

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs and don’t forget to thank him for his answers.”

– Philippians 4:6 (TLB)

M BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

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May 5, 2016

Christ’s Community Church growing by serving

BY MARK H. HUNTER
Regional Correspondent

DENHAM SPRINGS – When Willis and Shannon Easley accepted the call to Christ’s Community Church eight years ago the Louisiana Baptist congregation was meeting in a junior high school cafeteria and attendance could be counted on the fingers and toes of two people.

Now they are meeting in a spacious new building south of town, holding two Sunday services, averaging 500 in attendance, and, last year they baptized 135, Willis Easley said.

What is the key to the growth?

“Immediately we started doing outreaches – sowing seeds,” Easley said. “We’ve seen people come into the church as a result of ministry outreach that we’ve done and we’ve seen people come into the church for the opportunity to be part of something. It comes from both directions.”

“We pretty much have people with tattoos and piercings every Sunday,” Shannon added. “We really create an atmosphere that no matter who you are, no matter where you’ve been,

what you’ve done or what you have on – you will feel loved and accepted. Our job is to love you and let God do the work. We teach the truth but we let God do the work.”

Last fall, for example, they had a back-to-school event which provided free haircuts and school supplies. One woman brought her children for the supplies and grooming, and another woman, a hairstylist, volunteered.

Both got saved and are now members.

“The one lady who had children, had not walked into a church in 16 years,” Shannon said. “The first time in 16 years was to get the free haircut and the very next day she started coming to church with her children.”

“To see both of those ladies sitting next to each other in a membership class was really special,” Willis added.

The church hosted a “Be The Church” outreach in late February where 325 volunteers, all wearing purple T-shirts, fanned out to 35 locations doing everything

from putting quarters into car wash machines and laundromats to visiting nursing homes and delivering food to area police and fire departments.

See **GROWING** on 6



Submitted photo

Christ’s Community Church Pastor Willis Easley baptizes his older brother, Ken Easley, in 2014. Forty people participated in the river baptism. Thirty-five people have signed up for the next river baptismal service on May 22.



Submitted photo

Juliana Borne waits in anticipation before she is baptized by Christ’s Community Church Pastor Willis Easley. The church averages 500 in attendance in its two worship services each Sunday and in 2015 baptized 135 people.

Prayer warriors to gather for National Day of Prayer

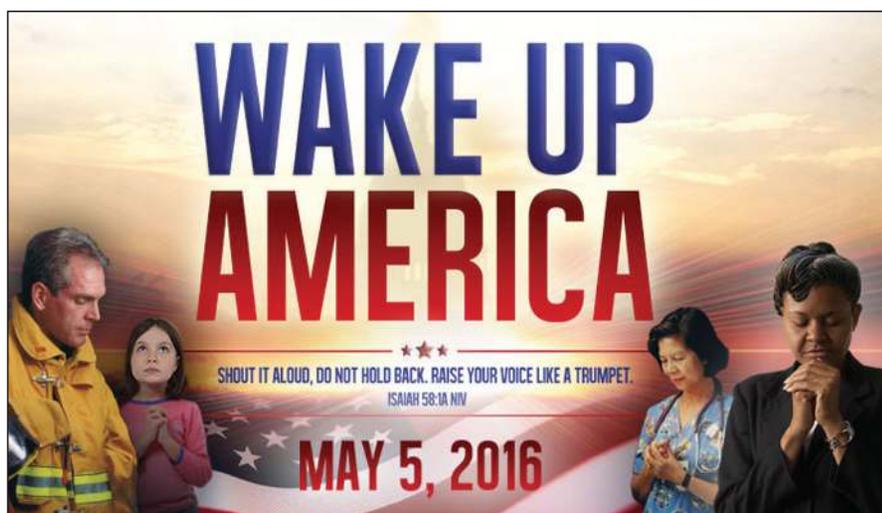
BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

Millions of Christians are expected to gather at churches and various sites throughout the United States May 5 with the single purpose of calling out to God as part of the annual National Day of Prayer.

Created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Harry S Truman, this annual observance is held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation.

Louisiana Baptist Convention President Gevan Spinney said now is the time to cry out to God for

See **PRAYER** on 8



BOV to raise awareness and resources for LC students



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana College President Rick Brewer speaks to members of the Board of Visitors during its first meeting April 22. The group is comprised of alumni, business owners and other professionals and friends of LC who are giving between \$1,000 and \$10,000 annually for four years.

PINEVILLE – Don Hill came to Louisiana College with a \$100 scholarship.

He left in 1964 with a college education that would pave a path to financial success. Though he left for graduate school at Florida State and other endeavors across the U.S., Hill said he never lost touch with the school.

When Hill heard of the opportunity last year to become a member of a newly-formed body that would provide scholarships to students of his alma mater, he enthusiastically agreed.

Hill was among the 80 members who attended the Board of Visitors first meeting Friday afternoon.

“Because of the contribution Louisiana College made to me, I am able to be fairly successful financially and want to contribute back to the school,” said Hill, president of DMH & Associates in Dallas, Texas. “The Board of Visitors allows me to do that and I’m looking forward to meeting some of the students who will

benefit from that.”

Formed in September, the Board of Visitors is comprised of alumni, business owners and other professionals and friends of LC who are giving between \$1,000 and \$10,000 annually for four years. During their four-year commitment, the members help the students find internships, network for the college, contribute to development of additional financial resources and refer prospective students to the school.

Members contribute at one of four levels: Board of Visitors, \$1,000; Leadership Council, \$2,500; Executive Council, \$5,000; and the President’s Council, \$10,000. The initial goal was to sign up 25 members by Sept. 1 but the response was higher than expected, prompting Brewer to set a goal of 50 members before the end of the fall semester.

By the time the Board of Visitors holds its next meeting during Homecoming week-end Oct. 28, Brewer hopes to reach the 100-member mark. He is confident the goal can be met.

“Many of them are alumni, many are from different walks of life, from business to ministry to health care, that simply want to support our college and are helping with scholarships for our students,” Brewer told the *Baptist Message* after the meeting. “We

See BOV on 15

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Longtime *Message* freelance writer Mark Hunter suffers heart attack, passes away

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

BATON ROUGE – Istrouma Baptist Church has released details for a memorial service honoring long-time *Baptist Message* freelance writer Mark Hunter, who died on April 24.

The church will host the service at 11 a.m. on May 5 with visitation scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

The church's Facebook page reported the 61-year-old Hunter, who has written for the *Baptist Message* since January 2011, suffered a cardiopulmonary event while worshipping at Istrouma, where he is a member, Sunday morning. Medical personnel in the worship service came to the aid of Hunter and emergency personnel were immediately called to the church.

Jeff Ginn, pastor of Istrouma Baptist Church, said in an email Hunter lived a life

that honored Christ.

Ginn said in addition to his love for serving Christ through writing faith-based articles appearing in the *Baptist Message* and *Baton Rouge Advocate*, Hunter was passionate about men's ministry at Istrouma and throughout Baton Rouge.

"Mark died as he lived," Ginn said. "One moment he was singing a song of praise by faith in our Sunday worship service, the next moment he worshipped by sight in heaven. I remember the last words he shared with me. The day before he died he had written an article about a mission effort of our church. I shot him a "thank you" email for the compelling job he did in penning that story. His reply? "To God be the glory!" That's how he lived and that's how he died – to the glory of God."

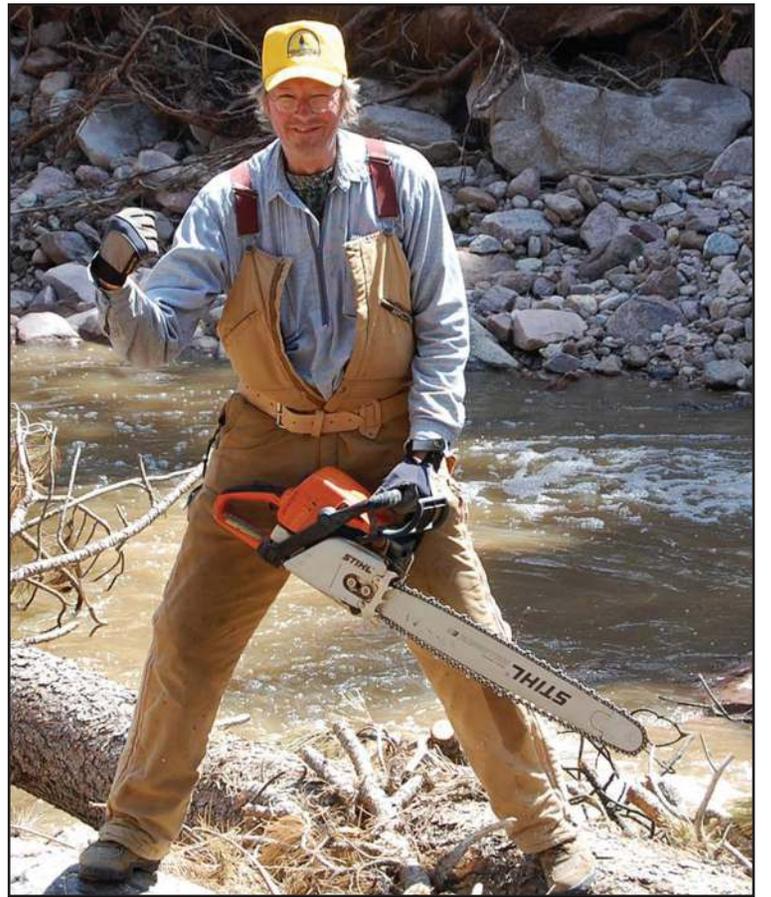
Hunter used his writing and multi-media skills to pro-

mote countless men's events in the community. Among those were conferences sponsored by Gulf South Men, a Baton Rouge-based organization that helps coordinates events such as Promise Keepers and Iron Sharpens Iron.

Mark Lubbock, CEO of Gulf South Men, said Hunter had a gift of sharing the gospel and living out his faith through service to those in need.

"Mark believed in men getting together to work out the daily details and challenges of being a true disciple of Jesus," Lubbock said. "He invested in his own spiritual life participating in the weekly men's studies and encouraging others to do likewise."

"Weekly he would drive all of the way downtown to pick up a 70-year-old man who did not drive, take him all the way to southern Baton Rouge just to participate in a men's Bible study, then took him



Submitted photo

Mark Hunter, shown in this 2013 photo, was considered a top notch chainsaw operator and used his skills in Colorado as he mentored a group from LSU's BCM.

back home again, every week, came to know and to love." year in, year out," continued Lubbock. "This is the Mark I

See HUNTER on 15

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Please Pray for our Student Summer Missionaries

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15 NASB).

Schmidt: Indonesians open to hearing Gospel from Hispanic team

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

FLORES, Indonesia – This month, a small group of Hispanic pastors will board a plane from Louisiana and head across several oceans to share the Gospel with Indonesians using an English-speaking interpreter.

Using Spanish speakers to reach this country might

seem unusual, but it is a perfect approach to winning souls among this mainly Muslim population, according to trip organizer Carlos Schmidt.

“Indonesians accept Hispanics easier than Anglo people,” said Schmidt, Hispanic church planting strategist for Louisiana Baptists. “Even though the cultures are miles apart, they

have similarities such as being very family oriented and having a unique colorfulness of the culture.”

This is the third year Louisiana Baptist Hispanic pastors and church members have taken a trip to the Flores Island in Indonesia, a country located in southeast Asia.

The primary mission of the team is to assist the ministry of an English-speaking Christian couple, who live there and are trying to reach their people group for Jesus.

During the first trip in 2014, the team worked through a small English-speaking grade school to share the Gospel in the town of Mbay.

When the team returned to the country last year, they built relationships with an unreached people group in the mountainous small village of Sela-lajo, after making contact with village elders, while working with children at a school in Mbay.

This year, the group will



Submitted photo

Melvin Mendoza, pastor of the Hispanic church at First Baptist Church in Lafayette, (center) shucks corn with Carlos Schmidt, Hispanic catalytic church planter strategist for Louisiana Baptists and a Hispanic woman who lives in Indonesia during a 2015 mission trip to Mbay Sela Lajo, Flores Island, Indonesia. Later this month, a small group of Hispanic pastors will board a plane from Louisiana and head across several oceans to share the gospel with Indonesians using an English-speaking interpreter.

help lead a Vacation Bible School in Mbay, working alongside the English-speaking couple they first worked with in 2014.

In the future, the team hopes to help with a construction project to build a water well in Sela-lajo. The majority of people there do not have access to clean drinking water.

Another long-range goal is to plant a church there, as the area has no evangelical church.

“Our hope is a church planting movement begins, not necessarily in a building with a steeple but in homes through the people,”

Schmidt said. “You are not allowed to start a new church there like you would here. It would have to be something that is born with the people and they spread it from village to village.”

Though the work in Indonesia is still relatively new, Schmidt said their work there already is bearing fruit: Last year a girl from Sela-lajo accepted Christ and was baptized.

Schmidt said despite the heavy influence of Islam in the missions area, people are friendly and are open to hearing the Gospel. He said some claim to know about Jesus, but do not fully understand why he came to earth.

“People might have a picture of Jesus in their home but their lives have never changed,” Schmidt said. “It’s a matter of teaching them the true Gospel.”

This year a team of four will leave May 19 and return June 2, and he is asking Louisiana Baptists to pray they may find indigenous believers to begin Bible study and who might be leaders to continue the work.

“Everyone who has gone is committed to go again and to continue the long-term partnership with the people group until something is established,” Schmidt said. “At that point, it can continue moving on its own without us going there several times a year.”

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LC students challenged to live on mission at commissioning service

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE – Even before she graduates, Louisiana College student Rachel Britt knows her calling in life – to one day open a safe house for human trafficking survivors.

This summer, Britt will have the opportunity to put her dream into practice when she serves as an intern at the Hope House in Baton Rouge. While there, she will work with survivors of human trafficking through a variety of programs intended to give them hope found in Christ.

“I actually want to open a safe house for minors who have survived human trafficking,” said Britt, a member of First Baptist Church in Zachary. “I’m really excited to have this opportunity.”

Britt is among 12 LC students who will serve as summer missionaries in several locations such as Baton Rouge, North Carolina, New Mexico, Kentucky, Tennessee, Africa and South America.

They were recognized during a special commissioning service at LC April 21.

The service included music, a commissioning charge, medallion presentations to the student missionaries and a message by Eric Hankins, pastor of First Baptist Church in Oxford, Miss., and son of Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director David Hankins.

Citing Luke 10:1-16, Hankins challenged the students to allow the summer to train them to live a commissioned life. He told the missionaries that as they go to places, Jesus is going alongside them.

“It’s His harvest,” Hankins said. “It’s His business.”

“And even when rejection comes, it’s not rejection of you, it’s rejection of Him,” he continued. “This is the

Lord’s work. And that ought to be your presupposition. It’s not about you but it’s about Him and His glory and His harvest.”

After the conclusion of the commissioning service, LC Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director Thomas Worsham said summer missions will change the lives of these students forever.

“This is the culmination of not just what the BCM is about but what LC is about,” he said. “It’s a cooperative effort. Our BCMs are not only about faith integration but also about training and commissioning students for the mission field, as well as serving in other areas of ministry full time and in the secular world.”

The LC students who will serve as summer missionaries are:

Carrie Grace Austin
Glorieta, NM

Jeffrey Breaux
CentriKid: North Carolina

Rachel Britt
Trafficking Hope: Louisiana

Sarah Caskey
Ecuador

Cassidy Crews
CentriKid: North Carolina

Chris Draper
Glorieta, NM

Kaylee Durand
M-Fuge: Tennessee



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director David Hankins prays over the Louisiana College students serving as summer missionaries. Twelve students will serve as missionaries in Baton Rouge, North Carolina, New Mexico, Kentucky, Tennessee, Africa and South America.

Sammi Jo Gaudet
Uganda, Africa

Caitlin Sellers
Ecuador

Peyton Simmons
M-Fuge: Kentucky

Casey Warren
Ecuador

Jessica Johnson
SportQuest:
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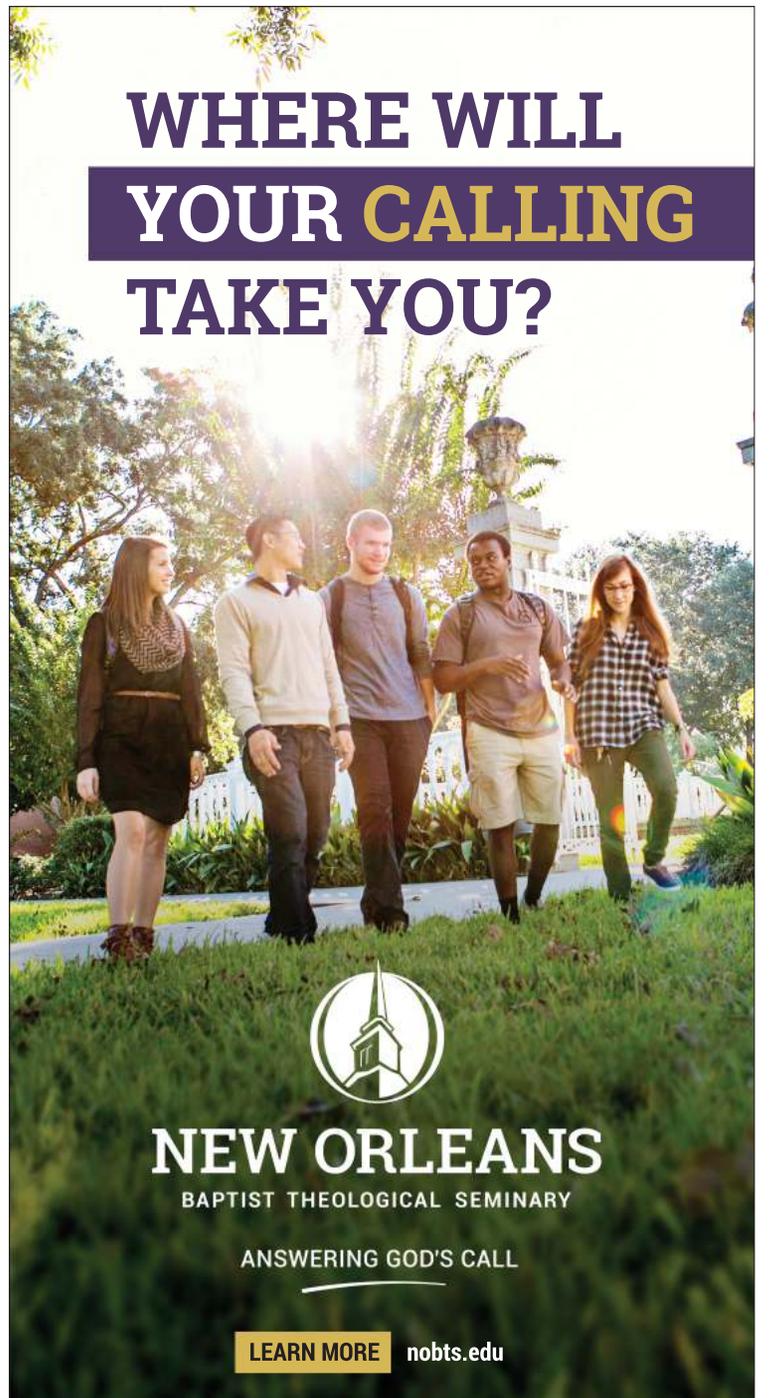
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Growing from page one

“We had somebody out in the community put on Facebook, ‘hey, I saw some teenagers going to a construction site and they had purple shirts on and they were giving water to the men who were working – it was very cool!’” she said with a big smile.

Another major outreach this year was an Easter-egg hunt in a local park. Before the kids were to be turned loose to find 50,000 eggs, Willis presented a Gospel message.

LOOK ‘OUT’ NOT ‘IN’ FOR SUCCESS

The church met for a while in the Eden Baptist Church building in Denham Springs. The former congregation had seen its attendance dwindle and so the group deeded the campus to the Eastern Louisiana Association.

That’s when they learned not to be complacent, Willis said.

“When we started being in an established, regular location we started doing all the things that regular churches do,” he said. “After a year or so we had only baptized about 12 or so – which wasn’t bad number – but

I felt God wanted more from us.

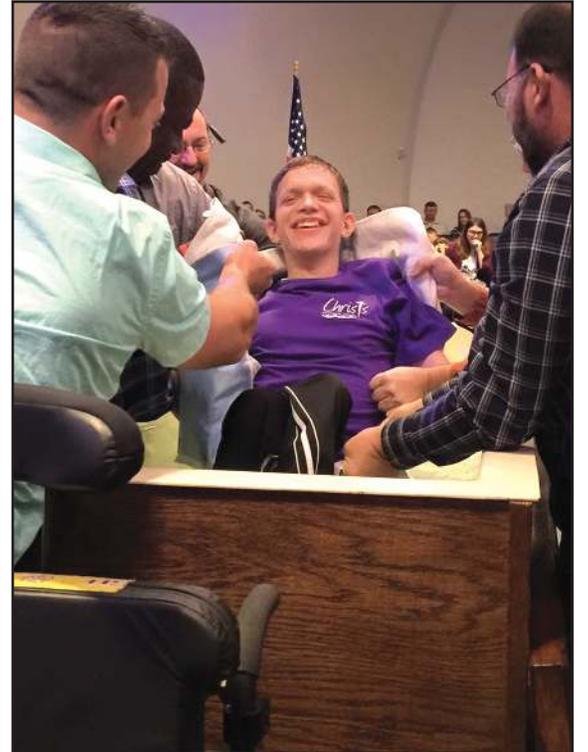
“We refocused on not being what every other church is doing but to do what God called us to do and get back out in the community, reaching out to people and preaching the Gospel,” Willis said. “We spent a year in the book of Matthew and the story of Jesus and what he did and we saw baptisms go up to 40 or 50 that year.”

BAPTISMS IN THE RIVER

The church has a portable, heated baptistry that looks kind of like a hot tub on wheels, and they use it when the weather is cold, but they do many more baptisms in area rivers, Willis said.

A recent indoor baptism of a young, paraplegic man moved many in the congregation to tears, said Shannon. Four men gently put a blanket under him, lifted him out of his wheelchair then lowered him into the baptistry.

It was just like the story in Mark 2 of the men tearing open the roof of a house to lower their friend to Jesus, Shannon said, as tears welled up in her



Submitted photo

Indoor baptism of a young, paraplegic man moved many in the congregation to tears. Four men gently put a blanket under him, lifted him out of his wheelchair then lowered him into the baptistry. Last year, 135 people were baptized.

eyes. “It was sweet!”

Last September they baptized 30 in the Amite River near Watson.

In May, 2015, they baptized 40 in the river near Robert and in August they baptized another 35 or 40 in the same place, he said. This month they plan

another outdoor baptism and 35 are signed up, he said.

“We’re gonna keep sowing seeds and loving people and working on relationships, accepting them,” Willis said. “When somebody walks into the church here on Sunday morning they are going to feel loved and respected and we want them to know that we are glad they are here and we’ll let God worry about their piercings and how they dress and what they do.”

FROM WEB SITE

“In 1996 three families were impressed by God to begin

organizing a new church.

“Arlon and Beverly Bardwell, David and Cyndy Branton, and Mike and Janet Smith were given a dream that soon became a reality. Meeting first in the Bardwell’s home, Christ’s Community Church became a living organism, calling Don Tuttleton to be the first pastor. Rapidly outgrowing the home, we moved to the Denham Springs High School Cafeteria.

“In 1999, we once again moved - this time to the Oddfellows Lodge. Once again we outgrew the available space and moved again in 2002 - this time

See GROWING on 15

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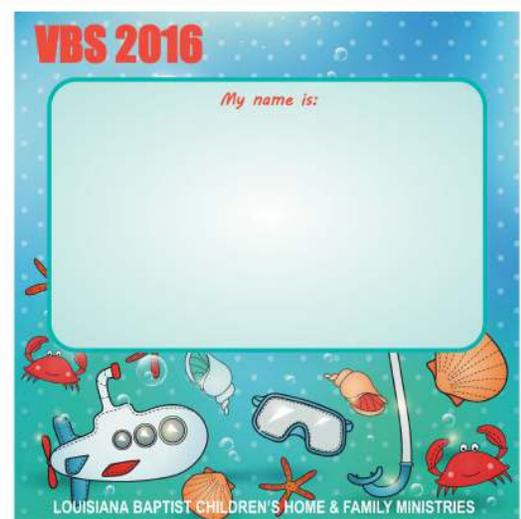


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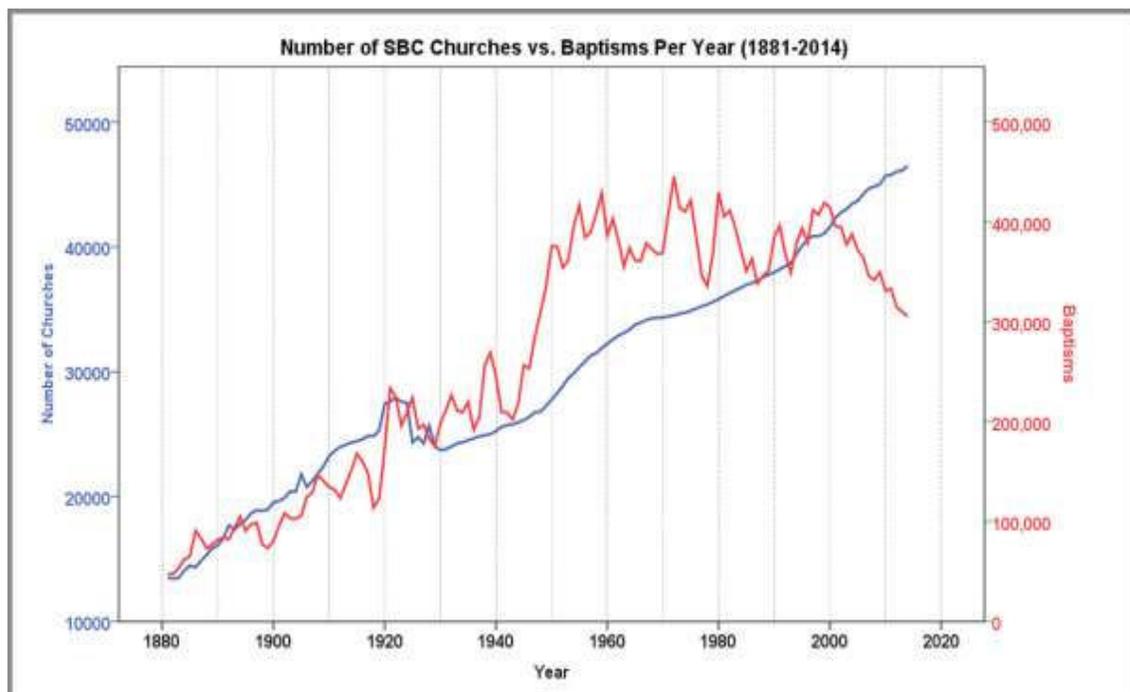
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Closer to losing the South than winning North America



SBC CHURCHES VS. BAPTISMS

The blue line, which indicates the total number of SBC churches, is generally positive with a sustained, clearly upward trend over a very long period of time. Next, note the red line which indicates total SBC baptisms. An explosive growth in baptisms, outstripping the growth in number of churches began around 1930. As you move through the years, the two lines crossed about the year 2000. An ever-widening gap between the number of churches and the number of baptisms began and continues to this day. WOW! We are about 15 years into the longest decline in baptisms in SBC history. We have more and more churches, but they are reaching fewer and fewer people.

BY CHUCK KELLEY
NOBTS President

The Great Commission is Matthew 28:18-20. Based on His authority as the Risen Lord, Jesus gives a very clear command. It is not a recommendation, a request, or a suggestion. He commands us to make disciples among all nations, noting that He will always be present with us as we go about the task.

Note how Jesus explained “make disciples.” The mark of Great Commission progress is not how many hear the Gospel, nor is it simply making the Gospel known to an ever growing number of people.

According to the text, new disciples who are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who know and obey the commandments of Jesus, and who are themselves engaged in making disciples are the truest measure of progress.

I call your attention now to a provocative chart on the Great Commission progress of SBC Churches. The chart begins on the left in 1881 and concludes on the right with the most recent year for which date is available, 2014.

Conclusion #1: Lostness in North America is having a bigger impact on Southern Baptists than Southern Baptists are having on lostness. Put another way: The world is having a bigger impact on the behavior of Southern Baptists than we are having on the behavior of the world. In addition to the decline in baptisms, we are down in membership, down in worship attendance, and down in Bible Study attendance. We have more churches, but fewer people, and the people we have are drifting away.

Conclusion #2: Southern Baptists are becoming a shrinking presence with a diminishing voice in our nation.

See CLOSER on 8

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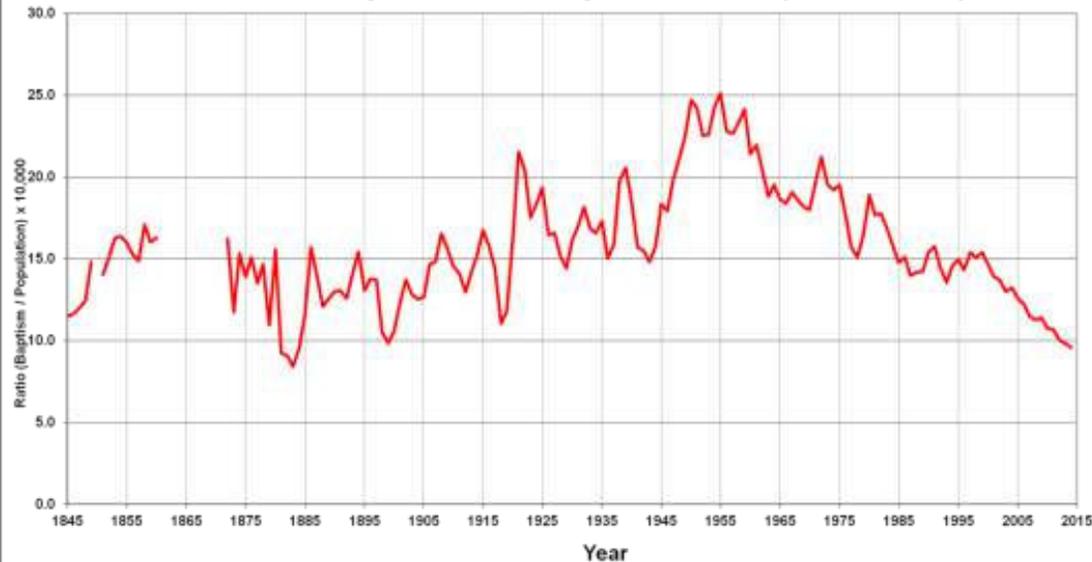
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SBC Baptism to U.S. Population Ratio (1845 to 2014)



Closer from page 7

Conclusion #3: Southern Baptists are closer to losing the South than we are to reaching North America. Consider this graph of our baptisms per 10,000 people in the population. (See above).

Clearly we are losing ground relative to the population. The Millennials (age 16-36) are the largest generation in the history of the United States, but their lives are unfolding during our longest decline in baptisms.

Conclusion #4: Consider the economic implications for financial support for Great Commission activities. Because time takes all away, if we stop adding new disciples from our communities to our congregations, we stop adding new dollars to Great Commission budgets in the future. To have enough dollars to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth, SBC churches must make disciples of the lost in their communities.

Conclusion #5: The steadily growing gulf between the

number of our churches and the number of our baptisms reveals a true life and death question for our future: What can we do to improve the Great Commission health of our churches?

Here are some brief suggestions on the way forward in our present situation. First, we must own the problem and acknowledge the need for our churches to reach their communities for Christ. Second, we must live distinctively in the culture. The foundation for every fruitful evangelism strategy is the presence of living illustrations of lives transformed by the Gospel. If we fail in discipleship, we will inevitably fail in evangelism. Third, we must provide and promote strategies, resources, and training to engage SBC churches in reaching the lost in their communities.

To send out church planters and missionaries without mobilizing existing churches to reach their communities is like putting flowers in a vase without water. They cannot survive long.

To send out church planters and missionaries without mobilizing existing churches

to reach their communities is like putting flowers in a vase without water.

However, all is vain if God does not move. We must seek Spiritual Awakening, a great movement of the Spirit of God in our churches and across our land. Whether we know it or not, we are at the point of desperation for God to move. Our survival is at risk.

There is a very particular wall in the ancient city of Jerusalem. The stones in that wall are all that remains of the glorious temple that once stood during the time of Jesus. It is often called the Wailing Wall, because seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, Jews and others gather at that wall to weep and remember the glory that once was as they pray for the day the glory will be restored.

If we do not improve the Great Commission health of our churches, only one question remains: To what wall will our grandchildren go to weep and remember who Southern Baptists were and what Southern Baptists once did to fulfill the Great Commission?

Prayer from page one

a revival and the National Day of Prayer presents the perfect opportunity to focus on that one task. He plans to join fellow members at First Baptist Church in Haughton, where he serves as pastor, in the worship center from noon to 1 p.m.

“We have lost many of our freedoms in America while we sleep,” Spinney said. “As believers prepare to gather around our country on May 5, 2016, we are reminded that we have a freedom that can never be lost, and that freedom is prayer. In my lifetime, this country has not been at a greater crossroad than we are right now. As the church, we must cry out to God for revival, for a move of the Holy Spirit of God that would shake us and wake us from our slumber.”

Jay Johnston, state coordinator for the Louisiana National Day of Prayer Task Force and associate pastor at First Baptist Covington, stressed the importance of a day of corporate prayer across the country.

“We have a wonderful opportunity to come together and cry out to the Lord in church houses, on the steps of courthouses and at community centers, playgrounds, homes, places of business along with many other locations to pray for each other as well as for our churches, government, media, education, military, businesses, and families,” he said.

This year’s National Day of Prayer theme is “Wake Up America,” based on Isaiah 58:1 – “Shout it aloud, do

not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet.”

Tony Evans is national chairman of what the National Day of Prayer Task Force describes as a “grass roots movement” in which local churches or communities plan how, when and where they want to pray, and the specific content of those prayers.

Evans has written the National Prayer that is available at www.NationalDay-OfPrayer.org, a website that provides helpful information including what prayer is, why pray, how to begin and key Bible verses on prayer.

Millions of people are expected to pray at thousands of events across the United States, from church sanctuaries to community centers to courthouse steps. In Louisiana, a National Day of Prayer event will take place in the state Senate chambers at the State Capitol building from noon to 1 pm.

First Baptist Church in Minden is one of several Louisiana Baptist congregations holding National Day of Prayers events. It will host a time of prayer and Scripture reading in its sanctuary, followed by a light lunch.

First Baptist Church in Hornbeck will join others in the community for a prayer walk, beginning at noon at the city’s town hall.

Later that evening, First Baptist Church in Covington and Philadelphia Baptist Church in Deville will host separate prayer gatherings.

See PRAYER on 13

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NOBTS celebrates Chuck Kelley's 20th year as president

By GARY MEYERS

NOBTS Communications

NEW ORLEANS — At first, it seemed like any other chapel for Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, but he was in for a surprise. Members of the faculty and staff planned a special recognition of Kelley's 20th anniversary as NOBTS president.

Kelley was clearly surprised and moved by the acknowledgement.

Chapel at NOBTS usually includes a brief encouraging word from Kelley between two times of musical worship, when he greets those in attendance, introduces the speaker and offers a prayer of consecration for the service.

But on March 1, when Kelley expected the music and singing to resume, it did not. Instead, Jonathan Key, faculty member and assistant to the president, stepped in to announce the anniversary. The announcement stirred a standing ovation from the chapel audience.

Kelley began serving as NOBTS president on March 1, 1996. From 1983 until 1996 he served as an evangelism professor and director of seminary's Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health. During Kelley's tenure as president, the seminary has experienced significant student enrollment and endowment growth.

During the celebration, John Foster, NOBTS trustee and member of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, read a statement on behalf of trustee chairman Dan Wilson of California:

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend congratulations to Dr. Chuck Kelley upon his twentieth anniversary as president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"The nature of service on a Board offers me the opportunity to represent not only the current seminary trustees, but also the hundreds of trustees who have served during the past 20 years, as well as all who have served during the

near century of the seminary's history; we all are the Board of Trustees of New Orleans Seminary. We all raise our voices today to offer our sincere gratitude for your service of leadership to the Seminary. You have led us tirelessly; you have been relentless in your investment of time and energy to the tasks that are unique to an institutional leader. You have dreamed highly, studied broadly, sacrificed deeply, and stretched long — to the benefit of the seminary and the Southern Baptist Convention and the Church and the Kingdom of God. Thank you, Dr. Kelley, for your perseverance, your tenacity, and your love for the Christ and His Church. Thank you for charting this ship through some stormy waters during these 20 years and your part in making us what we have become as we've weathered the storms and adapted to changing climates and, in the process, become better and stronger, ready to face the future. Congratulations, Dr. Kelley."

Drew Landry of Spotswood Baptist Church in



Boyd Guy photo

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary dean of students Craig Garrett offers a prayer of thanksgiving to mark Chuck Kelley's 20th anniversary as NOBTS president. With Garrett on the stage are Jonathan Key, assistant to the president; Drew Landry, pastor of Spotswood Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, Va.; Chuck and Rhonda Kelley; Blake Newsom, dean of the chapel; and Kelley's mother-in-law, Joyce Harrington.

Fredericksburg, Va., recalled before preaching the chapel message that his graduation from the seminary's doctor of philosophy program was Kelley's first graduation as president.

"Twenty years ago, I remember the first graduation message that you preached as president of NOBTS," Landry recounted. "I remember two things that you shared with us

in the graduation message."

Landry said Kelley told the graduates that ministers of the Gospel needed to have a newspaper to understand and exegete the culture in which they would serve. Kelley also said the graduates would need a "compass" to keep them pointed in the right direction.

"Thank you for giving me those two things 20 years ago.

They have stuck with me," Landry said.

After the service, the campus community gathered on the steps of Leavell Chapel for a brief reception to honor Kelley and his wife Rhonda. The March 1 celebration was the first of several events planned to honor the Kelleys during their anniversary year at NOBTS.

Saturday, June 4, 2016 7:00 PM
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NOBTS trustees approve budget, add collegiate ministry professor

BY GARY D. MEYERS

NOBTS Communications

NEW ORLEANS -- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary trustees elected a collegiate ministry professor and approved a new graduate certificate in counseling ministry during their spring meeting April 13.

The board also approved a \$24.3 million budget, elected two faculty members to serve in Leavell College (the seminary's undergraduate program), and approved minor curriculum

revisions designed to streamline and update graduate degree and certificate programs.

COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

Beth Masters, former Baptist campus minister and director of Christian Life and Ministries at Mississippi College, was elected to serve in the seminary's growing collegiate ministry program. She earned the master of divinity degree with a specialization in collegiate ministry, master of theology and doctor of philosophy at NOBTS.

During Masters' time in New Orleans, she served as associate metro director of Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) in New Orleans and directed BCM programs at the University of New Orleans and Leavell College. Masters currently serves as a leader in the college ministry program at her church, First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss.

Her wide collegiate ministry experience earned Masters a

role with the Baptist Collegiate Network's leadership committee for the past six years. The network, based at LifeWay in Nashville, utilizes campus ministry practitioners like Masters to promote BCM and shape the direction of campus ministry groups throughout the United States and Canada.

Masters, elected as assistant professor of collegiate ministry (ministry-based faculty), will continue in her role at Mississippi College. The ministry-based faculty category is a trustee-elected, non-tenure track category for academically credentialed practitioners, like Masters, who serve in other ministries.

The seminary developed the model to bring practical, real-world ministry experience to the classroom. These professors supplement the work of the full-time faculty by providing specialized, focused instruction in disciplines such as collegiate ministry.

"NOBTS, for many years,



File photo

Beth Masters, former Baptist campus minister and director of Christian Life and Ministries at Mississippi College, was elected to serve in NOBTS growing collegiate ministry program. During her time in New Orleans, she served as associate metro director of the BCM in New Orleans and directed BCM programs at the University of New Orleans and Leavell College.

has had a deep commitment to collegiate ministry," said Steve Lemke, NOBTS provost. "The addition of Dr. Masters gives us a faculty face to magnify that program and we hope to do even more to enhance the college ministry program in the future."

COUNSELING MINISTRY

The new graduate certificate in counseling ministry is a 17-hour certificate designed to provide ministers with additional training in the field of Christian counseling. Ian Jones, chair of the church and community ministries division at NOBTS, noted the certificate was developed, in part, as a response to requests from a number of military chaplains who recognize the need to develop increased counseling skills.

Students in the program will have the opportunity to study counseling in ministry and such topics as mental disorders, marriage and family counseling and assessment, chemical dependency, and trauma counseling from a biblically-based perspective.

The trustees elected Jeffrey Farmer to serve as associate professor of church ministry and evangelism and Brooke Osborn to serve as assistant professor of psychology and counseling.

Farmer and Osborn will serve in the seminary's Leavell College.

The seminary's budget of \$24.3 approved for the 2016-2017 school year represents a 5 percent increase over the 2015-2016 budget. The new budget includes only slight increases in student fees and tuition rates.

The board elected Dan Wilson, professor at California Baptist University, to a second term as chairman, and Frank Cox, pastor of North Metro Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, Ga., to a second term as vice chair. R. Bryant Barnes Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church in Columbia, Miss., was elected as secretary/treasurer.

In other action, the trustees approved the following items:

-- Page Brooks received a faculty rank promotion from assistant professor to associate professor of theology (ministry-based faculty);

-- Ian Jones, professor of psychology and counseling and chairman of the division of church and community ministries was granted tenure; and

-- Randy Stone, associate professor of Christian education, chairman of the division of Christian education and director of the doctor of educational ministry program, was granted tenure.

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Faith paints way for LC Lady Wildcat softball standout

BY BRAD WELBORN
LC Sports Information

PINEVILLE – Concentration and an intense focus are the reason Louisiana College’s softball team leads in multiple defensive categories this season.

To maintain that edge, it is not uncommon to see some Lady Wildcats with colorful bows in their hair, headbands, sunglasses or eye black which helps to reduce the glare and enables them to see the ball better. Some even apply a little ‘face paint.’

Perhaps no ‘face paint’ is more noticeable than that of Wildcat second baseman Jessica Johnson, who for the past year has drawn a cross on each of her cheeks before every game.

“I started doing it last year, and I just put it on my face because crosses are a good reminder for me,” said Johnson. “Before I go up to bat, I draw a cross on the ground because it reminds me no matter what the outcome is, whether I strike out or get a hit, that doesn’t determine my identity in Christ.

“And when I’m on defense, after every play or maybe even after every pitch, I draw a cross in the dirt,” Johnson continued. “I do it to help me calm down, relax and get rid of any fears or anxieties I might be feeling. I draw a cross to assure me there’s no fear in God and we’re playing for His Kingdom.”

Whether by happenstance or not, she homered against Texas-Tyler’s standout pitcher, one of the country’s best,



Wildcats Media photo

Perhaps no ‘face paint’ is more noticeable than that of Wildcat second baseman Jessica Johnson, who for the past year has drawn a cross on each of her cheeks before every game.

after drawing a cross in the dirt. The home run not only gave the Lady Wildcats the lead late in the game but her trip around the bases helped her to achieve a personal goal.

“As soon as it came off the bat all I thought was, ‘Oh man, run!’ Then I looked up and saw that it went over and I was shocked,” said Johnson. “One of my goals this year has been to hit one out.”

While the home run, the second of her career at LC, did prove significant and was the attainment of a personal goal, it went much deeper than an athletic accomplishment.

“My freshman year I hit one out and my immediate thought was ‘This is for my grandma,’” said Johnson. “She was my biggest supporters. She always came to

my games before she passed away so that was one of my goals when I came to college. So, it meant a lot when I hit a homer for her.

“Well, my grandpa passed away this past November and so my goal this year was to hit a home run for him. When I hit that home run against Tyler that was my immediate thought and it was definitely an answered prayer for me,” said Johnson. “We are going to take the ball and put it on his grave next to the one I hit my freshman year on my grandmother’s.”

LC Coach Lyn Bankston, who was quite familiar with the talented Johnson, who played ball at Buckeye High School in Deville, from his time coaching high school softball at Winnfield, knows she is one of those special players on and off their field.

“No question, she’s pretty special. She was special in high school and she’s only gotten better in college. She is having quite a career,” said Bankston.

“Jessica fits the profile of what I see in a second baseman. Good lateral quickness. She can go behind second and get those little balls behind her or run down those little popups in the infield,” Bankston continued. “She can cover first on a bunt really well. Her quickness and speed has been a major asset to us.”

As good as Johnson is on

the softball field she may be even more impressive in the classroom.

She will graduate in May with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Social Work in just three years. She has been a consistent member of the Dean’s List at Louisiana College and already has been accepted to Northwestern State University in Natchitoches to pursue her Masters in Clinical Psychology.

“I’ve taken 16 or 18 hour loads each semester, even during the season, so it’s tough, but definitely God’s given me the strength to get through it. I’ve pulled several all nighters to get school work done, but if I’m going to do something, I’m going to do it right.”

For the third year in a row, Johnson will be a Sports Quest Representative in Baton Rouge this summer helping coach inner-city kids in the Gardere neighborhood where she will share the Gospel with hundreds of kids by incorporating the love of God into skills and training for the game of softball.

“From my freshman year to my senior year I’ve seen growth and development in my walk with Christ. I feel like I’m so much stronger in my relationship with God,” said Johnson. “I’ve got my family, my friends, the people I’ve met here, and my teammates

See PAINT on 15

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Farm boy to ‘voice in the wilderness,’ Aulds completes 50 years of ministry

By JAMIE STEPHENS

Regional Reporter

SPEARSVILLE – As a farm boy, Joe Aulds was focused on building a future in agriculture – serving as president of 4-H and FFA and winning grand champion awards at livestock shows.

But, he said his life was never the same after the day, during his senior year of high school in 1966, when he admitted to his pastor from Camp Creek Baptist Church that he was tired of running from God and wanted to surrender to His will.

“Two years prior to the moment when I admitted to Reverend [William] Cottrell that I wanted to stop running from God, I already knew in my heart that God was calling me to ministry, but I had been afraid of surrendering,” explained Aulds.

According to him, all doubts about God’s plans for his life disappeared at right then and there with Pastor Cottrell and he surrendered his heart and life to Christ.

In 1966, two months before turning 18 years old, he started classes at Louisiana College, and upon graduating in 1970, enrolled with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned his degree in 1973.

Shortly thereafter he married, and he and his wife Donna began their lifelong ministry together – first at Marion First Baptist in Union Parish where he served for four years and then at Pinecroft Baptist in Shreveport, for over nine years.

During these years, Aulds felt God calling him into evangelism but he resisted, accepting the pastorate at Temple Baptist Church in

Winnsboro.

“I told [the congregation] I would stay for one year, but during my time there, God’s Spirit began to move,” he said, and after baptizing 172 people his first year, he felt he needed to stay. Then more than 300 people received Christ in just three months of his second year there.

“We didn’t have any evangelists scheduled, but it just started happening, and it impacted the entire area,” Aulds explained.

He served two more years with Temple Baptist before finally surrendering to become a fulltime harvest evangelist in 1990, going on to reach multitudes across 38 states in the United States and even in foreign lands.

“There were over 2,000 people saved in churches and schools in the Philippines, and several churches were started



Submitted photo

After 50 years in ministry, Joe and Donna Aulds, members of First Baptist Church in Ruston, plan on slowing down a little. Aulds says he wants to do Harvest Day, weekend events, missions but not as many revivals as before.

on my first trip there,” Aulds said.

“A few people offered to contribute to our ministry through the years because they felt led to help, which was very generous of them, but we never once asked for money from any individuals, churches, or revivals to assist us,” he offered about God’s provision for his ministry and

family.

He has preached at over 900 revivals and crusades, served as vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and served four terms as president of LACOSBE (Louisiana Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists). He has chaired multiple committees

See AULDS on 15

We celebrate the vast number of women who teach, mother, pray, worship, send, serve, adopt, and in the name of Jesus, Go...



LOUISIANA BAPTISTS
WOMEN’S MISSIONS & MINISTRY
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Prayer from page 8 — **LOUISIANA NOTABLES**

Philadelphia Baptist will host a National Day of Prayer Community Service at 6:30 pm while First Baptist Covington's prayer gathering will commence at 7 pm.

Ricky Belgard, prayer minister at Philadelphia Baptist, said that while it is important to pray often, observing a special day of prayer is important considering that "God's alarm clock has gone off in America and we dare not push the snooze button and roll over for a few more minutes of sleep." He said now is the time for America to wake up and go to war to win against Satan's forces.

"Folks, we live in a time when there is a disturbing trend of trying to remove God and prayer from all aspects of American public life," Belgard said. "But in the National Day of Prayer community service we unite as brothers and sisters in Christ, to proclaim that we are still, one nation under God. We believe our God is still – on the throne, that He reigns victorious over all, and we believe that He is still answering prayer."

For more information on coordinating a National Day of Prayer event, e-mail Johnston at louisianaprays@gmail.com.

ON THE MOVE

- **Jason, wife Jessica, Dubea** new as pastor at Gateway Baptist Church, Ball.
- **Joe Bob Alexander** is the new pastor at Ferry Lake Baptist Church, Oil City.
- **Chad Mills** is the new pastor at Beulah Land Baptist Church, Haughton.
- **Tommy McManus** is the new pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, Eunice.
- **Bryan Camp** is the new youth minister at Beulah Land Baptist Church, Haughton.
- **Mike, wife Arenda, Schultz** is the new youth minister at Cross Point Baptist Church, Bossier City.
- **Terry, wife Jennifer, Young** is the new pastor at Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City.
- **Jeff and Jan Shadoin** are new as youth ministers at Bethany Baptist Church, Bethany.
- **Ronnie, wife Kayla, Whitten** is the music minister at Bethany Baptist Church, Bethany.
- **Melvin Sharry** resigned as pastor at Bethsaida Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Michael Prescott** resigned as pastor at New Bethel Baptist Church, Plain Dealing.
- **Shelby, wife Devona, Cowling** retires at First Baptist Church, Haynesville on May 15.

REVIVAL

- Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold: **Revival**, May 8-12, Sunday 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist.** Pastor: James Hester.
- New Hope Baptist Church, Jonesboro: **Harvest Sunday**, May 15, 11 a.m. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist.** Pastor: Hudey Beaubouef.
- First Baptist Church, Albany: **Revival**, May 15-18. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria.** Music: **Scott Munson.** Pastor: Dan Munson.

- Hoeshoe Drive Baptist Church, Alexandria: **Revival**, May 15-18, Sunday, 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Speaker: **Greg Pierce.**
- Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church, Spearsville: **Harvest Day**, May 15, 10:45 a.m. Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor: Adam Hill.
- Lake St. John Baptist Church, Ferriday: **Revival**, May 18-21, 6:30 p.m., Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist.** Pastor: Mark Richardson.
- Bellwood Baptist Church, Provencal: **Revival**, May 22-25. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist.** Pastor: Roger Matkin.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Natchitoches: **Harvest Sunday**, May 22, 10:30 a.m. Evangelists: **Joe Aulds.** Pastor: Joshua Curry.
- New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy: **Revival**, May 22-25, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt.** Music: **The Mackey Willis Family.** Church is located at 543 Marcantel Road, DeQuincy. Pastor: Roland Hebert.

LAGNIAPPE

- **Everette Vance Culpepper**, who has moved back to his native state of Louisiana from Oregon on the 60th anniversary of his ordination, is available for **pulpit supply or to pastor.** He may be contacted by email at evculpepper@gmail.com or by calling 318.395.3326 or 541.315.0054.
- **Campers on Mission** will hold their annual **work week at Louisiana College in Pineville** May 22-27. Among the projects on the worklist are general cleaning, refurbishing a fountain, constructing a platform for trash barrels, painting buildings and crosswalks plus much, much more. All skill levels are welcomed. Having an RV is not necessary, LC has accommodations. For reservations contact Melinda Draper at melinda.draper@lacollege.edu and for more information. call COM President Keith Brown at 225.926.9410.
- First Baptist Church, Hornbeck: **'National Day of**

- Prayer' Prayer Walk**, May 5, noon at Hornbeck Town Hall. Pastor: Jack Bell.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **'National Day of Prayer' Community Service**, May 5, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Philip Robertson.
- First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **National Day of Prayer event**, May 5, 7-8:15 p.m. More than 30 churches are expected to participate in a city-wide prayer service at The Park at the Horse Farm in Lafayette. Pastor: Steve Horn.
- Cedar Crest Baptist Church, West Monroe: **National Day of Prayer Breakfast** at the West Monroe Convention Center, May 5, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Greg Clark.
- First Baptist Church, Covington: **A night of Worship & Prayer**, May 5, 7 p.m. Worship Music: Antioch Baton Rouge Worship Team. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.
- Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **Men's Ministry Golf Tournament**, May 7, 2 p.m. This will be a four-man scramble. Cost: \$45 per player and meal is included in price. For more information, call the church at 225.665.6278 or email hebron@hebronbc.com.
- First Baptist Church, DeRidder: **Annual Luther Brown Golf Tournament**, May 7, 8 a.m. (tee time). Cost: \$45 includes 18 holes of golf, lunch and prizes. This four-person scramble will be held at the Beaugard Country Club. To register your team, call 337.463.9047.
- First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **Welcome reception for new Director of Missions for Evangeline Association David and Pamela Carlton**, May 8, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Pastor: Steve Horn.
- Beulah Land Baptist Church, Haughton: **The Southern Plainsmen in concert**, May 15, 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Chad Mills.
- Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: **Louisiana Baptist Singing Ministers in concert**, May 19, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 318.613.6505 or 318.443.5555. Pastor: David Newton.
- North Shreve Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Korean Pastor Paul Park** will be the guest speaker, May 15, 6 p.m. Pastor: Roy Davis.

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By **CHERYL VAUGHN**
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Scripture Crypto

The Scripture Crypto is a Bible verse in which one letter has been substituted for another, thus encoding the verse. To find out what the verse is, you must determine what each letter is a substitute for. An "a," for example, may stand for a "t" in this week's issue of the ScriptureCrypto. Next week, "a" could stand for a "d." Each week, each letter is different. Solve by trial and error. The answer will be given next week. Note: All numerals, such as those in the scripture reference after the verse, are spelled out.

djn m pffr ofyb udpekb dzbdedq ubfq pek fpekb

vmnk fu pek uaffn, djn akn emq pebfyfefyp daa

pek adjn fu gdjddj, djn qyapmxamkn emv vkkn,

djn sdhk emq mvddg.

Tfveyd plkjpo-ufyb:pebkk

Clues:
P = T; D = A

Answer to April 21 Scripture Crypto:
Jude eighteen



Brian Blackwell photo

Alumni, business owners and other professionals and friends of LC read the information being outlined by President Rick Brewer at the school's Board of Visitors meeting.

BOV from page 2

are looking forward to this group continuing to grow. What they are doing is to help close the affordability gap, providing much needed scholarship money for students who want to receive a Christ-centered education at Louisiana College.

Brewer updated members on various initiatives planned in the future, including: help so that every student will serve an internship before graduation; requiring students to complete a service learning project within the scope of their majors, contributing volunteer hours within the community; and, improvements to campus facilities such as multi-million dollar projects involving the foot-

ball stadium, class equipment and residence and academic halls.

For his part, Byron McGee, vice president for institutional advancement, told the Board of Visitors that because of them, 123 students this fall each will receive \$1,000 scholarships.

When the members meet again, McGee said many of those students will have an opportunity to sit with them and express gratitude.

"They will have an opportunity to sit with you and say thanks," McGee said. "And I assure you it means a lot to them."

For more information on joining the Board of Visitors, call 318.487.7118.

Aulds from page 12

and served Southern Baptists in offices at the association, state, and national levels.

During Easter Sunday at his home church, the Camp Creek Baptist congregation celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but also honored Aulds for his 50-year milestone in serving the Lord – and several notable Southern Baptists contributed to the recognition.

His former congregations each averaged 100 baptisms annually and surged in Sunday school attendance and discipleship participation under his leadership.

Aulds said family is also very important to him, and he and his wife have three grown children with grandchildren who he says have added to their joy. "I am not retiring from my years of ministry, but I do think it is time to slow down and begin spending more time with my family."

Hunter from page 3

In addition to his involvement with men's ministry, Hunter also drove a van with Louisiana State University Baptist Collegiate Ministry students on mission trips, including most recently for disaster relief work in Colorado. LSU BCM Director Steve Masters called Hunter one of the best chainsaw operators he has known and used his skills to teach college students the

proper way to use the equipment.

He plans to continue preaching several revivals a year, but not as many as in the past. Instead, he plans to do more Harvest Days and weekend events. He will also still pursue his mission work overseas and in the United States.

"Donna and I will continue making trips to the Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming, West Texas, and the East Coast," he said. "We will also still visit other churches and continue missions in South Louisiana. They are and will continue to be our extended families."

Aulds and his wife are active members of Calvary Baptist Church in Ruston and have been attending for 26 years.

He believes the Lord will continue using him as His servant wherever he goes, but the Aulds family will be spending more time with their children and grandchildren for now,

with short term plans for a vacation soon to Branson, Missouri, which has always been one of their favorite spots.

For the complete story, go online to <http://baptistmessage.com/farm-boy-to-voice-in-the-wilderness-aulds-completes-50-faithful-years-of-ministry/>

Growing from page 6

to Skate Heaven. In 2008, we were able to move once again – this time to Denham Springs Junior High School Cafeteria. Brother Don retired as pastor during the Summer of 2008, and the church called Willis Easley to be Pastor. In June, 2009, we moved into the building next to the Denham Springs Library, at the corner of Eden Church Road and Florida Blvd.

"On August 3, 2014, we began meeting in our new permanent home at 26574 Juban Road."

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Paint from page 11

who have helped me along the way.

"Jade [senior outfielder Jade Johnson from East Beau-regard High School in DeRid-der] has helped so much with my walk and has been a role model for me as well," said Johnson

Along with teammates Abby Maillet, Jade Johnson, and Ellen Bairnsfather, Johnson is down to just a handful of games remaining in her collegiate careers.

For her, softball has been a game she has played non-stop since the age of 12, but she is using that to push herself even more.

"I realize this is the last home series and it is kind of sad and I'm trying not to think about it or I will get emotional," said Johnson. "But softball pushes me even more to give my best and play with everything. It's bittersweet. I've enjoyed my

time playing here and I wish I could play more and I'm going to miss it for sure but I'm thankful for the experiences I've had."

One of the things she will remember most about her time at Louisiana College are the bonds and relationships she has built with her teammates.

"I have built many special bonds with my teammates but I have also been able to build and grow in my relationship with God," said Johnson. "I

have learned how to play for His glory.

"You want to let your light shine; you have people watching you 24/7 so you want to set an example for others to see," she continued.

"My motto this year has been 'to give it all you've got because this is it,' Johnson continued. "The thing I am mindful of is when your mentality may be to give up, it is time to give it all to God because He gave it all for you."

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Julie Cupples photos

The Children's Home held a ribbon cutting for its new cottage for homeless mothers and their children. Photographed are Susan Clark, LBCH Director HomePlace, Jonathan Martin, Chairman and CEO of RoyOMartin Lumber, Maggie Martin (who the new home is named after), Marc Eichelberger, LBCH Vice President of Development and Public Relations, and (back) Perry Hancock, LBCH President & CEO.

LBCH dedicates newest cottage

MONROE – The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home has dedicated its first new cottage in more than 40 years.

Children's Home staff, trustees and friends gathered on April 22 for a ribbon cutting at a cottage designed to provide transitional living for homeless children and their mothers as they prepare for independent living.

The HomePlace Cottages at Martin Village provide a place for homeless women and their children to stay for up to one year at no cost to the residents. While there, the women can receive a high school equivalency degree, life and employment skills training through Christian Women Job Corps.

Two additional cottages are planned for the near future from proceeds generated by the annual Brenda Hall Abney Fall Golf Classic sponsored by RoyOMartin.

The tournament was created by RoyO-Martin Chairman and CEO, Jonathan E. Martin and his wife, Maggie, in memory of Abney, who passed away in 2005 from a rare form of breast cancer.

She grew up at the Children's Home and attended Louisiana College, where in 1983 she was figuratively adopted by the Martins.

Over the years, more than \$1.8 million has been raised from the golf tournament to support the Children's Home.

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