

“... make known
to the sons of men
his mighty acts,
and the glorious
majesty of his
kingdom.”

— Psalm 145:12 (KJV)

LOUISIANA BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

Helping Louisiana Baptists impact the world for Christ



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July 20, 2017



Brian Blackwell photo

David Ford, pastor of Celebration Church's River Parishes campus in LaPlace, baptizes a girl as part of the "All In" weekend June 10-11 conducted on all nine campuses across Baton Rouge, New Orleans and the Northshore areas. Some of the 137 baptisms were planned while others were spontaneous.

After 490 baptisms, each still a 'special occasion' for Celebration Church

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

ST. GABRIEL — The newest campus of Celebration Church, located in St. Gabriel, celebrated its grand opening in style June 11, witnessing the baptism of three new believers, all part of a special "All In" weekend across the nine campuses of the combined congregation that spans Baton Rouge, New Orleans and the Northshore area.

Held June 10-11, the weekend saw 137 people participate in believer's baptism -- some scheduled already, and others taking place in response to the sermons presented that day.

The event was promoted heavily by Dennis Watson, pastor of the Metairie campus, and the campus pastors on his staff. Leading up to the baptism weekend, Watson and other pastors led a sermon

series on baptisms and reached out to the multisite congregation and the community about the biblical basis for baptism through social media, Life Groups, worship service announcements and e-mail blasts.

ST. GABRIEL

A crowd of 109 cheered as each of the three St. Gabriel converts declared their faith in Christ and were submerged in a portable baptismery.

Tiffany Gomez was first that day.

She told the *Baptist Message* that her decision to be baptized was the culmination of a journey that began in 2016 when she felt God leading her to attend Celebration Church on a regular basis. Prior to that, she spent years

See **CELEBRATION** on 7

Louisiana Baptists reach milestone toward 300 church plants

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA — Celebrating the 200th church started in the state since 2010, Louisiana Baptists Executive Director David Hankins challenged and thanked church planters, urging them to not flag in their zeal and encouraging them with appreciation for the souls that have been saved because of their work to share the Gospel.

Hankins made his remarks July 12 at a reception at the state convention's ministry center in Alexandria.

See **MILESTONE** on 3



Philip Timothy photo

Church planters, directors of missions, sponsoring church pastors and others gather around a cake celebrating the 200th church planted in Louisiana since 2010. The special reception held July 12 at the Baptist Building marked the two-thirds point of planting 300 churches by 2020 as part of one of the 10 action steps identified in the President's 2020 Commission Final Report, which was affirmed by messengers during the 2013 LBC Annual Meeting.

Platt: 'Stage is set' to reverse decline, 'limitless possibilities' abound



Matt Jones photo

David Platt, president of the International Mission Board, speaks to 1,350 people who gathered at a dinner June 12 at the Phoenix Convention Center to celebrate what God is doing and how attendees can partner with them.

BY JULIE MCGOWAN
IMB Communications

PHOENIX (BP) – How many missionaries could be sent from just a fraction of all Southern Baptist churches?

At the International Mission Board dinner, June 12, in Phoenix, Arizona, IMB President David Platt and the crowd of approximately 1,350 Southern Baptists estimated their respective congregations had a combined potential of 28,551 missionaries.

This figure was calculated by compiling the number of students, singles, husbands, wives, moms, dads, kids and grandparents in the represented churches who might take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the billions of people who have yet to hear it.

"A word we've been using a lot in the IMB lately is 'limitless' – and tonight, we invite you to imagine the truly limitless possibilities that exist for the spread of the Gospel in the world if we will take seriously the sending of missionaries from every one of our churches," Platt told the church members and leaders attending the event held in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting.

During the dinner, Platt shared the sacrificial story of

IMB BY THE NUMBERS

- **Aug. 2015:** 4,800 missionaries are in the field when IMB announces the need for personnel reductions.
- **Apr. 2016:** 3,817 missionaries continue serving overseas after Voluntary Retirement Incentive and Hand Raising Opportunity programs end.
- **Dec. 2016:** 3,596 IMB missionaries are abroad.
- **Apr. 2017:** 3,590.
- **Jun. 2017:** 3,582.

(compiled by the Baptist Message)

historic missionary Adoniram Judson. Newly married, Judson and his wife Ann sailed on a 114-day voyage to India, with plans to continue their missionary journey to Burma.

"As soon as they arrived in India, everyone told them, 'You can't go to Burma,'" Platt recounted. "Ship captains, government officials, missionaries, even William Carey himself said, 'Get Burma out of your mind.' The country is ruled by a despot, they're known for savage, barbaric practices, they have no religious toleration, and you just plain can't survive ... every missionary who had gone to Burma had either died or left."

Eventually, the Judsons secured passage on a ship that was bound for Rangoon – a city in Burma. But only days into the journey, Ann gave birth to a stillborn baby, and the young couple buried their child at sea.

"When they arrived ashore, they found a land filled with swarming crowds, Buddhist temples, leprous beggars, and children running around with no clothes while smoking cigars like they were adults," Platt said. "Immediately, they started learning the language, and as soon as possible, they started working on translating the Bible into Burmese."

Judson continued his mission with deep resolve, but not without significant trials: It took six years after arriving in Rangoon to witness the first Burmese person baptized.

Judson buried multiple children and two wives. He was imprisoned, tortured, and suspected of being a spy. As the end of his life neared, Judson concluded, "One prayer, my God! Thy will be done – one only boon I crave: To finish well my work – and rest within a Burma grave!"

Platt said Judson's commitment to share the Gospel at all costs reflects the very reason Southern Baptists were meeting in Phoenix.

"And tonight, I want to call pastors all across this room to raise up and send out multitudes more Adoniram and Ann Judsons from our churches – multitudes more men and women who will give their lives and their families for the glory of Christ in nations where His name is not yet known," Platt urged.

"For years now, we have declined in the number of Southern Baptist missionaries serving around the world. But this year, the stage is set for that trend to be reversed. The

See **PLATT** on 9

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AUGUST 27, 2017
SERVICES: 9:00AM AND 10:45AM
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Lt. Col. Oliver North (Ret.)
American Hero/ Decorated Marine, FOX "War Stories"

Oliver North is a combat decorated U.S. Marine, a #1 best-selling author, the founder of a small business, an inventor with three U.S. patents, a syndicated columnist, and the host of "War Stories" on Fox News Channel.



Chief David Brown (Ret.)
Dallas, Texas - Police Chief (Ret.)

Chief Brown is a retired Dallas police chief who now inspires the nation with his response to the killing of five of his officers, and shares his personal story and his deep faith in America's potential to unite communities with their police forces through a dedication to transparency and trust.



Taylor Rae
Singer/ Songwriter - Hit Song "13 Stripes & 50 Stars"

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SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH, WINNSBORO

CELEBRATED



Bro. Eddie & Donna Rhymes

50 YEARS

OF SERVICE TO MINISTRY



On July 2, 2017 Sardis Baptist Church in Winnsboro, Louisiana had the honor of celebrating with Eddie and Donna Rhymes the 50 years of service Brother Eddie has dedicated to the ministry. This joyous event took place exactly 50 years after Brother Eddie publicly made his profession of faith and commitment to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at SBC on July 2, 1967.

<p>LOUISIANA BAPTIST MESSAGE</p> <p>Will Hall, Editor</p> <p>STAFF</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <p>Philip Timothy Managing Editor</p> <p>Rhonda Havens Advertising Director</p> <p>Brian Blackwell Staff Writer</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">JoAnne Timothy Office Manager</p> <p>Board of Trustees:</p> <p>Steve Arledge, Craig Beeman, Jack Bell, Wayne Dubose, Mike Canady, Sarah Clancy, Jacob Crawford, Lonnie Gothrup, Tim Hisaw, Bill Inman, Robert Spicer, Darris Waren</p>	<p>ADVERTISING</p> <p>Display [boxed] and classified [words only] advertising must be in writing, and may be submitted by email, U.S. mail or fax.</p> <p>To the best of our knowledge, all ads in the <i>Louisiana Baptist Message</i> represent legitimate companies and offerings. However, one should always exercise normal business caution in responding to ads.</p> <p>For all your advertising needs contact Rhonda Havens at the <i>Message</i> at 800.376.7728.</p> <p>The Louisiana Baptist Message partners with:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">© Copyright 2017 Baptist Message. All rights reserved</p>	<p>SUBSCRIPTIONS:</p> <p>Individual: \$14/year Group rates available Call the <i>Louisiana Baptist Message</i> at 800-376-7728 or 318-442-7728 Fax: 318-445-8328 editor@baptistmessage.com PO Box 311 Alexandria LA 71309 www.baptistmessage.com</p>	<p>CHANGE OF ADDRESS</p> <p>Two weeks before change is desired, send new address (with zip code and street address) and mailing label from this copy of the <i>Louisiana Baptist Message</i>. Periodicals postage paid in Alexandria, Louisiana, and additional mailing offices.</p> <p>POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Baptist Message, 1250 MacArthur Drive, PO Box 311, Alexandria LA 71309-0311</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(USPS 042-860) (ISSN 0740-2104)</p> <p>Published biweekly Thursdays by the <i>Louisiana Baptist Message</i>, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana 71303.</p>
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Philip Timothy photo

Louisiana Baptists Executive Director David Hankins addresses a room full of church planters, directors of missions, state missions staff and other guests during a reception July 12 celebrating the 200th church planted in the state since 2010. The goal is to start 300 churches by 2020.

Milestone from page one

"I want to encourage you to institutionalize your churches," Hankins exhorted.

"Sometimes the word 'institution' gets a bad rap – interpreted to mean 'staid, lifeless, cold, dead and unmoving,'" he said. "But I think 'institution' is a good word. It says something about strength, substance, dependability, safety, character and longevity.

"That's the kind of church I want you to plant," Hankins continued, speaking to the group of church planters in attendance. "I want you, by God's grace, to build a church that's an institution, that people would look at that place where you gather for ministry and say, 'That Baptist church is an institution of this town. We can count on it. It's going to be there.'"

"In 10 years, if the Lord hasn't returned, and we look at the 300 churches we planted, I want them to be institutions all over this state that God can depend on and the community can depend on," Hankins added. "And all the guys God has called to seminary will be driving around through your town and will say, 'Boy, I hope the Lord lets me pastor a church like this someday.'"

PRESSING TOWARD THE GOAL

The reception – which began with a prayer led by Louisiana Baptists Language Strategist Carlos Schmidt – marked the two-thirds point of planting 300 churches by 2020 as part of one of the 10 action steps identified in the

President's 2020 Commission Final Report, which was affirmed by messengers during the 2013 LBC Annual Meeting.

Planting healthy, biblically sound, multiplying churches is identified in that document as a key component to the seven-year-strategy which seeks to engage two audiences – the next generation and every people group – in reaching Louisiana with the Gospel.

"We're here today to celebrate a milestone," said John Hebert, director of missions and ministry for Louisiana Baptists. "But we didn't do it. It's the work of the Lord. It's amazing how when brothers walk together the Lord's work is done."

Through July 12, 16 churches have been planted in 2017. The goal is 35 new works by the end of the year.

The strategy is to plant churches where most Louisianans live, so the geographical emphasis is along the I-10 corridor and southward where 3 million Louisianans reside, about 67 percent of the state's population.

So far, 151 of the new church plants are located in southern Louisiana.

There also has been a focus on ethnic diversity. Among the 200 church plants: 57 are African-American, 27 Hispanic, nine Asian and 17 have a largely multi-ethnic makeup.

Importantly, the 200 church plants, since 2010, have witnessed a harvest of

See MILESTONE on 8

SCHEDULE

↓

FRIDAY (Aug. 25)

3:00-6:00 Registration in Camp Office

5:00-6:00 Supper in Dining Hall

6:15-9:50 Worship and Breakouts

SATURDAY (Aug. 26)

7:15-8:00 Breakfast in Dining Hall

8:15-12:00 Worship and Breakouts

12:00-12:45 Lunch in Dining Hall

12:45-2:00 DIY's and Closing

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Diana Davis

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

↓

AUGUST 17, 2017

Refunds not possible after deadline date.

Eddie Rhymes honored for 50 years in ministry

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

WINNSBORO – Looking across the crowd gathered inside the Sardis Baptist Church worship center, Eddie Rhymes reflected on a fruitful 50 years of ministry in the very place where he first surrendered to Christian ministry, and where his dad was ordained as a deacon.

“I am so grateful that so many came here today to join me in celebrating Jesus and the work He has done through me,” Rhymes said. “And to have this time in the same building where I made my profession of faith and commitment to the ministry brought back some precious memories.

“Someone used the phrase a half-century of service and that really sounded a lot longer than 50 years to me,” he continued. “I have worked with some wonderful men and women through the years and I am so grateful to God and to those I have served on His behalf. I look forward

to continuing to serve Him in the years to come.

“It’s overwhelming to think I’ve been at this for 50 years,” he said. “When you start out as an 18 year old preaching you never dream you would be still at it 50 years later. I look back at it and know I’m so blessed to preach at so many churches and help them with my ongoing ministry.

The special day included a reception, memories shared by friends and family, and a presentation of a plaque and a crystal award for his 50 years of ministry.

“We were thrilled when Brother Eddie agreed to allow Sardis Baptist Church to host the recognition of his 50 years of faithfulness and God’s Blessings,” said Jim Savage, pastor of Sardis Baptist Church. “Seeing how God knit the details together was awesome.

“July 2, 1967 was the Sunday Brother Eddie surrendered to the ministry, and Sunday, July 2, 2017 was exactly 50 years to the day,” he said. “Plus, having the service in the same building where he surrendered and was licensed, and, where his dad was ordained as a deacon really did make for a great afternoon. We all felt God’s presence in a special way.”

FROM A COTTON FIELD
TO THE PULPIT

Raised on a cotton farm



Submitted photo

Eddie Rhymes is presented with a crystal award for 50 years of ministry by Sardis Baptist Church Pastor Jim Savage while Donna Rhymes is presented with a plaque by Bibby Savage.

outside of Winnsboro, Rhymes, as a teen, surrendered his heart and life to Christ.

He later attended Louisiana College, and during his senior year began his ministry at St. Clair Baptist Church in Gardner.

Throughout the next 50 years Rhymes would serve with a number of churches, including: First Baptist Church in Stanberry, Missouri, (as a student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary); First Baptist Church in Searcy, Ark.; First Baptist Church in Doyline; Loch Arbor Baptist Church in Monroe; Old Zion Hill Baptist Church in Livingston; Fairview Baptist Church in Coushatta; Red Oak Baptist Church in Livingston; and, Oak Hill Baptist Church in Bastrop.

Rhymes and his wife, Donna, also served for nearly 10 years as cottage parents at the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home in Monroe. While there, they cared for 111 boys and girls.

“It was a mission field of its own,” Rhymes said. “You have an opportunity to impact children and families, many who have never had any type of spiritual background and many have not had a stable home environment.

“We still hear from some of them,” he continued. “It’s special to have them keep up with us and call us ‘Mom’ and ‘Dad’ to this day.”

Perry Hancock, director of the Children’s Home, said the couple impacted so many children for Christ.

“His genuine compassion and care provided a positive Christian witness for every child in his care,” Hancock said. “Many of those children accepted Christ as Savior, in part, because of Eddie’s godly influence and example. We congratulate Eddie for 50 years of exemplary service in ministry.”

STILL SERVING AFTER 50 YEARS

Though retired as a pastor, Rhymes serves as director of

missions for Deer Creek Baptist Association, a position he has held since ending his pastoring in 2011.

In his new responsibilities he encourages pastors, helps local residents with various everyday needs and serves as a member of the association’s Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief team, participating last year in the response efforts following historic flooding in southern Louisiana, and, contributing the year before to recovery operations in Moore, Okla., after a tornado caused widespread destruction.

“We are able to step in and help those who can’t help themselves in the name of Christ,” he said. “When a disaster happens, they are at a loss with what to do next. We can go in and help with a lot of things they probably don’t have the money to do.”

That attitude of others before self is what has made Rhymes continue serving Christ for 50 years in ministry, Louisiana Baptists Director of Pastoral Leadership Bill Robertson said.

“Eddie and I began ministry as young guys in Franklin Parish,” Robertson said. “He has faithfully served our Lord for fifty years as a pastor, in missions and at the Children’s Home, never losing the wonder of the call from God. I am glad to call him my friend and brother in Christ.”

Through his 50 years in ministry, Rhymes’ wife, Donna, has served beside, starting just after he accepted his first pastorate -- and two weeks after they were married.

“I was still trying to figure out what it was to be a wife, much less a pastor’s wife,” she said. “But I have had the privilege and joy of hearing him preach all these years, watching him and observing him serve the Lord in so many ways. He preached with sincerity and conviction on Sundays and Wednesdays, and on other days came home dirty from crawling through attics and under houses, after helping those in need fix whatever needed to be fixed in their homes. Eddie truly has a servant’s heart.

“Eddie has been the pastor to many wonderful congregations, and he has been my pastor as well,” she said. “To see him serve from his heart has been a great joy and inspiration to me. I thank God I have been able to serve alongside him.”

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Louisiana Baptists impacted key state policies in 2017

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

BATON ROUGE (LBM)

— Although the state budget dominated the 2017 Louisiana legislative session, Louisiana Baptists scored dramatic victories on moral and social concerns, including: promotion of right to life issues; protection of children from exposure to on-line pornography; and, prevention of the creation of a special class of transgender rights.

The success in pushing through these bills and resolutions, and in some cases defeating proposed legislation, was a result of working with faithful Louisiana Baptists serving as lawmakers for the state as well as coordinating among like-minded conservatives to rally votes in committees and on the floor of the House and Senate, according to Will Hall, director of the office of public policy for Louisiana Baptists.

“We were blessed to work with individuals like Senator Beth Mizell, a faithful member of First Baptist Church, Franklinton, who championed the rescue and protection of children from sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and, also pushed through restrictions to prevent a minor from obtaining an abortion without parental consent,” Hall told the *Baptist Message*.

“Representative Rick Edmonds, a retired Louisiana Baptist pastor, worked with our office to craft a resolution declaring ‘the proliferation of pornography among Louisiana children to be a public health hazard’ and calling for Governor [John Bel] Edwards to work with Senate President [John] Alario and House Speaker [Taylor] Barras ‘in an aggressive public campaign to protect children from exposure to pornography,’” Hall said.

Hall also shared praise for Senator John Milkovich, who is a not a Southern Baptist but is a faithful member of Shreveport Community Church, a non-denominational congregation.

Milkovich backed legislation which tightened prohibitions against selling body parts of aborted unborn children and took to the podium of the Senate chamber to champion Louisiana Baptists’ objections to a sex survey which would have exposed school children to topics on homosexuality and multiple sex partners.

“Senator Milkovich reached out to me to stand up for our

shared beliefs on the Senate floor and helped defeat a measure that appeared set for passage,” Hall said. “I am thankful for his friendship and his cooperation in promoting key biblical principals in public policy -- in this case, the need to protect children’s hearts and minds and to promote parental rights and responsibilities in the raising of children.”

Hall also lauded the work of Louisiana Family Forum, a strong pro-family and pro-life advocacy group in the state.

“Louisiana Family Forum President Gene Mills has put together a structure and secured the resources to support a combined effort among like-minded Christians and other conservatives to shape public policy in our state,” Hall said. “Moreover, he’s assembled a team that lends expertise and coordination that is essential to the work of Louisiana Baptists, even though it is not a Louisiana Baptist ministry.”

“Kathleen Benfield, Kristie Cross, Dale Hoffpauir and Victoria Kelly are dedicated servants of Christ and tireless advocates for the Louisiana faith community,” he said.

Finally, Hall described a “setback” in public policy, a lost debate outside the legislative session that, nonetheless, he called a successful stand.

“I had the honor of testifying in support of Dr. Wade Warren, professor of biology with Louisiana College, who had worked tirelessly as a member of a committee of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education,” Hall said. “He had meticulously analyzed the new science standards and offered science-based inputs for common-sense modifications, all of which were rejected by the board.

“In one suggestion, he simply asked the committee to add the words ‘sudden appearance’ in the statement about ‘patterns of the fossil record’ and ‘change in life forms throughout the history of life on Earth,’” Hall continued. “This is a commonly used description among most scientific authorities. Yet, opponents who testified against his recommendations derisively dismissed even this input as evidence of some sort of Christian conspiracy.

“BESE passed the standards without Dr. Warren’s inputs. So, in that sense, the effort to improve science teaching in Louisiana failed. But, Louisiana Baptists can be proud of Dr.

Warren’s scientific expertise, which stood out in the meticulous analysis he performed, and for his willingness to take a public stand for what is right,” Hall said. “He is a shining example of the superb faculty at Louisiana College, both in his academic credentials and his bold faith.”

KEY PUBLIC POLICY SUCCESSES

Defeated: H.B. 448 (would have allowed Orleans Parish to tax the properties of religious non-profits, including New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as well as more than 125 Louisiana Baptist churches and related ministries); H.B. 136 (would have reduced mandatory wait times for divorce from one year to six months, limiting the opportunity for counseling and reconciliation); S.B. 85 (would have allowed a sex survey of school children, including topics such as homosexuality and multiple partners); S.B. 155 (would have created special rights classifications for

transgender and gender fluid persons)

Passed: H.C.R. 100 (declares the proliferation of pornography among Louisiana children to be a public health hazard; and, calls for the governor, Senate president and House speaker to publicly campaign to protect children from exposure to pornography); S.B. 54 (provides essential structures

to rescue and protect children from sexual exploitation and other harms of human trafficking); S.B. 111 (puts identity checks in place for accompanying adults to prevent a minor from obtaining an abortion without parental consent); S.B. 128 (prohibits even the cutting of an aborted unborn child as a measure to prevent the sale of body parts)

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BRO. WILLIAM L. SMITH

MRS. WILLIAM L. SMITH



Bro. & Mrs. William L. Smith
July 1, 1977 - July 1, 2017

The Family of Lakeshore Baptist Church in Monroe, LA, wishes to share our love and appreciation to Bro. & Mrs. William L. Smith for serving as our Pastor and wife for the past 40 years!

“But those who wait on the Lord
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up
with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.”
Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

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A Ministry of the Cooperative Program

Alexandria schoolyard is a fertile field for the Gospel

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – Frances Clark stands amazed at one of God's miracles.

A Scott Brame Middle School lead teacher, in Alexandria, Clark witnessed first-hand God's power and love May 10, during a school field day when 58 students accepted Christ.

The nearly daylong celebration, sponsored by the school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes club and attended by nearly 500 students, was filled with activities, with 25 volunteers from Philadelphia Baptist Church's Horseshoe Drive campus cooking food, leading games and competitions, and helping students make crafts.

Students also were offered opportunities to hear a brief Gospel presentation at a booth featuring Harley Davidson motorcycles and at another station where colorful bracelets were made.

ENDURING IMPACT

Nearly two months later,



Submitted photo

Students at Scott Brame Middle School in Alexandria join members of Philadelphia Baptist Church, Horseshoe Drive in prayer during a field day at the school.

Clark still marvels how God used members of PBC at Horseshoe Drive to bring about a harvest of young souls and sow seeds of spiritual change on campus.

"God is up to something big," Clark said. "I hope we can continue this strong bond

between the church and school.

"For the future of Brame, I can see how, possibly, revival could break out -- because the Lord can use these young people," she added. "The barriers of culture and race could be torn down because we know the Lord is the answer to all the



Submitted photo

A Harley Davidson motorcycle booth was the site of many Gospel conversations at Scott Brame Middle School in Alexandria during a field day that saw 58 students accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

problems."

Clay Fuqua, campus pastor of the Horseshoe Drive extension of PBC, said seeing so many students accept Christ was a humbling experience.

"What an amazing time it was to see how receptive kids were to hearing the Gospel," he said. "Time after time that day I saw one kid get saved and then he or she would take off and grab friend to come hear the good news. To see how God brought this together was worth all the effort and time we put into this day."

After the field day, the church received letters of appreciation that are displayed on a wall inside the fellowship hall.

Elijah Smith's letter echoed the sentiments of other Brame students who attended the event.

"We really enjoyed how you came out to our school to teach us more about the Word so we could get more into Jesus," Smith wrote. "Also you guys (Horseshoe volunteers) helped us pick up trash so the field wouldn't be dirty. It was hot as ever yesterday, people got sunburn, people were sweating, and people were very thirsty. Anyways, I wanna thank you Horseshoe volunteers for the food, drinks, waterslides, and the Word."

The field day is one of many ways Philadelphia Baptist has committed to helping the school's teachers and students.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

When the partnership officially begins this August, the congregation plans to paint

classrooms, buy supplies for teachers, provide a breakfast for the faculty and staff, assist students with homework and coordinate a movie night. With such a task at hand, having as many of its members involved will be crucial.

"What the church has done for our school so far is so encouraging and selfless," Clark said. "We're not in session this summer, but I still have people come up and tell me how great the field day was."

"Philadelphia getting involved has been an answer to prayer for me," she continued. "The teachers are real excited to have this support and the students are on board as well."

Fuqua said the partnership with Brame is a reflection on the church's passion for evangelism.

Every Tuesday evening, up to 100 in the congregation assemble at the church and then break up into groups, visiting apartment complexes and other areas near the church to share the Gospel as part of its FAITH evangelism program.

They reach out to the community in other ways, too, hosting the Grace Christian School baseball team, as well as their friends and families, after the young men won a state championship; and, the congregation held a motorcycle bike night, which included events coordinated by its FAITH Rider's motorcycle ministry.

"To see them get excited gets me excited," Fuqua said. "Our members are really passionate about sharing the Gospel and will go to great lengths to make sure their community knows about Jesus."

(Copy and post this friendly reminder)

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Celebration

from page one

drifting spiritually and developing anger toward God.

Then, at the invitation of a friend, Gomez and her family began attending Celebration Church and together began to grow in Christ.

Initially, Gomez turned down St. Gabriel Pastor Adam Beach's invitation for baptism, but she was convicted during one of his messages that "the time to step forward is now."

"I knew then that God was knocking and it was up to me to open the door and listen," Gomez said. "I was very nervous waiting in line but once I was dipped and came up for air, it was as if all the negativity, hate, hurt, desperation was gone. I immediately began thinking and feeling more clearly. I now know everything is in His plan and I'm willing to follow it."

The baptisms signified a recent pattern of renewal for the St. Gabriel congregation, which includes some of the former members of Dayspring Community Church, which ceased to exist.

Celebration Church obtained Dayspring's campus, and with an infusion of leadership and resources, attendance has steadily increased there, with 60 persons worshipping on Christmas Eve and 83 individuals attending Easter Sunday.

"This has set the tone for our folks as an encouragement to keep on doing what they are doing," Beach said. "We've seen ways God is moving and reaching folks here at our St. Gabriel cam-

pus. This has re-energized our core group that was here when we started and is a reminder God has many things left for our church to do."

Heidi Barrick, whose daughters Lyndl, 16, and Meryl, 14, were baptized, was part of the former Dayspring congregation. She expressed appreciation for the team at Celebration, in particular Beach, whose messages helped her two daughters come to the point of wanting to share their Christian testimony through baptism.

"My daughters have had a personal relationship with Christ for a while but after one of Adam's messages, they told me they really get it," Barrick said. "God just spoke to their spirits and said they need to do this. It's so refreshing because you hope as a parent they are taking it in, and then they tell you that they want to get baptized to show others they stand for Christ."

FAITH BUILDS FAITH

In the two weekends following the "All In" emphasis, 39 others have taken the step of baptism on the nine Celebration Church campuses – with pastors sharing that observing others' obedience in baptism set the spiritual example for these 39.

Already, from September through mid-June – the



Brian Blackwell photo

Celebration Church Pastors Lonnie Tucker and David Ford join participants in front of the baptistry area during the "All In" service June 11 at the Metairie campus. Some of the 137 baptisms were planned, but others took place spontaneously following a message by Dennis Watson, pastor of the Metairie campus, and other pastors.

official calendar year for the congregation – Celebration Church has recorded 490 baptisms toward a goal for 720, which would be a record for the church, by the end of August.

Celebration actually has recorded 1,505 professions of faith so far.

But Watson says his experience is that new followers in Christ from the New Orleans area take as long as five years to follow up in obedience through baptism.

"You can see we don't have a high percentage baptized. In the New Orleans

culture, baptism by immersion for adults and teens is a new and strange thing," Watson said. "In the Bible belt where I grew up, most knew that they were supposed

to take the step of baptism after receiving Jesus as their Savior. But here it's a great challenge.

See Celebration on 9

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Louisiana Baptists are building toward the Harvest

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM)--Momentum is building for what likely will be the largest joint evangelistic effort in the state among Louisiana Baptist churches, according to Keith Manuel, Louisiana Baptists evangelism associate.

Manuel said 536 churches already have signed up, as of July 6, to participate in the Harvest, Louisiana Baptists' campaign to "pray for every home and share Christ with every person" in the state. If the goal of at least 700 churches is

reached, it would be the most churches who have participated together at one time in a combined evangelism effort across the state.

"Every church can participate to the degree they are capable," Manuel told the Baptist Message. "All of us should be praying for the lost, preparing to share our faith with our friends, participating and encouraging others through Bible study and bringing others into a family of faith."

It's our ongoing work," he said.

According to previous news reports, last year was spent sharing the vision with pastors and developing plans with them. This year, more churches are signing up, and statewide evangelism training is happening even while different evangelistic events are taking place. Meanwhile, 2018 is dedicated for a strong push for concentrated prayer and more soul-winning activities. The cooperative effort includes a diversity of approaches such as multi-church crusades, door-to-door outreach, one-on-one evangelism, single-church revivals and other activities which leverage compassion ministries to share about the love of Christ.

A few Harvest pilot efforts already have been completed this year, including:

— Student Night, Jan. 24, during the Louisiana Baptists Evangelism Conference,

Temple Baptist Church, Ruston (dozens came forward for prayer: 34 persons made spiritual decisions – 10 repented for salvation, 13 repented to restore their fellowship with Christ, nine made other commitments, two declared a call to vocational ministry);

— Hope, Love and Freedom spiritual renewal for believers, April 3-5, at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond (200 attended the first night, building to more than 700 the final night);

— Real Hope crusade, April 30-May 3, at Jonesboro-Hodge High School and Winnfield

Middle School (700 attended each night of the four-day revival; 25 repented in making first-time public professions of faith in Jesus, 35 repented and recommitted their lives to Christ, two surrendered to career ministry); and,

— Red River Association crusade, May 21-27, at the Red River Parish fairgrounds and churches in Coushatta and Ringgold (19 accepted Christ and many believers became passionate about evangelism).

Manuel encourages all churches interested in participating in the Harvest to visit the website, louisianabaptists.

org/harvest, to access resources and learn more about how they can participate.

"We have provided tools for any context," Manuel said. "Whether you are a rural church, an urban church, a small church or a large church, Harvest is for you."

"The tools are to encourage and equip your congregation to fulfill the Great Commission," he continued. "The unique portion of Harvest is the cooperation in our associations to saturate our communities with the Gospel, something we can't do individually but we can accomplish collectively."



Philip Timothy photo

John Hebert, director of missions and ministry for Louisiana Baptists, (left) shares during a reception at the Baptist Building about efforts to plant 200 churches in the state. Through July 12, 16 churches have been planted in 2017. The goal is 35 new works by the end of the year and 300 churches by the year 2020.

Milestone from page 3

more than 11,000 new believers, said Lane Corley, one of three church planting strategists for Louisiana Baptists. He also emphasized the broad cooperation among Louisiana Baptists, noting that churches have been planted in 91 communities, and 25 out of 32 associations, so far.

"We're not done yet," he said. "We still have at least 100 to go. Thank you for all of you who are involved, and we still have more to do."

James Jenkins, Louisiana Baptists director of church planting, complimented Schmidt and Corley, saying, "Every day I get to work with two of the best church planting strategists in the

nation."

Although Jenkins credited Schmidt and Corley for the success, Hebert stressed that Jenkins has been the key leader for implementing the statewide initiative.

EXCEPTIONAL IS THE RULE

Checkerz Williams, pastor of the 200th new church plant, overall, in the state, and Jonathan Sayles, pastor of the 50th church planted in New Orleans, were given special recognition.

Williams is pastor of Renew Church in Baton Rouge while Sayles is pastor of Mission Community Church in New Orleans

East -- both congregations serve multi-ethnic communities.

Although months from official launches, both men are busy planning and organizing.

Williams is building his launch team, holding Bible studies and training in evangelism, with a planned preview service in January and February before having a soft launch in March and a grand opening Easter Sunday.

"We will use evangelism and marketplace missions to reach people and grow," Williams said. "One of our core values will also be to focus on breaking down racial barriers that, too often, separate believers."

Meanwhile, Sayles will launch Mission Community Church Aug. 6, already working with a core group of eight to nine people.

He said, using biblical principles of discipleship he hopes to see the church grow to 100 the first year and 250 within four years.

"Disciples making disciples is the best way for a church to expand numerically and spiritually," Sayles said. "It's exciting to be a part of this in my hometown city of New Orleans as we have 75,000 people we can reach in a five-mile radius who do not attend church on a regular basis."

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Resolutions, nominees sought for Louisiana Baptist posts

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists are invited to recommend candidates for service on state convention boards and committees, and, are asked to submit resolutions for possible consideration by messengers at the 2017 Louisiana Baptist Convention.

COMMITTEES

The Louisiana Baptist Committee on Committees is conducting its work, Sept. 7, to nominate persons to serve on various state convention committees. Currently, 17 nominees are needed for service on committees, including: Credentials; Moral and Social Concerns; Nominations; Order of Business; and, Resolutions.

Scott Sullivan, First, Haughton, is the Committee on

Committees chair, and recommendations should be sent to him, not later than August 18, via email, scott@fbchaughton.org, or through the U.S. Mail: 105 East Washington Avenue, Haughton, LA 71037.

BOARDS

The Louisiana Baptist Committee on Nominations is beginning its work to fill vacancies on state boards. At this point, 17 nominees are needed to serve on the LBC Executive Board and as trustees of Louisiana College, the Children's Home and Family Ministries, the Baptist Message, and the Baptist Foundation.

Lee Wesley, Community Bible, Baton Rouge, is the committee on nominations chair, and recommendations should

be sent to him, not later than August 18, either electronically, paswes1@yahoo.com, or to this address: 1729 Monte Sano Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70810.

Please submit the candidate's name and identify the committee or board for which you are nominating him or her. Include the nominee's church membership and current employment.

Not more than two members from any church may serve on all boards and committees, combined, at any one time. Likewise, no more than one member of the same church may serve on the same board or committee, at any one time.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions may be submitted to the Committee for review and consideration no more than ninety (90) days and no fewer than fifteen (15) days prior to the LBC annual meeting, Nov. 13-14, providing a window of opportunity from Aug. 15 through Oct. 29.

The first meeting of the Resolutions Committee is

scheduled for Sept. 19.

Resolutions should be typewritten, titled and dated, and, accompanied by a letter – from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention – certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing. The letter should include complete contact information for both the person submitting it, and his or her church.

No person may submit more than three resolutions per year.

Scott Teutsch, Plain Dealing, Plain Dealing, is the chair of the Resolutions Committee.

Proposed resolutions

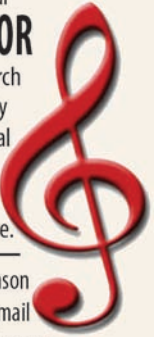
may be faxed, 318.449.4287, emailed, Policy@Louisiana-Baptists.org, or mailed (ATTN: Resolutions Committee, LBC Office of Public Policy, P. O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309).

Seeking a bi-vocational MUSIC DIRECTOR

Macedonia Baptist Church of Effie, LA is currently seeking a bi-vocational music director.

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Platt from page 2

stage is set for Southern Baptists to send more missionaries, through a multiplicity of pathways."

Platt recounted that when Ann Judson was home in America, she pleaded, "I want the Baptists throughout the United States to feel that Burma must be converted through their instrumentality. They must do more than they have ever yet done. They must pray more, they must give more, and make greater efforts to prevent the missionary flame from becoming extinct."

ing extinct."

Platt urged church members and leaders to answer the Judsons' heart cry.

"Oh, Southern Baptists, 200 years later, would that be said of us, that we felt the nations must be converted through our cooperation, through our praying more than we ever have before, giving more than we ever have before, and sending more than we ever have before," he said.

Julie McGowan is IMB public relations manager.

Celebration from page 7

"We want them to know they are not just a believer in Christ but a follower of Jesus," he continued. "Some people tell us 'I believe in Jesus,' but they aren't ready to go 'All In.' However, seeing other people take the step of baptism on 'All In' Weekend as well as other weekends does encourage people to take that significant step of discipleship."

SUPERNATURAL BUT INTENTIONAL

With baptisms that happen nearly every Saturday and Sunday, organization is a key to pulling it off, he added.

Celebration Church has baptism teams in place, who prepare baptism supplies such as towels and special

shirts that participants will wear.

Leaders also immediately enroll new believers in a discipleship class to continue their growth in Christ.

Above all, prayer and intentionality are fundamentals, Watson said, as well as the pastor's example.

"For anyone considering forming a baptism team, prayer is the key before moving forward," Watson emphasized. "And the pastor and leaders have to be out sharing their faith and winning people to Jesus."

"If you are never planning to share your faith and win people to Jesus outside the services, then you may not have a need for baptism teams," he said. "We have to be sharing the Gospel every day."

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Willow Bayou Baptist Church is looking for a Bi-Vocational Pastor
Please send a résumé or video résumé to Willow Bayou Baptist Church 1008 Willow Bayou Rd Tallulah, La. 71282

First Baptist Church Boyce seeks a
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SENIOR PASTOR
First Baptist Church, Zachary, LA is accepting résumés for the position of Senior Pastor.
Résumés should be sent to the Pastor Search Committee at pastorsearch@fbcz.org by August 28, 2017.

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Elizabeth Memorial Baptist Church in Branch, LA is seeking a full-time pastor.
Please email your résumés to Pastor Search Committee at brenda0946@yahoo.com. For more information, please call Brenda at 337.581.8508.

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ON THE MOVE

- **Mike (wife Jessica) Fontenot** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Basile.
- **Marty Black** has resigned as Director of Missions for the North Central Baptist Association to become the new pastor of New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- **Tim Robinson** is the new pastor at Victory Baptist Church, Walker.
- **Blake Hoffpauir** is the new pastor at St. Landry Baptist Church.
- **Scott Mercer** is the new camp director at Camp Living Waters, Loranger.
- **Bill (wife Kathleen) Lott** is the new pastor at Ferry Lake Baptist Church.
- **Sklyar Hollis** is the youth and children director at First Baptist Church Vivian.
- **Josh Cagle** resigned as pastor at Red River Baptists Church, Benton.
- **Billy Pierce** is the interim pastor at Red River Baptists Church, Benton.

HOME COMING

- Pisgah Baptist Church, Florien: **Homecoming Celebration**, July 30, no Sunday School, Worship Service 10:30 a.m.- noon. Potluck meal will follow the service. Speaker: **Hoy Leach, former pastor**. Pastor: C.M. Kelly.
- First Baptist Church, Princeton: **Homecoming Celebration**, July 23, 10:30 a.m. Guest Speaker: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Darrell Cooper.

REVIVAL

- First Baptist Church, Minden: **Summer Revival Series**, July 9-23. July 23 – Speaker: **Chris Fleming**. Worship Leaders: **Jake & Rachel Chapman**; July 30 – Speaker: **James Preuett**, **Philippians Dramatization**. Pastor: Leland Crawford.
- Big Creek Baptist Association: **The Olivet Discourse, The prophecy of Jesus about the end times**, July 23-27 Sunday, 5 p.m. and

- Monday-Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong. Evangelist: **Al Gist**. Messages: July 23, The Disciples' Questions; July 24, Eternal Security; July 25, The Olivet Discourse Parables; July 26, From the Abomination of Desolation to the Second Coming; July 27, The Judgement of Nations. There will be a study booklet available for purchase to go along with each message. DOM: Robert Daniels. Pastor: Trey Lewis.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **Revive – Rejoice and Refresh**, July 24, 31, 6:30 p.m. **Jerry Chaddick** (July 24); **Greater Vision** (July 31). There will be no Sunday evening service prior to Monday's events. Pastor: Philip Robertson.
- Pisgah Baptist Church, Florien: **Revival**, July 26-29, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Michael Courtney**. Worship: **Steve Slaten**. Pastor: C.M. Kelly.
- Sardis Baptist Church, Winnfield: **Revival**, July 28-30. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. Pastor: Daniel Rogers.
- New Hope Baptist Church, Jonesboro: **Revival**, July 30-August 2. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist**. Pastor: Hudey Beaubouef.
- Little Flock Baptist Church, Many: **Revival**, August 6-9. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist**. Pastor: Ottis Branam.

LAGNIAPPE

- **DOM NEEDED:** Following the resignation of Marty Black for a pastorate, the process has begun for a Director of Missions for North Central Baptist Association (Jackson and Winn parishes). The Office and Personnel Committee will accept résumés until August 21. They can be mailed to: North Central Baptist Association Office and Personnel Committee, P. O. Box 159, Jonesboro, LA 71251.
- Killian First Baptist Church, Springfield: **Southern Gospel group Crosby Lane in concert**, July 21, 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. A love offering will be received. Pastor: Don McClellan.
- Grace Community Fellowship, Chauvin: **Mis-**

- sion Family Night**, July 21; meet, greet, eat, 6 p.m.; Worship, 7 p.m. Please bring a covered dish to share.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell: **Family Fest Saturday**, July 22, 10 a.m. to noon. Pastor: Aron McGuffee.
- Clarion Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Ladies Fellowship/luncheon**, July 22, Continental breakfast, 9 a.m. and lunch will be provided. Speaker: **Bridgett Brown, Caddo Executive Master Teacher**. Special Music: **Jamie Huguet**. There will be no childcare. RSVP Jackie Marino by text or calling 318.678.3586. Pastor: Sam Marino.
- Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Tribute Quartet in Concert**, July 23, 6 p.m. Pastor: Terry Young.
- Southside Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **Southern Gospel group Crosby Lane in concert**, July 23, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received. Pastor: Don Hoy.
- Evergreen Baptist Church, Bernice: **Sanctuary Quartet in concert**, July 23, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Wayne Sistrunk.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Hammond: **HIS KIDS Day Camp for those with special needs**, ages 10 – 25, July 24 – July 28, 9 a.m. – noon. Cost: Free. You're invited to the ultimate pep rally! Come out and join the fun as campers will learn about VICTORY through courage, obedience, faith, unity, and Jesus. Please complete the registration form on our website www.pumpkincenter.org. For more information, call the church office at 225.294.5536 or Christie Williamson, Camp Director, at 985.320.1091. The church is located at 42062 Pumpkin Center Road in Hammond. Pastor: Derek Wall.
- Friendship Youth Camp 2017: **Walk in the Spirit**, July 28-30, starts Friday at 9 a.m. and ends Sunday, 2 p.m. Speaker: **Tim Atkins**, camp

- pastor. Worship: **Ode'**. Special Musical Guest: **Hannah Bass**. This camp offers great preaching, Bible study, uplifting music and awesome games – outdoor laser tag. For more information, call camp director Moses Rudd at 318.548.3144 or 318.548.5495.
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Disaster Relief Training for Feeding Teams, Mudout Teams, and Chainsaw Teams**, July 28-29; July 28, at 5:30 p.m., **Liz Landers** will be training the feeding teams. Supper will be provided. On July 29, registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and mudout and chainsaw training will start at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast will be provided. **Marvin Leleux** will lead the mud-out training and **Toby Wilemon** will head up the chainsaw training. If you would like to be trained to help people in their time of need, register online at rollin-gillsministries.com/disaster-relief-training or call 318.251.0065. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- First Baptist Church, Port Barre: **South Louisiana Youth Rally 2017**, July 29, 5-8 p.m. There will be great preaching, special singing, prize giveaways and a pizza party. Speakers: **Benji Richard and Kyle Vidrine**. Pastor: Benji Richard.
- New Hope Baptist, Choudrant: **The Foto Sisters in concert**, July 30, 6 p.m. Pastor: Dwayne Monk.
- Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Big Daddy Weave in Concert**, Aug. 1, Cost: general admission \$22. Pastor: Waymond Warren.
- Watson Baptist Church, Watson: **A Celebration of Gaither music**, August 6, 4 p.m. Performed by the **Watson Baptist Church adult choir**. Pastor: John Pemberton.
- Haile Baptist Church, Marion: **Sanctuary Quartet in concert**, August 6, 11 a.m. Pastor: Michael Murray.
- Bluff Creek Baptist Church, Clinton: **The Foto**

- Sisters in concert**, August 6, 6 p.m. Pastor: Cole Permenter.
- First Baptist Church, Covington: **ReGroup Conference 2017**, August 12, 9:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Doors open for Registration at 8:30 am (note, the building will open to Exhibitors at 7:00 am for set-up). Speaker: **Sam Rainer**. Worship: **The Museum**. The ReGroup breakouts also offer lay leaders and pastors access to gifted, Kingdom trailblazers covering key ministry opportunities and issues. Register online at <http://louisianabaptists.org/regroup2017>. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **Re-Group Conference 2017**, August 12, 9:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Doors open for Registration at 8:30 am (note, the building will open to Exhibitors at 7:00 am for set-up). Speaker: **Roy O. Martin**. Worship: **Meredith Andrews**. The ReGroup breakouts also offer lay leaders and pastors access to gifted, Kingdom trailblazers covering key ministry opportunities and issues. Register online at <http://louisianabaptists.org/regroup2017>. Pastor: Philip Robertson.
- Temple Baptist Church, Ruston: **PreTeen Invasion – North**, August 19, 8 a.m. 4 p.m. This is for all new 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. Cost: \$35 by July 21st (tshirt included); \$35 after July 22nd, no tshirt included. Speaker: **Terry Young**, pastor of Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City. Worship: **Cypress Worship Band**. Pastor: Reggie Bridges.
- First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **PreTeen Invasion – South**, August 26, 8 a.m. 4 p.m. This is for all new 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. Cost: \$35 by July 21st (tshirt included); \$35 after July 22nd, no tshirt included. Speaker: **Terry Young**, pastor of Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City. Worship: **Cypress Worship Band**. Pastor: Steve Horn.

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.

oamwmnlwm oami vagrr hm gv oam xlwkbkz

srlpt, gkt gv oam mgwri tmf oago cgvvmoa gfgi,

gv oam sagnn oago bv twbemk fboa oam fabwrfbkt

lpo ln oam nrllw, gkt gv oam vxlqm lpo ln oam

sabxkmi.

alvmg oabwommk:oawmm

Clues:
B = I; G = A

Answer to July 6 Scripture Crypto:
Zephaniah two:three

Louisiana Baptist FOUNDATION



Rose Mary Martin was selected to direct the \$1500 gift for the 2nd quarter of 2017. She chose her church, **Beulah Baptist in Mansfield**, to be the recipient and they intend to use it for benevolence in their community.

Participate in Give A Gift by completing the form below or by completing the online submission at www.BaptistMessage.com/give-a-gift. If your submission is selected (at random), **\$1,500** will be sent to the Baptist church or ministry of your choice.

Mail completed form to:
Give A Gift
c/o Louisiana Baptist Foundation
P.O. Box 311
Alexandria, LA 71309

Or Go to:
www.baptistmessage.com/give_a_gift
for online submission

Name _____

Phone _____

eMail _____

Church or Ministry: _____

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

Enrollment numbers trending upward at Louisiana College

BY NORM MILLER
LC News

PINEVILLE --New student numbers continue to trend upward at Louisiana College as evidenced by attendance at two pre-registration days this year.

Called "Front of the Line," these enrollment events drew a total of 226 students in 2017 as compared to 186 last year. Attendance to the June 24 Front of the Line was 63, almost double the 38 who attended in 2016.

"Clearly, we have turned a corner at Louisiana College," said Louisiana College President Rick Brewer.

"Enrollment had trended downward significantly in the years before my arrival in April of 2015," he said, "but the team we have assembled and the recruitment strategies we have employed are paying significant dividends. What we are seeing

is the fruit of our labors and our gracious God's blessings."

LC's Front of the Line is not only a time for pre-registration, but also offers instruction on college life for incoming students and a session with parents on matters related to the college experience.

Featuring numerous campus leaders, Vice President for Enrollment Management Brandon Bannon keynoted the event.

While touting LC's heritage of academic excellence and notable faculty, Bannon cited the college's commitment to integrating faith and learning by saying "students are not only taught to think critically, but are also taught to think Christianly."

Athletic Director and head men's basketball coach Reni Mason thanked parents for the opportunity to offer to their students an education built upon a Christian



Louisiana College photo

More than 60 high school seniors attended Louisiana College's "Front of the Line" pre-registration day on June 24. The attendance at the June event was double from the year before. Attendance at two pre-registration days this year has been a total of 226 as compared to 186 last year.

worldview. When Mason closed in prayer, the room resounded with "amens."

"Our Front of the Line events are like most any

other campus event, and surely represent the classroom experience," Brewer said. "We believe in the maturity of intellect and the

maturity of character, and our educational approach reflects those beliefs as we prepare graduates and transform lives."

1 GREAT EVENT / 3 LOCATIONS



ReGROUP
CONFERENCE 2017

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

First, Covington

16333 Highway 1085 Covington, LA 70433
LouisianaBaptists.org/Event/ReGroup-South

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

Philadelphia, Deville

722 Philadelphia Road Deville, LA 71328
LouisianaBaptists.org/Event/ReGroup-Central



12 DE AGOSTO 2017

Iglesia Cristo Redentor / First, Mandeville
DE 9:00 am a 3:00 pm (Almuerzo será provisto)

1895 US-190, Mandeville, LA 70448
LouisianaBaptists.org/Event/ReGroup-Espanol