



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

February 29, 2024

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December 13, 1951-February 17, 2024

A GRACIOUS FIRST LADY

Rhonda Kelley remembered as pioneer in women's ministry

By Staff

Baptist Message

NEW ORLEANS, La. (LBM) -- Rhonda Kelley, wife of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President-Emeritus Chuck Kelley and a mainstay in women's ministry across the nation, passed Feb. 17 after a lengthy battle with cancer. She was 72.

"Yesterday was the worst day of my life, but the best day ever for my beloved. I will take that deal 100 percent of the time," wrote Dr. Chuck Kelley on X (formerly Twitter). "Five years after her cancer journey began, Rhonda stepped into eternity about the time we usually had morning coffee. I grieve. She celebrates. God is wise and good."

"Along with the entire NOBTS and Leavell College family, we mourn the loss of our eighth first lady," NOBTS President Jamie Dew said in a statement on the seminary's website. "Dr. Rhonda Kelley served with grace, dignity, and compassion for over 23 years at our wonderful school. Her love for her husband and her Savior were a source of encouragement to us all. This is indeed, a very sad day for all of us, but we rejoice

See GRACIOUS, page 14



NOBTS File photo

Chuck and Rhonda Kelley traveled the world together to grow God's Kingdom and served alongside one another at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for 23 years, where she supervised the women's ministry certificate program and was an adjunct professor. She also hosted the "Word of Women" television broadcast and authored/co-authored books.

NLBA prayer gathering: Seek God for revival

By Brian Blackwell

Message staff writer

HAUGHTON, La. (LBM) -- More than 300 members from 107 churches in the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association joined together, Feb. 4, to pray to Almighty God during the fellowship's ninth annual "Call to Prayer," according to organizers.

Hosted by Eastwood Baptist Church, Haughton, the gathering brought together Christians

of various ages and ethnicities to pray for law enforcement officers, the persecuted church, missionaries serving around the world, pastors and other church leaders.

The event was marked by prayer from the worship center stage, in small groups around the room and by individuals who pleaded with God for revival in their community, state and nation. The evening



NLBA Associational Missions Strategist Lane Moore told the crowd during the annual Call to Prayer gathering that America is at a crossroads and needs a divine solution to the troubles of the world.

See PRAYER, page 15

Cook reflects on 19 years as compassion leader

By Brian Blackwell

Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) -- For the past 19 years, Jeff Cook has been the point man for compas-

sion ministry in Louisiana Baptist life.

Cook, who retired Feb. 9 as the Louisiana Baptist compassion ministry strategist, said he was honored to help further the Gospel

through ministries that met a physical need and opened up the door for conversations about a much greater need.

"It's been a privilege

See COOK, page 13

Penton named Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center director

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – When Brandon Penton was pastor of First

Baptist Church, Archibald, and accompanied his students to Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in 2021, he did not imagine that one day he would be-

come director of the camp.

“We just built a relationship with the camp and, when the job came up, I applied,” Penton told the Baptist Message. “I love the opportunity just to serve individuals and in the hopes of serving them, to strike up spiritual conversations that allow them to respond to the Gospel. It’s important to meet people where they are and create an avenue for spiritual conversations.”

Penton, who was named the camp director in early February, has served as recreation and activities director of the camp since 2022. In that role, Penton supervised recreation programs, recruitment of summer

staff and marketing.

A native of Pearl River, Porter accepted Christ as His Lord and Savior at age 16 during a “See You At The Pole” rally in his hometown. A year later, he surrendered to a call to vocational ministry.

Penton, who holds degrees from Louisiana College (now Louisiana Christian University) and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said he and his wife, Brandi, originally intended to enter the foreign mission field. But God had other plans, he said.

After graduating from LC in 2009, Penton served with Life Point Community Church in Marksville and Cottonport as part-time children’s pastor for two years, and then as associate pastor (and North American Mission Board church planter apprentice) from 2010-2011. He later served as interim pastor of Esler Baptist Church, Pineville (2011); associate pastor of youth and young adults with Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell (2011-2016); associate pastor of families and missions with First Baptist Church, Amite (2016-2018); and pastor of

First Baptist Church, Archibald (2018-2022).

Looking to the future, Penton said he is excited about the upcoming summer camp season, which sold out several of its kid’s camp and mission camp sessions in the first week of camp registration and is nearing capacity for several other camps. He added that a new swimming pool and splash pad should open in time for the first week of camp.

“I would love for Tall Timbers to be the premier camp in the state, and not only expand our facilities but the style of camps we offer as well,” he said. “I would love to see the day when we are able to offer a family camp, a service-driven mission camp and even a camp offered to children in the foster care system.”

“We are just trying to catch our breath and keep going,” he continued. “Momentum is like a wave. You have got to move on it and ride it. We’re hoping to be able to put ourselves in the best position to be able to respond to that momentum and keep riding it all the way to where Christ wants.”

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Baptist Builders celebrate 2023, plan for 2024

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Hundreds of Louisiana Baptist Mission Builders volunteers recently wrapped up a fruitful year of helping mission churches expand their respective Gospel reaches through construction of new facilities.

According to Louisiana Baptist Mission Builders Field Strategist Mark Jelks, teams from eight states worked on six church sites in 2023. Although the churches directly benefited from the labor, Jelks said the surrounding communities also saw Jesus' love in action.

"It's awesome to see the body of Christ come together to help further the cause," Jelks told the Baptist Message. "A lot of times people don't understand why people would volunteer to do this. It offers us the opportunity to share Christ with them. While we help the churches build the buildings, our first job is to share about the Master Builder."

IMMANUEL

Immanuel Community Church, New Orleans, broke ground on its multi-purpose facility in June 2022, and on June 11, 2023,

they celebrated the first worship service in the 9,500-square-foot building that includes a worship center (with seating for up to 350), children's area, fellowship hall and offices.

ICC started in the Treme neighborhood of New Orleans as a church plant of Immanuel Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky, in 2015. The church worshipped there until relocating in 2020 to Gentilly Baptist Church, which is fewer than 2 miles from ICC's current location.

Pastor Matt Delaughter said he is thankful for the work of so many volunteers.

"Immanuel is grateful for the knowledge and help of Mark Jelks to complete this project," he said. "It has allowed us to gather to worship, meet new neighbors through a barbeque lunch and serve our community by doing a Christmas backpack giveaway."

MARLOW

The worship center of Marlow Baptist Church, Leesville, was destroyed by a tornado in December 2019, but the spirit of the church remained alive as members and volunteers worked to rebuild the 10,000-sq.-ft. facility that can hold up to 150 worshippers.

After a November 2022 groundbreaking that was delayed by rising prices on construction material, teams helped rebuild the worship center. The church which averages 50 for worship held a dedication service, Aug. 6, though the first service inside the building was held June 11.

Music Minister John Blankenbaker said since the church moved into its new facility, he has baptized three new believers.

He said the church did not miss a Sunday service

despite losing its facility, explaining that the congregation met temporarily in a donated building nearby, his front lawn and even on the banks of a lake.

"We learned to trust in the Lord," he said. "He really just showed up for us when it looked like there was no way we would be able to do this. He always made a way."

PINE RIDGE

An upgrade to its aging facilities has provided Pine Ridge Baptist Church,

Melder, with a building to accommodate its growing congregation.

Since January 2020, the church has expanded from 225 to 400 for Sunday worship, and has baptized more than 100 during that time. Pastor Jason Townley said because the educational space was built in the 1800s, a new facility was needed to incorporate modern technology for the church, especially for its expanding children's ministry.

See BUILDERS, page 7

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Formerly LABMA (Louisiana Association of Baptist Ministry Assistants)

DeQuincy High senior awarded LCU's 2024 Smith Scholarship

By Staff
LCU Media

PINEVILLE, LA. (LBM) -- Twenty-five Louisiana high school seniors competed in the annual Smith Scholarship Competition conducted by Louisiana Christian University, Jan. 28.

Jeri Vigé, from DeQuincy High School, in Calcasieu Parish, was named the 2024 Smith Scholar. She plans to study biology.

Vigé will receive a four-year full tuition, room and board scholarship.

"We are pleased with the significant response received this year, demonstrated by a major increase in the number of Smith Scholarship participants," said LCU President Rick Brewer. "Parents and students region-wide recognize the value of a Christ-centered education that is relevant, relational and rigorous. We look forward to watching these students flourish at Louisiana Christian University in the

years ahead."

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Cheryl Clark said that even being selected to be part of this competition deserves high accolades.

"To participate, each student must have earned 28 or higher on the ACT and submit a portfolio that contains past awards, recognitions, and accomplishments; two letters of recommendation; and an essay explaining the major features of a Christian Liberal Arts education," she said.

Portfolios are submitted to a panel of faculty judges who serve on the C.S. Lewis Honors Program Council. During the competition, the panel interviews each participant before making a final selection.

All participants are eligible for a variety of academic scholarships based on merit and need.

The Smith Scholarship was founded in the early 1970s by an endowment donation from Tom and Beverly Durham to honor Beverly Durham's mother, Elizabeth Smith.



LCU News photo

LCU Executive Vice President David Jeffreys presented DeQuincy High senior Jeri Vigé with the 2024 Smith Scholarship.





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Builders from page 3

The church broke ground on the 23,200 multi-purpose facility in 2023 and hopes to finish the project by May.

Townley said his church developed a strong bond with the teams that worked alongside them during the construction. Additionally, the work performed by the teams saved the church \$100,000 in labor costs.

"I would highly recommend the Baptist Mission Builders because they provide a great opportunity to work with other believers, even some from a different state," Townley said. "We still are corresponding with them and hopefully soon they'll be back to celebrate a new open house where ministry will flourish and lives will be changed."

BAN SUK

Ban Suk Korean Baptist Church, Bossier City, hopes to use a new multi-purpose facility for outreach and to assist other new ethnic church plants in the area.

The 7,500-sq.-ft. building will include a gym, educational space and fellowship area. A groundbreaking was held in

March 2023 and church leaders hope the project is completed by June.

Once finished, the building will replace a 17-year-old facility that was demolished in 2020.

"We are excited to use the building for outreach, including to children," Pastor Yong Koo Lee said. "We also will share the building with other ethnic groups who want to start other churches. Our church along with other ethnic churches that will use our facility are excited to further the Kingdom together."

THE WAY

For several years, Anthony Eaves, pastor of Cooper Baptist Church, Leesville, felt led to start a church in nearby Rosepine, a community without a Louisiana Baptist congregation.

After much prayer, Cooper Baptist Church, Leesville, purchased land and broke ground on the 4,000-sq.-ft. multi-purpose facility for the Way Church in May 2022. Throughout the year, volunteers worked on the building, which was completed in June 2023.

Eaves, who serves as

pastor of both Cooper Baptist and the Way Church, said he is thankful for how God provided and is excited about how He will use the worship center, bathrooms and educational space inside the building as a tool to reach others for Christ.

"It was amazing how God directed the steps and used everybody to help us to get the church facility started," he said. "We are grateful for how God used everyone to bring this to fruition."

GRACE POINT

Grace Point Baptist Church, Destrehan, is nearing completion of a new 4,500-sq.-ft. addition to its property.

Pastor Chris Housewright said the addition will help the church further its commitment to live a life with a missional focus.

Members have seen the community as their Jerusalem and have invited others to attend not only worship services but outreach events including Easter

egg hunts, outdoor movie nights and a 'Mommy and Me' gathering in the park. The church also volunteers at the local food bank twice a month.

FUTURE WORK

Moving forward, the Baptist Mission Builders are excited what is planned for 2024. This includes construction of a 6,400-sq.-ft. multi-purpose facility at Church Acadiana, Youngsville. Work is expected to begin by March.

"We are committed to embrace and develop a culture of evangelism throughout Louisiana," Jelks said. "I am excited to be able to help new mission churches with the erection of a worship center. Having a place to meet, worship and study God's Word puts them on a firmer foundation as they endeavor to share Christ in new communities."

For more information about Baptist Mission Builders, contact mark.morelock@lbc.org.

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FBC Golden Meadow celebrates amid rebirth after Ida



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By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

GOLDEN MEADOW, La. (LBM) – First Baptist Church recently held a celebration of perseverance and God’s goodness through a rebuild of their worship center more than two years after Hurricane Ida destroyed most of Golden Meadow, according to the pastor and congregants.

With 218 members and guests packed inside the newly remodeled facility, Jan. 7, FBCGM marked the occasion with 19 baptisms, dinner on the grounds and a concert. They also heard testimonies from members, disaster relief workers and others who stood alongside the church as they rebuilt.

Pastor Matthew Chouest said that although he was discouraged and overwhelmed at times after Ida made landfall, the selfless attitude by others helped him press onward.

“There were times when my knees crumbled under me and I asked God, ‘How do we continue,’” Chouest told the Baptist Message. “Then, scriptures kept

flowing in my mind. “The first one was Philippians 1:6,” he said. “I knew He started this work in my life and the church and He would not let us down. I held onto it tightly. I also thought about James 1:2-4, which mentioned various trials, and Romans 8:28, which reminded me that He works for those who love Him and have a purpose.

“So, I knew I had to keep going on because there was no other option,” he said. “My wife, Bernadette, and son, T-Matt, were right alongside of me, working tirelessly through it all. We knew that if we gave up, there was no hope. We were certain of our hope in Christ and knew He would see us through to the end.”

BACKGROUND

Ida came ashore near Port Fourchon around 11:55 a.m., Aug. 29, 2021, as a Category 4 storm (maximum sustained winds of 150 mph, just seven mph short of Category 5

See CELEBRATES, page 9

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Celebrates from page 8

status), tying Hurricane Laura (2020) and the Last Island Hurricane (1856) as the most-powerful hurricanes to hit Louisiana. The storm dumped up to 15 inches of rain in some areas, knocked out power to more than 1.1 million at one time and spanned a diameter of 414 miles, according to AccuWeather.

Most of the businesses and homes in Golden Meadow, which is east of where the storm made initial landfall, sustained significant damage. Although the congregation's worship center was damaged, their gymnasium and fellowship hall escaped nearly unscathed.

Through the next six weeks, the church used the gym as a staging area for distribution of supplies and the fellowship hall as the worship center. By Thanksgiving, the need for supplies had diminished and members began meeting inside the gym until Aug. 6, 2023, when they gathered for the first time inside their newly renovated worship center.

REBIRTH

While many members lost

homes and possessions, they gained much more through outreach that produced a great harvest. Ten members, including six who accepted Christ through the relief efforts, were baptized on Aug. 28, 2022, and 22 have been baptized, so far, in 2024.

Among those baptized during the special dedication service was Kelsie Danos. After her home sustained minor damage from Ida, Danos, along with her three young children, came to the church for free food.

Two years passed until she attended worship services, upon the invitation of a friend. Finally, during a women's brunch hosted by the church, Jan. 6, Danos accepted Christ.

"It felt like a weight was lifted," she said. "This church has meant so much to me and is like a big family. I couldn't ask for a better 'krewe' and I'm so glad I decided to go back."

Another family whose life was impacted by the church's outreach and Christ-like love was Sierra McCuin, her husband, Sean, and their four children. The family turned to Christ

in January 2022, just four months after Ida destroyed their apartment, vehicles and other material possessions.

The family had not stepped inside FBCGM's facilities prior to Ida, but after the hurricane made landfall they began using the free laundry, shower and food services that the church offered. Eventually, the family attended worship services and within a three-week period all six family members turned to Christ. They were baptized on Aug. 28, 2022.

Sierra McCuin said she is thankful for the love of the church members and volunteers who accepted them despite their faults.

"I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for Christ and the church," she said. "I finally realized on that Sunday in January that God was always there waiting for me. It was beautiful to see me accept Christ one Sunday, my four kids do so the next Sunday and then my husband that next Sunday.

"We lost everything and we were very worldly

people before we stepped into First Baptist Church," she continued. "While we did lose all material things

during, Ida we actually found something much greater and that's a hope in Christ."



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Pulpit swap

from page 4

through the outreach efforts.

Additionally, more than 100 members of Time to Revive joined almost 300 members, collectively, of the 12 churches for a Mission Trip to CENLA, Jan. 17-20. Through those 2024 efforts, 172 members of the community made a decision to follow Christ.

"What all of these efforts have done is signal to the larger community that the body of Christ is unified," Martin said. "If we look at the body of Christ as Paul

described in the Bible, we see each of us has a different role but at the same time have the same purpose which is to advance the Kingdom of God."

LOUISIANA BAPTIST PARTICIPATION

Stuart Sasser, pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church, Horseshoe Drive, Alexandria, shared a message at Neighborhood Baptist Church, an African-American congregation in Alexan-

dria. Sasser and NBC Pastor Johnny Johnson previously partnered for a joint worship service with PBCHD and beautification efforts of the NBC building and grounds.

"What an incredible opportunity it was for pastors of different denominations and ethnicities to participate in this special day," Sasser said. "It's something I think all of us feel the Lord would be pleased with. We got a little taste of Heaven and it's a little taste of revival."

Philip Robertson, pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, preached at St. Matthew Baptist Church, an African-American congregation in Boyce that is affiliated with the National Baptist Convention of America. While the two congregations are different ethnically, both share a desire to spread the Gospel, Robertson said.

"The common bond that we all share in Christ is so evident," he said. "It's what unites us beyond the color of our skin and our cultural differences."

"What's happening with Time to Revive and other ministries where we come

together is a sense that God is at work," he continued. "This was no different on the day of the pulpit swap."

Sam West, pastor of Main Street Baptist Mission, Pineville, preached at Christian Challenge Worship Center. He said the pulpit swap and various mission projects reminded him that he is not alone in Gospel-centered efforts.

"The thing I liked the most is it reminded me our mission is more than just about me or our church, but it's about God's Kingdom," he said. "Even if we don't do this all the time, it's good at times to reach across denominational and racial lines and see what God can do. It's been humbling to see people put their differences aside and come together for the Gospel."

Kevin Roberts, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Pineville, encouraged worshippers at Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville. He said the morning felt like a homecoming at the church where he served on staff (1992-1994 and 1995-2009) and was a member (2009-2012).

"I've preached there several times since I left, but never for this historic day," he said. "These pastors worked together to coordinate this day and we truly all have a Kingdom mindset. In all of us, nobody wants any glory. We just want to lift up the name of the Lord Jesus. We recog-

nize we all have differences in doctrine and worship practices, but the one thing we decided we can all work together on is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and praying for a reviving work here in Central Louisiana."

Brad Webb, pastor of Family of Grace Church, Alexandria, preached at Church of the Living God, an African-American, non-denominational church in Pineville. He said the cooperation among the churches is a testimony of what the body of Christ can do to reach their communities if they unify around the Gospel.

"Unity is the best starting block to bring about spiritual awakening in central Louisiana," Webb said. "I have thought lately about the barriers that were crossed to make this pulpit swap day happen."

"We are already seeing God do some monumental things and we are believing revival is going to come out of it," he continued. "We are praying that this is something that happens every year."

"Our churches have been working together and have built these relationships as we have gone out sharing the Gospel, together," he said. "All of 2023 has been spent pulling up stumps and tilling the ground. Now, we will move forward and follow the Lord in what He wants for 2024."

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Teen Girl Retreat: Discover God's treasures

By Staff Writer
Baptist Message

PELICAN, La. (LBM) – Sixth through 12th grade girls will be reminded how God treasures them during the upcoming Teen Girl Retreat, March 15-16, hosted by the Clara Springs Baptist

Encampment, the Baptist Message has learned.

"I'm excited about what God has in store for the first Teen Girl Retreat," Erin Jones, Louisiana Baptist children and youth missions education strategist, told the *Baptist Message*. "Our heart for this event is

for girls to know how truly treasured they are by God. The creator of the universe loves them. He created them for such a special purpose."

Samantha LaRocque and Andrea Bourgeois, founders of "Holy Restored Ministry," will be the keynote

speakers. They will share about the importance of mental health awareness and provide coping skills from a biblical perspective. The event also will feature a pajamas, popcorn and pamper party, times of worship, missions moments, and breakout sessions.

March 1 is the registration deadline. The retreat will start on Friday, 6 p.m. (check-in from 4:30-5:30 p.m.) and end Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://louisianabaptists.org/tgr>.

RA Congress to ride in the 'fast lane'

By Staff Writer
Baptist Message

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – First through sixth grade boys will hit the fast lane with Christ during the 2024 Royal Ambassador Congress, March 31-April 1, at the Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center, according to organizers.

Keeping in step with the race car theme, the event will feature go kart racing, pit row (how to change a tire), classic car show and an encouraging message by "Champion Chaplain" Allen Huffman, the 2023 Southeast Super Truck Series champion.

RA Congress also will include a Pinewood Derby, soap box races, breakout

sessions with missionaries and a Gospel presentation.

"RAs is a mission education ministry which seeks to teach and engage boys in first through sixth grade in missions," said Louisiana Baptist Ministry and Disaster Relief Strategist Stan Statham told the *Baptist Message*. "One of the sessions will offer the RAs a chance to paint small wooden cars and pack them in gift bags with Christian-themed coloring books and crayons for the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home."

For more information or to download a registration form, please visit <https://louisianabaptists.org/event/ra-congress/>.

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Cook from page one

to serve Louisiana Baptist churches and ministries and help them to do work of the ministry across the state," Cook told the *Baptist Message*. "The relationships formed through the years are really meaningful and I'm sure many of those relationships will continue.

"Compassion ministry is defined as meeting every man's needs so you can build trust and share the Gospel and connect people to the local church," he continued. "Compassion ministry is a key part of evangelism in how it offers opportunities for the Gospel to be shared."

CALLED

Cook's journey began as a nine-year-old when he accepted Christ while attending a church in Houston, Texas. But his call to ministry did not occur until he was working as a sales representative at Xerox as a young adult.

During the next 30 years, Cook served the Lord in various capacities including, while as a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, assistant to the youth minister with Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport (1969-1981) and pastor

See COOK, page 17

Gracious

from page one

in the full assurance that we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, standing confident that we will see her again in glory.”

WOMEN'S MINISTRY PIONEER

According to a news release from the NOBTS website, Kelley, during her husband's time as president, oversaw the women's ministry certificate program, was an adjunct professor, hosted the “Word of Women” television broadcast and authored/co-authored books.

She also was managing editor for both “The Study Bible for Women,” published by Holman Bible Publishers in 2015, and for the companion titles “Women's Evangelical Commentary” for the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The seminary in 2019 established the Dr. Rhonda Kelley Ph.D. Fellowship in

Women's Leadership in her honor to encourage academic excellence and service among female students.

She also received the Willie Turner Dawson Award for Christian character and denominational service during the Ministers' Wives Luncheon at the 2005 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting.

Kelley also was active in various parts of denominational life: First Baptist Church, New Orleans, women's ministry director, Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board member, the Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, Women's Ministry Network, the Seminary Women's Network, Lifeway's Bible Study for Life advisory board and the Leadership Training Consultant Ministry Grid and president for a term of the Southern Baptist Convention Minister's Wives

fellowship.

Kelley, the daughter of the late evangelist Bob Harrington (also known as the ‘Chaplain of Bourbon Street’) received degrees from Baylor University and the University of New Orleans. Additionally, she earned basic and advanced certificates in women's ministry from NOBTS.

“Along with the entire NOBTS and Leavell College family, we mourn the loss of our eighth first lady,” NOBTS President Jamie Dew said in a statement on the seminary's website. “Dr. Rhonda Kelley served with grace, dignity, and compassion for over 23 years at our wonderful school. Her love for her husband and her Savior were a source of encouragement to us all. This is indeed, a very sad day for all of us, but we rejoice in the full assurance that we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, standing confident that we will see her again in glory.”

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS REACT

“Dr. Rhonda Kelley was a Proverbs 31 woman of wisdom,” Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn told the Baptist Message. “She will be missed by all but especially by her husband, Dr. Chuck Kelley. They were a great team. To think of one is to think of the other – exactly as it should be in a God-honoring marriage. I urge all Louisiana Baptists to pray for Dr. Chuck Kelley.”

Chad Gilbert, pastor of First Baptist Church, New Orleans, said the Kelleys joined the church on July 1, 1975, and were faithful members until they moved their memberships to First Baptist Church, Fairhope, Alabama, in November 2019.

“They were committed to being faithful church members wherever they lived,” he said. “Rhonda, as well as her mother, the late Joyce Harrington, who preceded Rhonda in death by only a couple of weeks, invested in

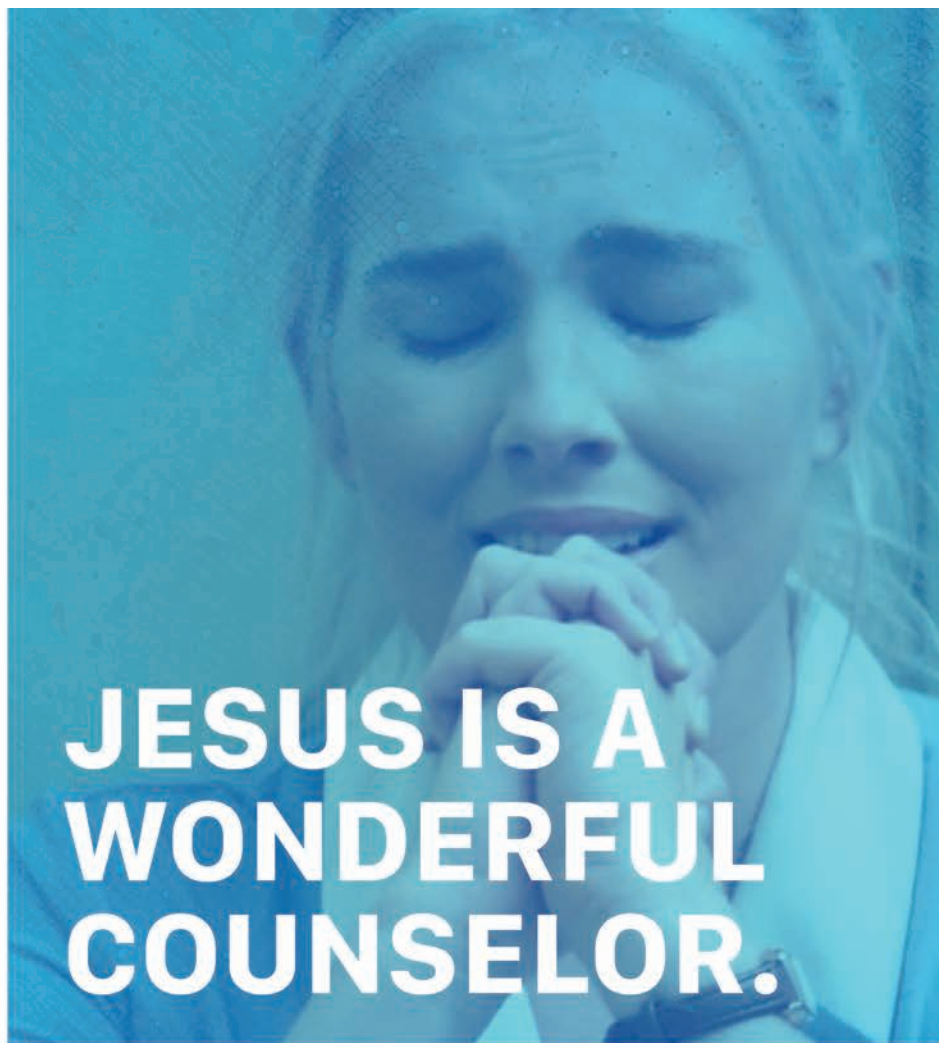
countless women at FBNO.

“I have always deeply admired Rhonda's genuine, faithful devotion to Chuck as her husband. When Dr. Kelley would preach, Rhonda was enthralled in every word he spoke, her heart so obviously grateful for the gift of a godly husband. Her beautiful blue eyes communicated confidence and kindness that allowed her to thrive as the seminary president's wife. Her kindness to me as a pastor was a gracious gift of support and encouragement, and I will forever thank God for the legacy of faithful love she leaves.”

Jack Hunter, executive director for New Orleans Baptist Association, said her encouraging spirit and attitude of service will be missed.

“Rhonda Harrington Kelley, a prodigious author, editor, teacher and innovator was a comet across the Southern Baptist sky,”

See GRACIOUS, page 15



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Prayer from page one

also included a special message from U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson, a member of Cypress Baptist Church, Benton.

URGENCY TO SEEK GOD

NLBA Associational Missions Strategist Lane Moore told the crowd that America is at a crossroads and needs a divine solution to the troubles of the world.

"We are clearly in an uncertain hour all across this nation," Moore said. "2023 was a very turbulent year in our world to say the least. We are obviously living in a more wicked and fallen world with each passing day. The Scripture tells us in 1 Timothy 3:13, that evil men will go from bad to worse deceiving and being deceived. However, you also know from Scripture that the Father has us in His hand. And let's remind ourselves of that truth tonight."

Brad Kirby, pastor of Eastwood Baptist, told the crowd that spiritual healing is needed in communities across the nation as well as in their personal lives. Sharing from Psalm

51, Kirby said David had committed great sins and needed spiritual renewal.

"If [God] can forgive David, He can forgive me and He can forgive you," Kirby said. "It's not about you. It's not about your sins. It's not about the brokenness of our world. It is about Jesus. It is about His grace."

Raymond Wilkinson, pastor of Open Road Fellowship Church, Haughton, encouraged the crowd to strive to live a holy life. Referencing 1 Peter 1:13, Wilkinson said Christ followers who live differently from the world can have a witness that others will notice.

"Let's go find some lost people," Wilkinson said. "Tell them about Jesus. Watch them be conformed, transformed, into the image of Jesus. And I'm telling you, you will be able to run through a wall not of your own strength but because of the Spirit renewed inside of you, as you watch people go from death to life."

Calvin Hubbard, pastor of Barksdale Baptist Church, Bossier City, said the nation and world are

See PRAYER, page 16

Gracious from page 14

he said. "From her youth as a GA Queen Regent in Service until her final days encouraging and organizing women's ministries, Dr. Rhonda Kelley has served the local church with seemingly inexhaustible energy and enthusiasm.

"Rhonda and her husband, Dr. Chuck Kelley, were inseparable in ministry and life, perfect compliments to one another," he continued. "They were a synergistic duo that has blessed SBC churches for 50 years.

"Of her many splendid qualities, Rhonda was singular in her capacity to wholeheartedly forgive and embrace repentant sinners," he said. "Such grace confounds mortals like me, but it also brings us nearer to the cross of Christ and the heart of God. Her New

Orleans community grieves the loss of her friendship and leadership, but we do so in the certain knowledge that God has welcomed her into the presence of her Savior and that we'll meet her again in the resurrection."

Elizabeth Luter, the wife of Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, said Kelley's heart for service was evident when the two helped plan multiple women's events through the years.

"Rhonda's heart for women to thrive in teaching and understanding the word of God goes beyond the norm," she said. "She created so many opportunities for all who were inspired by her to join in on her passion. She passed the torch, and we're determined to continue to light the flame."

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Prayer from page 15

living in chaos. But despite the uncertainties, Hubbard reminded the crowd they can shine Christ's light, just as Daniel did when faced with the choice of obeying man or God.

"There is opportunity before us to bring forth the fruit of light, which is goodness, righteousness and truth," Hubbard said. "So let us show care for others. Let us do acts of righteousness. Let us be authentic and dependable in our lives. There is an opportunity for us to return to the Lord, to learn of the Lord, and to learn how to apply God's Word in the affairs of this world."

Terry Young, pastor of Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City, encouraged the crowd to be a strong witness for Christ. Basing his message on Acts 1, Young said the world must see something different in the lives of Christ followers that is special.

"Have you ever seen

Jesus?" he asked. "Do you have something special? Has your life been changed? That sounds like something to get excited about. That's what our world needs to see."

JOHNSON REMARKS

Johnson thanked the crowd members for their continued prayers and encouragement. Despite the obstacles Christ followers face, Johnson said he remains encouraged for America's future.

"I'm convinced that God is not done with America yet," he said. "I'm convinced He's going to give us another chance if we stand for the foundations of our country and the great principles that made us the greatest nation in the history of the world."

"We have to get more of the American people conversing in that to understand what we're

fighting for, and why," he continued. "But I'm convinced we can do that. So, thank you for standing with us, our family. On behalf of Kelly and the kids. I just cannot tell you how profoundly grateful we are."

Josh Johnson, brother of House Speaker Johnson and a deacon with Ellerbe Baptist Church, Shreveport, then offered a few remarks. He noted that throughout this life, his brother has studied his Bible and strived to be a servant of Christ.

"Now is just another hour for him to build his testimony," he said. "And 'One nation under God' is one of those things that drives him every day he wakes up."

CLOSING THOUGHTS



Submitted photo

In a special video message, U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson thanked the crowd for their continued prayers and encouragement. Despite the obstacles Christ followers face, Johnson said he remains encouraged for America's future.

After the conclusion, Moore told the *Baptist Message* that the event was a meaningful time of

celebration around the common bond of prayer.

"This Call to Prayer event wouldn't have been what it needed to be without a specific time to pray for our friends in Israel," he said. "I wanted to make sure that aspect was added to our agenda for the evening. 2023 was a very turbulent year to say the least, and we as the body of Christ need to be on our knees asking for the Father's provision and perseverance. From the looks of it, 2024 appears to be another stressful year on the national and world stage."

"We were also pleased to have the current Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Johnson, who joined us by way of video and allowed us the opportunity to pray over him as Scripture commands us to do."



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Cook from page 13

of Bayou Plaquemine Baptist Church (1989-1994), First Baptist Church, Broussard (1995-2001), Church Without Walls, New Orleans (2001-2005) and First Baptist Church, Jennings (2014-2021).

In February 2005, Cook accepted the call to become Louisiana Baptist church planting strategist and later, compassion ministry strategist. While there, Cook was instrumental in helping Louisiana Baptists further the Gospel through compassion ministries.

The 2020 Commission Report, formulated by 400 Louisiana Baptist pastors, lay leaders and denominational workers, emphasized compassion ministry as one of ten “Key Actions In Reaching Our State” – known as KAIROS.

KAIROS 4, engaging LBC congregations in compassion ministries, provides “remarkable opportunities to share the love of Christ and reach people for faith,” the commission report states.

Clothing programs, ministries to prisoners and their families, abortion-alternative services, tutoring classes, disaster relief, counseling, and feeding ministries are examples of ministries that “can open doors to overlooked people groups,” the commission said.

Cook said he is pleased 60 percent of Louisiana Baptist churches participate in a compassion ministry. He added that the goal is to have every church involved.

“I am happy to say that compassion ministry has become a normal part of many healthy growing churches in Louisiana,” he said.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Louisiana Baptist Missions and Ministry Team Director James Jenkins said Cook had a positive attitude that rubbed off on others.

“Jeff has always had the knack of being able to see the different facets of any issue, which is very helpful,” he said. “I called him Mr. Sunshine because his personality radiates, he is always upbeat and I never ran into him on any day, I can recall, when he was down.

“I was at a conference out of state last week and

one of Jeff’s counterparts in another state convention confided in me that Jeff was considered to be the guru of compassion ministry. His counterparts across the country have benefited from his wisdom and his expertise in building compassion ministry programs.”

Jenkins said in the months following the land-fall of Hurricane Katrina in

southeast Louisiana in August 2005, Cook was among those who were instrumental in helping churches, associations and the state Convention “build-back-up” ministry.

“Most of south Louisiana during that time was in disarray,” he said. “It took guys like Jeff who were able to go to south Louisiana and help our churches. Jeff and the other guys on the staff were willing to devote long hours in doing that and work hard in other ministry efforts in

the years that followed to bring us to the point where we could achieve (KAIROS 4) in the 2020 Commission. Jeff really lived in three worlds in the Convention – that of compassion ministry, church planting and what we would call non-traditional church planting, and he was able to deal with people across those three facets. That is how he served Louisiana Baptists for about 19 years. Jeff helped to build up compassion ministry and bring it to the point it is

now.”

FUTURE FORWARD

Moving forward, Cook will enjoy time with his wife, Jo Lynn, two adult daughters, two adult sons and three grandchildren. He also will continue to serve as associate pastor with Highland Baptist Church, New Iberia, a role he assumed in July 2023.

“Thank you, Louisiana Baptists, for allowing me to serve you as an act of service to our Lord,” he said.

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ON THE MOVE

- Tre LeMalle is the new Elevate worship leader at Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- Jeff Segner has retired as Associate Pastor at Springs of Grace, Shreveport.
- Brandon Penton is the new Director of Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center, Woodworth.
- Waylon McCormick has served the past 29 years as a music minister but will now be transitioning to new church responsibilities at Ouachita Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- Hugh Hodge is the new worship and youth pastor at Ouachita Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- Katie Gordy is the new children’s minister at North Church, Bastrop.
- Liz Pospisil has retired after serving for the last 21 years as Longview Baptist Church’s secretary.

HOMECOMING/ANNIVERSARY

- Westside Emmanuel Baptist Church, Bogalusa: 75th Anniversary, February 25, 10:30 a.m. Dinner on the grounds following the worship service. Guest Speaker: Perry Hancock, former pastor and President and CEO of Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home & Family Ministries in Monroe. Music: Westside Worship team. Pastor: Marcus Rosa.
- Airline Baptist Church, Metairie: 70th Anniversary, March 3, 9:30 a.m. There will be dinner on the grounds following the worship service. Pastor: Eric Benoy.
- Cotile Baptist Church, Boyce: 42nd Homecoming, March 10, 10:30 a.m. Evangelist: Randall Creel. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Everyone is invited to attend. Pastor: Rob McLane.

REVIVAL

- First Baptist Church, Haughton: Harvest Sunday, February 25. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- Deer Creek Baptist Associational Cluster Revivals: Evangelists: Philip Robertson and Craig Franklin, EVANGELIST: PHILIP ROBERTSON -- Crockett Point Baptist Church, February 25, 6 p.m.; Baskin Baptist Church, February 26, 7 p.m.; Coax Baptist Church, February 27, 7 p.m.; First Baptist Church, Crowville, February 28, 7 p.m. Bouef River Baptist Church, February 29, 7 p.m.; Friendship Baptist Church, March 1, 7 p.m. EVANGELIST: CRAIG FRANKLIN – First Baptist Church, Wisner, February 25, 6 p.m.; Chase Baptist Church, February 26, 7 p.m.; Fort Necessity Baptist Church, February 27, 7 p.m.; Turkey Creek Baptist Church, February 28, 7 p.m.; New Zion Baptist Church, February 29, 7 p.m.; First Baptist Church, Winnsboro, March 1, 7 p.m. EVANGELIST: TREVOR THOMAS, combined Evangelism Rally at Temple Baptist, March 2, 7 p.m.
- Maple Springs Baptist Church, Logansport: Revival, March 3-6, Sunday 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday 6 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Jeff Hurst. Pastor: Robert Davis.
- Big Creek Baptist Association, Grant Parish: Associational Revival at B22 Auditorium, Dry Prong, March 3-6, 6:30 p.m. nightly. This will be a time for family restoration, youth transformation and church purification. Evangelist: Gevan Spinney, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Haughton. Worship: Kinetik. Nursery will be provided at First Baptist Church, Dry Prong for ages four and under. Transportation will be provided by calling 318.627.3131. A youth night will take place March 3, 3-6 p.m. There will be activities

- and Pizza at B22. Youth service will be at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact Bethel Baptist at 627-3131, First, Dry Prong at 899.3371, First Pollock at 765-3525 or New Prospect at 640.9712.
- Sweetwater Baptist Church, Quitman: Sweetwater Bible Conference, March 6-8 & 10, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, 9:30 a.m., lunch provided, 6:30 p.m.; Friday 9:30 a.m., lunch provided, 6:30 p.m., Sunday 10:30 a.m. Guest Speakers: Evangelist Bill Britt, Pastor of Mims Baptist Church Jerry Chaddick, Evangelist Bob Pitman; George Pordea, founder and President of Internation Access to Missions; Pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church Herb Reavis, and Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church Rubin Weaver. Worship: Ray Jones, Radiance Ministries. Pastor: Wilton Wall.
- Milldale Baptist Church, Zachary: Milldale Bible Conference, March 6-8. Guest Speakers: Kevin Hamm, Michael Masson, Jerry Spencer, Malcolm Ellis. Worship: Macey Willis Family. Pastor: Jeremy Pruitt.
- Cotile Baptist Church, Boyce: Revival, March 7-9, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Randall Creel. Pastor: Rob McLane.
- Riverside Baptist Church, Vidalia: Mondays in March revival services, March 4, 11, 18 and 25, 6 p.m. Those speaking each Monday around the theme “Making a difference” are Dennis Baker, March 4; Philip Robertson, March 11; Reggie Bridges, March 18; and Mardy Guidry, March 25. Pastor: Glen Harigill.
- First Baptist Church, Gilbert: Harvest Sunday, March 10-13. Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Worship: The Allens. Pastor: Bubba Ezell.
- First Baptist Church, Merryville: Pulpit Supply, March 10, 17 & 31, 10 a.m. Speaker: Robert Dukes. Pastor: Currently without a pastor.
- Martin Baptist Church, Coushatta: Revival, March 10-13, Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor Richard Kaufman.
- Beulah Baptist Church, Farmerville: Revival, March 10 – 13 nightly. Sunday at 6:00 pm; Monday – Wednesday 6:30 pm. Evangelist: Casey Johnson. Pastor: Adam Holloway.
- South Winnfield Baptist Church, Winnfield: Revival, March 10-13. Evangelist: Lyndon Longoria. Pastor: Jack Miller.
- Unity Baptist Church, DeRidder: Revival, March 10-13. Worship: Broken Vessels. Pastor: Mike Burkes.
- Ashland Baptist Church, Ashland: Revival, March 13-15, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Jonathon Watts, Livingston. Worship: Seed Sowers, Frankfort, Kentucky. Pastor: Danny Slack.
- First Baptist Church, Jonesville: Ouachita Baptist Association men’s conference/soul-winning rally, March 14, beginning with a fish fry at 5:30 p.m. Evangelist: Sam Moore. Worship: Mackey Willis and Family in concert. Associational Ministry Strategist: Mickey Hudnall.
- New Christian Life Fellowship Baptist Church, Alexandria: Revival, March 15-17, Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Sunday at 5 p.m. Pastor: Carl Taylor III.
- Siloam Springs Community Church, Jonesboro: Revival, March 17-20, Evangelist: Lyndon Longoria. Worship: Kerry Longoria. Pastor: Wayne Morrow.
- Judson Baptist Church, Walker: Revival, March 17-20. Sunday 10:30 a.m.; March 17-20, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: David Lane.
- LaSalle High School Gym, Olla: Fourth Annual Come to Jesus Revival, March 17-20, 7 p.m. nightly. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Fred Luter, Frankin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans (Monday) C. Tomell Hamms, New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Winnfield. Worship: Glenn Price, Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville. Wednesday is Youth Night, message, and pizza at 5:30 p.m. Regular services at 7 p.m. Childcare is available ages newborn to four. This community-wide revival is hosted by Christians Sharing Christ (Clarks), Kelly Baptist Church, Olla First Baptist Church, Tullos First Baptist Church and Pineville Baptist Church, Olla.
- New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy: Revival, March 17-20; Sunday - 10:30 a.m.; Sunday-Wednes-

- day, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Mike Courtney. Worship: Mackey & Gail Willis. Pastor: Roland Hebert. Mineral Springs Baptist Church, Dubach: Revival, March 17-20. Evangelist: Luke Hockenjos. Pastor: Greg Tipton.
- Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Hineston: Revival, March 17-21. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell, Chalk Artist. Pastor: Eugene Williams.
- Summerfield Baptist Church, Colfax: Guest Speaker: Robert Dukes, March 24, Pastor: Jeremy Brister.
- Reeves Bible Church, Reeves: Revival, March 24-27. Evangelist: Mackey Willis. Pastor: Charlie Carroll.
- Temple Baptist Church, DeRidder: Refresh Week, March 24-27, Sunday 10:45 a.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. nightly. Pastor: Quincy Gill.
- Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Columbia: Greg Sullivan Ministries with Master’s Voice, March 24-27, Sunday, 6 p.m.: Monday-Wednesday, March 25-27, 7 p.m. Pastor: Robert Cooke.
- Brushy Creek Baptist Church, Bancroft: Revival, March 31- April 3. Evangelist: Mackey Willis. Pastor: Christopher Streams.
- Gray Baptist Church, Jeferson, TX.: Revival, (Easter Sunday) March 31- April 3. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell, The Chalk Artist. For more information concerning the revival, call 318.272.6002. Pastor: Roy Davis.
- Goldonna Baptist Church, Goldonna: Area Crusade at Goldonna Elementary- Junior High School auditorium, April 5-6, 6:30 p.m., Goldonna Baptist Church, April 7, 10 a.m. April 6 will be a youth night, with supper at the church 5:30 p.m. The games and service will then take place at the school afterward. Evangelist: Luke Hockenjos. Worship: Broken Vessels. Pastor: Ben Dupree.

LAGNIAPPE

- Hebron Baptist Church, Dry Prong: Community Wide Women’s Conference, February 24, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Hosted by Bethel Baptist Church and Hebron Baptist Church. Free giveaways. A meal will be provided by Reaching Forward Ministries and Hebron Baptist Church. Speakers: Hanna Hernandez, Nicole Bratton, Carolyn DeBusk. Music: Brooke Obey, Shea Smith. Special Speaker: Anna Hernandez Keith, Five Starter Ministries. Pastor: Travis Sanders
- First Baptist Church, Martin: Mark Lanier in concert, February 25, 11 a.m. A love offering will be received. Pastor: Richard Kaufman.
- Gray’s Creek Baptist Church, Denham Springs: Chronicle in concert, February 25, 5 p.m. Pastor: Der-

- rick Wall.
- Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: Chronicle in concert, February 27, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: David Goza.
- Join us for a day of spiritual growth and fellowship and you navigate how to be a leader in your home, workplace and life. You’ll hear from Jonathan Evans, chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys, avid outdoorsman and Pastor of First Baptist, Haughton Gevan Spinney, Pastor Jarrett Stephens of Champion Forest Baptist Church, and tv personality and professional duck hunter, Jase Robertson. Tickets are \$35 and include lunch from some amazing local food trucks.
- Bethel Baptist Church, West Monroe: Forge 2024 DNow, March 1-3, Sunday, 9 a.m. Friday-Saturday 7 p.m. Worship: WeRcalled. Pastor: Dennis Hensley Jr.
- New Hope Baptist Church, Jennings: Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert, March 2, 6 p.m. Pastor: Eric Crochet.
- Monroe Street Baptist Church, Bogalusa: Southern Plainsmen of Hornbeck in concert, March 3, 5 p.m. Pastor: Chad Jenkins
- Parkview Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: Mark Lanier in concert, March 2, 11 a.m. Pastor: Chris DeGeorge.
- Little Pass Baptist Church, Charenton: Wild Game Supper/Ice Cream Social, March 2, 6 p.m. Pastor: Chris Holloway.
- First Baptist Church, Abbeville: Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert, March 3, 10:45 a.m. Pastor: R. J. Landry.
- First Baptist Church, Natchitoches: D-Now) March 8-10, Friday, 6 p.m. registration, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 p.m. Worship, 9 p.m., small groups; Saturday, breakfast, 8 a.m., Worship (Session two), 9 a.m., (small groups), 10 a.m. lunch 12:30 p.m. Serve 1:30 p.m., FBC Cup, 4:30 p.m. Supper, 6:30 p.m. Worship (Session 3) 7:30 p.m. Small groups, 9 p.m. Sunday, Breakfast, 8 a.m., Worship (Session 4) 9:30 a.m., Small Groups: 11 a.m. Evangelist: Luke Hockenjos. Pastor: Thomas Rush.
- Poland Baptist Church, Alexandria: Women’s Retreat, March 9, 8:30-noon. Guest Speaker: Julie Hollingsworth will present a study from the Book of Ruth. Worship: First Baptist Church, Bunkie. No charge for the event but please RSVP by March 1. Lunch will be provided after the event. Pastor: Gary Richerson.
- First Baptist Church, Minden: Testify – A Celebration Concert featuring the choirs and orchestras of FBC Minden, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport and Eastwood Baptist Church, Haughton, March 10,

- 6 p.m. This is a return celebration from a prison ministry trip. Pastor: Leland Crawford.
- First Baptist Church, Gilbert: Harvest Sunday, March 10. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Bubba Ezell.
- New Hope Baptist Church, Independence: Chronicles in concert, March 10, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Kaleb Carlin.
- First Baptist Church, Jonesville: Mackey Willis and Family in concert. March 14. Pastor:
- Judson Baptist Church, Walker: Harvest Sunday, March 17. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Daivd Lane.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: Gospel Music Hymn Sing – Spring Tour 2024, March 21, 7 p.m. Cost: \$15. Tickets available at www.GospelMusicHymnSing.com. Special Guest: Mark Trammell. An offering will be taken for the Gospel Music Hymn Sing Foundation. For more information, call 318.442.0754. This is not a typical concert . . . it’s a worship experience. Pastor: Philip Robertson.
- Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe: Big Daddy Weave – Heaven Changes Everything Tour, March 22, 7 p.m. Joining Big Daddy Weave will be Austin French and Hannah Kerr. Tickets: <https://www.ticketweb.com/event/the-heaven-changes-everything-tour-fair-park-baptist-church-tickets/13444363>. Pastor: Waymond Warren.
- Memorial Baptist Church, Metairie: Easter Eggstravaganza, March 23, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. here will be free games, food, face painting, and prizes as we prepare to celebrate Christ’s Resurrection this Easter. Our Easter Egg Hunt (for kids ages 3-12 years old) will be an obstacle course that’s held indoors under black lights. Pastor: James Pritchett.
- First Baptist Church, Minden: Good Friday service, March 29, 6 p.m. The service will feature FBC Minden’s choir and orchestra followed by the Lord’s Supper. Pastor: Leland Crawford.
- Red Oak Baptist Church, Livingston: Chronicles in concert, March 31, 11 a.m. Pastor: Carl Varnado.
- Midway Baptist Church, Bedico: Greg Sullivan in concert, March 31, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Jimmy Wall.
- First Baptist Church, Mandeville: Pastor & Wife Date Night, April 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Come, and enjoy an evening of delicious food, warm fellowship and a fun and inspiring boot to your ministry marriage from seasoned ministry marriages. Special Guests: Jamie & Tara Dew (NOBTS) and Mark and Janet Dance (Guidestone). Cost: \$15 per couple. Please register by Friday, March 29 by email to AdminnAssist@fbcmandeville.org or by calling 985.626.3217. When you register, please indicate childcare needs. Pastor: Ronny Cooksey.

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.

IJR IA ACCJ IA FG SIA HCDG, FG XCGOF AOKIVXFOSIZ

OC FVD, IJR AIVOF, DIAOGK, DIAOGK: IJR EVAAGR FVD.

DIKE QCWKOGGJ: QCKOZ-QVLG

Clues:
J = N; V = I

Answer to Jsnuary 31 Scripture Crypto:
Daniel Eleven: Forty-five

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