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John 3:16

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Submitted photo

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, God calls us to be "humble." It is from this condition of the mind, the heart and the soul that we pray and seek His face. Then, in response to this spiritual state, He responds to listen, forgive and heal.

Evangelism 101 (Part 1): The heart of soul winning

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Evangelism truly is a matter of the heart for both the soul winner and the lost soul.

Indeed, without both hearts surrendered to the leading of the Holy Spirit, any sharing of the Gospel will be fruitless. Regardless of how eloquently or emotionally a personal testimony is articulated by a believer, unless God is making His appeal through the believer (2 Cor. 5:20)

and the unbeliever's spirit has been prepared by the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 7:10), it is all for naught.

Consider 2 Chronicles 7:14 which states "if My people, who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Too often, Christians read this passage and immediately presume that they must fall prostrate in

prayer or seek a solemn assembly with others. But when read in context, God is calling us to be "humble." It is from this condition of the mind, the heart and the soul that we pray and seek His face. Then, in response to this spiritual state, He responds to listen, forgive and heal.

Indeed, the Bible tends to define all spiritual processes in the context of being "humble."

-- Redemption, or turning to Christ (repentance

See SOUL, page 2

'Pause' retreat set Feb. 7-8 for pastors, wives

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – Pastors and their wives are invited to attend a weekend of encouragement, inspiration and wellness awareness during the third annual "Pause" retreat, Feb. 7-8, at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center.

The event will feature encouraging messages from John Sullivan, former Florida Baptist State Convention executive director; Diana Swift, the wife of Louisiana Baptist Pastoral Leadership Strategist

Ray Swift; and Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn. Cullen McDaniel, worship leader with Jefferson Baptist Church, will lead times of worship. Representatives from GuideStone Financial Resources, Granberry Counseling Centers and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary will be available.

"Join Louisiana Baptist Pastors for a weekend of refreshment and encouragement," Ray Swift told the *Baptist Message*. "Pastors and wives will experience authentic worship

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CEC: Be spiritually disciplined

By Brian Blackwell

Message staff writer

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist collegiate ministry leaders hope to equip students to hone spiritual disciplines during the upcoming Collegiate Evangelism Conference, set for Feb. 7-8 in the Guinn Auditorium of Louisiana Christian

University, Pineville.

CEC will feature three speakers: Chad Gilbert, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, New Orleans; Garrison Griffith, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Wisner; and Randy Ziegler, senior pastor, South Bossier Baptist Church. Quint Adkins and Lighthouse music will lead

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LCU Day of Prayer set Feb. 2

By Brian Blackwell

Message staff writer

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – Just weeks before the board of trustees could announce their recommen-

dation of a finalist to be the next president of Louisiana Christian University, Louisiana Baptists have been asked to set aside Feb. 2 as a day of prayer for the search committee, the pool of candidates and school.

Established after a vote by messengers during the 2024 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, the special day will focus on specific needs

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