

*“Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his[a]; we are his people ...”*

— Psalm 100:3 (NIV)

# M BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

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May 4, 2017



Gardening was just one of the many labors of love by BCM students from LSU and Southern, several staff members, pastors and laymen.



LSU BCM students tend to a garden during their mission trip to Mexico. They spent an entire week in the country during their spring break.

## LSU's Orgeron says wife, pastors 'coach' him spiritually

BY WILL HALL  
Message Editor

BATON ROUGE (LBM) — Ed Orgeron's professional life, particularly his coaching résumé, is pretty well known around the country, but not much has been publicized about his religious life.

However, during an informal interview conducted by Gary Borgstede, executive pastor and chief administrative officer of the Church of the King in Mandeville, LSU's head football coach, “Coach O” and his wife, Kelly, shared glimpses about their walk of faith as they traveled along his demanding career path to become the head football coach at LSU.

The Orgerons were speaking April 11 at the 2017 Louisiana Pastors' Legislative Briefing, held in the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge and co-sponsored by the Louisiana Family Forum and Louisiana Baptists Office of Public Policy.

Orgeron elicited robust laughter when asked whether he had a “coach” in life, responding, “No question. Number one, my wife ... and Number two,

## Mexico trip no spring break for BCM students

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

COAHUILA, Mexico — Instead of joining classmates on the beach or in the mountains for spring break, Baptist Collegiate Ministry students with Louisiana State University and Southern University, along with other Louisiana Baptists, took a road trip of their own — south of the border for a week of sharing the Gospel with thousands of Mexicans.

By the conclusion of the mission trip, April 7-14 in the state of Coahuila near the U.S.-Mexico border, the team saw more than 30 people accept Christ, including two LSU students who thought they were there to minister to the spiritual transformation of others.



Submitted photos

Pastor Jeff Ginn of Istrouma Baptist Church leads a group prayer during the LSU and Southern University BCM mission trip in April.

### UNITY & SERVICE

LSU BCM Director Steve Masters said he was overjoyed with the students' attitude of serving others first, no matter

the unfamiliar situations they faced.

“The vast majority of college students in the United States use their spring break to go on a trip or outing with friends,” Masters said. “I am very proud of our 2017 Mexico mission trip participants for using their spring break to spread the Gospel. They worked long hours, traveled in vans, slept on the floor or in bunk beds, did all this without air conditioning, and loved every minute of it.”

The team included 90 LSU and two Southern University BCM students, BCM staff and Baton Rouge area pastors and laymen.

Progression Baptist Church, Istrouma Baptist Church and Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge provided adult

See MEXICO on 3

## Woodland has its own Noah story of salvation, and rescue from flood

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Nicole Wall and her family have experienced their fair share of tragedy, including damage to their home caused by the 2005 Hurricane Katrina.

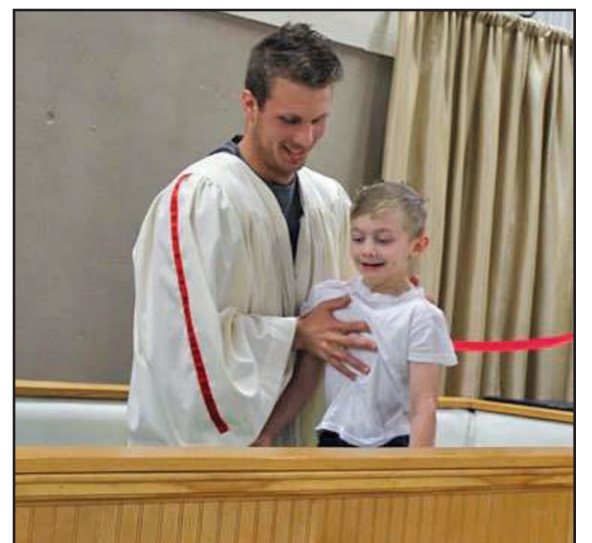
But they also have been blessed beyond measure, evidenced most recently when their son, Noah, was baptized seven months after 36 inches of rain damaged their home church, Woodland Baptist Church in Springfield.

The family returned to the area after

the record August 2016 flood so they could be a part of the revitalization of the community.

“We are thankful God has allowed us to be a part of the rebuilding process,” Wall said. “For us, because we had already been through a flood back in 2005, we were more burdened for them and wanted to help. It's been neat being back with family and seeing the community come back up.”

The March 5th baptism of Noah — who publicly professed Christ as



Submitted photo

Woodland Baptist Church Youth Ministry Intern Sennett Jackson baptizes Noah Wall.

See SALVATION on 6





Doug Collier photo

LBC Executive Director David Hankins prays for Louisiana State University football coach Ed Orgeron and his wife Kelly, as others surround the couple and pray in agreement. During a legislative briefing at the Old State Capitol, April 11, Coach O shared about his faith in Christ, and Kelly offered how God has unfolded a better plan for their lives than either could have imagined. About 200 pastors and others were in attendance.

## Orgeron from page one

Pastor Jacob and Pastor Steve.”

Jacob Aranza is pastor of the multisite Our Savior’s Church, based in Lafayette, and once served as chaplain for the New Orleans Saints, and, Steve Robinson is pastor of the multisite Church of the King, based in Mandeville.

### FAITH IN THE FIRE

But, while Orgeron made his statement somewhat to get a laugh, he made it clear during his exchanges with Borgstede that his wife was a strong spiritual influence on him and their family.

Using a mixture of humor and serious reflections, Orgeron described her strength of faith in the context of his failed bid to get the USC Trojan head coaching job in 2013 and his

subsequent hiring by the LSU Tigers in 2016.

He had led the USC football team to a 6-2 record after taking over mid-season for the fired Lane Kiffin, but learned the school had chosen someone else.

“I looked at [Kelly] and said, ‘Besides the day I buried my father, this is the worst day of my life,’ he said. “She goes, ‘No, it’s not.’”

“What are you talking about?” Orgeron recalled was his response. “She goes, ‘God has a better plan.’ And I said, ‘Whew! It better be good.’”

Kelly said the promise of a better plan helped the family during Coach O’s time of transition back to Mandeville, where he got to watch his sons play ball, and they started attending Church of the King.

“God definitely has been good to our family,” she said. “We’ve had trying times just like any family does ... but we have God as our foundation.”

She said she remained firm in her faith that God had a better plan even when her husband had been mentioned as the next head coach for the Tigers, but other names kept coming up.

In the last days of LSU’s coaching search, one son texted several times with concerns before she finally told him, “Son, when God has a plan, nobody can change it.”

“Your father is going to be the next LSU head coach,” she remembered telling him, and, that was her counsel to Coach O the night before he learned he had been hired by LSU.

“I got on my knees and said my prayers,” Coach O recounted. “Kelly looked up and asked, ‘Why do you look so sad?’”

“I said, ‘It don’t look good.’ But she says, ‘It’s O.K.’ I said, have you looked at the TV, woman?” he told the crowd with a laugh.

“Here’s what she said. She goes, ‘You’re going to wake up tomorrow, and you’re going

See **ORGERON** on 4

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Submitted photo

Students from the Southern and LSU BCMs, along with BCM staff, pastors and laymen saw more than 30 people accept Christ during their spring break mission trip to Mexico, including two LSU students.

## IN THEIR WORDS ...

*"He showed me that everything I have is a blessing from Him. He reminded me to stay humble and never take for granted my life. Also, I learned you don't need much to be happy."*

**Victoria Harp- Sophomore, Covington**

*"This week reminded me to stop and look around at how others in this world go about their daily lives. The people here in Piedras Negras live in a way that is much more simple and faithful than I find the people in the U.S. do. I have learned a lot from them and plan on changing the way I live my life in order to be more like them."*

**Phoebe Fortenberry- Sophomore, New Orleans**

*"God just reminded me how powerful and uncontrollable He is. To see other people singing the same songs I do, reading the same Bible, and serving the same God I do was such a powerful thing to witness."*

**Kendall Mangum- Freshman, Shreveport**

*"Oh wow, I don't even know where to begin. I came on this trip solely for the medical experience, but I have been forever changed. I have strayed from God recently and He has called me back through this trip. This trip and everyone on it has reminded me of what I am missing."*

**Carly Moore- Sophomore, Abita Springs**

*"He reminded me that He has given me specific skills and talents that I should be using to grow His kingdom."*

**Zach Luneau- Junior, Alexandria**

*"God really challenged me to be strong in my patience, courage, and faith when working with the special needs children of Bethesda. It was especially challenging when bathing the children, but it was the most amazing and humbling experience."*

**Mary Gueho- Sophomore, Baton Rouge**

*"The Lord showed me two big things this week: 1. The power of our words to give life, and 2. The need to share the Gospel- to treat every day as a mission trip."*

**Nathan Lilly-Junior, Prairieville**

See **WORDS** on 6

## Mexico from page one

leaders. Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Hebron Baptist Church in Denham Springs, Southside Baptist Church in Denham Springs and Woodlawn Baptist Church in Baton Rouge provided vans for transportation.

### PRACTICAL MINISTRY

Seven smaller teams were formed to work with more than 300 children and teenagers in seven Bible clubs. They also painted and did some light construction on six church buildings.

But the teams also encouraged patients at a special needs orphanage; ministered to 14 children and teenagers at another orphanage; conducted a sports clinic in the town of Morales; and volunteered at medical clinics.

More than 75 children and adults attended each evening of the sports clinic, enjoying sessions in basketball, cheerleading, Crossfit, golf, soccer and volleyball. Meanwhile, students working on medical degrees from LSU assisted Mexican doctors in treating more than

130 people.

### GOSPEL IMPACT

The teams saw the most decisions at the Bible clubs, at which more than 30 children confessed Christ as Savior. The sports clinic also yielded results, with several Mexicans making a commitment to follow Christ.

Sarah Farley, associate BCM director at LSU, said one of the students from her campus was convicted of her need for salvation during one of the Bible

clubs.

"Martha told me that during the Gospel presentation, she believed that she was a sinner in need of a Savior," Farley recalled. "The kids understood about God's love and she didn't have Him in her heart."

Maddie, another LSU student who accepted Christ, did so during a large group devotional time. For one-and-a-half years, her friends prayed she would accept Jesus and the mission trip to Mexico proved to be the setting for her conversion.

"It goes to show you that missions is more than going and

See **MEXICO** on 9

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# LC's Dennis Dunn accepts head coaching position at Pineville High

By BRAD WELBORN  
LC Sports Information

PINEVILLE – Louisiana College announced April 25 athletics director and football coach Dennis Dunn has accepted the head coaching position at Pineville High School effective immediately.

"I am grateful for my years at LC," Dunn said. "The coaches and the hundreds of players that have come through our program have impacted me eternally. One of our sayings through the years has been, 'leave it better than you found it.' I believe we have done that."

Dunn was introduced as the new athletics director and

head football coach at Pineville High School in a 10 a.m. press conference.

Louisiana College President Rick Brewer said, "We all owe Coach Dunn a debt of gratitude for putting our football program on the map. He has demanded excellence from his student-athletes athletically and academically. But most important, he has expressed his deepest interest students' spiritual development. We commend Dennis for his years of service to LC, and know that he will continue with the same personal standards in his new role at Pineville High School."

In 11 seasons as the Wildcats head man, Dunn compiled

a 65-45 record, four American Southwest Conference runner-up finishes, and a NCAA Tournament appearance in the 2012 season. He led the Wildcats to seven consecutive winning seasons from 2008 to 2014.

In 2011, the Wildcats posted their fourth consecutive 7-3 record, which, at the time, equaled the best mark the program had produced since its rebirth in 2000. That year they earned a third-place finish in the highly competitive ASC. The 2011 Wildcats also made history by receiving a top-25 national ranking for the first time in school history, climbing as high as number 19 in the nation.

The 2012 season was the finest in the program history. LC posted their first eight-win season in school history and made their first ever appearance in the NCAA Division III National Playoffs.

Dunn was named the 2012 ASC Coach of the Year and the Wildcats placed 20 players on the ASC All-Conference Team that season. Five players landed on the D3football.com All-South Region Team, and senior

receiver D'Mario Parker was named an All-American.

Through the years, Dunn's teams have produced 24 All-South Region selections, third most of any ASC team, and eight All-Americans. He has had two quarterback's pass for over 10,000 yards, three running backs rush for over 2,000 yards, and five receivers go over 2,000 receiving yards in their careers.

Dunn returns to the high school ranks for the first time since 2005, after turning Shreveport's Evangel Christian Academy into a state powerhouse.

He spent 14 seasons at ECA, winning 14 district championships, nine state titles in three different classifications, and

the 1999 USA Today National Championship. Prior to his stint at Evangel, Dunn led the Woodlawn Knights to three district titles and five state playoff appearances.

"Just as there are seasons in football, there are seasons in life," Dunn said. "My season at Louisiana College has come to an end and a new one at Pineville High is beginning. I'm proud of the All-Americans I've coached and the guys who went on the play in the NFL, but I'm even more proud of the men who have left here to become champions in life. I look forward to continuing to build champions on and off the field."

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## Orgeron from page 2

to be the next head coach at LSU."

When he received a 5:30 a.m. call from the LSU athletic director the next morning, he said Kelly looked at him and beamed, "I told you so."

### FROM START TO FINISH

Orgeron opened the time together by expressing profound gratitude to the more than 200 pastors who attended the legislative briefing.

"Thank you all for all the things that you do in the game of life, which is much more important than football," he shared. "Thank you for all you

do for the state of Louisiana."

But to close the time with the pastors, he shared a request.

"Remember, you guys are connected with everybody in Louisiana," he said. "So if you've got a big guy, about 6-3, 300, make sure you pray extra hard that he goes to LSU!"

**The LSU Tigers open the 2017 season with a first-time matchup against Brigham Young University in Houston's NRG Stadium, Sept. 2. The Tigers' schedule is arguably one of the toughest in the nation, with the final seven games all against SEC opponents.**

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# Louisiana Baptists' missions extend overseas

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

MOZAMBIQUE – Modern day miracles are taking place in Mozambique and Lucas LaCour is thankful he and his fellow church members have a front seat to the revival happening in a cluster of villages.

Since their first mission trip to the country in 2015, Alpine First Baptist Church team members have witnessed more than 40,000 people make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and seen the number of church plants grow from zero to 41.

"It's miraculous," Lacour said. "And it's encouraging and convincing of the power of the Gospel. To see them hear it for the first time, there's no doubt whatsoever in my mind that Christ is on the move in Mozambique."

## COOPERATING CAJUNS

Alpine First Baptist has taken at least three mission



Submitted photos

Lucas LaCour, pastor of Alpine First Baptist Church, shares the Gospel during a mission trip to Mozambique. Since the church began going there in 2015, they have seen more than 40,000 people accept Christ.



Residents of a village in Mozambique attend a showing of the 'Jesus' film. Mozambique is one of the partnerships that span at least 50 countries for which Louisiana Baptists are a part.

trips to Mozambique each year since 2015. They are in the third of a five-year commitment to take teams to an area of the country that is home to Nsenga people, one of nearly 3,250 who the International Mission Board classifies as an Unreached Unengaged People Group. A people group is unreached where the

number of evangelical Christians is less than 2 percent of a country's population and are deemed unengaged when there is no church planting strategy consistent with evangelical faith and practice under way.

For four years prior to

See **MOZAMBIQUE** on 8

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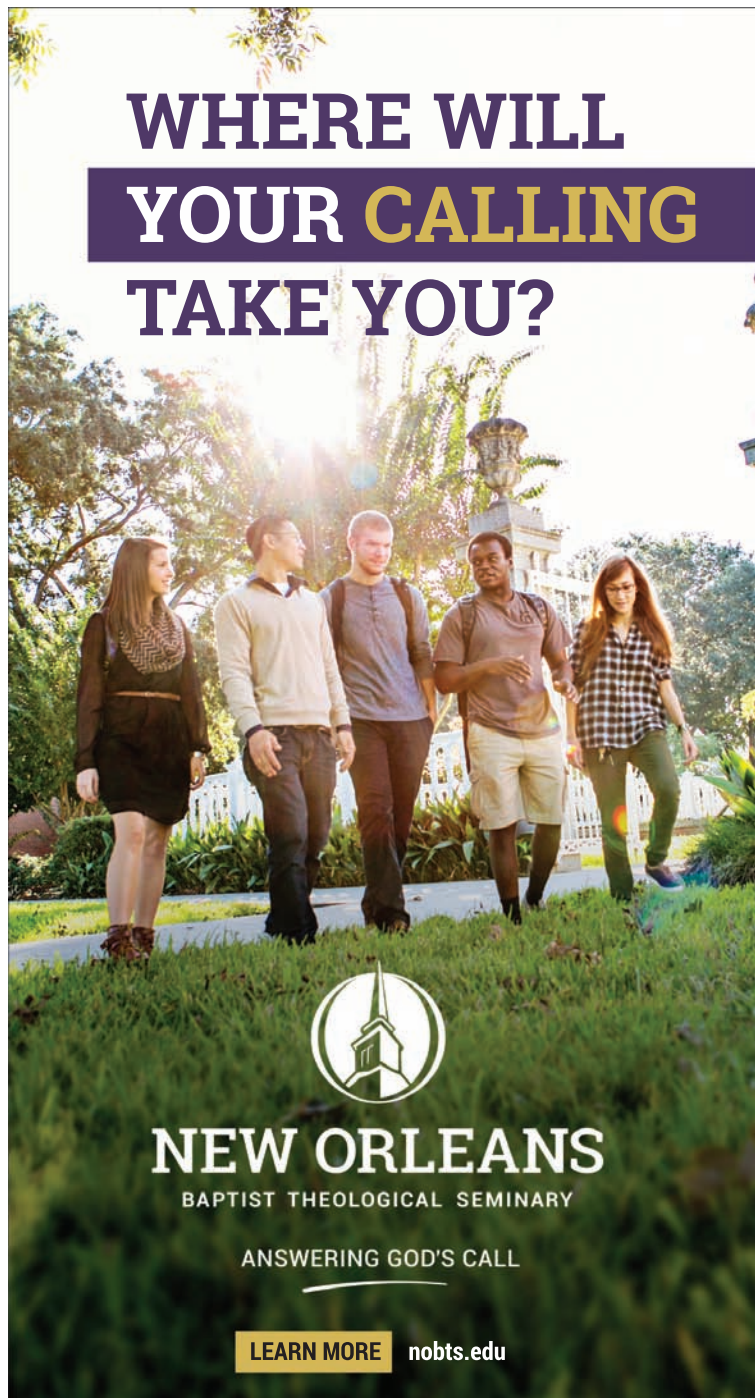


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## Some relief for pastors & wives impacted by disasters

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

ST. FRANCISVILLE — Louisiana Baptist pastors and their wives affected by either of the historic floods of 2016 are invited to take advantage of a gift, courtesy of the missions and ministries and pastoral leadership teams at the state missions office — some days of relaxation on the grounds of Judson Retreat Center.

Couples will have the option of choosing to attend one of two identical overnight retreats — either May 15-16 or May 16-17 at the center, located at 10330 Peterson

Road in St. Francisville. Each retreat will begin at 3 p.m. and end at noon the following day.

Endel Lee, a military church planting catalyst with the North American Mission Board, will be the speaker and Ben Waites, a musical evangelist from Ball, will lead the music. Additionally, Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, will share some inspirational words during the Monday evening session.

“This conference is to assist the pastor and his wife to be able to unload and reload for the long haul,” said Gibbie McMillan, Louisiana Baptists

state disaster relief director. “Pastors carry too much stress and they need opportunities like this to take a load off and be able to relax for even a little while among fellow strugglers.

“Most of the time the spouses are the ones feeling

### Salvation from page one

Lord last year — signified his rebirth, but also represented something of a renewal for the congregation, where Nicole and her husband were members of the youth group, and, where they were married.

Combined with a string of other baptisms, it is a sign

the stress and pressure but they too need a time to unload safely and among friends,” he continued. “It is our hope to assist these servants of God and time to take load off.”

Combined, the two record floods damaged 83 Louisiana Baptist churches and 52

homes of pastors, McMillan said.

**The retreat includes lodging and meals at no cost to the pastor and his spouse. For more information, call 318.448.3402 or email gibbie.mcmillan@louisiana-baptists.org.**

the evangelistic nature of the church is being restored.

#### REGAINING MOMENTUM

Woodland Baptist Church baptized 40 people from September 2015 until the flood hit in August 2016, and averaged 150 in Sunday morning worship services.

But, for six months after the flood the church was in rebuilding mode, trying to recover from the effects of the historic rain event.

Finally, in February, the church turned a corner, with the first of four baptisms since the storm providing a sign of better days ahead.

The congregation also is approaching its pre-flood worship attendance average, now drawing 130 for Sunday services.

Moreover, with help from volunteer groups who have come from in-state, as well as Alabama, Mississippi and Oklahoma, Woodland Baptist is making progress on rebuilding its infrastructure, which

when done should help them regain their former strength in numbers — and more.

#### BACK IN BUSINESS

All of the Sunday school rooms are fully operational, and the fellowship hall and youth building are 85 percent complete, too. Meanwhile, staff offices should be finished in the next couple of months. The congregation has met in the gymnasium since the storm, missing just one Sunday, and members hope by the end of the year to finish remodeling the interior of the worship interior, Joshua Powell told the *Baptist Message*.

“We are starting to get back up in the right direction,” he said. “God is good. I think in the long run the campus will be nicer than it was before the flood and the Body of Christ stronger.”

Already, Woodland Baptist is looking to get back to reaching the community. Its

See **SALVATION** on 7

### Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

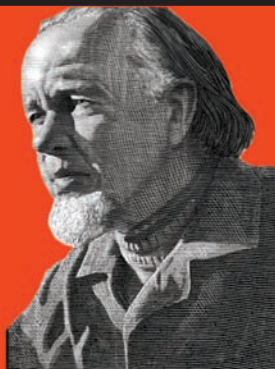
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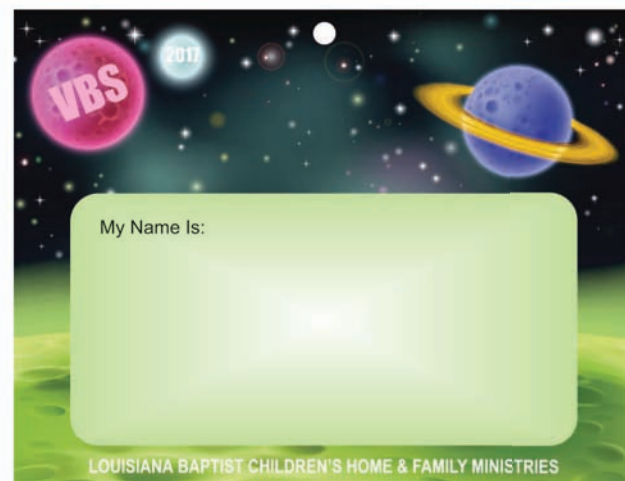
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# Prayers answered — God restores pastor's health, ministry

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

ST. LANDRY — Pastor Jerry Adams' life almost ended in December when he was forced into a medically-induced coma.

But a merciful God — inspired by the prayers of thousands in Louisiana and around the world — granted Adams a miraculous return to the pulpit at Centerville Baptist Church in St. Landry, only four months later, he told the *Baptist Message*.

## COMMON SICKNESS TO COMA

"It's been a long hard process coming back," Adams said. "God does have a plan for our life but it isn't what we always want. It's always for our best."

Adams' near-death experience began when a painful and persistent sore throat caused him to visit the emergency room at St. Francis Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria Dec. 1, being admitted shortly afterward.

Days later, he was placed

into a coma after his vitals plummeted following a tracheotomy, and was kept in this state of unconsciousness for 10 days. Physicians told Adams' family to prepare to say their final good-byes Dec. 13.

Determined not to give up, family and friends joined hands and sought God's grace.

"We began to pray for peace and God's will alone," said Josh Adams, the son of Jerry Adams and also pastor of Pisgah Baptist Church in Forest Hill. "It seems in that moment, peace was overwhelming. From the day we were told to call in the family and we placed Dad in God's hands for His will to be done, Dad got just a little bit better each day."

Miraculously, his condition improved from doubtful to hopeful, but he remained in the hospital for a month total.

## PHYSICAL THERAPY, SPIRITUAL REMEDY

Adams moved on to his next phase of recovery at Riverside Hospital in Alexandria, remaining there from Dec. 23 to Feb.

3. While there, he was weaned off a ventilator and put on oxygen, but he continued to have no motor function in his limbs.

To help him regain use of his arms and legs, he was transferred to HealthSouth Rehabilitation in Alexandria, staying Feb. 3 to March 17, when he was finally able to return home.

A former Vietnam War veteran, Adams called his time at the rehabilitation hospital the

hardest of his life.

"I got to a point where one day at Riverside I didn't want to live like I could without possibly being able to function on my own," Adams said. "I begged God to heal me by bringing me home."

"I started feeling sorry for myself," he continued. "But God reminded me it's not about me; it's about Him. There were people all around me who

needed the Lord and His love. I told Him that if he could help me talk and walk again, I would come back and work for Him."

After his conversation with God, Adams almost immediately was able to talk again. For the next few weeks, he steadily improved, returning to the pulpit March 19. His goal is to forgo use of his wheelchair

See **PRAYERS** on 12

## Salvation from page 6

first big event — an Easter egg hunt — drew 80 people on April 2.

Next month, the congregation will blitz the neighborhood with gifts and prayers, and from June 9-11, the church is hosting an Experiencing God weekend, which will be used to allow people to share testimonies and principles learned from the study in context of God's favor shown to them in spite of the flood.

Additionally, Vacation Bible School is well on its

way in terms of planning and organizing, and, a youth mission trip is on track for the summer.

"A lot of our people are ready to get back to that mode of ministry and outreach," Powell said. "Woodland has always had that reputation. It's a sigh of relief and a return to normalcy."

Reminiscing about the months following the historic flood, Powell said God's faithfulness has been a lesson learned.

"Even in the midst of situ-

ations you can't imagine, He won't abandon us," Powell said. "Before the flood, we were having all these baptisms but then when the flood came, it took the wind out of our sails."

"So many were hit hard in our church," he continued. "We could either get upset and give up, or we could realize God has a reason for this and He has good things ahead for us. It's just a matter of being faithful like He is and following and listening."



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## Mozambique from page 5

2015, Alpine First Baptist had taken teams to Malawi, which borders Mozambique, but sensed God leading them to explore additional missions possibilities.

Through prayer and research, LaCour learned that the IMB desired to reach the Nsenga people group but lacked the necessary resources to do so.

LaCour was encouraged by the Louisiana Baptist Convention's LA-340

initiative for 340 Louisiana churches to engage an Unreached Unengaged People Group and sought God's will for Alpine to take part in the work in the country.

Mozambique is one of the partnerships that span at least 50 countries for which Louisiana Baptists are a part.

Wayne Sheppard, executive assistant to the executive director for Louisiana Baptists, has traveled with LaCour and others on

multiple occasions to see how God can use churches in Louisiana to help share Christ and plant multiplying churches who have a great evangelical impact.

"I will never forget the experience of being awakened in our tent from the clamoring of voices," Sheppard said. "People in the village had gathered before sunrise to hear from this team of Malawians and two white Americans. The excruciating hunger to hear the Word of God reverberated as we arose and immediately began to share the Lord with this village of Nsenga peoples.

"I had the opportunity to venture into the bush of an UUPG on just the second journey among the Nsenga of Mozambique," he continued. "Already the one church that started on the first journey had multiplied to two. Now as we journeyed from village to village we had the opportunity to see five more begin. I will always cherish the joy of dedication Sunday and preaching to the new believers of a brand new church that sprang up in that village

during the previous week."

### MOZAMBIQUE MIRACLES

From the time they stepped foot into the country, God's miraculous hand has been at work.

Prior to crossing the border from Malawi into Mozambique during their first trip, the team was warned about corruption by guards, who could possibly throw them into prison or sentence them to death, recalled Kevin Billiot, pastor of evangelism for Alpine First Baptist.

As they approached the border, the first two people they met were two guards.

After a brief conversation, the team led the two men to the Lord, including one of the guards who had a vision only 30 minutes before that he would receive a visit from some white men.

The guard led the men to the village chief in Chi-limbu-limbu, the site of their first church plant.

More than 50 people attended the first four-hour service of Alpine Baptist Church of Chi-limbu-limbu. One month later, they baptized 184 in the river nearby.

Billiot said that story is one of many where God was with them throughout their journey.

"The corrupt officials were no match for God who desires to see these people come to faith in Jesus Christ," Billiot said. "In the same way God gave Joseph favor with Pharaoh, He has done the

same for us repeatedly. Every single border guard, every government official, and every village chief we met heard the Gospel; and every one of them gave their lives to Christ."

While their work includes door-to-door visitation, the largest number of conversions are seen when they show the Jesus film.

When a time of invitation is offered at the conclusion of the film, between 100 and 1,500 will come forward to profess their faith in Christ. At the conclusion of the Jesus film is when many have come forward and asked for a church to be planted in their village.

Among the members who have taken trips to Mozambique is Brent Nation, who has visited Mozambique twice and Malawi four times on mission.

Nation said despite the 40,000 who have accepted Christ, the harvest still is plentiful there.

"Two years ago I was at a leadership training meeting and a pastor said one mission trip will impact your life more spiritually than 52 sermons will," he said. "This is a true statement. Not taking away from the sermons preached and lessons taught but these mission trips to Mozambique are life changing. My prayer is for you to join us as we strive to reach people with the gospel and make disciples.

See **MOZAMBIQUE** on 11

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## Mexico from page 3

sharing with people outside our group," Farley said. "The Lord was also doing things in our own group. Mission trips are important for those serving and well as those who are served."

"God is always up to something and He'll always show His love in some of the most unlikely ways sometime," Farley said. "What better way to see Jesus than seeing tangible evidence of God through remarkable salvation stories."

Istrouma Baptist Church Pastor Jeff Ginn, who trained pastors in the area and spoke at an Easter Week retreat inside several churches, said a highlight was fellowshiping with other pastors in the country.

"One of the great joys in meeting with Mexican pastors was to do what 1 Thessalonians 5:11 commands – encourage one another," he said. "It was definitely a two-way street. For any encouragement that we were to them, it was multiplied back to us. Many of the pastors there labor with few resources and against overwhelming odds. Their faithfulness is an inspiration."

### OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Throughout the trip, God reminded the students about the importance of trusting Him despite hindrances, such as overcoming a language barrier.

"God showed me to continue to rely on Him even when things get difficult because if He sends you to do something, He will make a way for you to do it," said Taylor Freeman, a junior at LSU from Dry Prong. "He also showed me that He has a plan for me. Just when I felt unimportant and useless on this trip due to my lack of Spanish skills, He sent people to show me that I am doing something that is not useless and I am still doing God's work."

Adaoma Ngari, a junior from Prairieville, echoed the thought.

"Constantly, I was reminded of his love," Ngari said. "Just watching how the language barrier did not stop the love of God from being exposed was truly amazing. Also, I have been reminded how important it is to really live for God and make Him the center of my life."

Farley said watching students step out of their comfort zone and trust God is a reason why she enjoys these mission trips.

"I love watching college students see that God is moving all over the world and that it does not always look the same as it does back in their city, but it does always reflect the Gospel,"

Farley said. "They get to experience worshiping alongside their spiritual family in another language and see a glimpse of what heaven will be like with many nations and languages."

"It is always amazing to watch how students start to connect with each other and serve alongside one another the moment their feet hit the ground," she continued. "Mission trips like Mexico shows how serving Christ helps bring people together."

The trip was the first international mission trip for the BCM at Southern University, which was formed in the fall of 2016. Southern BCM Director Jason Thomas said the trip solidifies his students will have a clear mission of service on and off campus.

"Our first mission trip was a very different environment, causing our students to have to adapt to being without the kind of conveniences they are used to back in Louisiana," Thomas said. "And I'm proud of how they responded."

"They have come back to Southern wanting to be back in Bible study, and they are on fire for sharing the Gospel on their campus."

### COMMITMENT NOT TRADITION

The BCM's involvement in Mexico can be traced back to 1992, when they worked with churches in Piedras Negras and just to the south of the city in the

Casa Hogar orphanage. With the exception of 2010-2015 when they did not travel back due to drug cartel violence, the BCM has returned to work there annually.

Masters said after conducting extensive research by visiting with pastors in the country, International Mission Board representatives, border patrol officers and other government officials, he is confident that working in the Piedras Negras area is safe for mission teams; and, he encourages others to consider going there to share Christ's love.

"We need more groups to come because there is such a great need," Masters said. "We've been coming for the last two years and security has not been an issue for us."

## Words from page 3

*"It was a very cool experience to worship in two different languages. I want to be more intentional with my conversations (when thinking of my team). I wish I knew more Spanish. I was challenged to be flexible."*

**Morgan Manuel- Sophomore, Mandeville**

*"This was such an amazing experience for me. God really showed me how powerful His word is. No matter what we did or what language was spoken God's light was able to shine bright. One thing that God reinforced to me was the many ways his word can be spread."*

**Brittany Freeman- Sophomore, Dry Prong**

*"God reminded me how powerful He is and that His plan is always better than ours. He always provides and is so faithful."*

**Sarah Dieck- Sophomore, Covington**

*"No matter where He asks me to go or what He asks me to do, my answer needs to be/must be 'yes.'"*

**Tammy Pearson- Adult, Port Allen**

*"God showed me to continue to rely on Him even when things get difficult because if He sends you to do something, He will make a way for you to do it. He also showed me that He has a plan for me. Just when I felt unimportant and useless on this trip due to my lack of Spanish skills, He sent people to show me that I am doing something that is not useless and I am still doing God's work."*

**Taylor Freeman- Junior, Dry Prong**

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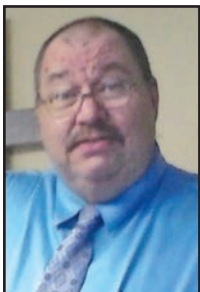


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# Mozambique from page 8

“When you truly grasp that there are actually people that have never heard the Gospel it will set your soul on fire,” he said. “God has given us a heart to share the Gospel and make disciples.”

## MISSIONS-MINDED HEART

Their involvement with Mozambique reflects the heartbeat of Alpine First Baptist Church – missions and evangelism.

Of the 200 who attend Alpine First Baptist Church,

120 have taken a mission trip.

In addition to Mozambique and Malawi, the church sends teams to reach people attending the annual Tarpon Rodeo in Grand Isle.

And the others who may not participate in a mission trip take part in local evangelism efforts, such as a monthly outreach to homeless people in downtown Alexandria and the Pineville Project, a systematic approach to reaching everyone within five miles of the church with

the Gospel.

“One thing I always keep in mind is our people here have embraced the vision to reach the people,” LaCour said. “They have been shown in scripture the commandment to embrace it but they continually hear the power of the Gospel.”

“They give, they pray, they encourage, they go,” he continued. “They see people come back from the mission field on fire for the Lord. I’m extremely grateful for the people of Alpine.”

## 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

odj iljyqc kynk odjmdnnqb kil ayeqj, ybs

wpicsqnk nqafcql; ybs gpsyk kynk apcnifciqs

oqbuqs uiniqj: wpn i ticc lqbs y oijq pfdb kil uiniql,

ybs in lkycc sqrdpj nkq fycyuql nkqjqdo.

kdlqy qimkn:odpjqnqqb

### Clues:

Y = A; O = F

### Answer to April 20 Scripture Crypto:

Second Chronicles thirty: seven

## LOUISIANA NOTABLES

### HOMECOMING

■ Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **180th Homecoming**, May 7, 10 a.m. There will be dinner on the grounds following the service. Speaker: **Rob Burns**. Pastor: Danny Mann.

■ Maryland Baptist Church, St. Joseph: **75th Homecoming**, May 7, 10:45 a.m. Lunch will be served following the worship service. Special Music: **Brothers in Christ**. Pastor: Larry Foster.

■ Bethel Baptist Church, Franklinton: **110th anniversary**, May 7, 10:30 a.m. A potluck dinner will follow services. Everyone is welcomed. Pastor: Joseph Kelley.

### REVIVAL

■ Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Columbia: **Evangelism Emphasis with Lyndon Longoria**, May 7, 11 a.m. **Concert of Praise with Kerry Longoria**; Revival, May 7-10, Sunday, 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Special Music: **Ben Waites**. Pastor: Jerry Hendrixson.

■ Wilda Baptist Church, Gardner: **Soul-winning Sunday**, May 7, 6 p.m. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. Special music: **Kerry Longoria**. Pastor: Joey Rudisill.

■ Antioch Baptist Church, Farmerville: **Area-wide Youth Revival**, May 8-10, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Casey Johnson**. Worship Leaders: **Broken Vessels**. Pastor: Rubin Weaver.

■ Lismore Baptist Church, Jonesville: **Revival**, May 21-24, Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist**. Pastor: Byron Gray.

■ Welcome Home Baptist Church, Hebert: Revival, May 21-24. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. Special music: **Kerry Longoria**. Pastor: Jim McKeithen.

■ Red River Baptist Association, Coushatta: **Red River Crusade**, May 21-28. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Evangelism director: Richard Kaufman, pastor of Martin Baptist Church.

### LAGNIAPPE

■ Judson Baptist Retreat Center, St. Francisville: **Adult Fish Fry**, May 9. Cost: \$10

per person, Worship: **Masters-4 Quartet**. Registration: 9:30 - 10 a.m., Music begins at 10 a.m., fried fish lunch to follow, after lunch prayer walk or prayer drive JBRC. Please call 225.634.7225 by May 4 to reserve your spot.

■ First Baptist Church, Hornbeck: **National Day of Prayer Prayer Walk**, May 4, noon, at Hornbeck Town Hall. Hot dogs will be served after the walk. Pastor: Jack Bell.

■ First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **National Day of Prayer luncheon**, May 4, 11:30 a.m. in the FBC Fellowship Hall. Pastor: Steve Horn.

■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **National Day of Prayer Community Service**, May 4, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. You are invited to join PBC for a night of prayer & praise. Pastor: Philip Robertson.

■ First Baptist Church, Many: **The Sabine Ministerial Alliance Prayer Walk** to coincide with the National Day Of Prayer, May 4, noon. The walk will begin in the parking lot of the First Methodist Family Life Center, go to City Hall, the School Board Offices, the Sabine Parish Courthouse, and then finish at First Baptist. Pastor: Johnathan Bost.

■ First Baptist Church, Vidalia: **May Musical - “In God We Still Trust,”** May 7, 6 p.m. Pastor: Wes Faulk.

■ Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **Second annual Hebron Golf Tournament**, May 13, 2 p.m. shotgun start. Cost: \$60 Includes green fee, cart and meal after. This is a 4-person Scramble for men, women, girls and boys at the Greystone Country Club. Sign up at the church or by calling Dan Robichaux at 225.953.5084.

■ First Baptist Church, Krotz Springs: **Mother’s Day Evening of Praise & Worship**, May 14, 6 p.m. Special Music: **Kerry Longoria**. Pastor: Chad Bolfa.

■ First Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Men’s golf tournament**, May 20. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. and golfers tee off at 1 p.m. at the Joe Bartholomew Golf Course. Cost: \$40. For more information or to sign-up, contact Taylor. Rutland.fbno.org. Pastor: David Crosby.

■ Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Slidell: **“Follow-U” presented by the Children’s Choir**, May 21, 10:15 a.m. Pastor: Dennis Phelps.



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## Prayer from page 7

during his messages and instead use a walker for support.

Adams said a supportive church was helpful during his return to Centerville Baptist Church, which averages between 35 and 50 worshipers for Sunday morning services.

During his absence, the congregation visited him at the hospital and his home, prayed with him and brought the family meals. They even put up a "Welcome Home" sign behind the pulpit during his first Sunday back at the church.

"They told us not to worry about anything, that if it took a year for me to come back, they would be waiting on me," he said. "It's been a long, hard journey but God has been so good and gracious to us."

"I don't know why God has allowed this to happen to me, but he's lit a fire in me," he continued. "God put me on my back and I have a fresh fire. I want people to know Jesus as the Lord of their life."

### FAITH & FAMILY

The preacher's son Josh Ad-

ams said the faith of others was evident during the ordeal, such as his mom who never stopped believing God would heal her husband.

"She continued to pray for his return home," he said. "I believed she wasn't listening. I prayed for God to ease her mind about the things to come. Our church prayed, and I shared my heart with them about the matter. But mom never lost faith that God could make it happen."

Josh Adams said his father, although unable to speak clearly, continued to minister to those he encountered.

"There were moments of doubt throughout the journey," he said. "I had become numb. Dad would ask me questions, not with words because he couldn't speak, but by mouthing his lips or pointing to letters and I really didn't have the answers. I struggled with matters and longed to speak with my father and receive his wisdom, yet I feared I would never get that opportunity again. Yet, all the while God was working behind the

scenes to provide a testimony through my dad that could reach the heart of so many people."

In the end, Josh Adams said the difficult situation unified his family and the church and provided an avenue for God to show up.

"There is no doubt in my mind that God reached down and changed the outcome in my dad's life, not for my dad, not for us, but to glorify His kingdom and it has," he said. "God has been moving in that church for years, and the test of their strength and faith in God has shown up in how they have responded through this crisis. I believe God will be glorified in that church and community in ways we have not yet seen."

"My own faith has been strengthened through this adversity," he continued. "I was able to praise God in this storm with the church I serve and now that we are on the other side, the victory is that much sweeter. God deserves all the glory for He has done. But can I just say that even if God had chosen to take my dad home, God would still deserve all the glory."



Submitted photo

Jerry Adams preaches March 16 during his first Sunday back at Centerville Baptist Church in St. Landry after nearly losing his life four months earlier. He credits God working through prayers from thousands of people around the world for his recovery.

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