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LBC Executive Director Steve Horn

2026 LBC: Messengers to 'Connect' in Lake Charles

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Messengers will be challenged with the theme of “Connect” during the 2026 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, hosted by Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, Nov. 10.

“We anticipate having a great Annual Meeting,” Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn told the Baptist Message. “Trinity, Lake Charles, is a great venue to host us and they are exciting about having



us. We hope people will come for the Pastor’s Conference on Monday and stay through the day on Tuesday.

Our president, Kirk Jones, has a great vision for this meeting regarding connecting every report to an imme-

diated action. We are excited to have Dr. Jeff Iorg lead us in Bible Study. I will be sharing a vision that propels us for the next seven years.”

Jones, pastor with Fellowship Church, Prairieville, echoed the thought, urging Louisiana Baptists to attend.

“As Louisiana Baptists gather on November 10, we will continue with our theme to connect,” he said. “Over the last year as the LBC leadership has spent time with the leaders and pastors in our state, the need for connection with

See **CONNECT**, page 2

APOLOGETICS 101 (Part 10): Evidence for Christ

By Will Hall
Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – In the last dozen years or so, there has been a slight uptick of attacks on the historical existence of Jesus by a very small circle of



Will Hall

“Jesus Myth” theorists.

However, overwhelmingly, historians and New Testament researchers

alike (the vast majority of whom are secularists or atheists) consider such “New Atheist” views as a fringe position -- specifically because of the extrabiblical evidence documented by non-Christians in ancient records.

Yet this same majority of modern academicians also reject the assertion that Jesus is God, and they deny the biblical record about His miracles and His resurrection.

ANCIENT EVIDENCE

Flavius Josephus was a

See **APOLOGETICS**, page 3

Baptist Message managing editor faces challenges after two spinal surgeries

By Will Hall
Message executive editor

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – Philip Timothy suffered a broken back after a fall in his home, and now after two spinal surgeries he faces paralysis, doctors have advised his family.

Timothy, an award-winning journalist, has served as managing editor of the Baptist Message since August 2007. He is now a patient of the Neurological Rehabilitation Center with the Touro Infirmiry, a faith-based hospital in New Orleans.

His wife, JoAnne, who serves as office manager with the Baptist Message, said he has been moving between the ICU, to treat emerging health conditions, and the rehabilitation center, which is focused on helping him learn what he will need to know and do when he is sent home. Meanwhile, she said, family and friends are helping her to get their home ready for Philip to



File photo

Baptist Message managing editor Philip Timothy (center) was among 11 legendary sports figures inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame on June 8, 2019. Timothy was honored with the Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism, the most prestigious honor offered to sports media in the state.

return.

“We are so thankful for the kindness of others who are fixing ramps and other projects around the house. We have a way to go, but we trust God will provide for every need,” she said. “I am also thankful for every prayer. Philip has many challenges ahead.”

Those who wish to share a word of encour-

agement with Philip and JoAnne may write to Philip@BaptistMessage.com, or leave a voice message via (318) 449-4345. Friends have set up an account, [gofundme.com/f/support-philip-and-joanne-timothy](https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-philip-and-joanne-timothy), for anyone wishing to help financially toward the unplanned needs arising from his injury.

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one another and with our collective work has risen up as our greatest need.

"This year we will hear reports from all of Cooperative Program supported ministries and entities including a panel with NAMB and IMB," he continued. "Every entity and ministry will present your church a practical and meaningful opportunity to engage with the ministry supported by your church's giving."

"My desire at the convention is not for us to simply hear about the good things that are going on and the struggles perhaps our ministries are facing, but for every church to engage in connected and personal partnership within our CP supported ministries," he said. "This is ultimately what it means to be a part of the Louisiana and Southern Baptist Conventions. It means to be a cooperating church. Cooperating churches give but they also

engage and take part in the ministries that take the Gospel to the ends of the earth, through new church plants in our state, or to children in the foster system.

"God is at work through us, but for our churches to have a healthy and vibrant commitment to this cooperative work they need real opportunities to connect with one another and to engage in these ministries," he added. "We hope you will come ready to listen with an open heart and lead your church to engage in what God is doing."

BUDGET PROPOSAL

As part of the business of the annual meeting, the Cooperative Program budget will be presented for consideration by messengers.

The 2027 financial plan is based on Cooperative Program contributions of \$17,397,201, an increase of 2.79

percent. Cooperative Program projections are based on actual receipts from August 2025 through July 2026. The allocation formula for distributing CP gifts between Southern Baptist entities and Louisiana Baptist causes remains unchanged, 62.87 percent to support ministries in the state and 37.13 percent forwarded to fund national entities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Other highlights of the meeting will include messages by Horn, Jones and Chris Craig, pastor with First Baptist Church, Ruston.

Additional items on the agenda include a Bible study led by Jeff Iorg, president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee; reports by the Convention's entities; other updates on state missions; elections of officers; and consideration of motions and resolutions.

Meanwhile, messengers will vote on substantive

changes to key governing documents. The proposed amendments were adopted by the LBC Executive Board on Sept. 29, and would modify the LBC Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Business and Financial Plan, as well as the LBC Executive Board's Articles of Incorporation.

The proposed amendments are published separately in this edition of the newspaper and can be viewed online via LouisianaBaptists.org/amendments.

At press time, only one candidate has been announced for LBC office: Kirk Jones will be nominated for a second term as president.

NOTEABLES

Gatherings for Nov. 9 include:

- Discipleship collaborative, 11:45 a.m., South Hall E/F
- Ladies fellowship lunch, 12 p.m., Student Center
- Minister of missions lunch, 12 p.m., Chapel

- Worship Collective roundtable, 12 p.m., Parlor
- African American fellowship, 5:15 p.m., South Hall E/F
- Young pastors fellowship dinner, 5:15 p.m., TBA
- NOBTS alumni dinner, 5:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- SWBTS alumni dinner, 5:15 p.m., Chapel
- Asian fellowship dinner (by invitation), 5:15 p.m., Parlor
- Church insurance road show, 7 p.m., North Venue
- Rural/small church pastors dinner, 5:15 p.m., Student Center

- Gatherings for Nov. 10 include:
- Discover church planting breakfast, 7 a.m., Eggs Up Grill, Lake Charles
 - Hispanic pastors breakfast, 6:30 a.m., Parlor
 - Retiree/bi-vocational lunch, 12 p.m., Parlor
 - SEND Network Louisiana lunch, 12 p.m., Fellowship Hall
 - Next Generation roundtable lunch, 12 p.m., South Hall E/F

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first century historian who was a Roman citizen of Jewish decent. In his "Antiquities of the Jews" (circa A.D. 93), he mentioned Jesus twice, describing Him first as "a wise man ... who performed surprising deeds" and "won over many Jews and ... Greeks." Moreover, he called Jesus "the Christ" whom "Pilate condemned ... to a cross," and he wrote that Jesus was "restored to life." In Josephus's second reference, he mentioned the trial of "James, the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ".

Tacitus was a Roman historian who wrote about Jesus in "The Annals" (about A.D. 116) in reference to Nero's persecution of Christians: "Nero fastened the guilt [about the fire that destroyed Rome] and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the

hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate, and a most mischievous superstition ... broke out not only in Judea ... but even in Rome ..."

Pliny the Younger was the Roman governor of Bithynia-Pontus (modern-day Turkey), and he exchanged letters (A.D. 112, or thereabout) with Emperor Trajan about how to deal with Christians. He described how he interrogated Christians "a second and third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed." Then he observed that "those who are really Christians" could not be forced to curse the name of Jesus or worship the image of Caesar. He described Christianity as a "superstition" and a "contagion" that "has spread not only to the cities but also to the villages and farms."

Even the Babylonian Talmud, the central text of Rabbinic Judaism, which dates to A.D. 500, mentions Jesus in part: "On the eve of Passover

they hanged Yeshu the Nazarene ... because he practiced sorcery and instigated and seduced Israel to idolatry.

NOTE: "Yeshu" is the Aramaic equivalent of the Hebrew "Yeshua."

A MIRACLE MOVEMENT

Despite the lack of non-biblical documentation about His miracles, there is enough circumstantial evidence for neutral observers to concede that it is at least reasonable for people to believe that Jesus' resurrection and the miracles He performed have a basis in fact as well as faith.

The New Testament documents the surge in numbers

of the Church almost immediately after Jesus' resurrection:

-- On Pentecost 3,000 new believers were baptized (Acts 2:41) and the number grew daily (Acts 2:47), just days after Jesus had ascended into Heaven following 40 days during which He preached daily in the city where He had been crucified (Acts 1:3). Importantly, not only did the city witness the miracle of His bodily resurrection just prior to Pentecost, but they had seen many believers who had been raised from the grave, too (Matthew 27:52-53).

-- Then just weeks later, 5,000 came to salvation after hearing the apostles preaching about Christ and His resurrection Acts 4:1-4).

-- Only a month or so after that, multitudes of men and women (perhaps tens of thousands) were saved after the apostles performed miraculous healings in the manner of Christ (Acts 5:12-16).

Even Pliny the Younger noted that early Christianity surged in numbers (like a "contagion") despite active persecution of adherents by Rome, and Tacitus agreed.

But there also are extra-biblical records that align with the supernatural events that took place on the day of Jesus' death. The Bible reports that there was darkness in Jerusalem from noon to 3 p.m. while Jesus was on the cross, and an

See APOLOGETICS, page 13

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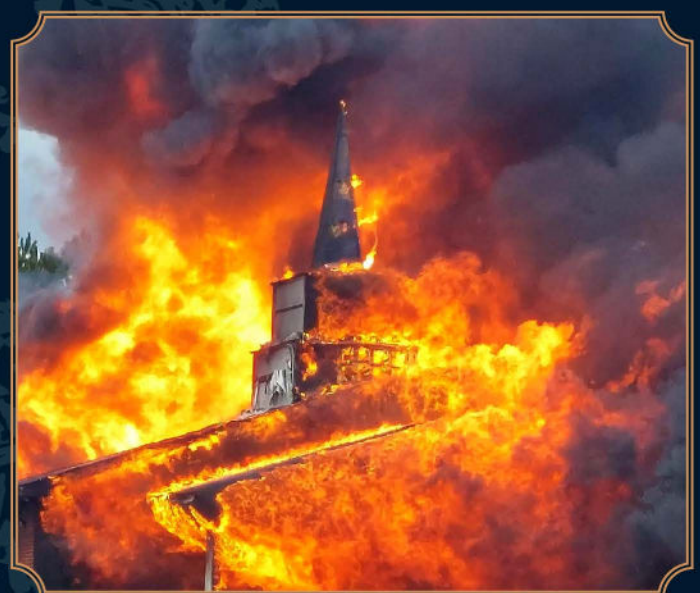
The fire started while church members were preparing food for a funeral. Within forty-five minutes, the building was gone. Shocked, they gathered outside the burned remains of the church and prayed. After praying, they committed to rebuild.

For New Friendship Baptist Church, it was not the first time they experienced a new beginning. Previously known as Anchor Baptist Church, the congregation closed its doors in 2019 and deeded the property to the Big Creek Baptist Association. In 2020, with support from the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering, Lloyd Whitman was called to replant the church as New Friendship Baptist Church. What once seemed like the end became a renewed gospel witness in the Fishville community.

Then came the fire. Once again, the Georgia Barnette Offering helped the church move forward. Through assistance provided by Louisiana Baptists, New Friendship continued its ministry as volunteers erected a tent only two days after the fire so the church would not miss a single Sunday of worship and ministry.

One Sunday, a man came forward wanting to be baptized. With no building available, the church went to the nearby creek to celebrate his baptism — a reminder that the mission of the church never stopped.

"We lost the building," Pastor Whitman said, "but not the church."



Jones to be renominated for LBC president

By Staff

Baptist Message

PRAIRIEVILLE, La. (LBM) – Kirk Jones, pastor with Fellowship Church, Prairieville, will be nominated to serve a second term as president with the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Gil Arthur, pastor with First Baptist Church, Choudrant, shared with the Baptist Message, Sept. 30, his intention to make the nomination during the 2026 annual meeting of Louisiana Baptist messengers.

The yearly gathering of Louisiana Baptists will be hosted by Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, Nov. 10.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Arthur commended Jones' character during the 35 years he has known him, including when Jones was a student attending

Cook Baptist Church, Ruston. Jones surrendered to the ministry and was licensed to preach while Arthur was pastor there.

"It's always hard to know what someone will do when they grow up, but even as a student he was active in our church," Arthur told the Baptist Message. "He's done his job as president and is a man of integrity and great faith who loves the Lord and loves this convention."

BY THE NUMBERS

Jones planted Fellowship Church in 2001, starting with a few people who met in his living room. This year the congregation reported averaging more than 1,500 people in worship and having baptized 95 new believers, January to early October.

According to church records, Fellowship Church has given 7 percent of



Kirk Jones

undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program to support cooperative missions and ministries in 2026, amounting to \$97,511.99 through August.

CANDIDATE'S RESPONSE

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

"I knew that (Louisiana Baptist Executive Director) Steve Horn was leading us into discussions about the Cooperative Program and

state convention health," he said. "I am grateful to be a part of that."

"This role has deepened my commitment and passion for the Cooperative Program and our cooperative relationships as churches," he continued. "If your church has struggled with CP and its effectiveness or perhaps you have just felt disconnected from it, please come to Lake Charles this year."

"We are working diligently to create clear communication about CP supported mission and how your church can partner personally," he said. "We have the potential to see healthy change in our connection and cooperation and hope you and your church will give yourself the opportunity to be a part of what God is doing. Our cooperation and its historic impact is worth the effort and energy."

PERSONAL DATA

Jones is a native of Ruston and has served in the ministry since 1994.

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

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

Jones and his wife, Wendy, have three adult children: Daniel (wife, Cassidy), Melanie (fiancé, Baron); and Kara. They became grandparents to Magnolia on Sept. 3.

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Proposed Amendments

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION

Article III. NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
The Convention is a nonprofit corporation organized under the Louisiana Non-Profit Corporation Act, LSA-R.S. 12:201 et seq. and shall have all of the powers, duties, authorizations and responsibilities as provided therein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Convention shall neither have nor exercise any power, nor engage directly or indirectly in any activity that would invalidate its status as an organization exempt from federal income tax and described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provision or provisions of any subsequent United States Internal Revenue law or laws unless compliance with a provision or provisions violates the teaching of the Holy Bible and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

Article VI. MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION
Section 1. This Convention shall be composed of messengers representing members in good standing of Baptist churches cooperating (defined below) as defined in Article VI, Section 5 with the Convention.
Section 3. ~~Each cooperating Baptist church having fifty (50) members, or less, shall be entitled to one (1) messenger; and an additional messenger for each additional fifty (50) members; however, no church shall be entitled to more than fifteen (15) messengers. Each cooperating Baptist church shall be entitled to at least two (2) messengers. In addition to the first two (2) messengers, churches may add additional messengers hereafter as provided. The Convention will recognize additional messengers from a cooperating church under one of the options described below, whichever method allows the church the greater number of messengers but not to exceed ten (10) additional messengers:~~
(1) One additional messenger for each full percent of the church's undesignated receipts which the church contributed during the fiscal year preceding through the Cooperative Program or the work of Louisiana Baptists through contribution to the Louisiana Baptist Convention for its use in state programs and agencies OR
(2) One additional messenger for each \$6,000 which the church contributed through the fiscal year preceding through the Cooperative Program or the work of Louisiana Baptists through contribution to the Louisiana Baptist Convention for its use in state programs and agencies.
Section 5. A cooperating church with the Louisiana Baptist Convention 1) is of like faith and order with Southern Baptists as expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 of the Southern Baptist Convention, 2) is sympathetic to the purposes and work of the Convention, 3) contributes to the work of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program or the work of Louisiana Baptists through contribution to the Louisiana Baptist Convention for its use in state programs and agencies and 4) has applied for membership in the local association and, upon recommendation by the LBC Committee on Credentials, has been approved to send messengers to the Convention and 5) filed an accurate Annual Church Profile to the LBC in the previous year.
Section 7. Cooperating churches that have not given to the Cooperative Program or Louisiana Baptists causes in two (2) years consecutively will be notified via certified mail that they will no longer be considered a cooperative church of the LBC and will have 30 days to officially respond before removal is processed.

ARTICLE X. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE CONVENTION
Section 3. The terms of elected Executive Board members shall run for three (3) years. No member may serve continuously for more than two (2) complete successive terms. No member shall be eligible to serve another term until interval equal to the number of years served three years shall have elapsed from the completion of the member's last term.

ARTICLE XI. THE DENOMINATIONAL PAPER NEWS SERVICE
The Baptist Message shall be the official paper news service of this Convention.

ARTICLE XIII. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES
8. In the event that an emergency has been properly declared, The ~~Louisiana~~ Baptist Message shall remain the official ~~publication~~ news service of the Convention. However, the Baptist Message may be published in any manner possible whether by print, by hand, electronically or any other method feasible during the emergency declaration. If the Baptist Message cannot be published in any manner, then any reasonable method of communication to Convention Messengers, cooperating churches, officers, or other necessary persons or organizations may be used.

BYLAWS OF THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION

ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY LAW AND CUSTOM
Section 1. The most recently revised edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be recognized as the standard authority to guide the Convention on questions of parliamentary law and customs.

ARTICLE III. COMPOSITION AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS
Section 1. The composition and duties of boards of trustees of agencies and institutions of this Convention shall be clearly set forth in the Convention resolutions authorizing their establishment and included subsequently in appropriate form in their respective corporate charters. All corporate charters and amendments thereto shall be expressly approved by the Convention. ~~or by the Executive Board of the Convention.~~
Section 4. The Committee on Order of Business shall be composed of seven (7) members and the person designated to plan the Convention music. It shall present to the opening session of the Convention for adoption a recommended agenda for the Convention sessions. The committee shall recommend to the Convention the preacher and music leader for the Convention meeting one year hence. The committee also may tentatively enlist Bible study leader and major speakers for Conventions scheduled up to three years in advance. The Committee shall be responsible for recommending to the Convention the host, the meeting hall or church, and the dates for the Convention meeting two years hence and, if feasible, for three years hence. The Committee on Order of Business shall provide periods of time during the convention for the introduction of all matters requiring a vote not scheduled on the agenda, and, when introduced (unless the Convention then gives it unanimous consent for its immediate consideration) ~~shall may~~ fix times for the consideration of the same. All such matters of business shall be introduced to the Convention during the time scheduled for Introduction of Business. No such matters of business may be introduced in the last session.
Section 6. The Committee on Resolutions shall be composed of seven (7) members and three (3) ex officio members (including the Executive Board president) from the Executive Board of the Convention. The Committee shall be responsible for initiating, reviewing, commenting on, and recommending Convention action on all resolutions. In order to facilitate thorough consideration and to expedite the Committee's work, all proposed resolutions shall:
1. Be submitted to the Committee for review and consideration no more than ninety (90) days, but no later than fifteen (15) days, prior to the next LBC annual meeting.
2. Be addressed to the Committee on Resolutions in care of the Communications Team of the Louisiana Baptist Convention at its registered or e-mail address (electronic copies are preferred),
3. Be typewritten, titled, and dated,
4. Be accompanied by a letter from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing, and
5. Include complete contact information for both the person submitting it, and his or her church.
No person may submit more than three resolutions per year. The Committee on Resolutions shall prepare and submit to each annual meeting of the Convention only such resolutions the Committee recommends for adoption. Such resolutions may be based upon proposals received by the Committee or may originate with the Committee. Only resolutions recommended by the Committee may be considered by the Convention, except the Convention may, by a 2/3 vote, consider any other resolution properly submitted to the Committee. Resolutions may not be amended and must be adopted by a 2/3 vote.
Section 12. Members of boards and committees shall perform their duties in accordance with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 adopted by the Convention on 11/12/02.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS
Section 5. All persons regularly elected by the Convention to agencies and boards shall be elected or selected in any convention session ~~except the last session.~~

ARTICLE VI. AVOIDANCE OF ILLEGAL ACTION
No action of the Convention shall be construed as authorizing its committees or boards to take any action that may be contrary to law.

ARTICLE VH VI. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS
These bylaws may be amended at any regular session of the Convention by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the messengers present and voting. Amendments sponsored by the Executive Board shall be posted to the LBC website and published in one (1) issue of the Baptist Message (print edition or digital edition) no later than fifteen (15) days before the meeting of the Convention.

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL PLAN
OF THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION

VII. Financial Reports
Each agency and institution of the Convention shall close its books and accounts and have them audited by a Certified Public Accountant as of the close of its fiscal year, and in turn shall forward two copies of its audit to the executive director as soon as available. These audits are to be studied by the Business and Finance Committee of the Executive Board, and shall include the following:
1) Balance Sheet
2) Analysis of surplus accounts
3) Income and expense
4) Classified list of investments by fund and type of investment
5) Receipts:
a. Cooperative receipts
b. Designated receipts
c. Other income
Each agency and institution shall submit a report on the Budget and Financial Data form on or before ~~June 1~~ April 15 of each year. A balance sheet of the financial condition after May 31 and prior to September 1 of the current year shall be submitted for publication in the current Book of Reports and Annual.

XII. Amendments
This Business and Financial Plan may be altered by two-thirds of the messengers present and voting at any time ~~except during the last session~~ during the Convention, provided that recommended changes shall have been presented to the Executive Board and published in the Baptist Message (print edition or digital edition) at least one month in advance of the Convention.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION

Article XII.
7. In the event that an emergency has been properly declared, the BAPTIST MESSAGE shall remain the official ~~publication~~ news service of the Executive Board. However, the BAPTIST MESSAGE may be published in any manner possible whether by print, by hand, electronically or any other method feasible during the emergency declaration. If the BAPTIST MESSAGE cannot be published in any manner, then any reasonable method of communication to Executive Board members, officers, or other necessary persons or organizations may be used.

Beauregard Parish Fair outreach yields 19 decisions for Christ

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

DERIDDER, La. (LBM) – The Beauregard Baptist Association of churches recently turned their parish state fairgrounds into a house of worship and prayer.
By the end of the fair, 19 people made a decision for Christ at a prayer tent

and hundreds more were encouraged during two worship services.
“What better way to reach Beauregard Parish people than at the fair where Beauregard Parish people were,” Nelson Santa Anna, pastor with First Baptist Church, DeRidder, told the Baptist Message. “This was another way to tell our community about

Jesus where they were.
“It was surreal to do it at the fairgrounds when surrounded by people who may or may not know Jesus,” he continued. “Before we had these services, I got this sense from the Spirit that people were going to be responding to the Gospel. We have only begun to see the fruits of that.”

The worship services, Oct. 7, featured messages by Drake Nelson, youth pastor with FBC DeRidder, and Hardy Estes, pastor with Palestine Baptist Church, Grant, and music led by the FBC DeRidder praise and worship team. Additionally, members with FBC DeRidder manned a prayer tent near the pavilion for three hours each day during the duration of the fair, Oct. 6-10.

For FBC DeRidder, the worship services and prayer tent were a way to continue a summertime community outreach.

Held in 2025 and 2026, GO Community is a multi-day event that brings the church together to serve, pray for and support families and individuals throughout DeRidder. Through free car washes, block parties, Bible distributions, free oil changes for single moms and widows and projects at homes, hundreds have heard the Gospel.

After attending a fair outreach workshop at the Baptist Building in July, Santa Ana and other church leaders brought the idea of sharing the Gospel at the fair to their church. The response was a resounding yes.

FBC DeRidder then contacted BBA Mission Strategist Tom Bruce and other churches in the association about holding a worship service at the fair. The only open date was Wednesday evening, which is traditionally the lowest attended night of the fair.

“At first, I was concerned about attendance since we hadn’t done this, but when I saw the pavilion filled with people it was amazing,” Bruce said. “The biggest take away from it is don’t be afraid to try something new.
“God isn’t looking for our perfection,” he continued. “He’s looking for our obedience.”

Estes was honored to share the Gospel at the fair worship service.

“I brought a salvation message using the Roman Road and stories and testimonies of my life,” he said. “We have to trust the Word won’t come back void. Several people who didn’t even step inside the pavilion stopped and listened outside the building. What a neat experience and opportunity to proclaim Jesus in this setting to a lost and dying world. God is up to something truly amazing and I was glad to be a part of it.”

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Who Blesses Them?

Pastors and ministry staff spend their lives pouring into others—counseling through difficulties, celebrating milestones, caring for our needs at church and faithfully teaching the Word. As Pastor Appreciation Month draws to a close, pause to consider: How does our stewardship encourage and support those who give so much to us?

Stewardship certainly means funding outreach and even keeping the lights on, but true biblical stewardship also includes caring for the ones who shepherd and bless us.

As 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 reminds us, stewardship includes honoring and

caring for those who work hard among us: “Esteem them highly in love because of their work.”

Stewarding church resources wisely ensures our pastoral team receives the rest, encouragement, and tangible support they need to serve with joy rather than burnout. This is an investment in the health of our entire church family. When our leaders feel supported, energized, and sustained, the whole church benefits.

Giving with joyful hearts strengthens our ministries, impacts lives, and supports the leaders who faithfully shepherd us each day. Take a moment to pray for your pastors and ministry

staff, thanking God for their service and asking how He might use your generosity to encourage and bless those who serve.

TURN GRATITUDE INTO ACTIVE STEWARDSHIP AND SUPPORT:

- **Express Gratitude:** Send a heartfelt note or Scripture to acknowledge and recognize pastors.
- **Support Generously:** Give faithfully to ensure the church can provide adequate rest, compensation, and resources for the ministry team.
- **Pray Continuously:** Cover leaders and their families in daily prayer.
- **Give Creatively:** Give the type of gift that renews them – a sporting event, concert tickets, a fishing retreat, child care and dinner out with their spouse, a Sunday off where a speaker or elder preaches.



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.



Horn updates EB on 'wins' for Louisiana Baptists

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) -- In his report to Executive Board members, Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn shared several wins for Louisiana Baptists as they have worked together to "seek the lost, strengthen churches and support cooperative missions and ministries.

CHURCH SELF-INSURANCE

Horn said that the launch of a church self-insurance program is close.

A faith-based cooperative, the Fellowship of Louisiana Churches and Nonprofit Religious Organizations, was authorized by Act 259 in 2023 and a one-time "launch" appropriation was approved in 2025 as part of Act 461. However, lawmakers needed to address four additional policy points.

"We are closer now than we have been," Horn told the board members. "I told you in May when we met that we had run into some legislative issues that needed to be addressed in order to move forward. The good news is that we were able to get those necessary changes written into law. So, though delayed, we are back to work in getting the program in a presentable fashion."

He said that two information meetings are planned: Oct. 22, 2 p.m., in the Baptist Building, Alexandria; and Nov. 9, 7 p.m., hosted by Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, prior to the LBC Annual Meeting.

SERVE TOUR SUCCESS

Horn said that the recent SEND Relief Serve Tour was a success and could even lead to an annual event in the state.

The collaborative effort,

in partnership with the North American Mission Board, Northeast Louisiana Baptist Association and Louisiana Baptist Convention, involved 1,070 volunteers, collectively, from 76 churches who participated in 48 service projects throughout northeast Louisiana as the foundation for evangelism. Projects included 10 block parties, eight grill walks (teams knocking on doors and offering hamburgers, chips and drinks to start Gospel conversations), church building upgrades, school improvement projects and

paying for locals' laundry at four laundromats.

The weekend of evangelistic outreach, Aug. 21-22, produced a spiritual harvest of at least 81 known decisions for Christ during the Serve Tour in Morehouse, Ouachita and Richland parishes.

"It was a tremendous success," he said. "This is an example of the benefits of cooperation, and cooperation really at its best."

Horn shared that Louisiana was issued a challenge by Serve Tour to hold similar events in the state, and he offered that

the next one could take place as soon as the spring of 2028.

LISTENING TOUR UPDATE

Horn said that 33 listening tour sessions related to the Cooperative Program were attended by 551 people representing 367 churches. He said that the key "take-aways" are:

- presence is the key to relationships;
- communication holes exist;
- the LBC needs to

See HORN, page 8

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HOME

8

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HORN from page seven

better organize around the mission of the church;

-- expectations about the LBC vary based on the church's ethnic identity, size and location (urban or rural); and

-- everyone wants Louisiana Baptists to rally around the Gospel and the lostness of Louisiana.

"So, we're going to focus on these things," he said.

2027 INITIATIVES

Horn said that three initiatives will be implemented next year: CP small groups curriculum, evangelism and baptisms, and a renewed strategy on prayer.

GROW CP AWARENESS

Horn said a top priority

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is to launch a Cooperative Program small groups curriculum by January 1, 2027.

"We're pretty far down the path of writing this," he said, adding that the plan is to develop "four weeks of small group curriculum that can be used in a variety of ways by our churches."

Horn said the team is on a path to meet the deadline "or very, very soon after."

EVANGELIZE AND BAPTIZE

Horn shared a goal to increase baptisms by 7 percent every year over the next seven years. If achieved, that would move the state's total from 8,988 baptisms in 2025

to approximately 15,500 by 2033. He offered that the number might seem daunting, but the goal is reachable "if every church in the Convention baptizes one more each year than they did the year before."

He said that executive directors in other state conventions have a similar goal to help their states increase baptisms by 7 percent each year through 2033. If all the state conventions achieve that same goal by 2033, then baptisms for the Southern Baptist Convention would be the highest in any year ever, eclipsing the 445,725 new believers who were baptized in 1972.

Horn also explained that state leaders acknowledged there are differences among

scholars about dating events in the New Testament. But they felt the year 2033, "in round numbers," was appropriate to celebrate the 2,000th anniversary "of Jesus's resurrection, ascension, and giving of the Great Commission."

"What better way to celebrate that anniversary than, as Southern Baptists, to reach this high peak," he offered. "And it's doable."

PRAY

Horn said that the greatest resource for evangelism is prayer, and that he would share details about the strategy during the LBC 2026 Annual Meeting. But he offered that this strategy would create multiple

opportunities for Louisiana Baptists to come together to seek God's mercy for the lost, and to ask for revival among those who already believe.

He said Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 16:8-9 still ring true today, "But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, because a wide door for effective ministry has opened for me—yet many oppose me."

"He's called us to Louisiana," Horn said. "He's opened that door for us."

"And yes, like Paul, there will be opposition," he continued. "But we cannot allow that opposition to deter us because there are 4.6 million people living among us in Louisiana, each needing the Gospel."

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—2 Corinthians 9:11-15 ESV

Leading up to this passage, Paul encourages the church in Corinth to be prepared with their gifts to support the church in Jerusalem. Through the generosity of the Corinthians and others, God would supply the needs of His people as they labored to proclaim the gospel of Christ. Paul makes clear that the Corinthians' generosity was rooted in their confession of the gospel of Christ. Their gifts would not simply meet tangible needs; they would also result in thanksgiving to God and bring Him glory.

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Grant Parish churches 'reach' their Jerusalem for Jesus

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

DRY PRONG, La. (LBM) – More than 200 volunteers from 12 churches showed the love of Christ in their Jerusalem through a weekend of acts of service, Sept. 18-19.

The Grant Parish Reach Project involved volunteers from the Big Creek Baptist Association as well as other denominations. They completed 32 service projects that also provided opportunities to plant Gospel seeds, including: installation of two metal roofs; replacement of plumbing; building four wheelchair ramps; removal of a subfloor; yard work; and tree removal.

Meanwhile, several churches provided meals for volunteers: Hebron Baptist Church, Dry Prong; Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax;

New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong; Fairfield Baptist Church, Dry Prong;

Colfax Baptist Church; and Liberty Christian Church, Colfax.

Kenny Bratton, pastor with Bethel Baptist Church, said he was thankful for those who ministered to the community through Grant Reach.

"The biggest thing I noticed was the power of unity," Bratton told the Baptist Message. "I told men from other churches that they are not from their own church that weekend but are just a church moving in a direction to help others in need."

"It allowed us to see we can take on projects and be able to help people and have a lasting effect on their lives,"

he said. "The power of unity was amazing, and we saw we were able to do so much together for the Kingdom."

Lloyd Whitman, pastor with New Friendship Baptist Church, Pollock, worked alongside four others who removed a giant limb that fell on the property of First Baptist Church, Montgomery. He enjoyed the fellowship and helping a fellow church.

"The joy is just serving people," Whitman said. "There are people out there that need us."

"It's just a joy to be able to share with people and touch their lives," he continued. "You can touch others by meeting a need for Christ. Not only did the people we served get a lot out of it, but we got joy out of doing it. That's a blessing that we forever will have."

David Carr, a member with First Baptist Church, Pollock, worked with nine others to remove 10 downed trees and mow the lawn of a home in Colfax.

"We're just trying to bring Jesus to the community and show His love," Carr said. "We wanted to let them know His Spirit is alive and well in us today."

"We came together as a team," he added. "It wasn't about an individual. It was about what we could do as a community, as a body of believers, to show God working through us."

Big Creek Baptist Association Mission Strategist Dick DeBusk was moved by how so many rallied around one purpose.

"This was a vision of what God says we must do," he said. "He says in scripture that the believ-

ers were of one accord. And this is one example of being in one accord, one agreement, to reach our parish."

Looking to the future, associational leaders already are planning another Grant Reach in early 2027.

"This is something we want to do once a quarter as another way to reach our Jerusalem," Bratton said. "We saw a few people whose homes we worked on who showed up the next Sunday in our churches. I still remember the tears that were shed on behalf of an elderly lady whose home we worked on in Colfax, and she told me how she thought she was forgotten about. The weekend was a move in the right direction for the churches in our association and we know it was a move from God."

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Proposed Resolutions

RESOLUTION 1: ON EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Many individuals and groups have had a part in planning, preparing and conducting the 179th annual meeting of our Louisiana Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, The messengers of this Convention desire to warmly recognize and express appreciation to the following:

Dr. David Rose, senior pastor for the Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles and his staff for their assistance with details and for providing the use of their facilities for this annual meeting; and

Rev. Kirk Jones, Convention president, who is pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church, Prairieville, for his warm, gracious spirit in leading, speaking and listening to Louisiana Baptists this year, and his gentle firmness in moderating this annual meeting; and

Fellowship Baptist Church, Prairieville, for their commitment to sharing the Gospel in our state by graciously supporting Rev. Jones' leadership of all the churches of the Louisiana Baptist Convention this past year; and

Brian Watson, music director for this annual meeting, who is the Worship Pastor with First Baptist Church, Lafayette, for planning and coordinating the music, and the musicians and singers for their contribution of instrumental and vocal talents; and

Clark Palmer, chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, who is the pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Tioga, and the members of the Committee on Order of Business for planning this informative and inspirational annual meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 179th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Lake Charles, Louisiana, November 10, 2026, express to each of the above and to all who contributed our deepest heartfelt gratitude.

RESOLUTION 2: ON PROMOTING HEALTHY FAMILIES BY IMPROVING FATHERHOOD

WHEREAS, Fatherhood is exemplified in the Person and character of God (Isaiah 63:16-17; John 1:12-13; Ephesians 3:14-16); and

WHEREAS, Our relationships with our earthly fathers and mothers are second only in priority to our fellowship with our heavenly Father (Exodus 20:1-12); and

WHEREAS, Fathers are specifically instructed to raise their children "in the training and admonition of the Lord" and to shape them to live holy lives and serve God (Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 20:7; Joshua 24:15); and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Baptists adhere to the consensus statements of beliefs in The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 of the Southern Baptist Convention, including the article, "XVIII. The Family"; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that children are more likely to attend church and follow Christ if a Christian father models such a spiritual walk for them; and

WHEREAS, The absence of fathers from the home can create or lead to spiritual, behavioral, emotional, relational, educational and financial harm for their children; and

WHEREAS, Databases show that 54.9 percent of children in Louisiana are born to unwed mothers and only 36 percent of children in Louisiana live with two parents; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Baptists have been asked for a representative to serve on the Louisiana Commission on Fatherhood Engagement, a body organized under the auspices of the Office of the Governor to identify public policies that will help restore healthy families by improving fatherhood; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 179th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Lake Charles, Louisiana, November 10, 2026, commit to grow and sustain healthy families in our churches, communities and state by working to help men to be godly fathers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge our Convention to use our access to the Louisiana Commission on Fatherhood Engagement to take a larger role, especially in rallying other state like-minded faith communities to join, in positively shaping men across our 64 parishes to successfully lead their families to follow Christ; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we challenge our Louisiana Baptist entities to make a specific ministry emphasis on improving fatherhood as a key step in our efforts to establish and sustain biblically healthy Louisiana families.

RESOLUTION 3: ON THE 2033 GREAT COMMISSION BAPTISM GOAL

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ has entrusted His church with the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 to make disciples, baptize believers, and teach obedience to all He commanded; and

WHEREAS, Baptists have historically advanced the Gospel through the local-church ministry, cooperative missions and ministry, revitalization of churches, and the multiplication of churches through church planting; and

WHEREAS, The highest number of baptisms on record for the Southern Baptist Convention was 445,725 in 1972; and

WHEREAS, The number of baptisms decreased by 41% from 1972 to 2025 with 263,075 baptisms in 2025; and

WHEREAS, The year 2033 provides a compelling horizon for united, prayerful, and measurable action so that every person within our reach may have a meaningful opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel and be connected to a healthy local church; and

WHEREAS, We have the opportunity to join with our brothers and sisters across state conventions for a unified national vision on this 2033 Great Commission Baptism Goal; and

WHEREAS, In order for Southern Baptists to achieve this goal each state will need to do its part, and the number of baptisms for Louisiana must increase from 8,988 in 2025 to 15,443 in 2033 increasing baptisms by 7% each year; and

WHEREAS, If every Louisiana Baptist church baptizes one more new believer each year than the year before, the 2033 Great Commission Goal will be achieved, and Louisiana Baptists will fulfill our part in achieving the greatest number of baptisms in Southern Baptists church history; and

WHEREAS, This goal requires more than a single campaign; it requires dependence on the Holy Spirit to inspire a culture of evangelism, a sustained intentional strategy, transparent measurement, faithful stewardship, and collaboration among churches; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 179th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Lake Charles, Louisiana, November 10, 2026, adopt the 2033 Great Commission Baptism Goal as a catalyst for mobilizing every participating church and ministry to pray for the lost, proclaim the Gospel clearly, make and baptize disciples, strengthen existing congregations, plant new churches, develop leaders, and cooperate so that every person in our ministry field has repeated opportunities to encounter the good news of Jesus Christ by the end of 2033; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we make the following Strategic Commitments:

Pray: establish a sustained prayer movement for unreached and underserved people, communities, and ministry opportunities;

Evangelize: equip pastors to share the Gospel corporately, equip members to share the Gospel personally, recognize the calling and giftedness of the vocational evangelist and encourage churches to utilize these called servants, and support coordinated community outreach;

Baptize and Disciple: provide a clear pathway from profession of faith to baptism, church membership, spiritual formation, and service;

Promote Church Health and Multiplication: strengthen existing churches, revitalize declining congregations, and plant churches in areas of greatest need;

Develop Leaders: identify, train, mentor, and send pastors, missionaries, church planters, evangelists, and lay leaders out for Gospel advancement;

Cooperate and Steward: align prayer, people, partnerships, facilities, technology, and financial resources with the 2033 Great Commission Baptism Goal;

Measure and Report: use consistent, responsible measures and accountability to report numbers through the Annual Church Profile while remembering that numerical reporting serves faithfulness and does not replace spiritual discernment; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we call upon our Louisiana Baptist Convention team members, pastors, ministry leaders, and members to pursue this goal in humility, doctrinal faithfulness, mutual encouragement, and urgent dependence upon God; and that this resolution, upon adoption, shall guide annual planning and resource decisions through December 31, 2033.

Pastors Conference: Fulfill your ministry

By Staff

Baptist Message

LAKE CHARLES, La. (LBM) – Organizers of this year's Louisiana Baptist Pastors Conference, scheduled for Nov. 9, hope to encourage pastors to continue to push hard in their calls to serve.

The conference will be hosted by Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, with the theme, "Fulfill Your Ministry," based on 2 Timothy 4:1-8.

"This is an encouragement and reminder of what our ministry is about as pastors," Pastors Conference President Joey Smith, pastor with Grayson Baptist Church, told the Baptist Message. "Each preacher was chosen for their assigned topic because of the example they have set and the encouragement they can give in those areas of pastoral ministry."

The program will begin,

10 a.m., with music led by Blake Davis, worship pastor with North Monroe Baptist Church. Sharing messages will be Ken Whitten, national director of pastoral leadership, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Georgia (evangelism); and Matthew McKellar, professor of preaching with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas (preaching the Word).

After lunch, the conference will continue, 1 p.m., with an afternoon session featuring messages by Garrison Griffith, pastor with First Baptist Church, Wisner (enduring hardship); Tommy Kiker, pastor with East Leesville Baptist Church (self-control); and Hershael York, professor of preaching with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky (finishing well).

Learn more: louisianabaptists.org/annual-meeting.

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NSU BCM celebrates 100 years of Gospel reach

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

NATCHITOCHES, La. (LBM) – The Baptist Collegiate Ministry with Northwestern State University kicked off its fall semester with a charge to further the Gospel and a slate of activities planned for its centennial celebration.

Founded in June 1926 with what was then Louisiana State Normal School in Natchitoches, the ministry adapted as the university experienced a name change and growth but remained constant in its call to reach students for Christ on campus and beyond.

CENTURY OF GROWTH

According to a news release from the university, the BCM (originally, the Baptist Student Union until 2000) first met in a shared space in two on-campus religious centers. When these facilities burned, Louisiana Baptists purchased a large house on Second Street so ministry could continue.

In August 1969, a 13,000-square-foot facility was constructed on what was then College Avenue, now University Parkway, across from Watson Library. Then in the early 2000s, the BCM relocated onto campus. Construction

was delayed by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and the ministry operated from several temporary locations before its current facility was completed on Organization Row in 2009.

Throughout its history the ministry has reached thousands of students through the years with opportunities for worship, Bible study, service projects, mission trips and fellowship, leaders said.

Bill Collins, who was the NSU BCM director for 37 years, said he is thankful for the university and churches that have been supportive of the ministry.

“Being included in the university community is something special,” Collins said. “We also are thankful for the local Baptists from District 8 Convention

who have been absolutely spectacular in financial and prayer support in meeting all kinds of needs here for 100 years.

“Louisiana Baptists have shown their commitment to our BCM as we ministered to the next generation,” he continued. “To know that we’ve got so many missionaries, preachers, teachers, lay leaders and business leaders we have gone on and impacted the Kingdom is the good stuff.”

One of Collins’ favorite memories is when a student named Alex Rothenberger attended a BCM meeting and heard the Gospel through involvement with discipleship small groups, worship at the BCM and church services.

During a meeting of District 8 Baptist Convention churches, Collins felt compelled to lead them in a prayer for Rothenberger to accept Christ. At that moment, Rothenberger was praying in his dorm room to trust in Jesus.

“He showed the full package,” Collins said. “You bring someone in who fully develops into someone who marries a believer and starts a believing home is phenomenal. He showed what we are about at the BCM – evangelism, discipleship, missions and leadership.”

NSU & ENDS OF THE EARTH

Austin McCurry, who became the BCM direc-

See NSU, page 13



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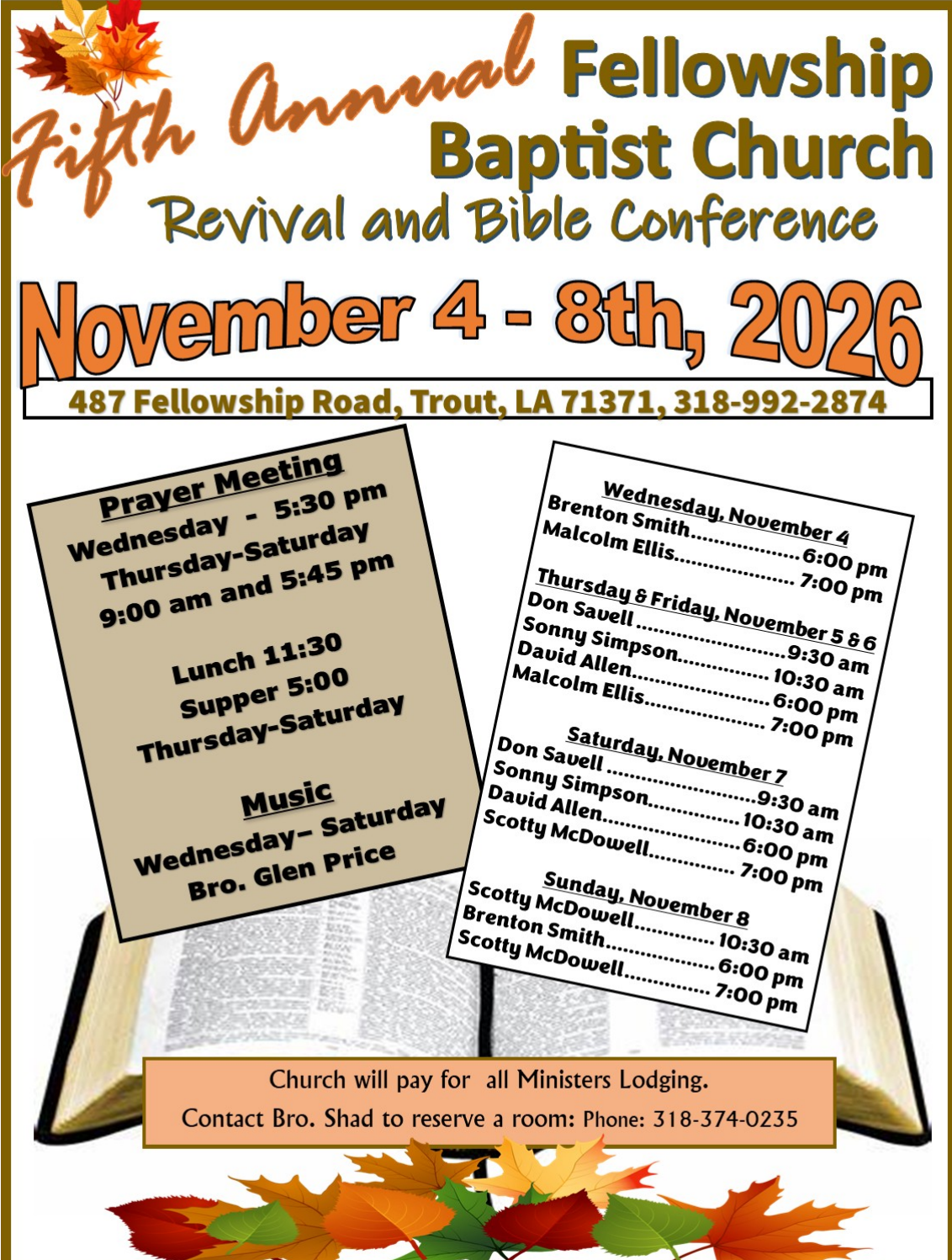
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Scotty McDowell..... 10:30 am
Brenton Smith..... 6:00 pm
Scotty McDowell..... 7:00 pm

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NSU from page 12

tor in April following the retirement of Bill Collins, said returning to campus has been surreal. He first became involved with the NSU BCM during his sophomore year (August 2013) and a year later joined the leadership team while Collins was director.

McCurry and Associate Director Haidyn Yellot began the semester by connecting with students through a worship kick-off night attended by 180, and meeting with individuals to build relationships for Christ.

In the coming weeks McCurry and Yellot will disciple their student leaders before branching out into gender-specific small groups with others on campus.

Yellot, who like McCurry was BCM-involved while an NSU student, said she is grateful for how the ministry impacted her

life among the lives of so many students as a place to connect while sharing Christ across the NSU community.

"The BCM brings to this campus and to our town a practically 24/7 place for students to have a place to belong," she said. "They can hear about Jesus, they can learn about Jesus, and I hope that to this campus we bring the love of Christ to everyone — every department, every classroom, every dorm room."

"I also hope that it doesn't stay here," she added. "I believe that it will go out, it will go into Natchitoches Parish and surrounding areas and hopefully to the ends of the earth."

Visit nsulabcm.com for more information about BCM's centennial activities. Also, check @nsulabcm (Instagram) and NSULA BCM (Facebook) for updates.

APOLOGETICS from page three

earthquake when He died.

-- Two decades after the crucifixion, the historian Thallus wrote about that same darkness but attributed it to an eclipse.

-- Meanwhile, about 80 years after Thallus, the historian Phlegon from Tralles (modern Turkey) also wrote about darkness that cloaked the region about the date when Jesus was crucified, and he noted that there was an earthquake, too.

-- More recently (2012), geologists studying sediment core samples around the Dead Sea found that sometime

during A.D. 26-36 (which encompasses the date of Jesus' death), an earthquake had shaken the area.

THE COVENANT CONNECTION

The term "New Testament" means "new covenant," the sacred promise by God established by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Consequently, those who oppose the authority of God attack the historicity of the New Testament to undermine this covenant with humanity and the hope it holds for those who believe.

Yet, 2,000 years after His miracles and resurrection stirred the hearts of men and women to declare Him "Lord," the New Testament continues to draw millions to faith by its historical and theological record that points to Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God.

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Moreover, despite ardent opposition by the hard-hearted, He will continue to draw the lost to Him because he was "lifted up from the earth" on the cross (John 12:32-33) and because men and women continue to hear the Good News that He also was lifted up from the grave.



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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

- Dustin Davis (wife, Sonni) is the new pastor with First Baptist Church, Pineville, of Lecompte.
- Terry Shabrono (wife, Charlotte) is the new pastor with Hurricane Creek Baptist Church, Dodson.
- Deacon LaFollette is the new youth director with First Baptist Church, Many.

HOMECOMING/ANNIVERSARY

- Big Cane Baptist Church, Morrow: 180th Homecoming, Oct. 24-25. A Gospel concert featuring Catahoula Drive will take place at 5 p.m., followed by a fellowship meal on Oct. 24. A celebration service is scheduled at 10:30 a.m., followed by a luncheon and special singing on Oct. 25. Guest speaker: Matt Tullos. Pastor: Benji Richard.
- Parhams Baptist Church, Parhams: 225th Homecoming, Oct. 25, 11 a.m.
- First Baptist Church, Pollock: Homecoming, Nov. 8, 10 a.m. Lunch and fellowship to follow the service. Speaker: Jacob Vollm. Music: Providence Quarter. Pastor: Robert Gillis.
- Outreach Baptist Church, Columbia: Homecoming, Nov. 8. Evangelist: Lyndon Longoria. Pastor: Buster Duplissey.
- Washington Baptist Church, Washington: Harvest Sunday, Nov. 22, 11 a.m. Evangelist: Lyndon Longoria. Special Music: Kerry Longoria. Pastor: Louis Charrier.
- Red River Community Church, Marksville: Harvest Sunday, Nov. 22, 5 p.m. Evangelist: Lyndon Longoria. Special Music: Kerry Longoria. Pastor: Louis Charrier.

REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church, Trout: Revival and Bible conference, Nov. 4, 6-8 p.m., Nov. 5-7, 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Nov. 8, 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Speakers: Brenton Smith, Malcom Ellis, Don Savell, Sonny Simpson, David Allen and Scotty McDowell. Music: Glenn Price. Prayer meetings will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 4 and 9 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. on Nov. 5-7. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and supper at 5 p.m. on Nov. 5-7. Fellowship Baptist will pay for all ministers' lodging. Call 318.374.0235 for more information.
- First Baptist Church, Homer: Revival, Oct. 25, 10:40 a.m., and Oct. 25-28, 6 p.m. Guest speakers: Sunday night, Kyle Williams; Monday, Taff Watts; Tuesday, Danny Slack; and Wednesday, Steve Beard. Johnny Couch will bring special music. Pastor: Brian Thurman. Macedonia Baptist Church, Effie: Revival, Nov. 9-12, 6 p.m. Guest speaker: Keith Dickens. Pastor: Adam Thornton.

- NCBA Cluster Revival, Oct. 25-28. Oct. 25, 6:30 p.m. East Winnfield Baptist Church. Speaker: Casey Johnson. Hodge Baptist Church, Speaker: Kenny Bratton. Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m. Laurel Heights Baptist Church, Guest Speaker Kenny Braon. Ebenezer Baptist Church. Speaker Casey Johnson. Oct. 27, 6:30 p.m. First Baptist Church Winnfield. Speaker Casey Johnson. Southside Baptist Church. Speaker Kenny Bratton. Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m. Atlanta Baptist Church. Speaker Kenny Bratton. First Baptist Church, Jonesboro. Speaker: Casey Johnson.
- Fellowship Baptist Church, Trout: Fellowship Bible Conference, Nov. 4-8, Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Shad Tibbs.
- Rescue Fellowship Baptist Church, West Monroe, Nov. 8-11. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Russell Caldwell.
- Harmony Baptist Church, Collinston: Fall Revival, Nov. 9-12, 7 p.m. Worship: 11th Hour. Jake Jacobson is available for pulpit supply in any Southern Baptist church. He can be reached at 318.366.7326.
- Curt Iles, author of 19 books, is available to speak at various events. He can be reached at 318.623.3778.
- East Fork Baptist Church, Kentwood: Trunk or treat, Oct. 28, 6-8 p.m. Come join us for candy, food, hayride and Danny Bishop's pigskin trailer. Pastor: Jay Avance.
- Faith Baptist Church, Tioga: Trunk or treat, Oct. 31, 6-8:30 p.m. We will have lots of candy, games, hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, prizes and much more. Pastor: Clark Palmer.
- Twin Bridges Baptist Church, Alexandria: Fall festival, Oct. 25, 3-6 p.m. We will have a hayride, games, face painting, chili cook off and bounce houses. Pastor: Brent Dix.
- Cotile Baptist Church, Boyce: Fall festival, Oct. 31, 3-5 p.m. Join us for trunk or treat, games, food and fall fun for the whole family. Pastor: Rob McLane.
- Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: Fall festival, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Bring your family and join us for inflatables, games, food, candy and lots of family fun. Pastor: Kenny Bratton.
- Milldale Baptist Church, Zachary: Fall festival, Oct. 28, 5:30-7 p.m. Come out and enjoy games, a hay ride, inflatables, car show, concessions and more.
- Little Pass Baptist Church, Charenton: Fall festival, Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m. Join us for a trunk or treat, games and hot dogs.
- Frierson Baptist Church: Fall fest, Nov. 14, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. All are welcome for a youth and adult chili cook-off, cake walk, food, games, hayride and more. Pastor: Mel Campbell.
- First Baptist Church, Calvin: Fall festival, Oct. 28, 5:30-7 p.m. Join us for hot dogs, candy and a corn hole tournament. Pastor: Billy VerHoef.
- Brushy Creek Baptist Church, Bancroft: Chili cook-off and fellowship, Nov. 7, 5 p.m. Pastor: Mike Streams.
- French Corner Baptist Church, Ponchatoula: Fall festival, Nov. 1, 3-7 p.m. Join us for games and fun, pumpkin decorating contest, chili contest, best dessert contest and trunk or treat. Pastor: Eric Hattaway.
- First Baptist Church, Krotz Springs: Fall festival, Oct. 31, 5:30-7 p.m. There will be games, puppets, food and much more. Everyone is welcome. Pastor: Henry Wallace.
- Faith Baptist Church, Tioga: CENLA hymn sing, Oct. 25, 6 p.m. This annual event will bring together central Louisiana churches for a time of joint worship. The hymn sing, under

- the direction of Kevin Boles, pastor with Lone Star Baptist Church, Hinston, will include Bible reading and prayer. Pastor: Clark Palmer.
- Richey Baptist Church, Deville: Fall festival, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. We will have trunk or treat and games. Pastor: Grady Dodge.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: Hallow Him family fall fest, Oct. 28, 6-8 p.m. Join us at Philadelphia Baptist Church for our free annual Hallow Him family fall fest including extreme inflatables and interactive games. Preschool through 6th grade will receive a candy bag (while supplies last). Visit and complete five tent stations to be entered into the door prize drawing for awesome prizes. Also returning, Ol' Mel's Farm. Preschoolers and children are encouraged to wear family friendly costumes. Food is available for purchase. Pastor: Philip Robertson.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church Horseshoe Drive, Alexandria: Trunk or treat, Oct. 31, 5:30-8 p.m. Free candy, food and inflatables.
- Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge and Ascension campuses: Trunk or treat, Oct. 25, 5-7 p.m. Pastor: Merrick Nunn.
- North Monroe Baptist Church: Trunk or treat, Oct. 25, 5-7 p.m. We will have trunks, candy, food, a train ride, inflatables and more. Pastor: Bill Dye.
- Esler Baptist Church, Pineville: Trunk or treat, Oct. 25, 4-6 p.m. Lots of candy and plenty of laughs and fellowship. Pastor: Joshua Timothy.
- Longview Baptist Church, Deville: Faith on the frontier: a Western fall festival, Nov. 8, 5-8 p.m. Food, animals, jumpers, raffle, fellowship

and music. Pastor: Mark Robinson.

- First Baptist Church, Arcadia: Fall festival barnyard bash, Oct. 28, 5:30-7 p.m. Food, games and prizes.
- Indian Mound Baptist Church, Greenwell Springs: Fall farmers market, Nov. 14, 10 a.m. (set up begins at 8:30 a.m.). Those interested in becoming a vendor should email imbcinformer@gmail.com. Pastor: Dwayne Rogers.
- Searcy Baptist Church, Trout: Fall fest and chili cookoff, Nov. 1, 5 p.m. Pastor: Steve Jensen.
- Jerusalem Baptist Church Pumpkin Center, Hammond: Fall festival and trunk or treat, Oct. 31, 4-7 p.m. Come join us for an evening of fun activities: trunk or treat, hayrides, kiddie train rides, bouncy house, cake walk, popcorn, hot dogs, photo booth, face painting and various games including gaga pit, corn hole, water ping-pong and giant Connect Four. Pastor: J.P. Handy.
- First Baptist Church, Benton: Trunk or treat, Oct. 31, 6 p.m. Pastor: Mike Schultz.
- First Baptist Church, New Roads: Fall festival, Oct. 25, 4-7 p.m. The community is invited for candy, games, inflatables and a trunk or treat. Pastor: Jeff Vincent.
- First Baptist Church, Slidell: Fall Fest, Oct. 25, 4-6 p.m. We will have a box maze, candy, games and tractor rides. Pastor: Casey Stark.
- New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: Fall family festival, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Join us for a cake walk, candy, games and more. Food will be sold during the event. Pastor: Scott O'Rear.
- First Moss Bluff, Lake Charles: Trunk or

- treat, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Bryan Carter.
- First Baptist Church, Rayne: Trunk or treat and black pot cook-off, Oct. 31, 4:30-7 p.m.
- First Baptist Church, Abbeville: Trunk or treat bash and gumbo cook-off, Oct. 31, 3-8 p.m. Pastor: Russell Landry.
- Bedico Baptist Church, Ponchatoula: Family Fall Fest, Oct. 25, 4-6 p.m. Join us for a safe, fun Halloween alternative for families. Pastor: Jon Gers.
- Old Zion Hill Baptist Church, Independence: "Free Indeed" women's conference, Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Speaker: Jasmine Hoychick. Music: Stacie Ray and praise team. Free event and nursery is provided. Pastor: Gary Dennis.
- Victory Baptist Church, Hammond: Ninth annual Camo Day, Nov. 22, 10:45 a.m. We will have bounce houses, giveaways, prizes and a dinner on the grounds. Pastor: Jonathan Watts.
- Red Bluff Baptist Church, Folsom: Trunk or treat, Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m. Pastor: Cody Roberts.
- Plainview Baptist Church: Trunk or treat, Oct. 31, 4-6 p.m. We will have candy, a bounce house and cake walk. Pastor: Scott Breland.
- Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Melder: Fall for Jesus Festival, Oct. 30, 6-8:30 p.m. Join us for hot dogs, a chili cookoff, family fun and games. Pastor: Jason Townley.
- Vatican Baptist Church, Carencro: Fall festival, Nov. 7, 2-5 p.m. This free event will include food, games, prizes and more. Pastor: Chad Thibodeaux.
- Hebron Baptist Church, Dry Prong: Harvest

See NOTABLES, page 16

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

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Discipleship Collaborative is a network of ministry professionals responsible for small group ministry, providing resources, training, and tools to assist in making disciples who make disciples.

Fall Meeting/Luncheon
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Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles



Guest Speaker

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State Missionary, Alabama Baptists

The Impact of Intergenerational Discipling Relationships on Gen Z

Although Generation Z (ages 14-28) is often seen as the most anxious and lonely generation, they are also remarkably receptive to objective spiritual truths. Looking into the factors that have influenced Gen Z reveals the exciting opportunity for older generations in the church to play a pivotal role in helping to shape Gen Zs future.

Register at: bapt.la/dc26

There is no charge for this meal, but advance reservations are required.

Questions? Contact:
Matt Cate, Sunday School/Discipleship Strategist, Louisiana Baptists
Matt.Cate@LouisianaBaptists.org



LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

NOTABLES from page 15

fest, Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m. Join us for food, games, obstacle course, jumper, hayride and trunk or treat. Pastor: Travis Sanders.

■ Summerfield Baptist Church, Colfax: Trunk or treat, Oct. 28, 6:15-7:30 p.m. We will have a trunk or treat, hot dogs, games and a costume contest. Pastor: Jeremy Brister.

■ Lamar Baptist Church, Delhi: Fall family tailgate, Oct. 31, 6 p.m. Join us for food, fellowship and a trunk or treat. Pastor: Jessie Nielsen.

■ Old Zion Hill Baptist Church, Independence: Fall festival, Oct. 25, 5-7 p.m. Free food, hayride, carnival games, pony rides, inflatables, devotion time, door prizes and a cake walk. A trunk or treat will close out the evening at 7 p.m. Pastor: Gary Dennis.

■ First Baptist Church, Dry Prong: Oct. 25, 5-6 p.m. Make plans to just us October 25 for games, food and trunk or treat. Pastor: Kevin Goodman.

■ Cypress Baptist Church, Benton and Shreveport campus: Oct. 25, 5-7 p.m. Kids can enjoy trunk or treat, tons of candy, fun games, face painting, delicious food trucks and more! There will be plenty of opportunities to play, explore, make memories, and enjoy all the fun of fall together. Pastor: John Fream.

■ Community Baptist Church, West Monroe: Oct. 31, 4-6 p.m. There will be

games, plenty of candy, delicious food and great fun for the whole family. Pastor: Jared Peters.

■ Macedonia Baptist Church, Effie: Fall festival, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Come join us for fun, food and some trunk or treating. Pastor: Adam Thornton.

■ First Baptist Church, Livingston: Fall festival, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Join us for our annual fall fest - a family friendly event with food, games, inflatables and, of course, tons of candy. Pastor: Wilton McMorris.

■ First Baptist Church, New Roads: Fall festival, Oct. 25, 4-7 p.m. Mark your calendars and bring the whole family for an afternoon of food, fun and all kinds of activities! Invite your friends, bring the kids, and come have some fall fun with us! Pastor: Jeff Vincent.

■ First Baptist Church, Minden: Fall festival, Oct. 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Carnival games, cow train, cake walk, bounce houses, trunk or treat, costume contest and (for a cost) food. Pastor: Leland Crawford.

■ First Baptist Church, Port Allen at Gracepoint: Fall festival, Oct. 25, 4-6 p.m. Our fall festival is going to be an afternoon of free family fun. Free hotdogs, petting zoo, obstacle course, candy, games and more. Grab the family and come have some fall fun with us! Pastor:

James Pearson.

■ Unity Baptist Church, Pineville: Fall festival, Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m. This year we are doing Trunk-or-Treat, and we'd love to see you there! Come enjoy free gumbo, a cake walk, lots of treats, family fun, and great fellowship! Pastor: James Brown.

■ Parkview Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: The Southern Plainsmen in concert November 7, 11:30 a.m. Pastor: Chris DeGeorge.

■ First Baptist Church, Winnfield: Winn Parish Men's Retreat, October 29-31.

Pastor: Brian McAllister.

■ North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: Jeff and Sheri Easter in concert, November 4, 4 p.m. Pastor: Bill Dye.

■ Bayou Des Glaises Baptist Church, Moreauville: Miles Pike in concert, November 14, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Eugene Carlock.

■ Oak Forest Baptist Church, Leesville: Trevor Thomas Live, November 14, 5 p.m. Pastor: Joe Call.

■ Shiloh Baptist Church, DeRidder: The Southern Plainsmen in concert, November 15, 10 a.m. Pastor: Bruce Butts.

■ Hargis Baptist Church, Montgomery: Miles Pike in concert, November 20, 6 p.m. Pastor: Doug James.

■ Outreach Baptist Church, Columbia: 11th Hour in Concert, November 22, 10 a.m. A love offering will be taken.

■ Briarwood Baptist Church, Saline: Miles Pike in concert, November 29, 6 p.m.

■ Western Hills Baptist Church, Shreveport: Fall festival, Oct. 31, 5-8 p.m. Join us for hot dogs, trunk or treat, jumper, monster Connect Four, costume contest and cakewalk. Pastor: Joey Ketchum.

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