THE BAPTIST MESSAGE
John 3:16
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August 29, 2019
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Courtesy Renewed Church

Checkerz Williams encouraged members and guests of Renew Church in Baton Rouge during a recent worship service. The Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering has helped Renew Church reach its community.

RA numbers are rising in Louisiana

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA—The Royal Ambassadors, a young men's discipleship ministry, is seeing a revival in Louisiana, a trend state leaders believe could continue into the foreseeable future.

Since the last session of RAs ended in May 2018, 21 Louisiana Baptist churches have started new chapters of this Southern Baptist missions and character development program for first to sixth grade boys, RA consultant Mike Collie told the *Baptist Message*.

The increase is nearly double the 10-12 annual average of new chapters that have started in recent years. According to the Annual Church Profile database, 117 Louisiana Baptist churches now either have a chapter or an RA representative.

Collie attributes the increase to churches re-examining their approach to mentoring young men.

"RAs provide so many experiences to train young boys up to grow into Christ-like young men," Collie said. "I don't think

See **NUMBERS,** page 3

Renewed Journey: From eviction to rap to multi-ethnic church planting

By John Kyle
Louisiana Baptists Communications Director

ALEXANDRIA --To say, "Checkerz Williams did not grow up in the church," is at best an understatement.

According to Williams, his father left when he was born and he was raised by his teenage mother. Growing up in Las Vegas he became addicted to alcohol and had a propensity to get in fights, which eventually led to him being evicted from his home at the age of 19.

"I didn't know what else to do so I reached out to my biological father, whom I'd only seen a few times in my life," Williams shared. "By this time he had remarried, had two other children and was getting ready to move back to North Carolina. So I moved there and began to work in construction.

"While working, my boss, who resembled the TV character Grizzly Adams, would share the Gospel with me," he continued. "I rejected it at first, thinking, 'Where was God when I was going through all this pain in my life?' But eventually the Lord softened my heart and I surrendered to my life to Him in November of 1992."

Prior to becoming a Christian, Williams enjoyed rap music.

He first thought he might have to give up rap, but his boss encouraged him just to change the message of his music and, as examples, shared with Williams a few songs from some early Christian rap groups.

Soon after he made changes to his lyrics, people began to take note of his faith-friendly messages and he was invited to share about his Christianity before the beginning of some concerts. This set off

See **RENEWED,** page 3

Submitted photo

Jay George, singles pastor at North Monroe Baptist Church, baptized Ashley Bestler, August 18. Pierce is a resident of HomePlace, a program at the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries.

HomePlace offers women hope of heavenly abode

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

MONROE – Sarah Pierce spent nearly 15 years seeking freedom from alcoholism, but just a few months into 2017 she found deliverance in Christ when she entered HomePlace, the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries program for homeless children and their mothers.

Through HomePlace, Pierce received spiritual support from fellow mothers in the program and LBCHFM staff members, who encouraged her to share her testimony of salvation

See **HOMEPLACE,** page 5

Skills of a church planter: Intrinsic motivation

ALEXANDRIA -- One of my favorite people in history is a 16-year-old girl, who is the perfect example for illustrating the trait of intrinsic motivation: Joan of Ark.

The Maid of Orleans was so motivated to live out her call that she convinced Charles VII of France to allow her to lead the French army to the besieged city of Orleans during the Hundred Years War for the liberation of France from English domination.

With her call, she also took a vow of chastity to show her dedication. When her father arranged a marriage for her she successfully argued before a local court that she should not be wed. She must have been very convincing, because she remained single until her death.

JOHN HEBERT
Team Leader
Louisiana Baptist
Missions & Ministry

INTRINSIC MOTIVATION MAKES YOU CONVINCING.

As far as I could research, no other nation has turned its army over to a 16-year-old girl.

Importantly, her internal drive was evident in her external actions.

Consequently, Charles VII appointed her as leader.

But she subsequently won the hearts of the soldiers such that they became her army – an estimated 10,000 combat-hardened footmen and horsemen taking orders from a 16-year-old maiden.

In a mere year and a month, she crowned a reluctant king, rallied a broken nation, reversed the course of the Hundred Year War, and redirected history to a new course.

Intrinsic motivation is a powerful trait.

Some call it "drive" or refer to it as "get up and go." Regardless, it is a function of actions being driven from within.

Indeed, the Bible describes intrinsic motivation as zeal and admonishes us to "never be lacking" in it (Romans 12:11) -- an indication that we can learn how to obtain it. Moreover, we are told it must be directed toward a good goal (Galatians 4:18) and that zeal without wisdom is folly (Proverbs 19:2).

In short, intrinsic motivation seeks satisfaction instead of an external tangible item. The reward is internal -- a satisfaction of accomplishment.

The best athletes usually are driven by competition and the desire to win. Likewise, billionaires typically make their fortunes because of a burning need to change or create or innovate or invent that leads to opportunities for profit.

In the case of Christians, our zeal should be efforts exerted for the cause of Christ and an unction inspired by the Word or the Holy Spirit.

HOW DO YOU BEGIN TO OBTAIN INTRINSIC MOTIVATION?

Pursue projects and opportunities that provide internal satisfaction from the experience itself.

Remember, an external reward loses it motivating factor, once it is gained.

Many examples of good and bad intrinsic motivation are contained in the New Testament. Indeed, up unto His death, Jesus was constantly trying to move his disciples to think right, act right and do right from intrinsic motivation:

-- James and John wanted to sit one on the right hand and one on the left in the coming Kingdom;

-- Peter drew his sword

See **SKILLS,** page **15**

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a lot of other programs can really match what RAs offers, and more and more churches are beginning to realize that. From the time spent learning about a missionary to making something at a campground with other young boys and their leaders, RAs is instilling in each guy the building blocks to make them into the adult men God wants them to be one day."

RAs began in 1908 as a means to provide missions education for boys attending Southern Baptist churches, according to the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union website. The program, one of many missions organizations offered by the WMU, provides elementary-aged boys with opportunities to learn how to be God's messenger through classes, campouts and other Christ-centered experiences.

"The excitement of seeing a young boy who has given his own heart to Jesus after being involved in missions activities in RAs brings about a fire inside my soul," said Collie, who has taught RAs at Temple Baptist Church in Ruston for nearly 15 years. "We are praying that many boys have that same passion instilled inside of them, and one day some of them may even become leaders of chapters at their own churches."

Hartie Spence, an RA leader for 15 years at the First Baptist Church in Lafayette, said the organization has provided a unique setting for boys to best learn beyond the classroom. Nearly 85 boys and 20 adult leaders participate in the RA program at First Baptist Lafayette.

"We are able to teach the boys about becoming responsible men in a fun environment," Spence said. "It's hard sometimes to get a boy to sit still and really concentrate on a lesson. But you get that same boy to race a car or sharpen a saw, and you open a door to reach them on a deeper level.

"Our job is to be an example of godly men and to constantly pour into them lessons that will hopefully stick with them as they grow into adulthood," he continued. "We aren't just there to have fun but to teach them things that will help improve their lives."

Upcoming events for RAs include "Survivorman" camp, September 13-14, at Acadian Baptist Center in Eunice; RA "Camp-O-Ree," October 18-19, at Harris Baptist Assembly Camp in Minden; a soapbox derby race in downtown Baton Rouge at an undetermined date; and, RA Congress, April 3-4, 2020, at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth. For more information on how to start an RA chapter, contact Collie at 318.278.2968.

Brian Blackwell photo

Royal Ambassadors enjoyed a soap box derby race during a past session of RA Congress. The Southern Baptist missions and character development program for young boys has seen 21 new Louisiana chapters started since May 2018.

Renewed from page one

a chain of events that led Williams to ask his pastor, "How do you know the Lord is calling you into ministry?"

Upon surrendering to God's call, he applied to Gardner-Webb University, a Southern Baptist school, where he met his wife, Nicole. For the next 15 years Williams traveled the country rapping, preaching and sharing the Gospel until he sensed God was leading him in a different direction.

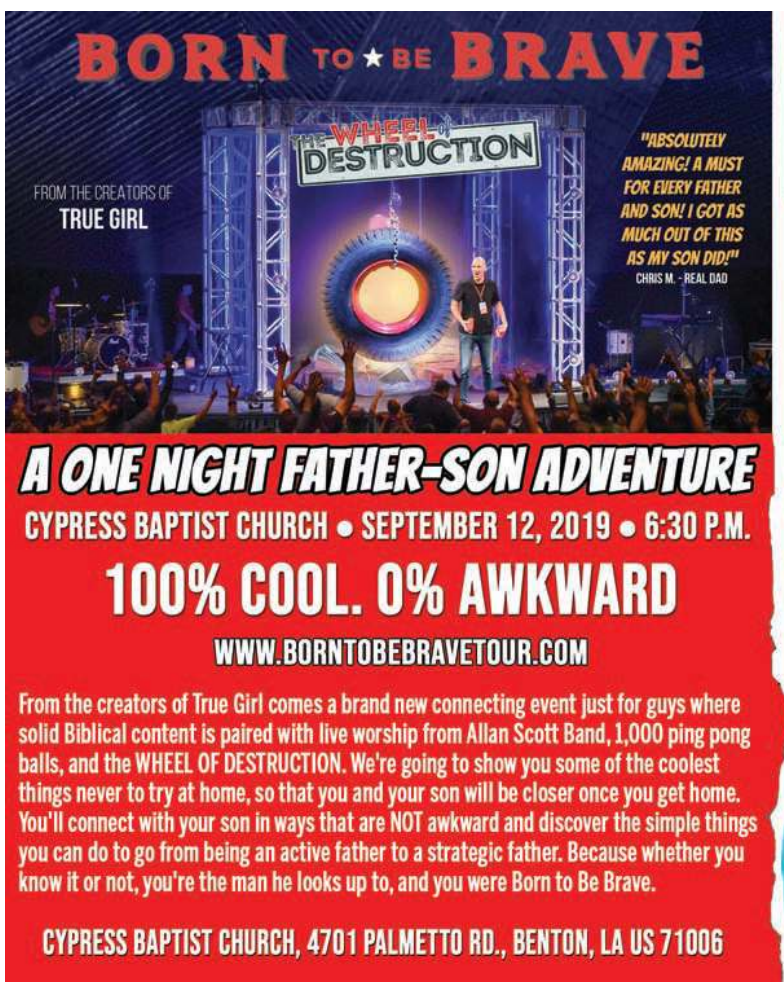
"I was asked by a church to help them structure an outreach program for the community," said Williams. "It was an African American congregation in a predominately White and Hispanic area.

"This took us to South Carolina where we lived and did ministry in that city, and all around the Carolinas, for nine years," Williams continued. "Nicole and I also worked in the corporate world and were doing very well in our careers. During my time at a local bank, one of the tellers asked me, 'What are you doing here? This is obviously not your calling.'"

As God was working on his heart about becoming a pastor, Williams began to reflect on how disheartening it was so see the church so segregated. "I was invited to go to an all-White church or an all-Black church, but as I continued to read God's word, it says every nation, tribe and tongue gathered around the throne to worship. So God gave me a vision of what that would look like on earth."

Fast forward to 2017 – Williams and his wife left their careers and he enrolled at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with the vision of planting a multi-ethnic, multi-generational church. In July 2017, that opportu-

See **RENEWED**, page 9



There is 'Good News' about Louisiana Baptist teens

ALEXANDRIA – Despite disturbing data from the Barna Group showing almost half of Christian millennials, nationally, believe that sharing one's faith with a person of a different faith is wrong, the overwhelming majority of Louisiana Baptist teens believe evangelism is essential and more than a third of them actually have led someone to Christ.

PONDERING & PROBLEM SOLVING

When I read Barna's data about beliefs regarding evangelism among the different generations, I was disheartened. Here are the numbers of those who agreed that "It is wrong to share one's personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith":

-- 47 percent of Millennials (1984-1998);

-- 27 percent of Gen X (1965-1983);

-- 19 percent of Boomers (1946-1964); and,

-- 20 percent of the Silent Generation (before 1946).

KEITH MANUEL
Team Director
Evangelism & Church Growth

[Gen Z, who are now teens, were not included in the study, but Barna's report described them as "thoroughly post-Christian" and likely postured to strongly oppose evangelism.]

I began to ponder this report and think about my children. I am thankful they not only believe in sharing their faith, but also desire to share their faith.

I also wondered what Louisiana Baptist teens thought about evangelism -- whether they believed more like the respondents in the Barna survey or more like the Gen Z and two Millennials in my family.

The group I lead for Louisiana Baptists, the Evangelism and Church Growth Team, hosts more than 1,000 teens for camp at the Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center every summer. So, to find out how they felt about evangelism, my team surveyed 434 of them, producing a margin of error of +/- 5 percent at the 99-percent confidence level, which allows us to trust the results.

We asked our questions a little differently than Barna:

-- "Do you think it is wrong to share your faith, genuinely and compassionately, with lost friends, inviting them to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord?"

-- "Do you know how to share the Gospel with a Bible or a tract?"

-- "I have shared the Gospel with a friend this past year."

-- "I have led someone to faith in Christ."

But we believe we managed to get a good picture of what Louisiana Baptist teens, certainly those who attend our camps, believe and how they compare and contrast with their peers around the country.

Only 12 students from our sample indicated they thought it was wrong to share their faith, representing nearly 3 percent of Louisiana Baptist teen campers. But, eight of the 12 respondents indicated they knew how to share their faith and had attempted to share the Gospel in the last year. So, it might be these eight respondents simply misunderstood the question. If so, less than 1 percent of the sample rejected the notion of sharing the Gospel with Muslims or Buddhists or someone of any other religious belief, or no par-

See **TEENS,** page **15**

Louisiana Baptist FOUNDATION

The Louisiana Baptist Foundation is pleased to publish its Statement of Financial Position for the year 2018. The Foundation presents this statement on-line and annually in the Louisiana Baptist *Message* for public review.

The financial statement presented was prepared from the books and records of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation. A copy of the audit report for the calendar year that ended December 31, 2018, issued by independent certified public accountants can be reviewed upon request and is available at the office of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation.

Please call the Foundation if you have further questions regarding its financial position.

Louisiana Baptist Foundation
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Statement of Financial Position - December 31, 2018

ASSETS	2018
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 77,034
Accrued receivables	11,861
Prepaid expenses	14,887
Investments in LBF managed accounts	1,118,029
Investments held for donor advised funds	3,290,279
Beneficial interest in trusts and endowments	14,471
Beneficial interest in split interest agreements	206,652
Furn., equip., leasehold improvements - net of depreciation	46,258
Other assets	721
Assets held for agencies and trusts	145,297,413
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 150,077,605
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	$ 2,113
Accrued liabilities	153,027
Liabilities for split-interest agreements	92,125
Due to agencies and trusts	
Short Term Fund managed accounts	52,243,720
Realized/Unrealized gains (losses) not allocated	645,801
Other managed accounts	92,407,892
Total Liabilities	145,544,678
NET ASSETS	
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	
Operating	863,650
Designated for Short Term Fund Losses	250,000
Designated for donor advised funds	3,290,279
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	4,403,929
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	128,998
Total Net Assets	4,532,927
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	$ 150,077,605

"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Louisiana Baptist Foundation as of December 31, 2018…, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

from the 2018 Independent Auditor's Report dated June 6, 2019, prepared by Payne, Moore and Herrington, LLP, Certified Public Accountants; presented to the Louisiana Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees, July 30 2019.

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Submitted photo

An August 18 baptism service at North Monroe Baptist Church in Monroe celebrated the spirtual rebirth of Sarah Pierce, a resident of HomePlace, a program of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries.

HomePlace from page one

publicly, through baptism.

On August 18 she took that step of obedience with another HomePlace resident as they were baptized during a worship service at the North Monroe Baptist Church in Monroe.

The women are two of five HomePlace residents (out of 13 women currently in the program) baptized this year, and among numerous others in the program who have been plunged beneath baptistery waters since HomePlace began in 2010.

Susan Clark, LBCHFM director of family care ministries, said she has been blessed to witness the life change in Pierce and many other women, who participate in daily personal devotional times, weekly small group Bible studies and monthly large group gatherings, featuring a speaker and testimonies, at the ministry's Monroe campus.

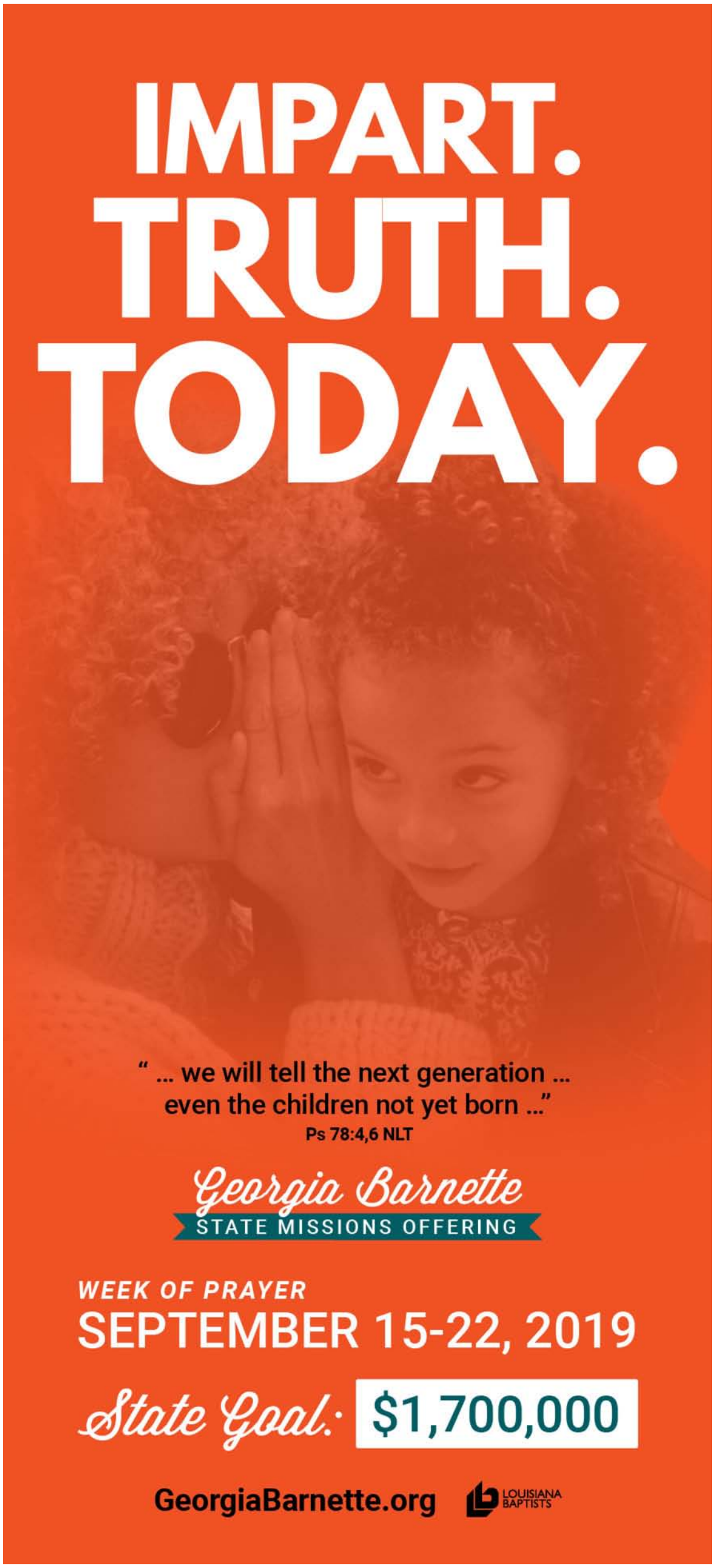
"We give them Jesus, every day, here," Clark said. "It's amazing to see the turnaround in these women's lives, especially when they accept Christ. Their lives were spiraling out of control when they got here, so it's a precious thing to see them come to the heart of God."

LBCHFM President and CEO Perry Hancock said he is thankful for how this ministry is reaching so many women in a region that has a high rate of domestic violence.

"HomePlace is one of the most incredible ministries I have ever seen," Hancock said. "When these mothers find their true worth in a relationship with Jesus, everything changes for them. They have a new sense of purpose and direction. They are determined to make a better life for themselves and their children. They know that with the Lord's help, they can break the cycles of dependency and poverty that have controlled their lives. They know that they have a future and a hope in Christ. We are just so grateful that the Lord has allowed us to be a part of this life-changing work."

HomePlace provides homeless women and their children a place to stay for six to 12 months at no cost to the residents, and their stay can be extended. More than 300 women and their children have participated in the program since its inception.

While there, the women may work toward their high school equivalency and receive life and employment skills training through the Christian Women Job Corps. More than 80 percent of the women who have participated in HomePlace have successfully earned a degree and completed necessary training to land a job outside the campus.



Angling for souls at Toledo Bend

By Holly Jo Linzay
Regional Reporter

ZWOLLE, -- Mary Gore fishes at the Toledo Bend Reservoir in Zwolle everyday, but she is not your typical angler.

"I would starve to death if I had to fish for my supper, even here on this great reservoir," said Gore, lake missionary and director of the Toledo Bend Baptist Resort Ministry.

Instead of trying to land a trophy largemouth bass for which the 185,000 acre body of water is famous, she casts for souls among the thousands of outdoor enthusiasts who visit each year.

For 26 years, Gore and her staff, augmented by hundreds of volunteers have been "fishers of men" while sharing the Gospel at the numerous campgrounds, pavilions, boat landings and bait and tackle shops along the Louisiana shoreline.

"My gift is I can talk to people, and I can tell them about the greatest fisherman who ever lived, Jesus Christ. I can tell them how Jesus loves them, and how he changed the world with a handful of fishermen and that He still cares about fishermen today."

Memorial Day weekend, Gore and her volunteers were hard at work passing out hundreds of fliers to invite campers and fishermen to a Sunday morning worship service at four different campsites.

"Three people professed faith in Jesus Christ," Gore said.

Last summer, 4 to 5 mission teams came to help, bringing about 30 volunteers a month to assist with outreach and ministry at two state parks and two Sabine River Authority parks, praying and ministering at four major campsites and dozens of smaller recreation areas, daily. The ministry also gave away more than 4,000 Bibles covered in camouflage or with other outdoor themes.

Brian Blackwell photo

Mary Gore, lake missionary and director of the Toldeo Bend Baptist Resort Ministry, has led her staff and volunteers to be "fishers of men" at campgrounds, pavilions, boat landinigs and bait and tackle shops along the Louisaina shoreline. Gore has served as director of the ministry for 26 years.

This summer, the resort ministry has a full calendar of events in addition to campground visits, Gore said, and she still is in need of volunteers:

-- The "Fun in the Son Club" day camp for kids resembles an extended VBS with Bible lessons, music, snacks, crafts and recreation. The ministry will provide refreshments, but church mission teams will need to supply pups, music, crafts and face-painting supplies, etc.

-- A recreation trailer ministry will feature a bounce house, wet/dry slide and the crafting of balloon animals.

-- Backyard Bible clubs will be conducted in the mornings at several campground sites and an outdoor movie night is planned for the resort area, along with outside activities for children.

Gore said she, her mission teams and staff must go where the people are,

See **ANGLING,** page **9**

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Pastor pedals for children, God

By Holly Jo Linzay
Regional Reporter

RINGGOLD (LBM) – Marvin Leleux has a passion -- to pedal with purpose.

Leleux, the pastor of Springhill Baptist Church in the Ringgold community, most recently rode his custom-designed bike in the June 15 St. Jude Big River Ride in downtown Memphis to help raise funds for the children's research hospital.

"So far, I have raised about $5,000 for this race," Leleux said about the pledges and donations he has collected to date for the upcoming 60-mile bicycle course.

He rides his composite carbon fiber Trek Domane SL6 Pro bicycle for philanthropic reasons, but Leleux believes he is a disciple, too, actively looking for "God moments" with others along his cycling route.

As a cyclist, Leleux has an opportunity to make a connection with people who "normally would not talk to a pastor."

"God rides along with me. He puts me in touch with people who do not go to church and who do not know Him. I get a chance to share the Lord with people from all walks of life and even from all different types of faith and denominations," Leleux noted.

"I get asked questions all the time. I cross paths with these people, and they don't feel badgered or judged. This is what I call intentional relationship evangelism. I meet the people in the world where they exist," Leleux said adding that the bike marathons have led to many ministerial opportunities.

Recently, he completed a bike marathon for the Children's Miracle Network tour.

But at the start of the ride, in front of several hundred riders and enthusiasts, he was given a special request.

"As a participant, I was asked to pray, and I got to pray in Jesus' name. I love to tell people about Jesus," Leleux said.

He was not always a marathon bicycling enthusiast, but he grew up liking to ride. Over time, he stopped cycling altogether. But a health crisis four years ago made Leleux realize he needed to start some type of exercise again.

"I was severely overweight and not doing well with my health. I'm 5-foot-6- inches tall and I weighed almost 250 pounds. I had to get back into shape to do ministry, so I started out walking," Leleux recounted, who at that time was serving as a pastor in Many.

Then his brother-in-law asked him to run in a race with him to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Using the app "C25K" on his phone, which stands for "couch to 5 K running," Leleux said he started preparing for the event run.

"I was soon jogging, and I ran my first 5K for a little girl who was very ill. I raised $5,000 for her," Leleux said, adding that he ran several other 5K races for the children's hospital.

But in 2017, he decided to pursue his passion for bicycling again. His first bike was an aluminum

See **CYCLING,** page **14**

Pastor Marvin Leleux's passion for cycling has given him an outlet to share the Gospel and raise money for charities. Leleux is pastor of Springhill Baptist Church in Ringgold.

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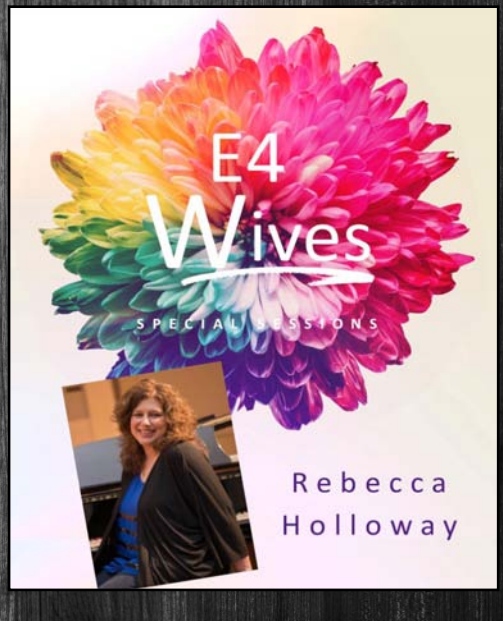

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Louisiana Baptist camps 'make the (up)grade'

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA – Louisiana Baptist camps throughout the state are experiencing spiritual and numerical growth and making major facility improvements.

"We have new decisions every week during the summer, and we have so many churches calling that many times our rooms fill up to capacity," Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center Director Josh Bumgardner told the Baptist Message.

The spiritual growth is causing numerical growth which in turn is driving facility growth, he said.

Bumgardner said renovations on his 123-acre Woodworth campus include: new signage throughout the property; repurposing a conference facility into a new dorm; giving a facelift to showers, floors and décor in one cabin; and, plans to repurpose at least one more building into a dorm while giving updates to other living spaces.

"Growth is happening in every direction, not just at my camp but all across the state. It is exciting because churches are bringing their students to hear the Gospel," he said.

ACADIAN BAPTIST CENTER

"ABC is hosting 11 weeks of camp this summer with more than 4,000 expected to be in attendance," Director James Newsom said. "Campers and counselors are excited about seeing construction on the new worship center. The slab has been poured and the building will be going up soon anticipating completion in time to use next summer."

The much-needed 18,000-sq.-ft. facility will give the camp a dedicated space for worship, Newsom said. Currently, campers worship in the gymnasium, which he said is not ideal.

More than $2.4 million has been raised in gifts and pledges. Additionally, the camp has signed up volunteers to augment the work performed by professional crews, he added.

More than 1,000 people are expected to enjoy endless summers of worship at the camp, located in Eunice, once the new worship facility is completed in April 2020.

DRY CREEK BAPTIST CAMP

DCBC staff have instilled a bit of nostalgia for campers on its grounds.

Todd Burnaman, DCBC director, said an 8-acre man-made lake was finished before the start of the current camp season.

"Kids are out canoeing and just having a good time," Burnaman said. "While we were seeking and praying for what God wanted us to do with 45 acres of land we purchased four years ago, we thought about the two biggest memories of camp for all of us, which were campfires and a lake. We now get to pass along those memories to the younger generation who we hope will attach it to the life-changing message of the Gospel they learned here at Dry Creek."

The addition of a lake is part of a long-range vision plan that includes construction of new cabins, a chapel and a farm.

CAMP HARRIS

"We thrive off Psalm 46:10," Shawn Kaffka, the camp director, said. "That's our prayer when everyone comes to this camp. We want everyone to know Him and leave here realizing they got in touch with Him."

Since Kaffka arrived on Harris Baptist Conference and Retreat Center in Minden in April 2018, he has coordinated multiple upgrades inside the gymnasium, installing LED lights, renovating the boys' rest room and adding a wall to separate one large classroom into two smaller ones.

"I give God all the glory," he said. "This is God's camp and we're just trying to help everyone know Him.

RICHLAND BAPTIST CAMP

Richland Baptist Encampment in Alto is sprucing up its campgrounds, one cabin at a time.

Rhonda and Tom Hendrix serve as caretakers while the camp searches for a director. In the meantime, she said, churches are donating money and supplying volunteers to remodel each of the camp's four cabins.

Alto Baptist Church donated funds for remodeling the first cabin, with volunteers from area churches offering to install new windows, update bathrooms, replace wiring and paint walls.

Work on the remaining three cabins will begin as funds become available, she said.

"We are excited about building the camp back up and getting additional churches from Richland Baptist Association involved," Hendrix said. "It's encouraging to see so many churches willing to come out and help improve our camp."

CAMP LIVING WATERS

Since December, volunteers have rebuilt a maintenance building previously destroyed by a fire in April 2018; and, they recently completed a two-room cottage at Camp Living Waters in Loranger.

Scott Mercer, CLW director, said the future is bright, with construction underway on a bunkhouse that will accommodate 24 people. In the near future work will begin on a dining hall, contingent on raising the finances.

"Once we get a dining hall it will transform our camp altogether," Mercer said. "Right now our meals are eaten in a non-air conditioned gym. This will open us up to more adult groups because it will provide a nice environment to enjoy meals for up to 250 people and have meetings for as many as 500."

Clara Springs

Clara Springs Baptist Encampment in Pelican does not have a major construction project underway; however, its director is helping to build

See **CAMPS**, page **11**

Renewed from page 3

nity presented itself when Lane Corley, church planting strategist for Louisiana Baptists, told him there was a great need for a multi-ethnic church in Baton Rouge.

"I went home and shared this with Nicole and her response was 'Why not you?'"

For several weeks the couple drove around Baton Rouge praying for wisdom, direction and confirmation. "The Lord made it clear and gave us a heart for the city," said Williams.

"We didn't know what to call the church," he said, "we wanted the name of the church to have some meaning and not simply come across as hip or cool. God brought me to Romans 12:2 where Paul challenged those early believers to be transformed by the 'renewing' of their minds. At the same time Nicole had written down and crossed out several names in her journal. When she showed me the one she circled, 'renewed,' we knew what God wanted to call this new work."

From weekly vision meetings and a formal launch in south Baton Rouge to a move across town to the gym of Florida Boulevard Baptist Church in mid-2018, the Lord has greatly blessed Renew Church.

"We've grown from about 30 to as many as 90 in attendance and we've already baptized eight people!" Williams exclaimed.

To learn more regarding the Renew Church story and the impact of your Georgia Barnette gifts, check out Day 6 in the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering Prayer Guide and the video feature, "A Renewed Vision" on the Georgia Barnette DVD, both of which have been mailed to every church. The guide and the video are also available online at GeorgiaBarnette.org.

Angling from page 6

which is not necessarily confined to the four walls of a church. Still, the ministry will help with area church revivals and a church VBS this summer.

"Jesus went out with the fishermen; He preached on the seashore; He preached from a boat; He went to the marketplace; and, He preached up on the side of the mountain," Gore said. "We are following Jesus' example to reach people."

Her ministry teams go to the marina, residential areas surrounding the lake and nearby housing projects.

"Sometimes my biggest challenge is finding the right people to go to the right place or finding the right group of volunteers at the right time. Sometimes we may only have a skeleton crew, but we don't want to ever miss any opportunity to share Jesus," Gore added.

Gore added that in the fall, the ministry sets up booths at several local festivals and fairs.

The ministry sponsors fishing tournaments and started a children's fishing derby as an outreach tool.

"Folks who will not enter a church building will often attend an outdoor event at the lake," Gore said, "and that gives us an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus with them.

The resort ministry, which is supported by churches in the District 8 Baptist Associatioon (DeSoto, Natchitoches, North Sabine, Red River and Sabine), has made quite an impact on the surrounding community and the numerous people who flock to Toledo Bend every day. It has even made an impact on the volunteers.

"Some make professions of faith, and we have had volunteers who have helped and then gone into full-time ministry. Some students have come here to start out in ministry, and realize God could really use them," Gore said.

Whether it is a block party, a bass fishing tournament, a local fair or special outdoor program, Gore, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is fully invested to "get the attention of the lost."

"My passion is to share the Lord with people," she said, "whatever it takes."

Brian Blackwell photo

Sharing the Gospel at fishing tournaments, Vacation Bible School, fall festivals and housing projects has kept Mary Gore busy for 26 years as director of Toledo Bend Baptist Resort Ministry.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: *Do you have a Revival, Homecoming, a new pastor, a community outreach or a concert? The Baptist Message would love to share your church news with the rest of the state. It is very easy to do, just send in your information (who, what, where and when) to philip@baptistmessage.com or call 318.449.4345. To get your event in the paper, please submit your information three weeks prior to the event.*

ON THE MOVE

■ **Arron (wife Ashley) McGuffee** is the new senior pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, Natchitoches.

■ **Paul DeRousse** is retiring from Emmanuel Baptist Church, Shreveport. He has served the church as Minister of Music and Senior Adults then Associate Pastor and Senior Adults for the last 20 years.

HOMECOMING

■ Second Baptist Church, Jackson: **60th Homecoming,** September 15, 10 a.m. Pastor: Clark Fooshee.

■ New Zion Baptist Church, Kentwood: **150th Homecoming Celebration**, September 15, 10:30 a.m. A covered dish meal will follow the worship service. Speaker: Gibbie McMillan. Special Music: Jimmy Falker. Pastor: Larry Blades.

REVIVAL

■ Palestine Baptist Church, Columbia: **Revival**, September 1-4. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist.** Pastor: Hudey Beaubouef.

■ First Baptist Church, Dubach: **Revival**, September 1-4. Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor: Cory Bruce.

■ Oak Grove Baptist Church, Rhinehart: **Revival,** September 8-11. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, chalk artist.**

■ First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Second Half Challenge Adult Revival (Seniors 50+),** September 9-11, noon. Speaker: **Dennis Trull, pastor at First Baptist Church, McKenzie, Tennessee.** A light lunch will be available for $3 and Trull will share from 12:15-12:45 each day. Also, he will lead everyone (all ages) on Wednesday night worship. Pastor: Chris Craig.

LAGNIAPPE

■ Louisiana College, Pineville: **In the Name – Tour 2019,** August 29, 7 p.m. T**win sisters Kellie and Kristen Fuselier will release their new CD at this concert.** Cost: $12 (pre-sale), $15 (at the door). Tickets by Eventbrite.

■ Moreauville Community Church, Moreauville: **Building dedication weekend,** August 30-September 1. Friday, August 30, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Randy Ray, President of Kingdom Builders.** Finger foods will follow. Saturday, August 31, 6 p.m., **Wild Game Feast.** Speaker: **Robert Dukes.** Bring your favorite 'wild game' dish and join us for a time of food and fellowship. On Sunday, September 1, 5 p.m. Speaker: **Paul Dailey's Wild Horse Ministries.** Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Everyone is invited and is open to the community. Any questions please contact Pastor Brent Nation at 318.451.0473. Pastor: Brent Nation.

■ First Baptist Church, Rayville: **This Hope in Concert,** September 8, 9 a.m. Pastor: Eddie Wren.

■ Delacroix Hope Baptist Church, St. Bernard: **Back-2-School Sunday,** September 8 11 a.m. Join us for a special worship service recognizing teachers, parents, and students. There will be gifts, door prizes, and lunch following the service. It's free but space is limited, please RSVP Debbie Smith at 504.400.4095. Pastor: Paul Hussey.

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@ First Business Leader Luncheon**, September 9, noon. Speaker: **Jeff Powell, Rapides Parish School Board Superintendent.** Cost: $10 (lunch catered by Southern Creations) and open to the business community. Please RSVP by 8 a.m. on September 9 to Lori Pruitt at lpruitt@fbcpineville.net. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

■ N**orthwest Louisiana Baptist Association: 37th Annual Men's Fish Fry,** September 9, 5:30 p.m. at Bethany Camp & Conference Center. Cost: $10. Director of Missions: Lane Moore.

■ Florida Boulevard Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: **Church Security & Awareness Training** September 10, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Speaker: **Barry Young from Strategos**. To register, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/1-day-intruder-awareness-and-response-for-church-personnel-baton-rouge-la-registration-64423782267. Limited seats are available. Pastor: Chuck Lowman.

■ Calvary Baptist Church, Homer: **Summer Gospel Celebration,** September 11, 6 p.m. Special Music: **Back Forty Band in concert** followed by a bonfire and s'mores. Pastor: Steve Beard.

■ **SAFE Planning** is holding a **free public workshop** at Broadmoor Branch Library in Shreveport, September 12, 10 a.m. - noon. The workshop will present information on Estate Rescue. SAFE routinely helps families already paying thousands every month for someone in a nursing home to save 65-100 percent of their estate. Reserve seats easily online at //safeplanningseminars.net/event or call 318.869.3133.

■ North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: Passion Music in concert, September 13, 7 p.m. Pastor: Bill Dye.

■ Flactor Baptist Church, Leesville: Paul's Journey in concert, September 13, 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Huey Haymon.

■ Louisiana College, Pineville: **Big Daddy Weave - The Alive Tour**, September 15, 7 p.m. at Guinn Auditorium. Tickets can be purchase online at transparentproductions.com. Worship: **Big Daddy Weave, Jonathan Chu, Becca Bradley, cello, violin.**

■ Greenwell Springs Baptist Church, Greenwell Springs: **Big Daddy Weave - The Alive Tour,** September 16, 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchase online at transparentproductions.com. Worship: **Big Daddy Weave, Jonathan Chu, Becca Bradley, cello, violin.** Pastor: Brian Robertson.

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Camps from page 8

the faith of his summer camp staff.

Director Bubba Mills and his wife Mandi lead their staff through Bible studies, each year, as preparation for leading hundreds of young people who attend the camps at Clara Springs. This year, the staff participated in a study on the Baptist Faith and Message to learn more about the faith of Southern Baptists.

"We love to pour into our summer staff," Mills said. "My wife and I both feel that the staffers need ministering to, just as much as the campers. We have seen many of our students later join together in Bible studies to grow deeper in their walk with Christ because of their desire to seek God and please Him."

When received, information about Louisiana Baptists' remaining camps will be added later at baptistmessage.com.

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.

lis nqln jvwc l kqzps nqwg qlbn xiwai nqr qwpm

bkvzhngvrb, aqzkq lvr lepr nw clxr nqrr azbr ginw

blptlnzwi nqvwgyq jlznq aqzkq zb zi kqvzbn drbgb.

brkwis nzcwnqm nqvrr:jzjnrri

Clues:
Q = H; R = E

Answer to August 15 Scripture Crypto:
Matthew three: four

Planned Parenthood chooses abortion over women's health

By Will Hall
Message Executive Editor

WASHINGTON – Planned Parenthood announced it would forego as much as $60 million by not participating in the Title X program, which provides funding for such things as cancer screenings, because of a Trump adminstration rule that the grants cannot be used by a clinic that offers abortions or makes referrals for abortions even if it provides other women's health care services.

In essence, Planned Parenthood had to choose between the $60 million in federal grants for women's healthcare or the more lucrative abortion business it conducts.

The Guttmacher Institute, Planned Parenthood's research arm, reported that an abortion, whether surgical or chemical, cost about $500 last year in Planned Parenthood clinics across the United States. That means Planned Parenthood, which performed nearly 333,000 abortions last year, made in the neighborhood of $166 million from abortions, or $106 million more than it would receive this year in women's healthcare funding under the federal government's Title X program.

Planned Parenthood also receives Medicaid funds, which last year totaled an estimated $500 million for the group. In total, the nation's largest abortion provider had revenues from all sources of $1.5 billion.

CULTURAL NEWS

GALLUP: 40 percent of Americans believe in creationism

WASHINGTON – Gallup reported this summer that 40 percent of U.S. adults professed to hold a creationist view of human origins, remaining within the range of 38-47 percent that has benchmarked this response during the 37-year history of the poll.

Participants were asked specifically if they believed "God created human beings pretty much in their present form within the last 10,000 years or so."

Meanwhile another 33 percent of respondents said they believed humans developed "over millions of years ... but God guided this process."

Only 22 percent of Americans shared a view that "God had no part in" the development of humans.

However, this is the highest number to make this response in the history of the poll. Gallup related this increase to the rise in the country of the number of religiously-unaffiliated persons which also amounts to about 22 percent of the population.

Goliath's giant hometown discovered

TELL ES-SAFI, Israel – After digging at a site in southern Israel for more than two decades, archeologists have discovered unusually large stone fortifications and walls twice as thick as other cities in the area, proving that Gath was a major regional power consistent with the biblical account.

Gath is the birthplace of Goliath, the Philistine giant who terrorized the army of Israel but was killed by the slingshot of a young David.

While the massive gate and the monumental structures of the city are impressive in size, convincing visitors the city must have been built by giants, the lead archeologist disagrees.

Prof. Aren Maeir of Barllan University, who has been digging in the area for 23 years, previously uncovered the 10th century B.C. ruins of Gath before finding the new site, dated to the 11th century B.C., just a meter deeper.

He told the Jerusalem Post that people are prone to conclude "this must have been done by giants of the past." But he dismissed the suggestion that giants existed, saying "There are no skeletons of people who are taller than NBA centers."

Meanwhile, BreakingIsraelNews.com reported Maier previously discovered, 2006, a Philistine inscription with two names. One, written with Semitic letters, is the equivalent of the Philistine name, "Goliath," which Maier insists could not be referring to an actual historical person.

Instead, in a report about the find, he said it demonstrated that the name "Goliath" was probably in circulation in Gath, according to the Bible's chronology, about a century or so after the legendary battle between David and Goliath.

Ralph Abraham disputes Edwards' transgender stance

BATON ROUGE – U.S. Congressman Ralph Abraham has released a campaign ad titled, "The Truth," in which he rejects Gov. John Bel Edwards's efforts to establish special rights for people who claim a transgender or a gender fluid sexual identity.

"As a doctor, I can assure you there are only two genders," Abraham said.

The reference is to Edwards's executive order that mandated state government contractors must accommodate employees who identify as something other than their actual biological sex. Transgenderism and gender fluidity are not recognized by federal law as protected classes, and Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry filed a lawsuit to prevent enforcement of Edwards's edict.

Ultimately, the state Supreme Court ruled Edwards's mandate as unconstitutional.

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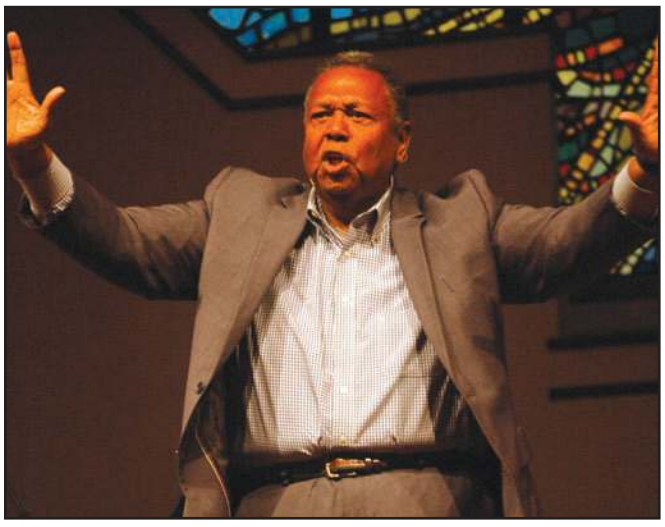
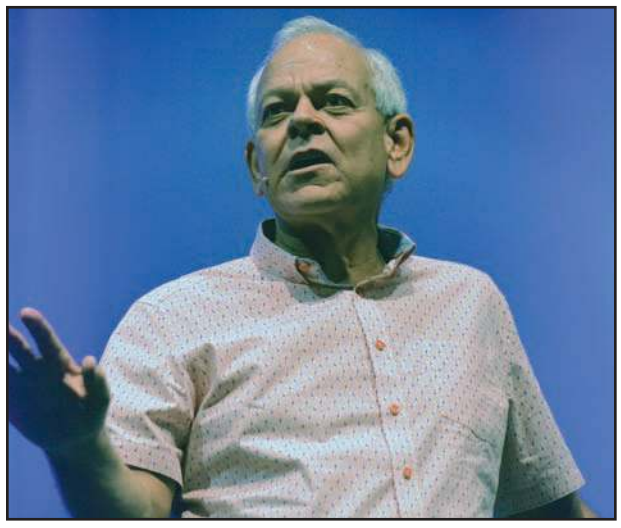
- *Do you know how preserving assets can better* ***assure a patient's quality of care*** *and quality of life?*
- ***Is a loved one already in a nursing home or receiving care?*** *Find out why it may not be too late to save their estate!*





Message photos

Two simultaneously held ReGroup training conferences for Sunday school leaders drew a combined 972 participants, August 17. Ken Weathersby (top left), vice president for convention advancement with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, was the main speaker for the ReGroup South Conference at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles and Johnny Hunt (top right), senior vice president of evangelism and leadership at the North American Mission Board, was the keynote speaker for the ReGroup North Conference at the First Baptist Church in Haughton. The Jason Lovins Band (top center) and Adam and Julie West led music, respectively, at ReGroup North and South. A full article can be found at baptistmessage.com.

It all began with the stark reality that you need more space. On a sleepless night, you binge-watch HGTV and you see the allure of open-concept living complete with shiplap, marble countertops, and lots more room. Suddenly, you remember a term your dad talked about, "Sweat Equity!" It came like a sudden eureka! *"I can self-contract and build my dream house!"* All you need to do is watch some DIY videos on YouTube, invest a little good old-fashioned sweat equity and voila – you're doing a live broadcast with Chip and Joanna Gaines on the front lawn of your new home. However, you soon discover it takes more than a little sweat equity - it takes barrels of it. And there's no way to avoid it - no sweat equity - no dream house.

Jesus tells us the harvest is plentiful but the laborers – not so much. By definition labor implies sweat equity. It will take effort, lots of effort, to gather the promised harvest. We have to understand that we will never gather the harvest Jesus has prepared unless we're willing to invest some sweat equity. *No sweat equity - no harvest*.

Without question our numbers are down. Most, if not all, of the major indicators tell us we have fewer people in worship. Fewer people in Sunday School and small groups. Fewer people being baptized. However, the issue is not the people who are not coming – it's the lack of people who are going.

WHY IS SWEAT EQUITY SO IMPORTANT?

1. **Sweat equity indicates value.** When you believe that something or someone has value, you're willing to invest your time and effort to secure them. Your sweat equity tells them they are important.

2. **Sweat equity requires desire.** The old sports adage says "you have to want it." We talk about the harvest. We study the harvest. We gaze at the harvest. But do we really want it?

3. **Sweat equity yields an exciting reward.** All of the prayers, all of the effort is worth it when the harvest responds to God's gift of grace! The angels celebrate. Hearts are changed. Families restored. The pews begin to fill up with new people. It's rewarding to those who go as well as those who come.

In February 2019, Louisiana Baptists launched a state-wide effort to seed God's truth inside every heart and every home almost every day. Literally hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens have had a seed of God's truth sown in their hearts through *Here for You*, Louisiana Baptists multi-media evangelism strategy. Scripture-based commercials have aired during the Super Bowl, the Final Four and on broadcast TV. Social media and our partnership with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's Internet Evangelism strategy are engaging people on their smart phones, tablets and computers. Billboards dot the landscape of some of our smaller cities and rural areas letting people know Louisiana Baptists are *"Here for You."*

Only one question remains, are we willing to invest the sweat equity required to gather the harvest these efforts can generate? *God will not waste His Word so let's not waste this opportunity*.

Visit **HereforYou.org** and share your favorite commercial with your "ONE" and others via your social media platforms. Discover how your church can connect with Here for You by visiting **LouisianaBaptists.org/hereforyou** and entering the password, luke1432. There you'll find specific ways, ideas, and resources you can use to help your community make the connection with your church and ultimately, the Gospel.

The harvest is waiting - just as Jesus promised - for those willing to invest the sweat equity to bring them in. *Who's up for a little perspiration?*

Marvin Leleux used his bicycle for philanthropic reasons, but also because he has looked for ways to share the Good News of Christ.

Cycling from page 7

chassis Domane AL3, which he now calls his "knock about bike."

"I hate running, but I love cycling. I wanted a hybrid ride and so had a road bike designed for me," Leleux recalled, adding that he was hooked up to a computer for three hours for the tailor-made bicycle.

He created a website page for donations and rode 68 miles in 4 1/2 hours in Memphis for St. Jude's.

"I raised more than $2,000 with my first ride in Memphis," Leleux said.

He joined the Shreveport Bicycle Club, and the members have been a good support group for his cycling efforts, Leleux noted.

"I rode 64 miles in a little more than four hours for the Children's Miracle Network in Shreveport, and there were a lot of hills," he said.

Last year, he had trained for the "rite of passage" 100-mile ride in Memphis, but two weeks before the event, it was cancelled.

"I'm 59 years old. Last year at 58, I had to do a lot of training to prepare for that ride. I rode 900 miles to prepare for that 100-mile ride," Leleux recalled, but since he was working through an injury, he was relieved in a way that the ride had been cancelled.

This year he has logged about 800 miles in preparation for the July ride in Memphis. Setting his alarm clock for 6 a.m., Leleux rides his bike for about 2-3 hours every day, with special motivation.

He is riding in memory of Coleson Shaw, who passed away at the age of 16 after battling cancer for years. The boy was the grandson of one of his deacons, Larry Shaw.

"I was there with Coleson when he drew his last breath. Riding for St. Jude has become very personal to me. Coleson touched my heart like few people have," Leleux said.

Lately, Leleux has not limited his "wheel power" to bicycling, although that is his passion. He recently raced a four-wheeler with his son-in-law in Texas at a Monster Truck Show. Even at that event, the Lord opened doors for him to minister.

"They found out I was a pastor and asked me to offer the opening prayer. There were about 3,500 people there," Leleux said.

He said everyone should be involved in something where the Gospel of Christ can be shared.

"We need to have relevance with our community. We all need to be doing Christianity authentically. We are not of this world, but we are in this world, and we all need something out there that we can latch onto and be authentic about," Leleux said.

Teens from page 4

ticular belief at all.

Nevertheless, the results indicate Louisiana Baptist students at our camps overwhelmingly believe that it is not wrong to share their faith, genuinely and compassionately, with lost friends, inviting them to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord.

There were some other positive findings from our survey, too.

Nearly 70 percent of the teens at our camps said they know how to share their faith with a Bible or a tract -- only slightly smaller than the response the Barna Group received, but our question was more narrowly worded.

The Barna Group questionnaire did not ask anything similar to our final two questions, but the results are still important to assessing the state of evangelism among Louisiana Baptist teens: 57 percent answered "yes" to the question: "I have shared the Gospel with a friend this past year"; and, 35 percent responded likewise to: "I have led someone to faith in Christ."

IDEAS INTO ACTION

What is my takeaway from our findings?

First, do not buy into the idea that Louisiana Baptist teens think it is wrong to share a clear Gospel message in a genuine and compassionate way. What may be true for teens in other areas of the country is not true about Louisiana Baptist teens.

Second, keep equipping your youth, and your congregation as a whole, to share the Gospel. You must be doing a good job already, given the large number of teens who said they know how to share the Gospel with a Bible or a tract. But build on that success. Teach different methods so that your people can find a tool they are comfortable using. Use a schedule that offers how to learn one tool in the spring and another tool in the fall. Also, for your teens, take advantage of our annual Youth Evangelism Celebration and our camps, where we train students in different ways to share their faith every time they attend.

Third, create opportunities for your congregation to be faithful in sharing the Gospel. Use regular events at church or in the community, or schedule special evangelistic events, to call your trained teens and adults to practice what they have learned. Go to jails, shelters, rehab centers, nursing homes, or mission trips in order to give multiple opportunities to them to practice sharing their faith. They will become comfortable and more likely to share the Gospel during unstructured situations with friends or neighbors after experiencing some structured opportunities to witness to others.

Fourth, pastors, staff, and leaders, set the example in evangelism. Moreover, share about your personal experiences of witnessing from the pulpit and in the classroom. Let your church members know it does not take a spiritual giant to faithfully share. Tell them about the good and bad -- instances when you missed an opportunity and you wished you could go back and do differently; and, times when others repented and declared Jesus as Savior and Lord. This encourages members and emboldens teens and adults alike to share their faith more often.

Finally, build community within the church. If a teen or an adult is an active part of a local body of believers, he or she will carry that faith to the world. Bring your children and youth to camps. Engage all age groups in service in the life of the church, their community, and the world. Allow people to serve w hile they grow. It is one thing to learn about principles of Christianity. It is quite another to put them into practice.

Louisiana Baptists have solutions, not just problems. We know what to do.

We can become better at carrying out the Great Commission by encouraging one another toward love and good works.

Our teens have pointed the way.

Let's follow the example of these Gen Z's and share the Good News about Jesus to our state and the world

Brian Blackwell photo

The annual Youth Evangelism Celebration has energized thousands of Louisiana Baptist students to share the Gospel.

Skills from page 2

and cut off the ear of one of the arresting party; and,

-- Judas's reward of thirty pieces of silver was much more important to him than being a change agent for the Kingdom of God (But after he possessed the coins, they meant little to him.).

Even in the Garden of Gethsemane the whole group lacked enough intrinsic motivation to overcome the physical draw of sleep – even despite the urging of the Master!

But after the resurrection, the disciples were different. The transition from external reward to inner satisfaction was evident in how they behaved differently.

They no longer had to be instructed and corrected. The motivation was internal and proactive. They behaved as if they "owned" the work they were doing and gave their greatest efforts. Pleasing the Lord was their obvious motivation.

The rest is history ... and eternity.

LEARNING TO BE INTRINSICALLY MOTIVATED IS EXPERIENTIAL.

Take on projects for the sake of servanthood, or for the experience of growing, or as a tribute to express your love for the Lord Jesus.

Cultivate a personal satisfaction of doing something ... without anyone else knowing about it: Over time you will work harder; handle larger workloads; manage people, programs and budgets better; and, build your character. You will discover that you now strive for excellence.

Just know this, if power, attention, money, or, trying to get a better church is your motivation, your success will be as superficial as the motive.

Do things driven by a desire to please the Lord Jesus and your ministry will thrive!

LOUISIANA COLLEGE
PREPARING GRADUATES ◆ TRANSFORMING LIVES

We invite you to be our honored guest for the

FALL 2019 INAUGURAL CHAPEL

on August 22 at 11:00 am in Guinn Auditorium

Reception following in Martin Performing Arts Center

RSVP by August 20 at 318.487.7401 or email president@lacollege.edu

Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries

2019 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

LOUISIANA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME & FAMILY MINISTRIES Provided Christ-centered services for over 4,000 children, families, and individuals. Over 90 children and others experienced the joy of salvation in Christ!

RESIDENTIAL CHILD & FAMILY CARE Served 327 children and 33 mothers through residential ministries.

COMPASSION FOR KIDS Served over 1,600 economically-challenged children and families in the Monroe/West Monroe area with life essentials and the message of Christ.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS Provided 65 women with educational and job skills training and became a WorldCrafts partner with the WMU.

GRANBERRY COUNSELING CENTERS Provided professional Christian counseling for 1,044 clients through 12 state-wide locations. Provided 64 Louisiana Baptist minister families with counseling in partnership with the LBC Pastoral Leadership Team.

CONNECT 1:27 FOSTER & ADOPTION MINISTRIES Provided state-wide training for 128 foster families.

ORPHANS EMBRACE – LOUISIANA REACH HAITI Fifty-four Louisiana Baptist mission volunteers served over 716 children and families in Haiti and construction continued on a children's village and school there.

Thank you Louisiana Baptists for answering God's call to care for children and families in need through the ministries of your Children's Home!

Our Goal: Christian Foster Homes for 200 Children by 2020! Contact One of Our Specialists Today!

Margie Nielsen
Monroe Area
318.343.2244, margie@lbch.org

Kelli Roberts
Alexandria Area
318.229.7238, kroberts@lbch.org

Marissa Fuller
Baton Rouge Area
618.520.2979, marissa@lbch.org

Kerri Byrd
Shreveport Area
318.372.9021, kerri@lbch.org

Christy Goodwin
Shreveport Area
318.458.2227, christy@lbch.org

Called to Be a Foster Parent?

Complete Your Pre-Serve Training in 2 Weekends!

October 5 & 6, 12 & 13

Trinity Baptist Church • Lake Charles

1800 Country Club Road, Lake Charles, LA
(Oct. 5 & 12, 8:30am-5:30pm - Oct. 6 & 13, 1:30pm-5:30pm)

All participants must register at www.connect127.org and must have completed an orientation before attending.

www.lbch.org

Upcoming Orientation Date:

LBCH: Sept. 23, 6:00 pm

Trinity Baptist Church
1800 Country Club Rd., Lake Charles

Register at www.connect127.org