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of God is quick,
and powerful, and
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– Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)

BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

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October 12, 2017

Flames of revival evident in stirring of baptismal waters

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

ZWOLLE (LBM) – Adelyn Penfield experienced a double blessing during her recent baptism, when both of her grandfathers simultaneously baptized the eight-year-old inside the First Baptist Church, Zwolle, worship center.

For Adelyn, the day in late July was “special and unforgettable.”

For the two grandfathers, the event marked the first time they baptized a grandchild together, a rarity they do not take for granted.

“It’s neat to see your granddaughter coming in there for baptism,” First Zwolle Pastor Jerry Penfield said. “It’s hard to hold back your tears of joy. She was so excited and was fired up, which made us pretty proud grandfathers.”

Fellow grandfather Steve Neesley, who recently retired as pastor of the Church at Marksville and is a chaplain for a hospital in Alexandria, said baptizing Adelyn brought back fond memories of leading her to repent for salvation the month before.

During his visit to her home in Many, she said she wanted to take that step of faith, Neesley said.

“She walked in and said, ‘Paw Paw,

See REVIVAL on 8



Submitted photo

Steve Neesley and Jerry Penfield baptize their granddaughter, Adelyn, during a worship service at First Baptist Church in Zwolle. Adelyn is one of seven baptized this year at First Baptist Zwolle.

Louisiana Baptists focus on 2020 vision

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH – Much like Nehemiah did with careful planning to build the wall in Jerusalem, Louisiana Baptists must continue plotting a course to shore up its various ministries at the half-way point of a seven-year initiative to reach the state with the Gospel by 2020.

Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director David Hankins gave an update during the Sept. 26 Executive Board meeting on the progress toward the goals of the President’s 2020 Commission Report, sharing good news about what had been achieved so far and offering observations about what is still needed to complete the work.

Hankins said he is confident Louisiana Baptists can have great victory in the end, as long as they do not violate

See FOCUS on 3

Lean budget ahead for Louisiana Baptists’ cooperative missions and ministries in ’18

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH – Louisiana Baptists will be operating in 2018 with its leanest Cooperative Program budget in 20 years.

During a Sept. 26 meeting at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth, the Executive Board approved the Business and Finance Committee’s 2018 financial plan based on Cooperative Program contributions of \$19,507,905, a

decrease of \$535,426.

Cooperative Program projections are based on actual receipts from August 2016 thru July 2017.

The allocation formula for distributing Cooperative Program gifts between the Southern Baptist Convention and Louisiana Baptist causes remains unchanged, with 63.26 percent supporting ministries in the state and 36.74 percent forwarded to fund national entities.

This equates to \$12,340,701 in Coop-

erative Program funds for Louisiana Baptist missions, a decrease of \$338,710 from 2017.

“Our churches and our members continue to face difficult financial challenges,” David Hankins, Executive Director for Louisiana Baptists, told the *Baptist Message*. “The continued energy recession coupled with last year’s floods have significantly impacted our churches and in turn, us.

See BUDGET on 9



Brian Blackwell photo

Eddie Wren, Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Rayville, challenged pastors to be humble like David.

David, Gideon offered as examples in messages to Executive Board

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH – Eddie Wren opened the fall Executive Board meeting with a challenge to pastors to set the example of the humbleness of David for their congregations.

He faced the temptation to slay his enemy, King Saul, Wren said. But David resisted his own emotions and instead sought to honor God.

“I want to be a pastor who, when people attack me, remains humble before the Lord and hears His spirit and is convicted in my heart,” said Wren, president of the Executive Board and pastor of First Baptist Church in Rayville. “In the end, I want them to see the righteousness of God in me because I humbled



Louisiana Baptist Convention President Gevan Spinney urged pastors not to hide in a cave like Gideon in his final message to the Executive Board.

myself before the Lord. I hope we as pastors and leaders of this convention can have the same humility that David

displayed that day.”

Much like David, Wren said pastors are placed into spiritual battles in which they have opportunities to fight those attacking them. When those times come, Wren encouraged pastors to remember that if they will walk humbly before the Lord, He will convict their consciences, quiet their anger, and, shame their enemy.

“Even when others want to choose the wrong path, if I walk humbly before the Lord I can help others to follow the right path,” Wren said. “There may be a time God uses you in others’ lives if we will be humble before the adversaries who are attacking us.”

COME OUT OF THE CAVE

In his final message to the Executive Board as Louisiana Baptist Convention president, Gevan Spinney highlighted Gideon as a caution to others.

Citing Judges 6, Spinney said Gideon and the Israelites hid in caves for fear that the Mideonites would attack them.

Spinney urged Louisiana Baptist pastors not to hide in the caves each of us create for ourselves – of ministry – and instead to go boldly into the fields to reap the great harvest

See EXAMPLES on 8

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Focus from page one

their convictions, compromise the truth or strive to please man over God.

“We recognize that our tasks are spiritual, and we will not be successful unless God blesses us with His power,” Hankins said during the meeting. “We are not attempting to outwit the world. Strategies and studies are useful tools but they are no substitute for God’s Spirit bringing grace, mercy and revival. We must continue to give ourselves to prayer for spiritual renewal in our state.”

Adopted by messengers at the 2013 Louisiana Baptist Convention annual meeting, the 2020 initiative seeks to reach every generation and every people group in Louisiana with the Gospel by the year 2020 through the avenues of congregational revitalization, church planting, communications and collaboration. Ten statements in the report outline “key actions in reaching our state” – known as KAIROS

– to provide overall guidance.

The 2020 recommendations were crafted collaboratively by a commission of 400 Louisiana Baptist leaders, pastors, staff members, lay men and lay women, working in 20 subcommittees of 20 members each.

STRONG PROGRESS

Hankins said Louisiana Baptists are making exceptional headway in church planting and the goal of establishing 300 new, biblically-sound and multiplying congregations by the start of the next decade.

Through development and implementation of effective recruitment networks and training sessions, 201 new churches have been planted already since 2010, helping to raise the number of Louisiana Baptist churches from 1,478 in 2010 to 1,644 this year (the loss of 35 established churches accounts for the difference),

he said. Fifty-one percent of the new church plants are non-Anglo, in line with a goal of reaching every people group. Additionally, 66 percent of the churches have been planted in south Louisiana, where 75 percent of the population resides.

“Our church plants are evangelistic,” Hankins noted. “They have recorded an average of more than 56 salvation decisions per church plant since 2010,” and account for 2,942 baptized new believers.

GROWTH AREAS

Hankins said Harvest is making progress to “pray for every household and share Christ with every person” in Louisiana, in keeping with the 2020 goal to revitalize congregations. Already, 600 churches have signed up for the two-year campaign of crusades, revivals and special events.

If the goal of at least 700 churches is reached, it would



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director David Hankins updates Executive Board members on progress toward the goals of the President’s 2020 Commission Report during their September meeting at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth.

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

“We pray God will not only bring a harvest of souls

but it will reshape us in our roots of being an evangelistic people,” Hankins said.

Combined with efforts like “Bless Every Home,”

See FOCUS on 5

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Children's Home passes foster care milestone, even more need exists

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

MONROE – For the first time since starting its off-campus foster care ministry five years ago, the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home has surpassed the benchmark of placing 100 children in foster care in a one-year period, and officials are asking more Louisiana Baptists to open their homes to foster children.

While the milestone is worthy of celebration, Children's Home President and CEO Perry Hancock said during the trustees' Sept. 22 meeting that the

potential exists to reach even more children and families with the Gospel through this home placement ministry.

"With great need there is great opportunity," Hancock said. "This is a tremendous opportunity to make a difference in the next generation. If we had more Louisiana Baptists open their homes for foster care, we would make a big difference in this coming generation in Louisiana."

Through the end of September, 100 children were on-campus residents and 102 were in foster homes.

This increase is due in part

to Connect 1:27, a network that assists churches with the development of foster and adoption ministries and that works with Christian families interested in serving as foster and adoptive parents. Connect 1:27 offers online resources, monthly e-newsletters, toolkits designed as ministry guides and conferences that both inform prospective foster care and adoptive parents and trains those currently serving in that capacity.

Connect 1:27 is based on God's command of James 1:27 – "Religion that our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this; to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

FOSTER CARE INFO MEETINGS

Every month, the Children's Home holds a series of informational meetings for families considering adoption and foster care.

Details for meetings in October are:

Monroe
Oct. 10
6 p.m.
Louisiana Baptist Children's Home
7200 DeSiard St.
Monroe, LA 71203
For more information, e-mail margie@lbch.org.

Baton Rouge
Oct. 10
6 p.m.
Florida Boulevard Baptist Church
10915 Florida Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70815
For more information, e-mail marissa@lbch.org

New Orleans
Oct. 10
6 p.m.
First Baptist Church, New Orleans
5290 Canal Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124
Oct. 17
6:15 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Covington
16333 Highway 1085
Covington, LA 70433
For more information, visit crossroadsnola.org/fosternola/infomtg/

Shreveport
Oct. 3
6:30 p.m.
North Point Community Church
4204 Airline Drive
Bossier City, LA 71111
For more information, e-mail ashley@lbch.org

HAITI UPATE

Hancock also updated trust-

See LBCH on 9

ees on its Haiti partnership.

Through the Louisiana Reach Haiti Project, the Children's Home, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Haiti Baptist Convention and 40 Louisiana Baptist congregations are teaming up to have a permanent presence in the country.

Through a series of annual mission trips to Haiti, volunteers conduct Vacation Bible School, serve in medical clinics and perform light construction on a children's village and pastor's training center.

The October 2017 trip already is full, but applications are being accepted for 2018 mission efforts scheduled for June 2-8 and Oct. 13-19.

Haiti was devastated by a 2010 earthquake that killed more than 250,000 people and left hundreds of thousands homeless. Louisiana Baptists were among the first to provide disaster relief, and since then have maintained a ministry presence through mission trips that includes construction projects, pastor training, medical clinics, food, water and clothing distributions, evangelism, children's Bible clubs and Vacation Bible School.

Louisiana Baptists acquired land in September 2016, and soon after volunteers completed a 200-foot-deep well that provides water for residents of the community.

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prayer walking and list praying, as well as a focus on personal evangelism and positioning Sunday school/small groups for evangelism, Harvest will enable Louisiana Baptists to move toward the goal of 10 percent growth in attendance by 2020, he said.

To address the decline in children and youth baptisms, Louisiana Baptist leaders have developed a strategy group of baptism leaders in every size, location and ethnic group to create strategies and resources to assist local church leaders in reaching and baptizing more.

Over the next six years a different tool will be used at each Youth Evangelism Celebration to train the more than 6,000 youth who attend to share their faith.

The collegiate team has implemented the Engage 24 program, which engages all 27 active BCMs in the state with encouraging, training and mobilizing students to share the Gospel.

During the most recent

Engage 24, 1,088 students presented the Gospel and saw 532 saved.

Communications is another area of strength, he said, with the Louisiana Baptists Communications Team providing training in the use of social media and the Internet to support the work of churches in their communities.

Hankins noted in particular, the initial success of the “Here for You” campaign, a multi-year, multi-platform media strategy, including television spots, to aid congregations in reaching their communities.

He said the “continuous evangelism strategy using mass media” was in the third year of a pilot program launched in Southeast Louisiana.

“Year one focused on young mothers, while year two shifted the focus to men ages 50-65,” he said. “‘Here for You’ entered the third year of the three-year pilot in 2017 with the goal of creating a reproducible template which will enable this initiative to go statewide in the years ahead.”

Only the lack of funding will hinder the progress of the initiative to expand statewide,

he said, and he encouraged churches to visit HereforYou.org to take advantage of the resources that have

been developed, including the spots which can be shared on church and personal Facebook pages, websites and other media outlets.

“Not the Norm” is the newest strategy to encourage congregations to regularly and intentionally promote biblical financial stewardship, Hankins shared.



After his team took stock of stewardship strategy in 2015 and 2016, Hankins said a vision emerged that placed greater emphasis on teaching stewardship as part of a healthy, obedient relationship with Jesus.

In the coming months, the Louisiana Baptists communication team will launch a “Not the Norm” website with videos about tithing, including at least one animation, he said.

Likewise, a “Not the Norm” bulletin insert will be ready in time for the 2017 LBC Annual Meeting.

“We know the most important question for our mission giving is stewardship,” Hankins said. “If we will solve the stewardship problem, we will solve the missions giving program.”

Hankins also highlighted compassion ministries in his update, saying an association-level compassion ministry strategy has been employed to enhance local networks and start new ministries in local churches. “Here for You” events across the state have resulted in more than 6,000

people participating this year in one-day ministry days. Moreover, 19 directors of missions have indicated they are leading churches to engage in compassion ministry.

Other Louisiana Baptist leaders have: assisted churches in providing a Children’s Mission Day of service in February; developed a CenLa Pregnancy Center in Alexandria; and, developed an online training portal for disaster relief volunteers to get credentials needed for service.

“I suggested a rather audacious goal to the committee that every congregation be involved in compassion ministry,” Hankins said. “We are going to continue not only to encourage compassion ministries but just tabulate those. Maybe a lot of our congregations are doing something but haven’t told us about it. There’s a whole wide range of things you can do to help people – feeding, clothing, disaster relief and changing light bulbs for widows. The needs are there and churches ought to be engaged where they are.”

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Louisiana Baptist Building
1250 MacArthur Dr., Alexandria, LA 71303
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Lonnie Wascom, DOM
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225.664.9309
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Louisiana Baptists continue to respond with disaster relief

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

Weeks after a pair of hurricanes hit the U.S. mainland, Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief teams still are responding with aid to churches and individuals in affected areas of Florida and Texas.

As of late September, Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association's chainsaw team was in Jacksonville, Fla. (where Hurricane Irma swept through Sept. 11).

Meanwhile, the Rolling Hills Ministry's feeding and shower units from Ruston were working in Houston, Texas, not far from where Hurricane Harvey made landfall (Aug. 26 and continued to drop record rains through Aug. 28), Louisiana Baptists State Disaster Relief Coordinator Gibbie McMillan told the *Baptist Message*.

No Louisiana teams had been activated yet, as of Oct. 4, to serve in Puerto Rico which was devastated by Hurricane Maria, Sept. 20.

However, McMillan said plans are being implemented for trained disaster relief volunteers to go to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico beginning Oct. 10.

The response plan calls for volunteers to deploy for a two-week period.

The work will include assisting congregations in feeding operations and water purification, McMillan said, with

the goal of helping individuals restore order so they can return to living their lives rather than just surviving.

CHRIST'S HANDS, FEET

A chainsaw team from Eastern Louisiana association responded to Victoria, Texas, in early September, completing 10 chainsaw jobs and placing tarps on the roofs of 19 homes. They spent the last week of the month in Jacksonville, Fla., completing 20 chainsaw jobs and covering eight homes with tarps.

One job in Florida involved cutting up an eight-foot-diameter tree, which alone took nine hours for the 11-member team to complete.

Howard Turner, blue hat for the Eastern Louisiana team, said if the team had not volunteered to cut up the tree, it would have cost around \$7,500 for the homeowner to hire a private contractor.



Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association Disaster Relief team members place a tarp on a home in Victoria, Texas, damaged by Hurricane Harvey.

For that, Howard said, the couple expressed much appreciation.

"They were shocked someone would show up, pray with them and complete such a massive job at no cost," Turner said. "It's always heart-warming to tell the homeowners that we serve a great God and are here to serve them."

Meanwhile, the Rolling Hills feeding team has served more than 165,000 meals

and its shower and laundry trailers have been used for 500 showers and 400 loads of laundry during the five-week response in Texas.

Moreover, the ministry distributed \$85,000 worth of gift cards to Harvey victims at various locations from money donated in Ruston.

"The gift cards have turned out to be a tremendous way to make personal contact with those affected by the disas-

ters," said David Abernathy, director of Rolling Hills. "It's humbling to know people are placing trust in our organization. They know their direct giving helps in the lives of the others."

According to North American Mission Board statistics, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams, through Sept. 27, have served 1.8 million meals to survivors of Harvey and first responders, and 288 people have repented, humbling their hearts and surrendering their lives to Christ.

The response to Hurricane Irma includes more than 500,000 meals served, with 46 people repenting for salvation.

McMillan emphasized that volunteers are still needed for the immense response efforts.

"We are a great Convention of churches, with everyone doing their part," McMillan said. "When we flooded in Louisiana twice in 2016, we had volunteers to respond with help from 29 different states. It is time for our volunteers to stand up and help our neighbors."

"Every dollar that we have for the disaster relief budget comes from the Georgia Barnett State Missions offering, and now is the time for you to give, please be generous," he continued.

"Thanks to the Cooperative Program and our state missions offering we can make the difference needed in times like this."

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Good news from LC, Foundation, Children's Home, Baptist Message

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH – With rising enrollment that includes a record number of freshmen on campus, Louisiana College President Rick Brewer had much to be thankful for during the recent Executive Board meeting.

"We are preparing graduates and transforming lives at Louisiana College," Brewer said. "We love our job. We love our students, faculty and staff. We love and thank you for your support through the Cooperative Program. You are there when students' lives are changed and when things happen for the kingdom, investing in the future."

He reminded Executive Board members that the goal of the school's Vision 2020 plan is to have an enrollment of 1,500 students by that time. Currently, they stand at 1,210 for the fall semester, the second consecutive year of an increase.

Brewer also celebrated that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges has awarded the school four initiatives, which include a Master's in Nursing, Master's in Social Work, Bachelor's in Computer Science and the ability to

offer any course online.

"We praise the Lord for what's happening, what He's doing and what's to come," he said. "It's all part of the plan and what God's leading us to do in these days and in the future."

He added that the school has several new scholarships at a school that help make the school the 5th most affordable Christian college in the nation. Brewer is optimistic the new scholarships and academic programs will help the school move forward with its goal of enrolling 350 new freshmen next academic year, which will be a key to helping cut into a projected \$1.5 million deficit. If achieved, it would break this year's school record of 330 new freshmen enrolled.

"We are working with a financial stabilization plan calling for increased enrollment, retention, and donor support," Brewer said. "These initiatives coupled with downsizing and cost containment will, we trust, enable the college to achieve a balanced budget."

To reach these goals, Brewer asked for Executive Board members to assist the college, reminding them that LC is a needed choice in today's world that is becoming increasingly hostile toward Christianity.

"What happens in a young person's life between the ages of 18 and 24 is significant," Brewer said. "That's when they begin to shape who they are, that's when they begin to determine is this my faith or is it the faith of my daddy or my granddaddy. When they have competing worldviews coming at them from every angle, I'm glad they have a Christian voice at Louisiana College that will provide answers and educational experience enabling students to see world through Christian lens."

OTHER ENTITY REPORTS

In his report, Louisiana Baptist Foundation Executive Director Wayne Taylor reminded Executive Board members that 37 percent of regular givers would likely leave a bequest to a church or ministry in their Will if asked, and that his staff is there to help Louisiana Baptists with the task.

"Estate planning is stewardship," Taylor said. "It's often times the largest act of stewardship a person will do. They have accumulated more and can give more in their death than they can do in their lifetime."

Taylor also encouraged Board

members to sign up for the Mustard Seed app. Developed by the Oklahoma Baptist Foundation, the app rounds up everyday purchases to the nearest dollar and donates that change to the church or ministry of their choice.

Additionally, Taylor encouraged Louisiana Baptists to participate in a Foundation giveaway. Directing members to BaptistMessage.com/give-a-gift, Taylor said individuals can sign up for a drawing each month for a chance to direct \$1,500 from the Foundation to the church or ministry of their choice.

For his part, Louisiana Baptist Children's Home President Perry Hancock shared how God continues to bless the entity, including 130 people who accepted Christ through its various ministries.

Hancock said the Children's Home has seen more than 220 children in its residential program, an increase from 150 a few years ago. Additionally, through the Granberry Counseling ministry, 1,200 couples and individuals have been served, 50 of who were Louisiana Baptist ministers and their family members.

See GOOD NEWS on 8

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Revival from page one

I've been thinking of getting baptized," he recalled. "I asked are you ready to ask Jesus in your heart and she said, 'Yes.' She was just ready. I got to be there for both her accepting Christ and getting baptized. It's a highlight of my life."

Adelyn is the seventh

person the church has baptized this year -- the most in a single year since the congregation baptized 10 in 2014, according to Annual Church Profile statistics.

Jerry Penfield admits discouragement set in when several months passed without a single baptism among the congregation that averages 110 in attendance for Sunday morning worship services.

Baptizing a group that included his granddaughter greatly lifted his spirits, he said.

"We hadn't baptized in a long time, so all of a sudden we have seven come forward," he said. "It's pretty discouraging when you go through those dry spells."

"You can sense an excitement among our people now," he continued. "They are on fire for what the future holds for our church."

The majority of those new believers made professions of faith during Vacation Bible School in June, where the plan of salvation was presented multiple times, he said.

Like many Louisiana

Baptist congregations, VBS is a major evangelistic tool First Baptist Zwolle uses to reach its community with the love of Christ.

Penfield said all the newly baptized believers have joined a Sunday school class, and are receiving in-depth discipleship on an age-appropriate level.

Good News from page 7

"This is what God is doing through Louisiana Baptists at the Children's Home," Hancock said. "God is giving us opportunities like never before."

During his report, *Baptist Message* Editor Will Hall reminded Board members how the newspaper and online news outlet is essential for staying informed about happenings in the Southern Baptist Convention, like changes at the International Mission Board, and, to be inspired by such news as the establishment of the first evangelical congregation, ever, in Plaquemine, because of the Georgia Barnette Offering.

"There is not another news source that operates solely

"For the 10 years before coming to the First Baptist Church in Zwolle, 25 years ago, I had served as a minister of education in two different congregations. I had a high regard for Sunday school as the primary outreach, assimilating and discipling arm of the church; and, I viewed Vacation

Bible School as a part of this Bible teaching program," he said. "I believe Sunday school is the church organized. Our Sunday School places a high priority on teaching, evangelistically, and on laying the foundation for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of our young children."

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for the benefit of Louisiana Baptists, so that they can be well-informed about the people, issues and events that impact our faith community," he said.

Additionally, Hall gave a report as director of the Office of Public Policy, outlining some of Louisiana Baptists' successes during the recent state legislative session, including the defeat of four bills which countered Louisiana Baptist values and the passage of four bills that supported their ideals.

Hall shared a special emphasis about the importance of Louisiana Baptists' resolutions, saying he used them as stackpoles for his efforts in the legislature.

"Louisiana Baptists voted in 2105 to defund Planned Parenthood and to express concern about children being exposed to online pornography," Hall said. "This year Louisiana Baptists

worked with other conservatives to defeat a sex survey bill advocated by Planned Parenthood in order to receive government grants. We also largely crafted a resolution that passed calling for the governor, the Senate president and the House speaker to work together 'in an aggressive public campaign to protect children from exposure to pornography.'"

Hall said Louisiana Baptists also enjoyed success this year in passing legislation to rescue children from sex trafficking (related to a 2016 Louisiana Baptist resolution on human trafficking) and to defeat a bill that would have created special rights for people who claim a transgender or gender fluid identity (as opposed by Louisiana Baptists in a 2016 resolution against the politics of transgenderism).

Examples from page 2

of souls God has prepared.

"We expect the world to come to us," said Spinney, pastor of First Baptist Church in Haughton. "We expect the harvest to come on Sunday morning after we preach a sermon. We steal away to our caves to study. We steal away into our caves of reading and study. Yet the fields are white for the harvest."

Meanwhile, he said, "The

world is stealing the Lord's harvest while we hide in our caves."

Then he challenged Louisiana Baptists to fight back with boldness.

"This Jesus is worth talking about," Spinney said. "Why would we be satisfied in staying in the closet? It's time for us to come out, church. The fields are white for the harvest. It's time to come out of the caves."

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Acadian Baptist Center to celebrate 100 years of 'a God thing' there

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

EUNICE (LBM) – Acadian Baptist Center is preparing to celebrate its 100th anniversary, with activities that include a reunion of former students who attended Acadia Baptist Academy, the school that existed before the campus became the ABC in 1975.

The reunion begins at 6 p.m., Oct. 13, and the anniversary celebration will take place the next day from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

One of the most notable ABC alumni is Jimmy Warren, the father of Saddleback Church Pastor Rick Warren. The elder Warren attended the camp in the 1930s.

"They sent him down here

where he surrendered to the ministry and got on fire for God," said James Newsom, director of Acadian Baptist Center. "He started preaching in an area of mission sites and churches.

"He stuttered," Newsom elaborated. "And one of the old preachers told him, 'Maybe you should look into another line of work,' because of his speech."

"So he quit preaching for a while but he couldn't stand it," he continued. "He started preaching again and was faithful for many, many years as a pastor and as a director of missions and he raised Rick and a daughter and he touched a lot of lives."

Since becoming a camp in 1975, ABC has experienced significant changes, both physically and spiritually.

During its first year of operation, 3,000 people attended its events and three full-time people were on staff. This year, Newsom estimates attendance was about 13,000 and its staff included six full-time workers, 25 part-timers and many volunteers.

Gone are the days when camping was limited to mainly staying in tents or bunk houses, Newsom offered. ABC amenities now include a motel and cabins.

The spiritual impact, Newsom said, has been even more significant.

A total of 7,114 converts have humbled their hearts and surrendered their lives to Christ. Another, 5,886 have repented

to restore fellowship with Him, and 581 more have made commitments to full-time ministry.

"Camps and retreats historically have touched a lot of lives," Newsom said. "People get away from their home environment with the telephone and TV and other distractions, and are able to focus on preaching, and Bible study and fellowship."

"It's amazing what's God's done here. It's been a God thing."

For more information about the reunion and anniversary celebration, call 337.457.9047 or visit abc-

Budget from page one

"Congregations have had to adapt and so have we," Hankins continued. "Even in this difficult season, the faithfulness of God's people is encouraging. They are doing what they can with what they have and I'm confident God will bless their gifts as we work together to impact Louisiana and beyond with the Gospel."

The budget will be brought to messengers for approval during the 2017 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, scheduled to be held Nov. 13-14 at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. It is the fourth consecutive decrease in the Cooperative Program budget.

"Through August we are 6 percent behind the previous year but we are optimistic we may close some of that gap due to a weak fourth quarter last year," said Dale Lingenfelter, business director and chief financial officer for the Louisiana Baptist Convention. "We

do realize these are challenging financial times for our state yet we are very thankful for the faithful giving of our churches which allow us to continue our cooperative mission efforts together."

Lingenfelter noted the Executive Board chose some cost-saving measures to off-set a lower Cooperative Program budget.

First, he said two full-time staff positions will be eliminated through attrition by retirements. He said these personnel reductions combined with an expected increase in earnings from trust investment assets will help balance the budget.

Second, Lingenfelter said the Executive Board chose to discontinue a protection benefits program that provided term life insurance and a disability benefit for individuals, but was costing \$125,000 per year. He said GuideStone initially provided the benefit free to enroll-

ees, but then shifted some of the cost to state conventions.

Lingenfelter said the budget also was under pressure from an announced 25 percent cost increase for GuideStone health insurance. He said multiple options are under consideration for softening such a dramatic financial impact.

Upon the committee's recommendations, the Executive Board approved the second quarter 2017 financial report, the 2016 annual audit and the 2018 State Missions Service budget of \$12,590,241, a decrease of \$177,852 from the previous year.

LBCH from page 4

"The children's village and school in Haiti provide Louisiana Baptists with the opportunity to prepare a generation of young Christian leaders who could make a significant impact for Christ in their own nation," Hancock said.

Visit connect127.org or call 318.343.2244 to learn more about the Haiti mission trips or the Connect 1:27 Network.

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Rita Clayton was selected to direct the \$1500 gift for the 3rd quarter of 2017. She chose her church, **Plainview Baptist in Bogalusa**, because she has been a member there for a long time and loves her church!

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH in Crowville, LA is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Résumés and CDs or DVDs, if available, should be mailed to: First Baptist Church Crowville, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, P O Box 38, Crowville, LA 71230. Résumés only may be emailed to: Pastor Search Committee, fbccrowville3@bellsouth.net.

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BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

Holly Grove Baptist Church Wisner, La is in search of a bi-vocational pastor for small country church with lots of heart.

Please send résumés to:

Holly Grove Baptist Church

Att: Pastor Search Committee

5005 Highway 562 • Wisner, La. 71378

SENIOR PASTOR

Brookwood Baptist Church in Shreveport, LA is seeking a

For information or to submit a résumé go to brookwoodpastor.com or call 318.861.8911.



YOUTH MINISTER

Bethlehem Baptist Church in Albany, LA is seeking a youth minister for the role of 'NextGen Pastor' to establish, implement and oversee a complete discipleship-training plan for children/students (birth-young adulthood).

Email résumé, letter(s) of recommendation and other applicable documentation to bbcpay@bellsouth.net or mail to Bethlehem Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1030, Albany, LA 70711.

BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

Lamourie Baptist Church, located just south of LSUA, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor.

Please email résumés to: susan_hickman@bellsouth.net or call 318-729-4323 for more information

APPLICANTS SOUGHT

First Baptist Church Farmerville, LA is seeking a staff person who has or staff persons who have knowledge education, and/or experience in one or more of the following ministries:

- Worship Leadership/Music
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Email your résumé to fbcfarmerville@yahoo.com attention Minister Search Committee or call 318.368.3848 for more information.



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BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

Fordoche Baptist Church is seeking a bi-vocational pastor, interested candidates should submit résumés by email or mail to:

Fordochebaptistchurch@yahoo.com or P.O. Box 95, Fordoche, LA 70732.

You may also send audio clip if available.

SEEKING A PASTOR

Gray's Creek Baptist Church in Denham Springs, LA is seeking a full-time Pastor.

Résumés may be submitted to marian799@aol.com or mailed to the church attention Search Committee 21039 LA Highway 16, Denham Springs, LA 70726

BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

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

MUSIC MINISTER

Peniel Baptist Church in West Monroe, LA is looking for a part-time music minister.

Please send résumés to

penielbaptistchu@comcast.net or to 1924 Jonesboro Road West Monroe, LA 71291.

BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, 765 Mt. Moriah Church Rd, Hinston, LA 71438

is seeking a bi-vocational pastor.

Send résumés to Donald Pace, Pastor Search Chair, 1594 Jeff McDonald Rd, Hinston, LA 71438.

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ON THE MOVE

■ **Robert Daniel**, Director of Missions for Big Creek, Central Louisiana and North Rapides Baptist Associations is retiring October 31. A reception will be held at the Baptist Mission Center, which is located at 2201 Melrose St, Pineville LA 71360, October 29, 2-4 p.m.

■ **Thomas Walker** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Boyce.

■ **Johnny (wife Kathy) Dammon** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Lake Charles.

HOMEcoming

■ Main Street Baptist Mission, Pineville: **30th Homecoming**, October 15, 10:30 a.m. There will be testimonies, singing and a message from God's Word. We will be celebrating what God has done and what God is going to do at the service followed by a time of fellowship. Anyone who has ever been involved in the Mission or who is interested in getting involved is welcomed to come. Pastor: Sam West.

■ Gilgal Baptist Church, Minden: **175th Anniversary**, October 21-22, Saturday beginning at 3 p.m. there will be a barbeque, special music and former pastors to speak; Sunday, 10 a.m. Sunday school, 11 a.m. Worship service. Special Speaker: **Randy Hales, Director of Mission for Bienville & Webster-Claiborne Baptist Associations**. Special Music: **Ben Waites**. Everyone is invited to attend. The celebration will be held outside weather permitting. The church was organized in January 1842. Pastor: Steve Richardson.

■ Greenacres Baptist Church, Bastrop: **66th Homecoming**, October 22, 10 a.m. - concert; 11 a.m. - Worship Service. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Speaker: **Jerry Price, Director of Missions of Northeast Baptist Association**. Special Music: **Sanctuary Quartet**.

REVIVAL

■ First Baptist Church, Maringouin: **Mission Revival**, October 12-14, 7 p.m. nightly. Speakers: October 12 - **Jacob Crawford, DOM Louisiana Association**; October 13-14 - **Louis Charrier**. Experience revival where church planter St. Clair Bower wrote the story "On the Bend of the Bayou." Jambalaya supper Saturday at 6 p.m. Pastor: James Womack

■ Epps Baptist Church, Epps: **Revival** October 15-18, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Joe Aulds**. Special Music: **Mark Goodman**. Pastor: Eddie Fuller.

■ First Baptist Church, Anacoco: **Revival**, October 15-18. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Special Music: **The Perry's**. Pastor: Durhl Davis.

■ Pine Grove Baptist Church, Bernice: **Revival**, October 15-18. Sunday, 6 p.m. - Speaker & Music: **Tim Post**. Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Evangelist:

Rubin Weaver. Music: **Tim Post and Katherine Tubbs**, piano. Pastor: Steve Barrett.

■ Christ Baptist Church, Houma: **Revival**, October 15-18. Evangelist: **Clifton Arnold** (Sunday); **Matt Chouest** (Monday); **Joe Arnold** (Tuesday); **Herman Callais** (Wednesday). Special Music: **Mechanicville-Emmanuel, Matt Chouest**. Pastor: Herman J. Callais Sr.

■ Ridge Memorial Baptist Church, Slidell: **"Magnificent Monday,"** October 16, **Herb Haws, Northview Baptist Church, Houston, TX**; October 23, **Lonnie Wascom, DOM, Northshore Baptist Association, Hammond**; October 30, **Jason Douglas, Pinehaven Baptist Church, Pensacola, FL**. Everyone is invited to attend. Pastor: Paul Dabdoub.

■ Cedar Baptist Church, Archibald: **Revival**, October 22-25, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Russell Wagoner**. Special Music: **Mickey Alexander and Rachel Wagoner Lambert**. Church address is 3650 Hwy 15, Archibald. Pastor: Mickey Alexander.

■ Westview Baptist Church, Deridder: **Revival**, October 22-25. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Jason Hoychick.

■ Dunn Baptist Church, Delhi: **Revival**, October 22-25, Sunday, 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday 7 p.m. Evangelist. Worship: **Sanctuary Quartet**. Pastor: Bernard Duchesne, Jr.

■ First Baptist Church, Melville: **Revival**, October 22-25, 7 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Jimmy Talley, McAllen, Texas**. Music: **Elaine Talley**. Special music: **Bob Johnson, pianist and organist**. Pastor: Nathaniel Dutton.

■ First Baptist Church, Branch: **Revival**, October 23-26, Sunday, 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Monday - Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Ronnie Tullios of RTEA Ministries**. Worship: **Tom McCone**. Pastor: Tim Hobbs.

LAGNIAPPE

■ New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Seeking a full time children's minister**. Send résumés to 61 New Chapel Hill Rd., West Monroe, LA 71291 or email melinda@nchbc.net. Pastor: Marty Black.

■ Christ Bayou Church, Houma: **Missions & Ministry Celebration across the bayou and beyond**, October 15, Booths & Meal, 5 p.m.; Worship, 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: **Clifton Arnold**. Special Music: **Mechanicville-Emmanuel Baptist Church**. Pastor: Herman J Callais Sr.

■ Cypress Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Sanctuary Quartet in concert**, October 15, 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Larry Eubanks.

■ North Shreve Baptist Church, Shreveport: **The Southern Plainsmen in concert**, October 15, 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Cecil Marr.

■ Emmanuel Baptist Church, Shreveport: **The Purple Halls featuring Katy Lou and Penny Lea Clark in concert**, October 15, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received to help cover the cost. Pastor: Chad Hardbarger.

■ First Baptist Church, Winnfield: **Judgement House - Payback, When Revenge Turns to Ruin**, October 18, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29, 31, 6:00 p.m. nightly. Please call the church office at 318.628.3544 for reservations. Pastor: Steven Smithson.

■ First Baptist Church, Covington: **Southern Gospel Concert featuring Ernie Hasse & Signature Sound**, October 20, 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. Cost: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. To purchase tickets go to FbcCov.org, click on events or contact Jim Fletcher at 985.893.4561. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.

■ North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: **11th Hour in concert**, October 20, 7 p.m. Pastor: Bill Dye.

■ Emmanuel Baptist Church, Lake Charles: **Men's Conference - Rediscover the King, Warrior, Magician, and Lover In You** hosted by Seeds of Faith Baptist Church, Lake Charles, October 20-21, Friday, 6-7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cost: \$20. Speakers: **Joseph Banks**, Pastor of Living Word Christian Center; **Braylon Harris**, Pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church; **Bruce Baker**, DOM of Carey Association and **Felix Harris**, Pastor of Seeds of Faith Baptist Church. For more information, phone: 305.389.3631 or email seedsofffaith17@gmail.com

■ Vick Baptist Church, Vick: **2nd annual Youth and Team Kids Pumpkin Patch**, October 21, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Jambalaya plates, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. There will be pumpkins, hay rides, bonfires and a photo booth. All proceeds benefits the Vick Baptist Church Youth and Team Kids. Also, this year they will be selling **Jambalaya plates**, sponsored by Vick Baptist Church and Richey Baptist Church, for \$7 with proceeds benefiting Mrs. Eunice Matthews. The event will be at the Effie walking trail, corner of Hwy 107 and 115. Pastor: Dobie Perkins.

■ Barksdale Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Fall Festival**, October 21, 2 p.m. Pastor: Calvin Hubbard.

■ First Baptist Church, Haynesville: **Mark Lanier in concert**, October 22, 11 a.m. Pastor: Jeff Tinsley.

■ New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Classic Sunday**, October 22, 10:45 a.m. There will be classic cars, classic trucks, classic songs, classic worship, and a classic dinner on the grounds. Pastor: Marty Black.

■ Columbia Heights Baptist church, Columbia: **11th Hour** in concert, October 23, 7 p.m. Pastor: Warren Maxwell.

■ First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Fall Family Festival**, October 25, 5:30-7 p.m. Pastor: Chris Craig.

■ First Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Fall Festival**, October 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m. This FREE event for kids of all ages features Trunk or Treat, games, hayrides, lots of candy and treats, hamburgers and hot dogs. For more info, contact faye.scott@fbno.org. Pastor:

David Crosby.

■ First Baptist Church, Haughton: **Trunk or Treat**, October 25, 6 p.m. Join us for a family fun night of activities, food, and lots of candy. Area food trucks will be on hand for guests to purchase their choice of food. Children and adults are encouraged to participate in the "friendly" costume contest and the best trunk contest, go to the family photo booth, jump in the inflatables, and have fun Trunk-or-Treating. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.

■ Natalbany Baptist Church, Natalbany: **Trunk or Treat**, October 25, 6 p.m. Pastor: Rodney Taylor.

■ First Baptist Church, Minden: **Fall Festival**, October 25, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Cost: Free. There will be lots of candy, carnival games, inflatables, door prizes (must be present to win), dessert walk and costume contest. Pastor: Leland Crawford.

■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **Hallow Him - Fall Family Festival**, October 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m. There will be carnival games, extreme inflatables and lots of candy. Pastor: Philip Robertson.

■ First Baptist Church, Sulphur: **Chili and dessert cookoff**, October 25, 5 p.m. For more information, contact Tom Bruce at tbruce@fbcsulphur.org. Pastor: Michael Linton.

■ Calvary Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Fall Family Night**, October 25, 6-8 p.m. There will be carnival rides, sidewalk chalk creation station and a bubble area for the little ones, hayrides and of course, lots of candy. Pastor: John Lary.

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.

lqy dtjm njqd lqy dfry wd oqdf dtj ejpwyoj;

qjwdtje zjrwjcjy dtjm dtjg.

gleh pwbdjjq:dtwedjjq

Clues:
W = I; Y = D

Answer to October 12 Scripture Crypto:
Malachi one: nine

Gettin' Close!

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