

*“Behold, children
are a heritage from
the Lord, the fruit of
the womb a reward.”*

– Psalm 127:3 (ESV)

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January 26, 2017

Baptisms, outreach to the military — East Leesville’s evangelistic heart

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

LEESVILLE – Shortly before Christmas 2016, Sherry Slaydon gave her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren a priceless gift – the opportunity to celebrate her new life in Christ by being present at her baptism.

“I pray watching their grandma proclaim her love for God was an inspiration to them,” she said. “I had people tell me I had a glow afterward ... words can’t describe the feeling.”

Now, she is anxious to share the Good News that changed her heart with others, too.

Slaydon was among 77 people East Leesville Baptist baptized in 2016, adding up to a combined three-year total of 205.

Rarely does a Sunday pass when Pastor Jeff Smart or another staff member is not baptizing someone.

“We are so used to baptisms every week that it’s something our church looks

See **HEART** on 7

THE RIGHT TO LIFE FOR ALL

Choosing life is right choice

BY WILL HALL

Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA – Take a good look at Jacob Barker Hall. Whether in person or by photo it’s hard not to see his bright eyes and engaging smile and not know the joy and the zest that define this 19-year-old’s life.

His speech and his physical awkwardness give glimpses of his Down syndrome, but any signs of motor or mental difficulty are overshadowed by the special person he is as a child of God.

Jacob is a great name for my youngest son. Roughly translated into “supplanter,” a more practical definition for his personality would be “steals the show,” but not in a bad way. He showers others with love and encouragement, likely to say “good job” loudly to the choir or the pastor (along with a visible “thumbs up”) – without concern for when he says it during the service (I finally figured out it’s his way of saying “amen”).

He runs to give hugs to old and young alike, but he especially delights in carefully approaching a baby, gently

See **CHOICE** on 2



Doug Collier photo



Will Hall photo



Doug Collier photo

(Top left) Kenneth Moore overcame the stigma of Cerebral Palsy and now is pastor at Carmel Baptist Church. (Top right) Jacob Hall, who has Down syndrome, has a way of bringing a smile to people’s faces with his loving spirit and engaging smile. (Above) Unable to speak, walk or eat without assistance and blind due to a severe head trauma suffered in a car accident, Nikki Charrier has been a blessing to church planter Louis Charrier and his wife June.

No matter the challenges, every child is a blessing from God

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – The first-born is always a special blessing to parents and, for Louis and June Charrier, Nicole is no exception.

Born Feb. 21, 1980, Nicole was a healthy baby girl, bub-

bling with excitement, and charming her parents, family and friends, alike, the Charriers said.

A month later, tragedy struck and her life dramatically changed. Some said Nicole “took a turn for the worse,”

See **CHALLENGES** on 3

“My handicapped daughter couldn’t say a word but she had a way of bringing them into our house to hear Jesus. Our house became a salvation center.”

Louis Charrier on his daughter Nicole

God uses ‘imperfection’ to effect His perfect will

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE – The teasing by his fellow classmates cut deeply into the spirit of the 8-year-old diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. The more they hurled insults at Kenneth Moore for how he walked and

See **IMPERFECTION** on 6

Choice from page one

cupping his hands along the child's jawline and slowly, tenderly stroking forward until the heels of his palms meet at

the baby's chin.

His affection is authentic and so are his prayers, and he's likely to pray anytime, anywhere.

One of the most memorable times was during his first trip to see someone at a hospital, an older lady from church. He was six, and not sure about where he was, or what "ministry" meant or "hospital visitation." But as soon as he saw his "friend" lying in bed, he grabbed her hand and everyone else joined the circle. Jacob has delayed speech, and no

one could discern the jumbled words he was trying to say ... yet everyone understood his prayer.

Jacob is not just a spiritual warrior but he's also a hero.

I don't know if he'll ever be able to understand, but I hope one day to tell him how he saved two lives.

Twice while we lived in Annapolis, Md., a Christian nurse referred a mother expecting a Down syndrome baby to visit with my wife and me. One mother, along with her husband, had decided to have an abortion. The other mother said she and her husband were undecided, but considering it.

Both mothers' visits were remarkably similar, initially with the awkwardness of a cold call sales visit. The conversation was open but perfunctory ... until ... the moment each held Jacob in their arms. He was just out of the neonatal intensive care unit (a miracle I'll save to write about in another column). Both just held him ... then they cuddled him ... and they sobbed.

Though both visited on separate occasions, their words were the same.

"I was expecting a monster."

"They told me about ... physical disabilities ... financial burdens ... unfair to my other children ... strain on my marriage ..."

Their respective medical teams made it seem that they



Will Hall photo

Jacob Hall is an honorary member of the F.A.I.T.H Riders motorcycle ministry at Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, and worships at the congregation's Horseshoe Drive campus in Alexandria.

were telling them these things for the mothers' "best interests."

These health care professionals even seemed to express concern for the babies. After all, they reasoned, what quality of life could such a child expect?

What logic: "No life" is better than a (dire prediction of) "less than perfect quality of life."

That logic is what contributed to an extraordinary death rate the year Jacob was born. In 1997, between 91 and 93 percent of mothers of an unborn child diagnosed with Down syndrome chose abortion; there were about 3,500 live births of Down syndrome children, so between 39,000 and 50,000 were killed.

The pressure tactics these mothers had experienced were all too familiar for my wife, Catherine, and me, as we had been advised about the same negative quality of life factors as well.

The height of insult for us

came during an appointment with her military doctor. I was a naval aviator and junior in rank to him.

Well into the pregnancy, he advised "us" to have an amniocentesis. We knew there was a risk to the baby and asked if the procedure would help him know how to treat the baby. When he said "no," he added that he just wanted to make sure we had all the information we needed to make "an informed choice."

For context, it's important to know that we had not asked about abortion or even considered it.

Catherine was 38 years old and the AFP test and sonograms had indicated a high probability that Jacob had Down syndrome. And we were clear that we were making every preparation to welcome this baby into our lives.

I'm analytical, but Catherine is an information-gathering machine. She filled journals with

See CHOICE on 6

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Doug Collier photo

Louis Charrier and his wife June spend time with their daughter Nikki at their home in Ville Platte.

Challenges from page one

but not Louis and June.

June was a half-mile from their home, she told the *Baptist Message*, when she and Nicole were involved in a serious automobile accident. Momma escaped with minor injuries, but her daughter sustained a severe head trauma, causing her to go blind and leaving her with Cerebral Palsy-like symptoms: She was unable to speak, walk or eat without assistance.

Now at age 36, Nicole still is unable to do anything for herself. Yet, she has impacted a number of others for Christ.

Louis explained that Nicole requires in-home care, giving him and June the opportunity to share Christ with Nicole's medical team.

Health professionals come to the house to tend to Nicole's physical needs, he said, and they leave having received a Gospel presentation and attention to their spiritual needs.

Six have accepted Christ, he said.

"As difficult as it was to see our daughter not being able to do much, what it did is brought those people to our house to hear about the Gospel," Louis said. "My handicapped daughter couldn't say a word but she had a way of bringing them into our house to hear Jesus. Our house became a salvation center."

Nicole has influenced the

lives of her siblings, too.

All three have entered the medical field: One is licensed as a doctor, another as a speech therapist and the third as a registered nurse.

"It's kept our family close," Louis said. "They see how their mom and dad have committed themselves to take care of their sister. We made the sacrifice day after day to take care of her at home and offer that love and care."

Nicole also has made an impact on the numerous congregations Louis has served, especially on members who had a handicapped relative.

"They know we understood their world," he said. "That makes a huge difference in helping us build bridges because we have that instant connection."

Their experiences have taught June and Louis four lessons from God: His grace is sufficient; be thankful for the little things of life; take life one day at a time; and, be a servant to one another.

"We take life one day at a time with Nicole," he said. "It seems some days like there is no way I can handle this. But God's grace is engineered and sufficient for that day," he continued. "All God calls me to do is to attend to her on that day, and, trust He will provide strength for the next one."



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Science education matters in understanding the value of life

PINVEILLE – Once a sperm cell has fertilized an egg cell, a zygote is formed combining the genetic material, or DNA, of the sperm and the egg. All of the biological information necessary to form a new individual being is present in this cell, and stopping this process, abortion, terminates a human life.

Since 1973, more than 55 million abortions have been performed in the United States alone, representing a profound disregard in our country for the value of human life.

One of many factors contributing to this tragic death toll of the pre-born has been the prevalence in our schools of a Darwinian view of life. This secular dogma is presented as indisputable fact to young people, promoting the proposition that all life on earth can be explained without God as the Creator.

Indeed, many science texts ardently present the Darwinian evolutionary ideas of random mutation and natural selection as a substitute for the biblical creation narrative. Meanwhile, doubters of Darwin's theory are depicted as primitive, uninformed thinkers.

One need only read the history of the eugenics movement in our country, or the writings of Adolf Hitler, to grasp the grave consequences to which Darwinian thought leads.

Eugenics was the practice of sterilizing humans who were deemed less desirable – an idea largely advanced in our country by Margaret Sanger, Planned Parenthood's founder – and this evil practice can be traced to the scientific community and Darwin's line of thought. Likewise, Hitler's justification for murdering more than six million Jews and about four million others is rooted in the Darwinian model.

In fact, the full title of Darwin's landmark publication of 1859 is, "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life."

Tragically, generations of young people simply have not been told the truth about Darwin's theory and its implications.

Most text books don't even offer the possibility of a different perspective.



WADE WARREN
Professor of Biology
Louisiana College

Yet, in January 2016 more than 900 scientists signed a declaration, stating, "We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged."

The full list is available online at: <http://www.dissentfromdarwin.org/>.

The fact is Darwinian models can't explain life's origins and there are enormous gaps in the theory – offering no explanation, for example the sudden appearance of animal forms in the fossil record or the existence of complex molecular machines in all living cells.

The irony is that in an age of informational overload, many students are being deprived of the opportunity to consider the option that Darwin was wrong, and that humans may in fact be a special creation of God!

In the first chapter of the Bible, God (אֱלֹהִים El-oh-heém), is presented as the Creator of all things, including human life. Chapter two, verse four, identifies Him as LORD GOD (יְהוָה YHWH). By identifying Him this way, the author lets the reader know that this is the God of the

patriarchs and ultimately the God of the rest of Scripture.

Indeed, throughout the Scripture, both Old and New Testament, all 40 writers – despite being separated on three continents and living in different times covering 1,500 years in all – are consistent about the origins of man and the identity of his Creator:

– Isaiah 42:5 says, "Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it." There is no doubt in the mind of the author of the book of Isaiah that God is the creator of all things.

– Colossians 1:16 says, "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created by Him and for Him." Again, there can be no doubt that in the mind of Paul, Jesus Christ, as God, is the creator of all things.

– The author of Genesis gives the details concerning six days where God prepares a place for His special

See LIFE on 5

kaleidoscope

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This is just a small portion of the 2,000 letters and 90,000 emails Lloyd Harsch, a member of this year's Electoral College and a history professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, received from distraught voters prior to his casting his vote for Donald Trump at the Dec. 19 Louisiana Electoral College which convened in Baton Rouge.

NOBTS prof. rejected threats, cast his Electoral College vote for Trump

BY MARILYN STEWART
NOBTS Communications

NEW ORLEANS – A raucous presidential election year turned personal for Lloyd Harsch, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary history professor, when his seminary inbox filled with more than 90,000 emails.

Harsch is a member of the Electoral College, and most of the electronic messages, primarily from people outside Louisiana, asked him to flip his commitment from Donald J. Trump, who carried the state with nearly 60 percent of the vote.

As Harsch, with wife Jill, prepared for travel to attend the Jan. 20 inauguration ceremony and related festivities in Washington, D.C., emails and letters continued to come in, causing Harsch to pause and reflect.

"I had to evaluate [voters'] concerns about the purpose of the Electoral College," Harsch

said. "I had to ask, 'What was it designed to do?' and 'What is my actual responsibility?'"

Most of the writers expressed genuine concern, Harsch said, and the few veiled in innuendo or threat were passed on to authorities.

Louisiana is one of 21 states whose electors are "unbound," meaning they are not constrained legally to vote for their party's nominee, the winner of the state's popular vote.

Phone calls, a fax, and about two thousand letters—almost all from out-of-state voters—

were received by Harsch, who was elected last June by a Republican Party caucus to represent Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, which includes the heavily Democratic Orleans Parish.

The Louisiana GOP posted a statement on its website calling the targeting of the state's eight electors "unprecedented harassment."

As a professor and director of the NOBTS Institute for Faith and the Public Square, Harsch's seminary contact

See VOTE on 9

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Life from page 4

creation, humans. Then, in verse 27 the text says, "And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." The author makes it clear in verse 26 and verse 28 that humans will be allowed to "rule" over God's creation. This will be part of God's blessing to them along with the opportunity to "be fruitful and multiply."

No other created thing is described as being made in God's image. The creation of humans serves as the climax of the creation narrative of the book of Genesis and is the foundation needed to appreciate the value of human life.

Wade Warren, Ph.D., is professor of biology with

Louisiana College. His column is part of a series of commentaries provided by Louisiana College relating to the Southern Baptist Convention's calendar of Special Emphasis Sundays. January 22 is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

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Imperfection from page one

talked, the more his resentment toward God grew.

"If Jesus healed the blind, deaf and lame, why would a compassionate God not do the same with him?" he would ask himself.

Life seemed unfair, Moore recounted to the *Baptist Message*.

But, during a message he heard while attending a Sunday worship service at Melville Baptist Church in

Ponchatoula, he said, God softened his heart of stone and removed the hatred he had been harboring, and, gave him peace.

"Although the teasing and laughing by some classmates continued, I embraced the fact that God loved me enough to send Jesus to die for me," said Moore, now pastor of Carmel Baptist Church in Pineville, in a blog. "I still did not understand many things about

God, but I began to learn that trusting Him is the pathway to peace; peace between Him and you, as well as within yourself."

Moore's encounter with the Holy Spirit on April 23, 1982, marked the beginning of a spiritual journey that continues to enrich his relationship with Jesus today, he said.

During a youth camp, Moore was asked to share with his classmates how God helped him overcome his past for His glory, he recalled. It was there the sophomore at Ponchatoula High School knew God's plan for him exceeded his dream of being the coach of a state champion football team.

Moore said at that point he began to long for something that reaped more eternal rewards.

For the next year he continued to share his testimony with area youth groups and churches, and as the requests increased Moore sensed God calling him to preach as his vocation, he remembered. So,



Doug Collier photo

With God's help Kenneth Moore overcame a rough childhood and his struggles with Cerebral Palsy to become the pastor of Carmel Baptist Church.

after much prayer, Moore surrendered to Christian ministry in 1989 – a calling he has been faithful to follow to this day.

Moore said he continues to be awed by how God uses his physical imperfection to effect His perfect will.

"Shortly after I was born, some doctors claimed that I would not function in school

much less society," he said. "Their suggestion was for me to be institutionalized.

"As a broken-hearted mother sobbed over their evaluation, God had another plan," he continued. "A reason that life is so valuable to me is that we cannot predict and should not think that God is limited to what He can do."

Choice from page 2

answers to the many questions she asked at every appointment, always trying to be better informed on how to take care of a special needs child.

Moreover, our faith in God was a known quantity.

The moments that followed the doctor's statement seem surreal now. I reddened as my neck muscles tensed and my forearms tightened. Catherine was on my arm and must have sensed my anger building. She tenderly but firmly squeezed my elbow and with calm strength said, "That choice has

already been made."

What a great wife and woman of God!

When over 9 out of 10 women, Christian and not, were doing otherwise, my wife chose life.

Of course, I knew that was her choice from the beginning. I was amazed as I watched her commit herself to preparing to be the best mom she could be for a baby with the odds stacked against him.

But what a confirmation her statement was to me.

See CHOICE on 8

On the Road ...



Dr. Rick Brewer, Louisiana College President

JANUARY

- 16 – Baseball Banquet - Best Western, Alexandria
- 18 – Calvary Baptist School, Shreveport – Inside Out
- 18 – FBC, Haughton – Inside Out
- 19 – FBC West Monroe, Sr. Adult Golden Years
- 29 – FBC, Ponchatoula, w/Voices of LC

FEBRUARY

- 4 – Alumni Day at H.O. West
- 5 – Siloam BC, Many w/Voices of LC
- 12 – Highland BC, New Iberia, w/Voices of LC
- 15 – FBC, Mandeville – Inside Out
- 16 – Northlake Christian, Covington – Inside Out

MARCH

- 3 – Annual LC Football Celebration – Granberry
- 6 – FBC, Pineville - First@First
- 8 – Highland Baptist School – Inside Out
- 19 – Amite FBC, w/Voices of LC
- 26 – FBC, Winnfield, w/Voices of LC

APRIL

- 5 – Parkview School, Baton Rouge – Inside Out
- 11 – Shreveport Alumni Meeting, w/Voices of LC
- 29 – Alumni Executive Board & Cochon De Lait

MAY

- 2 – FBC, Swartz – Sr. Adults "Young at Heart"
- 6 – LC Commencement
- 25 – Calvary BC, Alexandria – Senior Adults

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Heart from page one

forward to every Sunday,” Smart shared, saying baptisms reflect the heartbeat of the congregation – evangelism.

God even uses baptisms for still more evangelism, he said.

“I tell those who are getting baptized that they are telling their story of how Christ has changed their life,” Smart said. “Someone who isn’t saved sees that and they might accept Christ – which has happened numerous times.”

The heartbeat of evangelism in large part is paced by the congregation’s military outreach.

Located 10 miles from Fort Polk – a United States Army installation – East Leesville enjoys a “target-rich environment” for growth. In fact, the congregation attracts 60 percent of the 1,350 worshippers on campus each Sunday from there.



Sherry Slaydon was among the 77 believers East Leesville Baptist baptized in 2016. In the past three years, the church has baptized 205 people.

“Our proximity to Fort Polk really makes our church unique,” Smart said. “We have people from so many different backgrounds get saved while stepping inside our church during their time at Fort Polk.”

“For us, the military is a field white unto the harvest,”

he added.

That includes a number of children and teens, too.

More than 200 youth regularly participate in the church’s Sunday morning Bible studies and Wednesday evening discipleship activities; about 100 of them are involved in mission activities and summer camps; and, many take part in Friday evening gatherings, too.

“We really cater to the military families’ kids,” Smart said. “The parents come to us for the benefit of their kids, and in turn will start to worship with us and learn more about Jesus.”

“They get under the influence of the Gospel,” he said. “The Gospel is saturated in everything we do.”

The church ministers to non-military personnel as well, through such outreach vehicles as Compassion In Action, Disaster Relief and Beyond Our Walls (a joint effort with local schools to give reading help to students, distribute backpacks with supplies, and provide food for hungry children on week-ends).



Submitted photo

Members of East Leesville Baptist Church sport t-shirts telling of their obedience to share Christ’s love in their community, this time delivering breakfast and mugs to area schools during a teacher’s development day.

SENT INTO THE FIELDS

Newly baptized believers are immediately enrolled in a Bible study for discipleship, and, they are asked to complete a survey to find out how they are spiritually gifted for service.

Then they are trained to go out into the community, and beyond, to share Christ.

“We try to get the military families involved in all these ministries, especially” Smart said. “We disciple them, teach them, so they can serve at other churches.”

“Whenever they leave, we want them to go to that next church eager to plug in, ready to use their spiritual gifts and continue growing in the Lord.”

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Choice from page 6

And what a difference that choice has made in our lives. It also made a difference in the lives of the two mothers.

After hugging Jacob, both mothers looked like the weight of the world had been lifted. They laughed and jostled him ... and both cried with relief as he responded to them. And each woman, during their respective visits, chose life for their unborn.

Don't get me wrong, it has not been a bed of roses. And we didn't sugar coat what we knew then.

You can Google "Down Syndrome" and get an idea of the medical issues, learning challenges, physical concerns, added training and therapies, extra time,

energy and expenses ...

But, I don't want to belabor these points, especially in view of how God has so generously supplied every need.

However, I do need to mention that Catherine picks up the biggest portion of the extra workload for Jacob. I don't tell her enough what a hero she was, and is, – she is an incredible mom and wife and servant of God – but I'm trying to improve.

I also need to share one more anecdote about Jacob. I'm sure it will bless someone, because it reveals so much about who he is.

Jacob had heart surgery 10 years ago.

We were with him in the prep area, just loving on him, with friends who were cycling in from the waiting room, when the nurses came to wheel him

away. He was already medicated to ease him into sleep. Slurring his words, which were not very clear to start with, he began singing a song his next older brother, Nathan, had taught him.

"Lord you are more precious than silver.

"Lord you are more costly than gold.

"Lord you are more beautiful than diamonds.

"And nothing I desire compares with you."

He didn't understand everything that was going on, but he knew something, from the surroundings and the large number of folks who were there to be with him, about the seriousness of what was happening.

He was drifting fast into slumber, going into a situation that he didn't understand, except he knew our concern.

And singing praise to God was what was on his heart.

I really hope one day he is able to understand, so I can tell him the hero he is.

I've thought it through a couple of times. Each instance I've imagined the serious look he'll give as I share the details of how the love he showed to two mothers saved the lives of their babies. Then I see a broad smile stretching from cheek to cheek when I give him two thumbs in the air and say "good job."

Choosing life was the right choice.

More importantly, choosing life is the right choice.

"Choosing life is the right choice" has been reprised from a 2007 version and is adapted from "Pennies from Heaven," a manuscript for a book by the same name.

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Vote from page 5

information is readily available online, yet letters arrived at Harsch's home address, as well.

Harsch said the emails and letters – some severe – expressed concern regarding Trump's fitness for office, a fear of foreign interference, and Trump's loss in the national popular poll. Harsch fashioned his response by looking to the Federalist Papers 68.

"I determined the Electoral College was never designed to be a 're-do' of the election," Harsch said.

From the nation's beginnings, Harsch noted, electors were chosen based on their alignment with a particular candidate and that going against the voters' wishes would require "extraordinary" circumstances.

Prior to casting his vote for Trump at the Dec. 19 Louisiana Electoral College convening in Baton Rouge, Harsch read a statement thanking those who voiced their concerns and explaining his decision: "...I have examined the options before me carefully. I have determined to have the courage of my convictions. I will heed the voices of the majority of voters...in Louisiana."

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AT STAKE

Harsch said he supported the Repub-

lican candidate because there were "significant issues" surrounding the Democratic nominee and that deeper concerns were at stake.

"In essence, I voted for the integrity of the Supreme Court," Harsch said, adding that for him the key issues were "[right to] life and religious liberty."



NOBTS Professor
Lloyd Harsch

Religious liberty concerns intensified for many pro-life voters when Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's statements at the sixth annual Women in the World Summit, April 23, 2015, came to light.

Clinton stated, "Yes, we've cut the maternal mortality rate in half, but far too many

women are still denied critical access to reproductive health care and safe childbirth... Rights have to exist in practice, not just on paper. Laws have to be backed up with resources and political will, and deep seated cultural codes, religious beliefs, and structural biases have to be changed."

In the same speech, Clinton took a jab at Hobby Lobby who won a federal lawsuit when the Supreme Court ruled that forcing a family-owned-and-operated business to provide four abortion-inducing drugs was a violation of the owners' religious freedom. Clinton said, "America moves forward when all women are guaranteed the right to make their own health care choices, not when those choices are taken away by an employer

like Hobby Lobby."

CONNECTING NEEDS TO SOLUTIONS

Born the son of a Canadian father, Harsch's first connection with politics came when he realized he shared a birthday with President Richard Nixon.

Religious liberty caught his interest when a deacon at his home church in North Dakota ran for the U.S. Senate and Harsch, as a youth, mistakenly thought that separation of church and state meant he could not openly support the family friend.

While a Ph.D. student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Harsch served as an election judge for his precinct, working with both parties. In New Orleans, Harsch serves on the Republican State Central Committee and currently is filling his fourth term on the Orleans Parish Republican Executive Committee, an elected position.

While the executive committee includes 14 positions, Harsch said there never have been enough candidates to fill all slots. "I'm a small fish in an even smaller pond," Harsch quipped.

Importantly, Harsch distinguishes between what a believer's participation in the public square can do and what it can't do. "We need Christians in the public realm so that a biblical worldview has a voice," Harsch said. "It is a trap to think that politics is the means of establishing a biblical worldview."

Harsch said he sees his involvement in politics as a means of helping con-

nect those with needs to those who have solutions.

Now, with his duties completed with the Electoral College, he is excited about the "once-in-a-lifetime experience" of being part of a presidential inauguration, having once attended the Republican National Convention as an alternate delegate.

FINAL TALLY

Harsch's resolve to be faithful to his role and responsibility in the Electoral College process was repeated by most of the other 538 electors across the country.

Despite the organized nationwide campaign to flip electors from Trump, Hillary Rodham Clinton actually lost more votes, with five ultimately abandoning her and two defecting from Trump:

-- Two Texas Republican electors voted for different Republican politicians.

-- Three Democratic electors, in Colorado, Maine and Minnesota, initially declined to vote for Clinton. Two were replaced by an alternate, and one ended up changing his vote. However, in Washington, three of the state's 12 electoral votes went to Colin L. Powell, the Republican former secretary of state. One more elector voted for Faith Spotted Eagle, a Native American leader. Meanwhile, a Democratic elector in Hawaii voted for Mr. Sanders.

In the end, Trump tallied 304 electors' votes to Clinton's 227, finalizing his victories in 30 states to her 20.



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Please send resume to Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or contact at 318.343.2244.

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Baptist women 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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LOUISIANA NOTABLES

ON THE MOVE

- **Mike Smith** resigns as pastor of Brookwood Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Mark Cole** is the new NextGen pastor at First Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- **Ed Baldwin** is the new pastor at Sharp Baptist Church, Lena.
- **Josh Eliff** is the pastor at First West, Calhoun.
- **David Brown** is the pastor at Refuge Church, Monroe.

REVIVAL

- First Baptist Church, Patterson: **Revival**, Jan. 29-Feb. 1, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday evening thru Wednesday, 6 p.m. Evangelist: **The Lisembys**. Pastor: Michael D. Reichard, Jr.
- Sugartown Baptist Church, Sugartown: **Revival**, Feb. 2-5, Thursday thru Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. Evangelists: **The Lisembys**.
- Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold: **Harvest Sunday**, Jan. 29. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: James Hester.
- Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church, Spearsville: **Revival**, Feb. 5-8. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Adam Hill.
- Wilda Baptist Church, Gardener: **Revival**, Feb. 8-12. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. Pastor: Joey Rudisill.

LAGNIAPPE

- **Earnest Little** is available for inter-im or supply. Call 318.663.2770.
- The Evangeline Baptist Association is recognizing **Wallace Primeaux** on his 90th birthday at the end of January. Primeaux is the former Director of Missions for Evangeline and Gulf Coast Associations (1973- 1994) and is presently the pastor at Esther baptist Church (1994 to present).

- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Shine 2017 Kickoff event for Women's Ministry**, Jan. 27, 6:30 p.m. Speaker: **Jinny Henson**. She and her husband John co-authored the book "Maggie Lee for Good" following Maggie Lee's tragic death in a church bus accident in 2009. Cost: Free. For more information, email women@fbchaughton.org or call 757.788.9537. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- First Baptist Church, Bossier City: **PLACE Conference**, Jan. 27-28, Friday, 6-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Speaker: **Jay McSwain**. This conference will equip church leaders in volunteer ministry placement, personal discovery, coaching and connecting. For more information, call First Bossier at 318.746.7940. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich.
- Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: **BAGBR Women's Missions fellowship**, Jan. 28, 10 a.m. - noon. Speaker: **Ruth Ripken, Author/Missionary**. This is a women only conference and fellowship. Childcare is available by reservation by emailing danatruitt@bagbr.org. For more information, call 225.296.3943.
- Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association Call to Prayer II**, Jan. 29, 6 p.m. Pastor: Aaron Burgner.
- First Baptist Church, LaRose: **WeR- Called in concert**, Jan. 29, 6 p.m. Pastor: Gary Handberry.
- Kingsville Baptist Church, Kingsville: **Summit Revival Conference presented by Life Action**, Jan. 29-Feb. 5. Designed for the entire church family, Revival Summits provide a one-of-a-kind experience of reconnecting with God and transforming relationships. Pastor: Bart Walker.



Crosses cover the lawn in front of First Baptist Church, Monterey. The church has placed almost 50 crosses on its grounds to represent not only all the lives that have been lost to abortion but to bring attention to the fact that every person has a right to life. The crosses, which were placed in the ground in mid-January, are expected to remain in place until the end of the month.

- Zoar Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: **Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge World Missions Conference**, Jan. 29, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Nik Ripkin, New York Times #1 best-selling author and veteran overseas worker**. Child care will be provided, RSVP for childcare 225.296.3943. Director of Missions: Tommy Middleton.
- First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula: **Johnny Hunt Men's Conference Simulcast**, Feb. 3-4. Friday's schedule begins with dinner at 5 p.m., praise and worship at 5:30 p.m. and **Johnny Hunt** speaking from 6-8:40 p.m. Saturday morning begins at 7 a.m. with breakfast and morning breakout, praise and worship at 8:15 a.m., and **Johnny Hunt** speaking from 8:30-11:15 a.m. Cost: \$15. Pastor: David Cranford.
- Woodland Park Baptist Church, Hammond: **Disaster Relief Roundtable**, Feb. 3-4, Pastor: Scott Thompson.
- Longview Baptist Church, Deville: **Community-wide Marriage Enrichment Conference**, Feb. 3-5. Speakers: **Stephen and Annie Chapman, Letting the Carpenter Build your Marriage**. Cost: Free. Pastor: Robby Poole.
- First Baptist Church, Tullos: **Kellie and Kristin in Concert**, Feb. 4, Pastor: Scott Smith
- First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**,

- Feb. 6, noon. Speaker: **Adam Jonson, LSUA Athletic Director**. Cost: \$10 and you may pay at the door. Please RSVP to Melinda Langford (mlangford@fbcpin- eville.net. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.
- First Baptist Church, Tioga: **Men's chili cook-off**, Feb. 8. Pastor: Tim Hissaw.
- The Lord's Church, Kentwood: **University of Equipping presents a Biblical view of Human Identity: Who has the authority to choose gender?** Feb. 11, 9 a.m.-noon, Speaker: **Hal Stewart**. Cost: Free with donations being accepted at the door. Pastor: Don Meadows.
- First Baptist Church, Pontchatoula: **Evening concert with The Foto Sisters**, Feb. 12, 7 p.m. Pastor: David Cranford.
- First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Ted DiBiase, WWE Hall of Fame professional wrestler**, will give his testimony, Feb. 12, 8:45 & 11 a.m. Pastor: Chris Craig.
- Longview Baptist Church, Deville: **2Talk42 Ministries presents sharing the Gospel thru ventriloquism and puppetry**, Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m. Puppeteers: **Brian & Vicki Cockerham**. Pastor: Robby Poole.
- First Baptist Church, Hornbeck: **28th Annual Wild Game Feast**, Feb. 17, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Hank Parker, Legendary bass fisherman and host of "Hank Parker's Outdoor Magazine."** Pastor: Jack Bell.
- Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **The Art of Marriage**, Feb. 17-18, Friday 6-9:00 p.m. Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. There are six sessions in total. Cost: \$50 (Includes Study Materials and Refreshment both days).

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Scripture Crypto

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

izw pfgz mgbxb bip qfiq fg izbpgygw

wvbhyggqsu, fg bivw xzqr fvd, qfrx iyq zrq niy

nyrd qfg evztwrd rn trw. izw zr diz inqgy qfiq

wxybq ibe fvd izu lxgbqvrz.

diye qpgskg:qfvyqu-nrxv

Clues:
G = E; Y = R

Answer to January 12 Scripture Crypto:
Joshua fourteen:two



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