



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

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GB0: 30 BCM students sowed Gospel seeds during GOLA VBS

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – A frequently asked back-to-school question is “how did you spend your summer vacation?” Thirty students from the state’s Baptist Collegiate Ministries can answer, “I helped lead Vacation Bible schools (VBS) in Louisiana and Wyoming.”

Celebrating a 14th year of summer service, GOLA (Go Louisiana) VBS is an emphasis by Louisiana Baptists’ collegiate ministry that allows college students to serve on teams who share God’s love through what is the largest evangelistic outreach (VBS) of the year for many congregations. The teams typically conduct VBS for churches with low baptisms and who could not hold such an outreach without the help of the GOLA volunteers.

Five teams of five to eight students each served at churches around the state, June 1-July 15, while another team of six students conducted VBS in Wyoming, June 7-July 30.

Louisiana Baptist Collegiate Ministry Team Director Mark Robinson said the experience allowed the students to gain experience working with children and churches to advance the Gospel.

“They saw faith in action through practical, everyday ministry with children,” Robinson told the *Baptist Message*. “From a church’s perspective, they were encouraged by the young, energetic students who served in their churches.



Submitted photos



Louisiana Baptist college students, such as Faith Edwards (above), served on teams who shared God’s love through Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church, Bunkie, other locations of the state and Wyoming. The opportunity allowed the students to gain experience working with children and churches to advance the Gospel. Bunkie team members were Lindsey Honeycutt and Faith Edwards (front), and Jasmine Brossett, Amber Monroe, and Elora Browning (second, third and fourth, back, left-right).

“Recently, I was able to talk to members of some of the churches in which the students served and they mentioned what a great thing this has been for the students,” he continued. “We are helping to train future church leaders who one day will join churches after graduation

and be leaders in them.”

All the students were commissioned to share the Gospel either in the highways and hedges of Louisiana or in the mountaintops and valleys of Wyoming, and each had

MABTS’ Allen to headline E4+ conference

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary Professor David Allen is the keynote speaker for the 2023 E4+ Preaching Conference, Sept. 19, which will be held in the facilities of the First Baptist Church in Pineville.

Allen, who serves as the seminary’s distinguished professor of practical theology and dean of the Adrian Rogers Center for Biblical Preaching in Cordova, Tennessee, will bring messages during three sessions of the annual conference.

In addition to serving as a professor, Allen is founder and editor-in-chief of the new podcast and website, Preaching Coach (preachingcoach.com), which trains and mentors pastors and other ministry leaders to strengthen their preaching skills.

This year’s conference also will feature breakout sessions for pastors and directors of youth, media/



David Allen

See GOLA VBS, page 15

See ALLEN, page 2

SBC CP, designated giving down for July

By Will Hall
Message executive editor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM) – The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee released

the July 2023 financial summary, August 4, reporting that gifts for the month to SBC causes through the Cooperative Program and via designated giving were down 8.19

percent and 15.63 percent, respectively, compared to July 2022.

Year-to-date figures also showed both funding

See GIVING, page 15

Allen from page one

sound, music, children, as well as ministers' wives. Breakout sessions for pastors will include such topics as leadership and preaching through certain books of the Bible, and will be led by professors from Louisiana Christian University, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, as

well as Waylon Bailey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Covington. Breakout sessions for ministry staff and wives will be led by the staff of FBC Pineville as well as Mark Cole, global student pastor of First Baptist Church, West Monroe. "We are excited about expanding E4 to minister to more of the church

staff," Stewart Holloway, pastor of FBC Pineville, told the Baptist Message. "We hope this conference will impact local churches beyond the pulpit by allowing ministry teams and their wives to spend time together and glean take-a-ways that they can implement the following Sunday."

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

David Uth, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn., and a former SBC president; and Jamie Dew, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The conference will begin with registration at 8 a.m. and end at 5 p.m., at a cost of \$75 for ministers, \$85 collectively for ministers/spouses and \$25

for students. Lunch will be provided at the church. Group discounts are available through local associations. Participants can register online at fbcpineville.net by clicking on the "E4+" carousel at the top of the webpage. Individuals interested in receiving the associational discount should contact their area director of missions or associational mission strategist.

Sept. 11 event welcomes new pastors & their wives

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The Louisiana

Baptist Pastoral Leadership Team has scheduled an event, Sept. 11, to welcome new pastors and their wives.

Held at the Baptist Building in Alexandria, the program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will include remarks by Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn, introductions to the state missions ministries by their respective directors and greetings from the leaders of the four Louisiana Baptist entities. Participants also will be given a tour of the state missions center and have a time of fellowship during a catered lunch.

In 2022, 19 pastors and eight spouses attended a similar meeting.

"Last year we had such great success with this event, and we are looking forward to hosting it again in September," Louisiana Baptist Pastoral Leadership Team Director Ray Swift told the *Baptist Message*.

"This opportunity gives our new Louisiana Baptist pastors a great time to meet other new pastors, to meet many of the state

See WELCOME, page 16

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Monthly sponsors of Haitian children needed

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti (LBM) – Louisiana Reach Haiti President Darrin Badon has issued a plea for individuals and churches to sponsor Children's Village residents who recently relocated to a safer location in the country.

Badon noted that LRH needs \$60,000 to cover the ministry's basic needs through the end of the year.

Most of those funds will be used to pay for educational and medical needs for 28 children (18 are Children's Village residents who have yet to be reunified with their families; another 10 are former residents who have been placed back with their families).

"The work we do to reunify families is the work God called us to do back in 2016 when we

bought the land for the Children's Village in Croix-des-Bouquets," Badon told the Baptist Message. "The children in our care belong to the Lord. They are in a place where 30,000 children live on the street, and some are child slaves. We are called to defend and restore families.

"We need about \$12,000 a month to feed the kids and pay the salaries of our Haitian staff to keep doing the work we are doing in Haiti," he said. "We don't want the work to end. We don't want to fail these children. We need people willing to support what God has called us to do in Haiti.

"I don't believe God would have allowed the children and our staff to have relocated for the work to end," he continued. "He wouldn't have allowed the safe return of two of our staff from being kidnapped by gangs



Submitted photo

In July, staff and children traveled from Port-au-Prince to the new Children's Village home near Cap-Haitien. A brighter future is only possible if they secure enough financial donations.

this year if the work in Haiti was complete. God has a purpose in this. Yes,

I am concerned. I feel the weight of taking care of these kids and staff and it's

tangible. We are trying to show them love and share

See **SPONSORS**, page 5



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CONNECTIONS TOOLS SKILLS IDEAS RESOURCES

FIRST PERSON: Small churches can be 'global,' too

WEST MONROE, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist congregations get to celebrate being part of some wonderful ministries around the world. By giving through the Cooperative Program, we are part of God's work around the globe.

But sometimes smaller congregations also wish they could do overseas missions "on their own," too. However, it's often difficult to do because of modest resources. Still, we learned at Ouachita Baptist Church that even with our moderately sized membership we could make a direct impact to the ends of the earth.

Three years ago, we were contacted on Face-

book by an interpreter in Zambia who had assisted me during a week of evangelism there nearly two decades earlier. Edward Mulenga was now the pastor of "Word of Truth Ministries," but the congregation had no building. Still, he simply asked us to partner with his church in prayer.

And we did.

Through that commitment, God began to move us to help these fellow believers, half a world away.

It was a step of faith for several reasons.

About 200 worshipers regularly gather each week in our West Monroe facilities. But 2020 was punctuated with COVID stay-at-home mandates. Also, we were engaged in a focused effort to pay off our debt.

But we moved forward purposely.

First, we made sure there were no doctrinal conflicts between our two congregations, in accor-



Submitted photo

Ouachita Baptist Church, West Monroe, may be a small congregation, but recently they were able to meet a God-sized challenge when they gave \$15,000 to build a worship center for a church in Zambia.

dance with Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" When we confirmed our theological alignment, it spurred both congregations to even greater commitment in prayer.

Then, in 2022, Ouachita Baptist completed a six-year effort to gain financial freedom.

Even though our people had just finished

an extended time of financial sacrifice to retire our debt, many came to me to give toward the \$15,000 cost to build a worship center for our Zambian friends. Moreover, Randy Harper, pastor of Bellaire Baptist Church in Bossier City, reached out to me on behalf of his congregation to provide funds to furnish chairs and dry erase boards for the project.

The miracle of giving and cooperation has continued with our congregation contributing half the money raised from an annual sportsmen banquet (previously used to pay toward our mortgage) to dig a well in Zambia. Like-

wise, the generosity of our congregation and the work by the Zambian church inspired their village elders to donate land for a school. Bellaire Baptist Church was so moved by the vision of educating 50 village children that they have already given \$5,000 toward the \$15,000 building fund goal.

Meanwhile, our members have been faithful to give toward projects at home (needed renovations which had been delayed for six years) while still supporting the Cooperative Program and other funding efforts in our commitment

See GLOBAL, page 14



OCTOBER IS PASTOR AND MINISTER APPRECIATION MONTH

Express your appreciation to those who serve the Lord and you!

Be creative and be a blessing!

Here are some ideas:

- Pray for them during a worship service
- Ask members to sign up for a day to pray for the pastor/staff
- Plan a church-wide fellowship
- Give them a love gift (a love offering or gift cards to local restaurants)
- Include appreciation for the entire family
- Write/send personal notes/cards
- Offer to mow the yard, clean the house, or wash their car
- Be faithful in attendance and giving

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Sponsors from page 3

the Gospel and it's difficult to do this without the support of others."

BACKGROUND

Louisiana Reach Haiti was formed in 2015 to promote Louisiana Baptists' evangelism and church planting in Haiti, and to raise funds for specific projects there.

A Louisiana Baptist team partnered with Pastor Odvald Louis and his members with New Evangelical Baptist Church in Croix-des-Bouquets. The Haitian congregation and Louisiana short-term mission teams combined to complete a Children's Village in Croix-des-Bouquets, and they teamed up to dig a well and build a church building and school in neighboring Canaan.

However, the facilities in both cities were overtaken and vandalized by gangs in early 2022, Badon said.

LRH then refocused its ministry 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 housed 21 children and six staff members. However, gangs have begun terrorizing this area as well.

— Meanwhile God opened doors in New Orleans, allowing LRH leaders to help relocate Louis

and his family from Haiti, which he fled after surviving an attempt on his life.

— Additionally, LRH began partnering with Connect International Church, a congregation in New Orleans that in April 2022 formed and hosted an international church (led by a Haitian American graduate, Pastor Dawest Louis, of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) that reaches out to Haitians and other nationalities. In July 2022 and 2023, LRH partnered with Fellowship Church, Prairieville, and worked with this newly formed congregation to conduct Vacation Bible School for more than 30 children.

MIRACULOUS MOMENTS

Badon is thankful for God's hand over the children and staff, including his protection of Children's

Village Director Antonio Auguste in March, who was kidnapped by gang members in Port-Au-Prince but miraculously was released three weeks later.

"We had an army of a few thousand praying for him," Badon said. "The captors never knew he was associated with an American organization, or they likely would have asked for an impossible amount of money for his release. When I was notified about his release on Good Friday, I cried and got on my knees and thanked God for His faithfulness. There are missionaries that die on the field and there are those God chooses to deliver. It's not for us to question or to understand. Sometimes the outcome is what we prayed for and other times it's not. In this case our prayers were aligned with His will, and he rescued Antonio."

On July 1, Badon flew into Cap-Haitien and met with a small group

of Haitians to prepare a new rental home for the children and staff. On July 4, Auguste, the staff and children loaded on a bus and traveled from Port-au-Prince to the new Children's Village home near Cap-Haitien. On July 8, for the first time in more than a year, the children and staff were able to travel outside their facility and worship with other Haitians without fear of being kidnapped, robbed, beaten or even killed.

In September, the children will begin attending local schools. Trips to a museum and beach are

among possible field trips, Badon said, noting that the northern coast of Haiti is much safer than Port-au-Prince area.

"The joy of being able to freely go to church is something we in America take for granted but for these children, they physically couldn't go outside their own building for a long time because of fear," Badon said. "And it's real fear. People are being kidnapped at church and on the way to church. They had worship and church time in their building but

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Allen Terry, pastor of Trees Unity Church, Vivian, baptized a youngster during a special service at Splash Kingdom Water Park. Twenty others were baptized during the event.

21 people make waves with baptisms at aquapark

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

SHREVEPORT, La. (LBM) – Twenty-one people were obedient in believer's baptism, making a splash during a recent service at a Shreveport water world.

Organized by 29

churches of various denominations in the Shreveport-Bossier City area, the June 24 event at Splash Kingdom drew 156 people who looked on and cheered as each person came in and out of the water.

Eric Cunningham, pastor of Narrow Gate Cowboy Church, Vivian (a congregation planted in 2021 by First Baptist Church, Oil City), said the evening was a highlight of his time in ministry.

"We didn't even know this many people would want to get baptized but they kept lining up after the devotion I gave," Cunningham told the *Baptist Message*. "The Holy Spirit was really working on people that night and they were excited to have the chance to show others how they had accepted Christ."

"With all the things going in the country today, you wonder if people are still looking for truth," Cunningham said. "That night showed me people still hunger for Christ and we had so many, including a lot of young people, who

took part in baptism that night."

The baptisms were part of a follow up event for individuals who made decisions during Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames that was hosted, June 4-6, by Narrow Gate Cowboy Church and 28 other churches at Vivian High School. More than 1,100 individuals turned out for the play that was a combination of dramatized scenes that portrayed people in everyday situations.

Each scene ended with a person's death, whether by an accident, suicide or natural causes. Additionally, those who died in the play were escorted to Heaven or Hell.

By the end of the play, 149 individuals in the audience had filled out cards indicating decisions made for Christ. Members of Narrow Gate Cowboy Church and other congregations will follow up with each person in the coming weeks.

Dyna Sibert celebrated with four family members who were among those baptized: daughter-in-law, Heather, granddaughters, Carley and Lexi, and niece, Shelby. They turned to Christ while attending a Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames event in March in Texarkana, Texas.

"Christ can come back right now, and I can rest easy knowing those four in my family now would be in Heaven," said Silbert, a member of Narrow Gate Cowboy Church. "I am so thankful so many churches came together for this memorable evening."

"This service was something that came full circle for me," continued Silbert, a participant in a Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames event 30 years ago at First Baptist Church, Blanchard. "The baptisms and then the event at the school a few months ago really made me appreciate how much an outreach to the community can make."

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'America's Top Model' contestant to headline 'Gift of Life' banquet

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – During the fifth annual CENLA Pregnancy Center 'Gift of Life' fundraising banquet at the Randolph Riverfront Center, Sept. 12, former "America's Top Model" reality show contestant Leah Darrow will share how she became an outspoken advocate for women.

"She has a phenomenal story of redemption," CPC Executive Director Kim Lyons told the Baptist Message. "Her father came to help rescue her out of a destructive lifestyle, one that the world promoted as important, the opposite of where a woman should find her identity, which is in Christ."

According to her website, leahdarrow.com, she was caught up in a lifestyle of worldly success that led to suicidal thoughts, depression and low self-confidence. But soon after appearing on "America's Top Model" in 2004, she found Christ during a photoshoot in New York City. Now, Darrow travels the world and shares her story of



Submitted photo

Former reality show contestant Leah Darrow will be the keynote speaker for the CENLA Pregnancy Center's annual Gift of Life banquet. Table sponsorships and individual tickets are available for what is the largest fundraiser of the year for the pregnancy center.

how Jesus changed her life.

The largest fundraiser of the year for the pregnancy center also will feature Claire Lemoine (former CPC executive director, who will emcee of the event), a testimony by a former CPC client, music by a local band comprising members from area multi-denominational churches and updates about how God has used this ministry to help serve moms in

need so they can experience healthy pregnancies, Lyon said.

"We will celebrate the joy of bringing life into the world," Lyons added.

Located on the Louisiana Baptist Building campus at 1254 MacArthur Drive in Alexandria since December 2017, CENLA Pregnancy Center (along with centers in Marksville and Vidalia that opened several years later) has served more than 1,400 women, completed 6,000 client visits, 1,700 pregnancy and 1,200 ultrasound

tests, and provided 25,573 resources through counseling, referrals, classes and material support.

"To me, those numbers represent the love of God and the fact that our team is answering a very unique call to serve these women in a very specific way," Lyons said. "Our team shows up for these

See BANQUET, page 13

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Temple Baptist Church in Winnsboro, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please mail résumé to Temple Baptist Church, 287 Taylor Ave., Winnsboro, LA 71295. Attn: Rickey Johnston, chair or email your résumé to templebaptistchurchsecretary@yahoo.com

SEEKING A FULL-TIME SENIOR PASTOR
First Baptist Church, Center, Texas, is prayerfully seeking a full-time senior pastor. FBC Center is located in the piney woods of Deep East Texas. Our church family is missions minded and desires to carry out the Great Commission in our community and throughout the world. Please send résumé and inquiries to: pastorsearch@fbccenter.org.

SEEKING A FULLTIME YOUTH PASTOR
Fulltime youth pastor, great opportunity leading a large youth ministry with lots of potential. Please send your résumé to Ed Colvin at ed@fbcruston.org or brenda@fbcruston.org

SEEKING BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR
Gateway Baptist Church, Ball, LA seeks a pastor with the education, experience, spiritual gifting, and leadership style to lead in revitalization. Email résumé to: Adam Basco adambasco1@gmail.com or call Adam Basco at 318.446.0971.

HESSMER BAPTIST CHURCH SEEKING YOUTH MINISTER
Hessmer Baptist Church, Hessmer, LA is seeking a Youth Minister. Please visit our website at www.hessmerbaptist.com for job description. Résumés can be sent to nickmaricle@yahoo.com.

SEEKING A FULL OR PART-TIME MUSIC & YOUTH PERSON
Ouachita Baptist Church is looking for a fulltime or part-time Music & Youth person. Please send résumés to the church at 824 Highway 3033, West Monroe, LA 71292 or call 318.387.6372 for more information.

YOUTH MINISTRY
Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Lisbon is seeking a part-time youth ministry director. Email your résumés to rockysprings1845@gmail.com For a list of responsibilities, go to www.rockysprings1845.com

SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER
First Baptist Church, Greensburg is accepting résumés for a part-time youth minister. résumés may be emailed to fbcgreenburg@centurytel.net or mailed to **First Baptist Church, Greensburg P.O. Box 37 • Greensburg, LA 70441**

H Music MINISTRY
Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jasper, Texas, is seeking a FT Minister of Music/Worship to lead a blended style of music. Experience in audio/visual technology is needed. If interested send résumés to debbiereed@hbcjasper.com, 409.384.3371. A full job description can be requested.

SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR
Gray's Creek Baptist Church, Denham Springs, La is seeking a full-time Pastor. Mail your résumés to 21039 La Highway 16, Denham Springs La 70726 or send your résumés by e-mail to grayscreekpastorsearch@gmail.com

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 pdcla@gmail.com

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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 to four weeks prior to the event.

ON THE MOVE

■ **Mark Norwood** is the new pastor at Green Oaks Baptist Church, Merryville.
■ **Nancy Huey** is the new children's minister at Cheniere Baptist Church, West Monroe.
■ **Billy, wife Linda, Edwards** is the new pastor at Humble Baptist Church, Glenmora.
■ **Hannah Greenwood** is the new worship leader at First Baptist Church, Calhoun.
■ **James Davison** is the new minister of evangelism and missions at Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe.
■ **Dan Teed** resigned as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Monroe.
■ **Liam Gordon** is the new pastor at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Clearwater.
■ **Wade Allen** resigned as pastor of Pilgrim Home Baptist Church, Benton.
■ **Kurt Zortman** is the new pastor at Elm Grove Baptist Church, Bossier City.

HOMECOMING

■ First Baptist Church, Leesville: 125th Homecoming, September 17, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: **Louisiana Baptists Executive Director Steve Horn**. Special Music: **Minister of Music Lanny Turner, Parkview Baptist Church, Monroe**. Immediately following services at noon, there will be a barbecue luncheon in the Christian Life Center. Pastor: Darin Worthington.
■ New Bethlehem Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **70th Homecoming**, September 24, 9:30 a.m. — noon. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Pastor: Randall Gill.
■ Bellevue Road Baptist Church: **70th Homecoming** September 17, 10 a.m. Singing: 11 a.m. Evangelist: Scotty Teague, Fort Smith, Arkansas, Music: New Wind Revival. A fellowship meal will follow the worship service. The church is located at 1195 Bellevue Rd, Haughton. Pastor: Ken Basco.

REVIVAL

■ North Shreve Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Revival**, August 27-30. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Cecil Marr.
■ First Baptist Church, Robeline: "**Back to the Future Prophecy Conference**." August 27-30, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Brian Ray.
■ Milldale Baptist Church, Zachary: **Labor Day Conference**, September 1-4. Evangelist: **Tommy Kiker, Bob Pittman, David Allen**. Pastor: Dennis Terry.

■ Beulah Baptist Church, Haughton: **Revival**. September 10-13. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Chad Mills.
■ Pine Grove Baptist Church, Castor: Fall Revival, September 10-13. Evangelist: **Kyle Williams, World Recovery LLC**. Pastor: James Lovell.
■ First Baptist Church, Blanchard: Fall Revival, September 10-13, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Jim Everidge**. There will also be a lunch and Bible study Monday-Wednesday at 11 a.m. he will join us for. Pastor: Clay Fuqua.
■ Outreach Baptist Church, Columbia: **Revival**, September 17-20. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: CR Martin.
■ First Baptist Church, Benton: **Revival**, September 17-20. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Robert Beadle.
■ Sweetwater Baptist Church, Quitman: **Revival**, September 17-20. Evangelist: **Bob Pittman**. Pastor: Wilton Wall.
■ Bethany Baptist Church, Bethany: **Revival**, September 17-20, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Speaker: **Rocky Maddox**. Worship: **Philip Green**. Pastor: Marvin Cooper.
■ First Baptist Church, Leesville: **Revival**, September 17-20, 6 p.m. nightly. Revival Kick-Off with all FBC church plants. Speaker: **Tommy Kiker**, Senior Pastor of East Leesville Baptist Church; Monday, Military Night, Speaker: **Garrison Chaplain Col. Michael Jeffries**, Fort Johnson; Tuesday, **David Doyle**, youth & evangelism pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles; Wednesday, **David Anderson**, LBC's childhood ministry strategist. Pastor: Darin Worthington.
■ First Baptist Church, Keithville: **Revival**, September 24-27. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Mike Stowell.

LAGNIAPPE

■ University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: **Priscilla Shirer Going Beyond simulcast**, August 26, 8:30 a.-4 p.m. Doors will open at 8 a.m. All registration is online through Eventbrite. Early bird registration until August 11 is \$25 per person. After August 11, registration will increase to \$30 per person. Space is limited. Lunch will be provided. If you have any dietary restrictions, there will be refrigeration for you to bring your lunch. For more information or questions call 985.446.5818. Pastor: J.P. Cox.
■ Temple Baptist Church, Ruston: **Going Beyond —Priscilla Shirer simulcast with worship by Anthony Evans**, August 26, 8:30-4 p.m. Cost: \$6. Get your tickets for Going Beyond Simulcast 2023 today at <https://events.temple.life>! Pastor: Reggie Bridges.
■ Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: **Going Beyond —Priscilla Shirer simulcast with worship by Anthony Evans**, August 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Go to www.redeemedlifefellowship.com to register. For more details or questions, contact: Renee Mabile at 985.513.1607. Hosted by the Gulf Coast Baptist Association Women's Ministry Union. Pastor: Eric Green.
■ Couteau Baptist Church, Houma: **Going Beyond — A simulcast with Priscilla**

Shirer and Worship with Anthony Evans. August 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost: \$25 per ticket and lunch is included. Call the church's office at 985.876.6089 to purchase individual or group tickets. Pastor: Wayne Hunt.
■ First Baptist Church, Many: **Southern Plainsmen in concert**, September 3, 10:30 a.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Bo Owens.
■ First Baptist Church, Zwolle: **Southern Plainsmen in concert**, September 3, 3 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Marty Williams.
■ Fardoche Baptist Church, Fardoche: **Greg Sullivan Ministries in Concert**, September 10, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Toby Delahoussaye.
■ **Bethany Camp & Conference Center: Men's 9-11 Fish Fry**, September 11, 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$10. Guest Speaker: **Retired Army Lt. Colonel Kurt Zortman**. Special Music: **Rocky Maddox**. Call 318.938.1221 to register.
■ **5th Annual Gift of Life Banquet presented by the Cenla, Avoyelles and Miss-Lou Pregnancy Centers**, September 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria. Guest Speaker: **Leah Darrow**. Emcee: **Claire Lemoine**. To register go online to: www.eventbrite.com/e/5th-annual-cenla-pregnancy-center-gift-of-life-banquet-tickets-668269872177. For more information call 318.314.3061.
■ North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: **Sportsman's Banquet**, September 14, 5-8 p.m. Cost: Individual tickets \$50.

Tables may also be reserved for the event. Pastor: Bill Dye.
■ Couteau Baptist Church, Houma: **A night of worship and prayer to end human trafficking**, September 21, 7 p.m. Special Speaker: **John Finch**. Pastor: Wayne Hunt.
■ Benson Baptist Church, Benson: **Southern Plainsmen in concert**, September 23, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Delman Rogers.

REMEMBRANCE

Roy L. Johnson, 90, went to be with our Lord on July 29, 2023. Funeral services for Johnson were held on August 5, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. at Diamond Baptist Church, DeRidder, with Bill Smith and Paul Massey officiating. Interment followed at Lewis Cemetery in DeRidder. Johnson was born to Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. Johnson on November 19, 1932. He graduated from DeRidder High School in



Roy L. Johnson

1951. He married the love of his life, Myrtle June Brewer Johnson on June 3, 1953. He graduated from Louisiana College in 1954 and received a Masters of Divinity at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1957. Johnson pastored at Cile Baptist Church, Green Oak Baptist Church, Memorial Baptist Church, Burkeville Baptist Church, Little Cypress Baptist Church, Temple Baptist Church, and Cypress Creek Baptist Church. He was a long-time Director of Missions (April 1991 through August 2000) at the Beauregard Baptist Association. Johnson was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, nine months, Myrtle June Johnson, his parents Roy A. Johnson, and Atlas Johnson, a daughter, Pamela June Johnson Melder, and a daughter-in-law, Joylynn (Lee). Left to cherish his memory are sons John (Diana), and Lee (JoAnn), and son-in-law Allen Melder (Frieda), five grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.



**SEEKING A
PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER**

Cherry Ridge Baptist Church is accepting résumés for a P/T Youth Minister
Résumés may be e-mailed to crbapt@gmail.com or mailed to
**Cherry Ridge Baptist Church,
1005 Cherry Ridge Rd,
Bastrop LA 71200.**

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.

AQ XCUX, TH UCV UCO UHFPDFHUV: ZCE VYH PCER

YLVY JYCXHU QCM VC XVLUR THZCEH YDA, VC XHEGH

YDA, LUR VYLV QCM XYCMR ADUDXVHE MUVY YDA, LUR

TMEU DUJHUXH.

XHJCUR JYECUDJPHX VOHUVQ-UDUH: HPHGHU

Clues:
X = S; C = O

Answer to July 27, Scripture Crypto:
First Corinthians one: nine

Evangelism fuels FBC Leesville's amazing growth

By Brian Blackwell
 Message staff writer

LEESVILLE, La. (LBM) – An emphasis on “out of the box” evangelism has helped bring about a recent uptick in baptisms and worship attendance at First Baptist Church, Leesville.

“When people walk into our church, there is a level of excitement of what God is going to do,” Pastor Darin Worthington told the Baptist Message. “Our people are excited about what God is doing. Even though we may be a smaller church in size, God is using us to accomplish so many amazing things for Him.”

Since September, the church has celebrated 32 baptisms, compared to eight the previous year; and the most baptisms in any single year for the church, since 2016, when they recorded 19.

Moreover, the church

has seen growth in Sunday worship attendance, increasing from 100 in January 2022 (when Worthington became pastor) to 200 in early August.

Charlene Linton, along with her four children, are among those who have celebrated life in Christ through baptism this year. Linton, who previously accepted Christ as a child but never followed through with baptism, was encouraged to pursue baptism after her children accepted Jesus during an in-home visit from Worthington in early April.

Since the baptism, she has held ongoing Bible studies with her children at home, attends Bible study and worship each week and most recently led her three siblings to Christ during a family gathering in Eldorado, Kansas.

“Once I got baptized, my heart was yearning for more

and I surrounded myself with others who helped me grow deeper in my faith,” she said. “Now that I have His love, I am on cloud nine and don’t just want others not to go to hell. I want them also to experience the joy that comes with following Jesus.”

REVAMPED OUTREACH

In January 2023, the church revamped its Wednesday evening activities for children, adding a meal before children’s choir and Awana mission classes. Attendance increased within 16 weeks for choir (5 to 25) and Awana (15 to 35).

The church also has added pickleball and adult fitness classes that draw 40-50 participants each week.

Worthington said he is amazed at his church’s commitment to reaching Vernon Parish through those efforts, along with a fall

festival, Easter extravaganza, Vacation Bible School and ministry to teachers and students at nearby West Leesville Elementary School.

Kiersten Nolen, children’s minister at FBC Leesville and a teacher at West Leesville Elementary, said the community has responded positively to outreach efforts.

“This year we have chosen to strengthen the relationships with those near us and we have seen more people coming,” she said. “The kids are invited and then the parents come, which allows us to get to know them over a meal or in Bible study they attend while their children are in the other activities, or at some other events we hold outside of church. Even our older adults have embraced this and have really gotten excited about being a part of this new approach to

ministry.”

Likewise, middle and high school student ministries have seen substantial growth.

Since November 2022, eight students have been baptized (four after Youth Evangelism Celebration held in November and another four after Centrifuge that took place in June).

Attendance has also increased for youth gatherings, from 5 in August 2022 to 20 a year later.

Student Minister Rodney Blackwell said he is thankful for how his youth have embraced their desire to serve Christ and to lead their classmates to a relationship with Him.

“They just heard the message of the Gospel during YEC and have responded,” Blackwell said. “Our students dove into the Word and invited their

See FUELS, page 16

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

previews

\$15

Register Now!

Sermon on the Mount

BLESSINGS of THE KINGDOM

LEADER GUIDE

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Oct. 23 | Providence Learning Center, NOBTS |
| 9:00-11:30am | New Orleans |
| Oct. 24 | Louisiana Baptist Building |
| 6:00-8:30pm | Alexandria |
| Oct. 26 | BAGBR Associational Office |
| 9:00-11:30am | Baton Rouge |

Study led by: Dr. Charles Ray III

Assistant Professor of New Testament and Greek
 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

For details and to Register, visit:

LouisianaBaptists.org/JBS

Email Jeff.Ingram@LouisianaBaptists.org for information.

six content sessions
 scripture and learning activities

Lifeway

Special needs Champions Camp set, Sept. 8-10

By Staff

Baptist Message

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – Individuals with special needs will experience a full slate of activities with the upcoming Champions Camp, Sept. 8-10 at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center, Woodworth.

The camp will match participants with buddies who will accompany them throughout the weekend. The camp will feature games, activities, crafts, karaoke, worship and Bible study designed for children and adults from ages 8 and up who have intellectual or development disabilities.

"This is a time for people to enjoy a camp in a Christian atmosphere who otherwise may not be able to attend one," said David Anderson, camp organizer and Louisiana Baptist children's ministry strategist. "All of the teaching and activities are geared to their level and most of those who come return each year. They have a blast, and we would love to have many more people join us for a fun-filled weekend."

Anderson said individuals with special needs along with their families are one of the most unreached people groups in the state.

"We have so many

who need a church to plug into," Anderson said. "If you have an individual with special needs to come into your church, then you need a ministry for that group. I would love to help set your church up with the resources so you can minister to this unreached people group."

For more information or to download a registration form, visit <https://talltimbersbcc.org/summercamps/champions-camp/>.



Champions Camp, designed for children and adults from ages 8 and up, will offer individuals with special needs the opportunity to enjoy games, activities, crafts, karaoke, worship and Bible study, Sept. 8-10 at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center, Woodworth. They match campers with buddies who follow them through the weekend.

NEW PASTOR WELCOME FELLOWSHIP

**MONDAY, SEPT. 11, 9:30AM – 1:00PM
LOUISIANA BAPTIST BUILDING, ALEXANDRIA, LA**

**All new Louisiana pastors and their spouses are invited!
Meet Executive Director, Dr. Steve Horn
and other Louisiana Baptist entity leaders.**

LUNCH PROVIDED

For more info, contact Ray Swift, Director of Pastoral Leadership,
at ray.swift@louisianabaptists.org.

To register, contact keri.murphy@louisianabaptists.org.



Banquet

from page 13

mommas, in Alexandria, Marksville and Vidalia, not just for a job but because the Lord has put this call on their lives. We are having an impact on future generations. When we take a step back and look at it from that perspective, we are reminded of the important work we do for women and their children."

To sponsor a table or buy individual tickets, call .318.314-3061.

Preddy's legacy lives through paintings inside 150 church baptisteries

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

FOREST HILL, La. (LBM) – More than 150 Baptist churches in Louisiana, five other states and Paraguay may not realize they share a common bond inside their baptistries.

J. Phil Preddy, who died in 1995, spent decades painting murals of scenes depicted in the Bible that were placed inside baptistries of churches in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Paraguay (some of those worship centers have been destroyed by hurricanes, fire, floods or tornadoes). Such was a labor of love for a man who did not charge churches for his work but only wanted to honor the Lord by using his artistic gift.

His daughter, Judi Kent, who along with her husband, Tom, served as International Mission Board medical missionaries in Paraguay for 33 years



Submitted photo

Judi Kent discusses with her son, Eric Kent, a painting her father and his grandfather, J. Phil Preddy, created for Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill. More than 150 such paintings were made for churches and placed inside their baptistries.

and recently paid a visit to view one of his paintings at Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill. His granddaughter also served as an IMB missionary and a great granddaughter is nearing her departure for mission work (their names and locations are withheld because of security reasons).

"God had given him the talent of art, and he wanted

to give back to the Lord in a way that would have a presence in baptisms," Kent told the Baptist Message. "He wanted to challenge the pastors and churches to be reminded to keep their baptistries wet."

Born in Rogers, Texas, Preddy moved to Crowley in 1921 to sell farming equipment. He married Ruth Roller in 1924 and shortly

afterward painted scenery on a float that won an award at the International Rice Festival in Crowley.

Preddy then moved to New Orleans in the 1940s to work as display manager for Krauss Company and remained in that position until he was 90. He painted more than 150 murals, including his first at Elysian Fields Baptist Church, New Orleans (which was later destroyed by Hurricane Katrina).

Other locations in New Orleans where his artwork appeared included First Baptist Church, where he

was a long-time member, the Baptist Friendship House, and the Sellers Home and Adoption Center. One of his paintings was even featured in an issue of the Cable magazine, which was published by the New Orleans Federation of Churches.

Preddy signed each painting with a monogram that contained the initials J and P, along with the year he completed each piece of artwork.

A complete list of his paintings inside churches can be found at baptismessage.com.



Submitted photo

Ouachita Baptist's congregation contributed half the proceeds raised from its annual sportsmen banquet to help the Zambians to dig a much-needed well for fresh water.

Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

www.evangelistsammoore.org

Sam Moore is a vocational evangelist. He has the gift of an evangelist and the heart of a pastor. He is available for Revivals, Crusades, Harvest Days, and Wild Game Supper Events. Call or email to schedule your 2023 events.

479.381.1170 evangelistsammoore@gmail.com



LOUISIANA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

Immediate Job Openings

COTTAGE PARENTS:

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

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

COTTAGE MANAGERS:

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

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

www.lbch.org

Global from page 4

to joint ministries and missions with Louisiana Baptists.

My point is this – although we are a small congregation, we were able to meet a God-sized challenge.

We prayed to make sure the Holy Spirit was leading us in the vision, and we trusted He would provide

the resources if we were faithful to His call to serve.

We learned that a big faith is all God needs to use small congregations like ours in big Kingdom tasks for His glory.

For information about the Zambia school project, contact Holloway via (318) 278-2712 or mike@ouachitabaptist.com.



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| Cooperative Program Allocation Budget Receipts Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee July 2023 | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cooperative Program Allocation Budget | | | | |
| Contribution Sources | Current Month 2022-2023 | Current Month 2021-2022 | \$ Change from Prior Year | % Change from Prior Year |
| Alabama | 1,568,670.97 | 1,623,654.42 | (54,983.45) | (3.39) |
| Alaska | 6,469.73 | 7,863.25 | (1,393.52) | (17.72) |
| Arizona | 107,780.21 | 123,195.15 | (15,414.94) | (12.51) |
| Arkansas | 732,743.90 | 685,892.07 | 46,851.83 | 6.83 |
| California | 0.00 | 159,211.62 | (159,211.62) | (100.00) |
| Colorado | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Dakota | 7,707.76 | 7,960.48 | (252.72) | (3.17) |
| Florida | 1,069,062.89 | 1,311,236.09 | (242,173.20) | (18.47) |
| Georgia | 1,048,831.01 | 1,205,974.52 | (157,143.51) | (13.03) |
| Hawaii Pacific | 16,087.83 | 23,797.22 | (7,709.39) | (32.40) |
| Illinois | 135,892.14 | 163,251.71 | (27,359.57) | (16.76) |
| Indiana | 43,777.91 | 66,774.03 | (22,996.12) | (34.44) |
| Iowa | 64,602.35 | 64,526.00 | 76.35 | 0.12 |
| Kansas-Nebraska | 68,375.31 | 29,022.32 | 39,352.99 | 135.60 |
| Kentucky | 837,770.98 | 909,924.17 | (72,153.19) | (7.93) |
| Louisiana | 351,124.50 | 515,046.75 | (163,922.25) | (31.83) |
| Maryland-Delaware | 86,602.51 | 132,769.08 | (46,166.57) | (34.77) |
| Michigan | 34,312.75 | 38,261.60 | (3,948.85) | (10.32) |
| Minnesota-Wisconsin | 16,152.47 | 0.00 | 16,152.47 | 100.00 |
| Mississippi | 997,112.35 | 982,616.10 | 14,496.25 | 1.48 |
| Missouri | 372,413.56 | 450,553.67 | (78,140.11) | (17.40) |
| Montana | 12,021.60 | 14,541.22 | (2,519.62) | (17.33) |
| Nevada | 31,899.49 | 29,365.18 | 2,534.31 | 8.63 |
| New England | 10,120.13 | 13,647.00 | (3,526.87) | (25.84) |
| New Mexico | 50,000.00 | 14,986.47 | 35,013.53 | 233.63 |
| New York | 18,365.75 | 20,164.21 | (1,798.46) | (8.92) |
| North Carolina | 931,226.45 | 1,049,470.67 | (118,244.22) | (11.27) |
| Northwest | 119,913.75 | 40,283.60 | 79,630.15 | 197.67 |
| Ohio | 184,855.90 | 123,184.90 | 61,671.00 | 50.06 |
| Oklahoma | 692,426.83 | 838,471.21 | (146,044.38) | (17.42) |
| Pennsylvania-South Jersey | 24,665.56 | 26,375.54 | (1,709.98) | (6.48) |
| Puerto Rico | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| South Carolina | 851,428.75 | 871,833.81 | (20,405.06) | (2.34) |
| Tennessee | 1,295,214.90 | 1,397,869.93 | (102,655.03) | (7.34) |
| Texas - BGCT | 706,468.83 | 687,156.77 | 19,312.06 | 2.81 |
| Texas - SBTC | 1,074,473.45 | 1,202,721.91 | (128,248.46) | (10.66) |
| Utah - Idaho | 14,755.24 | 16,004.45 | (1,249.21) | (7.81) |
| Virginia - BGAV | 40,290.64 | 42,216.62 | (1,925.98) | (4.56) |
| Virginia - SBCV | 335,903.03 | 377,983.39 | (42,080.36) | (11.13) |
| West Virginia | 42,318.04 | 37,717.14 | 4,600.90 | 12.20 |
| Wyoming | 2,953.36 | 3,349.02 | (395.66) | (11.81) |
| Subtotal | 14,004,792.83 | 15,309,173.29 | (1,304,380.46) | (8.52) |
| Churches & Individuals | 323,842.93 | 297,441.66 | 26,401.27 | 8.88 |
| Grand Total: | \$14,328,635.76 | \$15,606,614.95 | (\$1,277,979.19) | (8.19) |

Giving from page one

channels continued to be below 2022 levels. From October 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023, total SBC CP contributions were 4.91 percent lower compared to the same timeframe during the last fiscal year. Likewise, combined designated giving was 3.38 less for the same months, with both of the two largest funds down compared to last year. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was off 4.96 percent, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering was lower by 0.49 percent (less than one-half of a percentage

point).

LBC Giving

The national report showed monthly giving by Louisiana Baptists to SBC causes in July was down 31.83 percent through CP and 51.36 percent for special offerings. However, the yearly data was less volatile. Louisiana Baptist contributions for 2023 through the CP were off slightly, 0.16 percent (less than one-quarter of one percent), but designated giving was higher by 7.70 percent.

GOLA VBS from page one

a unique experience to live and the powerful, life-changing message of the Gospel to give, Robinson said. Caleb Twatchman, a member of the McNeese State University BCM, said God equipped him with strength and boldness to preach, and provide him with compassion to bond with people in Wyoming who needed to know about Jesus.

“It’s so key to make connections and be relational, because we are in this together to go and share the Gospel,” he said. “This has been very heart warming and eye opening.” Elora Browning, a member of the Louisiana Tech BCM, added: “God used my serving with GOLA to show me that when you are obedient to the call to go, He will use you for his purposes, even when you feel unready, and even when you feel

unworthy.” Amber Monroe, a member of the University of New Orleans BCM, enjoyed building relationships. “One thing I loved about GOLA was that it’s about building possibly life-long relationships, with team members, churches and the kids,” she said. “Another is helping the churches and the

kids, experiencing their gratitude daily with hugs and smiles.” GOLA VBS is partially funded by the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering. Named for the first executive director of the Woman’s Missionary Union, the Georgia Barnette Offering’s annual Week of Prayer is set for Sept. 10-17. This year’s offering goal is \$1.75 million.

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Sponsors from page 5

it was not with other believers. The joy of getting up to get ready and go to and from church has been amazing for them."

BRIGHT FUTURE

Now that they are in

a safer area, the children have more possibilities for a brighter future. But that is only possible if they secure enough financial donations.

"We just don't have the giving we used to," Badon said. "Because we haven't

had the teams here who see first-hand what is going on and then get excited to give after their trip, we have less people donating. We are hoping to get our first mission team to the Dominican Republic in 2024 and serve alongside Haitians in that country. Over 1 million Haitians live in the Dominican. We

remain hopeful we will one day be able to get teams back to Haiti but for now it remains so volatile to do so.

"Now, we have no fat to trim off our expenses," he continued. "We are as lean as we can get. There is nothing more to cut. In fact, we reduced our staff when we moved. We need food and to pay staff and

we need help from others. All we need is people to commit to sponsoring a child for just 30 dollars a month, whether it be an individual, Sunday school class, WMU group or more. God is not done here in Haiti, and we look forward to great days ahead."

Sign up for sponsorships at louisianareachhaiti.org. Donate to Louisiana Reach Haiti, 18112 Kenner Drive, Prairieville, LA 70769.

Fuels

from page 12

friends to come to church. They are super committed and many of them show up every week. Right now, they are excited about another school year, and we can't wait to see what God does through our students."

FBC Leesville will celebrate its 125th anniversary, Sept. 17, with a breakfast at 9 a.m., worship service at 10 a.m. (featuring a message by Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn) and dinner on the grounds afterward. That evening, the church will kick off a revival that continues through Sept. 20, 7 p.m. nightly. Those scheduled to speak include East Leesville Pastor Tommy Kiker, Sept. 17, Fort Johnson Chaplain Michael Jeffreys, Sept. 18, Louisiana Baptist Children's Ministry Strategist David Anderson, Sept. 19, and Trinity Baptist (Lake Charles) Student Minister David Doyle.

Welcome

from page 2

missions staff and to walk through the Convention building. Additionally, we have all kinds of SWAG to share with each pastor and a special gift for his wife. Dr. Horn and the entire state missions team are excited to welcome all our new pastors to the state, and we look forward to this time of getting to know each other better."

RSVP by Sept. 1 via ray.swift@louisianabaptists.org.

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Giving Plans for Retirement Plans

According to a recent study, nearly 1/3 of all household assets are held in retirement plans, totaling over \$35 trillion. While this number is staggering, it should cause us to pause and consider the significance of our own retirement assets. How are you leveraging your retirement funds to not only provide income for yourself but also to advance the Kingdom?

A great way to support your church and other ministries is by designating them as one of the beneficiaries of your retirement plan. Any retirement funds left to these organizations are tax-free. In contrast, any retirement funds inherited by an individual are subject to federal and state income taxes and may also be counted for federal estate tax purposes.

In addition to leaving a distribution from your retirement plan at the time of your death, there are also ways to contribute during your lifetime. If you are at least 70 1/2 years of age, you should consider making qualified charitable distributions from your IRA to your church or other ministries now. A qualified charitable distribution (also known as a charitable rollover) is a tax-free distribution from your IRA that satisfies the



required minimum distribution rules and is excluded from your taxable income. In other words, changing your "giving bucket" from your checking account (or wherever you deposit your retirement income) to your IRA can save you income taxes.

A qualified charitable distribution is generally limited to \$100,000 per year. However, a new law allows you to make an additional one-time distribution of up to \$50,000 to fund a life income plan, such as a charitable gift annuity. This opportunity allows you to turn a qualified charitable distribution into a stream of income for yourself or others while still leaving a gift to your church or other ministries after your death.

At the Louisiana Baptist Foundation, we can help you leverage your retirement assets to benefit you, your church, and other ministries.

For more information on ways to give from your retirement plan, please call the Louisiana Baptist Foundation at 877-523-4636 or email contact@lbfinfo.org.

Jeffrey Steed, Executive Director

Jared Price, Director of Gift Planning

SEPTEMBER 2023

Charitable Beneficiary Designations

By designating your church and other ministries as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, you can provide a simple and tax-free gift that advances the Kingdom after your death.

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If you're already giving to your church or other ministries from your retirement income, a qualified charitable distribution may be a more advantageous strategy.

NOVEMBER 2023

Life Income Plans

Consider establishing a charitable gift annuity with retirement funds to generate a consistent income stream for yourself and benefit your church and other ministries.

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