

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

— Romans 5:1 (NIV)

M BAPTIST Message

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July 28, 2016

God's at work even through shootings & strife

Winnsboro shooting victim is making miraculous progress

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

WINNSBORO – Prayer warriors from throughout the world are lifting up the wife of a Louisiana College graduate who was abducted and shot early in the morning of July 16 in Franklin Parish and God is answering those prayers.

On the morning of July 16, Kelly Kiper Longoria was on the way to work when she stopped at a convenience store where she was abducted.

She was taken to Gethemane Cemetery in Winnsboro and shot in the head by her assailant Kevin Mathis according to the Franklin Parish Sheriff's Department.

She was discovered by workers there.

Emergency medical per-

See **MIRACULOUS** on 3



Facebook photo

Kelly Kiper Longoria is shown with her husband Shane during a happier moment. Kelly was abducted July 16 at a Winnsboro convenience store, shot in the head and left for dead. Prayer warriors throughout the world have lifted her up and God is answering those prayers.



Brian Blackwell photo

Jeff Ginn prays for law enforcement officers during a special Night of Prayer on July 19 at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, where he serves as pastor. Other churches throughout the state have held similar prayer gatherings throughout the month of July.

Ginn: God working in mighty way after deadly BR shooting

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE – God can work in a mighty way to bring good to a bad situation even amid the strife and destruction a cowardly shooter caused July 17 in Baton Rouge, said Pastor Jeff Ginn during a special prayer service two days later.

“There was a man who very recently meant evil and he brought about evil in this community,” said Ginn, pastor of Istrouma Baptist. “It was something Satan intended for evil. It holds in it the kernel for potential division, unrest and destruction.

“But I believe in it all God intends good,” he continued. “We are His children and the good He intends, He is going to bring part of that through us. That's the God we serve.”

See **MIGHTY WAY** on 5

In aftermath of 'deadly attack' churches offer hope through God

BY STAFF
Baptist Message



Istrouma Baptist Church photo

When Pastor Jeff Ginn of Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge learned about the deadly shooting of six law enforcement officers less than a mile from the church, he quickly changed the order service and focused on prayer for the officers involved.

BATON ROUGE – Though heartbroken from the July 17 deadly attack on Baton Rouge law enforcement, the community has hope for the future through Christ, said one pastor whose church was near the scene of the incident.

“In the midst of our sorrow there is hope that God will redeem even this for His good purpose,” said Jeff Ginn, pastor of Istrouma Baptist Church. “What Satan intends to destroy and divide, God will use to unite.”

The church, whose entrance was just feet away from a police barricade placed on Airline Highway that Sunday morning, was about to start its first morning service when Ginn learned a

See **HOPE** on 4

FBC Ruston transforms lake for celebration of transformed lives

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

RUSTON – On a recent Sunday afternoon, around 200 members of First Baptist Church in Ruston hurried to the lake after its morning worship service, but not for just grilling some burgers or having a good time on the water.

They were there to witness a decades-old tradition of the church – baptism for 10 of their fellow church members in a lake on the grounds of Lincoln Parish Park.

Some were as young as nine, and others as old as

55. The candidates were as equally diverse in ethnicity, from Anglo to African-American to Chinese.

But, they were all there for one reason – to declare publicly before their church family, other friends and even passers-by of their decision to follow Christ.

“We talk to folks about salvation and publicly professing their faith at our church but to see people boldly proclaim that in this way is always encouraging,” said Clayton Owen, minister of education at First Baptist Ruston. “If you’re willing to wade out in the lake and have



First Baptist Ruston photo

Despite temperatures flirting with the 100 degree mark and the water a bit murky, the setting was perfect for the 10 candidates for baptism by First Baptist Church Pastor Chris Craig. The baptisms took place in a lake on the grounds of Lincoln Parish Park.

others there to see you do that is a bold witness.”

Despite temperatures flirting with the 100 degree mark and the water a bit murky, the setting was perfect for Candia Tims.

“To be able to experience nature with God has always been a great spiritual connection I have had. So to be there in the water and the sun beaming on me was a wonderful experience,” Tims said. “For me, my life had

been up to that point about acceptance from others. At that moment, God was telling me that it was just Him and me and that He accepts me for who I am.”

Casey Madden spent many years as a young boy playing in the lake but never dreamed one day he would get baptized there. He relished the opportunity and hopes one day to be present to see his own kids baptized, whether it be inside a church

or at the same lake.

“Having my kids there to see me baptized let them see I am the spiritual leader of the household and made me feel real good that I am fulfilling my role,” Madden said. “I’m looking forward to the day that they are baptized and am able to give them a big hug when they come up.”

The church emphasizes baptism is not the final step in a new believer’s Christian walk.

After baptism, each person participates in a four-week new members’ class.

These new believers then have the opportunity to attend one of the church’s small groups for an extended but undetermined amount of time that focuses on growth in one’s spiritual journey.

“We want them to understand salvation is the most important thing but that is the beginning of a life long journey,” Owen said. “And we want to show them what that life long journey is like. If you aren’t living it out, you are missing it.”

The baptisms are a result of the evangelistic mindset of First Baptist Ruston.

Every year, its members participate in Touch Ruston. Through this effort, they

See LAKE on 6

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Resolutions, nominees for Louisiana posts are sought

ALEXANDRIA – Louisiana Baptists are invited to submit names of nominees for service on state convention boards and committees and to submit resolutions for possible consideration for the 2016 Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The Louisiana Baptist Committee on Committees is beginning its work to nominate persons to serve on various state convention committees.

Currently, 17 nominees are needed for service on committees on Credentials, Moral and Social Concerns, Nominations, Order of Business and Resolutions. Committee

on Committees Chair is Jake Roudkovski, Bogue Falaya, Folsom.

In addition, the Louisiana Baptist Committee on Nominations is beginning its work to fill vacancies on state boards.

At this point, 17 nominees are needed to serve on the Convention's Executive Board and as trustees of Louisiana College, the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries, the *Baptist Message*, and the Baptist Foundation. The Committee on Nominations chair is Philip Robertson, Philadelphia, Deville.

As in previous years, persons should submit names of nominees and the committee or board for which they are being nominated. Submissions should include information on the nominee's church membership and current employment. Nominations should be submitted no later than August 17.

Nominees for committees should be sent to Jake Roudkovski, 14278 Highway 1077, Folsom, LA 70437 or jaker@nobts.edu. Nominees for boards should be sent to Philip Robertson, 317 Philadelphia Road, Pineville, LA 71360 or pastor@pbcministry.com.

Also, persons interested in submitting resolutions for this fall's state convention are asked to submit their statements by August 22. The first meeting of the Resolutions Committee is Sept. 20.

Resolutions must be submitted to the Committee for review and consideration no more than ninety (90) days, but no later than fifteen (15) days, prior to the LBC annual

meeting.

Early submissions allow the LBC Resolutions Committee to begin its work to determine which resolutions to present to the Convention. Resolutions should be typewritten, titled and dated. They should be accompanied by a letter from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing and should include complete contact information for both the person submitting it, and his or her church. No person may submit more than three

resolutions per year.

The Resolutions Committee chair is Jeff Meyers, Greenwell Springs, Denham Springs. Persons should mail proposed resolutions to the Resolutions Committee through the LBC Office of Public Affairs.

They may be mailed to P. O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309, faxed to (318)449-4287, or e-mailed to OPA@LouisianaBaptists.org.

If you need assistance with the wording of a resolution, you may also contact by phone or email LBC Public Affairs Officer Will Hall at 318.448.3402 or email him at OPA@LouisianaBaptists.org.

Miraculous from page one

sonnel were able to stabilize her, transport her to Franklin Parish Medical Center before being airlifted to Jackson Memorial Hospital. She is in critical but stable condition.

Since she was hospitalized, Longoria has shown miraculous improvements. According to a Facebook post late Sunday, July 17, by her husband, Shane, his wife is responding to voice commands.

"The doctors told us today that Kelly is responding to commands," he said.

He is music leader and youth pastor at Life Church, a non-denominational church in Winnsboro. "If they tell her to give them a thumbs up, she does. If they say to squeeze, she does. Today they let me and Lisa go back and watch the assessment.

"Today, my wife squeezed my hand. Today, I saw one more miracle that the Lord is working," Longoria said. "I know that God can do miracles and I know that I will continue to see them. I'm so proud of her. Kelly is a fighter and she's fighting hard. She is my hero."

Even more encouraging news came the following day.

"The top dog neurosurgeon told us we're not out

of the woods but if we don't experience any complications, then Kelly will live," Longoria said. "We'll have obstacles, but she will live. Kelly is a fighter and she will continue to fight."

Lyndon Longoria, who is the uncle of Shane and a Louisiana Baptist evangelist in Merryville, said Kelly's vital signs are too strong for someone who was shot in the head.

He said the only reason is because the Hand of God, who is responding to thousands of prayers.

"My nephew Shane is a strong believer in prayer and believes God is showing us He is still a miracle-working God," Longoria said.

Craig Beeman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Winnsboro, said he has seen the faith-based community unite and pray for the Longoria's through gathering around the flagpole in town July 16 and a special prayer service at Life Church July 17.

"Incidents like this show us that even in such a great community as ours tragedies can still occur," Beeman said. "This family is one of the strongest in our parish. This parish is strong and situations like this do not divide us."

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Hope from page one —

shooter had ambushed officers responding to a call. He quickly changed the order of service, focusing on a time of prayer for the situation.

Though he decided to hold both worship services as planned, Ginn said the atmosphere was very different than most Sundays.

“There was an air of heaviness over the services,” he said. “One of the points I made in my message was Jesus had joy in spite of the sorrow he experienced. So we pressed on, remembering those who were suffering.”

The church staff met to plan a response. Ministry opportunities included hosting a blood drive, offering church facilities for the funerals and placing messages of hope on the electronic billboard that is seen by motorists traveling on Interstate 12.

Ginn said if the church’s congregation does not offer hope in this situation, he does not know who would.

“Hope rests in the Lord,” Ginn said. The church is the one who speaks His word to the watching world. We have to be His voice in this moment.”

The gunman, identified as Gavin Long of Kansas City, Mo., shot six law enforcement officers, killing three of them shortly before 9 a.m. Sunday morning, July 17, near Airline and Old Hammond highways.

The deceased officers are Brad Garafola, 45, of the East

Baton Rouge Sheriff’s Office, Montrell Jackson, 32, and Matthew Gerald, 41, of the Baton Rouge Police Department.

Jackson’s child was attending the daycare at Florida Boulevard Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.

“Our hearts are heavy as we learn the loss of one of our daycare families. Our prayers and thoughts go out to their families and all involved,” according to a Facebook post by the church daycare.

The church opened its worship center doors last week from noon to 12:45 pm for anyone wishing to pray for comfort, healing and peace. They were joined by other churches hosting prayer gatherings throughout the week.

Thomas Shepard, pastor of the Church at Addis, said members of his congregation spent July 17 ministering to one of the victim’s family. One of the deceased officers was the uncle of some children who had attended Vacation Bible School recently at the church.

“I prayed with the sister-in-law,” Shepard said the afternoon of July 17. “We let her know we could meet with her sister (whose husband was one of the slain officers), and their children to provide grief counseling and whatever else they might need.”

Earlier in the day, he urged church members to pray for local law enforcement.

“After this morning’s unfortunate events I would like to call our people to prayer,” Shepard said. “The officers



Baton Rouge police officer Matthew Gerald, 41

Baton Rouge police officer Montrell Jackson, 32

East Baton Rouge Sheriff’s Office deputy Brad Garafola, 45

affected in this tragedy are a lot closer to home than we expected. Some of our member officers were on the scene when several suspects were picked up in Addis for questioning in connection with the shooting.”

Pastor Jay Avance of First Baptist Church Baker posted on his Facebook page Sunday morning, July 17, “This is such a tragedy that has befallen our city. Please pray for the fallen officer’s families, pray for our officers serving right now, and the pray for our officer’s families because this is very hard on them as well.

“Pray for our community, pray the Spirit of God will bring His peace over our city today,” he continued. “Thank you ‘Boys in Blue,’ may we ‘Back the Badge’ and lift each one up in prayer, and thank you all for what you do for our community by keeping us safe, God Bless!”

SO MANY EMOTIONS

Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director David Hankins said the country is seeing events like this shooting far too often.

“Jesus reminds us that the thief, Satan himself, comes to steal, kill and destroy. Tragi-

cally we’re seeing this play out before our eyes in ways we’ve never imagined,” Hankins said. “However, Jesus concludes His response by stating He comes to give life.

“In addition to showing compassion to those who are grieving and our unwavering support for those who serve us through law enforcement, we must be resolute in sharing the One who brings life and changes hearts.

“I call on all Louisiana Baptists to join me in crying out to God for the victims and their families and sharing the life-giving message of Jesus. Our culture is looking for hope. Let’s tell them where they can find it,” Hankins said.

LBC President Gevan Spinney said he is “flooded with emotions” as he thinks about the families of the fallen officers whose lives are forever changed.

“However, I sense an overwhelming peace when I think about Psalm 29:10 ‘The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood. And the Lord sits as King forever,’ said Spinney, pastor of First Baptist Church in Haughton. “Then threaded through all of my emotions is a constant hope that God the Father will send a soul-stirring revival through His church as we fall to our knees and cry out to Him. My prayer is that through this chaos we will experience an awakening in this country. In all of our emotions let us not be confused, Jesus is our hope.”

DESPERATELY NEEDING PRAYER

First Baptist Covington held a prayer service July 18. Associate Pastor Jay John-

ston, who also serves as chair of the Louisiana Governor’s Prayer Breakfast task force and the state coordinator for Louisiana National Day of Prayer, is calling upon churches across the state to hold similar gatherings.

“The Bible reveals to us that God created us with a need for others,” Johnston said. “Jesus modeled this with his followers to reveal the truth that we need each other (in) John 17:20-23; Acts 2:42-47. Our state and cities are hurting and the recent shootings and killings in Baton Rouge have accelerated the hurt and brokenness of our community.”

Johnston recently challenged the people of First Baptist Covington to read 1 Corinthians 13 every day for 45 days to learn what love is and to practice it.

He also encouraged them to tear up their record book of wrongs, and he appealed to those without a relationship with Christ to invite Jesus into their hearts.

“I hope you will take the challenge to call people to pray, to love God and each other,” he said.

Lee Wesley, pastor of the predominantly African-American congregation of Community Bible Church in Baton Rouge, urged people to come together and find a way to break down racial barriers.

Wesley has made his church available for counseling for those who may have experienced any trauma from the recent events in Baton Rouge. He also is planning a future prayer vigil involving all races in the hopes of unifying the city and community.

“Our goal is to move forward to a spirit of oneness and unity,” Wesley said. “We have a common enemy and that enemy is Satan who wants to tear us apart. We want the world to see us standing together on the Word of God and come together across racial barriers. We want to say all lives matter. Black lives matter, white lives matter, the life of an individual citizen matters, the life of a police officer matters.”

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Mighty Way from page one

Ginn gathered with others at Istrouma Baptist Church, to lift up law enforcement, the community and other needs during a 'Night of Prayer.' The church is one of many throughout Baton Rouge and the state holding prayer gatherings to help the city heal after a gunman fatally shot three law enforcement officers on a Sunday morning and wounded three others, a little more than a mile from Istrouma Baptist Church.

Istrouma Baptist hosted a community blood drive at their Baton Rouge campus from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 20 to help the blood bank restock its blood reserves. That evening, Istrouma's 'The Grove' campus also held a Night of Prayer.

"Heal our city," Ginn said during his prayer. "Heal our hearts. But it's going to require of us some repentance and confession. I pray you would make us instruments of peace. And we would go from this place cleansed and ready to be peacemakers in this city."

Law enforcement officers at the 'Night of Prayer' said they were humbled by the outpouring of support shown.

Capt. Michael Cody of the Baton Rouge Police Department said the prayer service was needed and appreciated.

"We've had an awesome response from the public, a tremendous outpouring of love and support," said Cody, a member of Istrouma Baptist Church. "Our biggest need right now is prayer and encouragement, which we have received."

Adam White, deputy superintendent of support for the Louisiana State Police, said the prayer service was extra special because it took place at the church where he is a member.

"This problem we have is a heart problem," White said. "We all have to have our hearts turned to God. If we turn to the saving Grace of Christ, we won't have to worry as much about the problems in our communities."

During his prayer for the community within close proximity to Istrouma Baptist Church, deacon Edwin Dale reminded the crowd to pray for the families of the fallen officers as well as those who were injured or still hospitalized as a result of the shooting.

"We want to be more than a building sitting on Airline (Highway) and I-12," he said. "You've put us here for a reason, so we can be a beacon to this community, to this state as they come by. There will be those hurting, angry, those who don't understand. But Lord, you are the God who can do all the healing."

In his prayer for the city of Baton Rouge, church deacon Warren Landry said God is the only hope to lessen the suffering so many are experiencing and asked for a purification of their hearts.

"Father, our city is hurt and suffering," he said. "Every individual in our city feels something. But father, in the midst of this, we want you to be glorified."

"I thank you for the leadership of our city and I pray for



Brian Blackwell photo

Adam White, deputy superintendent of support for the Louisiana State Police, told the gathering the problems everyone is experiencing is a heart problem. "We all have to have our hearts turned to God. If we turn to the saving Grace of Christ, we won't have to worry so much about the problems in our communities."

Godly wisdom in our city, not just in this time of crisis, but every day," he continued. "Father what we ask for our city is that supernatural healing would happen, Father, in a way that only you could get the credit."

While Landry focused on Baton Rouge, Administrative Pastor Ray Raney prayed for the United States. He said that God wants to pour out his blessings upon the United States, but that will come only after a revival in each person's heart.

"God is calling us by the events in the nation these past few months to another level, to another level of a relationship with Him," he said. "The enemy is running wild in this country and we've sat back as a Christian body and let it happen because we haven't taken a stand."

"He's calling us now to turn to him like we never have before," he continued. "When we do that, when we get serious with Him, we will see Him

move."

The final prayer of the evening focused on the world. Sharing the stage, Fanny Mangieri, the wife of the church's Hispanic pastor, prayed while Nell Ginn, wife of Pastor Jeff Ginn, served as the translator. Mangieri asked

the crowd to join her in praying for the more than 3,700 people groups who have never heard the Gospel, along with unrest throughout the globe.

"The only way to stop violence is through Jesus," Mangieri said. "Jesus is peace."



Brian Blackwell photo

Two ladies hold hands as they pray for law enforcement officers at the Istrouma Baptist Church 'Night of Prayer' July 19 in Baton Rouge.



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LC's Brewer announces four administrative promotions

BY NORM MILLER
LC News

PINEVILLE – Louisiana College President Rick Brewer announced four promotions for academic and staff administrators on July 18.

The personnel changes become effective August 1.

Jerry Pounds will become the college's vice president for academic affairs, thus vacating his duties as professor of psychology.

"Dr. Pounds brings more than an impressive resume to this position," Brewer said. "He has served in higher education in numerous roles, from adjunct professor at Liberty University to president of Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Georgia, and in several roles at New Orleans Baptist Theological

Seminary.

"Well-versed in Baptist culture, Jerry has served the local church as a youth minister and in the interim, bi-vocational, and associate pastoral roles," Brewer noted. "Dr. Pounds' experience in higher education and local church ministry demonstrates his commitment to integrating faith in and out of the classroom."



Jerry Pounds

"Having personally observed Jerry's work ethic, his relationships with campus peers, and his heart for the classroom, I believe he will acquit himself not merely from a sense of duty, but from a deep-seated commitment to our students and our vision," Brewer said.

"Dr. Pounds understands where we are taking Louisiana College," Brewer added. "Our vision statement of

preparing graduates and transforming lives is more than a motto for Jerry; it is a conviction that will find fruition in his role to implement and enhance our relevant, relational and rigorous curricula."

Pounds earned a BA from Samford University, a Master's in Religious Education from New Orleans Seminary, and an EdD from Vanderbilt University.

Cheryl Clark has served as interim vice president for Academic Affairs since 2014, and will remain in that office as associate vice president.

"Louisiana College stakeholders owe a significant debt of gratitude to Dr. Clark as she has served sacrificially – well above and beyond the call – during some difficult days in our recent past," Brewer said. "I also cannot

thank her enough for how she has assisted me since my arrival as president. Dr. Clark already has proven her mettle, and I am confident in her abilities and passion for this new role."



Cheryl Clark

Earning three degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi, Clark has a BA in English with a minor in piano performance, an MA in English, and a PhD in English with specialization in eighteenth-century British Literature and transatlantic Domestic Literature.

Clark will continue to serve LC as Associate Professor of English and Chair of the Division of Humanities. She is holder of the Olive Ann Rau Chair in English.

Randall Hargis, vice president for Business Affairs and CFO, has also been serving as interim executive vice president but will move into that role permanently.

Hargis is a Certified Public Accountant with a BS degree in accounting from Louisiana Tech, and has worked at LC since June 1985.



Randall Hargis

"If a college will pursue academic excellence, then it necessarily must also pursue excellence in its fiduciary responsibilities," Brewer said. "And excellence is a word that describes Randall Hargis."

"His pencil is as sharp as his mind, and both have drawn and maintained our course for three decades running," Brewer continued. "Randall's decisions

are as important as our academic ones, and I know he will continue to keep us on track."

Amy Craig is now dean of LC's School of Education. She became interim administrator in January.

"Dr. Craig stepped into the interim role with the kind of determination a top-notch committed leader exemplifies," Brewer said.



Amy Craig

"She traveled to the corners of this state, visiting school districts and educators in an effort to promote our TEACH Certification program and Master of Arts in Teaching degree. Amy epitomizes our 'And Then Some' mindset at Louisiana College, and I know the good work she has begun will take our School of Education to new heights."

Brewer noted his gratitude for the entire LC staff and faculty: "I have been blessed and encouraged with how our LC family has caught the vision and enjoined

the mission to revitalize and rebuild the college. Doubtlessly, the four who will undertake these new assignments bring an exponential advance in our commitment to prepare graduates and transform lives through a Christ centered curricular and co-curricular experience."

Lake from page 2

partner with schools to pray for them, encourage teachers and prayer walk the campuses. They also deliver meals to needy individuals during Thanksgiving and collect food to distribute during certain times of the year.

The church also hosts speakers such as former Major League Baseball All-Star Darryl Strawberry, puts on revivals and takes its youth and college students on missions trips locally and

nationwide.

Owen said the staff believes an Acts 1:8 mindset is vital for a healthy church.

"We are carrying out the Great commission, here and there," Owen said. "Sometimes going to other places is the best way to see. It hopefully motivates mission giving and sometimes they are moved to enter the mission field. If you are not sharing the gospel with those in the backyard, you are missing the big picture."

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Submitted photo

The congregation of Johnson Bayou Baptist Church breaks ground on its new building during a special ceremony on June 22. Scheduled for completion in September, the new building will be a metal structure with wood interior. To protect itself from possible rising water, the 3,200-sq.-ft. structure will sit on beams 100 feet high.

Pushing past aside, persistent Johnson Bayou finally breaks ground on new church building

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

JOHNSON BAYOU – The past of Johnson Bayou Baptist Church is filled with far too many memories of damage and destruction caused by two hurricanes in the past 11 years.

Yet with each setback its members vowed not to give up, and promised not to dismiss the dream of finally one day rebuilding at its original location off Highway 82.

Now that persistence paid off with an official ground-breaking ceremony and the laying of the first boards of a new church building on June 22.

“After nearly eight years of not having a building, this is a dream come true,” said Pastor Jack Gandy.

Scheduled for completion sometime in September, the new building will be a metal structure with wood interior. Built by Brystar Construction of Beaumont, Texas, the cost is approximately \$575,000.

To protect itself from possible rising water in the future, the 3,200-sq.-ft. structure will sit on beams 10 feet high. Inside the building will be an auditorium with seating for 100, classrooms, a kitchen with a small fellowship area, restrooms and an elevator.

The original structure was damaged when Hurricane Rita made landfall Sept. 24, 2005, as 4-5 feet of floodwaters came inside the building and the high winds ripped apart the roof. Months passed be-

fore electricity was restored.

Throughout the next five months, Pastor, Les Fogleman lived in a donated camper on the church grounds and coordinated all of the renovations. Groups from Louisiana and outside the state began helping rebuild the church.

By Thanksgiving the first group of his members returned to the church and more slowly trickled into Johnson Bayou throughout the next few months.

Renovations to the worship center and some classrooms were complete by April 2006. All of the volunteers had now left, leaving church members to hold services once again inside the sanctuary.

But two years later another tragedy struck the church and community.

Hurricane Ike made landfall in Galveston, Texas, Sept. 13, 2008, causing considerable damage to the community including the destruction of most of the town’s buildings. Among those was Johnson Bayou Baptist Church.

Today, the town is showing signs of normalcy once again.

A new Johnson Bayou School, located adjacent to the new church site opened in late 2015.

Students had spent years going to school in temporary facilities after Rita destroyed the original structure.

Now community leaders are discussing building new homes in the area.

With the recent uptick in

construction, Gandy is optimistic about a community that at one time seemed to have little hope of returning to its former self.

“To me, the construction of these facilities is solid evidence that Johnson Bayou is healing from the wounds that Rita and Ike inflicted,” Gandy said. “We are looking at a new housing subdivision which will contain 69 housing units. And, with these facilities, we now have the means to provide full-time ministry to these people.”

Louisiana College waives costs for bivo Pastor Certificate program

PINEVILLE – Louisiana College is waiving tuition, books and fees for its bi-vocational Pastor Certificate program.

In an effort to assist bi-vocational pastors with formal ministry education and its expense, Louisiana College will launch two tracks of ministry study this fall, each of which offers 16 hours of accredited coursework.

The new certificate programs are significant financially, academically and practically. The Certificate in Pastoral Ministry prepares

students for pulpit ministry, and the Certificate in Missiology equips students with the skills to revitalize a church or to plant a new one.

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Wren: No good can come from embracing the use of alcohol

BY EDDIE WREN
Pastor FBC Rayville

RAYVILLE — I woke up Monday morning expecting to have a great day off, but the day soon hit a sour note. I came across an article shared on social media entitled: *Alcohol Abuse, Perry Noble, and the Church Response—What Now?*

I read the article and discovered Pastor Perry Noble had been removed as pastor from New Springs Church due to “unfortunate choices” which apparently included abuse of alcohol. I say apparently because the article does not spell it out but does say “board members had confronted Noble on numerous occasions regarding his use of alcohol.”



Eddie Wren

I do not know Perry Noble. I do not write to cast judgment upon him. I pray God will heal and remove any struggle he has with alcohol and I pray that he will have a God honoring ministry for the rest of his life.

I write because I am terribly concerned with the approach to alcohol by my generation of pastors and more the approach to alcohol by the next generation of pastors. There appears to be a growing trend of young pastors embracing the use of alcohol.

During a meeting at the Southern Baptist Convention there was a question asked of Al Mohler concerning the use of alcohol.

He masterfully answered the question informing everyone in the room that in order to be a part of the faculty of

Southern or a student one must agree to abstain from alcohol. But during that same meeting a pastor, whom many younger pastors admire, quipped he enjoyed a beer occasionally. There were smiles all around.

I know all the arguments: having one drink is not a sin, having a drink will not send you to Hell, Jesus drank wine, the disciples drank wine, on and on it goes. I have heard them all. But I am convinced if one does a study of the Bible from beginning to end, he will find an overwhelmingly negative view of the use of alcohol.

Consider Proverb 23: 29-31: *“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long over wine, those who go to taste mixed wine. So do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly; at the last it bites*

like a serpent and stings like a viper.”

I know those verses to be true.

Until I was 14 years old I had an alcoholic father. Though a very intelligent and talented person my father chose to drink alcohol. I have few memories of him when he was not intoxicated. I have lots of memories of him intoxicated.

My father’s choice to drink alcohol led to divorce. Alcoholism led to unemployment for a man who was highly sought after in the thriving furniture industry of North Mississippi.

Ultimately, indeed alcohol bit like a serpent when my father died on April 30, 1986 at the age of 40. He left three sons without a father. I know the sorrows of alcohol abuse.

There are lots of others who know the sorrows of alcohol as well.

MADD.org reports:

“Adults drank too much and drove about 121 million times per year – over 300,000 incidents of drinking and driving a day.”

“In 2014, 9,967 people died in drunk driving crashes – one every 53 minutes – and 290,000 were injured in drunk driving crashes.”

“In 2013, a total of 1,149 children 14 and younger were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. Of those 1,149 fatalities, 200 (17%) occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes. Out of those 200 deaths, 121 (61 percent) were occupants of vehicles with drivers who had BACs of .08 or higher, and another 29 children (15 percent) were pedestrians or pedal cyclists struck by drivers with BACs of .08 or higher.”

I could go on and on with negative stats concerning alcohol, but there is no need. There is no doubt, alcohol stings like a viper.

I am not ashamed I encourage people to totally abstain from alcohol. Yes, I get some arguments and I get some questions and resistance. But I ask the “resisters” a few questions and I will ask you to consider them as well.

1. When does drunkenness start?

Drunkenness is sinful. Someone says I wasn’t drunk, I was a little buzzed.

Well, wouldn’t we have to say when someone’s state is altered it is drunkenness? If one never drinks alcohol, he never has to worry about becoming drunk or when drunk starts.

2. Is it worth it?

If drinking escalates and drinking alcohol costs your ministry, is it worth it? If your child sees you drinking and grows up with the view it is “OK to have a beer,” but he or she goes on to be an alcoholic, is it worth it? If your child drinks at the legal age but has just a hair too much, but just enough to cause an accident and it kills him or her, is your occasional beer worth it? If one of your congregants sees you or hears of you having a beer and is turned off from the Gospel or begins drinking assuming if you do it, it must be ok and it leads him or her to alcoholism, is it worth it?

3. Should we be ingesting anything God says bites like a serpent and stings like a viper?

4. Is Jesus not enough? So many say, I have a drink to help me relax, I need a drink to help me relax. What happened to presenting our requests to God and allowing the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension to guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus? Now that is relaxing!

5. If you are not drinking for an altered state, why drink alcohol?

There is not a beer on earth (or any other alcoholic beverage for that matter) that tastes better than sweet tea or your favorite soda.

Again, I do not write this to judge or criticize any pastor or believer.

I write from experience and I write from concern. I encourage you to avoid the use and promotion of alcohol and I am convinced you will never regret not drinking alcohol.

In fact I have never met anyone who said, I wish I would have drunk more.

But I have met plenty who said they wished they had never tasted the stuff. You will never regret not drinking alcohol, but if you choose to drink alcohol, it is almost a certainty; you will have regrets about it.

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Camp USA has significant 'REACH' with its campers

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

TIOGA – Twenty-five churches in central Louisiana came together this week for an international mission trip in their own backyard.

Providing food every day, teaching English classes and sharing laughs over a day of fishing and swimming at an area lake, the churches' mission was clear – share the love of Christ to over 40 South Korean children in town for Camp USA.

A partnership of REACH Missions and the Korea Baptist Church Development Board, the camp involves 25 churches in three Baptist associations.

The children are participating in a Vacation Bible School at Alpine First Baptist Church and spending the afternoons participating in activities at area churches.

After a week in Central Louisiana, the campers will depart for southeast Louisiana and spend the remainder of their time in the Ponchatoula area.

While there, the children will participate with American children in a music day camp at First Baptist Church of Ponchatoula. The combined 90-voice choir will present 'Kidz Under Construction' at 6:30 pm July 31 at First Baptist Ponchatoula.

"Camp USA expands the vision of God's kingdom for both the children and the churches here," said Tim Hisaw, pastor of Tioga First Baptist Church. "We as churches in central Louisiana cooperate together to



Submitted photo

A group of South Koreans gather for a photo at the home of Darryl Hoychick, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Pineville. More than 40 children from the country are spending time in central and south Louisiana at Camp USA, a partnership of REACH missions, the Korea Baptist Church Development Board and 25 churches in three Louisiana Baptist associations. The children are participating in Vacation Bible School, English classes and cultural activities.

do things that would be very difficult for one church to do alone. Through our combined effort, the burden of ministry is divided and the blessing of ministry is multiplied."

Camp coordinator Susan Duke said the cultural experience and opportunity to take English classes are a draw that could lead to something much bigger – a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"I have had kids who attended camp here and returned to Korea, resulting in leading their parents to a relationship with Christ," Duke said. "They hear the Word and take it home. That's such a blessing."

Duke has visited South Korea on missions trips but

noted that not everyone is able to serve like this overseas.

She said Camp USA allows them to be that gospel witness without having to leave the borders of Rapides Parish.

"This is a foreign missions opportunity without having to travel to a foreign country," Duke said. "To me, that's the amazing thing of Camp USA. Some people may really want to go on an overseas mission trip but can't, so they sign up to help with Camp USA and are able to participate in an international mission trip at home."

SOUTH KOREANS GRATEFUL

For many of the South Korean children, the motivation for attending Camp USA is the opportunity to become immersed in Louisiana culture and brush up on the English language among Americans.

Yu Jun Sik enjoyed spending time with her host family, learning how a family from the U.S. interacts with one another.

"By talking with them during the week, I am able to speak better English," Sik said. "And we get to learn all kinds of Christian Bible stories that we can share with our friends back in South Korea."

Seoyeong Park was grateful for the warm hospitality shown by Louisiana Baptists.

"Coming from the city, where most of us live in apart-

ments, it's neat spending time in a big house," Park said. "I am making American friends, which I have never had before this week, and I look forward to keeping in touch with them even after I return home. One day I hope to come back here and bring some of my friends so they can experience all the fun and exciting things I have this week here."

Jeong Seon Ryu, with the

Korean Baptist Development Board, said this is his eighth Camp USA and each time it has been life-changing.

"I have a big heart for the children and the American community, who have become my friends through this journey," Ryu said. "Through the camp, I have been motivated by seeing the children and the churches here to share Christ's love even more."



Brian Blackwell photo

Camp USA participants enjoy a time of worship during Vacation Bible School at Alpine First Baptist Church. The students from South Korea spent a week in central Louisiana before finishing their trip in Ponchatoula.

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QUALIFICATIONS

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Louisiana Baptists celebrate church planting milestone

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – Louisiana Baptists are celebrating a milestone – nearing the 150th church planted since 2010.

According to John Herbert, missions and ministry team leader for Louisiana Baptists, the most recent church planted was in late July.

The achievement marks the half-way point for the goal of 300 churches planted by 2020.

The report of the President's 2020 Commission, affirmed by messengers during the 2013 LBC Annual Meeting in Alexandria, included 10 actions steps, of which one was to plant 300 churches by the year 2020.

Another milestone that should be reached by the end of the year is the 10,000th decision to follow Christ and the 2,000th baptism through church plants in their first 36 months of existence since 2010.

Funding for church plants is provided through the Georgia Barnette Offering for State Missions, the Cooperative Program and the North American Mission

LOUISIANA NOTABLES

ON THE MOVE

■ **Millard, wife Marion, Monk** resigns as pastor of Sunny Hill Baptist Church in Kurthwood.

HOMECOMING

■ Bayou Rouge Baptist Church, Evergreen: **175th Anniversary**, July 31, 11 a.m. Music: **Friends and Family Gospel Singers from Centerpoint**. A catered meal will follow morning services with additional musical presentations and an inflatable fun house for children. For more information, call 318.346.2419 or email davidtrimbur@gmail.com. Pastor: David Trimbur.

■ Hebron Baptist Church, Summerfield: **Homecoming**, Aug. 7, 10 a.m. Lunch will follow the service. Music will be by the former youth choir. Pastor: Kenneth Nutt

■ Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Pollock: **Homecoming**, Aug. 7, 11 a.m. Speaker: Casey Johnson. Worship: Pine Ridge Quartet. Pastor: Sammy Morrow.

■ First Baptist Church, Greensburg: **150th Homecoming**, Aug. 14, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: David Hankins. Music: Reggie Bridges. Dinner on the grounds will follow services at noon. Please join with us and our friends as we celebrate what the Lord has done for our church through the years. For more information or to get directions, please call 225.222.6580. Pastor: Tommy Smith.

REVIVAL

■ Beulah Baptist Church, Many: **Revival**, July 31-August 3, Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist**. Pastor: David Permenter.

■ Plainview Baptist Church, Hornbeck: **Revival**, August 7-10, 11a.m. & 6 p.m. Aug. 7 and 7 p.m. Aug. 8-10. Evangelist: **Chalk Artist Scotty McDowell of International Edifying Christ Ministries**. Nightly special music and fellowship.

■ First Baptist Church, Marion: **Revival**, August 7-10, Evangelist: **Joe Aulds**. Pastor: Bubba Hoggatt.

■ New Beulah Baptist Church, Hammond: **Revival**, August 7-10, Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday 7 p.m. Speaker: **Tim Norris**. Music: Price Harris. Pastor: L.C. Lord.

■ Fellowship Baptist Church, Dubach: **Revival**, August 7-10, services 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Sunday and 7p.m. Monday - Wednesday. Speaker: **Clint Davis** of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Mt. Pleasant, Tx. Music: Led by **Blake Davis** of North Monroe Baptist Church. Pastor: Connie M. Smith.

■ Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold: **Men's Event**, Aug. 13. Speaker: Sam Moore. Pastor: James Hester.

■ Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: **Unity Revival Meeting**, Aug. 14, 6 p.m. Pastor: Steven Kelly.

LAGNIAPPE

■ Plainview Baptist Church, Hornbeck: Has a **pastor vacancy**. Please send résumés to: Dwight Durrett, Chairman of the Deacons, Plainview Baptist Church, 2700 Toro Church Road, Hornbeck, LA. 71439 or email your résumé to trid411@gmail.com. For further information, call 318.652.0058.

■ First Baptist Church, DeRidder: **Father/Daughter Luau**, July 29, 6-8 p.m. This event, which is for all ages, will have food, games, fellowship and prizes. Cost: \$15 per family. Attire: Hawaiian shirts and sundresses. Deadline to sign up is July 27. For more information, contact the church office at 337.463.9047. Pastor: Josh Eubanks.

■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **Charles Billingsley in concert**, Aug. 1, 6:30 p.m. Cost: Free admission. For more information, contact Gina 318.442.0754. Pastor: Philip Robertson.

■ Victory Baptist Church, Monroe: **VBS on August 1-3 will be a Mega Sports Camp**. Ages K through Grade 5 completed are invited!

■ **"Friday Night Worship" at Foster Road Baptist Church**: Friday Night Worship, Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26, 6 p.m. for fellowship, 7 p.m. worship service. Speakers: Aug. 5, **Marvin Parks**, In His Hands Baptist Church, Baton Rouge; Aug. 12, **Leigh Rogers**, Dutchtown Baptist Church, Prairieville; Aug. 19, **Thomas Fletcher**, Faith Baptist Church, Baker; Aug. 26, **Rusty Reed**, Friendship Baptist Church, Baker. For more information, call the church at 225.775.0884.

■ New Zion Baptist Church, Covington: **New Zion**

WOM sponsored Luau (By All Means), Aug. 6, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Registration: 8:30 – 9 a.m. Speaker: **Janie Wise, Louisiana Women's Missions & Ministry Strategist**. There will be a continental breakfast and lunch. Cost: There is no admission charge but donations will be accepted to offset costs. For more information, call 985.892.4711 or 985.630.8229. Pastor: Clark Stewart.

■ Coteau Baptist Church, Houma: **Trevor Thomas 'Mr. Drama' will be live in concert**, Aug. 7, 5 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Wayne Hunt.

■ North Shreve Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Paul's Journey will be in concert**, Aug. 7, 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Roy Davis.

■ Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport: **ReGroup Conference**, Aug. 13. This conference is for pastors, church staff, Sunday school Leaders, and discipleship leaders. Speakers: **Steve Parr** (pastors and staff), **Alan Raughton** (Median And Senior Adult Leaders), **Alvin Reid** (Young Adult Leaders), **Brian Mills** (Youth Leaders), **Mark Jones** (Children and Preschool Leaders), **The MetCollective** (Worship Leaders). Cost: Early registration until Aug. 11, \$25 and \$30 afterwards. For more information, contact Sean Keith at the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

■ North Shreve Baptist Church, Shreveport: The Southern Plainsmen will be in concert, Aug. 13, 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Roy Davis.

■ First Baptist Church, Covington: **Young at Heart Group (55+) 30th Anniversary**, Aug. 16, 9 a.m. – noon. Featured Guests: Comedian Jimmy Travis and the Foto Sisters. There will be many door prizes, refreshments, music, and wonderful fellowship. The program concludes with lunch catered by Piccadilly. Cost: \$10 (payable at the door). Register online at www.fbccov.org/ministries/adults-55 or by calling the church office at 985.892.2149. Register by individual names unless you are registering and paying with one check for your group. Seating is limited and registrations are required as the caterer must be paid for all who are registered, so please contact the church before 4 p.m. Aug. 10 if you must cancel. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.

Louisiana Baptist FOUNDATION

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Kim Folse was selected for the month of June. She chose her church, Philadelphia Baptist in Deville, to be the recipient of \$1000 because of the support they provide to adoption ministries.

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For information, rules and a link to on-line submission, go to: www.baptistmessage.com/give-a-gift/

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.

wpu nrth nrwn jtit jsnr bt dwj sputtu nrt csvrn,

wpu jtit wqiwsu; zgn nrth rtwiu pan nrt easyt aq

rsb nrwn dlwot na bt.

Wynd njtpnh-nja:pspt

Clues:
J = W; T = E

Answer to July 14 Scripture Crypto:
Second kings five: twenty-four

PreTeen Invasion offers double the fun in August

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

RUSTON/LAFAYETTE – At next month’s PreTeen Invasion, Louisiana Baptist youth, fourth through sixth graders, are in for double the fun.

Why?

Participants will have the choice between two locations – Temple Baptist Church in Ruston on Aug. 20 or First Baptist Church in Lafayette on Aug. 27 – for this age group’s annual evangelism conference.

PreTeen Invasion will take place at two separate locations on two separate dates, and it will offer games, interactive activities, worship, Gospel opportunities, and just a great time for the children involved.

“PreTeen Invasion has become the go-to event to celebrate back to school,” said Dave Anderson, Children Ministry Strategist for the Louisiana Baptist Conven-

tion. “Statistics show that these years are prime for young people to make a life-long commitment to Christ. PreTeen Invasion presents a wonderful opportunity for the kids.”

The event will feature encouraging messages by Eric Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., music by the worship team from Cypress Baptist Church in Benton and Louisiana College’s interactive games team. Free inflatables and other games will also be on hand to entertain the students during lunchtime.

The theme for this year’s PreTeen Invasion is “Are U In,” based on 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Registration for PreTeen Invasion begins at 8 a.m., with the event starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. Registration is \$35/person. Info and a registration form is at <http://louisianabaptists.org/pti>.



Brian Blackwell photo

Each summer, hundreds of teens enjoy a time of worship, games and challenging messages during PreTeen Invasion. This year’s evangelism conference, which is for fourth through sixth graders will feature Eric Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church in Norfolk, the worship team from Benton’s Cypress Baptist Church and the Louisiana College’s interactive games team. Participants will have a choice to attend one of two locations – Temple Baptist Church in Ruston or First Baptist Church in Lafayette.


 LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

ReGROUP

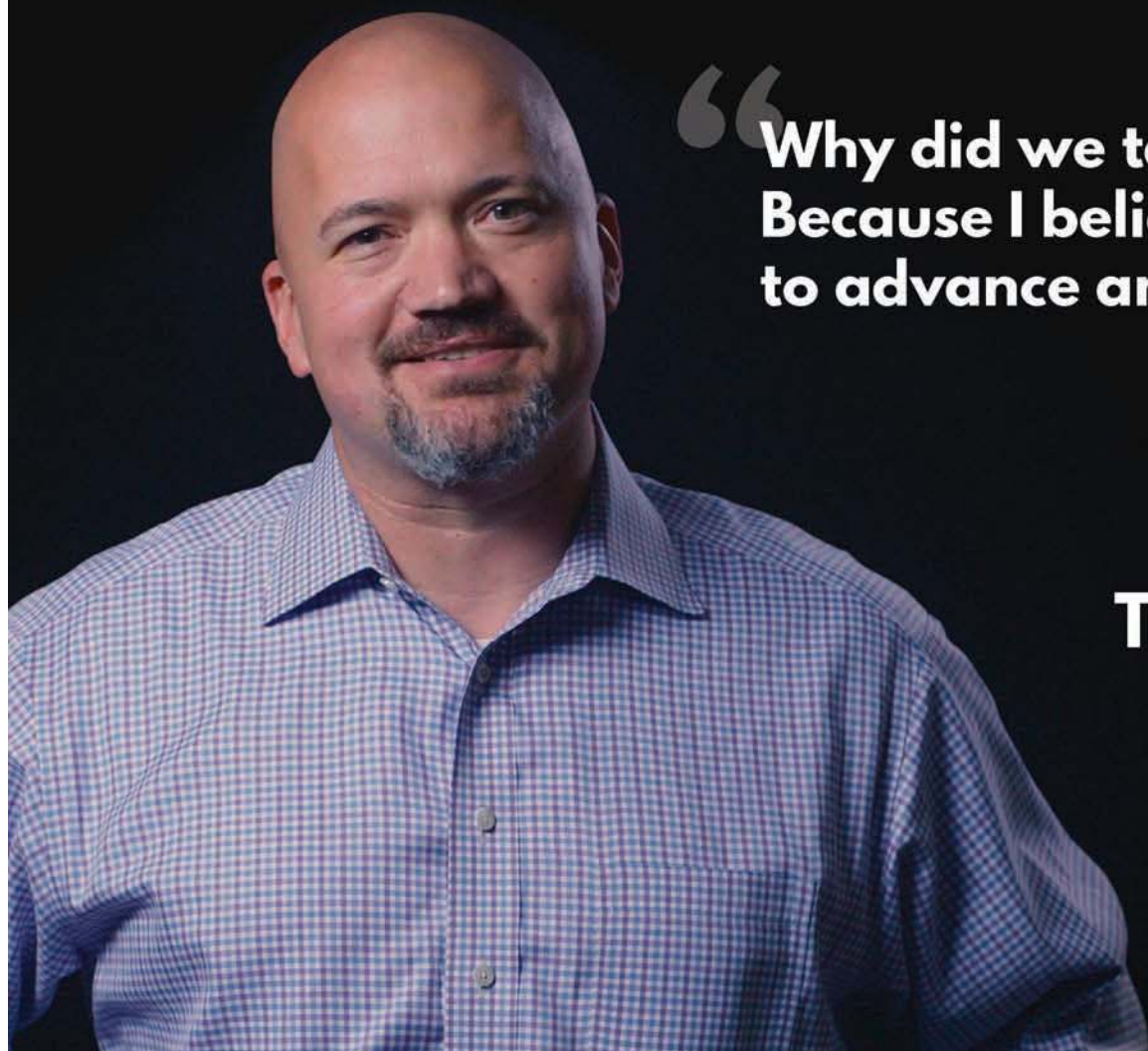
CONFERENCE 2016

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13
 SUMMER GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
 SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Info and Registration: www.LouisianaBaptists.org/ReGroup

We're in.

Join us.



“**Why did we take the Pledge?
Because I believe this is the time
to advance and not retreat.**”

*Dr. Gevan Spinney
Pastor, First Haughton
President, Louisiana Baptist Convention*

ThePledgeLA.org

*Figures Reflect 2016
Mid-Year Report*



“Jesus has challenged us to take the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the world. We can do this best together!”

Dr. David Cranford
First, Ponchatoula

| Acadia Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Baton Rouge Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Bayou Macon Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Bienville Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Carey Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Concord Union Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Deer Creek Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Central Louisiana Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Delta Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Beauregard Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Big Creek Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Bienville Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Baton Rouge Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Concord Union Association | | 2016 | 2015 | Deer Creek Association | | 2016 | 2015 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Calvary, Opelousas | | 1,033.70 | 710.00 | Graceworks, Prairieville | | 136,717.76 | 133,338.92 | First, Lake Providence | | 15,023.13 | 10,869.75 | New Beginnings, Castor | | 2,328.49 | | 56,379.15 | 52,885.89 | Providence, Downsville | | 4,339.92 | 3,134.88 | Baskin, Baskin | | 13,120.15 | 12,694.75 | Calvary, Opelousas | | 1,033.70 | 710.00 | Harvest Time, Ville Platte | | | | Bethany, Newellton | | 663.97 | 216.71 | Beauregard Friendship, DeRidder | | 3,587.04 | 3,587.04 | Bethel, Colfax | | 19,944.71 | 12,203.58 | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Restoration Church, Donaldsonville | | | | Arkadelphia, Pitkin | | 5,599.76 | 4,646.14 | Big Creek, Dry Prong | | 3,085.31 | 2,991.48 | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Beauregard Memorial, Longville | | 4,000.00 | 3,150.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 125,000.00 | 150,000.00 | Church of Life, Gardere | | | | Brusly Creek, Bancroft | | 2,030.00 | 1,740.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Calvary, Merryville | | 12,558.06 | 10,644.02 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 125,000.00 | 150,000.00 | Church of Life, Gardere | | | | Cherry Grove, Dry Creek | | 12,558.06 | 10,644.02 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Cypress Creek, DeRidder | | 1,800.00 | 3,000.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Diamond, DeRidder | | 1,186.80 | 1,637.29 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Dry Creek, DeRidder | | 13,825.02 | 13,350.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Emanuel Hispanic, DeRidder | | | | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Faith, Ragley | | 1,077.62 | 1,025.20 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | First, DeRidder | | 39,004.89 | 40,200.63 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | First, Longville | | 22,044.00 | 22,044.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | First, Merryville | | 5,303.77 | 5,919.39 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | First, Starks | | | 490.47 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Glade Branch, Leesville | | | | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Glad Hope, Singer | | 600.00 | 900.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Green Oak, Merryville | | 1,949.92 | 2,659.14 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Hebron, Kinder | | | | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Hilltop, DeRidder | | 280.00 | 210.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Hopewell Community, DeRidder | | 467.96 | 919.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Lone Star, Pitkin | | 169.40 | | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Ludington, DeRidder | | 1,414.00 | | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Magnolia, Ragley | | 4,253.20 | 10,536.52 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Houma, Leesville | | 125.00 | 556.40 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Mystic, Merryville | | 1,998.71 | 2,277.13 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | New Life, DeRidder | | 10,045.61 | 16,278.89 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Oaklin Springs, Oberlin | | 43.00 | 819.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Occupy Two, Pitkin | | 5,982.78 | 4,273.88 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Palestine, Grant | | 12,558.06 | 12,061.65 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Pilgrims Rest, Dequincy | | 501.00 | 500.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Pine Ridge, DeRidder | | 1,283.56 | 379.19 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Pleasant Hill, DeRidder | | 6,942.54 | 7,451.64 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Providence, Leesville | | | | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Reeves, Reeves | | | 890.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Shady Grove, Pitkin | | 960.00 | 890.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Shiloh, DeRidder | | 2,320.35 | 2,320.35 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Singer, Singer | | 2,467.77 | 2,007.80 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Smyrna, DeRidder | | 720.00 | 720.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Sugartown, Sugartown | | 858.73 | 682.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Temple, DeRidder | | 2,719.00 | 3,093.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Texas Avenue, DeRidder | | 4,204.00 | 1,989.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Unity, DeRidder | | 2,400.00 | 2,400.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Westview, DeRidder | | 6,067.08 | 5,498.16 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Alabama, Arcadia | | 300.00 | 750.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Bryceland, Bienville | | 682.59 | | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Carolina, Saline | | | 226.74 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Cypress Springs, Gibsland | | 196.36 | | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | First, Arcadia | | 32,705.02 | 28,662.43 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | First, Bienville | | 917.57 | 1,507.57 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | First, Castor | | 2,600.00 | 1,700.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | First, Gibsland | | 1,567.45 | 1,628.91 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | First, Ringgold | | 7,584.22 | 6,937.89 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Friendship, Bienville | | 1,800.00 | 1,800.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida, Athens | | 454.12 | 453.20 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Jamestown, Jamestown | | 300.00 | 300.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Magnolia, Saline | | 3,500.00 | 3,000.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Mt Lebanon, Gibsland | | 250.00 | 300.00 | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | | Mt Olive, Quitman | | | | Calvary, Alexandria | | 1,480.51 | | Baton Rouge | | 3,442.00 | 3,649.00 | Riverbend, Baton Rouge | | | |



www.ThePledgeLA.org

| Two Rivers Association | 2016 | 2015 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bethel, Kentwood | 660.00 | 660.00 |
| Chappapeela, Amite | - | - |
| Chesbrough, Kentwood | 320.00 | 472.00 |
| Cross-Point Mission | - | - |
| Crossroad Fellowship, Amite | - | - |
| Darlington, Greensburg | - | - |
| East Fork, Kentwood | 9,925.55 | 12,672.52 |
| El Camino Hispanic, Hammond | - | 428.30 |
| First, Amite | 10,622.42 | 14,049.30 |
| First, Greensburg | 4,080.17 | 3,899.01 |
| First, Kentwood | 34,865.44 | 34,250.36 |
| First, Roseland | 1,599.06 | 3,220.62 |
| Friendship, Amite | 2,077.94 | 2,089.46 |
| Grangeville, Pine Grove | - | - |
| Greenlaw, Kentwood | 2,472.55 | - |
| Hillsdale, Amite | 5,849.79 | 5,227.74 |
| Kedron, Amite | 3,463.81 | 2,563.60 |
| Lewiston, Kentwood | - | - |
| Line Creek, Kentwood | 6,369.00 | 5,288.00 |
| Montpelier, Montpelier | 2,502.00 | 2,400.00 |
| Mt Nebo, Roseland | 3,134.45 | 3,217.56 |
| New Sharon, Husser | 4,646.85 | 5,184.08 |
| New Zion, Kentwood | 4,497.64 | 4,803.52 |
| Pleasant Hill, Pine Grove | 4,674.97 | 5,945.55 |
| Red Bluff, Greensburg | - | - |
| Spring Creek, Kentwood | 20,632.45 | 15,523.17 |
| Tangipahoa, Kentwood | 2,240.00 | 4,295.00 |
| The Lord's Church, Kentwood | 1,474.05 | 1,157.00 |
| Westview, Amite | - | 91.30 |

| Vernon Baptist Association | 2016 | 2015 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Anacoco First, Anacoco | 20,592.63 | 26,529.85 |
| Antioch, Slagle | 1,500.00 | 1,750.00 |
| Big Hammock, Leander | - | - |
| Calvary, Leesville | - | - |
| Canaan, Leesville | 7,615.00 | 6,312.00 |
| Castor, Leesville | 3,751.15 | 2,755.15 |
| Cold Springs, Anacoco | - | - |
| Comrade, Temple | 254.00 | 402.00 |
| Cooper, Leesville | 16,661.16 | 17,199.37 |
| Crystal Springs, Anacoco | - | 100.00 |
| East Leesville, Leesville | 12,000.00 | 14,000.00 |
| El Alfa Y La Omega, Leesville | 288.18 | 1,144.39 |
| First, Leesville | 13,474.61 | 11,868.60 |
| First, Pitkin | 963.46 | 1,432.77 |
| Flactor, Leesville | 3,329.93 | 4,694.16 |
| Freedom Rest, Anacoco | - | - |
| Fullerton, Pitkin | - | - |
| Galilee, Evans | 2,599.74 | 2,320.73 |
| Good Hope, Anacoco | 700.00 | 500.00 |
| Gravel Hill, Pitkin | 807.12 | 1,093.96 |
| Laurel Hill, Leesville | 2,457.30 | 3,179.06 |
| Leesville Korean, Leesville | 950.00 | 900.00 |
| Mount Bethel, Leesville | - | - |
| Mt Carmel, DeRidder | 737.10 | 874.57 |
| Mt Moriah, Hineston | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 |
| Mt Olive, Pitkin | - | - |
| New Birth, Leesville | 300.00 | 200.00 |
| New Llano FBC | - | - |
| Oak Forest, Leesville | 600.00 | 500.00 |

| Vernon Baptist Association | 2016 | 2015 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Oak Grove, LaCamp | - | - |
| Old Anacoco, Leesville | 3,985.00 | 3,635.00 |
| Pine Grove, Mora | - | - |
| Pine Hill, Leesville | 2,588.00 | 2,954.00 |
| Pine Land, Mora | - | - |
| Pisgah, Clifton | - | - |
| Pleasant View, Hornbeck | - | - |
| Prewitts Chapel, Hornbeck | 2,045.62 | 1,475.49 |
| Sandy Hill, Leesville | 2,266.50 | 1,789.44 |
| Silver Creek, Leesville | 1,002.20 | 870.44 |
| Simpson, Simpson | - | 10,942.00 |
| Slagle, Slagle | 2,370.61 | 3,044.67 |
| South Park, Leesville | - | - |
| Spanish Branch, Mora | - | - |
| Sunny Hill, Leesville | 663.58 | 736.85 |

| Washington Association | 2016 | 2015 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Angie, Angie | 12,081.96 | 9,933.24 |
| Bethel, Franklinton | 4,390.48 | 5,404.78 |
| Bogue Chitto Heights, Franklinton | 469.89 | 1,186.45 |
| Bogue Chitto, Mount Hermon | 6,327.13 | 4,099.87 |
| Bonner Creek, Franklinton | - | 977.00 |
| Briarwood, Franklinton | 6,193.00 | 5,542.00 |
| Clifton, Franklinton | 5,408.10 | 5,543.84 |
| Cornerstone, Bogalusa | 255.00 | 42.00 |
| Enon, Franklinton | 10,084.32 | 8,880.35 |
| Faith Church, Franklinton | - | - |
| First, Bogalusa | 13,088.90 | 7,081.67 |
| First, Franklinton | 30,522.41 | 32,533.83 |
| First, Sun | 360.00 | 360.00 |
| Hays Creek, Franklinton | 1,614.05 | 1,697.09 |
| Highland, Bogalusa | 6,654.06 | 4,947.26 |
| Hillcrest, Franklinton | 23,178.71 | 22,488.20 |
| Isabel, Bogalusa | 917.74 | 1,854.60 |
| Lee's Creek, Bogalusa | 10,017.37 | 10,276.44 |
| Main Street, Bogalusa | 1,758.00 | 3,587.00 |
| Memorial, Bogalusa | 19,379.10 | 22,209.16 |
| Monroe Street, Bogalusa | 3,865.00 | 2,801.00 |
| Mt Hermon, Mt Hermon | 8,023.56 | 6,801.53 |
| Mt Pisgah, Mount Hermon | 600.00 | 500.00 |
| Mt Pleasant, Bogalusa | 5,194.78 | 7,635.99 |
| Nueva Vida en Cristo, Bogalusa | 89.64 | 62.22 |
| Palestine, Bogalusa | 16,565.69 | 7,587.99 |
| Pine First, Pine | 5,982.17 | 12,296.91 |
| Plainview, Bogalusa | 4,633.41 | 3,343.10 |
| Pleasant Hill, Bogalusa | - | - |
| SBC Varnado, Angie | - | 412.00 |
| Springhill, Franklinton | 100.00 | 400.00 |
| Sunlight, Franklinton | - | - |
| Sunny Hill, Mount Hermon | - | - |
| Superior Avenue, Bogalusa | 13,261.29 | 4,609.39 |
| Thomas Baptist, Franklinton | 1,036.00 | 2,578.00 |
| Trinity, Franklinton | 2,834.99 | - |
| Victory, Franklinton | 1,309.02 | 1,537.33 |
| Westside Emmanuel, Bogalusa | 6,211.14 | 5,336.57 |

| Webster Claiborne Assoc. | 2016 | 2015 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Antioch, Minden | - | - |
| Beech Springs, Minden | 5,864.80 | 9,192.67 |
| Bistineau, Heflin | 11,621.57 | 13,301.71 |
| Calvary, Homer | 10,814.00 | 6,306.00 |
| Calvary, Springhill | 3,754.00 | 4,544.00 |
| Central, Springhill | 30,000.00 | 36,000.00 |

| Webster Claiborne Assoc. | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Colquitt, Haynesville | 100.00 | 300.00 |
| Cornerstone, Cotton Valley | - | - |
| Emmanuel, Arcadia | 5,179.87 | 5,739.51 |
| Emmanuel, Minden | 9,296.75 | 6,929.25 |
| FBC, Cotton Valley | 1,939.15 | 1,776.18 |
| Fellowship, Dubberly | 569.22 | 453.66 |
| First, Doyline | 8,134.39 | 7,835.15 |
| First, Haynesville | 20,330.12 | 22,464.26 |
| First, Homer | 23,640.76 | 26,298.35 |
| First, Minden | 162,022.09 | 192,050.80 |
| First, Sibley | 80.93 | 770.34 |
| Fryeburg, Dubberly | 3,098.52 | 3,182.01 |
| Germantown, Minden | 1,152.90 | 1,623.42 |
| Gilgal, Minden | 50.00 | 300.00 |
| Hebron, Summerfield | 480.00 | 480.00 |
| Heflin, Heflin | 11,835.53 | 11,093.62 |
| Holly Springs, Homer | 1,124.45 | 1,263.60 |
| Midway, Sarepta | 2,182.12 | 3,696.63 |
| Mount Paran, Shongaloo | 5,273.87 | 5,673.88 |
| Mt Olive, Athens | 2,100.00 | 1,500.00 |
| New Hope, Homer | 546.41 | - |
| New Sarepta, Sarepta | 8,664.33 | 9,724.56 |
| North Acres, Minden | 14,729.86 | 16,502.20 |
| Old Union, Shongaloo | 750.00 | 1,100.00 |
| Parkway, Minden | 525.27 | 729.98 |
| Pilgrim's Rest, Doyline | - | - |
| Pleasure Point, Homer | 2,919.89 | 2,572.16 |
| Primera Iglesia Cristo Es La Roca, Minden | 689.00 | 673.00 |
| Rocky Springs, Lisbon | 20,014.39 | 20,947.52 |
| Ruple, Haynesville | 3,865.43 | 4,178.69 |
| Summerfield, Summerfield | 300.00 | 250.00 |
| Temple, Springhill | 667.70 | 978.83 |
| Union Springs, Shongaloo | 1,781.00 | 1,507.00 |
| Unity, Cotton Valley | 5,051.35 | 5,442.03 |
| West Lake, Doyline | 6,369.57 | 7,050.17 |

| William Wallace Assoc. | 2016 | 2015 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bethany of Baywood, Clinton | - | - |
| B-Line, Angola | - | - |
| Bluff Creek, Clinton | 12,552.00 | 7,122.00 |
| Body of Christ, Baker | - | - |
| Eastside, Zachary | 1,883.00 | 1,452.40 |
| Ethel, Ethel | 4,619.00 | 5,850.50 |
| Feliciana, Clinton | 33,233.55 | 25,777.14 |
| First, Clinton | - | - |
| First, Jackson | 10,578.53 | 9,998.42 |
| First, Slaughter | 5,625.06 | 5,868.45 |
| First, St Francisville | 27,161.62 | 27,584.90 |
| First, Wilson | 375.00 | 225.75 |
| First, Zachary | 154,496.00 | 169,133.00 |
| Galilee, Zachary | 14,495.02 | 11,669.58 |
| Milldale, Zachary | 125.00 | 150.00 |
| Norwood, Norwood | 10,076.59 | 4,025.86 |
| Plank Road, Slaughter | 1,400.00 | 1,400.00 |
| Port Hudson, Zachary | 750.00 | 750.00 |
| Providence 1, Ethel | 450.00 | 324.62 |
| Redwood, Slaughter | 3,600.00 | 3,000.00 |
| Sandy Creek, Pride | 12,688.65 | 10,438.76 |
| Second, Jackson | 930.14 | 745.55 |
| Tunica Hills, Tunica | - | - |
| Wakefield, Wakefield | - | - |

Recent events remind us of the brokenness of our state, our country and our world. Policy does not change hearts. Political parties do not transform lives. Only the Truth, God's truth, can bring freedom, transformation and reconciliation.

In light of the condition of our culture, we cannot afford to maintain a "business as usual" attitude in our labor for the Gospel.

When we work together our labor is divided and our influence is multiplied. This is the genius of the Cooperative Program.

The previous pages reflect the giving of Louisiana Baptist churches through the first part of 2016. Thank you for your faithfulness. Many parts of our state have been adversely affected by the downturn in the energy sector, yet you remain faithful in your giving to ensure that our Great Commission ministries and missions continue. God bless you for your sacrificial gifts.

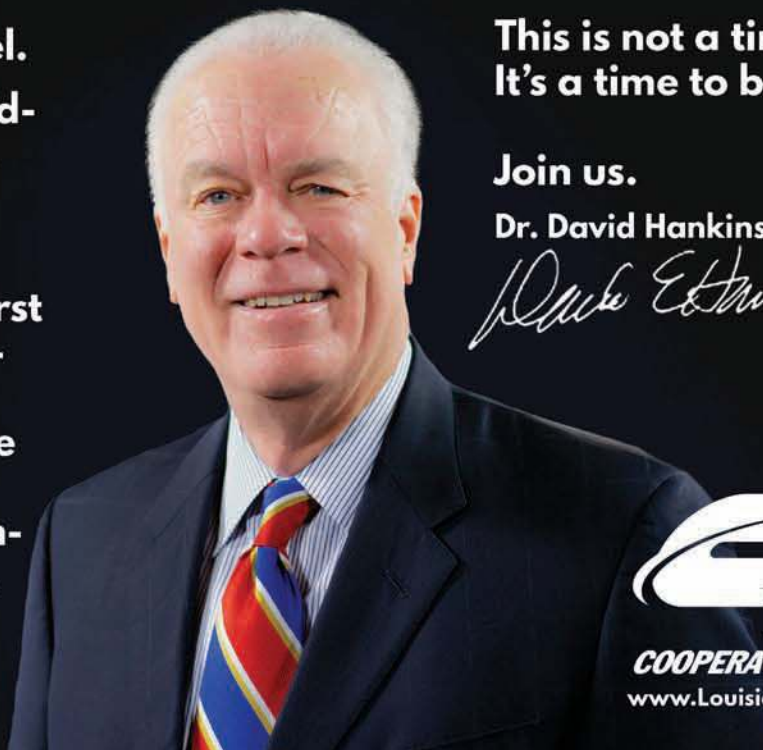
There has never been a more critical time for believers and churches to work together to share the gospel.

The lives of the lost are at stake and we need to give like we've never given before to rescue, to reach and to restore our state, nation and world.

This is not a time to fold. It's a time to be bold.

Join us.

Dr. David Hankins

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
www.LouisianaBaptists.org/CP