



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

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Submitted photo

More than 1,300 individuals have made a decision to follow Christ since a combined revival and crusade began in October 2022. The South Louisiana Awakening Tent Crusade paused during the month of April but resumes May 4.

Despite perils, Louisiana Baptists continue overseas ministry in Haiti

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – Escalating violence may have forced Louisiana Reach Haiti to halt most operations in the country, however, the ministry has found other ways to share the hope of Jesus in Haiti.

Ministry President Darrin Badon said he wishes LRH could have continued “business as usual” in Haiti, but he is grateful the Lord has allowed the ministry to move forward despite the many challenges. The ministry is a partnership between the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Haiti Baptist Convention, Louisiana Baptist churches and the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home & Family Ministries.

“It’s been a faith builder,” Badon said. “We may not be able to send teams or have as many ministries happening there as in the past. But we do have kids in our Children’s Village and staff who depend on us to provide for them each month. The kids still need the Gospel, too, and the board members feel like we can’t fail them.

“We are still in the trenches,” he continued. “We are still restoring families and still are making a difference in the lives of them and the staff; and we need help to be able to continue to do that.”

BACKGROUND

In January 2010, Haiti was devastated by an earthquake that killed more than 250,000 people and left hundreds of thousands homeless.

See HAITI, page 2

RIDING A SOUL-WINNING WAVE

1,300 saved, hundreds disciplined in Hammond

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

HAMMOND, La. (LBM) – A 20-week extended revival and tent crusade in south Louisiana has recorded more than 1,300 salvation decisions, and hundreds have been enrolled in discipleship programs.

Moreover, all signs point to the meetings continuing for the foreseeable future.

According to local reports, 513 individuals surrendered their hearts and lives to Jesus during revival services, extended five times, Oct. 17–Nov. 18, at Old Zion Hill Baptist Church, Independence. Additionally, more than 800 covenanted to follow Him during the South Louisiana Awakening Tent Crusade, Hammond,



Submitted photo

Old Zion Hill Baptist Church Pastor Gary Dennis baptized one of the new converts who made a decision during the South Louisiana Awakening Tent Crusade.

See SOUL, page 3

Cowboy Church ropes in lost souls

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

LEESVILLE, La. (LBM) – When Jason Nolde left an established pastorate in early 2022 to start Branded

for Christ Cowboy Church, he believed God would use the new church plant to reach a special people group.

A year later, his faithfulness has been rewarded

with an attendance increase from a core group of 10 who met for home-based Bible study in its infancy to 80 who now

See ROPES, page 7

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Haiti from page one

Louisiana Baptists were among the first to provide disaster relief, and for nearly a decade they have maintained a ministry presence through mission trips, sometimes multiple times each year.

After the earthquake response, some members of the Louisiana Baptist team felt led to create a permanent presence in Haiti and partnered with Pastor Odvald Louis and his members at New Evangelical Baptist Church in Croix-Des-Bouquets. The Haitian congregation and Louisiana mission teams combined to complete a Children's Village in Croix-des-Bouquets. They also teamed up to dig a well and built a church building, school and medical in neighboring Canaan.

However, the facilities in both cities were overtaken

and vandalized by gangs in early 2022, Badon said.

REFOCUSED MINISTRY

LRH has now reorganized its efforts on multiple fronts:

-- In February 2022, escalating gang violence forced the Children's Village to relocate to the Florida House, a Florida Baptist Convention-owned home for missionaries in Port-au-Prince. The facility houses 21 children and six staff members.

-- Meanwhile God opened doors in New Orleans, allowing LRH leaders to help relocate Odvald Louis and his family from Haiti, which he fled after surviving an attempted poisoning by gang members.

-- Additionally, LRH began supporting Connect International Church, a congregation in New Orleans

that in April 2022 formed and hosted an international church (led by a Haitian American graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) that reaches out to Haitians and other nationalities. In July 2022, LRH partnered with Fellowship Church, Prairieville, and worked with this newly formed congregation to conduct Vacation Bible School for 30 Haitian children. This year, they are hoping to hold another VBS and assist in other evangelistic efforts.

"It's been neat to meet, see and serve alongside Haitian Americans and those who moved here to the US," Badon said. "This is God's way of telling is that while things aren't what we hoped they would be in Haiti, He still is working through Haitians right here in Louisiana."

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CORRECTION

In the March 30, 2023 issue of the *Baptist Message* a headline (OLD -- SBC EC hires *Guidepost Solutions for additional role*) was incorrect/imprecise. The headline (NEW -- SBC task force recommends pro-LGBT *Guidepost Solutions for additional role*) should have read.

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SOULS from page one

Nov. 28-March 31, a multi-denominational spiritual outreach.

The meetings were paused for April; however, they will resume May 4-5 and will continue after that on Thursday and Friday evenings, according to OZHBC Pastor Gary Dennis.

“The continuation of the meetings is for the purpose of reaching the huge number of people along the Interstate 12 corridor who are not connected to Christ and His Church,” Dennis told the *Baptist Message*. “The evangelist (D.R. Harrison) has emphasized repeatedly that the tent is a soul-saving station intended to reach people and connect them with a disciple-making church.”

Area churches have formed a follow-up team that developed a strategy to connect every new believer from both spiritual events with a local congregation in order for them to begin discipleship training:

- each person who came forward received an email or text encouraging them to find a church home;
- pastors were given contact information and have pledged to reach out to everyone on the list; and
- churches were prepped to form new believer classes.

So far, OZHBC has been blessed to receive 100 adults who made decisions during the awakening of the lost that accompanied the revivals, and each has been enrolled into discipleship classes. Additionally, five new small groups have been formed since January, and additional groups are planned for the summer.

“The point of this is for them to turn around and go through it with others,” OZHBC Associate Pastor Blaine St. Germain said. “We are pursuing the discipleship model of Jesus, teaching everyone who is going through the book ‘how to be’ and ‘then make’ disciples.”

Louis Husser, pastor of Crossgate Church, a Louisiana Baptist congregation in Robert, has led his entire church through discipleship on Sunday mornings since early February. For six weeks, more than 60 people have gathered to learn more about the fundamentals of

being a fully devoted follower of Christ through messages on salvation, baptism, gracious giving and sharing one’s faith.

“God is stirring in people’s hearts that don’t even know there’s a tent in town and they are coming, too,” Husser said. “So, it’s incredible that the Holy Spirit is leading people to come into our church who don’t even know about the revival.”

“I’m 68 and have seen three great awakenings in my 50 years of ministry,” he continued. “We are seeing another one. It’s a God movement that has come from a prayer that a group of us pastors prayed three years ago when we met to ask God to bring revival to our community.”

Randy Smith, pastor of Cross Brand Cowboy Church, Loranger, also with the LBC, has seen worship attendance increase to as high as 163, for a church that averages 100. He said 40 adults have participated in Wednesday evening discipleship classes, and several are being disciplined in one-to-one settings.

“We have come together a lot more since the revival and have felt the presence of God like we haven’t felt in a long time,” he said. “God is moving in our lives and hearts and people are growing deeper in faith through digging into the Word. That’s pretty exciting for a pastor to see.”

OZHBC member David Knight said God has used the revival to transform him from an angry man to a sold-out Christ follower. Amidst an unpleasant work

environment, Knight attended the second night of the revival, and the Holy Spirit convicted him of the need to change. From that point, Knight felt at peace and soon asked others to forgive him for taking out his anger on them.

“God had dealt with me for 20 years, but I never gave

in,” he said. “That night, DR preached on forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit kicked me out of the chair. I could not get to my feet fast enough to the altar. Even though I was saved, I have never been one to tell others about church and Jesus. He flipped the

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Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief chainsaw team members trained how to operate equipment. More than 80 new volunteers were trained at six locations, and two new teams were formed



Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief Associate Mark Morelock instructed a volunteer during a training session.

LBDR trains 234 for disaster response

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – During recent training sessions, Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief officials trained 234 volunteers to serve in future responses to natural disasters and other emergencies.

Held at six locations around the state in January, February and March, the sessions included training for mud-out, feeding, chainsaw, chaplaincy and shower/laundry operations. More than 80 new volunteers were trained, and two new teams were formed.

The training followed a fruitful year of ministry for LBDR teams.

In 2022, LBDR teams responded to multiple tornadoes across the state and completed 27 rebuild projects at homes and churches damaged by Hurricane Ida in Houma a year earlier. Projects ranged from smaller jobs like replacing fence boards to more complex ones such as drywall



Submitted photo

Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief Strategist Stan Statham encouraged volunteers during a training session. In all, 234 volunteers were trained at six locations to serve in future responses to natural disasters and other emergencies.

installation, electrical line re-wiring and plumbing replacement.

Teams also were deployed to Naples, Florida, a community impacted by Hurricane Ian in 2022. Units stationed at First Baptist Church, Naples, Oct. 3-Oct. 28, 2022, prepared more than 102,000 meals for residents, and another 4,000 for Southern Baptist DR team members. Teams also were able to

complete 373 mud-out jobs and celebrated with 28 individuals who made decisions to follow Christ.

LBDR team members were assisted by Texas Baptist Men, the Ohio Baptist Convention and an estimated 400 members of FBC, Naples, who hosted the three state conventions.

Additionally, Louisiana

See TRAINING, page 6

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Clara Springs Camp: 70 years of Kingdom impact

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

PELICAN, La. (LBM) – During its 70th anniversary celebration, March 24-26, several hundred people gathered to celebrate the life-changing impact that Clara Springs Baptist Camp had on them.

Held on the grounds of the camp in Pelican, the event featured the traditional Fourth Friday Fish Fry as well as concerts by the Southern Plainsmen and Vines and Company. There also were fireworks, games, and the Overcoming Obstacles Ministry’s American Ninja Warrior course. Additionally, the weekend included a reunion of campers and group time for sharing memories of Clara Springs.

Bubba Mills, who has served as director since 2007, said the celebration reminded him about God’s hand on the camp for 70 years.

“God has brought us through the good and bad times and blessed us tremendously,” Mills told the Baptist Message. “Most

people would say God has blessed the camp through the buildings on the grounds and that certainly is true. But blessings also have come from those who have accepted Christ here and the hundreds we know who committed to ministry and who are now serving Christ all over the world.”

LASTING LEGACY

Clara Springs was born when the idea for the camp was presented at the 1952 District 8 Baptist Convention Annual Meeting. After the meeting, Clara Lord passed by the vacant Wallace Community School building and donated 15 acres of land adjacent to the property. She also spearheaded efforts to purchase the former school facility.

During the first summer of operations in 1953, campers utilized the old school building for a dormitory and chapel, an open pavilion for a dining hall, a pond for swimming, a grassy area for tent camping and springs for water.

Since then, Clara

Springs has expanded its facilities and ministry offerings. Last year, more than 7,000 people participated in various camps, retreats, conferences and the Fourth Friday Fish Fry.

Ron Thompson, missions coordinator for District 8 Baptist Convention, said God has blessed the camp with directors like Mills and his wife, Mandi, who have demonstrated true servant leadership.

“When we think of all God has done through the ministry of Clara Springs Baptist Camp and Conference Center - the boys and girls who came to camp for a few days of fun, and found their Savior Jesus; the teenagers searching for significance who surrendered to the call of minis-



Submitted photo

Clara Springs Camp Director Bubba Mills and his wife, Mandi, were all smiles during the 70th anniversary celebration of the camp.

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Clara Springs from page 5

try; the pastors who found a few days of respite from the exhaustion of the never ending challenges of ministry - when we reflect on these stories of all that God has done in the past, we are overjoyed at the ministry of this camp," Thompson said. "But the exciting thing is that God is not finished. Just as Hebrews reminds us, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever,' we trust that God will continue to do great things like these this year, and in the future, and things even more than we can



Submitted photo

Youngsters enjoyed games throughout the Clara Springs Baptist Encampment's 70th anniversary celebration, March 24 and 26.

imagine.

"As I reflect on the past of Clara Springs, no one could have imagined in 1953 what Mrs. Clara

Lord's dream would become," Thompson continued. "And as I think of the future, I don't want to limit what the next 70 years will be for Clara Springs, for I am confident God will 'do exceedingly abundantly beyond what we can ask or imagine' and countless lives will be forever changed on the parcel of ground dedicated to God as Clara Springs Baptist Camp. To God be the glory for the great things He has done."

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M-JAM to youth: Have Christ-filled joy

By Staff
 Baptist Message

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – Nearly 400 students, first-sixth grades, will learn how to have joy in Christ during the upcoming Louisiana Baptist Missions Jamboree.

Known as M-JAM, the event will take place May 6 at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth. The "joyful in hope" theme for M-JAM is based on Romans 12:12.

"M-JAM will be a fun, high energy day filled with mission education opportunities that your church will not want to miss," Louisiana Baptist Children and Youth Mission Education Strategist Erin Jones told the *Baptist Message*. "We will learn how to be joyful in hope as we

learn to live on mission for God. Don't wait to register. We can't wait to see you there."

Illusionist David Laflin will be the main speaker. According to his website, davidandteesha.com, Laflin and his wife, Teesha, have been featured at the NCAA Final Four, Fortune 500 company events and conferences and conventions all over the world.

Check-in will take place from 9:00-9:45 a.m., and the conference will run from 10 a.m.—2:30 p.m., including breakout sessions. The cost to attend M-JAM is \$40, which includes a snack and lunch. T-shirts are \$15.

Register via louisianabaptists.org/event/2023-m-jam/; or call 1.800.622.6549 or 318.448.3402. Registration deadline is April 21.

Training from page 4

Baptists donated to DR efforts through financial contributions and supplies.

LBDR Strategist Stan Statham said he is thankful for Louisiana Baptists who see the value in disaster relief efforts.

"We continue to grow and make progress," Statham told the *Baptist Message*. "Our ministry is volunteer

driven and it's crucial to have folks trained to respond to the next disaster."

While large group disaster relief training sessions have ended for 2023, additional smaller group and on-line sessions will be available throughout the year.

For more information, e-mail Kelly.tam@louisianabaptists.org.

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Branded for Christ Cowboy Church Pastor Jason Nolde prayed at the end of a Saturday worship service at the Wagon Wheel Riding Club, Leesville.

Ropes from page one

gather for worship in a Leesville municipal building. Importantly, Nolde has baptized five new converts and seen even more grow deeper in their Christian walks.

Nolde, formerly pastor of Canaan Baptist Church, Leesville, credits a focus on relationships, discipleship and simplicity as the keys to growth.

“Everything we will do is inspired by the western culture,” Nolde told the Baptist Message. “We seek the lost, seek the fallen away and seek to grow.”

Branded for Christ Cowboy Church was recognized in November 2022 as the 300th Louisiana Baptist church planted since 2010.

The congregation, which held its kickoff service at the Vernon Parish Rodeo Arena in Leesville on Nov. 13, 2021, conducts several targeted outreaches every three months. They have continued meeting in homes on Wednesdays since July but added a Sunday worship service after their kickoff service.

Outreach events have featured Wild Horse Ministries Founder Paul Daily, who demonstrates how training a horse is similar to training a non-believer to become a Christian; a goat roping and mutton busting exhibition (riding and racing sheep); and a rodeo. Importantly, the church assesses each event for mission viability using the “five C test” of the American Fellowship

of Cowboy Churches: Christ-centered, culturally relevant, constitutional, cost effective and consensus reached by its members.

Looking to the future, Branded for Christ Cowboy Church eventually plans to move into the former “feed and seed” store in downtown Leesville.

The building will allow for additional growth, more ministry opportunities and a visible presence in the community.

Other plans include the purchase a 25-acre tract that will include a big barn (to host services)

and an arena (for fellowship and outreach).

“We are super excited about what the Lord has

already done, for what He has in store through this ministry He has planted, and for the spiritual

growth of our community,” Nolde said. “No doubt, the Lord has great plans.”

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Task Force drops pro-LGBT Guidepost Solutions

By Will Hall
Message executive editor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM) – The chairman of the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force of the Southern Baptist Convention has announced that the group, which has responsibility for developing and implementing a sexual abuse reporting system, has dropped plans to hire the controversial Guidepost Solutions for the project.

In a statement to *The Baptist Paper*, a sister publication of *The Alabama Baptist* newspaper,

Marshall Blalock, ARITF chair, said the group had voted “for the sake of building widespread confidence in the Ministry Check website, to seek firms other than Faith Based Solutions and Guidepost Solutions to create and manage the Ministry Check system.”

The SBC has been under fire for having hired the

pro-gay Guidepost Solutions, which produced the disputed “Report of the Independent Investigation” about alleged mishandling of sex abuse by the SBC EC. Likewise, the SBC Executive Committee has been criticized for hiring the pro-LGBT Bradley law firm of Nashville to represent it in a related investigation by the Department of Justice.

Southern Baptists were similarly unhappy when the ARITF announced this year that it had hired Guidepost Solutions to develop the “Ministry Check” website.

For instance, the Florida Baptist Convention’s State Board of Missions took the special step of adopting a resolution “acting ad interim for the Florida Baptist State Convention” that “urges the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force and the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention to immediately cease further engagement and

CULTURALNEWS

negotiations with Guidepost Solutions and its subsidiary Faith Based Solutions.”

Blalock told *The Baptist Paper* there “were many factors going into the decision.” However, he said “primarily” the task force had reversed itself because “breaking up the work into different parts would allow us to search for smaller firms to do the constituent parts.”

“There are advantages to having one firm do it all, but in the estimation of our team, the unity of the Baptists around the country outweighed those advantages,” he wrote. “The work will not be compromised by dividing the responsibilities, which was our major concern. The messengers voted in Anaheim to build the Ministry Check website to help churches identify abusers so that they cannot

quietly go from church to church, causing harm to vulnerable people. The ARITF is working under that mandate and we understand the sacred urgency of this task.”

In a related development, the North American Mission Board has hired the pro-LGBT D.C. law firm Wilmer Hale to represent it in the Mississippi lawsuit *McRaney V. NAMB*.

SBC EC reports continued downward CP trend

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM) – The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee released the March financial report, April 5, showing that gifts through the Cooperative Program had dropped 1.18 percent while designated giving for the month had increased 5.09 percent compared to March 2022.

Meanwhile, year-to-

date figures show both funding channels were in decline.

From October 2022 through March 2023, CP contributions were down 7.62 percent overall compared to the same timeframe for the last fiscal year. Likewise, designated giving was down 3.9 percent year-to-date for the same months.

Both the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering were down for the new fiscal year through the end of March.

Only eight states showed a positive CP trend for the year, including three “old line” Southern states, Louisiana, North Carolina and a combined Virginia (which has two state conventions). Louisiana and North Carolina also showed a positive trend in designated giving.

See CULTURAL, page 12

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Souls from page 3

switch that night and I cried a while. That next morning it was like the weight of the world was on my shoulder. So, I texted those guys and ended up getting right with a bunch of them. It was at that point I realized God was using me and wanted to do something with me.”

Knight said he was not useful to God “with the way I was acting.” Since surrendering all to Christ and finding peace, he has obtained a teaching job “out of the clear blue ... and it’s a job I love.”

“The revival has made me aware of things that God may have blessed me with different things in life,” he explained. “When God called me and I finally answered, He made my life completely better. When you’re that angry person all the time and then you’re not, that’s nothing but the Holy Spirit.”

OZHBC member Garrett Kimble said his daughter accepted Christ and his wife and son restored fellowship with the Lord during the early part of the revival.

Another memorable moment was the opportunity to lead a man to Christ in the church parking lot who had intended to commit an evil act against another individual.

Kimble said any other time his hardened heart would have prevented him from being willing to share Christ with this type of individual, but His engagement with the Holy Spirit in the

services changed him.

“The Holy Spirit changed my heart and showed me that the man needed Jesus,” he said. “God used my weakness that day to witness to him.

“Overall, this revival has had a tremendous, positive effect on my life and my family. Specifically, the Holy Spirit has shown me that true, Holy Spirit revival starts by individual, self-evaluation, prayer and repentance,” he continued. “I’m so joyful that God chose my church and my community for such a powerful spiritual awakening. We have already observed our young people develop a hunger for the word of God. I truly believe that this is only the beginning, and we will see the lasting effects for generations to come.”

BACKGROUND

From the first revival service, which began Oct. 17, a spirit of expectancy was among the community of Independence, according to Dennis. Each night, the pews were packed out in the Old Zion Hill Baptist Church worship center and participants filled the altar as they cried out to God about their respective needs for Him.

In early November, in anticipation of the tent crusade, 355 individuals signed up to pray 30 minutes each day; and two weeks before the crusade, hundreds more gathered for prayer on site,

he said.

Additionally, 81 were trained as decision counselors.

Meanwhile, due to the extent of revival among believers and awakening among the lost, the initial crusade (originally scheduled through Oct. 21) was extended five times through Nov. 18 (with pauses at various times, including for regular weekly worship).

Once that prolonged event ended, the tent crusade preparations began.

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SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC
First Baptist Church Leesville is seeking a part-time minister of music. Send résumés: Attn: Robbie Endris, FBC Leesville, P O Box 1568, Leesville, LA 71496 or email to robendris@gmail.com

SEEKING A WORSHIP LEADER
First Baptist Church Mansfield, La is seeking a worship leader. Flexible hours, salary negotiable Please send résumés to churchoffice@firstmansfield.org

SEEKING FULL-TIME PASTOR
Grayson Baptist Church in Grayson, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please email your résumés to graysonbaptist@att.net

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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 or mailed to Cherry Ridge Baptist Church, 1005 Cherry Ridge Rd, Bastrop LA 71200.

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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@baptist-message.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

- **Dusty C. Durbin** is the new associational mission strategist for the Evangeline Baptist Association.
- **Tanner, wife Sami, Dryden** of Deville was licensed to the Gospel ministry at HIS Church.
- **Mark Bevil** is the new interim pastor at Westlake Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Rick Daniels** is the new pastor at Belcher Baptist Church, Belcher.
- **Ricky Boone** has resigned as pastor of Center Point Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- **Eric, wife Jeanette, Green** is the new pastor at Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Houma.
- **James Hester** is the new Bienville Parish Sheriff's Office department chaplain. He continues in his role as pastor of Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold.

HOMECOMING

- Bogue Chitto Baptist Church, Mt. Hermon: **150-year celebration homecoming**, May 6, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: **Joe Wiggins, former pastor**. Lunch after the service followed by afternoon singing. Pastor: Calvin Crowe.
- Longview Baptist Church, Deville: **99th Homecoming Celebration**, May 7, 10:30 a.m. Guest speaker: Bill Floyd. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Pastor: Robby Poole.
- Herringville Baptist Church, Lake Providence: **100th Homecoming Celebration**, May 7, 10:30 a.m. Guest speaker: **Jay Morgan, Bayou**

Macon Baptist Associational Mission Strategist. A fellowship lunch will follow the services. Bring a covered dish and join us. The church will be receiving an offering for the up-keep of the cemetery during the service. Pastor: Donnie Linson.

REVIVAL

- Bonita Road Baptist Church, Log Cabin: **Revival**, April 30-May 3, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Speaker: **Craig Franklin**. Music: **Broken Vessels**. Pastor: Casey Johnson.
- Bonita Road Baptist Church, Mer Rouge: **Revival**, May 4-6, 7 p.m. Speaker: **Rubin Weaver**. Music: **McLanahan Family Singers**. Pastor: Casey Johnson.
- New Friendship Baptist Church, Pollock: **Tent revival**, May 7-10, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Speaker: **Brandon Jones**, Music: **Laura Jones**, May 7, 11 a.m.; Speaker: **Dick DeBusk**, Music: **Bethel Baptist praise team**, 6 p.m.; Speaker: **Travis Sanders**, Music: **Hebron Baptist praise team**, May 8; Speaker: **Kevin Goodman**, Music: **First Baptist Church, Dry Prong**, May 9; Speaker: **Craig McCain**, Music: **New Friendship Baptist praise team**, May 10. Pastor: Lloyd Whitman.
- Bellevue Road Baptist Church, Haughton: **Revival**, April 22-23, Saturday, 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Evangelist: **Scotty Teague**. Worship: **Fourth Watch**. Pastor: McKinley Basco.
- Heflin Baptist Church, Heflin: **Revival**, April 23-26, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **David Hanna**. Worship: **The Lisembys**. Pastor: Ronnie Osborne.
- Welcome Home Baptist Church, Columbia: **Revival**, April 23-26, Sunday 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. nightly. **Evangelist Lyndon Longoria**, Music: **Rick and Jennifer Duckett**. Pastor: Jim McKeithen.
- Bethel Baptist Church, Bastrop: **Revival**, April 23-26, Sunday 10:30 & 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednes-

- day 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Rubin Weaver**. Worship: **Richard Ainsworth**. Pastor: Tim Post.
- Gloster Baptist Church, Gloster: **Hope Revived 2023: Strength and Hope**, April 24-27, Sunday 6:30 p.m., Speaker: **Church Pourciau, pastor at Broadmoor Baptist Church**. Worship: **WeRcalled**; April 25, 8:30 p.m. Speaker: **Leland Crawford, pastor of Minden Baptist Church**. Worship: **Scotty Blackwell and Minden Praise Team**; April 26, 8:30 p.m. Speaker: **Lane Corley, Louisiana Baptists**. Worship: **Ben Waites**; April 27, 8:30 a.m. **Hayden Slack (FCA)**. Worship: **Collective Team (Caleb & Jenni Robison, Susanna Yates, Chris Tubbs, Nick Parham, Ayden Burford, Scotty Blackwell, Rachel Chapman, Jake Chapman, Hunter Wheless, and Ben Waites**. Pastor: Ron McClellan.
- Southside Baptist Church Jonesboro: **Revival**, April 30-May 3. Sunday, 10:30 p.m. Speaker: **Steve Horn, Executive Director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention**. Sunday, 6 p.m., Speaker: **Lee Brand, former VP of the SBC**; Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Pastor: Wesley Venable.
- Sharon Baptist Church, Sharon: **Revival**, April 30-May 3. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell**. Worship: **Robert Grafton**. Pastor: Jeff Roberts.
- Little Pass Baptist Church, Charenton: **Revival**, May 7-10. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Chris Holloway.
- Martin Baptist Church, Coushatta: **Evangelism Training**, May 9. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Richard Kauffman.
- Martin Baptist Church, Coushatta: **Revival**, May 10. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Richard Kauffman.
- Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold: **Revival**, May 11, Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: James Hester.
- Liberty Baptist Church, Coushatta: **Revival**, May 12, Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Harry Bamberg.

- Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold: **Revival**, May 13 Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: James Hester.
- First Baptist Church, Benton: **Revival**, May 17-20, Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Robert Beadle.
- Hodge Baptist Church, Hodge: **Revival**, May 21-24. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Keith Thomas.
- Hillsdale Baptist Church, Amite: **Revival, concert, homecoming**, May 25-28, Friday, 7 p.m. **Chronicle in concert followed by revival**, Speaker: **Joe Hutto**, Saturday, 7 p.m., Speaker: **Joe Hutto**. Worship: **Katie McElveen**, Sunday, 11 am. **Homecoming revival service**, Speaker: **Joe Hutto**. Worship **Katie McElveen**. A potluck luncheon will follow Sunday worship. Pastor: Don Bassett.

LAGNIAPPE

- Bayou Baptist Association, Thibodaux: Pastor J.P. Cox will lead an **Israel Pilgrimage**, November 2-11. Cost: For only \$4,595 participants from New Orleans and other airports will tour **the Holy Land, Jordan River, The Temp Mount, and the Sea of Galilee**. Contact: UBC office (985) 446-5818 or JP Cox for more information. Pastor: J.P. Cox
- Louisiana Christian University: **Matthew West – My story your glory Tour**, April 27, 7 p.m. Cost: For a limited time select seats only \$22 +venue and ticketing fees.
- Eastside Baptist Church, Rayville: **The Louisiana Melody Boys in concert**, April 29, 5 p.m. Pastor: Chris Crawford.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Tullos: **Ben Waites in concert**, April 30, 10 a.m. Pastor: Norris Curry.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Tullos: **Ben Waites in concert**, April 30, 10 a.m. Pastor: Norris Curry.
- Dayspring Church, Ruston: **The Louisiana Melody Boys in concert**, April 30, 6 p.m. Pastor: J.E. Brown.
- Eastside Baptist Church, Rayville: **The Melody**

- Boys in concert**, April 29, 5 p.m. Pastor: Chris Crawford.
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, May 4, noon. Speaker: **Al Quartermont, Louisiana Christian University Coordinator, Department of convergence media**. Please RSVP to <https://fbcpineville.secure2.agroup.com/events/firstatfirst/2022-01-05+11%3A50%3A00>. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.
- Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Down East Boys in concert**, May 6, 5:30 p.m. Pastor: Terry Young.
- Rocky Branch Baptist Church, Farmerville: **Ben Waites in concert**, May 7, 10 a.m. Pastor: Stephen Murry.
- Bethel Baptist Church, Bastrop: **Ben Waites in concert**, May 7, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received. Pastor: Tim Post.
- Cypress Baptist Church, Benton: **Gaither's in concert**, May 12, 7 p.m. Performers: **Bill Gaither, Gaither Vocal Band, Wes Hampton, Adam Crabb, Todd Suttles, Reggie Smith**. Cost: \$32 general admission. For more information, call 855.484.1991, support@premierproductions.com. Pastor: John Fream.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria: **Gaither's in concert**, May 13, 6 p.m. Performers: **Bill Gaither, Gaither Vocal Band, Wes Hampton, Adam Crabb, Todd Suttles, Reggie Smith**. Cost: \$32 general admission. For more information, call 855.484.1991, support@premierproductions.com.
- Ridgecrest Conference Center, North Carolina: **A Ridgecrest Summer Staff Homecoming** June 1-4, at Ridgecrest (NC) Conference Center. This is for anyone who has ever served on summer staff at Ridgecrest. More information can be found on their website under Events. Ridgecrest Conference Center | Black Mountain NC Christian Conference Center. For questions, email: RBCC-summeralumni@gmail.com. Call Ridgecrest at 828-669-8022 for reservations.

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENINGS

On Monroe Campus

COTTAGE PARENTS:

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

Please send resume to: [Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org](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.

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



Scripture Crypto

The Scripture Crypto is a Bible verse in which one letter has been substituted for another, thus encoding the verse. To find out what the verse is, you must determine what each letter is a substitute for. An "a," for example, may stand for a "t" in this week's issue of the Scripture Crypto. Next week, "a" could stand for a "d." Each week, each letter is different. Solve by trial and error. The answer will be given next week. Note: All numerals, such as those in the scripture reference after the verse, are spelled out.

PVDOXFCP, QLVA TF XGG CITFUP AQYD RXPCVDP

XWWQDKTFU CQ CIV JGVPI; FQC BTCI VAVPVDOTWW, XP

RVFEGVXPVDP; LYC TF PTFUGVFVPP QJ IVXDC, JVXDTFU UQK;

WQQQPPTXFP CIDVV: JQYD

Clues:
A = Y; V = E

Answer to March 30 Scripture Crypto:
Mark twelve:thirty-four

Cultural from page 8

Charles Stanley enters Heaven at the age of 90

ATLANTA (LBM) – Charles Stanley, pastor

emeritus of the First Baptist Church in Atlanta and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, “passed away peacefully ... at his home,” April 18, according to a statement on fba.org.

He was 90 years old.

Stanley’s ministry spanned 65 years, 50 years as pastor of FBC Atlanta:

-- He served as SBC president in 1985 and 1986, during the grass-roots movement known

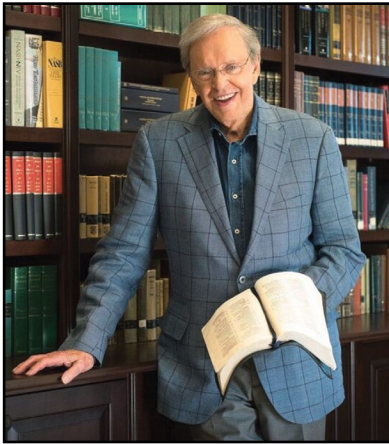
as the Conservative Resurgence, which helped change the theological direction of the national body.

-- He founded In Touch Ministries, a global evangelical broadcasting effort that reached millions around the world in more than 127 languages.

-- He published 70 books totaling 10 million copies.

The family asks that any tributes be made as donations to support the ongoing mission of In Touch Ministries.

A memorial site is accessible via charlesstanley.com.



Charles Stanley

Judge dismisses lawsuit against SWBTS, Patterson

PLANO, Texas (LBM) – U.S. District Judge Sean Jordan has dismissed claims related to a lawsuit against Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and its former president, Paige Patterson.

Jordan’s judgment against the allegations of negligence (regarding protection of the plaintiff) and defamation (based on statements by others, not Patterson) relating to a sexual assault on campus was issued “with prejudice,” meaning that the plaintiff, “Jane Roe,” cannot refile the claims, although she is able to appeal the ruling.

Jordan rejected portions of Roe’s evidence as “opinion” and “irrelevant,” noting “Patterson and SWBTS immediately notified local law enforcement authorities of Roe’s outcry,” and “Roe declined to pursue charges against Doe.”

Patterson was fired by SWBTS trustees in 2018 af-

ter “a series of media reports alleging that Patterson had committed various misdeeds while at SWBTS and his former institution, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (“SEBTS”), as well as a petition signed by thousands of Southern Baptist women criticizing Patterson for his past conduct,” according to court documents.

SWBTS trustees elect Dockery, president, and Hawkins, chancellor

FORT WORTH, Texas (LBM) – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees have elected David S. Dockery as the 10th president of the institution and O.S. Hawkins to the new role of chancellor.

Dockery had been serving as interim president, and Hawkins was acting as senior adviser and ambassador at large.

Dockery succeeds Adam Greenway who resigned amid trustee concerns of “dysfunctionality amongst senior leadership, budget

mismanagement, overspending resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars of deficits per month and attempts to pass the blame for these matters onto three different chief financial officers who were each removed,” according to an Oct. 18, 2022, SWBTS press release.

Greenway followed Paige Patterson who was fired in 2018 because of negative media reports and social media activism regarding women’s issues.

Dockery and Hawkins are SWBTS alumni.

Before serving in their temporary SWBTS roles, Dockery was on the SWBTS faculty (since 2019) and Hawkins was retired, after serving 25 years as president and CEO of GuideStone Resources until March 2022.

The new position of chancellor is a volunteer position that will allow Hawkins to continue advising Dockery, and the title “will greatly aid his efforts in supporting the seminary,” according to an April 19 SWBTS press release.

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Letter from the President

Louisiana Christian University has been providing Christian higher education in Central Louisiana since 1906. As the school has grown and flourished, the culture has changed significantly. The Lord has honored LCU and blessed us in ways it would have been hard for our founders to have imagined a hundred years ago.

From a handful of students in those early days to now—achieving university status with 70 areas of study, including five graduate programs, 13 varsity sports teams, and fully online degree programs—LCU has prospered. The Lord has shown his favor.

Today, we are witnessing American society shift away from the truth, away from the Church, away from the founding principles that made this country a great Christian nation. And with that, many small Christian colleges and universities are struggling or have closed.

As culture continues to crumble, it is our responsibility—our calling—to remain steadfast in our Christian convictions. We know we are to be set apart from the ways of the world and to raise up our children to be men and women of God.

At Louisiana Christian University, our message is relevant, our academics are rigorous, and our faculty and staff are able build relationships with students in which the Lord is honored. Faith is not abandoned at the classroom door. It is an integral part of our teaching and mentoring of students.

This year we have nationally renowned Christian apologist Frank Turek discuss why evil happens in the world. “Duck Dynasty’s” Al and Lisa Robertson shared their journey to faith and the healing from abortion. And the Rev. Robert Freeman addressed the need for racial reconciliation in our nation.

We are addressing the issues that our young people are facing in today’s world—and arming them with the Christian response.

We’ve been ranked as a ‘Top 30 Christian College’ by a national research group and continually recognized for our safety and diversity.

We covet your prayers for LCU and our mission to prepare graduates and transform lives.

And if the Lord wills you to support us financially, there are many ways to give. You may visit our webpage (lcuniversity.edu/give) for more information about how to give.

Finally, thank you for those of you who are already supporting LCU. We appreciate you. For those of you who may not know about us yet. You are always invited and encouraged to join us for Chapel or any events. For more information about LCU, visit our website at lcuniversity.edu.

We are forever grateful for the support we receive from our Louisiana Baptist church family through your prayers, students, and gifts through the Cooperative Program.

Keep Pressing On,
Dr. Rick Brewer





CAMPUS REVIVAL 2023

Dr. Heath Peloquin spoke for LCU's Spring Revival 2023. Peloquin serves as senior pastor of Summer Grove Baptist Church in Shreveport. LCU's ensembles Voices and Elevate lead worship to a packed auditorium, ushering in the presence of the Lord.

Dr. Peloquin encouraged all in attendance by reminding them the Lord knows exactly what each and every person needs and has not forgotten His promises to them.

Students, faculty, and staff filled the altar in prayerful surrender at the end of the week -- some in rededication, others in heartfelt submission. LCU holds a three day revival each semester for students, faculty, and staff as an outpouring of the mission and expression of the calling the Lord gave our founders many years ago.

We pray the Lord will continue to open doors and opportunities like Campus Revival for Louisiana Christian University to be used for His glory and honor.

C.S. LEWIS HONORS FORUM

Ten students presented research during the 3rd Annual C.S. Lewis Honors Forum at Louisiana Christian University.

The interdisciplinary research project is the final requirement in fulfillment of the C.S. Lewis Honors Program.

"The University's C.S. Lewis Honors Scholars' annual presentations serve as a solid reminder that great work can happen at a smaller university," said LCU President Dr. Rick Brewer. "I am grateful for the professors who shepherd our students toward incredible, creative research underscoring the application of Colossians 3:17."

"The Honors Forum clearly demonstrates that LCU is providing an unshakeable Christian foundation while expecting academic excellence across all disciplines," Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Cheryl Clark said. "The students' interdisciplinary research projects show they understand, recognize and embrace the inseparable connection between their calling and career."



LCU STARTING SCHOLARS ACADEMY

Louisiana Christian University launches the Louisiana Christian Scholars Academy this fall for high school students looking for a serious jump-start on their college studies.

It is designed to offer high school students 60 hours of college credit over two full years," said LCU President Dr. Rick Brewer. "They will earn an associate of arts degree in general studies.

The best part—the cost of the program is only \$2500 per semester for 15 hours of credit, including textbooks. Any level high school student who meets the ACT of 20 and academic criteria is eligible to participate.

Students may attend remotely or attend classes on campus. LCSA students will receive LCU Student IDs and will be welcome to attend campus activities, athletic events, Chapel, Baptist Collegiate Ministry events, cultural events and have access to the LAC.

Interested students should apply at: lcniversity.edu/scholarsacademy

A LOOK AT ATHLETICS

The LCU Wildcats athletics teams have all enjoyed outstanding seasons during the 22-23 academic year and have become a force in the NAIA and the Red River Athletic Conference.

Every team sport that had to qualify for the postseason RRAC tournament either did so or are in a position to qualify for their upcoming tournaments. The men's and women's basketball teams and the volleyball team each advanced to the conference semifinals, while the men's soccer team played in the conference championship match. The football team went 7-4, finished in the top half of the Sooner Athletic Conference standings, and defeated two nationally-ranked teams - one of them SAC co-champion Texas Wesleyan.

Senior football player Micah Latin was named the Sooner Athletic Conference's Defensive Player of the Year and earned NAIA All-America Honors from the Associated Press and the National Football Coaches Association. Senior women's basketball player Miya McKinney was named the Red River Athletic Conference's Player of the Year for her sport.

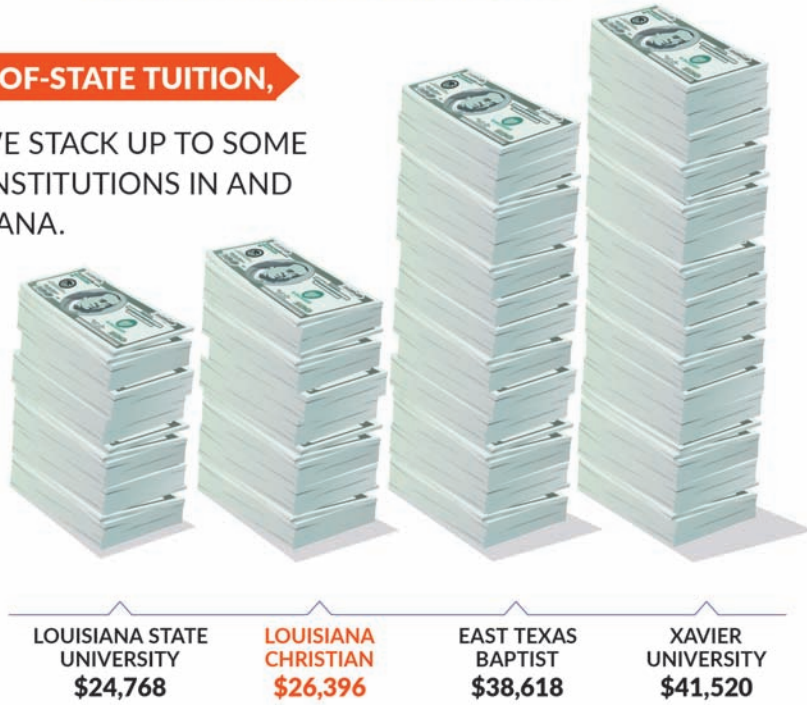


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