

TO REPORT A
NEWS ITEM
OR TO BUY
AN AD, CALL
877.234.3832



LBC Executive Director
Steve Horn

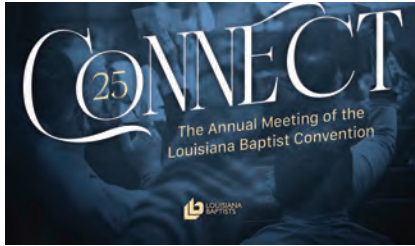
2025 LBC: Messengers will be urged to 'Connect'

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Messengers will be challenged with a theme of “Connect” during the 2025 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, to be hosted Nov. 11 in the facilities of the Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria.

“Connect 25, the annual meeting of Louisiana Baptists, is a great time to

connect,” Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn told the Baptist Message. “Some will come to connect with friends. Some new connections will be made. We will all connect around the preaching and singing. We will have the opportunity



to connect with our cooperative missions and ministries. Make plans to come for the start of the Pastor’s Conference on Monday and stay to the end on Tuesday afternoon.”

LBC President David Goza, pastor with Jefferson Baptist Church in

Baton Rouge, echoed the thought, urging Louisiana Baptists to attend.

“It has been a privilege to serve as president of the LBC for the last two years,” he said. “With all the turmoil in the world and division in our country, it is my prayer that as we come together for this year’s convention and we will unite as a church family. We are the people of the truth. May God’s

See CONNECT, page 7



Will Hall photo

H.L. Davis, 85, proved that it is never too late to turn to Christ. He walked forward during a revival service, Sept. 15, at Philadelphia Baptist Church Horseshoe Drive and confessed his sins and professed his love for Jesus. He was baptized a few days later.

New believer at 85: 'It's never too late!'

By Will Hall
Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – For 85 years H.L. Davis was in church on Sundays and was surrounded in his home (as a child and adult) by other believers. He even was baptized as a boy in Mississippi, thinking he was saved because of it.

But after months of the Holy Spirit pricking his heart during worship services with Philadelphia Baptist Church Horseshoe Drive, he was convicted that he needed to truly surrender to Christ. So, Sept. 15, 2025, at age 85, he walked forward during a revival service (also, PBCHD) and confessed his sins and professed his love for Jesus.

“I hesitated, thinking I would be the only old person down front with all these young people,” Davis told the Baptist Message. “I had put it off for months, but God kept speaking to me. Finally, when He said it’s time to get up, I

See BELIEVER, page 3

LSU BCM building damaged in on-campus shooting

By Staff
Louisiana Baptist Message

BATON ROUGE, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist leaders are thankful for God’s protection over the Louisiana State University Baptist Collegiate Ministry

building, which was vacant at the time of an Oct. 11 nearby shooting.

According to WWL-TV, the shooting took place near the intersection of Highland Road and Dalrymple Drive around 8:40 p.m. Saturday during

the LSU-South Carolina football game at Tiger Stadium. Two individuals were injured in the incident, which took place around 385 feet from the LSU BCM building.

See SHOOTING, page 7

Children & family champion Hancock to retire from LBCHFM

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

MONROE, La. (LBM) – Perry Hancock has led the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries through creation of a foster care and adoption network, Compassion Center, ministry for homeless women and their children, a women's learning center and the minister care residential program during his 22

years as president and CEO.

As he reflected on fond memories ahead of his February 2026 retirement, Hancock said he is thankful for the way God has used the LBCHFM to share the hope of Christ with others on campus and beyond.

"The years (my wife) Tonya and I have spent at the Children's Home have been an incredible blessing," Hancock, who an-

nounced his retirement to the Louisiana Baptist entity's board of trustees on Sept. 25, told the Baptist Message. "This ministry has given us the privilege of living out our calling in very tangible ways by serving children and families in need. We have built friendships and relationships that we will cherish for the rest of our lives. The Children's Home is now woven into the fabric of our family's story and for that we

are truly grateful."

PATH TO MONROE

Hancock has served as leader of the LBCHFM since July 1, 2003. Prior to that, he served as dean of graduate studies and professor of discipleship with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. When he was elected president and CEO of the LBCHFM, Hancock told trustees that he looked forward to creating a family-style atmosphere among workers and administrators and continuing Louisiana Baptists' desire for the ministry to put children first. As he nears retirement, Hancock has seen that vision become reality.

MINISTRY'S GROWTH

Among the highlights of Hancock's leadership of the LBCHFM are the ministries he began or expanded.

Foster care and adoption

--Connect1Child foster care and adoption network provides individuals and churches a toolkit to be a

"helper to the orphan."

In November 2022, a new model was launched to help associations better engage churches in foster care and adoption ministry. Since its inception, four associations representing 250 churches have participated in this coordination of efforts to serve the foster care community. This model recognizes that an association provides a more streamlined approach to meet urgent needs.

Compassion for Kids

Compassion for Kids offers ministry designed to meet the basic life needs of economically challenged children and their families in Northeast Louisiana and around the state. In May 2025, the Children's Home Compassion for Kids ministry opened the Compassion Center, a 16,000 sq.-ft. facility located on the Monroe campus.

The Center provides food for 1,200 families each month. In its first four months of operation, the Compassion Center

See HANCOCK, page 17

COMPEL OUTREACH

...until the whole world hears!



Contact us if you would like for Bill Britt to be a part of your church service, revival or crusade event.

Phone: (318) 615-5039
Email: info@compeloi.org
Website: compeloi.org

Evangelist Bill Britt has been preaching the Gospel across America and around the world for decades. His greatest passion is to see a soul find hope and salvation in Jesus Christ and to be born again into the family of God.

Bill and his wife Wendy have invested time, work, money, sweat, tears and prayers in the work being done around the world through Compel Outreach International. COI has worked on the continents of Africa, Asia, Europe, South America & North America. COI has a K12 school and orphanage in Kenya, Africa, a Bible College in India, along with many more endeavours around the globe.

Bill Britt preaches in revivals and crusades across America each week. If you would like to know more about Compel Outreach International or have Bill preach for your revival or crusade, visit our website or contact us today!

INSURANCE FOR CHURCHES

Since 1916

Spengler-Stewart agency, inc.
105+ YEARS
Serving the Insurance Needs of Louisiana
Call 318.442.0269
lardoin@spenglerstewart.com
sdarbonne@spenglerstewart.com
www.spenglerstewart.com

Lori Ardoin & Shelly Cooper

LOUISIANA BAPTIST MESSAGE

Will Hall, Editor

STAFF

Philip Timothy
Managing Editor

Rhonda Havens
Advertising Director

Brian Blackwell
Staff Writer

JoAnne Timothy
Office Manager

Board of Trustees:

Dan Cooksey, Dan Lay, Chuck Lowman, Chad King, Frank McCormack, Alan Miller, Darryl Miller, Jonie Owens, Tammy Sharp, Nicole Tull, Woods Watson.

ADVERTISING

Display [boxed] and classified [words only] advertising must be in writing, and may be submitted by email, U.S. mail or fax.

To the best of our knowledge, all ads in the *Louisiana Baptist Message* represent legitimate companies and offerings. However, one should always exercise normal business caution in responding to ads.

For all your advertising needs contact Rhonda Havens at the *Message* at 318.449.4351 or 877.234.3832.

The *Louisiana Baptist Message* partners with:



© Copyright 2025 Baptist Message. All rights reserved

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Individual: \$14/year

Group rates available

Call the

Louisiana Baptist Message at 318.449.4343 or 877.234.3832

Fax: 318-445-8328

editor@baptistmessage.com

PO Box 311

Alexandria LA 71309

www.baptistmessage.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Two weeks before change is desired, send new address (with zip code and street address) and mailing label from this copy of the *Louisiana Baptist Message*. Periodicals postage paid in Alexandria, Louisiana, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Baptist Message, 1250 MacArthur Drive, PO Box 311, Alexandria LA 71309-0311

(USPS 042-860) (ISSN 0740-2104)

Published biweekly Thursdays by the *Louisiana Baptist Message*, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana 71303.

Volume 139

October 30, 2025

Number 11

BELIEVER from page one

stepped out.”

FAITH OF OTHERS

Davis had a mother who, he said, was saved before he was born. His father regularly attended church but did not confess Christ until the age of 45 when he sent for a pastor and professed Jesus as Lord while on his deathbed in a hospital.

Davis also met his wife in church after his family had moved to Louisiana.

“There were quite a few youths in the church,” Davis said. “I met some of them. Then my cousin set me up on a blind date with one of girls who went there.”

He said his cousin kept him in the dark, not sharing her name, raising his curiosity and causing a little nervousness.

“But when she walked

out the door, I saw the most beautiful woman I’d ever seen in my life – and she was actually going out with me,” he exclaimed. “I never dated anyone else. After that, about six months in, I asked her to marry me and she said, ‘Yes.’”

Importantly, he added, she was a believer.

“She always went to church, and I went with her,” he explained, and they built their life together in the church.

He began a career as a small motor mechanic and worked his way up to service manager for a McCullough distributor. She even worked for a while as his secretary. They had a daughter, and she followed her mother’s example and as a Christian became a prayer warrior.

Everything was going along great, he said.

He retired and they began to travel some. His daughter married and eventually moved with her husband into a house just down the street.

Then a series of tragedies struck, beginning in 2014.

His wife was afflicted with a heart condition

that made her breathing sensitive to temperatures above 69 degrees. At about the same time, his son-in-law died. His mother was diagnosed with cancer and died within two years. Then his daughter was stricken with a debilitating condition that confined her to a motorized wheelchair.

She moved in with her parents and Davis became caretaker for them both. Then his daughter and wife died within months of each other in 2024.

HIS OWN FAITH

Davis confessed that

See BELIEVER, page 5

Licensed Contractor



JAMES L. DAVIS
CONSTRUCTION LLC

146 Redemption Ln
Ruston, LA 71270

318.202.3691 Office & Fax | 318.243.3330 | james@jamesldavisconstruction.com

WE FEATURE:

- new church construction,
- church remodel/additions,
- plans and design,
- conventional construction
- steel building construction



EXPERIENCE





Church Finance
CORPORATION

Your investment dollars are used to fund loans to Southern Baptist and other evangelical Christian churches to further kingdom work in their communities.

Offering Circular:
churchfinancenm.org/investments/
info@churchfinancenm.org
1.877.841.1777



LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

LBInfo.org
318-445-4495
contact@LBInfo.org



*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.

Six Louisianans among 54 commissioned by IMB

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

CHESTER, Va. (LBM) – Former Louisiana Baptist Sunday School and Discipleship Strategist Sean Keith and his wife, Pam, former director of preschool ministries with Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, were among 54 individuals commissioned as missionaries by the International Mission Board, Sept. 24.

Hosted by Ironbridge Baptist Church, Chester, Virginia, the Sending Celebration highlighted a commitment to missions by the newly commissioned missionaries from 13 states and a charge to share the Gospel by IMB President Paul Chitwood.

“Perhaps God is calling you to a deeper commitment to His work around the world through praying, giving, going or sending,” Chitwood said before introducing the new missionaries giving their testimonies.

Chitwood read aloud some of the testimonies from missionaries whose faces could not be shown or their voices heard.

“These brothers and sisters are going to some difficult and hard-to-reach places,” he said. “We don’t want the broadcast of this service to compromise their ability to work among the least reached people on earth.”

CALLED TO SERVE

The Keiths and two

other couples from Louisiana were commissioned. However, because of security concerns the other couples’ names cannot be disclosed.

Even though they were nearing retirement, the Keiths embraced the call to carry the Great Commission across the world.

In addition to assuming his role as Sunday School and discipleship strategist from March 2007-September 2025, Sean Keith also served for more than 40 years in youth and education ministry at various churches. Additionally, he had served as a youth consultant with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and a student ministry specialist with Lifeway Church Resources.

Pam served as director

of preschool ministries from September 2010 to May 2021 with their sending church, Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville.

During the Sending Celebration, the Keiths expressed excitement about leading teams who will join them as they evangelize and disciple college students. “Our full-time service in local churches, state conventions and Lifeway has prepared us for the opportunity to go and make disciples into the uttermost parts of the earth,” he said during his remarks on stage.

In an interview with the IMB before the Sending Celebration, Sean noted that “if we support and work together, encourage one another, love one another,



During a sending celebration, Sept. 24, the International Mission Board commissioned former Louisiana Baptist Sunday School and Discipleship Strategist Sean Keith and his wife, Pam, former director of preschool ministries with Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville.

See COMMISSIONED, page 16



Scan here
or visit
bogardpress.org/vbs2026



Available for
purchase now!











“All things were created by him, and for him.” Colossians 1:16

Believers from page 3

because of worldly distractions (racing cars and motorbikes), he had not regularly attended church for two decades at that point (all the while thinking he was saved).

But he said that during the year before his wife's death, he and she became regular television watchers of the Philadelphia Baptist Church Deville worship services "and Brother Philip Robertson," pastor of the congregation which meets in two locations (Denville and Horseshoe Drive, Alexandria).

So, because of his familiarity with the congregation, in the second week of January 2025 Davis went to the Horseshoe Drive campus.

"One week, Brother Stuart Sasser (Horseshoe Drive campus pastor) brought up the fact that if you're not sure, you're not saved. The next week he brought it up again

that if you're not sure, you're lost," he added. "I knew I was lost and kept putting it off, putting it off. Finally, during revival [in September] the evangelist, Ken Freeman, said it plain and simple, 'You are or you're not.' And God said to me, 'Go.'"

A NEW LIFE

Davis already was active with a Sunday school class on the PBC Horseshoe Drive campus. But after he was baptized two days later (during the revival by Sasser), he said it was just like Freeman had said, "I went from good to great."

"I do my Bible reading every morning and pray every morning," he shared. "This past week I started going out with the F.A.I.T.H outreach teams. I can't talk to people, yet [sharing the Gospel]. But I can drive



H.L. Davis, 85, offered an urgent message for others his age who are hesitating about salvation. "Make sure you are saved," he said. "It's never too late." Davis was baptized by Pastor Stuart Sasser during a revival, Sept. 17, at the Horseshoe Drive campus of Philadelphia Baptist Church.

and I can pray."

"Something else I'm interested in is the disaster relief ministry. I already talked to the coordinator about it," Davis said. "When they go out, I'm going out. I can run a small chainsaw, and I can sharpen chains. I know

the saws, and can fix them, and I can relieve one of the guys to work outside. If a storm comes up, I'm ready to go."

Davis also has an urgent message for others his age who are hesitating about salvation.

"Make sure you are

saved," he said. "If you have any doubt, don't put it off. Christ is calling, but you don't know how long He will keep calling."

Still, Davis encouraged others that "even at 85 years old, it's not too late."

"It's never too late!"

~GBO~

GEORGIA BARNETTE

~MARK 1:38~

LOUISIANA MISSIONS OFFERING

STATE GOAL: \$1,800,000

THERE'S STILL TIME TO GIVE: GEORGIABARNETTE.ORG/GIVE

EVANGELISM 101 (Part 10): Top 10 Evangelism Mistakes

By Brant O'Connor
Special to the Message

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) -- Our mistakes in evangelism are serious because they affect our churches, reduce our effectiveness in the Great Commission, and harm our relationships with God.

MISTAKE #1: NOT SHARING

According to Lifeway Research (2022), only 38% of self-identified Christians had shared Christ with a loved one in a six-month period, and even fewer (30%) had shared with a stranger. But according to Scripture, evangelism is not optional (Matthew 28:18-20). It is every believer's duty. So, ultimately, failing to share Christ is nothing short of rebellion against our Lord!

MISTAKE #2: A PARTIAL GOSPEL

Some Christians fail to

share essentials of the Gospel, then call on listeners to follow Jesus, who has not been fully described, and require a response to a Gospel that has not been clearly explained. When sharing the Gospel, include three key elements:

1. Sin: Sin (Rom.3:23), consequence (Rom.6:23), helpless (Rom.3:20).
2. Savior: Birth (Jn.1:14), substitutionary death (Rom.5:6), resurrection (Acts13:30).
3. Required Response: Repent (Acts 3:19), Trust (Jn.3:16), surrender (Rom.10:9-10).

When proclaiming Christ, make it clear, concise, and complete. Neither complicate it nor cut it short!

MISTAKE #3: NO LOST FRIENDS

Statistics strongly support the concept, "No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care."

Christian researcher Gary L. McIntosh found that 59% of new believers are introduced to faith in Jesus through a family member or friend. Yet, 38% of practicing U.S. Christians say they do not have any unbelieving family or friends (Barna Group).

Jesus was known as a "friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Luke 7:34), and He proclaimed, "The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which is lost" (Luke 19:10). Reach out as a friend to sinners. Show them that you love them in the Lord, and they will ask you what you know about Him.

MISTAKE #4: EXPECTING REJECTION

According to Lifeway Research (2021), 47% of unbelievers are willing to have religious conversations, and 79% of the unchurched are open to a Christian friend talking about his or her faith. Moreover, Jesus declared, "I tell

you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35). God is at work convicting, convincing, and drawing unbelievers to Jesus in your community, and He invites you to join in His work.

MISTAKE #5: FEARING INADEQUACY

You do not need to know every answer. Just be a great listener. Unbelievers (62%) are looking to discuss faith with someone who "listens without judgment" (Barna, 2019). Ask questions, but do not argue. Show compassion and affirm what you can.

If you do not know something, admit it and circle back to what you do know—that Jesus gave you eternal and abundant life, and He can do the same for them (John 9:25).

MISTAKE #6: NOT DEPENDING ON HIM

In the Antioch Effect (1999), Christian apologist

Ken Hemphill wrote, "The sin of carnality is nothing more than attempting to do supernatural work through human ability."

The Holy Spirit leads, empowers, equips, and emboldens believers for evangelism—when they ask. Luke recorded that when the church "... prayed ... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly" (Acts 4:31). Fruitfulness always follows faithfulness (Jn 15:5). So, spend more time on your knees as well as in the Word, and follow the Spirit's lead.

MISTAKE #7: HOLY WORDS, UNHOLY LIVES

Nonbelievers watch to see whether Christians live out the Gospel Monday-Saturday and not just on Sunday.

A second century sermon that was widely read at the

See EVANGELISM, page 14



Meeting Needs & Changing Lives

LOUISIANA BAPTIST
Children's Home
& FAMILY MINISTRIES

lbch.org

CONNECT from page one

Word sound forth from our Convention and our churches."

BUDGET PROPOSAL

As part of the business of the annual meeting, the Cooperative Program budget will be presented to messen-

gers to consider for adoption.

The 2026 financial plan is based on Cooperative Program contributions of \$16,925,460, a decrease of \$455,348, or 2.62 percent. Cooperative Program projections are based on actual receipts from August 2024 through July 2025. The alloca-

tion formula for distributing CP gifts between Southern Baptist entities and Louisiana Baptist causes remains unchanged, 62.87 percent to support ministries in the state and 37.13 percent forwarded to fund national entities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Other highlights of the meeting will include messages by Horn, Goza and Michael Wood, pastor with First Baptist Church, West Monroe.

Additional items on the agenda include a Bible study led by Jared Wilson, professor with Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; reports by the Convention's entities; other updates on state missions; consideration of motions and resolutions; and election of officers.

At press time, the only candidates whose name has been placed in nomination for LBC office is Kirk Jones, pastor with Fellowship Church, Gonzales, as president; Ben Hackler, pastor, First Baptist Church Sterlington, First vice president and Neil Treme, pastor with Glenmora Baptist

Church, second vice-president.

NOTABLES

Gatherings for Nov. 10 include:

- Discipleship collaborative, 11:45 a.m., Riverfront Center, Area D/E
- Ladies fellowship lunch, 12 p.m., Hotel Bentley, Bayou

Chicot Room
Gatherings for Nov. 11 include:

- NOBTS alumni dinner, 12 p.m., Riverfront Center, Area D/E
- Next Generation lunch, 12 p.m., First Baptist Church, Pineville
- Send Network Louisiana lunch, 12 p.m., Hotel Bentley, Grand Ballroom

SHOOTING from page one

Louisiana Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director Mark Robinson said that several front windows were shattered, but no one was inside the building. Robinson and LSU BCM Director Blake Grundy are cooperating with law enforcement's investigation.

WWL-TV reported that there is no ongoing threat to campus safety.

"This incident is a sobering reminder of the brokenness and lostness in our world and the urgent need for the peace and hope that only Christ can bring," Robinson said in a news release to the Baptist Message. "We grieve for those injured and pray for their full recovery. We also pray for our campus, our city, and for all who are shaken by this violence."

Louisiana Baptist Executive

Director Steve Horn added: "We are grateful none of our students or guests were in the building at the time. We invite all Louisiana Baptists to join us in praying for protection and spiritual awakening at LSU, and on all of our BCM's across the state."

The shooting prompted Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry to order increased security for LSU's next home game, Oct. 25, against Texas A&M.

"I have ordered the Louisiana State Police to work with LSU PD, BRPD, and EBRSO to come up with an enhanced security plan for the upcoming LSU/Texas A&M game," Landry wrote Oct. 13 on X (the social media platform formerly known as Twitter). "We will continue assessing the security to ensure all future games are safe. The level of violence and disruption will not be tolerated."

Presented by MD Promotions



MARK TRAMMELL
Quartet
November 22
6 p.m.

For more information call 318.613.6505
A LOVE OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED

RIVERVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH. 8709 HWY 1 SOUTH. ALEXANDRIA, La

HARPER MARKTRAMMELLMINISTRIES.COM

[f marktrammellministries](https://www.marktrammellministries.com) [t MarkTrammellMin](https://www.marktrammellministries.com) [i marktrammellministries](https://www.marktrammellministries.com) [y marktrammellministries](https://www.marktrammellministries.com)

TREE TROUBLES? WE CAN HELP

Licensed & Insured

- PROFESSIONAL TREE REMOVAL
- TREE PRUNING
- TREE TRIMMING
- STORM CLEAN-UP
- TREE MAINTENANCE
- LAWN MAINTENANCE

When it comes to tree care and landscape maintenance in CenLA, HLA Lawn & Tree Service is the name you can trust. With a team of licensed and fully insured arborists, HLA Lawn & Tree Service provides professional quality tree care and tree removal service for both residential and commercial properties. We are committed to delivering exceptional tree care and landscape maintenance solutions to our customers, and we are dedicated to ensuring the safety and beauty of our communities.

visit us online: www.hlalawnservices.com

CALL US TODAY! **318-TREEMAN**
318-873-3626

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

For All Your LAWN MAINTENANCE Projects

AMERICA'S #1 CHURCH BUS DEALER!

EXCLUSIVE 8 YEAR UNLIMITED MILE CHURCH WARRANTY!

DOWNLOAD OUR EXCLUSIVE CHURCH BUS PRICE LIST! SCAN THE QR CODE NOW!

CarpenterBus.com

Carpenter
BUS SALES

IN BUSINESS SINCE 1953

Messengers to take up resolutions at annual meeting

RESOLUTION 1: ON EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Many individuals and groups have had a part in planning, preparing and conducting the 178th annual meeting of our Louisiana Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, The messengers of this Convention desire to warmly recognize and express appreciation to the following: Carrow Rasberry, facility director for the Randolph Riverfront Center and her staff for their assistance with details and for providing the use of their facilities for this annual meeting; and Dr. David Goza, Convention president, who is pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, for his warm, gracious spirit in leading, speaking and listening to Louisiana Baptists this year, and his gentle firmness in moderating this annual meeting; and Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, for their commitment to sharing the Gospel in our state by graciously supporting Dr. Goza's leadership of all the churches of the Louisiana Baptist Convention

this past year; and Cullen McDaniel, music director for this annual meeting, who is the minister of music with Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, for planning and coordinating the music, and the musicians and singers for their contribution of instrumental and vocal talents; and Tommy Middleton, chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, who is the associational mission strategist for the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge and a member of Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, and the members of the Committee on Order of Business for planning this informative and inspirational annual meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 178th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 11, 2025, express to each of the above and to all who contributed our deepest heartfelt gratitude.

RESOLUTION 2: ON ENCOURAGING CHURCHES TO SUPPORT LOUISIANA

CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

WHEREAS, Louisiana Christian University has been a cornerstone of Christian education in the state of Louisiana, committed to nurturing students in both faith and academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, LCU continues to provide a Christ-centered education that prepares students to serve God and their communities with integrity, knowledge, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, The financial support of churches plays a crucial role in sustaining and expanding the mission of LCU to provide affordable and quality Christian higher education to future generations of leaders; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mark Johnson has been called to bring fresh and visionary leadership; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Terry Young, pastor of Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City, brought a series of motions to the floor of the annual meeting in 2024 asking Louisiana Baptists to renew their support for LCU; and

WHEREAS, Messengers in

2024 voted unanimously to dedicate the first Sunday in February as a Day of Prayer for LCU; and

WHEREAS, We affirm the Cooperative Program as the primary financial mechanism to provide support to LCU from our churches; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 178th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 11, 2025, encourage and call upon churches across Louisiana to receive a special freewill offering for Louisiana Christian University coinciding with the annual Day of Prayer for LCU on the first Sunday of February; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we also urge churches to support LCU through prayer, partnerships, and engagement in the work of equipping students for Christ-centered service and leadership; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we affirm the Louisiana Baptist Convention's continuing support for Louisiana Christian University as a vital ministry partner in fulfilling the Great Commission, and we commit to continue partnering with the university in the years to come to see the Gospel proclaimed through higher education in Louisiana.

RESOLUTION 3: ON THE EXIT OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD FROM LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, Scripture clearly affirms the sanctity of human life from conception through old age and into eternity (Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 46:4; John 3:16); and

WHEREAS, God abhors the shedding of innocent blood and requires His people to do all in their power to rescue persons from such acts (Proverbs 6:16-17; 24:11-12); and

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood Federation of America and its affiliates have been the largest single provider of abortions in the United States for up to 40 years, having established its dark presence in Louisiana for those four decades; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Baptists have repeatedly affirmed our commitment to the sanctity of human life, including the call for our state and federal governments to abolish all abortions and the plea for them to defund Planned Parenthood; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, returning authority for

abortion to the states, thus triggering Louisiana's total ban on elective abortions; and

WHEREAS, In 2025, the U.S. Congress passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that defunded Planned Parenthood for one year, thus shutting off the largest single source of funds for its facilities in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's abortion ban combined with the withholding of state and federal funds from Planned Parenthood caused this giant abortion conglomerate to close its last two facilities in our state (Baton Rouge and New Orleans) on September 30, 2025; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 178th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 11, 2025, do joyfully celebrate the forced exit of Planned Parenthood from our state; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we heartily commend the pro-life champions in our churches, in the public square and in the legislature who persisted since 1973 in successfully ending all elective abortions in our state; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we strongly urge our churches and lawmakers to continue the fight to stop the shipping of the outlawed abortion pill into our state, which will effectively end all secret illegal abortions in Louisiana; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we gratefully thank God for that which was impossible for the pro-life movement to achieve and that He orchestrated in the overturning of Roe v. Wade after it had been the law of the land for 49 years (Luke 18:27), thus establishing a legal sanctuary for the unborn in Louisiana; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we humbly ask Him to continue to strengthen, protect and guide us to seek, find and do His will to impact the moral, social and spiritual character of Louisiana, the nation and beyond.

RESOLUTION 4: ON ENCOURAGING BIBLICAL MARRIAGE BY REMOVING THE MARRIAGE PENALTY

WHEREAS Marriage is the one-flesh lifelong union under God between one man and one woman, joining them in every aspect of human existence, including the physical, sexual, mental, emotional, moral,

See RESOLUTIONS, page 9

A RATE YOU CAN CELEBRATE

SHORT TERM FUND RATE

4.50%

CURRENT YIELD**

7X BETTER THAN A BANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT*

Increase your ministry influence with a better rate of return on your church savings.

HIGHEST RATE IN STATE FOR CHURCHES & OTHER MINISTRIES ON CASH SAVINGS**

LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Learn more: 318-445-4495
contact@LBInfo.org

*Based upon internal data.
**Rates subject to change.

RESOLUTIONS from page 8

spiritual and economic spheres of life (Genesis 2:24); and

WHEREAS, Marriage is a divinely created institution that is intended as a blessing to all mankind (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:31-33; Matthew 5:45); and

WHEREAS believers, unless laws contradict Scripture, citizens should marry in accordance with the regulations and requirements of government (Romans 13:1-7; Daniel 3; Acts 4:18-20; 5:17-42); and

WHEREAS, Government provides an economic safety net for individuals in the forms of Medicaid and Social Security Insurance among other welfare provisions; and

WHEREAS, A report by the Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states that “marriage penalties” within this safety net of resources “may play a modest role in discouraging marriage and

encouraging cohabitation among low-income families”; and

WHEREAS, Media reports as well as anecdotal contacts from pastors indicate elderly widows and widowers as well as disabled couples among others are choosing to cohabit rather than marry and suffer losses of individual assets and Social Security benefits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 178th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 11, 2025, most strongly affirm that those who seek a marital relationship must proclaim their “one-flesh” commitment through legal matrimony regardless of practical budgetary reasons or other pragmatic considerations to do otherwise; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we most strongly condemn any

barriers to marriage created by “marriage penalties” in the financial and healthcare safety nets the government provides, and we call on public officials to end any and all such barriers to marriage; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Louisiana Baptist Convention restates its commitment to promote and support the biblical construct of marriage, the one-flesh lifelong union under God between one man and one woman, regardless of governmental attempts to restrict marriage or reform it into secular concepts that defy the Word of God.

RESOLUTION 5: ON EQUAL PROTECTION FOR PRE-BORN CHILDREN

WHEREAS, as stated by Louisiana Baptists in 2023, Scripture reveals that all human life is created in the image of God, and therefore sacred to our Creator (Genesis 1:27; 9:6); and 1p2.4 as also stated by Louisiana Baptists in 2023,

the Bible affirms that the preborn child is a person, bearing the image of God, from the moment of conception (Psalm 139:13-16; Luke 1:44); and

WHEREAS, Scripture strongly condemns shedding the blood of an image bearer of God (Genesis 9:6); and

WHEREAS, God views life in the womb as a baby or child, using the same terms to identify children in the womb as used for born children (Luke 1:41 & 44, 2:12 & 16); and

WHEREAS, God hates laws and judgments that show partiality (Deuteronomy 16:19; Exodus 23:2-3; Leviticus 19:15; 2 Chronicles 19:7; Proverbs 24:23; Proverbs 28:21; Malachi 2:9; James 2:1; James 2:9); and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Baptists have historically recognized the sanctity of life in the womb and repeatedly reaffirmed our pro-life ethic and our opposition to the heinous murder of abortion; and

WHEREAS, our con-

fessional statement, The Baptist Faith and Message, according to Article XV, affirms that children “from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord”; and further affirms that Southern Baptists are mandated by Scripture to “speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death;” and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law defines human life in the womb as from the moment of conception/fertilization and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides equal protection under law to all humans; let us be

RESOLVED, as Louisiana Baptists, to stand for equal protection under the law of all children in the womb and to be the prophetic voice in our culture that calls on our elected officials to pursue legislation to provide children in their mothers’ wombs the same protection under law as children in their mothers’ arms.

At this year's Annual Meeting, don't miss the

Tell Me Something

Scavenger Hunt!



Come have some fun, learn something new, and celebrate 100 years of cooperation!

Check your Messenger bag or visit the Communications Booth to get started!

Participating Booths

include:

- Children & Youth Missions
- Women's Missions & Ministry
- Disaster Relief
- Mission Builders
- Church Planting
- Evangelism
- Pastoral Leadership
- Collegiate Ministry
- Tall Timbers
- Louisiana Baptist Foundation

Prizes Provided By:

- IMB
- NAMB
- LifeWay
- NOBTS
- ... and More!



Liberty Counsel seeks justice for illegally fired Louisiana Baptist pastor

By Staff

Based on a news release by Liberty Counsel

BATON ROUGE, LA – Liberty Counsel, a Christian ministry that engages in strategic litigation to promote evangelical Christian values, sent a demand letter, Oct. 17, to the East Baton Rouge Parish Library on behalf of Luke Ash, a bi-vocational pastor with Stevendale Baptist Church

in Baton Rouge, who was unlawfully fired from his job as a library services technician for refusing to use false pronouns for a female colleague.

The letter denounced Ash's termination (a result of his refusal to compromise religious beliefs about human sexuality) as a violation of the Louisiana Constitution, the Louisiana Protection of Religious Freedom Act, the First

Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Liberty Counsel requested the library to reinstate Ash with backpay and revise its pronoun policy to respect the religious free exercise rights of all employees, setting a response deadline of Nov. 10.

In the letter, Liberty Counsel explained that the library's "inclusivity policy" (that employees have a "right" to choose their pronouns) essentially mandates radical gender ideology and unconstitutionally compels employees to mouth their support in acceptance. They noted that Ash's sincerely held religious beliefs about God's design for human sexuality prevent him from believing that a female worker is a man (regardless of how she wishes to identify herself) and compel him to be truthful.

"Mr. Ash's faith requires

him to tell the truth and not lie," the letter stated. "His understanding of biology and faith requires him to use pronouns consistent with biological sex, because to do otherwise would cause him to lie. Mr. Ash believes speaking such lies would be harmful to others who hear the lies, particularly a person who is uncomfortable with his or her natal sex."

In previous statements to the *Baptist Message*, Ash explained that a coworker, who was training a new female hire, attempted to force Ash to refer to the trainee as a "he." Ash did not speak in the presence of the trainee.

Ash subsequently was reprimanded by three other EBRPL employees "for not upholding the library's inclusivity policy by refusing to use preferred pronouns," and was told that "upper management" would decide "how the library would proceed." He was terminated the next day.

Liberty Counsel's letter contends that, under the First Amendment, the state "may not compel affirmation of a belief with which the speaker disagrees." It also notes that both the First Amendment and the Louisiana Consti-

tution recognize and protect "religion" and religious "free exercise," concluding that the library's "inclusion policy" does not supersede these protections which are afforded Ash.

"[The] Library has no compelling government interest in requiring employees to speak pronouns that do not accurately reflect biological sex, when employees are not required to speak at all; nor in requiring employees to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs," wrote Liberty Counsel.

Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman Mat Staver said, "The East Baton Rouge Parish Library acted unlawfully in firing Pastor Luke Ash for the U.S. Constitution and Louisiana law protect his right to uphold his beliefs and refuse false pronouns. The library also violated Title VII for not even considering a religious accommodation for Pastor Ash. There is no compelling interest in requiring Pastor Ash to lie or affirm false sex-based pronouns. Employers cannot force people to choose between their faith and their livelihood. The library has a chance to reinstate Pastor Ash and rectify this potentially costly mistake."

LOUISIANA CHURCH INSURANCE

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



Call us for your church insurance needs

www.louisianachurchinsurance.com • 800.256.0700

GIVING GATEWAY

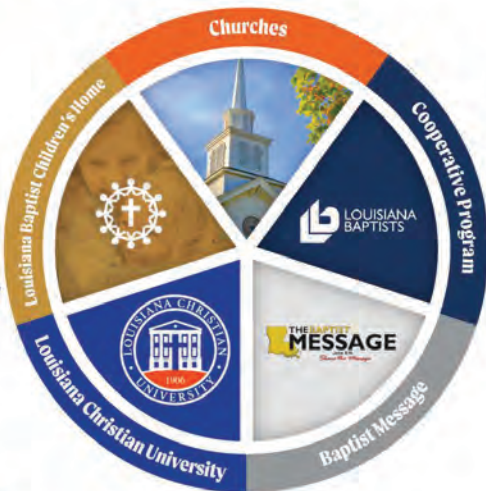
ADVANCING THE *Kingdom* THROUGH THESE MINISTRIES

LOUISIANA LEGACY FAMILY & KINGDOM

Charitable Giving Checkup

Year-End Giving Deadlines

Timely year-end gifts not only provide vital support to churches and ministries but may also offer you valuable tax benefits when completed before the deadline.



LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

www.LBFinfo.org

318-445-4495

contact@LBFinfo.org

Join Our Team

COTTAGE PARENTS

(Positions available in Monroe)

Send resume to: Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

Asso. Director of Family Services

(Positions available in Monroe)

Send resume to: Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

Asso. Director of Family Care Ministries

(Positions available in Monroe)

Send resume to: Jonann Byargeon at jonann@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.



lbch.org

& FAMILY MINISTRIES

Neil Treme to be nominated for LBC 2VP

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

GLENMORA, La. (LBM) – Neil Treme, pastor with Glenmora Baptist Church and a former International Mission Board missionary, will be nominated for the office of second vice president during the Louisiana Baptist Convention 2025 Annual Meeting of church messengers.

Ferran Bertrand, associational mission strategist with Mt. Olive Baptist Association, shared with the *Baptist Message*, Oct. 21, his intention to make the nomination.

The yearly gathering of Louisiana Baptists is scheduled to be held in the Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria, Nov. 11.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Bertrand said Treme's experience as a pastor and missionary will benefit the Convention.

"Brother Neil has a long tenure of service to Southern Baptist," Bertrand told the *Baptist Message*. "He has served with the IMB in multiple countries and has worked to prepare new missionaries deploying to countries around the world. Closer to home, Brother Neil is currently serving as pastor of Glenmora Baptist Church in Glenmora. He is an able teacher and preacher of the Word. And, to use his own words, he is always encouraging us to 'make much of Jesus.' Brother Neil is an

encourager, and I know he will serve and represent Louisiana Baptists well as a part of the leadership team of our convention."

BY THE NUMBERS

The database of the Annual Church Profile shows that Glenmora Baptist Church gave 10.9 percent of its undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program to support cooperative missions and ministries this year, amounting to \$32,069 from undesignated receipts of \$293,917.

Glenmora Baptist Church averaged 145 in Sunday worship service and baptized nine new believers this year.

CANDIDATE'S RESPONSE

Treme told the *Baptist Message* this is a chance for him to give back to the Convention that has impacted him.

"I am one who has been greatly blessed by the greater SBC and LBC family through various ways such as being equipped through an SBC seminary; supported through the Cooperative Program as an IMB missionary for 21 years of missionary service; further equipped through various LBC related trainings and events; and by being prayed for and encouraged by LBC and local association leadership," Treme said. "I have been blessed to be a Louisiana Baptist.

"I count it a privilege and honor to be nominated for

this position," he continued. "If elected I would hope to be a voice for the small- to medium-sized church as well as a voice to champion the beauty of cooperating together as Louisiana Baptists for the sake of the Gospel and expansion of the Kingdom of God."

PERSONAL DATA

Treme is a native of DeQuincy and holds degrees from Criswell College, Dallas, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Treme has been pastor with Glenmora Baptist Church since June 1, 2016. Before that, he served as singles pastor with First Baptist Church, Hialeah, Florida; as well as pastor with Hillsboro Baptist Mission, Broward County, Florida, and Emmanuel Baptist Church, McAlester, Oklahoma.

Additionally, Treme served 21 years with the IMB, including as a church

developer and church planter in Mexico and Canada, and he assisted new missionaries preparing for missionary service at the organization's headquarters in Richmond, Virginia.

Treme and his wife, Leanne (who retired in 2024 as administrative assistant with the LBC communications team), have five adult children and six grandchildren.

Matthew 6:19-21

TREASURE CITY MARKET, LLC

121 S WASHINGTON STREET ~ DERIDDER, LA 70634

Flea Market specializing in Antiques, Collectibles, and Furniture

337.460.6004

tcmarket460@yahoo.com

Like us on **FACEBOOK**

MARKET HOURS
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday-Saturday

100-plus vendors

NUGENTAVL

AUDIO VIDEO LIGHTING AUTOMATION

LOUISIANA'S CHOICE FOR TECHNOLOGY IN THE CHURCH

Transforming churches with tailored AV solutions, including live streaming and professional training for your team.

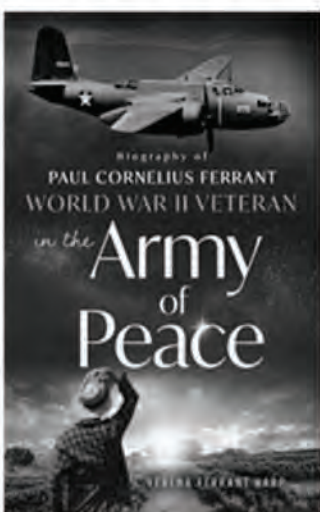
192 Pinegrove Ave.
Pineville, LA 71360

844-4NUGENT
844-468-4368

nugentavl.com
sales@nugentavl.com



World War II Veteran in the Army of Peace: Biography of Paul Cornelius Ferrant



By Verena Ferrant Harp

Read about God's path for Paul to be a Ponchatoula strawberry farmer, a World War II aerial gunner, and a Louisiana Christian minister.

Search on Amazon
Paul Cornelius Ferrant Or
Verena Ferrant Harp

Children’s Home seeks candidates for president & CEO

By Will Hall
Message executive editor

MONROE, La. (LBM) – The Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home and Family Ministries is accepting applications for president & CEO, according to Bob Bozeman, vice chair of the ministry’s trustee board and chair of its president search committee.

He is a member of North Monroe Baptist Church and an attorney.

Bozeman told the *Baptist Message* the ministry opened the search process after Perry Hancock, LBCHFM president and CEO, announced on Sept. 26 his intention to retire at the end of February 2026.

“Perry has the unique ability to see around the corner with regard to anticipating changing winds that affect the Children’s Home,” Bozeman said. “Another of Perry’s great

attributes is his gift- edness of touching all bases in Louisiana Baptist life -- the local churches, the Convention -- as well as regional and national connections.”

“He really has the pulse of all who are involved or concerned about the Children’s Home, and that’s a special talent,” he added. “That’s the kind of person we’re looking for – with experience in



Perry Hancock has served as leader of the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home and Family Ministries since July 1, 2003. Serving alongside Hancock has been his wife, who greatly contributed to the ministry of the LBCHFM herself. Hancock recently announced he will retire in February 2026.

love for this special kind of ministry.”

Bozeman added that this will be a remarkable transition for the incoming person in that “this isn’t one of the times where someone has to come in and fix something. Instead, the Children’s Home is working exceptionally well.”


But he said that it is a kinetic environment and will require someone with similar energy and vision “to continue to drive us forward.”

Bozeman also praised Hancock’s wife, Tonya, for her commitment to the mission and ministries of the Children’s Home. In 2010, she launched the Women’s Learning Center and has served as the full-time volunteer executive director ever since. This LBCHFM ministry helps women 18 years old and above to prepare for the High School Equivalency Test and provides career training at no cost, offering each woman and her family an opportunity for a better life.

This is one of the intangibles the trustees are seeking in a new president and CEO, Bozeman offered.

“Tonya has been a partner with Perry in his See APPLICANTS, page 14





PRESIDENTIAL
Inauguration
OF
MARK LOUIS JOHNSON, SR.
PRESIDENT OF LOUISIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

March 26, 2026
6:00 PM | GUINN AUDITORIUM | PINEVILLE, LA

PLEASE RSVP TO LORI SCOTT AT
LORI.SCOTT@LCUNIVERSITY.EDU

'Here for You' campaign sees fruit from Gospel seeds

By Staff
Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The “Here for You” multi-media outreach strategy continues to see Gospel fruit according to Louisiana Baptist Director of Communications John Kyle. “The seeds scattered through our ‘Here for You’ campaign are begging to sprout,” Kyle said.

Launched statewide in 2019, “Here for You” is attempting to impact the estimated 2.85 million people in Louisiana who do not have a relationship with Christ. Using various media platforms including broadcast television, streaming services and social media, viewers are directed to a website where they can view a Gospel presentation or search for a local church. Through a partnership with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, the communications team receives a monthly report indicating the number of visitors to the Graham-designed landing page, along with the number of views of the Gospel presentation and how many people indicated a decision for Christ.

“In late 2024, we worked out a new follow-up process with the Graham organization where, roughly every six weeks, we receive the names and email addresses of those who provided enough information to follow up,” Kyle said. “We’ve developed a process where we reach out to them via email and congratulate them on their decision for Christ. We also encourage them to get involved with a local church and offer to send them a list of Louisiana Baptist churches in their area if they provide their zip code.”

Kyle said that those making decisions are also offered a Bible, if they’ll provide their mailing address. “We assure them that their address will not be shared or sold,” he added. Since the launch of the updated follow-up process, the Communications team has received nearly 50 names and email address, and Kyle noted that several of those have requested a

list of area churches and a Bible. “When we received these names, we also forward them to our 260 ‘Here for You’ prayer partners who pray for them to follow through on their decisions and get involved in a church near them.” Kyle noted that since 2019, the year Here for

You launched statewide, baptisms have increased in Louisiana (excepting 2020 and 2021, when some churches did not baptize because of COVID-19 concerns). “While I cannot draw a straight line between the increase in baptisms and ‘Here for You,’ I can tell you the only thing we’ve

done differently, to my knowledge, or added since 2019, is ‘Here for You,’” Kyle said. “When we sow the seeds of God’s truth, His word will not return without accomplishing that which He desires. Another way to put it is, God doesn’t waste His word.” **Supported through the Georgia Barnette**

Louisiana Missions Offering, the goal of ‘Here for You’ is to direct people to the Gospel and to the church. Churches are encouraged to visit LouisianaBaptists.org/hereforyou to discover ways they can let their communities know their congregations are behind this effort.

Fourth Annual

Fellowship Baptist Church

Revival and Bible Conference

November 5-9, 2025

487 Fellowship Road, Trout, LA 71371



Wednesday, November 5	
Brenton Smith.....	6:00 pm
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

Prayer Meeting
Wednesday - 5:30 pm
Thursday-Saturday - 9:00 am
Thursday - Saturday
Lunch at 11:30, Supper 5:00
Music
Thursday- Saturday - Bro. Glen Price
Wednesday & Sunday - Bro. Scott Windham

Church will pay for all pastors, ministers and their families lodging that attend.
Breakfast will be served for Pastors staying in Hotel .
Contact Bro. Shad to reserve a room:
Phone: 318-374-0235

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

EVANGELISM from page 6

time put it this way, "When the heathen hear from our mouth the oracles of God they wonder at their beauty and greatness; then discovering that our deeds are not worthy of the words we utter, they turn from their wonder to blasphemy, saying that it is all

a myth and delusion" (Second Clement).

Live holy to honor Christ so your evangelistic efforts will be blessed.

MISTAKE #8: SHARING WITHOUT LOVE

APPLICANTS from page 12

leadership of the Children's Home and an ambassador for the Children's Home in her own right," he said.

Bozeman said it is "quite the task for us to find someone to lead us on this next part of the journey for the Children's Home." But he said the trustees are praying and asked Louisiana Baptists to be praying, too.

The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries 110-acre campus is in Monroe, Louisiana, and its ministry emphasis includes short-term crisis care for children, residential childcare, residential family care, fos-

ter care, compassion care (donations of food, clothes, household goods, and more to children and families in need), residential minister care, counseling, women's career training and orphan care in Haiti. It has been a continuous Louisiana Baptist ministry for 126 years.

Individuals seeking more information may contact Bob Bozeman by phone, 318.381.5880, or email, rbozeman2740@gmail.com. Download an application with specific job duties and responsibilities for the position via lbch.org/employment.php

Motives matter! According to the Apostle Paul, you can deliver an amazing sermon, but without love, you come across like a "resounding gong or a clanging cymbal" (1 Cor. 13:1). The cross is born from God's love for sinners. So, as His ambassador, demonstrate passion in your presentation, and always speak the truth with grace.

MISTAKE #9: WAITING

Ecclesiastes 11:4 states, "Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap." If you wait for perfect conditions to share the Gospel, you will never see a harvest.

Do not be fooled by your good intentions. Delayed obedience is simply disobedience.

MISTAKE #10: WRONG EMPHASIS

Results matter. But the true measure of success in evangelism is our obedience.

Even when you lead someone to Christ and see a harvest, others undoubtedly played essential roles in sowing and watering (1 Cor. 3:6-8).

Do not be discouraged if there are times when you do not get to reap. Just obey!

Sow more. Water more. Rely on God.

Play your part in the process and trust that, in His sovereign plan, God will bring the harvest.

Brant O'Connor is a husband, father, and grandfather. He pastors First Baptist Church in Andrews, Texas, and is pursuing a Ph.D. in evangelism with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

JOIN OUR

TEAM

CLARA SPRINGS

1953

CAMP & CONFERENCE

Full time Maintenance Director at Clara Springs

Responsibilities include but not limited to:

1. Basic knowledge of plumbing and carpentry.
2. Basic knowledge of electric and HVAC.
3. Overseeing Grounds and Maintenance of a Christian Camp.

Must have your own transportation and be willing to live on campus. Must be able to pass a background check.

If interested, please email: brobubba@clarasprings.com

**Clara Springs Camp & Conference
4420 HWY 177 Pelican, LA 71063**

Remembering You!

While we were in your neighborhood, we prayed for you and your family. If you have specific needs for which we can pray, please share them using the contact information below.

We are *Here for You!*

Plain Dealing Baptist Church
Plain Dealing, LA 71064
pdbcla.office@gmail.com

Address: 101 N Perrin St.
Phone: 318.326.4221
Pastor: Alan Brown

Check us out online or find social media!
pdbc.net
facebook.com/plaindealingbaptistchurch/

HereforYou.org

GOD blesses those who ...

Plain Dealing Baptist Church

Sunday School: 10:00 am
Worship: 11:00 am
Wednesday Evenings
TeamKid: 6:00PM-7:30 pm
Youth: 6:00PM-7:30 pm
Prayer Meeting: 6:30 pm

Stop by the *Here for You* booth during the Annual Meeting to order your customizable resources!

70+ CHURCHES have used these door hangers and invitation cards!

LouisianaBaptists.org/orderh4u

Also ...

Sign up to be a new *Here for You* prayer partner and receive this 3-in-1 wireless charger.

Supplies are limited.

Horn urges cooperation around Gospel

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – During the Sept. 30 general session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board meeting, Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn encouraged members to remain united as they seek to reach others with the Gospel.

COOPERATING FOR CHRIST

Horn said that various ministries are helping fulfill Louisiana Baptists' ministry purposes in three ways: seeking the lost, strengthening churches and supporting cooperative missions and ministries.

Seeking the lost

--Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth drew 3,277 people who were part of its 10 summer camps, and saw 146 come to Christ, 70 restore fellowship with the Lord and 18 pursue a call to vocational ministry.

--21 Baptist Collegiate Ministries, meeting on 28

campuses, held back-to-school events with a combined 11,180 students in attendance and 2,615 Gospel conversations completed. Additionally, since the beginning of the school year; a student was called into vocational ministry at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette BCM; and more than 600 people attended in-person and another 2,500 watched online the presentation at the McNeese State University BCM by apologist Frank Turek, who discipled the late Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA and a renowned apologist himself. In the first 35 hours of the event, the number of online views for Turek's presentation increased to 28,000.

Strengthening churches

--The Regroup disciple-making conferences in August trained 740 small group leaders at Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, and Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans.

--Twenty people attended the first meeting, Sept. 8, of the inaugural Evangelistic Preaching Clinic hosted by

the First Baptist Church, Columbia. This four-week clinic that continued into late October focused on skill development and evaluation in the preparation and delivery of expository, evangelistic sermons. One of the participants was a high school senior who preached his first sermon after drawing upon his new-found knowledge, feedback and personal encouragement from the other pastors at the event.

--More than 350 BCM students gathered at TTBCB for the Geaux 25 conference as they explored the call to missions.

--A self-insurance organization has been established that is open to churches of all faith traditions. Horn shared that the Fellowship of Louisiana Churches and Nonprofit Religious Organizations has been allocated \$2.9 million by the state legislature and that paperwork for accessing those funds was submitted on Sept. 29. Horn is hopeful the program can be launched by April 2026.

Cooperative missions and ministries

--Executive Board members prayed for Sean and Pam Keith, who were among 54 individuals commissioned as missionaries by the International Mission Board, Sept. 24. Sean is former Louisiana Baptist Sunday School and Discipleship Strategist and his wife, Pam, is a former director of preschool ministries with their sending church, Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville. They will reside in Zambia, leading teams of college students to share the Gospel.

"I just want to take a moment during our meeting and specifically during my report to say to us, 'This is who we are,'" Horn said. "You may hear all kinds of stuff about what other people believe who we are. But I am just reminding us in this moment, this is really who we are, and this is really who Southern Baptists are."

AMBASSADOR
FOR LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

Horn closed his report by sharing that he strives to be Chief Encouragement Officer, Chief Prayer Warrior and Chief Cooperative Program Advocate for Louisiana Baptists.

He noted that the CP has provided a way to do cooperative ministry among Southern Baptist churches for 100 years, referencing the support of IMB missionaries like the Keiths and BCMs in the state. He urged executive board members not to give up on the CP.

"Brothers and sisters, we cannot give up," he said. "I'm not giving up because there are 4.6 million people living among us in our own state, each made in the image of God, each in need of salvation, and those who are being saved needing to be discipled, and many others need to be sent, like Sean and Pam, to the billions across the globe who have never heard the name of Jesus. Let's stay together. I'm not giving up."



A WEEKEND FOR PASTORS AND WIVES

Tall Timbers Conference Center
February 6-7, 2026

\$175/Couple (Early Registration)



Waylon Bailey
PRESENTER



Martha Bailey
PRESENTER



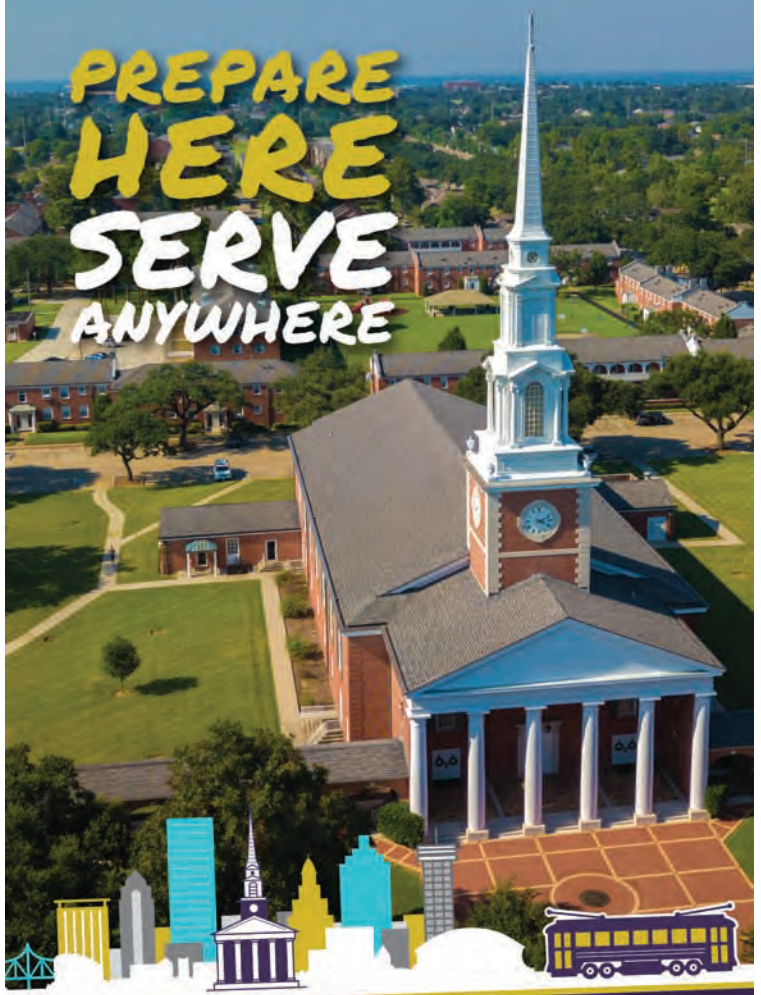
Steve Horn
PRESENTER




Cullen McDaniel
WORSHIP

Learn More:
LouisianaBaptists.org/Pause





PREPARE
HERE
SERVE
ANYWHERE



OUR BACHELOR'S
PROGRAM AND UNIQUE
SETTING PREPARE YOU FOR
SOMETHING MORE THAN
JUST A JOB. LEAVELL
COLLEGE PREPARES YOU
TO ANSWER GOD'S CALL.

LEAVELL
COLLEGE

NEW ORLEANS, LA

LEARN MORE LEAVELLCOLLEGE.COM

Pastors Conference: Hope and encouragement

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Organizers of this year’s Louisiana Baptist Pastors Conference hope to offer pastors a day of encouragement, Nov. 10.

Petrus
FEED & SEED

FEED / SEED / FERTILIZER
FARM / LAWN & GARDEN
SUPPLIES

2914 N Bolton Ave,
Alexandria, LA
318.443.5929 / 318.442.2325

Family Health Insurance
at Group Rates

GROUP, INDIVIDUAL, MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS, DENTAL

Call or email for a free quote!!

Melvin Thomas
318.465.1006
melvinthomas46@gmail.com

411 Ashley Ridge Blvd., Shreveport, LA 71106

“Every pastor, including this one, never gets enough encouragement,” Pastors Conference President and East Leesville Baptist Church Pastor Tommy Kiker told the *Baptist Message*. “The ministry is incredibly wonderful and rewarding but it can be incredibly burdensome. So, we need to get our encouragement in Christ and one another.”

Scheduled to meet in the Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria, the annual gathering’s theme

is “Be Encouraged.” The program will begin, 9 a.m., with music led by the East Leesville Baptist Church worship team and their Minister of Music Matt Blankenbaker. Todd Strain, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, and Philip Robertson, pastor, Philadelphia Baptist

Church, Deville, will be among the speakers headlining the event. After lunch, the conference will continue, 2 p.m., with an afternoon session featuring messages by Ken Whitten, national director of pastoral leadership, North American Mission Board, and Mark Johnson, presi-

dent, Louisiana Christian University. Nathan Lino, pastor with First Baptist Church, Forney, Texas, and Jared Wilson, professor with Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. will close out the conference with messages during the 6 p.m. session.

COMMISSIONED from page 4

other, equip one another, we can really accomplish something that none of us could even think or imagine.”

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn said a celebration is needed anytime someone from Louisiana is called to serve as a missionary with the IMB.

“When someone is called from Louisiana, that

means they were likely saved, disciplined and called in one our churches,” he said. “In addition, having people called and sent to the nations from our churches connects all of us to the Acts 1:8 mandate. Seeing people called from Louisiana connects us to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in a personal way. All of those being sent in this group have unique stories, but all have a common story of being prepared, at least in part, in Louisiana.”

Philip Robertson, senior pastor with Philadelphia Baptist in Deville, said the Keiths represent the church’s commitment to support missionaries around the world through

their participation in the Cooperative Program and Global Missions giving, but that “nothing compares to the blessing of being a sending church when God calls our very own members to the field.”

“We are looking forward to holding the rope here at home for Sean and Pam as they heed calls missionary call on their lives,” he said. “We are already making plans to add sub-Saharan Africa to our itinerary of future mission trips. We will miss having the Keiths in our weekly fellowship but could not be more grateful for their obedience. Sub-Saharan Africa now has a special piece of our hearts, and we can’t wait to see all that God is going to do.”


Mission: Dignity
A ministry of GuideStone®

Today, many retired Southern Baptist pastors, church workers and widows are quietly struggling to afford everyday needs like food, housing and medication.

We need your help to find them.



Contact Us to
Refer a Recipient

GuideStone.org/Assistance




**Seeking bivocational
MUSIC MINISTER**
**Fellowship
Baptist Church**
in Trout, Louisiana

Seeking a Music Minister to lead our congregation in Christ-centered worship.

Responsibilities will include:

- Leading congregational worship services
- Directing and developing choir, praise team, and musicians
- Coordinating special music and seasonal programs

send resumes to
fellowshipbctrout@yahoo.com

HANCOCK from page 2

and its church partners have served more than over 11,000 people, and could impact 25,000-50,000 children and their families annually in one of the state's poorest regions as well as across Louisiana. The 15,000- 16,000sq.-ft. facility provides food, school supplies, diapers, shoes, new clothing and other life essentials. Additionally, the center offers space for a mission church or Bible studies.

HOMEPLACE MINISTRY

Since its inception in 2010, HomePlace has offered homeless women and their children a place to stay for six to 12 months at no cost to the residents, and their stay can be extended. More than 500 women and their children have participated in the program. While there, the women may work toward their high school equivalency and receive life and job training through the on-campus Women's Learning Center.

MINISTER CARE PROGRAM

The Minister Care Residential Program was launched in 2018, and allows Louisiana Baptist terminated ministers and International Mission Board missionaries on stateside assignment (transitioning to a new ministry or recently retired) to receive a free apartment on the LBCHFM's campus in Monroe for up to one year. The program provides Christian counseling if needed and ministerial guidance.

SUPPORTIVE SPOUSE

Serving alongside Hancock has been his wife, who greatly contributed to the ministry of the LBCHFM herself.

During her tenure there, she started the Women's Learning Center in 2010 and served as the full-time volunteer executive director for 15 years. This center provides women 18 years and older the chance to prepare for the High School Equivalency Test

and receive career training at no cost. The Center also offers training and encouragement from the ministry team and fellow classmates in a caring, Christian environment as students prepare for a better life for themselves and their families.

Additionally, she served as a representative for the LBCHFM in churches and civic organizations.

"It has been a privilege to minister side by side with my husband at the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and to see God's love changing lives every day," she said. "My heart has been deeply touched by children who now feel safe and loved, families restored through Granberry Counseling Centers and homeless mothers who've found hope and stability for their children."

"Working with the Women's Learning Center has been one of my greatest joys – watching women discover that God has beautiful plans for their lives (Jeremiah 29:11) as they gain skills to provide for their families and step into new beginnings," she continued. "I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve in this ministry and to witness God's faithfulness up close."

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Jason Lupo, LBCHFM board chairman and pastor with First Baptist Church, Hornbeck, commended the expansion of ministries at LBCHFM under Hancock's leadership.

"What he has done has benefited not only the Children's Home but the state as a whole," Lupo said. "It's hard to put a number of how much more full heaven is because of him, but if you think about what he's done and how he has impacted children's lives that have lived at the Children's Home, it's massive."

Mike Hawkins, past board chairman with the LBCHFM and pastor with Salem Baptist Church, Stonewall, commended Hancock's faithfulness.

"He is committed to

his God, to his family and to his ministry," Hawkins said. "During his tenure at our Children's Home, while similar ministries in other states struggled or even closed, ours flourished. He was diligent to carefully consider changing laws and to adapt to those changes so that our ministry expanded. Many lives have been changed eternally through the faithfulness of Perry Hancock."

Steven Kelly, associational mission strategist with Northeast Louisiana and Morehouse Baptist Associations, met Hancock in 1988 while the two were working on their degrees with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Additionally, Kelly's wife, Tammilee, and Tonya Hancock were colleagues as

campus secretaries.

"The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home is not the same place that it was when Perry started in this position," Kelly said. "His leadership fingerprints are all over the campus both in facilities and ministry direction. His gentle heart and spirit combined with his vision and tenacity have put the Children's Home in a tremendous position to move even further forward."

Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn commended Hancock's faithfulness.

"Every leader desires to leave an organization better than he finds it, and this will certainly be the legacy of Dr. Hancock," he said. "He has served our Lord, and Louisiana Baptist

tists, with faithfulness and excellence.

"Dr. Hancock is arguably the most well-known Louisiana Baptist leader. We will miss his leadership, but if I know anything about him, he will continue to be a champion for Christ, for children, for compassion, and our cooperative missions and ministries."

Karen Sanders, director with Geaux and Deaux Ministries in Baton Rouge, touched on her friendship with Tonya.

"Tonya is such an inspiration in everything she does," she said. "She embodies the fruit of the Spirit. Tonya is intentional with praying for God's people."

See the full story on BaptistMessage.com.

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.

www.evangelistsammoore.com



Using ChurchBiz Services is as simple as...

rowing a canoe down the bayou

Contact us today to learn how our services can benefit your church or ministry!



LOUISIANA
BAPTIST
FOUNDATION

LBInfo.org
318-445-4495

Message Classified Ads

DAVIS CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, 4313 Hwy. 18 East Quitman, Mississippi 39355 Melton & Sandra Davis. 30-plus years experience, Family-Owned and Operated. Variety of fabrics available. Work done on-site. All Work Guaranteed. Call for estimates: 601.776.6617. If remodeling your sanctuary, please give us a call about upholstering your pews!

Call **EARNEST LITTLE** for pulpit supply at 318.209.8185.

Call **Advertising Director Rhonda Havens** at 318.449.4351 to place your ads.

**RUBBER STAMPS
SIGNS – BADGES
SEALS – FLAGS
BRONZE PLAQUES**



**Manufacturers of
MARKING DEVICES
SINCE 1867**
4315 Bienville St. – New Orleans
504.525.2128

SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR
Pioneer Baptist Church in Pioneer, West Carroll Parish, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please email résumés to: Mahajo1946@gmail.com or mail to: Chairman of Pastor's Search committee, Pioneer Baptist Church, P.O. Box 67, Pioneer, La 71266.

Sandy Bayou Baptist Church 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



SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

Shiloh Baptist Church in Keatchie, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please mail résumés to: JR Smith, 964 County Road 466, Carthage, TX 75633 or email to sjohnr1@gmail.com.

SEEKING PASTOR

Mitchell Baptist Church, an independent church is searching for a bi-vocational Pastor. Send résumés to dyess.lisa@yahoo.com or Mitchell Baptist Church / Lisa 15551 Hwy174, Converse La 71419

Seeking a Bi-Vocational
PASTOR

Pelican Baptist Church in Pelican, LA
Resumes can be mailed to:
Pelican Baptist Church
Attn: Pastor Search Committee
P O Box 108
Pelican LA 71063



SEEKING A PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Hatfield, Arkansas is prayerfully seeking a full time or bi-vocational Pastor who preaches the whole counsel of God. A parsonage is provided. Please send a résumé and include a link to three recent sermons to: FBC Hatfield, P.O. Box 108, Hatfield, AR 71945 or email to: fbchhatfield@gmail.com

Seeking a full-time
PASTOR

New Sarepta Baptist Church in Sarepta, LA. is seeking a full-time Pastor. Please email résumés to nsbc.pastorsearch25@gmail.com or mail to NSBC Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 206, Sarepta, LA. 71071

Seeking a Full time

PASTOR

Seeking Full time Pastor for Emmanuel Baptist Church, Minden, La. Send CVs/résumé to MindenEmmanuel@gmail.com. For full job description visit www.emmanuelbcminden.org



BUS FOR SALE

For Sale:
2006 Ford E450
24 Passenger bus,
only 24,504 miles,
excellent condition,

\$23,500

Hodge Baptist Church,
318.259.4519,
hodgebaptist@yahoo.com.

SEEKING BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

The First Baptist Church of Napoleonville has an opening for a bi-vocational senior pastor. The church has been operating in this community since 1942. The job requires 22-hours/week. Please send your résumé to: Kevin Rodrigue @ kr Rodrigue1959@gmail.com for additional information."

SEEKING A MUSIC MINISTER

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



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 part-time
PASTOR

Grand Ecore Road Baptist Church Natchitoches, La is seeking a part time Pastor. Email résumés to gerbc24@gmail.com or call 337.202.9093 for more information.

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.

SEEKING FULL-TIME PASTOR

Pisgah Baptist Church
3467 Hwy 112
Forest Hill, LA 71430
Parsonage provided.
Please email résumé to
broussards_nursery@icloud.com

Youth Minister Needed

McDonald Memorial Baptist Church in Jonesboro, LA is seeking a Christ-centered, energetic youth minister to guide middle and high school students through Wednesday night classes, Bible studies, and multiple youth events and conferences. Applicants must have a strong walk with Christ, a clear call to youth ministry, and good leadership skills. Please send your résumé to mmbcchurch318@gmail.com.



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

LACOSBE

LOUISIANA CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST EVANGELISTS

Use an evangelist for your next revival, crusade or harvest day event.
Go to LACOSBE.org

"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



701 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA 71301 • 318.442.3363
2701 Military Hwy • Pineville, LA 71360 • 318.640.1678
11886 Hwy. 84 West • Jena, LA 71342 • 318.992.4158
445 W Bontemps St. • Marksville, LA 71351 • 318.253.5979
www.hixsonbrothers.com



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

ON THE MOVE

- Alton Achord is available for supply pastorate in the Central LA area. Please call Achord at 318.715.8874.
- Zach Anderson is the new pastor at Westside Baptist Church.
- Cory, wife Sami, Tucker is the new pastor at First Baptist Church in Coushatta from Bellaire Baptist Church.
- Jason Glasscock is the new associate pastor at Old Zion Hill Baptist Church, Independence, La.
- Bill Reid, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Ruston retired at the first of October.
- Brian Britt, Youth Minister of Calvary Baptist Church, Ruston has resigned to serve as Pastor at a Baptist church in South Fork, Colorado.
- Weldon Baptist Church, Bernice voted unanimously call Michael Brookover as Pastor.
- Scott O'Rear, pastor of Belle Park, Haughton, to New Chapel Hill, West Monroe.
- Randy Johnson retiring from Countryside Baptist Church, Keithville.
- Doug Bethel resigning from New Bethel Baptist Church, Plain Dealing.

HOMECOMING

- Dry Creek Baptist Camp, Dry Creek: 100th year Jubilee. October 25, 8 a.m. There will be a day full of activities, food and worship.
- First Baptist Church, Converse: Celebrating 125 years, November 9. Pastor: Brian Rankin.
- Calvary Baptist Church in Bayou Chicot was organized on November 13, 1812. It is the oldest Protestant church west of the Mississippi River and was founded by Pastor Joseph Willis. On November 16, the church will host services and a homecoming starting at 10 30 a.m. to celebrate the 213th anniversary of the founding of the church. All members, family and friends are invited to attend the event and stay afterwards for a church lunch on the church grounds. All former pastors and their families are invited to attend this anniversary celebration. The church address is 1059 Calvary Baptist Church Road, Ville Platte, La. 70586. For more information, please contact Lambright at 337.-305.3474. Pastor:

Wade Lambright.

- Cherry Grove Baptist Church, Mittie: 107th Homecoming, November 23, 10 a.m. worship service and includes the dedication of the church's new sanctuary. Pastor: Josh Eubanks.

REVIVAL

- 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

- Community Baptist Church, West Monroe: Fall festival, Oct. 29, 6-8 p.m. The day will include games, candy, food and prizes. Pastor: Jared Peters.
- Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City: Fireside fall fellowship, Oct. 29, 5:30-8 p.m. We will have a costume contest for each age group, food, worship, a bonfire, games and much more. Pastor: Terry Young.
- Mangham Baptist Church: Fall festival, Oct. 29, 6-7 p.m. Join us for food, games and a hayride. Bring a donation for Operation Christmas Child for entry for a door prize. Pastor: Rick Aultman.
- First Baptist Church, Coushatta: Trunk or treat, Oct. 29, 5:30-7 p.m. We will have trunks, popcorn and bounce houses. Pastor: Cory Tucker.
- First Baptist Church, Folsom: Bayou Fest, Oct. 29, 5-7 p.m. This celebration of Louisiana will feature candy, fellowship and food. Pastor: Will Robbins.
- Lamar Baptist Church, Delhi: Trunk or treat, Oct. 29, 6 p.m. Fellowship, food, fun and drinks are among activities planned for the night. Pastor: Jessie Nielsen.
- New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: Fall festival, Oct. 29, 6-8 p.m. Come for a cake walk, Coke toss, concessions and more. Pastor: Scott O'Rear.
- Kingsville Baptist Church, Ball: Fall festival, Oct. 29, 5-7 p.m. Come and enjoy popcorn, candy, games, jumpers and Ol Mel's Farm animals. Pastor: Bart Walker.
- Bellaire Baptist Church, Bossier City: Fall festival, Oct. 29, 5-7 p.m. Bring the whole family for an evening filled with candy, games, inflatables, and community fun. Pastor: Randy Harper.
- Cedar Crest Baptist Church, West Monroe: Fall festival and trunk or treat, Oct. 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pastor: Gregory

Clark.

- First Baptist Church, Lafayette: NextGen Fall Extravaganza, Oct. 29. Join us for a night of fall fun for the whole NextGen family. Kids ministry will enjoy a pumpkin launch, crafts, snacks and game starting from 6-7 p.m. Student ministry kicks off with food and hang-out games from 5:30-7 p.m. and then from 7-8 p.m. students who stay can join in the pumpkin launching action. It's going to be a night full of laughter, friends and fall fun — you won't want to miss it. Preschool will be open at 5:45 p.m. Pastor: James Pritchard.
- First Baptist Church, Bunkie: Trunk or treat, Oct. 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Enjoy the evening which includes giveaways of two bicycles. Drawings will be at 6:30 p.m. and the winners must register and be present to win. Pastor: Phillip Boone.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church, Horse-shoe Drive: Trunk or treat, Oct. 31, 5-8 p.m. Come for free candy, door prizes, food and inflatables. Pastor: Stuart Sasser.
- 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.
- Little Pass Baptist Church, Charenton: Trunk or treat, Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m. Pastor: Chris Holloway.
- Ridge Avenue Baptist Church, West Monroe: Fall festival, Oct. 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Snacks and refreshments will be served. Come join us for games, a cake walk and fun. Pastor: Jim Wolfe.
- First Baptist Church, Pine Prairie: Trunk or treat, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: R. Lee Walton.
- Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: Fall harvest festival, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Come for inflatables, games, prizes, cotton

candy, popcorn, gumbo and family fun. Pastor: Kenneth Bratton.

- Bethlehem Baptist Church, Albany: Trunk or treat, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Join us for fun, games and candy. Pastor: Joshua Peeler.
- First Baptist Church, Livingston: Fall festival, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Bring your family and friends for a fun-filled evening of games, candy, food, fellowship and fall fun.
- First Baptist Church, Benton: Fall festival, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Join us for games, food, a hayride, music, candy and prizes. Pastor: Mike Schultz.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Hammond: Family fall festival, Nov. 1, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Bring the whole family for an afternoon packed with fun: inflatables, hayrides, games, food, a dunk tank, petting zoo, face painting and trunk or treat. Pastor: Avery Dixon.
- Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Choudrant: Fall festival, Nov. 1, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Kenneth Swanner.
- Jerusalem Baptist Church, Hammond: Annual holiday fair, Nov. 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The day will feature crafts, arts, merchandise and a used book sale. Pastor: J.P. Handy.
- Lone Pine Baptist Church, Winnsboro: Harvest Day, Nov. 2, 10:45 a.m.-noon.
- Alpine First Baptist Church, Tioga: Gumbo cook off, games, cake walk and prizes. Nov. 2, 3-5 p.m. Pastor: John Willie.
- University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: Halluljah 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, Zachary: Fully restored car, truck and motorcycle show, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join us for this year's annual Car Show. Enjoy a free lunch and bring a lawn chair. The open show will feature new, classic and antique cars. There is no entry free. Register now to show your vehicle at fbcz.org/rsvp. Pastor: Eddie Wren.
- Lake Church, Prairieville: Fall festival, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Join us for crafts, games and much more. Pastor: Jarrett Wells.
- First Baptist Church, Oak Grove: "Birthday for a king," Nov. 11, 5-7 p.m. Kids can enjoy this Christ-centered celebration that includes face painting, a nativity craft, birthday card station and cupcake decorating station while their parents visit the Christmas open house. Pastor: Tony Campanale.
- 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, Ponchartroula: Greg Sullivan in concert, November 30, 11 a.m. Pastor: Eric Hattaway.

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.

wkcky cfkykoe yk riu nkwc zs wyzues: qpc

yilky riu bitk rzcfepc gkiuzsa eo cfk gfp ygf psce

aet oey fzb.

igcu crkvjk:ozjk

Clues:
I = A; W) = P

Answer to September 25, Scripture Crypto:
Numbers twenty-two: twenty-eight

**TOGETHER,
WE GO FURTHER**

TO PURSUE THE LOST,
REACH MORE PEOPLE
WITH THE GOSPEL,
AND SEE MORE LIVES
CHANGED.



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

imb.org