



# THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

April 24, 2025

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## Franklin Parish, CENLA retreats harvest souls

**By Brian Blackwell**

Message staff writer

POLLOCK, La. (LBM) – Twenty-eight men from Franklin Parish recently committed to step-up and follow Jesus during a men's retreat at Camp Grant Walker in Pollock.

On the final day of the spiritual encounter, March 27-29, the men

rejoiced as they were baptized in Big Creek on the camp property.

“When people just bear their soul, they get honest, and God takes a hold of them; there's nothing more exciting than seeing the change,” retreat co-organizer Marc Kelly told the Baptist Message. “And we never get tired of it.”

Bubba Smith, another member of the retreat leadership team, added: “The very first time we walked into the camp area, I looked at Big Creek and said ‘It would be cool if God allowed us to baptize men right there in this creek.’ It has become a special place for our retreat guests, and we have seen many baptized

there.”

### BACKGROUND

The retreat was one of two Central Louisiana men's retreat ministries hosted in March. The other, held March 20-22 at Clara

See RETREATS, page 11



Submitwell photo

Jesus' love for children was evident throughout the New Testament and set an example for all His followers.

## EVANGELISM 101 (Part 4): Special Cases

**By Will Hall**

Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The focus of the Gospel conversation must prioritize eternal redemption – salvation – to the lost. However, it is often the case that a person brings other needs into the conversation that are important to hear and, in some cases, demand immediate action.

Baptist churches record, on average, 25 percent of their annual baptisms because of Vacation Bible School, so it is fitting to start this discussion about special cases

by addressing some considerations when Gospel counseling children. Even more so, Christ declared that every person must come to Him “as a little child” to enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Mt. 18:3; Lk. 18:17). Consequently, pointers about counseling children apply whether that child is five or 95.

### CHILDREN

Everyone comes to the Father the exact same

See EVANGELISM, page 6

## LBCHFM celebrates opening of regional compassion center

**By Brian Blackwell**

Message staff writer

MONROE, La. (LBM) – The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries has opened a center that will provide the hope of Christ to those in one of the nation's poorest regions.

Supporters gathered April 10 for a ribbon cutting to mark the official launch of the Compassion Center, located at 501 Kansas Lane on the campus of the LBCHFM.

Approved by the entity's trustees during its May 12, 2023, meeting, the 16,000-sq.-ft. facility will provide food, school supplies, diapers, shoes, new clothing and other life-essentials. While Monroe-West Monroe area residents will benefit, LBCHFM officials note that 80 percent of the products will be distributed to Louisiana Baptist churches and associations outside the region that either have a compassion ministry or are interested in starting one.

Matt Hancock, executive director with Compassion for Kids, a LBCHFM ministry that will operate the Compassion Center, told the crowd that the facility should serve 25,000-30,000 individuals a year. According to the 2020 U.S. Census American Community Survey, 34.9 percent of Monroe residents live at the poverty level.

“All the time at the Children's Home we ask the question, ‘Lord, where are the children and

See NEW HOME, page 10

## Compel grads serve in earthquake-ravaged Myanmar

**By Brian Blackwell**

Message staff writer

MYANMAR (LBM) – An urgent prayer request has been issued by the founder of Compel Outreach International for 27 graduates of its Bible university who are

living in Myanmar, a country devastated by a March 28 earthquake that resulted in more than 3,800 deaths.

According to Bill Britt, ministry founder and a member of First Baptist Church, Haughton, the graduates are

See COMPEL, page 10



# Rolling Hills Ministries: 100th person earns equivalency diploma

**By Staff**  
Louisiana Baptist Message

RUSTON, La. (LBM) – Rolling Hills Ministries recently celebrated the 100th person to earn a high school equivalency diploma through its ministry.

Chelsey Cole, director of RHM's HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) program, said the milestone is a reminder that it

is never too late for someone to begin again.

"It is very rewarding to see some students come in with such low confidence and come out with a life transformation," Cole told the Baptist Message. "When they walk across the stage and get their diploma, it's such a magical moment."

Started in 2017, the program holds weekly classes at thrift stores in Bossier City and Monroe and at First Baptist in Ruston. While students have up to 36 weeks to prepare for their HiSET, some students finish much earlier. Once they pass the exam, students are given a Bible

and a \$500 scholarship to use toward continuing education.

RHM uses a portion of proceeds inside the "education" section of their thrift stores to fund the program. Churches donate additional classroom space and food.

For more information, visit [rollinghillsministries.com/compassion](http://rollinghillsministries.com/compassion) or call Chelsey Cole, 318.251.0065. Classes: FBC, Ruston, Walter Building - Tue., Wed., Thur., 8:30-11:30 a.m.; RHM Thrift Store, Bossier City - Tue., Wed., Thur., 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; and RHM Thrift Store, Monroe - Mon., Wed., Fri., 9 a.m.-noon.

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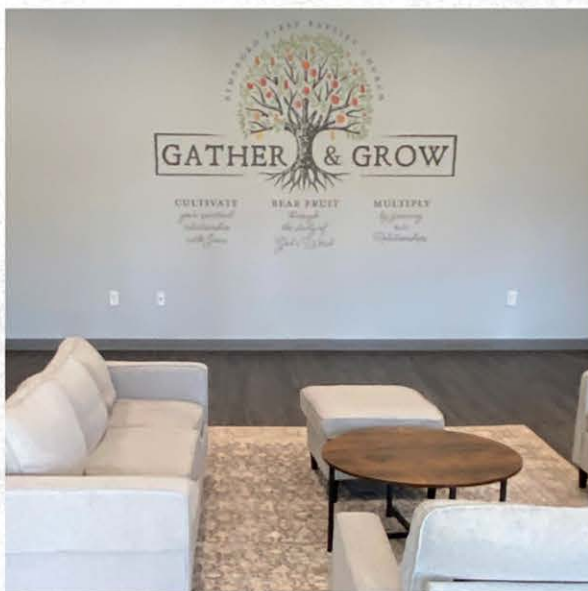
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## Unified: Two Jena churches merge to create a brighter beacon

**By Brian Blackwell**  
 Message staff writer

JENA, La. (LBM) – Bellevue Baptist Church was at a crossroads in 2024, when their weekly attendance was growing to near capacity for Sunday morning worship.

After months of seeking the Holy Spirit's direction, Pastor Dustin Robertson learned that East Jena Baptist Church's attendance had dwindled, and that they

were open to discussions about another church using their spaces.

Following meetings in early 2025, 29 members from East Jena Baptist and 59 from Bellevue Baptist unanimously voted, April 6, to become one congregation called Eastvue Baptist Church, creating a strong and dynamic body focused on reaching a community ripe for harvest.

See **MERGE**, page 5

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## Merge from page 4

"When we came together, the people of East Jena were needing us just as much as we needed the facilities of East Jena," Robertson told the Baptist Message. "This became about ministering to one another and that unity sealed the deal for us to join."

"We live in a world where families, communities and even churches can become divided," he continued. "I hope this sets an example for other churches to know they, too, can experience unity, whether it's to merge or just to reach their community for Christ."

Robertson became pastor of Bellevue Baptist in November 2024, when the church averaged 85-100 in Sunday worship and had few empty seats in the worship center, limiting growth. The church explored the possibility of raising money to build a new facility but felt God had other plans.

At the same time, East Jena Baptist's attendance had decreased from 125 in 2020 to

40 in 2024. Their worship facility could accommodate 500, leaving much empty space.

In early 2025, Robertson and East Jena Baptist Pastor Michael Wilkinson, along with other leaders from both churches, held conversations about moving forward in the community and realized their need to merge. After several meetings the churches voted to fuse their ministries, and now Robertson serves as pastor and Wilkinson as associate pastor.

"East Jena, like many churches, had gone through phases of decline," said Wilkinson, who recently was named associational mission strategist for LaSalle Baptist Association. "If you're familiar with Jena, there are more than enough churches to choose from. When we met together, we ended up finding out that our vision about ministry was very compatible."

"After that first meeting between both churches, you could literally feel the Spirit of

the Lord moving among all of us," he continued. "And there was unbelievable humbleness on both sides. We didn't want our doors to close, and if that meant we needed to step aside, we were for it."

### REACHING JENA TOGETHER

The two former congregations complement one another, Wilkinson and Robertson said.

Since the merger, they have held a commissioning service, April 13, and have

numerous events planned that include a baptism, Vacation Bible School and youth trip.

"We have shown our community that two churches can merge," Wilkinson said. "We believe by faith and trust in the Lord that we're hoping to set a model, not just for churches in our area but in our state and country."

"There are a lot of churches that are struggling and have good people serving in them," he continued. "I think there are a lot of churches that might want to pray and con-

sider consolidating or merging because there is a lack of pastors, and sometimes churches are struggling financially. Bellevue could have easily spent millions of dollars on property and buildings but now we have a new church that can use that money for missions. We just think the Kingdom is better served with that money going into winning the lost instead of buying more property and building more buildings. We're just tickled pink and are looking forward to what the Lord's going to do."

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# Evangelism from page 1

way – through the Son (John 14:6). There is one plan of salvation. However, explaining that plan might need to take into account a number of considerations – even about our choice of words – so that every individual may understand.

With children, particularly, it is important to put them at ease. Make sure that both of you are sitting so that there is a relatively level eye contact (preferably across from each other). Also, be sure to have someone else present, ideally a parent – but give the child your full attention (don't look at the parent for an answer nor to carry the conversation).

Use open-ended questions that avoid a "yes" or "no" response. Do not ask "pat" questions that have "canned" answers. You are seeking authentic reactions that reflect a true sense of the child's heart.

The child may use words and phrases that fit his or her level of development, but regardless should be able to tell you about God's perfect plan (that all men would live with Him in Heaven, 1 Pet. 3:9), our imperfection (sin, Rom. 3:23), the consequences of disobedience (spiritual death, Rom. 6:23a), His provision for our eternity (Jn. 3:16, Rom. 5:8), and the steps to receive salvation (heartfelt belief and public profession, Rom. 10:9-10).

Some might better understand salvation as a "gift" (Rom. 6:23b) and the step to receive it (via our faith, Eph. 2:8).

Do not expect a seminary-trained explanation but instead listen for a simple heartfelt expression of belief in Jesus as Lord, thankfulness for His forgiveness of sin, and a willingness to follow Him and profess Him to others.

Some specific issues for awareness, include separation anxiety (Mom & Dad are saved and the child wants to be sure to be with them in Heaven); camaraderie (sibling or a friend were saved, and they want to be like them); and sadness for doing something wrong but not godly grief (2 Cor. 7:10).

These are not expressions of repentance to salvation. But such feelings do give you the opportunity to begin an intentional discussion that may lead them to salvation.

For comparison: In adults, "fire insurance" might be a motivation.

## ABUSE OR SUICIDE

It is critically important when someone mentions abuse (receiving or committing, including sexual grooming) -- wherever it occurs (home, school church, recreation) -- that the counselor listens first (be compassionate) and then immediately takes steps to protect the victim (without alerting the abuser).

There are many possible situations, but as a rule of thumb, do all of the following: Contact close family members (who are

not the abuser), an authority who supervises the abuser, and the local jurisdiction for law enforcement (must always be done).

Likewise, the victim (such as an abused spouse) might need an immediate safe harbor, and it is important to find a ministry or social service provider that can offer a temporary place to stay -- now. Do not allow a victim to return to a situation of potential abuse.

Regarding suicide or self-harm, listen compassionately and notify others who need to know (parents, spouses, pastors, school officials, etc.). Moreover, do not presume that your conversation with this individual has resolved the mental disorder or social situation that is the root of the desperation that the person is experiencing. Instead, take the person to the local emergency room for an immediate evaluation (if the counselee is a minor, get the parent involved). Then, find a Christian counseling ministry that can take this person as a long-term patient.

Importantly, in both cases (abuse and suicide / self-harm), do not neglect the Gospel conversation.

The earthly factors that are

negatively shaping a person's life must receive attention, but the spiritual eternity of each of them must be addressed, too.

Paul told Timothy that it is a good thing "if a man desires the office of a bishop" (1 Tim. 3:1), and he showed the importance of Christian service by his com-

## VOCATIONS Pastor

See EVANGELISM, page 7

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## Evangelism from page 6

mitment to starting and nurturing churches as a missionary to Asia and Europe (Acts 13-14; 15:36-18:22; 18:23-21:16).

Remember, you are not the appointing authority, that is the role of the church body. However, you will be offering your observation of the person to the congregation. So, you should ask some key questions.

First, have the person describe his salvation experience (do not presume anyone is saved and always discuss or present the Gospel plan of salvation). Then see if the person has a history of teaching.

Paul indicated the only difference between the qualifications for the office of bishop and the office of deacons was that the man must be "apt to teach" (1 Tim. 3:2). Has he taught a Sunday school class or other small group, or been a VBS teacher? If not, suggest that he start his response to the call to the ministry by taking on a teaching role.

### Missionary

Always ask the person to

describe his or her salvation experience. This is the first qualification that must be met to serve in the mission field.

But also find out what they have done in the past that might indicate there is a fit with being a missionary. Has the person served with backyard VBS efforts? What about mission trips in the local area or to other states? Has he or she ever been on a short-term mission trip abroad?

### ASSURANCE

A Christian may experience godly grief multiple times throughout her or his life. The first time leads to repentance for salvation, and subsequent times lead to repentance for restoration. We must repent to turn to Christ, and we must repent to return to Him.

When a person comes forward questioning their salvation, do not assume they are saved. Engage them with the plan of salvation. If they are under the leadership of the Holy

See EVANGELISM page 7



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## Evangelism from page 7

Spirit, this conversation will help them with assurance of their salvation.

If they are saved, you may need only to remind them that we who believe are sealed by the power of the Holy Spirit who is the guarantor of our salvation (Eph. 1: 13-14). Moreover, when we receive Him, believing in His name, we become His children (John 1:12) – an adoption that is irrevocable (John 6:39-40; 10:27-30).

### BAPTISM

The Great Commission

(Mt. 28:18-20) instructs us to evangelize (lead someone to saving knowledge of Christ), baptize (mentor the new believer to take this step of obedience) and teach (help the Christian mature in his or her walk with Christ).

Baptism is a step that follows salvation, it is an act of obedience (Mt. 10:32-33) that is not a part of salvation (Eph. 2:9). It is a portrayal of the Gospel, describing Christ's death, burial and resurrection through us (1 Cor. 15:1-4). Moreover, we are called to follow Christ,

and we must imitate His example, including being baptized (Mt. 3:13-15).

Importantly, baptism should result only after understanding its importance. But it should not be delayed (Acts 16:31-33). Remember, baptism is not essential for salvation, but it is essential for obedience.

We join the Kingdom through salvation. However, we join the fellowship of His family via baptism (Acts 2:41).

### CHRISTIAN MATURITY

Our lives in Christ are meant to be part of a sanctification process. Sanctification is both an

event, but it also is an ongoing development of health and growth in Christ.

Jacob is a great example of both points. He was set apart for God at a specific point in his life (Gen. 28:14) and he was changed through his obedience during his many life experiences to the point that God changed his name (Gen. 32:27-31, "Jacob" translates as "supplanter," meaning Jacob supplanted God's will with his own; "Israel" literally means "God prevails" to convey that God rules the man who once supplanted

His will).

There are daily steps to spiritual health and growth that every believer needs: prayer (build your relationship with Him); Bible study (know His character and the nature of the relationship He wants with you); worship (Rev. 4:6-11; Heb. 10:25 -- simply honor Him); fellowship (build relationships with other believers to sustain your spiritual health and growth); and discipling others (as you grow, witness to the lost and mentor the spiritually young).

## North Monroe from page 4

of what takes place at the retreat are not disclosed, the men get to celebrate their commitments to Christ at the end in front of family, friends and the congregation. The number of baptisms vary from three to 17 after each retreat.

Once the retreat concludes, they are plugged into one of the 25 men's discipleship groups who meet at various times throughout the week for Bible study and accountability to sharpen and encourage one another to grow in Christ.

"We don't dunk them and leave them where they are," McPherson said. "We try to pull them through the discipleship process. Getting involved inspires them to one day teach others."

Gavin Rawls is among the men touched by the Holy Spirit and baptized. After dismissing several invitations from a friend to attend previous retreats, Rawls finally conceded and signed up. Though he went in without much knowledge of Jesus or the church, Rawls left with a

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# Kristina Henry joins LBC as children, youth strategist

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Kristina Henry, a former missionary kid, has assumed the role of children and youth missions education strategist for Louisiana Baptists.

Henry, whose parents and siblings previously served with the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, hopes to bring a passion for missions into her new role.

"Learning about missions in GAs was a highlight of my church experience growing up," she said. "So, I'm thrilled to have this opportunity to work with children, youth and church leaders in building excitement and a love for missions."

Henry trusted in Christ at a young age during a Sunday morning service at Oak Grove Baptist Church in Prairieville and

was baptized as an adult by her father, Brent Dix, and Twin Bridges Baptist Church in Alexandria.

She served on mission trips to the Pine Ridge Reservation and Lac Du Flambeau Reservation, volunteered through missions education and Vacation Bible School with Twin Bridges Baptist Church, and worked at Youth Evangelism Celebration events.

Henry is a graduate of Southern New Hampshire University and is pursuing a Master of Arts in Christian Education with New

Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She and her husband, Joshua, have one child, Emma, 14.

Henry has worked for Louisiana Baptists for five years with the communications team as production coordinator and administrative assistant. She plans to use her writing skills and knowledge of media platforms to promote missions among children and youth throughout Louisiana.

She asked for continued prayers in her new role.

"Working for Louisiana Baptists has been a

blessing," she said. "And I'm honored to have the opportunity to be part of

supporting churches and cooperative missions and ministries in our state."

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New Home from page 1

families who need us,’ and we don’t have to look very far for the answer,” Hancock told the crowd “It’s right here in our community, and it’s all across the state. So, the Compassion Center will be here to meet physical needs, to build trust, to be able to share the Gospel and to give

an unconditional love of Jesus.” LBCHFM President and CEO Perry Hancock recognized two families whose mothers donated a large amount of money to make the Compassion Center a reality: Mary Gallaspy and Susan Potter, both who have since passed away.

Whit Gallaspy, one of Mary Gallaspy’s sons, noted that his mother had a heart for those like the ones served by the Compassion Center. “What an exciting thing this is,” he said. “I just want to run around the block singing. “Will there be after-effects of this ministry,” he continued. “Will there be things like improved academic performances?

How about less substance abuse, less problems with things like alcohol in Monroe? Wouldn’t that be huge? And I look forward to hopefully seeing some of this. And I know you do too.” Perry Hancock shared about Potter, whose family was unable to attend the ceremony.

Potter previously funded construction of apartments for homeless women and their children on the LBCHFM campus and prior to the 2023 dedication of those facilities she asked Hancock about the next project on the horizon. Hancock then showed her a conceptual drawing of the Compassion Center, which at the time still was a dream. “It was just a matter of a few weeks that she made an incredible gift that made this facility possible,” Hancock said. “And when I think of her, I actually think of women who have that kind of heart, particularly for children. And because of these two

wonderful women, they have a legacy of their own compassion. But it’s a legacy of lives that are going to be changed by the power of the Lord our God.”

Compel from page 1

difficult situation but are still being faithful to their call to spread the light of Christ in a dark time. “We’re trying to get relief money to them right now for food, clothes, water and other necessities,” Britt told the Baptist Message. “They’re still sharing the Gospel with people who are there. A lot of people are looking for answers right now, so it’s a good time to tell them about the Lord. “Pray first of all that we can get some relief to the 27 graduates so they can help other people as well,” he continued. “And pray that God will open the people’s hearts to the Gospel during this time of devastation.”

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## Retreats from page 1

Springs Baptist Camp in Pelican, resulted in 11 men coming to Christ and later being baptized in their home churches.

CENLA women recently completed a retreat, April 2-4, at Clara Springs where 17 women surrendered their lives to Jesus.

For the past two years, retreat ministry leaders have hosted men's and women's events in the spring and fall at Camp Grant Walker and Clara Springs, respectively.

The Franklin Parish Retreat was established as a ministry on Feb. 9, 2023, and that event birthed the CENLA Retreat ministry, which hosted its first event in April 2023. Since those original events, both ministries have hosted five retreats for men and five for women, catalyzing obvious changes in their respective communities.

The original retreat in Franklin Parish sparked a revival that has continued to this day, as the participants have reported growth in their congregations and significant increases in the number of people coming to Christ through salvation, Kelly said.

The CENLA retreat ministry has recorded more than 75 baptisms of men and women. Kelly said

the ministry has impacted many throughout central Louisiana, and it is not uncommon for more than 30 churches of various denominations to have members attend a retreat at one time.

"Over the past two years, many have come to Christ through the efforts of the volunteers, commonly referred to as 'teamers' in addition to those who have repented and began to walk in Christ. Marriages have been restored, and church attendance has increased as men and women realized they were created for a purpose in the Kingdom of God," Kelly said.

### CELEBRATING COMMITMENTS

While most of the details of what takes place at the retreat are not disclosed, the men and women do get to celebrate their commitments to Christ at the end with baptism either at the camp or by their home church.

"For those who do not have church homes, we look at their address and try to link them up with a Bible believing and teaching church or have one of the teamers invite them to attend

church with them," Kelly said. "The goal after the retreat experience has ended is to plug them in a church so they can begin the discipleship and sanctification process." As Jamie Slade from Franklin Parish always says, "Just give us one more Lord for the Kingdom."

"God does not call men or women to stay on the sidelines, but to get in the game of life. No football coach ever schemed against the players on the bench, and neither does Satan. If that is you as a Christian, you are right where he wants you to be. We are trying to encourage guys and gals to take that next step," he continued. "I thank the Lord Jesus every day for Franklin Parish taking that step of faith with their first retreat and that Philip Robertson saw

the potential in this ministry and gave us the 'green light' to attend as guests and then establish the CENLA Retreat Ministry."

Robertson, pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church in Deville, echoed the far-reaching impact of the retreat.

I have never seen a man or woman from Philadelphia Baptist Church attend a CENLA retreat

and regret the decision," he said.

CENLA retreats at Clara Springs: Men's Sept 18-20, 2025, marc.kelly@suddenlink.net; Women's Oct 2-4, 2025, manquin5683@yahoo.com.

Franklin Parish at Camp Grant Walker: Men's Oct 9-11, 2025, sladej1971@gmail.com; Women's 17-19, 2025, baskinraised@yahoo.com.

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## North Monroe men's retreat is a time of soul winning

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2*

MONROE, La. (LBM) – For months, staff and lay leaders with North Monroe Baptist Church prayed for the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of 40 men who would be attending a men's retreat, March 14-16.

God answered those prayers when 16 men stepped forward for baptism during an NMBC morning worship service on the final day of the event, while more made other life-changing decisions for Christ.

"These men got away for a weekend and experienced the peace from other men who knew Jesus and had that life change," NMBC Director of Facilities and Men's Minis-

try Jeff McPherson told the Baptist Message. "And they wanted to have what those men had.

"It's hard to wrap my head around what the Holy Spirit does each time we have a men's retreat," he continued. "We make these plans for the weekend but it's Jesus who changes lives.

"Sometimes when you get people away for a weekend and share stories, you wonder if the men will commit to Jesus," he said. "And when they do, they get to share it front of more than 2,000 people in baptism. The men know what they experienced was real and they have a strong desire to make sure others know this great news about how Jesus changed their lives."

### GROWING IN CHRIST

Starting in 2017, the men's retreat has been held twice a year in the Monroe-West Monroe area. While most of the details of what takes place at the retreat are not disclosed, the men get to celebrate their commitments to Christ at the end in front of family, friends and the congregation. The number of baptisms vary from three to 17 after each retreat.

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# Revival spurs spiritual renewal at FBC Natchitoches

By Brian Blackwell  
Message staff writer

NATCHITOCHES, La. (LBM) – Nearly 400 members and guests of First Baptist Church, Natchitoches, sought reconciliation during a recent four-day Thirst Revival Conference.

Hosted by Niles, Michigan-based Life Action Ministries, the gathering featured nightly messages on the need to trust in God even in the hard seasons of life, removing idols, dangers of bitterness and examination of one's love for the Lord and for others.

The conference also included high-energy music, children's programming and a women's luncheon led entirely by Life Action's ministry team.

In the end, the church came away more unified and ready for God's next step in their lives.

Tommy Rush, senior pastor of FBCN, told the *Baptist Message* that every night entire families filled the altar and others gathered in pews as they sought reconciliation within their families, and some individuals offered long-overdue encouragement, love and compassion to their families.

"It was more of a focus on being refreshed and restoring relationships in our family and church," Rush said. "Sometimes you don't realize how hungry people in the church are to restore broken relationships."

"The revival focused a lot on families needing to be closer and dads stepping up to be spiritual leaders," he continued. "Our people were so hungry for this and every night we had a packed house. They were bringing friends and neighbors and family members because it was such a good

time of worship, and they wanted more of it."

Though the conference has ended, the revival among members has continued.

The Sunday after the conference, the church experienced an above average attendance in morning fellowship groups.

"They have a greater drive now for personal discipleship and a burden to reach the lost," FBCN Pastor of Discipleship and Administration Brent Shoalmire said. "Many have expressed a deeper concern for lost neighbors, and we believe we will see that only continue for the foreseeable future."

Brett Rodriguez, who teaches a fellowship group, said his members were so impacted by the conference that they spent their allotted time the next Sunday discussing what had happened to them and others.



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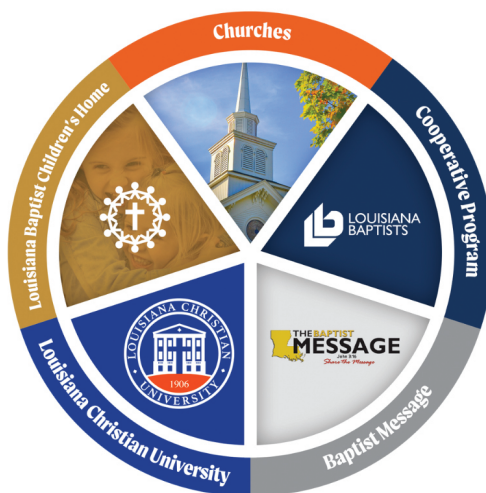
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**SEEKING PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER**  
First Baptist Church of DeQuincy in DeQuincy, LA is seeking a part-time music minister. Please email résumés to music@fbcdq.org

**SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH PASTOR**  
Fellowship Baptist Church. Greenwell Springs, Louisiana is seeking a full-time youth pastor. Candidates must have experience. If interested please contact Mardy Guidry, Pastor @936.229.0611 or email: office@fbcofcentral.org

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**SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR**  
Hodge Baptist Church in Hodge, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please mail résumés to the Pastor Search Committee in c/o Hodge Baptist Church, P O Box 340, Hodge, LA 71247 or email to: hodgebaptist@yahoo.com.

**SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR**  
Emmanuel Baptist Church  
5850 Buncombe Road, Shreveport, LA. Excellent opportunity to join a Christ-centered fellowship and build a vibrant youth program. Email résumé to: resume\_ebc@mail.com

**SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR**  
Loch Arbor Baptist Church in Monroe, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Résumés may be sent to labcpastorsearchcommittee@gmail.com or mailed to LABC, 3960 Hwy. 139, Monroe, LA 71203.

**SEEKING A YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTER**  
First Baptist Church of Homer, La is seeking to hire a Youth and Children's Minister. Please submit résumés to brianthurman@yahoo.com or First Baptist Church, 406 W. Main St. Homer, LA 71040.

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**Sandy Bayou Baptist Church, Columbia, LA** is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Parsonage is available as part of compensation. Send résumés to William Parker, search committee chairman, 6441 Highway 559, Columbia, LA 71418 or email to SBBC2024@yahoo.com





**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

■ William, wife Jamie, Sikes will be joining Swartz First Baptist Church, Monroe on April 1 as the new student pastor.  
■ Patricia Priddy is the new music minister at Ferry Lake Baptist Church, Shreveport  
■ Michael Brookover was ordained March 2 at Cook Baptist Church and began his new position as Interim Pastor at Weldon Baptist Church.  
■ Kristina Henry has been hired as the LBC's Children/Youth Missions Strategist.  
■ Mike Wilkinson is the new Associational Mission Strategist for LaSalle Parish.  
■ Lakeshore Baptist Church, Monroe: Derek, wife Kaylee, are the new associate pastor of education and youth.  
■ Music Minister Paul Bell of Westwood Baptist Church, Shreveport has resigned as music minister.  
■ Seth, wife Marissa, Doiga is returning to Live Oak Church at the New worship minute this May.  
■ Patricia Crawford is the new Children's Minister at Summer Grove Baptist Church.  
■ Pastor Charlie Miller of Woodland Hills has resigned as Pastor at Woodland Hills.  
■ Michael Ray Taylor is the new BCM Director at Louisiana State University of Eunice.

#### HOMEcoming

■ Pine Hill Baptist Church, Leesville: 132-year homecoming celebration. Guest Speaker: Jason Lupold, The homecoming service on June 1, will begin at 10 AM. There will be a meal after the service in Christian Life Center. Pastor: Keith Dowden.  
■ Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, DeRidder: 150 Anniversary, June 1, Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. and Worship service will be at 9:30 a.m. Come and experience a spirit-filled worship service, special music and a walk through the church's rich history. Stay afterwards for food, fellowship and a celebration of God's faithfulness. Pastor: Danny Wilson  
■ West Ouachita Baptist Association Crusade, March 30-April 2, 6 p.m. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Worship: WeRCalled. Hosted by churches of West Ouachita.  
■ Madison Baptist Association Crusade, Tallulah: Crusade, July 13-16.

#### REVIVAL

■ Hopewell Baptist Church, DeRidder: Spring Revival, April 28-30, 6 p.m. nightly. Evangelist Jerry Chaddick. Pastor: Grey Gill.  
■ Alabama Baptist Church, Arcadia: Spring Revival, April 30. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Tony Walton  
■ First Baptist Church, Keithville: Revival, May 4. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Mike Stowell.

■ Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: Revival, May 4-7. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Kenneth Bratton.  
■ Hunter Magnolia Baptist Church, Mansfield: Spring Revival, May 11-14, 2025. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Amador Santos.  
■ Little Pass Baptist Church, Charenton: Spring Revival, May 18-21, 2025. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Chris Holloway.  
■ Holly Grove Baptist Church, Wisner: Spring Revival, May 25-28. Evangelist: Scott McDowell. Pastor: Kenneth Bratton.  
■ Pine Hill Baptist Church, Leesville: May 28-May 31, 7 pm. Evangelist Jason Lupo, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Hornbeck. Pastor: Keith Dowden.  
■ Waterproof First Baptist Church, Waterproof: Spring Revival, May 30-June 1. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Larry Walters.  
■ Bushy Creek Baptist Church, Merry Revival: Revival, June 1-4, Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Mike Streams.  
■ Lake St. John Baptist Church, Ferriday: Spring Revival, June 4-7. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor:  
■ Southside Baptist Church, Jonesboro: Spring Revival, 8-11. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor:  
■ Cypress Baptist Church, Dodson: Spring Revival, June 13-15. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Jesse Henderson  
■ Open Door Baptist Church, Ragley: Harvest Sunday, June 15, 2025. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: James Blakenhip.  
■ Indian Mound Baptist Church, Greenwell Springs: Revival, June 22-25, 2025. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Dwayne Rogers.  
■ Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Columbia: Revival, August 17-20. Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor:  
■ Fort Necessity Baptist Church, Fort Necessity. Revival, August 21-24, 2025, Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor: John Bradley.  
■ Milldale Baptist Church, Zachary: Bible Conference, August 29-September 1, 2025. Evangelist: Bob Pitman. Pastor: Jeremy Pruitt.  
■ Fellowship Baptist Church, Greenwell Springs: Revival, September 28-October 1 2025. Evangelist Bob Pitman. Pastor: Mardy Guidry.  
■ Wallace Baptist Church, Pelican: Revival, September 7-10, Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor: Jeff Jinks.  
■ The Church at Oakgrove, Ringgold. Revival, September 11-14, 2025. Evangelist: Bob Pitman Pastor: James Hester.  
■ Fellowship Baptist Church, Jena: Bible Conference, November 8-9 2025. Evangelist: Bob Pitman. Pastor: Shad Tibbs.

#### LAGNIAPPE

■ LSU BCM, Baton Rouge: A celebration of Steve Masters' 33 years of service as the Baptist Collegiate Minister at LSU will be held April 27, 2-4 p.m.  
■ Ashland Baptist Church, Ashland: Southern Plainsmen Quartet in concert, May 4, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Danny Slack.  
■ Tioga First Baptist Church, Pineville: Retirement reception celebrating Timothy Hissaw, April 27, 3-5 p.m.  
■ Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria: Gaither Vocal Band – Love Like I'm Leaving Tour 2025, May 1, Pastor: Todd Strain.  
■ Bethany Golf Tournament: May 5, Crooked

■ Hollow Golf Club, check in 7 to 8 AM, Shotgun start at 8:30 AM, lunch will be provided afterwards. Contact us for more information and sponsorship price at 318.938.1221 or www.bethany3.com.  
■ Compel Outreach Third Annual Golf Classic, Bossier City: May 16, 2025, The Golf

Club @Stonebridge. There will be a four-man scramble, 18 hobbies, Mulligans are available. A \$10,000 prize for the first hole in one, longest drive and closest to the pin. Learn more about the event and register at compeloi.org.  
■ Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Independence:

Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert, May 18, 10:30 a.m.  
■ Grangerville Baptist Church, Grangeville: Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert with Jessica Horton, June 22, 10:45 a.m. Pastor:  
■ The Lighthouse Baptist Church, Independence: Greg Sullivan Ministries with Jessica

## 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.

KL CBG ADQ GZJSW SIZJWSGDIPJ, DQ GZJ CBWV

PBRRDIVJV KL GZJ ZDIV BU RBQJQ, UBW GZJ ISIJ GWSKJQ

DIV UBW GZJ ZDCU GWSKJ

#### Clues:

A = U; H = P

#### Answer to March 27, Scripture Crypto:

ephesians one: fpoirteem

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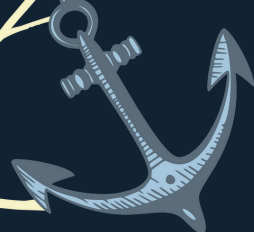
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