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NOLA saltwater crisis: Please donate bottled water

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief officials have issued an urgent call for monetary and bottled water donations for New

Orleans area residents who are being impacted by saltwater in the water supply. The effort, called ‘Operation Living Water,’ is a joint effort between LBDR, New Orleans area churches and New Orleans Baptist Association Executive

Director Jack Hunter and his staff. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the foreseeable future, three drop off locations will be accepting donations of bottled water: -- E. L. Kirkland & Son

LL, 295 Booner Miller Rd., Deville -- Rolling Hills Ministry, 3487 Hwy. 33, Ruston -- New Life Missions, 123 South Pine St., Independence -- Lake Charles location, TBD

Additionally, financial gifts to purchase water can be given through the LBDR website, louisianabaptists.org/dr. LBDR Strategist Stan Statham said one pallet of water can

See **SALTWATER**, page 2

Louisiana church self-insurance advisory board OK'd

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – In response to the church insurance crisis that is pressing on congregations across the state, Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board members approved, during their Sept. 26 meeting, an advisory committee to help identify strategies and resources to secure one-time funding to launch the state legislature approved self-insurance program.

BACKGROUND

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



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Baptist Executive Board members voted to approve an advisory committee to help identify strategies and resources to secure one-time funding to launch a self-insurance program.

during negotiations between the Senate and House. Consequently, multiple approaches are underway to secure one-time fund-

ing from the state and federal governments and possibly other sources to assist with setup

See **INSURANCE**, page 2

Horn emphasizes need for culture of evangelism

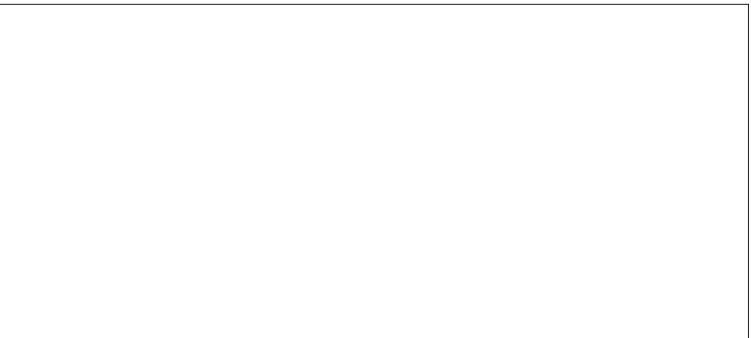
By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn emphasized the need for and results of a culture of evangelism among Louisiana Baptists when he addressed Executive Board members during their Sept. 26 meeting.

“By God’s grace, this will always be our priority for us,” Horn said. “I have shared with you and in various ways the idea of a culture of evangelism. This is what we think about. This is what we do. This is what drives us. This is our prayer.

“Louisiana is known for its culture,” he said. “Sometimes that’s good. Sometimes that’s not so good. What it would be like if it would be said of us that there’s a culture of

See **CULTURE**, page 5



GBO: Reynolds Scholarship a huge help to collegians

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

VILLE PLATTE, La. (LBM) – For the last 25 years, the Hannah Reynolds Women’s Missions and

Ministry Scholarship has given Louisiana Christian University students financial aid as well as encouragement to press on with the Great Commission in their future careers.

Throughout the year, WMM associational leaders across the state “adopt” the scholarship recipients. In addition to praying for

See **SCHOLARSHIP**, page 2

Scholarship from page one

the students, they also send encouraging cards. Kevin West, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ville Platte, and the father of two of the scholarship recipients, was touched by the prayer cards his children, Ethan and Kamryn, have received during their time at Louisiana Christian University.

"With our children going to college, they're going to go out and graduate one day and be professionals in whatever chosen area (which) for both of them is medical," West said. "They are going out as Christian doctors, as Christian researchers. They are taking a worldview of Christ out into the world, and

everyone that contributed through Georgia Barnette to the WMM scholarship has had an instrumental part in getting them there."

Ethan West said he was impressed the WMM leaders in his association would take time to send him encouraging notes of support.

"I found out about the scholarship through my church," he said. "It was a scholarship that I had actually heard about through previous LCU students. Missions is not just traveling to other countries and doing all these things there. You can be on mission in your local area."

Kamryn West added, "It felt special, just knowing there is someone out there investing in you, praying for you, and wishing the best for your future. Not just the monetary donations, but the prayers truly touched me in ways that I may not even realize just yet."

Since the Hannah Reynolds WMM Scholarship was first granted, 849 LCU students have received the award provided by Louisiana Baptists Women's Missions and Ministry and funded through the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering. GBO also supports

the following scholarships: seminary women (master's degree), African American church planter (master's degree), and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

THRIVE (certificate program for ministers' wives).

For additional WMM scholarships information, visit www.louisianabaptists.org/scholarships.

Saltwater from page one

be purchased for \$300 and a truckload of 20 pallets can be bought for \$6,000.


Satham said First Baptist Church, Port Sulphur, is expected to be the first church to deliver water to area residents sometime in the first week of October. The LBDR Incident Command Center in Alexandria, headed up by Clark Fooshee, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Jackson, will manage Operation Living Waters.

According to the Louisiana Governor's Office for Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, drought conditions have diminished freshwa-

ter volumes flowing down the Mississippi River. Consequently, saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico is moving upriver. Gov. John Bel Edwards issued an emergency declaration on Sept. 27 for Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

"It's our prayer that as we hand out water to individuals, that many will come to know Christ and receive the eternal living water," Satham told the *Baptist Message*. "While we are not panicking, we are preparing to meet the needs of the most vulnerable."

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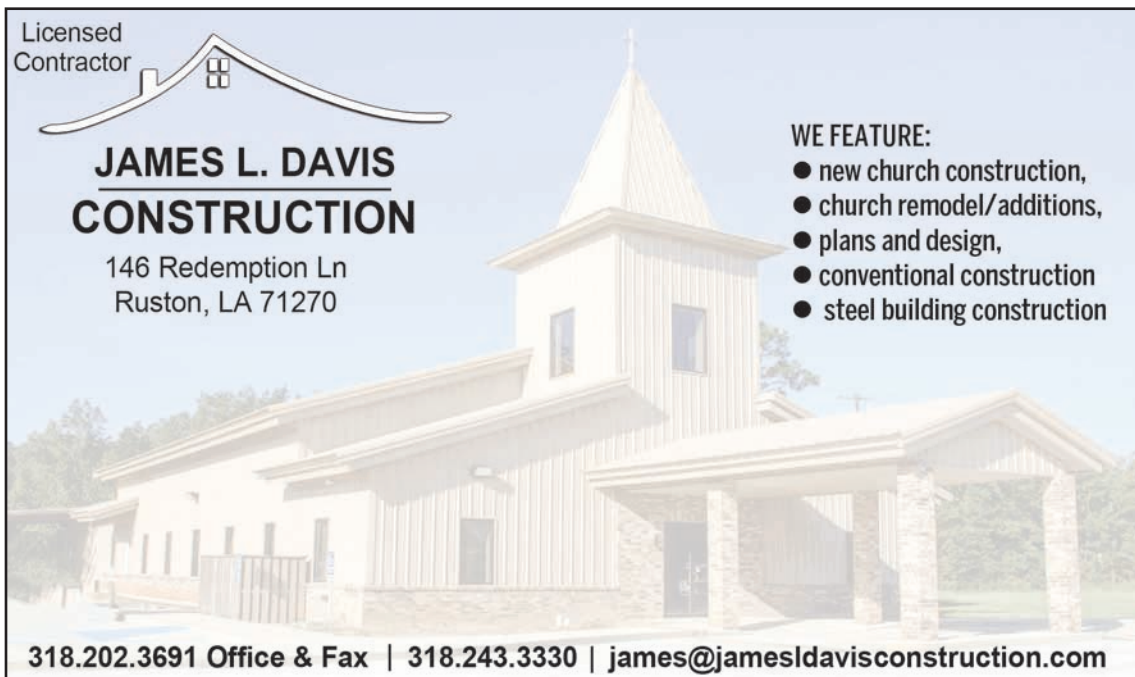


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Insurance from page one

costs. In the meantime, efforts are beginning to complete "no cost" steps while the funding appeals proceed.

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 cosponsor, pushed through S.B. 147, which established the church self-insurance program.

MOVING FORWARD

Horn encouraged board members to contact him if

they would like to serve on the advisory committee. Additionally, he said an e-mail and/or letter requesting historical insurance information from churches will be sent soon.

He said this is not an LBC program but rather a means to offer help to all the churches in the state, regardless of denomination.

"I dream of one day standing before you to tell you that there is a self-insurance program as an alternative for our churches to consider instead of traditional insurance which only promises at this point escalating premiums, higher than affordable deductibles, the very real possibility of churches not securing insurance, therefore leading to ultimately the inability to build back when, not if, the next hurricane comes," Horn said. "I'm not willing to sit back and let that occur. So, we are at work for you and will not quit until there is a viable alternative."

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Myers returns 'home' as LBC youth strategist

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – A former Louisiana Baptist student minister who moved out of state in 2019 has returned as the youth strategist for Louisiana Baptists.

Lee Myers, who began his new role Oct. 1, most recently was the student minister at First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas.

"Louisiana has always felt like my Jerusalem," Myers told the Baptist Message. "The opportunity to come back and serve the state is what the Lord wanted me to do."

A native of Jayess, Mississippi, Myers has served 34 years, collectively, with local churches. In addition to his most recent role in Arkansas, Myers was a student minister with congregations in



Submitted photo

One of Lee Myers' goals as Louisiana Baptist youth ministry strategist is to strengthen the student ministry networks statewide so the Gospel can be advanced among the next generation.

Mississippi (Shady Grove Baptist Church, Ruth, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Gloster, West McComb Baptist Church, McComb) and Louisiana (Immanuel Baptist Church, Hammond, First

Baptist Church, Zachary, First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, and Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City).

He also has served as minister of assimilation with Cypress Baptist

Church, Benton; a teacher for Pine Hills Academy, Gloster, Mississippi, and Riverdale Christian Academy, Baton Rouge. He has also volunteered on numerous youth ministry planning committees and groups including the Youth Evangelism Celebration planning team.

Myers holds degrees from Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson, Mississippi; Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi; and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Tammi, have four children, Jeff, Bryce, Beth and Max.

Throughout his years in student ministry, Myers has formed kindred relationships with many Louisiana Baptist student ministers, he said. Consequently, one of his goals as youth ministry strate-

gist is to strengthen the student ministry networks statewide so the Gospel can be advanced among the next generation. He plans to remind churches that his office is an available resource for evangelism.

"There are a lot of strengths that happen with the networks, as we work together to help our student ministers accomplish more together," he said. "I also want to see the relationship strengthened between student ministry and collegiate work. The first three to four weeks on campus will determine the habits of a college student for the rest of their time at that school and if we can connect BCM directors with the students before they arrive, we have a better chance of those students remaining plugged in."

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James Jenkins, who has served as interim Louisiana Baptist Missions and Ministries Team director since John Hebert retired from the position in late December 2022, was approved for the role on a permanent basis by the Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board during a Sept. 26 meeting.

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Jenkins to lead LBC missions, ministry team

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – James Jenkins, the new Louisiana Baptist missions and ministry team director, shared a God-sized vision to help advance the Kingdom by one percent and lead the way to having a 2000-church state convention by 2033.

Jenkins, who has served in the interim role since John Hebert retired from the position in late December 2022, was approved for the role on a permanent basis by the Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board during a Sept. 26 meeting.

“I’ve been in this work for a while, so it’s not brand new to me,” Jenkins told the Baptist Message. “But I am excited to have that sense of stability. I now have been given the opportunity to impact the Kingdom in ways I’ve always wanted to.”

“I want to thank Dr. Steve Horn, Louisiana Baptist Executive Director, and the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention for the opportunity to serve

in this position,” he continued. “I’m very mindful of the privilege of serving in this role and want to make sure Louisiana Baptists get a big return on investment.”

“I want to also thank the men and women who serve on the mission and ministry team. We are dedicated team serve through women ministries, disaster relief and men ministries, Missions Builders, and compassion ministries.”

Moving forward, Jenkins said he has three goals: fully implementing the Send Network Louisiana; greater engagement with associational partners; and putting rural churches in a position to “win.”

SEND NETWORK LOUISIANA

Send Network Louisiana, a partnership between the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Louisiana Baptist Convention, has 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, about

60 percent of whom are estimated to be lost, will turn to Christ through 231 churches planted in the state by 2033 (based on each new church reaching 125 people with the Gospel).

Jenkins said this strategy will give Louisiana Baptists new avenues for church planting and replanting, more accountability over their resources and more assurance church planters will impact lostness in the state.

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

“We need everyone to pray,” Jenkins said. “Our goal of starting 231 churches, expanding the Kingdom by one percent, and baptizing 28,000 by 2033 is a God-sized vision. The only way it’s going to happen is that we keep knocking on God’s door and asking Him to deliver.”

“We also need people to pay,” he said. “Commit to give to the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering. While we will receive funding from NAMB, we need to

See **JENKINS**, page 11

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Culture from page one

evangelism.”

Horn told board members he has been encouraged in several areas of evangelism this year:

-- Crossover and Serve Tour, a pair of evangelistic efforts that took place June 9-10 before the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in New Orleans, saw 336 recorded professions of faith;

-- 207 decisions for Christ took place during LBC-sponsored camps at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center, Woodworth; and

-- ‘Here for You,’ Louisiana Baptists’ statewide multi-media campaign, resulted another 206 spiritual commitments.

“We rejoice in the stories of Gospel advance, of decisions that we hear from our local churches,” Horn said. “I see all the time that many of our local churches have used this year vocational evangelists and with great results. And it is my prayer, and it is my belief that God is at work across the state of Louisiana.”

SEND PARTNERSHIP

Horn also expressed excitement about Send Network Louisiana, a partnership between the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The partnership, which went into effect Aug. 1, will provide: four years of monthly supplements for Send Network church plants; five years of Send Network Planter Care (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.

He said the partnership will focus on reaching others with the Gospel through church planting efforts.

“The most important aspect of this partnership that drew me to this strategy is the evangelistic focus of church plants,” Horn said. “Embedded in Send Network’s purpose statement is this vision. The vision of Send Network is to join in God’s activity to see His

Kingdom expand in North America by one percent over the next decade.”

Lane Corley, who previously served as a Louisiana Baptist church planting strategist, has assumed the role of Send Network Louisiana director, fully funded by NAMB.

Horn asked Corley to share about the evangelistic potential of Louisiana Baptists’ partnership with NAMB.

Corley said the goal of the partnership between the LBC and NAMB is to expand God’s Kingdom in Louisiana by one percent through 2030.

He explained that one percent of growth through the Send Network Louisiana initiative translates into reaching 28,841 of the current population of 4,648,794 Louisianans, about 60 percent of whom are estimated to be lost. He offered that such a goal is achievable if the partnership is successful in planting 231 new churches and if each one reaches 125 people with the Gospel by the end of 2030. He encouraged board members to contact him, lcorley@namb.net, and the Send Network Louisiana team for more information on how to get involved.

“It is a God-sized goal and it’s more focus on evangelistic church planting that we’ve done,” Corley said. “This gives us a good challenge to utilize the tools of the North American Mission Board and our current churches to enhance evangelistic church planting across the state.”

SOUL-WINNING BCMS

Horn also invited Louisiana Baptist Collegiate Director Mark Robinson to address the Executive Board about the culture of evangelism promoted by Louisiana Baptist Collegiate Ministries serving on 28 campuses across the state.

Robinson said that every year, 35,000 students on college campuses are reached through the ministries of Louisiana Baptists’ BCMS. Of those, 9,500 become active BCM members.

Importantly, he said, so far in 2023, 272 have made professions of faith.

He also shared that the summer was a busy time for BCMS, as 675 students served in summer missions and raised \$227,000 to make it happen, and 50 students and 20 staff members served as ambassadors by manning

the registration booth during the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting.

Robinson said that each week he receives a phone call from BCM campus directors with news that their members have shared Christ with other students.

“It is normalized in that ministry to take students out with a staff member, go out on campus, find some folks, meet them, set an appointment with them, sit down with them and tell them what it means to know Jesus,” he said. “These folks love to share the Gospel.”

FINAL THOUGHTS

Horn closed his report by noting that in August he had the opportunity to encourage students as well as faculty and staff at Louisiana Christian University to foster an evangelistic culture.

“I told both groups that if there’s any place in Louisiana where there ought to have -- not just the existence but the expectation of -- a culture of evangelism it’s at LCU,” he said. “I’m thankful Dr. Brewer for your invitation for me to do that. And it’s his prayer and mine that there will exist a culture of evangelism at LCU.”

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Despite heart attacks, stroke, Longoria thankful

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

TRYING MOMENTS

DERIDDER, La. (LBM) – Evangelist Lyndon Longoria missed a year from the pulpit, 2019-2020, during a battle with a stroke and other medical conditions, but through those trials he experienced God's goodness through the love displayed by thousands, he said.

"I never thought about giving up or quitting. I just didn't know if I would be able to continue to preach as an evangelist," Longoria told the Baptist Message. "I knew I could still talk and the Lord could still use me to preach, even if I had to preach sitting down—which I did at the beginning."

"My faith in the faithfulness of God has been unwavering," he continued. "The Word of God has become precious to me again, and has fed my heart and my soul. My faith in God and His ability is in a place it has never been before. There are many struggles and I have battled moments of depression, but my faith in God has overcome it all. I have perfect peace that He will finish what He has started."

April 19, 2019, started like any other day for Longoria, who was preaching at a revival service in Cordele, Georgia. But the day turned out to be anything but normal. As Longoria began to preach an "assortment" of messages, he slumped on his right side and struggled to walk. Immediately, his wife, Kerry, drove Longoria and their two young sons, Ben and Asa, to a hospital 25 miles away. Shortly after arriving at the emergency room, Longoria's speech turned to "jibberish" and his brain bled.

For the next year, Longoria visited several hospitals and underwent multiple medical trials including two heart attacks, physical rehabilitation and treatment for a form of blood cancer.

While the family experienced trying times, Kerry Longoria said she and her family felt God's presence and power through the prayers and encouragement of others.

"Those were scary days, touch and go," Kerry Longoria said. "Many days he didn't even know my name. I never left him, but I prayed while awake and in and out of

sleep.

"Thank God for our friends," she continued. "I cannot stress enough the debt of gratitude we owe to the friends who took care of our boys during days that turned into weeks."

MIRACULOUS RECOVERY

Longoria trusts that his most difficult days are behind him now. He shared that he preaches at churches every Sunday and at two monthly revivals, cares for the family's chickens, mows a four-acre lawn, completes household chores without assistance and maintains his sense of humor.

He also is thankful for how God blessed him during these trying times, especially when he saw his son, Asa, surrender to the ministry during a time of decision at First Baptist Church, Anacoco, where Longoria was the guest preacher, Oct. 20, 2019. Asa has since joined Longoria at multiple evangelistic events and has preached apart from his dad.

"His mother and I have always known he was called, but I didn't expect him to know at so

See LONGORIA, page 7



Though Lyndon Longoria and his family experienced trying times from medical issues, they felt God's presence and power through the prayers and encouragement of others.

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UL baseball players score big at Bayou Church

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

LAFAYETTE, La. (LBM) – The University of Louisiana-Lafayette baseball team has high hopes for the upcoming baseball season, but three players celebrated victories Sept. 10, when they were baptized at the Bayou Church.

Surrounded by 50 teammates and athletic department staff, Andrew Herrmann, Carson Flono and Riley Marcotte were baptized by Matt Deggs, UL head baseball coach. Before he baptized each player, Deggs cited a memory verse and gave each player a challenge. They were among 10 new believers baptized during the service and 73 since January.

“There are wins and there are losses,” Deggs said moments before the baptisms. “And then there is victory. Victory in Jesus Christ. It is for freedom that Christ set you free.”

The three players made decisions to follow through with baptism after hearing Deggs share the Gospel in August during a team meeting, and again at Bayou Church with their teammates. In that service, Pastor Sean Walker shared a message about how to replace broken soundtracks with God’s truth through a relationship with Christ.

“Talking with the coach this week, this is what I

learned,” Walker said. “He’s not a baseball coach first. He’s a baseball coach. First, he is a developer of men.”

CHANGED LIFE

Deggs knows first-hand about freedom found in Christ.

In 2011, Deggs was on a hunting trip with then-Texas A&M Baseball Coach Rob Childress. Deggs passed out after drinking too much beer on a deer stand and Childress drove him home. Soon after Childress dropped him off, Deggs became argumentative with his wife, Kathy, and their children.

The next morning, Deggs could not remember where his truck was parked, and a few hours later was dismissed as associate head coach.

Deggs was left without a job and tried to pick up the pieces of his marriage.

To make ends meet, he worked at a feed mill in College Station, Texas, and later as a pharmaceutical salesman.

UL Head Coach Tony Robichaux eventually gave Deggs a second chance in 2012, and that turned out to be a turning point for Deggs. A year later, he stopped drinking alcohol for good; and in 2014 he re-dedicated his life to Christ.

Deggs, who was head coach of Sam Houston State (2015-2019) before returning



Submitted photo

UL Head Baseball Coach Matt Deggs shared about the freedom found in Christ before he baptized three of his players at The Bayou Church. They were among 10 new believers baptized during the service, Sept. 10.

to UL as head coach in 2020, remains alcohol free, maintains strong relationships with his wife and children and is committed to sharing how Christ has changed his life.

“Mine is a story where faith in action proves that all things are possible,” he said. “The most important thing you can do when you make mistakes is to get back up and respond and take the mess and turn it into a message.”

“We are all multiple-chance guys saved by the grace of God,” he continued. “We all battle with things at some point. Just don’t give up. So many of our players, and people in general, deal with a lot of stuff coming at them. There really is one path to freedom. The enemy wants to blind you. You have to be armed with the full armor of God.”

As Deggs and his team prepare for the upcoming season, he asked for prayer.

“Pray that we keep our eyes open,” he said. “And pray that we are healthy and strong and committed to each other, to the brotherhood, and our relationships with Christ.”

GROWTH ON THE BAYOU

The celebration of baptisms on Sept. 10 is among many ways the Holy Spirit’s

favor has manifested with the Bayou Church this year, Walker said. The congregation has:

- surpassed last year’s baptism total (71);
- seen Sunday morning worship attendance increase (1,679 compared to 1,378 in 2022); and

- witnessed small group numbers grow since August, averaging 1,858 (including 1,196 adults), up from 1,143 in 2022.

Additionally, the church held a grand opening of a campus expansion, Aug. 6. The new 32,485-sq.-ft. facility includes a 250-seat multi-purpose venue with restrooms and a small kitchen area for hosting weddings, memorial services, and other community events. There also is a lobby, coffee shop (featuring Reve coffee and Caroline’s cookies), covered patio and restrooms, as well as a children’s space/preschool area that will be available at the 9:30 and 11

a.m. services for those in kindergarten through fifth grade.

The facility replaces a 45-year-old building that sustained significant roof and infrastructure damage from Hurricane Delta, which cut a swath through the Lafayette area in October 2020. Built in 1979, the former Roller City skating rink had served as a worship and event space since it was purchased by the church in 1986.

“As exciting as growth in numbers and the successful completion of a campus expansion are, we know that success is not measured by size or scope, but in the individual stories of authentic life-change,” Walker said. “The Bayou Church’s mission established nearly four decades ago by our Founding Pastor, Mike Walker, remains the same: Transforming lives in Acadiana through Christ-centered relationships. We will forever remain committed to that purpose.”

Longoria from page 6

young an age,” Longoria said. “I don’t know why I was surprised that he would be called at 12, since he was saved at just five years old. Kerry and I always said he would be a hide-stripping prophet/evangelist and he would never make it as a pastor. But he may just surprise us yet.”

Looking to the future, Longoria said he has no plans of stepping aside.

“Looking back now after 22 years of serving as pastor of two churches, and now 25 years in full-time evangelism, I am still humbled, amazed and grateful that God, for reasons I still can’t understand, has allowed me to participate in His Kingdom work of sharing His Gospel and seeing lives transformed,” Longoria said. “Like most well-known min-

isters, I have struggled with pride and insecurity because of, and in spite of, my accomplishments.

“And now having gone through a stroke and living life as a handicapped man and seeing that God has not only spared my life, but seems to still intend to use me,” he continued. “Well, it just blows my mind. It was pretty devastating to think that I may never preach again. I am humbly grateful. I am totally dependent on the Lord now, and I am finding great peace in that place.”

To host Longoria for an evangelistic event, call 337.515.1857 or 337.396.2202; e-mail lyn-donlongoria42@gmail.com; or write P.O. Box 23, Deridder, LA 70634



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Entities report good news to executive board

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – During a Sept. 26 meeting, Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board members approved the 2024 Cooperative Program giving plan and were updated on the ongoing work by the Convention's four entities.

BUDGET REPORT

Board members approved the business and finance committee's 2024 financial plan based on Cooperative Program contributions of \$18,080,569, an increase of \$502,560, or 2.86 percent. Cooperative Program projections are based on actual receipts from August 2022 through July 2023.

The allocation formula for distributing Cooperative Program gifts between Southern Baptist Convention and Louisiana Baptist causes changed for 2024, 62.87 percent forwarded to support ministries in the state (a decrease from 63.26 percent in 2023) and 37.13 percent forwarded to fund national entities (an increase from 36.74 percent in 2023).

The budget will be presented to messengers for approval during the 2023 LBC Annual Meeting.

ENTITY REPORTS

Louisiana Baptist Foundation President Jeff Steed said \$36.95 million in ministry support overall has been realized since the July 2020 launch of the LBF's Vision200 (impacting the Kingdom with \$200 million through the LBF in 20 years or less).

Steed shared that the LBF recently launched ChurchBizCube.net to offer a well-rounded approach to those they serve with the main goal of furthering the Gospel's outreach. This toolkit consists of six "sides" of a cube: expanding a church campus, add new church plant/satellite campus, emergency savings fund/insurance reserves, increasing gifts now and later, increasing efficiencies/maximizing impact, and stewarding cash reserves.

"Thank you for the honor to be a partner in ministry with you and your church to

advance the Kingdom, one dollar at a time, one ministry at a time, one life at a time," Steed said.

Baptist Message Executive Editor Will Hall said that as Louisiana Baptists celebrate 175 years of ministry together in the state, the Baptist Message is celebrating its 136th year as a partner with them.

He said the news service was established to help promote the work of and contribute to fostering unity among Louisiana Baptists, and he declared the Baptist Message remains committed to those mission priorities.

To make his point, Hall highlighted the Baptist Message's primary role during the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, which was held in New Orleans, in providing coverage of the two key evangelistic events, Crossover and Serve Tour, that preceded the business meeting and heavily involved Louisiana Baptists.

He also pointed out that a special edition *Baptist Message* newspaper that was distributed to SBC messengers highlighted the 175-year legacy of Louisiana Baptists' soul winning in the state.

Moreover, Hall said this focus on evangelism is a regular feature in each issue of the newspaper.

"While we report the news and try to give the facts so that people can be informed about different events that impact us as Louisiana Baptists, I hope that you see and I hope you agree with me that our focus is to establish, to promote, to encourage a culture of evangelism here in our state," he said, referring to the initiative announced in May by LBC Executive Director Steve Horn.

Office of Public Policy Hall, who also serves as the director of the Convention's Office of Public Policy, gave a report about Louisiana Baptists' efforts to influence moral issues, social concerns and religious liberty matters in the state. He shared that four 2022 LBC resolutions were translated into public policy during the 2023 legislative session:

-- HB648, authored by Rep. Gabe Firment, a deacon with the First Baptist Church, Pollock, prohibits physicians and therapists from perform-

ing surgeries or providing puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to children because minors are intellectually and emotionally incapable of giving informed consent to these irreversible procedures. This bill was largely influenced by 2022 RESOLUTION 2: ON PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM THE PERMANENT PHYSICAL HARM OF SEX CHANGE SURGERIES AND DRUGS.

-- HR14, co-sponsored by Rep. Dodie Horton, a member of the First Baptist Church, Haughton, and Rep. Valerie Hodges, put into policy "RESOLUTION 1: ON THANKING GOD FOR THE SUPREME COURT'S PRO-LIFE RULING IN DOBBS V. JACKSON," by implementing the resolve statement that asked the legislature to designate June as "Sanctity of Preborn Life Month."

-- SR96, championed by Sen. Beth Mizell, a member of the First Baptist Church, Franklinton, requires the formation of a Louisiana Department of Health task force "to study acute and long-term adverse health events related to medical marijuana." This aligns with "RESOLUTION 3: ON PROTECTING LOUISIANA'S YOUTH FROM THE HARMS OF MARIJUANA."

-- HR71, advanced by Rep. Laurie Schlegel, based "RESOLUTION 4: ON A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THOSE EXPERIENCING MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, RELATIONAL AND ADDICTION ISSUES," formed a subcommittee within the House Committee on Health and Welfare "to study the mental health crisis plaguing the citizens of Louisiana and the resources available to assist individuals with a mental health diagnosis in this state."

Additionally, Hall said, Louisiana Baptists responded to the emerging church insurance crisis by taking the lead in calling for a legislative solution. Sen. Katrina Jackson responded to contact from the Office of Public Policy by setting up a Zoom townhall meeting of church leaders with Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon. Likewise, Sen. Robert Mills, a member of First Baptist Church, Bossier City, with Jackson as co-sponsor, pushed through S.B.147 which authorizes a church

self-insurance program.

Finally, Hall urged Executive Board members to "vote YES on Amendment 2," a statewide ballot measure to protect the freedom to worship in Louisiana, an issue championed via SB63 by Sen. Mizell.

"You are making a difference," Hall said. "Louisiana Baptists are making a difference by shoring up the state's cultural foundation for the future generations."

Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries President and CEO Perry Hancock said the entity served 6,800 children and adults this year and that multiple faith decisions were made.

He said the LBCHFM has seen four trends impacting children's homes and has adjusted to accommodate the changing landscape:

-- a shift away from residential childcare (fewer placements);
-- a shift toward residential family care (establishment of a temporary home for homeless mothers and their children);

-- a shift toward non-residential foster care (launch of a Connect 1 Child ministry aimed at increasing foster families); and

-- a shift toward compassion ministries (expansion of Compassion for Kids ministry).

"The churches have supported the Children's Home for almost 125 years," he said. "But the ministries we are starting now we want the Children's Home to support the churches. The Children's Home wants to support your work so we can reach more people for the Lord."

Louisiana Christian University President Rick Brewer encouraged board members to bring prospective students to Preview Day, Oct. 7. Basing his report on John 12:20-26, Brewer said LCU strives to establish a culture of evangelism on campus.

"Christian higher education is a strategic institution for the church," he said. "Christian colleges and seminaries are where we train the future leaders of the church. The discipleship and faith formation takes place there. The cost, quality and availability of Christian education is a

Great Commission activity."

Citing a Barna survey, Brewer said 70 percent of students profess Christ as Savior and attend a secular school will leave with little to no faith. He added that another Barna survey revealed that just 7 percent of those in the Generation Z hold a biblical worldview.

"We are on the brink in America of our current 18-25 year olds being an unreached people group," he said. "We are doing something about that at Louisiana Christian University. But we need more students to make a difference."

Brewer said despite the increasing number who do not profess Christ as Savior, he remains encouraged and hopeful.

"I believe there is a generation of Christians, a remnant if you would, including on my campus at Louisiana Christian University, who are saying again and again and again and the question to the rest of us is are we listening. They want to see Jesus.

"I believe that," he said. "I've experienced it. I've watched it.

"This is my 37th year in Christian higher education," he continued. "And I'm never more encouraged than I am now what can happen on our campus and what is happening now in the lives of our young people."

EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Executive Board President Dustin Stockstill challenged board members to pray and share the Gospel.

Preaching from Colossians 4:2-6, he said Christ followers must get back "to the basics" of their calling.

"If you're really going to make a dent in lostness in the state of Louisiana, it's going to start with us going before the Lord and seeking His face, seeking His favor, asking for Him to give direction on, 'How do we reach the people around us?' 'How do we reach this state?' 'How do we reach our communities, our parishes?' 'How to do we reach the cities?' he said. "We need to be a praying people. We need to lead our churches back to being praying people."

See GOOD NEWS, page 9

Good news from page 8

Stockstill, who resigned as Executive Board president to become a church planter in Europe, said he was convicted of his need to pray more while in training for his new role.

"They were asking us, 'How much did you pray in your churches before you got here?'" he said. "And you start looking at it, yeah we prayed on Sunday morning, you prayed maybe on Wednesday night, but how much true prayer are we doing where everything else is put aside and we're just going to God. We're spending time before God. Ask yourself that. How much time are you praying personally?"

Later in the meeting, board members prayed for Stockstill and his family as they are set to embark on a new journey.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Louisiana Baptist Convention President Reggie Bridges (pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Ruston) encouraged board members to attend the upcoming Louisiana Baptist Convention Pastors Conference and Annual Meeting, Nov. 13-14, in the facilities of the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans.

"We will have completed

175 years of ministry together and we want to celebrate," he said. "But we also want to look ahead."

He announced that the theme of the 176th annual meeting is "Pursuit," from Philippians 3:14, and used Ephesians 5:15-18 to flesh out the concept.

Bridges said if Louisiana Baptists are to pursue the Lord, they first must learn to walk wisely and watch every step.

"Can we admit that sometimes we have not watched out for the signs that God has put in front of us, and we have not stepped right, and we have fallen," he said. "And it's been embarrassing. It's been painful."

"We've got to walk wisely as Louisiana Baptists," he said.

He added that "pursuit" also involves "redeeming the time," noting that often when people talk about "buying our time" it means stalling.

But here, he offered, it is the idea of "buying out of captivity" and to "free that which is imprisoned."

He said Christ redeems our lives and can redeem time itself ... "make something good out of that which is bad."

"We need to buy our time," Bridges said. "We need to make the most of the op-

portunity."

Finally, he concluded, we need to come under the influence of the Holy Spirit "... thoughts ... words ... emotions ... everything ... Everything should demonstrate Christ Jesus, and the power of His Spirit."

Bridges said that celebrating "our 175th year together and look forward to 176," we need to pursue Christ and then "His Spirit will empower us, and we will see people saved and equipped for His glory and for the good of His Kingdom."

OTHER BUSINESS

During the 2022 LBC Annual Meeting, Dale Goodman, messenger and pastor, Chase Baptist Church, submitted a motion "that the budget committee ... include \$2,500 allotted to the Baptist Nursing Fellowship," and asked that churches and associations be encouraged to promote the organization.

Goodman's motion was referred to the Executive Board, who during the Sept. 26 meeting approved the following response:

"The Executive Board does wholeheartedly agree with the motion's intent to encourage and promote the Baptist Nursing Fellowship in local churches and associations. However, due to the many different fellowships with Baptist life, the Executive Board believes that it is not a good practice to perpetually include any budget request that is not specific to State

Missions Services. The decision in no way reflects on the importance and value of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship. In addition, the Executive Board does encourage the leadership of the Executive Board to discuss with the leadership of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship ways to be mutually beneficial to one another."

Horn also provided a response to Executive Board members.

"We don't believe that it's wise for us to include any outside group in our budget. Particularly, we don't believe that, as the motion requests, we perpetually include some organization in our budget," he said. "That stands against the principles of the annual budget."

"We certainly want to try to work with these dedicated and faithful folks and we believe that there are ways we can do that," he continued. "For example, that we can approach them about offering nursing care at our annual meeting for example and at our events like ECON and it is a beneficial way as they help us then we will be able to contribute to the needs that they have. That's how I request we handle this particular motion, instead of doing as the motion suggests, which might bring about further motions in subsequent years from other groups asking the same. So, therefore, we believe this is a bad precedent to set with a group not germane to our state missions services work."

SBC CP, designated giving down for month, year

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM) – The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee released the September 2023 financial summary, Oct. 4, reporting that monthly gifts to SBC causes through the Cooperative Program and via designated giving were down 1.95 percent and 4.13 percent, respectively, compared to September 2022.

Year-to-date giving through both funding channels was also below 2022 levels. From Oct. 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2023, total SBC CP contributions were 4.29 percent lower compared to the same timeframe for the last fiscal year. Likewise, combined designated giving was 2.90 less for the same

months.

Both of the two largest designated funds were down compared to last year: The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was off 4.38 percent, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering was lower by 0.22 percent (less than one-quarter of a percentage point).

LBC Giving

The national report showed monthly giving by Louisiana Baptists to SBC causes in September was up 6.73 percent through CP and 3.72 percent for special offerings.

The yearly data was similarly positive. Louisiana Baptists' 2023 contributions through the CP were up 1.50 percent and 9.36 percent higher via designated giving.

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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.

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Calvary Baptist Church in Natchitoches, LA seeking full-time pastor. A parsonage is available seminary preferred, college accepted. Send send résumés to: calvary312@gmail.com

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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 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 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 PART TIME STUDENT MINISTER
Belle Park Baptist Church in Haughton, Louisiana is seeking a part time student minister. For more information go to BellePark.org

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

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.

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 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.

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.

SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH PASTOR
Central Baptist Church, Springhill, LA., is seeking a part-time youth pastor. Please send your résumé to the Central Baptist search committee in the mail: Central Baptist Church, Youth Pastor Search Committee, 504 W. Church St., Springhill, LA 71075 or email: centralyouthpastorsearch@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 CHURCH SECRETARY
Seeking a full time (36 hour) church secretary for Swartz First Baptist Church. Please send your résumés to Personnel@fbcschwartz.org

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 pdbsla@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@baptistmessage.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

- Jerry Masters retiring as pastor at Red River Baptist Church
- Jack Norman is the new pastor at The Well, Monroe.

HOMECOMING

- Welcome Home Baptist Church, Dodson: Homecoming service, October 8, 10:30 a.m. with Sanctuary Quartet. Pastor: Charles Wesley.
- Brushy Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Bancroft: 149th Year Homecoming, October 8, 10 a.m. – til. Speaker: Robet Gillis. Please bring your favorite covered dish for fellowship lunch. If you have any questions call Mike Streams 337.287.8367 or Velma Suchanek, 337.842.1569.
- Unity Baptist Church, Pineville: Homecoming, October 8, 11 a.m. Sunday school starts at 10 a.m. A meal will follow the worship service. Pastor: James Brown.
- 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.

Jenkins from page 4

enhance our budget on the LBC side too. We will need more money and resources, not less.

“And, we need Louisiana Baptists to participate with their local church, local association and the state convention as we revive a culture of evangelism.”

“Each day I thank God for the gift of Lane Corley, our new Director of Send Network Louisiana, who I consider to be one of the top ten church planting strategists in America. I look forward to working with Lane and the rest of our church planting team, Jeff Cook and Carlos Schmidt.”

GREATER ENGAGEMENT

Jenkins said his team will need to involve Louisiana Baptist associations even more. This includes identifying, recruiting, and developing potential church planters and helping save churches that are nearing closure.

Additionally, he reiterated that -- even though the population may be greater in the more urban areas of south Louisiana -- rural churches still play a vital role in Louisiana Baptist life.

“As the population continues to shift, we want rural churches to understand that we are not abandoning them,” he said. “Now is time for our rural congregations to be more engaged in compassion

- 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.
- Green Oak Baptist Church, , Merryville: 139th Homecoming, October 22. Dinner on the Grounds will follow the worship service. Pastor: Mark Norwood.
- Colfax Baptist Church, Colfax: Homecoming Service Nov. 5, 11 a.m. Following the service enjoy a cake/coffee fellowship. Pastor: Shane Anderson.
- New Hope Baptist Church, Elmer: 150Th Homecoming and Pioneer Days, November 11-12, Saturday Noon-6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be live music and Wild Horse Ministries will be there. Pastor: Wayne Squyres
- Mangham Baptist Church, Mangham: Homecoming, November 12, Pastor: Rick Aultman.
- Jerusalem Baptist Church, Pumpkin Center: 121st Homecoming, November 12, Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Worship service: 10:30 a.m. Guest Speaker: Greg Duncan, former music minister at Jerusalem, who is now a pastor. There will be dinner on the grounds following worship service. Pastor: Chuck Stewart

REVIVAL

- Watson Baptist Church, West Monroe: Revival, October 8-11. Guest Speaker: Steve Kelly. Pastor: Bob Holloway.
- Pastor Chad King and Anacoco Baptist Church presents the 2023 Power Conference, October 9-11, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Supper will be provided each night beginning at 5 p.m. The conference will feature Evangelist Benji Richards, Redeeming the Time Ministry, and music by Kerry Wood, minister of

- music at First Baptist Church, Childress, Teas. It is a spiritual event you don't want to miss.
- 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, 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served immediately following morning worship service. Pastor: Jeff Thomas.
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Monroe: Revival Service, Oct. 16-18 , 7 p.m. nightly. Guest Speaker: Paul Perry, pastor of Coax Baptist Church, Winnsboro, and Preston Allen. Pastor:
- Gray Baptist Church, : Bible Revival, October 16-20. 6:30 p.m. nightly. This is a Bible conference and revival combination. Evangelist: Nick Holden. Pastor: Ray Davis.
- Hillcrest Baptist Church, Franklinton: Fall Revival, October 22-25, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. service followed by dinner on the grounds 6 p.m. service; Monday-Wednesday 12 p.m. service, 6 p.m. service. Guest Speaker: David Allen. Worship: The Mackey Willis Family. Pastor: Dustin Pierce.
- 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.
- Sugartown Baptist Church, Sugartown: Revival, November 1-)E3 5 p.m. Evangelist: Lyndon Longoria. Special Music: Kerry Longoria and Samuel & Sarah O'Kelley. Pastor: Allen O'Kelley
- Red River Community Church, Marksville: Harvest Sunday, November, 6 p.m. Evangelist: Lyndon Longoria. Special Music: Kerry Longoria. Pastor :SEouis Cherrier.
- Gloster Baptist Church, Gloster: Fall Revival – Beyond Measure, November 5-8. Evangelist: Jacob Crawford. Worship: Ben Waites, Chad Tingle, Scotty Blackwell, Caleb Robinson.
- New Bethlehem Baptist Church, Denham Springs: Revival, November 26-29. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Randall Gill.

LAGNIAPPE

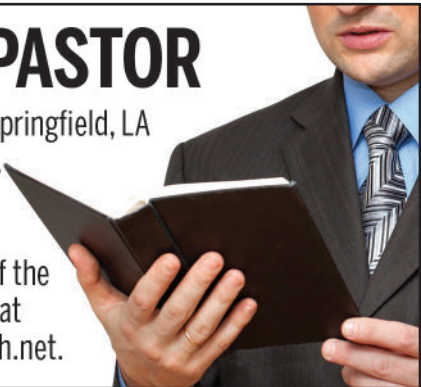
- First Baptist Church, Lafayette: Crosses & Cars Show, October 15, Registration 8:30-10:30 a.m. at corner of Barry & Lafayette St. View cars before and after each service in lots 4 & 5. Pastor: James Pritchard.
- University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: Hallelujah on the Hill, October 17, 6-8 p.m. at the 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 Celebra-

- tion 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. 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.
- Cotile Baptist Church, Boyce: Southern Plainsmen in concert, October 21, 6 p.m. Refreshments will follow the performance. 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.
- Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Lisbon: Trunk-or-treat, October 22, 4-6 p.m. There will be a cake walk, costume contest, and free hot dogs. Pastor: Chris Stephens.
- 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 Moffit
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Shreveport: Family Fall Festival Trunk & Treat, October 28, E2-4 p.m. This will take place in the church's back parking lot. There will be old-time cars, bounce houses, hot dogs, nachos and lots of treats. Free admission and everyone is welcomed. Pastor: Scott Shirley.
- Creston Baptist Church, Creston: Southern Plainsmen in concert, October 29, 10:30 a.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Truman Leach.
- Mangham Baptist Church, Manham: Trunk or Treat, October 29, 5:30 p.m. Pastor: Bill Aultman,
- First Baptist Church, Bossier: Fall Festival, October 29, 5-7 p.m. There will be games, inflatables, food trucks and lots of candy. This is a free event and will be held at Freedom Fields. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich.

- First Baptist Church, New Orleans: Fall Festival, a community wide event, October 29, 4-7 p.m. There will be a giant inflatable obstacle course, a 20-foot slide, a small bounce house for younger kids, Face Painting, free food, and many carnival games for candy prizes. This will be a free event for all who attend. Pastor: Chad Gilbert.
- 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.
- Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: Fall Festival, October 29th, 5-7 p.m. Pastor: Eric Green.
- Unity Baptist Church, Pineville: Treats on a Trail, October 31, 5:30 p.m. Come join us for gumbo, treats on the walking trail, cake walk and much more. Pastor: James Brown.
- Start Baptist Church, Rayville: Trunk or Treat, October 31, 5:30-7 p.m. Safe fun for the whole family. Pastor: Jeff Thomas
- Fellowship Baptist Church, Trout: Second annual Bible Conference and Revival Nov. 1-5. Evangelist: Roger Haney, Malcolm Ellis, Scotty McDowell, Philip Robertson. Worship: Glen and Pinny Harrigill, Scott Windham, and Glenn Price. For more information contact Shad Tibbs at 318.992.2874. 318.374.0235 or email broshadtibbs@myyahoo.com. Pastor: Shad Tibbs.
- Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: Down East Boys in concert, November 3, 7 p.m. Pastor: David Newton.
- New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy: New Hope Harvest Festival, November 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free Entry. There will be games, bounce houses, food, popcorn, cotton candy, blood drive and haryride. Pastor: Roland Hebert.
- Antioch Baptist Church, Rayville: Sanctuary Quartet in concert, November 5, 10 a.m. Pastor: Keith Evans.
- First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula: Ernie Hasse + Signature Sound, November 5, 6 p.m. Cost: \$20 per ticket and tickets are available at welcome center or church office. Pastor: David Cranford.
- Pine Grove Baptist Church, Effie: Mark Lanier in concert, November 12, 11 a.m. Pastor:

FULL-TIME PASTOR

Woodland Baptist Church, Springfield, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please email cover letters and your résumés to Jessie Roberts, Chairman, of the Pastor's Search Committee at raymondjrroberts@bellsouth.net.



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.

IGJ BY CKBZTCWH, XD ETGA DR ERF R UKHHRJ WQZG

ZTR CRHHGEYTBV GC TBY YGQ MRYWY UTFBYZ GWF HGFJ.

CBFYZ UGFBQZTBKQY GQR: QBQR

Clues:
R = E; V = P

Answer to September 28, Scripture Crypto:
James one: twenty-one



GB0

GEORGIA BARNETTE

MARK 1:38

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\$1,750,000

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