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righteousness
surpasses that of
the scribes and
Pharisees.”*

– Matthew 5:20
(NASB)

BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists



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Volume 130 • Issue No 17

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August 13, 2015

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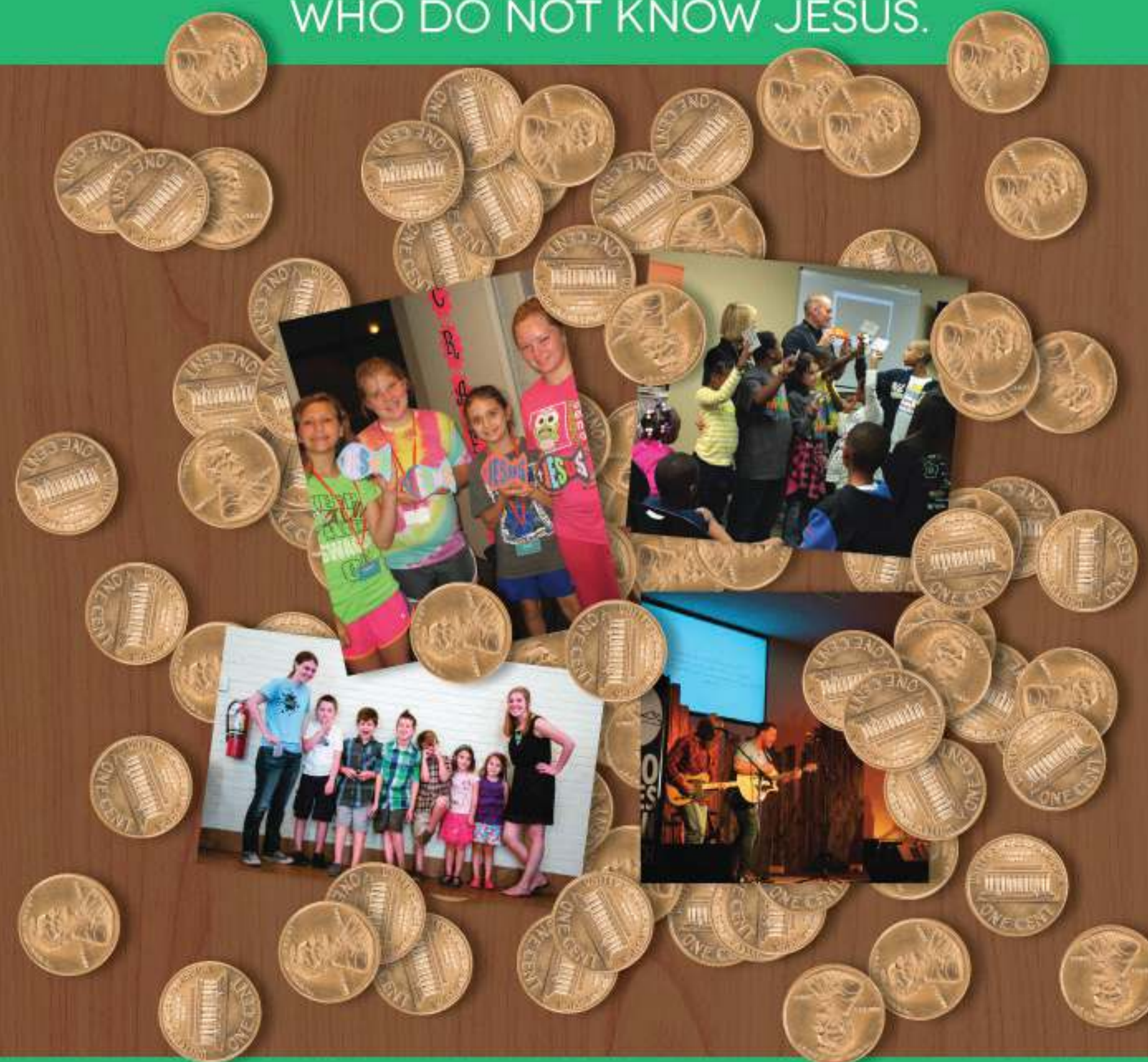
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and is baptized will
be saved, but whoever
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be condemned.”

— Mark 16:16
(NASB)

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David Boothe and David Brooks jointly baptized George Warshaw, who recently accepted Christ after his wife, Lu, and others prayed for and showed him Christian love for 24 years. Boothe is his LifeGroup teacher at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria and Brooks is his pastor.

Calvary Baptist photo



Warshaw: 101-year old babe in Christ

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – For 24 years, Lu Warshaw prayed her husband would accept Christ as his personal Lord and Savior.

After years of refusing to give up on the hope that one day her husband would become a Christian, God answered her prayers last month when 101-year-old George Warshaw made that decision and followed through with believer's baptism.

“That was an experience I never dreamed I would have,” said Lu Warshaw. “I almost had given up. The devil kept

telling me it wouldn't happen but I kept believing God would let it happen. I think I'm still on cloud nine.”

His conversion story began on July 24, 1991, when Lu and George Warshaw became husband and wife.

The two were of different faiths; Lu a Christian and George a Jewish non-believer.

Even so, George attended Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria most Sundays with Lu, where she was a member. They sat in the same pew every Sunday for wor-

See WARSHAW on 3



Celebration Church photos

A young woman is baptized while Adam Beach and Sidney Hidalgo stand nearby. Beach is pastor and Hidalgo associate pastor of the Celebration Church Slidell campus.

‘All In’ weekend reason to celebrate

Celebration Church baptizes 92 during July event

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS – Ninety-two people went all in one recent Sunday at Celebration Church's eight campuses in the New Orleans area, participating in believer's baptism.

This “All In” weekend at Celebration Church was scheduled to stress the importance of baptism in a Christian's life. Leading up to the weekend, Celebration Church staff prepared its members by explaining what baptism is about and the important role it plays in the life of a Christian.

Fifteen people were originally

scheduled for baptism in the middle of the services but many more came forward at the end of the worship services on July 18 and 19 to take this important step. To ensure those coming forward for baptism were confident in their decision, the candidates went to a counseling room, where afterwards they received a shirt and towel before participating in baptism.

Through the first week of August, 384 people have been baptized at the church's campuses. Lead pastor Dennis Watson believes the church can meet its goal of 520 for 2015 by the end of the year.

See ALL IN on 5



David Ford, associate youth pastor at the Metairie/New Orleans campus of Celebration Church, takes a photograph with two young men before he baptizes them. During a special All In weekend, 92 people were baptized throughout Celebration Church's eight campuses in the New Orleans area on July 18 and 19. Through the first week of August, 384 people have been baptized.

Adams, Jurkovich blessed to perform 2 ‘special’ baptisms

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

Baptisms always are special time in the life of a minister, but they were an extra special memory one recent Sunday for two Louisiana Baptist pastors.

Josh Adams, pastor of Pisgah Baptist in Forest Hill, and Brad

Jurkovich, pastor of First Bossier, not only baptized a higher than average number but each baptized one of their own children.

Adams baptized his son Jace on June 14 while Jurkovich baptized his daughter Catherine on July 19.

“There's no greater feeling in the world for a pastor to be in the baptismal waters baptizing others,” Adams said. “But to baptize your own son is emotional and so rewarding for everything you've been through.”

Jurkovich echoed the thought.

“My daughter had gone to kids camp and told me that she got it more now than ever and was



First Bossier photo

Brad Jurkovich baptizes his daughter, Catherine, during a Sunday morning service on July 19 at First Baptist Bossier City, where he serves as pastor.

See BAPTISMS on 5

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August 15 dedication planned for new McNeese BCM

By BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

LAKE CHARLES – Baptist Collegiate Ministry officials at McNeese State University have scheduled an open house for its new building.

Scheduled from 2 to 4 pm on Aug. 15, with a dedication service at 2:30 pm, the open house will showcase a building nearly seven years in the making.

"It's been a long process,"

said Keith Cating, director of the McNeese BCM. "This gives us an opportunity to reach out to a larger group of students, build relationships with them and hopefully lead some of them accepting Christ."

The new 10,000-sq.-ft. building is nearly double the size of its former structure, which was demolished before construction on the new structure began in late 2013. Among the features of

the building is an office suite with four offices, reception area, game room, library, great room, prayer room, kitchen, pantry and a room for its weekly lunch and worship services.

Cating said the lunches held once a week are their biggest outreach tool. He estimates they will be able to serve many more than the 250 who showed up in its former structure that was 60 years old.

"Over half of those folks who came usually were not believers, so it offered a chance to connect with them," he said.

Operations out of the new building began in May. Cating and BCM leaders had used Emmanuel Baptist Church in Lake Charles for its offices and met for worship services at the church, on campus and other locations.



Joe Dupree photo

Keith Cating stands beside a piece of artwork with Psalm 46:1 on it. The artwork is located in the new building of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at McNeese State University in Lake Charles. Cating is director of the BCM at McNeese.

"Our new building gives us a base of operation," Cating said. "Whereas before, when we were scattered throughout all parts of campus and we were hard to track

down at times, this building we are in now gives us a physical presence on campus which is huge."

Among the students excited to have a new BCM building is Morgan Miller, a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles.

Miller is anticipating how the additional space for the free lunches, worship services and study space will turn into opportunities to witness to her fellow students.

"I think the newness of the building will be a draw for

See MCNEESE BCM on 11

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Warshaw from page one

ship and then attended a Bible study class afterwards.

Throughout the years, Lu and other friends never pushed their faith on George, but rather showed him Christian love and prayed that he would come to know Christ.

Recently, George was unable to continue attending Calvary or even living at his residence with Lu. He was forced to move into the Veterans Affairs Nursing Home in Pineville, but still remained in constant contact with Calvary members and staff.

In late June, questions he asked about the Christian faith were more frequent and on July 10, George asked David Boothe, his long-time Sunday school teacher at Calvary to visit him.

"The conversation moved to that of denomination and she and I both explained to him that being a member of a denomination doesn't mean anything as far as a relationship with God," Boothe recalled. "We told him you have to get your relationship with God straightened out and the way you do that is trusting in God. We talked some more and he said he wanted to accept Christ."

Three weeks later, Lu was there at the VA Nursing Home for another moment she never dreamed would happen.

Surrounded by friends and family who prayed and never gave up on the hope that he would one day accept Christ, George at 101 years of age was baptized on July 28.

Since he was too weak to

undergo baptism by immersion, Boothe and Calvary Baptist Pastor David Brooks jointly baptized him. Brooks used water he collected from a past trip to the Jordan River.

Brooks said Lu is a perfect example of a Christ-like follower who obeys Christ's commandments, even when the situation seems hopeless.

"She prayed for him for years and lived out an exceptional Christian life in front of him," Brooks said. "It is a great lesson to be persistent in praying for the salvation of anyone and witnessing to them. And never underestimate living a Christ-like life 24-7 in front of your family members. You never know the impact your life will have on them."

Since his conversion and baptism, Lu and George are both now members of Calvary and read the Bible when they are together during her visits to the nursing home.

"He can't see well anymore, so I read him the Bible for a long time when I'm at the nursing home with him," Lu said. "I really didn't know he would love to hear the Bible as much as he does. It's like he has a hunger for it."

The baptism portrays a lesson Lu feels Christians should learn who have witnessed to a non-believer for many years, one of persistence and never giving up.

"Keep praying and believe God will answer your prayers," she said. "You've got to believe."

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A Millennial's awakened hope for SBC

BATON ROUGE – One of the most regrettable legacies of the Millennial generation will be the forfeiture of many of the great institutions and traditions bequeathed to us in trust.

To be sure, no man-made institution can emerge spotless from strict scrutiny. The institutions serving



PAUL DIETZEL II
Member
Jefferson Baptist Church
Baton Rouge

as agents or as a committee of the whole have been the mechanism whereby great advancements in history have taken flight.

Yet, whether it was the Declaration of Independence drafted by perhaps one of the greatest subcommittees in world history

(Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston can hardly be described as “establishment”) or the means employed in the founding of many of our nation’s colleges and universities, institutions or funding mechanisms can wither over time and drift from their original purpose.

As I walked around the Greater Columbus Convention Center for the 2015 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, I was struck by the overall focus and unity of a multi-generational group of people determined to make an impact. I inhabit the technology and political sectors and, for better or worse, conventions or conferences are often the places where business is transacted.

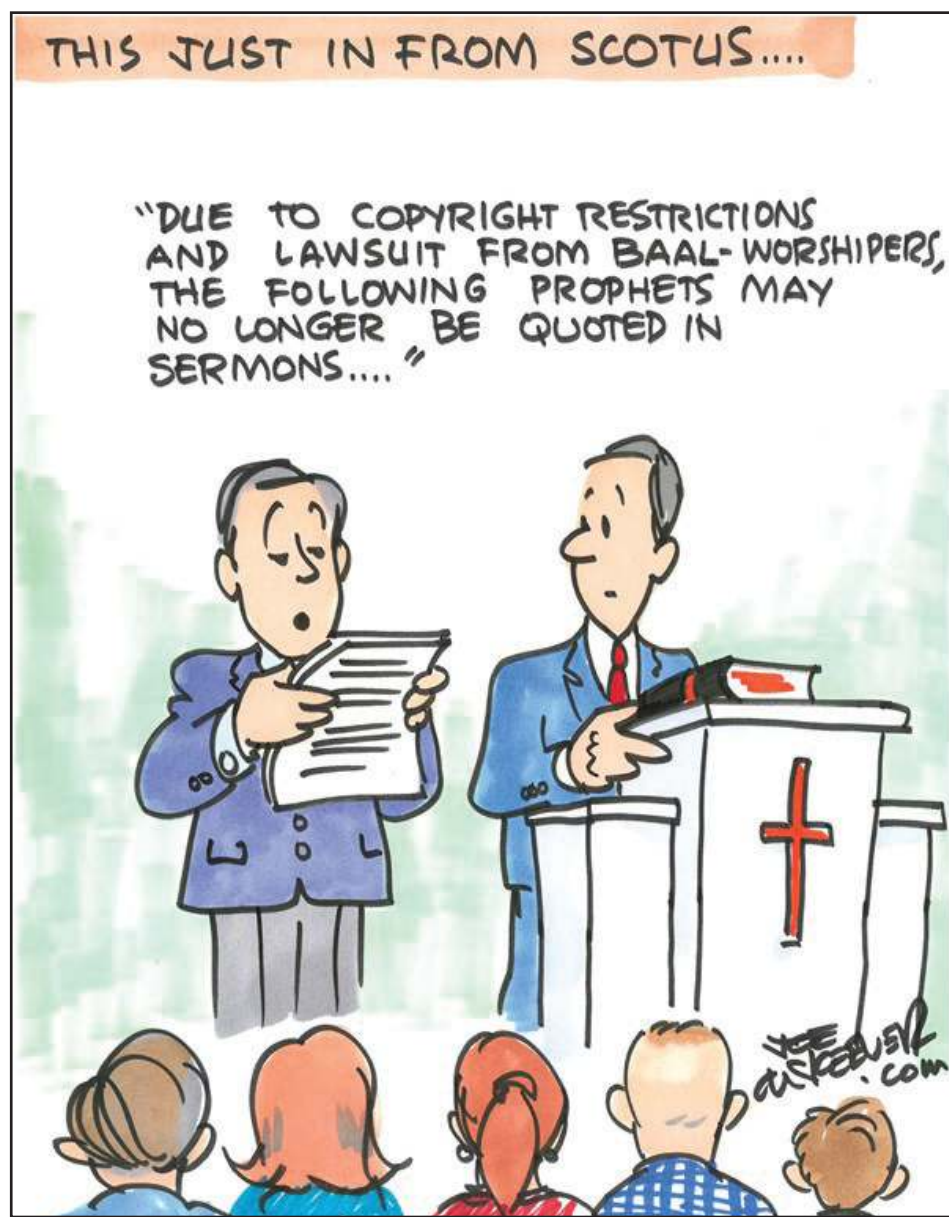
While the annual meeting of the SBC bears some strange similarities to those types of events, there was a pronounced difference that marked my memory.

In the aftermath of the SBC, I have come to see both the heritage and hope of the denomination of my birth.

Southern Baptists are rightly concerned about the lack of young people involved in the overall structure of the denomination. Start speaking of “programs” and the eyes of young skeptics (even those friendly to the SBC) begin to roll. My generation is the recipient of expensive plans that either never took shape or failed miserably.

The more distance between my local church and denominational festivities, the more certain we are to create a disconnect between the reality of what occurs on the street and the fantasy created by a rapidly evolving cyber world.

These days everyone seems to be eager to franchise out technological capacities to engage a generation



raised with cellphones and the Internet.

The technological subculture, while real and growing, is but the result of the human longing for community.

To understand that is to begin to make sense of Millennials in a significant way. The most powerful relationship is not one fostered online.

What encouraged me as a “first-time” guest to the SBC was a realization that the Southern Baptist Convention exists for local Southern Baptist churches – not the other way around.

Far too much time and talk have been expended on the necessity of maintaining the structure of the convention. Yet there seems to be a renewed focus on using the convention structure for the advancement of local church priorities.

If this is indeed the case, the future is bright for the SBC. If, however, the structure becomes the priority, the SBC could be on life support all too soon.

The great challenge is to connect my generation (especially those of us who are not pastors, theologians or denominational employees) to the existing operational structure of the SBC.

This depends on increasing the relational connection between Southern Baptist Christians and the SBC’s legacy funding streams like the Cooperative Program, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

In other words, there must be a

real-world connection between money, mission investment, Christian doctrine, Gospel culture and ultimately the worship of God. There must be a personal connection between giving money and mission involvement where one is not mutually exclusive of the other.

Here is where technology can play a vital role. Monetary investment in the SBC must be explained anew to a new generation of Southern Baptists.

It is not simply a matter of marketing. It is a matter of transparency, simplicity and a confidence driven by a real-world understanding that participation in the Cooperative Program as well as the SBC’s annual mission offerings translates into direct engagement in mission work with real people.

Every institution or program tends to produce its exact opposite. Everything defined as “missions” isn’t “missions.”

Enabling and expanding pathways for mission engagement with local congregations where a person can confidently trust the structure of the SBC is the path of advancement for a new generation of Southern Baptists to impact the world for Christ and His Kingdom.

You will search the Bible in vain for the IMB, NAMB or the SBC. What you will see are local churches where faithful Christians sacrifice for the truth of the Gospel in the world. The ongoing renewal of the SBC will only be sustained by the reality that Jesus Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

What’s next for America Polygamy?

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) – Nathan Collier and his “wives” – Vicki and Christine – want to get married. Actually, Nathan and Vicki are already legally married but they live in a polygamous relationship with Christine.

They recently went to the Yellow-

stone County Courthouse in Billings, Mont., to apply for a marriage license under the Marriage Equality Act to become a legal three-some. After some consideration, they were denied by county officials. They then appealed to the Montana attorney general. They were similarly denied.

After being denied, Nathan said, “All we want is legal legitimacy. We aren’t asking anybody for anything else. We just want to give our marriage and our family the legitimacy that it deserves.”

Sounds familiar.

The Colliers are making the same arguments the LGBT community made in their quest to redefine marriage.

We will now see if President Obama can evolve on polygamous marriage and the Supreme Court can mysteriously find “equal dignity” for them in the Constitution.

Failure to do so would be the height of ethical and legal hypocrisy. Failure to now recognize polygamous marriage will reveal the supposedly legal basis for permitting same-sex marriage as the politically-correct sham it has always been.

I have resisted every redefinition of marriage and continue to advocate for marriage between one man and one woman as best for the people involved and our society as a whole.

While polygamous marriage is an unhealthy model (which is why it is has long been outlawed), there is no legitimate legal objection that can be raised if the Supreme Court’s reasoning behind their recent decision is consistently applied.

My hope is that our president, legislators and judges will reverse course and reaffirm the traditional definition of marriage.

If not, when the Colliers have their day in court, marriage will continue to devolve until it dissolves as the foundation for healthy families and a stable society.



JEFF IORG
President
Golden Gate
Seminary, California

ALL IN from page one

Statewide, Louisiana Baptists have baptized an average of 11,261 per year since 2002. Prior to that, the average was 13,200, before LifeWay changed its method of reporting baptisms.

After Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, adult baptisms have remained fairly stable, though baptisms of children and youth and declined, as well as attendance of Sunday school and small groups. The rate of baptisms per year normally is 10 percent of Sunday school and small group attendance.

"With a minimal amount of work, empowered by the Holy spirit, we can see all-time

highs in baptisms," said Keith Manuel, evangelism associate for Louisiana Baptists.

A STEP TOWARD A JESUS FOLLOWER

"Baptism is often times a difficult step for people to take here in the New Orleans region, because of the religious or non-religious cultures that most people have come from," Watson said. "Therefore, we know that people are really taking a determined and decisive step towards being a 'Jesus follower' when they follow through with baptism, which means that they are planning to live a transformed life that will impact the people around them and the

Baptisms from page one

ready," Jurkovich said. "As a dad and pastor, it's a wonderful moment to share with your church family. For her it was cool to have all of her fifth grader friends there cheering for her."

EMBRACING BAPTISMS

Both congregations have embraced baptisms in 2015.

For the past three years, Pisgah Baptist has averaged 10 baptisms. But this year, this congregation that averages 70 on a Sunday morning has baptized 12 people, 10 of which came in June and July.

The rise in baptisms is a far cry from the 41 people total baptized at the church from 1999 to 2010.

Adams attributes the rise in baptisms to a greater presence in the community.

Though the church members were highly involved in national

mission efforts and discipleship, they were missing an important element – ministry in their own community. The church began to plan how it might minister better in that area, which included a free soccer camp coordinated by GOLA, a team of Baptist Collegiate Ministry student team from different colleges travel around the state who also put on Vacation Bible Schools. Additionally, the church held its own VBS the week following the soccer camp.

The result was 68 students who attended the soccer camp, including nine who accepted Christ. Three of those new believers were baptized at Pisgah Baptist, with others taking part in baptism at other churches.

During the VBS, the church saw its largest VBS attendance in 14 years. Through that outreach, 19 students came to

culture of our region in positive and powerful ways."

Brooke James was one of 14 baptized at the River Parishes campus during the All In weekend. Before her baptism, James overcame isolation from her husband and children and a life of fear. After learning about Celebration Church and the love of Christ, James' life turned around in a positive manner.

She said being one of the 92 baptized – the most ever for a single weekend at Celebration Church – was an indescribable feeling of God's love on display.

"It's a great feeling to know that people are growing in knowing the Lord," she said of the weekend. "My heart really is overwhelmed with joy knowing that."

"I have walked in and out of my Christian life," James said. "It took this past year to really open my eyes and heart. Sometimes it takes hitting rock bottom to know that the only one who can really help is God. I'm so glad I accepted Him into my life as well as my family."

At the St. Bernard campus, Pastor Patrick Eagan overcame the obstacle of baptizing without the availability of safe water. The Wednesday night before the All In weekend, the Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals confirmed the presence of brain-eating amoeba in the water supply in St. Bernard Parish.

Eagan decided to fill the baptistery with some Kentwood drinking water.

"We found some volunteers who were willing to help us pick up and move the water and the rest is history," Eagan said. "You know, it was kind of a challenge discerning what God wanted us to do, because honestly, we already had a jam-packed weekend planned. But it was a faith thing that led us to get the Kentwood water."

"One of the really cool things that God did is during our Saturday night service, a man walked in and told our staff that he was ready to get baptized and wanted to be baptized that night," he continued. "It wasn't planned – it was a total God thing. Seeing God do that made the whole trouble of filling the baptistery one Kentwood jug at a time completely worthwhile."

The All In weekend was so

impactful that it led to additional baptisms that following weekend. During services at the campuses on July 25 and 26, 46 more people elected to follow through with baptism.

Watson believes the reason for the increases in baptisms is in prayer and preparation. In his sermons leading up to July 18 and 19, Watson preached about the reason and scriptural basis for baptisms. Then, Watson said, Celebration Church allowed God to move.

"We planned for it, we promoted it and we prayed for it," Watson said. "All year long we have planned for an increase."

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Baptist Foundation trustees wade through busy meeting agenda

BY JERRY LOVE

LBF Communications

ALEXANDRIA – Trustees for the Louisiana Baptist Foundation held their regular quarterly meeting July 28 at the Louisiana Baptist Building in Alexandria.

During the morning Investment Committee meeting, the report on the assets under management showed a slight decrease of approximately 0.36 percent during the second quarter.

Assets held by the LBF totaled \$173,681,670.51 as of June 30, 2015, which is an increase of \$4.37 million for the year to date.

Jim Prince, chairman of the Investment Committee, presented the performance report for the portfolios managed by the Foundation.

The returns for the major components of the LBF portfolio for Q2 of 2015 are as follows: Short Term Fund: 0.48 percent Annualized Yield; Fixed Income Fund: 0.40 percent Total Return and Eq-

uity Fund: 2.50 percent Total Return.

The Group Investment Fund which is comprised of the segments above returned 1.29 percent year to date.

Lee Morris and Susan Taylor from Graystone Consulting were present for the meeting. Morris led a review of the individual managers, noting their performance with respect to the particular sector in which they invest.

He stated no changes were recommended for the current group of managers.

"The LBF portfolio is well diversified," Morris commented as he discussed the overall investment environment. Graystone is continuing to encourage a global strategy for equities to take advantage of the overall positive performance of the European and Japanese markets in particular.

"Graystone currently prefers equity investments over fixed income and active management over passive management," Morris added.

In other business, LBF

Executive Director Wayne Taylor, during the Investment Committee, noted Requests For Proposal (RFP's) had been delivered to six different consulting firms including Graystone.

The Board made the decision to send the RFP's earlier this year as a matter of due diligence to ensure the Foundation continues to receive the high level of professional service that Graystone has provided over the years.

The RFP's will be reviewed in the early fall with a decision to be made at the October board meeting. Any change would be implemented by year-end.

The Operating Committee was updated on the current budget and approved the financial statements. Taylor also reminded the board that Requests for Proposal would be sent out for the LBF Auditor.

Similar to the RFP's for the investment consultant, the RFP's for an audit firm is a matter of due diligence by the trustees. Payne Moore and

Herrington, LLC, of Alexandria has been the auditing firm for many years and has provided excellent service.

Also during the Operating Committee, Rebecca Nation of Payne, Moore and Herrington delivered the annual audit to the Board. She reviewed the report and stated no material errors or corrections were noted and the firm issued an unmodified (clean) opinion of the Foundation's financial positions and statements.

During the afternoon, trustees heard reports from the Investment and Operating Committees.

Also, Board chairman Mark Evans (Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport) reiterated several accomplishments and changes implemented by the trustees and staff to maintain transparency and accountability as well as provide better service to Louisiana Baptists.

Evans noted the following achievements that have occurred or are in progress:

■ The ongoing commitment to "social screening" of the

investment portfolio by avoiding investments in companies that are engaged in business contrary to Baptist beliefs.

■ Implementing a formal review process for the Executive Director.

■ Extending Requests for Proposal of services for investment consultant and auditor.

■ Accounting software upgrade.

■ And Reinvesting assets owned by the Foundation for better stewardship.

The 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.

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

The next scheduled meeting is Oct. 27.

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Broadmoor Baptist's B-groups have transformed members into missionaries

BY KAREN PEARCE

Regional Reporter

SHREVEPORT – When Keith Payne left Broadmoor Baptist Church (BBC) to pastor his own congregation three-and-a-half years ago, he had a healthy model of church to follow.

But when he returned last year to become BBC's part-time missions pastor, something dramatic had shifted.

In Pastor Chuck Pourciau's words, they had become missionaries.

"When I came back it was just exploding – I was blown away at everything they were doing," Payne said. "I just had no idea that there were so many places where we had missionaries and where we were getting involved. It had doubled, it seemed, since I had left three years before."

In fact, it had more than doubled. They went from having around 200 people participating in part-time mission trips, to well over 500 as well as multiple local and regional mission partnerships. What happened?

B-GROUPS HAPPENED

"We used to call it Sunday school but realized that didn't communicate to the modern mind what all it was – it communicated something that only happened on Sunday and something that's school," Pourciau said. "We finally just made up a word – B-groups. That's the first letter of our churches name and what we're saying is it helps you believe, belong and become."

The first priority of every B-group when they initiate contact with a person is to see if they know the Lord – believe.

The second priority is to make sure they belong to small group in order to connect with other brothers and sisters in Christ, have accountability, and to grow in knowledge and in the Lord. The third thing is to become missionaries together.

"I think that's a good strategy because those are the ones you're connected with anyway," Payne said. "Those are the people you're living your life

with and you're already friends, already engaged with each other and missions is just another part of walking through life together as a faith family."

It not only brings groups together but families. Pourciau is a trustee for the International Mission Board and realizing how many missionary kids (MKs) grow up and pursue missions as their calling inspired him. The church encourages families to go together on mission trips.

Last year one B-group took 75 people, from age seven to adult to New Orleans. They evangelized, knocked on doors, worked at festivals, did whatever was needed to share the Gospel.

One 7-year-old girl came back saying she preferred the trip to Disney World because "Disney is all about me, but New Orleans was all about Jesus," Pourciau recounted.

"We've got children who are growing up doing this now and I'm hoping this model will have the same kind

of impact in increasing the number of international and full-time missionaries coming from our church, because they grow up seeing it as normal," he said.

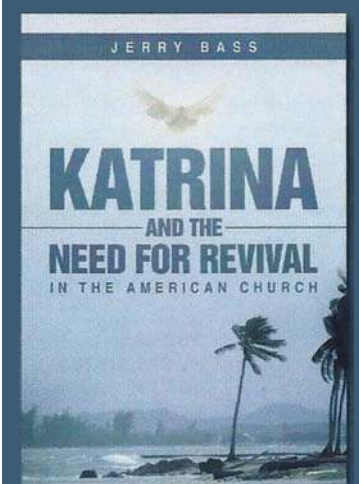
There are 15-20 B-groups of all sizes and ages – from children to senior adults.

No one is exempt from the excitement or the responsibility to be involved.

It was the senior adults that really solidified this ministry approach a few years ago when they connected with missionaries in Lithuania and took a mission trip to help them.

See **B-GROUPS** on 12

Spiritual Awakening in the country begins with REVIVAL in the American Church



Read *Katrina and the Need for Revival in the American Church* by Jerry Bass, available at amazon.com or westbowpress.com.

He is also available to preach on the subject of revival. Contact him at revivalnow2013@gmail.com.



Karen Pearce photo

A Broadmoor Baptist Church B-group demonstrates its desire to stay focused on missions through scripture verses, reminders to pray for the lost, and maps of the world.

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Submitted photo

An unknown driver crashed a truck into the front door of the sanctuary at Erwinville Baptist Church around 2 a.m. on July 19 and fled the scene of the accident. Pastor Tyler Saucier estimates the damage will be between \$50,000 and \$60,000. Church members are meeting in the fellowship hall.

Truck crashes into Erwinville Baptist church sanctuary, driver flees scene

By STAFF

Baptist Message

ERWINVILLE – Police are searching for the suspect who allegedly crashed a truck into the sanctuary at Erwinville Baptist Church and fled the scene of the accident.

According to Pastor Tyler Saucier, the vehicle was traveling at 80 mph when it hit the building around 2 a.m. on July 19, causing major dam-

age including to the walls and foundation of the sanctuary. He estimates damage is between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

Saucier lives in a parsonage next to the sanctuary and heard the truck crash into the building.

He said the vehicle driven was a maroon Chevrolet extended cab Z71, with significant damage to the passenger side.

Even though the sanctuary sustained damage, worship services still took place a few hours later.

The church met for services in the fellowship hall, where the congregation that averages 50 for Sunday morning worship will continue to meet until the sanctuary is repaired.

Saucier said he wants the driver of the truck to know he is forgiven.

"I am more worried about

giving him a second chance than making him pay," Saucier said. "I think God can use of this to make our church realize we are more than just building and walls.

"Our worship has been great in the Sundays following the accident," he continued. "What happened was wrong and it was a bad thing, but God will use this for his glory."

Anyone with information about who might have driven the truck into the building should contact Brian Ducet at 225.382.5241.

Also, the church posted this note on its Facebook page, "If you hear of anyone asking for donations for our church, please do not donate. It is a scam. Our church members are not soliciting donations, and we do have insurance to repair the damage."



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Louisiana Baptist churches seeking to multiply through ReGroup

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

LAFAYETTE – It's time to ReGroup.

That's the goal of an upcoming conference for Louisiana Baptist churches wanting to multiply but unsure as to why the growth in their congregations is not happening.

Scheduled for Aug. 15 at

First Baptist Lafayette, ReGroup Conference will focus on four areas of the ReGroup Strategy – sharing the gospel, developing biblical community, helping believers mature spiritually and equipping believers to live missionally.

“My goal for the ReGroup Conference is that participants would be challenged and inspired as leaders in the local

church to go home understanding that we are called to make disciples,” said Sean Keith, Sunday School and discipleship strategist for Louisiana Baptists. “The churches best strategy to make disciples is through small groups of people like a Sunday School class. We want to challenge every group to: share the gospel with the lost, develop true biblical community in the group, help members to grow spiritually and equip members to serve missionally.”

Jeff Iorg, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, is the keynote speaker for the conference. The Matt Papa Band will lead music.

The conference also will feature lunch and two breakout sessions for pastors, Sunday school directors, small group leaders, church staff, preschool, children and youth leaders, church

planters, discipleship leaders and women's missions and Bible study leaders.

Leaders from both in Louisiana and outside the state will lead the breakout sessions.

ReGroup Conference will also feature a tract for Hispanic pastors and church members, with El Renuevo, the Hispanic mission of First Baptist Lafayette, serving as the host.

Pastor Marley Hernandez

from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, will talk on evangelism, biblical community, spiritual growth and missional life.

ReGroup Conference begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. followed by the general session at 9:30 a.m. The conference ends at 3:30 p.m.

The cost to attend is \$30.

For more information, visit <https://louisianabaptists.org/event/regroup-conference>.

Baptisms from page 5

a saving faith in Jesus Christ, with five following through with baptism at Pisgah and another five going through baptism at other churches.

In addition to soccer camp and VBS, Pisgah Baptist also has taken students to youth camp, holding revivals, and ministering to those in the community in various ways.

“We have learned that loving on people makes a difference,” Adams said. “God is blessing these efforts as He changes our hearts. We understand that people do not care what we know, until they know that we care. All we have been doing is loving on this community and being a part of what God is already doing.”

Meanwhile, First Bossier held two baptismal services on July 19.

Jurkovich baptized five people, including his daughter, during the morning service and another 17 that evening at Splash Kingdom Water Park in Shreveport.

Jurkovich said the church schedules baptisms once a month. Since they already had a family night planned at Splash Kingdom, Jurkovich said the staff felt it was only fitting to hold a baptism event there.

“It was a different environment than the sanctuary,” Jurkovich said. “Kids and adults alike thought it was a really cool moment.”

Among those baptized were Torrance Harvin and his wife. After Harvin was baptized, his wife indicated that she was a Christian but never had followed through with believer's baptism.

“It's a new start of life,” Torrance Harvin said of the next step in baptism. “I get a second chance to get it right, to work on myself as God's man and not an earthly man. And with that, I can sit at His feet and not in the heat.”

Through the first week in August, 171 people have been baptized at First Bossier. Jurkovich expects more to follow as excitement continues to build throughout the congregation.

“It has been awesome to see what Jesus is doing in the lives of students and adults,” Jurkovich said. “The baptism t-shirts we wear say I AM NEW. We are all made new in Christ. And baptism tells that story time and time again.”

PASTOR WANTED

Send résumé to:
Bayou Plaquemine Baptist Church
Attn: Pastor Search Committee
29215 Hwy. 75,
Plaquemine, La., 70764
or e-mail
kenaustinbpbcc@gmail.com
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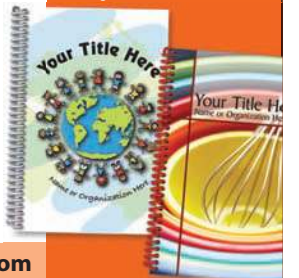


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Please email résumés to Brother T.C. Painting at tfpainting@att.net



PASTOR SOUGHT

Cypress Baptist Church in West Monroe, LA is seeking a pastor.

Please send résumé to:
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West Monroe, LA 71292.



ORGANIST NEEDED

An organist is needed at First Baptist Church, Pineville for Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

Contact Chris Turner in the church office at 318.448.8221 if interested



SEEKING A PART TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Trinity Baptist Church in Hammond, LA., is seeking a part time administrative assistant.

Please send résumés to Trinity Personnel Committee
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SEEKING FULL TIME SOCIAL WORKERS

Louisiana Baptist Children's Homes is seeking full time social workers for the Alexandria and Baton Rouge areas.

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If interested, please submit a résumé to beth@lbch.org or send to **Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.**



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Résumés must be submitted by August 31 to fbcdryprongsearch@gmail.com

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South Winnfield Baptist Church is seeking a part-time Minister of Music.

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ON THE MOVE

- **Ryan and Katy Newsome James** are new as minister of discipleship and student minister respectively at First Baptist Church, Crowley. Both are new positions in the church.
- **Tim, wife Karen, Buford** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Luling.
- **Steven Kelly**, pastor at Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City, is the Bi-Vocational DOM for the Gulf Coast Association.
- **Stephen, wife Jessica, Jennings** is the new associate pastor of music and worship at Colyell Baptist Church, Livingston.

IN REMEMBRANCE

- **Ralph Thomas Self**, who ministered for more than 60 years, passed away July 8 at the age of 87. He was laid to rest in Memory Lawn Cemetery in Natchitoches. Licensed to preach at the age of 17, he was ordained into the ministry by Troy V. Wheeler in April of 1948 at First Baptist Church in Natchitoches. He served as pastor of various congregations for over 60 years. He is survived by his wife of 62 ½ years, Louise Cox Self; son, Dwayne Self and wife, Tami; daughters, Beth S. Laseter and husband, John, Charlotte S. Pate and husband, Randy, Sr.; grandchildren, Katie and husband, Bill Sargeant, Tiwana and husband, Jamey McDonald, Ashley and husband, Danny Mandolfo and Randy Pate, Jr.; Step grandchildren, Carrol and husband, Kelly Martin, John H. Laseter, Robert and wife, Lisa Smith, John Thomas Smith and David and wife, Nicole Smith, several great grandchildren; brother, Ernest and wife, Clettus Self; sister, Hazel and husband, Rodney Sowalskie and a host of other family members and friends.

HOMECOMING

- First Baptist Church, Simmesport: **142nd Homecoming Celebration**, Aug. 16, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: **Ken Austin**. All former members, pastors and staff are welcome to attend.
- First Baptist Church, Hornbeck: **Homecoming Celebration**, Aug. 16, 11 a.m. Following the service there will be dinner on the grounds. Speaker: **Lee Dickson**. Pastor: Jack Bell.

REVIVAL

- First Baptist Church, Broussard: **Revival and Homecoming Celebration weekend**, Aug. 14-16. Friday, Aug. 14, 5:45 p.m. for fellowship and food; service at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, 4:45 p.m. for fellowship and food; service at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16, 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds following the services. Speaker: **Joe Aulds**. Worship: **FBC Broussard Praise Team**. Pastor: Weldon Moak.
- Lee's Creek Baptist Church, Bogalusa: **Revival**, Aug. 16-19; Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. A pot luck lunch will follow Sunday's morning service. Evangelist: **Dennis Dunn**. Worship: Jeff Walker. Pastor: Dennis Allen.
- Richey Baptist Church, Deville: **Revival**, Aug. 23-26, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell**. Pastor: Grady Dodge.
- Sweetwater Baptist Church, Quitman: **Times of Refreshing" Revival**, Aug. 23-26, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Bob Pittman**. Music: Larry McCartney. Pastor: Wilton Wall.
- New Beulah Baptist Church, Hammond: **Harvest Day**, Aug. 23, Speaker: **Joe**

Aulds. Pastor: L.C. Lord.

LAGNIAPPE

- **Robert Colquette** is available for pulpit supply and interim in the Southwest Louisiana area. If interested, call 337.217.9802 or email him at robertcolquette@yahoo.com.
- **Bert Riddle** is available for supply preaching and other pulpit/Bible teaching. If interested call 318.748.4145 or contact him at 1562 East River Rd., Glenmora, LA 71433.
- Foster Road Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: Friday Night Worship at Foster Road, Aug. 14, 21, 28, 6 p.m. (fellowship meal); 7 p.m. (worship service). For the month of August, Foster Road Baptist Church will host a Fellowship Meal and Worship Service. Speakers: Aug. 7 – **Marvin Parks**, In His Hands Baptist Church; Aug. 14 – **Jason McNaughton**, First Baptist Church, New Roads; Aug. 21 – **Josh Burnham**, First Baptist Church, Gramercy, and Aug. 28 – **Huey Moak**, Fellowship Baptist Church. Services will take place in the gym. For more information, call 225.775.0884 or go online to www.fosterroad.org. Pastor: Michael Morris.
- **Survival of the Fittest**: An event for men and boys at Camp Harris, Aug. 15, 9 a.m. This event is sponsored by Webster/Claiborne, Baptist Association. Speaker: **Loy Seal**, master boat builder. Seal will build and complete a boat. Lunch will be served. Awards will be given for the best performances. For more information, call Wayne Hatfield at 318.927.2961.
- Alto Baptist Church, Alto: Back to School Sunday, Aug. 16, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: **Louisiana College President Rick Brewer**. Pastor: Alan Miller.
- First Baptist Church, Amite: **Rekindle FBC Amite**, Aug. 16, 23, 30, 6 p.m. Aug. 15 – Speaker: **Reggie Ogea**. Worship: **Andrew Ogea**; Aug. 23 - **Chuck Kelley**. Worship: **Greg Woodward**. Aug. 30 – Speaker: **Larry Le Blanc**. Worship: **Bradley White**. Pastor: Trey Waldrop.
- Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: **Total Church Life Leadership Conference** sponsored by Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge, Aug. 22, 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Speaker: Fred Lowery. Cost: \$25 on or before Aug. 10; \$30 after Aug. 10. There will be sessions for Sunday school teachers, deacons, committees, missions, music, finance and other church ministries. Pastor: David Goza.
- First Baptist Church, Bogalusa: **Bogalusa Homecoming Concert (Lead Me to the Rock)**, Aug. 30, 6 p.m. A church-wide ice cream fellowship will follow. Pastor: Greg Whaley.
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: **FIRST@FIRST Business Leader Luncheon**, August 31, 12-1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Speaker: **Will Hall**, editor of the *Louisiana Baptist Message*. Admission: \$10 (lunch included). The luncheon is held each first Monday and is open to the business community. Please RSVP to mlangford@fbcpineville.net by 8 a.m. on the day of the meeting. For more information, visit www.fbcpineville.net.
- First Baptist Church, Houma: **Living Proof Live Simulcast with Beth Moore and Travis Cotrell**, Sept. 12, 9:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Doors open at 8 a.m. Cost of tickets is \$30 through Aug. 31 and \$35 after this date. Cost includes simulcast, view guide, continental breakfast, and lunch. Theme for simulcast is 'Audacious.' Books by that title will be sold the day of the simulcast. No child care will be provided. For more information or to buy tickets, contact church office at 985.851.2520 or Women's Ministry Director Tina Boquet at tina@fbchouma.com. Pastor: Steve Folmar.

McNeese BCM from page 2

people to come and check it out,” Miller said. “Personally, I’m excited to answer when students ask, so what goes on at the BCM?”

Nick Brewer, a member of First Baptist Church in Westlake, said the excitement has been building around the McNeese and Lake Charles community as the project neared its end.

“There has been a multitude of people that have invested so

much time and effort and planning to construct this building and I’m fully convinced that this project is another demonstration of Christ’s heart being made obvious through His people,” Brewer said. “For all of their contributions, we are immensely thankful. There’s a new building, but like the decades before, Christ and His gospel remains at the foundation of what the McNeese BCM is all about.”



Romans 10:9-10

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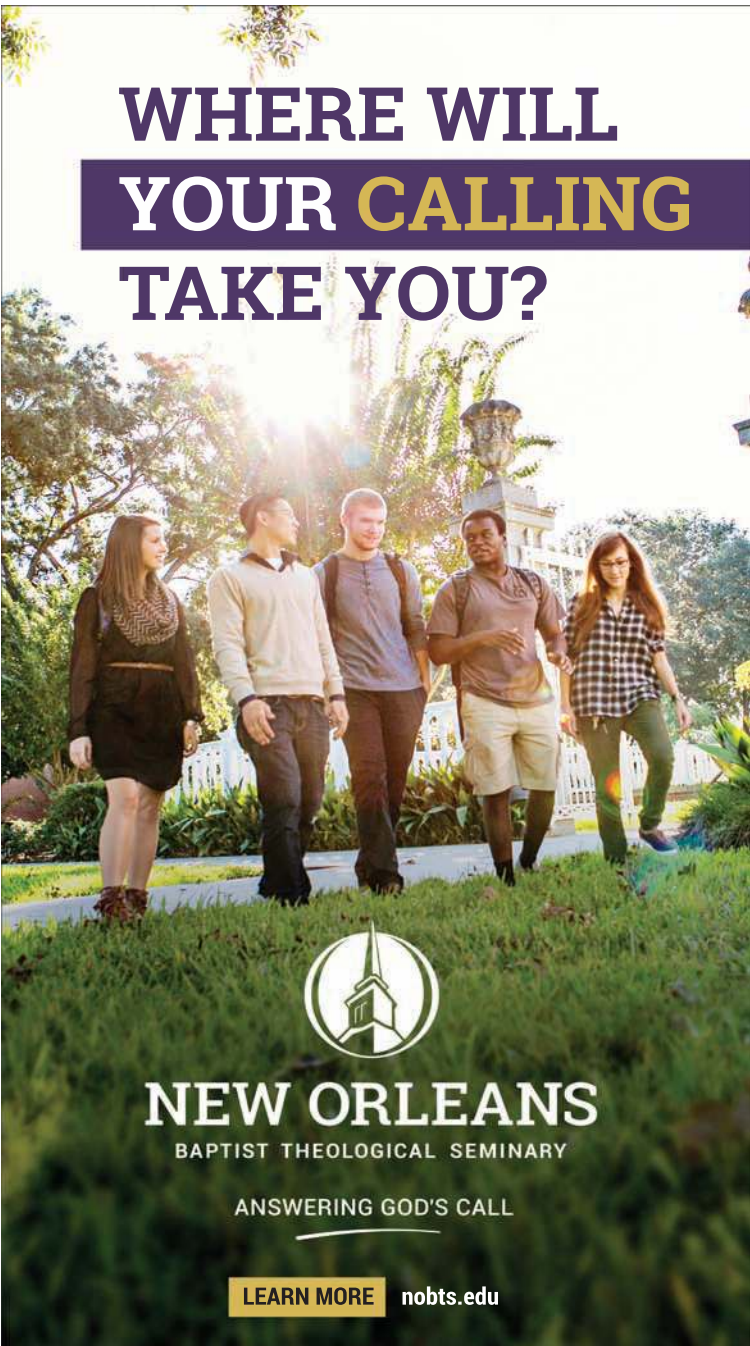
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WHERE WILL
YOUR CALLING
TAKE YOU?



Scripture Crypto

By **CHERYL VAUGHN**
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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.

hqx gtcbhfq dw bzts zhx bzt gzhcnt dw bzt

sfqfkbtcfqn ptkktek, bzhb bzto kzdrex ycfqn bzts fq

hqx drb yo bhct.

wfckb gzcdqfgetk qfqt:bjtqbo-tfnzb

Clues:
S = M; D = O

Answer to July 30, Scripture Crypto:
Micah five:seven

B-Groups from page 7

Over the course of the trip one woman would send back updates to the staff and sign it with her name. Toward the end of the week she started signing them “your fellow missionaries.”

“When they got back I saw members of this church for longer than I’ve been alive completely transformed and have remained so because of the fact that they now see themselves as missionaries,” Pourciau said.

B-GROUPS TOOK OFF FROM THERE.

Now B-groups partner internationally with a dozen overseas missionaries, spanning five continents; regionally with New Orleans and Houston; and locally through seven venues that help students, immigrants, low-income families and those in crisis.

Each group is trained to undertake the partnerships they choose and taught how to share the Gospel effectively.

“We are training missionaries,” Pourciau said. “We try to

make everything we do push towards enabling all our people to take part in the Great Commission at home and abroad.”

Pourciau has led the way in this effort, but all of the ministers and staff share his passion. “What you see is that all of the ministers have a missions heart and a missions mind – it is just ingrained in the staff,” Payne said. “They all want to use their staff positions as a missionary position in what they’re doing.”

And Pourciau said that this BBC regeneration is not something that will fade away.

“I don’t see it as a wave anymore. Waves are generated by man and human motivation,” he said. “I see this as a biblical model that is perpetuated and the reason it’s working is because it’s biblical and that’s why it’s going to keep working until the Lord takes us home.”

To find out more about Broadmoor Baptist Church or to get involved in a B-group, visit their website at Broadmoor.tv



Karen Pearce photo
Pastor Chuck Pourciau greets one of his youngest members at the church doors.

Linwood Baptist Church vandalized for fourth time

SHREVEPORT – Linwood Baptist Church is searching for answers after a fourth incident of vandalism on its property in the past several years.

The incident occurred sometime between late Aug. 3 and early Aug. 4 at Linwood Baptist Church. According to Pastor Ed Gonzalez, the person responsible drove through a chain held up by two steel beams on the church parking lot. The result was steel beams that are now leaning, with repair costs estimated to be at least \$3,000.

Gonzalez said signs are posted warning people not to back into the area that was damaged.

Linwood Baptist Church has surveillance near the front of the property but does not have cameras in the back of the parking lot to possibly capture the person who committed the act of vandalism. Gonzalez said the church is unable to pay for repairs and is pleading for someone to come forward with information.

Even with the setback, Gonzalez said the church is committed to serving its community.

Linwood Baptist Church operates a food bank, clothes closet and area to wash clothes and take a shower to others from the community in need.

For more information to help with repairing the damage or if anyone has information about the incident, call Gonzalez at 318.393.7737.


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For additional information please contact Women’s Missions and Ministry by phone at 318.449.4266 or 800.622.6549; email at WMM@LouisianaBaptists.org.