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for the Lord. Bring  
others to Christ  
...”

– 2 Timothy 4:5 (TLB)

# M BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

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Volume 133 • Issue No. 12

www.baptistmessage.com

June 14, 2018

## Atheist finds Refuge, peace with Christ

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS – Atheist Dezmond Boudreaux made it clear to Refuge Church Pastor Justin Haynes he wanted nothing to do with Christianity when the two met in January.

Bitter from past church experiences as a child, Boudreaux eventually became an atheist as a young adult and helped start a Marxist group in New Orleans he hoped would help silence Christianity.

However, Christian love displayed by Haynes and other members of the church caused a change of heart in Boudreaux, who on April 1 became the first new convert of Refuge Church.

Surrounded by Haynes and about 15 others inside the New Orleans Healing Center auditorium April 8, Boudreaux plunged beneath the baptistery waters to publicly display his newfound faith.

“The group I was with hated churches and Christianity,” Boudreaux said. “Once I got into it, I realized there was no peace in what I was pursuing. That’s when I met Justin and found Christ.”

“The whole time I was searching for peace and truth, but could never find it,” he said.

“Whenever I found Christ, that’s when I truly found what I was looking for.”

The baptism was affirmation for Haynes that his congregation’s labor was not in vain.

“It was awesome because we had shared the Gospel with so many people and he was the first one to accept,” Haynes said. “To have him come to Christ and be very sincere about it was a very encouraging thing. It was a person who was dead and came to life.”

“  
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and found Christ.  
”

Dezmond Boudreaux  
New Believer in Christ

### GOD-SIZED TASK

After graduating from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2015, Haynes felt led to plant a church in the city. Haynes began Refuge Church in the heavily post-Christian, artsy and eclectic Bywater-Marigny community of New Orleans.

The first two-and-a-half years were difficult and discouraging at times for Haynes and his members.

Despite sharing the Gospel with more than 400 people in coffee shops, in neighborhoods and at events, this congregation that averages 20-25 for its Sunday morning worship service saw no converts to Christianity.

“There’s not any low hanging fruit we

See REFUGE on 3



Submitted photo

Justin Haynes and Dezmond Boudreaux celebrate a new life in Christ. Boudreaux (right), a former atheist, converted to Christianity April 1. He was baptized the following Sunday at Refuge Church in New Orleans, where Haynes serves as pastor.

Belle River Pastor Ronnie Mabile, winner of the 2017 Exemplary Bi-vocational Pastor of the Year for the South region, holds a child in Uganda that fell ill. The child made a complete recovery and her mother joined a local village church in 2017.



## Belle River a pretty picture of church revitalization

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

PIERRE PART – When Ronnie Mabile stepped into the pulpit for his first Sunday as pastor, Belle River Baptist Church in Pierre Part was a bleak view of its once-thriving past.

Attendance had dwindled from 70 in the early 1990s, according to church records, to just 12 members the Sunday after Thanksgiving 2015, and, financial difficulties threatened

the survival of the church.

Ignoring the advice of others to turn down the call by the depleted congregation, Mabile followed the Holy Spirit’s lead, reaping the Lord’s blessings when the church experienced a significant revival.

“God put on my heart to meet everyone who had once attended but fell off the books as the years passed,” said Mabile, winner of the

See MABILE on 4

# 'Refuge' more than a place of safety at FBC Broussard

BY HOLLY JO LINZAY  
Regional Reporter

BROUSSARD (LBM) – Youth at First Baptist Church of Broussard witnessed first-hand the power of prayer after a devastating flood ravaged their church and shut down their Lighthouse youth hall.

“We were never challenged to pray this big before. We asked the youth to pray and be faithful,” Adam Whitney, associate pastor of student education, said about the extensive damages caused by the flood waters and the lack of funding for repairs.

In August 2016, the community of Broussard was struck with tragedy as rains and floodwaters damaged numerous homes and businesses as well as FBC Broussard’s sanctuary, education building and student building.

“It was the weekend we



Youth and adult leaders stand outside the Refuge, which serves as a ministry hub for students. Their adopted verse is Psalm 34:8.

were having our revival. The flooding was a hard blow that took the wind out of our sails. The whole experience brought the church together during the struggles, but at the same time, it was deflating. We

knew we had to depend on God,” Whitney recalled.

The sanctuary and education building, the main areas involving the church’s ministries, became the focus of the church’s resources and time. The third building, the



Submitted photos

Members and guests celebrate the youth building’s grand reopening at First Baptist Broussard with a gumbo meal on commissioning day.

Lighthouse, was slated for repairs as resources became available.

“Most of our youth come from broken homes and difficult homes, and they saw the Lighthouse as a place they could come to escape

the world or whatever was bothering them. It was a safe place. They considered it a refuge,” Whitney said.

Whitney assured the youth that God would provide the means, “and that is exactly what happened,” he said.

“God stepped-in in such a powerful way. The first week alone, when we started praying about it, \$1,000 was donated toward repairs for the Lighthouse,” Whitney noted. Moreover, church members began to pray about the needed Lighthouse repairs alongside the youth and student leaders.

“It really is a testimony of how God showed up,” Whitney enthused. “We had churches from every state along the Gulf Coast sending us money saying they felt led to give to us.”

During the last year and a half, the congregation has been in awe as God provided the finances, laborers and resources.

Sheetrock was taken out of the youth building, and termite damage was discovered and repaired. Interior walls had to be ripped out, furniture thrown out, floors and carpet

See BROUSSARD on 5

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Alexandria LA 71309  
www.baptistmessage.com

(USPS 042-860) (ISSN 0740-2104)

Published biweekly Thursdays by the Louisiana Baptist Message, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana 71303.

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# Two-time Bassmaster champion a fisher of men at Harvest event

By BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

TALLULAH – World-renowned professional fisherman Hank Parker helped reel in 10 lost souls for Christ during a one-night Harvest Night at First Baptist Church in Tallulah.

Nearly 200 attended the evangelistic outreach May 9 to hear Parker share about the outdoors and the Gospel. Jason McGuffie, pastor of First

Baptist Tallulah, said people attended from as far away as Monroe and Vicksburg, Mississippi.

“We desired for the Gospel to be proclaimed and the Lord to be glorified,” McGuffie said. “Hank shared about outdoor things, and then tied it in so well to how God moved in his life. He spoke from a perspective that we could all relate to about brokenness and imperfection. Hank simply preached the

Gospel and God blessed the evening. Lives were changed and we in Madison Parish are grateful.”

Madison Baptist Association Director of Missions Jay Morgan is excited about the seeds planted among the crowd, including a large segment of men who attended.

“I’m hoping the men who came will apply what they learned and it will have a far reaching impact among males from all across the association and beyond,” Morgan said. “God used Hank Parker in a powerful way to bring people in who normally wouldn’t come to some of the traditional big church events.

“When we saw those 10 people indicate at the end of Hank Parker’s message they wanted Christ it made all the preparation we did worth it,” he continued. “We give God all the glory.”

The revival was among a growing number held so far this year as part of the statewide Harvest campaign to “pray for every home and share with every person” in Louisiana.

Nearly 900 of 1,650 Louisiana Baptist churches have signed up to participate in concentrated prayer and soul-winning activities such as multi-church crusades, door-to-door outreach, one-on-one evangelism, single-church revivals and other activities which leverage compassion ministries to share about the



Submitted photo

Two-time Bassmaster Classic champion Hank Parker shares about the outdoors and the Gospel at First Baptist Church Tallulah during a one-night Harvest event. More than 200 people attended the event and 10 people gave their lives to Christ.

## Refuge from page one

found, so we usually have to get engaged and ask for a follow-up conversation to get to know the people,” Haynes said. “It’s hard ground, as all of New Orleans is for sure. There is opposition to the church and the Gospel. But we have started to see people who are now interested.”

### GOD-GIVEN REWARD

Haynes credits his family and core team at Refuge Church for their dedication despite the obstacles they have faced.

“I have a fantastic family who has adopted that ‘never say die’ kind of attitude no matter the situation,” he said. “Our core group is dedicated, devoted and sold out to where God has called them. There are a lot of days where you think it would be easier to go somewhere else and try this, but when you have people behind you and walking with you, you find it encouraging to keep going.”

Haynes said a breakthrough came when he was diagnosed with cancer in

January 2017.

Support and prayers were felt from all over the country. Through his brief battle with the disease, others in the community noticed the faith Haynes displayed and began to ask questions about how Christianity helped him persevere.

“That opened many doors to share the Gospel with people who wouldn’t talk to me before,” said Haynes, who was declared cancer-free in October. “Even though it was a discouraging time, it was very encouraging to know that so many people around the world were praying for us.”

Looking ahead, Haynes is excited about how God is moving at Refuge Church.

“We need prayer that God would send us laborers for our particular context,” he said. “And just continue to pray God would lead us to people of peace and He would continue to save people. We have gotten through the part where you don’t see anything of interest to a stage of where we will begin to see more fruit.”

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### PRAYER FOCUS

Prayer was a major focus in preparing for the revival. The association’s pastors met for focused times of prayer for three months leading up to the event. McGuffie also distributed fliers to the association’s seven churches, along with the neighboring Bayou Macon Baptist Association and churches in Vicksburg.

“Prayer is the most important preparation we did,” Morgan said. “Before we do anything, we have to first invite God to lead us in it and make things happen. We have to enlist the help of God or else our

efforts would be in vain.

“It’s always an encouragement to see the churches work together on any type of project, but especially an evangelistic one,” he continued. “And to see souls saved gets anyone excited.”

Hulon Martin, a member of First Baptist Tallulah, brought his children to hear Parker. He said the message planted Gospel seeds in many there.

“I think the way he shared the Word made a difference in our community,” Martin said. “He showed us despite his mistakes and faults, God saved him. I have young kids, so it reminded me to be focused and keep my eyes on the things of Christ.”

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# Mabile from page one

2017 Exemplary Bi-vocational Pastor of the Year for the South region as selected by the Louisiana Baptist pastoral leadership team. “For six months I visited and told them while I can’t do anything about the past, I wanted them to be part of the future. I wanted to show them the love of Christ and let them know the church is here for them. My vision was for us to be the heartbeat of the community and we became that in the coming months.”

### CALLED TO SERVE

A native of Pierre Part, Mabile spent many Sundays as a youngster at the church with his grandfather, Melvin Hebert. Christ’s love shown to Mabile at the church set the stage for his conversion and baptism at the age of 13.

As the years passed, Mabile prepared to eventually enter the mission field, but God changed his focus to ministry soon after his grand-

father passed away in 2013. After preaching at the funeral, Mabile sensed the Holy Spirit calling him to serve at Belle River Baptist.

Initially dismissing the notion as pure emotion, Mabile continued working in his secular job at the Dow Chemical office in Hahnville.

Then the pastor of Belle River called Mabile to ask him to fill in during a planned absence.

After 18 months of preaching off and on, Mabile learned the pastor was moving to another church in Oklahoma. Moreover, the pastor asked Mabile to consider replacing him.

“My mouth hit the floor,” Mabile said. “I already knew the answer was ‘Yes,’ since my wife, Renee, and I had been talking between ourselves, even before the call, that this was what God wanted for us.”

Understanding the church could close within a few months if the finances were

not stabilized, Mabile worked with church leaders to develop a plan of action. But before proceeding further, the congregation felt led to get their hearts right before God. So they committed to seven days of prayer and fasting at the start of 2016. Then they developed a vision for doing missions in their community.

Outreach efforts have included purchasing coats for the students at a nearby school the past two years, and partnering with the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home to host speakers as a way to raise awareness about ministry opportunities in foster care and adoption. Additionally, the church hosted a community-wide “Eggstravaganza” before Easter, which included hunting for eggs, sharing the Gospel and handing out Bibles to all who attended.

The congregation also has signed up to participate in the Harvest, a statewide campaign that so far has enlisted nearly 900 of 1,650 Louisiana Baptist churches to “pray for every home and share Christ with every person” in Louisiana. State strategists spent 2016 to plan and enlist leaders and churches and in 2017 conducted statewide evangelism training and piloted different methods. Now, Louisiana Baptists are joining together across the state in 2018 for prayer events and intentional soul-winning activities.

The congregation plans to visit every family in the com-



Submitted photo

Ronnie Mabile baptizes Katelyn Seeks, one of 12 new converts baptized in 2017 at Belle River Baptist Church. Another four have participated in baptism through the first five months of 2018.

munity within the next three years. The vision is bold, but Mabile believes his church is more than ready for the challenge.

“We will reach every home in this town,” Mabile said. “To me it’s all about reaching the people with the Gospel. We are working to tear down a lot of divisions along denominational lines by showing people the love of Christ.”

Through early June, the Sunday morning service

averaged 80 worshipers, half who are in the 18-50 year old demographic.

In 2017, 12 new converts were baptized, and another four have taken part in baptism during the first five months of 2018.

A passion for outreach and missions is what transformed Belle River Baptist from a nearly dead church to one very much alive, Mabile contends. He said the same model can be followed by other churches looking for ways to experience revitalization.

“At the end of the day, it’s a burden for reaching others with the Gospel,” Mabile said. “When your burden becomes outward and not inward, that’s when your church becomes healthy.”

“Numbers are only one data point you need to look at when considering the health of your church,” he continued. “But if you are not growing, then something is wrong. You have to reach people with the Gospel and turn things around. When I was first there, the calendar was filled with inwardly focused events and now it’s packed with outwardly focused ministry. If you are in His will and doing what He has called you to do, He will help you do whatever is needed.”

### BALANCE OF WORK, CHURCH

As an emergency services specialist for Dow Chemical, Mabile’s time is at a premium

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See MABILE on 9

# Alto Baptist celebrates organist's 70 years of leading by serving

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

ALTO (LBM) – Every Sunday morning for 70 years, Nancy Johnston has been the heart and soul of the music humming from the worship center at Alto Baptist Church.

Since 1948, Johnston has played hymns like “The Old Rugged Cross” on the piano and organ during worship services for the north Louisiana congregation. Many of those she has inspired during her time at the church gathered inside the Alto Baptist worship center Feb. 11 to celebrate this milestone of her

many years of service.

The special service featured a time for guests to share a personal story, the presentation of gifts and a luncheon fellowship. True to her humble attitude, Johnston demurred regarding the attention, saying she preferred attention be paid to others.

“I didn’t want to be honored but I appreciated their having it done for me,” said Johnston.

She is the mother-in-law of U.S. Rep. Ralph Abraham, who is a member of Alto Baptist and worships there when he is not in the nation’s capital.

“It was a special day to see so many of my former students come back. People ask me if I plan on retiring and I say, ‘Why retire?’ It’s been a blessing all these years to have known and taught so many people.”

Johnston began playing the piano in the 10th grade upon the urging of her Sunday school teacher, and for the following few years she took lessons to improve her musical talent. However, it was not long before she transitioned from music student to piano teacher, she told the Baptist Message. In her final year of high school, her piano teacher offered Johnston the opportunity to take charge of instructing some of her students.

“I said, ‘Do you think I can do it?’ and she said, ‘Yes,’” Johnston recalled. “She told me to make sure I keep up with their time and that they learn their notes. I’ve been teaching ever since.”

See CELEBRATES on 8



Brian Blackwell photo

Nancy Johnston has played the organ and piano at Alto Baptist Church for 70 years. Through those years, she has impacted many people such as young musicians who have in turn taught others how to play the piano and organ.

## Broussard from page 2

replaced, and kitchen cabinets replaced, to name a few of the projects.

A roofing company estimated it would cost about \$15,000 to put a new roof on the student building, but ended up giving the church body a \$2,500 discount and sealed and caulked the roof for free. A gazebo was donated to the youth, so they could sit around and worship with a “camp-like” atmosphere.

“God provided in abundance. Once tallied, we received about \$30,000 in donations and supplies, not including all the volunteer labor. The youth realized the Lord answered their prayers. He made it possible to restore the Lighthouse for fellowship and ministry for our students,” Whitney said.

The Lighthouse has been renamed the Refuge and the youth group adopted Psalm 34:8 as their inspirational verse, “Come and taste that the Lord is good. Blessed are those who take refuge in Him.”

“God is the only one who has the power to take what seems tragic and devastating and turn it around for good. We are soaking in the blessing of God,” Whitney said about how the community came together to help with the church clean-up, repairs and youth building renovations.

To celebrate the re-opening of the youth ministry building, FBC Broussard recently had a commissioning day for the Refuge, inviting the entire community to the church for gumbo, Whitney said, adding that the turnout was good.

“So far, it was the best showing of our church connecting with the community,” he said. He also noted “this whole experience has helped to create some youth leaders and has helped our youth praise team step up.”

Jase Choplin, a sophomore at Comeaux High School, said it was rough at first to lose the Lighthouse but is looking forward to this year at the Refuge. “It was sad to go through the process of losing all the memories of the Lighthouse, but it is exciting to be part of the rebuilding and leadership of the Refuge,” he told the *Baptist Message*.

Cole Menard, a sixth-grader at Broussard Middle School, said he has been active in the church for almost six years. “I’m looking forward to being at the Refuge and meeting new people and having a great place to create new memories.”

Gentry Thibodeaux, a junior at Carencro High School, echoed his sentiments. “It’s been great for students to have the Refuge because they can connect better now. It is a much better fit for the high school students now. Meeting in temporary places was difficult.”

The youth group understands the favor God has given them despite the tragedy of the flood, Whitney said. Beneath some of the new architectural elements, the teens wrote Bible verses on the boards that were going up in the ceiling area, including Psalm 46:1: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

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# Disaster Relief urges timely preps for hurricane season

By BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – With hurricane season officially here, Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief state director Gibbie McMillan said churches and residents of the state must not delay preparations for the next big storm. “For the most part, people live for the moment and what they can see, not thinking about what emergencies might happen,” McMillan said. “Unfortunately, if they don’t take the initiative, they will be unprepared when something major happens.”

You can’t be ready for every contingency, but we want people to understand that having a plan in place for hurricane season is important.”

Hurricane season was off to a busy start even before it officially began June 1. A sub-tropical system developed in the Gulf of Mexico and formed into the first named storm of the year. Alberto produced heavy rainfall and was cited as the cause for multiple deaths.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts an average to above-average intensity

hurricane season for the year, predicting 10-16 named storms with five to nine of these becoming hurricanes -- and one to four of these strengthening into Category 3, 4 or 5 hurricanes that pack winds of more than 110 miles per hour.

Hurricane season continues through November 30.

### COMPILE A LIST, MAKE A PLAN

McMillan said residents should compile a list of critical items for surviving a disaster.

He suggested storing five gallons of bottled water per person in the household, non-perishable food to last the family at least five days, cooking equipment, tools, cash, first aid kit, medications, a laminated copy of



Baptist Message photo

Hurricane season officially started June 1 in Louisiana and Gibbie McMillan, state director for Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief, said churches and residents of the state should not delay making preparations for a storm. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts 2018 will see 10-16 named storms with five to nine becoming hurricanes.

important documents, personal hygiene items, sleeping bags and phone numbers of extended family members and friends who live in other states.

McMillan said a disaster plan should include a list of possible rendezvous sites near one’s home or in a neighboring state and a phone tree for making contact in case of disaster.

He invited Louisiana Baptists to participate in future Disaster Relief instruction and to take advantage of online training available at [louisianabaptists.org/disasterrelief](http://louisianabaptists.org/disasterrelief).

Four onsite training sessions already have been held in 2018, and another may be held later in the year.

McMillan said churches also should contact their

association’s director of missions to obtain information on how to become a shelter or staging site for a feeding unit.

“Generally, whenever we begin to call people out to serve, it takes us about 10 calls before we get one person who can go,” McMillan said. “We live in such a life that most people have jobs, kids in school and obligations in other places, and they can’t just drop everything at a moment’s notice to go. If they’ve been trained, it’s a matter of saving a week where they can go and respond. Without our volunteers we couldn’t begin to do what we do.”

In the event of a hurricane, Louisiana residents can find which travel routes are impacted by visiting [511la.org](http://511la.org). Gov. John Bel Edwards said in a news release that people should create a game plan now.

“We’ve already had our first tropical threat along the Gulf Coast this year, and as we know from first-hand experience, it’s never too early to prepare,” he said. “We must always be alert and heed all warnings from state, local, weather and emergency officials. Taking the time to put together your personal plans will help save lives.”

### STAY CALM, PRAY

In the face of a disaster, McMillan said it’s essential to remain calm and follow the plan. He also said that is the time to be the light of Christ by helping others on scene.

“See the disaster as a ministry opportunity,” McMillan said. “Be ready to share the love of Christ. And pray, pray, pray.”

See HURRICANE SEASON on 9

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# Shumock readies plans to build up church plants

By PHILIP TIMOTHY  
Managing Editor

ALEXANDRIA – Mike Shumock knows the day is coming and he wants to be ready.

“In the 2020 plan, the vision is to plant more than 300 churches by the year 2020,” said Shumock, the Missions Builder Strategist for Louisiana Baptists. “Since 2013, we are already more than two-thirds of the way toward reaching that goal.

“It will not be long before those church plants will want their own buildings,” he said. “And we need to be ready to assist with their building needs.”

Shumock plans to mobilize church-based teams, consisting of five to 10 members in different regions of the state through the associations. His regionalized approach would allow associations and

churches to better organize resources to help church plants because of close proximity.

“It would cut down on the cost, travel, and possibly give teams additional time on the job,” he said. “I am emphasizing associations and churches to organize teams that can meet the needs already here and in the future.”

### SUCCESSFUL TEST

He already has successfully tested his plan.

Gulf Coast Baptist Church in Golden Meadow – a two-year-old church plant – needed help remodeling a recently purchased building into a worship center.

“We have been meeting in a house since we began almost two years ago. When we first started we had 50 to 55 people attending, but because of a lack of room we have dropped down to 35 to



Submitted photo

Mike Shumock, Missions Builder Strategist for Louisiana Baptists, visualizes mobilizing church-based teams, consisting of five to 10 members in different regions of the state through the associations to help church plants with their building projects. He already has tested successfully his plan utilizing a six-man team from First Baptist Church Lafayette and Youngville to help Pastor Shane Terrebonne (center, kneeling) and Gulf Coast Baptist Church in Golden Meadow.

40 weekly,” said Shane Terrebonne, pastor of Gulf Coast. “So, we are desperate to get out of the house and into a bigger building.

“The Lord made a way

and we found this building which is located in the middle of town, right off Highway 1 and a prime location on the bayou. It was ideal for us and we closed on April 4.

We couldn’t ask for a better location,” said Terrebonne. “It’s a 60-year-old-building, so naturally it required work

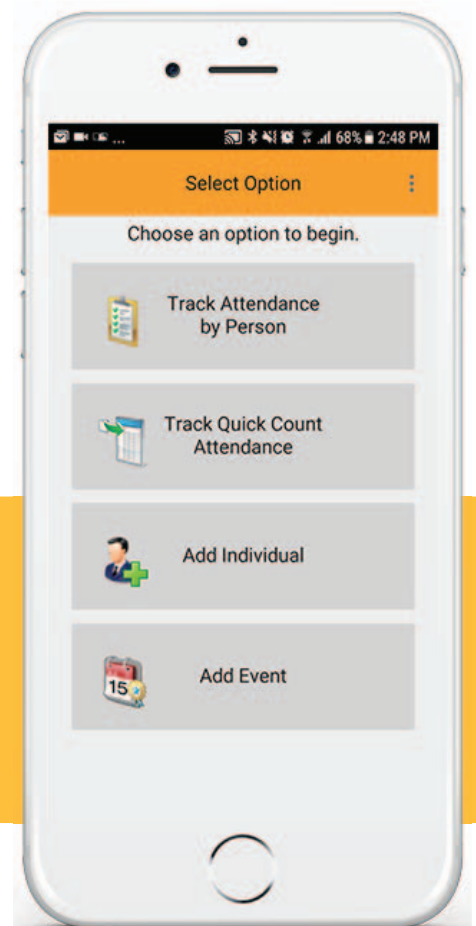
See SHUMOCK on 9

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# NOBTS' door-to-door evangelism efforts lead six to Christ

By GARY D. MYERS

NOBTS Communications

NEW ORLEANS -- Don't tell seminary professor Preston Nix that door-to-door evangelism in New Orleans does not work. Time and again, he has found that loving, Gospel conversations, even during door-to-door evangelism, can and do lead to decisions for Christ.

"It does not work ... if you do not work it," said Nix, professor of evangelism and evangelistic preaching at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. "But if you work it with a smile on your face, the love of Christ in your heart, and the Good News of the Gospel on your lips shared with kindness and conviction, you will be amazed at how many people will listen to you and respond to the message of the Gospel."

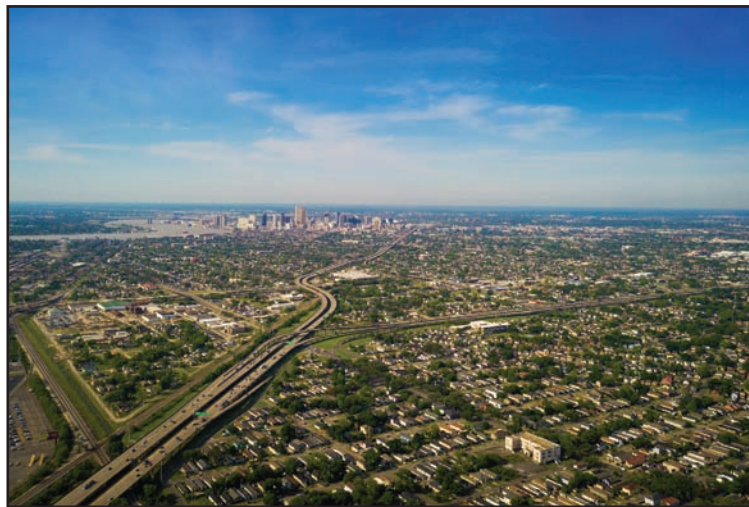
During a recent servanthood evangelism effort in

the Edgewood Park/Gentilly neighborhood near New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, six people trusted Christ as Savior and 16 prospects were identified.

Gentilly Baptist Church began providing follow-up visits to each new believer and each prospect just days after the initial evangelism effort.

Nix planned the servanthood evangelism project for April 26. Called "100 houses -- 100 minutes," the goal was to visit 100 houses in Gentilly with teams of three or four offering smoke alarm batteries, a 100th anniversary pen from NOBTS, and a Gospel conversation to all who would listen. Nix felt confident it was possible to do all of this in an hour and a half if enough students and faculty members participated.

While most of the seminary's centennial celebration is taking place on campus and at NOBTS extension centers,



Chandler McCall photo

Students and faculty members from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary visited more than 100 houses in the Edgewood Park neighborhood (lower right section of photograph) for a servanthood evangelism effort. The outreach, which took place a few short blocks from campus, resulted in six professions of faith.

Nix wanted to celebrate the anniversary in a way that harkened back to the purpose the school was planted in New Orleans.

"This school was founded

as a training ground for getting the Gospel out to the nations," Nix said, "so I wanted us to be true to our roots and get outside the gates of the seminary during this special season with the life-changing message of Jesus to our community."

In Nix's faculty carpool on the way to campus April 26, Jeff Griffin, dean of libraries at NOBTS, prayed that five people would place their faith in Christ through the outreach efforts later that afternoon.

When the event rolled around, 17 volunteers -- nine professors and eight students

-- went into the neighborhoods near the seminary campus to share their faith, visiting 81 houses and engaging in 38 Gospel conversations that day.

During this initial afternoon effort, four people made decisions for Christ. But when Ken Taylor and David Sneed of Gentilly Baptist Church began the follow-up process April 28, they encountered Zachary at one of the houses on their list.

Sneed began by sharing his testimony and then presented the Gospel to Zachary, who had a Gospel conversation during the outreach effort on April 26. Zachary would become the fifth individual reached, in part, by the original outreach effort -- the very number of people Griffin prayed for the morning of April 26.

"As David shared, Zachary was intent and he said, 'I need what you are sharing,'" said Taylor, professor of urban missions at NOBTS and pastor of Gentilly Baptist Church. "Zachary started shedding tears even before he prayed. David led him in the sinner's prayer and he seemed overjoyed."

Though excited about the results from April 26 and 28, Nix wanted NOBTS teams to visit at least 100 houses

See DOOR-TO-DOOR on 11

## Celebrates from page 5

Johnston has taught so many students that she has lost count of the exact number, but she has enjoyed seeing them progress and go out into the world to sometimes even teach other students.

One of those is Kim Weed, who took piano lessons and attended Alto Baptist with Johnston. Weed said Johnston's passion for investing in the lives of others is contagious.

"Mrs. Nancy was so encouraging when I first started playing, and still inspires others today," Weed said. "She has a heart for music and wants to pass that love on to others."

Alan Miller, pastor of Alto Baptist for six years, said Johnston is the longest living member of the church and represents what the congregation is about.

"The heart of worship in our church has been Mrs. Nancy all these years," Miller said. "She loves her Lord with everything she has and loves Alto Baptist Church. That church is her heart. And she loves the Alto community."

"This has been a great church for me to pastor and a lot of that is because of Mrs. Nancy," he continued. "She has so much compassion and love that rubs off on others she meets."

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## Shumock from page 7

both inside and out.”

Besides interior structural work, there were soft spots on the porch and decking, the handicap ramp needed repairs and the siding needed some attention. Trees had to be trimmed and limbs removed as well as other odds and ends, and, a lot of painting both inside and out.

The men in Terrebonne’s congregation did what they could but because they worked mostly in the oil and gas industry it was difficult to coordinate a work schedule because of the time spent on the rigs.

Terrebonne requested help from Shumock, who in turned enlisted the aid of teams from two Mississippi churches and two Louisiana churches. First Baptist Grand Isle provided free lodging and the ladies of Shane’s church “made sure no one went hungry.”

“I picked up the phone and made a call to my home church in Wesson, Mississippi (Sumrall Baptist Church) and they sent over a team as did Zion Hill Baptist Church,” said Shumock. “But I was seeking help closer to Golden Meadow.”

Shumock then called Ray Swift, First Lafayette’s administrative and missions pastor about the possibility of putting together a team to assist in the remodel.

Swift and five other men – including 85-year-old Richard Scott – from First Lafayette and First Youngsville drove the 150 miles to Golden Meadow in late May (May 21-22) to lend a helping hand.

“When we drove up to the building, my first thought was to question why this was even being done,” said Swift. “I thought why spend so much time and resources on a building in this part of the city?”

“Immediately God challenged me for questioning His work and His ability to do great things,” Swift continued. “As I got out my tools, I met others already working there. I also became acquainted and friends with the pastor – Shane Terrebonne, who has a sincere desire to share the love of Christ with all the people ‘on the Bayou.’”

The group, who were not carpenters by trade, opened up the first floor by removing interior walls, placing beams to support the ceiling, installing about 50 sheets of sheetrock on the ceiling and cleaning up around the building, inside and out.

“When we got into the remodel, it was evident it needed a lot more structural work than I first thought,” said Shumock.

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## Hurricane Season from page 6

Though a hurricane has yet to make landfall in the state this year, Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief teams have ministered in areas impacted by other storms in the U.S. mainland and the Caribbean.

When multiple tornadoes touched down in Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Lincoln and Union parishes in early April, teams wasted no time responding. Units from First Baptist Church in Blanchard, First Baptist Church in Haughton, District 8 Baptist Convention in Natchitoches, Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association in Walker and Roll-

ing Hills Ministries in Ruston cleared debris from yards and distributed meals.

A month later, students from the Baptist Collegiate Ministries of Louisiana State University and Louisiana Tech University helped with relief efforts in Puerto Rico. The island was devastated by a deadly hurricane last year.

During the same month, a chainsaw team from Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association ministered in Southbury, Connecticut, which sustained damage from powerful tornadoes that came through the area.

## Mabile from page 4

and he is grateful for the support of his employer, wife and congregation in his service as a bi-vocational pastor.

However, his time in Louisiana is coming to an end due to his impending job transfer to Michigan.

Although his tenure at Belle River Baptist is ending in July, Mabile said he is open to serving as pastor of a church wherever he relocates.

“My prayer is I will build tents as long as I should build tents,” Mabile said. “I feel God has me serving bi-vocationally so I am not a burden financially to the

church and able to make the tough decisions that I feel God puts on my heart for the future of the church. I know God arranged this to allow us to go forward as a church and family in His will.

“I would encourage people and pastors to really pray about church revitalization,” he continued. “It’s a gem.

“The people at Belle River Baptist Church have embraced us with love since we walked in,” he continued. “Though we no longer will be with them after July, we are excited about what God is doing here and we look forward to the road ahead.”

“But with the help of Ray’s group and several other volunteers, we were able to take care of a lot of the problem areas.

“Had the church hired someone, it easily would have cost \$40,000 to \$50,000,” estimated Shumock. “We cut more than 35 percent from the cost of the project which is a huge savings.”

Shumock believes his regionalized approach could be just as beneficial to upcoming projects.

“I would like to partner with churches in the northwest, northeast, central, southwest and southeast parts of the state. I am not looking for big groups but teams of five or six men who would be willing to work two or three days on a project,” said Shumock. “I believe there are a number of churches in Shreveport, Minden, Haughton, West Monroe, Monroe and Alexandria, who have the people to form teams that could mobilize quickly.

“I know there are churches

in Lake Charles, Lafayette, Baton Rouge and New Orleans, who could do the same,” he continued. “I can even train high school and college students to help. Many people, both young and old, have told me they experience life-changing moments on projects like this.”

“Mike is doing a great job of surveying projects and giving great leadership to the work,” said Swift. “The emphasis given to new church starts and helping mission-type churches is a construction model that every church and association can adopt, come alongside and help for either a few days or a week.”

But to be successful in this type of mobilization will require the building of a base in Louisiana.

“I cannot stress enough the importance of what lays ahead,” said Shumock. “If we are going to expand God’s Kingdom in Louisiana, we will need God’s people to step forward. It can be done; it just takes a willingness to serve.”

Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries, Monroe, LA

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Please send résumé to Dr. Perry Hancock ([phancock@lbch.org](mailto:phancock@lbch.org)) or Susan Nolan ([snolan@lbch.org](mailto:snolan@lbch.org)) or P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

### FOSTER & ADOPTION SPECIALIST NEEDED

Full-time position needed for Alexandria, LA. Position includes salary, benefits, and paid vacation. Requires master’s degree in social work. Minimum of two years’ experience in social work field preferred. Must demonstrate proficient communication and writing skills. Some travel required. Must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and be an active member of a local Southern Baptist church.

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Emmanuel Baptist Church in Ruston, LA is seeking a Senior Pastor. Please send résumés to Pastor Search Committee, c/o Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1200 Farmerville Hwy, Ruston LA 71270 or [pastorsearch@ebcruston.org](mailto:pastorsearch@ebcruston.org).

**STUDENT MINISTER/ WORSHIP LEADER**  
First Baptist Church of Lake Providence, LA is currently seeking God's person to serve in the role of full time Student Minister/Worship Leader. The ideal candidate would have some ministry experience in both areas as well as some level of theological education.  
Interested candidates can email résumés to [justinc@fbclakeprovidence.com](mailto:justinc@fbclakeprovidence.com)

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Red Oak Baptist Church in Livingston, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor.  
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## HOMECOMING

**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

- Ben (wife Savana) Alderman is the new youth pastor at Barksdale Baptist Church, Bossier City.
- Allen (wife Lindsay) Flood is the new youth pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- David Venable is retiring as pastor of Westwood Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- Joe Jenkins has retired as Pastor of Teche Baptist Church, Breaux Bridge.
- Jake (wife Diana) Bondurant is the new pastor at Teche Baptist Church, Breaux Bridge.
- Steve Jensen has resigned as pastor of New Prospect Baptist Church, Dubach.

## HOMECOMING

- Johnson Bayou Baptist Church, Cameron: 83rd Homecoming, June 16, 11 a.m. Speaker: J.P. Miles, pastor Choupique Baptist Church, Sulphur. A covered dish luncheon will follow the service. All present and former members are invited to attend. Pastor: Jack Gandy.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: 146th Homecoming, June 24, 10 a.m. Speaker: David E. Hankins, LBC Executive Director. Special Music: Worship choir and orchestra. Please bring a large covered dish or dessert for a church-wide fellowship. Pastor: Phillip Robertson.
- Pisgah Baptist Church, Forest Hill: 129th Homecoming, June 24 @ 10:30 a.m. with fellowship dinner to follow. Guest speaker: Mark Robinson. Musical guest: Lanny Larche. Pastor: Mike Schultz.
- First Baptist Church, Gibsland: 132nd Anniversary/Homecoming, June 24, 10:30 a.m. A covered dish luncheon will follow the

## Door-to-Door from page 8

before considering the project complete. So he scheduled two additional outreach efforts, May 3, 10, in order to meet the original goal. On May 3, a small group of volunteers visited 10 houses and had five Gospel conversions. Their efforts resulted in one individual accepting Christ. The following week, a group of nine students and professors visited 15 more houses to bring the total to 106 houses. Nix was overwhelmed by the high percentage of Gospel conversations and

## Sabine parish pastor hit, killed while jogging

FORT JESUP – Matt Haggard, interim pastor of First Baptist Church in Fort Jesup, was hit and killed by a motorist Thursday morning, June 7, while jogging.

The accident was reported just before 7 a.m.

Haggard, 48, was on his daily jog along state Highway 6 near the Fort Jesup Community which is located six miles east of Many, Louisiana, when he was hit by a teenage driver.

He died at the scene of the accident according to Sabine Parish deputy coroner Ron Rivers.

Haggard was headed west as was the teenage driver of a Chevrolet pickup truck who struck him, Rivers said. Louisiana State Police Troop E is investigating the accident.

According to the Annual Church Profile, Haggard previously served as pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church in Many and First Baptist Church in Marthaville.

Phillip Strahan, minister of music at First Baptist Marthaville, told the *Baptist Message* that Haggard leaves behind a wife, April, and two sons, Sam and Brenden.

First Baptist Jesup said in a Facebook message to the *Message*, "Please pray for his wife and children, and also the driver and his family."



Matt and April Haggard

service. Speaker: Orvell Bryant. All former, new and prospective members are invited to attend. Pastor: Orvell Bryant.

■ New Zion Baptist Church, Winnsboro: 100th Homecoming, June 24, 11 a.m. Special Music: Jimmy Coughran (M.D.) Dinner on the grounds will follow the service. The Church is located at 1271 New Zion Road, Winnsboro, LA. Pastor: Tommy Basco.

## REVIVAL

- Johnson Bayou Baptist Church, Cameron: Summer Revival, June 17-20, 7 p.m. nightly. Speakers: Jack Gandy; Frank Walker, Pastor, FBC Carlyss; Dr. Phil Sigman, Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Port Arthur TX; Alan Weishampel, Pastor, East Ridge Baptist Church, Lake Charles; and Russ Mixon, Member, East Ridge Baptist Church. Music: Jack Gandy. Pastor: Jack Gandy.
- Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Mt. Hermon: Family Crusade, June 24-27. Evangelist: 2TALK42 Ministries. Pastor: Scott Spinks.

## LAGNIAPPE

- Terry Mims available for revivals and bible study for booking call 318.801.9140.
- Fish Bayou Baptist Church, Winnsboro: Ben Waites in concert, June 17, 10 a.m. Pastor: Jim Goodman.
- First Baptist Church, Lafayette: Scot Cameron in concert, June 17, 6 p.m. Pastor: Steve Horn.
- His Church, Pineville: Josh Blakesly & Sarah Kroger in concert, June 17, 7 p.m. Pastor: Steve Speer.
- Philadelphia Baptist Church at Horseshoe Drive, Alexandria: Vacation Bible School, June 18-22, 5:00 - 8:30 p.m. A light meal will be served from 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. You

may pre-register online at pbcministry.com. Pastor: Clay Fuqua.

■ Occupy 2 Baptist Church, Pitkin: Vacation Bible School, June 18-22; 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Michael Crysel.

■ First Baptist Church, Jennings: Vacation Bible School – Game On, June 18-22, ages (just completed): Pre-K 4-Kindergarten: 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1st grade-6th grade: 8:30-2 p.m. Pastor: Jeff Cook.

■ Emmanuel Baptist Church, Lake Charles: Vacation Bible School – Game On, June 18-22, 9 a.m. – noon. Pastor: Michael Shambelin.

■ First Baptist Church, Westlake: Vacation Bible School – Game On, June 18-22, 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. VBS is open to any and all kids (going to) K-6th grades. This year during VBS we will be collecting donations to help the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home. Pastor: David Brewer.

■ Bethel Baptist Church, Bastrop: Vacation Bible School, June 18-22, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Pastor: Tim Post.

■ Clark Springs Baptist Church, Eros: Vacation Bible School, June 18-22, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Pastor: Jimmy Pison.

■ Indian Village Baptist Church, Kinder: Vacation Bible School – Game On, June 18-22, 5-7:30 p.m. Pastor: Kevin Willis.

■ Providence Road Baptist Church, Shreveport: The Steel Magnolias in concert, June 23, 6 p.m. This is a free concert. Pastor: Darrell Dean.

■ Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Lisbon: Made by Grace in concert, June 24, 11 a.m. Pastor: Larry Sellers.

■ Open Door Fellowship, Coushatta: Time Lab Vacation Bible School, June 24-28, 6-8:30 p.m. travel back in time to witness epic events in history. We'll meet Moses, Gideon, and Abraham as they point us to Jesus. VBS is for ages Pre-K through 6th grade. There will be a drawing each night for Scripture memorization prizes. Pastor: Steven McAbee.

■ First Baptist Church, Sulphur: Indian Village Baptist Church, Kinder: Vacation Bible School – Game On, June 18-22, 5-7:30 p.m.

Pastor: Kevin Willis.

■ Wilda Baptist Church, Boyce: Tribute Quartet in concert, June 24, 6 p.m. Pastor: Joey Rudisill.

■ First Baptist Church, Sulphur: Vacation Bible School – Game On, June 24-June 28, 5:30-8 p.m. Pastor: Michael Linton.

■ Emmanuel Baptist Church, Monroe: Vacation Bible School, June 25-29, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

■ First Baptist Church, Moss Bluff: Vacation Bible School, June 25-29, Pastor: Steve Bennett.

■ Woodlawn Baptist Church, Iowa: Vacation Bible School – Game On!, June 25-29, 6-8:30 p.m. Pastor: Richard Louviere.

■ Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe: Art Camp, June 25-28, 9 a.m. –noon. This camp is for children who have completed first through fifth grades. For more information, contact Liz Sanderson at 318.396.5489. Pastor: Waymond Warren.

■ McClendon Baptist Church, West Monroe: Vacation Bible School, June 25-28, June 25-29, 8:30-11:20 a.m. and 6-8 p.m. VBS is for kids ages 4 – grade 5 are invited. Pastor: Kevin Stewart.

■ Lakeshore Baptist Church, Monroe: Vacation Bible School June 25-29 8 a.m. – noon. Pastor: William Smith.

## WANTED

The Louisiana Baptist Historical Association is seeking former members and anyone else, who has an interest in the history of their church or Louisiana Baptist institutions, about restarting the organization. Those interested should send their contact information to Perry Lassiter at [perrylassiter@yahoo.com](mailto:perrylassiter@yahoo.com), [plassiter@suddenlink.net](mailto:plassiter@suddenlink.net) or by calling/texting 318.243.4772 to set up a meeting.

## 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.

odl chilhget odl i lfrnygdbc qiv kfee dvg sfg: tgy

zglispgvyblg odl i rdds qiv cdqg kdbes gpgv silg yd

sfg.

ldqivc ofpg:cgpgv

Clues:  
Q = M; I = A

Answer to May 31 Scripture Crypto:  
Judges four: three

# Cajun DR team's kindness helps lead Connecticut couple to Christ

BY STAFF

*Baptist Message*

SOUTHBURY, Conn. (LBM) – A Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief team's week in an area of Connecticut devastated by a tornado in May started off on a high note when they saw a married couple accept Christ.

Chaplain Fred Hart had just finished handing off a Bible signed by members of the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association chainsaw team, May 28, when he asked the male homeowner an eternally significant question – “If you were to die this evening, would you know for sure you would go to Heaven?”

“He said, ‘I think so’ and I said, ‘We can make sure of that right now,’” Hart recalled. “He was very open to the Gospel and after I walked him through the plan of salvation,

he prayed right there to accept Jesus as his Savior. His wife was right there beside him and did the same. I cried because this is what we are all about. It's not about just cutting up fallen trees or mudding out a home, but presenting the Gospel.”

Hart was among nine members of the disaster relief team from Louisiana who were in Southbury May 27-June 2. The team comprised members from Live Oak Baptist Church and Amite Baptist Church in Denham Springs, First Baptist Church in Livingston, Judson Baptist Church in Walker and First Baptist Church in Albany. Christ the Redeemer Church in Southbury provided sleeping accommodations.

The team shared Christ's love at each of the 11 homes where they cleared trees knocked down by an EF-1 tornado which touched down in

the town, May 15. The National Weather Service reported the tornado with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph left behind a path of numerous uprooted pine and hardwood trees.

Blue Hat Howard Turner said the largest number of trees the team removed was 50 from one of the homes. They also cleared 34 trees from another home in the community.

Turner said the team was grateful they were able to leave Bibles with every homeowner and share with them the reason why they traveled 27 hours over a two-day period to spend a week in Southbury.

“I can cut trees down anywhere the Lord opens, but we are excited when the door opens so we can share the Gospel,” he said. “It's about knowing Christ, growing in Christ and going for Christ. This was a chance to go for Christ.”



Submitted photo

Howard Turner cuts down a tree that fell on the property of a home in Southbury, Connecticut. Turner and fellow members of the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association team traveled to Southbury after a tornado damaged areas of the town when it touched down May 15.



## Pray for these GOLA teams and the churches they serve.



	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3
June 4-8	Calvary Baptist Church, Ville Platte	Point of Life, Plaquemine	Poland Baptist Church, Alexandria
June 11-15	FBC Belle Chasse	FBC Simmesport	Trinity Baptist Church, New Iberia
June 18-22	Faith Baptist Church, Baker	FBC Bunkie & Melville	Hodge Baptist Church, Hodge
June 25-29	FBC Raceland & South Lafourche, Cut Off	FBC Cotton Valley	FBC Abbeville & FBC Delcambre
July 2-6	West St. Charles Baptist Church, Boutte	Waller Baptist Church, Bossier City	(Home)
July 9-13	Crosspoint Church, Cut Off	Oak Hill Baptist Church, Bastrop	Big Cane, Morrow & Main ST Mission, Pineville

[GOLA.LouisianaBaptists.org](http://GOLA.LouisianaBaptists.org)

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