

*"I call to you  
when my heart is  
faint; lead me to  
the rock that is  
higher than I."*

— Psalm 61:2  
(NASB)

# BAPTIST Message

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January 14, 2016

## 'IT WAS BEST TIME EVER'

Pastor treasures baptizing his son, sharing moment

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE — As he held his son's hand in the baptistery waters, Stewart Holloway had just one thought right before the big moment.

"Take it in. This only happens once."

The moment that happened in late October was surreal, said Holloway, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pineville where the baptism occurred. Having baptized so many at the church before, Holloway said he always wondered what it would be like to baptize his own son one day. He found out on Oct. 25 when he baptized Zach.

"After the baptism we were in the back and Zach told me this was Daddy and Zach time," Holloway said. "It was the best Daddy and Zach time ever."

Immediately following the Sunday morning worship service, around 100 people attended a special party in honor of the baptism. Held in the church fellowship hall, the reception featured decorations, refreshments, a photo album and time with people



First Baptist Pineville photo

First Pineville Pastor Stewart Holloway speaks with his son Zach right before baptizing him on Oct. 25. Holloway said it was a special moment in both of their lives.

who made a spiritual impact in the life of Zach.

The baptism of his son was the sixth one to take place since late September at First Baptist Pineville. When

he first became pastor of the church in 2008, they baptized one. The following year, that number jumped to 14.

See **MOMENT** on 11



Billingsley hopes to inspire, lift up pastors at ECon

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

LAFAYETTE — Charles Billingsley is well known as the once lead vocalist of the Christian music group Newsong, recording such hits as "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" and singing at various Louisiana Baptist events.

Yet, a successful and storied music career nearly ended in 2009 when Billingsley severely injured his voice during a concert in Florida. What followed was a major surgery to remove a vocal cord and uncertain days ahead.

The night before the surgery, friends gathered to pray over Billingsley and issued a challenging question that if he never sang again, would he still love and serve God? The answer was "I think so."



Billingsley

See **ECON** on 3



Comedian Mark Lowry

## Comedian Mark Lowry highlights Senior Adult Luncheon

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

LAFAYETTE — Christian comedian and musician Mark Lowry, a Texas native who broke into the entertainment business as a musician, will bring his famous blend of humor and encouraging words to hundreds of senior adults during the 2016 Senior Adult Luncheon at the Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference.

"I love my seniors," said Lowry when reached by the *Baptist Message*. "They're my people! Maybe because I'm almost a

senior ... anyway ... I love 'em!

Born in Houston, Lowry overcame battles with Attention Deficit Disorder as a child to attend Liberty Baptist College (now Liberty University) and launch a career that has included four-decades of making audiences laugh and leave encouraged.

"I started making people laugh early in life," he said, "because if people were laughing, they weren't hollering at you. I was just trying to have fun. My dad used to whip me for cutting up in church. Now, I get to cut up

See **LOWRY** on 7

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# Spinney to carry the Gospel torch as new LBC president

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

HAUGHTON – Gevan Spinney knows the challenges that lie before him as the new president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

But despite what the future holds, Spinney believes the best days are yet to come for the 1600 churches that make up the state convention.

“I see an opportunity and an open door to build upon that which has been battled for in our past,” said Spin-

ney, pastor of First Baptist Church in Haughton. “There are aspects of this position in which I feel inadequate, but I do know who God calls, He will also equip. I am excited to see God’s plan unfold.”

Spinney is assuming the role that outgoing LBC President Steve Horn held for two terms. During his



Gevan Spinney

term, Horn called for several called days of prayer in different areas of the state and spearheaded a pastor-driven campaign to increase Cooperative Program giving through the Pledge.

In Horn’s term, messengers adopted the 2020 initiative that seeks to reach every generation and every people group

in the state with the Gospel by the year 2020. The 2020 initiative was a collaborative effort of 20 teams made up of 20 members each that began under the leadership of Waylon Bailey, LBC president before Horn.

Spinney said he admires the vision of both Horn and Bailey and is hopeful he can carry on the Gospel torch for what God has in store for Louisiana Baptists.

“The thing God has shown me from the time I agreed for my name to be placed in nomination for LBC president to now is that our convention is strong,” Spinney said. “The strategies put in place by Dr. Bailey and Dr. Horn have set the course for our convention and given us a vehicle to move ahead. The vision God has placed in my heart is to keep the convention moving forward on that course.”

Since 2003, Spinney has served as pastor of First Baptist Haughton, a church where he was ordained and served as youth pastor. Attendance at the church has grown from 300 to 900 and the congregation recently moved into a new \$7 million children’s facility and worship center seating 1,200.

In 2014 and 2015, the

church baptized 246 combined. Additionally, the church’s budget has more than doubled through his stewardship and First Baptist Haughton gives 11 percent of their undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program.

Before coming to First Baptist Haughton, Spinney worked as a youth pastor at Red River Baptist Church in Benton and associate pastor and youth pastor at Rose Park Baptist Church in Shreveport.

Spinney is married to Andrea L. Spinney and they have three children Jeb (12), Jake (10) and Jude (4). He holds degrees from Haughton High School, East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

*The Baptist Message* recently visited with Spinney to learn more about his vision entering his first term as LBC president.

**Message:** The Pledge is obviously something the last LBC president thought was important enough to use as a way to increase CP giving. What is your opinion on this issue?

**Spinney:** I believe the recent cuts made by the Inter-

See SPINNEY on 4

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## ECON from page one

After five days of not speaking or singing, the vocal cords healed and Billingsley was shown a fresh view of God and His plan.

"Sometimes the Lord makes you get quiet and get alone in order to get what it means to worship him," Billingsley said. "Through all that, I learned how to worship again through no music or singing but the power of his presence. That rejuvenated me spiritually and physically. As result, the Lord put a new power in my ministry and in my singing too. I came back stronger and better than ever."

Billingsley, who has been leading worship for 22 years, will bring his musical skill-set to First Baptist Church in Lafayette on Jan. 25-26 for the Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference. The last time he was scheduled to lead music at the evangelism conference -- at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge -- a winter storm shortened the event to just one day. This time, Billingsley said he's looking forward to a full two days of encouraging

pastors and others attending through music.

"Pastors there will come from small churches and frustrating situations," he said. "If I can do my part in encouraging them, it's always a worthwhile trip."

"My heartbeat is to help people understand worship is a lifestyle of living for the Lord," he said. "I use my abilities and gifts the Lord has given me through song. I am a vocalist and enjoy singing songs to people. But I get greater joy when I sing with people. That's what I'll be doing at that conference -- encouraging those pastors to worship and praise and listen what I say between songs."

The two-day Evangelism Conference will feature messages based on 1 Corinthians 9:22.

All of the messages are focused on reaching the Next Generation and Every People Group in Louisiana. These two groups are identified for special

emphasis in the 2020 Report, a carefully drafted seven-year strategy for more effectively reaching and engaging the lost for God's Kingdom.

Wayne Jenkins, evangelism and church growth director



**The two-day Evangelism Conference will feature messages based on 1 Corinthians 9:22. In addition to the messages and outstanding music, there will also be breakout sessions on Tuesday.**

for Louisiana Baptists, hopes all who attend will take home ideas from the preaching, music and breakout sessions to reach these two audiences in their own communities.

"These are two we have not done a good job of reaching," Jenkins said. "We have to help our churches to be motivated and mobilized and equipped to

do that.

"We want to encourage churches to come as groups, to bring lay people to this conference," he said. "If a pastor will bring some of his lay people with him to the conference and send them to the seminars and hear these speakers, he will go back with a group that is encouraged, informed and excited to reach its community."

The list of speakers includes David Burton of David Burton Ministries in Jacksonville, Fla.; Reginald Calvert, pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Bessemer, Ala.; Mark Croston, national director of Black Church Partnerships, LifeWay Christian Resources; Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.; Josh McDowell of Josh

McDowell Ministry in Branson, Mo.; Mark Lowry, a comedian and songwriter; and Alvin Reid, evangelism professor at Southeastern Baptist Seminary, Wake Forest, NC.

The First Lafayette choir will join Billingsley in leading music for the general sessions.

The conference also will feature breakout sessions and,

a senior adult lunch, both on Tuesday.

Participants will be treated to sessions which include: developing an evangelistic culture in your church; preaching and discipleship for the black middle class; evangelism through Sunday school and small groups; evangelism in mission partnership; getting college students on your campus; and, compassion ministry 101.

The senior adult lunch will feature Mark Lowry, whose career has included four-decades of making audiences laugh and leave encouraged.

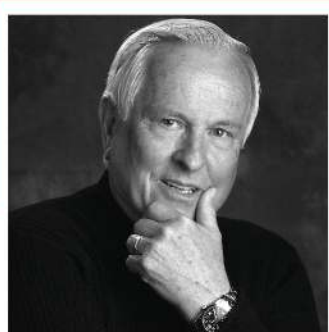
The cost for the senior adult lunch is \$20 and tickets can be purchased at <https://louisianabaptists.org/seniorsluncheon>. Jan. 21 is the registration deadline for the lunch.

### ECON APP

Keep up to date with the Evangelism Conference by downloading the ECON App from [louisianabaptists.org/econ2016](https://louisianabaptists.org/econ2016).

Available for iPhone and Android phones, the app will feature the conference schedule, links to bible.com and whatvaluemost.com, salvation verses, weather alerts and more.

# ECON 2016



Josh McDowell



Mark Lowry



Steve Gaines

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# President Obama cries for some, but not the unborn

BY WILL HALL  
Editor

While announcing new gun restrictions Jan. 5, President Obama, surrounded by parents of the 20 children murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut during 2012, became deeply emotional. "First graders," he said.

"Every time I think about those kids, it gets me mad."

"Our unalienable right to life, and liberty, and the pursuit of happiness — those rights were stripped from college students in Blacksburg and Santa Barbara, and from high schoolers at Columbine, and from first-graders in Newtown," he said. "First-graders."

"But I also believe we can find ways to reduce gun violence consistent with the Second Amendment," he offered. "I mean, think about it — we all believe in the First Amendment, the guarantee of free speech. But we accept that you cannot yell 'fire' in a theater."

Then he said something remarkable.

"We understand there are some constraints on our freedom in order to protect innocent people."

The president is justified

in regretting the loss of innocent lives in shootings across the United States. In 2014, there were 8,124 murders using firearms, according to the FBI; and, another 21,175 individuals took their own lives with a gun, the CDC reports — nearly 30,000 needless deaths, altogether.

Unfortunately, he has missed multiple opportunities to grieve an even greater loss of life each year — the needless killing of more than 1 million unborn children in 2014, alone.

Indeed, during President Obama's two administrations, 7,639,830 innocent lives have been taken by abortion, so far. Moreover, if trends continue to hold, another million unborn babes will be killed in his last year in the Oval Office — on the order of 8.7 million deaths of innocent lives in the abortion mills of our country alone in his two terms.

This is particularly troubling given the president's repeated claim that he believes abortion should be "rare."

It has been his standard response to questions about his views on abortion since he first ran for the White House in 2008.

For the record, abortions have dropped by more than 90,000 a year since he took office.

However, this is a trend that began in 1990 when the number of abortions in our country reached a peak of 1,608,600, and is attributable to a number of factors, in-

cluding conservative lawmakers passing strong pro-life measures in 27 states in the last 25 years.

Indeed, while he supports "some constraints on our freedom in order to protect innocent people" with regard to gun ownership, he tolerates no such constraints, even reasonable measures, on a woman's right to an abortion.

These are "decisions that are better made between a woman and her daughter" he said in video to Planned Parenthood supporters in 2012 — despite the fact most abortions, three-fourths, are performed for convenience (interference with work or school, or, a drain on finances) with half of abortions repeat business by a woman (second or third abortion).

In fact, he doubled down

on his support for Planned Parenthood in 2013, becoming the first sitting American president to speak at a Planned Parenthood conference.

Even when undercover videos showed Planned Parenthood executives discussing the illegal sale of body parts ripped from unborn children's bodies, President Obama could not muster a statement of shock or disapproval over their callousness for the unborn.

Tragically, there could be another 1 million to 2.2 million first graders sitting in U.S. classrooms this year if President Obama truly believed abortions should be "rare."

Sadly, his grief over the loss of innocent lives does not include the unborn.

## Spinney from page 2

national Mission Board have served as a wake-up call for all of us. The LBC consists of over 1600 congregations with one mission, the Great Commission. The CP is the fuel that funds that mission.

The question some pastors are asking is, "Can we do it alone?"

Sure! First Baptist Haughton and all the 1,600 congregations in LA can do it alone.

However, the wiser question is, "Can we do it better together?"

Absolutely!

Historically we've proven we can do things better together. Moving into 2016, we're going to continue with the Pledge. We must remember, the Pledge is not a gimmick to increase giving; it's a campaign to bring us back to what makes us great as a denomination, and that is cooperative investing in the

Great Commission.

**Message:** Your church obviously sees the importance of baptizing new believers. Please explain why you believe every church in the LBC should emphasize baptisms.

**Spinney:** The short answer is, we are commissioned to. We are to fulfill the Great Commission and make disciples. That's our marching orders. It's hard to separate evangelism and discipleship. The two go hand in hand. Ultimately, it has to be disciples making disciples. We must do a better job of equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry. Each of us as Louisiana Baptists has a responsibility to share the Gospel with our neighbors, co-workers, classmates and acquaintances.

Baptism numbers are down in our convention. I was

See SPINNEY on 5

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Romans 10:9-10

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~ The late Dr. Roy Fish, Former Director of Evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminar



## Spinney from page 4

invited into a meeting a few weeks ago with (LBC Evangelism and Church Growth Director) Wayne Jenkins and some other pastors and leaders from across the state to discuss this issue. The collective burden of the group was to see a great harvest of souls in every town in Louisiana; to see every church in our convention, regardless of size, involved in some way in a harvest event. That's something we are really praying through for 2016 and 2017.

**Message:** You mentioned that your church realizes the importance of reaching people groups with the Gospel. With the 2020 initiative focusing on reaching the Next Generation and Every People Group, you seem to grasp that concept at your church. Share with the LBC's churches why reaching those two groups is important.

**Spinney:** Something we have done as a church is to connect with the IMB and adopted an unreached people group in East Asia. The process is simple and can be done by any sized congregation. First, we must realize that millions of people around the world have yet to hear

the gospel.

Second, we must lead our people to pray for those people groups by name. It can seem an impossible task to connect a congregation in Louisiana with a people group half a world away. What we have found is our people have really embraced it.

Finally, we must be willing go through any door the Lord opens. That may include partnering with the IMB to develop a strategy for reaching them, funding a scripture project in their language or sending a team to physically connect with them. Every church, regardless of size, can walk through this process.

As far as the Millennials, we will have to start doing things differently in order to reach the next generation. I remind our people often that we will do anything short of sin to reach people who do not know Christ. Our focus as a church in 2016 is to intentionally get away from our address. We as a staff are asking 'What are we going to do to get off the campus? How will we meet people where they are?' Millennials for the most part are not walking into our churches. We have to take the Gospel to them, instead of just expecting them to come to

us.

We are partnering with a NAMB-sponsored church plant in New Orleans that is targeting Millennials. Justin Haynes and his family have planted The Refuge Church NOLA. This church is meeting in a Voodoo temple in the middle of the Bywater neighborhood. We must ask the question, are we willing to give what it takes, to go where they are, to give them the Gospel? Those are things every congregation can do to reach the next generation.

**Message:** One of the churches where you have worked is Red River Baptist Church as a youth minister. While there, the church averaged around 80 people, which is classified as an average-sized church in the LBC. Does working on that staff allow you to relate to those pastors ministering in a church that size?



*Moving into 2016, we're going to continue with the Pledge. We must remember, the Pledge is not a gimmick to increase giving, it's a campaign to bring us back to what makes us great as a denomination, and that is cooperative investing in the Great Commission.*

**Spinney:** The three years we were at Red River were some of my sweetest times in ministry. While the congregation was smaller than where I am now, the faithfulness of the people was big. Church was the center of their lives. You felt the strong family atmosphere there; how they truly cared for one another and those in their community. Congregations of 50-100 are the backbone of our convention and the bi-vocational pastors are the heroes. For the pastor who is pastoring that congregation of 50-100, he sometimes can get discouraged, so I'd love to be an encouragement to him. I have been there and I can relate to what they are going through. Everything Louisiana Baptists are, we are because of those congregations. If we are going to move forward, we will need to move forward together.

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# Thousands expected to participate in Life Marches; Cenla added

BY STAFF  
Baptist Message

Life is priceless and thousands of Louisianians are expected to turn out for one of three pro-life marches scheduled for later this month in Shreveport/Bossier City, Baton Rouge and Alexandria/Pineville to declare that fact.

The Baton Rouge and Shreveport/Bossier City marches are scheduled for Jan. 23 with a third, which was added just this year, taking place Jan. 30 in Alexandria/Pineville.

The Louisiana Life Marches are a chance for different denominations, ages and ethnic and racial backgrounds to march together and pray to declare their opposition to the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in 1973.

The theme for this year's marches is "Life Is Priceless."

According to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, preliminary

numbers for 2014 show 10,211 abortions took place, an average of 28 per day. The total represents an increase from the 9,976 abortions performed in 2013 and continues an upward trend from 9,225 in 2012 and 8,955 in 2011. Louisiana Right to Life Executive Director Benjamin Clapper said that the recently released videos showing Planned Parenthood staff discussing the sale of body parts of babies, these marches remind the world that human lives are valuable and priceless.

"In Luke 12:6-7, Jesus reminds us that God even knows the number of hairs on our heads," Clapper said. "We are thrilled to bring together the people of Louisiana, across denomination lines, to take a stand for the priceless value of human life at the Louisiana Life March events in Baton Rouge, Shreveport and Alexandria."

Both marches on Jan. 23 are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and last until noon.

The march in Shreveport/Bossier City will start at the



Baptist Message file photo

Several thousand pro-life supporters marched across the LSU campus for the 2015 Louisiana Life March. Gov. Bobby Jindal encouraged more than 3,500 people, who gathered at the LSU Greek Amphitheater, to keep fighting for the rights of the unborn.

Boardwalk area in Bossier City, crossing over a bridge before ending in Shreveport's Festival Plaza.

Further south, the Baton Rouge march will begin at the Old State Capitol building and end at the current

State Capitol building.

The march on Jan. 30 will begin at 10 am at Louisiana College in Pineville and end at the amphitheater in downtown Alexandria at 12:30 p.m.

The Louisiana Life

Marches will feature pro-life supporters from various denominations and organizations. LBC Executive Director David Hankins, LC President Rick Brewer, LBC President and First Baptist

See MARCHES on 14



Baptist Message file photo

Last year, nearly 7,000 people of multiple denominations, ages and races turned out to march in the second annual Louisiana Life March North, seen here crossing the Long-Allen Bridge from Bossier City into Shreveport.

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## Lowry from page one

all I want and get paid for it.”

Scheduled during the second day of the Evangelism Conference at First Baptist Church in Lafayette, the Senior Adult Luncheon will take place from 11:15 am to 1:30 pm.

Jeff Ingram, adult ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists, said Lowry brings something that appeals to a wide audience.

“Most senior adults enjoy Southern Baptist gospel music and everyone loves a good laugh,” Ingram said.

“I thought Mark would bring a good blend of clean humor and encouragement to people. Everybody needs a little bit of encouragement in the dark of days we are living in.”

Although Lowry specializes in comedy and song parodies, he also wrote the lyrics to “Mary, Did You Know?” in 1984. This Christmas song has been recorded more than 400 times by artists such as Kenny Rogers, Michael English, Wynonna Judd, Natalie Cole, Reba McEntire, Clay Aiken and the Gaither Vocal Band of which Lowry was the baritone singer



Baptist Message photo

**The Senior Adult Luncheon is a well-attended event and will take place during the second day of the Evangelism Conference, which is being held at First Baptist Church in Lafayette. This year comes for more than 20 years.**

“Stan Whitmire, who is a great pianist, and I will be there, and we’ll have some laughs, some great music, maybe a few tears, and some more laughs,” said Lowry. “Stan and I are really excited about coming to FBC Lafayette on Jan. 26 to take part in the Senior Adult Luncheon for the LBC Evangelism Conference.”

Ingram hopes that Lowry will inspire senior adults at the luncheon to continue to shine the light of Christ.

“We want to do something

special for senior adults,” he said. “We don’t believe senior adults should be in retirement mode. They should be actively serving the Lord and sharing their faith.”

He encourages those attending the lunch to go to the general sessions of the Evangelism Conference at First Baptist Lafayette.

The conference will begin at 1:15 pm Jan. 25 and end at 8:15 pm Jan. 26.

Speakers include David Burton of David Burton Ministries in Jacksonville, Fla.; Reginald

**dian Mark Lowry is featured and will provide plenty of laughs and song parodies according to LBC Adult Ministry Strategist Jeff Ingram.**

Calvert, pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Bessemer, Ala.; Mark Croston, national director of Black Church Partnerships, LifeWay Christian Resources; Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.; Josh McDowell of Josh McDowell Ministry in Branson, Mo.; and Alvin Reid, evangelism professor at Southeastern Baptist Seminary, Wake Forest, NC.

Charles Billingsley will lead the music.

“After Mark Lowry gets finished, the regular Evangelism

Conference starts back,” Ingram said. “Don’t leave but hang around for the conference. We have some great speakers and worship planned.”

“We always encourage the senior adults to come early, stay late and take in the evangelism conference,” he continued. “The speakers will give them encouragement to obey the Great Commission and to be bold.”

To register for the Senior Adult Luncheon, go to <https://louisianabaptists.org/seniorsluncheon>. The cost is \$20 and the registration deadline is Jan. 21.

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## CHURCHES FOR HARVEST WEEKEND

### Jenkins Memorial Baptist Church

111 Oak Drive, St. Martinville, LA  
10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

**Host pastor:** Jesse Charpentier  
**Evangelist:** The Lisemby Family

### Calvary Baptist Church

4015 Moss Street, Lafayette, LA  
10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

**Host pastor:** James Craft  
**Evangelist:** Gary Maroney

### First Baptist Church, Carencro

242 St. Pierre Blvd., Carencro, LA  
10:30 a.m.

**Host pastor:** Nick Peters  
**Evangelist:** Joe Aulds

### First Baptist Church, Abbeville

210 N St Charles, Abbeville, LA  
10:45 a.m.

**Host pastor:** Pres Riley  
**Evangelist:** Michael Courtney

### New Life Church

231 E Bagstill Street, Arnaudville, LA  
5:00 p.m.

**Evangelist:** Michael Courtney

### The Garden Baptist Church

103 Merchants Blvd., Lafayette, LA  
11:00 a.m.

**Host pastor:** Larry Langley

**Evangelist:** Al Gist

### Kaplan Baptist Church

400 Trahan Ave, Kaplan, LA  
10:30 a.m.

**Host pastor:** Lee Rodgers

**Evangelist:** Rick Elder

### Community Baptist Church

800 Rue du Belier, Lafayette, LA  
11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

**Host pastor:** Tom Lambert

**Evangelist:** Lyndon Longoria

### Vatican Baptist Church

2426 Hwy 93, Vatican, LA  
10:00 a.m.

**Host pastor:** Chad Thibodeaux

**Evangelist:** Rick Hertless

### First Baptist Church, New Iberia

210 E St Peter, New Iberia, LA  
11 a.m.

**Host pastor:** Ed Downs

**Evangelists:** The Pearsons

Check back online at [www.baptistmessage.com](http://www.baptistmessage.com) for additional churches who plan on participating in the pre-Evangelism Conference Harvest Weekend.

## Thirteen participating Acadiana churches hope Harvest Weekend will be fruitful

BY STAFF

### Baptist Message

LAFAYETTE — Louisiana Baptists are invited to attend a pre-Evangelism Conference event at a number of churches in Evangeline Baptist Association Jan. 24.

Evangelists from the Louisiana Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will preach and sing at 13 churches in the association for what is called a Harvest Weekend.

Some evangelists will appear at churches for one day while others will be at a location for three days.

Harvest Weekend organizers are excited about how God will use these evangelists before the Evangelism Conference, scheduled for Jan. 25-26 at First Baptist Church in Lafayette.

"The harvest weekend is

an emphasis that was begun by our vocational evangelist to assist churches in evangelism," said Wayne Jenkins, evangelism and church growth director for Louisiana Baptists. "The evangelism division and local association cooperate with them."

"Each year this has been a fruitful time for participating churches," he said. "There are 13 churches participating this year. Preparation materials have been written for the church and evangelist that will assist in maximizing this evangelistic event."

The churches in the area are taking up an offering and the association and Louisiana Baptist Convention are supplementing the event, which allows a church to host an evangelist without charging admission.

Bert Langley, interim di-

rector of missions for Evangeline Association, said this allows the host churches to concentrate on other details of the weekend.

"We are hoping the churches will have lots of prayer and prep time for this," Langley said. "We don't want them to just show up for the event and say that's it, but rather invite family and co-workers to participate in this."

"It's more than a one-day thing," he said. "We are hoping whatever happens at their church carries on for a while."

Langley asks that even if someone is not able to attend they can still pray for all involved and impacted by Harvest Weekend.

"Put us on their prayer list," he said. "Pray this is more than just a harvest day. It will may be the launch of something great in the area."

## Ag Missions Fellowship annual meeting Jan. 30

HOMER — The 2016 annual meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship will be held at First Baptist Church, Homer Jan. 30.

The fellowship will begin at 9 a.m.

This will be a time of worship and inspiration as speakers, including agricultural missionaries, discuss how God continues to use ag missions to help people help themselves.

Anyone interested in this kind of mission activity is welcome and invited to attend.

The Ag Missions Fellowship continues to support agricultural mission efforts with the Zapotec Indians of Southern Mexico, which has been an ongoing effort for several years and, by God's providence, has been quite successful.

The Fellowship broadened its scope of outreach during 2015 by initiating support for an ag missions effort in Eastern Europe.

Consideration also is being given for agricultural mission projects to begin in Haiti and Uganda. God is opening doors and the need is great.

The Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship is affiliated with the Louisiana Baptist Conven-

tion. Membership is only \$50 per year per family and all funds contributed go directly to the mission field.

There also are opportunities to provide funds for specific projects for individual needy families such as chicken, rabbit, quail, and goat projects, egg incubation facilities, or a small greenhouse.

The Fellowships motto is "a hand up, not a hand out."

"We hope people would consider attending our annual meeting and/or becoming a member of this wonderful missions effort," said David Morrison, vice president of Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship and a member of CrossPoint Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.

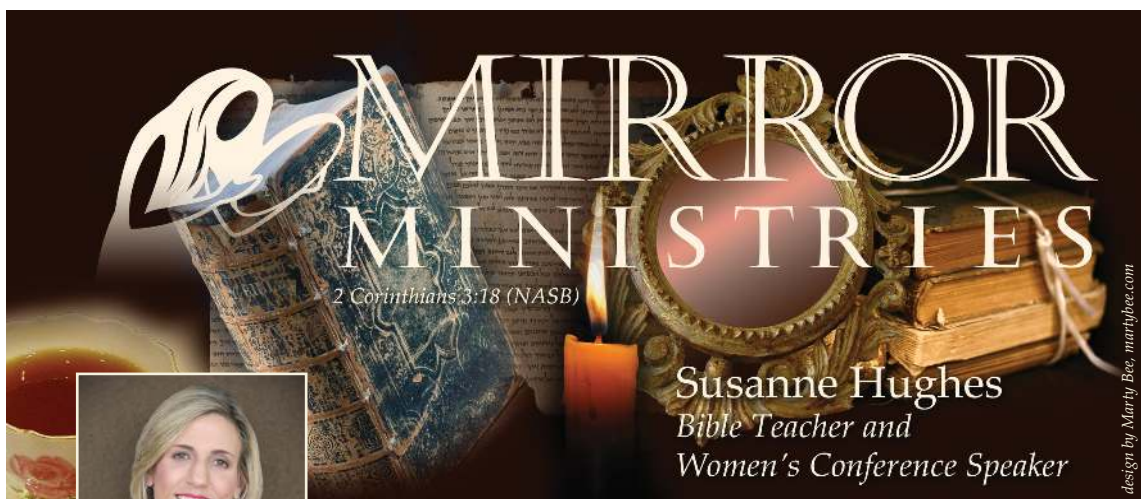
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# Hispanic Evangelism Conference seeks to continue attendance trend

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

LAFAYETTE – Prior to the Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference, Hispanics in the state will meet for their own version of the event at First Baptist Lafayette.

Scheduled for Jan. 22-23, the Hispanic Evangelism Conference will feature a banquet with music by El Renuevo and messages by Wilson Campoverde.

El Renuevo is the Hispanic church at First Baptist Lafayette while Campoverde is a native of Cuenca, Ecuador, who has been serving churches in Latin America.

He lives in Mission, Texas, and travels to many countries speaking at discipleship, evangelism and church planting conferences.

"I am very excited about the ECON in South Central Louisiana since we now have four congregations in the area," LBC's Hispanic catalytic church planter strategist

Carlos Schmidt said. "In 2015 we have had a phenomenal growth in LBC works in this area. We have tripled since 2013. We expect a good attendance, a strong challenge and a great number of people mobilized to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Since Schmidt came on board as a strategist for Louisiana Baptists, attendance at the conference has grown, reflective of the trend for the planting of Hispanic churches in the state.

When Schmidt started in 2013, 46 Hispanic churches were ministering in the state. Today, 56 are now in operation, with the most in New Orleans where 65-70 percent of Hispanics live.

Plans for this year are to start nine more Hispanic churches.

Of those, one will be in Bossier City and one in Gonzales, areas that have no Louisiana Baptist Hispanic church presence.

Three will be planted in



Baptist Message file photo

Carlos Schmidt, the LBC's Hispanic catalytic church planting strategist, believes attendance at this year's Hispanic Evangelism Conference Jan. 22-23 will continue to increase, especially since there are now 56 Hispanic churches in operation.

Baton Rouge, which has just one now. Others scheduled to have a Hispanic church plant in 2016 include Denham Springs, Natchitoches and New Orleans.

Schmidt said this bullish plan is reflective of the goals of the President's 2020

Commission. Approved by messengers during the 2013 LBC Annual Meeting, 2020 focuses on two audiences – the next generation and every people group. A goal of the report is to plant more non-Anglo churches in south Louisiana.

In order to reach the 2020 Commission goal of 300 new churches by 2020, 40 churches should be planted each year. The mix of these churches should be 66 percent non-Anglo and 33 percent

See TREND on 11



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Submitted photo

A member is all smiles before being baptized at United Outreach Church. Greg Shyne is pastor of the congregation in Shreveport, which has grown from 28 when it first started in Nov. 2013 to 265 now. Baptisms such as this one are commonplace -- more than 80 since 2014.

## United Outreach Church proving to be a church that's on the move

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

SHREVEPORT – Shortly after graduating from seminary in early 2013, Greg Shyne found himself at a crossroads in his spiritual life.

His pastor had passed away and Shyne was searching for where God wanted him to serve.

That's when a meeting with fellow pastors and with Lane Moore, the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association director of missions, led to a vision from the Lord--he would join the Southern Baptist Convention and start United Outreach Church.

"When I heard the stories in that meeting, the Lord gave me a vision of starting a new work," said Shyne, recently honored as Northern Exemplary Bi-vocational Pastor of

the Year. "God has been so good to us and we pray that He continues to give us the vision of where to go."

United Outreach Church, one of 78 new churches receiving Cooperative Program funding through the Louisiana Baptist Convention, is a congregation on the move.

The church was born on Nov. 3, 2013, when 28 people attended the first official worship service in Shyne's Shreveport home. In a month, to accommodate its growth, the church moved the worship services to a Holiday Inn Express. The church continued to grow so rapidly it needed a new place to worship just two months later.

The congregation now averages 265 on Sunday mornings in its current location, a former Seventh Day Adventist church building in Shreveport.

They baptized 50 in 2014 and more than 30 so far during 2015, and there are plans to move to the former Ingle-side Baptist Church nearby to allow for more growth.

Shyne credits the increase to God leading the church to utilize the "each one, reach one" strategy. Every church member is asked to identify one person in their family who is not a Christian or who has not attended a worship service in a while.

United Outreach sends weekly invitations to those who are new in the area, inviting them to worship and offering to meet their ministry needs.

In 2016, the congregation hopes to conduct door-to-door outreach in the area around their future home.

See **MOVE** on 15

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- Tom Henry, Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Shelbyville, TN



## Moment from page one

Last year, 22 were baptized at First Baptist Pineville.

The reason for the increase, Holloway said, is a greater emphasis on baptisms.

At First Baptist Pineville, different milestones are celebrated in a child's life. Baptism is the second milestone, behind a parent-child dedication.

Holloway believes the more exposure children have to the Gospel through certain events such as Vacation Bible School, missions' classes and Sunday school, the better foundation they will have for accepting Christ and following through with believer's baptism.

"Children in our church are around the Gospel constantly, but it's not a high-pressure thing," Holloway said. "As other kids trust Christ and baptisms are kept in front of the church, it prompts questions. We then share what it means to be baptized. And that sometimes leads to them accepting Christ and going through baptism."

Ryan Smithee, minister to students at First Baptist Pineville, said his six-year-old daughter's exposure to various spiritual activities including baptisms played a part in her accepting Christ as her personal Savior and Lord. After talking with Smithee and his wife for several

months, his daughter, Jaydan, came forward during one of the Sunday morning services to declare to her church that she was now a Christ-follower. A month later, Smithee baptized her.

Smithee, who has baptized all three of his daughters along with his wife, called it one of the greatest honors in his lifetime.

"It's such a blessing and humbling to discuss baptism with my wife as she accepted Christ as a teenager and had never been baptized after that decision, then one by one see all three of my girls discover their need for a relationship with Jesus, their salvation, baptism, and then the discipling process begins," he said. "They all have so much trust in Jesus and I pray every day that God gives me the wisdom to lead them in His footsteps."

### POST-BAPTISM CELEBRATIONS

Just like the post-baptism celebration for Holloway's son, the church encourages others to do the same after their children participate in this special moment.

Holloway said baptisms are one of the most important milestones in a child's life and that having a huge celebration with those who have impacted the person is something First Baptist Pineville has decided to emphasize.

"We encourage our parents to make this a big deal," Holloway said. "Most of us celebrate birthdays and award ceremonies, so it should be the same for a baptism."

Once a child or adult is baptized, discipleship follows: younger children participate in a new believer's class, using the "I'm A Christian Now" book; a youth minister disciples teens as new Christ-followers; adults are paired up with another believer for one-to-one discipleship.

"You've got to know what you believe and why you believe it," Holloway said. "It helps you be grounded in the faith. One of my frustrations as a kid is I wasn't discipled after I was baptized. I was thinking then there should be something else. There was a hunger and desire. At our church, after being baptized, you are able to attach onto that initial desire and to grow and move forward and connect right then."



First Baptist Pineville photo

First Baptist Church Pineville student minister Ryan Smithee, six-year-old Jaydan, his youngest daughter, and LeAnne, his wife, pose for a photo right before Jaydan's baptism.

## Trend from page 9

Anglo. Out of the 33 percent non-Anglo, at least one-third should be Hispanic. Thus, at least 10 Hispanic churches need to be planted annually.

He said annual gatherings like the evangelism conference not only build fellowship among the Hispanic church pastors but equip them to better serve their communities.

Each year Schmidt has concentrated on a goal that will help increase the number of Hispanic churches in the state.

The first year's theme was educating Hispanic pastors about how to start church plants and the following year the focus was on how to better develop leaders and church planters.

In 2016, a greater em-

phasis will be on mentoring church planters.

In early December 2015, the I-12 Hispanic Network was formed, which includes churches along that interstate corridor, from Baton Rouge to Slidell.

"We had 16 people present, some older and some who are just starting out," Schmidt said. "We all came together to strategize about how to start more churches in that area. As the Hispanic population in Louisiana continues to grow so must our churches and our new church plants. We believe that every Hispanic, in every parish in Louisiana, should have the opportunity to respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ."



Carlos Schmidt

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Key West – Jan. 30 - Feb. 6  
Texas Wildflowers Mar. 29 - Apr. 2  
(ind. San Antonio & Fredericksburg)  
Washington D.C. / Cherry Blossoms – Apr. 1 - 7  
Big Bend Nat'l Park – Apr. 30 - May 6  
California / Southwest – May 18 - June 3  
Grand Canyon – June 1 - 11  
New York City – June 17 - 25

\*\*Passenger pick-ups can be made along our routes\*\*



# Goins, Canaan Baptist feel God blessing their growth

By BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

LEESVILLE – One Sunday last year, Morris Goins was deeply grieved while preaching at Canaan Baptist Church.

He saw a visitor open the front door of the church, either looking for someone or seeing no seats available and left. That's when he knew the congregation needed a bigger space.

"I told them the next Sunday we need to start having our church services in the gym where we have room for everyone who comes," recalled Goins who was recently honored as Southern Exemplary Bi-vocational and Small Church Pastor of the Year. "Brother Derrell Kay, one of the men of the church said having church in the gym won't work long, we ought to look at building another building."

Fast forward to mid-November 2015, when the church broke ground for its future new 296-seat worship

center. When complete by a target date of May, the new building will include a nursery, office space, a Sunday school classroom for our elderly ladies, a room to hold a children's church service and a section in the back of the worship center to house sound equipment.

Goins said his congregation that averages 125 for Sunday morning worship is excited about how God will use the new facility for ministry to the community.

"God is just blessing us at Canaan," Goins said. "I have been asked many times 'what are you doing at Canaan?' I tell them the best I can to stay out of God's way and let Him do what He is doing."

God's movement is evident in several areas of the church in addition to the new building, including 6 consecutive Sundays of baptisms. Since early October, 12 people have been baptized. Goins expects many more baptisms to take place before the end of the year.



Brian Blackwell photo

E.J. Bradshaw, director of missions for Vernon Baptist Association, stands with Morris Goins, one of the Louisiana Baptist Bivocational Pastor of the Year winners. Goins is pastor of Canaan Baptist Church in Leesville and received the Southern Exemplary Bi-vocational Pastor of the Year award during the Retiree/Bi-Vocational Pastor's Lunch at First Baptist Church in Bossier Nov. 10, 2015.

"After each baptism, Canaan Church displays a great amount of excitement," Goins said. "You'll see people applauding and clapping and

saying lots of amens. The Bible tells us the angels in heaven rejoice over

See GOINS on 16

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# LOUISIANA NOTABLES

**TO PLACE INFORMATION IN NOTABLES:** Please call (318.449.4345), fax (318.445.8328 or email (philip@baptistmessage.com) your church's event three weeks before the event takes place. Include church's name, date, time, cost, and pastor's name.

## ON THE MOVE

- **James (wife Savannah) Snyder** is the new youth minister at Elm Grove Baptist Church in Bossier City.
- **Jason Langdon** is the new worship/media minister at Trees Baptist Church in Vivian.
- **Alexander Squire** is the interim pastor at New Zion Baptist Church in Bossier City.
- **Phillip Hardin** resigned as pastor at Beulah Land Baptist Church in Haughton.

## REVIVAL

- Mt. Hope Baptist Church, Oakdale: **Revival**, Jan. 17-20, Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Malcolm Ellis**. Music: **The Mackey Willis Family**. Mt. Hope is located at 2557 Ballard Road, Hwy 372 in Oakdale.
- United Baptist Church, Jena: **Revival Services**, Jan. 29, 6 p.m. Speaker: Carl Gulde.
- Morehouse Revival Crusade Jan. 31-Feb. 3. Pre-session music: 6 p.m. Sunday, 6:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Worship: **11th Hour**. The event will be held at the Morehouse Activity Center. Director of Missions: Jerry Price.

## LAGNIAPPE

- Taylor Baptist Church, Taylor: **Annual Wild Game Supper**, Jan. 15, 7 p.m. Bring your favorite wild game dish. Pastor: Jimmy Eppinette.

- Christ Baptist Church, Houma: **Mission Family Night**, Jan. 15, 7 p.m. Speaker: **Pastor Dexter Gaspard**, Revival Life Church in Houma. Bring a covered dish for a 6 p.m. meal. Worship service follows at 7 p.m. Pastor: Herman Callais
- Coteau Baptist Church, Houma: **Wilburn & Wilburn in concert**, Jan. 17, 5 p.m. (Doors will open at 4:00). A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Wayne Hunt.
- Camp Living Waters, Loranger: **Pre-teen retreat for 5th and 6th graders**, Jan. 17-18. Cost: \$45 and includes lodging, meals and a t-shirt. The theme is 'Who is this Man?' from Matthew 8:27. Speaker: Coy Raiford from First Baptist, Hammond. Worship: David and Jessic Bray from William Carey College. Go to [www.camplivingwaters.net](http://www.camplivingwaters.net) for more information and to register.
- First Baptist Church, Covington: **Winter Celebration/Young at Heart 30th Anniversary Celebration**, Jan. 19, 9 a.m. until noon. The event features saxophonist and storyteller Donna Spence and singer/humorist Keith Longbotham from the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn. Join this great time of celebrating 30 years with door prizes, refreshments, music, laughter and fellowship. The program concludes with lunch. Please register online at [fbccov.org/ministries/adults-55](http://fbccov.org/ministries/adults-55) or by calling the church office at 985.892.2149. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: **Church Security Conference**, Jan. 19, 6-8:30 p.m. This free conference will feature representatives from the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, Church Mutual Insurance, a church security team leader and others presenting sessions related to church security. For more information, contact FBC Pineville at

318.448.8221. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

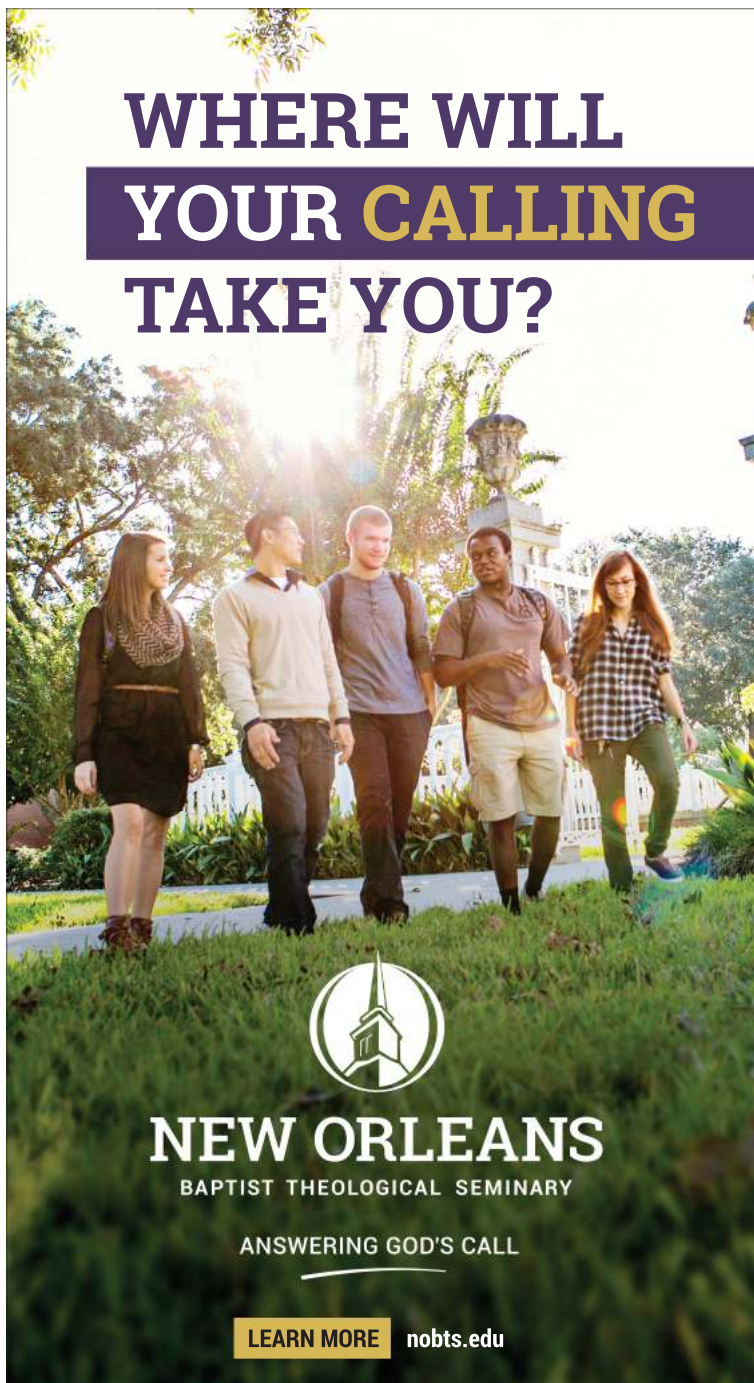
- First Baptist Church, Slidell: **Global Impact Celebration**, Jan. 22. Speaker: **Fred Luter**. This will be a time to celebrate sharing the gospel around the world through the church's local, U.S. and International mission trips. Pastor: Ricky Cummings.
- First Baptist Church, Dry Prong: **Big Creek Baptist Association WMU Ladies Enrichment Day**, Jan. 23, 10 a.m. Speaker: **Kelly Springer**. A luncheon will be served. DOM: Robert Daniels.
- First Baptist Church, Lafayette: Nationally known recording artist and worship leader **Charles Billingsley** will **present a concert**, Jan. 24, 6 p.m. With 29 albums over the last 20 years, Billingsley has performed both as a solo artist and as the lead vocalist of the Christian group New-Song. Today, in addition to concerts and leading worship at conferences, he is Worship Leader at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA, as well as artist-in-residence at Liberty University. For more information, visit [www.fbclaf.org](http://www.fbclaf.org), or call 337.233.1412.
- **Louisiana Life March, North**, 10 a.m.-noon, Jan. 23. The Shreveport/Bossier City March will start at the Boardwalk area in Bossier City, crossing over a bridge before ending in Shreveport's Festival Plaza.
- **Louisiana Life March, South**, 10 a.m. - noon, Jan. 23. The Baton Rouge march will begin at the Old State Capitol building and end at the current State Capitol building.
- Tall Timbers Conference Center, Woodworth: **Louisiana Campers on Mission** will kick off their 2016 schedule Jan. 24-29 with its annual work week at Tall Timbers Conference Center in Woodworth. The major project to be undertaken

will be the continued construction of the Georgia Barnett Conference Center. There will be a variety of other projects from general cleaning, landscaping and remodeling. All skill levels are welcomed. Having an RV is not necessary, Tall Timbers has accommodations. For reservations contact Tall Timbers at 318.445.6797 or email to [talltimbers@talltimbersbcc.org](mailto:talltimbers@talltimbersbcc.org) or for more information call COM President Keith Brown at 225.926.9410.

■ Bayou Baptist Association, Gray: **French Rally**, Jan. 29, 5:30 meal, 6:30 p.m. worship. This event will be held at the BBA office located at 4494 West Main Street in Gray. DOM: Joe Arnold.

■ **Louisiana Life March, Central Louisiana**, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Jan. 30. The Alexandria/Pineville March will begin at Louisiana College in Pineville, cross the Fulton Street Bridge, and end at the amphitheater in downtown Alexandria.

■ Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association, Shreveport: **Association-wide prayer meeting**, Jan. 31, 6:30 p.m. More than 45 Northwest Louisiana pastors and several laymen will lead in a time of prayer for specific items at First Baptist Church, Bossier City. The event will be divided into six segments with each section opened with short challenges from: **Pastor Dennis Sims**, *Believing God Will Answer our Prayers*; **Pastor Chuck Pourciau**, *Personal Repentance*; **Pastor Aaron Burgner**, *Filled with God's Power*; **Pastor Gevan Spinney**, *Revival in the Church*; **Pastor Randy Harper**, *Time for Spiritual Change in Northwest Louisiana*, and **Pastor Brad Jurkovich**, *Time to Reach the World*. Worship will be led by the choir at First Bossier City. DOM : Lane Moore.



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**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.

gp sh immia cz yzuuleh sgcw cwhh, sgoc cwzl rh

xdghbhq? rlc swz yie sgcwwzoq wgumhop pdzu

mnhifgex?

vzr pzld:csz

**Clues:**  
R = B; H = E

**Answer to December 17 Scripture Crypto:**  
Second Timothy three:fifteen





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## Marches from page 6

Haughton Pastor Gevan Spinney, Baptist Associa-

tion of Greater Baton Rouge Director of Missions Tommy Middleton, First Baptist Pollock Pastor Brian Gunter, US Rep. John Fleming, First Baptist Minden Pastor Leland Crawford, First Baptist Bossier Pastor Brad Jurkovich, Northwest Louisiana

Baptist Association Director of Missions Lane Moore and Freedom Guard founder and State Rep. Mike Johnson are among the Louisiana Baptists scheduled to speak at one of the marches.

Sponsors include the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, Louisiana Right to Life,

Louisiana Family Forum, United Pentecostal Church of Louisiana, the Susan B. Anthony List, the Knights of Columbus, Baton Rouge Right to Life and Louisiana's Concerned Women for America.

For more information on the Louisiana Life March, visit [LALifeMarch.com](http://LALifeMarch.com) or call 866-463-5433.

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## Move from page 10

The leadership team also uses social media to reach community members.

Events are posted on Facebook, and a clip of Shyne's sermon is available which directs people to the entire sermon on the church website.

Other outreach efforts include adopting families for Christmas, working with the Salvation Army and volunteering at the Shreveport/Bossier Rescue Mission.

"We try to be personal and have that family concept," Shyne said. "People not only want to be loved but they want a family."

Shyne credits a supportive family and congregation for helping him effectively lead as pastor, while he also works at the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court office, where he has been employed the past 31 years.

He tries to show up whenever a need of a church member arises, but when his secular job does not allow it, he utilizes a team of leaders who intercede on his behalf.

Moreover, his leaders regularly pray for him, including Sunday mornings before the worship service begins.

"I can't do this on my own," he said. "I train leaders. I show them how to embrace people."

"It takes team work to make the dream work," Shyne continued. "When we all work together as a team, the church works perfectly as a well-oiled machine to get the job done."

Shyne said he also draws strength from his wife, Lisa, and their children.

"You cannot do this work without the support of your wife and family," he said. "It can be easy to neglect the family. Every week I do something with them. We stay in God's Word, showing an example to our church by remaining unified so they can have an example to follow."

Shyne offers several pieces of advice to anyone praying about entering vocational ministry:

■ Make sure the calling to

be a pastor is genuine.

"Not everyone is called to be a pastor," Shyne said. "Some are called to preaching or evangelism, but not pastoring."

■ Find a mentor or group of fellow pastors such as those in a local Baptist association to serve as a support system.

"My mentor, Dr Austin Tucker, has been with me since I got the call," Shyne said. "He is a wealth of knowledge and wisdom that I need and will continue to need throughout my years of pastoring. You need that someone who has been down that road before who will help you."

■ Enroll in seminary and take advantage of continuing educational opportunities.

"Every preacher needs some form of seminary," he said. "There are some things you need to know about ministry that you can't learn just by showing up."

■ Be transparent with the congregation.

"One thing that I think boosted my ministry is when people come to the church, I make it my business to get to know them," he said. "That



Submitted photo

Greg Shyne, pastor of United Outreach Church in Shreveport, recently was honored as Northern Exemplary Bi-vocational Pastor of the Year. He started the church with 28 people attending a worship service in his home on Nov. 3, 2013. Today, the congregation averages 265 on Sunday mornings in its current location at a Seventh Day Adventist Church in Shreveport.

has paid dividends in relating to them as their pastor. They

know who I am and that I can be trusted."

# ECON2016

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## JANUARY 25-26

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## Goins from page 12

one sinner who is repentant. If they are doing that in heaven, I think we ought to practice on earth what's happening in heaven." We need to start practicing on Heavenly activities.

On Sept. 4, Goins had to have a triple by-pass surgery and has been blessed that Youth pastor Jason Nolde has been able to do the baptizing of the newly converted while Goins has been recuperating from surgery.

"What a blessing Jason has been to me," commented Goins during this period of physical "down time."

About half of those baptized are children and young adults.

Youth pastor Jason Nolde said that over the past few months he has enjoyed baptizing 12 of his students, including his children.

"Canaan is a very special place in so many ways," he said. "I have such a wonderful group of supporters that make our youth ministry program all about the Lord's

business.

"I have never been part of a church that has such a heart to serve and love others," he continued. "My mission is to always keep number one as number one, as is said in Exodus 20:3.

"My saying that I often share with our students is 'Never try to be like anyone but Christ and never try to be better than anyone but yourself.' Ain't God good."

Goins attributes Nolde as a key part of the growth in the church.

When Goins came to Canaan five years ago, the average attendance on Sunday mornings was 30 people, including one teenager as he recalls.

He approached a few people in the church asking that they join him in prayer with the idea of hiring a youth pastor.

"They asked 'why do we need a youth pastor? We don't have any youth,'" he said. "I said that's why we need a youth pastor. They

prayed about it and said it sounds like a pretty good idea."

In the three years Nolde has served as youth pastor, the youth group has grown to more than 20 teenagers, plus a great number of children that are under the teen years.

On Wednesday evenings, the church averages more than 75 in attendance from three years old to high school. Nolde and other countless volunteers also have taken the youth on mission work trips, many varying youth activities involving the youngsters in encounters with others and ministry opportunities.

For the past five years, Goins has served as pastor, including three other churches in Louisiana.

He has been pastor of Castor Baptist Church in Leesville for nearly 15 years, Mt Bethel Baptist Church in Leesville for 10 years and McDonald Memorial Baptist Church in Jonesboro for almost five years. But his time at Canaan Baptist has been his most fruitful, Goins said. Goins also serves as Chaplain of the Vernon Correctional



Message File photo

When Morris Goins came to Canaan Baptist Church five years ago, the average attendance on Sunday mornings was only 30 including just one teenager. Since hiring Jason Nolde as the youth pastor, the youth group has grown to more than 20 teens and a large number of children approaching that age and attendance on Sunday is 125.

Facility and the Vernon Parish Jail.

"These have been some of the best years of my life and my ministry," said Goins,

pastor since December 2010. "I feel like God gave me the icing for the cake for my later years in ministry at the age of 78."

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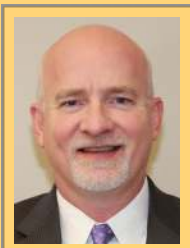
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