

“For the word  
of God is quick,  
and powerful, and  
sharper than any  
two-edged sword  
...”

— Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)

# BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

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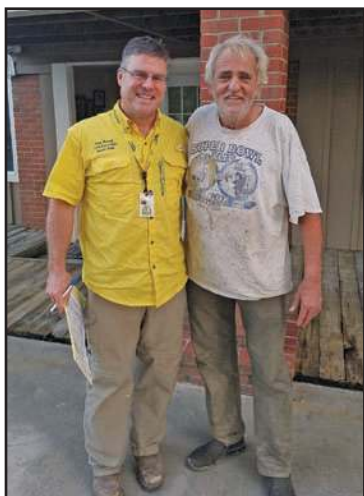


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September 28, 2017



Steve Ramsey (left), pastor of Grace Community Church in Carlyss, shares a smile with Rick Edwards, pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church in Vinton. Ramsey was among the many volunteers who helped restore Edwards' home.

## Isolated by Harvey, but never alone

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

MOSS BLUFF — A Louisiana Baptist pastor is thanking Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams for helping to restore his house after two feet of water damaged his Moss Bluff home as a result

See **ISOLATED** on 5

## Genesis Church offers family new beginning



Submitted photo

Jeff Smith (top center) embraces four members of the Miley family after their baptism at Genesis Church in Denham Springs. The Miley's were among 17 people baptized that day from among 87 people who attended, both high marks for the church during the one service. A focus on community outreach has helped the church grow even in times of hardship, including last year's historic flood.

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

DENHAM SPRINGS — Courtney Miley did not imagine she would ever enter the worship center of Genesis Church when she first met Pastor Jeff Smith while he was reaching out to families at the community soccer complex in 2014.

She and her husband, Shaun, were believers, but had lapsed in their fellowship with the body of Christ.

However, God providentially used the historic 1,000-year flood of August 2016 to draw her and him back to Him through her involvement with disaster relief efforts at the church plant.

Moreover, their repentance and obedience resulted in a special gift neither expected.

In August of this year, they witnessed the baptism of their four children, all who accepted Christ within a four-month period leading up to the special worship service.

The Miley children were among 17 converts baptized that day from among 87 people who attended, both high marks during one service for the church plant.

“It was very surreal to see each of them baptized in a place that we have worked so hard in the past year and seen so much change,” Courtney Miley told the *Baptist Message*. “For us, it was like God was confirming to us of His

See **BEGINNING** on 6



Boyd Guy photo

Cary Vaughn, right, CEO of the Love Worth Finding radio ministry that airs the late Adrian Rogers' sermons, talks with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Chuck Kelley, center, and Leavell College professor Jeff Farmer after the dedication service for the Adrian Rogers Center for Expository Preaching Sept. 12.

## NOBTS Adrian Rogers center lifts expository preaching

BY MARILYN STEWART  
NOBTS Communications

NEW ORLEANS (LBM)

— With a commitment to helping a new generation of preachers and pastors in the pulpit, the Adrian Rogers Center for Expository Preaching at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary was dedicated in a Sept. 12 chapel service.

In partnership with the late Adrian Rogers' proclamation ministry Love Worth Finding, the NOBTS center will provide resources and present conferences and lectureships to encourage and equip students and pastors.

The center's inaugural “Empowering the Pulpit” preaching conference, Jan.

See **PREACHING** on 14

# Louisiana College conference has religious liberty focus

BY NORM MILLER

LC News

PINEVILLE - Louisiana College's second annual Values and Ethics Series addresses "Religious Liberty: A National Treasure" and features four significant key-noters.

The event includes Warren Cole Smith, vice president, Colson Center for Christian Worldview; Gregory S. Baylor, Senior Counsel, Director of Center for Re-



Gregory S. Baylor



Warren Cole Smith



Gerald R. Long



Becket Gremmels

ligious Schools at the Alliance Defending Freedom; Louisiana Senator Gerald R. Long, District 31; and Becket

Gremmels, System Director of Ethics for St. Francis CHRISTUS Cabrini Health System.

The Oct. 9 session begins at 6 p.m. in LC's Martin Performing Arts Center, and is sponsored by St. Francis CHRISTUS Cabrini Health System.

"Louisiana College joins the Church community in engaging the cultural issues of our day, and I am grateful for such evangelical leaders who will inform and inspire us just as we were last year at our conference that drew more than 300 people," said LC President Rick Brewer.

Brewer noted his "deep appreciation" for the sponsorship by the St. Francis CHRISTUS Cabrini Health System. "For two years running, Cabrini has been a strategic partner, tangibly supporting our mutual concerns and convictions about issues affecting our society."

Commenting on the importance of religious

liberty, Baylor said, "In the not-so-distant past, religious freedom enjoyed greater support across the political, ideological, and religious spectrums. But changing societal attitudes about marriage, sexual morality, and gender have translated in efforts to coerce dissenters from the new orthodoxy to violate their consciences."

"These conflicts have diminished the religious liberty 'brand' in many sectors of society," he added.

Though the event's title notes religious liberty as a "national treasure," Smith states: "Christians should also be concerned about religious liberty around the world."

"Religious liberty is not just for Americans. The Declaration of Independence says plainly that some rights are not granted by government, but by God," Baylor continued. "The government has no authority to grant or withhold that right, but it does have the duty to secure and protect that right."

Brewer urges all who are concerned about the future of religious liberty to attend the conference because "all other freedoms we enjoy rest upon religious freedom. Without religious liberty, no other forms of liberty are possible."

Jeanne Robertson

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# E4 Conference emphasizes expositional preaching

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE – In a world that is increasingly evil with each passing day, Steven Smith believes Christians must be on their knees, praying with boldness and persistence.

“Prayer is asking that God’s goodness would be directed toward us until His will is made clear to us,” said Smith, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., during the E4 Preaching Conference Sept. 19.

Smith said Christ presented a template of how to pray in Luke 11:1-13, with an emphasis on the Holy Spirit.

“Why does He say the ultimate thing He gives us is the Holy Spirit?” Smith said. “Because the Holy Spirit is the presence of God in our lives. He’s saying God can’t give us anything better than God. It’s the greatest thing He can give.”

In another message, Smith encouraged pastors not to fixate on the style of preaching or the right topic, but, instead, to allow Scripture to guide them.

“We don’t have to explain God to anyone,” Smith said. “Just get people to Jesus, who gets them to the Father.

“The Father and Jesus are invisible,” he continued. “How do we get people to see the invisible Christ who leads them to the invisible Father? Through the Word!

“Is the way I am doing what I am doing leading people to the Word or away from the Word?” he asked. “To lead people to the Word is leading people to Jesus. To lead people away from the Word is to lead them away from Jesus.”

With sessions held at First Baptist Church in Pineville and Louisiana College, the E4 Conference presented a program intended to “exemplify, encourage, equip and em-

power our pastors to preach expositional sermons.”

Past speakers have included Steve Gaines, SBC president and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn.; Don Wilton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC; Fred Lowery, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Bossier City; and David Uth, pastor of First

Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla.

The conference also featured music by the Voices of LC and breakout sessions led by professors from Louisiana College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Conference organizer Stewart Holloway told the

*Baptist Message* that the E4 Conference, now in its ninth year, began with a desire to sharpen and encourage pastors.

“It’s always good to build relationships and equip pastors with some great messages,” said Holloway, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pin-

See E4 on 9

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# Gambling: A moral wager and a spiritual risk



The Southern Baptist Convention places special emphasis on anti-gambling in the month of September.

BY ARTHUR MAZHAMBE  
& SHERI DUFFY  
*Louisiana College*

PINEVILLE (LBM) – Problem gambling and all the issues surrounding it have become more prevalent, whether through buying daily scratch tickets, frequenting casinos or sports betting.

According to Janet Miller, executive director of the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling, “This problem has risen from 3.1 percent to 8.3 percent in the past 8 years.”

Meanwhile, mental health professionals recognize it as such a growing concern that the latest revision of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), categorizes Gambling Disorder on par with substance-related addictions and not just as a matter of “impulse control” – a change that indicates the severity of the problem.

This social ill affects not only the individual gambler, but also touches the lives of all those close to him or her,

as well as other aspects of life – sometimes resulting in violence/abuse, deception, loss of or decrease in income, loss of jobs and relationships, and decreased performance on the job or in school.

Moreover, the average household budget in America does not have an expense item for “gambling.” Instead, funds budgeted for other purposes are risked and lost.

Successful nations seem to have one major factor in common: people who work hard improve their lives. Thus, societal and governmental institutions can do well by citizens by creating opportunities for work.

Meanwhile, the biblical perspective requires Christians to be good stewards of what they have and to reject the unreliable returns of gambling as a means to provide for one’s household.

Indeed, the Bible instructs in 1 Thessalonians 5: 11, that we should “make your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business

and work with your hands, just as we commanded you...” (NASB), clearly indicating that work is a Christian virtue we should all pursue.

Finally, it is true that “morality cannot be legislated” -- because morality emanates from the heart, mind and soul. But, it also is true that if anyone desires to live by righteousness, faith and a quest for holiness – and not by greed, lust, recklessness or chance – he or she should seek their fortune in the person of Jesus Christ.

**Arthur Mazhambe, Ph.D., is Chair of the Division of Business and associate professor of Business and Sheri Duffy, LCSW, is dean of the School of Human Behavior with Louisiana College. Their column is part of a series of commentaries provided by Louisiana College relating to the Southern Baptist Convention’s calendar of Special Emphasis Sundays, which in September places special emphasis on anti-gambling.**



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## Isolated from page one

of Hurricane Harvey.

"I've never been the recipient of something like this in my life, ever," Rick Edwards, pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church in Vinton, told the *Baptist Message*. "I don't have words to describe the gratitude I feel right now. I am proud to be a Southern Baptist and humbled that these men from different churches gave up their time and resources to show love just like Jesus would have done if He had done it Himself.

"They became His hands and feet to me and my wife, Mary," he said. "They brightened our days while they were here."

### RIISING WATERS, CONCERNS

The nearby Sabine River began rising Aug. 28, eventually overflowing its banks to surround and penetrate houses and businesses. Edwards watched helplessly from the second floor as water began to enter his home.

He said just as the burdened grew heavy on his heart, God reminded him of the words in Psalm 46:10 to "Be still and know I am God." These were his comfort during the eight days he was

unable to leave his home.

Not knowing where to turn next after the floodwaters receded Sept. 5, Edwards sent a text message about his situation to long-time friend Jim Baker, the father of Carey Baptist Association Director of Missions Bruce Baker.

That afternoon, Edwards received word a disaster relief team was arriving the next day to gut out his home.

### MEETING SPIRITUAL NEEDS FIRST

Before starting the job inside the home, the team from First Baptist Church in Franklinton tended to Edwards spiritually.

"Two chaplains who arrived an hour before the rest of the team asked if I needed a place to stay or food and then prayed with me," Edwards said.

"Then, the mud out team came.

"You would think the first thing on their mind would be the house," he offered. "But they were more concerned with 'Ricky Edwards' than they were about the house. It was a time of reaching out with concern to make sure I was okay. That was a moment I never will forget."

Paul Watts, pastor of First

Baptist Franklinton, said his team was more than willing to help Edwards and his wife, Mary. The couple has a nephew and nieces who are members of Watts' church.

"It was a blessing to help them in the midst of their need, but it was also blessing to see God remind us He is in control," Watts said. "He is mindful of his children and He

knows just how to encourage them and remind them He is with them."

As he considers his next steps, Edwards, who does not have flood insurance, said he is not concerned because he knows he is not alone.

"It's just a matter of putting it back together," said Edwards. "I'm depending on God's resources. I'm not looking to the

government but God. I'm in a situation where He alone has to do this. I can't and He knows it. Maybe He just backed me into a corner to show me just what kind of God He is. I'm going to wait on Him and trust Him."


**To help Edwards with his recovery needs, call 337.764.9209.**

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## Beginning from page one

fulness and reaffirming that we had made the right decision when we decided to help minister to the community after the flood.

"I made it a point not to be involved with anything church wise when we first met Jeff and resisted a lot whenever the topic of church came up," Miley continued. "My husband thought I was a little crazy when I got involved with the church when the flood came, but as soon as he got involved, he saw real quickly this was something he wanted to be a part of. What I saw during the disaster was the people being the church to a devastated community. That is what kept my family there and brought all four of my children to Christ."

### PERSEVERANCE THROUGH DISASTER

For Smith, the record number of baptisms for Genesis Church was also a celebration of how God helped the church

persevere through a time of slow growth and disaster.

Genesis Church began in June 2014, after Smith graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. By April 2015, the church had grown from a home Bible study to a congregation of 15 when they launched their first service in an area school.

For several months, they continued meeting in the school until Agape Church – a congregation Smith previously led when he first moved to the area – voted in October 2015 to disband and hand over its building after membership had declined to fewer than 10 people.

Genesis Church continued to grow, reaching an average attendance of 40 by the summer of 2016.

Then, disaster hit the community in the form of the August 2016 flood.

Though the church facilities escaped major damage, a number of its members were not so fortunate and atten-

dance dropped by half.

Nonetheless, Smith and the remaining members sprang into action, with the assistance of the Mileys and two other soccer families the church had been trying to reach for three years.

"That was the one thing that carried me through that time," Smith recalled. "Those families we had been trying to reach decided to be a part of our disaster relief ministry. They eventually developed into our core leadership."

"I saw the work we poured into that we hadn't seen results from yet during the past few years on the soccer field," he continued. "Those results became evident during the flood."

### REBIRTH THROUGH RECOVERY

For three months, the fellowship hall became a distribution center. Six days a week volunteers would distribute cleaning supplies, clothing, food and other supplies to those in need.

They also held block parties, handed out Thanksgiving meals and delivered bags of school supplies to children who lost all they had in the flood.

Meanwhile, average attendance was climbing, reaching pre-flood levels just as the distribution effort was ebbing.

Even thirteen months after the flood, Genesis members



Submitted photo

Jeff Smith (left) baptizes some of the 17 new converts at Genesis Church, during an August service. The baptisms have signaled God at work in the congregation, who have a heart of reaching out to its community.

continue to see the fruit of their outreach.

Smith said half of his congregation is 15 years of age and younger, now, and that the rest range in age from 30 to 70 years old.

Because of that demographic shift, the congregation had made a change to their Wednesday evening schedule, he explained. Previously, there was a fellowship meal

followed by Bible studies grouped by age. Now, Wednesday night is dedicated to an all-student Bible study, and, adult age groups meet on other nights to hold Bible studies.

"Discipleship has been a big thing delayed because of the issues we have had since August of last year," Smith

See **BEGINNING** on 15

## 2018 JANUARY

### BIBLE STUDY PREVIEWS

OCTOBER 16-19, 2017

# FIRST PETER

LIVING AS STRANGERS IN A SECULAR WORLD

*Learn First Peter from experienced Bible teacher Dr. Charles Ray, Jr.*

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017**  
Lane Moore, DOM  
9:30 a.m. – Noon  
Northwest Baptist Association Office  
5875 West 70th St., Shreveport, LA 71129  
318.686.5736

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017**  
Charles Rogers, DOM  
Richland Baptist Association  
Eastside Baptist Church  
102 Horn Rd., Rayville, LA 71269  
318.303.7626  
\* Light supper provided at 5:15 p.m.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017**  
Jeff Ingram, Adult Ministry Strategist, LBC  
6-8:30 p.m.  
Louisiana Baptist Building  
1250 MacArthur Dr., Alexandria, LA 71303  
318.448.3402  
\* Light supper provided at 5:15 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017**  
Lonnie Wascom, DOM  
Northshore Baptist Association  
225.567.5086  
David Brown, DOM  
Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association  
225.664.9109  
11411 McLaughlin Ln., Hammond, LA 70403

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017**  
9:30 a.m. – noon  
Providence Learning Center  
Conference Room, NOBTS Hardin Student Center, Second Floor, Above Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center  
3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126

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September 28, 2017 • [www.baptistmessage.com](http://www.baptistmessage.com) • LOUISIANA BAPTIST MESSAGE

# Judgement House: 20 years of leading the lost to the Lord

WINNFIELD – First Baptist Church is celebrating an evangelistic milestone in Winnfield during October – the 20th anniversary of its first Judgement House.

A walk-through drama that presents visitors with a visualization of some of the life and death consequences of choices made on earth, Judgement House at FBC Winnfield has enjoyed an average of 103 people making a decision for Christ from among 1,324 visitors each performance year since its inception.

Judgment Houses are held in 20 states, using any of 24 scripts developed by the Judgement House national organization based in Clearwater, Fla. All scripts follow a story line that involves a fatal accident

to make the emphasis that the only way to get to Heaven is by believing in Jesus.

John Holland, minister of music and senior adults for FBC Winnfield, explained to the *Baptist Message* that the congregation hosts Judgment House every two years, hosting a church-wide revival in the year between.

“After the first year’s presentation, we were overwhelmed by the response from churches throughout central Louisiana,” Holland said. “It is a unique, cutting-edge evangelistic opportunity, but it is very demanding on the cast members. Due to its magnitude, after the first year we decided to make it an every-other-year event.”

“It is awesome to see how

God has used this innovative ministry to share the Gospel with such a large number of people,” he continued. “The ministers of First Baptist Winnfield want to encourage everyone to come and be a part of this year’s Judgement House 20th year celebration.”

Holland, who has been at the church since the inaugural Judgement House in 1997, said to pull off such a feat, leaders must recruit an army of volunteers to serve as cast members, audio-visual personnel, registration secretaries, security guards and counselors. Around 180 volunteers sign up with FBCW each performance year to help with the event.

Through the years, the scripts have reflected current events to keep up with the ever

changing effects they have on society. This year’s script is entitled “Payback – When Revenge Turns to Ruin.”

“We selected it because we felt like it relates to today’s culture really well,” Holland said. “It has to do with bullying, social media, broken homes and several other problems that young people encounter in life.”

Steven Smithson, pastor of First Baptist Winnfield, encouraged all interested participants to reserve a performance day and time, though walk-in attendees are welcome.

“This could change your life,” Smithson said. “It could change your home, your neighbor, your office, your workplace, your church. It has a lot of power.”

**Performances are scheduled for Oct. 18, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29 and 31. Each begins at 6 p.m., with groups departing from the waiting room every 20 minutes. A \$2 donation is per person is suggested. Call 318.628.3544 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to make reservations. Visit [fbcwinn.com](http://fbcwinn.com) for more information.**

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# At 50, FBC Dupont gets a second wind

BY HOLLY JO LINZAY

Regional Reporter

DUPONT (LBM) – There is new life in First Baptist Church Dupont, which began about 50 years ago as a rural mission church in southern Avoyelles Parish.

The congregation, which was gasping for breath to survive, had dwindled down to a handful of people when the door opened for Brian Johnston to become the pastor.

Now, after many heavenly appeals, there has been such revitalization that Johnston anticipates members will vote on a new identity within the month.

“We plan to change the name because we are a new work. Everything is going great now, and our church has their heart on the Lord. We present ourselves to the community as a new work,” Johnston said.

Moreover, the congregation plans to reconstitute as a mis-

sion church as part of its “fresh start.”

God has given church members, who now number about 28, a vision to be relevant to the Dupont community, Johnston said, and there is a newfound fervor for outreach.

Moreover, the pastor believes the church’s “second wind” is the direct result of intentional prayer.

When the church switched their mid-week service to Thursday nights, Johnston said the members began a new focus.

“We had a big, heavy emphasis on prayer,” he said. “Prayer is the lifeblood of the church. If you don’t have prayer, you won’t be connected with God.”

Moreover, it is “the tie that binds” everybody together, he said.

“I put a chair in the front of the sanctuary, and if anyone needed prayer, they’d come for-



Brian Blackwell photo

First Baptist Church in Dupont, located in Avoyelles Parish, has recently reconstituted as a mission church. Pastor Brian Johnston, who has served as pastor for the past two-and-a-half years, said the congregation wants to be a beacon of light in the community offering hope. Dupont, historically, has been an impoverished community where many have struggled with addictions and alcohol abuse.

ward. I might anoint them with oil if they asked, and everyone else would gather around and pray over them,” the pastor said.

After the church body prays over individuals who are actually present in the service,

Johnston takes prayer requests “two to three ... at a time,” asking someone to pray for those specific needs. “We continue to pray until every request is covered by prayer.”

The pastor, who has served

as the full-time pastor at FBC Dupont for the last two and a half years, said there have been many answered prayers, affecting the congregation in a big way.

See DUPONT on 9

## Religious Liberty: A National Treasure

### 2nd Annual VALUES & ETHICS SERIES

#### Senator Gerald R. Long

A life-long Louisiana resident, Senator Long grew up in Winn Parish, graduated from Winnfield High School, and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Education with Social Studies and Minor in English from Northwestern State University. Senator Long taught in public schools before launching a successful insurance business from which he retired in 1999.

#### Gregory S. Baylor, JD - Alliance Defending Freedom, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Baylor is a liberty consultant to the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities. He strives to protect the First Amendment freedoms of students, faculty, and the staff at public colleges across the nations. Dr. Baylor earned his JD at Duke University School of Law, where he graduated with high honors. He is admitted to the state bar of Texas, the U.S. Supreme Court, and numerous federal appeals and district courts.

#### Warren Cole Smith - Vice President, Colson Center for Christian Worldview

Mr. Smith previously served as Vice President of WORLD News Group. He hosts the radio program/podcast “Listening In,” heard by thousands. He has appeared on Fox News, CBS News, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and NPR. His most recent book is a collaboration with Colson Center President John Stonestreet, “Restoring All Things: God’s Audacious Plan To Change The World Through Everyday People.”

#### Beckett Gremmels, PhD - System Director of Ethics, CHRISTUS Health, Irving, Texas

A prolific contributor to journals focusing on Health Care Ethics and Bioethics, Dr. Gremmels earned his Doctorate in Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University, Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics, and his BA in Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. He also has studied in Italy and France.

**October 9 - 10 | 6 PM | Martin Performing Arts Center**

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## Dupont from page 8

"We've seen some miracles. We've had people with cancer be healed. Even some people who don't normally attend have come and been healed from cancer," Johnston said. "People have been healed from back pain and pain in their knees. Not ev-

everyone is healed, but we are seeing many who are."

Johnston said there also "is a great sense of unity now – a oneness," and added that the growing enthusiasm among members has sparked a campaign to raise funds to make renovations and repairs to the facilities.

"The building itself is what it has been, an A-frame building more than 50 years old. There's rot and missing shingles, termite damage and it needs a new roof," he said, adding that there is a lack of room, too.

Indeed, he shared that two months ago, because of growth, the congregation started a Sunday school class for children, moving the pas-

tor's office into a closet so the emptied space could be used as the classroom.

So there are plans to expand the sanctuary, adding about 8 feet on each side, he said.

"Everyone is so enthusiastic. One hundred percent of the folks who come Sunday also come to the mid-week service. That's a big thing," Johnston added for empha-

sis. "They have a great work ethic. The whole church showed up to help on a recent work day."

For instance, when it came time to clean out his office to make room for the Sunday school class, the pastor said the effort was led by 80-year-old women who were pulling things off the wall that had

See DUPONT on 15



Brian Blackwell photo

Featured speaker at the E4 Conference, Steven Smith, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., told attendees Christians must be on their knees, praying with boldness and persistence.

## E4 from page 3

eville. "We are thankful this conference allowed pastors the chance to come together and take away helpful tools they can use in their own messages."

Many of the pastors attending this year were repeat participants, taking advantage each year of encouragement and tools intended to equip them for ministry.

"I come here because of the information I take away that helps me with ministry," said John Elliott, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Natchitoches.

"As pastors, our calling is not just about preaching but serving. We are called to serve and to do so you have to be equipped at conferences like this one."

Mike Hawkins, pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Stonewall, echoed the thought.

"As a pastor, I am always looking for ways to learn and grow," Hawkins said. "We pastors need to hear from others in these conferences that also set an example for our congregations to do the same."

# A SOUTHERN GOSPEL CONCERT



## ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND

Friday, October 20th, 2017  
Concert at 7pm, Doors open at 6pm  
First Baptist Church Covington  
Admission: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door:  
Tickets go on sale: August 1st, 2017

To purchase tickets: [FbcCov.org](http://FbcCov.org), click on Events.  
Contact: Jim Fletcher at 985.893.4561

# Gettin' Close!

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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, fbc-crowville3@bellsouth.net.

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**LEVY BAPTIST CHURCH** in North Little Rock, AR seeks minister of music. Inquire at [steventiner@levybaptist.com](mailto:steventiner@levybaptist.com).

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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](mailto:Fordochebaptistchurch@yahoo.com) or P.O. Box 95, Fordoche, LA 70732. You may also send audio clip if available.

### Bi-Vocational MINISTER OF MUSIC

Pisgah Baptist Church in Forest Hill, LA is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music to lead worship service.

Email résumés to [cjrob928@aol.com](mailto:cjrob928@aol.com) or for more information, call 318.446.4320.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HAYNESVILLE, LA SEEKS A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC

Applicants must have a calling to ministry and a heart for worship and service. Experience as a worship leader, leading congregational singing and directing a choir is necessary as is the ability to blend traditional and contemporary worship styles and some experience with media presentation software. Please send résumé to:

First Baptist Church Music Search Committee • 2012 Main St • Haynesville, LA 71038 or email: [fayemariephillips@yahoo.com](mailto:fayemariephillips@yahoo.com)

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### SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC

Faith Baptist Church, Tioga, is seeking a part-time minister of music. Must be able to blend traditional and contemporary music. Assist with media presentation (software). Send résumé to [dj125@gmail.com](mailto:djr125@gmail.com) 1842 Elizabeth LN, Pineville, LA 71360

### BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

First Baptist Church in Montgomery, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Mail résumé and inquiries to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 475, Montgomery, LA 71454.

### Brookwood Baptist Church in Shreveport, LA is seeking a SENIOR PASTOR

For information or to submit a résumé go to [brookwoodpastor.com](http://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](mailto:bbcpay@bellsouth.net) or mail to Bethlehem Baptist Church, P. O. Box 1030, Albany, LA 70711.

### 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

### 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](mailto:marian799@aol.com) or mailed to the church attention Search Committee 21039 LA Highway 16, Denham Springs, LA 70726

### 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
- Student Ministry
- Christian Education

Email your résumé to [fbcfarmerville@yahoo.com](mailto:fbcfarmerville@yahoo.com) attention Minister Search Committee or call 318.368.3848 for more information.

### FULL-TIME SENIOR PASTOR

Grace Memorial Baptist Church in Slidell is accepting résumés for the position of Senior Pastor. Résumés should be sent to the Pastor Search Team at [pst.gmbc@charter.net](mailto:pst.gmbc@charter.net) by October 15, 2017.

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## IN REMEMBRANCE

■ **Mrs. Lonie Mardell Roach**, age 94, recently of Alexandria, went home to be with her Lord on Friday, September 15, 2017. She was a Godly woman who dedicated her life to being a Christian wife and mother. She was also a faithful partner in ministry alongside her preacher-husband, H.M. Roach, for 67 years. She leaves a rich legacy of love and Christian values, for which her family wishes to honor her. Condolences can be sent to Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Roach, 2508 10th Ave. NW, Minot, ND 58703.

## ON THE MOVE

■ **Leanne Treme** is the new reservations supervisor at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth.  
 ■ **Tyler Adams** is the new Maintenance Technician at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth.

## HOMEcoming

■ West Lake Baptist Church, Doyline: **39th Homecoming**, October 1, 10:30 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will be held after services. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish. Pastor: Jerry Elgin.  
 ■ Cedar Baptist Church, Archibald: **Homecoming 2017**, October 1, 10:30 a.m. with dinner on the grounds to follow at noon. Speaker: **Bryan Lipscomb**, former Pastor of Cedar Baptist Church and present Pastor of Providence Baptist Church of Lufkin, Texas. All friends, families and former church members are invited to attend. Pastor: Mickey Alexander.  
 ■ New Zion Baptist Church, Covington: **Homecoming**, October 1, 10:30 a.m. Dinner on the grounds at noon. Guest Speaker: **Howard Peak**. Special Music: **OneWay Quartet**. The quartet will also perform an afternoon concert. Pastor: Clark Stewart.

■ Calvary Baptist Church Forest Hill: **Homecoming**, October 1, 10 a.m. Lunch will follow morning service. Speaker: **Wayne Dunn**. Music: **Josh and Valery Dickson**.  
 ■ Welcome Home Baptist Church, Dodson: **Homecoming**, October 8, 10:15 a.m. Dinner on the grounds to follow the service. Special Music: **Sanctuary Quartet**. Pastor: Lavelle Spillers.  
 ■ Bethlehem Baptist Church, Calvin: **Homecoming**, October 8. Special Music: Ode'.

## REVIVAL

■ Camp Creek Baptist Church, Spearsville: **Revival**, October 1-4, Sunday 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Joe Audls**. Pastor: Eddie Schexnayder, Jr.  
 ■ Baskin Baptist Church, Baskin: **2nd Annual Big Tent Revival**, October 2-6, 7 p.m. nightly Evangelist: **Craig Franklin, Franklin Ministries**. Special Music: **Southern Revelation**. Pastor: Brian Rogers.  
 ■ New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy: **Revival**, October 8-11. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Roland Herbert.  
 ■ First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **Prayer Revival**, October 8-11, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Speakers: **Steve Horn** (Sunday), **Rod Masteller** (Monday), **David Carlton** (Tuesday), and **David Hankins**, (Wednesday). Pastor: Steve Horn.

## LAGNIAPPE

■ New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: Seeking a **full time youth/family minister and a part time office assistant**. Computer skills are a must for the office assistant. Send resumes to 61 New Chapel Hill Rd., West Monroe, LA 71291 or email melinda@nchbc.net. Pastor: Marty

Black.

■ First Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Global Fest**, September 29, 6 p.m. This annual event features, fun food and music and benefits Global Maritime Ministry. Find treasures and more from 150 items in the silent auction. For more information, go to [www.port-ministry.com](http://www.port-ministry.com) or call 504.895.2028. Pastor: David Crosby.

■ First Baptist Church, Franklinton: **OneWay Quartet in concert**, September 30, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Paul Watts.

■ First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **Refresh 2017**, September 30, 12 – 11:59 p.m. Speaker: **Debbie Stuart**. Special Music:

**Kellie and Kristen**. For more information contact: Andrea McKenzie, Minister of Missions, Community Ministries, and College Students by calling 337.593.3655 or by email [andrea.mckenzie@fbclaf.org](mailto:andrea.mckenzie@fbclaf.org). Pastor: Steve Horn.

■ Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Rise Out Of The Dark Tour**, October 1, 7 p.m. Worship Music: **Mandisa, Danny Gokey, Love & The Outcome, Jasmine Murray**. Cost: \$26.50 (General Admission), \$23.50 (General Admission Group (10+)). For more information go online to [www.awakeningevents.com/?view=mobile](http://www.awakeningevents.com/?view=mobile) or call 800.965.9324. Pastor: Aaron Burgner.

■ North Shreve Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Pumpkin Patch**, October 2, Monday-



Friends and family of **Mabel Hargis Hart Smith**, a long-time member and pianist at Tioga First Baptist Church, are invited to gather at Tioga High School, September 30th from 2 to 4 p.m. to celebrate her 100th birthday. A longtime teacher at Tioga, she is a Christian example to others, an excellent musician and a dear friend to so many. Organizers ask no gifts be brought but a card would be nice.

Louisiana College Phycology Professors. Cost: \$10 and you may pay at the door. Please RSVP to Stewart Holloway ([sholloway@fbcpineville.net](mailto:sholloway@fbcpineville.net)). Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

■ Acadian Baptist Center, Eunice: **Taste of Home "Homemade in Acadiana"**, October 3, 5-8:15 p.m. Spend the afternoon browsing the holiday shopping market, tasting specialty candy and food. **Chef Darlene Bolfa, owner of Café de La Salle in Ville Platte** will give tips on creating that perfect holiday dish. Guest Speaker: **Stacey Miller**, Director of the Welcome House located on Hwy 13, share how to engage in helping our communities become better equipped for living in the

Friday 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday 1p.m.-5 p.m. The Pumpkin Patch is located at 4930 Old Mooring-sport Road, Shreveport 71107. The patch is festive and beautiful. There will be several specially decorated areas throughout the patch where family pictures can be taken. Call the church office at 318.425.2350 to make arrangements to bring a group of daycare children or any other group out. Pastor: Cecil Marr.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, October 2, noon. Speaker: **Jerry & Bayne Pounds**,

21st Century. There will be numerous door prizes including the grand prize – diamond bracelets. Cost: \$15. Proceeds from this event support Women on Mission/WMU Acadia, Association mission work and serving our communities through outreach. For more information, contact Kim Loewer, Director of Women on Mission/WMU Acadia Association at 337.580.3108 or by email [womenonmissionlouisiana@gmail.com](mailto:womenonmissionlouisiana@gmail.com)

■ Bethlehem Baptist Church, Albany: **World Crafts Marketplace event sponsored by Northshore Association WMU**, October 7, Registration 9:30-10:00 a.m. Enjoy hearing a guest speaker, special music, a time of fellowship, shopping, door prizes, and lunch. Nursery will be provided with RSVP. Please RSVP by October 2. For more information, contact [office@northshore-baptists.net](mailto:office@northshore-baptists.net) or call 225.567.5086.

■ Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill: **Youth Worship Rally**, October 7, 5:30 p.m., food & fellowship; 6:30 p.m., Worship rally. Speaker: **Brett Faulk**. Special Music: **Chain Free**. Please RSVP. If you have any questions contact: Brett Faulk, 318.729.2898 or Britney Faulk, 318.452.0766. Pastor: Mike Evans.

■ Williams Boulevard Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Kellie & Kristen in concert**, October 7, 7 p.m. Pastor: Tim Williams.

■ Trinity Heights Baptist Church, Shreveport: **Ben Waites in concert**, October 8, 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Collin Wimberly.

■ Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria: **The Foto Sisters in concert**, October 8, 9 a.m. Pastor: David Brooks.

■ 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.

## 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.

kph pfo, y zgkn nfs, utwtlr mfh arka rt oyjj ut

mgklyfsw spaf sw: aryw rkar uttp un nfsg etkpw:

oyjj rt gtmkgh nfsg ztgwfpw? wkyar art jfgh fi

rffaw.

ekjklry fpt:pypt

Clues:  
K = A; R = H

Answer to September 28 Scripture Crypto:  
First Chronicles sixteen:three

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# IMB appoints 51 new missionaries, approves budget

BY STAFF

*Baptist Message*

RIDGECREST, N.C. (LBM) – During their Sept. 11-13 meeting at the Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C., International Mission Board trustees approved new personnel and passed the 2017-2018 budget.

The 51 missionaries who were appointed represent churches in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

The overseas missionary force totaled 3,612 as of the end of the trustee meeting, up from the 3,596 numbered at the end of 2016.

Meanwhile trustees approved a budget of \$262 million, down from last year's \$270 million financial plan. The budget projects Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts at \$153 million for 2017-18,

similar to actual receipts for 2016-2017.

The budget is based on a new fiscal year, Oct. 1, 2017-Sept. 30, 2018, which aligns IMB's financial year with other SBC entities.

Trustees also welcomed 11 new colleagues elected in June during the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Phoenix: Joel Bundick, pastor of Community of Grace church in Aurora, Colo.; Jim Crockett, president of R1 Ministries and member of First Baptist Church of Hendersonville, Tenn.; Jordan Easley, senior pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn.; Keith Evans, senior pastor of Pathway Church in Troutdale, Ore.; Will Gatling, associate pastor of missions of Bay Leaf Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C.; Nathan Gunter, pastor of Lansing (Kan.) First Southern Baptist Church; Kirra Kelly, an educator and member of Family Church in West Palm

See IMB on 13



IMB photo

Danielle and David Flannery pray, surrounded by supporters, as they celebrate their appointment as Southern Baptist missionaries. The Flannerys are sent by Mountain View Baptist Church in Hamptonville, N.C., to share the Gospel with European Peoples.

GEORGIA BARNETTE  
STATE MISSIONS OFFERING  
STATE GOAL: \$1,700,000



WHY  
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FOR THEY ARE READY... JOHN 4:35

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# Platt approved to serve on church staff while also IMB president

BY STAFF

*Baptist MessageE*

RIDGECREST, N.C. (LBM) – Trustees of the International Mission Board have agreed to a request from David Platt to join the staff of a Northern Virginia congregation as teaching pastor, while also serving as president of the Southern Baptist Convention's overseas mission entity headquartered in Richmond.

Julie McGowan, IMB's public relations leader, wrote Sept. 14, that trustee chairman Hance Dilbeck presented the information during the recently completed trustee meeting in Ridgecrest, N.C., for approval as part of the minutes from an Aug. 24 IMB trustee executive committee meeting.

According to McGowan, during the August meeting, the executive committee of the IMB trustees agreed to evaluate Platt's involvement at McLean Bible Church "during a provisional period over the coming months."

"Our president, Dr. David Platt, has expressed a deep sense of calling to serve as teaching pastor of McLean Bible Church while also continuing to lead the International Mission Board," Dilbeck, senior pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, said. "We respect Dr. Platt and his sense of the Lord's leading; and we

## IMB from page 12

Beach, Fla.; Gary Mathena, a professor and member of First Baptist Church in Roanoke, Va.; Cliff Mayton, senior pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Spring, Texas; Trent Snyder, associate pastor of missions and evangelism of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky.; and Brian Zunigha, a campus minister and member of Redeemer Baptist Church in Riverside, Calif.

IMB trustees will meet via video conference Nov. 14 to approve new missionary appointees, with a Livestream Sending Celebration slated for Nov. 16, at 2 p.m. EST.

The 2017 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering launches Oct. 1. Additional information is available via [IMB.org/LMCO](http://IMB.org/LMCO).

Based on a release by Julie McGowan, IMB public relations leader.

recognize our responsibility to hold him accountable for his work leading the International Mission Board. Over the coming months, while Dr. Platt serves as teaching pastor for McLean Bible Church, the trustees of the International Mission Board will evaluate Dr. Platt's fulfillment of his responsibilities as IMB president. Trustees also will evaluate McLean's level of partnership with the Southern Baptist Convention. We plan to revisit this matter in our February trustee meeting."

The IMB staff has posted questions and answers at [imb.org/faq](http://imb.org/faq) regarding Platt's reasoning for seeking this church staff role. The information states Platt will "not receive a salary for his role at MBC" and that he will "not be involved in overall day-to-day leadership in the church," which is about two hours by car from his home in Richmond.

"While Dr. Platt is committed to serving many local churches, he fully believes in the biblical importance of membership in one local church," according to the website statement. "Upon becoming president of IMB, Dr. Platt and IMB trustees mutually agreed that in light of the age and stage of his family and the amount of travel he would do domestically and internationally during the week, it would be a good, wise, and right use of his time to be with his family on weekends serving in one local Southern Baptist church. Therefore, since stepping into his role as presi-

dent, Dr. Platt has been home with his family serving in a local Southern Baptist church approximately 65 [percent] of his weekends. On the remaining 35 [percent] of his weekends, he has traveled domestically and internationally carrying out IMB responsibilities and preaching in Southern Baptist churches. Dr. Platt travels extensively during the week in his role as IMB president.

"As Teaching Pastor at MBC, Dr. Platt would continue the pattern of being with his family in this local church approximately 65 [percent] of his weekends," the statement adds. "He also will continue to spend 35 [percent] of his weekends traveling domestically and internationally carrying out IMB responsibilities and preaching in Southern Baptist churches, in addition to his extensive travel during the week."

Based on a release by Julie McGowan, IMB public relations leader, and statements on [IMB.org](http://IMB.org).



IMB photo

IMB President David Platt requested to join the staff of McLean Bible Church in Northern Virginia as a teaching pastor, while also serving as president of the Southern Baptist Convention's overseas mission entity headquartered in Richmond, IMB trustees reported at their recent meeting.

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	<b>FOR NURSES AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS</b>		
	<b>Date</b> Friday, October 27 - Saturday, October 28		
	<b>Location</b> Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center		
	<b>Schedule</b> <small>Full schedule available online</small> Friday Check-in .....4:30 PM Saturday Morning Session .....8:15 AM Event Closing Time .....2:00 PM		
	<b>Register by October 20. Refunds not available after registration deadline.</b>		
	<b>CONTACT US</b> <a href="http://LouisianaBaptists.org/bnfRetreat">LouisianaBaptists.org/bnfRetreat</a>		
	318.442.3402/800.662.6549		<a href="mailto:WMM@LouisianaBaptists.org">WMM@LouisianaBaptists.org</a>

## Preaching from page one

29-31, will feature leading expository preachers Jim Shaddix and Robert Smith Jr.

The dedication took place on Rogers' birthday; he died in 2005 at the age of 74.

Chuck Kelley, NOBTS president in opening remarks, noted the significance of naming the center after Rogers, an NOBTS alumnus.

"Adrian Rogers went on from [this] seminary to become one of the greatest pastors in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention, a defining pastor of his generation," Kelley said. "We are very excited about starting something that will take new students to the heart of what made this man so impactful and so influential -- and this is his preaching ministry, a ministry of God's Word."

A three-term SBC president, Rogers led the Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church from 9,000 members to 29,000 during his 33 years as pastor. Love Worth Finding Ministries, founded by Rogers in 1987, provides sermon outlines, podcasts, articles and

other resources for preaching.

Steve Rogers, son of Adrian Rogers, was present for a portion of the dedication service and the luncheon that followed despite flight scheduling complications due to Hurricane Irma.

"We're excited about this; we're behind it," Rogers told NOBTS administrators and faculty on behalf of the Rogers family. "What we're interested in is ongoing ministry and the next generation of pastors, worship leaders and youth ministers."

Rogers spoke of the "thousands and thousands of hours" he and his brother David spent reviewing 4,000 of his father's recorded sermons -- originally preserved on cassette tapes and now digitized -- and how it underscored for them their father's commitment to expository preaching.

"For 12 years I've immersed myself in my dad's pastor training curriculum," Steve Rogers said. "It's an incredible laboratory for anybody that wants to study expository preaching."



Submitted photo

Steve Rogers, right, son of the late Adrian Rogers, talks with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary student Michael Pogue after the dedication service for the Adrian Rogers Center for Expository Preaching Sept. 12.

Adam Hughes, director of the center and NOBTS dean of the chapel, said Rogers modeled faithfulness to God's Word, a love for the church and a heart for reaching the lost.

"Our mission ... is preparing a rising generation of men who are answering God's call for excellence in expository preaching," Hughes said. "We want to make sure students are trained and resourced to serve the church. We want to resource and equip pastors already on the field."

In an expository sermon, Hughes said, the God-intend-

ed meaning, structure and emphasis of the biblical text drives the main points as well as the outline and thrust of the sermon, which is then proclaimed to hearers.

Hughes said Rogers' passion for the lost and his understanding of the sufficiency and infallibility of

See PREACHING on 15

## MINISTERS' WIVES' RETREAT

# Joy

JOHN 15:11

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AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Brian Johnston serves as pastor of First Baptist Church Dupont in addition to also serving as pastor and worship leader of Big Cane Baptist Church. The two churches are 15 minutes apart.

Brian Blackwell photo



## Dupont from page 9

been hanging in the same place for more than 30 years.

"There wasn't any arguing about trying to save that old stuff. There was just an overwhelming sense of unity," Johnston added.

Members want to be a beacon of light, offering hope to the community, the pastor said. Dupont,

historically, has been an impoverished community where many have struggled with addictions and alcohol abuse.

Johnston said his work with FBC Dupont has been rewarding, but has kept him busy because he also serves as pastor and worship leader for Big Cane Baptist Church.

On Sunday, FBC Dupont worships at 9 a.m. and the mid-week service is held on Thursday at 6 p.m. Big Cane members, on the other hand, come together at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday and 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

The two churches are

about a 15-minute drive apart.

Johnston said each congregation is strongly supportive of his work with the other, and that the two churches are unified in wanting to reach the lost in the area for Christ.

## Beginning from page 6

said. "Now we are beginning to concentrate on that.

"Our students will be better equipped to reach their schools and neighborhoods for Christ," he said. "And our adults will have the opportunity to disciple a younger person. What a great opportunity and a win-win for everyone."

Smith said waiting on the Lord was not easy, but that he counts it pure joy now seeing the rebirth of his church and

community.

"As a church planter who has had slow growth, it was much needed for me to see so many people baptized and changed as a result of the flood," he said. "It was a psychological boost for myself to remind me that what we are doing is working.

"Patience is not the easiest thing when you are a church planter," he continued. "But I have been shown and con-

tinued to be reminded that God's at work. Whether it's with Genesis Church or even another believer's life, this experience has taught me that we just need to be patient and trust God for our future."

## Preaching from page 14

God's Word is "desperately needed today," adding that the center's work would complement the classroom.

Bob Sorrell, chairman of the board of Love Worth Finding, recounted that the ministry grew out of a demand for Rogers' sermons.

"Adrian never wanted to be a TV preacher," Sorrell said. "But he permitted his sermons to be recorded on cassette and kept at a closet in the church where members could pick them up.... It continued to grow from there and grew into an organization."

Cary Vaughn, chief executive officer of Love Worth Finding, said Rogers' insistence that a Gospel invitation be given at every church event taught him to model that commitment in his own ministry. Rogers' deepest de-

sire, Vaughn said, was to see others come to faith in Christ.

"Let the one takeaway be that if Adrian Rogers were here today, he would say ... 'Come to Jesus.'"

Vaughn said Love Worth Finding broadcasts in 196 countries and is tied to 3,000 radio outlets, 10,500 TV outlets and has the potential to broadcast into 700 million homes worldwide.

In chapel, Kelley recounted Rogers' beginnings as an NOBTS student and tied Rogers' accomplishments and influence, including his pivotal role in the Conservative Resurgence, to his commitment to Scripture.

"Everything good that happened in Adrian Rogers' life flowed out of his commitment to teach his people the Word of God," Kelley said.

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STATE GOAL: \$1,700,000



## FIRST WEST - CALHOUN

"THERE'S INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL,  
INCREDIBLE NEED AS THE LORD IS  
BRINGING PEOPLE TO THIS AREA."

JOSH ELLIFF, CAMPUS PASTOR, FIRST WEST - CALHOUN

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NOT A CHURCH FOR RICH  
PEOPLE, OR PEOPLE WITH HOMES,  
OR THE MIDDLE CLASS, AND A  
CHURCH FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE ...  
THERE'S JUST THE CHURCH."

TROY GAUSE, PASTOR  
CROSS CULTURE COMMUNITY CHURCH, NEW ORLEANS



## ISTROUMA EN ESPAÑOL



"... WE KNEW THAT WE WERE  
MISSING AN OPPORTUNITY  
FOR IMPACTING A SIGNIFICANT  
PEOPLE GROUP."

JEFF GINN, SENIOR PASTOR  
ISTROUMA, BATON ROUGE  
(ON REACHING THE GROWING  
HISPANIC POPULATION THROUGH  
ISTROUMA EN ESPAÑOL)



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WHY  
WAIT  
FOR THEY ARE READY... JOHN 4:35

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