

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you ...”

— Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

# M BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

Helping Louisiana Baptists impact the world for Christ



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Pastor Waylon Bailey embraces David Dragg after baptizing him Sept. 4 in the Bogue Falaya River in Covington. Bailey, who is pastor of First Baptist Church, Covington, said the church has seen a record number of baptisms this year.

## Down by the River

First Covington baptizes 77 in Bogue Falaya

By BRIAN BLACKWELL, Message Staff Writer

COVINGTON — Christy Newell had experienced many high points in life as a young adult — getting married, having a child, accepting Christ and serving in a ministry at her church.

See COVINGTON on 3



First Covington photo

Renee Strickland (left) smiles as she congratulates her son, Harris, on being baptized Sept. 4. He was one of 77 baptized during a special service in the Bogue Falaya River in Covington.

## GBO helps Iglesia Celebration make a difference in New Orleans

By BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

METAIRIE — The young Anglo, a native of New Orleans, admits he is an unlikely person to lead a Hispanic congregation of 200 in his hometown.

But as David Speed serves as pastor of Iglesia Celebration in Metairie and trains leaders to fulfill the Great Commission throughout New Orleans and beyond, he realizes it would not be possible without the help of the Georgia Barnette Offering for State Missions.

“There have been times where my wife and I have talked and it seems God has chosen us to be in this position because it personifies He is great in our weakness,” Speed said. “On the outside looking in, I’m a young White American guy and my wife is from Guatemalan culture.

“But God is faithful and we are seeing people baptized and giving lives to the Lord,” said Speed. “God continues to confirm we are right where He wants us. There is no better to place to be.”

See CELEBRATION on 5

## All soul winners needed following historic flooding

By BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

DENHAM SPRINGS — James Carson is calling all soul winners to join him at Northside Baptist Church in spreading the Gospel to those hurting after recent flooding in south Louisiana.

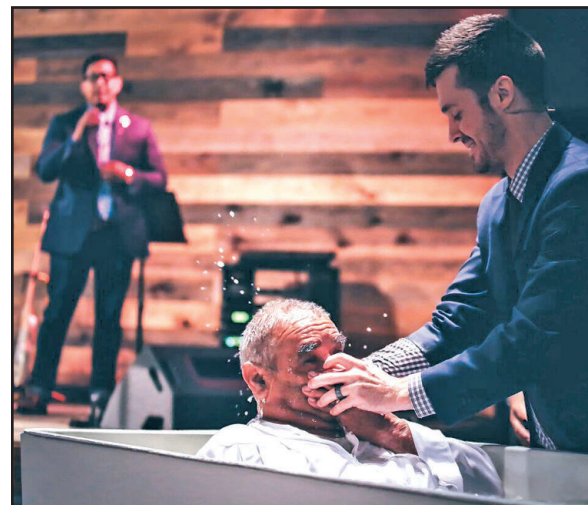
“We need all the help and prayers and support we can get,” said Carson, interim pastor of this Denham Springs congregation. “We as a church are looking at this as an opportunity not only to minister to the physical needs of people but more importantly to their spiritual needs and trying to win people all over this community to Jesus Christ. We will put forth a really hard effort to get that done in our community here.

“And we welcome any soul winners to come and join us in this effort,” he added. “We would appreciate that.”



Nearly four feet of water came inside the worship center at Northside Baptist Church in mid-August. James Carson stands in front of a section showing where the water reached.

See SOUL WINNERS on 5



Christian Restrepo photo

Iglesia Celebration Pastor David Speed baptizes Mario Peralta. The church in Metairie has grown from 8 in February 2014 to 200 now. Speed has baptized 31 people since the church began.

# Pastor: Sheetrock donations would be blessing to Blood River

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

ALBANY – The water was rising to the door of the church parsonage and Pastor David Collins knew he had to make a difficult decision – placing his trust in complete strangers in an airboat to rescue his family.

With the water waste deep and Blood River Baptist Church just a few hundred yards away, Collins reassured his two young boys they would be okay. Moments later, Collins joined his children as the three breathed a sigh of relief, for they had found refuge inside the church building.

And in the midst of the situation, the Lord reminded Collins of a sermon he preached a few Sundays before on trusting in the Lord wholeheartedly for everything. Collins had to apply the message at that very moment.

“It’s crazy how some folks

think that it’s easy to put our trust in someone with an airboat, that we’ve never met, and put our little boys and belongings, on the boat,” Collins said. “I’ve never seen these people in my life. They came to rescue us without asking for anything in return. They came into my house to help me pack, grabbed my boys, dogs, and some essential belongings up and unselfishly placed them on their airboat. They asked me what else I needed and I had to say just please just get my boys to safety. That was a little hard to do.

“I see and share the Gospel with so many people that are lost without Christ on a daily basis,” he continued. “People tend to put more of their love, devotion, faith and trust in things, people, and in complete strangers that we’ve never met to save them from the deep waters of sin than to wholeheartedly sell out, place our faith, trust, and our whole

entire lives over to the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Blood River Baptist Church’s situation is similar to the more than 70 other Louisiana Baptist churches which sustained flood waters from several days of heavy rainfall in mid-August. The worship center took in 4 inches of water and the education building saw waters rise inside as high as a foot-and-a-half.

Though 90 percent of his congregation was impacted by the flooding, that did not stop them from ministering to their neighbors in need.

They opened up the upper floors in the Family Life Center for people seeking shelter, and Collins went out into the community on his tractor to distribute bottled water with Gospel tracts. Each case of water had a note of love and encouragement stuffed into it. Members also brought hot plates of food that other churches provided in the association. They also passed out canned goods and shared warm hugs, prayers and the comfort of hope found only found in Christ.

Because the Family Life Center took on a minimal amount of water, Collins was able to have worship services on Sunday morning, Aug. 14, and feed the community afterwards. The following morning, Collins led the congregation to open up the Family Life Center to serve as a point of distribution



Pastor David Collins explains how God is helping he and his congregation at Blood River Baptist Church in Albany overcome challenges after their facilities flooded in mid-August.

of goods and space for those in need to eat a warm meal cooked by the church members.

Collins said this is helping to fulfill his vision is to be an outwardly-Gospel centered evangelistic light house for the community.

## PROVISIONS ABOUND

Like many others in the area, Blood River Baptist Church was not listed in a flood zone, nor required to obtain flood insurance. The repairs will exceed more \$200,00 in cost to rebuild.

Even with the monumental task ahead, the Lord has provided in so many ways already.

Someone donated two 40-ft. storage containers and volunteers have come to help the

church gut their flooded buildings. Additionally, church member Charles Barnes has charged the church with an inspiration of hope by starting the ministry “Fill My Cup Lord” to collect money for those affected by the storm. Nearly \$10,000 has been collected so far.

Collins said the situation has allowed him to fulfill a vision to share the Gospel in every home one mile from the pulpit. He expects to complete that soon and will branch out -- sharing the message of Christ with many more homes.

“It’s just amazing what God has allowed us to do and is still continuing to do,” Collins said. “I feel like God just stuck his finger of love in Blood River Baptist and the community and stirred it up. Folks that were raised here have stated, “God is working here, this isn’t the same church that I grew up in.

“We count our trials as joy because through it all if we didn’t have this flood, I wonder how many more relationships we wouldn’t have developed,” he continued. “We met so many people so fast. Losing stuff is sad at times but we are blessed better than we deserve.”

To help Blood River Baptist Church rebuild and reach its community, contact Collins at 225.567.3629.

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## Covington from page one

Still, something was missing – publicly declaring her faith in Christ through believer’s baptism.

Her husband encouraged her to join him in being obedient by taking this next step.

Standing beside her husband in the waters and their daughter watching nearby, Newell was baptized Sept. 4.

“Getting baptized that Sunday in the river with my husband was an incredible feeling,” she said. “The whole day unfolded just as it should. It was just the two of us with our little girl and she was so proud. She wanted to take our picture and she cheered from the river bank. Since that day I can feel Jesus working for the good in our marriage.”

Newell and her husband were among 77 baptized on the banks of the Bogue Falaya River in Covington.

Nearly 400 people were present to witness the baptisms.

When the day was over, the church had set its all-time record for baptisms in one year, with 159.

But as exciting as it was to baptize 77 people, Pastor Waylon Bailey said his congregation was even more elated about the changed lives.

“It was a great experience to have a lot of people on the shoreline watching and cheering as each person came out of the water,” Bailey said. “We have a lot of people who want to be baptized and they see it exactly as it is, taking a stand for Christ. They love the authentic nature of the river baptisms and I think that’s why we have such a

great response each year.”

### EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP RESULT IN RECORD BAPTISMS

Bailey credits the record number of baptisms to the church’s emphasis on discipleship and evangelism.

Currently, 1,400 people attend Sunday morning classes, creating a need for three different hours for Bible study. Such growth has spurred the need for construction of extra space to reach its community for generations to come.

The new Bible study space will open by August 2017. A worship center seating 2,400 will be completed in mid-2018, nearly doubling its current capacity of 1,250.

When the congregation moved to its current location in 2001, Sunday school attendance averaged around 800.

After much prayer, they implemented a Sunday school model that emphasized starting new class units on a regular basis, identifying and training new Bible study leaders.

They also created new leadership structures within the classes.

First Covington also placed a premium on outreach efforts, including door-to-door evangelism, Upward sports, special needs classes, Celebrate Recovery and Vacation Bible School. Each of these ministries draws a large number of guests First

Covington had not reached before.

“People we come in contact with have real needs and we try to connect them with ministries that hopefully will one day lead them to a relationship with Christ,” Bailey said. “When you are meeting their physical and emotional needs, they have a tremendous openness to the Gospel because they recognize the love of Him through us.”

### CHRIST-LIKE LOVE

That Christ-like love is what drew Buddy Fetter to the church 40 years ago. He was one of those baptized Sept. 4.

Fetter chose to finally take that step when his grandson accepted Christ during Vacation Bible School and thus wanted his grandson to participate with him.

“It was an event that he will remember and I will remember the rest of our lives,” he said. “It felt like a new beginning.”

Now the event has concluded, the leadership of First Covington has the task of assimilating each newly baptized believer into a discipleship class.

This can include a new member’s class and other small groups for adults and a new believer’s class for children.

The church’s goal, according to Associate Pastor Jay Johnston, is to walk alongside each person who was baptized and help them as they



Philip Timothy photo

First Covington Pastor Waylon Bailey explains how the church is spending \$34 million to expand its worship center, widen its foyer and provide additional space for its growing Sunday School ministry. Currently, 1,400 people attend Bible study Sunday mornings. Bailey credits this program with strengthening the congregation’s passion for discipleship, evangelism and baptisms.

begin this new journey in their Christian faith.

“They begin sharing their faith in Christ with family and friends, and we often meet those they are sharing

with because they bring them to Bible Study and worship,” Johnston said. “They get the biblical truth that they are commissioned by God to be a disciple-maker.”

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# Collegians forgo holiday to assist with repair of flood-damaged homes

By BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE – The Labor Day weekend was supposed to be a time when Jason Thomas was holding campus Bible studies and watching football with members of the new Baptist Collegiate Ministry at Southern University.

Instead, the director of this newly-established BCM spent the weekend alongside other college students repairing Baton Rouge-area homes damaged by flooding in mid-August.

He said homeowners expressed tremendous gratitude telling him they had just reached a point of overwhelming emotional and physical fatigue and then his team showed up.

The ministry opportunity with his students reminded him of the reason they exist as a BCM – to show Jesus’ love

in the midst of tragedy.

“This has been a truly stretching season building a new college ministry in the midst of tragedy,” Thomas said. “However, I have been extremely encouraged to see God’s providence in bringing students in the form of relief volunteers. The ability to share my heart through working alongside of students has been priceless.”

Thomas and his team were among 450 students and campus directors from six states and 18 different Baptist Collegiate Ministry and church collegiate groups over the Labor Day weekend who cleaned up 100 homes impacted by mid-August flooding.

They worked in neighborhoods in Baton Rouge and outlying areas and held a joint worship service Sept. 3 at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.

Istrouma Baptist Church

was one of nine Louisiana Baptist churches which housed the students. The others were Florida Boulevard Baptist Church, Jefferson Baptist Church, the LSU BCM, Woodlawn Baptist Church and Zoar Baptist Church in Baton Rouge; Hebron Baptist Church and Christ Community Church in Denham Springs; and Fellowship Church in Prairieville.

Steve Masters, LSU BCM Director, said the weekend represented cooperation at its finest, with students from across the South coming together for one purpose – to be the hands and feet of Jesus to some of the more than 155,000 homeowners whose houses were damaged by the 1,000-year flood.

“I was very encouraged by the many college students from several states who came in to help with our SBC Disaster Relief efforts during the



More than 450 students participated in Scoopfest. Students and campus directors from six states and 18 different Baptist Collegiate Ministry and church collegiate groups over the Labor Day weekend cleaned up 100 homes impacted by mid-August flooding in Baton Rouge.

Labor Day weekend,” Masters said. “Hundreds of homeowners were helped and touched by their ministry efforts including my wife and I.”

Among the students working on Masters’ home was Samuel Taylor, vice president for the BCM at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

He appreciated not only helping out a BCM director but also working alongside BCM students from other

schools in the state.

“It was just really cool to see all of the other people there, who are in the same stage of life as you, coming into the area that you call home and loving people and being the hands and feet of Jesus,” he said. “And then it was very encouraging to come together with fellow brothers and sisters from several states away to worship our Lord. It

See COLLEGIANS on 7

## PREVENTING ADDICTION

By: **John Fleming, MD**

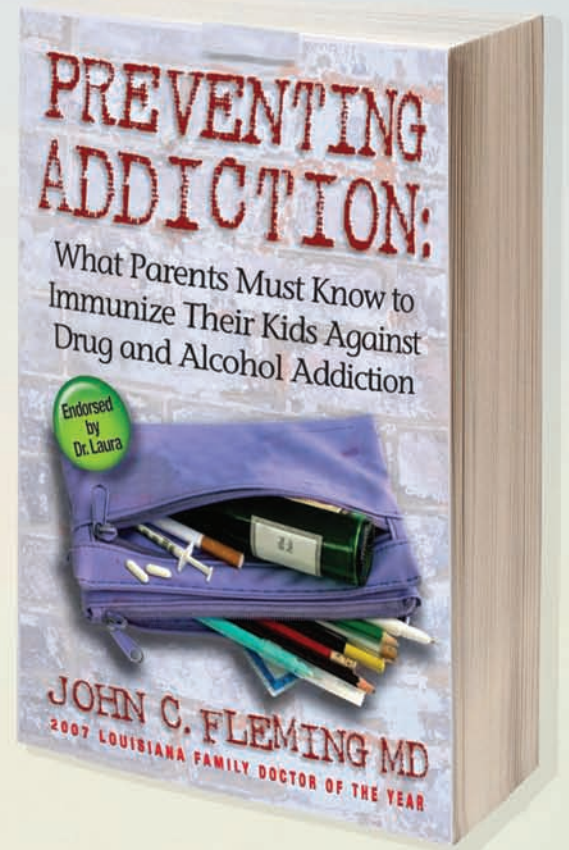
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## Celebration from page one

### UNLIKELY CALLING

God planted a desire within Speed to minister to Hispanics while he was living in New Orleans shortly after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city. One afternoon Speed was driving past a home improvement store when he noticed 300 Hispanics sitting in the parking lot, waiting for someone to come and pick them up for work.

He wanted to communicate with them but could not speak their language.

Then, a friend living in Mexico convinced Speed to move there in May 2007.

For two years, Speed learned the Spanish language and helped plant churches in rural areas outside of Acapulco.

He returned to the U.S. in July 2009, with plans to attend New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

But a month later, Speed knew his heart was in a country whose people spoke the Spanish language and he left the U.S. once again, this time for Guatemala.

While working at an orphanage there, he met his wife. They served together until they felt God leading them back to the U.S. in 2012.

While searching for God's next mission, the couple ended up attending Celebration Church in Metairie.

Speed translated the services for his wife who spoke limited English then.

Pastor Dennis Watson

learned of Speed's translating ability and set up a meeting with him.

This set the stage for Iglesia Celebration, part of Celebration Church's seven campuses.

"He asked if I had any questions for him and I asked that if Celebration had such an influential ministry in New Orleans, why they didn't have a Spanish ministry," Speed said. "He said that's a good question and to pray if it would be a good fit for me to consider serving here. And that turned into what we have today, with many showing up during the week for LifeGroups and as many as 200 on Sunday mornings to worship together in the Spanish language."

Iglesia Celebration began in February 2014 when Speed held a LifeGroup at the home of a Hispanic family in Metairie with eight. Two months later, attendance had grown to 20 and they began meeting at Celebration Church's campus in Metairie.

By the end of the year, the congregation had grown to 45 and showed no signs of slowing down, moving from a Saturday evening to a Sunday morning service. Today, the congregation also has a Wednesday evening discipleship program and six

LifeGroups that meet during the week and hit its highest attended service ever on Easter this year, with 260 on hand.

This congregation's numerical growth has been aided by the baptism of 31 in two years.

"I've seen God bringing people to our ministry who have never even been to church before or were exposed to it but never had a true knowledge of Jesus," Speed said. "We have seen people come in, experience the Gospel and apply it to their lives. This just confirms that my wife and I are just where we are supposed to be at this time in our lives and makes us excited about the future of Hispanic ministry in New Orleans."

With more than 100,000 Hispanics in the New Orleans area, he hopes to one day help

start more Hispanic churches throughout the area.

But to do so would require God raising up more male leaders.

"Our goal is to duplicate what is done here in Metairie and put a Hispanic church in all of our seven campuses in the area," Speed said. "Please pray we have more males step up and come in, prepared not only to share the vision we have but also play the vital role we need from them."

The Georgia Barnette Offering for State Missions provides funding for Iglesia Celebration and other ministries in the state.

**To learn more about the offering and how it helps churches like Iglesia Celebration reach their community and world for Christ, visit [GeorgiaBarnette.org](http://GeorgiaBarnette.org).**



Brian Blackwell photo

James Carson looks at a Bible that was left untouched as floodwaters filled the worship center of Northside Baptist Church in Denham Springs.

## Soul Winners from page one

Nearly four feet of water came inside Northside's worship center in mid-August and nearly everything from pews to hymnals was ruined.

But some special items were spared.

"We are most grateful our grand piano and organ were spared as they are used to glorify our Lord with leading our praise to Him in worship," Carson said. "We also are grateful the large family Bible on the Lord's Supper table was spared as Northside Baptists are a people of the Book. We believe that the Word of God is 'a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.'"

Most of the congregation is at least 70 years old. Carson said he believes some of these members may never return and many others are limited in their ability to help clean up inside the facility.

He said this is why he is heavily dependent on help from

volunteers outside his congregation.

Already, a team from First Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., has helped clean the inside of the facility and has committed to assist in the rebuilding the campus.

Carson is asking for additional teams to help Northside Baptist Church position itself to reach its community with the Gospel.

"There are many in our community who are unchurched and unsaved," he said. "We want our church to have a positive impact on those who are hurting in order to build relationships with the community that will result in sharing the Gospel message of salvation to the unsaved and to reclaim those believers who are unchurched."

**To help Northside Baptist Church in their rebuilding efforts contact Carson at 318.547.0785.**

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# Fall enrollment reveals significant gains at Louisiana College

By BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE – Enrollment for first-time students is up 14.5 percent at Louisiana College, a reversal of a five-year trend in the opposite direction.

The school announced Sept. 7 that 255 new freshmen and 61 transfer students had enrolled at LC. Rick Brewer, president of LC, said he is elated about the news.

“What has happened at Louisiana College is credited not to one person, but to the entire team that God has brought together,” he said. “I also want to thank our trustees who continue to faithfully support the college’s mission and vision. And I especially want to thank our Louisiana Baptist family, whose financial and prayerful support meet crucial needs for the college. At the end of it all, however, we must say, ‘To God be the glory.’”

The announcement comes at a time when the school is seeing an increase in overall

enrollment. This semester, 1,126 students are attending LC, a 1.5 percent increase from 2015, when enrollment was 1,109.

LC also has seen dormitory occupancy up by 6.5 percent and a spring-to-fall 2016 retention rate of 82 percent.

Not reflected in the increase was the enrollment of 21 new students in the school’s recently launched Certificate in Pastoral Ministry and Missiology tracks of study. This free program is tailored for bi-vocational pastors, but enrollment is open to all who otherwise qualify.

Brewer said new marketing strategies, the addition of new classes and reconnecting with alumni, educators, pastors, donors and other stakeholders were all key factors in increasing enrollment.

The school also has invested in numerous upgrades to landscaping and facilities on campus. LC has refurbished dormitories and other areas with new paint, carpet,

furniture, bathroom fixtures, lighting, upgraded electrical power service, wireless internet access points, flat screen TVs with Bluetooth technology, charging ports for mobile devices, and a movie room with theater seating.

Since Brewer became president on April 7, 2015, LC has instituted among other initiatives a Board of Visitors, which has resulted in more than \$135,000 raised for scholarships. Formed in September 2015, the Board of Visitors is comprised of 100 alumni, business owners and other professionals and friends of LC who are giving between \$1,000 and \$10,000 annually for four years. During their four-year commitment, the members help the students find internships, network for the college, contribute to development of additional financial resources and refer prospective students to the school.

Looking ahead to 2017, Brewer is hoping the trend of new students enrolled contin-



Louisiana College has seen a significant increase in its fall enrollment of new students. According to officials, enrollment is up 14.5 percent compared to the same time last year.

ues. He said training students with a Christian worldview is needed more than ever in today’s society.

“Equipping students for lifelong marketplace leadership and cultural engagement is the central focus of Christian higher education,” Brewer said. “This commit-

ment undergirds LC’s vision for Preparing Graduates and Transforming Lives. Indeed, our world is in serious need of Christian leaders in every culture-shaping venue and it is LC’s desire that our graduates have the skills and competencies to earn the right to be heard.”

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# Second SBC disaster relief volunteer dies this year while serving in Louisiana recovery

BATON ROUGE (BP) — Working as part of his church’s disaster relief team, Sonny Ellis died while doing what he did best — serving people.

“He was showing the people of Denham Springs, an example of what Jesus would do,” said Roy Hill, pastor of First Baptist Church in Satsuma, Alabama.

On Sept. 1, Ellis had just placed a load of laundry in a washing machine with his church’s disaster relief laundry unit, which was in operation helping flood survivors of the historic flooding in south Louisiana. A little before lunch, Ellis, 72, lost his balance and fell out of the door of the unit and sustained brain injuries, Hill reported.

Ellis was taken to Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge and died later that evening.

John Hebert, Louisiana Baptists Director of Missions and Ministry, was saddened to hear the news.

“I have connected with his family and pastor to express how



Louisiana Baptists Director of Mission and Ministry John Hebert (left) and Disaster Relief Director Gibbie McMillan meet with Ty Corban of First Baptist Church, Satsuma, Ala. following the death of 72-year-old team member Sonny Ellis Sept. 2.

all Louisiana Baptists are deeply saddened by this news,” said Hebert. “Our hearts and prayers are with Mrs. Ellis and her children. We pray our heavenly Father will bring them comfort at his passing and the assurance of his eternal destination.”

Hebert has asked the family permission to pay to bring his body back to Alabama.

Ellis was the second volunteer to die in Louisiana this year.

Seventy-seven-year-old Don Fulkerson, an Illinois disaster relief worker, died March 29 while helping mud-out a home in Evans from the flooding in March. Fulkerson, and his wife, Margie, were on their 15th disaster relief trip.

The couple were serving with members of the First Baptist Church Galatia Baptist Disaster Relief team in Leesville when he experienced a heart attack.

## Collegians from page 4

was really cool to help out the body of Christ and show love to our brothers and sisters.”

Cullen McDaniel, a member of the LSU BCM, recalled as the days unfolded after the flooding how he saw an entire community come together. He said the weekend reminded him that anyone can help with disaster relief in southern Louisiana, regardless of skill level.

“As believers in Christ, we are commanded to love one another and to bear each other’s burdens,” he said. “When the Baton Rouge region began to flood, I had no idea what I would do to help. I had never been through a natural disaster. I didn’t know if I had the skills or knowledge necessary to help.

“However, I did know I would be helping in some way,” he continued.

Flexibility and giving control to God was a lesson Jenna Eastwood learned while working at one home site. After arriving at a unscheduled location, the homeowners informed the students from Nicholls State they were an answer to prayer.

Two hours before the students arrived, the family had

attended church and prayed God would send them help. The team helped tear out drywall from inside the house, a job the homeowners said would have taken them days.

“I was in awe of the reminder of how much God is in control of everything, every little detail,” Eastwood said. “We weren’t supposed to be anywhere else that afternoon but at that one house. I was also super humbled. We were the answer to their prayers.”

Fellow Nicholls State BCM member Katibeth Martinez, whose family could not return to their home for a month after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, said the appreciation expressed by the homeowner at another site brought her to tears.

“Even though this was her house, she opened it up to us and still made us feel like welcomed guests,” she said. “At the end we prayed with her and tears just filled her eyes. During prayer we also heard stories of how they helped others to safety as their own house was flooding. This experience was a gift to those who had helped my family after Katrina.”

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-- President Rick Brewer, PhD

# 'Urgency' is the theme of 2016 Pastor's Conference

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

BALL – Understanding the urgency to reach the culture with the Gospel, organizers of this year's Pastor's Conference are hoping to equip participants with tools needed to assist in this spiritual battle.

Scheduled Nov. 13-14 at Kingsville Baptist Church, the annual gathering's theme is "Urgency," based on Romans 13:11.

"With the state of affairs in our nation, now more than ever, we need a sense of urgency as it relates to personal evangelism, the preaching of the Gospel, and equipping the saints," said Pastors Conference President Nathan Davis. "We are really looking forward to what God is going to do this year.

"I believe we have an all-star lineup with great preaching and singing," said Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Coush-

atta. "Be praying for the conference and encourage people to come with a sense of 'urgency.' Please make plans to attend because this is your Pastors Conference. We are expecting God to do amazing things this year. Don't miss out."

The conference will begin at 6 p.m., Nov. 13, with music led by Todd DuBose, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Minden, and area choirs participating.

Among those scheduled to preach are David Allen, Dean of the School of Preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; James Merritt, lead pastor of Cross Pointe Church in the Atlanta, Ga., metro area; Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga.; Nick Floyd, teaching pastor at Cross Church in Fayetteville, Ark. and son of past Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd;

and George Ross, SEND North America city coordinator for New Orleans.

The conference also will feature a number of book giveaways and a Timothy+Barnabas leadership conference getaway.

Spouses of pastors will have the opportunity to attend a Minister's Wives luncheon featuring Meredith Floyd, wife of Nick Floyd.

"The Pastor's Conference is free to attend," said Davis.

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DOM - Jerry Price

**Tuesday, October 18 pm, 2016**

6:00 - 8:30pm  
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**Wednesday, October 19, 2016**

1:00 - 3:30pm  
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735 West Drive  
DeRidder, LA 70634  
DOM - Tim Patrick

**Thursday, October 20, 2016**

2:00 - 4:30pm  
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DOM - David Carlton

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LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

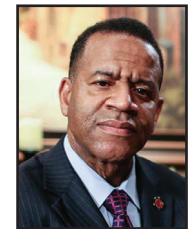
## Cochran, Johnson headline Revive America at 1st Bossier

BOSSIER CITY – Former Atlanta fire chief Kelvin Cochran will headline Revive America Sunday at First Baptist Church in Bossier City Oct 2.

The Shreveport native, who was terminated Jan. 2, 2015, due to his personal statements in opposition to the homosexual lifestyle, is now chief strategic officer at Elizabeth Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Revive America Sunday begins at 10 a.m. with a free breakfast, followed by a special service featuring Cochran and musical singing artist Steve Green, a four-time Grammy Award nominee and a seven-time Dove Award winner.

That evening, the church will host a religious freedom roundtable at 5:30 p.m.,



Kelvin Cochran



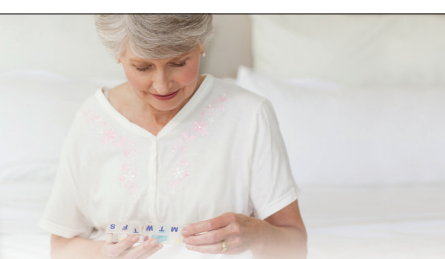
Mike Johnson

featuring Cochran, Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry and Louisiana State Rep. Mike Johnson.

"This is a critical hour in the life of America," said Brad Jurkovich, pastor of First Baptist Bossier City. "With so much at stake we believe it is imperative Christians cry out to God in prayer and commit to stand up for religious liberty. This Revive America Sunday is a moment for the Church to make a clear stand for truth, freedom and our future."

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# First Welsh's love for neighbors on display as flood ravages town

BY PHILIP TIMOTHY  
Managing Editor

WELSH – In the small Jefferson Davis Parish town of Welsh, a church and its pastor put its faith on display by providing hope where there was little and giving unconditional love when it was needed the most.

Battling rising flood waters himself, Pastor Pat Deshotel and members of First Baptist Welsh set aside their own problems to come to the aid of their neighbors.

Special attention was given to a pair of widows. Each lost a husband two days before the rain and flooding began, and a day apart from each other.

“I couldn’t imagine losing a spouse and then having to face the devastation of the flooding several days later. They didn’t even have time to grieve before the flooding began,” Deshotel

leaving behind Judy, his wife of 49 years. Victor Thomas passed away the following day leaving behind his wife Shannon. While Judy Bertrand, a Roman Catholic, had family, Shannon

Thomas, who is affiliated with a non-denominational, did not.

“Judy had eight feet of water in her home and Shannon’s trailer was surrounded by water,” said Deshotel. “I made sure we did everything we could to help them. We became their family.”

The church also became a safe haven for people affected by the flooding.

It distributed critical supplies, a hot meal and a ‘little muscle.’ Then the church

said. “I knew both ladies and their husbands well, and I could not let them go this alone.”

Joe Bertrand died Aug. 9 after a long battle with cancer



Flood waters came up to the front door of First Welsh Pastor Pat Deshotel but very little got into the house. Many others in the town were not so lucky.



Pat Deshotel photo

Disaster Relief crews from churches in the Carey Association gathered in First Baptist Welsh’s annex to map out where they were headed for the day. First Welsh became a staging area for these teams and a safe haven for towns people.

As assistance from churches in the Carey Baptist Association, Louisiana Baptist and Southern Baptist Conventions arrived, the church turned into a staging area for the teams.

“The Catholic priest, who is a very good friend of mine, told his church people to thank the congregation of First Welsh because of what we have been doing for everyone,” said Deshotel. “Truthfully, all we were doing was shining the light of Christ’s love. Our efforts were helping people to learn about our Lord.”

“It was amazing to see so many volunteers,” said Deshotel. “I really want to compliment the Carey Disaster Relief teams led by Rob Tibbitts. They really have it (disaster relief) organized well and they were just great to work with.”

See LOVE on 11



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Pictured - first baptism at Point of Life Community Church, Plaquemine

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For resources and additional info visit [GeorgiaBarnette.org](http://GeorgiaBarnette.org).

YOUR GEORGIA BARNETTE GIFTS ARE TAKING THE GOSPEL TO PLACES AND PEOPLE WHO NEED TO HEAR.



**Love** from page 9

In four arduous weeks after the flooding, First Welsh cooked for the DR crews (60 to 70 people) 15 straight days, assisted teams with mud-out, mold remediation and handed out donated supplies and money to all in need.

“On any given day there were 35 to 40 members of the church helping in some way,” said Deshotel, who celebrated his fourth anniversary as First Welsh’s pastor Sept. 4. “I am truly humbled to be called their pastor.”

Teams wrapped up their relief efforts Sept. 1, having completed work on 52 homes and ministry to hundreds of people.

“There is a lot of damage here and will be for some time,” said Deshotel. “Unlike elsewhere, we did not receive the media attention or the tremendous outpouring of assistance. We just had to rely on each other, our faith, and our Lord. And we did.”

“Now we turn our attention to rebuilding,” said Deshotel. “We have a long, hard six month ahead of us and people are going to continue to need our help. We will be here and we will continue to help everyone who needs it.”

**To help First Baptist Welsh in their continuing relief efforts contact Deshotel at 337.734.3213.**

**LOUISIANA NOTABLES**

**ON THE MOVE**

- **Lee Slayter** is the new music director at Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax.
- **Matt Walker** is the new pastor at Peniel Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- **David Hogg** is the new worship and college pastor at First Baptist Church, Swartz.
- **Justin Lawrence** is new children’s minister at Chenier Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- **Tim Post** is the new pastor at Bethel Baptist Church, Bastrop.
- **Charles Dupree** is the new pastor at Parkview Baptist Church, Monroe.
- **Sharon Harrell** is the new student minister at Lakeshore Baptist Church, Monroe.

**HOMECOMING**

- First Baptist Church, Eros: **Homecoming**, Sept. 25, 10 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow the service at noon. People are urged to bring a covered dish. Speaker: **Marty Black**. There will be singing, preaching, food and fellowship.
- Conway Baptist Church, Farmerville: **Homecoming**, Sept. 25. **Brothers In Christ in concert**, 10 a.m. and memorial and worship service, 11 a.m. Speaker: **Tony Campanale**. Lunch will follow services in the Family Life Center. Friends and families of present and former members are invited to attend. Pastor: Paul Carter.
- Alto Baptist Church, Alto: **Homecoming**, Sept. 25, 10:30 pm. Speaker: **James H. Miller**. Worship: **The Sanctuary Quartet**. Lunch will follow the service. Pastor: Alan Miller.
- Flactor Baptist Church, Leesville: **125th Annual Cemetery Memorial Service**, Sept. 25, 10 a.m. – noon. Lunch will be served after the services. There will be singing and preaching.
- Wallace Baptist Church, Pelican: **140th Homecoming**, Oct. 2, 10:30 a.m. There will be good fellowship, sharing God’s word, worship in song and dinner-on-the-grounds. Wallace Baptist Church is located at 5605 Hwy 177, Pelican. Pastor: Jeff Jinks.
- Olivet Baptist Church, Sulphur: **60th anniversary**, Oct. 2, 10:30 a.m. Covered dish lunch will follow the service. For more information, contact

the church at 337.528.2829 or e-mail colivetbaptist@yahoo.com. Pastor: Don Walker

**REVIVAL**

- Corinth Baptist Church, Bastrop: **Revival**, Sept. 25-28; Sunday, 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Paul Carter**. Pastor: Glenn Hutchinson.
- Macedonia Baptist Church, Effie: **Revival**, Sept. 25, 11 a.m. including dinner on the grounds and 6 p.m., Sept. 26-28, 7 p.m. Speaker: **Bill Robertson**. Music: **Ben Waites**. Pastor: Mike Wilkinson.
- First Baptist Church, Coushatta: **Fall Revival**, Sept. 25-28, Sunday, 11 a.m. Speaker: **Nathan Davis**, pastor of First Coushatta, Sunday, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Wayne Jenkins**, LBC Director of Evangelism. Monday, 7 p.m. Speaker: **Waylon Bailey**, Pastor of First Covington. Tuesday, 7 p.m., Speaker: **Jeff Schreve**, pastor of First Baptist Texarkana. Wednesday, 7 p.m. Speaker: **Gevan Spinney**, president of LBC and pastor of First Baptist Haughton. Music: **Todd Dubose and Family**. Pastor: Nathan Davis.

**LAGNIAPPE**

- Kingsville Baptist Church, Ball: Kingsville Baptist is seeking a **full-time associate pastor of education, administration and adults**. Please send a cover letter and résumé to: Kingsville Baptist Church 3911 Monroe Highway, Ball, LA 71405 or email to candy@kingsvillebaptist.org. Deadline for submission is Oct. 21, 2016
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Big Buck Contest**, the contest kicks off Sept. 22, 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Cost: \$10 includes a catered meal, door prizes, and a special guest speaker. You must be present at the banquet to participate in the contest. For more information, please contact the church office, 318.949.2441. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- Dutchtown Baptist Church, Prairieville: **Cry Out Women’s Prayer Simulcast**, Sept. 23, 6-9 p.m. Cry Out will be a time of worship, focused prayer, and devotional teaching for our families, churches, communities and nation. Special simulcast guests will include **Joni Eareckson Tada, Tony Evans, Kay Arthur and Stephen**

**Kendrick** to name a few. To reserve a seat for this free event, go to dutchtownbaptist.org. For more information, call Becky Rogers at 225.413.7952 or visit cryout6.com. Pastor: Leigh Rogers.

■ Longview Baptist Church, Deville: **Blessing of the Hunt Skeet Shoot**, Sept. 24, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Open Door Community Church, 12960 Hwy 28, Deville. Cost: \$20 per adult for 50 targets, \$10 per youth/student per 50 targets, \$5 per 10 targets for long bird event, \$5 per 10 targets for windchime event. Cash only accepted for registration fees. Shooting awards will be given for top 3 teams, top 3 male shooters, top 3 female shooters, top 3 youth male shooters (U-18), Top 3 youth female shooters (U-18), long bird champion and windchime champion. For more information, call Roger Paul, 318.715.9075; Josh Sikes, 318.308.5818; Scott Nugent, 318.290.9164 and Art Rainwater, 318.446.6709. **The 3rd annual Blessing of the Hunt**, 4:45 – 9 p.m. will take place at Longview Baptist Church. Speaker: **Andy Peterson**, author of *Saved Twice*. There will be plenty of free food, free giveaways and door prizes and family fun. Pastor: Robby Poole.

■ Dry Creek Baptist Camp, Dry Creek: **See You at the Pole Rally**, Sept. 24, 5 – 8:30 p.m. Bring your youth group to get ready for their school’s SYATP on Sept. 28. There is no charge for this event. A love offering will be taken.

■ Family of Grace Church, Alexandria: **Marriage 24 – Love One Another**, Sept. 23-24, 6:30 p.m., Friday, and 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Saturday. Speaker: **Dudley Bienvenu**, Christian counselor and author. Cost: Free and open to the public. Seating is limited. To reserve space call Family of Grace at 318.443.1400 or 318.769.1992. Pastor: Brad Webb.

■ First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **Refresh 2016**, Sept. 24, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the FBC Fellowship Hall. Speaker: **Tracie Miles, Proverbs 31 Ministries**. Pastor: Steve Horn.

■ First Baptist Church, Winnfield: **See You at the Pole Rally**, Sept. 25, 5:30 p.m. See You at the Pole, September 28, Winnfield High School. Pastor: Steven Smithson.

■ First Baptist Church, Hornbeck: **See You at the Pole Rally**, Sept. 28, 7 a.m. at Hornbeck High School. **SYATP Youth Rally at First Hornbeck**, 6

p.m. Pastor: Jack Bell.

■ First Baptist Church, Jena: **See You at the Pole Rally**, Sept. 28, 7 a.m. at Jena High School. **SYATP Youth Rally at First Jena**, 5:30 p.m. Pastor: Dominick C. DiCarlo, Jr.

■ Airline Baptist Church, Bossier: **See You at the Pole Rally**, Sept. 28, 6:45 a.m. at Airline High School. Pastor: Terry Young.

■ First Baptist Church, Bossier City: City Wide Student Rally, Sept. 28, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich


■ North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: **Night of Hope Gospel Music event to benefit St. Jude’s Research Hospital**, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. Groups include **the Talleys, 11th Hour, Bowling Family, Allen Family, 11th Hour, Children of the Promise, and Tim Lee**. Cost: Artist Circle Reserved seating (\$28.50), Standard Reserved seating (\$25), Balcony Reserved seating (\$20). Tickets include a meal (served from 5:15–6:20 p.m.) Call 318.303.3830 or email tickets@nightofhopegospel.com for tickets. Pastor: Bill Dye.

■ Judson Baptist Retreat Center, St. Francisville: **‘Angles on Angels’ Ladies’ Retreat**, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Friday 6 p.m. – Saturday 2:30 p.m. Speaker: Becky Brown. Worship Leaders: Paula Payne. To register, go online to www.judsonretreat.org. For questions or more information, call 225.634.7225.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, Oct. 3, noon. Speaker: **Mike Johnson**, Pineville attorney. Cost: \$10 and you may pay at the door. Please RSVP to Melinda Langford (mlangford@fbcpineville.net. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

■ First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula: **Live 2 Lead Simulcast**, Oct. 7, 8-11:30 a.m. This simulcast is a leader development experience designed to equip church leaders with new perspectives, practical tools and key takeaways. Registration is at 7:50 a.m. Speakers: **John C. Maxwell, Liz Wiseman, Dan Cathy, and Simon Sinek**. Cost: Early bird price of \$35 ends Sept. 28. Cost is \$50 after Sept. 28. Group and student discounts are available. Tickets may be purchased online at www.fbcponchatoula.com. For more information contact Josh Dickson (minister of discipleship) at jdickson@fbcponchatoula.com or by calling 985.386.3075. Pastor: David Cranford.

**Louisiana Baptist FOUNDATION**



**Each month in 2016 the Louisiana Baptist Foundation will award a gift to a Louisiana Baptist Church or Ministry.**

**Help choose the recipient by completing the form below and returning to the address listed. If your submission is selected (at random), \$1000.00 will be sent to the ministry you have chosen.**

**Cindy Mitchell was selected for August. She directed \$1000 to her church, Maple Springs Baptist Church in Logansport, to help with expenses related to a recent building project.**

**Mail completed form to:** GIVE A GIFT  
c/o Louisiana Baptist Foundation  
P.O. Box 311  
Alexandria, LA 71309

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**eMail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church or Ministry Selected:** \_\_\_\_\_

For information, rules and a link to on-line submission, go to: [www.baptistmessage.com/give-a-gift/](http://www.baptistmessage.com/give-a-gift/)

## 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.

e pyx yiyef, bmq fh dyf qgefa dm y khhb; ek

hqgmrepm, xmq yp y khhb nmvmetm dm, qgyq e

dyx whypq dxpmbk y beqqbm.

Pmvhfo vhnfqgeyfp mbmtmf:pezqmmf

**Clues:**  
D = M; Y = I

**Answer to September 8 Scripture Crypto:**  
Habakkuk two:fourteen



## MISSION: **NEXT**

2016 GEORGIA BARNETTE STATE  
MISSIONS OFFERING

*"Let me proclaim your power to this  
new generation ..."* Psalm 71:18

**STATE GOAL:**  
**\$1.8 million**

**"A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK OF COWBOYS AS KIND  
OF HEATHENS... A ROUGH CROWD. WE'RE HERE  
TO BRING GOD'S WORD TO THEM."**

**JOSH MORRIS,**  
*CROSS CREEK COWBOY CHURCH, ZACHARY*

**THE GEORGIA BARNETTE STATE MISSIONS OFFERING  
REACHES OUT TO EVERYONE - INCLUDING COWBOYS!**

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