

*“Rejoice in hope,
be patient in
tribulation, be
constant
in prayer.”*

— Romans 12:12 (ESV)

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Volume 131 • Issue No. 22

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November 17, 2016

YEC expected to draw thousands for ‘spiritual boost’



YEC Speaker Ed Newton

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

LAFAYETTE — At an early age, Ed Newton was faced with a challenge few eight-year-old boys deal with — serving as interpreter for both of his deaf parents.

In the midst of that adversity, God drew Newton to a personal relationship with Christ and grew him to become the spiritual leader of one of the largest congregations in the U.S.

Now, the 40-year-old pastor of the 27,000-member Community Bible Church in San Antonio, Texas, uses those experiences of his early life to



help youth who are dealing with difficult circumstances.

“I made a commitment to [Louisiana Baptist Youth Strategist] Steve Maltempi several years ago to always pour into the lives of teenagers,” Newton said. “Developing the next generation as strong spiritual leaders is crucial. I am very excited about what God will do at YEC.”

Called to the ministry as a high school senior, Newton is no stranger to student evangelism. He has served as a youth pastor, faculty member at Student Leadership University in Orlando, Fla., and executive director of the LIFT TOUR, an extension of Student Leadership University in partnership with LifeWay Students.

Newton will share his story with more thousands of students expected to attend the Youth Evangelism Celebration -- the largest gathering of Louisiana Baptists each year -- scheduled for Nov. 20-21 at the Cajundome in Lafayette.

See YEC on 12

Harvest kickoff highlights ECON

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

RUSTON — The Harvest evangelistic initiative, a two-year statewide soul-winning campaign, will kick off officially at the 2017 Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference with an outreach effort targeting teens and college students.

The Evangelism Conference also will feature inspiring messages by speakers

See ECON on 2

LIFE RESTORED

Child withstands death’s sting, physically & spiritually

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

SHREVEPORT — Just two years ago, little Hayden Heaberlin was facing the fight of his life, one that no four year old should have to face — a battle with cancer.

But those days of darkness were pierced by the light of God’s mercy and provision.

There was the time when 50 people from his church surrounded his home in a prayer circle while his family was with him in Memphis, Tenn., where he was receiving treatments; and, there were countless times when his family relayed to him text messages, phone calls and letters of encouragement.

But not even the news that his cancer was in remission caused him to celebrate like he did Oct. 23 when he was bap-

“... my battle with cancer was tough, but I got through it because God helped me. He can do anything. God healed me.”

Six-year-old
Hayden Heaberlin

tized at Calvary Baptist Church in Shreveport.

The worship center was packed with happy family, friends and church members, and Hayden was all smiles as Pastor John Lary baptized him.

“You are a new person,” Hayden said about his conversion. “You don’t look different on the outside but on the inside.”

Hayden said his battle with cancer “was tough, but I got through it because God helped me.”

“He can do anything,” Hayden added. “God healed me.”

His mom April describes the day Hayden gave his heart and life to Christ as the day the Lord restored her son physically and spiritually, and she discusses it in stark contrasting terms compared to the day she learned about her son’s cancer.

“When I found out his diag-



Courtesy of Calvary Baptist Church

Six-year-old Hayden Heaberlin, who has battled cancer for much of his young life, is all smiles as he listens intently to Calvary Baptist Pastor John Lary moments before being baptized Oct. 23.

nosis, it’s like we were stripped of all that control and truly had nothing to depend on but the Lord,” she said. “At some points we didn’t know what to

pray, but we trusted God’s will. “Seeing people rally around us and pray for us was such

See RESTORED on 5

2 2017 Evangelism Conference

ECON from page one

from Louisiana and beyond, Jan. 23-24, at Temple Baptist Church. Still, the sessions will focus primarily on the Harvest initiative, which aims to enlist at least 700 Louisiana Baptist churches to “pray for every home and share Christ with every person” in Louisiana.

SOUL-WINNING FOCUS

Scheduled during the first session of the Evangelism Conference, the kickoff will feature a Gospel presentation by Ed Newton, pastor of Community Bible Church in San Antonio, Texas. Prior to his message, students will gather inside the church family life center for a pizza party and entertainment.

Organizers are encouraging churches around the state to host simultaneous similar events – including the show-

ing of the live Internet broadcast of Newton’s message -- to broaden the geographic reach of this initial event.

The remaining sessions of the Evangelism Conference will be broadcast over the Internet as well.

Wayne Jenkins, evangelism and church growth director for Louisiana Baptists, said youth ministers and students will learn more about the pizza party outreach event during the Youth Evangelism Celebration, Nov. 20-21, at the Cajundome in Lafayette.

“The Monday evening session of the Evangelism Conference will offer a chance for any church to reach the lost, particularly students who will be encouraged to invite their friends to a pizza party wherever their church may be located,” Jenkins said. “By offering the Internet as an option for

those unable to drive to the session at Temple Baptist, we are making it possible for the Gospel to be heard at one time by potentially thousands of people in Louisiana. We hope students and other Louisiana Baptists will join us for this session and the remaining sessions of the Evangelism Conference as we will offer many training opportunities to help equip our people for potentially the largest joint evangelistic effort our state has seen.”

After spending 2016 to plan and enlist leaders and churches and using 2017 to conduct statewide evangelism training and pilot different methods, Louisiana Baptists will join together across the state in 2018 in prayer events and intentional soul-winning activities.

The cooperative effort will include a diversity of approaches such as multi-church crusades, one-on-one evangelism, single-church revivals and other activities which leverage compassion ministries to share about the love of Christ.

“The Harvest is not a program developed by the Baptist Building,” Jenkins said. “It grew out of the heart of (Louisiana Baptist Convention President) Gevan Spinney and other pastors and leaders. It is a movement as opposed to a program. It is probably is one of the greatest opportunities we have to

impact the maximum number of people at one time in Louisiana.”

ECON LINEUP

Headlining the list of speakers is Vance Pitman, senior pastor of Hope Church in Las Vegas, Nev.; Bill Britt, evangelist, and president of Compel Outreach International in Wylie, Texas; Phil Waldrep, founder and president of Phil Waldrep Ministries in Decatur, Ala.; K. Marshall Williams, senior pastor of Nazarene Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pa.; Gary Frost, national facilitator of prayer and compassion initiatives for Mission America Coalition in Palm Desert, Calif.; Gevan Spinney, Louisiana Baptist Convention president and pastor of First Baptist Church in Haughton; and Dennis Watson, pastor of Celebration Church in the New Orleans area.

Ray Jones will lead music and will be joined by: the Community Bible praise team from San Antonio, Texas; Squire Parsons, an award-winning Southern Gospel artist who wrote the song “Sweet Beulah Land”; and a combined local church choir.

The conference also will feature breakout sessions and the senior adult lunch, both on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

Topics for the sessions will be geared toward equip-

ping leaders for the Harvest initiative. Topics include how to pray for every home, coordinating a small town crusade and holding an effective simultaneous revival.

“Pastors, don’t come alone,” Jenkins said. “Bring four to five people to attend the different breakout sessions so your people are equipped for the next two years. They can catch a vision on what the Harvest is like and they will be equipped for what could be a catalyst for spiritual awakening in Louisiana for 2017 and 2018.”

SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

The senior adult lunch at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 24 will feature music by Squire Parsons and a message by Phil Waldrep.

During his message, Waldrep will discuss his newest book “Reaching Your Prodigal: *What Did I Do Wrong? What Do I Do Know?*”

“We’re encouraging everyone to come early and stay late to hear some other great speakers,” said Jeff Ingram, adult ministry strategist for Louisiana Baptists. “In particular, there will be several breakout sessions on that Tuesday afternoon. Phil Waldrep will lead a breakout on his new book. Please come join Baptists from across Louisiana and be inspired, encouraged, and motivated to share the Gospel.”

The cost for the senior adult lunch is \$12 and tickets can be purchased through Jan. 16 at <http://louisianabaptists.org/senior-adult-luncheon/>.

Keep up to date with the Evangelism Conference by downloading the ECON App. Available for iPhone and Android phones, the app will feature the conference schedule, links to bible.com and whatvalue-most.com, salvation verses, weather alerts and more.



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Diversity creates unity for Cornerstone congregation

BY TAMMY SHARP

Regional Correspondent

SHREVEPORT – Members of Cornerstone Community Church do not see color at all, said Pastor John Anderson. “We see family.”

Indeed, the two-year-old church, whose Sunday worship attendance has reached as high as 80, represents a rainbow of races, with membership comprising approximately 60 percent Blacks, 30 percent Whites, and 10 percent Hispanics – a unique mix, especially considering recent racial tensions that have plagued many communities.

“Because Christ is the one who breaks down the middle wall, what’s going on in our nation is not affecting our unity at all,” said Anderson. “We realize this is a sin issue, not a white/black issue.”

Anderson, who is white, has been pastor of Cornerstone Community Church in Bossier City for two years, as



Cornerstone Community Church

Members of Cornerstone Community Church, posing in front of the Meadowview Mission Center in Bossier City, is a unique mix of races. The two-year-old church plant has seen tremendous growth because of its diversity.

of November.

But he began planting seeds as early as Oct. 31, 2011, when, as part of his job with the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission, he first set up a tent downtown to minister to gang members, prostitutes and the home-

less, baptizing them in the Red River as people came to know the Lord.

After three years, he was laid off from the rescue mission, but not from the call to minister. Although he lost all his equipment, including the tent and sound equipment, he

continued preaching under a nearby bridge and began looking for a facility for the seedling congregation that was forming.

Then, Lane Moore, director of missions for the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association, hired Anderson

as the association’s compassion ministry strategist. Appropriately enough, Anderson was tasked with building bridges between Baptist churches and the cultures in their neighborhoods.

Moore also pointed Anderson to another body of about eight believers who had been using the association’s incubator building, the Meadowview Mission Center, as its meeting place.

This group and Anderson’s agreed to merge, becoming Cornerstone Community Church.

“We knew in our heart that we wanted to take the same DNA we were as a ministry into a church,” said Anderson. Thus, Cornerstone continues to do outreach on the streets of Bossier City, praying for people and loving on people, Anderson added. Aside from traditional outreach, such as block parties, fall festivals and food pantry

See **CORNERSTONE** on 5

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Louisiana College thankful to God, grateful of GuideOne

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE – Louisiana College president Rick Brewer credits God and GuideOne insurance for the \$12 million of ongoing campus improvement projects that stem from an April 2015 hail storm.

Since late May, 17 of 18 school buildings have received new roofs, and some facilities have received interior upgrades.

Brewer calls all of the improvements a miracle.

“How all of this has unfolded is nothing short of God’s work,” Brewer said. “What began as the inspection of one hail-damaged roof led to the discovery of additional damage caused by an April storm, a year ago. We could not be more grateful for the consideration and cooperation of GuideOne insurance.”

Louisiana College contacted GuideOne insurance to request an inspection, which revealed the refurbishment would be rather costly but the insurer agreed to cover all the repairs.

Additionally, Campers on Mission, a national Christian fellowship, offered to do some repairs and updates in other areas of the campus.

They launched the first wave of construction, refurbishing a fountain near Alexandria Hall, the main administration building, and formed concrete steps close

to a dormitory. They also painted numerous curbs, refinished doors on several buildings and repainted a residence hall.

Many of the campers who assisted with the May projects are retired and travel the state lending a hand as a way to do missions.

Their time spent on campus saved Louisiana College thousands of dollars.

Once Campers on Mission wrapped up their week in Pineville, professional workers began to reshape the campus even more.

Guinn Auditorium will receive the most improvements.

The building, used for chapel services, commencement exercises and other large gatherings, will receive a new roof, ceilings, walls, flooring and seating.

SPRING 2018 DEADLINE

College officials are hopeful the improvements will be complete by spring 2018.

Cottingham Hall also received major exterior and interior work. Projects included new carpet in the lobbies, corridors and main entrance area; freshly painted walls; upgraded electrical power service; new wireless points for Internet service; new bathrooms; and, the replacement of two existing air-handling units, pumps and piping.

For students looking for

enhanced entertainment options, a ‘lounge project’ in Tudor Hall offers seven flat screen televisions for gaming or syncing with their Bluetooth headphones to listen to a specific screen. There also are ports to charge cell phones and other hand-held devices.

The lounge also features a new movie room, complete with a large flat-panel television, theater-style seating and surround-sound audio.

The Office of Information Technology also will receive improvements to its system across campus, with new the installation of new communication lines, closets and cabling in the main building.

Alexandria Hall and the Church Hall Data Center also will have generators installed, allowing for continued operation of communication equipment in the event of a storm or a loss of power on campus.

“In addition to the work covered in the insurance claim we are pursuing external support for approximately \$10 million of refurbishment/replacement work in Cavanaugh Hall, Tudor Hall, H.O. West and English Village,” Brewer said. “We are praying for prospective donors to step up and meet this need while the projects covered by GuideOne insurance are completed. The financial savings of work being completed concurrent with these other projects would produce significant economies of scale for LC.”

“Current campus improvements coupled with an uptick in new student enrollment illustrate God’s faithfulness to the College,” said Brewer, “as we pursue LC’s vision for ‘Preparing Graduates and Transforming Lives.’”

FLURRY OF ACTIVITY

Campus improvements mark one of many aspects of activity on campus.

The college announced Sept. 7 it had experienced an enrollment increase of 14.5 percent above the numbers for 2015, reversing a five-year negative trend.



Brian Blackwell photo

A construction worker looks down toward the sidewalk surrounding Guinn Auditorium. The work is part of ongoing campus improvement projects at Louisiana College.

Overall, 255 new freshmen and 61 transfer students enrolling for the fall.

This semester, 1,126 students are attending, a 1.5 percent gain overall compared to 2015, when enrollment was 1,109.

The school also has seen dormitory occupancy up by 6.5 percent and a spring-to-fall 2016 retention rate of 82 percent.

Since Brewer became president in April 2015, Louisiana College has undertaken a number of initiatives, including the formation of Board of Visitors, which has resulted in more than \$135,000 raised for scholarships.

Established in September 2015, the 100 alumni, business owners and other professionals and friends of Louisiana College, who are a part of the Board of Visitors, have committed to give between \$1,000 and \$10,000 annually for four years. During their four-year commitment, the members also help students find internships, network for the college, contribute to development of additional financial sources and refer prospective students to the school.

Most recently, Louisiana College hosted its first-ever Values and Ethics Confer-

ence.

The Oct. 10 event drew more than 300 people who listened to experts speak about the design of the universe, current and future implications of biotechnology, and fundamentals regarding the sanctity and dignity of human life.

Guest speakers were C. Ben Mitchell, provost and academic vice president at Union University, Jackson, Tenn.; Doug Axe, founder of the Biologic Institute in Redmond, Wash.; and, Mary Keinzle, healthcare specialist and ethicist at Christus Cabrini Hospital.

“On behalf of all involved in the conference, I extend our deepest thanks to Christus Cabrini Hospital for underwriting the conference,” Brewer said. “Without such sponsorship, the hundreds who attended the conference, as well as those who watched online would not have been exposed to such scientific, scholarly and compassionate responses to bio-ethical and biological issues that have faced and will continue to confront the Christian community. We were enriched by these scholarly and stellar speakers, whose presentations were engaging, thought-provoking and encouraging.”



Brian Blackwell photo

Building material is seen in the foreground of Tudor Hall, one of many buildings receiving renovations on the Louisiana College campus. Work on the buildings began in late May and could wrap up by early 2018.

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great testimony to us,” she continued. “Going through that extreme low to now, two years later, is truly overwhelming.

“It’s hard to see what God has planned for you in the storm,” she offered, “but I know He went before us and had it all planned out. We are beyond blessed, and we are thankful and appreciative of everything He has done for us.”

Hayden was diagnosed in 2014 with a rare malignant brain tumor – discovered after a playground injury sent him to a Shreveport hospital.

Eight months of surgeries and treatments followed at St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

Then, just prior to his last treatment at St. Jude’s, the neurosurgeon prepared the family for the worst. However, Hayden woke up with his abilities to speak and see intact.

“Like others in the hospital, the neurosurgeon was amazed. He said ‘it’s not me,’ pointing to the sky toward Heaven,” April said. “The whole journey up to this point has been amazing and to this day we can see how God has answered our prayers.”

She especially is thankful for how God has used the situation to give Hayden a testimony he already is using to share the Gospel with his friends and others he encounters.

One day, he hopes to become a missionary, April told the *Baptist Message*.

“He used to want to be a race car driver but last year during Awanas we got to research different missionaries,” April said. “He just lit up and said that’s what I want to do; I want to tell them about Jesus.”

“He gets so excited when he tells people about Jesus,” she continued. “He has a passion for the Lord and a passion to share it. I never would have chosen this path [cancer] for Hayden. But I know the Lord is using this for his glory. I know the Lord has something even greater planned and in store for him.”

Lary calls the baptism one of the most impactful of which he has been a part. Even at six years old, Hayden has the maturity of someone much older, Lary believes.

“The Lord has grown him up so quickly, even in his faith,” Lary said. “When we were talking a few weeks ago, Hayden said he knows what it means to trust the Lord through his two-year journey.

“The Lord has a special calling on his life,” he continued. “It was like a day of celebration that Sunday in October but it also was a day of completion for where the Lord brought him to a neat stage in his life.”

Hayden is one of 28 people baptized in 2016 at Calvary Baptist Church.

Baptisms reflect the mission statement of the church – loving God, loving others and making disciples.

To that end, each baptized new believer is enrolled in a discipleship class

tailored to the appropriate age level. Children participate in a study of the book, “I’m A Christian Now.” Teenagers and adults take part in a spiritual growth small group class.

Lary said the church utilizes small groups for growth because they have found this method is the most effective.

“We feel true growth comes through small groups, when you are doing life together,” Lary said.

Calvary Baptist also engages its members in missions locally, nationally and globally.

Its sports outreach program draws between 2,000 and 3,000 students annually, providing a “hook” to share the Gospel.

The church’s private school, Calvary Baptist Academy, also provides an inroad to present Christ. Lary said each year, a number of students attending the school accept Christ and follow up in believer’s baptism.

The church also has taken



Courtesy of Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor John Lary (left) stands with six-year-old Hayden Heaberlin and his parents, April and Dusty, the day of his baptism. He is one of 28 people baptized in 2016 at Calvary Baptist Church in Shreveport.

mission trips to New Orleans and Philadelphia, Pa. Trips to El Salvador in December and Ethiopia in 2017 also are being organized.

“Calvary at its very core has always been an evangelistically-minded church,” Lary said. “So, from

Hayden’s baptism to all the ministries Calvary extends to the community, one thing is constant: Calvary will always strive to keep Jesus the center of it all by loving God, loving others and making disciples. It’s all about Him and His glory.”

Cornerstone from page 3

ministry, Cornerstone members also pay for people’s laundry at the local Laundromat and give free dinners.

“The Holy Spirit draws

people here,” said Anderson. “Because the love of God is in our church, race doesn’t matter. It’s not a white church or a black church; it’s a church of the Living God.”



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Unity Baptist Church photo

The congregation of Unity One Baptist Church in Franklin is a church on mission - serving its community through such ministries as food distribution and offering encouragement to its neighbors.

Unity is more than a name for a Franklin congregation

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

FRANKLIN – Darrell Guy is a big believer that the church should band together and serve outside the walls of its building.

He is pastor of Unity One Baptist Church in Franklin, a predominantly African-American congregation, and his members are committed to ministering to the needs of the community.

They distribute bags of food and serve lunch plates to residents of Franklin, and the children in the church raised money to purchase an armored vest and donated it to the local police department.

Guy said the encouragement that has broken out among the church's neighbors has been contagious, and the resulting receptivity has helped the congregation to spread Christ's love throughout Franklin.

"We wanted them to know we are praying for them," Guy said. "Those are the things we are doing that are sticking out in the minds of the community. They are seeing the church is about giving."

The outreach has produced fruits for the congregation, which began with 12 people participating in a Bible study in Guy's home during the summer of 2015. By that fall, the group had doubled, creating a welcomed problem – the need to find a bigger space to accommodate the growth.

The congregation met for one month at Franklin's recreational center before moving into its current building; and recently, the church decided it was time to move yet again, having increased to 50 regularly attending worshippers – maximum capacity for their meeting space.

They now will meet in the worship center of Teche Baptist Church, a predominantly Anglo congregation, who is allowing them to use the building for Sunday morning worship services.

Unity One will worship at 9 a.m. and Teche Baptist will meet two hours later.

The growing Unity One congregation is the first church Guy has pastored.

"This is the best thing that's ever happened," he said. "Even though it's hard and has its moments, I am truly enjoying it because I am working for the Lord."

"You can see people coming to Christ and see their faith is getting stronger because they believe in the Lord, even in challenging times. We are building more disciples at Unity One Baptist Church because of that. That's how we will build God's church."

Guy is a graduate of Grambling State University, having earned a bachelor's degree in social work that has helped him in ministry. Now he attends New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he is on track to earn a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry.

When he is not ministering to others or engaged in graduate studies, Guy can be found in Franklin's City Hall, where he serves as manager of purchasing, a position he has held for two years.

With work, school, hospital visits, phone calls and other ministry duties, Guy said most days he does not go to sleep until 1 a.m. But, he is thankful he has a supportive mayor, who allows him to serve as a bi-vocational pastor.

"Doing both jobs has its moments and makes my daily routine extend late," Guy said. "Thank God I have a mayor who also is a Christian and allows me the flexibility to do ministry."

Prioritizing is the key for him in keeping pace, he said.

"You have to understand time management, but most importantly you have to rely on God," he said. "Some days are hard. But it's good to know you're being used by Him to help someone in need of Christ's love."

DR wraps up recovery, begins rebuild phase

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA — Natural disasters of proportions unmatched in Louisiana's history required equally historic responses in 2016.

Flooding, the likes of which had not been experienced before swept through the state not once but twice this year -- first in March, and later in August, dumped record amounts of rain, causing deaths and enormous property damage.

The one-two punch left the state reeling in the aftermath.

TRAGEDY & TRIUMPH

Yet, through it all, Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief teams, aided by Southern Baptist volunteers from around the country, were faithful to respond — offering the comfort of a helping hand, sharing a message of hope in Christ, and sometimes just prayer— despite suffering personal losses as well.

The spring floods, resulting from more than three feet of cumulative rainfall in 48 hours in some areas, affected more than 18,000 homes and damaged 14 Louisiana Baptist churches. Importantly, an estimated 85 percent of the state's trained disaster relief personnel were impacted during this time, yet they responded to the many needs of others.

Southern Baptists were up to the challenge, too, immediately sending money and hundreds of volunteers to help with the cleanup.

Five months later, the state's southern parishes were unexpectedly deluged with never-before-recorded amounts of precipitation in that area — about 31 inches over two days -- which caused flooding in neighborhoods which had not experienced such high water. This time more than 155,000 houses were affected and 72 Louisiana Baptist churches damaged.

Once again, Louisiana Baptists responded with help from fellow Southern Baptists.

Even Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards took notice of Louisiana Baptists' disaster relief response, praising

Southern Baptists for getting the job done while most government agencies were still "getting a game plan together to help," according to Gevan Spinney, pastor of First Baptist Church in Haughton, and president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

"While countless ministries and organizations from across the country did so much to help, the cooperative effort of Southern Baptists in the end made the difference," Spinney continued. "Many of us have seen firsthand the benefit of cooperative giving displayed in the army of yellow shirts from Disaster Relief."

"Incident command centers were strategically located and boots hit the ground almost immediately with chaplain and assessment teams, followed by mud-out teams, cooking teams and shower and laundry teams from our neighboring states," Spinney said. "It was an effort that made all Southern Baptists swell with pride to be a part of such a group."

Despite the overwhelming tragedy, there were many individual moments of triumph during both response efforts.

"For every eight presentations of the Gospel message a person professed Christ," LBC Disaster Relief Director Gibbie McMillan said. That is why we do all the various types of work in response to these disasters. More than 250 souls won to faith in Christ is something to shout about and all the angels in Heaven rejoice when one sinner repents. This does not count the seeds that were sown and shall be reaped in the months ahead."

MARCH

During the spring disaster relief effort in the northern and southeastern parts of the state, Louisiana Baptists and Southern Baptist volunteers from other states completed 480 clean-up jobs, served 70,493 meals and distributed 910 Bibles.

By the time disaster relief activities ended for this period, Southern Baptist volunteers from 29 states had helped.

A total of 50 people accepted Christ during field operations.

See DR on 10



Frank M. McCormack photo

The Cenla Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast, held Oct. 26, increased awareness and raised funds to offset expenses and promote the Louisiana Life March Central, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017. Louisiana College hosted the event.

Cenla pro-life prayer breakfast highlights effort to save unborn

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE — Central Louisiana saw 432 lives lost to abortion in 2015, but Brian Gunter is confident that trend can be reversed, if thousands of believers stand strong in unison.

"We need to join together in central Louisiana," said Gunter, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pollock. "We may have different religious beliefs but we are in full agreement that we must stand up for the unborn," he told a diverse religious group gathered in Louisiana College's Granberry Conference Center, Oct. 26, during the Cenla Pro-life Prayer Breakfast.

"The 432 lives that were taken in central Louisiana through abortion need to be saved," he continued. "And we are going to do it."

Gunter is spearheading efforts to bring the first pregnancy care center to central Louisiana.

Multiple speakers added to Gunter's message about how to reduce abortions in this area of the state.

Last year, 9,311 abortions were performed in Louisiana, down from 10,211 abortions reported in 2014. The 2015 figure is the lowest number of abortions in the state since 2012, when 9,225 abortions were reported.

Hosted by Louisiana Right to Life, the breakfast program increased awareness and raised funds for the promotion of and expenses related to the Louisiana Life March Central, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017.

The 1.6-mile procession will begin at Louisiana College and conclude in Alexandria at the downtown amphitheater.

In January of this year, an



First Baptist Pollock Pastor Brian Gunter shares with attendees of the Cenla Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast about a way to donate to a future pregnancy care center in the area.

estimated 1,200 people participated in the inaugural Cenla pro-life march, according to Ryan Verret, associate director for Louisiana Right to Life.

He encouraged the crowd to be part of the 2017 event and to step up in terms of promoting pro-life causes in the area — saying every person is needed.

"Your voices are so essential," he said. "I appreciate all you do."

Philip Caples, associate professor of Christian studies and vice president of integration of faith and learning at Louisiana College, said the school is honored to serve as the starting point for next year's march. Caples said his students made a bold pro-life statement for the institution by carrying the Louisiana Life March banner to lead the crowd.

He said that at times, fighting the battle of ending abortions in the U.S. can be discouraging.

However, he told the crowd they must go as God tells them and be a shining light as He commands them as part of the battle against

abortion atrocities.

Citing Jeremiah's obedience in the face of crushing odds and setbacks, Caples said the prophet's faithfulness even in the face of prophesied defeat was a timely example "for where we are in our nation and for where we are in this meeting."

"What is the Lord really saying to us today?" Caples asked. "It's not time to give up. It's not time to give in. It's time to stand up."

"The mission which we have been called to do is worthy because we've been called to do it," he continued. "Let's get to doing it, and let's stay the course. Louisiana College is in all the way, and we want to encourage you to be a part of that journey."

This is a fight that will continue for many more years, U.S. Rep. Ralph Abraham told the audience.

He said no matter the challenge or the state of the battle, Christians must charge on and not give up.

"We have to continue this fight," said Abraham, a member of Alto Baptist Church. "We have to wear His armor every day and be vigilant. The day that we are not vigilant is the day they win."

Louisiana Life March Central is the one of three such marches scheduled in the state next year.

Louisiana Life March South will be held in Baton Rouge, Jan. 21, and the Louisiana Life March North is scheduled to take place in Shreveport/Bossier City, Jan. 28.

For more information on all three marches, visit profilouisiana.org/lalifemarch.html.

Old songs made new: Rare hymnals get new life in NOBTS digital scanning

By GARY D. MYERS
Message Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS – The musty smell of antiquity fills the air as music professor Ed Steele positions an old leather-bound book on an odd-looking scanner.

With the press of a button the scanner comes to life, a light passes over the page, and before long a scanned page appears on Steele's computer screen.

Steele, a faculty member at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Leavell College, spent much of his recent sabbatical scanning and digitizing page after page from rare hymnals. To date, he has scanned and digitized nearly 30 of the seminary's 400-plus rare hymnals and a few hymnbooks from private collections.

The digitized hymns are available in Adobe PDF format free of charge at the seminary's online home for the new Center for Hymnological Research: <http://www.nobts.edu/library/hymnological-research>.

"Because of their condition and their age, although we have them, the rare hymnals are not usable, or available or accessible," Steele said, pointing to

a shelf full of rare hymnals. "Now the accessibility comes from this scanner."

The Martin Music Library at NOBTS holds more than 5,000 hymnals which were donated by Edmond Keith, a layman who loved hymnody. Most of the rare hymnals in the music library are a part of the Edmond Keith Collection -- some dating to the early 1700s. Others were obtained through the efforts of Harry Eskew, who taught hymnology at the seminary for 36 years.

While many of the hymnals in the Keith Collection can be checked out and studied, access to the rare hymnals has been limited. The rare hymnals are stored in a climate and humidity controlled rare book room. Limited access is required to preserve the fragile physical copies, with meticulous care required when handling them.

The 1713 "Hymns in Commemoration of the Sufferings of Our Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ, Compos'd for the Celebration of his Holy Supper" by Joseph Stennett is among the oldest Steele has digitized so far. Another notable: "A Collection of Hymns, for the Use of the People called Methodists" compiled by John Wesley from

1780. Throughout the collection of rare hymnals, the songs of Isaac Watts and John and Charles Wesley often appear. Digital copies of numerous early Baptist hymnals also are available on the center's website.

"We've had a few scholars who would fly in because they knew what we had ... a treasure trove hidden from the world," Steele said. "Because these are rare, they have not been available to the public. What we are doing is making them available."

Without the proper equipment, scanning and digitizing a rare book can be a difficult challenge. A person can accomplish the task with a traditional flatbed scanner and basic software, but the process is inefficient, time-consuming and risks damaging the fragile book. New scanning technology provides automation which speeds up the process. Regardless of the innovation, scanning a book is still time-consuming -- accomplished by scanning one two-page "spread" at a time.

The new NOBTS scanner, an Opus FreeFlow Bookeye 4 with specialized software, is designed to accommodate even the most fragile books. The high resolution scans preserve the text of the hymnals with stunning detail.

The adjustable platform can be used to scan an open book lying flat or at a v-shaped angle to accommodate a book with



Joe Fontenot photo

Leavell College professor Ed Steele prepares an early "tune book" for scanning. Tune books, which appeared in the 1830s, were among the first books to include music notes. Earlier hymnals included only the text of the hymn.

a fragile spine which will not open completely. The software automatically corrects skewed portions of the scan regardless of the position of the book. After scanning each two-page spread, the software merges all the scanned files into one PDF document which is ready to be uploaded to a webpage.

With music so deeply entwined in most churches' Sunday worship, it is hard to believe how recently hymns entered the church. According to Steele, reformers like John Calvin only allowed the singing of Psalms, and many congregations for nearly 100 years sang only from these "psalters." Benjamin Keach, a Baptist pastor in England, first promoted hymn singing in 1675.

Isaac Watts, born in 1674, began writing hymns as a teenager, and he faced bitter criticism when he began promoting hymns. Steele believes that it was the quality of Watts' writing that eventually led to wider acceptance of hymns in church. Hymns by Watts, and the Wesley brothers were among the first to be published. Later, George Whitfield brought the hymns of Watts to America during his "Great Awakening" revivals in the mid-1700s. The earliest hymn books did not include music, only the text.

As hymn singing spread

in America, publishers began producing "tune books" like the Sacred Harp in the 1830s to teach singing in rural areas of the South, Steele said. Many of the songs used in the great revivals of the 1800s in Kentucky were from these collections. The tune books utilized many of the Watts hymns set to "shape notes." The Southern and Western Pocket Harmonist and The Southern Harmony are among a number of rare shape-note tune books Steele has digitized. The tune books were among the first books to include music along with the text of hymns.

Scanning the seminary's rare hymnal collection will be an ongoing, long-term effort, Steele said. Some might say a labor of love. In fact, Steele believes scanning the rare hymnals currently in the NOBTS library will stretch beyond his career into the next generation of music professors at NOBTS.

"One advantage of the scanner," Steele added, "is the possibility of scanning other collections loaned from individual private collections. My desire is that the Center for Hymnological Research would become a resource for the collection of these rare hymnals and to provide an opportunity for others to make their collections available digitally to the research community."

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DeWitt Wagner was selected from October's submissions. He chose to impact his community for Christ by directing the \$1000 gift to his church, First Baptist Church Leesville.

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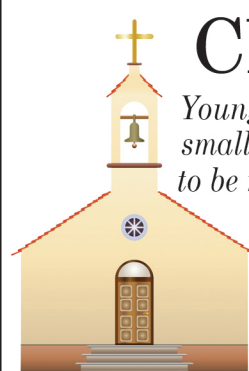
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Elections, gifts for LBC ministries highlight Foundation meeting

By JERRY LOVE

LBF Communications

ALEXANDRIA – The election of new officers, updates on investments and the approval of the 2017 budget highlighted the final quarterly meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees meeting Oct. 25.

Members also learned of almost \$900,000 in new donations that would benefit Louisiana Baptists' ministries.

INVESTMENT UPDATES

Jim Prince of Lafayette and chairman of the investment committee had Lee Morris of Graystone Consulting bring an update on the management of the LBF's funds and a general overview of market conditions.

In his remarks to the group, Morris noted the equity portion of the portfolio is in positive territory for the quarter, but still lagging its benchmarks year-to-date.

Morris said the situation was partially due to the fact that passive management (investing in index funds) had outperformed active management, and he added that he and Foundation Executive Director Wayne Taylor will move to more passive management for the LBF in the near future.

He also pointed out that a U.S. Department of Labor ruling, which becomes effective April 2017, will force pension funds to shift to more passive management, causing a passive strategy to continue to outperform an active strategy.

Other issues addressed by Morris:

- Morgan Stanley's Global Investment Committee projects the next 5 to 7 years likely will bring lower performance.

- Securities markets do not like surprises, but even so, the 2016 presidential election outcome likely would have a short-term negative impact.

Barbara Bell, the Foundation's accountant, reported assets under management, as of September 30, were \$164,337,651.98, a slight decrease from the previous quarter.

Investment returns for the

major components of the LBF portfolio were reviewed by Prince, who reported the following data for Sept. 30:

- Short Term Fund: 0.58% Annualized Yield

- Group Investment Fund, comprised of various market sectors: 4.06% total return year-to-date.

- Diversified Income Fund, conservative income-oriented fund: 3.70% total return year-to-date.

OPERATIONS REPORT

The operating committee, chaired by John Carroll of Columbia, received a report on the current budget from Bell. She said even though revenue was slightly behind expectations, expenses continued to be held in check, resulting in a positive bottom line for the year to date.

Bell also presented the 2017 operating budget, which was approved by the committee.

Jerry Love, planned giving director, reported on several new gifts received during the second quarter, including a gift of real estate received in early October that will benefit a local Baptist camp, and, several donations amounting to \$869,000 added to donor advised funds that will be directed by the donors to benefit Baptist ministries they choose.

Chuck Murray, LBF controller, and Taylor gave an update on the conversion to the new Stellar iPhi accounting software. While iPhi is quite different than the current system, progress is being made to "go live" Jan. 1, 2017, according to Murray.

GENERAL SESSION

During the afternoon, Board President Julian Johnston, of Calhoun, led a review of the information presented by the Investment and Operating Committees in earlier sessions, and the board subsequently approved the recommendation from the Operating Committee to approve the 2017 budget.

Taylor reported on his recent mission trip to Belarus with the LBC Partnership Missions team

See FOUNDATION on 10



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For more than 20 years Steve and Blake Rainey have been showing people they do not have to lose their life's savings in case they or their spouse goes into a long-term care facility. The testimonial below is from someone with experience in the nursing home industry.

Lani Arnold retired as Admissions Director for a long term care facility after 20 plus years in the business where she witnessed first-hand the financial and emotional devastation when a loved one is admitted to a nursing home.



"I listened to spouse's fears of not having enough money to live on while paying for a nursing home and how these couples had saved all their lives for retirement with hopes of leaving their children an inheritance," Lani says.

These situations led Lani to investigate how she could help people protect their assets when a loved one went into a nursing home.

"I attended a S.A.F.E. Planning seminar and I talked with families who had used S.A.F.E. Planning's services to see if they were happy with the outcome," Lani explains. "I also visited with both Steve and Blake Rainey on numerous occasions to make sure they too had a passion for the elderly.

I needed to be sure their concern was more about people than profit. I called the Medicaid office and spoke to my case manager and made sure everything that the Rainey's had told me was legal and above board. I had to feel comfortable referring S.A.F.E. Planning to my client-families because my reputation was on the line too."

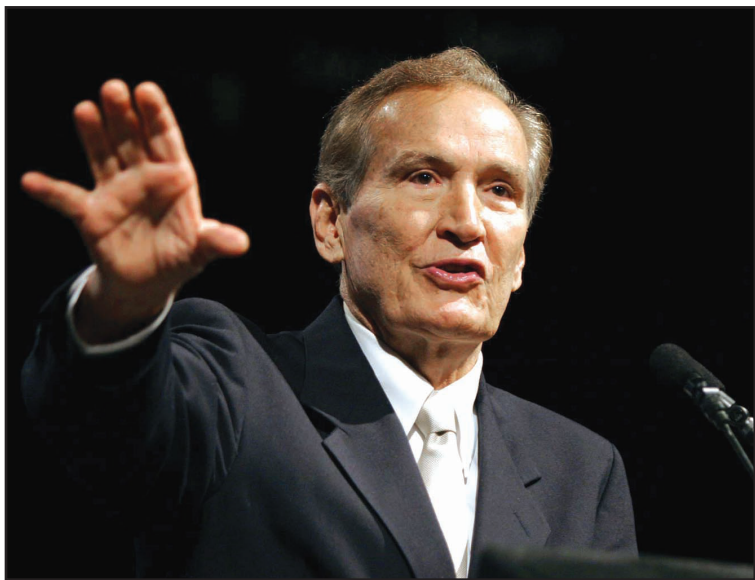
"I don't recommend a service that I have not investigated and know it is a safe and secure company. Senior adults need protection. They deserve protection. They have earned that right. I can honestly say Steve and Blake Rainey, along with Ric Cochran, have their clients' best interests at heart.

"I've witnessed these guys go above and beyond for families, and I highly recommend their services. They will walk the family through the Medicaid process and fill out all the lengthy forms. They will fight for your rights and protect as much of your assets as legally possible."

Lani and her husband, Larry, attend Calvary Baptist Church in Shreveport.

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NOBTS Communications

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary trustees have approved the establishment of an Adrian Rogers Center, a center focusing on expository preaching. The center is named for the late Adrian Rogers, who died in 2005 after 33 years as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn. He earned the bachelor of divinity (equivalent to today's master of divinity) at NOBTS in 1958.

Foundation from page 9

and thanked the board for the opportunity to participate.

New officers elected for 2017 are Waymond Warren, pastor of Fair Park Baptist Church in West Monroe, president; Steve Crosby, member of Summer Grove in Shreveport, vice president; and, Polly Brinker, member of the Gathering Place in Pineville, secretary.

The Louisiana Baptist Foundation was established in 1944 to encourage and assist individuals with gifts in

support of Louisiana Baptist churches and ministries, as well as provide asset management for the churches and institutions affiliated with the LBC.

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

The next LBF trustee meeting is scheduled for Feb. 7, 2017.

DR from page 7

AUGUST

Just as most folks in the state were finishing up recovery from the spring disaster, another record downpour hit southern Louisiana in the early fall.

In fact, some of the homes, businesses and churches damaged by the March floods had not yet been fully rebuilt.

Yet again, Louisiana Baptists and Southern Baptist brothers and sisters stepped up in Jesus' name.

More than 170 teams from 29 state conventions responded, completing 9,184 clean-up jobs, preparing 679,484 meals and distributing 2,892 Bibles.

At one time, as many as 27 churches were serving as command centers or distribution sites. As of mid-November, only Florida Boulevard Baptist remains an active command center, and groups still working on relief efforts are staying at Bethel Baptist Church in Franklinton, Bethlehem Baptist Church in Albany, Camp Living

Waters in Hammond and Judson Baptist Church in Walker.

Volunteers witnessed 201 people on the field join fellowship with Christ.

FUTURE

Looking back, McMillan said the March and August disasters served as reminders of the impact disaster relief teams can have for Christ. He also encouraged Louisiana Baptists to get ready for the next catastrophe, now.

"Louisiana is a partner with 41 other state conventions responding to the needs of those hurting and in need of assistance," McMillan said. "This year the needs were due to flooding next year it may be due to a hurricane. Regardless we must train and be ready long before the tragedy strikes."

For more information on how you can volunteer with and give toward Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief efforts, visit louisianabaptists.org/disasterrelief.

LOUISIANA NOTABLES

ON THE MOVE

- **James Daniel** is the new youth pastor at First Baptist Church, French Settlement.
- **Fred Dyess** is interim pastor at Victory Baptist Church, Walker.
- **Matthew (wife Laura) Montgomery** is the new pastor at Belcher Baptist Church, Belcher.
- **Autry (wife Kristen) Brown** is the new music minister at Oil City Baptist Church, Vivian.
- **Bill Green** resigned as pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Vivian.

IN REMEMBRANCE

- **Walter P. Cloud**, a member of Elizabeth Baptist Church, passed away Oct. 4 following a brief illness. Born May 28, 1935 in Oakdale, Cloud, 81, received a Doctorate in Religion and a Doctorate in Theology. He pastored two churches in West Virginia and five in Louisiana during his 51 years of service to the Lord. He served on the Louisiana Baptist Convention's Moral and Social Concerns Committee from 1998-2000 and was a chaplain in Gallipolis, Ohio and in Oakdale. He also wrote several religious books and pamphlets. He and his wife did missionary work in Big Falls at Punta Gorda and Belize City, Belize Central America and in Iloilo City, Philippines. He served proudly in the U.S. Army and was a member of the American Legion in Oakdale. Even after his retirement, he continued his ministry work by teaching a Men's Sunday school class and preaching at Allen Oaks Nursing Home in Oakdale. He was preceded in death by his parents, Cage and Martha Cloud; son, Timothy Cloud; sisters, Evelyn Miller, Joy Leonard and Glynn Perkins; brothers, Vernon Cloud and Hubert Cloud. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Elaine Haynes Cloud of Elizabeth; daughter, Darlene and her husband David Yates of Crittenden, Kentucky; son, Michael and his wife Kim Cloud of Ville Platte; 8 grandchildren, Diana Waters and her husband Ben, Destiny Teusink and her husband Leighton, Michael Cloud and wife Abby, Kristin Cloud, Casey Dunagan and wife Hanna, Courtney Godeaux and husband Tyla, Carley and Colby Cloud; 8 great-grandchildren, Noah and Isaac Waters, Alania and Joshua Teusink, Harper and Mila Cloud, Makenna Dunagan, Lucas Godeaux; his sisters, Carrie Pourteau and Martha Hyatt; brothers, John Cloud and Roy Cloud; along with a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.



Pastor Luther Sanson of Twin Oaks Baptist Church in Bastrop surprises Margaret Johnston during the Oct. 30 worship service when he presented a plaque of appreciation to her in recognition of her more than 50 years of piano accompaniment and leadership in Christian music Oct. 30. Friends, family and members of several congregations participated in the service and the luncheon that followed.

HOMECOMING

- First Baptist Church, Delhi: **11th Anniversary Service**, Dec. 3, 6 p.m. Music: **The Sanctuary Quartet, Southern Revelation, Ben Waites and Chad Tingle**. Pastor: Mickey Bounds.

REVIVAL

- Trinity Baptist Church, Jena: **Harvest Sunday**, Nov. 20, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Speaker: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Mike Russell
- First Baptist Church, Lake Arthur: **Revival**, Nov. 27-30. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Jered Thomas.

LAGNIAPPE

- An **Allen organ**, system 100 to 300, series M-I, is available to any church or individual for free. Pictures and information are available upon request. If interested, call Allen Myers at 337.945.8502 or email him at amyers@wcala.org.
- Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Third An-**

nual Harvest Festival at the Good Hope Campus, Nov. 19, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pastor: Waymond Warren.

- First Baptist Church, Hornbeck: **Louisiana Baptist Singing Ministers in concert**, Nov. 17, 6:30 p.m. Cost: Free. It will include a mix of modern, traditional gospel songs. A love offering will be taken to provide college scholarships for young worship leaders in Louisiana. **Community Thanksgiving Service**, Nov. 20, 5:30 p.m. Pastor: Jack Bell.
- First Baptist Church, Jena: **Community-wide Thanksgiving Service**, Nov. 20, 6 p.m. Pastor: Dominick C. DiCarlo, Jr.
- First Baptist Church, Jonesville: **Harvest Day**, Nov. 20, 11 a.m. Lunch will follow after the service. Community Thanksgiving Service, Nov. 20, 6 p.m.
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **ACTION community-wide service**, Nov. 20, 6 p.m. You are invited to attend for a great night of worship with fellow believers from the Haughton area. Bring canned food items to help stock the pantry at ACTION. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.

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.

jgi amyf jphyi mdq, kmja amyg? jla ambs

ycdjp? jgi my pjdam, d jq gba. jla ambs amja

tlbtmya? jgi my jgpklyi, gb.

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Clues:
Y = E; A = T

Answer to November 3 Scripture Crypto:
Leviticus eight:nine



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For more information, call Bro. David Nugent at 409.384.3371.

SEEKING PASTOR
West Lake Baptist Church is seeking a fulltime Pastor.
Please send all résumés to
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SEEKING A SENIOR PASTOR
New Life Baptist Church located in Deridder LA, is searching for a senior pastor. We ask that you would share this information and be a part in the Lord's plan for His church.
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For information, contact Susan Nolan at: 318.343.2244 or snolan@lbch.org

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Ladies are needed for the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, Monroe, LA, to serve in HomePlace, a transitional living ministry for homeless children and their mothers. The full-time position includes salary, housing, life and medical insurance, annuity, paid vacation, and training. Provide love, care, and hope in Christ to children and families in need. Both full-time and part-time positions require 24-hour work schedules.

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The Newsboys, a Grammy and Dove-winning Christian band founded in 1985, is the featured musical group for the first night of the 2016 Youth Evangelism Celebration Nov. 20-21 in Lafayette.

YEC from page one

Organizers have slated high-energy music, inspiring messages, time for fellowship and much more for participants to experience.

Last year's event drew 5,600 youth and resulted in 120 students making professions of faith, and another 174 repenting to restore their lives to Jesus, seven indicated a call to ministry and 83 made some other type of spiritual decision.

The theme for this year's YEC is Stories, based on 1 John 1:2-3.

Throughout the two-day event, Louisiana Baptist teenagers will be challenged to celebrate what Christ has done in their lives and to share

their stories of how Christ changed their lives, and they will be engaged in a number of different ways to experience a message about Him:

-- The Museum of Atlanta, Ga. will offer worship music.

-- Paul May of Springfield, Mo., will present drama, comedy, improvisation and serve as master of ceremonies.

-- The conference will close with a time of music led by the Newsboys, a band formed in 1985 and includes former DC Talk vocalist Michael Tait.

During the Monday break for supper at 4 p.m., youth ministers will have a chance to network with other youth ministers and meet Newton and May.

"YEC is a huge mid-year spiri-

tual boost to students," Maltempi said. "They get reenergized to live for Christ and share Christ."

The event kicks off Sunday at 7 p.m. and will end about 10:30 p.m. Monday.

Registration will be available at the BCM booth at YEC.

Tickets for YEC cost \$50.

For the Monday night session only, seats can be purchased for \$25, which allows access for that session and the accompanying music set by the Newsboys.

Because of renovations, limited concessions will be available for purchase. Also, no outside food or drinks will be allowed in the Cajundome.

For more information, visit yecloouisiana.org.

FORECAST CALLS FOR A FLURRY OF WINTER EVENTS



Youth Evangelism Celebration
YECLouisiana.org
November 20-21 at Cajundome, Lafayette



Evangelism Conference
LouisianaBaptists.org/ECON
January 23-24 at Temple, Ruston



Kaleidoscope
LouisianaBaptists.org/KAL
Feb 4 at First, Pineville



Collegiate Evangelism Conference
LouisianaBaptists.org/CEC
February 3-4 at Calvary Baptist, Alexandria

For more info: 318.448.3402 / 800.622.6549 / LouisianaBaptists.org/Events