10-13, Crook noted the importance of putting on the armor of God in the face of spiritual attacks.

“This is a spiritual warfare and the only agency on the face of the earth that is equipped to wage this spiritual war is the church,” he said. “We need a praying church. We need a Spirit-filled church, a soul-winning, disciple-making, sin-hating, Jesus-loving church. It’s time to take a stand. It’s time to be ‘the Church.’ It’s time to put on our armor, get out of the trenches, rush the gates of Hell, until we reach souls and pull them out of the fire.”

Brett Puckitt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Vivian, said courageous



The Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association’s Call to Prayer brought together Christians of various ages and ethnicities to pray for law enforcement, the persecuted church, missionaries serving around the world, pastors and other church leaders.

Christ-followers are needed in today’s culture.

Drawing from the books of Joshua and Acts, Puckitt cited Joshua and Caleb in the Old Testament and Peter and John in the New Testament as men who showed such courage.

“Courageous followers come from courageous leadership,” he said. “Our community is desperate for courageous leadership. Our churches are desperate for courageous leadership. Our state is desperate for

See PRAYER, page 20

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# CHURCHES: How to file for ERC tax refund

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

WASHINGTON (LBM) — The Employee Retention Credit is a tax refund that is available to churches who kept employees on the payroll during the pandemic of 2020-21.

Initially, eligible employers had to choose between the Paycheck Protection Program or the Employee Retention Credit. Then in 2021 Congress allowed eligible employers to apply for both. So, the two programs can be used together to maximize benefits, but they cannot be used to compensate churches twice for the same wages in any quarter of either 2020 or 2021. Importantly, the PPP was a loan that converted to a grant if certain conditions were met. However, the ERC is a refundable payroll tax credit.

The Louisiana Baptist

Message has compiled the following information from multiple sources, and it is **provided on a general information basis only**. Churches should consult with their respective accountants for specific financial advice.

## ELIGIBILITY

The timeframe includes March 13, 2020, through December 31, 2021, if a state mandate was in effect.

The following Louisiana proclamations were issued by Governor John Bel Edwards:

— On March 13, 2020, all public gatherings of 250 or more persons were prohibited.

— On March 23, 2020, all public gatherings of 10 or more persons were prohibited, and a “general stay-at-home order” went into effect.

— On March 31, 2021,

“religious services held by churches and other faith-based organizations” were exempted from “crowd size limitations.”

Consequently, many Louisiana Baptist Churches will qualify from March 2020 through March 2021.

## 2020 tax year (March – December)

— No more than 100 employees; and

— a government mandate that prevented operations, either in hours or service capacity, **OR** revenue was less than 50 percent of 2019 gross receipts for any quarter.

## 2021 tax year (January – December)

— Fewer than 500 employees; and

— a government mandate that prevented operations, either in hours or service capacity, **OR** revenue was less than 80 percent of 2019 gross receipts for any quarter.

A church planted in

2020 may qualify for the ERC as a recovery startup business if it:

— Began after February 15, 2020; and

— annual gross receipts were under \$1 million; and

— one or more W2 employees were on the payroll.

## NOTES:

(1) The credit is only available for any wages paid to full-time and part-time staff **for whom the church paid FICA**. Churches do not pay FICA for pastors, thus the pastor’s wages do not qualify in calculating the ERC tax refund. FICA wages do NOT include pre-tax deductions for health insurance, dental insurance, FSA contributions, etc. (employee share). However, FICA wages do include any of the employee’s contributions to a retirement account under a salary

reduction agreement.

(2) Qualifying wages include wage amounts paid by the qualifying employer to its employees plus health plan expenses.

(3) Wages used for any quarter to qualify for the Paycheck Protection Program cannot be used to qualify for an Employee Retention Credit for that same quarter.

(4) **For 2020**, qualifying wages are capped at \$10,000 per employee annually and the credit amount is 50 percent (or \$5,000 per employee). **For 2021**, qualifying wages are capped at \$10,000 per employee per quarter and the credit amount is 70 percent (or \$7,000 per employee per quarter). Recovery startup nonprofits are limited to \$50,000 in credit for all employees per calendar quarter.

(5) A church school or


See ERC REFUND, page 13

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## Asbury from page one

Slipping into Hughes on Saturday evening, I was one of those “guests.” I became a part of the Asbury awakening for the next two days and nights.

For most of my adult life I have been a student of revival, but I am no expert. In smaller groups, I have “tasted” a little of what happens to His

people in His Presence, but never on the scale that I experienced at Asbury. While I was driving home, a friend sent a message asking, “what were the marks of this revival?” Without hesitation I replied, “His Presence. Worship. Prayer. Testimony. Scripture reading. Brief pointed preaching. Life

change and deliverance.”

Although leaders are carefully shepherding what is happening behind the scenes, the movement is not being orchestrated by human personalities or manmade agendas. Care is taken not to quench or grieve the Spirit. Grace and mercy are evident in every remark and request from the platform.

The gathering is constantly changing as new

people arrive. As seats are vacated, they are quickly filled. People come and go, and that’s okay. It’s a 24/7 movement, but it’s not about how long you stay – but how responsive you are to Him while there.

I sat on the floor. I sat in the balcony. I made multiple trips down front to pray. I spent time in the overflow areas and outside as crowds gathered to hear the service over loudspeakers.

With my Bible opened, I listened carefully to the messages, testimonies, and scriptures that were shared. I heard what He was saying to me. I made notes in my journal. I prayed with people I didn’t know, and they prayed for me. Then we would sing praises to Him – and sing, and sing, and sing.

It quickly became obvi-

See **ASBURY**, page 16

## Refund from page 12

preschool that has its own EIN and files its own IRS Form 941 each quarter, has to file for the ERC separately from the church.

### HOW TO CLAIM THE ERC

The Employee Retention Credit must be claimed by using the IRS Form 941-X, “Adjusted Employer’s Quarterly Federal Tax Return or Claim for Refund.” A separate 941-X will be filed for each calendar quarter for which Employee Retention Credit is being claimed. Whoever processes the church payroll will be familiar with how to complete these forms.

### FILING DEADLINES

**2020 (2nd, 3rd, 4th quarters)**

— A corrected IRS Form 941-X must be submitted by April 15, 2024.

**2021 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th quarters)**

— A corrected IRS Form 941-X must be submitted by April 15, 2025.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Louisiana Baptist Convention obtained permission for the Baptist Message to publish an **Excel Spreadsheet** and an **annotated IRS Form 941-X** created by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and provided to North Carolina Baptist churches (use the hotlinks provided in the website edition of this article). Please note that some information does not apply to Louisiana Baptist churches because of differences in the two states’ mandates.

### Helpful IRS links:

<https://www.irs.gov/coro->

[navirus/employee-retention-credit](https://www.irs.gov/irb/2021-34_IRB#NOT-2021-49)

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/covid-19-related-employee-retention-credits-general-information-faqs> (FAQs)

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/faqs-employee-retention-credit-under-the-cares-act> (more FAQs)

Finally, know that the Internal Revenue Service is backed up in processing ERC requests. It may take several months before a refund check is mailed or the amount is transferred electronically to your account.

**The Louisiana Baptist Foundation is a partner with MinistryWorks in payroll services.**

**MinistryWorks also offers churches a discounted rate for providing assistance in filing for the ERC tax refund:**

**2020 credits: \$250**

**per employee for which the church receives a credit, up to the lesser of \$15,000 or 5% of the total credit.**

**2021 credits: \$350 per quarter per employee for which the church receives a credit, up to the lesser of \$15,000 or 5% of the total credit.**

**An initial payment of \$500 is required upon completion of the calculation of**

**the ERC. This payment will be applied to the balance owed to MinistryWorks which is due within 15 days upon receipt of the ERC tax refund from the Internal Revenue Service.**

**The MinistryWorks point of contact for Louisiana Baptists is Tonya Miller, [tmiller@ministryworks.com](mailto:tmiller@ministryworks.com), or (866) 215-5540, extension 5356.**

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# Biden's DOJ targets Bible-believing Catholics as terrorists

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

WASHINGTON (LBM) – A former FBI special agent and federal whistleblower leaked a Jan. 23, 2023, intelligence field report produced by the FBI field office in Richmond, Virginia, which called Catholics who hold to biblical beliefs about marriage and the unborn “violent extremists” and proposed infiltrating mass services because of this “radical-traditionalist” ideology.

Some political observers suggested this was a gateway to declare any Christian a “criminal” for holding to an orthodox view of the Bible on these and other social issues.

Twenty state attorneys general, including Louisiana’s Jeff Landry, signed a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray and U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland denouncing the blatant

discrimination contained in the field report. The Feb. 10, 2023, joint statement demanded the FBI “immediately and unequivocally order agency personnel not to target Americans based on their religious beliefs and practices,” and said the obvious bigotry “harkens back to some of the worst chapters of our past.”

The chief legal officers for 20 states renounced the field report as “part of a dangerous tendency in the FBI and DOJ to label those who hold views contrary to the Administration as violent extremists or terrorists”; decried spying on Catholics in their churches and cathedrals as “an absurd use of federal law-enforcement and counterintelligence resources”; and expressed alarm that “FBI operatives should be developing ‘sources with access,’ including in ‘places of worship,’ to identify the bad Catholics.”

## CULTURALNEWS

The DOJ also came under fire in 2021 for targeting parents after the White House assisted a national school board group with a letter that demanded the investigation of parents who were described as engaging in “a form of domestic terrorism” because these parents objected to mask mandates and the teaching of critical race theory in schools.

The FBI has subsequently rescinded the report.

## Mister Rogers was right: ‘Boys are boys’

ARLINGTON, Va. (LBM) – A vintage video has resurfaced of “Mister Rogers” (Fred Rogers) that has triggered at least some transgender advocates.

In the 40-year-old clip that was posted on TikTok,

the PBS icon sang, “Everybody’s Fancy,” an upbeat little ditty about the differences between boys and girls:

“Boys are boys from the beginning. If you were born a boy, you stay a boy. Girls are girls right from the start. If you were born a girl, you stay a girl, and grow up to be a lady. Everybody’s fancy, Everybody’s fine. Your body’s fancy and so is mine,” he sang.

In an additional clip, Rogers added the lyrics, “Only girls can be the mommies. Only boys can be the daddies.”

The reason for the song was revealed in a different recording posted on Breitbart.com, which captured Rogers on “The Tonight Show” with Johnny Carson.

“Sometimes children think that they might change — they might have to change after a while,” he said. “And you know, we

laugh about that now, but it’s because we had that concern when we were little.”

“Yeah, because you’re really not sure and you thought maybe you’d become a girl, or a girl would become a boy, right?” Carson seemed to quip.

“Exactly,” Rogers responded, but in all seriousness.

## Despite growing numbers of ‘nones,’ more Americans ‘open to God’

VENTURA, Calif. (LBM) – The faith-based Barna Group released recent findings that indicate there is a rising spiritual openness in America.

The October 2022 study published last month adds See CULTURAL NEWS, page 15

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## Cultural News from page 14

complex to the changing spiritual landscape in the country, especially in view of a May 2022 Gallup poll that showed a drop in belief in God. Gallup's survey results indicated that 81 percent of Americans believe in God, a six-point drop from 2017, which includes a 10 percent decrease among young adults (18-29 years old).

Meanwhile, the Barna data revealed that about three-quarters of all adults (Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X and Boomers) want to grow spiritually (73, 77, 77, 72 percent, respectively), and even higher numbers believe there is a spiritual dimension to life (83, 83, 82, 79 percent), and specifically acknowledge that God or a higher power exists (77, 76, 77, 79 percent).

Importantly, Barna found "[n]early half (44%) say they are more open to God today than before the pandemic."

"Though religious affiliation and church attendance continue to decline, spiritual openness and curiosity are on the rise," Barna CEO David Kinnaman, Barna CEO concluded. "Across every generation, in fact,

we see an unprecedented desire to grow spiritually, a belief in a spiritual / supernatural dimension and a belief in God or a higher power."

### NAMB VP resigns, infidelity cited

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (LBM) – Michael Crawford, vice president for strategies and development with the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, who concomitantly served as executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, resigned Feb. 3.

BCM/D leaders cited "moral failure involving marital indiscretions" as disqualifying him to serve in his state role, according to a letter posted on CapstoneReport.com.

*Baptist Press* reported that a "NAMB spokesman confirmed ... his contract with the entity was terminated Feb. 3."

Crawford is the third high-profile personality with NAMB ties, during the last eight months, to be disqualified to serve in a leadership role because

of moral failures.

*Baptist Press* published May 20 that NAMB had canceled contracts with Future Church, because its founder, Will Mancini, a church leadership and vision consultant, had admitted "to infidelity." NAMB told the media outlet that Mancini provided "leadership equipping to [Southern Baptist] pastors, state conventions and local associations." *Baptist Press* said Mancini "worked alongside hundreds of Southern Baptist churches during his time with the organization as well as with Auxano, an organization he founded and later sold to Lifeway Christian Resources."

Meanwhile, two days later, May 22, *Baptist Press* announced that Johnny Hunt had resigned nine days earlier,

May 13, as vice president for evangelism with NAMB after being accused of having "sexually assaulted the wife"

of an SBC pastor in 2010. Hunt, via Twitter, May 27, described the circumstances as a "consensual encounter."



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

### COTTAGE MANAGERS:

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

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# Asbury from page 13

ous that once there, no one wants to leave. Why?

Our Father is there. He is making Himself known, and that is the simplest explanation for this unusual moment in time at Asbury. There is a great difference between knowing that "God is here" with my head and knowing His Presence with my heart.

For those dear ones experiencing His Presence, well-worn truths are becoming vibrant realities:

-- Experiencing the fullness of His love, they become more alert to the

needs of others.

-- Experiencing His majesty, their worship becomes an act of bowing before Him in every moment.

-- Experiencing His kingly authority, they willingly invite Him to come rule over all the spaces in their hearts.

-- Experiencing His holiness, they are wrecked to realize how their sins have grieved His heart.

-- Experiencing His forgiveness, they can see how fiercely He loves them, bearing their sins on His cross.



Baptist Press photo

Worshippers sang praises to the Lord at Asbury University in Wilmore, Ky., on Monday afternoon, Feb. 13, the sixth day of continuous worship in Hughes Auditorium.

Every thought of what He has done to rescue them now melts their hearts, fills their souls with gratitude, and reduces them to tears.

Must you go to Asbury to experience Him? Of course not. He has promised that if you draw near to Him – as an individual or with a group – He will

draw near to you. And then with His people at Asbury, you can join in singing this chorus. May this become the heart cry of His church in North America!

"You are worthy of it all.  
"You are worthy of it all.  
"For from You are all

things,  
"And to You are all things,  
"You deserve the glory" (excerpted from "Worthy of It All" by David Brymer and Ryan Hall).

**Don Pucik serves as mission strategist for the Northshore Baptist Association.**

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# Transfer of Gibsland facility preserves Gospel witness

By Brian Blackwell  
Message staff writer

GIBSLAND, La. (LBM) – Cypress Springs Baptist Church was on life support in August 2022 and knew it was only a matter of time before they had to make a difficult decision about their future, according to members. The once-vibrant church had dwindled to just five active members and felt another congregation could move in and better reach the community.

After months of seeking the Holy Spirit's direction, the church shared with Bienville Baptist Association Mission Strategist Randy Hales their desire for a preaching presence to continue in the building. Through the conversation, Hales suggested they transfer their property to the Louisiana Baptist Foundation until another church could be found to occupy the facility.

Within a matter of weeks, God answered their prayers.

The sale of the facilities was finalized on Oct. 27 (with funding provided through a grant from the Louisiana Baptist Convention), and Resurrection Fellowship (also an LBC congregation) held its first worship service inside the building on Nov. 20.

Additionally, an endowment to aid ministerial students, who worship with a Bienville Baptist Association church, was established via a transfer of \$30,000 that remained in the CSBC account. The North American Mission Board gifted an additional \$10,000 to the fund.

"Everything just fell into place," CSBC Pastor Don Woodard told the Baptist Message. "We realized we couldn't continue as a congregation and wanted a Gospel witness to continue in that building. When our remaining members were told that a

preaching presence would continue inside our facility and we would be able to help out ministerial students, you could just see a gleam in their eyes."

## KINGDOM FOUNDATION

LBF Executive Director Jeffrey Steed said he was honored to help fulfill the wishes of the former Cypress Springs Baptist Church.

"The bottom line is we didn't lose a preaching point at Cypress," he said. "And equally important is Cypress wanted to have a perpetual impact on the Kingdom from the endowment."

"Part of what we do is help with gifts," he continued. "It's one of the reasons we exist. This was a gift given to us by Cypress. We tried to help them achieve their goals. This is one of many ways the foundation can be involved with real estate transactions related to

Baptist life that can help grow the Kingdom."

## CONVENTION COOPERATION

John Hebert, who recently retired as Louisiana Baptist Missions and Ministry team director, expressed gratitude for the outcome, and explained that funding for Resurrection Fellowship's purchase of the facilities was provided in part from the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering.

"One of the main goals of the missions team and the church growth team is to partner with churches that are failing or closing," Hebert said. "It's a real joy to find a situation like this where help can really make a big difference. Resurrection Pastor Max Rasbury is a seasoned veteran with a passion to reach unreached people. This was a perfect opportunity for Louisiana Baptists to make a huge difference by making this grant which

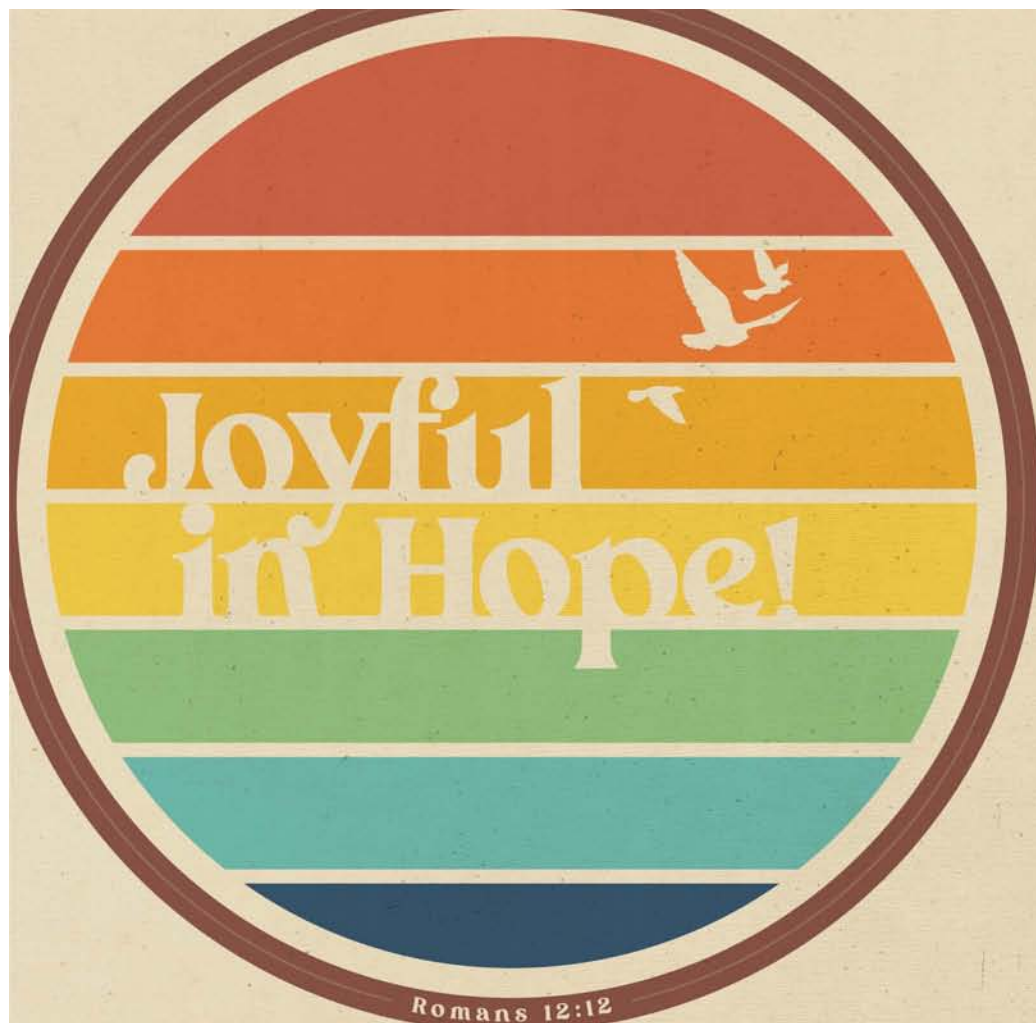
made this acquisition possible."

## RESURRECTED MINISTRY

Rasbury said the move allows his church to accommodate up to 170 people for Sunday worship at the 1200-sq.-ft. building, compared to 75 that could be seated in their former 400-sq.-ft. facility five miles away.

Because God provided all the funding needed to purchase the new facility, Rasbury said his congregation is financially free to raise money for construction of additional classrooms and a fellowship hall.

"We as a church body feel God has moved us to this location intentionally with the idea that He is going to show us what we can do in this community to reach them and grow his church," Rasbury said. "We know God has a plan and we are praying He will show us where to go from here."



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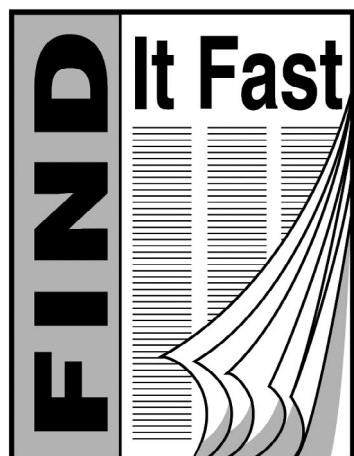


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## FULL-TIME PASTOR

Bayou Vista Baptist Church in Bayou Vista, Louisiana is searching for a full-time pastor. Please send résumés to [bvbcoffice@cox-internet.com](mailto:bvbcoffice@cox-internet.com).



## SEEKING A WORSHIP LEADER

Bayou Vista Baptist Church in Bayou Vista, LA is searching for a part-time worship leader. Please send résumés to [bvbcoffice@cox-internet.com](mailto:bvbcoffice@cox-internet.com).

## SEEKING FULL-TIME PASTOR

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

## Seeking a Bi-Vocational PASTOR

Beulah Baptist Church in Mansfield, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please mail résumés to Beulah Baptist Church, 3417 Hwy 481, Mansfield, LA 71052 or email to [rosemarym621@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarym621@gmail.com)

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

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

Are you looking for a small group Bible study for your church or ministry?  
Haylee Collins, a Louisiana Baptist pastor's wife and NOBTS MDiv graduate, might have a solution for you!  
Check out [www.hayleecollins.com](http://www.hayleecollins.com) to find affordable, comprehensive, and text-focused Bible studies.

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**Seeking a PASTOR**  
Wesley Chapel in West Monroe, LA, a non-denominational church, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please email résumés to [melony@candorwealth.com](mailto:melony@candorwealth.com).

**THE CLASSIFIEDS**  
**HIT THE MARK EVERY TIME**

**AVAILABLE**  
Kenneth Austin is available for interims, revivals and 'fill-ins' for pastors. Please contact Kenneth at 225.718.9821 for more information.

**SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH OR FULLTIME YOUTH/CHILDREN MINISTER**  
Cherry Ridge Baptist Church is accepting résumés for a P/T Youth Minister or a F/T Youth/Children Minister. Résumés may be e-mailed to [crbapt@gmail.com](mailto:crbapt@gmail.com) or mailed to Cherry Ridge Baptist Church, 1005 Cherry Ridge Rd, Bastrop LA 71200.

**SEEKING A SENIOR PASTOR**  
Dalraida Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL, is accepting résumés for a senior pastor with a heart for the lost who is missional, evangelistic, and a discipler. Visit [//DalraidaBaptist.com/pastorsearch](http://DalraidaBaptist.com/pastorsearch) for more information.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC**  
First Baptist Church Pineville is now accepting applications and recommendations for Minister of Music. Résumés with cover letters may be mailed to First Baptist Church Pineville, attn: Stewart Holloway, 901 Main Street, Pineville, LA 71360 or emailed to [sholloway@fbcpineville.net](mailto:sholloway@fbcpineville.net)

**Seeking a full-time or part-time STUDENT MINISTER**  
Plain Dealing Baptist Church, Plain Dealing, LA is seeking a full-time or part-time student minister. Please send résumés to: Search Committee Plain Dealing Baptist Church, PO Box 543, Plain Dealing, LA 71064 or email to [pdbcla@gmail.com](mailto:pdbcla@gmail.com)

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**SEEKING ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION STRATEGIST**  
Vernon Baptist Association (VBA) is seeking to hire an Associational Mission Strategist VBA is a family of 40+ churches in Vernon Parish currently partnering with two new church plants, a vibrant benevolence ministry, and sits near a military base. Any interested candidates can submit résumés, ask questions, or request a job description by emailing [vernonbaptistassociation@gmail.com](mailto:vernonbaptistassociation@gmail.com) or mail to: VBA, 620 S 3rd St, Leesville, LA 71446.





**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](mailto: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

- **Beulah Baptist Church Pastor Charles Blanchard** was ordained January 29
- **Don Francis**, associate pastor at Eastwood Baptist Church, Haughton, has resigned to hospice chaplaincy.
- **Mike Anderson** is retiring as pastor at Haynes Avenue Baptist Church, Shreveport
- **Chris Keeny** has resigned as pastor at Westlake Baptist Church, Shreveport to go on the foreign mission field.
- **Kristen McAnelly** is the new children's minister at Covenant Benton.
- **Hunter Johnson** is the new music minister at Bonita Road Baptist Church, Bastrop.
- **Don White** has resigned as pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church, Calhoun to accept a position in Texas.
- **Oren, wife Ginger, Conner** is the new pastor at Greenwell Springs Baptist Church.
- **Matt Root** is the new interim Student Ministry Leader at Greenwell Springs Baptist Church.
- **Valerie Loolara** is the new Women's Ministry Leader at Greenwell Springs Baptist Church.
- **Chad, wife Kimberly, Estes** is the new pastor at Gravel Hill Baptist Church, Pitkin.

## REVIVAL

- Open Door Baptist Church, Ragley: **Bible Conference**, February 22-24, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Speakers: **Jerry Chaddick, Kevin Hamm, Bob Pittman, Don Savell, Rubin Weaver**. Worship: **Nicholas Costello and Randy Hayes**. Pastor: Sonny Simpson.
- Vick Baptist Church, Vick: **Revival**, February 22-24, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Speaker: **Steve Speer**. Worship: **The Dunlaps**. Pastor: Doobie Perkins.
- Goodwill Baptist Church, Oak Grove: **Revival**, February 26-March 3. Worship: **The Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor: Lucas House.

- **Senior Adult Revival**, February 27-March 1, Monday, Trinity Baptist Church, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, First Baptist Church Oak Grove, Wednesday, Kilbourne Baptist Church, 10 a.m. A potluck lunch following each service. Speaker: **Chad Ballard**, Worship: **Keith Welch**. Sponsored by Bayou Macon Baptist Association.
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Revival**, February 26-March 1, Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- Little Flock Baptist Church, Many: **Revival**, February 26-March 1, 2023, Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Steve Bennett**. Pastor: Ottis Branam.
- Sweetwater Baptist Church, Quitman: **Bible Conference**, March 1-3, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., luncheon and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, 9:30 a.m., luncheon and 6:30 p.m., Friday, 9:30 a.m. Evangelists: **Bill Britt, Jerry Chadwick Gary Bowlin, Bob Pittman, Luke Hockenjos, Herb Reavis**. Worship: **Ray Jones and Company**. Pastor: Wilton Wall.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Merryville: **Revival**, March 2-4, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Jason Hawley**. Worship: Calvary praise team. Pastor: Jim Miers.
- Jamestown Baptist Church, Jamestown: **Revival**, March 5-8, March 5, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday 6-8, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Luke Hockenjos**. Worship: **WeRcalled**. Pastor: Stan Foster.
- **Third annual Come to Jesus Revival**, March 5-8, 7 p.m. at LaSalle High School Gym. Evangelist: Sunday, Community potluck, **Bill Britt**, Monday, Ladies Night, **Miz Chocolate**, Picayune, Mississippi, Tuesday, Men's Night, **Bill Britt** and Wednesday, Youth Night, **Bubba Ezell**. Worship: **McClanahan Family, Broken Vessels and Kinetik**. Meals will be served at 5:30 p.m. and doors open at 6:30 p.m. The revival is hosted Pinehill Baptist Church, Olla, Christians Sharing Christ, Clarks, Kelly Baptist church, First Baptist Church, Olla and First Baptist Church, Tullos.
- First Baptist Church, Ferriday: **Revival**, March 10-12, Speaker: **Glenn Melvin**. Pastor: James Ulmer.
- First Baptist Church, Gilbert: **Revival**, March 12-15; Sunday 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Worship: **The Allens**. Pastor: Wyman Ezell.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Many: **Revival**, March 25-29. Evangelist: **Luke Hockenjos**. Pastor: Cyle Clayton.
- First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **Ignite '23 Revival**, March 26-29, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Jay**

**Lowder**. Pastor: James Pritchard.

■ Lismore Baptist Church, Jonesville: **Revival**, March 26-29. Evangelist: **Bob Pittman**. Pastor: Ken Gilmore.

■ First Baptist Church, Dry Prong: **Revival at the BFit22 Auditorium**, March 26-29, Sunday, 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Revival services are provided by cooperation of Baig Creek Baptist Churches. For more information, call Daryl Stagg, association mission strategist at the Baptist Mission Center, 318.449.4353.

## LAGNIAPPE

■ First Baptist Church, Ferriday: **Surplus chairs to be given away** at (no cost), 100 for children (wooden) and 35 theater chairs for adults. Call Bill Beasley. First Baptist Church, Ferriday, 601.807.5237.

■ Mystic Baptist Church, Fields: **Seeking a pastor**. Mystic Baptist Church is seeking a bi-vocational Southern Baptist pastor. This position entails conducting Sunday morning and Sunday evening worship services and Wednesday night prayer service. Applicant must be a leader who is prayerful, wise and steadfast: must be people oriented and possess strong pastoral skills. Should have the ability to assimilate with the people and culture of Mystic Baptist Church. This individual should be passionate in reaching out to the youth and young adults in our community. Housing is available and salary will be discussed. Contact Gary Wood 337-340-6075 or email a résumé to [mysticbaptistchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:mysticbaptistchurch@yahoo.com).

■ First Baptist Church, Covington: **Adults 55+ Spring Celebration will feature Terry Blackwood**, a Grammy award winning gospel singer and backup vocalist with Elvis Presley on Tuesday, March 21, at 10 a.m. in the Worship Center. ONLINE registration is REQUIRED at [www.fbccov.org/adults-55](http://www.fbccov.org/adults-55). Cost is \$10, payable at the door, which includes lunch at noon. Deadline to register is noon on Friday, March 17. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.

■ Calvary Baptist Church, Tullos: **Mark Lanier in concert**, 11 a.m. February 26. Pastor: Norris Curry.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, March 2, noon. Speaker: **Louisiana state Senator, Glen Womack**, Louisiana District 32. Please RSVP to <https://fbcpineville.secure2.agroup.com/events/firstatfirst/2022-01-05+11%3A50%3A00>. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

■ Second Baptist Church, Jackson: **Mark Lanier in concert**, March 2, 11 a.m. Pastor: Clark Foshee.

■ First Baptist Church, Slaughter: **Mark Lanier in concert**, March 2, 6 p.m. Pastor: Basil Wicker.

■ Maurepas Baptist Church, Maurepas: **Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert with the Bibletones**, March 5, 10 a.m. Pastor: Glynn Reine.

■ Lighthouse Baptist Church, Independence: **Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert with the Bibletones**, March 5, 6 p.m. Pastor: Gene Hoyt.

■ Kingsville Baptist Church, Pineville: **Central Louisiana Baptist Association missions and ministry fair**, March 5, 5-7 p.m. the event schedule includes worship, a message of encouragement from Louisiana Baptist Church Planting Director James Jenkins and a time for participants to visit tables of various state and national missions' organizations. **For more information, contact Rick Bullock, pastor of College Drive Baptist Church and the fair's organizer at [gmbull50@yahoo.com](mailto:gmbull50@yahoo.com), or 318.729.7199.** Pastor: Bart Walker.

■ University of New Orleans, New Orleans: **Casting Crowns Healer Tour at Lakefront Arena**, March 9, 7 p.m. Worship: **Casting Crowns with We Are Messengers and Ben Fuller**. For tickets, go to <https://www.eventticketscenter.com/casting-crowns-new-orleans-03-09-2023/5462542/t>

■ Heymann Performing Arts Center, Lafayette: **Casting Crowns Healer Tour at Lakefront Arena**, March 23, 7 p.m. Worship: **Casting Crowns with We Are Messengers and Ben Fuller**. <https://www.eventticketscenter.com/casting-crowns-lafayette-03-23-2023/5462545/t>

■ New Hope Baptist Church, Jennings: **Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert**, March 11, 6 p.m. Pastor: Eric Crochet.

■ Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: **Jeff and Sheri Easter -- Sweethearts of Gospel Music**, March 17, 7 p.m. Pastor: David Newton.

■ First Baptist Church, Moss Bluff: **Rend Collective and special guest Sean Curran on the Whosoever Tour**, March 18, 7 p.m. Get your tickets now as they are going quickly. [https://www.ticketweb.com/event/the-whosoever-tour-with-rend-first-moss-bluff-tickets/12888895?pl=transparentprod&REFID=digital&fbclid=IwAROLqxssJg1qqg22Bh0ezXPz0Qq\\_VyQ0zaw3nqawTP-wQ43YQua\\_NLSnuAw](https://www.ticketweb.com/event/the-whosoever-tour-with-rend-first-moss-bluff-tickets/12888895?pl=transparentprod&REFID=digital&fbclid=IwAROLqxssJg1qqg22Bh0ezXPz0Qq_VyQ0zaw3nqawTP-wQ43YQua_NLSnuAw). Pastor: Bryan Carter.

■ Harmony Baptist Church, Delhi: **Sanctuary Quartet in concert**, March 19, 5 p.m. Pastor: Russell Caldwell.

■ First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **DNow**, March 24-25, 7-10 p.m.; Sunday Services, March 26, 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m. Speaker: **Jay Lowder, Harvest Ministries**. Pastor: James Pritchard.

■ Midway Baptist Church, Bedico: **Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert**, March 26, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Daniel Breithaupt.

■ Bayou Vista Baptist Church: **Annual Gulf Coast Music Celebration**, March 26, 6 p.m.

■ Sale Street Baptist Church, Lake Charles: **Matt Papa Live**, March 30, 7 p.m. Cost: free event. Pastor: Drew Mills.

■ **Inaugural Camp Harris 4-Person Golf Scramble Fundraiser**, April 1 at Trails End Golf Course, Arcadia. Cost: \$500 for four-man team. Remit to Harris Baptist Assembly Camp 2800 Harris Rd, Minden, La. 71055. For more information call Harry O'Brown, camp manager, at 318.455.5012 or Michael Sanders, tournament director at 318.458.6100.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **Only the Beginning Tour**, March 30, 7 p.m. Special Guests: **Big Daddy Weave, Hannah Kerr and the Young Escape**. Tickets: [www.ticketweb.com/event/only-the-beginning-tour-with-first-baptist-church-tickets/12945895?pl=transparentprod&REFID=digital](https://www.ticketweb.com/event/only-the-beginning-tour-with-first-baptist-church-tickets/12945895?pl=transparentprod&REFID=digital). Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

## 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.

WFB ZJVJO DLV BQVYFCV QW VYJ ZLPLKJ; LWS L SLGDJP

KLGI CWVF YQG, DLMQWI, VYFC LPDF BLDV BQVY XJDCD FR

ILPQPJJ.

GLVVYJB VBJWVM-DQU: DQUVM-WQWJ

Clues:  
F = O; T = V

Answer to January 26 Scripture Crypto:  
Joshua twenty-four:three

— Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries —  
**IMMEDIATE JOB OPENINGS!**

## Social Workers Needed

Two full-time social workers needed: one for Alexandria and one for Baton Rouge. Positions include salary, benefits, and paid vacation. Minimal requirement: LMSW. 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.

Send resume to: Susan Nolan [atsnolan@lbch.org](mailto:atsnolan@lbch.org) or LBCH,  
PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.



& FAMILY MINISTRIES [www.lbch.org](http://www.lbch.org)



# Souls from page 6

projects. “Crossover’ and ‘Serve Tour’ ground us in what makes us Southern Baptists, or Great Commission Baptists, in the first place – missions,” said Brian, also community ministries strategist for the New Orleans Baptist Association and pastor of Vieux Carre Baptist

Church, New Orleans. “We partner together because God is able to do more through us when we are working together, sharing the Gospel in word and in our work. “Specifically, with ‘Serve Tour,’ and as a pastor in downtown New Orleans, one thing I find myself trying to commu-

nicate with folks about the reality of ministry here is that compassion ministry is our urban apologetic,” he continued. “Serving our communities is how we are going to make the Gospel make sense to a people in need. “Crossover’ and ‘Serve Tour’ help to center the national activities of Southern Baptists on the local churches here in our region and the communities they serve,” he said.

“We always talk about national entities existing to serve the local church, and this is a tangible opportunity to do just that. There’s probably going to be a lot of coverage in press and on social about what it is Southern Baptists are gathering to do in New Orleans this year, and I would hope that we can truthfully answer by saying we came here to love and to serve the people of this community

in the name of Jesus.” **For more information, visit [namb.net/crossover](http://namb.net/crossover) or text NOLA to 888123.**

# Gates from page 3

the LBC RA Congress (a weekend missions conference for first to sixth grade boys) and other activities around the state. In addition to running Gates Law Firm in Winnfield as an attorney, he also serves as a judge for the City Court of Winnfield and adjunct professor at Northwestern State University, where he teaches in the pre-law and paralegal studies program.

“We are excited for Keith to join our team,” said Joye Smith, affinity networks manager for national WMU. “He brings a wealth of experience as an RA leader in the church as well as serving on the state RA leadership team in Louisiana. Keith has a vision for RA and in leading boys and students to grow in missions awareness and involvement.”

RAs is WMU’s missions group for boys in grades 1–6, and Challengers is for male 7th–12th graders. Youth on Mission is WMU’s coed mission organization for students in grades 7–12.

# Prayer from page 9

courageous leadership. Our nation is desperate for courageous leadership. And courageous leadership comes from being with God and knowing that God is with you.”

Robert Green, pastor of Colquitt Baptist Church, Vivian, said Jesus can heal past hurts.

Much like He comforted the friends of Lazarus after his death in John 11, Jesus can do the same for others today, he said.

“The God that we serve, He’s ready to help us with our broken hearts and our problems,” he said. “Let God have that pain. Let him have your broken heart. He’s a heart fixer and He will fix your heart tonight if you will just let Him.”

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## Spring Cleaning

**A**re you ready for spring cleaning? It’s that time of the year again when many families set aside time to tackle various projects around the home. For some, it’s a deep clean from top to bottom. For others, it may just be tidying up the ever-expanding clutter. Whatever it is, the goal is to get your house in order.

Another aspect of getting your house in order oftentimes overlooked is to review your estate plan. A recent study found that the vast majority of Americans have no estate plan in place, much less an updated estate plan. As followers of Christ, we recognize that everything we have in this life has been given to us by God. Our responsibility is to be good stewards of all these gifts, whether it be a few thousand dollars or multimillions.

One simple way to accomplish this is by having an updated and properly established estate plan. A good estate plan should not only provide for your loved ones but should also have an impact on the Kingdom. Consider your church and the various ministries you have supported during your life. By including them in your estate plan, you can continue to Advance the Kingdom and encourage a legacy of giving for the next generation.

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

**Jeffrey Steed**, Executive Director  
**Jared Price**, Director of Gift Planning  
**Jerry Love**, Planned Giving Consultant



**A good estate plan should not only provide for your loved ones but should also have an impact on the Kingdom.**

## MARCH 2023 Last Will & Testament

A Last Will & Testament can be a great option for leaving assets to your loved ones, church, and other ministries; however, it must be properly established to carry out your final wishes.

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

## APRIL 2023 Retirement Accounts

Don’t forget about your retirement accounts when updating your estate plan. There are numerous benefits to your church or other ministries receiving distributions from your retirement accounts.

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

## MAY 2023 Endowments

By establishing an endowment or a donor advised fund, you can ensure ongoing financial support to your church or other ministries during your life and even beyond.

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

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