

Executive Director Steve Horn, 'Don't give up!'

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn, during the 2023 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Nov. 14, hosted by Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, urged messengers not to give up on their mission.

“Louisiana Baptists, some are fearful that this anniversary of the Cooperative Program comes at a time when we ought to be deciding upon a new giving strategy other than the

Cooperative Program,” he said. “I say, I’m not ready to give up.

“I’m not ready to give up because of the 93 Louisianans dying every day in our state with no relationship to Christ,” he continued. “I’m not ready to give up because of our

International Missions force scattered across the globe.

“So, I say, ‘Let’s not give up on what God has used to raise up and send out the greatest missionary force known to



Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn

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Messengers approve resolutions at LBC Annual Meeting

By Staff
Louisiana Baptist Message

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – Messengers approved seven resolutions during the 2023 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting: advocating for parental rights and responsibilities; protecting children’s innocence; protecting the underaged from the harms of alcohol; celebrating the 175th anniversary of the LBC; expressing appreciation for all who contributed to the annual meeting; preventing mail-order abortifacients; and congratulating Congressman Mike Johnson for his election to speaker of the

House.

Brian Gunter, a messenger and pastor from First Baptist Church, Livingston, tried to substitute his resolution (on equal protection for preborn children) for the resolution on preventing mail-order abortifacients.

Gunter’s proposed resolution included prosecution of all who perform abortion of an unborn child, including the mother. His resolution noted that “such equal protection would require a case-by-case determination and would not alter any existing presumption of

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Louisiana Baptists enjoy fellowship, conduct business, pray

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists enjoyed fellowship and worship during the 2023 LBC Annual meeting Nov. 14 at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, but also conducted important business.



Philip Robertson

ed important business.

SBC EC REPORT



Reggie Bridges

Philip Robertson thanked messengers for their prayers as he serves

as chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. He was elected to this position June 12.

Robertson and the other EC members have dealt with, among other issues, how the SBC should respond to those sexual abuse survivors.

“The past few years, as you well know, have not been the easiest for your

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modern Christianity.”

Citing Hebrews 12:25-29, Horn reminded messengers of several ways to respond as recipients of a Kingdom that never can be shaken: let their worship go up by praising God, in public actions and in personal actions; let the Word of God come into their lives by paying attention

to their spiritual leaders, Jesus and teachings of others; and let their witness go out into the world.

OVERCOMING CRISIS

Horn referenced obstacles that were surmounted in 1848 when the state convention was formed, to make a point about Louisi-

ana Baptists continuing to overcome challenges today.

He noted that Louisiana Baptist leaders are working to respond to the church insurance crisis that is pressing on 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.

The push to help churches began in March when Horn 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:

-- State Sen. Katrina Jackson responded to contact from the Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy by arranging a Zoom townhall meeting between pastors and the state insurance commissioner.

-- Likewise, state 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.

-- LBC 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.

Horn asked messengers to submit basic information they received in their annual meeting packet about their church insurance history and needs that will be helpful in ascertaining the viability of the self-insurance program.

“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 escalating premiums, higher than affordable deductibles, the very real possibility of churches not securing insurance, which will ultimately lead to the inability to build back after the next hurricane,” Horn said. “We are at work, and we will not quit until there is a viable alternative.”



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you well know, have not been the easiest for your Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee," said Robertson, also pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church, with campuses in Alexandria and Deville. "In fact, it may have been the most tumultuous stretch that has faced the EC in its 106-year history. It seems almost at times that every slope is slippery. But we know as Hebrews Chapter 6 tells us, that we have this hope as an anchor of our souls, and that anchor is connected to the Rock of Ages, the Lord Jesus. So, God continues to certainly be very, very faithful. And I'm committed to do my part to help restore to our Executive Committee stability, reliability and credibility in the midst of these changing times."

Bridges told Robertson he is thankful for him as he navigates the difficult task ahead.

"He has given leadership to our state, and he's given leadership to our Southern Baptist Convention, and we are part of the family," Bridges said. "And we want to pray for our family."

David Hankins, former LBC executive director, closed the report with a prayer for Robertson.

"We pray for our brother, Phillip Robertson," Hankins prayed. "You've given him an important as-

signment, and we pray that you would strengthen him for this task to what you have called him."

BUDGET APPROVED

Messengers approved the 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).

PRAYER FOR ISRAEL

The annual meeting featured multiple times of dedicated prayer.

During the morning session, LBC First Vice President Chad Gilbert led a prayer for those in Israel and also for the International Mission Board missionaries serving around the world.

"We bow before your mighty hand and we seek your face together," said Gilbert, also pastor of First

Baptist Church, New Orleans. "We pray today for the protection of innocent lives. We pray for the freedom of hostages. We pray for an end to the reign of terror and evil. We ultimately pray for peace that ultimately comes through Christ."

During the afternoon


session, Paul Watts, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ruston, prayed for victims of a stabbing incident at Louisiana Tech University. On Nov. 13, four individuals were knifed at the Lambright Sports and Wellness Center after leaving their early morning class. The suspect

was apprehended immediately after the attacks and placed in custody.

"We pray that hearts and minds would be open to that message, the good news of Jesus Christ stirred because of the reminder of the brevity of life," Watts

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innocence, defense, justification, immunity, or clemency, including that mothers would not be subject to criminal liability if under criminal duress, mistake of fact, or in a life-threatening medical emergency, or for an accidental or natural death, or for an act prior to the effective date of the law (ex post facto)."

Additionally, his resolution stated "that we state unequivocally that all preborn children are image-bearers of God; therefore, call upon the Louisiana Legislature and Governor to fulfill their God-given duty to uphold justice by establishing equal protection under the law for all preborn children, rejecting all partiality in judgment, and implementing the legal prohibitions and sanctions applicable to homicide for the safeguarding of all persons, both born and preborn."

Speaking for his motion, Gunter told messengers that for the last 15 years he has worked tire-

lessly for unborn children and even founded multiple pregnancy centers.

"The approach that has been taken in our state legislature and many others is to criminalize abortion clinics, but in fact to give immunity to mothers who seek and procure abortions," he said. "Now, what has been said in opposition to my position, which is that we should totally ban abortion, is that I would seek to criminalize women, but laws don't criminalized classes of people like women. Laws criminalized conduct, such as prenatal homicide.

"My position is very simple," he said. "I believe that no one should be allowed under law to murder an innocent child in the womb. I believe that murdering anyone should be illegal for everyone. And while I agree with resolution six's request that we would prosecute the abortion industry for shipping these pills into our state, that is not going far

enough. If we leave it legal for women to order those pills from out of state and have a self-managed abortion at home, which current Louisiana law allows, we'll never end abortion in our state if we keep self-managed abortion legal for women."

Field Thigpen, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Bogalusa, and a member of the LBC Resolutions Committee, spoke against Gunter's resolution. He told Gunter that while he respected him and shared with him a pro-life stance, he disagreed with Gunter's assertion that women who have an abortion should be subject to prosecution.

"We live in a broken world, and in the broken world these are the ugly, negative types of certain circumstances that would unfortunately come up and inevitably come up," he said. "And we're afraid that the criminal justice system as it stands is not capable or qualified to be able to handle matters of prenatal homicide. I am concerned that it would not promote justice, but it could possibly further injustice."



Brian Blackwell photo

Messenger Brian Gunter spoke for his proposed resolution that called for the prosecution of a woman who underwent an abortion.

John Lombard, a messenger from Wardville Community Church, Pin-ville, then spoke in favor of Gunter's motion.

"If we say with our mouths that it is human at the moment of conception, and that abortion

is murder, we have to be consistent to say that the person who intentionally -- not under duress and not under coercion -- intentionally ends life of their child life has com-

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Speakers press messengers to pursue Christ

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – On the heels of its 175th anniversary, Louisiana Baptists have an opportunity to unify and reach the state for Christ, Reggie Bridges said in his presidential address during the 2023 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Nov. 14, hosted by the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"If we all look to Jesus, and if we all run the same way, there will be natural unity because we are looking to Jesus," Bridges said.

Drawing from Hebrews 12:1-2, Bridges, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Ruston, said Christ followers must lay aside the weight of sin that entangles them, run with endurance and look unto Jesus.

"There is going to be pain," he said. "There is going to be agony. But you've got to keep running. You and I have to give it all we have because the Christian life is not a 40-yard dash but a marathon."

Bridges said everything



Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, told messengers to learn from their past and look to the future.

starts and ends with Jesus.

"The hero of history has always been Jesus," Bridges said. "He is the author and the perfecter. What He begins in us, He will finish in us. He will keep me until the day of His return. He will perfect His salvation in me."

"I may fail," he continued. "I may fall. But thanks to God I will always have the Rock of Certainty in Jesus Himself."

BIBLE STUDY

Jamie Dew, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, reminded messengers they

can be busy in the work of ministry without pursuing Christ and His Kingdom.

"We would never mean for it to happen, but somewhere along the way these lights and these platforms and these little microphones and these moments where we stand can become important to us," said Dew, basing his Bible study on Philippians

3:1-11. "We seek them out. We jockey for position. We hone our skills, and we do the things we do but somehow, somehow, we can lose sight of that which is important."

Dew said that to pursue Christ and Kingdom, those in vocational ministry must not put trust in themselves or their own accomplishments, seek Christ as their greatest

reward, recognize they are not yet who they are supposed to be and seek the life Christ purchased for them.

"To be in pursuit of Christ means you have come to realize that Christ and Christ alone is worth having," he said. "Christ and Christ alone is what can satisfy our hearts."

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prayed. "I pray for this perpetrator, this one who has acted out this terrible act of violence. I pray you work in his life. What a picture of grace would it be for you

to save him. We pray that Lord you would heal those who are injured. We pray you would heal the hearts of those who are filled with hatred. We pray for you to be glorified."

LAGNIAPPE

Ten new churches were

accepted into membership of the LBC: Grace Community Church, Lettsworth; Lighthouse Missionary Baptist Church, Franklin; Narrow Gate Cowboy Church, Vivian; Redeemed Life Fellowship, Patterson; Iglesia Christiana Filadelfia, New Orleans; Christ Community Church, Cov-

ington; First Unity Church, Baton Rouge; St. Rose Community Church, St. Rose, Hana Church, Bossier City; and Louisiana Chin Baptist Church, Gonzales. The final messenger count for the 2023 Annual Meeting was 388. The 2024 LBC Annual Meeting will take

place Nov. 12, hosted by Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport. The convention sermon will be preached by Matthew James, vice president of enrollment, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The alternate preacher will be Michael Wood, senior pastor, First Baptist

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mitted murder," he said. "The Gospel can impact that person. But if we tutor them with such laws that say otherwise, where's the Gospel impact? And so, it's our heart to hopefully persuade you to see this in light of God's view of things, and not pursue with unequal weights and measures or partiality which God looks to be as an abomination."

Will Hall, director of the LBC Office of Public Policy, cited statistics from the Charlotte Lozier Institute, a major sanctity of life research organization, that show 70 percent of women who had abortions were coerced, pressured or otherwise regretted having an abortion. He noted that imprisoning a woman for having an abortion would make her a victim a third time (with so many having been coerced to surrender their purity, then when impregnated, coerced to kill their unborn child).

Hall said he appreciated the biblical citations that Gunter included to support each statement in his resolution. But he added that one was missing, John 8 and the account about the woman caught in the act of adultery.

Hall described how Jesus responded to the scribes and Pharisees.

"And those men were convicted of their sins and left," he said. "And here's the important part. He looked up at the woman and said, is there no one left to condemn you? And she said, no one, 'Lord.' With that title, 'Lord' she declared Jesus as the Messiah, Savior. So that act of compassion from Jesus led to the salvation of that woman caught in adultery.

"Don't criminalize these women," he ended.

Messengers then voted and the substitute resolution was defeated.

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For followers of Christ, this season also serves as a reminder for us to pause and reflect on all that God has given to us. Everything we have—our funds, our family, and our very faith—has been graciously given to us by God. Generosity should be the natural overflow of the new heart that we have been given by our generous God. And while this season serves as a poignant opportunity to give, it shouldn't be the exclusive time we give. As God is steadfast in His generosity, we too should be steadfast in the generosity we extend.

As we bid farewell to one year and welcome in another, take a moment to contemplate not only how you can make a year-end gift to advance the

Kingdom, but also resolve in the new year to consider other ways you can give to your church or other ministries throughout the year. Whether it's current gifts of stock, real estate, or retirement funds, or even a future gift in your estate plan or beneficiary designations, the Foundation stands ready and eager to help you achieve your charitable giving goals.

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David Goza, Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, president, Matt Endris, Fairview Baptist Church, Alpha, first vice president, and Geovany Gómez, Iglesia Bautista La Viña, Kenner, second vice president

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Tracy Graham, Norris Ferry Community Church, Shreveport, Executive Board president, and Tim Williams, Williams Boulevard Baptist Church, Kenner, vice president.

Church, West Monroe. The worship leader will be Tyler Hennessee, worship pastor, Broadmoor Baptist Church.

The 2025 LBC Annual Meeting will take place at the Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria.

OFFICERS ELECTED

David Goza, pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church,

Baton Rouge, was elected president. Matt Endris, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, Alpha, was elected first vice-president, and Geovany Gómez,

pastor of the Iglesia Bautista La Viña in Kenner, was elected second-vice president.

All three men were given individual votes of

acclamation by the Convention – a single ballot cast by the LBC executive director in view of no opposition to any of the candidates.

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Pastors Conference: Have joy in ministry

By Brian Blackwell
 Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – During the 2023 Louisiana Baptist Pas-

tor's Conference, Nov. 13, hosted by the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, speakers offered words of encouragement and conviction to pastors.

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SERVE WITH JOY

Leroy Fountain, a Louisiana Baptist church health strategist, spoke during the opening session from Acts 20:16-24 to urge the crowd to endure with joy.

Fountain said as Christ followers strive to finish their races, they must remember there is a prize for those who compete, they must prepare for the spiritual battle and they must persevere.

He encouraged pastors not to focus on the size or location of their church,



but rather to work hard for Christ and the Kingdom.

"God has placed you there and you should be faithful there," he said. "If you really want to finish your race with joy, you must keep your eyes on the prize."

He challenged the pastors not to give up as they run the race and to remember what waits for them at the finish line.

"The payoff of the race of faith is Heaven, it's everlasting life and it's everlasting joy," he said. "But in order to get that everlasting joy, we must endure the challenges and the difficulties. We must do as Paul talked about he was doing 'with many tears and with trials.'"

TEACH WITH JOY

David Allen, distinguished professor of preaching and Dean of the

Adrian Rogers Center for Preaching at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Cordova, Tennessee, reminded pastors of the joy of teaching.

Preaching from 1 Timothy 3:4, 2 Timothy 2:2 and Colossians 1:28-29, Allen reminded pastors to live a life of Christ-like character as they strive to teach the Word.

"Character and teaching go together," said Allen, also founder and editor-in-chief of the new podcast and website, Preaching Coach (preachingcoach.com). "Pay attention to your life. Be sure your ambition and ability does not carry you beyond where your character can sustain you."

Allen noted that an ideal pastor and teacher is a man who will have spiritual depth, doctrinal integ-

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rity, personal excellence in the discipline of preaching and teaching and a faithful and practical life.

"You cannot know God by the academic process alone," he said. "There is the spiritual aspect of it all."

Additionally, he encouraged pastors to fear God and do what He says.

When the day of accountability comes, there won't be any no shows, he said. "So, you better get it right now."

EVANGELIZE WITH JOY

Ryan Rice, pastor of Connect Church, Algiers, used Luke 12:35-40 to challenge pastors to engage their community.

Rice said that Christ followers are Kingdom servants who serve with joy, knowing that one day Jesus will return. Therefore, Rice said Kingdom

disciples stay ready, are faithful, desire His will be done and have a joyful responsibility.

Rice cautioned churches not to be discouraged if they do not see initial fruit from evangelistic efforts. Rather, he said they should remain faithful.

"God blesses a church that lives with open hands and is willing to reach their community with the Good News of Christ," he said. "The servant of God has rewards to look forward to. We are called to remove this fear and go forward in reaching our community with the Good News of Christ."

He said God has called churches to glorify Him in the Kingdom work to which they are called.

"Our reason for doing ministry is not so we can have the bigger, best and better," he said. "Our reason for doing ministry is that we serve out of the



LBC photo

Pastors Conference speakers shared encouraging messages about finding joy in various areas of ministry.

overflow of our love for Jesus and engage people with the Gospel so that His Kingdom may be advanced even if our church

never grows."

ENDURE WITH JOY

Dean Inserra, pastor

of City Church, Tallahassee, Florida, cited 2 Peter 3:14-18 to exhort pastors to have joy in standing

See JOY, page 12

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Joy from page 11

firm against the cultural tides coming against the church.

Inserra emphasized there is no joy in false teaching, but there is stability in orthodoxy, adding that stability stands in grace and truth. He also offered that joy in standing firm is not found when it is "a sport," but rather when it is an act of devotion and an act of worship.

He said everyone has been shown grace and hence Christ followers should share the Good News with others.

"The doctrine hasn't changed," Inserra said. "We just need a grace awakening in our circles. And what if it started here in Louisiana."

LEAD WITH JOY

Clay Smith, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, Marietta, Georgia, cited Philippians 1 and Hebrews 13:17 as a reminder for pastors to find joy in leading.

Smith told pastors they have a joy in Jesus

that is greater than the hardship of ministry and when they have a joy from Jesus it overflows into a love for other people.

"Your ministry is not a source of joy, but Jesus is," he said. "And if you have Jesus, you can have the joy that you need from ministry."

PASTOR WITH JOY

Chip Luter, senior associate pastor at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, encouraged pastors to embrace the joy of pastoring.

Basing his message on Philippians 1:1-11, Luter said pastors can experience appreciation, alliance, assurance, affection and ambition as they pastor.

He shared that many churches have members who have a sincere devotion to their pastors which makes pastoring the church joyful.

"The people we lead have our backs," he said. "It's joyful to know that the people we shepherd lavish us with their prayers, encouragement and support."

Luter encouraged pastors this is God's work, and He will see it to completion.

"If we believe the resurrection really happened, then we can have the confidence that the work of the ministry will be complete," he said. "But, yet, if we depend on our own selves and not place it all at the feet of Jesus, we will lose the confidence of what Christ can really do in our churches."

PREACH WITH JOY

Clint Pressley, senior pastor, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, closed the Pastors Conference by reminding pastors of the joy of preaching.

Pressley, preaching from 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, said a pastor's message

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Joy from page 12

is driven by hope, founded on grace, is a clear one and is for the glory of the Gospel.

He noted that through Christ His followers have security, acceptance and assurance and can rejoice.

"We live in a culture of death and Jesus gives us the words of life," he said. "What a great joy

to know that you are in Christ."

LANGIAPPE

Pastors were treated to two panels:

-- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary professors spoke on the important role pastors play (Nate Jernigan, as-

sistant professor of music and worship, Leavell College; Matt James, vice president for enrollment and assistant professor of historical theology; Greg Wilton, dean of Leavell College; and Blake Newsom, associate professor of expository preaching and Caskey Center director).

-- Waylon Bailey, pastor, First Baptist Church, Covington, Carl Gulde, director of missions, La-Salle Baptist Association, and Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, shared about what the key lessons they learned while serving as pastor.

Finally, officers were elected to lead the 2024 Pastors Conference: Heath Peloquin, pastor, Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, president; and Tommy Kiker, pastor, East Lees-



Heath Peloquin, Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, Pastor Conference president, not photographed, Tommy Kiker, East Leesville Baptist Church, vice president

ville Baptist Church, vice president.

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Brian Blackwell photo

Will Hall, director of the LBC Office of Public Policy, recognized three state lawmakers who are strong partners with Louisiana Baptists on key legislative issues: Sen. Katrina Jackson (Esther's Courage Award); Sen. Robert Mills and Rep. Gabe Firment (Shammath's Courage Awards). Jackson and Mills helped establish a church self-insurance trust. Firment authored a law that protects children from permanent transgender transition procedures until they reach the age of consent.



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Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention Chief Financial Officer Bobby Reed presented Louisiana Baptist Convention President Reggie Bridges with an award for Louisiana Baptists' efforts to fight for the unborn.

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SEEKING PART TIME STUDENT MINISTER

Belle Park Baptist Church in Houghton, Louisiana is seeking a part time student minister. For more information go to BellePark.org



SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Doyline, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Mail résumés to Treasurer, P O Box 511, Doyline, LA 71023 or email résumés to danny.darden@yahoo.com.



Seeking a full-time PASTOR

Bistineau Baptist Church in Heflin, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please mail résumés to Bistineau Baptist Church, 195 Bistineau Church Rd, Heflin, LA 71039 or email to amyplunkett66@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



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 FULL-TIME PASTOR

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



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.



FULL-TIME PASTOR

New Hope Baptist Church in Choudrant, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send your résumés to nhbcpssc2023@gmail.com.



SEEKING EXPERIENCED PART-TIME

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New Prospect Baptist Church, Prospect, La., is seeking an experienced, part-time pianist. It is a salaried position. Send résumé to PIANIST or request application to npbcshepherd@gmail.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

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Fellowship Baptist Church in Dubach, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send a cover letter and your résumé to Fellowship Baptist Church at résumés@fellowshipbaptistchurhdubach.org

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Paron Baptist Church, Sterlington, La. seeks a full-time pastor. Please send résumé by mail to the church office Attn: Pastor Search Committee, Paron Baptist Church, 676 LA-2, Sterlington, La. 71280, or by email to paronoffice676@gmail.com. For more information on Paron Baptist Church please visit www.paronbc.com.

Seeking a full-time or part-time
STUDENT MINISTER

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

FIND It Fast

In The Classifieds

NEW PROSPECT SEEKS A CHURCH SECRETARY

New Prospect Baptist Church in the Prospect Community (Grant Parish) is seeking a church secretary. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Office. Must be willing to learn ACS (Realm) Church Management Software. Hours are 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Monday-Friday. Send résumé or request application to npbcshepherd@gmail.com.

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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 or call 318.449.4345. Please submit your information four weeks prior to the event to insure placement in the Message.

ON THE MOVE

- David, wife Rachel, Rose is the new pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles.
- Jimmy Clark is the new pastor at Singer Baptist Church, Singer.
- Christian Vige is the new Music Minister at First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge.
- Neil Everett has announced his retirement as pastor of First Baptist Church, Calhoun.
- Bob Holloway has announced his retirement from Watson Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- Alise Wyant, husband Stan, who is the pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Bastrop, will be serving as the ministry assistant for Northeast & Morehouse Baptist Association starting November 7.
- Caleb, wife Courtney, Adams called to serve as interim student minister at Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles.
- Brian, wife Jana, Watson is the new worship leader at First Baptist Church, Lafayette.

REVIVAL

- New Bethlehem Baptist Church, Denham Springs: Revival, November 26-29. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Randall Gill.
- New Beginnings Church, Castor: Revival, November 26-29, Evangelist: Worship: Broken Vessels. Pastor: David Bolyer
- Antioch Baptist Church, Farmerville: Revival, December 3. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Rubin Weaver.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Natchitoches: One-Day Revival, December 3, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Evangelist: Michael Courtney. Pastor: Logan Brock

LAGNIAPPE

- Mt. Paran Baptist Church, Shongaloo: Mark Lanier in concert, November 26, 6 p.m. Pastor: Edgar Bryan.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles: Bring in the Season with Lake Charles native Rory Partin and his big band, November 28, 6 p.m. This is a casual dinner theater type of environment with Partin and his All Star Big Band. The even is open to the community. For more information contact rellis@tblc.org or by calling the church office at 337.480.1555. Pastor: David Rose.

- First Baptist Church, Bossier City: Phil Wickham with Tasha Layton – Behold Christmas Nights, December 2, 7 p.m. Cost: https://www.ticketweb.com/event/phil-wickham-behold-christmas-tour-first-bossier-tickets/13626898?pl=transparentprod&REFID=fbevent&fbclid=IwAR2IXjAtPXBD6ksew-Qr2hr154FhZc-25mlbPp_iddegj6mAo2e32kqujEEk Pastor: Brad Jurkovic.
- Pineville Park Baptist Church, Pineville: Christmas Extravaganza Vendor Market, December 2, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pastor: Jeremy Shepherd.
- Highland Baptist Church, New Iberia: A Night in Bethlehem, December 2, 5-8 p.m. There will be a live nativity, Christmas Caroling, Crafts & activities, photo ops, hot cocoa, train ride, petting zoo, treats and much more. Pastor: David Denton.
- First Baptist Church, Bossier City: Phil Wickham – Behold Christmas Nights with Tasha Layton, December 2, 7 p.m. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich.
- Columbia Heights Baptist Church, Columbia: Mark Lanier in concert, December 3, 6 p.m. Pastor: Warren Maxwell.
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: Kick off the Christmas season December 3, 6 p.m. For Glory, a special music celebration of the New Born King. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.
- First Baptist Church, Minden: The Sounds of Christmas -- An instrumental Christmas, December 3, 6 p.m. Pastor: Leland Crawford.
- Mangham Baptist Church, Mangham: Watoto Concert December 6 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Rick Aultman.
- North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: Senior Adult Christmas Banquet, Dec. 7, 6 p.m. Speaker: Dennis Swanberg in concert. Pastor: Bill Dye.
- First Baptist Church, Zachary: Mark Lanier in concert, December 7, 11 a.m. Pastor: Eddie Wren.
- Renewed Women's Fall Retreat, Camp Bethany, Dec. 8-9, December 8, 6 – 9 Dec 4:00am Guest Speaker: Becky Kiser and Shelby McNeal. Expect a wonderful time of spiritual growth and community with other ladies from FBC Haughton. Click here to register: <https://renewed-women-s-retreat-2023-first-baptist-church-haughton.push-payevents.com/booking/attendees/new> Cost: \$75 (with a women's T-Shirt) and \$85 without a women's T-Shirt. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- Summerfield Baptist Church, Summerfield: Join us at Summerfield Baptist Church on December 8th and 9th from 6-7 PM for a truly magical experience! Our live drive-thru nativity is back, bigger, and better than ever. Witness the timeless story of the birth of Jesus with real people, real animals, and an enchanting display of lights that will illuminate your evening. This year, we're excited to introduce more scenes and even more dazzling lights, making this event a must-see for the entire family. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the spirit of Christmas in a unique and unforgettable way. Pastor: Rony Vinson.

- Oak Grove Baptist Church, Bentley: Christmas Craft Fair, December 8, 5 p.m. Join us for our annual Christmas craft fair. The kids can come and make some beautiful Christmas crafts while listening to Christmas music. We'll have hot chocolate and cookies to decorate. Then they will hear a brief story about Jesus and his birth and win a prize. Pastor: Michael Vanasselberg.
- Bethlehem in the Park – A Night in Bethlehem, December 8-9, 6-8 p.m. Cost: \$5 per car. Come stroll through the streets of Bethlehem and see the many shops that give a welcome to excited travelers. Watch the making of potter. Come visit the nativity, and let your heart and mind reflect upon the Son of God, the one in which the scripture says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his should and his name shall be call wonders, Counsellor, the might God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. This will be held at Jimmie Davis State Park, Chatham.
- First Baptist Church, Covington: Christmas Together – A Christmas Worship Celebration, December 8-9, 7 p.m. December 8; December 9, 2 & 6 p.m. Come join us for this free event as we celebrate a special time of worship. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.
- First Baptist Church, Minden: We Have A Savior—Christmas Concert (featuring First Minden's Choir and Orchestra, December 9-10, Saturday, 6 p.m. and Sunday, 10:45 a.m. For more information call 318.377.4334. Pastor: Leland Crawford
- First Baptist Church, Mandeville: A Mandeville Christmas – Live Nativity, December 9-10, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Ronny Cooksy.
- First Baptist Church, Bernice: Mark Lanier in concert, December 10, 11 a.m. Pastor: Michael McIntosh.
- First Baptist Church, LeCompte: Christmas in the Country, December 10, 4-8 p.m. There will be food, crafts, hot chocolate, games, live music, jumpers,

- Living Nativity, carriage rides. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.
- Beulah Baptist and Union Springs Baptist: "Glorious Impossible" Christmas Cantata, December 10, 6 p.m. being held by the combined choirs of Beulah Baptist Church and Union Springs Baptist Church in Sabine Parish. The Cantata will be held at Beulah Baptist Church, 3417 Hwy 481, Mansfield in the Lula Community. Refreshments will be served after the Cantata.
- Wilda Baptist Church, Boyce: Mark Lanier in Concert, December 10, 6 p.m. Pastor: Joey Rudisill.
- Watson Baptist Church, Watson: Christmas Night of Worship, December 16, 7 p.m. Featured artists: Andrew Belmore, Madison Hope, Quint Adkins. This is a free event. Pastor: John Pemberton.
- Alto Baptist Church, Alto: The Alto Baptist Church Choir will present the Christmas musical, "Noel! Born Is the King," Sunday, December 17, 10:30 AM. Music

- minister Jay Ellerman. Pastor: Alan Miller.
- Coteau Baptist Church, Houma: Mark Lanier in concert, December 17, 9 a.m. Pastor: Wayne Hunt.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Natchitoches: A Promise Kept – The Blessing of Christmas, December 17, 6 p.m. Adult Choir Presentation in the TBC Sanctuary. Pastor: Logan Brock.
- Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: Christmas Cantata – Star of Wonder, December 17, 10:15 a.m. Music minister: Mike Boone. Pastor: David Newton
- Lighthouse Baptist Church, Folsom: Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert, December 17, 11 a.m.
- Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold: Mark Lanier in concert, December 17, 6 p.m. Pastor: James Hester.
- Bistineau Baptist Church, Heflin: Mark Lanier in concert, December 31, 11 a.m. Pastor: Richard Methvin.
- East Jena Baptist Church, Jena: Mark Lanier in concert, December 31, 6 p.m. Pastor: Mike Wilkinson.



Puppets Needed

The BCM at LSU will be going on a Mexico Mission Trip from December 10-16 of this year. We will be working in seven different schools at the same time each morning and eight different Bible Clubs each afternoon. We are in need of more puppets for the shows we present. If your church has puppets that you are no longer using we would ask you to consider donating them to our ministry. Contact Steve Masters at lsubcm@eatel.net or 225-964-0830 if you would like to do so.

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.

IDH BNO IDXOEZ ANFPN MOUB DLB BNOFT GFTZB

OZBIBO, QKB EOGB BNOFT LAD NIQFBIBFLD, NO NIBN

TOZOTSOH FD OSOTEIZBFDX PNIFDZ KDHOT HITMDOZZ

KDBL BNO WKHXOVODB LG BNO XTOIB HIR.

WKDO ZFY

Clues:
I = A; T = R

Answer to October 26, Scripture Crypto:
Haggi one: eight

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First Baptist Church of Mandeville, La is seeking a part-time Minister of Worship. FBC Mandeville is a growing church with a great worship team and tech team. Mandeville sits on the beautiful Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain and is 50 minutes away from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. You can learn more about us at www.fbcmandeville.org This position requires 1.5 days per week in the office, weekly worship team rehearsals, two worship services on Sunday mornings, and occasional special events. Come join a thriving church and a terrific staff!

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