

Record crowd shines at annual Champions Camp



Campers enjoyed a game of bazooka ball on the grounds of Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center.



Submitted photo

Champions Camp offered a variety of activities including fishing opportunities for campers.

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – The Champions Camp for individuals with special needs recorded its largest attendance ever, drawing 91 campers and their buddies for a week-end of activities tailored to them.

The Louisiana Baptist summer camp for people with special needs matched participants with buddies who accompanied them during the event. The camp, whose previous record attendance was 50 set in 2024, featured karaoke, snow cones, ice cream party, fishing, games, bazooka ball, crafts, disco party and worship designed for children and adults from ages 8 and up who have intellectual or development

See CHAMPIONS, page 3

Kirk Jones to be LBC presidential nominee

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

PRAIRIEVILLE, La. (LBM) – Kirk Jones, pastor of Fellowship Church, Prairieville, will be nominated for the office of Louisiana Baptist Convention president during the 2025 annual meeting of church messengers.

Bill Dye, pastor of North Monroe Baptist Church, shared with the Baptist Message, Sept. 10, his intention to make the nomination.

The yearly gathering of Louisiana Baptists is scheduled to be held in the facilities of the Randolph

See JONES, page 4



Brian Blackwell photo

Marc Daniels, pastor with First Baptist Church, Avondale, greeted a woman and her children before an English as a Second Language class. Each Monday evening at FBCHA, three to four lead teachers and three assistants, including New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College students, teach ESL classes to between 10 and 40 students from as many as eight nationalities.

GBO advances the Gospel through ESL ministry

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

AVONDALE, La. (LBM)

– The opportunity to share Christ with the world has come to Louisiana Baptist churches through English

as a Second Language classes.

“The purpose of all

See ESL, page 2

ESL from page one

literacy missions ministries is to intentionally share the Gospel as God uses church volunteers to meet literacy needs,” Brown told the Baptist Message. “ESL allows church volunteers to incorporate the Bible into every aspect of their classes.

“Prayer is a priority inside and outside of the classes, and the Gospel is also shared, no matter what the students’ religious backgrounds are,”

she continued. “Anyone can participate in this ministry because a person doesn’t have to speak another language to teach someone how to speak English.”

FBCA, NOBTS CONNECT

Each Monday evening at First Baptist Church, Avondale, three to four lead teachers and three assistants, including New Orleans Baptist Theologi-

cal Seminary and Leavell College students, teach ESL classes to between 10 and 40 students from as many as eight nationalities, church ministry team leaders said.

Marc Daniels, pastor with FBC Avondale, realized while canvassing the surrounding neighborhood in 2023 that a large Vietnamese population lived near the church. Realizing the need to reach them and a growing Hispanic population, Daniels then consulted with missionary friends who determined starting an ESL ministry

was a good outreach tool. After receiving training from Brown, the first semester began in August 2024.

Since then, the church has seen four of the students and even some of their family members begin attending worship and Bible study.

Daniels is grateful for the dedication of his members and the NOBTS and Leavell College students. Money from the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering provides funding for the students to travel and teach every Monday evening.

Brown added that the GBO allows her to travel across the state to train churches -- at no cost to them -- and recruit volunteers to start local ESL ministries.

“It also allows some NOBTS and Leavell College students to come

alongside some churches in the New Orleans area to teach English to Haitian Creole speakers and Spanish speakers, and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them,” she said. “It’s a win-win for our churches, for the ESL students and for the seminary students. For this, I’m very grateful and appreciative of the GBO. Thank you, Louisiana Baptists.”

2025 ESL workshops:
-- NOLA (NOBTS - NAMB Church Planting Center), Sept. 20, 27, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
-- DeRidder (Beauregard CWJC building), Oct. 10, 5-9 p.m.; Oct. 11, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
-- Morgan City (Bayou Vista Baptist Church), Nov. 14, 5-9 p.m., Nov. 15, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Contact Brown via literacy@louisianabaptists.org.

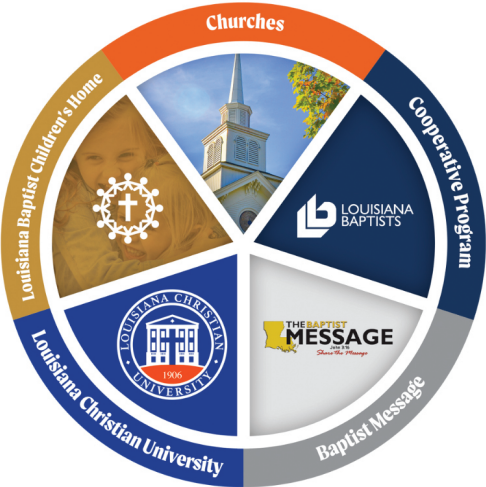
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Champions

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disabilities.

Lisa Smith, a member with First Baptist Church, Hornbeck, was among the buddies who attended the weekend with a camper. Smith was filled with joy as she witnessed her camper, Amber Holloway, enjoying camp for the first time.

"I was here three minutes and was already crying," Smith told the Baptist Message. "It was emotional for me, getting to see her and the other campers have so much fun."

Brenda Hudson, the mother of camper Alex Zimmerman, was moved to tears as she watched her son fish.

"It touches my heart," she said. "I've always wanted him to be involved in something like this. So, when we heard about this of course I signed him up because it's very exciting for them to come and do

something like this. It's all about them this weekend and I like that."

Jonathan Paul, Zimmerman's buddy and a member with His Church, Pineville, enjoyed spending some time with the campers.

"I always enjoy spending time with him and this kind of atmosphere gives me the chance to get to know him better," Paul said. "And it's just an enjoyable weekend of being around so many other campers who are getting to have the focus all on them."

Allison Winegeart, who attended her third Champions Camp, enjoyed the times of worship the most.

"You can act the way you want to act, and nobody judges you," she said.

The idea for Champions Camp was born after a similar experience at a camp coordinated by the Baptist General Conven-

tion of Oklahoma that Louisiana Baptist Children's Ministry Strategist David Anderson and his family, including his daughter, Chloe, attended for more than 10 years. Anderson wanted to bring that same camp experience to Louisiana.

Since Champions Camp began, Anderson has seen so many special needs individuals experience camp for the first time.

"This is the greatest camp ever," said Anderson, who also serves as the camp director. "These campers get to come and just be themselves. No other place in the world do they get to just be them for a few days in a camp setting. They always have to live by rules. Here, they get to be who they are, and we love that."

Champions Camp will return to Tall Timbers, Sept. 11-13, 2026. For information or to be put on the mailing list e-mail david.anderson@louisianabaptists.org



Brian Blackwell photo

Cameron Jones and his buddy, Trotter LaFollette, a member with His Church, Pineville, spent the weekend laughing together and learning more about God during Champions Camp, Sept. 5-7 at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center.

This October, share a word of appreciation for your former BCM director or the current Director at your alumni.

← Scan the QR code for more info and list of current BCM directors.

LouisianaBaptists.org/BCM

Jones from page one

Riverfront Center, Alexandria, Nov. 11.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Dye commended Jones' character he has witnessed during the 15 years he has known him.

"I've watched him lead his church through a variety of challenges," Dye told the Baptist Message. "Kirk is a visionary leader with character. He not only wants to do the right thing; he wants to do things the right way. And God has blessed that."

He referenced the growth of Fellowship Church, which has grown from a few people who met in Jones' living room in 2001 to a campus of more than 1,400 with 112 baptisms in 2025.

"I know that numbers don't always tell you what's going on in a church," Dye said. "The movement of the Spirit is more than buildings, bodies, and budgets. Some of our members have moved to the Baton Rouge area and become members of Fellowship, and they are quick to tell me that something special is happening there. The Spirit is evident in the way people love each other and serve their community. Lives are being changed."

"Kirk's a Louisiana guy through and through," he continued. "He has a deep love for his family and the respect, not only of the Baton Rouge community, but also the northeast Louisiana community. I think he'll bring some refreshing new insights to the LBC while at the same time carrying a deep respect for who Louisiana Baptists are and what they have always been about."

BY THE NUMBERS

The database of the Annual Church Profile shows that Fellowship Church gave 5.86 percent of its undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program to support cooperative missions and ministries this year, amounting to \$139,602 from undesignated receipts of \$2,382,256.

Fellowship Church averaged 1,461 in Sunday wor-



Submitted photo

Kirk Jones (third from left) with his family: daughter, Melanie; wife, Wendy; daughter, Kara; son, Daniel; and daughter-in-law, Cassidy. Also photographed (far left) is Baron Casey, the boyfriend of Melanie.

ship service and baptized 115 new believers this year.

CANDIDATE'S RESPONSE

Jones told the *Baptist Message* he was honored to be nominated.

"I was approached this summer by a couple of pastors in our state asking if I would be willing to serve in this role," he said. "Through prayer and conversation with my wife and the leadership of Fellowship, I thought it was a role that the Lord might desire to use me in."

"I love the Cooperative Program and the impact

that our convention (local, state and national) has had through the years," he continued. "The church I lead was a church plant that was supported and funded through Baptist churches and the Cooperative Program. I love our history, Gospel impact and bright potential as a convention. I feel there are some things we need to work to change in how we cooperate to maximize our capacity. I think many of the things that I would hope to see be strengthened in our convention are points of focus of our current leadership. If the Lord can use me to

support them well in this, I would consider it a great honor."

PERSONAL DATA

Jones is a native of Ruston and has served in the ministry since 1993.

He holds degrees from Louisiana College (now Louisiana Christian University) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jones, who was ordained and licensed to ministry

by Cook Baptist Church, Ruston, has served as youth and children's minister with Parkview Baptist Church, Alexandria; pastor with Big Bend Baptist Church, Hamburg, Louisiana; student ministry staff with Fielder Road Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas; and church planting intern with Christ Memorial Baptist Church, Hurst, Texas.

Jones and his wife, Wendy, have three adult children: Daniel (wife, Cassidy), Melanie ; and Kara.



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EVANGELISM 101 (Part 9): Trusting God when trauma is revealed

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

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

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) — Trauma-informed evangelism recognizes that behind many Gospel conversations lies a story of pain — and calls the messenger to respond not with pressure, but with patience, presence, and Spirit-led compassion.

Imagine two friends at a coffee shop. One, a slightly nervous Christian, has just lovingly shared the Good News. The other hesitates, eyes brimming: “I want to believe this is true... I really do. But I’ve been hurt so badly. Every time I’ve trusted someone—even Christians—it ended up breaking me.”

DISCERN THE MOMENT

In evangelism, we are laborers in God’s harvest field (Luke 10:2), working alongside the Holy Spirit, whose unseen movement brings new birth (John 3:8). When trauma surfaces alongside a longing for peace, trauma-informed evangelism calls for discernment, pastoral sensitivity, and a non-intrusive presence—one that listens more than instructs, and invites rather than insists.

In our urgency to call people to repentance and faith in Christ, we must labor alongside the Holy Spirit to nurture genuine responses. Nurturing a trauma survivor toward salvation means using Scripture to reframe the Gospel as a message of both rescue and restoration; being sensitive to signs that trauma may have been triggered; and distinguishing between the faith decision to trust Christ and the longer journey of healing that follows.

REFRAME THE CONVERSATION

In trauma-informed evangelism, the messenger listens with compassion, identifies core wounds or fears, and thoughtfully uses Scripture to reframe the conversation—showing how Jesus enters those very places with healing, truth, and saving grace. These passages serve as

bridges—connecting the deep wounds in a person’s life with the healing truth of Christ.

-- Isaiah 53:4a “Surely, He [the Suffering Servant -- Jesus] has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.” Jesus enters the pain of trauma survivors, bearing what they were never meant to carry alone.

-- Isaiah 61:1-3 declares that God heals the brokenhearted, gives liberty to the captive, anoints those who mourn with the oil of joy, and lifts the spirits of those burdened with heaviness. The Savior binds up what has been shattered, and plants hope where despair once grew.

-- Romans 8:1a assures us that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. The Gospel breaks the cycle of shame, declaring that in Christ, we are no longer defined by what we have done, or what has been done to us -- but by the mercies of God that set us free.

-- Revelation 21:5a “Behold, I make all things new.” The invitation to trust in Jesus marks the beginning of restoration — the divine promise that the pain of the past will not have the final word. Jesus makes all things new, includ-

ing the lives of those who have experienced trauma.

The enemy often uses traumatic memories in a person’s heart and mind as a dark fortress where no outsider may tread. However, the Word of God spoken by a loving messenger is the glorious light to reveal the path of life.

DISARM DISRUPTERS

Be mindful of trauma responses that signal an interruption in the Gospel conversation. These signs include

glazed or distant eyes, freeze responses, sudden agitation, or shifting the topic away from pain or Gospel truths. If the trauma survivor displays any of these, pause the conversation, acknowledge their reaction, and reassure them. Ask for feedback.

Say something like: “You just seemed to look away and appeared disengaged. Did I say something to upset you? If you feel overwhelmed right now, that’s okay. We can slow down. Could you please help me understand what you are

feeling right now?”

NOW AND LATER

Individuals who have experienced trauma may struggle to move forward with decisions that involve trust in relationships. Help them understand that God is seeking a relationship with them AND desires to heal them of their trauma. In fact, He is actively pursuing them.

See EVANGELISM, page 6

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Fri., Oct. 10 • 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
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LouisianaBaptists.org/ESL



Evangelism from page 4

Past betrayal may give them pause, but His movement via the Gospel is the first step in a journey towards healing and wholeness. Encourage them to make two decisions: commit to faith in Jesus AND seek His healing power.

HAVE RESOURCES READY

Be prepared to recommend licensed counselors, trauma recovery ministries, or church-based support groups. Have a list of local referrals, such as Christian trauma counselors and ministries like Mending the Soul and Celebrate Recovery. Above all, surround them with people who will love them back to life—even if they don't fully understand the journey. Presence is more

LBC seeks resolutions

By Staff
Louisiana Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) — Louisiana Baptists are invited to submit resolutions for possible consideration by messengers during the 2025 Louisiana Baptist Convention. 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.

See RESOLUTIONS, page 11

powerful than perfection. For survivors of trauma, the local church is more than a religious group; it is a healing community where corporate worship and biblical fellowship lead to the renewal of the mind and the healing of the spirit. A trauma survivor may

initially struggle with large group gatherings. But keeping them engaged through small groups can help them pursue Christ and find healing.

FAITHFUL NOT PERFECT

The beauty of trauma-informed evangelism is that you do not need a degree in theology or counseling to be used by God. Be a witness

who listens well, speaks gently, admits what they don't know, and enters the mess without pretending to fix it. You are not alone in the moment—God is with you, and He is already at work in the person in front of you. Walk into that conversation with humility, compassion, and courage. Carry the Gospel not only as a message of rescue, but as a ministry of healing. And remember:

Jesus does not need you to be perfect. He calls you to be faithful, honest, and willing to walk beside the broken... all the way to Him. Ryan Johnson is a husband, father, foster/adoptive parent, Trust-Based Relational Intervention practitioner, non-profit leader. He serves as a pastor in North Alabama and is a PhD student with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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Thursday-Saturday - 9:00 am

Thursday - Saturday

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Malcolm Ellis.....	7:00 pm
Thursday, November 6	
Don Savell	9:30 am
Sonny Simpson	10:30 am
Scotty McDowell	6:00 pm
Malcolm Ellis.....	7 :00 pm
Friday, November 7	
Don Savell	9:30 am
Sonny Simpson.....	10:30 am
Scotty McDowell	6:00 pm
Malcolm Ellis.....	7:00 pm
Saturday, November 8	
Don Savell	9:30 am
Bob Pittman	10:30 am
Sonny Simpson.....	6:00 pm
Bob Pittman	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



Josh Henry, founder of Simplify Church, Tyler Moore, senior producer with GuideStone, and Jared Price, executive director with the Louisiana Baptist Foundation, were the speakers for the LBF's Church Biz Conferences, held Sept. 8-11 in Ruston, Alexandria, Lake Charles and Baton Rouge.

LBF holds its first ChurchBiz Conferences

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The Louisiana Baptist Foundation recently wrapped up its inaugural ChurchBiz Conferences which was designed to enhance church business practices and support effective ministry operations.

Held Sept. 8-11 in Ruston, Alexandria, Lake Charles and Baton Rouge, the conferences drew 57 and included pastors, treasurers, financial team members and other church/ministry staff members. Speakers included Josh Henry, founder of Simplify Church, Tyler Moore, senior producer with GuideStone, and Jared Price, executive director with the Louisiana Baptist Foundation.

"Attendees expressed

that the conferences were very beneficial, not only in terms of information shared but also due to the opportunity to collaborate with others working in similar roles," Price told the *Baptist Message*.

The conferences are part of the LBF's ChurchBiz services, a one-stop shop for church business that includes podcasts, conferences, publications, comprehensive solutions and other offerings for churches, Price said. The ChurchBiz Services specifically include accounting services, capital/stewardship campaigns, cash management, church loans, computer support line, giving-gateway.net, online giving, and payroll services.

Desire to partner with the LBF? Call 877.523.4636, or visit lbinfo.org.



Submitted photo

Norris Landry, pastor with Point of Life Community Church, and Stewart Holloway, pastor with First Baptist Church, Pineville, that has helped sponsor the church, recently celebrated the retirement of \$50,000 in debt on the congregation's worship center. Sixty members and guests rejoiced during a special note burning service, Sept. 7, as they celebrated the milestone during observance of the church's 10th anniversary.

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FIRST PERSON -- Geaux25: Calling out 'the called' for Kingdom impact

By Mark Robinson
LBC BCM team director

WOODWORTH, La. (LBC BCM) – On Oct. 3–4, college students from across Louisiana and beyond will converge at Tall Timbers Baptist Assembly for Geaux25, an overnight missions conference designed to awaken hearts and mobilize lives for the Gospel.

Hosted by Louisiana Baptist Collegiate Ministries, this event is more than a gathering – it is a moment of decision, a place of calling and a catalyst for movement. In a world that often encourages young adults to chase comfort, status, or self-fulfillment, Geaux25 offers a countercultural invitation: to surrender fully to Christ and follow Him wherever He leads – whether that's across the street, across campus, or across the globe.

MISSION FIELD IS EVERYWHERE

Today's college students are globally aware, socially engaged and spiritually curious. Many are asking deep questions about purpose and impact.

Geaux25 meets them at that crossroads, offering biblical teaching, practical training and Spirit-led community to help them connect their faith to their future.

But the heartbeat of this conference goes beyond inspiration. It's about calling out "the called" – recognizing that God is still raising up men and women for Gospel ministry in every sphere of life.

MARKETPLACE AND MINISTRY: A UNIFIED CALLING

For years, the phrase "called to ministry" has been narrowly interpreted as a call to serve on church staff or as a missionary overseas. While those are vital roles, Geaux25

affirms a broader, biblical vision – that every believer is a missionary, and that God calls people to serve Him both through the church and in the marketplace.

Whether a student is studying education, engineering, business, or biblical studies, they are being equipped for ministry.

Some will be pastors, church planters or missionaries. Others will be teachers, nurses, entrepreneurs, or artists who carry the gospel into places pastors may never go. Both are essential. Both are sacred.

Breakout sessions at Geaux25 will reflect this diversity, covering topics like evangelism on campus, discerning God's call, preparing for short-term missions and living missionally in secular spaces. Students also will hear from leaders who are faithfully living out their calling in both vocational ministry and professional careers.

CALLING OUT 'THE CALLED'

One of the most urgent tasks of the church today is to call out those whom God is calling. That means creating environments where students can hear God's voice, be affirmed in their gifts, and be sent with the support of their local church and campus ministry.

Geaux25 is committed to doing just that. Through worship, teaching, and intentional conversations, students will be challenged to consider how God might be calling them to vocational ministry – whether that's preaching, planting, pastoring or pioneering new Gospel work in unreached places.

At the same time, students will be encouraged to see their future careers as platforms for mission. The goal isn't to elevate one calling over another, but to celebrate the full spectrum of how God uses His people to advance

His Kingdom.

A MOVEMENT BEGINS WITH A MOMENT

For many students, Geaux25 will be a defining moment – a time when they say "yes" to God's call, perhaps for the first time. It may be the moment they surrender their career plans, commit to a summer mission trip or begin exploring a call to ministry leadership.

More than a moment, Geaux25 is about movement -- a movement of students who are bold, surrendered and ready to go wherever God leads.

Because the harvest is still plentiful. The laborers are still few. And the call to "go" still echoes today.

Geaux25 begins Oct. 3, 7 p.m., and concludes after the final large group session, Oct. 4. Visit louisiana-baptists.org/events/geaux-conference-2025.

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Louisiana Baptists celebrate 'Children's Baptism Sunday'

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

HAUGHTON, La. (LBM) - Jubilation infused Eastwood Baptist Church members, Sept. 14, as seven youngsters entered the baptistery in succession to declare their new lives in Christ.

Friends, family and other members of the Haughton congregation cheered for each new convert, who made their decisions at either Vacation Bible School, summer camp or the Wednesday night Team Kids discipleship program.

"It was such an exciting day today," Leonda Palmer, who leads the EBC children's ministry, told the Baptist Message.

"The kids were so excited to tell everyone that Jesus was their Savior. Some of our small group leaders got to be with them before the baptisms and it was so exciting to see them so excited to follow Jesus."

Paxton Lee, 7, began asking about how to turn to Jesus and on April 27 made the decision to follow Him. He was excited to share his good news through baptism, noting that "it was fun. I liked getting into the water and I just love God."

Lee's mother, Aubrey, said that witnessing his baptism "was so amazing as a parent."

"Parenting is hard," she offered. "And it was a little nudge from God that we at least got the most important thing right."

MADE NEW

EBC was among many churches who participated in the first "Louisiana Baptist Children's Baptism Sunday" that aimed to celebrate decisions made by youngsters during Vacation Bible School, mission and children's camps, sports camps and other events held throughout the year. Additionally, the statewide initiative encouraged churches to become more intentional in following up with children who need to take that next step in their faith journey.

"How exciting it has been to hear reports from several of our churches that participated in Children's Baptism Sunday," Louisiana Baptist Children's Ministry Strategist David Anderson said. "Many churches took this opportunity for intentional follow up and scheduled children, teens and even adults for baptism. Our prayer is that this has sparked a new fervor for follow up."

Anderson, who is a member with First Baptist Church, Pineville, witnessed the baptism of Callie Aguillard, 10, on the special day. He taught her when she was a student in his Sunday school class two years ago.

Aguillard's mother, Kimberly, the FBCP children's minister, said church members like Anderson have been vital in her daughter's decision to follow Jesus.

This was a day that we as parents have prayed for and was long awaited for our girl," she said. "This summer after VBS Callie accepted Jesus as her personal Lord and Savior. We are so thankful for each person that has poured into her and helped her to come to this point in her life. Her baptism and reception to follow was so special. We look forward to watching her grow into the beautiful young lady God has created her to be."

FAMILY CELEBRATION

Judson Baptist Church originally planned to hold an all-children's baptism service but expanded it to include a church-wide celebration of 20 new spiritual "children" of all ages.

Complete with a packed worship center, post-celebration tailgate party and observance of a member's 100th birthday, the day was a time to reflect on the obedience of following Christ's command to share the Gospel.

"I've been in ministry for over 30 years, and seen people saved through various evangelistic outreaches," JBC Children's and Family Pastor Robbie Isom

said. "But it's surreal to see so many of our members lead others to Christ and then see them all together come forward for a big baptism service."

Jamie Jenkins, her husband, Cameron, and their two children, Oakley (10), and Hadley (8), were

among those who celebrated their new lives in Christ through baptism during the service. After Cameron's suggestion that they visit the Walker church in May, the family began attending and soon after each of them were convicted of the need for a Savior.

"I felt that chance at change and I took it," Jamie Jenkins said. "I welcomed Christ with a bruised heart that was finally ready to heal. I watched my girls welcome Christ openly and

See BAPTISMS, page 10

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For more information and a printable 2025 Fair Catalog, call 318.447.1934 or visit www.rapidesparishfair.org or Facebook:Rapides Parish Fair.

Baptisms from page 9

with nothing but love. I watched my husband welcome Christ with a heart filled and restored. I couldn't be more proud to watch my family be loud and confident in their faith.

"Today was the start of my family's new beginning on our walk with Christ," she continued. "I can't wait to see where we go from here."

Cameron Jenkins added that the Gospel-centered messages and love shown by his Sunday school class and others at JBC helped open his heart to accept Jesus.

"Today wasn't just about myself and my own declaration of my decision to follow Christ, but also my family's," he said. "We've always been close knit, and today we got to make the biggest deci-

sion together.

"I'm so thankful for a church that has led us here," he continued. "I'm blessed to know my kids are being taken care of by people who love and live His Word. My wife and I are steadily becoming closer and closer to Christ every day. Today was a day of celebration – for me, for my kids, for my wife, for the others in our church who dedicated themselves today and most importantly for Jesus Christ Himself. I'm excited to continue to listen, read, study and surround myself with Him."

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Brookwood Baptist Church, Shreveport, held its special day two weeks early, when they baptized eight children and students and two



Submitted photo

Eastwood Baptist Church baptized seven youngsters during its Children's Baptism Sunday celebration service, Sept. 14.

adults on Aug. 31.

"Watching kids publicly declare their faith was a powerful reminder of how God is at work in the next generation," said BBC Children's Minister Lauren Brown. "It was an encouragement to our entire church family."

Stefanie Breau cheered on her daughter, Elin, 10, as she stepped into the baptistery on Aug. 31.

She reflected on Elin's journey that began in early 2024, when she began asking questions about turning to Christ until VBS this year, when she finally made a decision.

"Seeing her baptized was an answer to prayer, as we have prayed for her salvation since she was born," she said. "My husband and I are so thankful to Lauren and all our Brookwood family for the ways they have invested in Elin's life and our lives as well."

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YEC scheduled for Nov. 23-24 in Alexandria

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Registration is now open, and the lineup of personalities has been announced for the 38th annual Youth Evangelism Celebration, a statewide assembly focused on preparing the next generation to share Christ with the world.

Scheduled for Nov. 23-

Resolutions

from page 6

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, 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.



Brian Blackwell photo

More than 500 students made decisions for Christ at the 2024 Youth Evangelism Celebration.

24 in the Laborde-Earles Coliseum, Alexandria, the largest annual gathering of Louisiana Baptists will feature messages by Anthony Vargas, a speaker from Yukon, Oklahoma; high-energy music by Crescent City Worship, a worship band with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and

nationally known Dove award winning recording artist KB will perform to round out the event. Bryan Drake, an illusionist from Mobile, Alabama, will serve as the host/emcee.

"We are excited about the lineup this year. Anthony Vargas has been with us at the Forum (gath-

ering for youth ministers) and is known as someone who will preach the Gospel and challenge students to share their faith," Louisiana Baptists Youth Strategist Lee Myers told the *Baptist Message*. "Crescent City Worship was with

us last year and we know they are going to bring a level of excellence to our event. We are so blessed to have them in our state and as a resource for the local church. Bryan Drake has been highly recommended to us. I'm excited to see what he is going to do. And then, of course, KB. He will not only bring an energy when he performs but he will also proclaim the Gospel in a unique way."

Last year's event drew 5,325 youth and resulted in 501 students stepping forward during the opening session to accept Christ, grow deeper in their faith or pursue a call to ministry.

Early registration for \$50/person ends Nov. 1, then the cost increases to \$55. Attend Monday only (or concert only) for \$45/person. Register, find details at labaptistyouth.com/yec.

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UPDATE: La. Baptist women offer 1,000 giftboxes, God's love to female prisoners

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

PINEVILLE, La. (LBC) – On Aug. 29, the Louisiana Baptist women's missions and ministry team led women from across the state to pack hygiene giftboxes for those at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. With representatives from 16 Louisiana Baptist associations, the day became a powerful demonstration of cooperation and compassion.

The effort, hosted on the campus of Louisiana Christian University, brought together not only women from every corner of Louisiana but also men – including three associational mission strategists – who joined in the packing. Among the churches who participated were First Baptist Church, Gonzales, which brought donated supplies from several churches in the Baton Rouge area, and Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans. By the close of the packing day, 912 giftboxes had been completed – just shy of the 1,000-box goal.

Thankfully, the story does not end there.

In the two weeks following the packing day, churches from around the state continued to bring in additional hygiene kits to the WMM office, pushing the effort over the top.

The 1,000-box goal was the largest in the history of this ministry, doubling what was requested by LCIW last year.

"This prison ministry is a perfect example of how Louisiana Baptists can accomplish a seemingly impossible task when we cooperate," said Christine Gill, Louisiana Baptist women's missions and ministry strategist.

In total, Louisiana Baptist Women successfully packed and collect-

ed 1,004 hygiene giftboxes. The boxes will be distributed, Oct. 9, at the new LCIW prison facility in St. Gabriel, where incarcerated women will receive them as tangible reminders of God's love and care.

"We reached this goal because of two things – our churches working together in cooperation and the generous support of the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering. Both are essential, and together they make ministry like this possible," emphasized Gill.




Louisiana Baptists packed hygiene giftboxes that will be distributed at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women on Oct. 9.



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LSU BCM: 16 salvations during 'welcome week'

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

BATON ROUGE, La. (LBM) – The Louisiana State University Baptist Collegiate Ministry welcomed back students for the fall semester, including 39 who made decisions for Jesus, according to LSU BCM Director Blake Grundy.

The decisions, including 16 who placed their trust in Jesus, took place during the final day of a week that included a Cajun lunch, waffles and trivia gathering, a freshman fest and a worship night attended by 300 students that included a steak and potato supper.

Grundy said he was excited to see the Lord move during the week.

"It's been really encouraging," Grundy told the *Baptist Message*. "When we arrived over the summer, the campus felt empty. We didn't see many students around. We spent those months preparing, reaching out via text, and praying, all without much face-to-face interaction. But then during Welcome

Week, seeing so many students come through, and witnessing the decisions made — it was incredibly rewarding."

Grundy asked for continued prayers as they disciple those who made decisions, and as they seek to obey Christ's call to reach a campus of nearly 40,000 students with the Gospel.

"Just like every other campus, ours is in desperate need of the Gospel," he added. "But the encouraging part is that students are actually open and receptive to Gospel conversations. Scripture reminds us that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. So, we spent the summer praying to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His field (Matthew 9:37-38). We specifically asked Him to raise up students who would boldly step onto campus and share their faith, and we're beginning to see that happen."

Louisiana Baptist Collegiate Ministry Team

See WELCOME, page 17



Louisiana Baptist state missions and ministry directors and entity heads hosted a welcome event for six pastors and four spouses who are new to the role or state of Louisiana, Sept. 16. Held at the Louisiana Baptist Building in Alexandria, the program included 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 were given a tour of the state missions center, enjoyed a time of fellowship during a catered lunch and were gifted a studio quality personal welcome message (recorded by the communications team) that the pastor can use in his own media outreach.

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GBO fuels DR, GOLLA VBS and church growth in Morgan City

By Brian Blackwell
 Message staff writer

MORGAN CITY, La. (LBM) – Janice Gray was in her home when she heard a loud noise – a tree falling on her roof in the aftermath of Hurricane Francine in 2024.

Provisionally, her panic was overcome by hope because of an encounter with

Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief teams who cleared the tree.

This act of kindness led her to commit her heart and life to the Lord, and with obedience through baptism on Mother’s Day.

“For me, as bad as Francine was, it was actually a blessing in disguise,” Gray said in a video posted on the Georgia Barnette

Louisiana Missions Offering website. “I got the help that I needed with that tree, and it brought me back to the church. It gave me a church family that I now know that I needed.

Gray, who now is an active member of First Baptist Church Morgan City, was among 400 people who were assisted through DR efforts over a four-week period.

Tracey Smith, pastor of FBC Morgan City, also sustained some water damage to his home.

Even so, Smith kept a positive attitude and helped others like Gray find hope.

As a certified chaplain, Tracey deployed with Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief to Florida following Hurricane Ian, along with his wife, Marci, who assisted with mud-out efforts. Their service gave the Smiths the opportunity to offer hope amid unspeak-

able destruction. When disaster struck back home in Louisiana, Tracey discovered the yellow-shirted DR volunteers could open previously closed doors in their predominantly Catholic community.

“What we do in disaster relief is all about the Gospel,” Smith told the Baptist Message. “Everybody’s got a need, but we know the Lord ultimately is going to bring us into contact with someone that He’s already been work on.”

While DR teams were working on the field, 10 members helped prepare food to fuel volunteers and assisted with laundry duties. Once the teams left, the Morgans kept building relationships with some of the homeowners who they had helped. Consequently, FBCMC worship attendance rose from 60 to 80, with a peak of 110 on Easter Sunday – the first time the church has seen

more than 100 attend any service since Smith began his FBCMC pastorate in 2020.

Smith credits the growth to the church’s continued efforts to reach the community.

Not only did they reach out to those impacted by Francine, but they have seen fruit from a Vacation Bible School.

In June, a GOLLA team of Louisiana Baptist Collegiate Ministry students helped coordinate the VBS that drew in more than 70 children. Of those, seven indicated a desire to follow Christ.

Smith said he is grateful for the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering, which provided funding for the DR response and the GOLLA team to coordinate the VBS.

“I want to thank you in advance for what the Lord

See FUELS, page 16



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Please RSVP to the church office 318.932.4023 or email Julie.fbccoushatta@gmail.com if you plan on attending. There will be a catered lunch following the worship service.



HOME COMING

Sept. 30 diaper drive to celebrate closing of PP facilities

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Louisiana's largest pro-life advocacy group is celebrating the Sept. 30 closure of the last two Planned Parenthood facilities in the state (New Orleans and Baton Rouge) by holding a diaper drive to mark the occasion.

The 2022 landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and returned the issue of abortion back to the states, triggering Louisiana's near total ban on abortion.

Additionally, President Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (H.R.1), which was passed by Congress this year, now restricts federal funding for Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. or any of its affiliates or clinics for one year.

Consequently, Planned Parenthood has decided to cease operations in Louisiana after 40 years.

Louisiana Right to Life announced plans, Sept. 16, "to commemorate this wonderful day" by "collecting diapers to support moms and babies!"

"When Planned Parenthood built its New Orleans facility, they declared their goal was to perform 2,844 abortions each year there. But today, we rejoice that Planned Parenthood's doors are closing, and life has prevailed," LRTL shared in a press release. "Instead of 2,844 abortions, we want to

see our moms and babies truly supported."

Groups and individuals may drop off diapers in advance at two locations:

-- 200 Allen Toussaint Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124

-- 600 Jefferson St., Suite 506, Lafayette, LA 70501

Funds to purchase diapers may be donated via prolifelouisiana.org/diapers#donate.

Kathleen Richard, executive director of Life Choices of North Central

Louisiana, a pregnancy care center, chair of the Louisiana Pregnancy Center Coalition of 28 pregnancy centers in Louisiana, and member of the First Baptist Church in Ruston, told the *Baptist Message* that "Planned Parenthood has been deceiving the women of Louisiana for far too long."

"We are thankful that the day has come in our state, that we can celebrate their complete exit," she added.

However, Richard cautioned Louisiana Baptists not to let down their guard.

"Although the brick-and-mortar representation of the abortion industry is no longer present in Louisiana, there is still a very vibrant online presence of abortion pill distributors," she warned. "Our pro-life, pro-love, work is not done in our state."

Kim Lyons, executive director of the CENLA Pregnancy Center, which is hosted on the Alexandria campus of the Louisiana Baptist Convention's state missions center and has locations also in Marksville

and Vidalia, also "applauded the closure of the final Planned Parenthood facilities."

She, too, mentioned the increased use of abortion pills in the state and emphasized the resulting importance of the center's abortion pill reversal services.

Lyons also commended

Louisiana Right to Life's Diaper Drive, telling the *Baptist Message* that in 2024 the Center's three locations distributed more than \$30,000 worth of diapers and other material donations to families they serve. This year, demand has increased by 10 percent.

"The number one items that

we see our women take home with them are diapers and baby wipes," Lyons told the *Baptist Message*. We recognize there is a difficult economic situation in our state and we're very active in support of letting any woman or family with a need know that we are a resource for them."



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First Baptist Church of DeQuincy in DeQuincy, La. is seeking a music minister.

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New LCU advisory council seeks LBC ministers as statewide partners

By ELIZABETH CLARKE
LCU NEWS

PINEVILLE, La. (LCU News) - Louisiana Christian University has announced the Minister's Advisory Council, an initiative to unite church ministers and

FUELS

from page 14

would have you to give to that offering," he said. "You'll never know the impact that that offering will bring for God's Kingdom. Every dollar that you give is going to go directly to spread the Gospel."

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.

staff with LCU to equip future generations for Kingdom service and cultural impact.

"We want to better communicate with the churches who we are and what we are doing," said David Jeffreys, vice president of denominational and church relations. "At the same time, we are seeking feedback and valuable insight from the churches to help us do a better job at reaching Louisiana Baptist youth."

Jeffreys said the churches and the university are all a part of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, so it just makes sense to get input from those who lead the churches and youth groups across the state.

The initial goal is to partner with 100 ministers statewide, Jeffreys said, and more than 40 have already signed up.

"I joined the council because of my love for Lou-

isiana Christian University," said Craig Beeman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Winnsboro. "I want to see it thrive in all aspects. If I can contribute in any way, I will do my best to ensure that a network of pastors across the state helps Louisiana Baptists never forget the greatness of our institu-

tion of higher learning here in our state. I have always believed that an informed Baptist is a better Baptist. Through this council, I hope we can enhance communication and strengthen relationships with churches and LCU."

Members will be advocates for the university,

encouraging families to consider LCU as a possibility for future education, and help link LCU with like-minded supporters. The council will meet in person twice a year.

Questions, need information, or want to join MAC? Email david.jeffreys@lcuniversity.edu.

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*Rates are subject to change. The Louisiana Baptist Foundation is not soliciting funds but is endorsing its ministry partner Church Finance Corporation in providing investments for individuals.

At Survivor Camp, 17 find sufficiency in Christ

By Brian Blackwell
 Message staff writer

EUNICE, La. (LBM) – Survivor Camp taught survival skills to 93 boys and 80 fathers, and more importantly, connected through the Gospel with 14 boys and three dads in the group who found Christ. Held Sept. 5-6 at Acadian Baptist Center, the 17th annual camp focused on survival skills, spiritual growth, and deepened relationships. Activities include water purification, go-kart racing, medical training and rifle shooting. “We’re teaching boys how to be men,” Camp Director Steven Ancelet told the Baptist Message. “The weekend is based around physical and spiritual survival that’s filled with many life and Gospel lessons.”

Survivor Camp also included a time for the dads to have a “man talk.”

“As a man, you need to be a leader in your marriage, in your home, in your workplace and in your community,” continued Ancelet, a member with First Baptist Church, Lafayette. “You can’t be passive and must be willing to accept change. We walked the men through that and were pleased at the change we saw in them in just a short time.”

The weekend also featured a tribute to Hartie Spence Jr., long-time director of Survivor Camp who lost his life in a glider crash near Salt Lake City,

Utah, on Aug. 1. Spence was a member with FBC Lafayette.

“Five guys spoke for a few minutes a piece and shared how Hartie was a great example of a godly man,” Ancelet recalled.

“That really got to the boys and men who knew Hartie. I believe Hartie would be so happy that we had so many boys and their dads make decisions for Christ.”

While the weekend ended in early September, the road to spiritual growth will continue, Ancelet offered. Those who made decisions were

linked with a pastor or lay leader from their respective church affiliation.

The next Survivor Man is scheduled for Sept. 18-19, 2026 (contact: steven.ancelet@survivorcamp.org or 337.280.5472).

SAM MOORE, Evangelistic Ministries

479.381.1170, evangelistsammoore@gmail.com

Sam is a full-time vocational evangelist. He has the gift and calling of an evangelist. He served as a pastor for 22 years before going into evangelism in 2009. He is available for Crusades, Revivals, Harvest Days, Wild Game Supper Events and evangelism training. Call or email to schedule your 2026 event.

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“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ;” Ephesians 4:11-12

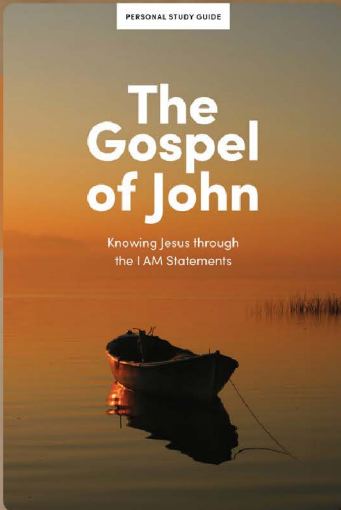


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Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge Office
 10560 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge

THURSDAY
 Oct. 23, 2025

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association
 5875 West 70th Street, Shreveport



Study led by: Tommy Kiker
 Lead Pastor, East Leesville Baptist Church
 Leesville, LA

Register at LouisianaBaptists.org/JBS.

*Printable registration form available online.

Email Kevin.Ulmer@LouisianaBaptists.org for more info.



WELCOME

from page 13

Director Mark Robinson said he is seeing spiritual renewal among students on campuses throughout the state.

“What’s happening at LSU is a glimpse of what we’re praying for and is happening across Louisiana — students awakening to the Gospel and stepping into bold faith,” Robinson said. “These stories aren’t just encouraging; they’re catalytic. They remind us that the harvest is real, and the time is now.”

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Pioneer Baptist Church in
Pioneer, West Carroll Parish,
is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please
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committee, Pioneer Baptist Church,
P.O. Box 67, Pioneer, La 71266.

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SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Palestine Baptist Church, Bogalusa, Louisiana is seeking a full-time
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Pastor Search Committee
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14022 Highway 1075
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Or email to: noblescsc@yahoo.com/ For inquiries call: 985.516.6875

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EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Baptist Message provides churches an opportunity to share with other Louisiana Baptists an upcoming revival, homecoming, new pastor, new staff member, a community outreach, or a concert in Louisiana Notables. To place your event in the paper, send your information (who, what, where, when, time) to philip@baptistmessage.com or call 318.449.4345. Please submit your information four weeks prior to the event to insure placement in the Message.*

ON THE MOVE

■ Alton Achord is available for supply pastorate in the Central LA area. Please call Achord at 318.715.8874.
■ Jill (husband Jeff) Harvill will be observing Educational Ministry at Bellaire Baptist Church.
■ Providence Baptist Church, : Amber Moulton, music, resigned to Laity. Annison Stasny, new music minister, from Laity.
■ Randall Gill has resigned as pastor of New Bethlehem Baptist Church.
■ Shane Picou is the new past at Macedonia Baptist Church, Holden.
■ Erron Goodwin is the new Midpoint Minister at the Celebration Metairie Campus.
■ Jeremy Wicker is the new single adults pastor at First Baptist Church, Covington.
■ Logan Arnold is the new youth minister at Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Slidell.
■ Cody Salassi is the new youth minister at Jerusalem Baptist Church, Hammond.
■ On August 17, 2025 First Baptist Church Coushatta recognized Tommy Glen Jones as Deacon Emeritus for his many years of faithful service as deacon.
■ Randy Bowman formerly Associate Pastor of Teche Baptist Church, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana is now Pastor of Jenkins Memorial in St Martinville, Louisiana.
■ Center Point Baptist Church, West Monroe : Ken Ronaghan is the new pastor at Center Point.
■ Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, West Monroe: Tara Tragern Magee is the new youth director.
■ Steve James (retired Senior Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church) has been selected by the Administrative Committee to serve as the Interim Director of Carey Baptist Association. His position will begin on October 1, 2025, to allow time for transition while Dr. Baker is still actively serving as Director.

HOME COMING

■ 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.
■ Jamestown Baptist Church, Jamestown: Homecoming, Service will begin at 10:30 a.m. on September 28 with a meal following worship services. Guest Speaker: Everett Geis Sr. Pastor: Stan Foster.
■ First Baptist Church, DeQuincy: Homecoming, October 5. Open house/breakfast, 9 a.m. Worship service, 10 a.m., Guest Speaker: Gil Arthur. Worship: Frank Nihart. Lunch will follow after the service.
■ Barataria Baptist Church, Lafitte: 100-year anniversary, October 5-7. Pastor: Jeff Smith.

REVIVAL

■ 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.
■ First Baptist Church, Arcadia: Revival, October 12 at 10:25 a.m. and October 13-15 at 6 p.m. Evangelist: Luke Hockenjos: Pastor: Bob Jameson.
■ Bethel Baptist Church, : Old Fashion Baptist Revival, October 19, wear your old fashion Sunday Best. There will be dinner on the grounds under the tent. Speaker: Craig James, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.; Kevin Simmons, 2 p.m. and Ricky Vines, 10 a.m., Bible Study. SLive Worship: ongs of Glory and Hymns of Praise. Pastor:
■ Fellowship Baptist Church, Jena: Revival & Bible Conference, November 5-9, 2025. Evangelist: Bob Pitman. Pastor: Shad Tibbs.
■ Rescue Fellowship, West Monroe: Fall revival, November 9-12, 2025. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Russell Caldwell.
■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: Revival, November 2-4, 10:30 p.m. Speaker: David Uth, pastor of Sunday 10:30 a.m. and November 4, 12 a.m. Pastor: Stewart Holloway
■ Antioch Baptist Church, Farmerville: Harvest Day, December 7, 2025. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Rubin Weaver.

LAGNIAPPE

■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Alexandria Horseshoe campus: Ben Waites in concert, August 17, 9 a.m. Pastor: Stuard Sasser.
■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville campus: Ben Waites in concert, August 17, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Philip Robertson.
■ 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 Sem-sen 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.worship-louisiana.com. Pastor: none
■ 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. Pastor: David Cranford.
■ First Baptist Church, DeRidder: David Phelps in concert, October 2, 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the church or www.davidphelps.com/tour. Pastor
■ Beulah Baptist Church, Oak Grove: Ben Waites in concert, October 12, 11 a.m. Pastor: Kenneth Herring.
■ Lanier Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: Greg Sullivan Ministries, October 12, 10:20 a.m. Pastor: Mike Ferguson.
■ Lighthouse Baptist Church, Independence: Greg Sullivan Ministries with The Bibletones, October 19, 6 p.m. Pastor: Gene Hoyt.
■ Dry Creek Baptist Camp, Dry Creek: 100th year jubilee celebration, Oct. 25, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. ■ A 5K kicks off the day, with other activities to follow starting at 9 a.m. These include a kid zone with bounce houses; food trucks; camp favorites such as archery, riflery, canoes, ropes, volleyball and gaga ball; live music; Ephesians Pro Wrestling; Briar Creek Creations and 3 Nail Forge demonstrations; and a special camp history with Director Todd Burnaman and past Director Curt Iles.
■ First Baptist Church, Keithville: Trunk R- Treat, October 26.
■ University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: Fall Festival, October 31, 6-8 p.m. There will be a hayride, food, trunk-r-treat,

games and music. Pastor: J.P. Cox.
■ University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: Hallulajah on the Hill: Join us for a spiritual night of refreshment. Featuring live music and speakers, November 4, 6-8. Adley Landry Water Reservoir Thibdaux, next to Walter Harang Jr. Municipal Auditorium. Pastor: JP Cox
■ ABC Pregnancy Resource Center, Lake Charles: Life Matters Benefit, Nov. 6, 6-9 p.m. This pep rally for life will include an on-stage interview with one of the ABC moms impacted by the ministry, a meal and entertainment by Flight of the Keys Dueling Pianos. For more information, visit <https://www.abcsupporters.com/life-matters>.
■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: Resist The Drift Marriage Conference, Nov. 14-15. Presented by Focus on the Family, the two-day marriage conference will offer couples Bible-based concepts and tools to reconnect and strengthen their marriages with main speakers Matt and Angel Risby. The conference is 7-9:30 p.m. Nov. 14 and 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Nov. 15. For more information, visit fbcpinville.net. Stewart Holloway, pastor.
■ French Corner Baptist Church, Ponchatoula: Greg Sullivan in concert, November 30, 11 a.m. Pastor: Eric Hattaway.
■ First Baptist Church, Abbeville: Greg Sullivan in Concert, December 7, 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Russell Landry.

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.

gkw xem qtyw tcmkmw xem vtbxe tr xem gjj,

gkw jem jgow bkxt sgqggv, pegx egnm o wtkm

bkxt xemm, xegx xetb egjx jvoxxmk vm xemjm

xeymm xovmj?

kbvsmyj xpmkxa-xpt:xpmkxa-molex

Clues:
J = O; N = P

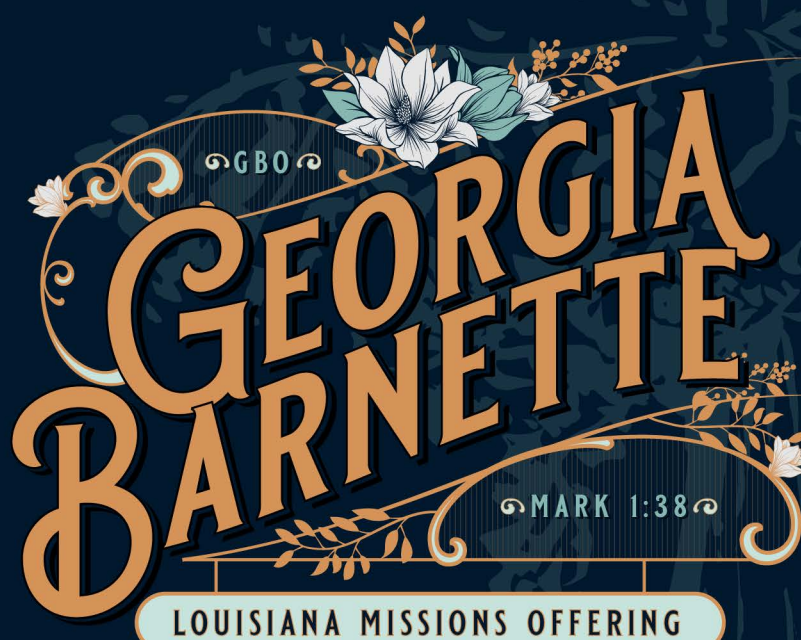
Answer to August 28, Scripture Crypto:
first john four:ten



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