



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

March 26, 2026
Volume 141 • Issue No. 3

John 3:16

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Submitted photo

The empty tomb at sunrise depicts the resurrection of Jesus three days after his crucifixion. More than 2,000 years ago, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw the stone had been removed from the entrance. She alerted Simon Peter and other disciples, saying "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" John 20:2.

EASTER: When "empty" is good

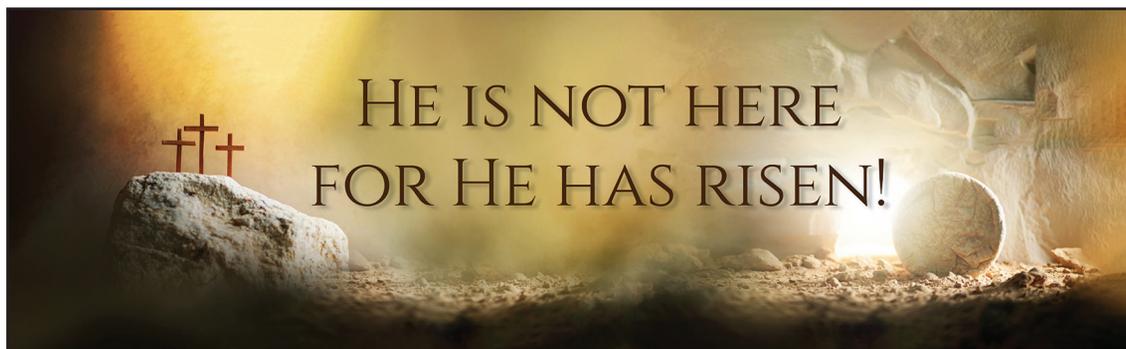
By John Kyle

Special for the Message

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (LBM) – "Empty" – it's not one of our favorite terms. It's not one of our preferred greetings. When someone asks you, "How are you doing?" you probably don't respond by saying, "Empty, thanks for asking!"

Yet emptiness is a common experience in our culture.

Many popular songs through the years have focused on the emptiness of life -- "Running on Empty," "Look at All



the Lonely (empty) People," "Empty Spaces," and "Empty Garden," to name a few. Largely, the focus on "empty" in such songs includes themes of loss, longing, and emotional voids.

For that matter, most

thoughts or images relating to "empty" generally are negative: empty gas tank, empty bank account, and broken relationships that lead to empty homes and hearts, to name a few.

Empty, exhausted, spent, broke, lonely - what-

ever term you choose, "empty" carries pessimistic tones. "Empty" is inconvenient. "Empty" leads to hopelessness. "Empty" offers no alternatives.

No one wants to experience "empty." Yet "empty" is where Easter was born.

More than 2,000 years ago, two empty (discouraged) women went early one morning to visit the tomb where they saw their teacher buried. Empty and broken-hearted, they hoped to pay their respects to someone who had transformed their lives. Several days prior, they were full of hope and expectation when their teacher rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. The crowds cheered and hope reigned supreme. Several days later, their teacher went through a mock trial,

See EMPTY, page 2

Called to Foster: A family's journey of faith

By Christy Goodwin

Special for the Message as told by Brannon & Hannah

MONROE, La. (LBM) -- Brannon and Hannah's foster care journey began several years ago when Brannon felt a sudden,

undeniable call to open his heart and home to children in need of care.

OBEDIENCE

After that it seemed that he could not view social media or television

without being confronted with the reality of children without stable homes, and the calling he felt only intensified. Then, after watching a video depicting a young boy's story of

See FOSTER, page 13

Empty from page one

was beaten until he was unrecognizable, and was nailed to a Roman cross. How could their lives be so full and instantly so empty?

When they arrived at the tomb, they were surprised to find it - empty! They were greeted by an angel who asked: "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? ... He is not here, but he has risen! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, saying, 'It

is necessary that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day?' And they remembered his words" (Luke 24:5-8, NIV).

For once, "empty" was good news!

But why were they surprised that the tomb was empty? Jesus told them on multiple occasions what was going to happen - what had to happen.

This brings to mind a question: Why do we look

for Jesus in places where He told us He wouldn't be? Even the angel reinforced this question when he asked the women, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? ... Remember how he spoke to you ..."

Could one of the reasons we often find ourselves empty is we don't pay attention to what Jesus tells us?

In Psalm 81 God reinforced this when He said, "But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel did not obey me. So, I gave them over to their

stubborn hearts to follow their own plans. If only my people would listen to me ..." (vv. 11-13).

Likewise, when Jesus spoke to the seven churches in Revelation, He ended each admonition with this charge, "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches."

The truth is we frequently find ourselves empty because we tend to be thick-headed, thick-hearted, and spiritually hard of hearing.

So, when is "empty" good?

The empty tomb is proof of a promised kept. Empty means everything Christ taught is true and every promise He made still stands.

But if we're going to experience the benefit, the promises, and the power of that empty tomb, we must empty ourselves. Jesus reminds us that following Him means denying (emptying) ourselves daily (Luke 9:23). We have to let go of our pride, our plans, our need to be in control -- to make room for His Spirit to fill us with love and power to be the salt and light He left us here to be.

This Easter, thank God for "empty."

"He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said ..." (Matt 28:6)

John Kyle is the recently retired director of communications for Louisiana Baptists.

See more cartoons at www.baptistmessage.com.



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Number 3

RETIREMENT: Schmidt reflects on 13 years of Hispanic church growth in state

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – For the past 13 years, Carlos Schmidt has fulfilled the Great Commission to Hispanics across the state.

He has seen the number of Hispanic-speaking churches grow from 25-55 and encouraged them to continue reaching their communities for Jesus.

Now, Schmidt is set to retire, March 31, as a church planting strategist for Louisiana Baptists. However, he will continue to pursue his passion for reaching the lost with El Renuevo, Lafayette, having served as pastor of the church since 2019.

CALLED

Born in the country of Colombia, Schmidt's first exposure to life in Louisiana began when he was an exchange student with a Catholic family in Crowley.

Though he did not know Christ at the time, he met his wife, Gwen, while living there.

The two married and moved back to Colombia, where they lived until they decided to return to Louisiana in 1980. After returning to Louisiana, they experienced marital problems, which led Gwen to find peace via her fellowship with members of First Baptist Church, Rayne.

Meanwhile, Schmidt was working as a helicopter mechanic with PHI Aviation in Lafayette. He also took a part-time job as a financial management and insurance planner with an agency in Rayne, where godly co-workers began encouraging him to find hope in Christ. Curious about Jesus, Schmidt began to evaluate his life and realized he was spiritually dead.

Two months later, in 1986, Schmidt and his wife both found Christ and rec-

onciled their marriage.

The couple continued serving together at FBC Rayne and soon Schmidt felt led to pursue a call to ministry.

"I was reading Ezekiel 37 about preaching to the dry bones, and I just couldn't get that passage out of my mind," he said. "I asked my pastor, 'What's going on?' and he said, 'Maybe God is calling you to preach.'"

After preaching for the next year for various churches, Schmidt and his wife moved to Memphis, Tenn., where he attended Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

In the ensuing years, Schmidt served the Lord in various capacities including Hispanic church planter with Mississippi County, Arkansas, and Hudson Baptist Association, Schenectady, New York.

For the rest of the story go to www.baptistmessage.com.



Submitted photo

Carlos Schmidt is set to retire, March 31, as a church planting strategist for Louisiana Baptists. He will continue to pursue his passion for reaching the lost with Iglesia Bautista El Renuevo, Lafayette. He has been serving the congregation since 2019, but now will be their fulltime pastor.

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Mark 4:27, HCSB

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APOLOGETICS 101 (Part 3): The truth about “the” flood

By Will Hall
 Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Just as Bible critics attack the Creation account in Genesis, they also take aim at the Flood account to claim God’s Word is not true.

However, just as science substantiates details in the Bible’s record of Creation, so science also adds credibility to the Flood description in Scripture.

There are three broad arguments that skeptics typically make to discredit the Bible’s report about the Flood events: (1) They claim there was no global flood. (2) They dismiss Scripture, by noting that there are other flood stories (a “guilt by association” tactic that ignores the differences between the Bible’s accurate record

and the fables and myths of other religions). (3) They reject biblical details as simply physically “impossible,” despite scientific discoveries which verify the biblical record.

“NO FLOOD”

Even secular scientists acknowledge that the Himalayans (the world’s tallest mountain range with the highest known mountain peaks on earth) are covered with fossil graveyards of marine animals. However, they argue that a slow collision of tectonic plates (“continental drift”) eventually raised an ancient seabed that stretched through what is now Nepal, India, China, Tibet and Nepal.

But the fossil record on all the 14 highest peaks shows a sudden event that

trapped marine life. Sea animals were frozen in place while eating and mating, and there are no signs of bacterial activity which would have been part of the decay process if the fossils were gradually petrified.

The bottom line is that the geology argues for a catastrophic, rapid inundation and not a slow process of entombing marine life.

FLOOD “MYTH”

The specter of myth, fable and folklore is attached to Christianity’s truthful account because it is grouped with other religions’ stories about a great flood. It is likely these competing flood narratives have some basis in fact because they probably refer to the Flood described in Scripture. However, their differences with the Bible

are significant.

For instance, Bible critics are quick to cite the “Epic of Gilgamesh,” which is filled with obvious fantasies, to discount the Bible as a myth.

In this Sumerian poem, Gilgamesh, king of the city of Uruk, is described as two-thirds divine and one-third human. He battles a man-beast named Enkidu and also encounters talking monsters and a scorpion man. A flood is caused by “angry, fighting gods,” but Gilgamesh is told how to build an “ark” (a cube, 192 feet on each side, built in seven days) so he and his family can survive a six-day flood.

There are so many points to address, but the but the biggest distinction between the “Epic of Gilgamesh” and Genesis 6-8 are the differences in the arks each describes.

Any mariner can attest

to the instability of a box on turbulent waters, especially one 192 feet high, which would create a high center of gravity.

On the other hand, the dimensions of Noah’s ark with a 10:1 ratio of length to height as well as a broad width (also known as a beam) reflect the design of a stable sea-going structure. Indeed, research by Korean naval architects showed that the dimensions were ideal for stability in high waves (up to 100 feet tall).

Noah was not a marine architect, nor a material engineer, and there was no maritime ocean-going industry during his lifetime. Yet, unlike Gilgamesh, he built a seaworthy vessel comparable to modern cargo ships.

FLOOD SOURCE?

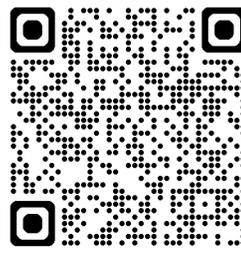
Critics also decry the notion that “the windows of Heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights” (Genesis 7:11b-12). They point to present day data to argue there is not enough water in the atmospheric system to cover the earth to the tops of the highest mountain peaks.

However, they appear to ignore Genesis 7:11a “the fountains of the great deep burst open,” and scientific discoveries that declare its truth.

In 2014, geologists found a rare diamond in Brazil containing a substance called ringwoodite, originating from the man-

See FLOOD, page 5

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Flood from page 4

stance called ringwoodite, originating from the mantle of the earth about 325 miles below the surface.

A careful analysis of the diamond, combined with extensive seismological experiments caused scientists to conclude that a “reservoir of water three times the volume of all the oceans [which cover 70 percent of the face of the earth] has been discovered deep beneath the earth’s surface. “It’s good evidence that the earth’s water came from within,” said Steven Jacobsen, a geophysicist from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and one of the lead researchers in the study.

GOD’S WORD IS TRUE

The Flood account, just like the Creation account, underscores two

essential doctrines that one must believe in order to receive salvation (and each one supports the other): (1) You can place your full faith and trust in God’s Word; and (2) you can place your full faith and trust in His Son.

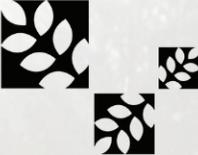
Indeed, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God,” according to Paul (Romans 10:17).

This faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1). But it is not blind faith. God also declared that “the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world” can be “understood by the things that are made,” thus people are without excuse if they disbelieve (Romans 1:20).

God’s Word is true, and, praise Him, His creation bears the evidence!



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Churches reach police officers through hospitality rooms



Ronnie Mabile (fourth from the left), pastor with Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City, spent eight years patrolling the highways and byways of St. Mary Parish. After he resigned, he still had a burden to reach those serving in law enforcement. The result was the opening a "Deputy Room" on March 2.

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

MORGAN CITY, La. (LBM) – Churches in the state have embraced their mission to further the Gospel through establishment of hospitality rooms for law enforcement officers.

Through their efforts, churches such as Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City, and Live Oak Baptist Church, Denham Springs, have built Christ-like relationships with policemen and policewomen in their areas.

"Being in law enforcement, I knew some of the struggles," Bayou Vista Baptist Church Pastor Ronnie Mabile told the *Baptist Message*. "I knew some of the pitfalls and I'll always have a heart for those in the military, those who serve locally in local sheriffs and police departments, and fire depart-

ments.

"It's hard on them and they have a tough job, especially in today's climate," he continued. "They don't always see the best in people, and we wanted to show them the best we could by opening the room inside our church.

"Our facilities are not ours; the facilities on the Lord," he said. "So how can we not use our facilities to reach and minister to them?"

Mabile spent eight years patrolling the highways and byways of St. Mary Parish and after he resigned still had a burden to reach those serving in law enforcement.

After months of praying, Mabile learned that Live Oak Baptist had opened a dedicated room sheriff's deputies use.

See *HOSPITALITY*, page 11

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Shana Johnson

Support Supervisor, Business & Information Team, Louisiana Baptists. Ministry can bring unique challenges from an IT perspective, especially for the end user. Shana goes behind-the-scenes of SBC programs and resources bringing clarity, security checks and shortcut efficiencies.



Kevin Ulmer

Evangelism Strategist, Louisiana Baptists and Pastor. God's Word is clear about the inseparable connection between Evangelism & Discipleship. Kevin explores how that impacts your ministry readiness, role and daily responsibilities.

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'Builder' volunteers help Youngsville church plant, prepare for a harvest

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

YOUNGSVILLE, La. (LBM) – More than 20 volunteers have spent time helping Church Acadiana expand its Gospel reach into the community through the construction of a multipurpose facility in Youngsville.

Under the direction of Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief Associate/Volunteer Mobilizer Mark Morelock and Louisiana Baptist Mission Builder Field Strategist/Louisiana licensed commercial contractor Mark Jelks, teams from Livingston Parish and New Orleans are working with Baptists from Mississippi and Texas to construct the 4,300-square-foot facility.

When completed, the facility will house a worship center (with seating for 200), fellowship hall, restrooms, lobby and family room that can accommodate nursing mothers who want to watch the message in privacy.

Groundbreaking on the property was held Oct. 11, 2025, and the new facility is expected to open by November or December 2026.

"We had heard that church planting is the best way to reach new people for Christ," Church Acadiana Pastor Andy Manning told the Baptist Message. "And so, we wanted to start a church.

"I also had a heart to stay at one church for a lifetime and wanted to find a place and just settle



Teams from Livingston Parish and New Orleans are working with Baptists from Mississippi and Texas to construct the 4,300-square-foot facility that one day will be home to Church Acadiana, Youngsville. When completed, the facility will house a worship center (with seating for 200), fellowship hall, restrooms, lobby and a family room that can accommodate nursing mothers who want to watch the message in privacy.

in and just really dig our heels in and work the land for a great harvest."

Church Acadiana started in Manning's home, with a core group of 10 people in 2006.

The church relocated multiple times, including

to the home of church member Kathy Mott in Youngsville, Remington College in Lafayette and then a movie theater in Lafayette. Currently, the congregation meets in the facilities of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry on the

University of Louisiana-Lafayette campus.

Manning asked for prayers as his church tries to finish the project.

"Pray for us to fulfill our vision," Manning said.

See **BUILDER**, page 12

What I wish my parents had taught me

Flash back—on purpose—for just a moment. Now that you're an adult, what is one thing you wish your parents had taught you about?

According to some financial consultants, the number one answer is: "I wish my parents had taught me what it meant to handle money God's way."

As adults, we recognize patterns of poor financial choices that could have been prevented. Even those raised in Christian homes often only know the world's way of handling money—and many don't realize they have another choice.

It comes down to viewing finances through a discipleship lens.

Families that are spiritually disciplined and financially healthy help create churches that are missionally generous and economically sound. Financial discipleship is more than getting people on a budget or out of debt. It is also about introducing people to Jesus so they can grow in their relationship with Him and build His Kingdom.

Louisiana Baptists have partnered with Compass Financial Ministry to assist you in raising families that are spiritually and financially sound. **Check out their website, compassfinancialministry.org for podcasts and studies that will bless you and your church.**



Rhea Fix is the Executive Director for Compass Financial Ministry serving Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and West Tennessee. She has more than ten years teaching financial literacy and discipleship. Email her at rhea@compassfinancialministry.org.



Merger of two associations to further Gospel in northeast Louisiana

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

MONROE, La. (LBM) – After planning and praying for about a year, two Louisiana Baptist associations have become one as the Northeast Louisiana Baptist Association.

Associational Mission Strategist Steven Kelly said the merger was met with enthusiasm and the 68 churches are excited about where God will lead them in the future.

“I have heard absolutely no negative comments about this decision to merge and have had many say, ‘it’s about time.’” Kelly told the *Baptist Message*.

Kelly, who became AMS on Dec 5, 2022, said Morehouse Baptist Association had 25 churches in the year 2000. However,

since the community’s primary employer, a paper mill, closed around 2012, only 15 Louisiana Baptist congregations remain active in Morehouse Parish. Of those, most are significantly smaller than they were prior to the mill’s closure.

“I thought we wouldn’t rush the merger so quickly but several of the leading pastors in the area said, ‘why wait two years; let’s do it in a year,’” he said. “I didn’t want to seem too pushy, but they actually were eager to do it.

“As committees from both associations met, it went off without a hitch,” he continued. “If Morehouse had still had 25 churches, we probably wouldn’t have done it, but with the loss of the churches, changes in de-

mographics, and the size of the churches it really made sense.”

The merger was approved at the annual meetings of the two associations that were held on consecutive weeks in September of 2025. The new association will operate out of the NELBA office, located across from the Louisiana Baptist Chil-

dren’s Home and Family Ministries in Monroe.

Kelly also looks forward to seeing how God works through the upcoming Serve Tour in the Monroe-West Monroe-Bastrop area. The North American Mission Board will be leading the effort, Aug. 21-22, as teams will share Christ’s love in the area through light

construction projects, painting, landscaping, block parties and other acts of kindness.

“We are meeting now with our administrative committee to strategize about the future direction of our work,” Kelly said. “It is our hope to creatively look for ways to link our ministries beyond the merger.”

WMU, SBC committee seeks candidates for executive director

By Julie Waters

WMU, SBC Communications

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (WMU SBC) – Connie Dixon, president of WMU, SBC, has formed a search committee to seek the organization’s next executive director-treasurer following Sandy Wisdom-Martin’s announcement about her intention to retire by January 2027.

Wisdom-Martin has devoted more than 35 years to serving Southern Baptists, including the past nine-and-a-half years of leading

national WMU.

Candace McIntosh, executive director of Alabama WMU, will serve as chair of the search committee. She and Dixon are joined by Linda Cooper, president of Kentucky WMU and president emerita of WMU, SBC; Sandra Hughes, president of California WMU; Phyllis Rodgers, president of Louisiana WMU; and Odelle Cadwell, former president of WMU of Michigan.

“After a season of prayer and fasting, I am very excited about the group God led

me to appoint to this committee,” Dixon said. “Each has already been praying about this process and the leadership of WMU. At times this task has seemed overwhelming, but we serve an awesome and faithful God Who I know is already preparing the next executive director. Please be in prayer for this committee and the task before us.”

McIntosh also asked Southern Baptists to pray for the next executive director.

See WMU, page 9

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Two LBC entities celebrate God's blessings

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) - The board of trustees over two Louisiana Baptist entities recently met to conduct business and celebrate how the Lord has moved through these ministries.

LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

In its meeting, March 3, Louisiana Baptist Foundation Executive Director Jared Price shared that the entity continues to help increase God's presence and prominence among Louisiana Baptists through its financial ministry.

He reported that \$106 million in ministry support has been generated since the July 2020 launch of the LBF's Vision200 (impacting the Kingdom with \$200

million through the LBF in 20 years).

Price added that the entity's operational expenses remained within budget, internal reserves were strengthened and \$40,126 was transferred to the Cooperative Program Endowment from its year-end surplus.

"We're incredibly grateful for the trust placed in us by Louisiana Baptists to manage assets and facilitate gifts that have resulted in this significant Kingdom impact," Price told trustees.

LBF Associate Director Chase Burns shared that assets through the entity have exceeded \$314 million and that the short-term and group investment funds have continued to yield positive payouts for churches and other ministries.

LOUISIANA BAPTIST MESSAGE

Baptist Message Executive Editor Will Hall, during the entity's meeting, March 5, shared that the publication continues to make steps in its transition to a "digital only" format in 2027. The move comes after Hall conducted a "Nehemiah Walk" last year to gauge a plan for moving forward.

During 2026, the ministry will produce one print edition a month while helping readers transition to getting their news on BaptistMessage.com as well as through the news service's related social media platforms. Already the newspaper has begun placing QR codes in the print editions to direct readers to the website, he said.

Discussions also emphasized the need to expand communication strategies to engage younger generations.

In other action, trustees approved meeting dates, shifting to the Thursday after the first Sunday in March and September, starting in 2027. Additionally, they approved a recommendation to the Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board to change the language of Article XI in the LBC Articles of Incorporation from "paper" to "news service."

Trustees also approved moving funds from money market accounts to investment funds with the Louisiana Baptist Foundation.

Meanwhile, Hall said he will likely "do another walk around to make sure the things that I've got going forward are working, and to make sure that it's going to come off smoothly."

"We want this transition to be seamless."

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. Now scheduling for 2026-27. Call or email to schedule your event

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WMU from page 8

The search committee is refining a profile of characteristics, skills, and experience desired for the position of executive director-treasurer and is seeking further input from various audiences. A job description is posted at wmu.com/employment. Resumes and recommendations may be

sent to WMUSBCSearch@gmail.com in March and April.

McIntosh said there is not a specific timeline to present a candidate to the executive board of WMU, SBC, and that the committee is committed to prayerfully following the Lord's leading and timing.

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Supreme Court declines McRaney case, ending lawsuit against NAMB

By Staff
Louisiana Baptist Message

Based on an article by Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (BP) – The U.S. Supreme Court declined Feb. 23 to hear a nine-years-long case brought by a former Baptist state convention executive director Will McRaney against the North American Mission Board, upholding an appeals court panel’s decision to dismiss, thus ending the case.

In September, two judges in a three-judge panel for the Fifth Circuit

Court of Appeals upheld a district court’s decision to dismiss the case. They concluded that “church autonomy doctrine bars all of McRaney’s claims against NAMB” because resolving his claims “would require secular courts to opine on ‘matters of faith and doctrine.’”

NAMB RESPONDS

“The Supreme Court’s decision not to review the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decision brings closure to a long and difficult legal dispute filed

against our ministry nearly nine years ago,” NAMB said in a statement. “The outcome in this matter – the opinion of the Fifth Circuit – now stands as a landmark protection of religious liberty for all Southern Baptists and other people of faith.

“The Fifth Circuit recognized and respected doctrinal autonomy and voluntary cooperation among Baptist churches and ministries, while also carefully applying long-standing First Amendment principles that protect religious organizations from having internal ministry matters scrutinized by civil courts. We are grateful.”

MCRANEY RESPONDS

In a statement, McRaney said he and his wife, Sandy, were grateful for the support and prayers they had received during the legal process. “While we are dis-

appointed the Supreme Court did not choose to grant cert in this particular case, we trust that in time justice will be done and the rights of Baptist people and partners restored,” McRaney said. “This decision will have an impact on millions of Baptists and other religious groups.

“The SBC and all of its entities won Pyrrhic victories today and in the September 2025 5th Circuit’s 2-1 ruling. Today after 9 years in the courts, NAMB won and secured their right to do what God forbids, to defame and interfere with Baptist ministers, partners and financial supporters.”

In time, he continued, today’s SCOTUS decision will be viewed “as a historic loss in multiple ways.”

“NAMB has made clear in their statement that anyone who supports the mission efforts of the SBC can be defamed, and their employment can be interfered with by SBC leaders without Baptist partners having the right to defend themselves in court,” McRaney’s statement said.

OPPOSING POINTS

NAMB objected to assertions that the decision would upend Baptist polity and religious liberty protection, citing the Fifth Circuit Court’s decision that “Baptist

ecclesiology is non-hierarchical, and each Baptist church is autonomous. Nevertheless, Baptist churches have long voluntarily cooperated in fellowship with one another and pooled resources for missions, evangelism, and church planting.”

McRaney, on the other hand, asserted that the decision will have profound legal ramifications.

“As in other faith traditions like Catholics, now Baptist leaders, ministers and partners will know for certain that they have given up their personal legal rights with their voluntary partnering or contributing to the SBC. Sadly, this can already be seen in the Garner v. SBC court case before the TN Supreme Court where SBC leaders also lied to the TN Supreme Court justices.

“We pray the silence by those who tolerated the lies and deceptions to the courts will be broken and wrongdoings exposed. We pray there will be forthcoming repentance by SBC entity leaders, trustees, and other Baptist leaders resulting in a surge of renewed commitment to righteousness and truth telling above all as an act of obedience to God’s Word,” McRaney said, adding that he would release a fuller statement in the coming days.

See LAWSUIT, page 12



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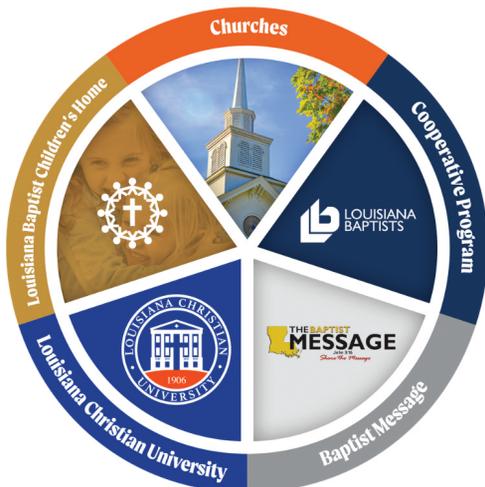
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‘Embrace’ to equip Louisiana Baptist women for purpose, mission

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

ZACHARY, La. (LBM) – Women from across Louisiana will gather, April 17–18, at First Baptist Church, Zachary, for “Embrace,” a statewide Louisiana Baptist Women’s Missions and Ministry conference designed to encourage each attendee to recognize her God-given value and calling.

Bible teacher and author Melissa Spoelstra will be the keynote speaker for the two-day event. Teaching from the book of Numbers, Spoelstra will offer lessons on contentment and trusting God in every season of life.

Hosted by the Louisiana Baptists Women’s Missions and Ministry team, “Embrace” will seek to equip women of every generation and background to grow spiritually and engage in God’s mission through the local church.

“Our desire is for women to leave ‘Embrace’ confident in their God-given value and equipped to live out their purpose,” Louisiana Baptist Women’s Missions and Ministry Strategist Christine Gill told the Baptist Message. “When women understand their calling and grow in their relationship with Christ, it strengthens families, churches and communities.”

General sessions will incorporate prayer, teaching and worship led by the FBC Zachary praise team. The event also will include the annual Women’s Missions and Ministry Celebration.

Participants will choose from more than 15 breakout sessions covering topics such as spiritual growth, missional engagement, and leadership development.

Attendees also are invited to participate in a mission project by bringing nonperishable food items for the Zachary Food Pantry, which

serves more than 200 families experiencing food insecurity within the Zachary Community School District. Early registration is \$60

through March 31 and increases to \$75 after that date. Women who are 30 years old and younger may register for \$30 using the promo code

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Visit louisianabaptists.org/embrace or call 318.449.4268 for more information.

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Hospitality from page 6

The result was opening a “Deputy Room” on March 2.

The room, converted from its former choir room, provides a secure and private place for deputies to safely secure their duty rig while using the restroom. Deputies also can enjoy fresh coffee, snacks and cold bottled water, and there is a table with Bibles.

Meanwhile, Live Oak Baptist has hosted a law enforcement room since early 2024. Pastor Johnny Morgan said the room has allowed him to deepen relationships with the 12-15 Livingston Parish Sheriff’s Office deputies who patrol the area near his church. Deputies have sought his guidance on issues they have struggled with and one even asked him to officiate his wedding.

“This gives us a real open door to law enforcement officers,” he said. “A lot of them will come in, sit down and tell me what happened in their day. It’s opened a lot of doors for me to be able to pray when they needed help the most.”

SMPSO Sheriff Gary Driskell said these rooms are an example of effective community policing.

“This is a really nice place for our deputies,” he said.

“The room will meet the needs of deputies on shift and makes their jobs easier. This kind of partnership and support from our community is such a big deal for us. We want to thank Pastor Ronnie Mabile and the people of Bayou Vista Baptist Church for this.”

JONES HILL
 Members of National Christian Legal Society

Speaking engagements are limited for 2026. We speak at:
 --renewal services,
 --men’s retreats,
 --youth events,
 --Sunday supply services.

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Call Melissa at 337.639.2127 or melissa@joneshilllaw.com for scheduling. Slots are filling fast.

Lawsuit from page 10

NAMB concluded its statement by saying: “The [judicial] outcome both respects Baptist distinctives and reaffirms that Baptists and other non-hierarchical faith groups are no less entitled to the First Amendment’s protections against secular intrusion

into ministry affairs.”

BACKGROUND

McRaney sued NAMB in April 2017, accusing the entity of interference that led to his firing as the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware executive director. That

lawsuit was dismissed two years later by a judge with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi. However, that district court ruling was reversed, 3-0, in July 2020 by a panel of judges with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. NAMB asked the Supreme Court to review the case, but in June 2021 the Supreme Court rejected their appeal,

sending the case back to the district court.

The district court ruled to dismiss the case a second time, and McRaney requested the appeals court to overturn the district court again. But a different three-judge panel with the appeals court ruled against McRaney, leading

to his failed appeal to the Supreme Court, which effectively ended the case on Feb. 23.

Based on reporting by Scott Barkley, the chief national correspondent for Baptist Press. Read NAMB’s full statement and its responses to FAQs at go.namb.net/certiorari.

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Submitted photo

Church Acadiana construction advisory team members Leroy Fortier and Dickie Foret and Pastor Andy Manning have enjoyed seeing God at work while teams build their new facility in Youngsville.

Builder from page 7

“Pray we see many radical conversions among the lost in Youngsville, that parents embrace the call to disciple their children, that students stay spiritually engaged after high school, and that many students dedicate their lives to vocational ministry.”

Church Acadiana is among the latest construction projects undertaken by the Mission Builder program. Other recent projects include the facilities of Harvest Church in New Orleans and a Disaster Relief storage facility on the campus of the Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth.

Morelock said the Mission Builder project is a reminder of Louisiana Baptists’ cooperative efforts at work.

“Through the faithful giving of our churches to the Cooperative Program and the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering we are able to partner with mission churches like Church Acadiana to save money, engage the community, unite volunteers from around the state and country and open doors for Gospel conversations for the sake of the Kingdom and to the glory of Jesus,” he said. “The ripple effects of cooperative efforts like this will be felt through eternity. Thank you, Louisiana Baptists, for your faithfulness to our Lord’s work.”

Visit louisianabaptists.org/missionbuilder to learn more about this ministry.



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Foster

_____ from page one

neglect, Brannon knew he could not ignore this call any longer.

He told his wife, Hannah, that he believed they needed to become certified foster parents, and to his delight, without hesitation, she agreed.

However, even with willing hearts, they still had questions about the possible impact on their three young children, and they also worried about whether they had what it takes to help foster children work through trauma. After going back and forth about the pros and cons, they eventually decided to invite an experienced foster family into their home and peppered them with questions.

Waiting patiently for an opportunity to interject, the foster mom, holding a two-week-old foster placement in her lap, finally was able to share some wisdom that changed everything.

"It comes down to this," she told them. "When I finally get to Heaven, I want to get there exhausted from pouring out everything I have in this life for the Lord. I can rest in the arms of Jesus when I get there."

That moment shifted Brannon's and Hannah's focus from fear to faith, and they chose obedience and moved forward with the process.

GOSPEL IMPACT

When a teenage boy named Gavin entered their home, he had little exposure to church or the Gospel, but Hannah and Brannon's church community quickly became a central part of his life. His Sunday School class and the youth group offered him relationships with believers who showed him the love of Christ lived out daily. Plus, Hannah's and Brannon's friends and families also poured into Gavin, discipling and teaching him.

In time, Gavin committed his life to Christ and was baptized.

For the rest of the story go to www.baptistmessage.com.

Seeking a full-time

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New Hope Baptist Church in Choudrant, LA is looking for a full-time pastor. If interested, please send résumé to nhbcpastorsearch26@gmail.com or call 318.768.2720.



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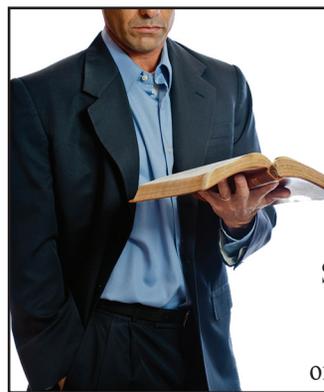
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SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR
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Sandy Bayou Baptist Church Columbia, LA 71418 is seeking a bi-vocational Pastor. Parsonage available as part of compensation. Send résumés to SBBC, 4803 Hwy 559 Columbia, LA 71418 or e-mail delaneab@yahoo.com

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SEEKING BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR
Bi-Vocational pastor needed at Harmony Baptist Church, Provencal, La. Please send résumés to Pastor Search Committee P.O. Box 550 Provencal, La. 71468

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

- Shane, wife Victoria, Russell is the new Outreach Minister at Wilda Baptist Church, Boyce.
- Mike, wife Phyllis, Freeman is the new minister of music at First Baptist Church, Marion.
- Michael Collins is the new pastor at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Farmerville.
- Collin, wife Leslie, Carpenter has been called by Calvary Baptist Church, Ruston as the new youth pastor.
- Jeremy Babb is the new associate pastor at Highland Baptist Church, New Iberia.
- Clayton, wife Gracie, Bryan is the new pastor at Cheniere Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- Billy, wife Linda, Edwards is the new pastor at Marksville Baptist Church, Marksville.
- Aaron Coffey is the new pastor at New Sarepta Baptist Church, Sarepta.
- Evan Griffin to be ordained into the ministry March 27, 6 p.m. as pastor of Oakview Baptist Church, Livingston.

CRUSADE

- West Cenla Go Tell Crusade, Leesville, April 12-15, 7-9 p.m. nightly at the Leesville Football Stadium. Evangelist: Rick Gage.

REVIVAL

- Rodessa Baptist Church, Rodessa: Revival, March 22-25, Rodessa Baptist Church is a replant effort by Rodessa and Gray Baptist Church. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: David Hicks.
- Vatican Baptist Church, Cankton: Revival: We Cry Out, March 27-29, Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. Speaker: Brandon Guidry, Pastor at Parkerson Avenue Baptist Church. Worship: FBC Crowley's Praise and Worship team, Saturday evening speaker Luke Arsement, First, Milton. Worship: Conner Pounders. Sunday morning, 10 a.m., Speaker: Chad Thibodeaux. Worship: Vatican praise and worship team. Pastor: Chad Thibodeaux.
- Kaplan Baptist Church, Kaplan: 2026 Revival, March 27-29, 6 p.m. Speaker: Roland Fontenot. Worship: Southern Lights. Pastor: Timmy Farris.
- Clarks Baptist Church, Clarks: Spring revival, March 29-April 1. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell.
- Gray Baptist Church, Jefferson, Texas: Spring Revival, March 29-April 2, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: Nick Holden. Worship: Marcus Linton. Pastor: Roy Davis.
- Fort Necessity Baptist Church. Fort Necessity: Spring Revival, March 29 - April 1. Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor: John Bradley.
- Lake St. John Baptist Church, Ferriday: Spring revival, April 2-5. Evangelist Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Mark Richardson.
- New Zion Baptist Church, Covington: Harvest Sunday, April 12, Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor: Clark Stewart.
- Reeves Baptist Church, Reeves: Revival, April 12-15; Sunday 11 a.m., Sunday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Evangelists: Mackie and Gayle Willis. Pastor: Charlie Carroll.
- Point of Life Baptist Church, Plaucheville: Spring revival, April 19-22. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Norris Landry.
- First Baptist Church, Olla: Spring Revival, April 19-

- 22. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Dennis Baker.
- Fellowship Baptist Church, Trout: Revival, April 19-22, Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Message: David Allen. Worship: Harigil Family, Sunday-Tuesday, Wednesday, Pritchard Baptist. Pastor: Shad Tibbs.
- Summerville Baptist Church, Jena: Spring Revival, April 19-22, Sunday 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday. 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: David Hanna. Pastor: None.
- Alabama Baptist Church, Arcadia: Spring revival, April 26-29. Evangelist Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Tony Walton.

LAGNIAPPE

- New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong: Children's Easter activities, April 4, 10 a.m.-noon. Join us for fun, food and fellowship as we celebrate the reason for Easter. Pastor: Trey Lewis.
- Hopewell Community Baptist Church, DeRidder: Sunrise service, April 5, 7 a.m. Come join us for Easter Sunrise service at the Spillway. Donuts and coffee served after the service. Pastor: Greg Gill.
- Koran Baptist Church, Haughton: Interactive Easter Story, March 29, 9:40 a.m. Children will learn about the events that occurred before and after Jesus went to the cross through scripture, hands-on activities and crafts at each station. Families are encouraged to join! Pastor: Michael Reichard.
- Community Baptist Church, West Monroe: Good Friday service, April 3, 6 p.m. Pastor: Jared Peters.
- Salem Baptist Church, Stonewell: Family Easter egg hunt, April 4, 11 a.m. Pastor: Mike Hawkins.
- First Baptist Church, Rayville: Palm Sunday worship, March 29, 9 a.m.; Good Friday service, April 3, 6 p.m.; and community Easter egg hunt, April 4, 10 a.m. Pastor: Justin Clark.
- Red Oak Baptist Church, Livingston: Easter egg hunt and dinner on the ground, March 29, following 11 a.m. service. Pastor: Wesley Bennett.
- Hebron Baptist Church, Bush: Redemption story, lunch and Easter egg hunt, March 29, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Rickie Wilson.
- Maplewood First Baptist Church, Sulphur: Easter family fun day, March 29, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Petting zoo, crafts, games, inflatables, food to purchase and at 5:15 p.m. an egg hunt. Pastor: Jeremy Blocker.
- First Baptist Church, Plaquemine: Easter passion play, March 25, 27 and 28. The play will depict the life, death, burial and resurrection of our Jesus Christ through a nine-scene walk-through performance. The play is free but capacity is limited. Sign-up for a day and time at FBCPlaquemine.org. Pastor: Keith Horton.
- Grace Fellowship Baptist Church, Tickfaw, La: Grace Fellowship is seeking a part-time, Christ centered, energetic youth minister. Someone to guide middle school and high school students during Wednesday night, Sunday morning, and Sunday night classes, Bible studies, and multiple youth events/ conferences. Applicants must have a strong walk with Christ, a clear call to youth ministry and good leadership skills. Please send your resumes to amanda.foy@tangischools.org.
- Cornerstone Baptist Church, Oakdale is seeking used hymn books and study Bibles. For More information call Eric, 318.306.3214 or 318.335.8919. Pastor: Tony Robinson.
- First Baptist Church, Coushatta: Easter Egg hunt and games for the kids, March 28, 10 a.m. Pastor: Cory Tucker.
- Gray Baptist Church, Jefferson, Texas: Focus on our Families, March 28, 10 a.m. Speaker: Nick Holden (men and boys), Stephanie Holden (ladies and girls). Lunch will be served so please text your RSVP to 318.272.6002 Pastor: Roy Davis.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Merryville: Easter Week, April 2-5, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. The Lord's Supper experience, Friday, 5:30 p.m. children's party and egg

- hunt, 6:30 p.m., movie night, Sunday, 7 a.m., sunrise service. Pastor: Jim Miers.
- Jerusalem Baptist Church Road, Hammond: Community Easter Egg Hunt, April 4, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The event is free and will include Easter egg hunts for ages 0-12yrs, various games, kiddie train, bouncy house, music, hot dogs, popcorn, etc. Bring your tent, chairs and blankets and come enjoy a fun family event. Pastor: J.P. Handy.
- First Baptist Church, Bossier City: Egg Stravagaza at Freedom Fields, April 4, 10 a.m. - noon. There will be 40,000 eggs, inflatables, live animals, food and it is all free. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich.
- First Baptist Church Leesville: Easter week, April 4-5, Saturday 10 a.m. Easter Egg Festival with plenty of fun activities; Sunday, 9:30 a.m., a community breakfast followed by Easter worship service at 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Darin Worthington.
- Oakview Baptist Church, Livingston: Resurrection Week Spring Revival, April 5-8, Sunday (Resurrection Day), 10:30 a.m., there is no evening service; Monday-Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: Alfred Willis. Worship: Mark Lane, The Lindsey's and other groups. Pastor: Evan Griffin.
- Eola Baptist Church, Bunkie: Jonathanandjongideoncausey in concert, April 12, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Bryan Canup.
- Diamond Baptist Church, DeRidder: Twenty-Some-things, April 18, 6 p.m. Enjoy a night of revival, worship, and fellowship with other young adults from the Beauregard area. Speakers: Nelson Santa Ana and Ethan Fontenot. Worship: Teams representing various BBA churches. Childcare will be provided. There will be a meal following the service: Pastor: William Smith.
- First Baptist Church, Minden: Micah Tyler Live 2026 supported by Micah Christopher and Emerson Day, April 24, 7 p.m. To order your tickets go to: <https://bit.ly/MT26MindenCHURCH>. Pastor: Leland Crawford.
- Immanuel Community Church, New Orleans: Fatherhood Summit-Building Up Men, to Build Up Others, April 24-25, 6 p.m.-2 p.m. Cost is \$40. Pastor: Matthew Delaughter.
- Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill: Andrew Ryzkov, founder of the Byelorussian Mission in-country ministry, will speak at Elwood Baptist Church, April 28, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Michael Evans.
- Mitchell Baptist Church, Converse: The Lefevre Quartet in Concert, April 24, 7 p.m.

- University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: Go and Tell UBC Evangelism Conference, April 25, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Speakers: Jake Roudkovski (keynote), Lane Corley (breakout speaker) Kevin Ulmer (breakout speaker) and Dave Anderson (breakout speaker). Cost: \$15 and includes continental breakfast, lunch and snacks. This event is free for UBC members. Deadline to register and pay is April 13. Pastor: JP Cox.
- First Baptist Church, DeRidder: Ben Fuller with special guest Band Reeves: The Black Sheep Tour, April 30, 7 p.m. Cost: \$35 general admission, \$75 VIP admission. Pastor: Nelson Santa Ana.

EASTER

- Cross Point Baptist Church, Benton: Easter at Legacy, March 22, Pastor: Shane Nugent.
- First Baptist Church, Plaquemine: Easter Passion Play, March 25, 27, 28. This is a free event but registration is required at www.FBCplaquemine.org. Pastor: Keith Horton.
- First Baptist Church, Eunice: Easter at FBCE, March 26, Maundy Thursday, 6 p.m., Easter Sunday, 8:30 and 11 a.m. Pastor: Andrew Bates.
- Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Melder: Glow in the dark Easter Egg Hunt, March 27, 5:30 fun stuff, 7 p.m. eat, 8 p.m. egg hunt. This is for babies to 10 years of age. Pastor: Jason Townley.
- North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: Egg-stravaganza, March 28, 19 a.m.-noon. Bring your own basketball to this free family event that features egg hunts, jumpers, pony rides and much more. Pastor: Bill Dye.
- Cedar Crest Baptist Church, West Monroe: Easter egg hunt, March 28, Time TBA. Pastor: Gregory Clark.
- Community Baptist Church, Lafayette: Easter egg hunt, March 28, 9:45 a.m. Pastor: Linton Broussard.
- New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: Easter Egg Hunt, March 28, 2-4 p.m. Join us for a fun-filled day with Easter Egg Hunt, refreshments, activities and fellowship for the whole family. Pastor: Community Baptist Church, Lafayette: Easter Egg Hunt, March 28, 9:45 a.m. This event is for pre-school to fifth grade. Pastor: Linton Broussard.
- Paron Baptist Church, Sterlington: Spring Family Day, March 29, noon. There will be an Easter skit, dinner on the grounds, jumps, games and candy. Pastor: Jeff Hurst.
- Ebenezer Baptist Church, : Flashlight Egg-Strava-

- ganza, March 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. There will be games, crafts, food and the egg hunt. Make sure to bring a basket and a flashlight. Pastor: Steven Campbell.
- Loranger Baptist Church: Easter eggs-travaganza and jambalaya cook-off, March 28, 2-4 p.m. Pastor: Mike Hegwood.
- Lone Pine Baptist Church, Winnsboro: Easter egg hunt, March 28, 10 am.- 1 p.m. Pastor: Jarrod Donnell.
- Centerville Baptist Church, St. Landry: Easter egg hunt, March 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Pastor: Jacob Guillory.
- First Baptist Church, Rayville: Easter Week, March 29 (Palm Sunday), 9 a.m. service, April 3 (Good Friday), 6 p.m. April 4, Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m., Easter Sunday, 9 a.m. Pastor: Justin Clark.
- Searcy Baptist Church, Trout: Easter Celebration, Palm Sunday, March 29, 5 p.m. There will be a churchwide potluck and Easter Egg Hunt. Pastor: Steve Jenson.
- First Baptist Church, Ville Platte: Open House, March 29, 6 p.m. Pastor: James West.
- Red Oak Baptist Church, Livingston: Dinner on the grounds and Easter Egg Hunt, March 29, 11 a.m. Enjoy a delicious meal and a fun Easter Egg hunt following the service. Make sure children bring a basket to collect their eggs. Pastor: Wesley Bennett.
- Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs: Easter Egg Hunt, March 29. Join the church at 10:30 a.m. for the reading of the Redemption Story, lunch and the egg hunt. Pastor: Travis Cronan
- Westside Baptist Church, Natchitoches: Easter week, March 29, April 3, April 5. Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday) Worship 8:30 and 11 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt, 12:15 p.m., Good Friday, 6 p.m., Worship Service and Communion, Easter Sunday services, 9 and 11 a.m. Pastor: Gabriel Ruiz.
- Highland Baptist Church, New Iberia: Palm Sunday Picnic, March 29, noon-3 p.m. Bring lawn chairs, drinks and Easter baskets to New Iberia City Park. There will be hamburgers, chips and cookies. Kids: Easter egg hunt & games, Youth: 9 Square, Everyone: Egg toss Music & fellowship. Pastor: David Denton
- First Baptist Church, Denham Springs: Easter Jam - a family event, March 29, 4 p.m. Event starts in auditorium with an interactive family experience and conclude with annual Easter Egg hunt. Pastor: Leo Miller.

See NOTABLES, page 16

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 cfkykoeyp riu nkwc zs wyzues: qpc

wyilky riu bitk rzcfepc gkiuzsa eo cfk gfpypgf psce

aet oey fzb.

igcu crkvjk:ozjk

Clues:
I = A; W = P

Answer to February 26, Scripture Crypto:
Isaiah fifty-six: ten

Notables from page 15

■ First Baptist Church, Swartz: Eggs in the end-zone, March 29 4-5:30 p.m. There will be an egg hunt, food trucks and community. Free admission! Bring your basket kids. Pastor: Jarrett Fix.
 ■ Oak Hill Baptist Church, Many: Family Day, March 29, 11 a.m. Concert with God's Country, Easter Egg Hunt and lunch. Pastor: Darren Carpenter.
 ■ Esler Baptist Church, Pineville: Easter weekend, March 29, 2 p.m. Community Easter Egg Hunt; April 5, 7 a.m. Easter Sunrise service, outside the

pavilion. Pastor Josh Timothy.
 ■ Thompson Road Baptist Church, Slidell: Easter Egg hunt and pot lunch, March 29, Pastor: Randy Boyett.
 ■ Red Oak Baptist Church, Livingston: Easter egg hunt and dinner on the ground, March 29, following 11 a.m. service. Pastor: Wesley Bennett.
 ■ Woodridge Baptist Church, Shreveport: Easter Egg Hunt, April 1 5:15 p.m. Families are welcome. There will be free food, games, candy and lots of eggs. Pastor: Paul Walker.

Vatican Baptist Church, Carencro: Annual Easter Egg Hunt, April 1, 6 p.m. This free event is for everyone. There will be games, crafts & snacks and lots of prizes. Easter Egg hunt is for babies to 12 years old. Pastor: Chad Thibodaux.
 ■ Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City: Churchwide Egg hunt fellowship, Shelton Sports Complex, April 3, 6 p.m. Pastor: Terry Young.
 ■ First Baptist Church, DeQuincy: Good Friday and Easter Sunday, April 3, 6 p.m. and April 5, 10 a.m. Pastor: David Earnest.
 ■ Old Zion Hill Baptist Church, Independence: Easter weekend, April 3, 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Service; April 5, 6:30 a.m., Sunrise service, 9 a.m., Kids Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Easter Service. Pastor:

Gary Dennis.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Dry Prong: Easter egg hunt, Dry Prong Community Center, April 4, 9 a.m. Pastor: Kevin Goodman.
 ■ Cypress Baptist Church, Benton: Easter run, April 4, 7:45-10:45 a.m. We have a great course that is safe and primarily through the shaded neighborhood of Woodlake South which is right behind Cypress Baptist Church. The race will start and finish in the Cypress 316 Fieldhouse. All proceeds from the race will go to support the Spain Missions Team at Cypress. We have a 5k, 10k, and a fun run available for registration. More information can be found at cypressbaptist.org. Pastor: John Fream.

■ Loreauville Baptist Church, Loreauville: Family Day, April 4, 2 p.m. Come and enjoy food, games, and an Easter Egg hunt. Pastor: Jackson Durbin.
 ■ Celebration Church, Metairie: Hop-A-Trunk, April 4, following the 5 p.m. Easter service. Hop-A-Trunk is a free, fun, safe, community-oriented alternative to an Egg Hunt. Volunteers park their vehicles in the church parking lot, decorate their trunks and hand out stuffed Easter eggs, treats or trinkets to the children. Good Friday service will be at 5:30 p.m. while Easter Sunday services are 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Pastor: Dennis Watson.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Calhoun: Sugar Rush, April 4, 10 a.m. at the Calhoun Middle School football field. Pastor: William Green.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Albany: Breakfast with the Bunny, April 4, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. All you can eat pancakes and fixings for a donation of \$5 or more. There will be Easter crafts, Easter Egg hunt, bunny photos and a devotional. Pastor: Edward Koch.
 ■ Lighthouse Baptist Church, Independence: Easter Egg Hunt – Hop on Over, April 4, 10 a.m.-noon, For children ages 2-12 (ages 2 & 3 with parent or guardian please). Bring your basket. There will be games, food, photos and lots of fun. Pastor: Gene Hoyt.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Livingston: Easter egg hunt, April 4, 10:30 a.m.-noon. The morning will be filled with eggs, games, petting zoo, candy and more. Pastor: Russell Hinson.
 ■ Western Hills Baptist Church, Shreveport: Resurrection bonanza with free food and prizes, April 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Pastor: Joey Ketchum.
 ■ South Bossier Baptist Church, Bossier City: Egg-Stravaganza, April 4, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. There will be thousands of eggs, jump houses, games, and much more. There will be three services Easter, April 5, 9:30 and 11 a.m. in the main building and 11 a.m. in the student building. Pastor: Randy Ziegler.
 ■ Oak Grove Baptist Church, Oak Grove: Easter Family Day at Seeker Springs, April 4, games and food 10 a.m., Easter Egg hunts 11 a.m. Pastor: Neil Wigley.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Franklinton: Easter services, April 5, 8:15, 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Keith Sheridan.
 ■ New Hope Baptist Church, Independence: Easter Sunday service, April 5, 7 a.m. Potluck style breakfast to follow service. For more information, please go to newhopebaptistindependence@gmail.com. Pastor: Darin Worthington.
 C ■ Cedar Crest Baptist Church, West Monroe: Easter at Cedar Crest, April 5, 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Pastor: Gregory Clark.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Ville Platte: Resurrection Sunday, April 5, 8 a.m. Pastor: James West.
 ■ Sandy Hill Baptist Church, Leesville: Sunrise service, April 5, 7 a.m. Pancake Breakfast will be served right after the service with all the fixings. Pastor: Sandy Guynn.
 ■ Walker Baptist Church, Walker: Second annual Car Show, April 11, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Pastor: Jason McNaughten.
 ■ North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: Pour – a Night of Worship and Testimony, April 12, 4-6 p.m. in the main worship center. Special guest: Sadie Robertson Huff. Cost: \$10. Pastor: Bill Dye.
 First Baptist Church, DeRidder: "Easter in Five Letters" This is an interactive, hands-on journey through the true meaning of Easter. Families will walk through engaging stations that tell the story of Jesus—from His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the cross, and finally the joy of the resurrection. At each stop, families will experience simple activities designed to help children and adults see, touch, and understand the Easter story together. Pastor: Nelson Santa Ana

Spring

REVIVAL

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
 487 Fellowship Road, Trout, LA 71371

APRIL 19 – 22, 2026

Sunday morning – 10:30 am
Sunday Evening- 6:00 pm
Monday – Wednesday – 6:30 pm

PASTOR: David Allen
MUSIC:
Harigil Family, Sunday pm-Tuesday
Pritchard Baptist Church- Wednesday

Prayer Time
Monday -Wednesday
at 6:00 pm