

“The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. ...”

— John 6:63 (KJV)

M BAPTIST Message

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October 26, 2017

Wisconsin judge outlaws tax benefit for pastor housing allowance



BY WILL HALL

Message Editor

For the second time in four years, a federal judge in Madison, Wisconsin, has ruled unconstitutional the tax benefit related to housing allowances for pastors and clergy.

Judge Barbara Crabb, appointed in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter, ruled

in favor of the atheistic Freedom from Religion Foundation, also located in Madison, in a lawsuit that claims such a federal tax break discriminates against secular persons.

BACKGROUND

Crabb issued the same ruling in 2013, but the conservative U.S.

Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago later threw it out, saying the foundation was not directly affected and had no legal standing to file suit. Consequently, the anti-Christian group asked the IRS to grant the tax benefit to two FRFF co-presidents. When the IRS declined to extend the benefit to

See ALLOWANCE on 9

NOBTS year-long centennial will have evangelistic focus

BY MARILYN STEWART

NOBTS Communications

NEW ORLEANS – New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary kicked off its 100th anniversary celebration with special events Oct. 3 and the announcement of upcoming centennial initiatives focused on evangelism and missions.

Activities began with the annual Founders Day chapel service, as NOBTS President Chuck Kelley pointed past the seminary's 1917 founding to the true “seed” from which the seminary sprang -- the Acts 1:8 commission by Jesus to take the Gospel to all

nations.

Kelley asked Southern Baptists to join with NOBTS in reaching 100,000 Gospel conversations during the centennial year in honor of that commission.

“We were created to be a lighthouse as well as a schoolhouse,” Kelley said. “We’re asking all Southern Baptists, not just our seminary family, to help us tell 100,000 people about Jesus.”

NOBTS has created a smartphone app to help track the 100,000 Gospel conversations. It offers evangelism helps, a reporting tool and follow-up assistance to help

connect individuals with a local church. The app can be downloaded here.

Kelley’s sermon marked the first in a series of chapel sermons preaching through the book of Acts that will continue throughout the centennial and close Oct. 4, 2018. Featured speakers will include Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr.; Gateway Seminary President Jeff Iorg; and Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Russell Moore.

The seminary’s centennial goals include \$50 million

See NOBTS on 9



New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley, to mark NOBTS’ centennial year, challenged the seminary community – and Southern Baptists – to become more intentional witnesses, offering a Gospel Conversations smartphone app to help track NOBTS’ goal of sharing Christ at least 100,000 times before October 2018.

Boyd Guy photo



Sharon and Charles Luke were able to minister to victims impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Hurricane surge led to baptizing flood

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

ORANGE, Texas – A Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer recently was reminded how ministering on the field can lead to changed lives for Christ.

Sharon Luke and her husband, Charles, were assessing a house damaged by Hurricane Harvey when they encountered a homeowner named Angel, whose home in Orange, Texas, took in nearly five feet of water. Not knowing what the future held, Angel was comforted by Sharon Luke’s invitation to receive hope in the person of Jesus Christ – and she accepted.

“There was a peace I felt came over her,” Sharon Luke, a member of Broadmoor Baptist

Church in Shreveport, said. “It was a great joy to be able to bring the reminder of the peace Christ can give us and the hope He offers. When I returned to the command center, I told everyone this made all we worked on worth it.”

The Lukes were in the Texas communities of Vidor and Orange, Sept. 11-14. While there, they shared Christ’s love at each of the 10 homes and one church they assessed.

At each site, they prayed with the homeowner and handed out a New Testament Bible, an experience Sharon Luke described as humbling – and much needed for those impacted by Harvey.

See FLOOD on 3

Daniel thankful for churches, excited for associations' future



Brian Blackwell photo

With his approaching retirement, Robert Daniel is thankful for the eight years he has served as director of missions for Big Creek, Central Louisiana and North Rapides Baptist associations.

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE – Not to be self-serving but Robert Daniel is hoping a large crowd will be in attendance for his Oct. 29 retirement reception.

Not because he wants to bask in the compliments but to show his appreciation.

Daniel, the outgoing director of missions for three central Louisiana associations, wants to humbly thank the churches for allowing him to serve them for the last eight years and to thank them for helping him get through one of the most difficult periods in his life.

Four months after stepping into the role in August 2009, Daniel received devastating news his wife of 38 years, Trudy, had developed a treatment-related issue requiring her to undergo a stem cell transplant.

From that moment until her death on April 29, 2010, Daniel – who in December 2011 remarried – witnessed first-hand the love of Christ

and the compassion of an association of Baptist churches. That outpouring of God's love, even though it was difficult to experience, remains one of his most cherished memories during his time as DOM for Big Creek, Central Louisiana and North Rapides associations.

"If I could put all of the thoughts and feelings I have for central Louisiana Baptists, in the myriad ways they have shown God's love to me during Trudy's illness and death; and then the way they have embraced and shown love to Linda, I would simply but sincerely say I see Jesus in each of you," Daniel said.

In addition to building relationships with pastors and lay people at the 92 associational churches, Daniel said he also has enjoyed seeing a harvest of souls during two Crossover events, held prior to the 2010 and 2013 Louisiana Baptist Convention annual meetings in Alexandria.

During each event which featured speakers, high-energy music and entertaining acts at venues in schools and sports venues, more than 200 students and others attending made decisions for Christ, including the 2010 Crossover which happened a few months after his first wife's passing.

"I felt God was there with me ... not only helping me be a DOM while also responding faithfully to the things that had happened with my wife's death," Daniel said. "To see the elementary, junior high and high school age students come to the assemblies and then turn out to the hear the gospel at the different venues away from school was thrilling beyond words.

"I was able to deal personally with my grieving by visiting several sites that

hosted Crossover such as where my wife taught high school, where she attended college and the church where we were married. It was neat seeing how God connected all the dots that year and provided comfort in that way."

Looking ahead, Daniel said he is excited about the upcoming Hope For You crusade in October 2018 at the Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria.

This multi-day event will feature inspiring speakers and music, along with evangelistic events held around the area leading up to the crusade that will involve churches not only from the association but other denominations in the area.

It will coincide with the Harvest Initiative, Louisiana Baptists' campaign to "pray for every home and share Christ with every person" in the state.

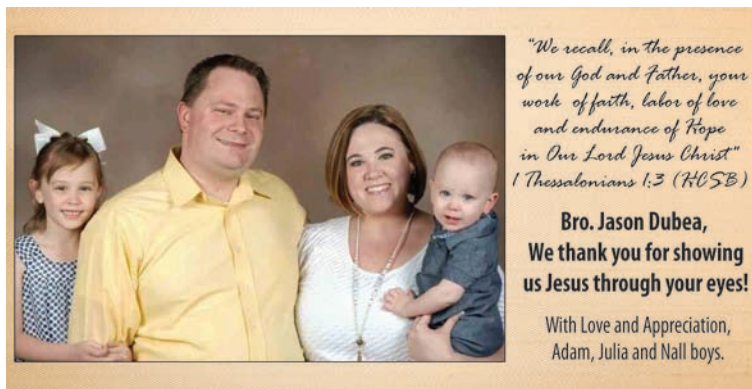
If the goal of at least 700 churches is reached, it would be the most churches who have participated together at one time in a combined evangelism statewide effort.

"As my role as DOM is coming to this transition of retirement, we have embarked on a Harvest initiative that will exceed by many times those decisions by Crossover as we attempt for God an area wide crusade we are calling Hope For You," he said. "It's being so well received among evangelical Christians across central Louisiana. I'm going to be looking forward to October once again to experience the blessings of God as we see how sharing the Gospel bears fruit."

PATH TO MINISTRY

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See DANIEL on 12



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Top scholars to discuss 'Meaning of the Atonement' at Greer Heard Forum

BY MARILYN STEWART
NOBTS Communications

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – Did Christ's death on the cross spare sinners from God's wrath? Or, is there more that must be said?

N. T. Wright, preeminent New Testament scholar and author of *The Day the Revolution Began: Reconsidering the Meaning of Jesus's Crucifixion* joins Cambridge University New Testament professor Simon Gathercole in dialogue on "The Meaning of the Atonement," Nov.

10-11, at NOBTS, for the 14th annual Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum.

The atonement – Christ's death as the resolution of sin – has been the subject of sharp debate in recent years with the evangelical stance of penal substitutionary atonement, the doctrine that Christ took sinners' punishment on the cross, at the center.

Wright and Gathercole will discuss the topic Friday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m. The speakers will respond to presentations on the atonement by renowned scholars Michael Horton,

Kevin Vanhoozer, Douglas Moo and Edith Humphrey the following day.

In a departure from previous forums, this year's event features conservative Christian speakers who agree on the core doctrines of the Gospel.

"We are bringing together six of the most respected scholars in biblical studies and Christian theology in the world," said Robert Stewart, Greer-Heard director. "The odds of these scholars being together in the same program anywhere ever again are remarkably low. If I had the chance to be at this forum, I'd do everything I could to make that happen."

The debate around atonement prompted messengers at the June 13-14, 2017 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix to adopt a resolution regarding the necessity of penal substitutionary atonement. The resolution addresses voices within the church and academy that label penal substitution as "non-



Six of the world's most noted scholars in biblical studies and Christian theology will discuss "The Meaning of the Atonement" Nov. 10-11 at the 14th annual Greer-Heard point-Counterpoint Forum at NOBTS.

strous," "evil," and call it "a Father murdering a son."

Denying penal substitutionary atonement "compromises the biblical and historical doctrines of propitiation, expiation, ransom, satisfaction, Christus Victor, Christus Exemplar, and more," the resolution states.

See FORUM on 8



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Submitted photo

This scene of damaged items as a result of Hurricane Harvey was commonplace in Orange, Texas, while Sharon and Charles Luke ministered to victims of the storm.

Flood from page one

Because of these efforts, she said many are having the chance to hear the Gospel and turn to Christ after the storm.

"These people are in shock," she said. "To be able to pray with them and help them go beyond the heartache brought them comfort and peace."

In addition to surveying homes, the Lukes assessed Rose City Baptist Church in Vidor, which took in several feet of water a year after the church had already experienced disaster.

Just days before Harvey made landfall, the church had just finished rebuilding its worship center, which was destroyed by a fire in August 2016. Although Harvey washed away what had been rebuilt, and, the natural disaster left its many of its members homeless, the congregation is committed to helping their community

move forward, according to the Lukes.

"These people told me their rescue stories and it just breaks your heart for them," Sharon Luke said. "They're loving, caring people -- who are doing what they can to help their neighbors despite having hardships themselves."

The mission trip to Vidor is over, but Sharon Luke expects to help whenever the Holy Spirit spurs her to take another disaster relief trip.

"The needs of the hurricane-affected population are great," she said. "These families have experienced losses that we, who are on this side of this tragedy, cannot even imagine. We are unable to do everything necessary to get beyond the hurricane, but each of us can do something. I ask that you pray the Lord will reveal to you 'your something.'"



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School, camp celebrates 100 years of impacting lives for the Kingdom

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

EUNICE – A crowd of more than 800 reminisced about the life-changing impact Acadia Baptist Academy and Acadian Baptist Center had on them during its Centennial Celebration Oct. 13-14.

Held on the grounds of Acadian Baptist Center in Eunice, the event featured a cookout which included several Cajun dishes, games, a historical exhibit of the school and camp, classic car display, hayride and music. It also included a reunion of residents of the school and a group time for sharing memories of the camp and school.

Among the former campers present was Jessica Chapman, who made a decision to accept Christ while attending camp 30 years ago.

“Getting to meet lots of

new people and making friends with kids from other churches was a highlight for me,” Chapman said. “The camp has changed a lot but in good ways, especially with the way it’s grown. Coming back here brings back lots of fond memories; including the time I made a decision to follow Christ.”

Jimmy White, a student at the school from 1964 to 1968, drove in from Rowlett, Texas, for the reunion. He enjoyed the stability and love the teachers and staff gave to each student.

“It was a good life while we were here,” White said, “but it wasn’t until later in life we really learned how fortunate we were to attend this school. They taught us about respect and honesty.

“Part of me is sad to see things aren’t the way they use to be but the other half of me understands the many improvements that have taken

place are really for the greater good. So many people who returned here today share the same story, in that God used their experiences and time here to change their lives forever.”

Helen Knuckles, a classmate of White for two years, said the school helped build a firm foundation of faith.

“It impacted me so much I chose to attend a Christian college after coming to this camp,” said Knuckles, the wife of retired Acadia Baptist Association Director of Missions Alan Knuckles. “To see people come back here many years later and know they too had a life changing experience is special.”

LASTING LEGACY

For the 56 years of its existence, Acadia Baptist School

See CELEBRATES on 8



Brian Blackwell photos

Angelle and Brian Pray look at a historical display of Acadia Baptist Academy and Acadian Baptist Center in Eunice, which were among the many options for the more than 800 guests to enjoy.



Benji Richard, pastor of First Baptist Church in Port Barre, slices up roasted pork to serve during the Acadian Baptist Center Centennial Celebration. In addition to the pork, guests also ate jambalaya and hamburgers.



A hayride on the grounds of Acadian Baptist Center in Eunice took those in attendance at its Centennial Celebration on a tour of the grounds of the property.



A wide variety of classic cars were on display for guests to enjoy. Other activities included music, games, a time of group sharing, a time of prayer and a reunion for former residents of Acadia Baptist Academy.

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Panel urges students to shape culture, be the difference makers

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE – Louisiana State Sen. Gerald Long challenged students, pastors and community members to become difference makers and shape the culture in Louisiana and beyond during the second annual Values and Ethics Series.

“What are you willing to die for?” Long said during a panel discussion on religious liberty at Louisiana College Oct. 9. “There’s got to be something in your life far more than just the everyday ordinary things that we do. I challenge you to look deep within and find that thing that can be a game changer and can touch the lives of people for years to come.”

A state senator from District 31 since 2007, Long said the concept of government is biblical, grounded in Romans 13. Because of that, Christians are needed to be salt and light.

“We need men and women who are willing to step up and enter the public arena of public service,” said Long, a member of First Baptist Church in Natchitoches. “There is not a more noble cause than when men and women say I want to serve for the right reason; I want to be a game changer.”

He said if a Christ follower accepts the call to politics, the temptation persists to establish one’s position based on party affiliation. However, he cautioned that Christian elected officials must base their decisions on principles of faith, such as respect for opinions of others with whom they disagree.

“This concept of respect means we listen attentively and then we share with individuals who are different from us a biblical perspective,” Long said. “And then your position gets heard.”

Long was one of four presenters on the panel titled “Religious Liberty: A National Treasure.” The panel members also spent time speaking to several classes

the following day on the LC campus.

Greg Baylor, senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, told the audience government officials now are more willing to try and force people to do things that violate their conscience.

One such example is an upcoming case that will be heard before the U.S. Supreme Court involving Jack Phillips, a cake decorator in Colorado who in 2012 refused to bake a cake for two men because his belief of marriage is between a man and woman. However, after the men filed a complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, Phillips was ordered to create custom cakes for same-sex ceremonies or quit designing wedding cakes.

The commission also ordered him to re-educate his employees on complying with the Colorado Anti-discrimination Act, which it found Phillips had violated. When Phillips appealed, the Colorado Court of Appeals upheld the commission’s order and the Colorado Supreme Court declined to review the decision.

The Alliance Defending Freedom is representing Phillips before the Supreme Court. Oral arguments in the



Brian Blackwell photo

Gregory Baylor, senior counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom, addresses the audience attending the second annual Values and Ethics Series. Baylor was one of four panel members who discussed religious liberty at the event sponsored by Louisiana College.

case begin Dec. 5.

“The government is trying to force Jack to do something that violates his conscience,” Baylor said. “This is incredibly serious because he has no choice. He either has to bend the knee or he has to get out of his profession, one he has done virtually his entire life.

“The worse-case scenario in Jack’s case is the Supreme Court says it is acceptable to violate somebody’s conscience, someone’s freedom of speech, someone’s religion in the interest of eradicating so called sexual orientation and discrimination,” he said. “That can be used to justify all manner

of rules that would punish mostly Christians but other faith-filled people who hold to traditional views of marriage and sexuality.”

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Warren Smith, vice presi-

See PANEL on 6

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Addyson Baden photo

Louisiana College welcomed members of the Tudor family to its Founders Day that memorialized Simon W. Tudor, a benefactor and athletic standout at the Pineville, Louisiana, college.

LC honors Simon Tudor at annual Founders Day

BY NORM MILLER
LC News

PINEVILLE (LCNews) – Louisiana College honored Simon W. Tudor during its annual Founders Day celebration March 6 that included the unveiling of a historical marker at Tudor Hall that houses male students.

A generous benefactor to Louisiana College who served as president of the trustees, Simon Tudor was recruited in 1910 to initiate the athletic program at LC.

While attending LC, Simon Tudor was athletic director and coached the football, basketball and baseball teams. Following in Simon's footsteps, grandsons John Tudor of Alexandria, played for a Final Four LSU Tiger basketball team in 1981; and energy investment banker and CEO of Tudor, Pickering & Co., Houston resident Bobby Tudor was a basketball standout at Rice University, where he graduated in 1982.

He also married LC student Ollie Beall, the daughter of one of the college's founders.

Several other notable members of the Tudor family traveled from across Louisiana and Texas to attend the celebration, where grandson attorney Mike Tudor shared a life sketch of Simon.



Addyson Baden photo

Great-grandson John Tudor and his son Simon unveil the historical marker honoring Louisiana College benefactor Simon W. Tudor.

At age five, Simon worked the tobacco fields of Kentucky. As a young adult, he rode a horse to Georgetown College, where his athletic prowess ultimately led him to LC.

"With all of his belongings in a paper sack, he took the train from Kentucky to Alexandria and at Louisiana College quickly assumed the role of athletic director," Mike Tudor said.

In 1946 Simon began Tudor Construction with his son, Bob, who was returning from World War II. Simon also was

a Baptist deacon, a Rotarian, and a Pineville City councilman.

Mike Tudor said his "Paw-paw" was a "remarkable man, and it is with gratitude that we remember Simon Tudor and his contributions to this college, which has impacted the lives of so many, including our family."

"Our family is pleased that it is just the first of several such markers, which will memorialize those who founded and have sustained Louisiana College for more than a century," he said.

Noting most colleges and universities established in the U.S. before the 20th century "had a strong religious, and usually a Protestant Christian character," Mike Tudor said almost all of them "have no significant religious identity today. The reasons for this are many and too complex to discuss today, but this fact alone should be a poignant reminder to all of us of the unique role of Louisiana College as a Christian college and call us to be as faithful as her founders to her mission of achieving academic excellence while maintaining integrity with the Christian principles on which she was founded."

LC President Rick Brewer said in an interview, "Simon Tudor and his progeny understand and appreciate the importance of higher education built upon a Christian worldview, and have made the sacrifices necessary to help establish and sustain Louisiana College. Multiplied thousands of lives have been touched by the stalwart commitment of one man, Simon Tudor, who could not have fully realized his investment would continue to pay dividends of both temporal and eternal consequence. The Louisiana College family remains deeply grateful to the Tudor Family, and especially Simon."



Louisiana State Sen. Gerald Long challenges students to become difference makers for Christ and shape the culture.

Panel from page 5

dent for mission advancement at the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, encouraged those who believe in religious liberty to sign the Manhattan Declaration.

Written in 2009, the document outlined the importance of religious liberty, traditional marriage and the sanctity of life.

Less than a decade after it was signed, the words of the Manhattan Declaration were prophetic, Smith contends. He said the ability for Christians to live out their beliefs in their vocations and in the public square is under assault and defending religious liberty is a core biblical issue, one that advocates for true freedom.

To become more effective advocates for religious freedom, Smith said others should learn the facts of religious liberty cases and become a voice for truth which will help influence judges and elected officials.

"Judges and elected officials are people, too," Smith said. "They read newspapers, watch television and listen to the radio. They need to hear the voices of religious liberty advocates. So write letters to the editor, support organizations that protect religious liberty, and attend events that promote religious liberty in your community."

For his part, Becket Gremmels said religious liberty extends beyond the church walls and into the everyday lives of Christians in public.

"Faith without works is dead," said Gremmels, system director of ethics for Christus Health. "If that faith is not manifested upon those actions both in the private square but also in the public square it isn't true faith. Faith calls you to action."



Gary D. Myers photo



Gary D. Myers photo

Travis Weber (right), a lawyer with the Family Research Council, discusses religious objections by bakers and photographers to commissions for same-sex wedding ceremonies during a forum at New Orleans Seminary. Evangelical scholar Craig Mitchell (left) joined Weber in defense of religious liberty.

Tony Campolo, professor emeritus at Eastern University, tells how he went from advocating traditional biblical marriage to accepting same-sex marriage during a forum at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as Sarah Jane Guidry of the Louisiana Forum for Equality listens.

Individual rights & sexuality discussed at NOBTS forum

By GARY D. MYERS

NOBTS Communications

NEW ORLEANS (LBM)

— Advocates from several perspectives on same-sex marriage and LGBT rights discussed the emotionally and politically charged issues, which often pit the church against the prevailing culture, during a forum at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The “Rights and Sexuality: Where Individual Freedoms and Civil Rights Meet” event was sponsored by the seminary’s Institute for Faith and the Public Square.

Lloyd Harsch, the institute’s director, noted, “What we are trying to do with the Institute for Faith and the Public Square is to provide a safe environment for rational conversation on difficult issues where we can listen to each other and find common ground.”

A video of the forum is available at www.faith-publicsquare.org/past-events.html.

Tony Campolo, professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University, and Sarah Jane Guidry, executive director of Louisiana’s Forum for Equality, advocated for acceptance of same-sex marriage and greater LGBT protections.

Craig V. Mitchell, a Christian ethicist and political scientist, and Travis Weber, a lawyer with the Family Research Council, argued for traditional marriage and

protections for those who oppose same-sex marriage on religious grounds.

Forum organizers described the speakers as respectful, modeling civil discussion on matters of deep and passionate disagreement.

Mitchell opposed same-sex marriage by articulating the heart of the evangelical argument against the practice — homosexuality is at odds with Scripture. However, Mitchell was clear that the church must oppose those who would mistreat LGBT individuals.

“The church is supposed to be salt and light,” Mitchell said. “We need to call sin what it is; at the same time we need to show the love of Christ. We need to love the sinner while hating the sin.”

Mitchell acknowledged missteps by the church in its attempts to love the LGBT community while upholding a biblical view of marriage. However, he sees the stance on homosexuality as a sin as the key point of tension between the church and LGBT advocates.

Campolo opposed same-sex marriage until two-and-a-half years ago when his view shifted toward acceptance of same-sex marriage in part due to his work counseling homosexuals. Campolo acknowledged that he could be wrong on homosexuality.

While Campolo and Mitchell disagreed on same-sex marriage, the two found some common ground on

the issue of church-state entanglement in marriage. The state licenses both the couple who is getting married and the clergy member who conducts the service. It is the clergy member, Campolo said, who solemnizes the union. Yet in America, these functions are mingled together.

“If you want to get married in Amsterdam you go down to the city hall and you register and a civil ceremony takes place,” Campolo said. “If you want a religious blessing, you then go to the church and the minister or the priest blesses the relationship. Separating the two things solves all the problems.”

Mitchell agreed that separating the civil and religious aspects of marriage could relieve some, but not all, of the conflict regarding same-sex marriage.

Even with the separation of the civil and religious aspects of marriage, he said the church must still point out sin and call for repentance.

“No one likes to be called a sinner, yet every one of us is,” Mitchell said. “It is the job of the church to remind people.”

The tension between the church and the state was evident throughout the discussion -- especially regarding the cases of bakers and wedding photographers who refuse to accept commissions for events that violate their conscience.

Weber said the religious

freedom laws in the country have not changed but the way the LGBT community responds to those laws is changing. There is a growing conflict between traditional Judeo-Christian beliefs on sexuality and “those who believe in self-centered, individualized sexual autonomy detached from any outside moral framework,” Weber said.

Religious freedom laws require a “compelling reason” for the government to deny a religious objection, Weber said. In the cases involving bakers and photographers who refuse commissions for same-sex ceremonies, he sees no compelling reason to deny their religious objection.

“Jack Phillips [a Christian baker in Colorado] was happy to provide items from his bakery to anyone who walks into his shop regardless of what they claim to be their sexual orientation,” Weber said. “He just didn’t want to provide a cake for the [same-sex] wedding ceremony.”

For Weber, Phillips’ refusal should be protected because it is clearly based on his own moral and religious beliefs. The objection did not infringe on the couple’s ability to have a cake at their ceremony. Many other bakers were willing to accept the commissions for same-sex ceremonies, Weber said.

“There’s no reason to force those who have a conscience objection to being involved in [the ceremony]

... to be implicated against their conscience,” Weber said. “The way forward is to recognize the religious rights of these individuals.”

Campolo and Guidry argued that concerns for equality in conducting business outweigh the personal convictions of the private business owner. For them, the state and local authority to issue business permits implies that the state grants the privilege of conducting business and can require equal treatment of potential customers.

“That baker is operating with a license that was granted by the state,” Campolo said. “The state represents what? All the people. If the privilege of baking cakes is given by all the people, then all the people should have access to the service that is provided.”

Guidry also disagreed with Weber on the issue of private businesses. She affirmed the right of individual clergy members and churches to decide what marriages they choose to solemnize. However, she argued that individual protections do not extend to individual business owners or to elected officials tasked with granting marriage licenses.

Conservative lawmakers in several states have sought new laws to clarify religious freedoms and protect business owners who have moral objections. Guidry called such laws a “license to discriminate” against the LGBT community.

LBC BYLAW CHANGES

According to the Bylaws of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Article VII (Amendment of Bylaws), amendments sponsored by the Executive Board shall be posted to the LBC website and published in one (1) issue of the *Baptist Message* no later than fifteen (15) days before the meeting of the Convention.

The Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board, meeting September 26, 2017, at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth, Louisiana, adopted the following motions:

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, November 13-14, 2017, amend Article 1V, Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Louisiana Baptist Convention as follows:

The terms of members of boards shall be established as three (3) years. No member elected or appointed for a full term shall be eligible for more than two (2) complete successive terms on the same board. No member elected to serve as much as two (2) years of an unexpired term of any board shall be eligible for more than one (1) successive full term of three (3) years on the same board. A member shall be ineligible to serve on that board until an interval equal to the number of years served on that board shall have elapsed. A person shall not serve in more than one elected or appointed position at a time, unless authorized by the constitution in more than one elected or appointed position at a time, unless authorized by the constitution and bylaws. Upon the expiration of the term of any member of a board or committee, no person who is a member of the same church as the person whose term is expiring may serve on that same board or committee until one year following the expiration of the serving member's term. Membership on all boards and committees collectively shall in all cases be limited to no more than two (2) the pastor and up to two (2) other members from any church at any one time. Existing board or committee members (other than pastors) who move to a church with two members currently serving on a board or committee shall be rendered ineligible to serve. No more than one member of the same church may serve on the same board or committee. The terms of members of committees shall be established as three (3) years. No member elected or appointed for a full term or elected to fill an unexpired term shall be eligible to succeed himself until an interval equal to the number of years served on that committee shall have elapsed.

That the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, November 13-14, 2017, amend Article III, Section 2 and Article III, Section 3, of the Bylaws of the Louisiana Baptist Convention as follows:

Section 2. The Committee on Committees shall be composed of nine (9) members one-third of whom shall be appointed each year by the president. This Committee shall nominate to the Convention the membership of all other committees of the Convention and shall nominate or appoint the membership of special committees as instructed by the Convention. The Committee shall also nominate for election the chairman and vice chairman of all Convention committees. Vacancies occurring during the year shall may be filled by recommendation from this Committee to the Executive Board and may be approved by the Board in any of its regular or special meetings or by mail poll of the Board.

Section 3. The Committee on Nominations shall be composed of fifteen (15) members. It shall nominate to the Convention all members of boards of the Convention, including the Executive Board of the Convention. Vacancies on boards occurring prior to the May Executive Board meeting shall may be filled by recommendation from this Committee to the Executive Board. Vacancies occurring after the May meeting shall be left vacant until the Convention in November.

Ministry resources, free meal tickets, kick off Annual Meeting

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – Messengers attending the LBC Annual Meeting in Baton Rouge will have the opportunity to support GOLA missions and avoid Baton Rouge rush hour traffic when the Annual Meeting convenes Monday, Nov. 13, at Istrouma Baptist Church.

“With the notorious traffic in Baton Rouge, we’re offering messengers the opportunity to receive free meal tickets or purchase them onsite,” said John Kyle, Director of Communications for Louisiana Baptists. “This enables them to stay on campus, enjoy a good meal, support BCM summer missions (also known as GOLA Missions), and avoid rush hour traffic. You could call this a win, win - win!”

Free meal tickets can be obtained by visiting one of the state mission services booths Monday afternoon. Booths offering the free meal tickets include the Evangelism and

Church Growth Team and the Communications Team, both of which will be located in the foyer of the main worship center. Missions and Ministries, Pastoral Leadership, Collegiate Ministries and Cast the Net Partnership Missions will be located in the Bain building next to the worship center.

Supplies of the free meal tickets are limited and must be secured in person.

Messengers unable to visit the booths can purchase tickets onsite for \$7.50 each. Menu includes smoked pork or chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, dessert and a water bottle. The meal will be prepared by BCM staff from across the state.

“The Annual Meeting is like a family reunion of sorts,” said Kyle. “I encourage all Louisiana Baptists to attend and discover how God is using our cooperative efforts across the state and beyond.”

Celebrates from page 4

enrolled several thousand students, according to Acadian Baptist Center Director James Newsom. The school provided them an education with a Christian perspective.

In 1973, the school closed and remained vacant for two years. By 1975, local leadership received permission to lease the facilities for what became the Acadian Baptist Center.

During its first year of operation, there were only three full-time staffers and more than 3,000 people attended events at the camp. Today, attendance has swelled to 13,000 and its staff includes six full-time workers, 25 part-timers and numerous volunteers.

Through the years, ABC has worked hard to improve and expand its facilities. Instead of housing limited to just tents or bunk rooms, Acadian Baptist Center, which can comfortably host 400 campers at a time, now includes a motel, cabins and dormitories. They also have built a new dining hall, expanded their meeting area, outdoor courses and recreational facilities.

Forum from page 3

Wright, former Bishop of Durham in the Church of England and author of more than 80 books, underscores the victory won at the cross. In *Revolution*, Wright writes, “The gospel was—and is—the powerful announcement that the world has a new lord and the summons to give him believing allegiance . . . on



Brian Blackwell photo

Former students of Acadia Baptist Academy and those who attended events at Acadian Baptist Center gathered Oct. 13-14 to celebrate how both have impacted their lives.

But it is the “spiritual impact alone that has been the most lasting legacy of the camp,” Newsom said.

From 1975 until early October, a total of 7,241 people attending camp have humbled their hearts and surrendered their lives to Christ. Another, 5,972 have rededicated their lives to Him and another 649 have indicated a call to full-time ministry.

“The celebration was really moving and moved me to tears a couple of times when I saw the love and support of

so many people here who have contributed over the years,” Newsom said. “A lot of people have sacrificed to make it all possible.

“It’s humbling to think about how God has used this place for the past 100 years to touch so many lives,” Newsom said. “It’s great to have seen all the lives touched over these past 30 years I have been the director. I’ve seen God move so much and through so many people. We are thankful for that and how He will direct us for the future.”

the cross Jesus really did defeat the powers that had held people captive.”

Wright’s dialogue counterpart, Simon Gathercole, is senior Lecturer in New Testament Studies at the University of Cambridge, and Fellow and Director of Studies in Theology at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Gathercole is the

author of numerous books including “Defending Substitution: An Essay on Atonement in Paul,” “Where is Boasting?” “The Pre-existent Son” and several books on Gnostic Gospels, particularly the Gospel of Thomas.

Visit www.grearheard.com for registration and information.

NOBTS from page one

scholarship endowments, campus renovation and expenditures and 100 mission trips during the year involving the NOBTS family, alumni and friends.

Founded as the Baptist Bible Institute by vote of messengers at the 1917 Southern Baptist Convention -- the only seminary to be created by direct action of the SBC -- the seminary was intended as a training school for missionaries. Classes began in October 1918.

A century ago, New Orleans had few Baptists and less than 10 Baptist churches. Kelley called it a "radical" decision since denominational entities typically are placed in cities with a strong base of support.

God has been faithful and the seminary has been a "ighthouse" to the city, Kelley said. He noted that Baptists today make up the second largest religious group in the city, with the New Orleans Baptist Association encompassing more than 125 churches.

"We were put here to bear witness to Jesus," Kelley said. "That's what the centennial is about. It's about remembering that being a witness for Christ

is not convenient ... and of our own accord we are not likely to do, but with the Holy Spirit enabling us, we are able."

An evening service Oct. 4 with a revival-like atmosphere featured Junior Hill, a 1962 NOBTS alumnus and noted evangelist.

David Hankins, Louisiana Baptist Convention executive director, thanked the seminary for its partnership with and contributions to Louisiana Baptists. Hankins noted the faculty and students who serve as pastors and church staff members; the NOBTS ministry in the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola; and the seminary's support of a church planting initiative that has netted 50 new Louisiana congregations since 2010.

"We're thankful for the partnership we have," Hankins said. "Only heaven knows the eternal good that has come from what has gone from this institution."

Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention executive director, expressed gratitude for the seminary's influence on his life, adding, "I am the least of all the saints, but I am the most grateful."

Kelly reminded the eve-



Boyd Guy photo

The Louisiana Singing Ministers and Singing Women sing during New Orleans Seminary's Founders' Day chapel service Oct. 3, helping launch a year-long celebration of NOBTS' centennial year.

ning audience that the Gospel began "on the streets of Jerusalem and by the shores of Galilee" to reach them where they were, representing an unbroken chain of Gospel conversations.

"Don't break the chain," Kelley urged. "There are people who will not hear about Jesus if we are not faithful in talking about Jesus."

Junior Hill, 81, speaking on the parable of the seed, the soil and the sower in Luke 8:5-15, noted a fourth consideration stemming from the passage -- Satan's strategy.

"The battleground we're facing today is that the devil is assaulting those of us who have the seed in our hand to take it away so that the world won't be able to hear it," Hill said. "It is happening on every corner, and we better be aware of the subtleties of Satan lest he take the seed out of our hand."

Hill said Satan thwarts believers' efforts through

intimidation by causing believers to ignore God's prompting to share; spending time on evaluation of an opportunity to share rather than proclamation; and becoming weary in well-doing.

Urging the NOBTS community not to give up or give in to weariness, Hill reminded that one day they will hear God say, "Well-done, thou good and faithful servant."

"Oh, my dear brothers and sisters, we have a Gospel to share," Hill concluded. "May God give us grace that we be faithful to share."

Allowance from page one

the non-profit executives, the group filed the current lawsuit.

At issue is a 1954 law which permitted religious clergy to exclude from federal taxes part or all of their gross income that is related to housing costs.

These exclusions include: (1) rent, principal payments, or down payments plus the cost of buying the home; (2) taxes and mortgage interest (even if these are includable as itemized deductions); (3) utilities (heat, electric, basic telephone, water, etc.); (4) the purchase of furniture, appliances, dishes and cookware, and decorating items including rugs, pictures, curtains, bedspreads, sheets, towels, etc.; (5) insurance on the home and contents; and (6) miscellaneous expenses including improvements, repairs and upkeep of the home and its contents, snow removal, lawn mowing, light bulbs, cleaning supplies, etc.

The latest IRS report indicates that U.S. clergy members receive a combined tax benefit of about \$700 million

annually.

Based on a count of 600,000 pastors, ministers and clergy with ties to a denomination, according to the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, that would mean an average claimed benefit of about \$1,167 each, per year. The HIRR did not collect data on the number of non-denominational clergy.

GUIDESTONE RESPONSE

GuideStone Financial Resources, Southern Baptists' health and financial benefits entity, has issued a statement condemning the ruling.

"We have monitored this case and its predecessor cases closely and will seek as part of a long-standing coalition of ministerial benefit boards to file a friend-of-court brief on appeal at the appropriate time," said GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins.

Hawkins described the housing allowance not as a form of government endorsing religion, but instead as a policy that removes government from the equation.

"Were it not for the housing allowance, the government would be imposing a tax on religious employers and their employees that is not imposed on non-religious employers," he said.

According to Hawkins, "in all probability" Crabb's ruling will be "stayed" or delayed from being implemented pending appellate review.

"We continue to live and minister in a world that is increasingly hostile to religious life as compared to the world in which many of us grew up," Hawkins said. "Rather than discouraging us, we seek to continue to serve as an advocate for hundreds of thousands of pastors and other ministers we have the privilege to serve."

GuideStone.org/taxguide and GuideStone.org/housing-allowance provide housing allowance information to help pastors ensure they are properly documenting housing allowance as part of a church business action and appropriately reporting it on their individual income tax returns.



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!

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.

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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
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

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

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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
New Ramah Baptist Church, Castor, LA, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please mail résumés to: New Ramah Baptist Church, 493 New Ramah Rd, Castor, LA 71016.

First Baptist Church, Coushatta
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Please send résumé to: jnathandavis@yahoo.com 2000 Alonzo St, Coushatta LA 71019 318.932.4023

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 Attn: Pastor Search Committee 5005 Highway 562 • Wisner, La. 71378

Brookwood Baptist Church in Shreveport, LA is seeking a **SENIOR PASTOR**
For information or to submit a résumé go to brookwoodpastor.com or call 318.861.8911.

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.

NEW CHAPEL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
West Monroe, LA seeks a full time **YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER** and **CHILDREN'S MINISTER**
Email résumés to melinda@nchbc.net or mail to 61 New Chapel Hill Rd. West Monroe, LA 71291

Seeking a part-time **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.

Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jasper, Texas is seeking a **FULL-TIME MUSIC MINISTER**
If interested, call 409.384.3371 or email to debbie_hillcrest@yahoo.com.

Woodland Park Baptist Church of Hammond, LA seeking **FULL TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS**
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HOME COMING

■ First Baptist Church, Anacoco: **Homecoming service**, October 29, 10 a.m. – Meet & Greet with a time of fellowship; 10:30 a.m. – Worship service. Following the service there will be a covered dish luncheon in the Family Life Center. Speaker: **Bill Blackmon**. Special Music: **Choir director Robert Laurent invites all present and former choir members to sing in the choir**. Pastor: D.R. Davis.

■ Westport Friendship Baptist Church, Pitkin: **47th Homecoming**, Nov. 5, 11 a.m. Dinner on the grounds following morning services. Members will be invited to share a story or memory of the church. Pastor: Braden Martin.

■ Newton Baptist Church, Delhi: **104th Homecoming**, November 5, 10 a.m. concert; 11 a.m. Worship Service. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Guest Speaker: **Edward Geis, Sr.** Special Music: **Sanctuary Quartet**. Pastor: Buddy McGurk.

REVIVAL

■ Westport Friendship Baptist Church, Pitkin: **Tent revival**, October 29-November 3, 6 p.m. Sunday – Evangelist: **Philip Robertson**, Worship: **The Blankenbakers**, Monday – Evangelist: **Jeff James**. Worship: **The Blankenbakers**, Tuesday – Evangelist: **Brian Thompson**, Worship: **The Blankenbakers**, Wednesday – Evangelist: **Brian Johnson**, Worship: **The Blankenbakers**, Thursday – Evangelist: **Ryan Perry**, Worship: **11th Hour**, Friday – Evangelist: **Keith Manuel**, Worship: **Ryan Perry Ministries**. The revival will take place at the little league baseball fields behind the new Dollar General in Pitkin. Pastor: Braden Martin.

■ Alpine Baptist Church, Tioga: **Revival**, October 29-November 1, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Joe Veal**. Pastor: Lucas Lacour.

■ Emmanuel Baptist Church, Natchitoches: **Revival**, October 29-November 1, Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Joe Aulds**. Pastor: John Elliott.

■ Fellowship Baptist Church, Trout: **Revival**, October 29-November 1. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. Music: **Kerry Longoria**. Pastor: Mike Devillier.

■ Standard Baptist Church, Olla: **Revival**, October 29-November 2, Sunday 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell**, **chalk artist**. Pastor: Shad Tibbs.

■ Meridian Baptist Church, Marion: **Revival**, October 30-November 1. Evangelist: **Rubin Weaver**. Music: **Nathan Futch**. Pastor: Glyn Nale.

■ Crockett Point Baptist Church, Crowville: **NOW Bible Conference**. November 1-3, Wednesday, 6 p.m. Speakers: **Jerry Chaddick & Roger Haney**; November 2, 10 a.m. Speakers: **Roger Haney & Austin McCormick** followed by lunch; 6 p.m. Speakers: **Jerry Chaddick & Casey Johnson**; November 3, 10 a.m. Speakers: **Roger Haney & Mike Brown** followed by lunch.; 6 p.m. Speakers: **Rubin Weaver and 11th Hour**. Special Music: **Brad Mount, Southern Revelation, and 11th Hour**. Pastor: Curtis Owens.

■ Eastside Baptist Church, Rayville: **Revival/Homecoming**, November 3-4, 6 p.m.; November 5, 10 a.m. The church will also have its Thanksgiving meal after the morning service. Evangelist: **Crusaders Ministry**. Pastor: Cris Crawford.

■ Trinity Baptist Church, Pineville: **Revival**, November 5-8. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. Music: **Kerry Longoria**. Pastor: Darryl Hoychick.

■ Cornerstone Baptist Church, Oakdale: **Tent Revival**, November 5-10, 6 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Sunday – **Jason Townley**. Worship: **Casey Boone**; Monday – **Charles Robinson**. Worship: **Samuel Marshall/Casey Boone**. Tuesday – Evangelist: **Wayne Squires**. Worship: **Bill Earl**. Wednesday – Evangelist: **Rob McLaine**. Worship: **John Howe**. Thursday – Evangelist: **Julian Woods**. Worship: **Starlight Choir**. Friday – Evangelist: **George Marshall**. Worship: **Casey Boone/Samuel Marshall**. A mission offering will be taken up nightly. Also, nursery will be provided each night. Pastor: Tony Robinson

LAGNIAPPE

■ **Wallace Cemetery Association** is looking for people who have family buried in the Wallace Cemetery in Pelican, La. Please contact Terry Hinds at 220 Hinds Road, Pelican, LA 71063. Send names of family members buried in the cemetery and the family point of contact address and phone number.

■ Live Oak Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **Just Breathe – College age worship experience**, October 27-28. Speaker: **Derek Griffon**. Worship: **Seth and Joseph Ott**. For more information, contact Johnny Morgan at 225.278.4772 or johnny@liveoak-baptist.org.

■ Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell: **Fall Festival**. October 27, 5:30-8:30 p.m. There will be lots of food, fun and games. Pastor: Aaron McGuffee.

■ **Community Fall Festival**, October 28, 5-8 p.m. Ten to 12 Baptist churches in the area are coming together to put on this festival, which will be held at the little league baseball fields behind the new Dollar General in Pitkin. There will be candy, jumpers, slides, games, hayrides, food, local music and cake walks. The entire community is invited to attend this event.

■ First Baptist Church, Winnfield: **Judgement House – Payback, When Revenge Turns to Ruin**, October 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: **Trunk or Treat**, October 28, 3-6 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of family fun with games, inflatables and plenty of treats. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.

■ Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold: **“Creation Celebration” Wild Game Dinner & Concert featuring The Allen Family of Brandon, MO**, October 28, 5:30 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. concert. This is a family event. Admission is free. Love offering will be received for the Allens. Pastor: James Hester.

■ East Ridge Baptist Church, Lake Charles: **Allegiance Trio and The Moores**, October 28, 7 p.m. Nursery will be provided for newborn through 3 years old. Pastor: Alan Weishampel.

■ North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: **Harvest Block Party**, October 28, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Pastor: Bill Dye.

■ New Zion Baptist Church, Covington: **Fall Festival**, October 28, 5-8 p.m. Pastor: Clark Stewart.

■ Emmanuel Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Fall Fair and Trunk-n-Treat**, October 28, 3-5 p.m. There will be game booths, fair food, inflatable bounce houses, old-time cars on display and face painting. And, oh yes, there will be lots of candy. Pastor: Chad Hardbarger.

■ Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **Harvest Party – A Family Celebration presented by HBC Kid’s Krewe**, October 28, 5-8 p.m. Featuring a Trunk or Treat, a movie under the stars, a fish fry sponsored by the men’s ministry. This event will have fun for all ages.

■ First Baptist Church, Slidell: **“Be a Spark in the Dark” and Community Fall Festival**, October 28, 5-7 p.m. on the front lawn of the church. There will be food, a cake walk, inflatables, and games for the whole family. Friendly costumes are welcome. Pastor: Casey Stark.

■ Parkview Baptist Church, Alexandria: **Trunk or Treat**, October 28, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Pastor: David Shaw.

■ Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Ruston: **Southern Plainsmen in concert**, October 28, 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Greg Morrow.

■ Philadelphia Baptist Church at Horseshoe Drive, Alexandria: **Steve Carrier of Mega Force**, October 29-November 1, October 29, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; October 31, 6:30 p.m., Carrier on stage in the parking lot during **Trunk or Treat** (5:30-7:30 p.m.) where there will be lots of candy and games for the kids; November 1, 6:30 p.m., **Carrier of Mega Force hosting ‘World’s Greatest Records’ night**. Pastor: Clay Fuqua.

■ Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Fall Fest**, October 29, 5-7 p.m. There will be food, fun and games in the family ministry building. Pastor: Waymond Warren.

■ First Baptist Church, Bossier: **Fall Festival**, October 29, 5-7 p.m. at Freedom Fields. There will be food, games, car shows, inflatables, free cotton candy, rock

wall and much more. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich.

■ Parkview Baptist Church, Monroe: **Fall Festival**, October 29, in the Family Life Center. Pastor: Charles Dupree, Jr.

■ First Baptist Church, Tioga: **Fall Fest**, October 29, 5-8 p.m. There will be food, face painting, games, crafts, candy, Kona ice snow cones, and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome. Pastor: Tim Hisaw.

■ Dutchtown Baptist Church, Prairieville: **Chili Cook-off**, October 29, 5 p.m. Test your recipes and prepare for the big finale. Everyone is invited. Please contact the church office at office@dutchtownbaptist.org to register and be a part of the competitive fun. Otherwise, just come and enjoy some good chili and fellowship. Pastor: Leigh Rogers.

■ Eastside Baptist Church, Rayville: **Harvest Festival**, October 29, 3-5 p.m. There will be lots of candy and prizes for the kids. There will also be games such as bean bag toss, fishing and cake walk. Come join us for this community-wide event. Pastor: Cris Crawford.

■ Woodland Park Baptist Church, Hammond: **The Restoration Sound in concert**, October 29, 5 p.m. Pastor: Scott E. Thompson.

■ Pineville Park Baptist Church, Pineville: **Community Wide Fall Festival**, October 29, 12-2 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of Carnival Games, Inflatables, Balloon Animals, Candy, Prizes, Hotdogs, Cotton Candy, Snowcones, Popcorn, and Family Fun. Pastor: Jeremy Shepherd.

■ Mount Vernon Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat**, October 29 4-7 p.m. There will be custom designed and Bible-themed only trunks filled with candy. Pastor: Randy Burdeaux.

■ Pisgah Baptist Church, Bernice: **Harvest Festival**, October 29, 4:30-6:30 p.m. There will be lots of candy, food, fun and games. Pastor: Jeff Hurst.

■ First Baptist Church, Bogalusa: **Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat**, October 29, 5:30 p.m. There will be hayrides, a cake walk, face painting, a photo booth, pie in the face auction, chili dogs and door prizes. Pastor: Greg Whaley.

■ Longview Baptist Church, Deville: **Fall Family Festival with Trunk-or-Treat**, October 29, 5-7 p.m. Pastor: Robby Poole.

■ Watson Baptist Church, Watson: **Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat**, October 29, 5-7 p.m. There will also be a **chili cook off**. Kids can wear family friendly costumes (nothing scary). Pastor: John Pemberton.

■ Sherwood Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: **The Foto Sisters in concert**, October 29, 7 p.m. Pastor: Bruce Worell.

■ Holloway Baptist Church, Deville: **Trunk-or-Treat**, October 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Community members are encouraged to bring out their trunks and join us with

Christian-themed decorations. The community is invited to join Holloway Baptist Church for plenty of treats, tricks and fun. Pastor: Jack West.

■ Sale Street Baptist Church, Lake Charles: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the church parking lot. Pastor: Randy Edwards.

■ Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: **Harvest Fest**, October 31, 6-8 p.m. in the gym. This free family event will have games, food, inflatable obstacle course, candy, popcorn and lots of fun. Pastor: Carl Gulde.

■ Cedar Crest Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Fall Festival**, October 31, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Free admission and free food. Pastor: Greg Clark.

■ Ascension Baptist Church, Gonzales: **Trunk-a-Treat**, October 31, 6 p.m. in the church parking lot. Trunk-A-Treat is a free and safe Halloween alternative for our community. Pastor: Robert Lawrence.

■ New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Fall Family Festival**, October 31, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Marty Black.

■ Alpine Baptist Church, Tioga: **Harvest Fest**, October 31, 5 p.m. There will be games, food, balloons, and face painting. This is a free event for the community. Kids of all ages are welcome. Pastor: Lucas Lacour.

■ Zoar Baptist Church, Central: **Fall Festival/ Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 6-8 p.m. There will be free food, inflatables, door prizes and Trunk or Treat for children birth through 6th grade. Pastor: Kevin Hand.

■ Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: **Family Fall Festival**, October 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. There will be lots of candy and small toys to give as prizes. Pastor: Steven Kelly.

■ Pine Hill Baptist Church, Leesville: **Fall Festival**, October 31, 5-8 p.m. There will be games, hayrides and a chili cook off, **Masters4 will be in concert**. Pastor: Tri Evans.

■ First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **Fall Fest**, October 31, 5-7 p.m. in the FBC gym and parking lot. There will be entertainment, games, petting zoo and food trucks will be available to purchase food and drinks. Riverside Revival Band will be performing on the music stage. Pastor: Steve Horn.

■ First Baptist Church, Vidalia: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, Pastor: Wes Faulk.

■ Waller Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Annual Waller Trunk or Treat and Fall Festival**, October 31, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Gary Johnson.

■ Ouachita Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Fall Festival**, October 31. There will be food and games for kids of all ages. The festival will give kids and families a safe place to go and have fun while receiving all the treats they can carry. Games will be to win candy and cakes and cookies. No cost except if something is purchased from the concession stand. Pastor: Mike Holloway.

■ North Monroe Baptist Church, Bastrop: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Bill Dye.

■ Cook Baptist Church, Ruston: **Operation Night Light**, October 31, 4:30-7:30 p.m. This event will take place in the church parking lot. Pastor: Jeff Smart.

■ Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Slidell: **Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Dennis Phelps.

■ First Baptist Church, Haynesville: **Fall Family Festival and Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 5:30-7 p.m. Pastor: Jeff Tinsley.

■ Simpson Baptist Church, Simpson: **Hobo Stew and Trunk or Treat**, October 31, 6 p.m. Pastor: Silas Cross.

■ First Baptist Church, Krotz Springs: **Fall Festival**, October 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pastor: Chad Bolfa.

■ **First Baptist Church, New Roads**: Trunk or Treat, Tues., October 31, 5:30-7 p.m. Pastor: Jason McNaughten.

■ Washington Baptist Church, Washington: **“Covenant Players” – a Christian drama performance**, November 1, 6:30 p.m. A fellowship meal will be provided for all who attend at 5:30 p.m. Pastor: Louis Charrier.

■ First Baptist Church, Hornbeck: **Fall Festival**, November 1, 6-8 p.m. It will be a night of family fun. Pastor: Jack Bell.

■ First Baptist Church, Many: **Children’s Fall Festival**, November 1, chili dinner, 5:45 p.m.; family movie to follow and Ice Cream bar to end the night. Pastor: Johnathan Bost.

■ Silver Creek Baptist Church, Leesville: **Mercy’s Reign in concert**, November 3, 7 p.m. Pastor: Terry McDonald.

■ Pisgah Baptist Church, Florien: **Mercy’s Reign in concert**, November 4, 7 p.m. Pastor: C.M. Kelly.

■ Laurel Hill Baptist Church, Leesville: **Mercy’s Reign in concert**, November 5, 11 a.m. Pastor: Wesley Jackson.

■ Magnolia Baptist Church, Vinton: **Celebration to honor Rick Edwards’ 50th year in ministry**, Nov. 5, 10:30 a.m. Guest speaker: Bruce Baker. Pastor: Rick Edwards.

■ Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Hinston: **Mercy’s Reign in concert**, November 5, 6 p.m.

■ Parkview Baptist Church, Sulphur: **We R Called in concert**, November 5, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Randall Chesson.

■ Jerusalem Baptist Church, Hammond: **Annual Pumpkin Festival**, November 5. There will be lots of food and games for the whole family. Pastor: Phil Weaver.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, November 6, noon. Speaker: Rick Bullock. Cost: \$10 and you may pay at the door. Please RSVP to Stewart Holloway (sholloway@fbcpineville.net.) Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

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.

tjf jc qtj rj esthsj, jci rj stive, jsrvesi ojfsi ves

stive, atb tzxs vc cwsj ves zccd, jsrvesi vc xccd

vesiscj.

ishsxtvrcj lrhs:veiss

Clues:
T = O; J = T

Answer to October 12 Scripture Crypto:
Mark sixteen: thirteen

Daniel from page 2

he made a decision to follow Jesus at the age of 11 during a revival, Daniel did not enter vocational ministry until 1989.

Before that, he was employed at companies in Alexandria, Shreveport and Oklahoma City, Okla., in the fields of sales, pharmaceuticals and construction.

While serving as a deacon and finance committee chair at Alpine First Baptist Church in 1989, Daniel sensed a call to ministry.

After prayer and counsel from others, he accepted his first position – minister of education at Alpine. Daniel said the experience gained from prior secular careers,

particularly in management and finances, helped equip him to serve in various ministerial roles.

In the years that followed, Daniel served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Montgomery, Twin Bridges Baptist Church in Alexandria and Bethel Baptist Church in Colfax.

He also has served as director of the Seminary Extension of the Southern Baptist Seminaries since 1999

at the Baptist Mission Center in Pineville.

Looking back on his eight years as director of missions, Daniel said he is grateful for the relationships built with the pastors throughout his tenure.

“Most of them pastor relatively small churches with just a staff member or two,” Daniel said. “I found I could help them talk through their circumstances and challenges and be a moderating voice in

times of conflict. I felt like I had been uniquely prepared for this time by God because of my experiences in life and ministry to be a good listener and helper. That, plus serving, has been the greatest joy and I am so thankful God allowed me to do so for this time.”

A reception honoring Daniel will be held at the Baptist Mission Center, which is located at 2201 Melrose St. in Pineville, 2-4 p.m. Oct. 29.

NOT THE NORM

“Tithing directs my heart back toward **GOD**. It begins to change my whole attitude. I began to understand that God is not just interested in my finances, but He’s involved in **EVERY AREA OF MY LIFE**.”

Thumper Miller
PASTOR | FIRST MANSFIELD

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us - excel also in this act of grace.
-2 Corinthians 8:7

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