

“May my spoken words and unspoken thoughts be pleasing even to you, O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer...”

– Psalm 19:14 (TLB)

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July 12, 2018

World Changers build hope on the Northshore

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

MANDEVILLE – Tears rolled down the face of Ethel Jenkins as she gazed at students repairing the roof of her Mandeville home.

The crew of 15 students and adults from World Changers modeled Christ’s love by painting, mowing the lawn and remodeling Jenkins’ home during the final week of June.

“These young people just bring tears to my eyes every time I look at them,” said Jenkins. “Seeing them come and work on my home is something I never dreamed would ever happen to me. I thank God for using them to touch my life.”

Jenkins’ home was one of 14 substandard houses improved by 207 students and adults from nine churches in Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. The group worked June 25-29 on sites in 11 communities throughout the Northshore. Away from the worksites, the students and adults camped in the Sunday school classrooms and worshipped in the youth building at First Baptist

See **WORLD CHANGERS** on 9



Brian Blackwell photos

Campers showcased their skills during bazooka ball. The three-day-camp featured games, activities, worship and Bible study designed for children and adults from ages 8 and up who have intellectual or development disabilities.



Camper Jacob Hall and buddy Preston Fuqua enjoyed three days at Champions Camp at Tall Timbers in Woodworth. Another camp for people with special needs is scheduled for 2019.



Angie Anderson and her daughter, Chloe, enjoy crafts time at Champions Camp. Craft time was one of many activities offered at the inaugural event.

Special needs youth, adults shine at Champions Camp

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH – A meeting room at Tall Timbers Conference Center was transformed to a karaoke hall for 14 people with special needs during the first ever Champions Camp in late June.

Some sang country tunes while others tried their best to mimic popular pop artists on stage as each participant enjoyed their moment in the spotlight. Among those was Amber Gillespie, who like many others savored her first camp experience.

“I got to sing and it was so much fun to be up there,” said an elated Gillespie, a member of Dixie Baptist Church in Sieper. “I would tell anyone who is thinking of coming to come because you will really have a fun time out here.”

The first-ever Louisiana Baptist summer camp for people with special needs matched participants with buddies who accompanied them during the event June 25-27 at Tall Timbers Conference Center in Woodworth. The camp featured games, activities, worship and Bible study designed for children and adults from ages 8 and up who

See **CHAMPIONS** on 5

Dads celebrate becoming His children on Father’s Day

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

VINTON – Father’s Day was especially memorable for Hernan Irizarry, one of four dads who participated in a special outdoor baptism service June 17 at Magnolia Baptist Church in Vinton.

One by one, Irizarry, his fiancée, Jo Neil, and six others stepped in a horse trough on the church lawn and stirred the baptistery waters as around 40 members and

friends cheered on each new convert.

Irizarry, who has four children living in his native Puerto Rico, said the baptism was symbolic of how Christ helped him overcome an addiction to drugs. He and Jo Neil both accepted Christ in March after attending a worship service at Magnolia Baptist.

“This baptism was a reaffirmation we were on the right

See **CELEBRATE** on 2

The eight participants in a special baptism service on Father’s Day at Magnolia Baptist Church in Vinton proudly display their baptism certificates.

Submitted photo



Celebrate from page one

track in our walk with the Lord,” said Irizarry, who travels with Jo Neil most Sundays by bus from Corpus Christi, Texas, to attend Magnolia Baptist. “I feel committed to share Him with other people as a member of a church that really cares about its community and world.”

SWEEPING REVIVAL

The baptism service signifies a revival sweeping

throughout Magnolia Baptist since Pastor Rick Edwards’ arrival in January 2017.

When Edwards became pastor of Magnolia Baptist, the Sunday morning worship service attendance averaged six and was on the verge of closing its doors, according to the Annual Church Profile that tracks vital statistics.

Eighteen months later, attendance for worship services has reached as high as 50. Edwards is confident they



Brian Blackwell photo

Members and guests of Magnolia Baptist Church in Vinton celebrated a special baptism service for eight new believers with a cookout on Father’s Day June 17.

may not only break the all-time record of 19 baptisms set in 1986, but could shatter it if they reach a goal of 100 baptisms this year.

“God can do anything I’ve learned,” Edwards said. “I can give them a picture of their future to get them to commit to 100. Even if we reach 50, they have seen God move in a mighty way that seemed out of reach just a year ago. But we know God is in the business of making the impossible possible.

“We have come from a dead church that lost its first love to one that is filled with expectancy and seeing people

saved,” he noted. “It’s a thrilling thing.”

Edwards credits an attitude of reaching out to neighbors, co-workers and others in the community as a key factor for the Holy Spirit moving in the hearts of the congregation that relies solely on one-on-one relationships for its growth.

“I’m teaching them now to meet strangers and love them the Jesus way,” he said. “Jesus loved them all and wasn’t afraid of having his reputation marred by being with sinners. We have a lot of spectators who call themselves Christians, but followers are those who pick up the cross and

have a daily intimate relationship with Jesus. I am trying to impress upon them to chase Jesus and pursue him passionately.”

HOPEFUL FUTURE

Edwards is thankful God has given his congregation new ministry endeavors. Recent outreach opportunities added have included Sunday school, a Wednesday morning home-based Bible study and deacon ministry. Edwards hopes they can move into another building on its campus in the future.

“We have just started the growth process, he said. “We are motivated by the word of God to impress upon people to go out and share the Word of God. We are focusing on the Great Commission in our own Jerusalem right here. We have people committed as we go to our friends and tell them about Jesus.

“I encourage people to go out and chase Jesus,” he said. “I ask people on Sundays if they have a chasing Jesus story. They are on a spiritual journey that is not just adrenaline. They are having a relationship and a makeover. We will pursue that and see how we do.”

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St. Rest Baptist Church leaves a legacy of faith and giving

BY JERRY LOVE

Director of Planned Giving

Logged into my childhood memories is a place that still brings a smile and a warm feeling – Saint Rest Baptist Church on the White Lightning Road.

It is a quaint red-brick, two-story church about halfway between Vienna and Homer on LA Hwy 146.

The building itself is interesting with the sanctuary sitting atop a partial-basement bottom floor that housed classrooms and a fellowship hall.

The pews were made from 1-by-4 lumber cut at my granddad's sawmill. Before cushions were added, a wrong move meant a pinched bottom from those pew slats. The church also came complete with a "ghost" in the cemetery and a "boogie-man" in the dungeon (closet) under the stairs.

But what I remember most about those days were the people. Every Sunday and Wednesday, they faithfully gathered to worship and pray. Another thing I remember was that almost everyone was related to someone else in the church which made for one big family of believers.

Here are a few who come to mind:

– Aunt Alvice with a beautiful smooth-as-silk, lilting voice – I didn't know then that she had a Southern drawl, it was just the way she talked – could tell a Bible story to a room of squirmy kids like no

one else.

She could pray like praying was meant to be – a conversation with Jesus as if he were standing next to you -- and when she said, "Come here, hon," you knew a perfume and powder infused hug was coming.

-- "Aunt" Lucille loved us all with a tough love that was evident. Lucille was not really my aunt, just a relative several times removed. No matter. I recall hearing her voice carry down the hallway as she corralled the Young People's Training Union class.

She could take on any of the older boys and make them behave... and learn! She also never turned down an opportunity to speak her mind in a business meeting; and, could she ever organize a VBS processional. In those days we lined up outside with our class and it was a "Lucille-given-privilege" to carry a flag or the Bible.

Uncle "Biggett" – his real name was Burl, and I have no idea where the nickname came from -- was always there. Through most of my younger years – and his later years – he was virtually deaf. Yet, there he was, faithfully attending.

I remember one time, when the pastor called on him to close a service in prayer, seeing his diminutive wife reach up and tug on his sleeve. He bent his tall frame close and Aunt Manny yelled "The preacher asked you to pray."

Then, at an advanced age, Uncle Biggett found a Shreve-



Jerry Love photo

For more than 160 years a long line of preachers and faithful members of St. Rest Baptist Church, Dubach, have invested themselves spiritually, physically, emotionally and financially to share the Gospel with the surrounding community. They have created a legacy of faith and giving so others may know Jesus Christ.

port doctor who put tubes in his ears and drained away the fluid that had been trapped for years. Burl was a new man, smiling and chatting with folks comfortably for the first time; and, he remained faithful in his attendance, only now he could hear the preacher when he called on him to pray.

There are so many others I could name.

Most have passed away; a few are still here with us. All of this family of believers at

Saint Rest created a LEGACY that impacted my life and lives of so many others.

Giving was also part of their Legacy.

I never saw their check-books or bank accounts or tithing records so how do I know they gave?

Because that little country congregation continues to thrive today

Dr. Randy Ray currently has the privilege each Sunday of standing in the pulpit of this little red brick church called

Saint Rest Baptist Church on the White Lightning Road and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

For over 160 years a long line of preachers and faithful members have invested themselves spiritually, physically, emotionally and financially to share the Gospel with the surrounding community.

Give. Serve. Invest yourself.

Create a legacy of faith and giving that others may know Christ.

Understanding what 'Tax Reform 2018' means for charitable giving

By now most people have heard about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed by congress in the latter days of 2017. However, there may still be some misinformation, or a lack of information, causing some confusion.

The Louisiana Baptist Foundation assists individuals with donations in support of Louisiana Baptist ministries, and we attempt to stay abreast of changes in the US tax code, particularly as it relates to charitable giving.

Here are some highlights that might help you in planning your gifts:

Business Tax Reform – Without going into the depths of corporate tax changes, the reduction of the corporate tax rate from 35% down to 21% already is adding to personal pocketbooks. Since January, several companies, including Walmart, announced an increase in base wages and other salaries. Other companies such as Apple and AT&T announced

one-time bonuses for employees as a share of company tax savings. Additionally, a number of businesses announced they would be expanding their workforces with several reporting they would be returning overseas operations to U.S. soil. All these situations can be an encouragement to workers and allow them to give to ministry for the first time or increase the amount they have been giving.

Individual Reform – There are a number of changes that will decrease the tax burden of most people.

Changes in Tax Rates – Most rates for individuals and families have been adjusted favorably with the range of the bracket adjusted as well. There are some exceptions but a large number of people will pay a lower percentage based on the new rate structure. A number of internet sources (use "2018 Tax Brackets") give a peek at the new numbers, including bankrate.com (search for 'tax brackets').

Charitable Deduction – The question most asked in our circles is "did the charitable deduction go away?" The easy answer is "No."

Most deductions remain intact, including the charitable deduction, the mortgage interest deduction and the deduction for state and local taxes. However, the cap on mortgage interest is lowered from 1 million dollars of mortgage debt down to \$750,000. Also, interest on second homes no longer is deductible. The other limitation on deductions for 2018 is a cap of \$10,000 on state and local tax deductions. There are other tweaks to some deductible items, but deducting medical costs, tuition, and teacher spending on students have been retained.

IRA Charitable Rollover – The ability to make charitable gifts directly from an IRA is still available for those 70 and one-half years of age and older. This provision was enacted initially in 2006

and made permanent in 2015. The current changes do not affect this.

Increase of the Standard Deduction – This is the one change that will affect every person who has taxable income. The standard deduction will nearly double under the new tax law.

Individuals now may claim \$12,000 as a deduction, with joint filers claiming \$24,000, without itemizing deductions. This will mean that many people will not use their charitable deduction and other deductions mentioned above IN FAVOR OF THE NEW HIGHER STANDARD DEDUCTION.

Personal Exemption Eliminated – This \$4,050 "per person" exemption within a household no longer exists. While this change likely will affect larger families, the benefits from changes to tax rates and the standard deduction likely will supersede the loss of the personal

See GIVING on 7



Newborn Elijah Kelly, the grandson of Gulf Coast DOM Steven Kelly, is being called a miracle baby after taking a turn for the better as God answers the prayers of many.

God answering prayers: Miracle baby takes turn for the better

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

NEW ORLEANS – New-born Elijah Kelly was on the brink of death just a week ago but the power of prayer has helped turn a seemingly hopeless situation into one with promise.

The grandson of Gulf Coast Baptist Association Director of Missions Steven Kelly, Elijah was born June 6, weighing a mere four pounds, 13 ounces.

Two days later, the doctors diagnosed him with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a rare condition in which only three of four chambers of a newborn's heart works properly.

Throughout the month, Elijah endured three open heart surgeries, a brain bleed, kidney dialysis and countless injections to help him in the fight of his young life at Children's Hospital of New Orleans.

The baby even stopped breathing at one point, but the physicians and nursing staff were able to quickly resuscitate him.

Now, he has taken a turn for the better.

Still in critical condition, Elijah has begun to move his fingers, lift his hand and open his eyes. His kidney, brain and heart also have improved – all answers to prayers by the thousands who have joined his parents, Adam and Ari, and other family and friends

See **MIRACLE** on 8

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Churches urged to check wireless sound systems before 2020

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

The federal government's mandate that churches cease using wireless sound systems that operate on the 600 MHz frequency is still two years away from implementation, but Louisiana Baptist congregations must act now to ensure their systems do not fail when that time comes, according to media directors at churches in the state.

As cellular companies continue to purchase an increasingly larger share of the available 600 MHz frequency, churches that use

wireless communication are among those who must switch to another frequency no later than July 13, 2020. Churches that choose to continue using wireless communication devices on the 600 MHz frequencies after that date could face fines or additional penalties, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

Frequency information can be found on a microphone's receiver or within the microphone's battery compartment. A list of available frequencies can be found at <https://sennheiser.us/freqfinder/index2.html>.

Brandon Rodgers, media and communications director at First West, told the Baptist Message churches should adequately prepare, but not over-react. He stressed since this new regulation applies to wireless systems, sound boards and microphones attached by a wire should continue to work.

Rodgers said churches should first look and evaluate all the wireless systems that are located throughout their facilities. Churches also should incorporate in their budget the equipment needed to comply with the new FCC regulation.

"Don't panic everyone; it is okay," Rodgers said. "This has been a long time coming. If you've purchased wireless systems in the last five years or so, you should be okay. Check your systems. You do have some time, so get with a trusted AV company or dealer to come up with a plan."

Steven Haney, media minister at Trinity Baptist Church in Lakes Charles, said churches should consult an audio integration company that can help ensure equipment is up to date and offer suggestions on possible options for trading in their equipment.

"There are many options

for replacement, at a range of price points," he said. "While there may be some cheap options, with wireless it seems you get what you pay for."

"The equipment affected does not just stop working," he said. "If a church continues to use this equipment after the deadline, there is a possibility they could experience some interference from cell phones, and could be reported to the FCC for transmitting illegally on the 600MHz band. There is no cause for a panic just yet, though churches should start working on an action plan, as the deadline approaches."

Champions from page one

have intellectual or developmental disabilities.

"Every one of them heard clearly how much they are loved by God and that He has a plan for their life," said camp organizer David Anderson, children's ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists. "They also got to have a camp experience that they normally would not have access to. They were able to play bazooka ball, go pedal boating, do crafts, go swimming, worship and hang out with friends. Even the buddies who attended and helped the campers had a blessed and amazing time. Several of the campers have already asked if they can come to camp every year. We, of course, said yes."

LOVED BY GOD

Jarrod Hawthorne, who served as camp pastor, said the event allowed each person to realize they are a champion and loved by God.

"It's so important because special needs families need the body of Christ and the reality is the body of Christ needs special needs families," Hawthorne said. "To see that connection this week in a real tangible way where they are loved on and focused on is really good. Sometimes serving special needs families is overwhelming because the need is so great. And to set aside time and resources and a place to really give them the attention they need and deserve is huge."

ways dreamed of bringing the camp to Louisiana so those people with special needs like his daughter, Chloe, could have a chance to experience camp like so many others.

"The dream for this camp was born in my heart years ago," he said. "My own daughter has some special needs, but, all she wanted was to lead a 'regular' life. The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma does a special needs camp every year and my family has been involved with that for at least 10 years.

"For the last several years I have prayed and asked God to open a door to bring this experience to my home state here in Louisiana," he continued. "This year was our initial adventure. However, we feel like it is only the beginning ripple of a move of God to share His love with special needs families and friends. I truly believe that special needs families are one of our large unreached people groups in Louisiana. So many special needs families feel



Brian Blackwell photo

Camper Joel Crooks and his buddy Jon Johnston enjoy cruising around the lake on a paddle boat at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center during the inaugural Champions Camp.

like they do not fit in anywhere due to the care needed for their family member. Our hope is that this camp might be the spark for many of our churches to see the ministry opportunity directly in front of them with these amazing families."

Champions Camp will return June 13-15, 2019 at Tall Timbers. For information or to be put on the mailing list e-mail david.

anderson@louisianabaptists.org or Jessica.dubea@louisianabaptists.org.

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Anderson said he has al-

Ministry highlights obedience to God using retrievers



Submitted photos

Johnny Morgan is surrounded by his three Labrador retrievers. Using his trained field dogs, Morgan, whose non-profit ministry is Obedience 2 Death, presents the Gospel in a unique way.

BY HOLLY JO LINZAY
Regional Reporter

DENHAM SPRINGS – Johnny Morgan’s life has really gone to the dogs, and he could not be happier.

“I’m getting to use a passion of mine for God. It’s a blessing to use my Labrador retrievers to teach about obedience and present the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a unique way,” Morgan, the founder of the ministry, Obedience 2 Death, said.

The non-profit organization, based in Denham Springs, uses dogs as visual illustrations and blends humor with timeless biblical truths to show the power of obedience in the life of the believer. Morgan named his ministry based upon Philippians 2:8 “Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

“We have to die to ourselves,” Morgan said.

A life-long avid hunter, Morgan was raised around

hunting dogs. While growing up he trained and hunted with rabbit dogs, coon hounds and squirrel dogs; and, he is amazed at the quirks and turns in his life that opened the door to a ministry for him where dogs help lead folks to the Lord.

“God can use anything we have if we make ourselves available. It’s very humbling to me that God is using a country boy and his dogs for His glory,” Morgan said.

Obedience 2 Death ministry was birthed in July 2013.

Morgan, pastor of the Live Oak Baptist Church in Denham Springs since April 1, 2018, had served as the student minister and associate pastor of the church from 2004.

When a tornado ripped the roof off the worship center

in 2008, the congregation started meeting in a local high school gym. In May of 2008,

the church invited Hank Hough, the founder of Kingdom Dogs Ministry in Houston, to make a presentation.

After that event, Morgan and Hough began the journey of becoming friends, and eventually Morgan became a presenter for Kingdom Dogs Ministry. By 2013, Morgan knew the Holy Spirit was

leading him to start his own dog ministry, and through a group of generous friends, Morgan was able to buy his first dog, a chocolate Labrador retriever, for \$21,000.

Morgan calls the dog “Glory,” a dual champion in land and water competitions,

See OBEDIENCE on 7



Johnny Morgan uses Zach, his 4-year-old chocolate Labrador retriever to present the Gospel.

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when giving commands. But the canine is officially registered under a different name.

“When I asked Hank what Glory’s registered name was, he told me, and I got real quiet. Glory’s registered name was Psalm 46:10. That’s my life verse. It was like God had ordained Glory to be my first dog in this ministry,” Morgan said explaining that Hough uses scripture to register his ministry dogs with the American Kennel Club. It is a practice Morgan has continued with the purchase of his two other dogs. Zach, a 4-year-old chocolate Labrador retriever, is registered as “Proverbs 3: 5-6.” Meanwhile, Morgan calls his 18-month-old yellow Labrador, Trinity, but registered the retriever as “2 Corinthians 13:14.”

“The curiosity about the dogs’ registered names has sparked conversations that have led to salvations,” Morgan said.

Morgan has traveled with his dogs from Oklahoma to Mississippi to Arkansas, visiting churches for youth events, men’s retreats and revivals, and, appearing at a number of schools under the umbrella of the Fellowship of Christian

Students – sometimes with the entire school body present.

During the last five years, Morgan said, the Obedience 2 Death ministry has reached out to more than 120,000 people, with more than 13,000 people accepting Christ.

“The main purpose of this ministry is to advance the Gospel, and we use these dogs to do that -- and God has blessed our ministry,” Morgan noted.

Training the dogs in obedience is definitely time-consuming. Morgan trains each dog daily for at least 30 minutes and sometimes an hour. Teaching a hand signal to train the dog to go left can take up to two weeks, and then another two weeks to train the dog to go right.

The presentations last about 40 minutes, and Morgan will incorporate whistle commands and hand signals to convey to the three dogs what he wants them to do.

During his presentations, Morgan will share his testimony, and tell how Matthew 6:24, how no man can serve two masters, related to him. He said there was a time in his life when he entered beagle dogs



Submitted photo

Zach, a 4-year-old chocolate Labrador retriever, and Trinity, an 18-month-old yellow Labrador, debut together at a Zachary day camp during late May. It is a three-year process to train a dog according to Morgan.

in competitions all over and it consumed his life.

“I was addicted to winning trophies. At least 30 Saturdays out of the year, I was chasing trophies. They were my idol. I knew God didn’t have all of my heart, soul and mind. That’s when I knew I wanted to surrender everything to Him,” Morgan recalled.

He sold the beagles and gave up hunting competi-

tions completely at that time.

Through his experience, Morgan says he can explain how obedience to the Lord can give a person complete freedom. As the “missionary dogs” listen to his voice to find a hidden stuffed sheep or go to fetch a “bumper” that Morgan has tossed, he communicates profound truths in the Word of God. The dogs demonstrate obedience in a variety of ways,

much to the delight of those assembled.

“It is a three year process to train a dog, every day, seven days a week, rain, sleet or snow. But it’s relaxing to me, and each day I am having more and more life lessons from God,” Morgan said. “My heart is for people to come to the Lord and be discipled. I want to be obedient and go where the Lord leads.”

Giving from page 3

will supersede the loss of the personal exemption for most.

For the Families – The Child Tax Credit will double from \$1000 up to \$2000. Also the tax-advantages of “529 Plans” (aka college savings or qualified tuition plans) have been expanded to include K-12 schools AND homeschooling expenses, helping families pay for education options other than public schools.

Quick Hits – Tax rates for capital gains remain the same at 15% and 20%; estate tax remains but with a higher exclusion (roughly the first 11 million dollars of a person’s

estate is excluded from taxes); home equity loan interest, moving expenses, other miscellaneous items are no longer deductible; casualty/theft losses are limited.

Two Parting Items -- The new provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act took effect January 1, 2018, but do not affect tax filings for 2017.

Also, keep in mind that the changes will “sunset” or expire by 2025, unless Congress takes further action. It is important to stay informed in the coming years, and you can look to the Louisiana Baptist Foundation to keep you “in the know!”

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LC's Hosanna worship band announces reunion concert

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

PINEVILLE – Former members of the Louisiana College Baptist Student Union worship band Hosanna will meet in late July to remember the early years of the group during a special weekend reunion.

The Hosanna reunion weekend and concert July 21-22 will feature the band's original members from 1981-84. The band began in 1981 and held its final concert in 1987.

The reunion will begin at 9 a.m., Saturday, July 21, with a day full of rehears-

als. Later that afternoon, Hosanna members and their families will tour the campus and head over to Kingsville Baptist Church in Ball for a catered supper.

The following day the group will rehearse at Kingsville Baptist and their reunion concert will begin at 5 p.m., followed by a fellowship for the general public at the church.

Deloy Chapman, who started the band with then-LC BCM Director John Moore, said he is anticipating reuniting with some members he has not seen since they graduated.

"Looking back, we were young, idealistic college students who enjoyed spending time together and serving God," said Chapman, who was a member of the group from 1981-84. "I know how busy college students are and I'm amazed we committed like we did. We'd practice two to three times a week and then we would go out almost every weekend of the month, on top of being full-time college students."

"Then I look at where everyone has come, and we have members who are pastors, worship leaders and directors of missions," said

Chapman, bi-vocational worship leader at First Baptist Church of Amite. "This was a time when we cut our teeth on ministry. We learned about serving in churches and doing what a church needed."

Moore, BSU director at LC from 1977 to 1986, said the Hosanna band members from the early years were some of the best he worked with during his tenure on campus.

"It is evidenced by the fact that every one of them have exceptional careers," said Moore, now an interim

pastor at Utopia Baptist Church in Utopia, Texas. "They are all tremendously talented and I loved to hear them sing, but they are all

great leaders and deeply committed followers of Christ. It was a blessing for me to be on the journey with these folks."

Prayers from page 4

in this remarkable journey of faith.

"We have a miracle here," Steven Kelly said. "I feel like God is using this beyond anything I have done."

"Everyone is pulling for him," he continued. "This is something that by all human accounts should not be

happening, but here we are as Elijah hangs on."

Kelley, who also serves as pastor of Bayou Vista Baptist Church in Morgan City, said he has been amazed at the support the family has received through fundraisers, prayers and words of encouragement on the Elijah's Miracle Facebook page.

His wife, Tammilee, has posted daily updates on the Facebook page.

She has told the 2,900 followers of the page how God has performed a miracle that has provided a powerful testimony of His power in even the most difficult circumstances.

"God is using this medical event to strengthen our faith provide a message of hope when we feel hopeless," she said. "I am in awe of the prayer support from the larger family of God. It is encouraging and helps us to continue to support our children as they face uncertainty."

In her July 5 update, she wrote that Elijah is on an "upward climb" and his physician is pleased about his progress.

"Pray that the extra diuretic medication they are using will help take the fluid off of his trunk. Pray that he can keep his oxygen saturation up - he dips under 75 every once in a while. Pray that we can continue the feeds and begin adding more calories. Pray that he continues to rest peacefully and heal."

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World Changers from page one

Church in Covington.

The students shared the Gospel with 26 people during prayer walks around the community that prompted one statement of belief, one act of repentance and 22 requests for prayer.

Madison Cleveland, project director for the Northshore, said World Changers allowed the students to get out of their comfort zone for a week and share the Gospel with homeowners and others from the community.

“When people pass by the homes, they see the students on the sites and become curious,” Cleveland said. “And when we prayer walk, it sometimes will open the door to a conversation about Christ. It’s just extraordinary that a group of students would give up a week at the beach or amusement park to come to serve others.”

HANDS-ON MINISTRY

Founded in 1990, World Changers, formerly a ministry of the North American Mission Board, and now a pre-packaged missions experienced managed by LifeWay Christian Resources, is manned mostly by students

who donate a week of their time to help rehabilitate some of the poorer neighborhoods in America – at no charge to the homeowner. Students pay between \$280 and \$375 to participate and local organizations fund most of the construction materials.

The Northshore is one of 54 locations where World Changers will work this summer. While the majority of the projects are construction-based, some include a focus on helping a church plant.

Ken Schroeder, transitional pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Hammond and an on-site supervisor for World Changers in the Northshore, said he enjoyed seeing the joy on the face of the homeowners.

“The homeowner and nearby residents take note of the hard work the students are putting into the project,” Schroeder said. “It not only improves the home itself but the students warm many hearts.”

Trinity Rucker painted the outside door of Jenkins’ storage shed June 28. She explained while some of her classmates were enjoying other activities such as a trip to the beach or excursion to

an amusement park, this was the highlight of her summer.

“Jesus told us to go and serve others,” said Rucker, a member of Westwood Baptist Church in Weaver, Alabama. “That’s what we were sent here for this week, so we could serve this sweet homeowner and make an impact for Christ.”

Laurin Cobb, who assisted Rucker, nodded in agreement.

“I love meeting new people and planting seeds,” said Cobb, a member of First Baptist Church in Dresden, Tennessee. “We are here this week to make Christ known to people who don’t have a relationship with Him.”

About 20 yards away, Mason Terry removed nails before painting siding on the house. He hopes to use what he learned on the Northshore to help others in his own hometown of Madonna, Tennessee.

“There’s such a good vibe here this week among all the new friends I’ve met,” said Terry, a member of Friendship Baptist Church in Madonna. “People like myself are able to get out of our comfort zone and achieve a higher purpose. For someone like me who isn’t skilled in house repair work, this allows me to jump out of the boat to share Christ with non-believers



Brian Blackwell photo

A student paints the outside Ethel Jenkins’ home. A crew of 15 student and adult World Changers modeled Christ’s love by painting, mowing the lawn and remodeling her house during the final week of June.



Ken Schroeder cuts wood in Mandeville. Schroeder is transitional pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Hammond and was an on-site supervisor for World Changers on the Northshore.

Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

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Please submit résumé to Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

CAMPUS FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED!

Husband/wife teams needed. Full-time positions include salary, benefits, paid vacation and training. Provide love, care, and hope in Christ to children in need. Applicants should not have children living at home under the age of 18. Must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and be an active member of a local Southern Baptist church.

Please send résumé to Dr. Perry Hancock (phancock@lbch.org) or Susan Nolan (snolan@lbch.org) or P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

FOSTER & ADOPTION SPECIALIST NEEDED

Full-time position needed for Alexandria, LA. Position includes salary, benefits, and paid vacation. Requires master’s degree in social work. Minimum of two years’ experience in social work field preferred. Must demonstrate proficient communication and writing skills. Some travel required. Must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and be an active member of a local Southern Baptist church.

Please submit résumé to Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

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Heflin, LA 71039.
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**Bi-Vocational
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Pisgah Baptist Church in Forest Hill, LA is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music to lead worship service.

Email résumés to cjob928@aol.com or for more information, call 318.446.4320.

BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

Red Oak Baptist Church in Livingston, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor.

Please email résumés to calicodonna@att.net or mail to P.O. Box 27, Livingston, LA 70754

STUDENT MINISTER

Ebenezer Baptist Church of Jonesboro, LA is currently seeking God's person to serve in the role of full time or bi-vocational Student Minister. The ministry range for the position is youth through college. The ideal person would have ministry experience and worship leading skills. Some theological education is preferred.

Email résumés to: resumes@ebcchurch.com

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Do you have a Revival, Homecoming, a new pastor, a community outreach or a concert? The Baptist Message would love to share your church news with the rest of the state. It is very easy to do, just send in your information (who, what, where and when) to philip@baptistmessage.com or call 318.449.4345. To get your event in the paper, please submit your information three weeks prior to the event.

ON THE MOVE

- **Tyler, wife Leah, Ellison** is the new minister of music and students at First Baptist Church, Morgan City.
- **David, wife Karol, Cloud** is the new pastor at Mansfield Road Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Dillion Adger** is the new students and missions minister at Trees Baptist Church, Vivian.
- **Gary, wife Glenda, Baltrusch** is the new music minister at Bethany Baptist Church, Bethany.
- **Lenard Adams** is the interim music minister at Calvary Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Gabe McCormick** is the interim pastor at Westwood Baptist Church, Keithville.

REVIVAL

- **Bellaire Baptist Church, Bossier City: Evangelism Emphasis Sunday**, July 15, 10 a.m. Speaker: **Lyndon Longoria**. Pastor: Randy Harper.
- **Unity Revival** –First Baptist Church, Bogalusa (Worship under the Stars), July 15, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: **Greg Whaley**. Worship: **Johnathan Turner Band**. Lee's Creek Baptist Church, Bogalusa, July 22, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Field Thigpen**. Main Street Baptist Church, Bogalusa July 29, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Stan Statham**.
- **First Baptist Church, Minden: Revive III**, 15, 22, 6 p.m. Speakers: **Chris Fleming (July 15), Richard Methvin (July 22)**. Special Music: **Jeremy & Lexie Scriber** (July 15); **Jeff & Jake Cowley, Jessica Sprout, Drew Ley** (July 22). Pastor: Leland Crawford.
- **First Baptist Church, Princeton: Harvest Sunday**, July 22, 11 a.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Darrell Cooper.

LAGNIAPPE

- Pastor Joseph Franklin of Mt Triumph Baptist Church, Boyce is **in need of a donated piano**. For more information, call him at 318.730.8400.
- **First Baptist Church, Vidalia: 'I Can Only Imagine' – The movie** will be presented, July 13, 7 p.m. Cost: No charge. Sponsored Celebrate Recovery of the Miss-Lou. Invite your family and friends. Pastor: Wes Faulk.
- **Bellevue Road Baptist Church, Haughton: Southern Plainsmen in concert**, July 15, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: McKinley Basco.
- **Mt Pleasant Baptist Church, Columbia: LeFevre Quartet in concert**, July 15, 6 p.m. Pastor: Jerry Hendrixson.
- **First Baptist Church, Lafayette: Riverside Revival Band Concert**, July 15, 6 p.m. Pastor: Steve Horn.
- **Pine Grove Baptist Church, Ruby: Vacation Bible School**, July 15-19, 6-8:30 p.m. Open to children ages kindergarten – sixth

- grade. Pastor: Ken Gilmore.
- **Pineville Park Baptist Church, Pineville: Vacation Bible School – Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus**; July 15-19, 5 p.m. This is for kids entering PreK through sixth grades. Each evening begins with dinner beginning at 5 p.m. and continues with Bible story, KidVid cinema, games and recreation, snacks, and imagination station. Pastor: Jeremy Shepherd.
- **First Baptist Church, Cameron: Vacation Bible School**, July 16-20, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Pastor: Charles Hugonin.
- **East Ridge Baptist Church, Lake Charles: Vacation Bible School**, July 16-20, 5:30-8 p.m. Pastor: Alan Weishampel.
- **Bonita Road Baptist Church, Bastrop: Vacation Bible School**, July 16-20, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Pastor: Casey Johnson.
- **Church at Marksville, Marksville: Vacation Bible School**, July 16-20, 5:30-8 p.m. The church have a closing program Friday evening (July 20) so parents can come and see what their child has learned all week. Pastor:
- **Life Point Community Church, Mansura: Vacation Bible School**, July 16-20, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Pastor: Jacob Crawford.
- **Cypress Baptist Church, West Monroe: Vacation Bible School**, July 16-20, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Pastor: Chad Ballard.
- **Grace Baptist Church, Monroe: Vacation Bible School**, July 16-20, 6-8:15 p.m. Pastor: Ricky Baker.
- **Live Oak Baptist Church, Montegut: Vacation Bible School - Game On!**, July 17-20, Pastor: Mitch Mares.
- **Southern Plainsmen Quartet 40th Annual Homecoming**, July 20-21, 6:30 on July 20 and 6 p.m. on July 21, Florien High School Auditorium. Special Music: **Southern Plainsmen, The Bowlings** (July 20), **11th Hour** (July 21). For information or to Purchase Tickets: www.attendstar.com 318.663.4812 or 409.791.0877 marcelle@southernplainsmen.com or www.southernplainsmen.com.
- **Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: The Booth Brothers in concert**, July 21, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: David Newton.
- **Open Door Fellowship, Coushatta: We-Called** leading worship, July 22, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Steven McAbee.
- **Alto Baptist Church, Alto: Ben Waites in Concert**, July 22, 6 p.m. A dessert fellowship will follow the service. Pastor: Alan Miller.
- **Watson Baptist Church, Watson: Vacation Bible School – Game on**, July 22-26, Pastor: John Pemberton.
- **Grand Caillou Baptist Church, Dulac: Vacation Bible School**, July 22-27, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pastor: Mike Mathena.
- **Bethel Baptist Church, West Monroe: MEGA Sports Camp**, July 23- 27, 6-8:30 p.m. Pastor: Dennis Hensley.
- **Start Baptist Church, Start: Vacation Bible School – Game On!**, July 23-27, 8:30 a.m. – noon. Classes will be for kindergarten through 6th grade. There will be lots of food, fun, crafts, games, Bible stories, and songs. Pastor: Jeffrey Thomas.
- **Trinity Baptist Church (Pumpkin Center): HIS KIDS Day Camp**, July 23-27, 9 a.m. - noon. Special Needs ministry for those ages 10 to25. **Lone Highway Band in concert**, July 29, 5:30 p.m. Cost: Free. Pastor: Avery Dixon.



Submitted photos

The Northshore Baptist Association, representing seven different churches, sent a mission team to Rapid City, South Dakota, July 23-30, to conduct Vacation Bible school for Hill of Grace Fellowship as well as take part in other service opportunities.



The 23-member team did art, music, and Bible study during Vacation Bible School for Hill of Grace Fellowship. The group also distributed visual aids, who also received tracts about the gift of food and water during its week-long stay. The Northshore Team also conducted evangelistic outreach which included directly praying for individuals, who also received tracts about the gift of salvation through God's grace.

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.

ge wat kguutre ght watr emhtgv cqhwa, ge

oghvtde yr wat hnkth envt, ge wat whtte qc unod

guqte, fanja wat uqhv agwa mugdwvt, gdv ge jtvgh

whtte ytenvt wat fgwthe.

dpsythe wftdwr-cqph:enl

Clues:
D = N; G = A

Answer to June 28 Scripture Crypto:
Jeremiah twelve: ten

Resolutions, nominees for Louisiana Baptist posts

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists are invited to recommend candidates for service on state convention boards and committees, and, to submit resolutions for possible consideration by messengers at the 2018 Louisiana Baptist Convention.

COMMITTEES

The Louisiana Baptist Committee on Committees is conducting its work, Sept. 6, to nominate persons to serve on various state convention committees. Currently, 17 nominees are needed for service on committees for Credentials, Moral and Social Concerns, Nominations, Order of Business and Resolutions.

The Committee on Committees chairman is Scott Sullivan, minister of education for the First Baptist Church in Haughton. Nominations for committees should be sent to him via U.S. Mail at the address of 105 East Washington Avenue, Haughton, LA 71037, or electronically to scott@fbchaughton.org. The deadline to receive inputs is August 18.

BOARDS

The Louisiana Baptist Committee on Nominations is beginning its work to fill vacancies on state boards. Currently, 19 nominees are needed to serve on the LBC Executive Board and as trustees of Louisiana College, the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries, the *Baptist Message*, and the Baptist Founda-

tion.

Andy Buckley, a member of the First Baptist Church in Sulphur, is chairman of the Committee on Nominations. Recommendations should be sent for him to receive not later than August 18, either electronically, Andybuckley1224@gmail.com, or to this address: 1011 10th Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601.

GUIDELINES

Please submit the candidate's name and identify the committee or board for which you are nominating him or her.

Include the nominee's church membership and current employment.

Not more than two members from any church may serve on all boards and committees, combined, at any one time. Likewise, not

more than one member of the same church may serve on the same board or committee, at any one time.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions may be submitted not more than ninety (90) days and not fewer than fifteen (15) days prior to the LBC annual meeting, Nov. 12-13, providing a window of opportunity from Aug. 14 through Oct. 28.

The first meeting of the Resolutions Committee is scheduled for Sept. 18.

Resolutions should be typewritten, titled and dated, and, accompanied by a letter – from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention – certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing. The letter should include

complete contact information for both the person submitting it, and his or her church.

No person may submit more than three resolutions per year.

The Resolutions Committee Chair is Cullen Clark, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Crowley.

Louisiana Baptists may send proposed resolutions electronically (Policy@LouisianaBaptists.org), by facsimile (FAX) (318.449.4287), or through the U.S. Mail (ATTN: Resolutions Committee, LBC Office of Public Policy, P.O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309).

If you desire assistance with wording or formatting, please contact LBC Public Policy Director Will Hall by phone, 318.448.3402, or email, Policy@LouisianaBaptists.org.

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