

“For our citizenship is in heaven; from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
...”

– Philippians 3:20 (NASB)

M BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

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November 9, 2017

Annual Meeting to review, renew evangelism emphasis statewide in 2018

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE (LBM)--Midway through a seven-year initiative to reach the state with the Gospel by 2020, Louisiana Baptists are making progress to reach every generation and every people group in Louisiana, according to state convention officials.

During the 2017 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting Nov. 13-14, messengers will have the chance to learn about the progress that has been made and also what still is needed to be done in order to complete the goals of the President's 2020 Commission Report, released in 2013.

“Of the 10 Action Steps, or KAIROS (Key Actions In Reaching Our State), we've seen solid progress in some areas and disappointments in others,” Louisiana Baptists Executive Director David Hankins said. “I've asked our leadership team to fine tune several of the steps in order for us to move towards the goals established by the commission.”

Hankins will share more about the update during the Monday evening

See ANNUAL MEETING on 12



Submitted photo

LaWanda Hester (left) celebrates her baptism with her son, James. During a late September service at Liberty Baptist Church in Coushatta, James Hester, pastor of Social Springs Baptist Church in Ringgold, was able to baptize his mother. Through the end of October, Social Springs Baptist Church has baptized 18 people.

Baptism service was a family social of sorts

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

COUSHATTA (LBM) – The baptistry at Liberty Baptist Church in Coushatta was the perfect setting for a recent reunion of people close to James Hester, pastor of Social Springs Baptist Church in Ringgold.

Hester cancelled Sunday evening services for his Ringgold congregation, Sept. 28, to be at the Coushatta church in order to baptize his mother, LaWanda, with the blessing of Liberty Baptist Pastor Harry Bamburg.

Then Hester was blessed to witness the baptism of his brother Jerry, nephew Zach and his nephew's wife Jessica, all officiated by Bamburg.

A MOTHER'S JOY

“My heart was full and I was in awe of the goodness and faithfulness of our awesome God, and so thankful for His amazing grace,” Hester said. “She has lived longer than either of her parents and I thank God daily for Christian parents who raised me in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Hester said he praised God for the

See SERVICE on 21

Brewer's contract extended as reward for LC revitalization

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE (LBM) – Citing an increased enrollment and the addition of new academic programs and scholarships, the Louisiana College Board of Trustees has extended President Rick Brewer's contract through 2022.

Board Chairman Randy Harper said during the school's Oct. 30 news conference that the board unani-

mously approved the two-year increase during its April 2017 board meeting, but because of a new one-day format for the April meeting, he and the board selected the Oct. 30 board meeting to make the announcement public, deciding it was the more opportune time for most trustees, students, faculty and staff to attend.

“We are grateful for Dr.

See BREWER on 21



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana College President Rick Brewer (left) is congratulated by Board Chairman Randy Harper after an Oct. 30 news conference to announce LC trustees had extended Brewer's contract through 2022.

Sam White will be a tall act to follow at Tall Timbers

By BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH (LBM)-
-Sam White had planned on a long career in the Air Force but an Experiencing God class

changed his path, eventually leading him to manage the Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center.

Now, after 16 years as director of the Louisiana Baptist camp, White is stepping away

for a new adventure, retirement, starting Dec. 1.

"I never saw a career in camping coming," White told the *Baptist Message*. "I saw the Air Force as my career and planned to stay in a lot longer than I did, until God changed my direction. On a human level it didn't make sense but we all know that isn't how God works. Now, looking back on these years at Tall Timbers and another stop before that, we could see God's hand at work in our lives."

A native of Bienville, at the tender age of eight years old White humbled his heart and surrendered his life to

Christ.

Although White planned to complete a 30-year career in the Air Force, God changed his plans.

After taking an Experiencing God class in February 1994 at Central Baptist Church in Clovis, N.M., Sam and his wife Kay believed God was telling them to give up the Air Force career and seek a new direction.

Months later, God used the testimony of a new church member – about parents who were Christian camp directors – to plant a seed in the Whites' minds that they should pursue a career in camp ministry.

In November 1994, White sent out letters to every Baptist state convention, informing them of an interest in pursuing a career in that field.

By February 1995, White cut short his Air Force career at 21 years and headed with Kay to Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega, Ala., to interview for a properties manager position. White worked there for the next 6.5 years, eventually becoming associate director in January 1999.

He and Kay enjoyed life at Shocco Springs, believing this would be their final stop. However, God changed their plans, again, and presented them with the opportunity of moving to Louisiana to lead Tall Timbers.

At first, White dismissed the possibility.

But as the days passed after an initial meeting with Louisiana Baptist Convention staff, he and Kay became convinced they should come to Louisiana to interview for the position. After much prayer, they accepted an employment offer and began their Tall Timbers journey Aug. 20, 2001, he as director and she as office manager.

During the early years, they hired additional office and kitchen staff, and, oversaw key upgrades, installing a new phone system and computer network and completing improvements to Lee Lodge and the cabins.

As time passed, White saw the need to improve other facilities, such as replacing the siding on Lee Lodge, constructing a maintenance shop, converting some existing buildings to cabins and building a home for use by a camp staff member, which currently houses Associate Director Josh Bumgardner and his family.

See WHITE on 6

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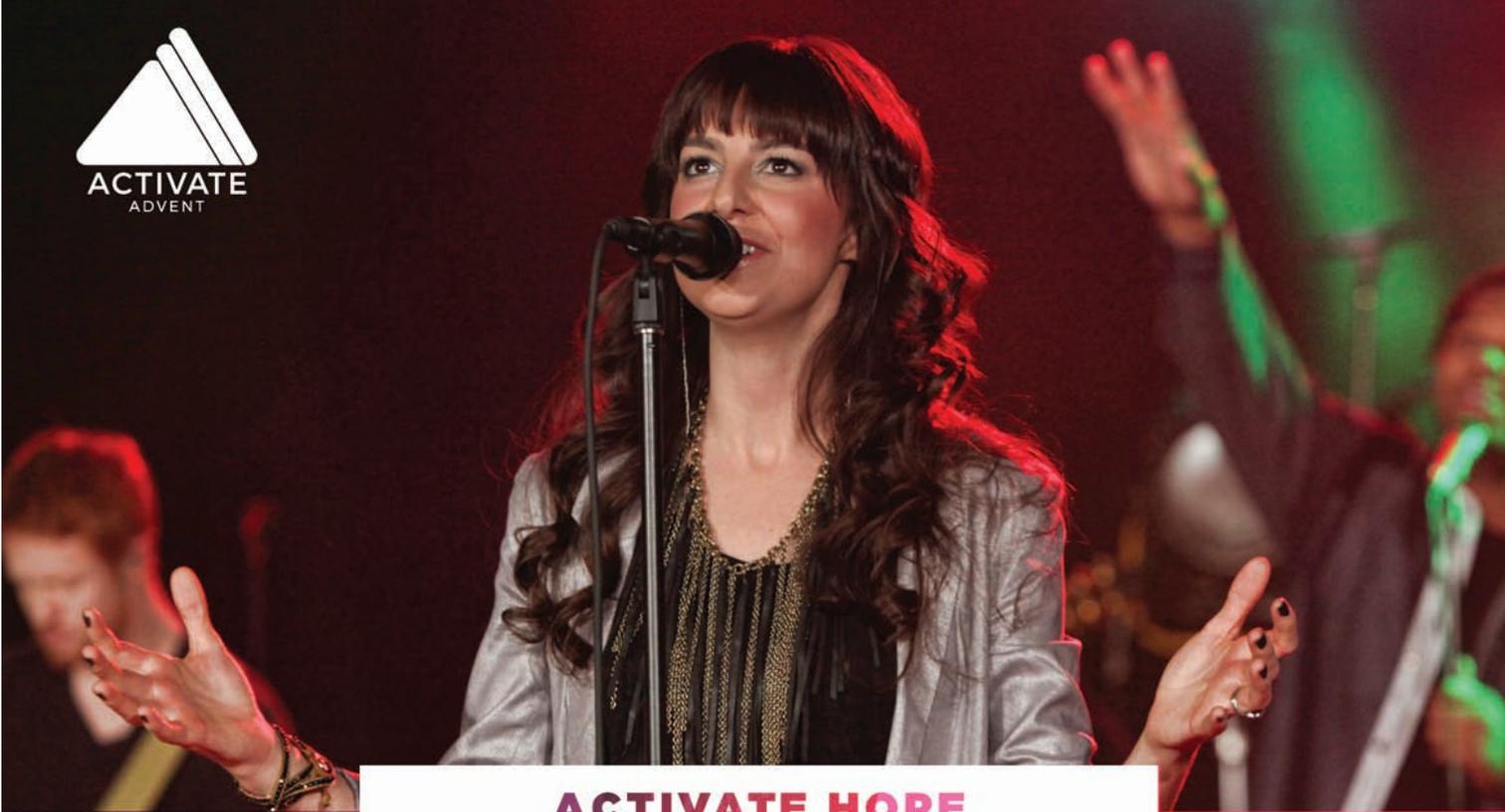


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LBF: \$600,000 in gifts; prepped for hinted Fed rate hikes

By **JERRY LOVE**

LBF Communications

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – The election of new officers, updates on investments and the approval of the 2018 budget highlighted the final quarterly meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees, Oct. 24.

Members also learned about almost \$600,000 in new deferred donations benefiting Louisiana Baptists' ministries, as well as steps taken with regard to its fixed income portfolio to protect against potential rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.

INVESTMENT UPDATES

E.L. Paulk, chairman of the investment committee, and Lee Morris and Susan Taylor, both of Graystone Consulting, updated trustees about the management of LBF's funds and gave a

general overview of market conditions.

In his remarks, Morris described the equity markets as "having a very good year." The Foundation equity portfolios are doing well in light of the market's upward push, he said, adding that international equities are performing better than the domestic markets as was predicted earlier in the year.

Other issues he addressed:

-- Morgan Stanley's Global Investment Committee projects that equities will continue to outperform fixed income securities.

-- All parts of the LBF portfolio are in compliance with investment policy

-- The LBF fixed income portfolio has sufficient positions in floating rate preferred stocks and convertible bonds to hedge against upticks in Federal Reserve interest rates anticipated before year end and in 2018.

-- The allocations to

master limited partnerships, infrastructure and covered calls also are performing well and adding value at both the performance and diversification level.

Chuck Murray, LBF controller, reported that assets under management, as of Sept. 30, were valued at \$167,117,474.

Investment returns for the major components of the LBF portfolio, as of Sept. 30, were reviewed by Paulk, who reported the following data:

-- Short Term Fund:

0.85% Annualized Yield

-- Group Investment Fund, comprised of various market sectors: 9.21% total return year-to-date.

-- Diversified Income Fund, conservative income-oriented fund: 2.70% total return year-to-date.

OPERATIONS REPORT

The Operating Committee, chaired by John Carroll,

received a report on the current budget from Murray. He said even though revenue was slightly behind expectations, expenses continued to be held in check, resulting in a positive bottom line for the year to date.

Murray also presented the 2018 operating budget, which was approved by the committee and includes funding to add a new employee who would assist with promotion of the Foundation's work.

Jerry Love, planned giving director, reported gift

activity has increased in the past several months. Two endowments provided by churches, totaling approximately \$124,500, combined with gifts from couples and individuals through estate plans should result in over \$600,000 in future bequests to churches and ministry organizations, he said.

GENERAL SESSION

During the afternoon, Trustee Vice President Steve

See **FOUNDATION** on 10



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ULM, SLU BCMs push hard to complete facilities

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – Two Baptist Collegiate Ministries are pushing hard to raise funds to complete fac-

ility projects at their respective schools.

The University of Louisiana-Monroe BCM is making something of a fourth quarter drive to raise between \$200,000 and \$300,000 to

complete its new building on campus, located close to Malone Stadium.

Meanwhile, the BCM at Southeast Louisiana University is making much needed renovations, Phase 1, to its



BCM leaders, students, alumni and area churches are making a final push to raise between \$200,000 and \$300,000 needed to complete the new building on the ULM campus. The 10,000-sq.-ft. building is nearly double the size of the former structure, which was demolished in May 2015.

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original facilities, opened in 1964, to improve the offices, restrooms, kitchen, common areas and worship center, and to build apartments, Phase 2, for BCM students serving as interns and facility managers. Both phases need about \$100,000, each, to be completed.

ULM's NEW BUILDING

ULM BCM Director Chad McClurg told the Baptist Message, the new building will serve as a legacy facility for campus ministry to generations of students.

He said he is "trying to push the ball down the field for one last fundraising effort," partnering with churches, BCM friends and alumni "to see this amazing project to

completion."

Since June, volunteers from the BCM and area churches have joined paid construction personnel to work on the project. Once completed, the building will feature a lobby, offices, game room, conference area, combined worship and lunch room, kitchen, restrooms and apartments.

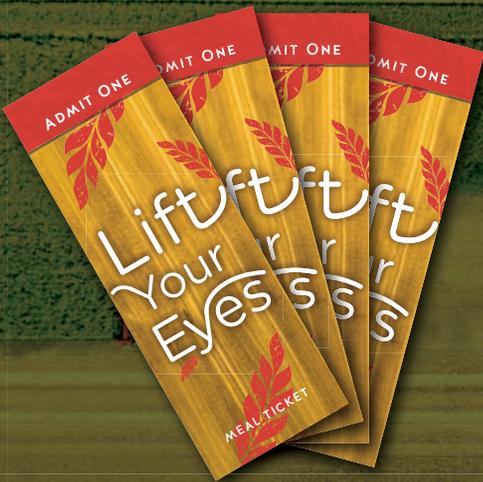
The new 10,000 sq. ft. building will be nearly double the size of the former structure, which was demolished in May 2015. McClurg said the new facility will help make possible the return of the 12:01 lunch program, and estimates up to 250 can be served when operations in the new building begin sometime early 2018.

Michael Richards, a junior from Kilgore, Texas, said he is excited about the prospect "to be back on campus" in a new building "that will help increase our outreach."

In the meantime, McClurg and BCM leaders will continue to use ULM campus space for its offices and to gather for worship services at College Place Baptist Church located

See BCMS on 7

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A Veterans Day tribute – thank you for your sacrifice

BY HUEY P. O'NEAL
Guest Columnist

WEST MONROE (LBM)
– On Veterans Day, Americans honor all U.S. veterans, both living and dead, for their sacrifices in protecting the greatest country in the world. At exactly 11 a.m., each November 11th, a color guard, made up of members from each of the military branches, renders honors to America's war dead during a heart-moving ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

The president or his representative places a wreath at the Tomb and a bugler sounds Taps. The balance of the ceremony, including a "Parade of Flags" by numerous military veterans' organizations, takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the Tomb.

The bloodshed and sacrifice for our freedom began in 1776 when representatives of the 13 original colonies signed the Declaration of Independence to obtain freedom from the British. Many of the 56 signers -- educated men, and a good number having

faith in God – were willing to sacrifice everything for our freedom to worship God and to achieve God-given goals.

In the context of this legacy of sacrifice, American veterans have met major challenges for the past 241 years to protect our freedoms.

Notably, the U.S. Constitution is based on biblical principles, and every veteran has sworn an oath to defend the Constitution at all costs.

With God's providence, our veterans have saved not only the United States from

See VETERAN'S DAY on 9

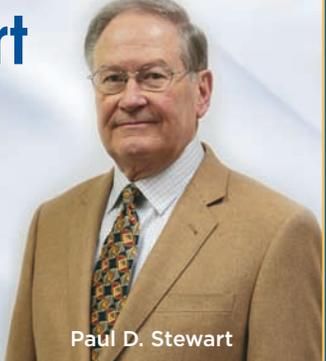
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- Dr. Fred Lowery

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1. God said to be sober (1 Thessalonians 5:6-8; 1 Peter 5:8 NKJV). The Greek word "nepho" means wineless, free from intoxicants.
2. We are to love God with all our minds (Mark 12:30). Alcohol impairs that mind.
3. It is expensive (Proverbs 23:21).
4. It makes you do foolish things you would never do in your right mind (Proverbs 23:29-35).
5. It is dangerous and addictive (Proverbs 20:1).
6. It hurts your testimony; you influence others to drink; you often harm others (Romans 14:21).
7. Drugs should not be used for recreation and pleasure.
8. Never take that first drink, and you will never become a problem drinker.
9. Drinking supports an industry that has destroyed untold thousands.
10. Not drinking is prudent and wise (Proverbs 20:1; 22:3).
11. You should rely on God, not drugs (Psalm 11:1).

-David R. Brumbelow, author of *Ancient Wine and the Bible: The Case for Abstinence.* gulfcoastpastor.blogspot.com (Permission granted to reprint.)

Questions about the Bible and Alcohol? Find answers in "Ancient Wine and the Bible."

Also see: "Wit & Wisdom of Pastor Joe Brumbelow"



Doug Collier photo

Since 2001, Sam White has served as director of Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth. Under his leadership, the camp and conference center has seen a number of renovations and new construction projects, including the Georgia Barnette Conference Center that opened in September 2016.

White from page 2

But perhaps his largest project was the construction of the Georgia Barnette Conference Center, which was dedicated in September 2016.

The new project took 14 months to complete, starting with fund raising by the LBC's missions and ministry team, led by John Hebert, in early 2013. Hebert's team also made hundreds of presentations to churches, Woman's Missionary Union groups, individuals, mission education groups, various other audiences and at annual associational meetings.

The 8,400-square-foot facility was designed for flexibility, providing a 560-seat auditorium layout or the option to change the floor plan into six meeting rooms with a 280-seat general assembly space. The center is named after Georgia Barnette, the first elected and paid Woman's Missionary Union executive director/treasurer in Louisiana. Every year Louisiana Baptists collect the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering in her honor.

White estimates several hundred volunteers, some who were not even Baptists, pitched in to help with construction.

"It was way more than most volunteer groups can take on," White said. "But, without having the volunteer help, there is no way we could have done

it. It was the largest volunteer project I have ever, or will ever, take on. Time will tell what impact the building will make, but it definitely gives us a capability we did not have and allows us to serve and reach more people."

Looking back on his time at Tall Timbers, White emphasized the importance of having a supportive spouse and team.

"Kay has been a huge part in so many things during my time in the Air Force and at the two camps," White said. "She led the Tall Timbers office staff that is so vital to making that good first impression and sets a positive tone for our guests for the entire time they are at Tall Timbers. The whole Tall Timbers staff is geared to serve others."

"Our job is to remove any distractions guests may have and provide an environment where they can accomplish their program and leave here with changed lives," he said. "That's what we are all about."

"Looking back, it has been an honor and privilege to serve the many guests and campers who came through here these past 16-plus years. I would not have missed that for anything. I am also confident that Tall Timbers is being left in the very capable hands of Josh Bumgardner. The best is yet to come."

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Photo by Baton Rouge Blues Festival, Jordan Hefler

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BCM from page 4

near the campus.

Visit <http://www.ulmbcm.com/building.html> to find out how to contribute financially or to volunteer your services to complete the remaining construction projects.

SLU's RENOVATIONS

SLU BCM Director Matt Middlecamp told the Baptist Message that around \$100,000 still is needed to complete the renovations composing Phase 1, which he hopes will wrap up by the end of November.

"As any building built 53 years ago, ours needs repairs and updates to make the building more attractive and conducive to ministry to this generation of students," Middlecamp said. "They want authentic relationships, and we will be providing a place to foster and establish relationships."

When the renovations are completed, the seating capacity for Thursday evening worship gatherings will be 250, an increase from the previous capacity for 175 students. The building also will host Bible studies for freshmen and discipleship opportunities for upperclassmen.

The materials to complete the second phase will cost \$100,000, with individual volunteers as well groups such as the Baptist Builders providing labor to complete the apartments.

Throughout the renovations, Middlecamp and BCM leaders have used Crossroads

Church near the campus for office space and worship gatherings.

"Our renovations will allow us to provide an even better setting for students to come and be trained and equipped to live out their faith daily," Middlecamp said. "The goal is for them to build relationships in order to share."

Contact Matt Middlecamp to learn how you can donate funds or volunteer services to help with the renovations or the apartments: slubcm@gmail.com, or, 985.345.7187, or, P.O. Box 2652, Hammond, La. 70404.



The Baptist Collegiate Ministry's building on the campus of Southeastern Louisiana University is undergoing major renovations that include increasing seating capacity for worship gatherings. Around \$100,000 still is needed to complete Phase 1, which campus BCM Director Matt Middlecamp hopes to wrap up by the end of November. Once that is completed, a second phase will add three apartments.

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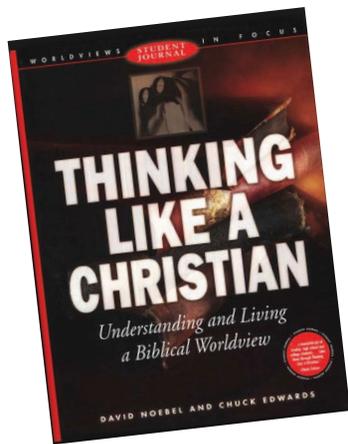
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Francis A. Schaeffer

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Barna research states that a Christian worldview among evangelical young people is almost non-existent. Louisiana College is doing something about that.

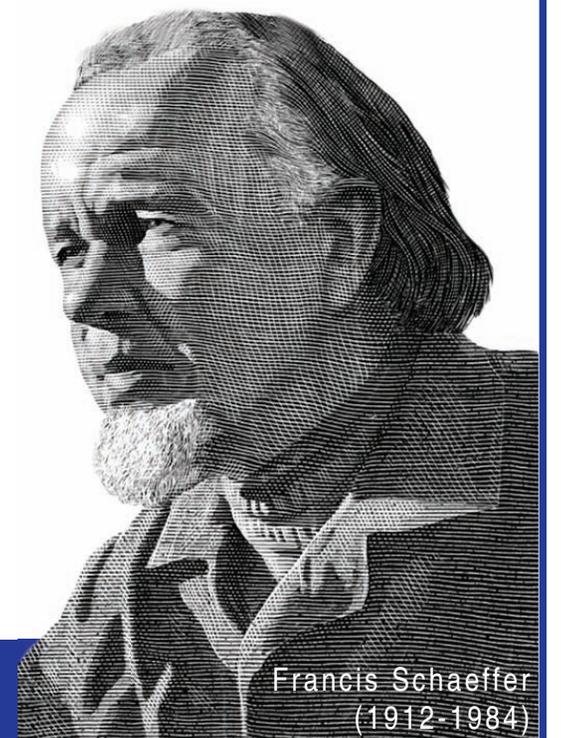


High school students who successfully complete the 12-lesson, "Thinking Like A Christian" workbook under the direction of a church pastor or youth leader may qualify for a \$2,500 annual scholarship for four years when they enroll as freshmen at Louisiana College.

Maintaining a 2.5 GPA and participation in LC's Baptist Collegiate Ministries is required.

"Arguably, there was no clearer thinker, more cogent writer, and respected biblical theologian in the 20th Century who challenged Christians to engage the culture with the truths of God than Schaeffer. Louisiana College exists to help students become salt and light in a world that so desperately needs both, as we partner with churches in engaging the culture and advancing the Kingdom of God."

Dr. Rick Brewer, PhD, MBA
President, Louisiana College



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BIC Media's 'Urban Country' shines at film event

New film, YouTube video series coming soon

BIC Media Solutions recently promoted its most recent film, "Urban Country," at the Christian Media Association's (CMA's) National Media Summit in Irving, Texas. BIC Media Founder and CEO Earl Heard took to the stage at the CMA event to promote the new film and connect with other investors, filmmakers and publishers, helping to fund, co-produce and market inspirational and family/faith-friendly media.

"Urban Country" is a coming-of-age family/faith-friendly drama about Faith, an 18-year-old girl from the city who moves to a horse ranch in the country to help her dying mother. An obvious fish-out-of-water, Faith

learns to embrace the country lifestyle and ultimately chooses the importance of family, hard work and helping others to achieve her dreams. The Dove Foundation has already certified "Urban Country" as "family approved" for ages 12 and up.

The trailer for "Urban Country" is out now, and BIC Media is hoping to release the film in late 2017 or early 2018. To help promote the film, BIC Media will be attending film festivals in Texas and Louisiana and hosting advance private screenings. Dates and times of these screenings are coming soon.

With the success of "Urban Country," BIC Media is also exploring opportuni-

ties for its marketing and media partners to place products in family/faith-friendly films. BIC Media is hoping this will be its next big venture. It has connections in every industry, and product placement in films is another way BIC Media can benefit its clients and partners.

BIC Media's "Rock Bottom and Back™" docu-series is also making progress in finding a home with a cable network, but in the interim, the movie is winning awards at film festivals. It was recently screened at the Burbank International Film Festival and took home best documentary awards at the Accolade Global Film Competition, Los Angeles Film Festival and IndieFEST.

New YouTube series

BIC Media is now in production on a YouTube series featuring self-help and business tips based on Heard's life work. Working alongside Mission Media Productions, Heard has completed two videos so far: one on leadership and another on how to become a better person.

BIC Media is hoping these videos are the first of a series of approximately 10-12. Many of these short videos will be based on articles that have appeared in BIC Magazine or BIC Media's book, "Earl's Pearls: Jewels of Wisdom Worth Passing On."

"I am excited about using these videos to share information that has taken me a lifetime to find and develop," Heard said. "I feel BIC Media has a great library of books to pass on to future generations, and I am excited about creating a video series that will help us reach a wider audience."

Heard's videos can be viewed on the BIC Media website.

For more information about BIC Media Solutions' films or videos, visit BICMediaSolutions.com, email earlheard@bicalliance.com or call (800) 460-4242.



Earl Heard addresses attendees of the Christian Media Association's National Media Summit in Irving, Texas. Heard spoke about BIC Media Solutions' new film, "Urban Country."



Matt Keith, producer of "Urban Country," right, sat on a producers panel during the Christian Media Association's National Media Summit in Irving, Texas.



BIC Media Solutions Founder and CEO Earl Heard makes a cameo in the new film, "Urban Country."



Earl Heard of BIC Media Solutions, third from left, sat on a panel during the Christian Media Association's National Media Summit in Irving, Texas. Heard and other media experts explained best practices for funding your media content.



Working alongside Mission Media Productions, BIC Media Solutions is now in production of a YouTube series featuring self-help and business tips based on Founder and CEO Earl Heard's life work.

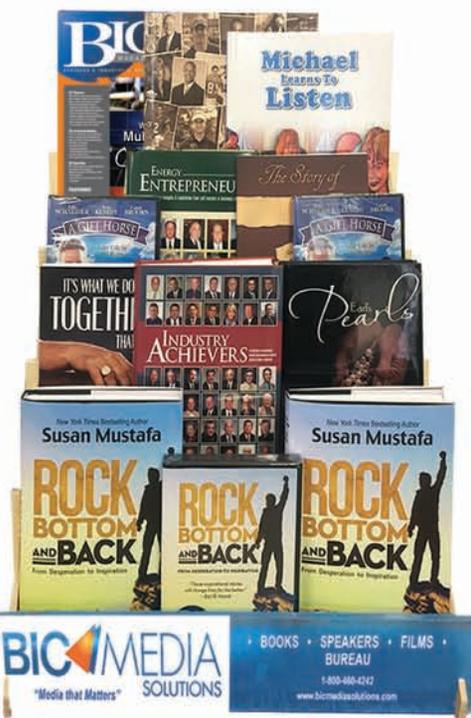


Marucci Sports signed on as a product placement partner for BIC Media Solutions' newest film, "Urban Country." BIC Media is exploring product placement opportunities for its marketing and media partners in family/faith-friendly media.



From left, Bob Higley of UPLIFTV, Earl Heard of BIC Media Solutions and Isaac Hernandez of Parables Television have formed a partnership to help promote BIC Media's "Rock Bottom and Back™" film.

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Veterans Day from page 5

tyranny, but also the whole world – evidence of God’s favor on the people of the United States, I believe, because of our majority faith in Him. Indeed, U. S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, now deceased, once told some Louisiana high school students that God has been good to the United States precisely because we have honored God.

I concur with him -- to be a great country, we must recognize God in our daily lives, our governmental functions and in our churches on Sundays.

Veterans and their families should be honored for their sacrifices, even bloodshed, to preserve our freedoms and to ensure the security of our land, with God’s hand, of course.

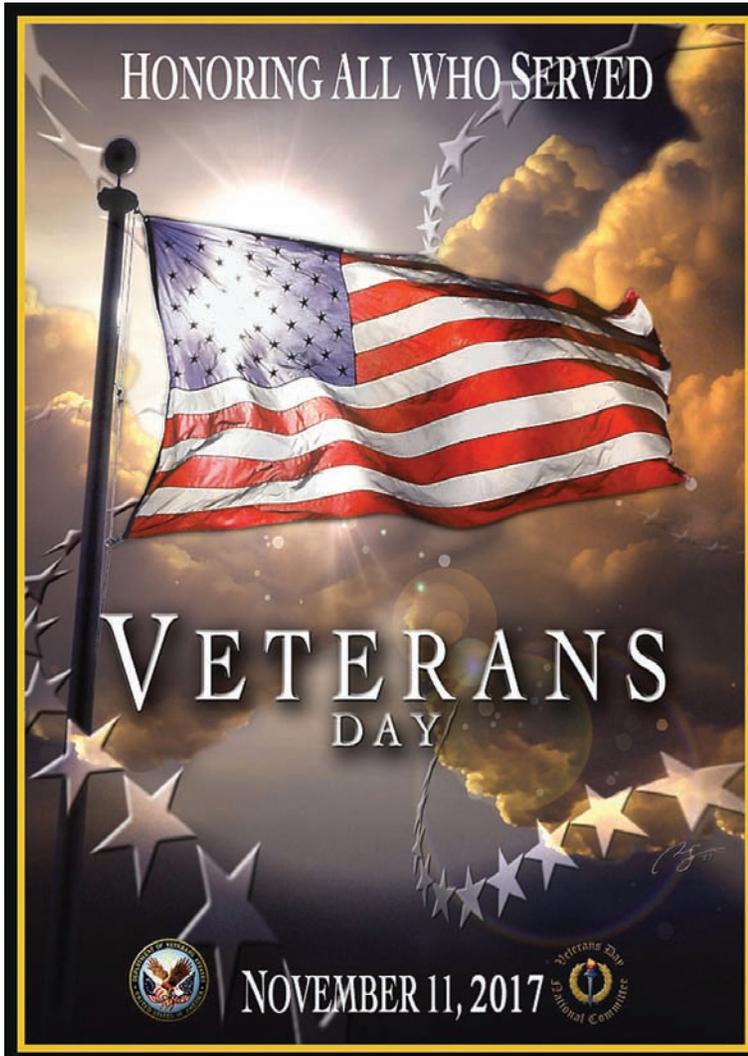
President Abraham Lincoln said, “America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedom, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”

I agree.

People of faith should actively serve God, and continue to honor our veterans who guard, or have guarded, us from enemies around the world.

Freedom has cost a lot over the years and will continue to cost us, in terms of service and even lost lives, in the future, but our freedoms are worth it.

We will face continued challenges by evil forces and, as in the past, our veterans’ vigilance will pay the price of



freedom.

This Veterans Day, thank a veteran, and, thank God.

Huey P. O’Neal is a member of Fair Park Baptist Church in West Monroe. He served 20 years as a fighter pilot and engineer in the U.S. Air Force, retiring from military service in 1970.

Jim Chester Ministries is pleased to announce the release of Jim’s book:

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Michael Courtney	214.738.8004	mwcourtney3@aol.com
Rick Elder	301.641.6423	rickelder103@hotmail.com
Al Gist	337.249.8303	al_gist@hotmail.com
Jeremy Glascock	504.952.0085	glascock082@outlook.com
David Hanna	318.932.3433	dlhanna777@aol.com
Price Harris	318.347.4370	phea2@aol.com (Music)
Rick Hertless	512.925.0367	rhertless@yahoo.com (Music & Preaching)
The Lisembys	870.348.5429	lisembfamily@gmail.com (Music & Preaching)
Lyndon Longoria	337.462.1290	lyndonlongoria@aol.com
Gary Maroney	254.627.9004	ddm6tx@yahoo.com
The Pearsons	830.765.5535	servingjesus@pearsonministry.org (Music)
Lee Thomas	337.433.2663	lthomas@pelministries.org
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Guidelines for the making of motions at Annual Meeting

ALEXANDRIA (LBM)
 -- 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 Presi-

dent 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:

Foundation from page 3 _____

Crosby led a review of the information presented by the Investment and Operating Committees in earlier ses-

sions, and the Board subsequently approved the recommendation from the Operating Committee to approve the 2018 Budget without discussion.

Officers elected to serve for 2018 are Crosby, member, Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, president; Stewart Holloway, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pineville, vice president; and, Polly Brinker, member, The Gathering Place, Pineville, secretary.

The Louisiana Baptist Foundation was established in 1944 to encourage and assist individuals with gifts in support of Louisiana Baptist churches and ministries, as well as provide asset management for the churches and institutions affiliated with the LBC.

The next LBF trustee meeting is scheduled for Feb. 6, 2018.

To learn more about the work and ministry of the Foundation, to review investment returns for its managed funds, or to see a list of current trustees, go to www.LBFinfo.org.



Russ Murfin and Richard Hebert
Fall Gospel Concert
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Free meal offered at Annual Meeting

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA (LBM)

-- As messengers converge on Baton Rouge for the LBC Annual Meeting, some may be wondering how they can navigate the infamous Baton Rouge traffic.

According to John Kyle, communications director for Louisiana Baptists, the best way to avoid the traffic is to arrive early and stay on campus Monday for a specially prepared meal benefiting GOLA Missions.

"To help messengers avoid the traffic snarls in Baton Rouge, we're offering them

the opportunity to eat onsite," Kyle said. "BCM directors from across the state are firing up the grills to feed the messengers Monday prior to the evening session and proceeds from the meals will benefit BCM summer missions, also known as GOLA missions."

Free meal tickets can be obtained by visiting one of the state mission services booths Monday afternoon. Booths offering the free meal tickets include the Evangelism and Church Growth Team and the Communications Team, both of which will be located in the foyer of the main worship center.

Missions and Ministries,

Pastoral Leadership, Collegiate Ministries and Cast the Net Partnership Missions will be located in the Bain building next to the worship center.

Supplies of the free meal tickets are limited and must be secured in person.

Messengers unable to visit the booths can purchase tickets onsite for \$7.50 each. Menu includes smoked pork or chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, dessert and a water bottle.

"As we prepare to enter year three of Harvest (a three-year focus on evangelism), I hope all Louisiana Baptists will join us as we're challenged to 'lift our eyes' and see those who are ready to respond to the Gospel," Kyle continued. "There is a Harvest to be had in Louisiana and the purpose of the Annual Meeting is to be inspired and put people and resources in place to pursue those who are ready."

For additional information and schedules relating to the Annual Meeting and the Pastors Conference, visit LouisianaBaptists.org/AnnualMeeting.

LBC BYLAW CHANGES

According to the Bylaws of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Article VII (Amendment of Bylaws), amendments sponsored by the Executive Board shall be posted to the LBC website and published in one (1) issue of the *Baptist Message* no later than fifteen (15) days before the meeting of the Convention.

The Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board, meeting September 26, 2017, at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth, Louisiana, adopted the following motions:

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, November 13-14, 2017, amend Article IV, Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Louisiana Baptist Convention as follows:

The terms of members of boards shall be established as three (3) years. No member elected or appointed for a full term shall be eligible for more than two (2) complete successive terms on the same board. No member elected to serve as much as two (2) years of an unexpired term of any board shall be eligible for more than one (1) successive full term of three (3) years on the same board. A member shall be ineligible to serve on that board until an interval equal to the number of years served on that board shall have elapsed. A person shall not serve in more than one elected or appointed position at a time, unless authorized by the constitution in more than one elected or appointed position at a time, unless authorized by the constitution and bylaws. Upon the expiration of the term of any member of a board or committee, no person who is a member of the same church as the person whose term is expiring may serve on that same board or committee until one year following the expiration of the serving member's term. Membership on all boards and committees collectively shall in all cases be limited to no more than two (2) the pastor and up to two (2) other members from any church at any one time. Existing board or committee members (other than pastors) who move to a church with two members currently serving on a board or committee shall be rendered ineligible to serve. No more than one member of the same church may serve on the same board or committee. The terms of members of committees shall be established as three (3) years. No member elected or appointed for a full term or elected to fill an unexpired term shall be eligible to succeed himself until an interval equal to the number of years served on that committee shall have elapsed.

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, November 13-14, 2017, amend Article III, Section 2 and Article III, Section 3, of the Bylaws of the Louisiana Baptist Convention as follows:

Section 2. The Committee on Committees shall be composed of nine (9) members one-third of whom shall be appointed each year by the president. This Committee shall nominate to the Convention the membership of all other committees of the Convention and shall nominate or appoint the membership of special committees as instructed by the Convention. The Committee shall also nominate for election the chairman and vice chairman of all Convention committees. Vacancies occurring during the year shall may be filled by recommendation from this Committee to the Executive Board and may be approved by the Board in any of its regular or special meetings or by mail poll of the Board.

Section 3. The Committee on Nominations shall be composed of fifteen (15) members. It shall nominate to the Convention all members of boards of the Convention, including the Executive Board of the Convention. Vacancies on boards occurring prior to the May Executive Board meeting shall may be filled by recommendation from this Committee to the Executive Board. Vacancies occurring after the May meeting shall be left vacant until the Convention in November.

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Annual Meeting from page one

session of the annual meeting, which will take place at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.

Approved by messengers at the 2013 Louisiana Baptist Convention annual meeting, the 2020 initiative, led by then LBC President Waylon Bailey, pastor of First Baptist Church in Covington, seeks to reach every generation and every people group in Louisiana with the Gospel by the year 2020 through the avenues of congregational revitalization, church planting, communications and collaboration.

The 2020 recommendations were crafted collaboratively by a commission of 400 Louisiana Baptist leaders, staff members and laypeople, working in 20 subcommittees of 20 members each.

LEANER BUDGET

Messengers also will vote on the leanest Cooperative Program budget in 20 years. Approved during the Exec-

utive Board's Sept. 26 meeting at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth, the 2018 financial plan is based on expected Cooperative Program contributions of \$19,507,905, a decrease of \$535,426. Cooperative Program projections are based on actual receipts from August 2016 thru July 2017.

The allocation formula for distributing Cooperative Program gifts between the Southern Baptist Convention and Louisiana Baptist causes remains unchanged, with 63.26 percent supporting ministries in the state and 36.74 percent forwarded to fund national entities.

This equates to \$12,340,701 in Cooperative Program funds for Louisiana Baptist missions, a decrease of \$338,710 from 2017.

OTHER BUSINESS

The update on the 2020 Report and the budget are just two of a number of important items which will be addressed

during this year's annual meeting.

Highlights for Monday will include a Bible study by GuideStone Financial Resources President O.S. Hawkins and a special presentation by Hankins and LBC President Gevan Spinney focusing on the Harvest, a three-year evangelism emphasis, which culminates in 2018, to "pray for every home and share Christ with every person" in the state.

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

During the final day of the meeting there will be reports by the convention's entities; updates on church planting, women's missions and ministries and Baptist Collegiate



Gevan Spinney, pastor of First Baptist Haughton and outgoing LBC president, will challenge Louisiana Baptists "to focus our hearts on those who have not heard the Gospel."

Ministries; messages by John Fream, pastor of Cypress Baptist Church in Benton, and Southern Baptist Convention President Steve Gaines; and, approval of motions and the election of officers.

"I am looking forward to gathering together as Louisiana Baptists to focus our heart on those who

have not heard the Gospel," said Spinney, pastor of First Baptist Haughton. "It is easy to keep our eyes focused on our congregations and the ministry tasks, but just as Jesus reminded his disciples to lift up your eyes we need to be reminded to do the same."

At press time, Eddie Wren, pastor of First Baptist Church in Rayville, is the only known candidate whose name will be

placed in nomination for the office of LBC president.

Likewise, Jay Johnston is the only known candidate expected to be nominated for first vice president. Michael Evans is the sole candidate as well for second vice president.

Johnston is an associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Covington and Evans is pastor of Elwood Baptist Church in Forest Hill.

"I encourage every church to elect and send messengers," Hankins said. "We'll pray, vote, be inspired and prepare ourselves for what I pray will be an effective year of ministry, even in these challenging times."

NOTABLES

Gatherings for Nov. 13 include:

- Minister of Missions Roundtable, 4-5:15 p.m., Hope Building, Istrouma Baptist Church

- Asian Fellowship, 4-5:15 p.m., Nagoya restaurant, 3202 Sherwood Forest Blvd., Baton Rouge

See ANNUAL MEETING on 20

“
OPEN YOUR EYES
AND LOOK AT THE FIELDS,
FOR THEY ARE READY
FOR HARVEST.”

”

JOHN 4:35

ECON

EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
2018

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Iris Blue
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Sammy Tippitt
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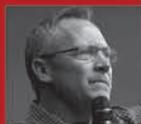
Brent Crowe
Orlando, FL



Ken Weathersby
Nashville, TN



Duane Blue
Murchison, TX



Rick Gage
Atlanta, GA



Karen Abercrombie
War Room



Greg Frizzell
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Conference to urge pastors 'to be still before God'

PASTORS' CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

November 12-13
Istrouma Baptist Church
Baton Rouge, La

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE (LBM) – Organizers of this year's Louisiana Baptist Pastors' Conference are hoping to equip participants with the tools needed "to be still before God."

Scheduled Nov. 12-13 at Istrouma Baptist Church, the theme is "Pause," based on Psalm 46:10.

"This theme seems appropriate for such a time as this," said Pastor's Conference President Jason McGuffie. "The life of the local church, the lives of pastors seem to become super busy and packed with all kinds of things."

"Pausing, or being still, is something that we all need," continued McGuffie, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tallulah. "Our time together will be one of encouragement and a reminder that Jesus is working in mighty ways in and through the local church into a world that needs Jesus."

The conference begins 6 p.m., Nov. 12, with music led by the North Monroe Baptist

Church worship team.

Those scheduled to preach are Frank Page, president and chief executive officer, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee; Fred Luter, pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans; Tommy Middleton, director of missions, Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge; Michael Wood, pastor, First Baptist Church, West Monroe; Chuck Kelley, president, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Ed Litton, pastor, Redemption Church, Saraland, Ala.; and, H.B. Charles, pastor, Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

The conference also will offer encouragement to pastors through book giveaways; the presentation of Louisiana College's Pastor Recognition Award; and, a Timothy+Barnabas retreat registration giveaway, which the winner must be present to receive.

Spouses will have the opportunity to attend a Ministers' Wives lunch featuring Kathy

Litton, wife of Ed Litton. Registration for the luncheon may be completed at louisianabaptists.org/mwl.

Childcare will be provided during the conference. Anyone needing this service should email Justin Clark, justinc@lakeprovidence.com.

At press time, Kirk Jones, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in Prairieville, is the only known candidate for the office of Pastors' Conference president, according to McGuffie.

Likewise, Justin Clark, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lake Providence, is the only known candidate for vice president.

David Goza, pastor, Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, is the sole candidate as well for secretary/treasurer.

"The team has been praying for this conference since last year, and now people from all over the state have joined us," McGuffie said. "We would ask that you pray for our time together at Istrouma, and for God to bless his word in a mighty way."

SUNDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 12

6:00 – 6:30 pm	Worship
6:30 – 7:10 pm	Frank Page
7:10 – 7:20 pm	Offertory/ Special Music
7:20 – 8:00 pm	Fred Luter

MONDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 13

8:30 – 9:00 am	Worship
9:00 – 9:40 am	Tommy Middleton
9:40 – 9:50 am	Special Music/Worship
9:50 – 10:05 am	Louisiana College presentation of Pastor's Award
10:05 – 10:20 am	NOBTS presentation
10:20 – 10:35 am	Officer Nominations for 2018 Pastors Conference
10:35 – 10:45 am	Special Music/Worship
10:45 – 11:25 am	Michael Wood Break for Lunch
11:30-1:00	Pastor's Wives Lunch w/Cathy Litton

MONDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 13

1:00 – 1:15 pm	Worship
1:15 – 1:55 pm	Ed Litton
1:55 – 2:05 pm	Worship
2:05 – 2:45 pm	Chuck Kelley
2:45 – 2:55 pm	Break
2:55 – 3:05 pm	Offertory with Special Music
3:05 – 3:45 pm	H.B. Charles Jr.
3:45 – 4:00 pm	Initiation, Drawing for giveaways, Promotion for next year Dismiss with Prayer

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Past, future part of YEC 30th anniversary

By BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

LAFAYETTE (LBM) – A sense of nostalgia is sweeping through the state as Louisiana Baptist youth and adult leaders prepare to take part in the 30th anniversary of the Youth Evangelism Celebration, a statewide assembly focused on preparing the next generation to share Christ with the world.

Scheduled Nov. 19-20 at the Cajundome in Lafayette, the largest annual gathering of Louisiana Baptists will celebrate its storied history filled with changed lives while equipping students with the necessary tools to share their faith with their classmates.

Since the first YEC in 1988, 141,002 students and adult sponsors have passed through the turnstiles of venues hosting the event, known

as YEC, Louisiana Baptist Convention Youth Strategist Steve Maltempti told the *Baptist Message*. Over the years, 9,815 participants have made spiritual decisions, including 3,205 who accepted Christ as their Savior.

“When this was started, I don’t think most people realized this many lives would be touched and this many churches would be ministered to as their teenagers were encouraged and prepared to be a bold witness for Christ,” Maltempti said. “Kids are able to focus on God and for a couple of days are removed from a lot of worldly influences. Many have been in public school three to four months since summer camp ended and for the first time in those months they are able to be in the presence of the Lord in a powerful way, which they respond to.



Brian Blackwell photo

More than 5,700 students attended the 2016 Youth Evangelism Conference in the Lafayette Cajundome. Of those in attendance, 742 students made some type of spiritual decision including 136 professions of faith, 347 accepting a call to ministry, and 210 repenting to restore their fellowship with Jesus. Next year, YEC returns to Alexandria’s Rapides Parish Coliseum, which has received major renovations.

“Now that it’s well-established with so many alumni having kids who attend, it’s become self-perpetuating,” he continued. “It’s what Louisiana Baptist churches do to kick off their Thanksgiving week. It’s a good habit churches have grown accustomed to of bringing their students to YEC.”

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The catalyst for YEC came in 1987, when students gathered for a witnessing blitz in the Kenner area. Wanting to take a student evangelism emphasis statewide the following

year, the LBC hosted 2,100 students at the Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria for the first YEC in 1988.

Over the years, the event continued to grow, topping 5,000 in attendance by its 10th year, and, drawing a record crowd of 7,948 in 2013. While Alexandria has hosted the event the most times, YEC has also been held in Kenner, Lafayette, Pineville and Shreveport.

Notable musical acts have included Al Denson, 4Him, Steven Curtis Chapman, the Gaither Vocal Band, Mercy Me, Audio Adrenaline, Jeremy Camp, Skillet and

the Newsboys. Former SBC President Fred Luter, humorist Mark Lowry, former LSU baseball legend Warren Morris and professional wrestling star Ted Dibiase are some of the many personalities who have shared powerful messages.

Julie Woodrum, ministry assistant in the LBC youth strategy office, has been among those serving as part of every YEC since the event’s beginning.

“YEC started as a grass roots effort in New Orleans,” Woodrum said. “Even though

See YEC on 16

Student night

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STUDENT WORSHIP TEAM

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LBC Annual Meeting SCHEDULE

ISTROUMA BAPTIST CHURCH • BATON ROUGE, LA.

Monday Evening – November 13, 2017

President Gevan Spinney, Presiding

Worship Leader, Jeremy Dailey

Lift Your Eyes (John 4:35)

5:30 p.m.	Call to Order/Welcomes Praise & Worship	Gevan Spinney Combined choirs (Istrouma and Greenwell Springs) Checkerz Williams
5:45 p.m.	Prayer Presidential Appointments Tellers Chair, Tellers, Parliamentarian Committee Reports: Credentials Order of Business Special Music	Charles Wesley Tommy Middleton Combined choirs (Istrouma and Greenwell Springs) O. S. Hawkins
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.	Compassion Ministries	Mark Robinson
7:00 p.m.	Lift Your Eyes (John 4: 35) Benediction	Gevan Spinney/David Hankins Jason McGuffie

Tuesday Morning – November 14, 2017

Gevan Spinney, Presiding

8:30 a.m.	Call to Order Praise and Worship	Gevan Spinney Jeremy Dailey/ Greenwell Springs Praise Band George Guillory 8:40 a.m.
Bible Study	Prayer	O. S. Hawkins
9:00 a.m.	Committee on Order of Business Report	Tommy Middleton
9:05 a.m.	Introduction of Motions	
9:10 a.m.	Baptist Collegiate Ministry Report,	Mark Robinson
9:15 a.m.	Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries Report	Perry Hancock
9:30 a.m.	Election of Convention President	
9:40 a.m.	Miscellaneous Business	
9:50 a.m.	Announcements Special Music	Jeremy Dailey/ Greenwell Springs Praise Band Eddie Wren Lane Corley
9:55 a.m.	Executive Board Report	
10:10 a.m.	Church Planting report	
10:15 a.m.	Committee Reports Committee on Nominations Committee on Committees	Lee Wesley Scott Sullivan
10:25 a.m.	Election of First Vice President	
10:35 a.m.	Baptist Message Report	Will Hall
10:45 a.m.	Committee on Moral and Social Concerns Report	Mike Holloway
10:50 a.m.	Convention Worship Service Special Music Convention Sermon Benediction	Gregg Gober John Fream David Lee

Tuesday Afternoon – November 14, 2017

Gevan Spinney, Presiding

1:45 p.m.	Call to Order Praise and Worship	Gevan Spinney Jeremy Dailey/ Greenwell Springs Praise Band
2:05 p.m.	Prayer Committee on Order of Business Report	Carlos Meza Tommy Middleton
2:25 p.m.	Bible Study Seminaries Report	O.S. Hawkins Chuck Kelley
2:35 p.m.	Women's Missions and Ministry Report	Janie Wise
2:45 p.m.	Election of Second Vice President	
2:55 p.m.	Committee on Resolutions Report	Scott Teutsch
3:05 p.m.	Louisiana Baptist Foundation Report	Wayne Taylor
3:15 p.m.	Pastoral Leadership Report	Bill Robertson
3:20 p.m.	Miscellaneous Business	
3:40 p.m.	Message	Steve Gaines
4:20 p.m.	Introduction of New Ministers and Retirees	David Hankins
4:30 p.m.	Presentation of New Officers Recognition of Outgoing Officers	
4:40 p.m.	Benediction	Marvin Leleux

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16 Youth Evangelism Conference

YEC from page 14

the event is now produced and coordinated by LBC, the beauty of the success behind the event is that local churches and leaders have always had strong, direct input in the programming and direction of the event.”

The event’s long tenure also is a reflection of the

compassionate and unwavering support of the entire Louisiana Baptist Convention, Woodrum added.

“There are so many facets in producing an event of this magnitude, from production, to IT support, to media, to mailings, computers and software that make registration

flow smoothly, to volunteers from the office that give of their time at the event,” she said. “We really are one big family and it’s always humbling to me to see so many people working behind the scenes to make it all happen.”

When asked what stands out most about 30 years of YEC gatherings, Woodrum responded in terms of the thousands of changed lives.

“Honestly, that’s the bottom line,” Woodrum said. “When a student can attend YEC and leave the event knowing Christ, knowing they have a Savior who loves them, and then to see and hear years later that they went on an overseas mission trip, or are now serving the Lord in full-time ministry, or then went home from YEC and led their parents to Christ, that’s why I love being a part of the



Brian Blackwell photo

Students take turns role playing a Gospel conversation during the 2016 Youth Evangelism Celebration. This year students attending YEC will have an opportunity to receive similar training.

event. That never gets old.”

CELEBRATION-WORTHY LINEUP

The 30th YEC will feature evangelist Clayton King as the guest speaker for all sessions. The conference will feature worship led by Rush of Fools, illusions by Brock Gill, testimonies from students and a concert by Building 429.

The theme is “Now,” based on 2 Corinthians 6:2. Keeping in step with the theme, students will be challenged by King to share what Christ has done in their lives, now.

During the Monday afternoon session, King will lead training sessions on how to use the Road to Life tract to

share the Gospel. Students also will be challenged to share Christ on social media using #HowIGotHere to post their testimony to Instagram or Facebook. After YEC, they will be able to use both tools to spread the Gospel.

This will be the second of a seven-year rotation to equip students with tools to share Christ. For those who began as a seventh grader during the 2016 YEC, they will be trained with seven different evangelistic tools by the time they are a senior.

“All of our students have great stories of how they came to accept Christ and their friends want to know about it,” Maltempi said. “They just have not thought of positing on it on social media. For a lot of Christians they have a hard time verbalizing their love for Christ in conversations. But on social media they put it out there for it to spread to hundreds or even thousands.”

Maltempi is encouraging student ministers and pastors to be proactive and pre-schedule baptisms for students who will make a decision at YEC no later than the Sunday following the event. With each church averaging one decision made for Christ, there could be 300 youth baptisms in one Sunday. Maltempi explained that the first 48 hours following a decision made is crucial to the spiritual health of the new convert.

“Follow up and baptizing them are important components not to be dismissed,” Maltempi said. “Churches need to make baptizing new converts a priority. What better way to keep the celebration going after YEC than to schedule a baptism and get that done.”

See YEC on 20

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Seven resolutions are slated

By WILL HALL
Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – The Resolutions Committee has finalized seven resolutions for consideration as consensus statements of the messengers to the 170th Session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The committee's recommendations will be offered for a vote at 2:55 p.m. during the Tuesday portion of the Nov. 13-14 program.

The seven statements cover a span of issues from expressing appreciation for those who played a major part in the annual meeting to offering congratulations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief ministry.

Another celebrates the 100th anniversary of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the spiritual impact it has had on the state, the nation and the

world.

Four of the resolutions address either spiritual matters, or moral issues and social concerns.

ON THE SIN OF RACISM, INCLUDING ALT-RIGHT WHITE SUPREMACY parallels a resolution approved by messengers to the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention this summer.

The alt-right is described as a movement “to establish a single white nation in North America” and its

members largely are “white millennial” males in college, or who have a college degree, according to political scientist George Hawley of the University of Alabama. He has written extensively regarding his findings about the alt right, noting that these individuals have “no interest in the mainstream conservative ideals of traditional family values and limited government.”

ON THE GOSPEL FOR ALL affirms the Bible's

See RESOLUTIONS on 20



Brian Blackwell photo

Messengers will have seven resolutions to consider during this year's Annual Meeting at Istrouma Baptist Church.

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Coming in 2018: William Carey University will open a **School of Pharmacy** at the Tradition campus in Biloxi. This is a three-year accelerated program rather than the traditional four years, which provides a significant tuition savings. *Pending approval of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.*



Brian Blackwell photo

Presley Bordelon, pastor of Grace Point Church in Simmesport, (left) Ken Austin, pastor of First Baptist Church in Simmesport, (center) and Gloria Bordelon discuss how Grace Point is seeking to meet spiritual needs of their community.

‘Two churches are better than one’ in Simmesport

BY HOLLY JO LINZAY
Regional Writer

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

-- Matthew 18:20

SIMMESPORT – First Baptist Church and Grace Point Church have partnered together to reach the lost in

their hometown of Simmesport, founded on the west bank of the Atchafalaya River which runs through Avoyelles Parish.

“We are trying to get this town back to God,” said Presley Bordelon, pastor of Grace Point.

Simmesport, according to Bordelon, has a reputation of being the “gateway to drug trafficking” into the parish. “The poverty rate is high in Simmesport and there are very few jobs,” he said, adding the crime rate was high but that the new mayor and police force are “cleaning up” the community.

Ken Austin, pastor of FBC Simmesport, agreed with Bordelon. “We are 100 percent committed to reach Simmesport for the Lord. We want to reach out to the community and show people the love of

Christ.”

The two churches share a vision, a mission and a purpose, and both pastors believe that partnering together in the Lord makes reaching the lost in their community much less of a formidable task than being on their own.

To that end, the churches have led prayer walks through the town handing out pamphlets and tracks on salvation.

But the two churches are trying other approaches as well to try to reach every resident in the town, which is a predominately Catholic community.

Recently, they organized a block party where items were offered free at a garage sale; and, earlier, on Aug. 5, both churches sponsored free food, free back-to-school supplies

See TWO on 19

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A Ministry of the Cooperative Program

Two from page 18

and a musical concert.

“Simmesport has been a tough town, but we want to be visible and love one family at a time. The prayer walks through town is something we will definitely keep up,” Austin said.

FBC Simmesport was constituted 144 years ago, with Austin the pastor for the last year and a half. He said the historic congregation had dwindled to about three families, having “no children, no youth group, no Vacation Bible School. It was just hanging on.”

“But we started praying and asking God to give us more time to build up His Church,” Austin shared, and worship attendance has been increasing steadily, reaching a high of 20 in recent weeks.

The current facility, on the campus just off Highway 1, seats about 200. However, Austin said the congregation hopes to finance a new building on another 2-acre plot of land the church owns in town.

Grace Point Church, which was started as a church plant by Life Point Church in Mansura,

was established three years ago, at first meeting in the Simmesport Community Center.

After working for 25 years, Presley Bordelon retired from his state job and began full-time ministry with Life Point in 2016 as the youth pastor, a position he continues to hold while serving as the full-time pastor of Grace Point Church.

The congregation was able to obtain a \$30,000 Georgia Barnette mission fund grant to help fund the purchase of a 2,000-square-foot building located at 948 Main Street, where worship service and Bible study is held Thursday nights at 6 p.m. Additionally, twice a month, the multicultural church gets together to share a meal together.

On the joint prayer walks with FBC Simmesport, Bordelon said they pass out Bibles to children, and talk with anyone they meet, seeking to meet the spiritual needs of their community.

But, he said, they also try to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in meeting the physical



Brian Blackwell photo

Ken Austin, pastor of First Baptist Church in Simmesport, (left), visits with Presley Bordelon, pastor of Grace Point Church, Simmesport (right), and others at the Grace Point Church clothing closet. The congregation strives to meet the spiritual needs of the community, and Bordelon said they also try to help with physical needs, thus serving as the hands and feet of Christ. The church plans to establish a food pantry in the future.

needs of people in town, and already the congregation has created a clothes closet, with plans to establish a food pantry in the near future. They also want to be a source of information to refer people to resources to help with utilities, food, clothing and how to apply for government-

assistance programs.

“The main thing is to get them saved. We seek to share the grace of Jesus with those who are hurting and broken, and see our community transformed,” Bordelon said.

Jacob Crawford, the pastor of Life Point Church in Man-

sura, echoed his sentiments.

“Simmesport is very impoverished. It’s been one of the most difficult church plants to establish. There is a lot of spiritual warfare going on,” Crawford said, adding it was exciting to see how Grace Point is impacting the lostness in the parish.

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Resolutions from page 17

teaching that “God loves every sinner everywhere and desires their salvation” and declares “He has provided for the forgiveness of anyone’s sins through the death of Jesus on the cross.”

This resolution concludes that “any sinner

can repent and trust Jesus for salvation” and exhorts Louisiana Baptist to use all biblical means “to proclaim the Gospel to everyone.”

ON PREMARITAL COUNSELING and ON PRE-DIVORCE COUNSELING were forwarded to

the Resolutions Committee from the Moral and Social Concerns Committee as part of a larger effort to speak to the need for Louisiana lawmakers to create incentives to help keep marriages and families together.

Census data indicates Louisiana has one of the highest divorce rates in the nation, with only Arkansas, Idaho and Nevada doing worse.

The first of these two resolutions encourages pre-marital counseling for couples considering marriage, emphasizing research that shows couples who received premarital counseling are half as likely as other couples to separate or

divorce within the first three years of marriage.

The second is aimed at reconciliation for couples who have children and are considering divorce. Despite the popular notion that most divorces are acrimonious, studies indicate this is not the case and suggest up to 40 percent of couples who have filed for divorce are open to reconciliation, but need help.

The spiritual dimensions are enormous, with data suggesting up to 6,000 Louisiana children, yearly, would be spared from suffering a family breakup. The state, meanwhile, which is suffering budget woes, would benefit from an

estimated \$268 million, annually, in savings of “family fragmentation costs.”

Scott Teutsch, pastor of Plain Dealing Baptist Church is chairman of the Resolutions Committee, and Larry Johnson, pastor of Crossroads Community Church, Kenner, is vice chairman. Other members are Cullen Clark, pastor of First Baptist Church, Crowley; Tommy French, pastor emeritus, Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge; Jon McCartney, pastor of North Hills Church, Calhoun; Kayla Muller, member of Williams Boulevard Baptist Church, Kenner; and, Clark Palmer, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Tioga.

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Annual Meeting from page 12

- African-American Meet and Greet, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Bain Fellowship Hall, Istrouma Baptist Church
- New Church Reception, 4:45-5:15 p.m., Chapel, Istrouma Baptist Church
- Louisiana College Reception, Following Monday evening session, Student Center, Istrouma Baptist

- Church Gatherings for Nov. 14 include:
- Discover Church Planting Breakfast, 7 a.m., Frank’s restaurant, 17425 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge
 - Haiti Shout Breakfast, 7 a.m., Chapel, Istrouma Baptist Church
 - Church Planting Lun-

- cheon, noon, Bain Fellowship Hall, Istrouma Baptist Church
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Luncheon, noon, Hope Building Room 201, Istrouma Baptist Church
 - Retiree/Bi-vocational Luncheon, Chapel, Istrouma Baptist Church

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YEC from page 16

The event kicks off 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 19, and will end about 9:15 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20.

Registration, which is open through Nov. 19, requires a fee of \$50 per person.

Seats can be purchased for \$25 just for the Monday night session of worship, illusions by Brock Gill, King’s message and a concert by Building 429.

Next year, YEC returns to the Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria, where it enjoyed a 27-year run before renovations of the facilities forced a move to south Louisiana.

Visit YECLouisiana.org to obtain more information and to register for YEC 2017.

Matthew 6:19-21

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Brewer from page one

Brewer's leadership," said Harper, pastor of Bellaire Baptist Church in Bossier City. "He is a leader who has more energy than probably five freshmen of the school. He works tirelessly. He believes in Christian education and liberal arts education and in raising and preparing graduates to transform lives

with a Christian worldview." Since Brewer was elected unanimously as president in April 2015, he has led the school from probationary status into good standing with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Moreover, his strategies have produced a second

consecutive year of growth, with the student body topping at 1,210 members for the fall semester, including what is believed to be a school record of 330 new freshmen.

Brewer also has expanded the number of degree programs being offered, receiving SACSCOC approval for four initiatives: Master of Science in Nursing, Master of Social Work, Bachelor of Science in Computer Sci-

ence and the ability to offer any course online.

Additionally, the college offers several new scholarship opportunities and instituted a flat tuition rate with no fees as an effort to grow the student body to 1,500 members by the year 2020 in accordance with the school's strategic plan, Vision 2020.



LC President Rick Brewer

Christian education to share the Gospel. "Already 40 students this semester have accepted Christ and we expect even more in the future as we share the Gospel and provide an education built upon a Christian worldview," he continued.

Service from page one

honor of baptizing his mother, and that his mom told him hers was "an even greater honor – being baptized by the youngest of her five boys."

"God is good," he told the *Baptist Message*.

A SON'S LOVE

The catalyst for the multiple baptisms was a revival Sept. 3-10 at Social Springs Baptist.

After the first service of that multi-day event, Hester's mother shared with him how she felt and she had only gone through the motions of repenting as a child. She told him that it was years later when she was a young wife and mother that the Holy Spirit truly had drawn her to trust in Christ.

Then she dropped a bombshell, revealing that

although she was saved, she had not ever been obedient with regard to believer's baptism.

"I never told anyone," she said. "I realized then that I needed to make it public and follow through in baptism."

Hester said, initially, he and his dad were shocked by her news, but not by her humility. But, he added, their surprise quickly turned to celebration and plans were set in motion for her baptism.

Moreover, his mother's obedience convicted the other family members of their disobedience. All three were professing Christians but needed to be baptized.

Her step of faith during the revival led to their growth as believers, too.

AN AWESOME GOD

Hester has had the plea-

sure of celebrating 18 baptisms so far this year with his Social Springs congregation that averages 72 in Sunday worship services.

But, he said, there was something special about being part of his mother's baptism with the Liberty Baptist congregation he was part of as a child.

"Being at my home church and seeing my mother and other members of my family pass through the baptismal waters was an indescribable feeling," Hester said. "Truly, we serve an awesome God."

"This is a great place to get an education with the head and the heart," Brewer told the media in attendance. "We understand we play a pivotal role, a missional role in equipping students with a

grateful for our Louisiana Baptist family and pastors across the state who are encouraging their students to come to LC and earn a world class education."

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JOHN 4:35

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IN REMEMBRANCE

■ **Mark Tullos Sr.**, 82, of Dry Prong passed away Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at Regency House in Alexandria surrounded by his family. A gifted singer and musician, Mark, a Louisiana College graduate with a quick wit, served in 11 churches across Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and California as worship leader, served as executive director of the Louisiana Moral and Civic Foundation, lead the musical group, the Foundation Singers which performed in schools and churches across the country, served as a drama evangelist throughout the country. His ministry, which spanned more than 50 years, took him all over the country and brought joy and smiles to so many people. He is preceded in death by his dad, James Bonnie Tullos, and his mom, Lucy Brown Tullos and his sisters, Juanita Noakes, and Bonnie Helcl. He is survived by his loving wife, Lillie Tullos, his four children Melodye Willie, (husband Robert), Mark Jr, (wife Susan), Matt (wife, Darlene), and Melinda Draper, (husband Wesley), 13 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren and a multitude of "sons in the ministry."

■ **Bobby Hodnett**, 85, passed away October 16. A native of Colfax, Louisiana, and a resident of the Baldwin and Franklin area for the past 50 years, passed away Monday, October 16, 2017. At the time of his passing, he was the pastor of Cypremort Point Baptist Mission and associate pastor at Little Pass Baptist Church. A former semi-pro baseball player, he gave his heart to Christ and pursued ministry with all that was in him for 60 plus years. He came to First Baptist Church in Franklin in November of 1968 and served as music and youth pastor. He then went to the Myette Point Baptist Mission in Franklin. In 1973, he restarted Little Pass Baptist Mission in Charenton as their pastor. He led them to tremendous growth as a fully constituted church. Under his leadership, the church was moved from the levee to a piece of land across from the Charenton post office. He then lead the church to build a sanctuary, fellowship hall, and a two story education building. He retired in 2009 as Senior Pastor but never retired from ministry. Hodnett was

well known for missions and evangelism. At one time in his career, he pastored Little Pass, the Baldwin Mission and Cypemort Point Baptist Mission all at the same time. Both mission churches were started by him and still remain a part of Little Pass. He was very active in Native American work, not only at the Chitimacha Indian Reservation in Charenton, but in Arizona as well. He was well known throughout St. Mary Parish for his love of people and his love of Christ. Those left to cherish his memory include his five daughters, Yvonne Hodnett Welch, Renee Hodnett Griffin (Fred), Angie Hodnett Bailey (Kent), Elisabeth Hodnett Chambers and Ruth Hodnett; nine grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; and one brother, Raymond Odell Hodnett of Colfax. He is preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Mary Dean Hodnett, and his parents, Pete and Olive Hodnett.

ON THE MOVE

■ **Aaron Burgner** has resigned as pastor at Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport to become lead pastor at First Baptist Church at the Mall in Lakeland, Fla.

■ **Rickie Wilson** is the new pastor at Hebron Baptist Church, Bush.

■ **Braden Martin** has resigned as pastor at Westport Friendship Baptist Church, Pitkin and is now the new pastor at Verda Baptist Church.

■ **Jason Purdy** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Livingston.

■ **David Keeny** has resigned as music minister at Koran Baptist Church, Haughton, and is now the new pastor and music minister at Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Blanchard.

■ **Paul King** has resigned as pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Marion.

■ **Eddie (wife Jenny) Kent** is the new pastor at Linda Lay, Shreveport.

■ **Gary Hostetter** has resigned as pastor at Linda Lay Memorial, Gilliam.

HOMECOMING

■ Willow Bayou Baptist Church, Tallulah: **73rd Homecoming**, November 12, 10:30 a.m. Dinner on the grounds following ser-

vice. Special Music: **OneWay Quartet**.
 ■ Jerusalem Baptist Church, Hammond: **115th Church Anniversary and Thanksgiving celebration**, November 19 with dinner on the grounds following worship service. Pastor: Phil Weaver.

REVIVAL

■ LifePoint Community Church, Mansura: **Rescue - a revival for the family**, November 10-12 at Marksville High School; Friday, 6 p.m., Saturday 6 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. Speaker: **Ken Freeman**. There will be worship, drama, Trashcan Drumline, stomp and choir led by Zoe Youth Ministry. Pastor: Jacob Crawford.

■ First Baptist Church, Harrisonburg: **Harvest Sunday**, November 12, 10:30 AM. Dinner on the grounds will follow the service. Speaker: Cory Bruce. Pastor: Josh Adams.

■ Trinity Baptist Church, Oak Grove: **Harvest Day**, November 12, 10:15 a.m. Special Music: **Sanctuary Quartet**. Pastor: Rayburn McLarrin.

■ First Baptist Church, Larose: **Revival**, Nov. 12-15; 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. 19, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Mike Russell.

■ First Baptist Church, Jonesville: **Harvest Day**, November 19, 11 a.m. Speaker: **Perry Hancock**, President & CEO of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home. An offering will be taken for the home. Dinner on the grounds following morning service. Pastor: Todd Whittington.

LAGNIAPPE

■ First Baptist Church, Dry Prong: **Baptist Singing Women in concert**, November 9, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Drew Gardner.

■ Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Turkey Bowl 7 on 7 Flag Football Tournament**, November 11, 10:30 a.m. Deadline to register is November 9. Cost: \$15 per

player. There will be separate men and ladies brackets. Both pulled pork and turkey plates will be available for purchase at the tournament. Pastor Waymond Warren.

■ First Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Veterans Day – Honoring those who have served**, November 9, 6 p.m. This tribute through music will feature the Sanctuary Choir, FBC school choir and orchestra. Pastor: Jeffery Raines.

■ LifePoint Community Church, Mansura: **Free Block Party**, November 10, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Sarah Williams Park, Cottonport and Bunkie High School, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Marksville High School; November 11, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. parks by Simmesport Community Center, and LifePoint Community Church in Mansura, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Marksville High School. Pastor: Jacob Crawford.

■ Pine Hill Baptist Church, Leesville: **Classical Conversations of Leesville Honoring our Veterans event**, November 10, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Schedule: 11 a.m. - Introduction. Pledge and national anthem; 11:10 a.m. - Foundations and essentials student memory work demonstration; 11:45 a.m. - Challenge A and B student demonstration; 11:55 a.m. - closing and prayer; noon – eat and greet. For more information, call Stephanie Evans at 337.718.1325 or Melissa Ousley at 337.424.7132.

■ Lighthouse Community Fellowship, Berwick: **East St. Mary Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving service**, November 12, 6 p.m.

■ Judson Baptist Retreat Center, St. Francisville: **Senior adult Fish Fry**, November 14, Registration: 9:30 - 10:00 a.m., concert begins at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will follow the concert. Following lunch, prayer walk or prayer drive JBRC. Cost: \$10.00/person. Special Music: **Ben Waites in Concert**. Please call 225.634.7225 by Thursday, November 2, to reserve your place.

■ First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Annual Community Thanksgiving**, November

15, 6 p.m. at the Ruston Civic Center. Come join with the community in the true spirit of Thanksgiving. Turkey with all the trimmings will be served at no charge. Pastor: Chris Craig.

■ First Baptist Church, Blanchard: **Price Harris in concert**, November 17, 7 p.m. Everyone is welcomed. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Doug Allen.

■ Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Harvest Jamboree**, November 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Hope Park in West Monroe. There will be plenty of delicious food, arts and crafts and more for the whole family. Pastor: Waymond Warren.

■ **Larry Baldrige** will be ordained into the gospel ministry on November 18 at 6 p.m. at Parks Baptist Church, Parks. Pastor: Rob Burdeau.

■ Pisgah Baptist Church, Forest Hill: **Fall Gospel Concert with Richard Hebert and Russ Murfin**, November 18, 6 p.m. Cost: Free – a love offering will be received. For more info, call Richard at 251.213.0475 or Russ at 251.550.5852.

■ Christ Baptist Church, Houma: **Southern Plainsmen Quarter**, November 18, 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Herman Callais Sr.

■ United Baptist Church, Winnfield: **Benefit Singing for Louisiana Baptists Disaster Relief**, November 18, Saturday, 5 p.m. Featuring music from **GraceWay Quartet, Kingdom Bound Quartet, Joyful Sounds, Tingle Family** and more, including special guests **the Pine Grove Baptist Church Youth Choir**. Dinner provided. Pastor: Justin Caples.

■ First Baptist Church, Vidalia: **Community Thanksgiving Meal**, November 18. FBC Vidalia members will come out and serve their neighbors. Pastor: Wes Faulk.

■ First Baptist Church, Minden: **Church-wide Family Thanksgiving meal**, November 21, 5:30 in the gym. Pastor: Leland Crawford.

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.

itd twd okrtdjgntc pgx ctj ti hosonj, ctd ti

wcsuogccoxx, ctd nc awnuo;

indxj jroxxgutengcx jpt:jrdoo

Clues:
T = O; X = S

Answer to October 26 Scripture Crypto:
Revelation five: three



Rita Clayton was selected to direct the \$1500 gift for the 3rd quarter of 2017. She chose her church, **Plainview Baptist in Bogalusa**, because she has been a member there for a long time and loves her church!

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