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## THE BAPTIST

# MESSAGE

September 28, 2023  
Volume 138 • Issue No. 10

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## Partnership kicks off new church planting effort

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) — Leaders of Send Network Louisiana, a partnership between the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Louisiana Baptist Convention, have mapped out a God-sized vision to see His Kingdom expanded in Louisiana by one percent over the next decade.

If successful, 28,841 of the 4,648,794 Louisianans could turn to Christ through 231 churches planted in the state by 2030 (based on each new church reaching 125 people with the Gospel).

But to achieve this goal, an army of supporting churches and new church planters will be needed.

"This is an exciting God-sized vision for Louisiana," Send Network Louisiana Director Lane Corley told the *Baptist Message*. "We want to see churches assess how they can join in helping make this possible. The next 10 years will be a great time in our next chapter of church planting, and I really appreciate [Louisiana Baptist Executive Director] Steve Horn for supporting this important move in

See **PARTNERSHIP**, page 16



Brian Blackwell photo

Aaron Fronek, a member of First Baptist Church, Zachary, enjoyed some time in soap suds at the 2023 Champions Camp at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center. The weekend for individuals with special needs drew 15 campers and 20 "buddies" and staff members.

## Champions Camp: A special fun-filled, 'needed' weekend

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) -- A field at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center was transformed to a mini water park for 15 people with special needs during the fourth annual Champions Camp, Sept. 7-9.

The campers, accompanied by 20 "buddies" and staff, displayed their best moves on the water slide and tossed suds made by a water foam cannon. Among those was Logan Singletary, a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria.

"Tossing all these suds really was something that I had fun doing and it's a reason I love coming out here to this camp," Singletary told the *Baptist Message*. "I'm really glad they had this for us, and it made me smile."

The Louisiana Baptist summer camp for people with special needs matched participants with buddies who accompanied them during the event. The camp featured karaoke, an ice cream sundae party, fishing, games, a demonstration of a dog obedient to his master and worship designed for children and adults from ages 8 and up who have intellectual or development disabilities.

See **CHAMPIONS**, page 3

## GBO: Volunteer recalls 90 disasters, ministry responses

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

GLENMORA, La. (LBM) — When disaster strikes, your gifts to the Louisiana Missions Offering, named after the his-

torical state missionary Georgia Barnette, help provide relief for those affected in Louisiana and beyond, James Irvine shared with the *Baptist Message*. During the last 19 years, Irvine and his Louisiana Baptist Disas-

ter Relief shower trailer have offered a mainstay ministry of care for individuals impacted by 90 catastrophic events.

See **VOLUNTEER**, page 2



## VOLUNTEER from page one

Since driving the trailer to south Louisiana to his first disaster response effort only days after Hurricane Katrina impacted the area in 2005, Irvine has traveled thousands of miles

across the United States immediately after the devastation of hurricanes, floods, ice storms, tornadoes and fires.

Importantly, his motivation is “to give a cup of

cold water in Jesus’ name,” without strings attached but in the hope that someone will ask, “Why?” That gives him the opening to share about Jesus, he said.

“When they do accept Christ, it’s very rewarding because you have been successful in your mission,” Irvine told the *Baptist Mes-*

*sage*. “Sometimes it gets frustrating, but you have to remember it’s not about you but your Lord and Savior. Even though it gets stressful, and maybe even overwhelming, it’s rewarding because you desire to help people.”

Born in Lecompte, Irvine developed a love for

missions after participating in two overseas mission trips while he was living in Lake Charles in the late 1980s. His prayer was that God would allow him to retire early so he could participate more in missions, a prayer that was answered as he reached the age of 55 in March 2005.

Nineteen years later, Irvine continues to serve the Lord as a proud member of Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief.

One of his most enduring memories is about a man he led to Christ in the aftermath of a response to flooding in Kentucky in August 2022.

While refueling at an Alexandria gasoline station, Irvine struck up a conversation with a young man who asked about applying for a job with LBDR. Instead of securing employment, Justin left with something far better -- a relationship with Christ.

Irvine, along with LBDR Strategist Stan Statham, prayed with Justin after he gave his life to the Lord.

Irvine said he was reminded to look for opportunities and to use every encounter with others to share the ‘good news’ found in the Lord.

“Moments like that remind me how much of a blessing I have received during these responses,” Irvine said. “I can never repay the Lord for what He did for me on the cross, but I can serve Him through disaster relief. He allows me to see firsthand people accept Him and that is so rewarding.”

Irvine is among 2,000 Louisiana Baptists who are trained to serve on Disaster Relief teams.

See VOLUNTEER, page 16

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Submitted photo  
Two campers knelt before the cross and said a prayer during the three-day Champions Camp at Tall Timbers.

# Champions from page one

## LOVED BY GOD

Clint Stewart, who served as camp pastor, said the event allowed each person to realize they are a champion and loved by God.

“I have come every year since this camp began but this year was very special because I got to share with the campers about God’s love as the camp pastor,” said Stewart, pastor of Ethel Baptist Church. “This camp really shows what God intended love to be. These campers love unconditionally.”

Julie Johnston, a member of Christ’s Community Church, Denham Springs, first attended in 2018 with her son, Zac. But even after he passed away in 2021, Johnston and her husband, John, remained committed to the camp’s mission and continued attending.

“The kids are so loving to one another and tell us



Campers and staff members shared a good laugh as they splashed each other with soap suds during a time of recreation at Champions Camp in Woodworth.

that this is their camp,” Johnston said. “The parents who come get to also connect with other parents who have children with special needs and it’s just a special bond they share. When you get to attend worship and sing to Jesus it really makes for a special moment.”

The idea for Champi-

ons Camp was born after a similar experience at a camp coordinated by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma that Louisiana Baptist Children’s Ministry Strategist David Anderson and his family, including his daughter, Chloe, attended

See CHAMPIONS, page 4

OCTOBER 28, 2023



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Buddy Caleb Sasser and camper Jacob Hall shared a laugh during Champions Camp at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center.



Brian Blackwell photo

Campers, staff members and buddies enjoyed a special surprise – snow cones and visit from a fire truck at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center..

# CHAMPIONS from page 3

for more than 10 years.  
Anderson wanted to bring that same camp experience to Louisiana.

Since Champions Camp began, Anderson has seen so many special needs persons experience camp for

the first time.  
“This is one of my favorite weekends of the entire year,” Anderson said. “The campers get to come out here for a fun-filled few days and enjoy a sense of

normalcy. They are able to thrive in an environment where they can be themselves and learn more about God.”  
Anderson said many of the campers and their

parents already have begun planning for next year’s camp. He encourages churches to tap into what he considers an unreached

See CHAMPIONS, page 8

~GBO~

# GEORGIA BARNETTE

~MARK 1:38~

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# ERLC elects controversial pastor as trustee chair

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

**NOTE: Dashes were substituted for letters of a curse word in paragraph five. Also, [fire emoji] is used in paragraph nine to indicate Smith substituted a picture of flames for the word "fire."**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM) – Kevin Smith, pastor of Family Church Village in Palm Beach, Florida, was unanimously elected trustee chairman of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

His Sept. 13 election is being heralded as historic because this is "the first time a black individual has assumed this leadership role within the organization," according to the *Christian Post*.

Smith was lauded for

his "deep ties in SBC life" and as someone who "personally understands the importance of cooperation as a Baptist distinctive," in an ERLC press release published the same day.

However, others pointed out that he attacks those who hold opposing views to his beliefs.

National media sources cited Smith as saying, "I think some Southern Baptists just bent over and became political wh---s with this whole Trump stuff," when he was an audience member commenting to a panel at the 2022 SBC Annual Meeting.

Prior to that statement he declared, "I think some Southern Baptists lost their minds when a black man was elected president. Not all, but some," in an apparent reference to the election of former President Barack Obama.

"I think some Southern Baptists were unloving to black people beginning in 2012 with the killing of Trayvon Martin," he added.

But Smith also has made critical comments about those who oppose the move by some congregations to allow women to preach or serve as pastors.

In an otherwise innocuous June 4, 2020, thread with a comment from Beth Moore, Smith tweeted, "I see why can't-preach white-boys fear her ... she has [fire emoji], they have talks, posing as sermons."

However, two days later he tweeted, "Saints, constant nagging, suspecting, slandering, or warring among those supposedly worshipping the one true God is not a good 'witness,' and might be evidence of #idolatry."

He added, "How

delightfully good when brothers live together in harmony!" Psalms 133:1 CSB."

According to an online bio, Smith taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary "for over a decade." He also states that he studied at SBTS as well as Hampton University and the Church of God

Theological Seminary. But he does not indicate what degree programs he completed.

He was elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2015. In 2016 he was president of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, serving in that role for five years. He has served as an ERLC trustee since 2018.

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# 'Miracle from God' saves Brushy Creek from wildfire

By Brian Blackwell  
Message staff writer

BANCROFT, La. (LBM) – When all hope was fading, the Father in Heaven intervened to protect the Brushy Creek Baptist Church facility from a wildfire that came as close as 50 feet in late August, according to Pastor Mike Streams.

"It was a miracle from God," Streams told the Baptist Message. "About the time the firefighters could no longer control the fire from coming across the road and to the church grounds, the good Lord switched the wind and killed it. It was an amazing thing to see God work through it all. I don't see how God did it, but he

did."

Like much of Beauregard Parish, Brushy Creek's grounds had not received any measurable rain since mid-July. On Aug. 22, the dry conditions in the region were exploited by arson, according to the Louisiana State Department of Agriculture and Forestry, which determined the wildfire was deliberately caused. The blazes began to engulf the area near Brushy Creek in the Bancroft community. Initially, firefighters were able to contain the conflagration. However, on Aug. 25 the flames on the other side of the road nearly jumped across the pavement and threatened to move toward the congregation's property.

Streams arrived on the scene that evening and was in tears as he saw the firefighters doing their best to save the church building, which had just been rebuilt earlier in the year after experiencing severe damage from Hurricane Laura in August 2020.

"The first thing that ran through mind was 'Lord, whatever you want is fine, but I don't want to rebuild again,'" he said. "He supplied and we are still standing. My congregation is a praying bunch of folks and God provided through



Submitted photo

Pastor Mike Stream was thankful for the prayers of thousands, the faith of his church, Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief team members who provided food and water for the firefighters and the dedication of firefighters who worked for 72 consecutive hours to protect Brushy Creek Baptist Church from harm's way.

all of this."

The firefighters remained at the facility throughout the weekend and on Sunday morning, 62 individuals (mostly church members along with a few firefighters and Beauregard Baptist Association Missions Strategist Tom Bruce, who brought the message) gathered for a special service of fellowship and thanksgiving.

Streams said he is grateful for the prayers of thousands, the faith of his church, Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief team members who provided food

and water for the firefighters and the dedication of firefighters who worked for 72 consecutive hours to protect the structure from harm's way.

"We had people praying for us all over the United States," Streams said. "It's amazing the people that have reached out to let us know they were praying for us, for God's church and for the firefighters.

"I said, 'Whatever God does, it will be okay because God is going to do it,' he continued. "I have

See BRUSHY CREEK, page 8

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# Louisiana Baptist camps celebrate a summer of records

By **Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist camps throughout the state celebrated record numbers in campers and spiritual decisions, and some inaugurated new facilities during the 2023 summer.

“We are thankful and encouraged that Louisiana Baptists would trust us with their summer camping experience,” Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn told the *Baptist Message*. “We certainly recognize that there are many options around the state and around the nation for summer camps. We do not take lightly a church’s decision to choose our camp, and we will strive for excellence in facilities and programs.

“We are also thankful for continued support of the Cooperative Program which makes having a camp possible,” he continued. “Most of all, we are thankful for the eternal impact of the spiritual decisions made at this summer’s camps. This is the ultimate goal.”

## TALL TIMBERS

Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center, Woodworth, reported its highest number of attendees (3,500) and participating churches (161) and second highest number of recorded spiritual decisions (207).

New additions to the camp included an expanded challenge course and snack shop. By the end of the year, construction will begin on a new pool that should be ready for summer 2024.

“I always think that I say the summer we just finished was our best summer yet,” Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center Director Josh Bumgardner told the *Baptist Message*. “This summer will be memorable because I met many new adult chaperones who had not been to Tall Timbers in a number of years and were excited to see how Tall Timbers has changed. Many of

them had attended here as a child or as a teen. There also were some past summer staffers who came this time as helpers for their church, or brought their own children, and got to experience God moving and see how the campground has changed.”

## ACADIAN BAPTIST CENTER

James Newsom, director of Acadian Baptist Center, Eunice, reported the highest attendance for any of its camps (4,167).

During the 10 weeks of camp, 210 campers made professions of faith and 56 restored their fellowship with the Lord.

“It’s great seeing all those church buses drive up Monday every week during our camp season,” he said. “And it makes me tear up to see all those kids coming to the altar during the worship services.”

Newsom said another highlight of summer camp was working alongside his wife, Shannon, for their 40th camp season together at ABC. Joining them for some of the camps were his daughter, Katy, her husband, Ryan, daughter-in-law, Danielle Newsom, and son, Aaron.

“This is a very special

place for our family,” Newsom said. “Knowing that my wife and I have been doing this together for 40 years and then seeing my kids and grandchildren here really is heart-warming. I have to sit and just soak it all in.”

Moving forward, Newsom said ABC will begin a capital campaign this fall to pay off a worship center that was completed in 2019

and to raise money for new dormitories that have yet to be built.

## CAMP HARRIS

More than 70 students made decisions for Christ during six weeks of camp that were attended by 541 individuals at Camp Harris, Minden.

Harry Brown, former pastor of First Baptist

Church, Ringgold, said he has been humbled to have such a caring staff who helped him transition into a new role as camp director easier.

“It’s been awesome to see so many things come together that in the end provided an awesome experience for the youth,” Brown said. “All the hard

See **CAMPS**, page 8

## 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](mailto: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.

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# Camps from page 7

work we did was worth it when we walked into worship and saw the students just singing their hearts out to God."

Since Brown became director in 2022, he has coordinated multiple additions including an escape room, disc golf course and archery tag. He said the new activities give campers and those who are at the camp for other events a chance to experience a non-traditional camp activity.

"All of these activities allow those coming for camp, retreats and other events to have additional spots to relax and grow closer to God,"

Brown said. "We would love for people to come and book a camp, retreat and activity like the escape room."

## DRY CREEK CAMP

Todd Burnaman, director of Dry Creek Baptist Camp, continues to be encouraged by the response of churches after a shutdown from COVID in 2020, damage from Hurricane Laura and Delta and a fire in 2021.

The camp drew nearly 2,000 campers during eight weeks of camp this summer. Of those, 75 made a decision to follow Christ.

Before camps began, the ropes course was relocated

from an area that was damaged by the hurricanes.

Additionally, a five-room, 28-bed cabin is on track for completion this October, and another is scheduled to be finished in 2024. The two cabins -- that will also have rocking chairs on the front porch -- will house guests who once stayed at the White House, which was destroyed in a February 2021 fire.

The camp needs to raise \$350,000 to complete the second cabin.

"It's been a tough three years," he said. "But God's faithfulness along with the support of the churches and others who have continued to donate, pray and send us campers is really humbling. That means the world to us that people trust us with their kids and financial gifts."

## CLARA SPRINGS CAMP

Clara Springs Camp and

# Brushy Creek from page 8

shed a few tears and it's been stressful. Getting a lot of my congregation that is elderly to safety was stressful. But we pulled together and worked to accomplish way more than we thought we could.

"And, if God had not provided the firemen, I believe our structure would have burned," he said. "I can't say enough about how they were

Conference Center, Pelican, which celebrated its 70th anniversary earlier this year, saw 2,200 youngsters attend 11 weeks of camp. Almost 300 of those individuals made decisions for Christ, according to Camp Director Bubba Mills.

"One of my favorite moments at camp is of walking into worship service and seeing the students gathered praising God," Mills said. "To see them come down to the altar and have a breakthrough with God even before the speaker gets up to give his message, is something that always really moves me."

This year, the camp added an 18 ft.-by-18 ft. treehouse, complete with a 20-ft. slide and sandbox containing Tonka toy trucks.

"We intended the tree house to be just for the younger kids, but we found out that kids of all ages have enjoyed the addition," he

said. "We even had Malcolm Durr, a volunteer in his 70s, go down the slide and that gave us all some laughs."

## BETHANY CAMP

Bethany Camp and Conference Center hosted more than 3,000 people who attended 11 summer camps in June and July.

Camp Director Trey Miller said a highlight of the camp season was the association children's camps (KidZ-Kamps), which were full for both weeks in June.

"We are booked for the remainder of the year with retreats of all types, ages and sizes," Miller said. "And we are booking quickly for 2024. God is blessing Bethany Camp and Conference Center, 'exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think.'"

**Information about Louisiana Baptists' other camps will be added, when received, at [baptistmessage.com](http://baptistmessage.com).**



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Through the trials, Streams was reminded never to doubt God.

"When I saw the flames Friday, I said, 'Okay, Lord, it's yours. You do with it what you want,' he said. 'I thought then the building would be gone. Now I look back and say, 'Oh me of little faith.'"

"I also was reminded that when you ask God specifically for something, start looking for it," he continued. "We asked for rain, and He sent it where it was most needed. To see God work in such a miraculous way and have His hand of protection on us is something I never will forget."

# Champions from page 4

people group.

"One of the hopes of this camp is to serve as an inspiration and springboard for churches to be more welcoming to people and families with special needs," Anderson said. "Any church that would like to explore the opportunities that this amazing type of ministry should contact the childhood ministry office at the Baptist Building for more help."

Champions Camp will return Sept. 6, 2024, at Tall Timbers.

For information or to be put on the mailing list e-mail [david.anderson@louisiana-baptists.org](mailto:david.anderson@louisiana-baptists.org) or [Darlene.taylor@louisianabaptists.org](mailto:Darlene.taylor@louisianabaptists.org).



# 85 couples renew wedding vows at FBC Pineville's two campuses

By Brian Blackwell  
Message staff writer

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – Eighty-five couples said, “I do,” again, during the renewal of wedding vows with the witness of the First Baptist Church at the congregation’s Pineville and LeCompte campuses, July 30.

Following Pastor Stewart Holloway’s message on the seventh commandment (found in Exodus 20:14), couples stood up in unison and voiced recommitment. Some have been married a few years while others have been wedded for decades.

“This was a way to highlight the importance of marriage and why it is sacred,” Holloway told the *Baptist Message*. “And it showed the younger people who aren’t at the stage of being married that doing it God’s way is the best way.”

“A strong society is built on the foundation of marriage,” he continued. “Strong marriages lead to strong families that lead to a strong society. We’ve seen the breakdown in family and that will be turned away one family at a time, one generation at a time. This was a way to show that we are committed to marriage.”

Blake Fuselier and his wife, Amy, were among those who renewed their vows at FBCP. He appreciated how the event allowed them to underscore that their family is based on a commitment to Christ.

“I am not a touchy-feely type of guy, so it took me out of my comfort zone,” Fuselier said.

“It was important to do this in front of our children so we could set



Submitted photo

Ed and Julie Christie renewed their vows during a service at First Baptist Pineville's LeCompte campus. More than 85 couples renewed their marriage vows.

a good example for them in our marriage,” he continued. “I want them to see what a good Christian marriage is like. They need to see the gushy, lovey side of me sometimes. The renewals made me thankful for what we have in our marriage.”

Tammy Morrison and her husband, Butch, participated in the ceremony at FBCP a week before their 47th anniversary. They were married Aug. 7, 1976.

“When Stewart provided this opportunity in the service, it gave Butch and I the opportunity to reflect on the same commitments we made 47 years ago,” she said. “Again, in front of God, family and friends we were able to renew those

same vows. God has been faithful in our marriage, and I pray we have been faithful to Him.”



Submitted photo



Join us for our 14th annual  
Sportman's Wild Game Dinner

## October 3, 2023

5-7 p.m. - The food and booths are open  
7 p.m. - Program begins in worship center

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**GUEST SPEAKER:** Robert Dukes      **MUSIC:** Taylor Johnson

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**\$15 Suggested Donation**  
Contact [abccamp@abccamp.com](mailto:abccamp@abccamp.com) for tickets

Acadian Baptist Center, 1202 Academy Dr., Eunice, LA 70535-Ph: 337.457.9047

# WELCOME ALL!

## OCTOBER 11-15 2023

### LOCATED AT THE RAPIDES FAIRGROUND, HWY 71 SOUTH ALEXANDRIA, LA.



**Senior Citizen Day, Friday, October 13, 2023**  
Tickets are available at the Senior Citizen Centers

**LIVESTOCK  
SHOWS**  
  
**FREE  
PARKING**

For your added security there will be a \$2 per person admission fee to the midway; children under 5 get in free

**ONLY ADMISSION TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ON LINE OR AT THE GATE**

Friday thru Sunday- Wristband offer for unlimited rides. (You can bring a food bank donation for discount.)  
Special rate advance tickets are available at Cenla Broadcasting, 1115 Texas Avenue, Alexandria La.

**QUEEN'S  
PAGEANT**  
  
**BARN YARD  
NURSERY**  
CHILDREN'S FIELD TRIP'S  
ARE WELCOMED

For more information call 318.308.6357 or visit [www.rapidesparishfair.org](http://www.rapidesparishfair.org) or on Facebook: Rapides Parish Fair.



LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE REPORT CARD

SENATOR	DISTRICT	SB 63	HB 648	HB 81	HB 466	SB 7	HB 311	HB 646	HB 399	HB 443	HB 152	HB 98	SCR 3	SCORE
Allain, III, R.L. "Bret"	R Franklin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Cloud, Heather	R Turkey Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Foil, Franklin	R Baton Rouge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Henry, Cameron	R Metairie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Hensgens, Bob	R Abbeville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Kleinpeter, Caleb	R Port Allen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
McMath, Patrick	R Covington	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Milligan, Barry	R Shreveport	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Mizell, Beth	R Franklinton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Morris, Jay	R West Monroe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Reese, Mike	R Leesville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Stine, Jeremy	R Lake Charles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Womack, Glen	R Harrisonburg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Abraham, Mark	R Lake Charles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	X	90%
Cathey, Jr., Stewart	R Monroe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	90%
White, Mack "Bodi"	R Baton Rouge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	A	A	X	88%
Cortez, Patrick Page	R Lafayette	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	82%
Fesi, Michael	R Houma	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	82%
Hewitt, Sharon	R Slidell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	82%
Lambert, Eddie	R Gonzales	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	82%
Mills, Robert	R Minden	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	82%
Peacock, Barrow	R Bossier City	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	82%
Talbot, Kirk	R River Ridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	82%
Connick, Patrick	R Marrero	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	73%
Pope, J. Rogers	R Denham Springs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	73%
Bernard, Louie	R Natchitoches	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	70%
Mills, Fred	R New Iberia	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	64%
Jackson, Katrina	D Monroe	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	45%
Tarver, Gregory	D Shreveport	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	A	X	X	A	X	X	44%
Barrow, Regina	D Baton Rouge	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	36%
Smith, Gary	D Norco	✓	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	36%
Luneau, Jay	D Alexandria	✓	X	X	X	A	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	30%
Bouie, Jr., Joseph	D New Orleans	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	X	20%
Harris, Jimmy	D New Orleans	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	20%
Boudreaux, Gerald	D Lafayette	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	18%
Fields, Cleo	D Baton Rouge	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	18%
Price, Ed	D Gonzales	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	18%
Carter, Gary	D New Orleans	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9%
Duplessis, Royce	D New Orleans	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9%

Louisiana Family Forum (LFF) believes elected officials should support policies and programs that protect and promote families and traditional values in Louisiana. To accomplish this goal, LFF educates voters about specific legislation and voting records. Legislators scoring 100% are recognized as Outstanding Family Advocates.

LFF utilizes the official voting records of the Louisiana Legislature. In the House, members are allowed to change their votes in the Official Record. In the Senate, members are not allowed to change their votes. However, "On a debatable question each member shall be allowed to explain his/her vote in writing only, and this explanation shall be incorporated in the Journal if requested." (Senate Rule 12.1 B)

Legislators must be present and voting at least 50% of the time to receive a score or be eligible for an Outstanding Family Advocate or Family Advocate Award. LFF only grades floor votes, not committee votes. Absences are not counted against legislators in calculating scores.

2023 Scorecard

Louisiana Senate  
Legislative Regular Session

1. **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AMENDMENT**  
**SB 63 – Mizell** – Freedom of Assembly is a fundamental right deserving the utmost protection from governmental interference like experienced in COVID crisis. **LFF Supported.**  
Yes (✓) = 39 No (X) = 0 Absent (A) = 0  
**Status: Constitutional Amendment; on ballot 10/23.**

2. **STOP HARMING CHILDREN ACT**  
**HB 648 – Firmont** – Prohibits harmful gender manipulating drugs and procedures for minors. **LFF Supported Vote to Override Veto.**  
Yes(✓) = 28 No(X) = 11 Absent(A) = 0  
**Status: Veto Overridden - ACT 466.**

3. **STOP INDOCTRINATING CHILDREN WITH PRONOUNS**  
**HB 81 – Crews** – School personnel must use student pronouns consistent with biological sex. **LFF Supported.**  
Yes(✓) = 31 No(X) = 8 Absent(A) = 0  
**Status: Vetoed by the Governor; Override failed in House.**

4. **NO SEXUAL POLITICS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**HB 466 – Horton** – School personnel prohibited from talking with students about sexual orientation and gender identity. **LFF Supported.**  
Yes(✓) = 29 No(X) = 9 Absent(A) = 1  
**Status: Vetoed by the Governor - Override failed in House.**

5. **PROTECT CHILDREN IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES**  
**SB 7 – Cloud** – Requires that libraries limit children's access to sexually explicit material. **LFF Supported.**  
Yes(✓) = 27 No(X) = 11 Absent(A) = 1  
**Status: Signed by the Governor - ACT 436.**

6. **LOUISIANA ELECTION INTEGRITY**  
**HB 311 – Miguez** – Prohibits private or foreign government funding for Louisiana election related expenses. **LFF Supported.**  
Yes(✓) = 27 No(X) = 12 Absent(A) = 0  
**Status: Constitutional Amendment - On ballot 10/23.**

7. **ELECTION INTEGRITY**  
**HB 260 – Beaulieu** – Ensures state control over Louisiana elections without federal interference. **LFF Supported.**  
Yes(✓) = 27 No(X) = 9 Absent(A) = 3  
**Status: Vetoed by the Governor.**

8. **VACCINE MANDATES**  
**HB 399 – Edmonston** – Disclosure of exemption information for student vaccines. **LFF Supported.**  
Yes(✓) = 23 No(X) = 16 Absent(A) = 0  
**Status: Vetoed by the Governor - Override failed in Senate (requires 2/3 vote).**

9. **VACCINE DISTRIBUTION**  
**HB 471 – Freiberg** – Reduces professional requirements for those administering vaccines in pharmacies. **LFF Opposed.**  
Yes(X) = 23 No(✓) = 14 Absent(A) = 2  
**Status: Conference Committee Report rejected in House.**

10. **LIFE AFFIRMING VITAL RECORDS**  
**HB 457 – Crews** – Certificate of non-viable birth for babies deceased in utero. **LFF Supported.**  
Yes(✓) = 34 No(X) = 2 Absent(A) = 3  
**Status: Signed by the Governor - Act 353.**

11. **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**SCR 3 – Cortez** – Increased the Louisiana Constitutionally determined expenditure limit. **LFF Opposed.**  
We believe excess dollar above that cap should be: 1) Returned to their rightful owners - taxpayers; 2) Allowed to be declared "surplus" and then used for constitutionally directed imperatives; 3) used to retire debt and make state pensions solvent; 4) Deposited in the Rainy Day Fund.  
Yes(X) = 39 No(✓) = 0 Absent(A) = 0  
**Status: Passed the House and Senate.**

**Color Key**

OUTSTANDING FAMILY ADVOCATE

FAMILY ADVOCATE

AVERAGE

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

UNFAVORABLE

**Chart Key**

✓ LFF Supported Vote

x LFF Opposed Vote

A Absent / No Vote

N/A Non-Applicable/Not in Office

REPRESENTATIVE		DISTRICT	SB 63	HB 648	HB 81	HB 466	SB 7	HB 311	HB 646	HB 399	HB 443	HB 152	HB 98	SCR 3	SCORE
Amedee, Beryl	R	Houma	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Crews, Raymond	R	Bossier City	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Edmonston, Kathy	R	Gonzales	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	100%
Emerson, Julie	R	Carencro	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Frieman, "Larry"	R	Abita Springs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Garofalo, Raymond E.	R	Chalmette	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Geymann, Brett	R	Lake Charles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	100%
Goudeau I, Jonathan	R	Lafayette	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	100%
Hodges, Valerie	R	Denham Springs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Horton, Dodie	R	Haughton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Mack, Sherman	R	Albany	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
McCormick, Danny	R	Oil City	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Miguez, Blake	R	New Iberia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Owen, Charles	R	Rosepine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Schamerhorn, Rodney	R	Hornbeck	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Seabaugh, Alan	R	Shreveport	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Tarver, Phillip Eric	R	Lake Charles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	100%
Thomas, Polly	R	Metairie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Bacala, Tony	R	Prairieville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	92%
Beaulieu IV, "Beau"	R	New Iberia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	92%
Bourriaque, Ryan	R	Abbeville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Butler, Rhonda	R	Ville Platte	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Carrier, R. Dewith	R	Oakdale	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Coussan, Jean-Paul	R	Lafayette	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
DeVillier, Phillip	R	Eunice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Echols, Michael Charles	R	Monroe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Edmonds, Rick	R	Baton Rouge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Firment, "Gabe"	R	Pollock	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Gadberry, Foy Bryan	R	West Monroe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Harris, Lance	R	Alexandria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Huval, Mike	R	Breaux Bridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Illg Jr., John R.	R	River Ridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Ivey, Barry	R	Baton Rouge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Johnson, Mike	R	Pineville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
McMahan, Wayne	R	Minden	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Muscarello, Nicholas	R	Hammond	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Orgeron, Joseph	R	LaRose	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Romero, Troy D.	R	Jennings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Schlegel, Laurie	R	Metairie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
St. Blanc III, "Vinney"	R	Franklin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Stefanski, John M.	R	Crowley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Turner, Christopher	R	Ruston	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Villio, Debbie	R	Kenner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Wright, Mark	R	Covington	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Zeringue, Jerome	R	Houma	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	92%
Deshotel, Daryl Andrew	R	Marksville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	X	91%
Farnum, Les	R	Sulphur	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Fontenot, Bryan	R	Thibodaux	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Hollis, Paul	R	Covington	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
Kerner, Timothy P.	R	Lafitte	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	91%
McFarland, Jack	R	Jonesboro	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	X	91%
McKnight, Scott	R	Baton Rouge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	X	91%
Pressly, Thomas A.	R	Shreveport	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	X	91%
Wheat Jr., "Bill"	R	Ponchatoula	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	X	91%
Owen, Robert "Bob"	R	Slidell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	X	90%
Bishop, Stuart	R	Lafayette	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	83%
Mincey, Jr., Buddy	R	Denham Springs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	83%
White, Malinda	R	Bogalusa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	83%
LaCombe, Jeremy	R	Livonia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	X	X	82%
Magee, Tanner	R	Houma	✓	✓	X	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	82%
Miller, Gregory A.	R	Norco	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	X	X	82%
Thompson, Francis C.	R	Delhi	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	X	82%
Bagley, Larry	R	Stonewall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	75%
Cormier, Mack	D	Belle Chasse	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	75%
DuBuisson, Mary	R	Slidell	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	75%
Freiberg, Barbara Reich	R	Baton Rouge	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	75%
Nelson, Richard	R	Mandeville	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	75%
Riser, Neil	R	Columbia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	75%
Schexnayder, Clay	R	Gonzales	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	75%
Hilferty, Stephanie	R	Metairie	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	X	73%
Brown, Chad	D	Plaquemine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	64%
Cox, Kenny	D	Coushatta	✓	A	A	A	✓	X	A	A	✓	✓	X	X	57%
Moore, Pat	D	Monroe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	50%
Carter, Robby	D	Amite	✓	✓	X	X	A	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	45%
Adams, Roy Daryl	D	Jackson	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	42%
Johnson, Travis	D	Vidalia	✓	✓	A	X	X	A	X	X	A	✓	X	X	33%
Fisher, Adrian	D	Monroe	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	25%
Hughes, Jason	D	New Orleans	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	25%
Knox, Alonzo	D	New Orleans	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	25%
Miller, Dustin	D	Opelousas	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	25%
Jordan, Edmond	D	Baton Rouge	✓	X	X	A	X	X	X	✓	✓	A	X	X	20%
Selders, Larry	D	Baton Rouge	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	A	X	20%
Marino III, Joseph	I	Gretna	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	18%
Boyd, Delisha	D	New Orleans	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	17%
Brass, Ken	D	Vacherie	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	17%
Carpenter, Barbara	D	Baton Rouge	X	A	A	A	X	X	A	A	✓	X	X	A	17%
Green Jr., Kyle M.	D	Marrero	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	17%
LaFleur, Vanessa C.	D	Baton Rouge	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	17%
Marcelle, Denise	D	Baton Rouge	X	A	A	A	X	X	A	A	✓	A	X	X	17%
Newell, Candace	D	New Orleans	X	A	A	A	X	X	A	A	✓	X	X	X	14%
Bryant, Marcus Anthony	D	New Iberia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	✓	X	X	X	10%
Carter, Sr., Wilford	D	Lake Charles	A	X	X	X	A	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	10%
Larvadain III, Ed	D	Alexandria	X	X	A	X	X	X	X	A	✓	X	X	X	10%
Glover, Cedric	D	Shreveport	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	X	X	X	9%
Lyons, Rodney	D	Marrero	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	9%
Willard, Matthew	D	New Orleans	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	9%
Jefferson, Patrick O.	D	Homer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	8%
Jenkins, Sam	D	Shreveport	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	8%
Landry, Mandie	D	New Orleans	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	8%
Phelps, Tammy T.	D	Shreveport	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	8%
Pierre, Vincent J.	D	Lafayette	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	8%
Freeman, Aimee	D	New Orleans	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	✓	X	X	X	0%
Gaines, Randal	D	LaPlace	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	A	A	X	0%
Davis, Paula	R	Baton Rouge	✓	A	A	A	✓	✓	A	A	✓	A	A	X	n/a
Stagni, Joseph A.	R	Kenner	A	A	A	A	✓	A	A	A	✓	✓	X	X	n/a



# Church insurance crisis: Help is on the way

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – In response to the church insurance crisis plaguing congregations across the state, Louisiana lawmakers passed legislation in June, now signed into law by the governor, that established a church self-insurance trust.

However, a separate funding line item for the trust was deleted during negotiations between the Senate and House. Consequently, multiple approaches are underway to secure one-time funding from the state and federal governments and possibly other sources to assist with setup costs. In the meantime, efforts are beginning to complete “no cost” steps while the funding appeals proceed.

## LBC RESPONDS

The push to help churches began in March when

Steve Horn, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, reached out to the Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy to share that churches were contacting his office about insurance nonrenewal notices and soaring premiums due to the four hurricanes of 2021-22.

Sen. Katrina Jackson responded to contact from the Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy by arranging a Zoom call with the state insurance commissioner. Likewise, Sen. Robert Mills, a member of First Baptist Church, Bossier City, with Jackson as co-sponsor, pushed through S.B. 147, which established the church self-insurance program.

## NEXT STEPS

Terry Duke, North Louisiana manager with Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. who

assisted with the development of the legislation, told the *Baptist Message* that with the state’s permission to set up what is effectively a “cooperative” for churches and religious nonprofits, it is essential to collect data that will help move the process toward the actual launch of insurance coverage for participating churches.

Duke emphasized that participation in the program is voluntary, and that the data will be kept confidential, but asked that congregations submit information even if they are happy with their current coverage.

“Giving us data is not a commitment to the program,” Duke said. “However, it will help us develop a statewide profile of property values and risks that are essential to know when talking with lawmakers and reinsurance brokers such as Lloyd’s of London.”

Duke explained that the self-insurance program will mean that churches can avoid costs like agent fees and national marketing campaigns and such, thus lowering premium costs. However, like public insurance companies, the church self-insurance trust will need to buy a catastrophic reinsurance policy from one of 20 firms globally, like Lloyd’s of London, that offer such coverage.

“We will need to determine the C.O.P.E. of a diverse pool of properties,” he said.

-- “Construction” (what type of structure, age of roof, type of wiring, condition of HVAC, etc.);

-- “Occupancy” (worship center, family life center, college residential hall, etc.)

-- “Protection” (sprinklers installed, fire department in the local community, etc.)

-- “Exposure” (kinds and numbers of claims that have been made in the past five years)

“Once we compile this information, we will complete catastrophic modeling that will tell us what our working layer of insurance would be and our maximum probable loss,” Duke continued. “That will help us make

decisions about what level of catastrophic reinsurance is needed, provide a framework for setting premiums for participants and determine other elements of the program design.”

Duke offered that the program could eventually also offer coverage of general liability needs and church owned automobiles, thus further lowering overall rates from broadening services and risk pools.

But, he said, for now, it is important to get the property casualty program up and running.

“Again, participation in the program is voluntary,” Duke re-emphasized. “But we are looking to recruit large numbers of churches. The more participants, the broader the risk and the lower the costs for everyone.”

**A website is being developed to allow congregations to “drop in” copies of their current policies as well as to give permissions to organizers to request five-year profiles of premiums, property values and claims from their current insurers. The link for this website will be published on BaptistMessage.com as soon as the online page goes live.**

# McRaney to appeal ruling in lawsuit against NAMB

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

AMORY, Miss. (LBM) – Will McRaney announced Sept. 11 his intention to appeal the Aug. 15 ruling by the U.S. District Court Northern District of Mississippi that determined his lawsuit against the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention would force the court “to inquire into religious matters and decision-making to a degree that is simply impermissible under the Constitution and the ecclesiastical abstention doctrine.”

In a statement to *The Baptist Paper*, McRaney contended that the court’s decision “is built around the erroneous concept of ‘THE’ Baptist Church as a denomination like the Catholic or Methodist Church.”

Indeed, in legal filings supporting NAMB’s position, the SBC is described as “the umbrella Southern Baptist governing body over all the various groups

of churches.” This contravenes the SBC’s constitution which declares it “is independent and sovereign in its own sphere” and that it “does not claim and will never attempt to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body, whether church, auxiliary organizations, associations, or convention.”

McRaney further argued that the Court’s latest ruling results in a legal determination that “a form of hierarchy” does indeed exist, and threatens the autonomy and independence of Baptist churches and entities.

NAMB, meanwhile, announced after the District Court’s Aug. 15 ruling that “as Christian ministries, NAMB and others involved in this case should be protected by the First Amendment and should not be forced to endure scrutiny and intrusive examination from the courts.”

The lawsuit likely is headed to the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals that previously voted against this same District Court

when it invoked similar principles of the “ecclesiastical abstention doctrine” (a legal precedent that prevents courts from deciding matters of faith such as religious doctrine) in this case.

In 2020 the Circuit Court said the District Court prematurely ended McRaney’s lawsuit because it was not clear that this legal principle was indeed at issue and that “many of the relevant facts have yet to be developed” and concluded that “it is not clear that any of these determinations will require the court to address purely ecclesiastical questions.”

“McRaney is not challenging the termination of his employment ... and he is not asking the court to weigh in on issues of faith or doctrine. ...” a three-judge panel of the Circuit Court stated then. “His complaint asks the court to apply neutral principles of tort law to a case that, on the face of the complaint, involves a civil rather than religious dispute.”



## Vote YES on Amendment 2!

Election day is on Oct. 14, and early voting runs Sept. 30 through Oct. 7 (excluding Sunday, Oct. 1)

**Amendment 2 is a statewide ballot measure** that will protect the freedom to worship in the state of Louisiana. It simply will require state and local governments to apply the same standards to places of worship as is applied to other organizations, businesses or services when declaring emergency restrictions – no more or no less protections than everyone else.

**The ballot question will ask:** “Do you support an amendment to make clear that the freedom of worship in a church or other place of worship is a fundamental right that is worthy of the highest order of protection?”

The resulting legal standard that courts will be required to use is “strict scrutiny,” and this protection will ensure churches and synagogues are not closed when restaurants, bars and casinos remain open.

**This is a crucial protection against government overreach.**



# Fifth annual CENLA Pregnancy Center banquet celebrates life

By **Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Former “America’s Next Top Model” contestant Leah Darrow encouraged more than 900 guests gathered at the CENLA Pregnancy Center’s Gift of Life banquet to be the ones who answer the call to help provide hope for women with unplanned pregnancies.

The fifth annual event, Sept. 12, was held at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria.

“You are the other person on that end of the call for people in their hardest moments,” she said. “These young ladies who are calling these pregnancy centers are sometimes out there and they don’t know where to go and they don’t have anyone else to call but

you. And CENLA Pregnancy Center picks up and answers those calls and they help redirect these women and show them a place of redemption.”

Darrow was the keynote speaker for the single largest fundraiser for the pregnancy center. The event also featured remarks by other pro-life advocates and an update on the impact of the center.

## CHANGED LIFE

In her message, Darrow shared she was caught up in a lifestyle of worldly success that led to suicidal thoughts, depression and low self-confidence. But after appearing in 2004 on “America’s Next Top Model” she found Christ during a photoshoot that same year in New York City.

Darrow said she heard Christ tell her the words “I made you for more.”

At that moment, she left the photoshoot and her worldly lifestyle.

Darrow then called her father, who drove more than 2,000 miles to pick her up in New York City and bring her home. She then began a journey that has led her to mentoring women and sharing her

See **CELEBRATES**, page 14



Brian Blackwell photo

Leah Darrow encouraged those gathered at the Gift of Life banquet to be the ones who answer the call to help provide hope for women with unplanned pregnancies.

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# Celebrates from page 13

story around the world of how Christ has changed her life.

"I went to Christ, and I found reconciliation in Him," she said. "I knew it was the only way.

"I was so grateful I had people in my life whom I could call, and they would speak truth into me," she continued. "That call saved my life, but it also had a ripple effect. Because my dad picked up the phone when I called at the lowest moment of my life, it allowed me to encounter grace and redemption in Christ."

## SAVING LIVES

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.

The centers are saving lives by offering such services as pregnancy decision coaching (by trained advocates), free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, information about pregnancy options, referrals to mental health counselors and obstetrician-gynecologists, safe house and affordable housing recommendations, adoption support (referrals to assist expectant mothers with an adoption plan and limited financial assistance) and post-decision support that includes parenting education as well as recovery groups for those who regret having an abortion.

Additionally, the center meets basic needs for mothers and their babies by distributing food, baby beds, diapers, women's hygiene products, car seats, and clothing.

The ministry also offers abortion pill reversal services. The center is listed on a national hotline that connects CENLA Pregnancy Center staff with women seeking to reverse the effects of the first pill taken for chemical abortion.

## GRATEFUL

Claire Lemoine, who served as the emcee for the event and was director of the CENLA Pregnancy Center from 2017-2022, reiterated how the banquet was a grand celebration of the life-changing ministry.

"We celebrate this incredible ministry," she said. "The mission continues to push through and offer to this community. The growth that has happened is just incredible to think about. You have this incredible ministry in your own community. It's such a gift. We do not function without you."

Board President Ed Tarpley, a member of Kingsville Baptist Church, Ball, thanked the crowd for their continued support and said

those women who come into the pregnancy center experience the love of Jesus.

"We are the hands of Jesus extended to help those who are in crisis," Tarpley said. "That's what our ministry is all about.

"In the day in which we live there is a lot of gloom and despair at every turn," he continued. "Jesus tells us in this world you will have tribulation but be of good cheer because I have overcome the world. What we do here is lift up Jesus. He is the author and finisher of our faith. This ministry is established on the firm word of God. The people who come through our doors receive the love of Jesus at every turn."

CENLA Pregnancy Center Executive Director Kim Lyons said since Roe v. Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court in June 2022, the facilities that performed abortions in the state have closed. Thus, women who previously may have used those facilities are left looking for someplace to turn.

"We have been able

to provide the most non-judgmental, loving, caring atmosphere to hold their hands, to help bring them back to the place where we know the Lord calls each one of them," Lyons said.

Lyons thanked those who serve alongside her in the pregnancy centers.

"These women serve like I have never seen before," she said. "They serve with a heart that you know the Lord has chosen to bless them with this calling. They serve in a way that some women have never experienced before."

Bart Walker, pastor of Kingsville Baptist, closed the banquet with a prayer for the pregnancy center and those impacted by the ministry.

"Let us consider the babies who have no voice to hear," he said. "We live in an environment that devalues life and they are helpless. And so, make us like Christ that we would consider the helpless, that we would consider what we cannot see and hear what we cannot hear, but know what we can know."

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# E4+ Conference: Go seek the lost

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – Christ is in hot pursuit of those who are lost and desires all to come into a relationship with Him, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary Professor David Allen said during the recent E4+ Preaching Conference.

Citing Luke 19, Allen told a record crowd of more than 100 pastors and ministry staff and 19 pastors' wives at First Baptist Church, Pineville, that Zacchaeus longed to see Jesus and went to great lengths to get a glimpse of Him. In the end, Zacchaeus who had stolen from the poor through his job as a tax collector encountered Jesus and his life was changed forever.

"Jesus did not save Zacchaeus because Zacchaeus gave money to the poor or gave back what he extorted," he continued. "Jesus saved Zacchaeus out of grace because all of salvation is by grace through faith, not of works lest anyone should brag about it. And he gives evidence

of that salvation by opening up his pocketbook and his billfold and giving to the poor and by making right what he extorted from the people."

Allen said while many in the crowd hated Zacchaeus because he had used his position as a tax collector to steal from them, Jesus reminded the Jewish people that Zacchaeus, too, was a son of Abraham like them. Furthermore, Jesus' mission was to seek and save the lost like Zacchaeus.

"These are the people Jesus was seeking – the people who are lost," he said. "If you're without Christ, you're lost. Everybody is separated from God. They may not feel they are lost because it's not a feeling, it's a condition. It's the condition of being spiritually separated from God. And those are the people Jesus sought to save. He is the hound of heaven on the trail of lost people. He seeks, no, he desires their salvation."

The Sept. 19 E4+ Preaching Conference presented a program intended to "exemplify, encourage,



Brian Blackwell photo

Christ is in hot pursuit of those who are lost and desires all to come into a relationship with Him, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary Professor David Allen said during the recent E4+ Preaching Conference.

equip and empower pastors to preach expositional sermons."

Past speakers 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 also featured breakout sessions for pastors and directors

See **SEEK**, page 17



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# PARTNERSHIP from page one

our history.”

Corley, who previously served as a Louisiana Baptist church planting strategist, began a new role, fully funded by NAMB, Aug. 1. Joining him as Send Network church planting catalysts are Carlos Schmidt and Jeff Cook, who remain employed by the Louisiana Baptist Convention and supervised as part of the Louisiana Baptist missions and ministry team. Additionally, James Jenkins serves as the Louisiana Baptist missions and ministry team interim director.

## PARTNERSHIP DETAILS

Previously, New Or-

leans was the only metropolitan area of Louisiana in the Send Network, but the new partnership will expand church planting efforts to the entire state.

The partnership will provide four years of monthly supplements for the Send Network church plants, five years of Send Network Planter Care for each plant (the North American Mission Board church planter spiritual and emotional care system), access to NAMB start-up grants and a year of free health insurance and a \$1,000 retirement benefit through GuideStone for planters and their families.

## MOBILIZATION PATHWAY

Opportunities for Louisiana Baptist churches to become involved with this new partnership are endless, Corley said. Informational meetings are planned in the coming months for churches to learn more about how they can become engaged. All meetings are from noon-2 p.m.:

- Send Network Louisiana informational lunch, Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, Sept. 12
- Send Network Louisiana informational lunch, The Open Door Church, Lafayette, Sept. 18
- Replant Ready Luncheon, The Springs Church, Ruston, Sept. 21
- Send Network Loui-

siana informational lunch, First Baptist Church, West Monroe, Oct. 26

-- Send Network Louisiana luncheon, Messina's Runaway Café, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd. New

Orleans, Nov. 14

**Additional resources are available at [sendnetwork.com/mobilize](http://sendnetwork.com/mobilize), or by email [lcorley@namb.net](mailto:lcorley@namb.net).**

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Submitted photo

James Irvine was recognized in 2022 as Gibbie McMillan Leadership Award winner. LBDR Strategist Stan Statham presented him the award.

# Volunteer from page 2

LBDR Strategist Stan Statham said the service of our volunteers ensures LBDR can continue the mission to share Christ's love amid some of the most difficult moments in life. In 2023, 200 individu-

als completed disaster relief training sessions. For those who might want to be part of this vital ministry to Louisiana and across the nation, training sessions are planned for 2024:

- Feb. 2-3, Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville
  - Feb. 23-24, First Baptist Church, DeRidder
  - March 8-9, Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge
  - April 12-13, Temple Baptist Church, Ruston
  - April 19-20, Maplewood First Baptist Church, Sulphur
- "The greater number of trained volunteers, the greater number who can be deployed," Statham explained.

Disaster Relief is supported in part through the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering. Barnette was the first executive director of Louisiana's Woman's Missionary Union. The Georgia Barnette Offering annual Week of Prayer is set for Sept. 10-17, with a goal of raising \$1.75 million. For more information, visit [georgiabarnette.org](http://georgiabarnette.org).

To donate or learn how to be a part of a LBDR team, visit [louisianabaptists.org/dr](http://louisianabaptists.org/dr)

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# SBC EC leadership woes persist

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM) – The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention continues to experience presidential controversies.

On Aug. 17, Willie McLaurin resigned as interim president and CEO of the national entity after a committee, looking into his background as part of his consideration as a candidate for the permanent position, found he had misrepresented his academic credentials.

McLaurin had served in the interim president role since February 2022 after serving as an SBC EC vice president since 2020.

He had followed Ronnie Floyd, who vacated the office in October

2021 in response to the SBC EC's vote to renounce attorney-client privilege in an investigation into the alleged coverup by the SBC EC about sex abuse among SBC churches.

Floyd had replaced Frank Page who quit in 2018 because of an admitted "personal failing" described in news reports as a "morally inappropriate relationship."

Meanwhile, Dan Summerlin, a retired Kentucky pastor who was announced, Sept. 18, as the candidate for the role of "transitional interim president and CEO," unexpectedly withdrew his name from consideration on Sept. 19, only hours before it was anticipated he would be approved by SBC EC members. He cited his wife's health for making the sudden

decision.

Consequently, Jonathan Howe, the SBC EC vice president for communications, who by default as the only vice president on staff and a bylaw that requires a vice president to serve as interim in the absence of

## Seek from page 15

of youth, media/ sound, music, children, as well as ministers' wives. Breakout sessions for pastors included such topics as leadership and preaching through certain books of the Bible, and were 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

an elected president and CEO, has been named interim president.

He, too, has been embroiled in controversies after Baptist News Global identified him as a member of a congregation with ties to the Cooperative Baptist Fel-

lowship, a group of moderate and liberal churches who broke away from the SBC about issues such as the ordination of women as pastors. Also, his wife serves as a "minister" with their church, and women pastors was a heated issue debated during the 2023 SBC Annual Meeting.

ministry staff and wives were led by the staff of FBC Pineville as well as Mark Cole, global student pastor of First Baptist Church, West Monroe. Volunteers and sponsors (including individuals, businesses, ministries, churches and schools) help off-set the cost of the conference.

Holloway told the *Baptist Message* the E4 Conference, now in its 15th year, began with a desire to sharpen and encourage

pastors.

"This year's conference was our highest attended and one of the best. Seeing people worshipping, ministering to one another, laughing together, as well as learning together is what make E4 such a special time each year. Adding the '+' with sessions for other staff members fulfilled a vision we've had for several years. We look forward to expanding that part of E4+ in the years to come."



## OCTOBER IS PASTOR AND MINISTER APPRECIATION MONTH

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

### 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

*Be creative and be a blessing!*



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LEADERSHIP**

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**EDITOR’S NOTE:** *The Baptist Message* provides churches an opportunity to share with other Louisiana Baptists an upcoming revival, homecoming, new pastor, new staff member, a community outreach, or a concert in Louisiana Notables. To place your event in the paper, send your information (who, what, where, when, time) to [philip@baptistmessage.com](mailto:philip@baptistmessage.com) or call 318.449.4345. Please submit your information four weeks prior to the event to insure placement in the *Message*.

ON THE MOVE

- **Robin Alderman Dean** is the new music director at Belle Park Baptist Church.
- **Eric Zimmer** is the interim pastor at Haynes Avenue Baptist Church.
- **Scott Shirley** is the new pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Brenton, wife Lynsee, Smith** is the new pastor at Pritchard Baptist Church from Ridgecrest Baptist Church.
- **Lee Myers** is the new Louisiana Baptists Youth Strategist.
- **Scott McKenzie** has accepted the call to be the Associate Pastor of discipleship & administration for first Baptist Church, Zachary from First Baptist Church, Lafayette.

HOMECOMING

- Welcome Home Baptist Church, Dodson: **Homecoming service**, October 8, 10:15 a.m. Worship: Sanctuary Quartet, Pastor: Jim McKeithen.
- Humble Baptist Church, Elizabeth: **Homecoming**, October 8, 10 a.m. Guest speaker: **Billy Edwards**. Donations can be made to Willis Flatt Cemetery. Mailed donations to P.O. Box 192, Elizabeth, La. 70638. Pastor: Billy Edwards.
- Lakeside Baptist Church, Converse: **Inaugural Harvest Reunion**, October 14, noon until. Church members and community are welcomed. There will be food, fun, live music and fellowship.
- New Prospect Baptist Church, Dubach: **Homecoming Sunday**, October 22, 10:45 a.m. Guest Speaker: **Terry Ganey, Dunn Baptist Church. Special Music: TBA.** A potluck meal and congregational-singing will follow. Pastor: Marvin Winham.

REVIVAL

- Trinity Baptist Church, New Iberia: Revival, October 1-4, Sunday 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Guest speaker: **Dusty Durbin AMS Evangeline Baptist Association. Worship: Conner Pounders.** Pastor: Sharon Baptist Church, Port Allen: **Community Wide Revival**, October 6-8, Friday & Saturday at 6 p.m., Sunday at 10 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service on Sunday. Evangelist: **Benji Richard.**

LAGNIAPPE

- Start Baptist Church, Rayville: **Ivan Parker in Concert**, October 1, 6 p.m. in the main worship center. Pastor: Jeff Thomas.
- Holly Grove Baptist Church, Wisner: **The Louisiana Melody Boys** in concert, October 8, 10 a.m. Pastor: Dennis Fontenot.
- Beulah Baptist Church, Oak Grove: **Kingsmen Quartet**, October 8, 11 a.m. Pastor: Kenneth Herring.
- Cotile Baptist Church, Boyce: **Southern Plainsmen in concert**,

- Pastor: Terry Swanson.
- Coteau Baptist Church, Houma: **Revival**, October 8-11, Guest Speaker: **Steve Horn**, LBC Executive Director. Pastor: Wayne Hunt.
- **Love Without Limits Community Outreach, Drouet Park, Turkey Creek**, October 14, 5 p.m. Main Speaker: **Evangelist Benji Richard, James Roberts and Cody King.** There will be special worship music.
- Start Baptist Church, Rayville: **Harvest Sunday**, October 15. A lunch will be served immediately following morning worship service. Pastor: Jeff Thomas.
- First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **Crosses & Cars Show**, October 15, Registration 8:30-10:30 a.m. at corner of Barry & Lafayette St. View cars before and after each service in lots 4 & 5. Pastor: James Pritchard.
- Gray Baptist Church, Jefferson, Texas: **Bible Revival**, October 16-20, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Nick Holden.** Pastor: Roy Davis.
- University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: **Hallelujah on the Hill**, October 17, 6-8 p.m. at the Adley Landry Water Thibodaux, next to the Warren Harang Jr. Municipal Auditorium. Join us for a night of spiritual refreshment featuring live music & speakers. Please bring your lawn chairs/blankets. Pastor: J.P. Cox
- **First Baptist Church, Covington: Adults 55+ Fall Celebration with Tim Lovelace at FBC Covington**, October 17, 10 a.m. in the Worship Center. Tim’s award-winning musical talent and humor will have you laughing and enjoying the music. Online registration is required at [www.fbccov.org/adults-55](http://www.fbccov.org/adults-55). Cost is \$15 and is payable at the door which includes lunch at noon. Deadline to register will be noon on October 13. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.
- Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Lisbon: **Trunk-or-treat**, October 22, 4-6 p.m. Pastor: Chris Stephens
- Mt. Gilead Baptist, Vivian: **Fall Revival**, October 22-25. Evangelist: **Kyle Williams, World Recovery, LLC.** Pastor: William Treadway.
- Cypress Baptist Church, Benton: **Harvest Sunday**, October 29. Evangelist: Bill Britt, Pastor: John Fream.
- Start Baptist Church, Rayville: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5:30-7 p.m. Safe fun for the whole family. Pastor: Jeff Thomas

- October 21, 6 p.m. Pastor: Robert McLane.
- Bethany Baptist Church, Bethany: **Car Show**, October 21, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Entry fee \$25 --Vendors needed -- \$25 fee. For more information, please contact either Jessica Shoalmire 318.218.8298 or Marvin Cooper 318.517.3743. Pastor: Marvin Cooper.
- East Jena Baptist Church, Jena: **Southern Plainsmen in concert**, October 22, 10:45 a.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Mike Wilkinson.
- Woodland Park Baptist Church, Hammond: Fall Festival, October 22, 5-7 p.m. There will be games, classic cars, hayrides, food, petting zoo, trunk or treat and much more. Pastor: Tim Moffett.
- Creston Baptist Church, Creston: Southern Plainsmen in concert, October 29, 10:30 a.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Truman Leach.
- Longview Baptist Church, Deville: Fall Festival , October 29, 4-7 p.m. There will be games, free food, prizes and much more. Pastor: Robby Poole.

REMEMBERANCE

After 96 years here, **Arthur Derral Rockett** went to be with Jesus on March 22, 2023 at 3:20 AM. Arthur was born in Union Parish in the Camp Creek community of Spearsville, LA to Carlus and Lois Turnage Rockett on March 16, 1927. He was known as

“Cotton”to all his family and friends because of his white/blond hair. Growing up with childhood friends and cousins named “Dank,” Puddin,” “Pecker”and “Guts” perhaps explains why he was always a “big tease”! “Cotton” played basketball in school on a dirt court and spoke fondly of his growing up years. After graduating high school at age 16, he enrolled in LA Tech to study pre-veterinary medicine. He studied there for a short time before the draft for WWII convinced him to join the Navy. The war ended shortly after he finished medic training in San Diego, so he was assigned to work from a ship docked at the port of New Orleans. He served there 16 months. Arthur received Jesus as his Lord and Savior at a revival at age 13. While in the Navy, he struggled with what he wanted to do in life and felt God calling him into the ministry. He surrendered to the gospel ministry at a revival. When he told his dad that he was going into the ministry, his dad said he better get to preaching and assigned him to preach that next Wednesday night for prayer meeting. The sermon was 7 minutes and included two prayers. After his Navy discharge, he enrolled at LA College to pursue a bachelor of divinity degree. He also began preaching at two churches in North Louisiana. He met Tela Davis while attending LA College, and they married after he completed

his studies there. He then enrolled at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to study New Testament while continuing to pastor in North LA. Later he became pastor of Mesa Baptist Church in Tylertown, MS. Arthur completed his ThD in New Testament studies in 1955 and became pastor of First Baptist Church Hodge, LA. Later he pastored FBC Jennings, and then in 1964, became the Director of Missions for Southwest LA for Louisiana Baptists. He traveled 5 parishes, serving churches and ministering to pastors and congregations. After 26 years, he retired but continued to serve as interim pastor in many churches in the area. At 88, he finally gave up his long-time interim pastorate at Texas Ave. Baptist Church. He and his wife were longtime members at Trinity Baptist in Lake Charles, and after retirement, they became members of FBC DeRidder. Arthur truly loved his church, family and friends! He also enjoyed hunting, vegetable gardening, watching sports and the family chili sauce that he and Tela made for over 65 years from fresh homegrown tomatoes. Arthur was predeceased by his parents Carlus and Lois Rockett, his wife of 68 years, Tela Davis Rockett, his newborn/firstborn son Michael Eugene, his youngest son Bryan Edward, his brother, Grady, and his sisters, Nita Hollis, and Yvonne Barron.

# 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.

KPGWGUDWG EIL IRIWM IEE UFEMPFXGCC IXY

CVRGWUEVFML DU XIVTPMFXGCC, IXY WGHGFBG KFMP

QGGNXGCC MPG GXTWIUMGY KDWY KPFHP FC IZEG MD

CIBG LDVW CDVEC.

SIQGC DXG: MKGXML-DXG

Clues:  
I = A; M = T

Answer to August 24, Scripture Crypto:  
Second Chronicles twenty-nine: eleven





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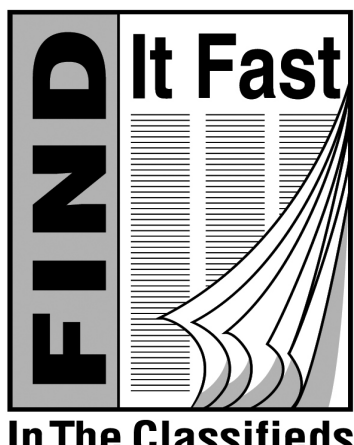
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** in Jena, LA is seeking a full-time worship pastor. Please email resumes to nmw387@gmail.com.

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### SEEKING BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH/ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Cooper Baptist Church is seeking a bi-vocational Youth/Associate Pastor. Résumés can be mailed to 853 Cooper Church Rd, Leesville LA 71446 or sent to cooperbaptistchurch@yahoo.com



### SEEKING A FULL-TIME WORSHIP LEADER

First Baptist Church Mansfield, La is seeking a full-time worship leader. Salary is negotiable. Please send résumés to churchoffice@firstmansfield.org



### FULL-TIME PASTOR

New Hope Baptist Church in Choudrant, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send your résumés to nhbcpsc2023@gmail.com.



### SEEKING A CHURCH SECRETARY

Seeking a full time (36 hour) church secretary for Swartz First Baptist Church. Please send your résumés to Personnel@fbcswartz.org



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### SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH MINISTER

Seeking a full-time youth minister at Bonita Road Baptist Church, 7204 Pine Grove Loop Rd, Bastrop, LA 71220. Résumés can be emailed to simple7ministries@yahoo.com



### 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



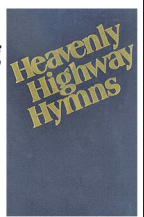
### Seeking a Bi-Vocational PASTOR

Macedonia Baptist Church in Effie, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please mail your résumé to Macedonia Baptist Church, Attn: Randy Littleton, PO Box 186, Effie, LA 71331 or email your résumé to mbceffie@gmail.com.



### SEEKING HYMNALS

Riverview Baptist Church in Alexandria is searching for approximately 30 Heavenly Highway Hymnals (preferably in large print.) Please contact Mike Boone, minister of music, at 318.613.6505 or email him at charnaboone@gmail.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.



### BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

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



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](http://www.rockysprings1845.com)

### SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH OR FULLTIME YOUTH/CHILDREN MINISTER

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



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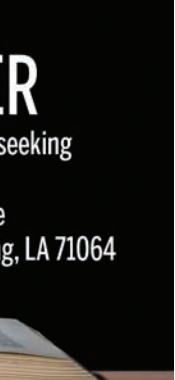
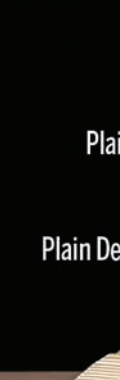
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### Seeking a full-time or part-time STUDENT MINISTER

Plain Dealing Baptist Church, Plain Dealing, LA is seeking a full-time or part-time student minister. Please send résumés to: Search Committee Plain Dealing Baptist Church, PO Box 543, Plain Dealing, LA 71064 or email to pdbcla@gmail.com



### SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER

First Baptist Church, Greensburg is accepting résumés for a part-time youth minister. résumés may be emailed to [fbcgreensburg@centurytel.net](mailto:fbcgreensburg@centurytel.net) or mailed to **First Baptist Church, Greensburg P.O. Box 37 • Greensburg, LA 70441**



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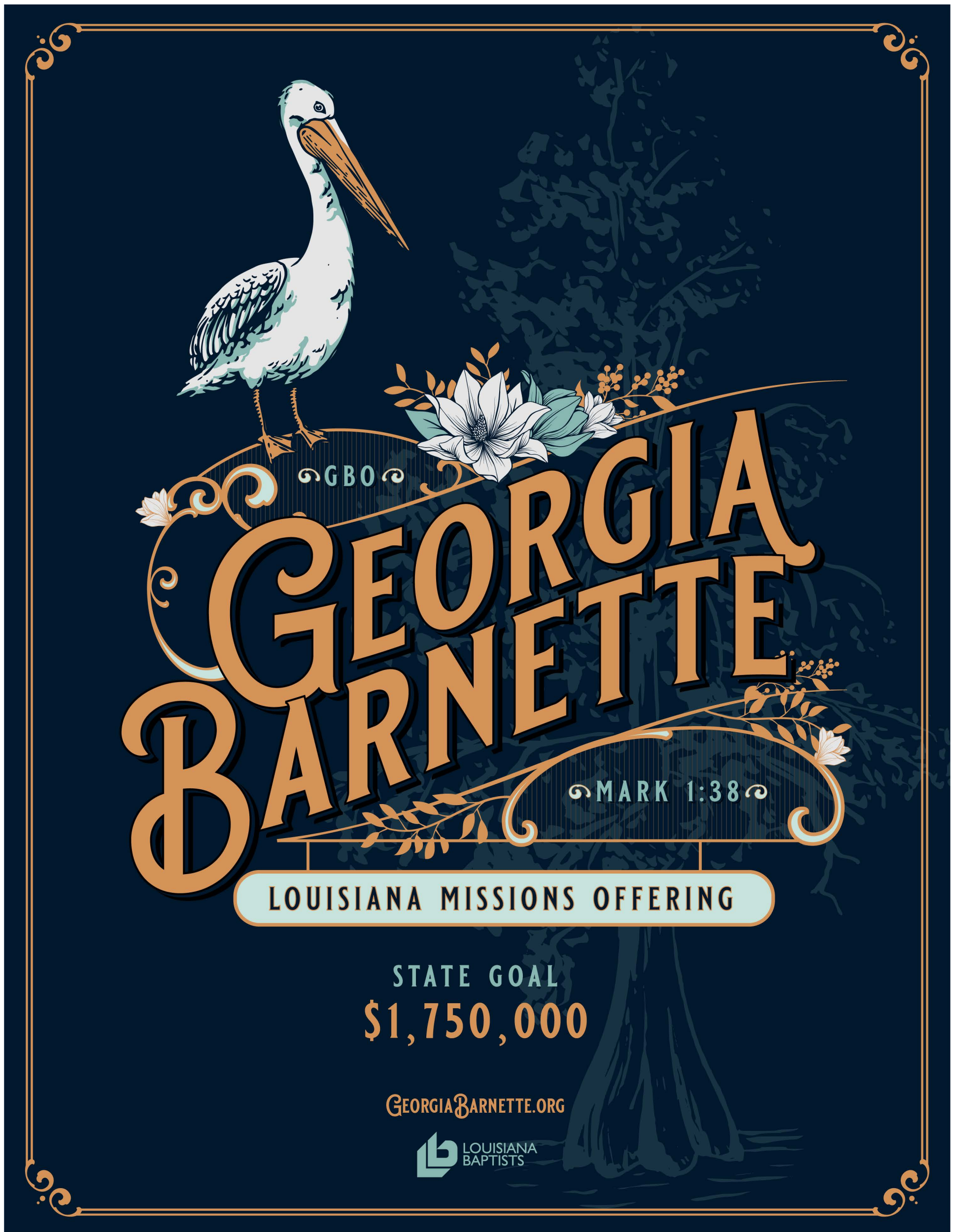
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A poster for the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering. The background is dark blue with a faint, stylized illustration of a large tree. In the upper left, a white pelican with a long orange beak stands on a branch. To its right is a large white flower with green leaves and small orange berries. The text 'GBO' is in a small, teal, serif font. The main title 'GEORGIA BARNETTE' is in large, orange, serif capital letters with a drop shadow. Below it, 'MARK 1:38' is in a teal, serif font. A light blue banner with an orange border contains the text 'LOUISIANA MISSIONS OFFERING'. Below the banner, 'STATE GOAL' is in teal, and '\$1,750,000' is in large orange numbers. At the bottom, 'GEORGIA BARNETTE.ORG' is in orange, and the Louisiana Baptists logo is in teal.

GBO

# GEORGIA BARNETTE

MARK 1:38

LOUISIANA MISSIONS OFFERING

STATE GOAL  
\$1,750,000

GEORGIA BARNETTE.ORG

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS