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— Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

M BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

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November 3, 2016



Carlyss Community Church photo

Nicole Dowers was baptized in August at Carlyss Community Church. Since Pastor Brian Manuel started the church out of his living room in November 2014 with eight people, worship attendance has grown to 60. The area is expected to add 22,000 residents by 2019, offering even more prospects to hear the Gospel.

Church's first baptisms opens door for more

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

CARLYSS – Not long after Brian Manuel started Carlyss Community Church in November 2014, his eight-year-old son Truett presented a simple yet life-altering request – a chance to be the church

plant's first baptismal candidate.

His father could not help but grant it, with an attitude of thanksgiving.

“To see that passion and desire by my son to get baptized was awesome,” Manuel said. “We did things we knew to be right, like expose him to

reading Scripture and talking about our faith.

“We were just obedient,” he continued. “When he finally decided to get baptized, it was one of those shining moments as a parent to be able to be that person who baptizes him.”

See **FIRST** on 6

Unveiling of Harvest evangelistic effort set for '16 Annual Meeting

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – Louisiana Baptists have a unique opportunity to be part of one of the largest joint efforts for evangelism ever undertaken in the state – an initiative that figures to be a major catalyst for spiritual awakening.

During the Louisiana Baptist Convention 2016 Annual Meeting, Nov. 14-15, messengers will have the chance to learn more about how they can say yes to the Harvest – a two-year effort to involve at least 700 Louisiana Baptist churches to “pray for every home and share Christ with every person” in Louisiana, according to Wayne Jenkins, Louisiana Baptists director of evangelism.

“The plan is simple,” he explained. “Dates and the kind of events are set by the churches in the association and the state

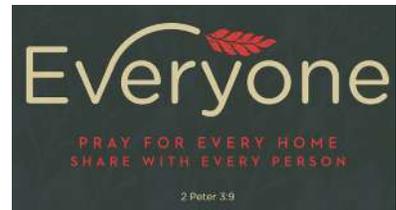
mission services team serves as a resource to train and implement.”

Jenkins will share more about the Harvest initiative during the Monday evening session of the annual meeting, which will be held at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria.

After spending 2016 to plan and enlist leaders and churches and using 2017 to conduct

statewide evangelism training and pilot different methods, Louisiana Baptists will join together across the state in 2018 in prayer events and intentional soul-winning activities. The cooperative effort will include a diversity of approaches such as multi-church crusades, one-on-one evangelism, single-church revivals and other harvest events which take advantage of compassion ministries to share about the love of Christ.

See **ANNUAL MEETING** on 9



Louisiana Baptists building hope in Haiti

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

HAITI – Wayne Sheppard has seen thousands of Haitian children during 15 mission trips there, but for him one young girl stands out among the rest, symbolizing the whole of the impact of Louisiana Baptists' work there.

During an October 2015 visit near the capital of Port-au-Prince, Sheppard was working in the medical clinic when 9-year-old Selena came seeking help for an injured leg. The following day she returned, but in worse condition, prompting the volunteer doc-

tors and nurses to rush her to a local hospital.

The team quickly fell in love with Selena, whose home life includes an absent father and a stepmother who shows little interest in her.

One Louisiana Baptist couple, Terry and Shelley Hamilton, members of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in West Monroe, was so moved in their love for Selena, they decided to pursue adoption of the young girl.

Sheppard said he looks forward to many more visits, and encounters

See **HAITI** on 5

A Haitian boy is prayed for during a Louisiana Baptist mission trip to the country. Mission teams will be needed to build a children's village, medical clinic, pastor's training center and hotel in Haiti.



Spinney to be nominated for second term by DuBose

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – In a year that has seen record flooding twice in the state, Louisiana Baptist Convention President Gevan Spinney has seen the power of cooperation at work among Louisiana Baptists and the impact of this manifestation of Christ’s love within the state.

Even Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards took notice of Louisiana Baptists’ disaster re-

lief response, praising Southern Baptists for getting the job done while most government agencies were still “getting a game plan together to help,” according to one report.

Now, Spinney hopes to energize this same spirit of cooperation and commitment of physical energy for the Harvest – a two-year initiative designed to engage at least 700 churches to “pray for every home” and “share Christ with every person” in Louisiana – if he is blessed to

be elected to a second term as president during the LBC annual meeting, Nov. 14-15, at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria.

Wayne DuBose, interim pastor at Cook Baptist Church, Ruston, and retired director of missions for the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association, said it is because of Spinney’s passion for evangelism that he plans to nominate him for a second term as LBC president.

“During my time as director of missions, Gevan was one of our finest young pastors,” he said to the *Baptist Message*. “I spotted early on that he was an extremely gifted young man, who had great potential in the ministry.”

“He has developed that potential I saw and more,” DuBose said. “I’ve spent a lot of time with him and have had a part in mentoring him as he has flourished in serving Christ.”

“Now, I want to come alongside and nominate him for a second term.”

Spinney hopes to spend 2017 in setting up the Harvest for success.

“The details of this vision will be shared during our time in Alexandria,” said Spinney, pastor of First Baptist Church in Haughton. “But for now, I would

ask Louisiana Baptists to join me in praying for unity in one purpose – that everyone in Louisiana would hear the Gospel.

“My desire is that it would be said of us, ‘the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved,’” Spinney told the *Baptist Message*.

See SPINNEY on 18

Meza’s nomination for 2nd VP is history in the making

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA – History could be made at the upcoming Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Nov. 14-15, with the possible election of the first Hispanic to serve as

second vice president of Louisiana Baptists.

Carlos Meza, pastor of Iglesia Bautista del Calvario (Calvary Baptist Church) in Shreveport, is expected to be nominated for the office by Lane Moore, director of missions for the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association. Meza is the only candidate announced for the office.

“If elected, I would be honored to serve as second vice president because it would afford me greater opportunities to connect with the large segment of Hispanics and other minorities in the northwest Louisiana area,” Meza shared with the *Baptist Message*. “This would open more opportunities to lead many to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“I am excited and delighted to be considered for serving with the second-to-none leadership team of our Louisiana Baptist Convention,” he added.

Moore said Meza is one of the most passionate soul winners in the state.

“You cannot be around Carlos Meza long before the conversation turns toward sharing Christ with others,” Moore said.

“Carlos Meza also is a leader in our association in the area of ethnic work,” he told the *Baptist Message*.

See MEZA on 18

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Ministry prepares to share the gift of God's Word at Christmas

By WILL HALL
Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA – Andy Byon is convinced the best gift anyone can give for Christmas is God's Word because it is essential to sharing the Gospel

and for receiving salvation, and, he is enlisting supporters and volunteers to join him for the Natchitoches Christmas Festival as a participant in an evangelistic outreach to the 100,000 people who are expected to attend this year.

"Many in these crowds are unsaved," said Byon, chairman of See The Light, a Bible distribution ministry. He is a member of Philadelphia Baptist Church, Horseshoe Drive, in Alexandria. "It is our hope that by placing a free New Testament in the hands of them, many will receive Christ as Savior and Lord, or at least have seeds planted which ultimately lead to their salvation."

Byon is pushing to sign up volunteers to help hand out Bibles, December 3, and to convince supporters to help buy boxes of the Word.

"We see the potential to reach thousands," Byon told the *Baptist Message*. "In fact,



Randy Hickman photo

Rick Markway, a member of Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, hands a Bible to a young girl at the Natchitoches Christmas Festival as part of See The Light, a Bible distribution ministry.

God blessed us to give out about 9,100 Bibles last year – and we witnessed a number of confessions of faith in Jesus.

"We believe the Lord has prepared a great harvest this year, as well," he added.

Byon pointed out the Bibles only cost 50 cents a copy, and he said each donation will go a long way. He also encouraged church members not to

be intimidated by this type of "missionary work."

"Rest assured," Byon said. "Every volunteer will be trained."

Schedule: Dec. 3, 10:30 a.m.
Place: First Baptist Church, 508 Second Street, Natchitoches.
Donations & general information: suzanne.sheridan@lbc.org, or (318) 448-3402.

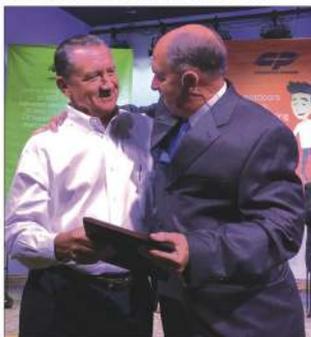


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Haiti from page one

with many more children like Selena. Moreover, it made him even more determined to create a better opportunity for others who are not being adopted and remain either alone in Haiti, or unwanted in loveless homes.

“Selena is a young lady we love who really represents the children of Haiti,” Sheppard said. “She is the kind of child we will get to minister to, care for, share the Gospel with and educate in the Children’s Village in Haiti as soon as it is established.”

“Pray for Selena. Pray for the Hamiltons as they seek to adopt her,” Sheppard urged. “But pray for all the children of Haiti who also need loving parents.”

JOINT EFFORT

The Haiti project is an effort sponsored by the Haitian Baptist Convention, 30 Louisiana Baptist churches and the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home.

Haiti was devastated by a Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake that killed more than 250,000 people and left hundreds of thousands more homeless. Louisiana Baptists were among the first to provide disaster relief and have maintained a ministry presence through mission trips that includes construction projects, pastor training, medical clinics, evangelism and children’s Bible clubs (Vacation Bible School).

In the time since the earthquake response, a vision developed for a permanent presence in Haiti, Sheppard said, and Louisiana Baptists finally completed the acquisition of land in September, and volunteers have completed a well.

The well will serve a planned children’s village and pastor training center, and also provide water for residents of the local community, he

explained, adding that church plants will be a pivotal part of Louisiana Baptists work in the country, and the ministry center will be the base from which Louisiana Baptists partner with Haitian believers to reach all of Haiti by starting churches.

The hope is to build a housing community next, followed with the development of micro businesses and trade schools, according to Sheppard, and as the project expands, there is a vision for constructing a hotel, operated by Haitians, and a school for educating the children.

Ron and Alana Greenwich, retired missionaries currently residing in Minden, have been hired to take a major leadership role in this work, Sheppard said. They will coordinate mission trips, build awareness among Louisiana Baptists, help with fundraising, and oversee the development of the children’s village.

According to Sheppard, a Haitian contractor recently was hired to begin construction on the children’s village. The first

work will include a security wall, security tower and water well structure, all which should be completed by Jan. 1, 2017.

During the most recent mission trip in October, a 28-member team ministered in the country just a month after Hurricane Matthew caused destruction in many areas of Haiti, he said. They provided \$3,000 worth of materials to repair damage to church plants in La Gonave and Foret des Pins and sent supplies to assist residents in Les Cayes, one of the hardest-hit cities. The immediate area around Port-au-Prince, where the ministry center is being built, was largely unaffected.

Team members also served 575 children during multiple Vacation Bible Schools, preached at three churches on a Sunday morning, continued building a school building in Canaan and installed 50 water filters in homes – all the while sharing the Gospel and giving beans and rice to families. At least 110 Haitians made public professions of Christ, Sheppard reported.

“We are always excited when people become part of the family of God. It is especially

exciting when they are born again out of the darkness of voodoo and a syncretistic culture,” Sheppard said. “We are thankful that more were added to the number who will worship Jesus around His throne eternally.”

BRIGHT FUTURE

Sheppard said moving forward, mission teams will build the children’s village, medical clinic, pastor’s training center and hotel. At least six mission trips are planned in 2017, with the possibility of increasing the trips to once a month.

But he said what is needed most are prayers.

Financial support and a force of volunteers are being lined up to help make this God-

sized dream a reality, he said, adding, the work is only just beginning. We need absolutely more of our Louisiana Baptists to be involved.”

“Louisiana Baptists, you have great opportunity to go and help us establish a footprint and make a spiritual imprint in

See HAITI on 20



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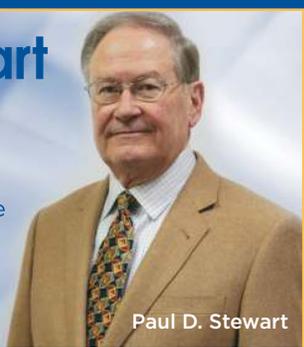
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First from page one

His son's baptism was the first of two for Carlyss Community Church, which meets in town at Cypress Cove School.

Like most churches, building lasting relationships is vital for engaging potential members with the Gospel, because many previously have not attended a non-Catholic service and others rarely have stepped inside a church building.

"The families that we are reaching mostly are not your typical church families," he said. "We are making connections with families and letting them know we are here. It will take a lot of time and movement of God to earn that trust to gain access to people's lives and we have begun to do so."

Manuel started the church out of his living room, with five families sent by Maplewood First Baptist Church, Sulphur – where he had served as youth pastor – to help Manuel launch the church plant.

Within three months, attendance doubled to 40 and the congregation searched for another location to accommodate its growth.

Today, as many as 60 attend its Sunday morning worship service, and Manuel credits its active outreach to the community for the expansion: Efforts include neighborhood block parties and members' mentoring of high-risk and one-parent students.

"That leads to a tremendous amount of relational capital," Manuel said. "We convey to our people they are centers of mission – in that way the neighborhood identifies them as a family who cares about their community."

The church is positioned in a high-growth region, and Manuel expects an opportunity to increase attendance even more if the population in the Lake Charles area expands as expected. According to a Southwest Louisiana Regional Impact Study, the area could see 22,000 new residents by 2019.

Manuel does not know how long the congregation will meet at the school but when they do decide to relocate, he envisions a building that is used for more than just a church service during Sunday mornings.

"When it comes time for us to have a permanent location, we will have the mindset of 'We won't build a building seen as a religious institution,'" he said. "We will build something that is open to the public, like a community center or day care, operating throughout the week. That will open up a possibility to build even more relationships with the people here."

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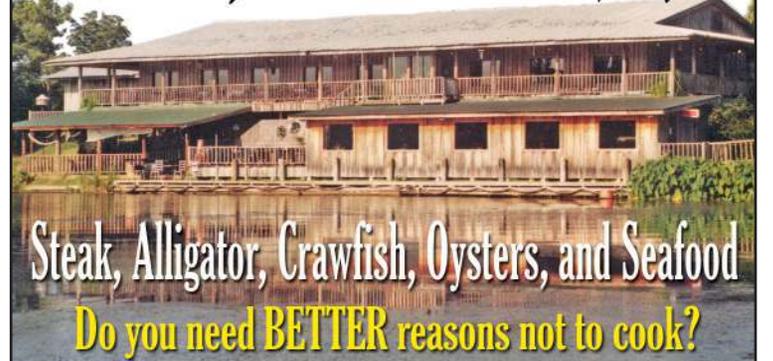
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Louisiana Baptists share the Gospel in Belarus

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

BELARUS – Organizers of mission trips to Belarus are adamant that ten dollars is a small investment that reaps a huge dividend for Louisiana Baptists sharing the Gospel in this country where 99 percent of its people do not believe in Christ.

This amount is the cost of the Good and Evil Illustrated Bible, a full-color picture Bible, which explains the Bible from Creation to Christ with expressive drawings in a comic-book-type format.

Leaders in Belarus are excited about the impact of this soul-winning tool, explaining that 40 percent of people who receive a copy give their hearts to Christ and commit to live for Him.

Since 2014, Louisiana Baptist churches have sent teams to partner with Byelorussian Mission, an in-country ministry group, and have taken part in Bible distribution efforts to see



Submitted photo

A Belarusian pastor, Jeff Ingram, senior adult ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists, and Andrew Ryzhkov, founder of Byelorussian Mission, Inc., show copies of the Good and Evil illustrated Bibles. Since 2014, Louisiana Baptist churches have participated in mission teams in the country, in partnership with Byelorussian Mission.

first-hand the effectiveness of this outreach method.

Wayne Sheppard, partnerships director for Louisiana Baptists, took part in the 2016 mission trip.

“The Bibles we are giving

out in Belarus are making a tremendous difference,” Sheppard said. “The Good and Evil illustrated Bible is so well-received by those who are lost, those who are agnostic, those who are atheistic. They are glad to

look at it, glad to read it.”

Sheppard said a pastors’ conference held in Belarus was filled to capacity and pastors there shared their faith without fear.

He also said he heard startling testimonies about revival in Belarus.

“An International Mission Board representative told us that during the last two years they have seen more openness to the Spirit of God among Belarusians than they have seen in the last 15 years,” he recalled. “So there is a great receptivity and a great openness; and we Louisiana Baptists have the special privilege of partnering with Belarus’ pastors to start churches and reach people for the Lord.”

Next year there will be a celebration of the 500th anniversary of the printing of the Bible in the Belarusian language, and country-wide activities will include Bible exhibitions, regional conferences on the impact of the Bible on eastern European cultural and

historical development, Bible distributions and open outreach ministries in public schools, universities and arenas.

As a preliminary event to the 500th anniversary celebration in Belarus, Byelorussian Mission founders Andrew and Inna Ryzhkov participated in an Aug. 11 ceremony at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., to donate a facsimile edition of the first Bible printed in Belarus. They also donated the Good and Evil illustrated Bible to the Thomas Jefferson Library in Virginia for inclusion in the European Reading Room.

Jeff Ingram, adult ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists, said capitalizing on the anniversary is a golden opportunity for sharing the Gospel. Louisiana Baptists will join Belarusian Christians to hand out the Good and Evil illustrated Bibles and will conduct pastor training in the area of discipleship.

See BELARUS on 17

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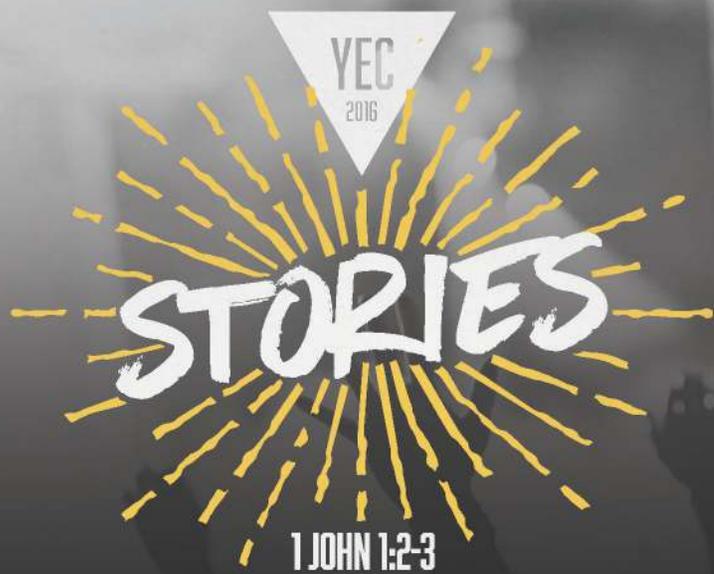
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Annual from page one

2020 COMMISSION INITIATIVE

The vision for the Harvest statewide evangelism effort developed out of the President's 2020 Commission Final Report, which was affirmed by messengers at the 2013 Annual Meeting. It is an action designed to reach the next generation and every people group, a top priority in the report, and contributes to attaining the goals of KAIROS #10 (Key Actions in Reaching Our State), which calls for helping churches grow through evangelism.

Planning began in late 2015, after Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director David Hankins and LBC President Gevan Spinney announced 2017 and 2018 would be years of harvest.

Initially, a group of 12 Louisiana Baptist pastors, evangelists, directors of missions and state evangelism and church growth staff met for early planning sessions.

Now there are 90 members on this facilitating panel, composing nine teams, who are discussing ideas to include in an evangelism manual on how to share the Gospel and coordinate a harvest event. Information on

conducting prayer activities, outreach efforts and discipleship programs also will be covered, and sermon ideas will be included.

Jenkins said the Harvest emphasis for 2017 and 2018 is not a Convention program but rather a movement initiated by pastors and similar leaders in the state, and he expressed admiration for their vision.

"What would this state be like if everyone was prayed for and everyone shared with," he asked.

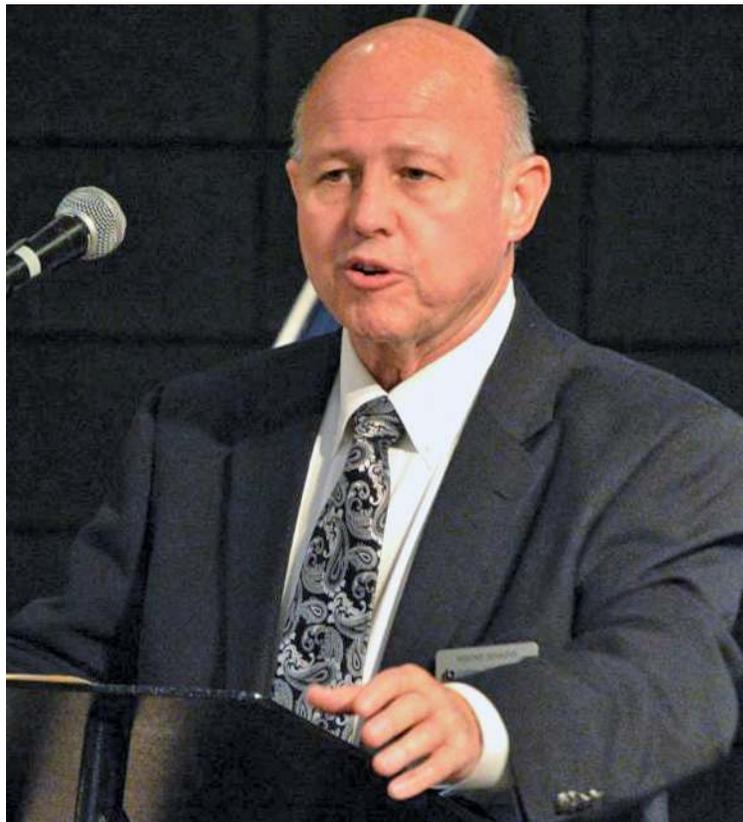
OTHER BUSINESS

The Harvest is just one of a number of important items which will be addressed during this year's annual meeting.

Highlights for Monday include special music by combined area choirs, a Bible study by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Professor Dennis Phelps, and reports by Louisiana College and the state's Baptist Collegiate Ministries.

The bulk of the Convention's business will take place on Tuesday.

During the final day of the meeting there will be music by the Jason Lovins Band, reports



Brian Blackwell photo

Wayne Jenkins, LBC's director of evangelism, will share more about the Harvest campaign during the Monday evening session of the LBC Annual Meeting.

by the Convention's entities, messages by David Brooks of Calvary Baptist Church and Mac Brunson of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., approval of motions and the election of officers.

At press time, Gevan Spin-

ney, pastor of First Baptist Church, Haughton, and current LBC president, is the only candidate whose name will be placed in nomination for the office of LBC president.

Likewise, David Lane is the only known candidate expected

to be nominated for first vice president. Carlos Meza is the sole candidate as well for second vice president.

Lane is pastor of Judson Baptist Church, Walker, and Meza is pastor of Iglesia Bautista Del Calvario in Shreveport.

"I encourage every church and every Louisiana Baptist to participate in our annual meeting," said David Hankins, executive director for Louisiana Baptists. "In addition to the fellowship, I believe you will walk away informed, inspired and thankful for the impact of the missions and ministries supported through Cooperative Program gifts from the churches."

FOCUS ON UNITY

LBC President Gevan Spinney, pastor of First Baptist Church, Haughton, said he has seen a renewed sense of unity across the state and is hopeful for the future.

"Sure, there will always be issues that divide us, but continuing to focus on our differences will only further isolate us from each other and result in a failed Gospel mission," Spinney said. "This past year I have crisscrossed our state to be in associational meetings, preach

See **ANNUAL MEETING** on 10

Annual Meeting from page nine

in churches, visit with pastors, sit on the boards of our state agencies and I can confidently say our greatest days are ahead of us.

“With these things in mind we were led to the theme for this year’s convention,” he continued. “For me the theme is more than a catchy phrase of a slick logo. It is the vision of the unimaginable. This year’s theme is ‘Everyone: Pray for every home, share with every person.’

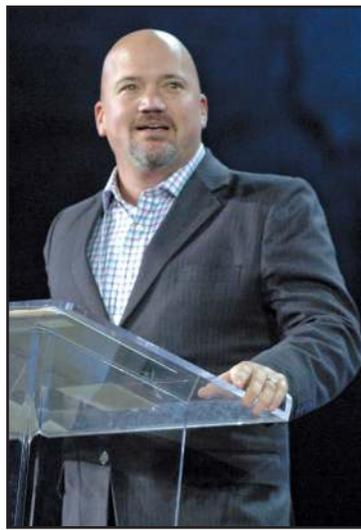
Those two statements are somewhat audacious, perhaps ridiculously impossible, he said, at least from a purely humanistic perspective, considering there are over 4.7 million people living in nearly 2.1 million different homes in the state.

However, when God is included in the equation, “nothing is impossible,” he offered.

LBC Executive Board President David Cranford echoed the thought.

“2016 has been the best of times and the worst of times for Louisiana Baptists,” he said. “Disaster struck once again as floods devastated large regions of our state.

“In the midst of the dirt, devastation, and depression,



File photo

LBC President Gevan Spinney will be nominated for a second term.

Louisiana Baptists responded with the love, compassion, and service in the name of Jesus,” Cranford told the *Baptist Message*.

“Jesus said, ‘... Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,’” he continued. “The Lord has certainly provided us with the opportunity to become great this year.

“Together we are demonstrating that Louisiana Baptists are ‘Here for You,’” Cranford summarized. “Let’s meet in

Alexandria Nov. 14-15 and celebrate Jesus and what it means to be His great servants called Louisiana Baptists.”

NOTEABLES

GATHERINGS FOR NOV. 14 INCLUDE:

- Louisiana Baptist Christian Education Association, 11:30-2 p.m., Cajun Landing, Alexandria
- African-American Fellowship Dinner, 4-5 p.m., Calvary Hall, Calvary Baptist Church
- Minister of Missions Roundtable, 4-5 p.m., Room S203, Calvary Baptist Church
- Asian Fellowship, Copeland’s, 4:15-6 p.m., Alexandria
- Louisiana College Reception, Following Monday evening session, Calvary Hall, Calvary Baptist Church

GATHERINGS FOR NOV. 15 INCLUDE:

- Discover Church Planting Breakfast, 7 a.m., Brocato’s, Alexandria
- Haiti Shout Breakfast, 7 a.m., Room A218, Calvary Baptist Church
- Church Planting Luncheon, noon, Calvary Hall, Calvary Baptist Church
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Luncheon, noon, XA Student Auditorium, Calvary Baptist Church
- Retiree/Bi-vocational Luncheon, Room A218, Calvary Baptist Church

S LBC Annual Meeting SCHEDULE

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH • ALEXANDRIA, LA.

Monday Evening – November 14, 2016

President Gevan Spinney, Presiding

Worship Leader, Jeremy Christ

Everyone (2 Peter 3:9)

5:35 p.m.	Call to Order/Welcome Praise & Worship Prayer	Gevan Spinney Combined Choirs Eddie Wren
5:45 p.m.	Presidential Appointments Tellers Chair, Tellers, Parliamentarian Committee Reports: Credentials Order of Business	Charles Wesley Robert Lawrence Combined Choris Dennis Phelps
5:50 p.m.	Special Music	
6:00 p.m.	Bible Study	
6:20 p.m.	Introduction of Motions	
6:30 p.m.	Louisiana College Report	Rick Brewer
6:55 p.m.	Baptist Collegiate Ministry Team Report	Mark Robinson
7:00 p.m.	Everyone ... Benediction	Steve Horn /David Hankins Willis Easley

Tuesday Morning – November 15, 2016

Gevan Spinney, Presiding

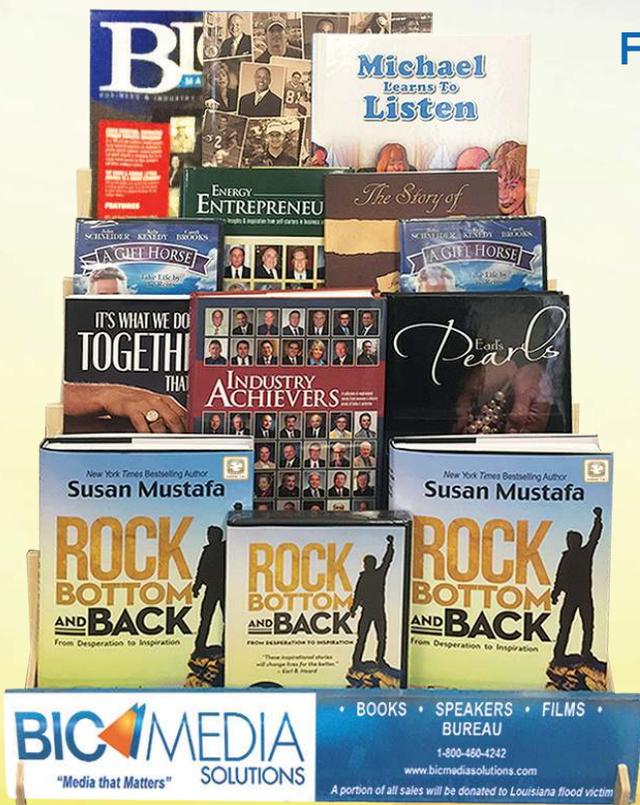
8:30 a.m.	Call to Order Praise and Worship Prayer	Gevan Spinney Jason Lovins Matt Endris Dennis Phelps Robert Lawrence
8:40 a.m.	Bible Study	
9:00 a.m.	Committee on Order of Business Report	
9:05 a.m.	Introduction of Motions	
9:10 a.m.	Pastoral Leadership Team Report	Bill Robertson
9:15 a.m.	Baptist Message report	Will Hall
9:25 a.m.	Moral & Social Concerns Committee	Les Colvin
9:30 a.m.	Election of Convention President	
9:40 a.m.	Miscellaneous Business	
9:50 a.m.	Announcements Special Music	Jason Lovins Band
9:55 a.m.	Executive Board Report	David Cranford
10:10 a.m.	Partnership Missions Report	Wayne Sheppard
10:15 a.m.	Committee Reports Committee on Nominations Committee on Committees	Philip Robertson Jake Roudkovski
10:25 a.m.	Election of First Vice President	
10:35 a.m.	La. Baptist Children’s Home & Family Ministries Report	Perry Hancock
10:50 a.m.	Convention Worship Service Special Music Convention Sermon Benediction	Ruth Shoup David Brooks Stephen Young

Tuesday Afternoon – November 15, 2016

Gevan Spinney, Presiding

1:45 p.m.	Call to Order Praise and Worship Prayer	Gevan Spinney Jason Lovins Band Shane Nugent Robert Lawrence
2:05 p.m.	Committee on Order of Business Report	Dennis Phelps
2:25 p.m.	Bible Study	Dennis Phelps
2:35 p.m.	Seminaries Report	Bill Robertson
2:40 p.m.	State Missions Report – Pastoral Leadership	Gordon Fort
2:50 p.m.	IMB Report	John Hebert
2:55 p.m.	Missions and Ministry Team Report	
3:05 p.m.	Election of Second Vice President	
3:15 p.m.	Resolutions Committee Report	Scott Teutsch
3:25 p.m.	Louisiana Baptist Foundation Report	Wayne Taylor
3:30 p.m.	Women’s Missions and Ministry Report Miscellaneous Business Prayer	Janie Wise
3:40 p.m.	Special Music	Brad Delaughter
3:35 p.m.	Message	Jason Lovins Band
4:20 p.m.	Introduction of New Ministers and Retirees	Mac Brunson
4:30 p.m.	Presentation of New Officers Recognition of Outgoing Officers Benediction	David Hankins Justin Haynes

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A portion of all sales will be donated to Louisiana flood victims.

Two former SBC presidents highlight Pastor's Conference speaker lineup

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

BALL – Two former Southern Baptist Convention presidents will headline Louisiana Baptists 2016 Pastors' Conference, scheduled for Nov. 13-14 at Kingsville Baptist Church in Ball, with a focus passage of Romans 13:11.

"Urgency is the theme of this year's pastor's conference because pastors should have a sense of urgency in the pulpit for people to have it in the pew," said Nathan Davis, president of the Pastor's Conference and pastor of First Baptist Church in Coushatta. "Our prayer and hope is that this conference will encourage and challenge pastors, staff members, and lay leaders to realize now is time to be urgent about preaching the Gospel, evangelizing the lost, and encouraging the brethren."

DAY ONE

The conference will begin at 6 p.m. Sunday with music by Todd Dubose, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Minden, along with participation by area choirs.

David Allen, dean of the School of Preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, will preach the first sermon. James Merritt, pastor of Cross Pointe Church, Duluth, Ga., will close out the opening session. Merritt served as SBC President from 2000-2001.

Monday, the conference will resume at 8:30 a.m., with music by Dubose and other vocalists. Merritt and George Ross, New Orleans city coordinator with SEND North America, will preach during the morning session.

After a break for lunch, the final session will feature Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga. Hunt and SBC president from 2008-2009, and Nick Floyd, son of past SBC President Ronnie Floyd and teaching pastor for Cross Church in Fayetteville, Ark.

DAY TWO

The second day also will include election of Pastors' Conference officers and presentation of the three winners of the Louisiana College Pastoral Ministry Award of Excellence.

Louisiana College will give awards in the

categories of Sunday morning worship attendance of up to 100, up to 500 and more than 500.

The winners are, respectively, Cedric Murphy, pastor of Providence No. 1 Baptist Church in Ethel, Steve Armstrong, pastor of Westside Community Church in Addis, and Brad Jurkovich, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bossier City.

Also included in Monday's schedule is the Ministers' Wives' Luncheon.

Led by Meredith Floyd, the wife of Nick Floyd, the luncheon will take place at 11:30 a.m. at Kingsville Baptist Church. The first 100 ministers' wives to register will get a gift bag filled with books, brochures, and gifts graciously donated by area churches and ministries. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 at www.louisianabaptists.org/mwl.

LAGNIAPPE

There will be a Timothy-Barnabas retreat registration giveaway, and the winner must be present at the time of the drawing.

Each pastor who attends the conference will receive, at minimum, two books - one by David Allen and one by James Merritt.

Those seeking childcare for the event should contact Jason McGuffie, vice president of the Pastors' Conference and pastor of First Baptist Church, Tallulah, at fbcpastor.jason@yahoo.com by Nov. 6.

Childcare will be offered at no charge to participants but pre-registration is required.

WIDE APPEAL

Davis said he and his fellow Pastors' Conference officers - McGuffie and Thumper Miller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Mansfield, and secretary-treasurer - did their best to find a good variety of speakers who would appeal to a wide audience of pastors and others attending the conference.

"We are really hoping this year's Pastors' Conference will have a great attendance," Davis said. "Please encourage every-

one you know to come.

"It will be a great time for Louisiana Baptists to gather together for a wonderful time of worship," he continued. "Over the last year, I have spoken with former presidents of the Pastors' Conference, and they recalled times when attendance was high and God did an awesome work. Louisiana Baptists, 'let's bring it back.'"



PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

November 13-14, 2016
Kingsville Baptist Church
Ball, LA

Sunday, 6:00 p.m.



David Allen



James Merritt

Monday, 8:30 a.m.



James Merritt



George Ross

Monday, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Meredith Floyd

Break for Lunch
Ministers' Wives Luncheon at Kingsville Baptist featuring Meredith Floyd

Monday, 1:00 p.m.



Nick Floyd



Johnny Hunt

Praise & Worship

Todd DuBose, Minister of Music at First Baptist Church in Minden, and he will be joined by area choirs

CONVENTION HOTELS

Alexandria/Pineville

November 14-15, 2016

Baymont Inn & Suites

2301 N. MacArthur Dr./318.619.3300

Single/Double – \$69

LA Baptist Convention

Best Western

2720 N. MacArthur Dr./318.445.5530

Single – \$99, Double – \$109, Suite – \$129

LA Baptist Convention

Candlewood Suites

2344 N. MacArthur Dr./318.427.9020

Single/double – \$99

Country Inn & Suites

2727 Monroe Hwy, Pineville/318.641.8332

Single/Double – \$109, Suite – \$129

Courtyard by Marriott

3830 Alexandria Mall Dr./318.445.2415

Single/Double – \$109

Link for reservations: bit.ly/2aPSfd9

Hampton Inn & Suites

6124 W. Calhoun Dr./318.445.4449

Single/Double – \$119

Historic Hotel Bentley

200 DeSoto St./318.442.2226

Single – \$125, Double – \$145

Holiday Inn

Downtown Convention Center

701 4th Street/318.541.8333

Single/Double – \$109

Home2Suites by Hilton

3800 Alexandria Mall Dr./318.704.6450

King/Double Queen – \$119

Parc England Hotel

1321 Chappie James Ave./318.445.7574

Single/Double – \$115

Sleep Inn and Suites

3411 Monroe Hwy, Pineville/318.640.8505

Single – \$84, Double – \$94

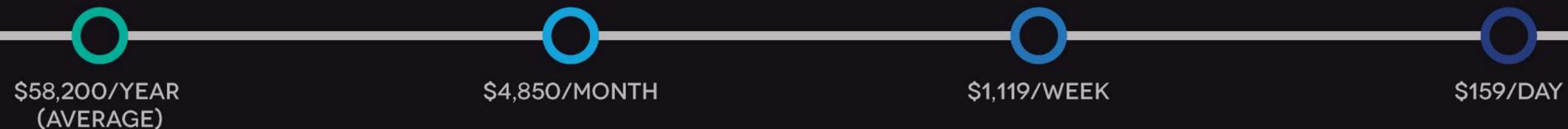
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CONVENTION COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

Jason Walsworth, Chairman pro tem

RESOLUTION 1: ON EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Many individuals and groups have had a part in planning, preparing and conducting the 169th 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 Brooks and the staff of Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, for their assistance with details and for providing the use of the facilities for this annual meeting; and

Dr. Gevan Spinney, Convention President, for his warm, gracious spirit in leading, speaking and listening to Louisiana Baptists during the year, and his gentle firmness in moderating this annual meeting; and

Jeremy Christ, Music Director for this annual meeting, for planning and coordinating the music and the musicians for their dedicated service at the instruments; and

Jason Lovins Band, Special Music Leaders for this annual meeting, for guiding us into meaningful worship and celebration and providing spiritual refreshing; and

Robert Lawrence and members of the Order of Business Committee for planning this informative and inspirational annual meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers of this 169th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 14-15, 2016, express to each of the above, and to all who contributed, our deepest heartfelt gratitude.

RESOLUTION 2: ON LOUISIANA BAPTISTS DISASTER RELIEF

WHEREAS, Record rainfall in northern Louisiana during March 2016 devastated in excess of 18,000 homes, impacting the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in 36 of 64 parishes; and

WHEREAS, Parts of southern Louisiana experienced a 1,000-year-rain in August 2106, causing flood damage to an estimated 155,000 homes in 24 parishes and creating property losses upwards from \$50 billion; and

WHEREAS, During both disasters combined, our Louisiana Baptist churches, pastors and members experienced tremendous losses of properties (many without flood insurance), including damage to structures on 90 church campuses, and the homes of 70 pastors, with up to 75 percent of Livingston Parish, alone, suffering an estimated 75 percent total loss of houses; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Baptists were among the first responders in the wake of the storms, providing food, water, supplies, and comfort to people in need – in spite of personal and congregational losses; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Baptists, joined by Southern Baptist volunteers and agencies from across the nation – including 28 states in the latest disaster relief response – continue to minister on the front lines of disaster relief in areas most affected by the storms, providing: solace to victims and volunteers, hot meals for workers and displaced residents, showers and laundry services to refresh people overwhelmed by the muck and ooze, the mud-out and mold remediation of thousands of homes and structures; and

WHEREAS, This ministry is provided with no strings attached and with no government assistance; and

WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of Louisianans have experienced this ministry as a demonstration of Christ's love in action, and upon hearing the presentation of the Gospel, many have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, asking for the forgiveness of their sins and committing their hearts to live for Him; and

WHEREAS, Reports from the field indicate enormous work remains undone, especially with regard to rebuilding the flood-damaged or destroyed facilities of numerous Louisiana Baptist congregations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers of this 169th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 14-15, 2016, do hereby enthusiastically affirm the Louisiana Baptist and Southern Baptist disaster relief organizations and volunteers, and express our deepest gratitude to the thousands of Louisiana Baptists and Southern Baptists who gave of themselves unselfishly to help people in the devastated areas in this time of great need; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we thank the many Louisiana Baptist churches who opened their doors to receive evacuees and to minister to them both in word and deed; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge churches in unaffected areas, and from

other states, to engage with a specific flood-affected congregation as a **Partner**, creating a long-term relationship to **Pray** – making weekly contacts to receive needs that will be lifted up by the partnering church; **Participate** – sending volunteers to work on construction projects; **Provide** – giving financial resources to help with the rebuild and operations, so that the Gospel continues to go forth in the flood-affected community; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we recommit ourselves as a fellowship of Louisiana Baptists to pray diligently for our brothers and sisters and fellow citizens who seek to rebuild their lives and livelihoods in the midst of extremely difficult circumstances.

RESOLUTION 3: ON SOUL-WINNING IN LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, The Bible says unless one is born again he cannot enter Heaven (John 3:3); and

WHEREAS, God's Word defines being born again as a child of God in terms of receiving Jesus, believing in His name (John 1:12) and revering Him as Lord "in your hearts" (1 Peter 3:15); and

WHEREAS, Scripture instructs that faith in Jesus comes from hearing the Gospel (Romans 10:17), emphasizing the need to ask so that others may come (John 1:35-49; Mark 1:17; Matthew 4:19; Revelation 22:17); and

WHEREAS, Jesus set the example for personal evangelism, intentionally proclaiming the Gospel, stating imperatively the need to receive the Good News through faith and repentance (Mark 1:15); and

WHEREAS, His Great Commission commands us to share the Gospel as we go – so others might be won, baptized and instructed in His Word (Matthew 28:18-20); and

WHEREAS, Both the Old and New Testaments celebrate, elevate and mandate soul-winning (Proverbs 11:30, 14:25; Matthew 4:19; Luke 5:10; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 2 Corinthians 5:11, 20); and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Baptists have been asked to support a "Harvest" plan to reach everyone in our state with the Gospel of Jesus by 2018 through intentional prayer, personal evangelism, crusades, revivals, door-to-door campaigns, other local events, and strengthening Sunday school and small groups; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers of this 169th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 14-15, 2016, commend the "Harvest" soul-winning strategy and commit to train, equip and mobilize for this unified effort to win our state for Christ; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we urge every Louisiana Baptist pastor to lead his congregation to participate in the Harvest, organizing members to **pray for every home** in the local mission field, and planning events and activities that provide opportunities to **share the Gospel with every person** in the community, as part of a cooperative initiative in 2017-2018 to reach everyone in our state with the Gospel of Jesus.

RESOLUTION 4: AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHEREAS, The Bible describes each individual as being created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and affirms the sanctity and dignity of all human life (Psalm 8:4-5); and

WHEREAS, God calls upon believers to speak up for those who cannot defend themselves (Proverbs 31:8-9); and

WHEREAS, Scripture condemns slave traders as ungodly and sinful (1 Timothy 1:8-10); and

WHEREAS, There are an estimated 27 million persons worldwide who are subject to slavery (enduring forced labor and being exploited in sex trade), including 1.2 million children trafficked each year; and

WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of women and children in the United States are forced into prostitution, including girls as young as 12-14 years old and boys aged 11-14 years old; and

WHEREAS, Profiteering from sex trade and promotion of selfish sexual gratification perpetuate human trafficking and are evident in many spheres of our culture, including the vast entertainment media – with even such events as the NFL Super Bowl and NCAA Final Four creating environments of sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Despite having enacted the strictest anti-human trafficking laws in the nation, Louisiana continues to be plagued by this illicit, immoral and inhumane activity – with Shreveport on the I-20 corridor and Baton Rouge on the I-10 corridor identified as major U.S. hubs for human trafficking, and the sex trafficking of children in Louisiana so common as to be named among the top five criminal priorities of the FBI's Child Exploitation Task Force; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers of this 169th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 14-15, 2016, do hereby condemn human trafficking; and be

it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm the efforts of law enforcement and other professionals who combat human trafficking through their respective domains of assignments; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commend Louisiana Baptist ministries, agencies and individuals who help rescue and bring healing and restoration to trafficking victims in the name of Jesus Christ; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we call upon Louisiana Baptists to energetically support ministry programs, and to pursue public policies through lawmakers, seeking in both spheres at the local, state, national and international levels to eradicate human trafficking while ministering to the victims so that they might see the love of Christ in action, hear the Gospel of salvation and seek hope in Him.

RESOLUTION 5: AGAINST THE SEXUAL POLITICS OF TRANSGENDERISM

WHEREAS, In the beginning God created male and female in His image as the crowning act of Creation (Genesis 1:26-27); and

WHEREAS, God presents marriage as a foundational spiritual concept, representing Christ as the Groom and the Church as His Bride (Ephesians 5:31-32), and He instituted marriage among humans as between one man and one woman – the union of the spouses to promote procreation, establish the family and facilitate common good in society (Genesis 1:28, 2:18-24); and

WHEREAS, Certain institutions within the United States have purported to redefine marriage, including the Supreme Court, doing violence against the Bible and natural order; and

WHEREAS, Such misguided efforts to try to abrogate the fundamental relationship of men and women has caused further radical activism across the country, encouraging social engineers to attempt to redefine human sexual identity in casual and fluid terms dependent only on the subjective self-sense of an individual's mind and not the biology and physiology that has always defined it; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has issued "guidance" from his administration, requiring transgender access in public school bathrooms (biological males in female-only facilities, and biological females in male-only private spaces) – rejecting the long-held definition of sex that has been well-established in federal laws; ignoring the well-founded scientific and medical conclusions that transgenderism is a mental disorder and often a transient emotional and mental condition; and, refuting God's clear design of male and female; and

WHEREAS, This political agenda is being advanced for an estimated two-tenths of a percent of the population – who describe themselves as "something else" other than heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – in an attempt to re-engineer basic concepts of sexual identity, man and woman, which are key constructs of the social notions of family and home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers of this 169th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, November 14-15, 2016, do hereby declare our united belief that marriage remains the union between one man and one woman, according to God's Word; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we recognize and honor God's explicit creation of male and female, according to His supreme design; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we reiterate our love for all our neighbors, including those who claim a transgender identity, and, we pledge to minister to everyone, share the life-transforming Gospel with all persons, and, as anyone repents and believes in Christ, receive them into church membership (2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Galatians 5:14; 1 Corinthians 6:11); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we reject any law that directly contradicts natural law and biblical truth, declaring such an unjust law; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we applaud the efforts of public officials such as Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry and the leaders in 10 other states who have filed a lawsuit to prevent the federal government from implementing a "massive social experiment" through an executive directive that puts children's well-being and parent's rights at risk; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we call upon Louisiana lawmakers to strengthen the state's 2010 Religious Freedom Restoration Act to clarify its protections of the free exercise of religion for all those whose jobs, professions, businesses, ministries, schools and personal freedoms are threatened because their consciences will not allow them to recognize, promote, or participate in activities associated with unbiblical marriage, or, will not permit them to accept, condone or comply with the sexual politics of transgenderism.

GUIDELINES FOR THE MAKING OF MOTIONS AT ANNUAL MEETING

It is important to remember that motions may only deal with one topic at a time. When making a motion, you should be as brief as possible and always begin with the phrase "I move that..." If you are making a subsidiary motion (one that deals with a motion already on the floor), it must be relevant to the motion currently under consideration and not be a motion that is the same or substantially similar to one already dealt with by this convention. If your motion is a privileged motion, it must not be dilatory (unnecessary or made only to delay the conduct of business). If your motion seeks to amend the Louisiana Baptist Convention Articles of Incorporation or Louisiana Baptist Convention Bylaws, please review these documents in advance for special rules regarding the process of amendment prior to offering your motion. A copy of the LBC Articles of Incorporation and LBC Bylaws are found in your Book of Reports.

Important Steps in wording your motion:

- A motion should direct that the Convention take some sort of action or refrain from taking some action. Include only the action you want to see taken in your motion.
- Do not include supporting reasons for adopting your motion in the motion itself. This is done during debate and as the maker of the motion, you will have first opportunity to speak to your motion.
- Do not make a motion that the Convention not adopt some other main motion or attempt to amend a main motion in such a way that it becomes the opposite of its original intent. If you are against a certain motion, simply vote no.
- If you wish to amend a motion, you may move to strike out words from that motion and replace them with other words or you may move to simply add or take away words from the motion. It is not proper to make a "substitute motion" which seeks to completely change the words of a motion so that it is no longer what was originally offered.
- If you offer a motion during the report of a convention entity or the Executive Board, do not address the person making the report; only address the chair and state your motion directly to him.

The following may be used when making motions on the floor of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Please provide a copy to the President or Secretary before making your motion.

Proposed Motion to the Louisiana Baptist Convention

Name of Messenger: _____
 Name of Church: _____

The wording of any motion should easily fit on the lines below. When making your motion, please state your name and the church from which you are a messenger. Then address the chair as follows:

Mr. President:

I move that:

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Louisiana Baptist Hispanics are reaching Indonesia

By BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

On the surface, the situation seemed hopeless for a Muslim woman suffering with meningitis in Indonesia.

As the Louisiana Baptist mission team of Hispanic pastors made its way into the living room, they offered prayers for the woman who was unconscious on the floor.

Not knowing if she would survive, the group had to leave. But, later they learned God worked a miracle in the woman's life, receiving a text message from the family that left them speechless and grateful.

"We saw a photo of her walking around the neighborhood, praising Jesus for how He healed her," said Carlos Schmidt, Hispanic catalytic church planter for Louisiana Baptists. "This was just a great victory."

The incident occurred during the team's mission trip to Indonesia in late May.

But Louisiana Baptist



Submitted photo

Louisiana Baptist team members enjoy a time of fellowship with an Indonesian Christian during a mission trip there. Since 2014, Louisiana Baptist Hispanic pastors and church members have taken a trip to Indonesia, an island country located in southeast Asia. The primary mission of the team is to assist the ministry of an English-speaking Christian couple, who live there and are trying to reach a people group for Jesus.

Hispanic pastors and church members have been visiting Indonesia, an island country located in Southeast Asia, since 2014.

The primary mission for the trips has been to assist the ministry of an English-speak-

ing Christian couple, who live there and are trying to reach a people group with the Gospel.

Efforts have included drama performances in a small English-speaking grade school, helping lead a Vacation Bible School and build-

ing relationships with villagers in a mountainous small town.

While Anglos are welcome to participate in the mission trip, Schmidt said Hispanics are perfectly suited for winning souls among the mainly Muslim population of Indonesia – sharing the Gospel using English-speaking interpreters.

"The people are very relational and have similar skin tone as Hispanics here," Schmidt said. "This allows our Hispanic Louisiana Baptists to go there and not have as many barriers. Amazingly, though Louisiana and Indonesia are separated geographically by several oceans, the Latinos and Indonesians share so much in common."

While Schmidt said teams have seen breakthroughs like the Muslim woman accepting Christ, he admits they also have faced some opposition.

"We don't see any backlash because of people sharing about Jesus openly, but there is opposition when people officially renounce their faith,"

he said. "If they do that, they face consequences such as ostracizing by their families."

"So they begin having home Bible studies, but don't officially convert publicly," he explained. "We are praying that people who accept Christ there become faithful believers who stand firm despite the possibilities of the consequences."

As they near the fourth year of the partnership in Indonesia, Schmidt is asking Louisiana Baptists to pray the teams might find indigenous believers to lead Bible studies and continue the work started during mission trips.

"Right now the ongoing effort is sporadic," he said. "We want to bring it to a point where once a month or every couple of weeks, people are coming together, learning and sharing Bible stories, and starting more home groups. There are lots of spotty efforts, but no steady coming together. We want to see

See INDONESIA on 20

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Belarus from page 7

The goal for Louisiana Baptists' mission teams is to visit all six provinces in Belarus by 2018, at a rate of two per year.

"After three trips I have found Belarusian Baptists need to know they haven't been forgotten by the rest of the world," Ingram said. "Just our presence is an encouragement to them."

"People in Belarus are searching for meaning in their lives as they enjoy more freedoms today than they have in generations," he said. "Pastors say they need help in disciplining their church members, so we have updated a Russian language edition of Experiencing God, and are working toward raising funds to have Good and Evil Bible copies printed for them. We also need pastors, staff and members from Louisiana Baptist churches to equip Belarusian pastors in how to lead this small group training in their churches."

Tommy Middleton, director of missions for the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge, took a team of eight from his association during his first trip to the country in September. He plans on returning again in 2017 for two weeks.

Middleton said the churches in Belarus are intentional in reaching all of the country with the Gospel and that is impacting on the teams from the United States.

"It's a type of partnership that is healthy and worth supporting," Middleton said. "When you go on a mission trip, most of the time what we bring to them doesn't compare to what God does in us and changes us. What we bring to them is helpful and encouraging, but what God does in us is more profound."

Wayne Taylor, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation, said the most severe persecution of Christians in Belarus ended in the 1990s, but added that these distant experiences still are fresh in their minds.

He said the government still uses oversight and regulation as a form of persecution, threatening to close churches, for example, because of supposed code violations.

Taylor hopes the work by Louisiana Baptists will lift the spirits of pastors and other Christians in a largely-atheistic country.

"Louisiana Baptists' time and money will be very well spent there," Taylor said. "They know and remember persecution, and just a little bit of encouragement from us can go a long way to help encourage them and to spread the Gospel in Belarus."

For information on how to sign up for mission trips or donate Bibles, email Wayne.Sheppard@LouisianaBaptists.org.



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For more than 20 years Steve and Blake Rainey have been showing people they do not have to lose their life's savings in case they or their spouse goes into a long-term care facility. The testimonial below is from someone with experience in the nursing home industry.

Lani Arnold retired as Admissions Director for a long term care facility after 20 plus years in the business where she witnessed first-hand the financial and emotional devastation when a loved one is admitted to a nursing home.



"I listened to spouse's fears of not having enough money to live on while paying for a nursing home and how these couples had saved all their lives for retirement with hopes of leaving their children an inheritance," Lani says.

These situations led Lani to investigate how she could help people protect their assets when a loved one went into a nursing home.

"I attended a S.A.F.E. Planning seminar and I talked with families who had used S.A.F.E. Planning's services to see if they were happy with the outcome," Lani explains. "I also visited with both Steve and Blake Rainey on numerous occasions to make sure they too had a passion for the elderly.

I needed to be sure their concern was more about

people than profit. I called the Medicaid office and spoke to my case manager and made sure everything that the Rainey's had told me was legal and above board. I had to feel comfortable referring S.A.F.E. Planning to my client-families because my reputation was on the line too."

"I don't recommend a service that I have not investigated and know it is a safe and secure company. Senior adults need protection. They deserve protection. They have earned that right. I can honestly say Steve and Blake Rainey, along with Ric Cochran, have their clients' best interests at heart.

"I've witnessed these guys go above and beyond for families, and I highly recommend their services. They will walk the family through the Medicaid process and fill out all the lengthy forms. They will fight for your rights and protect as much of your assets as legally possible."

Lani and her husband, Larry, attend Calvary Baptist Church in Shreveport.

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Meza from page 2

“His wisdom and understanding of the Hispanic culture and people make him a valuable resource in Southern Baptist life, not only locally but across Louisiana and the Southern Baptist Convention,” Moore continued. “Carlos and his wife Lupe have been longtime mem-

bers of First Baptist Bossier and he has been a faithful pastor to several fellowships that are active in our Association.

“This is why I am going to nominate Carlos Meza as second vice president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention,” Moore offered.

According to Louisiana Baptist records, Meza started Iglesia Bautista Del Calvario in 2006. The church gives 10 percent of its undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program to support Southern Baptist causes in the state, North America and throughout the world. Calvary Baptist Church in Shreveport is the sponsor of Meza’s church.

Meza has baptized seven people in 2016 at his church, which averages 45 in weekly worship attendance, and Meza said several more new believers are scheduled for baptism in the weeks ahead.

In addition to pastoring his church, Meza’s bio indicates he serves on staff as a chaplain for various hospitals in the Shreveport-Bossier City area.

Prior to being pastor of Iglesia Bautista Del Calvario, Meza was an evangelist and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church in Bossier City and spent time serving in the U.S. Air Force.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, Meza moved to Louisiana in 1982. Meza and his wife, Lu-pita, have five children and nine grandchildren.

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Spinney

from page 2

According to Louisiana Baptist records, under Spinney’s leadership, First Baptist Church, Haughton’s attendance has grown from about 400 prior to his tenure to about 800 now, and church receipts have doubled. First Haughton baptized 194 new believers combined during the last two years of reported data, and the congregation contributes more than 11 percent of its undesignated offerings through the Cooperative Program to support Louisiana Baptist and Southern Baptist missions and ministries. Spinney’s bio indicates he was licensed by First Haughton in

1992 and ordained by them in 1995. His ministry involves four years as a youth pastor at Red River Baptist Church, Benton, and from 1999-2002 he was the associate pastor and youth pastor at Rose Park Baptist Church, Shreveport. In 2002, Spinney became the youth pastor at First Haughton and was elected pastor a year later.

Spinney is married to Andrea L. Spinney and they have three children: Jeb, Jake and Jude. He is a graduate of Haughton High School and earned his bachelor’s degree from East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas, in 1998. Spinney earned his M.Div. in 2005 and his D. Min. in 2015 from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.



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Haiti from page 5

this country for the Lord Jesus Christ – an eternal impact with the Gospel, for the Kingdom, by reaching the people of Haiti for Him.”

A Shout Haiti breakfast is scheduled 7 a.m., Nov. 15, at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, prior to the start of the Tuesday morning session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention 2016 Annual Meeting. The free breakfast will include an information session about mis-

sions opportunities in Haiti.

Pre-registration is requested at <https://louisianabaptists.org/event/haiti-shout-breakfast/>.

To participate in a future mission trip to Haiti, email Wayne.Sheppard@louisianabaptists.org.

Financial contributions can be made by check to the Louisiana Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309, (Write “LA Reach Haiti” in the memo line.).



This Louisiana Baptist team recently spent time sharing Christ’s love in Haiti. At least 110 Haitians accept Christ during the mid-October mission trip. Six mission trips are planned in 2017, with the possibility of increasing to one trip a month.

Indonesia from page 16

intentional discipleship and people brought to the next level.”

Schmidt welcomes potential Louisiana Baptist partners to join the effort to reach Indonesia with the Gospel.

“We want to maintain continuity and do at least two trips a year, with the possibility of a third one,” he said. “If we don’t do enough trips in a year there, it’s easy to lose a little bit of ground when we go back.

“The more consistency we establish, the greater the opportunities we have to reach those people with the love of Jesus.”

To give to the work in Indonesia, send donations to Iglesia Bautista La Vina, 2850 Helena Street, Kenner, LA 70062.

For information about how to partner in other ways, call 318.448.3402, or email carlos.schmidt@louisianabaptists.org.

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PREVENTING ADDICTION

By: **John Fleming, MD**

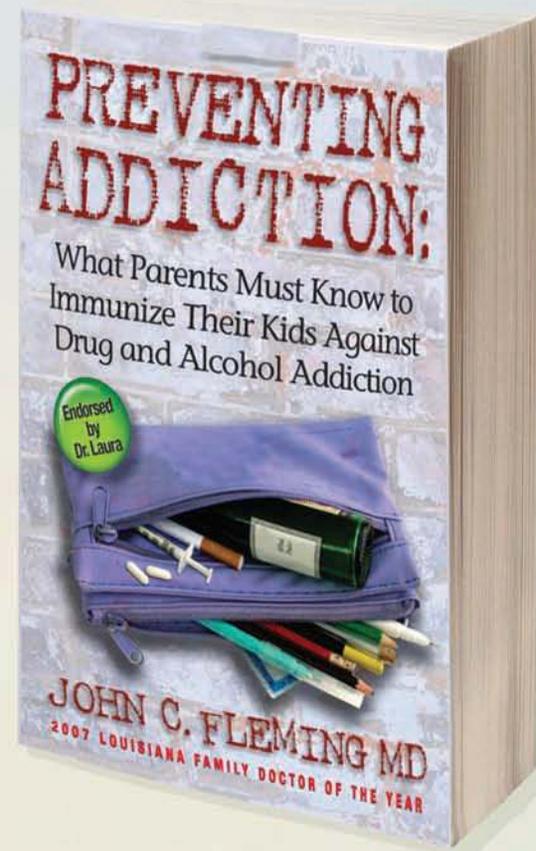
2007 Louisiana Family Doctor of the Year

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”

Proverbs 22:6 NIV

Unfortunately, drugs and alcohol are more accessible to children than ever before. The key to making sure our children are shielded from this temptation is a strong relationship with Jesus Christ. In addition, there are many strategies parents can use to ensure the safety of their children when it comes to drugs and alcohol.

Now, drug and alcohol prevention research is available from Dr. John Fleming in the book Preventing Addiction. In this first-of-its-kind book, Dr. Fleming introduces real ideas to prevent drug use and alcohol consumption in our children based on medical science and on Dr. Fleming’s personal experience as a parent of four grown children. He helps to fully explain the phenomenon of addiction and shows parents the best new ways to raise and train children to avoid drug and alcohol addiction.



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INSIGHT: The role of the Baptist Foundation

By JERRY LOVE

Director of Planned Giving

ALEXANDRIA – Recently I was visiting with a friend whom I’ve known for a number of years. He is retired from a full time church staff position but still actively involved in ministry.

He asked me a question that caught me by surprise, given his involvement in Baptist life. “What does the Louisiana Baptist Foundation do?”

As I attempted to give him a quick explanation, I wondered how many others understood the work of the Foundation.

As an agency of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the Foundation encourages and assists with gifts that benefit Louisiana Baptist churches, and Baptist institutions that are affiliated with the LBC or the Southern Baptist Convention. The church or organization is selected by the donor.

Sounds pretty straightforward but giving can be complicated.

The LBF typically does not receive gifts for its own benefit. The beneficiary of gifts directed to the Foundation, whether a “pass-through” gift or an endowment managed by the Foundation, is a church or Baptist purpose selected by the donor.

There are many ways to give, some as simple as writing a check while other gifts can be fairly complicated.

The Louisiana Baptist Foundation can help a donor determine the best manner and the most appropriate asset to gift.

OUTRIGHT GIFTS

The most basic gift is a transfer of an asset directly to the ministry selected. These outright gifts can be made in a number of ways: cash, securities, real estate, or personal property.

The most common way to make an immediate gift is by writing a check. This type of cash gift provides immediate liquidity for charity and generates a charitable income tax deduction for the donor in the year of the gift.

However, giving cash is not always the best option for giving.

Gifts of stocks, bonds or mutual funds can provide greater tax benefits.

If you have owned securities for more than one year



Gifts directed to the Louisiana Baptist Foundation can be a ‘pass-through’ gift or an endowment managed by the LBF for a church, ministry or Baptist project chosen by the donor.

and the fair market value has increased since you purchased them, you can avoid capital gains tax and receive a charitable income tax deduction equal to the fair market value.

A gift of real estate that has been held for more than a year also has the advantage of providing you with a charitable deduction, as well as bypassing capital gains tax on the appreciation.

Selected artwork, books and antiques are examples of gifts of personal property that can, in certain situations, be an appropriate gift.

Rules for deducting these types of gifts can be complicated.

To ensure that any tangible personal property qualifies for a favorable charitable tax deduction, it’s important make a note of those items and discuss them with a qualified advisor.

PLANNED GIFTS

The term “planned gifts” refers to specific strategies that benefit a ministry or charity at some point in the future, and may offer immediate benefits to the donor.

Bequests through a well-planned Last Will and Testament are a primary way to care for family members while providing a gift that will benefit God’s kingdom.

A specific bequest such as dollar amount, a particular piece of property or a certain percentage of the estate can be stated in a Will to benefit ministry.

Another strategy is to meet the needs of family members and leave the remainder, or the

“leftovers,” to benefit a ministry organization.

There are several other planned giving options that can provide income and potential tax benefits to donors. Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts, though different in form, can each provide lifetime income to the donor or donor’s family while providing funds to further the Gospel in the future. Each of these can provide tax advantages in addition to a charitable income tax deduction.

A Donor Advised Fund is another specialized planned gift that allows the donor to make a charitable contribution

to remain anonymous when using a donor advised fund to support ministry.

The LBF website, www.LBFinfo.org, provides information, illustrations and tools regarding the gifts mentioned above.

There are steps that we invite you to take in preparation for any giving situation.

First we encourage you to pray about God’s purpose for the assets He has entrusted to your care.

Our website has a section called “WHY GIVE/Achieving God’s Purposes for Your Life” that may be a useful guide.

Next, make a list of your assets, the things, possessions or “stuff” God has entrusted to you.

You can visit the ESTATE STEWARDSHIP/

Gift Options section of our website to get an idea of the types of assets that can be gifted and more explanation of the methods of giving that are available.

Finally, meet with a qualified estate planning professional.

This person should listen to the goals you have identified and help form a plan of action to help you efficiently achieve those goals.

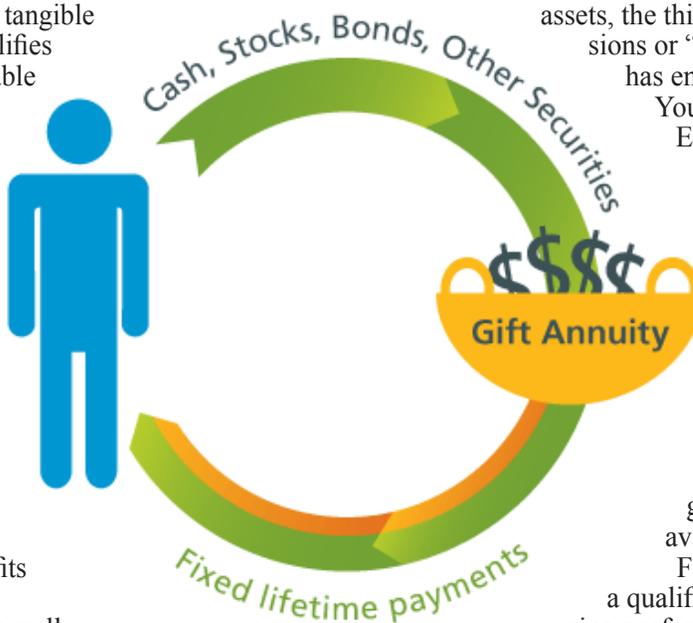
Check with your legal and/or tax advisor. The Louisiana Baptist Foundation staff is always ready to assist in this area as well.

For more information please call 877.523.4636 or visit our website at www.LBFinfo.org.

The donor may also choose

currently, receive an income tax deduction in the year the gift is made and then “advise” the fund how the money is to be used in the future.

This allows several benefits to the donor: tax planning, a ready source of funds for charitable gifts, satisfying gifts to multiple ministries with one contribution to the donor advised fund.



LA Baptist Foundation continues Give-a-Gift

ALEXANDRIA – The Louisiana Baptist Foundation is continuing to use Give-A-Gift to illustrate how the Foundation assists individuals with gifts that benefit Baptist churches and ministries.

Each month in 2016 the Louisiana Baptist Foundation is giving away \$1,000 and you decide where it goes.

In each issue of the *Baptist Message* and online at www.baptistmessage.com/give-a-gift a submission form is available to participate. Once a month, a name will be randomly drawn from those who submit a form.

The person, randomly selected, will have the opportunity to direct a \$1,000 gift to the Louisiana Baptist church, ministry or organization they choose.

Since March, the Foundation has distributed \$7,000 to 6 churches and the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home.

For more information go online to BaptistMessage.com/give-a-gift/ or call the Foundation at 877.523.4636.

Rollover your IRA for year-end giving

ALEXANDRIA – As 2016 comes to a close, remember IRA accounts can be used to support local churches and ministries.

At the end of 2015, Congress made the IRA Charitable Rollover a permanent part of the tax code so individuals who are 70 ½ years of age and above can make distributions from either traditional or Roth IRA’s directly to the donor’s selected charitable organization(s) without being included as taxable income to the donor.

The rollover provision particularly benefits those who do not itemize on their federal income tax return and those who do not need the income from the minimum required distribution (MRD).

The basic facts regarding the IRA Charitable Rollover:

-- Donor must be at least 70 1/2 years of age.

-- Donations of up to \$100,000 from an IRA made directly to charitable organizations are not included in taxable income.

-- Donations count toward donor’s Minimum Required Distribution.

For more information refer to www.LBFinfo.org or contact your CPA or tax advisor.

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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.

Lakeshore Baptist Church in Monroe received \$1000 for September thanks to MaryAnn Butler. Mary Ann chose her church because that's where her heart is and Lakeshore will use it to reach people in the community.

Mail completed form to: **GIVE A GIFT**
c/o Louisiana Baptist Foundation
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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/

ON THE MOVE

- **Kirk, wife Natalie, Maxey** is the new pastor at Bentley Baptist Church.
- **Trey McGuire** is the new associate pastor at Freedom Church, Bossier City.
- **Scott Teutsch** is the new pastor at Plain Dealing Baptist Church, Plain Dealing.
- **Randy (wife Chelby) Ziegler** is the new youth minister at Barksdale Baptist Church, Bossier City.
- **Silas (wife Lauren) Cross** is the new pastor at Simpson Baptist Church, Simpson.
- **Dustin Walters** is the new youth pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell.
- **Maudie Manzano** is the new worship minister at Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell.
- **Thomas Simmons** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Gramercy.

HOMECOMING

- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Arcadia: **Homecoming**, Nov. 6, 10:30 a.m. with lunch to follow after the service. Speaker: **Don Woodard**. Pastor: Bob Jameson.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Shreveport: **90th Homecoming**, Nov. 13, 10:50 a.m. Speaker: **John Lary**. Former music director **Price Harris** and former Pastor **Step Martin** also will have spots in the service. Music: **Calvary's adult and children's choir**. Lunch, which will also serve as the Church's Thanksgiving dinner, will follow the service. At the conclusion of the meal 90 food baskets will be delivered to families in the community. Shreveport's mayor Ollie Tyler will be on hand to present a proclamation designating Sunday as Calvary Baptist Sunday in Shreveport. There will be a timeline with pictures and artifacts all through the foyer and gym where the meal will be. Pastor: John Lary.
- Eastside Baptist Church, Rayville: **Homecoming**, Nov. 13, 10 a.m. Music: **The Sanctuary**

Quartet. Pastor: Kris Crawford.

REVIVAL

- Dunn Baptist Church, Delhi; **Revival**, Nov. 6-8, Sunday Nov. 6, 6 p.m. Monday Nov. 7 & Tuesday Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **J.T. Strong**. Music: Sunday, **Sanctuary Quartet**, Monday, **Ben Waites**, Tuesday, **Southern Revelation**. Pastor: Bernard Duchesne, Jr.
- First Baptist Church, Krotz Springs: **Revival**, Nov. 6-9, Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday 7 p.m. There will be dinner on the grounds following the morning service on Sunday. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. Music: **Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor: Chad Bolfa.
- First Baptist Church, Larose: **Revival**, Nov. 13-16, Sunday, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Music: **Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor: Gary Handberry.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Jena: **Harvest Sunday**, Nov. 20, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Speaker: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Mike Russell.

LAGNIAPPE

- Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **Harvest Party: A family celebration (sponsored by the Children's Ministry Team)**, Nov. 6, 5 p.m. There will be a bonfire, food, candy, a movie, pumpkin patch and more. Bring your lawn chairs.
- Alto Baptist Church, Alto: **"Pray for America Sunday" commemoration**, Nov. 6, 9:30 a.m. community-wide prayer breakfast; 10:30 a.m., worship service. The service will include prayers, testimonies, patriotic music, and a message by the pastor. The Richland Parish Sheriff's Department deputies and families will be honored as special guests in the prayer breakfast and worship service as a part of the church's Adopt-A-Cop Ministry. All families and friends are encouraged to join the Alto congregation as they pray for

America. Pastor: Alan Miller,

- Satsuma Baptist Church, Livingston: **Arise, Shine Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer**, Nov. 7, 7 p.m. Pastor: Brad DeLaughter.
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, Nov. 7, noon. Speaker: **Dennis Dunn, Louisiana College football coach**. Cost: \$10 and you may pay at the door. Please RSVP to Melinda Langford (mlangford@fbcpineville.net. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.
- Walker Baptist Church, Walker: **International Mission Study**, Nov. 12, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Pastor: Richard Blue.
- First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Community wide services**, Nov. 13, 6 p.m. Pastor: Chris Craig.
- The Bayou Church, Lafayette: **Annual Chili/Gumbo Cook-off**, Nov. 13, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Cost: Free. The cook-off will bring awareness to Operation Christmas Child. Along with great chili and gumbo to taste at each tent, there will be live music, fun jumps, and more for your whole family to enjoy. Make sure to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and friends. Pastor: Mike Walker.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles: **Hunting and Fishing Expo**, Nov. 15, Doors open at 5 p.m., Dinner at 6 p.m. and speaker starts at 7 p.m. Speaker: Jimmy Houston, professional bass fisherman. Tables are for sale in the Activities Ministry office. Tables for this event seat 8 people. Cost: Silver tables, \$300; Bronze, \$150 per table. Tickets include food & entertainment. For more information, contact Darin at dworthington@tbcl.org.
- Judson Baptist Retreat Center, St. Francisville: **Adult Fish Fry**, Nov. 15, registration 9:30 - 10 a.m.; music, 10 a.m.; lunch will follow. After lunch, there will be a prayer walk or prayer driv3 at JBRC. Cost: \$10 per person. Music: Roy Wilson. Call 225.634.7225 by Nov. 10 to reserve your place.

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.

cqn sb udx xsb amxwb duhq smg sbcn; cygh

duhq xsb amxwb, bkbq duhq smg vhwvwhqx,

mn sb udx xsb ihynbq uycxb, xsb shyt jwhpq; cg

xsb yhwn jhaacqnb ahgbg.

ybkmxmjdg bmisx:qmqb

Clues: M = I; N = Q

Answer to October 20 Scripture Crypto:
Deuteronomy twenty-six:six

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Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jasper, Texas, is seeking a fulltime Associate Pastor/ Youth Minister/Missions Minister.
Send résumés to: Bro. David Nugent,
Hillcrest Baptist Church,
3196 U.S. Hwy. 190W. • Jasper, Tx. 75951
or email rhondahsm02@yahoo.com.
For more information, call
Bro. David Nugent at 409.384.3371.

SEEKING PASTOR
First Baptist Church, White Castle, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor.
Please send resumes to:
Pastor Search Committee
P. O. Box 246 • White Castle, LA 70788
Or email to: fbcwhitecastle@gmail.com

First Baptist Church Arcadia is seeking a MINISTER OF MUSIC
Send résumé to First Baptist Church, Arcadia,
Attention: Search Committee
2249 Hazel St. • Arcadia, LA 71001
or email: fbcofarcadia@bellsouth.net

SEEKING PASTOR
West Lake Baptist Church is seeking a fulltime Pastor.
Please send all résumés to
P.O. Box 778 • Doyline, La 71023

 **Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries**
SEEKING FULL-TIME CAMPUS FOSTER PARENTS
Husband/wife teams needed for the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, Monroe, LA. These full-time positions include salary, housing, life and medical insurance, annuity, paid vacation, and training. Provide love, care, and hope in Christ to children in need.
For information, contact Susan Nolan at: 318.343.2244 or snolan@lbch.org
SEEKING FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME COTTAGE MANAGERS
Ladies are needed for the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, Monroe, LA, to serve in HomePlace, a transitional living ministry for homeless children and their mothers. The full-time position includes salary, housing, life and medical insurance, annuity, paid vacation, and training. Provide love, care, and hope in Christ to children and families in need. Both full-time and part-time positions require 24-hour work schedules.
For information, contact Susan Clark at 318.343.2244 or sclark@lbch.org

The Good News Gospel Trio
Proclaiming the 'Good News' in Song
(All Music Performed Live)
■ Homecomings
■ Revivals
■ Special Church Events
Please call: T.J. Vercher at 318.308.5795 or Greg Thompson at 318.446.0539

NEW HOPE BAPTIST of MONROE, LA, is seeking a FULL-TIME PASTOR.
If you are interested, we ask that you send a résumé to blhhampton@comcast.net.

AVAILABLE
Donald C. Bell is available for Transitional, Supply or Interim Music Worship in North Louisiana.
To contact Bell, email him at dcbkcb@earthlink.net

SEEKING A SENIOR PASTOR
New Life Baptist Church located in Deridder LA, is searching for a senior pastor. We ask that you would share this information and be a part in the Lord's plan for His church.
Please send résumés to PastorSearch@NLBCD.ORG or call 337.396.1899.

FULL-TIME WORSHIP LEADER
Feliciana Baptist Church of Clinton, LA is seeking a full-time worship leader.
Please send resumes to:
Feliciana Baptist Church
P O Box 428 • Clinton LA 70722
or email résumés to felicianabc@att.net

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Chapel Needed
Young ranch owner is seeking an unused small chapel/church or older small building to be repurposed for same and to be moved to a rural location for another use.
For more details, please contact C. Broxson at 337.463.6271 or email acwrenpa@bellsouth.net

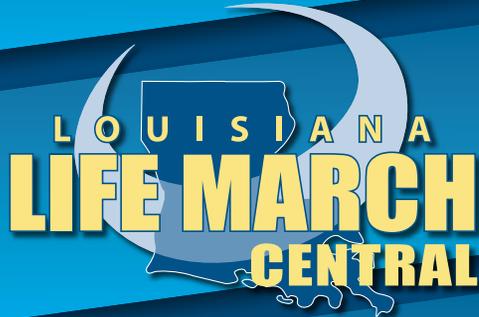
Come march for life this January!



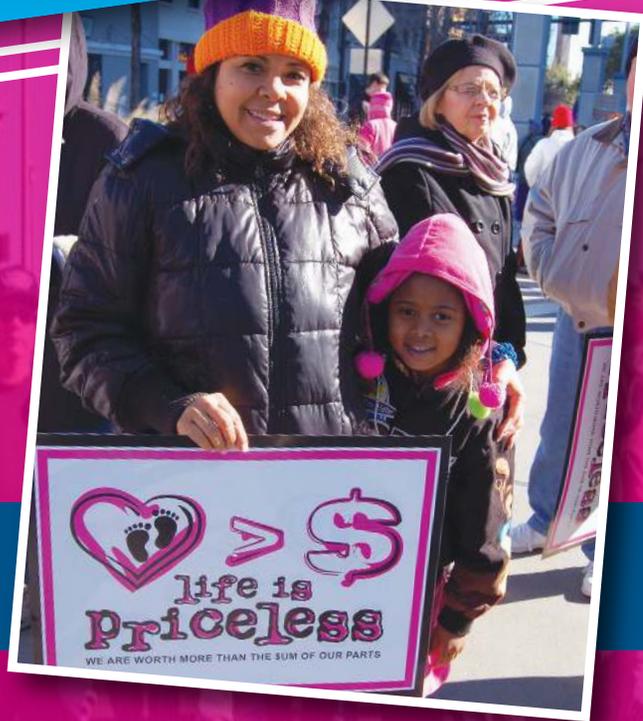
LIFE MARCH SOUTH | BATON ROUGE
Saturday, January 21, 2017 | 10 am - Noon



LIFE MARCH CENTRAL | ALEXANDRIA
Saturday, February 4, 2017 | 10 am - Noon



LIFE MARCH NORTH | SHREVEPORT
Saturday, January 28, 2017 | 10 am - Noon



Protect
Them
Both!



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