



# THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

Volume 139 • Issue No. August 28, 2025

John 3:16

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## GBO helps Goodwood Community Church reach young families

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

BATON ROUGE, La. (LBM) – Casey Williamson was at a spiritual cross-roads in early 2023.

A former professional baseball player, Williamson had hung up his glove and spikes to serve with Campus Outreach, which hosts student ministries

on more than 100 campuses in 10 countries. As the years passed, Williamson and his wife, Jill, saw fruit at Louisiana State University, Southeastern Louisiana and University of Louisiana at Lafayette but had gotten to a point where their passion had grown more to minister to students who had graduated and now had families

of their own. Williamson knew he had been called to be a pastor and that God had him there to prepare for this next step.

After a season of prayer, Williamson and the other leaders of the sending church, Christ Covenant Church in Baton Rouge, were approached by Trinity Baptist Church in the city with an offer to

donate their facility while its congregation remained in the building for weekly worship. The aging congregation had dwindled in worship attendance (from 60 in 2019 to 20 in 2023) and sought the Lord to use another church to reach the community for Christ.

After a series of conversations with the leadership of Trinity, Williamson

believed this was where God was moving. On May 5, 2024, Goodwood Community Church was born.

“We exist to be a city on the hill and be salt and light to let our community know there’s something special happening here,” Williamson told the Baptist Message. “God has

See **GOODWOOD**, page 4



US government photo

The most recent term of the U.S. Supreme Court resulted in a number of rulings on public policy cases that touched the homes, workplaces and ministries of Louisiana Baptists.

## SCOTUS rulings, other court cases

**By Will Hall**  
Message executive editor

WASHINGTON (LBM) – The U.S. Supreme Court recessed from its 2024-2025 term on June 26, having voted on 58 cases, decided another nine without ballots, and moved two to the 2025-26 term (which begins October 6) with a number addressing public policies that touch the homes, workplaces and ministries of Louisiana Baptists.

### VULNERABLE CHILDREN

In *United States v. Skrametti*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a 2023 Tennessee ban against “performing on a minor or administering to a minor a medical procedure if the performance or administration of the procedure is for the purpose of enabling a minor to identify with, or live as, a purported identity inconsistent with the minor’s sex.”

See **RULINGS**, page 5

## 2025 Q2: Send Network La. yields 190 decisions, 115 baptisms

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Baptist Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Send Network Louisiana churches celebrated a Gospel harvest to start the new year, producing 190 decisions for Christ and 115 baptisms by 44 church plants from

April to June.

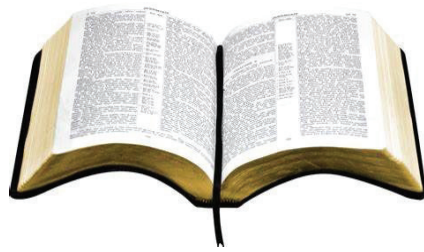
Additionally, the Louisiana Baptist church plants reported 6,959 Gospel conversations and an average of 72 in weekly worship attendance, according to a recent second quarter report by Send Network Louisiana. Since

See **SEND**, page 8

# Fourth Annual Fellowship Baptist Church Revival and Bible Conference

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### Friday, November 7

Roger Haney .....9:30 am  
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Sonny Simpson.....6:00 pm  
Malcolm Ellis.....7:00 pm

### Saturday, November 8

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Sonny Simpson.....10:30 am  
Bob Pittman .....6:00 pm  
Scotty McDowell .....7:00 pm

### Sunday, November 9

Bob Pittman .....10:30 am  
Brenton Smith.....6:00 pm  
Scotty McDowell .....7:00 pm

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your  
mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

*Romans 12:2*

# Georgia Barnette equips Toledo Bend ministry to be fishers of men

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

ZWOLLE, La. (LBM) – Mary Gore has seen many souls added to the Kingdom during 32 years of “fishing for men” as director of the Toledo Bend Resort Ministry.

With the help of staff and hundreds of volunteers, the Gospel has been shared at more than 30 parks, marinas and low-income housing projects through worship services, block parties, fishing tournaments and area fairs.

## HARVESTS REAPED

This year, the ministry has reaped Gospel fruit because of multiple outreach events:

-- During Easter weekend, volunteers from 15 churches shared Christ's love during a block party attended by 250 people at Wildwood Resort in Zwolle and 128 at a worship service held during the block party that Satur-

day morning. There were also 30 people who attended the ministry's first Easter Sunrise service the next morning on the pier at Wildwood Resort.

-- In May, eight people made decisions to follow Jesus through a children's fishing tournament at San Miguel State Park in Zwolle.

-- In July, a team from First Baptist Church, Cotton Valley, Texas, saw three people indicate a need to come to Christ during a Backyard Bible Club held at several apartment buildings in Zwolle.

- Also in July, a team from First Baptist Church, Spurter, Texas, coordinated a backyard Bible club at an apartment complex in Zwolle and conducted a Vacation Bible School with Middle Creek Baptist Church in Florien.

-- In August, the ministry took part in a back-

See GBO, page 3

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Number 9



## GB0 from page two

to-school rally at Many Elementary School and volunteers gave 175 students from across Sabine Parish the opportunity to receive some of the physical supplies they will need for a successful school year. Additionally, these students with their 84 family members in attendance were shown love, support and encouragement by more than 40 volunteers from multiple churches and community organizations from Sabine Parish and beyond.

"This been one of best years for God to allow us to see results," Gore told the Baptist Message. "Prayers of His people and faithfulness to remind us He is still going to move in response to our obedience. We have planted seeds and been blessed to see His fruit."

The ministry has celebrated several new additions.

In April 2024, the ministry celebrated the opening of a new 4,000-sq.-ft. meeting facility that will allow others to grow in their relationships with Christ and become better equipped to share the Gospel in the area and beyond. The building, which replaced a meeting facility used since it was built in the early 1970's, has provided a more comfortable place for groups to worship, have training events and host small meetings.

Later in the year, the ministry received a grant from the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering that helped purchase a new ministry truck and trailer.

"This has helped us be more recognized," Gore said. "We've even had opportunities to pray with people who stopped us after seeing the truck."

Gore asked for continued prayers as they seek to



Submitted photo  
Mary Gore, director of Toledo Bend Resort Ministry, has seen God move through the salvations she has witnessed at multiple events. Meanwhile, many other Gospel seeds have been planted.

impact the lost population in Sabine Parish.

"Pray for God to raise up local volunteers to continue and increase the impact of our local ministries, i.e. campground worship services and visitation and our local fair and festival ministry."

"Pray for mission teams to come during the sum-

mer of 2026 to assist with Backyard Bible Clubs held in apartment complexes across Sabine parish and to assist smaller membership churches with their Vacation Bible Schools.

"Pray that the Gospel will continue to be shared in a clear and concise manner that is appropriate for children and youth at our

annual children's fishing event and that children, teenagers and adults will continue to hear and respond to the Gospel message and surrender their hearts and lives to Jesus.

"Pray that God would raise up interns, both year-round and during the

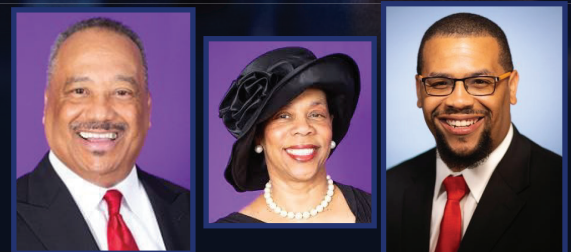
See GBO, page 6

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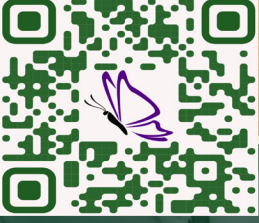
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# GOODWOOD from page 1

made us to worship Him and be a light that shines far brighter than what our community has seen before. Our prayer and vision is that people from different areas and backgrounds would feel the love of Christ and find answers to questions they are seeking. Our desire is that people would come to Christ who are young and old, and come to a place where they can mature in the faith and then impact others."

Since the church began with a launch team of 47, attendance for Sunday worship has grown to more than 100 and nine have been baptized, according to Williamson. Moreover, 70 percent of GCC is comprised of families with young children.

Williamson said GCC has found creative ways to become a city on a hill.

Each week, discipleship groups and Bible studies meet throughout Baton Rouge to enhance the opportunity to reach out to neighbors who have a need for Christ.

One church family has hosted a jazz concert in their backyard, leading to one young couple coming to Christ and being baptized. Others have begun

to hold home-based Bible studies with their neighbors.

Additionally, GCC hosted a men's prayer breakfast, fall festival, an Easter Egg hunt in partnership with the neighborhood property owners' association and recently their first Kids Club drew more than 50 children from the community.

Williamson said he is thankful for the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering, which provided funds to help them add bathroom facilities, install flooring and update the foyer of their facility.

"We, at Goodwood Community Church, are so very grateful to the churches in our state that give through the GBO," he said. "They are helping advance the kingdom of God and facilitate the preaching of the Gospel in our area of the state and beyond."

**Named for the first executive director of Louisiana Baptists' Woman's Missionary Union, the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering's Month of Prayer is set for Sept. 1-30, with a goal of raising \$1.8 million.**



Submitted photo

A member of Goodwood Community Church shared a laugh with children at the fall festival.



# RULINGS from page one

The Court's ruling will impact 25 other states with similar statutes, including Louisiana whose lawmakers overrode a veto, by then-Governor John Bel Edwards, to make HB648 a law (Act 466). This 2023 legislation, authored by Rep. Gabe Firmant, a deacon with the First Baptist Church, Pollock, prohibits "procedures to alter the sex of a minor child" and was largely influenced by the 2022 Louisiana Baptist Convention RESOLUTION 2: ON PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM THE PERMANENT PHYSICAL HARM OF SEX CHANGE SURGERIES AND DRUGS.

## PARENTAL RIGHTS

In 2023, after receiving an overwhelming number of "opt-out" petitions, Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland rescinded a 2022 policy that allowed parents to request that their children be excused from elementary-school English lessons that included storybook readings about LGBT characters. MCPS said it could no longer accommodate "the growing number of opt out requests" because they resulted in "unsustainably high numbers of absent students." Parents argued that the materials impinged upon their right "to direct

the religious upbringing of their children" because the lessons undermined the religious beliefs they wished to instill in their children.

The matter landed with the U.S. Supreme Court in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, with the Court ruling 6-3 to grant an injunction "prohibiting the School Board from forcing [their] children and other students—over the objection of their parents—to read, listen to, or discuss" the storybooks.

This ruling reinforces the parental rights embedded in Louisiana Act 680 (2024), championed by Rep. Raymond Crews, a member with First Baptist Church, Bossier City, which requires school employees to "use the name

for a student listed on his birth certificate, or a derivative thereof, unless granted written permission by parents to do otherwise."

Both the ruling in *Mahmoud v. Taylor* and the provisions of Act 680 (2024) support the primary emphasis in LBC 2023 RESOLUTION 1: ON PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES that urges enactment of laws and public policies that "uphold parents' rights and responsibilities for their child, particularly with regard to teaching fundamental Christian concepts about the human condition and human sexuality."

## PRO-LIFE CULTURE

In *Medina v. Planned*

Parenthood South Atlantic the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that South Carolina can deny Planned Parenthood from receiving healthcare funds for non-abortion procedures. South Carolina had taken the position that giving funds to Planned Parenthood for any service effectively subsidizes its abortion services and consequently denied funds to the largest provider of abortions in the nation.

Louisiana has been engaged in litigation since 2016 to remove Planned Parenthood from participating as a healthcare provider (non-abortion services) in the state's Medicaid program based on Act 304 (2016), authored by then-Rep. Frank Hoffman, a member with the First Baptist Church in West Monroe. A year earlier, Louisiana Baptists had passed RESOLUTION 3: ON DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD which called for the state legislature "to defund Planned Parenthood ... of any and all state monies."

After the SCOTUS ruling in *Median v. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic*, Planned Parenthood announced that it would be closing its two remaining clinics in our state.

## CHILDREN'S INNOCENCE

In *Free Speech Coalition, Inc. v. Paxton*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a Texas law that required age verification before patrons could access pornography websites. In 2023, Texas enacted a statute via House Bill 1181, that required websites with sexually explicit materials to use "reasonable age verification methods" to ensure that persons seeking access are 18 or older. Porn distributors sued almost immediately to stop the law.

By a vote of 6-3, the justices determined that the Texas law is constitutional, declaring that the "power to require age verification is within a state's authority to prevent children from accessing sexually explicit content."

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See RULINGS, page 6



# RULINGS from page five

Although the Texas statute was challenged by Free Speech Coalition, Inc. v. Paxton, Louisiana led the nation in passing an age verification statute in 2022 when HB142 was signed into law as Act 440, allowing Louisiana parents to sue porn distributors if a child is exposed to adult content and the company did not use available technology to deny minors access.

In 2015, Louisiana Baptists passed the resolution

“On Protecting Children from Pornography.” Since then, they have helped (via the LBC Office of Public Policy) to pass HCR 100 (2017) declaring the proliferation of pornography a health hazard; SCR 56 (2019) which established a state task force to develop bills to protect children from pornography; and Act 440 (2022) which requires age verification by porn sites.

When Act 440 went into effect on Jan. 1, 2023, PornHub (the world’s largest porn site) posted the following warning on its landing page: “Louisiana now requires us to put in place a process for verifying the age of users who connect to our site from Louisiana. The privacy and security of the PornHub community is our priority, and we thank you for your cooperation.”

According to Politico.com, since Act 440 became active on the first day of 2023, traffic to PornHub’s website from Louisiana has dropped 80 percent.

## OTHER CASES

-- In United States v. Shilling, the Supreme Court issued a May 6 stay against a March 31 order

by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals which prevented the military from moving forward with a policy of banning transgender members in the armed forces. The latest legal decision effectively allows the Department of Defense to discharge transgender individuals while legal challenges continue.

In 2016 Louisiana Baptists adopted RESOLUTION 5: AGAINST THE SEXUAL POLITICS OF TRANSGENDERISM which celebrated God’s creation of “male and female (Gen. 1:26-27) and condemned the “attempt to re-engineer basic concepts of sexual identity, man and woman, which are key constructs of the social notions of family and home.”

-- The state of Wisconsin denied tax exemptions to a religious group, concluding that its charitable work with the poor was not “religious enough” because it didn’t exclusively serve the group’s denomination or actively proselytize. However, in the lawsuit that followed, Catholic Charities Bureau, Inc. v. Wisconsin Labor & Industry Review Commis-

sion, the Supreme Court declared that Wisconsin had violated the First Amendment’s protection for religious freedom.

Since 2015, Louisiana Baptists, with the adoption of RESOLUTION 3: ON PROTECTING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, have actively advocated for state and federal laws which protect freedom of “speech and religion” and called on Christians to “exercise their religious beliefs ... in all areas of life, not just their houses of worship.”

-- Finally, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Tyler Division, the National Religious Broadcasters and two Texas congregations (Sand Springs Church, Athens, and First Baptist Church Wascom – both listed as Southern Baptist on SBC.net) succeeded in overturning the 1954 Johnson Amendment to the U.S. Tax Code that prohibited all 501(c)(3) non-profits from endorsing or opposing political candidates. The IRS announced, July 7, that moving forward a “house of worship” may speak to congregants “in connection with religious services” about “electoral politics viewed through the lens of religious faith” – and it would be viewed the same as a “family discussion concerning candidates.”

Louisiana Baptists have not adopted a consensus statement specifically about the Johnson Amendment restrictions but have consistently stated that Christians should apply the Bible in all spheres of and this would include the voting booth.

## GBO from page three

summer, to assist with the ministries currently being conducted and allow us to expand and reach to have the opportunity for an increased impact for the Kingdom.”

Named for the first executive director of Louisiana Baptists’ Woman’s Missionary Union, the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering’s Month of Prayer is set for Sept. 1-30, with a goal of raising \$1.8 million.

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# Brazil: 700 saved, 75th chapel constructed

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil (LBM) – A Louisiana Baptist-led mission team which ministered in Brazil witnessed more than 700 people turn to Christ and celebrated the fulfillment of Wayne Jenkins’ dream to construct 75 church facilities in the country.

Jenkins, who had led 34 mission trips to Brazil, died of cancer on Nov. 13, 2018, having catalyzed the effort to build 68 chapels. Prior to his death he served as the director of evangelism for Louisiana Baptists and co-founded Beyond the Walls, the Louisiana-based ministry that continues to serve in Brazil.

In 2019, his son-in-law, David Denton, picked up the baton and began leading this overseas emphasis.

“The theme for this year was God’s faithfulness,” Denton, senior pastor with Highland Baptist

Church, New Iberia, told the Baptist Message. “We were eyewitnesses of God’s faithfulness to work through His people but also in His people.”

“This trip was not just about reaching a goal,” he continued. “It was about the treasure of the Gospel in jars of clay. We heard testimonies of what God was doing in people’s lives to bring healing and to further them along in their walk with the Lord.”

**GOSPEL HARVEST**

Sixty-nine members of a Louisiana Baptist-led mission team from Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Texas and Utah saw a harvest of 700 Brazilians, July 11-22.

While there, they split into 14 ministry teams and participated in personal



Hannah Verzwylt photo

Geran Maples, pastor with Westside Baptist Church, New Iberia, baptized a boy with the blessings of the Igreja Batista No Bairro Florenca congregation. The youngster made a decision to follow Christ during one of the team’s evangelistic events.

See BRAZIL, page 12

MISS LCU PAGEANT

OCT. 16

HOME COMING HOEDOWN

OCT. 17

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND HALL OF FAME BREAKFAST

OCT. 18

GENERUSHING ALUMNI THROWDOWN

OCT. 18

CAMPUS-WIDE TAILGATE

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WILDCATS VS. NELSON

OCT. 18

BACK TO THE FUTURE

HONORING THE PAST • CHARGING INTO TOMORROW

OCT. 16-18, 2025



# SEND from page one

January, these newly formed congregations have seen 341 come to Christ and baptized 183 new converts.

Send Network Louisiana Director Lane Corley said the work would not be possible without Louisiana Baptist churches who contribute to the Cooperative Program, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering.

"Baptisms doubled in church plants this quarter from quarter one," he said. "Church planting is evangelism that leads to a new congregation. It's great to see churches starting through healthy evangelistic growth."

## GOSPEL VISION

The Send Network Louisiana partnership

between Louisiana Baptists and the North American Mission Board, which went into effect Aug. 1, 2023, has helped the state further its God-sized vision to see His Kingdom expanded in Louisiana by one percent over the next decade.

Researchers estimate that 62 percent of approximately 4.6 million of Louisiana's citizens are lost (about 2.85 million). If this church planting and soul winning initiative is successful in the state, 28,875 new believers will be added to the Kingdom through 231 new churches planted in the state by 2033 (based on each new church reaching 125 unbelievers with the Gospel). These salvations will be in addition to those recorded by already established

Louisiana Baptist congregations.

Since the partnership began, the new church plants that currently receive Cooperative Program funding through the North American Mission Board and Louisiana Baptist missions and ministries team, have reported, collectively: 1,221 salvation decisions, 793 baptisms and more than 22,089 Gospel conversations.

## KINGDOM DEVELOPMENTS

In the second quarter, four new church planters and one church planting apprentice were added to the force of church planters on the field. They are working on church planting and replanting efforts in New Orleans, Kenner,

Mandeville, Lafayette and Shreveport.

Additionally, 41 church planting candidates are in the church planting pipeline, Corley said. Potential church planters and replanters start out with an application process with the North American Mission Board. After being thoroughly vetted through biblical qualifications of a pastor and by the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, the candidates move to an assessment process, which affirms their unique ability to take on the role of planting and replanting.

Send Network Louisiana fall events will celebrate what God has done and seek to equip churches to multiply the Gospel. On Aug. 26, the Send Network One Day Tour will stop at

Norris Ferry Community Church, Shreveport. This an event happening across North America to encourage pastors and inspire Southern Baptist to live life on mission. Learn more at [louisianabaptists.org/events/send-network-one-day](https://louisianabaptists.org/events/send-network-one-day).

There also will be Sending Labs in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, New Orleans (in Spanish) and Monroe. The Sending Lab is a one-day workshop that guides churches to develop a strategy to discover, develop and deploy planters, pastors, missionaries and other leaders through their church. Register at [louisianabaptists.org/labs](https://louisianabaptists.org/labs).

**Interested in becoming a church planter or a sending church? Visit Send-Network.com.**



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# ReGroup renewed discipleship resolve

By Staff

Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – An estimated 740 people from 54 churches, representing 16 associations, attended the recent ReGroup discipleship conferences.

The conference, now in its ninth year, focused on developing disciple-making leaders.

The ReGroup events included messages by keynote speakers Jamie Dew, president, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Aug. 2 hosted by Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville; Fred Luter, senior pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, Aug. 9 hosted by Franklin Avenue Baptist; and Ramon Osario, director of ethnic relations, North American Mission Board, Aug. 9 hosted by First Baptist Church, New Orleans.

The conferences also included times of worship and fellowship with breakout sessions for leaders of preschool/children, youth and adult ministries, as well as for pastors/staff and worship leaders.



Submitted photo  
Carlos Schmidt, Louisiana Baptist language church planting strategist, discussed discipleship and leadership multiplication with a ReGroup panel.

“We have heard from people at the conferences that this was an incredible experience from beginning to end,” Louisiana Baptists Sunday School/Discipleship Strategist Sean Keith told the Baptist Message. “The messages from our worship, keynote, and breakout leaders were encouraging, challenging, and motivating. The message of this year’s event was ‘making disciples that make disciples.’”

ReGroup 2026 events will be hosted by FBC Lafayette, Aug. 1, and Temple Baptist Church, Ruston, Aug. 8, with continued emphasis on equipping disciple makers.



Submitted photo  
Fred Luter, senior pastor with Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, encouraged pastors who attended ReGroup in the facilities of the church.

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WEEK  
**1**



Tracey Smith and his wife, Marci, pray with a Disaster Relief chaplain following Hurricane Francine.

## DISASTERS AND OPEN DOORS FIRST BAPTIST MORGAN CITY

Following Hurricane Francine, First Baptist pastor Tracey Smith's home suffered water damage. While dealing with his own recovery, Tracey led First Baptist and other volunteers to complete around 400 requests for assistance in and around Morgan City.

WEEK  
**3**

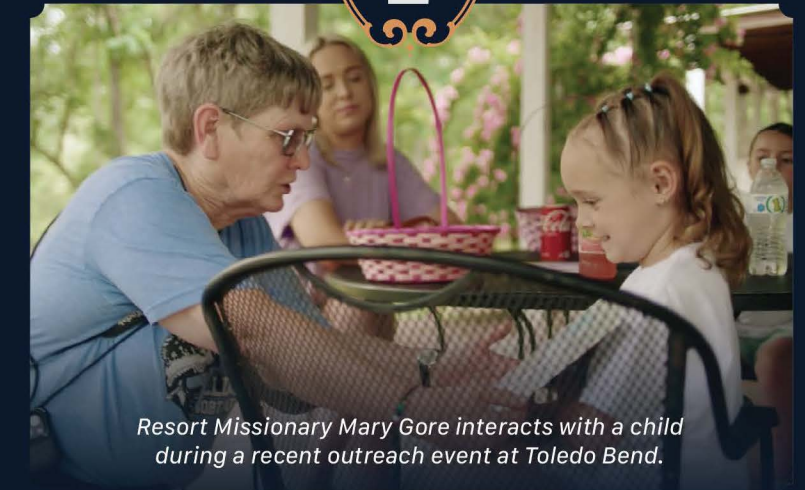


Literacy Missions Coordinator, Shannon Brown, works with First Avondale Pastor, Marc Daniels, ahead of a recent ESL class.

## A LANGUAGE THAT CONNECTS ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

For 20 years, First Baptist in Avondale attempted to engage their surrounding community. When they began to offer ESL classes, a connection was made.

WEEK  
**2**



Resort Missionary Mary Gore interacts with a child during a recent outreach event at Toledo Bend.

## GOING WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE RESORT MINISTRY

Mary Gore believes we've got to go to the places where lost people gather. God is using Mary's creativity and energy to attract the attention of people coming to Toledo Bend for the purpose of sharing the Gospel.

WEEK  
**4**



A local jazz band performs for residents of the Goodwood neighborhood in Baton Rouge.

## NEW LIFE. NEW VISION. GOODWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

How can God use a front-yard jazz concert to draw people to Himself? Goodwood Community members are creatively pouring their lives into their neighbors, and families are being changed.



# BRAZIL from page seven

evangelism visits, drama ministry, construction of two church buildings, compassion ministry that included food distribution, and street evangelism ministry.

## IN THEIR WORDS

Craig Beeman, pastor with First Baptist Church,

Winnsboro, participated in his fourth mission trip to Brazil and third with Beyond the Walls. His wife, Susanne, and son, Joshua, taught Vacation Bible School while Beeman shared the Gospel in homes.

During one home visit, Beeman and one of his members, Neire, shared

Jesus with a woman. This was the only day that the other translator, Natalia, was unable to accompany the team, so Neire stepped in to fill the role.

Not only did the woman turn to Christ but Neire was able to use her experience working with autistic children to communicate with the woman's son who has this condition.

"Out of all the days that we visited this lady and of all the days that Natália was unable to be with me, Neire was with me," Beeman recalled. "She was just the person we needed. I also found out later that she had been beaten three times by autistic children. She was a little cautious but felt that this child's mother needed to know Jesus, and so she took him to be with his brother and to play with him while I shared. God knew I needed Neire that day. He knew I would encounter that family that day. He had a plan long before I got off



Team members constructed the chapel for Lagoinha Fazenda Castro Baptist Church, which fulfilled Wayne Jenkins' dream to construct 75 church facilities in the country.

the plane of what He was going to do on that day. All I had to do was join Him in His work.

"My prayer is that many others will open themselves up to an adventure of allowing God to use them in this world," he said. "Every day, people need to hear about Jesus. It only takes a moment of our time. Sometimes we will find that God was at work long before we decid-

ed to open our mouths."

Phillip Boone, pastor with First Baptist Church, Bunkie, shared the Gospel with more than 150 Brazilians and counseled 50 of them who declared Christ as Lord. Despite the poverty, drug use and brokenness he witnessed, Boone said God's power was evident in every interaction.

See BRAZIL, page 14

*"Three generations of Galloway's serving Louisiana Churches."*

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# EVANGELISM 101 (Part 8): A trauma-informed church will win souls

By Ryan Johnson  
Speical to the Message

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a pair of articles about how to share the Gospel with people who have experienced trauma.*

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) -- Obedience to the Great Commission requires churches to be ready for the complex realities of ministry, including the kinds of situations where trauma has fractured trust, distorted identity, and left people wary of both God and others.

Preparation for these situations is the focus of a new field known as trauma-informed evangelism, which equips believers with strategies to respond with grace, truth, and intentional relationships, as they invite those who have experienced trauma to find healing in Christ through spiritual formation, conversion, and discipleship.

## COMMON SCENARIOS

It's Wednesday night,

and a 9-year-old first-time guest hits another child in line for snacks. You're told he has "anger issues." Will you let him return next Wednesday?

A new visitor to your women's group won't make eye contact during the Bible lesson on forgiveness. Will anyone notice her detachment, or will they dismiss her as being introverted?

A teenage boy in the youth group constantly jokes, derails conversations, and never opens up. Will you lash out in annoyance at his constant humor or attribute it to immaturity?

A woman walks into your church for the first time after leaving an abusive partner. She doesn't sit during the service—she stands near the back, ready to flee if anyone raises a voice. Will any of the women welcome her, or will everyone eye her suspiciously?

## TRAUMATIZED TO TRUSTING

Sadly, these kinds of behaviors could be signs of

trauma.

Evidence reveals that in the U.S. 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually victimized by their 18th birthdays. Meanwhile, according to research from Tulane University, 200,000 adults experienced domestic violence in Louisiana in 2023. In both cases, victims face betrayal that forces them into isolation.

According to the Scripture, God has hardwired us for relationships. Consequently, betrayal in relationships can cause immense pain and resistance to trusting others.

Importantly, because of our relational nature, healing does not happen in isolation.

Indeed, the early church modeled habitual biblical community, leading the writer to the Hebrews to remind his readers not to forsake the gathering of the saints (Acts 2:42-25; Heb. 10:24-25).

If done right, trauma-informed evangelism expresses the Gospel as an

invitation into a healing community and challenges the church to cultivate what Rosaria Butterfield calls "radically ordinary hospitality," yet explicitly evangelistic. In her book, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*, she writes, "Radically ordinary hospitality is this: using your Christian home in a daily way that seeks to make strangers neighbors, and neighbors family of God."

You've heard the old axiom, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Trauma-informed soul-winning counseling begins with being "swift to hear, slow to speak" (James 1:19) so that everyone, even those persons who have withdrawn into the darkest, most wounded places, can hear the Gospel and experience "the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).

At its core, trauma-informed evangelism sees biblical truth confirmed

in modern neuroscience research. However, while many modern ideologies create victims that the church needs to be ready to receive, trauma-informed evangelism does not adapt the Gospel to the culture. Instead, it calls the church to embrace the timeless truths of God's design to help victims of culture find healing as members of God's family.

In the second article on trauma-informed care, I will share specific steps a counselor and a congregation must take to be ready to respond when traumatized individuals step forward in worship, Bible study, times of ministry, or evangelistic outreach.

**Ryan Johnson is a husband, father, foster/adoptive parent, Trust-Based Relational Intervention practitioner, nonprofit leader. He serves as a pastor in North Alabama and is a PhD student with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.**

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# BRAZIL from page twelve

One such moment was through a conversation with young woman named Brenda. She kept saying, “it’s not my time,” as she resisted giving her life to Christ. Boone then shared how Jesus

gave him hope during his second battle with kidney failure. Once his interpreter, Aline, translated his words, Brenda leaned forward and wrapped her in a fierce hug. They two embraced for a long moment. Through tears, Aline shared with Boone that Brenda’s grandmother was currently experiencing kidney failure and having to endure regular dialysis.

“It felt like a Romans 8:28 moment,” he said, “It was a reminder that God truly does work all things together for good, in ways only He can.”

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# LBC seeks resolutions and nominees to serve boards

By Staff  
Louisiana Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) — Louisiana Baptists are invited to recommend candidates to serve on state convention boards and committees and are asked to submit resolutions for possible consideration by messengers during the 2025 Louisiana Baptist Convention.

## COMMITTEES

The Louisiana Baptist Committee on Committees is beginning its work to fill 18 openings on five committees: Credentials; Moral and Social Concerns; Nominations; Order of Business; and Resolutions. Nominations should be sent no later than Aug. 11 to Joseph Fowler, pastor, Cook Baptist Church, Ruston, who is the committee chair, via email, [joseph@cookbc.org](mailto:joseph@cookbc.org), or the U.S. Mail, Dr. Joseph Fowler, Cook Baptist Church, 2000 Cooktown Road, Ruston, LA 71270.

## BOARDS

The Louisiana Baptist Committee on Nominations

also is beginning its work to fill 27 vacancies on the LBC Executive Board as well as the trustee bodies of the Louisiana Christian University, Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home and Family Ministries, Baptist Message, and Baptist Foundation.

Nominations should be sent no later than Aug. 11 to Greg Bath, associate pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, who is the committee chair, via email, [gbath@tblc.org](mailto:gbath@tblc.org), or the U.S. Mail, Rev. Greg Bath, Trinity Baptist Church, P. O. Box 5090, Lake Charles, LA 70606.

## BOTH

Please submit the candidate’s name and identify the committee or board for which you are nominating him or her and include information about the nominee’s church membership and current employment.

No more than the pastor and two members from any church may serve on all boards and committees, combined, at any one time. Likewise, no more than one member of the same church may serve on the same board or committee at any one time.

## RESOLUTIONS

The first Committee on Resolutions meeting is scheduled for October 21 and submissions are requested to be sent as early as possible for consideration. Resolutions may be submitted for review and consideration no more than 90 days and no fewer than 15 days prior to the LBC annual meeting, Nov. 11, providing a window of opportunity from Aug. 13 through Oct. 27.

All statements should be typewritten, titled, and dated, and accompanied by a letter – from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention – certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing. The letter should include complete contact information for both the person submitting it and his or her church.

No person may submit more than three resolutions per year.

Shawn Ostoj, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greensburg, is the Committee on Resolutions chair. You may send proposed resolutions to the committee via fax, 318.449.4287, email, [Hello@LouisianaBaptists.org](mailto>Hello@LouisianaBaptists.org), or U.S. Mail, ATTN: Resolutions Committee, c/o Communications Team, Louisiana Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309.

If you desire assistance with wording or formatting, please contact LBC Public Policy Director Will Hall by phone, 318.448.3402, or email, [Policy@LouisianaBaptists.org](mailto:Policy@LouisianaBaptists.org).

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# Special needs annual Champions Camp set for Sept. 5-7

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – Individuals with special needs will experience a full slate of activities during the upcoming Champions Camp, Sept. 5-7, at the Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center, Woodworth.

The camp will match participants with buddies who will accompany them throughout the weekend. The camp will feature games, activities, crafts, karaoke, worship and Bible study designed for children and adults, ages 8 and up, who have intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Champions Camp began with 20 participants in 2018 and surged to 55 campers in 2024. Already,

there are 87 registrants for 2025.

Champions Camp Director David Anderson, who also serves as the Louisiana Baptist children's ministry strategist, had always dreamed of bringing the camp to Louisiana so people with special needs like his daughter, Chloe, could have a chance to experience camp like so many others.

Anderson has been blessed to see the camp grow and to further fulfill his goal of expanding opportunities for individuals with special needs to experience spiritual enrichment at events hosted just for them.

"I love all that I get to do in my ministry; however, this camp has a special place in my heart,"

Anderson told the Baptist Message. "To get to truly worship and study the Bible along people with very few inhibitions can change one's perspective on many things."

"Also, getting to see our Champion friends experience all of the things that camp entails just brings joy to my heart," he continued. "Families can attend with their Champion or bring them, let us match them with a buddy, or do a combination of those experiences. This year our camp has some amazing experiences scheduled for our Champions with disabilities to enjoy camp."

**Register as a camper or as a "buddy" for a camper at [talltimbers-bcc.org/summercamps/champions-camp/](http://talltimbers-bcc.org/summercamps/champions-camp/).**



Brian Blackwell photo

Champions Camp features games, activities, crafts, karaoke, worship and Bible study designed for children and adults, ages 8 and up, who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. Champions Camp began with 20 participants in 2018 and surged to 55 campers in 2024. Already, there are 87 registrants for 2025.

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To register, contact [keri.murphy@louisianabaptists.org](mailto:keri.murphy@louisianabaptists.org).



“Vacation Bible School has changed in many ways over the years,” Louisiana Baptist Children’s Ministry Strategist David Anderson told the Baptist Message. “However, several things have remained the same.

“The Gospel message and emphasis on the Bible has not changed. The unifying effort of the entire church being involved has not changed,” he said. “And the need of children to encounter the real Jesus has not changed. VBS continues to be the largest evangelistic effort of our churches, year in and year out.

“Lifeway published a recent book called “Is It Worth It” and it lays out how VBS, no matter what a church calls it, still works in today’s world,” he continued. “I am so proud of our churches and

their commitment to reach children and their families. It has been a great year for Vacation Bible School, and we are already planning for next year.”

His Church in Pineville celebrated its VBS with a baptismal service, June 6, of 11 children who made decisions for Christ.

Pastor Steve Speer said VBS ended on a high note in a year that has been marked with 82 baptisms, including 33 at Pineville's Buhlow Lake in May.

"It really put a nice touch on Vacation Bible School," Speer said. "The kids were able to acknowl-

edge their big step in their faith before so many families and friends."

Jackson Cavanaugh was among those baptized after accepting Christ earlier in the week.

"I was just sitting in class, and I felt like Jesus was talking to me," he said. "I really wanted to make sure, so I went to ask some questions. Then when I got back to the room, I just knew Jesus wanted me to say 'Yes' to Him."

His mother, Teri Mayeux, was overcome with emotions.

"I was both surprised and overjoyed to hear that

Jackson felt such a deep conviction, so much that he immediately raised his hand, eager to speak with Brother Steve and (his son) Austin (associate pastor)," she said. "Soon after, he went back to pray and invited Jesus into his heart."

Elwood Baptist Church in Forest Hill celebrated decisions made during VBS with six baptisms on July 27. Another six are scheduled to be baptized in the coming weeks.

Pastor Mike Evans said prayer played a key role in the decisions among the 120 children who attended VBS, July 10-14.

“For all those hours we prayed and then worked on VBS, it’s great to see decisions made,” Evans said. “VBS is the best evangelistic tool that we have and amid the noise that happens we turn it to God’s hands to stir in the hearts of those who come.”

Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, also saw an increase in attendance and decisions for Christ.

Children's Minister Taylor Nelson shared that 276 children and 212 volunteers turned out, compared to 261 children and 178 volunteers in 2024. Additionally, 30 children made decisions for Christ.

"We magnified the bigness of God at Jefferson this week thanks to our amazing families and supporters," Nelson said.

Leaders with First Baptist Church, Pineville, shared that 123 children and 125 volunteers came to VBS, and that six children turned to Christ during VBS and another made the commitment afterwards.

“First Baptist Church had an incredible week of VBS as we Magnified God and zoomed into what Scriptures says about Jesus,” said Kimberly Aguillard, who leads the FBCP children’s ministry. “We had the opportunity to share the Gospel with our kids and as a result we had six salvations. This is what VBS is all about – leading boys and girls to Jesus and helping other kids to deepen their walk with the Lord.”

# Charitable Giving Checkup

Just as we schedule annual checkups for our health or finances, it's wise to do the same with our charitable giving. Life moves quickly. Circumstances change, goals shift, and what once felt intentional can become routine. Taking time to pause, reflect, and refocus allows us to steward well what God has graciously entrusted to us.

As believers, we recognize that everything we have is a gift from God. This truth should stir in us a spirit of gratitude and generosity. Giving isn't just a financial decision; it's a response to the grace of God in our lives. That's why a charitable giving checkup isn't simply about dollars and deductions, it's about aligning our resources with our values and faith. As we look toward the end of 2025, now is a great time to reflect, refine, and realign your giving to your church and the ministries close to your heart.

There are also practical considerations to keep in mind. Charitable deductions may reduce your taxable income, but deadlines and limits can impact your eligibility for certain benefits. Qualified charitable distributions from IRAs offer potential tax savings, yet they come with annual limits. And when thinking about long-term giving, the annual and lifetime estate and gift tax exclusions are important tools to consider. Understanding how these elements work together can help you give more effectively, not just for your benefit, but for the good of your church and the ministries you support.

As you reflect on the year past and the one ahead, consider how you can give faithfully, joyfully, and generously for the advancement of the Kingdom.

To schedule your charitable giving checkup with the Louisiana Baptist Foundation, please call (318) 445-4495 or email [contact@LBFinfo.org](mailto:contact@LBFinfo.org).

**Jared G. Price, J.D.,** Executive Director

SEPTEMBER 2025

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OCTOBER 2025

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# Pastor and wife welcome event set for Sept. 16

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The Louisiana Baptist Pastoral Leadership Team has scheduled an event, Sept. 16, to welcome pastors and their wives who are new to the role or state of Louisiana.

Held at the Louisiana Baptist Building in Alexandria, the program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will include remarks by Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn, introductions to the state mission ministries by their respective directors and greetings from leaders of the four Louisiana Baptist entities.

Participants also will be given a tour of the state missions center, have a time of fellowship during a ca-

tered lunch and be gifted a studio quality personal welcome message (recorded by the communications team) that the pastor can use in his own media outreach.

“This is our red-carpet welcome to all new senior pastors in our state,” Louisiana Baptist Pastoral Leadership Team Director Ray Swift told the Baptist Message. “A lot of state mission information will be shared, opportunity to meet many people in the building during the tour, bag of swag for every pastor and special gift for his wife and a delicious catered meal. Essentially this is the front door to all staff and ministries of Louisiana Baptists.”

**Register by Sept. 9 at [louisianabaptists.org/events/new-pastor-fellowship-2025](http://louisianabaptists.org/events/new-pastor-fellowship-2025).**



More than 7,000 locals gathered to hear music at the fourth annual Faith and Family Freedom Music Festival hosted by First Baptist Church, Anacoco. Importantly, 34 of these neighbors declared their newfound freedom in Christ. Held June 29 on the church lawn and nearby fields, the event featured a lineup of musical artists such as Shenandoah, the Jason Lovins Band, Rhett Walker and the Erwins, as well as a fireworks show and a time of decision. FBCA Pastor Chad King praised the cooperative spirit among several area churches of various denominations, who not only provided volunteers but prayed and prepared with anticipation of a mighty harvest. These congregations included Good Hope Baptist Church, Family Worship Center in Leesville, First Pentecostal Church in Anacoco and Antioch Baptist Church in Slagle. “As a pastor to see those hands raised by those who responded to the Gospel invitation was overwhelming,” King told the Baptist Message. “The last several months have been good times but also times where we wondered if the weather would hold up and people come. That was when we basically had to lay it down at the Lord’s feet and trust Him. “Right before we started, a group of people from our church just got together and started praying because a thunderstorm was headed our way,” he continued. “It just kind of went around us and it turned out to be a great day of worship and people coming to the Lord.”

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Columbia, LA 71418  
is seeking a bi-vocational  
Pastor. Parsonage available  
as part of compensation. Send  
résumés to SBBC, 4803 Hwy 559  
Columbia, LA 71418 or e-mail  
delaneab@yahoo.com



## EASTWOOD BAPTIST

Seeks a senior pastor  
Eastwood Baptist Church in Haughton,  
LA is prayerfully seeking a senior pastor.  
Must have a minimum of a master's  
degree and 5 years of senior pastor  
experience. Please email your resumes,  
links to sermons and introduction video,  
if available to  
EastwoodPastorSearchCommittee@gmail.com.

### SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Seeking a full-time Pastor  
First Baptist Church Tallulah  
Please send résumés to:  
fbctallulah@att.net or  
700 Bayou Dr.  
Tallulah. LA 71282



### Seeking a part-time Music Minister

Accepting résumés for a  
Christ-centered, bi-vocational  
worship leader for Erwinville  
Baptist Church. Send any  
questions and résumés to  
Ebcwsc2024@gmail.com.  
Include a video/audio clip if possible.

### SEEKING A MUSIC MINISTER

First Baptist Church  
of DeQuincy in DeQuincy,  
La. is seeking a  
music minister.  
Please email résumés  
to music@fbcdq.org



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**WALKER BAPTIST CHURCH**  
SEEKING A PART-TIME  
**WORSHIP LEADER**  
Walker Baptist Church, Walker, LA is searching  
for a part-time worship leader. Email résumés  
or questions to jason@walkerbaptist.org.

### Westside Baptist Church seeks a PASTOR

Westside Baptist Church, Natchitoches,  
LA is seeking a pastor. Résumés can  
be mailed to Pastor Search Committee,  
Attn: Mike Newton, 6834 Hwy 1 Bypass,  
Natchitoches, La. 71457 or submitted  
to Mike Newton via email at  
westsidenatchitoches@gmail.com.



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

### PIANIST NEEDED

First Baptist of Zachary, LA  
is seeking a pianist for a paid position.  
Please contact Tommy Quinn  
at 251.622.5003  
or at tqinn@fbcz.org  
with subject line: Pianist.

### Seeking a Full Time/Bi-Vocational pastor

Old Bethel Baptist Church, Clarks  
Louisiana is seeking a Full Time  
(or bi-vocational) Pastor. A parsonage  
is provided. Please send a résumé to:  
Old Bethel, PO Box 95, Clarks, LA 71415  
or email to: obbc1831@gmail.com.

**GLOSTER BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Full Time  
Student Minister  
In Gloster, Louisiana is seeking a full-time Student Minister. Please  
email your résumé to gbcstudentsearch@gmail.com. For more  
information please call 318.422.9268.

**magnolia BAPTIST CHURCH**  
SEEKING FULL-TIME  
/BI-VOCATIONAL  
**PASTOR**  
Magnolia Baptist Church in Holden, Louisiana  
is seeking a full-time/bi-vocational Pastor. A  
parsonage is included. Please send résumés  
to: dewayneh1965@gmail.com

SEEKING A  
**FULL-TIME PASTOR**  
Palestine Baptist Church, Bogalusa, Louisiana is seeking a full-time  
pastor. Send résumés to:  
Pastor Search Committee  
C/O C.S. Nobles  
14022 Highway 1075  
Bogalusa, Louisiana 70427  
Or email to: noblescs@yahoo.com/ For inquiries call: 985.516.6875

Seeking part-time individual  
**Bi-Vocational worship &  
Youth Minister positions**  
Simsboro First Baptist Church is seeking a part-time  
individual to fill the bi-vocational worship & youth  
minister position. Résumés can be emailed to  
Jason@fbcsimsboro.org or mailed to the church  
address: Simsboro First Baptist Church, 133  
Tiger Dr. Simsboro, LA.



**HOMECOMING**

■South Winnfield Baptist Church, Winnfield: 100th homecoming, August 24, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: Phil Howard. Reception in the fellowship 2-4. Pastor:

■Red River Baptist Church, Benton: 176th Anniversary, August 31. Morning Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. followed by a covered dish lunch in the Family Life Center. Former Members, pastors and all guests are invited. Pastor: Mike Palmer.

■First Baptist Church DeQuincy Homecoming October 5, 2025. Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future. 9 am Open House, 10 am Worship service, meal to follow. Message by Rev. Gil Arthur, Music led by Frank Nihart. Pastor David Earnest. First Baptist Church DeQuincy Homecoming October 5, 2025. Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future. 9 am Open House, 10 am Worship service, meal to follow. Message by Rev. Gil Arthur, Music led by Frank Nihart. Pastor David Earnest. ■Point of Life Community Baptist Church, Plaucheville: Come celebrate our10th Homecoming Celebration, September 7. A special morning worship service with Jacob Crawford preaching and others sharing testimonies of encouragement. Lunch and then a note burning ceremony. Will follow the worship service. Please RSVP to Rev. Norris Landry at NLand4@gmail.com or (318) 305-8254 by Aug. 31, Pastor: Norris Landry.

■Macedonia Baptist Church, Holden: 169th Homecoming, September 7th, 10 a.m. Speakers: Jesse White, Roger Dunlap, Howard Barton. Dinner on the grounds following the worship service. Pastor: Shain Picou.

■First Baptist Church, Lecompte, a campus of First Baptist Church, Pineville: Sept. 28. The day includes worship at 9:15 a.m., Sunday school at 10:20 a.m. and a covered dish luncheon. Speaker: Ron Aguillard. Pastor. Stewart Holloway.

■Dry Creek Baptist Association, Dry Creek: 100th year Jubilee. October 25, 8 a.m. There will be a day full of activities, food and worship.

**REVIVAL**

■Milldale Baptist Church, Zachary: Bible Conference, August 29-September 1, 2025. Evangelist: Bob Pitman. Pastor: Jeremy Pruitt.

■Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Jena: Revival, August 31-September 3. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Rickey Grefhan.

■Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: Revival, August 31, 66 p.m.: September 1-3 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker" Jamie Coulter. Pastor: David Newton.

■Pine Grove Baptist Church, Castor: Summer Revival, September 7-10. Evangelist. Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Dane Lodell.

■Brushy Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Bancroft: 151st Homecoming, September 7-10, 7 p.m. Speaker: Jerry Chaddick. Worship: Mackey and Gayle Willis. Pastor:

■New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy: Revival, September 7-10 (September 7 at 10:30 a.m., September 7-10 at 6:30 p.m.) Evangelist: David Hanna, Worship: WeRCalled; Pastor: Roland Hebert.

■Wallace Baptist Church, Pelican: Revival, September 7-10, Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor: Jeff Jinks.

■New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy: Summer Revival, September 7-10 (September 7 at 11 a.m.

## Baptist Message meets September 9

ALEXANDRIA, La (LBM) -- The Baptist Message Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, Sept. 9, for its regularly scheduled meeting at the

and 6 p.m.; September 8-10, 6:30 p.m.) Evangelist: David Hanna. Worship: WeRCalled. Pastor: Roland Hebert.

■Macedonia Baptist Church, Holden: Revival, September 8-10, Speaker: Jeremy Glasscock. Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. Revival service begins at 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Shain Picou.

■The Church at Oakgrove, Ringgold. Revival, September 11-14, 2025. Evangelist: Bob Pitman. Pastor: James Hester.

■First Baptist Church, Spearsville: Fall revival, September 14 -17 (September 14 at 11a.m. and September 15-17 at 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: David Hanna. Pastor: Neil Everett.

■Pine Grove Baptist Church, Bernice: Summer Revival. September 14-17. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Steve Barrett.

■Northeast Senior Adult Progressive revival, Sept 15-17, 10 a.m.. Guest Speaker: David Uth, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida. Special Music: The Oden Family. Locations are ■First Baptist Church, West Monroe, Sept. 15; Parkview Baptist Church, Monroe, Sept. 16; and Cedar Crest Baptist Church, West Monroe, Sept. 17. Lunch will be served churches at a cost of \$5 per person.

■Richland Baptist Association will host its second annual Simultaneous Revival, September 20 and October 3.

■Lamar Baptist Church, Delhi: Revival, September 21-24. Food & fellowship Aat 6 p.m. Revival at 7 p.m. Guest Speaker: Larry Linson. Pastor: XXXX

■Fellowship Baptist Church, Greenwell Springs: Revival, September 28-October 1 2025. Evangelist Bob Pitman. Pastor: Mardy Guidry.

■Outreach Baptist Church, Columbia: Fall Revival, September 28- October 1. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Buster Duplissey

Asa Longoria, who starts college at Liberty in August, will be traveling on mission to Macedonia in August with Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Longview, TX.

**LAGNIAPPE**

■Vatican Baptist Church, Carencro: The Southern Plainsmen Quartet in concert, August 30, 5 p.m. Fellowship supper immediately following. Pastor: Chad Thibodeaux.

■Eastwood Baptist Church, Haughton: Worship Louisiana, presented by Semsen Music beginning September 5, at 10 a.m. This is a two-day conference for worship leaders, praise teams, choirs, worship musicians, pastors and church tech teams. Created by worship leaders for worship leaders and their teams. For more information visit www.worshiplouisiana.com. Pastor: XXXXXXXX

■First Baptist Church, Longville: 2025 Bible Conference, September 5-6, Cost: \$10 Fee includes supper on September 5 and lunch on September 6. Guest Speaker: Terry Iles. Please contact the office of First Baptist Church, Longville at 337.725.3550 to sign up. Pastor: Corey Townsley.

■Acadian Baptist Center, Eunice: Survivor Camp, Sept. 5-6. Activities include rifle training, awareness/protection/self-confidence, survival skills for men, how to make things that save a life, and Survivor Camp WAR. Survivor Camp is for men and their sons (all boys 1st-6th grades with a dad or not). The weekend kicks off at 5 p.m. Sept. 5 and concludes at 3 p.m. Sept. 6. Cost: \$75. For more information, visit https://abccamp.com/SurvivorCamp/.

■Victory Baptist Church, Hammond: Greg Sullivan

Baptist Building in Alexandria. Committee meetings will begin at 10 a.m., with lunch at noon and the full board meeting at 1 p.m.

Ministries in concert, September 7, 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Johnathan Watts.

New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy: Louisiana Revival – We R Called, September 7-10, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Roland Hebert.

■Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association 43rd Men's Fish Fry September 8, serving time; 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$15. Registration: Bethany Camp and Conference Center, 318.938.1221. Special Speakers Pastor Scott Shirley, Emmanuel Baptist Church and Pastor Eric Zimmer, Haynes Avenue Baptist Church. Worship: Harold Ashcroft, Emmanuel Baptist Church.

■Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill: 11th Hour in concert, September 13, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: George Johnson.

■First Baptist Church, Minden: a tribute to Freedom, September 13, 6 p.m. Special singers: Angie Primm, Jake Cowley, Ben Waites, and the Cox Family. Pastor: Leland Crawford

■Fellowship Baptist Church, Dubach: Worship Weekend with Truth Infusion Ministries, September 13-14. Services are 6:30 p.m. on September 13 and 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 14. Pastor: Thomas Patton.

■Maurepas Baptist Church, Maurepas: Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert, September 14, 10 a.m. Pastor: Glynn Reinne.

■Searcy Baptist Church, Trout: 11th Hour in concert, September 14, 9 a.m. Pastor: Steve Jensen.

■Fordoche Baptist Church, Fordoche: Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert, September 14, 5 p.m. Pastor: Cody Delahoussaye.

■Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs: Greg Sullivan Ministries, September 18, 11 a.m. Pastor: Travis Cronan/

■Brookwood Baptist Church, Shreveport: Church and Chrisitan school safety training, Sept. 18, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Barry Young, president of Serving Watchmen, will lead the training sponsored by Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association. The registration cost of \$99 for individuals or \$74.25 per person for groups of four or more includes lunch and a certification of completion. For more information,

visit servingwatchmen.com.

■Fellowship Baptist Church, Dubach: Worship Weekend with Truth Infusion Ministries, Sept. 13-14. Services are 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 13 and 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 14. Pastor: Thomas Patton.

■Westview Baptist Church, DeRidder: Rooted conference for women and teen girls, Sept. 20, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Speaker: Heather Johnson, wife of Louisiana Christian University President Mark Johnson. Registration of \$30 is due Sept. 17. For more information, call 337.463.7563. Pastor: Jason Hoychick.

■Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Lecompte: Ben Waites in concert, September 21, 10:30 p.m. Pastor: Robert Daniels.

■First Baptist Church, Keithville: Outdoorsman Fellowship, September 27, 5-8 p.m. Speaker: Bobby Barrack, pro angler. Cost" \$10 per ticket. Fish, gumbo, chicken strips and meat pies. Door prizes, gun raffles, live auctions (must be present to win). Pastor: Michael Stowell.

■First Baptist Church, Pineville: E4+ Preaching Conference, Sept. 23, 8 a.m-4:45 p.m. The conference will feature keynote messages by Fred Luter, senior pastor with Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, his wife, Elizabeth, and his son, Chip, who also serves as senior associate pastor with FABC. There also will be breakout sessions for pastors as well as directors of youth, media/sound, music and children ministries, and for ministers' wives. Stewart Holloway, pastor.

■First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula: Inflatable Stories with Dan Bellamy, Sept. 27, starting at 10 a.m. His presentations are enjoyable for children and adults, so everyone is invited to attend. For more information on this ministry, visit inflatablestories.com or call 985.386.3075. David Cranford, pastor.

### REMEMBRANCE

Billy Joe Pierce was welcomed into the arms of Jesus on Thursday, July 10, 2025, after a lengthy illness. Services were held Cypress Baptist Church, July 15,

2025 at 11a.m. Dr. Gene Henderson will officiate and Pastor John Fream assisting. Tommy Patton and Philip Wade will provide music. It would be hard to overstate the impact this one man's life had on the many he encountered in his ministry. Whether through his preaching, his support during both the joyous and tragic events of those who knew him, or his volunteer work, Billy was "always there" when needed. Everyone who knew him has a personal "Brother Billy" story. Pierce was born October 6, 1934, in Mississippi, the only child of William Oliver (WO) and Tommie Irene Pierce. He grew up in Mississippi where he was saved as a young man. He later attended Clark College where he met his future wife, Tommie June Lee, then on to Mississippi College, and finally New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. After pastorates in several Baptist churches in Mississippi, Billy moved to Bossier City, Louisiana in 1968 as Assistant Pastor for First Baptist Church of Bossier City where he worked closely with Damon Vaughn who led him to the Lord. He served 15 churches in the Bossier and Shreveport area including Ford Park Baptist, Barksdale Baptist, First Baptist Haughton, First Baptist Doyline and First Baptist Bossier for a second time. Eventually Billy became Pastor of Cypress Baptist Church in Benton, Louisiana which had approximately 100 in membership and had grown to 1,000 by the time he retired 20 years later. During this time, he served as President of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Pastors Conference and volunteered as Chaplain for the Bossier City Police Department. He was later hired by Sheriff Larry Deen as Chaplain of the Bossier Parish Department. Pierce is preceded in death by his parents, W.O. and Tommie Irene Pierce, wife, and precious daughter, Penelope, "Penny." He is survived by his son, William Keith Pierce, wife Stacy, grandchildren Kallie Pierce and William Kyle Pierce, great-granddaughter Madisyn Pierce and sister-in-law, Jeffery Rogers.

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.

kkv dk olk pybt, jpp dk akkv yq olk kjbol,

nlsil ljck nbyrzlo lsg ertzkakfo; gkkv

bszlokyrgfkgg, gkkv akkvfkgg: so ajd xk dk gljpp

xk lst sf olk tjd yq olk pybt’g jfzkb.

mkuljfsjl ony:olbkk

Clues:  
S = I; G = S

Answer to July 24, Scripture Crypto:  
isaiah fifty-six:ten





2ND QUARTER 2025

# IMPACT REPORT

CP ► MAXIMIZING GOSPEL IMPACT

When your church supports missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program —  
*where does it go and who does it reach?*

Here are some examples of how your gifts help maximize Gospel impact in Louisiana and beyond.

📍 IMB

- **58 new fully funded missionaries** were recognized by Southern Baptists in Dallas during the SBC annual meeting.
- Don and Maria Friesen have lived on a floating house in the Amazon region for more than a decade. Their unique housing allows them access to **villages without a gospel witness**.
- Matt and Audrey Chism are serving among North Africans in Europe. They are seeing God move in powerful ways as **believers are multiplying** and new churches are being planted among refugees.

📺 NAMB



- Send Network Louisiana Church Plants reported **186 professions of faith** and **111 baptisms** during the second quarter of 2025.
- Nationwide, there were **250,643 baptisms** reported in 2024. This was the most since 2017 and the **fourth consecutive year** of increases.
- The Send Relief Tour in Evansville, Indiana welcomed over **750 volunteers from 65 churches**. They served more than **13,600 people** and reported **1,170 Gospel conversations**.

📺 LOUISIANA BAPTISTS



- Breakaway Camp hosted **1,345 campers and sponsors** during four weeks of youth camp at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center. Over **70 students** received Christ as Savior and **18** sensed a call to ministry.
- Flourish, a series of conferences designed to equip and encourage church administrative and ministry assistants, welcomed **117 people representing 69 churches from 24 associations**.

📺 HERE FOR YOU

- Louisiana Baptists continued to sow seeds of God's truth across the state via *Here for You*, our multi-media outreach strategy. During the second quarter, there were almost **2,000 views** of the Gospel presentation and **21 people** indicated a decision for Christ.

• **Comments from those who responded:**

"Please help me turn my life around."  
"... how and why do I continue down Hell's highway? I want so bad to serve God. Please pray for me."



LouisianaBaptists.org/CP