



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

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John 3:16

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Brian Blackwell photo

West CENLA GO TELL Crusade yields 527 spiritual decisions

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

LEESVILLE, La. (LBM) – A small town crusade yielded big time results for Christ during the West CENLA GO TELL AMERICA Crusade, April 12-15, in Leesville High School's Wampus Cat Stadium.

By the end of the four-day spiritual encounter, 527 persons had made decisions for Christ, including 279 individuals stepping forward to accept Christ, 151 seeking restoration with the Lord, 35 seeking God's will and two expressing a call to ministry, according to Chris Palmer, GO TELL director of ministry outreach.

See **CRUSADE**, page 6

Rick Gage, founder of GO TELL Ministries in Duluth, Ga., encouraged students who made a decisions during the final session of the West CENLA GO TELL AMERICA Crusade, held April 12-15, 2026.

Pastor's daughter leads Parkview Baptist girls' to state basketball title

St. George Leader
Special to Message

BATON ROUGE, La. (SGL) -- It's quite a story! Anna Richerson led Parkview Baptist School to two state championships and was named most valuable player in both games. But these honors are just the tip of the iceberg in the storied high school career of this amazing senior.

Her stats include 2,300 career points, 430 assists, 850 rebounds, 400 steals! Plus, she was selected to all-state and all-tournament teams. On top of that, she is a member of Parkview's state champion-

ship track and cross-country teams.

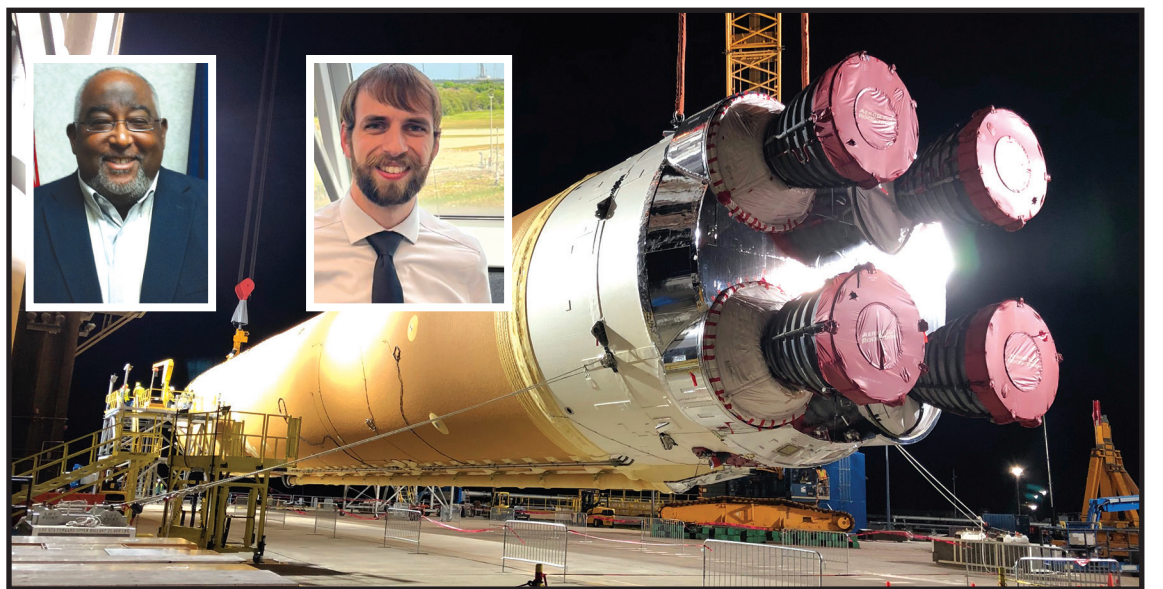
Amazingly, she does not attend Parkview. Instead, she is a homeschooler who has been permitted under LH-SAA rules to compete for the Lady Eagles.

She is the daughter of Lewis Richerson, pastor, Woodlawn Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, and his wife, Erica, and sister to four siblings.

HEAVENLY HIGHLIGHTS

Richerson has been ho-

See **RICHERSON**, page 11



Submitted photo

Clifton Arnold (inset left) and Andrew Riddle (right) were longtime contributors to the design and development of key rocket systems for the Artemis II. Arnold, before retiring in 2025 from NASA as a rocket scientist, worked on the Artemis II Core Stage that was built at Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans and later tested at the John C. Stennis Space Center, Bay St Louis, Miss. Arnold is pastor with Mechanicville Emmanuel Baptist Church and Kingdom Life Fellowship in Houma. Riddle is a NASA engineer and member of First Baptist Church, New Orleans.

Two La. Baptists had key roles in Artemis II mission

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – Two Louisiana Baptists contributed to the successful Artemis II 10-day mission, and both said that for them the lunar orbit highlighted the hand of God in creation.

Andrew Riddle, a NASA engineer and a member with First Baptist Church, New Orleans, and Clifton Arnold, a retired NASA rocket scientist as well as pastor with Mechanicville Emmanuel Baptist Church and Kingdom Life Fellowship in Houma, were long-time contributors to the

design and development of key rocket systems.

RECORD MISSION

The Artemis II crew, who launched from Florida on April 1, broke the record for the farthest

See **ARTEMIS II**, page 2

Artemis II from page one

distance humans have traveled from earth when they reached 252,756 miles. During the mission, the team documented scenes of the lunar far side that have never been seen before by the naked eye.

They also captured a total solar eclipse.

NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Christina Koch, and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen returned to earth the evening of April 10, when

they splashed down off the coast of San Diego, Calif.

JOHN RIDDLE

Riddle, who for the past six years worked for the Michoud Assembly Center in New Orleans East as a propulsion engineer on the core stage of the space launch system rocket, said his faith in the Lord infuses his appreciation of space and creation.

“I’m driven by a desire to better understand creation, like many scientists and explorers throughout history,” Riddle told the Baptist Message. “The night sky especially has always left me in awe of God’s beauty, power and majesty.”

CLIFTON ARNOLD

“Seeing the takeoff, landing and photos of the Artemis II mission is one of those moments that brings back memories of decades of hard work,” Arnold said. “A lot of peo-

ple see the end result of preparation for launch or liftoff, but a lot goes into the years of engineering development and testing before you get to that point.

“When you plan it, and it goes as planned, it’s awesome,” he continued. “It’s a great feeling to see all the work you’ve done and all the teams that you’ve led over the years get to that point of launch and landing.”

Before retiring from NASA in 2025, Arnold served as program manager with NASA Headquarters in the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance.

During his time with NASA, his involvement with Artemis II included serving as project manager for rocket propulsion testing and development, overseeing work in these areas by four NASA rocket propulsion test sites—Stennis Space Center in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, and Plum Brook Station in Sandusky, Ohio. He directed the development of rocket engine components as well as the testing of the Space Launch

System, Launch Abort System, Core Stage, Orion and Orion heat shield.

He credited his 800-member team for critical contributions to the Artemis II mission success.

“Managing and overseeing the work and ensuring that the integrity of the hardware was maintained was a very fulfilling job,” he said. “I have been truly blessed to have had a career that spans 40 years in defense and aerospace systems and was able to work with a lot of talented folks.”

NEXT GENERATION EXCITEMENT

Riddle and Arnold agreed that the moon mission has renewed interest in space among the next generation.

“I love seeing younger people get excited about this new era of exploration,” he said. “My dad grew up during the space race in the sixties, and it had a huge impact on him which was transferred to me. Getting to be a part of it now and knowing that kids like my dad are growing up right now seeing what I work on is

See ARTEMIS II, page 8

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APOLOGETICS 101 (Part 4):

Proof of the Tower of Babel

By Will Hall
 Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – In the beginning, God commanded that Adam and Eve, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; ...” (Genesis 1:28), and He repeated this charge to Noah and his family after their deliverance from the watery death that the rest of the world experienced (Genesis 9:1).

But a mere 100 to 350 years after the global calamity caused by the Great Flood, and while mankind was only starting to repopulate the earth, men and women convinced themselves to stop their expansion across the globe and to settle down in one place to “build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens,” choosing to “make a name” for themselves rather than continue to “be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11:4).

However, this biblical account about the history of mankind has largely been disputed by scholars and archaeologists, especially during the better part of the 19th and 20th centuries.

But today critics will concede at least some nuanced agreement with some elements of this historical account because of the discovery of many tower-like structures, stepped-pyramids called ziggurats, beginning with excavations in Ur (southern Iraq) in the 1850s. Other similar structures have since been found throughout Iran and Iraq, with the oldest discovered in the Sumerian city of Eridu (southwest of Ur).

Moreover, in just the last decade, researchers were given access to a privately owned tablet (dating back to the 6th century B.C. and found just 100 years ago) that showed a picture of a ziggurat with the label “the temple tower of the city of Babylon” and it was tied to a rebuilding effort by Nebuchadnezzar II.

Regardless, the “experts” argue about which of these ancient structures is the ac-

tual tower mentioned in the Bible, and they still insult the biblical account as fable.

However, all that criticism has been rendered moot by the most compelling discovery of all – not about anything man has made, but empirical evidence about the actions God took in response to man’s disobedience.

God said, “let Us go down, and there confuse their language” and He scattered them “over the face of the earth” (Genesis 11:7-8).

The idea of a rapid expansion of many very different languages baffles evolutionists. Yet, the biblical account of a linguistic explosion of sorts is what is evidenced in human records.

In 2011, Nature published a study that challenged evolutionists’ beliefs about language development. Looking for common patterns among languages, researchers analyzed grammatical rules of “word order” among different language groups, hoping to find similarities that would allow them to construct a linguistic “evolu-

tionary tree.” Instead, they discovered that word order patterns were “lineage-specific rather than universal,” meaning word order patterns were random for each language and not consistent across languages.

So, no “evolutionary tree” of language -- which is a critical point.

According to evolution’s logic, language developed in order to allow humans to communicate with each other. So, the sudden growth of many different languages and the resulting confusion – not ease of communication -- among members of the same species does not make evolutionary sense.

Meanwhile, scientific evidence also indicates that significant global population movements—dispersions—happened approximately 4,000 years ago (the same time as the Tower of Babel scattering):

-- Around that time, key urban areas in Mesopotamia were suddenly abandoned, and genetic studies indicate the people migrated to Egypt.

-- Research also indicates that about the same time migrants from India entered Australia, and groups from Siberia dispersed across Arctic Canada and into Greenland.

-- Moreover, a Harvard study published by Nature in 2025 found that a population of Bronze Age nomads gave birth to just under half of global languages (from Russia and Ukraine through

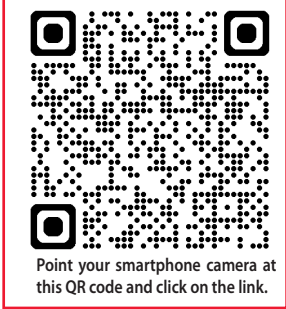
northern India to most of Europe).

Regardless, proving the truthfulness of Scripture should not alter the strength of one’s faith in what is not seen.

Instead, believers should read about the punishment of mankind’s rebellion at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) and note that God revealed His plan to save the world in the next passage (Genesis 12).

Finally, God used confusion by language to disperse people from Babel. However, at Pentecost He used language to draw men to Him if they had receptive hearts. Moreover, He continues to use this same means (the person of Jesus) and this same method (hearing of the Word and receiving it in faith) to offer salvation to the world today.

Read the 12-part series “Evangelism 101” on BaptistMessage.com.



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Troy Gause: Raised from the dead

By Staff

North American Mission Board

MARRERO, La. (NAMB) - Church business meetings are not normally fertile ground for happy accidents.

But Ames Boulevard Baptist Church's tiny remnant of elderly members unintentionally set a miracle in motion when they voted to hire Troy Gause to mow their grass.

Every year, 700-800 Southern Baptist Convention churches cease to exist.

"That's how I got to know the church," Gause said. "I started taking care of their property and learned how they'd dwindled down to just a few faithful members. They were probably just a couple months away from closing their doors."

When longtime Ames members like Linda Morrow realized "Troy Gause,



Submitted photo

Troy Gause planted a church in New Orleans that merged with Ames Boulevard Baptist Church in Marrero and replanted the blended congregation as Cross Community Church at Ames in 2023.

landscaper" was also "Troy Gause, church planting missionary," they began to pray.

"He'd just started a church but needed a place

to meet," she said. "When we met, it was so clear God was putting us together to replant something new."

Now, the sign out front says Cross Community

Church, and the name is not the only thing that's changed.

"There's life back in this building," Gause said. "Baptisms are happening, salvations are happening, and this church has been raised from the dead."

Prayers on multiple fronts are requested for Gause and Cross Community Church:

- Humility and understanding as members of Cross Community Church face change;

- The new believers Gause has baptized to grow in their faith; and

- Growth and a gospel witness that the surrounding community will see and be drawn to.

Gause and Cross Community Church were featured in an article about the 2026 Week of Prayer for North American Missions. The week of prayer was held March 1-8, but churches are asked to pray for them regularly during 2026.

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Louisiana Baptists invited to pray for Gospel harvest

By Brian Blackwell

Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) - Send Network Louisiana has launched an effort that invites Louisiana Baptists to pray for at least 1 percent of those in the state who do not know Jesus to be reached with

the Gospel over the next decade.

Based on Luke 10:2 which asks the Lord to send out workers into the harvest, the emphasis encourages Louisiana Baptists to set their alarm for 10:02 a.m. or p.m. and

See PRAY, page 13

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Freedom behind bars: twelve inmates baptized

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

WINNSBORO, La. (LBM) – A spiritual awakening is taking place inside Franklin Parish Detention Center, with 12 incarcerated men celebrating freedom in Christ through baptism on April 12.

Each of the inmates, who are serving sentences ranging from six months to 10 years, were met with cheers as the men individually emerged from the water in a horse trough during a worship service.

Cary Collier, a member with Friendship Baptist Church, Baskin, said watching the men step in and out of the water was a powerful reminder that no wall can stop the reach of God's grace.

"There is no greater joy

than seeing new creations emerge, chains broken and lives changed forever behind those bars," Collier told the *Baptist Message*. "Praise God for His Amazing Grace and Mercy. We've had the opportunity to witness these moments at the prison with over 100 inmates, and it gets sweeter and sweeter."

The baptisms took place six days after the inmates turned to Christ during a worship service attended by 55 inside the detention center. Collier said once they began praying and singing the song "Amazing Grace," the Holy Spirit moved among the inmates, prompting 19 of them to accept Jesus.

Since the church be-



Submitted photo

Sen. Rick Edmonds (retired LBC pastor; current pastor, FBC McComb, Miss.) was joined by fellow Louisiana Baptist, Sen. Stewart Cathey (FBC West Monroe) and three other Christian lawmakers, Sen. Heather Cloud (One Life Church, Alexandria), Sen. Valerie Hodges (LionGate Church, Baton Rouge) and Sen. Gregory Miller (St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Destrehan) to celebrate Senate Resolution 52, that commends "the Intercessors for America for their Spiritual Heritage Project and to acknowledge Almighty God as the Author of liberty on the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of these United States of America," authored by Edmonds. FRONT (L-R): Sen. Cathey (District 33), Sen. Cloud (District 28), Sen. Hodges (District 13), Sen. Edmonds (District 6) and Sen. Miller (District 19). BACK (L-R): Sabrina Racer (treasurer, Ouachita Parish Women's Republican Club), Katy Smith (founder, ReJOYce Ministries), Janie Harris (co-leader, Intercessors for America Louisiana) and Paige Hoffpauir (realtor, Shreveport).

See FREEDOM, page 16

Work. It. Out.

How are you doing on those resolutions you made in January?

If one of those resolutions involved exercise, you probably experienced some soreness from using muscles you may not have used in a while.

Obedience can sometimes feel like an underused or infrequently used muscle. When God's Spirit prompts us to be obedient, especially in the area of finances, it's not unusual to experience some discomfort. We're not used to tithing. We're not used to staying within a budget. We don't enjoy saying no to a purchase when

we're used to saying yes – even if we really couldn't afford it.

The benefit of exercising the "obedience muscle" in our finances, is it begins to affect other areas of our lives. We begin telling our money where to go rather than letting our desires do the talking. This in turn develops our witness, grows us in spiritual maturity, and increases our generosity towards the Kingdom.

One of the more important aspects of financial discipleship is learning how to make giving, saving, and spending decisions with obedience.

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To learn more about Biblical stewardship and financial discipleship, visit LouisianaBaptists.org/stewardship or contact Rhea Fix at rhea@compassfinancialministry.org. 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.



Crusade from page one

Other commitments were made away from the four-night services but are part of the GO TELL community strategy. They included:

- 13 at a pre-crusade rally at Family Training Christian Academy, Leesville, March 28;
- 10 during morning services at First Baptist Church, Anacoco, and five at Good Hope Baptist Church, Anacoco, April 12;
- 100 at men's and

women's detention centers in Vernon Parish, April 13-14; and

-- 50 at Family Training Christian Academy, April 14.

"The fruit that we witnessed is the result of the strong leadership and the preparation of all the hundreds of volunteers," Evangelist Rick Gage, founder of GO TELL Ministries in Duluth, Georgia, told the Baptist Message. "It was a work of God. We had

been praying and working toward this effort for over a year.

"What took place this week in Vernon Parish is the heartbeat of God," he continued. "We believe there is nothing more dear to God's heart than the salvation of sinners."

The crusade featured Gospel messages by Gage and two other evangelists, Ken Freeman and Tony Nolan. Additionally, testimonies were shared by Pro Football Hall of Famer Kevin Mawae (a Leesville native); Fort Polk Post Command Sgt. Major Oracio Pena, USA; Lt. Gen. Jerry Boykin USA (Ret.), a former member of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command; and Louisiana Christian University President Mark Johnson. Meanwhile, award-winning Christian band Rush of Fools shared about Christ through music.

As part of the outreach effort, Freeman presented a character development program, "On Track," in 13 local schools while Palmer spoke in two schools, reaching 4,000 students, combined.

PREPARED

More than 500 people were trained to serve as crusade ushers, and decision and follow-up

counselors. Organizers also recruited 130 prayer warriors who gathered for five months before the crusade inside homes, churches and at Wampus Cat Stadium.

"It was neat to see how they were devoted and how they remain motivated to keep seeking the Lord," said Chad King, GO TELL Crusade coordinator and pastor to First Baptist Church, Anacoco. "One of the primary reasons this campaign was so successful is because so many people were praying."

King said that God moved "mightily" among the 52 churches that included Louisiana Baptist, Independent Baptist, Assembly of God, Pentecostal and non-denominational congregations.

"There was no doubt God was stirring in the hearts and lives of people," he said. "And while we had so many who were saved, the crusade wasn't just evangelistic. We saw lives changed of people that have been involved in church and church ministry for a long time and yet allowed things from the past to interfere with their relationship with God. By the end of the week, they saw that restored."

"It was good to see that Christ followers were willing to work together

and serve together and not be in a competition with each other," King added. "This was just a wonderful week that was prepared, organized, and, no doubt, just bathed in prayer for weeks and weeks before the event."

CHANGED

Among the many "God moments" King witnessed throughout the week was when a trustee with the Vernon Parish Jail became a Christ follower while setting up the crusade stage on April 11. After the crusade team had a time of prayer at Wampus Cat Stadium, a trustee began asking questions about why they prayed and the purpose of the event. Moments later, the trustee placed his faith in Christ and has asked to be baptized soon.

Other special moments included a man, whom his church had prayed for during the last 25 years, who came to Christ during the Monday evening session; and a family of eight in King's church all accepted Christ during the final session.

"There are so many stories of how God moved," King said. "We are thankful for what God did in so many lives and what He will do through this."

For Dale Albritton, a deacon with Simpson Baptist Church, the highlight was when his friend, Jeff, accepted Christ during the Monday evening session. He said it is a reminder that a person should never give up that his or her friend will come to faith in Jesus.

"We have worked many

See CRUSADE, page 8



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RA ministry molds young boys into godly men, connects dads

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

LAFAYETTE, La. (LBM) – Young boys with First Baptist Church, Lafayette, spend many Wednesday evenings honing their campcraft and other life skills during their weekly Royal Ambassador meetings.

But more importantly, their leaders are molding them into young men who will impact the world for Christ.

“We do teach them skills that every man needs to know, but we also want them to know how they can be focused on missions,” RA leader and state consultant Steven Ancelet told the Baptist Message. “We try to bring missionaries in on occasion to our regular weekly meetings and give them another taste of what is happening with missions; and they gain deep appreciation for how they can share the Gospel in the state and around the world while also using skills they learn in RAs to serve others.”

RAs is a Southern Baptist missions discipleship program for first through sixth grade boys that is focused on cultivating a biblical worldview, character development, and a lifestyle of sharing Christ. Based on 2 Corinthians 5:20, the core message is that boys are “Ambassa-

dors for Christ” tasked with representing Him.

Ancelet, who has taught RAs for 20 years with FBC Lafayette, said leaders have been instrumental in shaping the lives of young men and helping the organization grow statewide. He knows of at least 30 churches that have active RA programs.

FBC Lafayette hosts between 50 and 60 boys and 20 leaders every Wednesday night.

“We have men who have been running their race and living godly lives who pour into the young men,” Ancelet said. “Some of these boys don’t have manly figures in their lives, and when they come to interact with these men they leave so encouraged.”

Furthermore, some of the leaders have become involved in other ministries with FBC Lafayette such as men’s ministry events.

“The men will form a bond with one another and then they want to impact

others in the church,” he said. “Some of the men have not really been that active in church before but they see how the other

See RA, page 13

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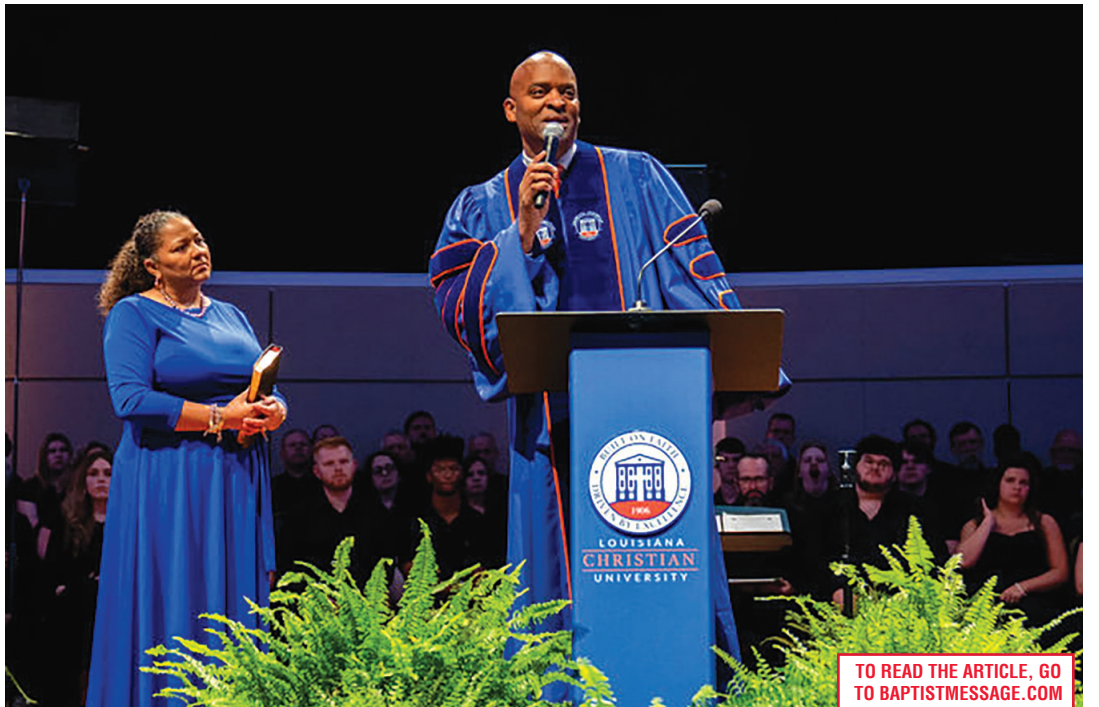
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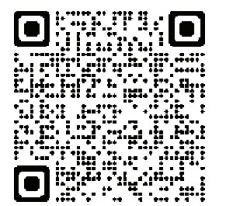
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Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Christian University celebrated the inauguration of Mark Johnson as its 10th president with a special ceremony on March 26. The event, held inside Guinn Auditorium, emphasized the importance of faith, family, business partnerships and educational excellence in shaping LCU’s future. Throughout the two-hour ceremony, Johnson’s vision for the school was echoed through speeches, prayers and music. To read the article, go to baptistmessage.com.

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Crusade from page 6

together many years and to witness him humbly go forward and recognize a need of what has been missing in his life was a blessing," Albritton said. "If you know a person who needs Jesus in their life, don't stop praying for them and keep spreading the seed. It may not be meant for you to lead that

person to Christ, but God will give the increase at the right time."

Wade Harris, pastor to Toledo Bend First Baptist Church, left encouraged after providing spiritual counsel to several students who came forward to make decisions for Christ.

"I was excited for them

to make the decision to accept Jesus as their Savior at a young age," he said. "I believe that children and young people coming to Christ at an early age will help our country turn back to God and again be the light in a darkened world.

"Their salvation will help them as they face temptation and peer pressure in school and early adulthood," he continued. "With these young peo-

ple's salvation, America can see revival through godly young men and women taking a stand for what is right."

The crusade brought back memories for Darin Worthington, pastor to First Baptist Church, Leesville, of one he attended as a student in Virginia in 1988. As he surveyed the Leesville High School football field, Worthington was overcome with joy about the

multitudes of new believers standing together. "It brought tears to my eyes," he said. "This is the most full I have seen our football stadium in Leesville during the four years I have been pastor in this community. As a community, this crusade really brought us together and we had no agenda except to see people come to Christ. I'm excited about what God is going to do in the future."

Artemis II from page 2

super humbling. I try to give back when I can." Arnold said he is excited about how young people will be involved with future NASA missions. "NASA is encouraging the next generations of future explorers," Arnold said. "When you look up in the night sky, you may wonder 'What's really there?' 'How far away is that star?' and 'Can we really reach out and get into space?'" "So," he added, "I think the earlier you can engage young people, the more they start to take the right and necessary courses in school to prepare them for future tasks with space." Arnold said Christ followers should not shy away from scientific endeavors, but instead should embrace the opportunities God has allowed them to explore the universe.

"NASA was one of the greatest jobs I had because during the week I was exploring and explaining God's creation," he said. "And then on Sunday, I get to teach about who created those things, and to emphasize our relationship with God and with Christ."

"As Southern Baptist churches and schools, it's imperative that we maintain that we can be both," he continued. "We can be scientists and we can be faithful believers, and there is no contradiction in either one of those because Genesis tells us what was created and how He created it."

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FBC Mandeville holds Bible reading marathon

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

MANDEVILLE, La. (LBM) – More than 150 staff and members of First Baptist Church, Mandeville, gathered inside the worship center to read all the way through the Bible during the last weekend in March, according to congregational sources.

Held for the second year, “Our Eyes on your Word” began at the end of the congregation’s Wednesday midweek worship, March 25, and concluded Sunday morning, March 29.

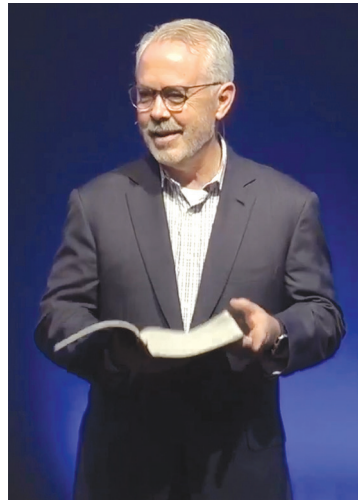
Men, women, boys and girls of all ages took a block of assigned passages and read them aloud for an hour at a time around the clock. Pastor Ronny Cooksey read three times during the marathon: Genesis 1-2 to kick off the event, Ezekiel at 3 a.m. on Saturday, March 28,

and Revelation 22 during the second worship service Sunday morning. The church live streamed the entire event so members and others could tune in and be encouraged any hour of the day.

Cooksey said the 78-hour event was “low budget but highly engaging.”

“It wasn’t very flashy, yet was so fun,” Cooksey told the Baptist Message. “On the one hand, it’s about lifting up the Lord’s Word and devoting a weekend to just elevating His Word. And then we had a team accomplishment feeling, where long-time and even new members came together for a fun event.

“When I announced the event last year, I wondered if there would be enough interest,” he continued. “To my joy, the response was much better than I could have hoped. Everyone loved it and wanted to



Pastor Ronny Cooksey read Revelation 22 on March 29 to close out a 78-hour Bible marathon at First Baptist Church, Mandeville. Held for the second year, “Our Eyes on your Word” began at the end of their Wednesday Mid-Week Worship on March 25, and concluded Sunday morning, March 29.

do it again this year.”

Event Coordinator Clint Caughman, a layman who works in logistics for the Marines, read 20 chapters of Genesis and then again with his daughter, Kallie,

from various chapters in Matthew and Mark.

“It’s a great event that everyone seems to enjoy,” he said. “No matter what people end up reading, they all have a unique and meaningful experience.”

Event Assistant Organizer and Church Administrative Assistant Melinda Brodt read from 1 Samuel 20.

“Hearing and proclaiming God’s entire Word aloud as a church family was remarkable,” she said. “Watching the very young to the more seasoned join together to read truth out loud was so very encouraging, a privilege not to be taken for granted,” she said. “All glory to God.”

Mike Bergeron, FBCM associate pastor, added “From my perspective as one of our pastors, working behind the scenes in preparation for this ministry effort is as exhilarating as it is humbling. To see

members of our church family from across every demographic enthusiastically come forward to read aloud from God’s perfect, complete, inerrant Word for an hour around the clock for days on end was most encouraging.

“Witnessing their solemnness intertwined with joy while reading, often alone in the worship center, I became more and more aware of their genuine desire to commune with our Heavenly Father more deeply through reading His Word back to Him,” he continued. “From a personal perspective as one of the readers, while reading His Word aloud in an otherwise empty sanctuary, I experienced a total absorption, an immersion, a unique nearness to our God similar in personal impact and effect to that which is experienced in times of deep prayer and fasting.”

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LSU BCM students spend spring break on mission

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (LBM) – Sixty-three members of the LSU Baptist Collegiate Ministry took trips to Florida, Hawaii, Utah and the country of Columbia over the spring break to offer the gift of salvation.

During the March 6-15 evangelistic outreaches, they witnessed a mighty movement of the Holy Spirit in a variety of ministry opportunities in which they participated, according to LSU BCM Director Blake Grundy.

By the end of the mission trips, the teams collectively engaged in 731 Gospel conversations and saw 71 of those come to faith in Christ.

IMPACTFUL

Forty-two students



Submitted photo

Students from the Louisiana State University Baptist Collegiate Ministry spent their spring break sharing the Gospel in Florida, Hawaii, Utah and the country of Columbia and collectively engaged in 731 Gospel conversations and saw 71 persons come to faith in Christ.

traveled to Honolulu to assist students from the BCM with the University of Hawaii-Manoa with evangelism, yard work at a conference center of a local church and property maintenance at Pu'u Kahea Conference Center in Waianae (the Hawaii

Pacific Baptist Convention's camp).

Another 15 students traveled to Panama City, Florida, to share the Gospel with individuals along the beach. Additionally, four students shared the Gospel to Mormons in Utah and two others assisted with a

marriage retreat in Columbia.

Grundy led the team in Panama City and was inspired by students who went from apprehensive about sharing their faith to leading tourists to a relationship with the Lord.

"Some students who are really good at outreach and sharing their faith on campus were shy at first in Panama City," he said. "They felt there were not gifted in witnessing to someone, but what they learned is that they're able.

"They learned how to share their story and stepped out of their comfort zone," he continued. "It's a good lesson that we all should not be afraid to not do the most comfortable thing but instead be obedient and see what the Lord does."

Larkin Harris, minister of college students and senior adults at First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, has

led students on a mission trip to Hawaii for the past 15 years (though the LSU BCM team did not go to Hawaii during COVID).

When Harris led his first trip there, just 1 percent of students on the campus of the UH-Manoa professed to follow Christ and when they returned this year that number had increased to 3 percent. Harris said he was encouraged by the continuous bold witness of the UH-Manoa students who have continued to share Christ even after the LSU BCM teams returned to their respective campuses each year.

"This generation from Hawaii to Baton Rouge and beyond has a love of serving others and being very evangelistic," he said. "God is working in the lives of students as He opens their hearts and minds to Him.

See MISSIONS, page 12



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Richerson from page one

homeschooled her entire life and completed her junior and senior years as a dual enrollment student with Northwestern State University.

She developed a passion for both basketball and serving Christ at a young age, she said, noting that her love for basketball began through Woodlawn's Upward Basketball program, which taught her the game. Today she enjoys giving back to the ministry by serving as both a coach and referee for younger players.

Those same passions have shaped much of her life and service, Richerson told the St. George Leader. Through her church she has participated in mission efforts in India, Nepal, and Canada, as well as in Baton Rouge, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Vermont, and Washington, D.C. She also has helped lead Vacation Bible Schools and basketball camps as opportunities to share the Gospel and serve others.

Meanwhile, she is active in Woodlawn's student ministry.

Richerson said she plans to attend Loyola University New Orleans, where she has received a full athletic scholarship to play basketball, and she intends to major in nursing.

Meanwhile, she said, in her free time she enjoys spending time with her family.



LHSAA allowed homeschooler Anna Richerson to play sports for Parkview Baptist School, and she led the Lady Eagles to back-to-back basketball state titles while earning a pair of MVP awards.

Above all, Richerson said her greatest desire is to faithfully follow Christ and one day be a godly wife and mother, adopting Romans 1:16-17 as her life verse.

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"

Cate excited to help churches make disciples

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Matt Cate, discipleship pastor with Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, has been tasked with a new mission: to champion discipleship on a state-wide level.

Cate, whose first day as Louisiana Baptist Sunday school/discipleship strategist was April 20, said he is excited to work with churches toward the goal of helping others become disciples and then in turn make disciples.

"My philosophy of discipleship is pretty much Matthew 5 to 10, where Jesus reached large groups with the Sermon on the Mount, and then also smaller groups with His disciples," Cate told the *Baptist Message*. "One of the parts we often look over in discipleship is that Jesus eventually



Submitted photo

Matt Cate assumed his new role as Louisiana Baptist Sunday school/discipleship strategist on April 20. Cate, in the middle of the photograph, and his family: Drew, Whitney (wife), Allison and Dylan.

sends them out. And I am going to help Louisiana Baptists accomplish that."

The son of an Air

Force master sergeant, Cate moved with his family around the country as

See CATE, page 16

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Missions from page 10

“It was cool to see the students from our BCM share the Gospel with others and be there when some of them accepted Christ,” he continued. “That made the trip such a fun one.”

IMPACTED

Connor Chnowski used a wooden hammerhead shark he bought while in Hawaii to lead Isa, a fellow airplane passenger seated next to him, to Christ while on the team’s return flight.

Initially, the two men shared about their lives and then Isa fell asleep. When Isa woke up, he noticed Chnowski was reading his Bible. That led to a Gospel conversation and Isa accepting Christ.

Chnowski used a wristband he received from his church, Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge,

that contained four symbols representing a part of the Gospel story: heart (God’s love for mankind), division sign (sin and the divide from God), cross (Jesus dying on it for our sins) and question mark (the opportunity to ask if a person knows Christ as their Savior).

“Usually, I like to keep to myself on planes because I don’t want to disturb anybody, but on this plane, I just felt kind of called to talk to him,” he said. “The shark ended up being something that broke the ice and led into a conversation about Jesus.

“When I was buying that shark, it didn’t cross my mind that this would be a great way to share the Gospel,” he said. “I never would have imagined it would be something the Lord would use to lead another person to

Him.”

LSU BCM Vice President Molly Harris said God’s sovereignty was evident throughout her trip to Hawaii.

Going into the trip, she was nervous about how her group would serve alongside the members of the UH-Manoa BCM. Yet, God used them mightily, she said, including reaching three campuses who had never been reached by the UH BCM before.

Harris’ most memorable moment was when she conducted a spiritual life survey with a woman named Charity.

“When we got to the question in our spiritual life survey that asked, ‘If you could ask God any question, what would it be?’ she shared that when she had lost her daughter at birth 14 years ago, she left her faith at that time in her life.

“Since then, she has started to explore and

return to her faith,” she continued. “We were able to sit there with her, cry with her, encourage her in her faith journey and pray with her.

“While she didn’t profess Christ as her Lord and Savior in that moment, we were able to pass her information on to a local church that will reach out and connect with her,” she said. “This ultimately goes to show God’s plan overall because despite my initial reservations, if we hadn’t had brought a large group, we wouldn’t have been able to go to these unreached campuses, and I wouldn’t have been able to meet Charity.”

Chloe Delahoussaye said a conversation with a girl named Ava reminded her of how the Lord allows others to accomplish things for His Kingdom. During a conversation with Ava, Delahoussaye learned she had questioned her salvation just a few days before. But

through that, Delahoussaye was able to reassure Ava that she was a child of God.

“The Lord was able to reach Ava through me,” she said. “After our conversation, she texted me thanking me for everything and how much our conversation meant to her. It really encouraged me to continue to walk in obedience and share my faith.”

Ever since that moment, Delahoussaye has remained “on fire” for Jesus.

“My heart breaks for the lost and I can’t help but go tell people about Jesus on campus,” she said. “My prayer life is so consistent because I was truly able to see the power of prayer and that was a huge struggle for me. I want my fire to stay lit and to continue to pursue the Lord wholeheartedly.

“Your circumstances don’t determine God’s power,” she continued. “He can use you through every season.”

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PRAY from page 4

pray during that time for workers to be sent into the harvest and for those who do not know Christ to be reached.

“This is a God-sized goal,” Louisiana Baptist Church Planting Strategist Jacob Crawford told the *Baptist Message*. “And the truth is, ‘unless the Lord builds the

house, the laborers labor in vain.’

“I think one of the things that God has really been dealing with us about is, or convicting, at least, me personally, about, is that we can strategize all day long,” he said. “We can have all these plans that look amazing on paper, but if God’s not in it, it

RA from page 7

boys are impacted and how their dads are too. That then leads them to want to step up and give back. It’s been a good gateway to get some of these guys in and just get them a little more involved in church ministries.”

Among those men who have become more connected to the church through RAs is Graham Kohlhagen.

Shortly after he began teaching RAs in 2024, Kohlhagen started leading his Sunday school class’s home visitation efforts.

“RAs helped boost my confidence to get more involved,” he said. “I saw the blessings I got because of leading RAs and when other opportunities arose, I felt led to jump into it.

National RA Consultant Keith Gates, a member with First Baptist Church, Winfield, noted that RAs has impacted lives across the globe.

“I speak with guys all over the nation and even the world who were RAs as kids who are now doing great things for the Lord,” Gates said. “Last year during the Southern Baptist Convention, a man came up to me and shared how RAs helped him during a hard home life as a boy. He won a contest in RAs that included an opportunity to preach as his state convention in the Midwest, and today he is a pastor. There is no telling how many lives God has changed through him because of his start as an RA.

“To know that God has used this program to impact millions of lives for His kingdom and His gospel is rewarding,” he said. “And we are excited about the future because RAs still impacts the Kingdom.”

Contact Ancelet via 337.280.5472 for more RA information.

will mean nothing.”

GOSPEL VISION

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

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

Since the partnership began in the fall of 2023, the new church plants that currently receive Cooperative Program funding through the North American Mission Board and Louisiana Baptist

missions and ministries team, have reported, collectively:

1,221 salvation decisions, 793 baptisms and more than 22,089 Gospel conversations.

“When you look throughout history at movements of God, there’s never been a movement apart from prayer,” he said. “When you look at the number of churches that are on the verge of closing, when you look at churches who are without pastors, when you look at the lack of church planters, and when you look at the lack of disciple makers, we have got to pray and ask God to do

what only God can do.

“The premise of it all is that we’ve got to call on the name of Jesus,” he continued. “We’ve got to call out to the Father. We want to mobilize people to start prayer groups and for people to pray with their friends. And it can be as simple as setting your alarm to 10:02 every day and praying that one God would send laborers and give us an opportunity to share the Gospel.”

For more information, visit LouisianaBaptists.org/pray1002.

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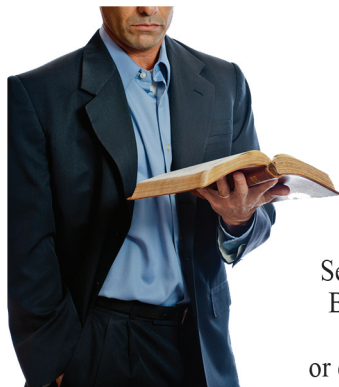
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EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Baptist Message provides churches an opportunity to share with other Louisiana Baptists an upcoming revival, homecoming, new pastor, new staff member, a community outreach, or a concert in Louisiana Notables. To place your event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

ON THE MOVE

- Matt, wife Whitney, Cate, discipleship pastor with Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, is the new Louisiana Baptist Sunday school/discipleship strategist. He began on April 20.
- Gene Gibson is the new pastor at Beech Springs Baptist Church, Minden.
- Mickey Christy is the pastor at Gardiner Baptist Church, Gardner.
- Mike Schultz is the new senior pastor at Woodland Park Baptist Church, Hammond.
- Chuck Foy is the new pastor at Aimwell Baptist Church, Aimwell.
- Clayton, wife Gracie, Bryan is the new pastor at Cheniere Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- Britney Allen is new minister to children and families at First Baptist, Ponchatoula.

HOMECOMING

- Centerville Baptist Church, St. Landry: 100th Anniversary Celebration, July 26, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship service 10:30 a.m. with dinner on the grounds to follow. Pastor: Jacob Guillory.

REVIVAL

- Bethel Baptist Church, Bastrop: Spring Revival, April 26-29, Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Evangelist: Neal Clark. Worship: Richard Ainsworth. A nursery will be provided for all services. Pastor: Tim Post.
- Poland Baptist Church, Alexandria: Spring Revival, April 26-29, Sunday 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Evangelist: Lewis Richerson. Worship: Dalton Tam. Pastor: Gary Richerson.
- Hunter Magnolia Baptist Church, Mansfield: Spring Revival, May 3-6. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Amador Santos.
- Pine Ridge Baptist Church, DeRidder: Spring Revival, May 3-6. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Worship: The Mackey Willis Family.
- Palestine Baptist Church, Fairview: Harvest Sunday, May 10. Evangelist: Mackey Willis. Worship: The Mackey Willis Family.
- Arkadelphia Baptist Church, Grant: Spring revival, May 8-10. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Andrew Johnson.
- Aimoch Baptist Church, Aimwell: Spring revival, May 13-17. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: None.

- First Baptist Church, Robeline: Spring Revival, May 16-28. Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor: Brian Ray.
- Coldwater Baptist Church, Natchitoches: Spring Revival, May 17-20. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Timothy Leach.
- Little Pass Baptist Church, Charenton: Spring Revival, May 17-20. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Chris Holloway.
- Topsy Baptist Church, Gillis: Spring Revival, May 17-20. Evangelist: Wayne Jones and Charlie Carroll. Worship: The Mackey Willis Family. Pastor: Glenn George.
- Southside Baptist Church, Mansfield: Annual Bible Conference, May 25-27. Evangelist: Sam Moore, Mike Courtney, Pastor: None.
- The New Beginnings, Walker: Revival, May 24-27. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Charles Smith.
- Southside Baptist Church, Jonesboro: Revival, May 31- June 3. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Wesley Venable.
- Brushy Creek Baptist Church, Merryville: Spring Revival. May 31-June 3. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Worship: 11th Hour. Pastor: Mike Streams.

LAGNIAPPE

- Roland Fontenot, Sr., a retired pastor of 30 years, is available for pulpit supply and revivals in the New Iberia area. If interested or for more information, call 337.373.0532 or email Born-2preach2000@Fox.net.
- Cotile Baptist Church, Boyce: Men's Conference (Iron Sharpens Iron), April 25, 6 p.m. A meal will be at 5 p.m. For more information, call 318.664.5152. Pastor: Robert McLane.
- North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: The Charity Gayle Rejoice Tour! With special guest Ryan Kennedy, April 29, 7 p.m. For tickets please go online to <https://tinyurl.com/CharityGayleRejoice>. Pastor: Bill Dye.
- 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.
- First Baptist Church, Youngsville: Revival Weekend, May 1-3, Friday, 6:30 p.m. speaker Dusty Durbin, Saturday, 6:30 p.m., speaker Ray Swift and Sunday, 10:30 a.m., speaker Beau Guidry with lunch Sunday's worship service. Pastor: Chris Fuselier.
- Harmony Cove Baptist Church, Florien: The Southern Plainsmen in concert, May 2, 5:30 p.m. Pastor: David Martinez.
- Goldonna Baptist Church, Goldonna: Rise Up Weekend, May 2, 11:30 a.m., Sunday 10:30 a.m. Open to youth grades 7-12. Powerful worship, Casual dress, meals will be provided. Worship: Jason Lovins Band. Guests are welcome. For more information contact, Shannon Thompson at 318.623.0477. Pastor: Ben Dupree.
- Toledo Bend Baptist Resort Ministries, Zwolle: 21st annual children's fishing derby, May 2, 9 a.m. until noon. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at

- the San Miguel Park Pavilion. Bring your pole and baits. For children 3-17, pre-school children must have a parent present while school age children must have an adult per five children. Director: Mary Gore.
- Zwolle Baptist Church, Zwolle: Second Annual Bass Tournament, May 2 at safe light. For information contact the church at 318.645.4492. Pastor: Marty Williams.
- First Baptist Church, Lecompte: Ben Waites in concert, May 3 at 9:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.
- Willow Point Baptist Church, Shreveport: Kyle Williams, World Recovery, LLC pulpit supply, May 3, 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Kenneth Joyner.
- North Shreve Baptist Church, Shreveport: The Southern Plainsmen in concert, May 3, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Cecil Marr.
- Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs: Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert, May 3, 11 a.m. Pastor: Travis Cronan.
- Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Homer: Annual Memorial Day Celebration, May 9, 11 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall. Speaker: Thomas McRae. Please join us in worship, celebration and fellowship. Bring your favorite covered dish or dessert. Meats and beverages will be provided. Pastor: Chris Stephens.
- Longstreet Baptist Church, Longstreet: Kyle Williams, World Recovery, LLC pulpit supply, May 10, 11 a.m. Pastor: Pascal Stowell.
- District Eight Missions, Natchitoches: Annual 38th Adult Day, May 14, 10 a.m.-noon with lunch to follow at Clara Springs Camp. Blake Brothers will be in concert. Please RSVP to 318.352.4090 or

- email office@districteightmissions.com. DOM: Jack Bell.
- Longstreet Baptist Church, Longstreet: Kyle Williams, World Recovery, LLC pulpit supply, May 17, 11 a.m. Pastor: Pascal Stowell.
- Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Independence: Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert, May 17, 11 a.m. Pastor: Chris Hoyt.
- First Baptist Church, Lone Pine, St. Landry: The Southern Plainsmen in concert, May 22, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received. Pastor: Brandon Hood.
- Gravel Hill Baptist Church, Pitkin: Jonathanandjongideoncausey in concert, May 23, 6 p.m. Pastor: Chad Estes.
- Longleaf Baptist Church, Longleaf: The Southern Plainsmen Quartet in concert, May 23, 5 p.m. A love offering will be received Pastor: Brian Jordan.
- Cloverdale Baptist Church, Alexandria: The Southern Plainsmen in concert, May 24, 6 p.m. Pastor: Dennis Snoddy.
- Elizabeth Baptist Church, Elizabeth: Jonathanandjongideoncausey in concert, June 5, 6 p.m. Pastor: Jason Hazelton.
- Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill: Jonathanandjongideoncausey in concert, June 6, 6 p.m. Pastor: Mike Evans.
- First Baptist Church, Central: The Southern Plainsmen in concert, June 6, 5:30 p.m. Pastor: Daryl Purpera.
- Parkview Baptist Church, Alexandria: Tribute Quartet's FOREVER Tour, June 13, 6 p.m. Multi-Dove Award nominated, Tribute, shares an evening of inspiration and songs from their latest recordings. Pastor: David Shaw.

IN MEMORIAM

- FARMERVILLE, La. — James H.

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.

upzjrpi, upzyprp wjv prpqk gnyqyv, ubv vqk
 vep gnyqyvg mepvepq vepk hqp jx tji: uplhbgbp
 shwk xhzgp nqjnepvg hqp tjwp jbv ywvj vep
 mjqzi.
 xyqgv ojew xjbq:jwp

Clues:
 J = O; N = P

Answer to March 26, Scripture Crypto:
 Acts twelve:five

Freedom from page 5

gan ministering inside the detention center in 2023, they have seen 170 inmates come to Christ.

Every other Tuesday evening, seven members will pray with the inmates, lead in song and share the Gospel with them. Additionally, the church provides Bibles and other literature to help the men grow in faith.

The church team members also disciple the inmates by encouraging inmates to attend small group Bible study; and they distribute literature to new believers.

“These individuals have now changed their life

around and become a new creation,” Collier said. “It was so encouraging to see this revival happen inside these walls. Hopefully, when these new Christians are released, they can take their newfound faith back to their homes.”

Prentis Gandy, pastor to Friendship Baptist, echoed the thought.

“It’s been amazing to experience and observe the work that God’s doing in the lives of the inmates,” he said. “I had several of the guys recognize me after their release from prison and thank us for coming and worshipping with them. Our number



Deannie Collier photo

The Friendship Baptist Church, Baskin, ministry team of (l to r) Jeffery Ridger, Geoff Hiesler, Cary Collier, Pastor Prentis Gandy, and Richard Warren led 12 inmates in the Franklin Parish Detention Center, Winnsboro. The 12 inmates were baptized six days after making spiritual decisions at worship services at the facility.

one goal, of course, is to introduce them to the Gospel, but secondly, we want

to encourage those who know Christ to be steadfast in their faith.”

Cate

from page 11

a youngster.

During a youth Bible study taught by his parents, Ed and Linda Cate, at Cannon Air Force Base chapel in Clovis, New Mexico, Cate trusted in Christ at age 10. He sensed a call to ministry nine years later while at a discipleship group at First Baptist Church, Bossier City.

Six other young men in that group, too, accepted a call to ministry, and to this day still are serving faithfully in various capacities around the U.S. and world.

Church leaders began mentoring Cate and allowed him to serve as a student ministry intern while he attended Louisiana State University-Shreveport. He remained there for two years, before finishing with LSU in Baton Rouge.

Upon graduation, Cate became a student intern with First Baptist Church, West Monroe. During his first year with the church, Cate took classes every Monday with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary’s extension center in Garland, Texas. By his second year, Cate said the long drive was taxing and he moved to Fort Worth to complete his degree.

Over the next 30 years, Cate served in various capacities with Bellaire Baptist Church, Bossier City (1997-2004), pastor with Emmanuel Baptist Church, Minden (2004-2019), discipleship pastor with First Baptist Church, Bossier City (2019-2021), and discipleship pastor with Istrouma Baptist (2022-present).

Cate is married to Whitney and they have three adult children.

“I am excited for Matt to begin serving the greater Louisiana Baptist community,” Louisiana Baptist Evangelism and Church Growth Team Director Keith Manuel said. “He already loves and knows Louisiana’s various cultures.

“He has served churches of all sizes and understands the needs of those who serve with the responsibilities of Sunday School, small groups and discipleship,” he continued. “Matt’s experience also helps him understand the challenges a pastor faces in leading the charge across all these areas in the ministry of a small- to medium-sized church, often single-handedly.”

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Jared Price, J.D., Executive Director

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