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unto the Lord;
trust also in him;
and he shall bring
it to pass...”

— Psalm 37:5 (KJV)

BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

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June 28, 2018

REPORT: SBC portion of CP surges, states' part shrinks

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

DALLAS (LBM) — D. August Boto, interim president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, gave a sobering

CP SUMMARY 2008-2017

2008	\$541,898,661
2009	\$520,355,537
2010	\$495,168,022
2011	\$487,884,065
2012	\$481,409,006
2013	\$482,279,059
2014	\$478,700,850
2015	\$474,272,984
2016	\$475,212,293
2017	\$462,662,332

report to messengers regarding the state of the health of all of Southern Baptist life.

Boto, who was named to leadership after

a moral failing caused Frank Page to step down, reviewed the numbers for seminary students, missionaries on the field, baptisms, churches and Southern Baptist members. But it was his assessment of giving through the Cooperative

See REPORT on 4



At the end of the Harvest America crusade Greg Laurie invited attendees to respond to his invitation to give their lives to Christ. More than 2,300 people made decisions at the end of the night and received new Bibles.

Matt Miller photo

4,229 professions of faith in Dallas

BY WILL HALL

Message Editor

DALLAS (LBM) — Organizers said 3,214 new believers committed their lives to Jesus during a June 10 crusade by Greg Laurie in Dallas, held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Meanwhile, 175 seminary students spent the week in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, knocking on more than 20,000 doors, holding 3,180 Gospel conversations, and witnessing 340 professions of faith.

Additionally, 400 churches took part in door-to-door

evangelism that resulted in 675 salvation decisions.

Combined, the multiple outreach efforts produced a total of 4,229 new believers who made commitments to live for Christ.

HARVEST DALLAS

Laurie, pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship, which has campuses in California and Hawaii, has been leading Harvest Crusades since 1990, with the large-scale public evangelistic events renamed Harvest America in

See HARVEST on 4



Adam Covington photo

Evangelist Greg Laurie addresses a crowd of more than 35,000 gathered for Harvest America at AT&T Stadium in Dallas, June 10.

Louisiana Baptists sink riverboat casino; take on key social issues

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

BATON ROUGE (LBM) — Despite the heavy presence of paid lobbyists for the gambling industry, Louisiana Baptists secured a key victory against the casino interests of the state, helping to defeat Senate Bill 417 and its companion House Bill 438 and keeping a riverboat casino from moving to Tangipahoa Parish.

The Senate defeated S.B. 417 by a vote of 15-18, needing 20 votes to pass, whereas H.B. 438 did not make it out of the House Administration of Criminal



Pastor David Cranford



Pastor Louis Husser

Justice Committee.

Both proposed allowing an existing riverboat casino to relocate from Bossier City to the Tangipahoa River along I-12.

However, a coalition of pastors, led by David Cranford, First Baptist Church in Ponchatoula, and Louis Husser, Crossgate Church in Robert, mobilized the community and testified in both chambers of the legislature to help sink both bills. Likewise, Sherman Mack, chairman of the ACJ Committee, and a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Albany, gave leadership to defeat H.B. 438 and to keep it from coming back up during the regular legislative session.

Cranford told the *Baptist Message*

See RECAP on 5

Louisiana Baptists are second largest group in Dallas

BY STAFF

Baptist Message

DALLAS (LBM) — Only Texas Baptists had a larger group of messengers than Louisiana Baptists at the annual meeting of Southern Baptists held in Dallas,

Texas, June 12-13. Tennessee Baptists were the third in number.

BY THE NUMBERS

The event drew 9,637 messengers. By comparison, 5,015 messengers were in

Phoenix last year.

Two hundred twenty-three Louisiana Baptist congregations sent 718 messengers — the largest out-of-state contingent of Louisiana Baptists to an SBC annual meeting in a decade. Only the 2012 gathering in New Orleans drew more Louisiana Baptists (943) during that time frame.

The last time Southern Baptists held their annual meeting in Texas (Houston, 2013), only 383 Louisiana Baptists made the trip. Between 2013 and 2018, Louisiana Baptists averaged only about 190 messengers at the national convocation.

Meanwhile, Texas Baptists numbered 2,036 in Dallas, and 615 Tennessee Baptists attended.

MESSENGERS' VIEWS

Sandy Robertson attended the SBC with her husband, Philip, pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church in Deville and Alexandria, and a former president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

She said her favorite moment came during a speech by Vice President Mike

Pence on Wednesday morning, June 13.

"I loved hearing him share his personal convictions and political stands, which align with the Bible," Robertson said. "He and President Trump are an answer to prayer for the leadership of our nation."

"I was concerned about the younger generation of Southern Baptists who chose to sit rather than stand during the pledge, 'God bless America' and honoring of our military. I understand we are all citizens of Heaven and serve one King, however, our nation is a priceless gift from God, and we should be thankful to live in the greatest country on earth."

"Their attitude of anti-patriotism and disrespect for the lives that have been lost to earn their freedom seemed out of order to me. I was thrilled to see Louisiana well represented and am proud to be part of the LBC!"

This behavior likewise left a negative impression for Mike Holloway, pastor of Ouachita Baptist Church in West Monroe.

Holloway said "the negative atmosphere before and

during the vice president's speech revealed a lot about some of the people who are newly involved in the SBC."

"Many had a very unpatriotic spirit which totally shocked me," he told the *Baptist Message*.

Looking to the future, Holloway said another issue that arose during the annual meeting was the social justice movement.

"The whole convention seemed to be about making sure we meet quotas for every diversity group in the nation," he said. "From things I'm reading as I follow some blogs and on Twitter, I fear there may be a movement to include the homosexual community in our churches without repentance."

"I was proud Louisiana people turned out in large numbers, but I don't think the vision of this new convention matches the heart of many Louisiana Baptists."

"It seems the Moore, Mohler and Akin coalition has a firm control of the future in SBC life," Holloway observed. "I believe we will be asked to approve of women pastors in a few years."

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

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Election, SWBTS controversy top business agenda in Dallas

By WILL HALL

Message Editor

DALLAS (LBM) — The 9,467 Southern Baptist messengers in Dallas had the opportunity to shape the future of the Convention in a number of ways, with the following items of significant note:

-- J.D. Greear was elected SBC president with 5,410 votes to 2,459 votes for Ken Hemphill, after a nominating speech that described Greear as having planted “42 Southern Baptist churches” told a younger generation “we ought to give more to the Cooperative Program”; and, been “a whosever-will Gospel preacher.”

-- An attempt failed to dismiss the executive committee of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustee board for ousting Paige Patterson regarding allegations to his handling of a sexual assault incident, as well as statements he made about domestic abuse and women’s physical appearance.

-- Despite strong vocal opposition by some, an overwhelming majority of messengers voted to let Vice President Mike Pence speak to the Convention.

-- The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission convinced messengers to defeat a trustee candidate presented by

the SBC Nominating Committee, and approve instead a nominee of their choosing.

MOTIONS REFERRED TO SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motions referred to the SBC Executive Committee asked it to:

- consider a separate entity for evangelism
- cease inviting elected officials to speak at the annual meeting
- amend SBC Bylaw 21 so as to prohibit elected officials from addressing Convention messengers
- strengthen trustee training for all national entities
- amend SBC Bylaw 10c to require nominating speeches for officers of the Convention include CP information for the candidate’s church
- develop and provide more comprehensive trustee training
- study the feasibility of remote sire and digital participation of churches in the annual meeting
- recommend a program assignment for church revitalization
- add a children’s ministry Sunday to the SBC calendar
- form a president-appointed committee to articulate the relationship between the Old Testament and the Gospel
- study the Committee

on Nominations process and standards

-- study the issues of biblical authority regarding a woman serving as SBC president.

MOTIONS REFERRED TO SBC ENTITIES

Motions referred to SBC entities requested:

- the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission to identify or develop resources to help protect churches against sexual predators
- formation of a task force for helping churches protect themselves from sexual predators
- Southwestern Seminary trustees to reconsider its decision regarding Paige Patterson

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

Messengers approved 16



Kathleen Murray photo

Newly elected SBC President J.D. Greear, right, embraces SBC parliamentarian Barry McCarty and holds up the gavel passed down to him by outgoing President Steve Gaines.

resolutions:

-- RESOLUTION 1 - ON THE DIGNITY AND WORTH OF WOMEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN AS MESSENGERS TO THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION (celebrates May 15 as the 100th anniversary of female messengers to the SBC annual meeting and honors the many ways women contribute

to our cooperative work)

-- RESOLUTION 2 - ON ABUSE (denounces abuse as sin, asks “forgiveness for failures to protect the abused ... within our denomination,” emphasizes reporting instances of abuse to legal authorities, and the implementation of “policies and practices to protect against and confront any kind of abuse”)

See AGENDA on 7



Messenger Gibbie McMillan makes a point of order after messengers spoke for and against the leadership of Russell Moore in discussion about a motion to defund the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission from the Cooperative Program budget. “In all due respect to both parties of this motion, I think there needs to be care about saying something, whether they are for or against the motion. The motion is not about Russell Moore. It’s in regard to the budget, and amending the budget,” said McMillan, who serves as pastor of East Fork Baptist Church in Kentwood and also Louisiana Baptists state disaster relief director.

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Report from page one

Program that likely caused messengers to pause during his report.

Citing various sources, Boto said although membership had dropped, “the number of Southern Baptists is still very high and significant (just over 15 million)” and that the “number of cooperating churches seems large and healthy (more than 47,500).”

Also, he offered that “the number of baptisms, while still declining, was slightly more than a quarter of a million. He also highlighted a sign of some recovery, noting worship attendance had recouped about 120,000 from

the 377,000 lost the previous year.

“With regard to the number of missionaries,” he said, “NAMB has reported 5,200 missionaries, and the IMB reports having more than 3,500 missionaries serving overseas.

“And all six of our seminaries are ranked among the top ten in the nation,” he added.

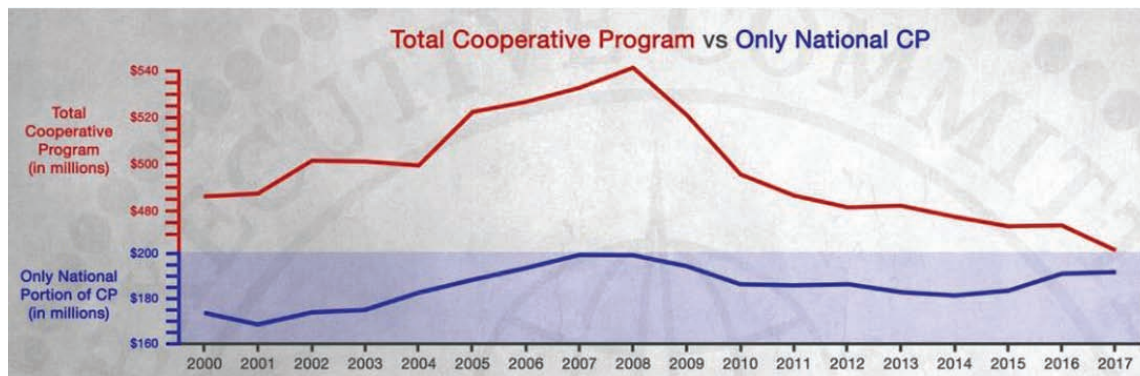
Cautioning that “the SBC is certainly not a sinking ship,” he described it as “a ship that is adrift” with particular emphasis on the declining health of the Cooperative Program.

LARGER SHARE OF DECLINING DOLLARS

Referencing a series of slides displayed on screens for messengers, Boto noted that national causes have been benefitting from voluntary sacrifices from states, explaining that in the last 18 years national ministry receipts “have improved by just over \$17 million” while at the same time, “state ministry support has shrunk by over \$41 million.”

Boto further clarified that this explains why CP reports from Nashville have been positive, while total CP receipts have dropped.

A review of historic CP giving by the *Baptist Messenger* shows CP total receipts



hit an all-time high of \$542 million in 2008, dropping to \$463 million in 2017

— a loss of about \$79 million in nine years.

Boto said the “take away from all this” is that “while national ministries are being well funded, state ministries are not, and our total CP giving is not doing well at all.”

The “domestic base” of the Southern Baptist Convention “must be supported,” he said, “and

much of that work is done most effectively at the state level.”

“

Boto said the “take away from all this” is that “while national ministries are being well funded, state ministries are not, and our total CP giving is not doing well at all.”

”

D. August Boto
interim president of the SBC
Executive Committee

would not suffer Hell.”

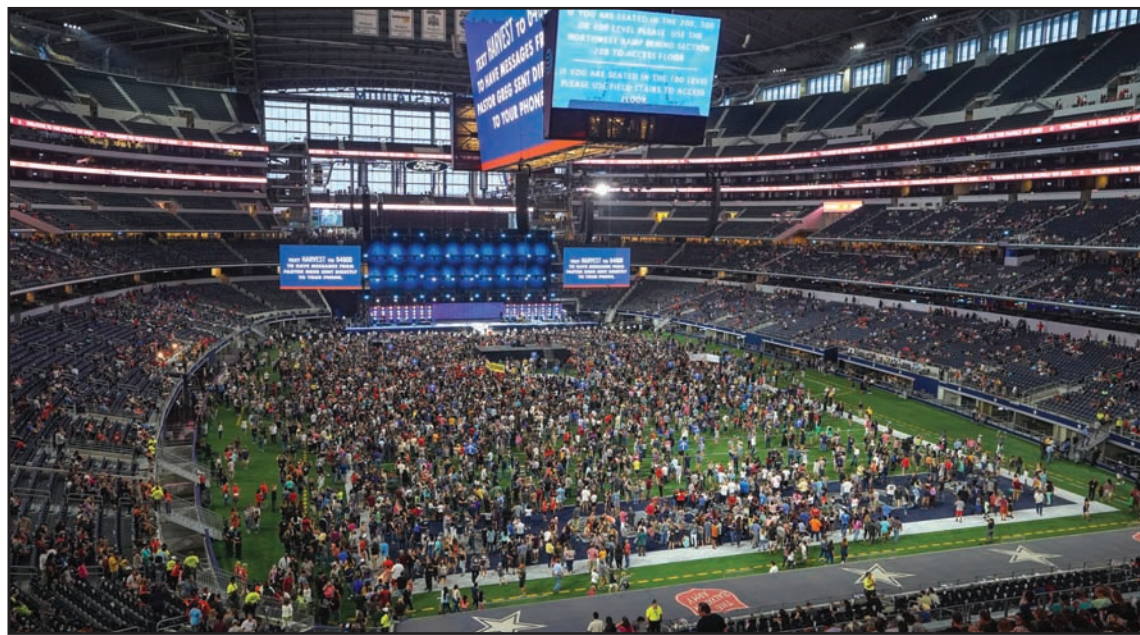
As for tithing, he said, “If we just tithed and did nothing

more, we could afford five times the number of missionaries at home. We could support five times the number of missionaries abroad. Maybe have five times the college ministries to reach and strengthen students, perhaps a similar increase in the number of seminary graduates.

“By any estimate, we could certainly expect a gigantic increase in all of our present fruit,” Boto underscored. “And if it resulted in five times the number of converts, I could live with that, couldn’t you?”

He brought his report to close with emphatic calls to action.

“We have to advance the Gospel. We have to get focused on our mission of evangelism.” He said. We have to get going.”



Bob Carey photo

Thousands of attendees at the June 10 Harvest America event flood onto the floor of the AT&T Stadium in Dallas, Texas, in a response to Greg Laurie’s altar call.

Harvest from page one

2012. Laurie is a member of the board of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and models his Gospel outreaches after the now-deceased evangelist’s crusades.

This is the second year that Laurie’s ministry had been linked to the SBC. Next year a three-day crusade is planned to coincide with the Southern Baptists’ meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11-12.

CBN News reported a crowd

of 35,000 attended the event in AT&T Stadium.

Joel Southerland, executive director, evangelism, with the North American Mission Board, and pastor of the Peavine Baptist Church in Rock Spring, Georgia which averages 1,000 in worship attendance, said another 100,000 watched online.

“Every profession of faith has already received a letter in the mail and been assigned to a local church for follow up,”

Southerland told messengers. Thanking the numerous contributors to Crossover, Southerland announced the 2019 Harvest event “will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday before the convention.

“So consider this to be an invitation to your church to be part of that event,” he offered. “It would be a great opportunity for a mission trip for your youth, college students or your church.”

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Recap from page one

“the Lord blessed and we are grateful” with Husser adding “it was a ‘David and Goliath’ scenario.”

“We stood firm as salt and light to preserve the pro-family, clean and green environment in Tangipahoa Parish—a parish we love with all of our hearts,” Cranford shared. “I’m especially thankful for the leadership of the LBC Office of Public Policy, the Louisiana Family Forum, and State Representative Sherman Mack.

“The church community overflowed the Parish Council meeting, pastors showed up to speak to House and Senate committees, and we got help from an unexpected group on the Senate vote,” Husser added. “Thanks also to Will Hall for his expertise and being ‘boots on the ground’ at the Capitol.”

Hall is the director of the Office for Public Policy for Louisiana Baptists.

SOCIAL ISSUES SUCCESSES

Louisiana Baptist legislators joined a number of other Christian lawmakers to tally a slew of victories in advancing key bills while defeating others.

Senator Beth Mizell, a member of the First Baptist Church in Franklinton, was particularly successful regarding key moral issues and social concerns, championing legislation now signed into law that: allows groups who provide care for children, the elderly or disabled persons to have greater access to criminal history data in screening volunteers and employees (Act 376); greatly increases fines for sex trafficking and provides funding to prevent such activity as well as aid the victims in recovering (Act 663); establishes a funding mechanism to combat domestic violence (Act 38); provides help to parents to safeguard children from online pornography (Act 369); and, requires state agencies to block Internet content that is pornographic or otherwise sexually explicit, or sexually harassing (Act 391).

But others led key victories, too:

-- Representative Mark Abraham, a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, sponsored Act 504 that prohibits pornographers from benefitting from tax-

payer film subsidies.

-- Senator Neil Riser, a member of First Baptist Church in Columbia, pushed through Act 414 that relieves congregations of the burden of mandatory advanced tactical training for volunteer armed security teams, making it instead optional unless required by the congregation or its insurer.

-- Representative Dodie Horton, a member of Fillmore Baptist Church in Haughton, successfully advocated for Act 189 that allows judges “based on the best interest of the child” to determine the placement of a child under the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services, eliminating the sole authority this state agency once held in these decisions.

-- Representative Mack authored Act 263 which protects persons with infirmities from being abused electronically by use of images “to embarrass shame, harass, coerce, abuse, torment, or intimidate” them with “malicious or willful intent.”

Like Mizell, Senator Ryan Gatti, a member of Cypress Baptist Church in Benton, also enjoyed multiple victories. He was successful in keeping children from “timing out” from the foster care system before reaching the age of 21 or completing high school (Act 649); establishing a whistle blower fund to encourage individuals to report violators of the law pertaining to the prohibition of the sale of fetal organs, tissues, and body parts (Act 645); and, protecting children returning to the home from foster care by requiring parents to pass a drug test (Act 237).

He also led the fight on a key religious liberty issue, originating Act 673 which allows school employees to participate in student-initiated prayer during the work day and not just before and after school as previously restricted by law.

While Louisiana Baptists were a notable force in the legislature, other Christian lawmakers led major efforts on religious liberty matters, and key moral concerns and social issues, too.

Senator Rick Ward, a member of Bethany Church, a non-denominational congregation in Baton Rouge and five other campuses,



Louisiana Legislature photo

Pictured in this screenshot Pastor Jeff Robinson of First Baptist Hammond, Josh Dickson, minister of discipleship at First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula, and David Cranford, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula testify before the Criminal Justice Committee against a proposed riverboat casino being moved to Tangipahoa Parish at the Louisiana Legislature on March 25, 2018. State Representative Sherman Mack, chairman of the committee, who gave strong leadership in helping to defeat the move, is pictured in the inset.

succeeded in forcing the Board of Regents to adopt policies and procedures ensuring free expression on Louisiana’s college campuses.

The measure protects conservative thought, including religious speech, which is being stifled at many undergraduate institu-

tions across the country. Act 666 reinforces the notion of “intellectual freedom” for students and faculty, affirms constitutionally protected speech; and, requires public areas to be truly open as forums for all forms of expression as long as such “does not interfere with regularly scheduled campus events.”

Likewise, the law sets up reporting provisions to hold postsecondary schools accountable, disciplinary requirements to sanction “anyone under the jurisdiction of an institution who substantially and materially disrupts the functioning of

See RECAP on 8

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Packed crowd cheers Pence; others tweet criticism



Bob Carey photo

The vice president thanked Southern Baptists for the important role they play in the nation's life. "No podium that the president and I will ever stand behind," he said, "will be of greater consequence than the pulpits that you stand behind every Sunday. No policy we enact will ever be more meaningful than the ministries you lead. No action will ever be more powerful than your prayers."

BY WILL HALL

Message Editor

DALLAS (LBM)—Vice President Mike Pence gave a rousing report to cheering Southern Baptists about the work of the White House on behalf of Southern Baptists as Americans and as a community of faith, sharing his testimony of salvation and an inspiring message by the three Christians freed from North Korea; but the Twitter-sphere showed not everyone was happy with his remarks.

Pence and SBC President Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in the Memphis, Tennessee, area, were together in Sutherland Springs, Texas, in November 2017, to minister and offer encouragement to church families and the community following the shootings at the First Baptist Church during which 26 congregants were murdered, including Pastor Frank Pomeroy's daughter Annabelle Renae, who was just 14 years old, and 20 church members were wounded.

labeled to the work of the Trump administration, saying, "I believe our nation is in the midst of a time of renewal, and we are in the midst of a new beginning of greatness in America."

Pence cited a stronger America, a stronger economy and "a stronger commitment to the God-given liberties enshrined in our Constitution" to declare it's been "500 days of action, 500 days of accomplishment, it's been 500 days of promises made and promises kept."

Among the highlights Pence listed, were: rebuilding of the military; securing the Southern border; enforcing the law and removing dangerous criminals off the streets; taking significant strides to denuclearize North Korea; gaining commitment from North Korea to recover and repatriate the remains of more than 5,000 American MIAs who fell in the Korean War; 3.4 million new jobs, and the historically low unemployment rates for Hispanic-Americans, African-Americans and women; new policies protecting the religious liberties of "every American"; end of enforcement of the Johnson Amendment (thus extending free speech to the pulpit); appointment of conservative judges to federal courts at every level; \$110 million in direct relief (around the United Nations) to relieve the suffering of Christians and persecuted religious minorities across the world; denying federal aid to organizations that promote or perform abortions.

He also emphasized that as vice president, he had the honor of casting the tie-breaking vote to allow states across America "to defund Planned Parenthood."

PRO FORMA

The vice president's report came amid business reports by SBC national entities and different committees and task forces, and seemed in line with those good news reports about what had been accomplished by each organization during the past year.

He received multiple standing ovations, but three instances in Pence's message were particularly emoting: his memories of the "the tears" but more importantly "the faith" and "the hope" of the people of FBC Sutherland Springs after the tragic shootings in 2017; his description of when "I ... gave my life to Jesus Christ" in 1978 after hearing John 3:16, "the very message that Southern Baptists speak so faithfully across this nation every day"; and, his recounting the freedom gained for three Christians who had been held captive by North Korea (one for nearly two years) and their note to him saying in part "we praise the Lord who has done great things for America and for us" on their return to the U.S.

Commending Southern Baptists for having always "worked to bring about renewal in America, and new beginnings," he drew a paral-

PROTESTS

There was a contentious debate by several messengers about the vice president speaking to the Convention.

Two messengers made motions to amend the Convention's agenda asking the Committee on the Order of Business to exclude the vice president's address.

The first attempt received loud vocal support, cheers and clapping by a notable contingent, to a request to amend the agenda and remove "Mike

See PENCE on 11

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Agenda

from page 3

-- RESOLUTION 3 - ON THE HOLINESS AND INTEGRITY OF MINISTRY LEADERS (repudiates any ministry leader's behavior that compromises "absolute holiness" and biblical requirement to live "above reproach")

-- RESOLUTION 4 - ON DENOUNCING THE DOCTRINE OF THE "CURSE OF HAM" AS A JUSTIFICATION FOR RACISM (rejects the teaching by some that God marked the descendants of Noah's son Ham with dark skin)

-- RESOLUTION 5 - ON IMMIGRATION (repeats a previous resolution to ask the government to prioritize efforts to secure the borders, and hold businesses accountable with regard to hiring practices and immigration status; and, adds a call for a "pathway to legal status with appropriate restitutionary measures")

-- RESOLUTION 6 - ON REAFFIRMING THE FULL DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING (addresses the "significant challenges" that "threaten the dignity and worthiness of human beings who do not possess power or advantage")

-- RESOLUTION 7 - ON CHRISTLIKE COMMUNICATION AND THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA (calls for Southern Baptists to "guard our tongues, using caution and wisdom in our media and social media, and refrain from remarks that tear down others made in the image of God")

-- RESOLUTION 8 - ON GUN VIOLENCE AND MASS SHOOTINGS (asks government leaders on all levels to evaluate "the societal maladies," and, implement "preventative measures" to "reduce gun violence and mass shootings while operating in accordance with the Second Amendment")

-- RESOLUTION 9 - ON OPIOID ABUSE AND ADDICTION (raises awareness about the opioid addiction epidemic and urges "the prescription of opioids only under the most stringent standards" as well as education and other equipping as well as ministry to combat this scourge)

-- RESOLUTION 10 - ON PRAYER AND SUPPORT FOR ARAB CHRISTIANS (asks Southern Baptists to en-

See AGENDA on 9



Adam Covington photo

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting voted during the two-day meeting on a variety of motions and 16 resolutions at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas.



Adam Covington photo

Bart Barber, right, pastor of First Baptist Church in Farmersville, Texas, and a member of the SWBTS trustee Executive Committee, spoke on a point of personal privilege regarding the committee's decision to terminate Patterson. "If you take away the spine of the trustees," he said, "you take away the messengers' voice."



Kathleen Murray photo

Brad Jurkovich, pastor at First Baptist Church in Bossier City, nominated Ken Hemphill as a candidate for Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president June 12 during the morning session on the first day of the two-day SBC annual meeting in Dallas.



Kathleen Murray photo

Preston Nix, professor of evangelism and evangelistic preaching at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, taught a group of seminarians gathered at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary June 9 before they went door-to-door evangelizing in the Dallas metroplex as part of Cross-over. The group had 3,180 gospel conversations throughout the afternoon.



Hayley Catt photo

Church planter Justin Haynes of the Refuge Church in New Orleans shared at last year's Send Luncheon how important the prayers of fellow Southern Baptist churches had been in his battle against cancer. This year, he stood and shared with the crowd of more than 4,000 that he is now cancer free.

Kingdom Builders advance the Gospel through construction

By BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

RHINEHART – A group of Kingdom Builders kicked off their summer by helping members of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Rhinehart complete their family life center.

A team of 55 people from 26 Louisiana Baptist churches in early June installed framing, sheetrock, wiring and plumbing inside the 4,800-square-foot facility. Kingdom Builders President Randy Ray said his organization saved Oak Grove Baptist around \$50,000 in labor costs.

“Our heart and our focus is working with mission churches and smaller churches that can’t typically afford to have a building built,” said Ray, pastor of St. Rest Baptist Church in Dubach. “The greatest joy of Kingdom Builders first of all is great because we get to work with these guys and gals. We

have formed a bond and are a picture of the real church – a community of believers coming together to help out fellow Christians with a need.”

This is the second project Kingdom Builders has completed this year. In February, volunteers helped finish the Breadcrumb Benevolence Ministry building in Jonesville. Their final undertaking for 2018 is to help finish a worship center for the Church Street of God in Oak Grove this September, pending final approval from the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal.

According to its website, Kingdom Builders is a construction mission group established in 1998. The ministry’s first official action was to build a church the following year in Mandaree, North Dakota.

Last year, Kingdom Builders helped finish the worship center, fellowship hall and education space at Point of Life Commu-



Brian Blackwell photo

Kingdom Builders President Randy Ray, pastor of St. Rest Baptist Church in Dubach, talks about how much his teams save a church by doing various construction jobs around the state. The KB volunteers were working in the family life center at Oak Grove Baptist Church in Rhinehart. The building is the second project the team members have worked on in 2018.

nity Church, the first Baptist church in Plaquemine; and

Zenoria Baptist Church, whose previous facility was destroyed by a 2016 flood.

“It’s always a joy when we are called back after the project is completed and we see the church has grown,” Ray said. “What a joy it is to know that we are building the kingdom in many different ways and are providing a

tool for this church to expand their ministry in different areas to reach this community.”

For more information on volunteering with Kingdom Builders, call Ray at 318.312.0884, or e-mail rray1.ch@gmail.com. The organization can be found online at Kingdombuilders-fortheLord.org.

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Recap from page 5

the institution or the free expression of others”; and, a freshman orientation program to familiarize new students with “free expression policies and regulations.”

Representative Rick Edmonds, a retired Louisiana Baptist pastor, now serving as outreach pastor with Bethany Church in Baton Rouge, proposed H.B. 643, now Act 562 that restricts payments from adopting parents to a mother to prevent inducements which would amount to the trafficking of babies. It also enacts safeguards to prevent scamming of prospective adopting parents.

He also guided H.B. 449 through signing by the governor as Act 319, which emphasizes adoption as an alternative to abortion in information the Louisiana Department of Health is required to provide. Edmonds also helped expand access to school information

for parents of children “who have not reached the age of majority” with Act 547.

Finally, a number of pro-life bills were signed into law, with several simply fixing the language in previous legislation. However, two were profound in their impact and both were championed by Senator John Milkovich, a member of the non-denominational Shreveport Community Church.

Milkovich moved S.B. 534 through the legislative process to declare feticide and the use of coercion to result in an abortion as “crimes of violence” (Act 674).

He also took the lead from Mississippi legislation to make abortion “after fifteen weeks following the date of conception” illegal in Louisiana (Act 468) pending successful litigation of the Mississippi law with the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Agenda

from page one

courages “remember our Arab brothers and sisters in Christ” and to pray for their strength and endurance “as they allow Him to use their lives as lights of the Gospel in a darkened world”)

-- RESOLUTION 11 - ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF (celebrates this milestone, recognizing this ministry as representing “the best of Southern Baptist cooperation and partnership”)

-- RESOLUTION 12 - ON THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION (honors the work of the former Annuity Board in providing help to Southern Baptists in making provisions for retirement; and, for providing financial support to ministers and widows in need through Mission: Dignity)

-- RESOLUTION 13 - ON THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (celebrates the “first educational institution created as a direct act of the Southern Baptist Convention” and its many graduates who “have labored faithfully to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth”)

-- RESOLUTION 14 - ON COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF BILLY GRAHAM (acknowledges Billy Graham’s “Christ-like witness” during seven decades of ministry, and his example of “integrity, modesty, lifelong fidelity to one’s spouse, and humility despite worldwide acclaim”)

-- RESOLUTION 15 - ON AFFIRMATION OF FOUNDATIONAL AND COMPASSIONATE COMMITMENTS IN SEVERAL SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS (affirms “our commitment to the Bible” and to the “one and only one living and true God”; encourages adoption and foster care and the welcome and adoption of “refugees into their churches and homes”)

-- RESOLUTION 16 - ON APPRECIATION (expresses gratitude for the hospitality and hard work of the many contributors to the production of the annual meeting and related events)



Kathleen Murray photo

Richard Land, middle, president of Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, N.C., prays with David Hankins, right, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and other attendees at a meeting of Connect316 June 11 at the Omni Hotel in Dallas. Connect316 is an organization advocating a “traditionalist” view of the doctrine of salvation.



SBC screenshot

Suzanne Phillips, a messenger from Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, speaks out against a motion by Tom Hatley of Immanuel Baptist Church in Rogers, Ark., that messengers dismiss Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary board of trustees. Messengers debated then defeated the motion.



Adam Covington photo

Ray Brantley, a messenger from Texas, front, prays for unity June 12, during the first session of the two-day Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas. SBC President Steve Gaines led messengers in prayer for America before leading the crowd in singing “God Bless America.”



Van Payne photo

Steve Gaines, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church near Memphis, Tenn., introduces new motions during the morning session of the first day of the two-day Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Dallas.



Marc Ira Hooks photo

Frank Pomeroy, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Sutherland Springs, Texas, speaks during the Pastor’s Conference June 11 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas. The theme of the two-day event June 10-11 was “Fulfill Your Ministry.”

10 Classifieds



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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, plassiter@suddenlink.net or by calling/texting 318.243.4772 to set up a meeting.

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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@baptist-message.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

- Micah (wife Stevi) Mitchell ordained to the Gospel ministry at Westside Emmanuel Baptist Church, Bogalusa.
- Mike Welch is the interim pastor at Midway Baptist Church, Sarepta.
- Joe Jenkins retires as pastor at Teche Baptist Church, Breaux Bridge.
- Jake (wife Diana) Bondurant is the new pastor at Teche Baptist Church, Breaux Bridge.

HOMECOMING

- His Church, Pineville: 12th Anniversary, July 1, 8 a.m. (Southern Gospel Celebration) 9:30 & 11 a.m. (Contemporary Worship Celebrations). Pastor: Steve Speer.
- South Winnfield Baptist Church, Winnfield: Homecoming, July 8, 11 a.m. Worship: Southern Plainsmen. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Jack Miller.

REVIVAL

- First Baptist Church, Keithville: Harvest Sunday, July 1, 10:15 a.m. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Mike Stowell.
- Unity Revival – Memorial Baptist Church, Bogalusa, July 1, 6 p.m. Speaker: Patrick Magee. Monroe Street Baptist Church, Bogalusa, July 8, 6 p.m. Speaker: Keith Sheridan. First Baptist Church, Bogalusa (Worship under the Stars), July 15, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Greg Whaley. Worship: Johnathan Turner Band. Lee's Creek Baptist Church, Bogalusa, July 22, 6 p.m. Speaker: Field Thigpen. Main Street Baptist Church, Bogalusa

- July 29, 6 p.m. Speaker: Stan Statham.
- First Baptist Church, Minden: Revive III, July 1, 8 15, 22, 6 p.m. Speakers: Will Simmons, Bobbie Dale Williams, Chris Fleming, Richard Methvin. Special Music: Jake & Rachel Chapman, Joe & Jody Nida, Jeremy & Lexie Scriber. Pastor: Leland Crawford.
- Belleaire Baptist Church, Bossier City: Evangelism Emphasis Sunday, July 15, 10 a.m. Speaker: Lyndon Longoria. Pastor: Randy Harper.

LAGNIAPPE

- Russell Kirkland is available for pulpit supply, interim pastorate, or senior pastorate. To contact him, call 985.514.1279.
- Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: Land of the Free Fourth of July Celebration, June 30, 6:30 p.m. Come hear patriotic music with recognition of branch services followed by dinner and fireworks. The youth will also have a cake auction as a fundraiser. Pastor: David Newton.
- Alto Baptist Church, Alto: God & Country Day, Sunday, July 1, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: Congressman Ralph Abraham. Special Music: Brothers In Christ. A barbecue lunch will be served after the service. Music Minister: Jay Ellerman. Pastor: Alan Miller.
- Live Oak Baptist Church, Denham Springs: 12th Annual BBQ Cook-Off, July 1, 5 p.m. There will be lots of door prizes and award winning BBQ. Pastor: Johnny Morgan.
- Bethlehem Baptist Church, Mangham: Chuck Wagon Will Travel Ministries, July 1, 4-7 p.m. "Peanut" Copes will have his Chuckwagon Testimonies and great food for the family. All are welcome. There is no fee. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Keith Stephens.
- First Baptist Church, Haughton: Dennis Swanberg in concert, July 1, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Gevan Spinney.
- Waller Baptist Church, Bossier City: Vacation Bible School – Game On!, July 1-6, 6-8:30 p.m. Children ages 3 years to adult are invite to attend. Pastor: Gary Johnson.
- First Baptist Church, Delhi: Fourth of July Celebration, July 4, 5:30 p.m. at the FBC Delhi gym-

- nasium/pavilion. There will be hamburger, chips, watermelon and a waterslide for the kids. Invite someone to enjoy food, fun and fellowship. Pastor: Jeff Coleman.
- First Baptist Church, Rayne: 2018 VBS "Camp Moose on the Loose," July 8-13, 6-8:30 p.m. The church is located at 1715 E. Jeff Davis Ave., Rayne, La. 70578. For more information or to register, call 337.334.4154 or go online to FB-CRayne. Pastor: Gene Lee.
- First Baptist Church, Slidell: Vacation Bible School – Game on!, July 8-12, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Register at 985.643.3456 or www.fbcslidell.org. Family Day is Sunday, July 15, with food and fellowship following worship. Pastor: Casey Stark.
- Oak Hill Baptist Church, Bastrop: Vacation Bible School, July 9–13, 8:00–11:30 a.m. Pastor: Andy Myrick.
- Johnson Bayou Baptist Church, Cameron: Vacation Bible School, July 9-13, 9 a.m.-noon. Pastor: Jack Gandy.
- First Baptist Church, Bogalusa: Vacation Bible School – "Game On"; July 9-13, 5:30 p.m. Student Supper; 6-8:30 p.m. VBS. Pastor: Greg Whaley.
- Mechanicville Emmanuel Baptist Church, Houma: Vacation Bible School – Game On!, July 9-13 Pastor: Clifton Arnold Jr.
- Crosspoint Baptist Church, Cut Off: Vacation Bible School, July 9-13, 5:30-8 p.m. Pastor: Chad Mack.
- Bentley Baptist Church, Bentley: Vacation Bible School, July 9-15, Supper is provided at 5:15 p.m., Child pick up will be at 7:45 p.m. Pastor: Kirk Maxey.
- Searcy Baptist Church, Trout: Vacation Bible School – Shipwrecked: Recued by Jesus; July 11-13, 9-11:30 a.m. Fun Day with hotdogs and water slides Friday after VBS until 1 p.m.
- First Baptist Church, Winnsboro: Vacation Bible School – Game On!, July 11-15, 8:30 a.m.-noon. All children pre-K 3 through 5th grade are invited to attend. Pastor: Craig Beeman.
- First Baptist Church, Vidalia: 'I Can Only Imagine' – The movie will be presented, July 13, 7 p.m. Cost: No charge. Sponsored Celebrate Recovery of the Miss-Lou. Invite your family and friends. Pastor: Wes Faulk.



Matt Miller photo

Referencing the meeting's theme, Vice President Mike Pence encouraged attendees at the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Dallas to "continue in your calling with renewed energy. Stand and go and speak ... I believe that your voice, your compassion, your values and your ministries are more needed now than ever before."

Pence from page 6

Pence" from the program. The raising of ballots was overwhelming to support the vice president's participation.

The second motion was ruled out of order because the Convention had already dealt with the matter.

Two additional motions asking the Convention to prohibit political figures from speaking during future annual meetings were referred to the SBC Executive Committee.

Finally, a "point of order" Wednesday morning that denounced Pence's appearance was rejected by the chair as "not well taken."

The political discontent continued after the vice president spoke -- via tweets from a number of SBC figures including the newly elected president, J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Greear tweeted that the vice president's appearance "sent a terribly mixed signal" and emphasized that "Commissioned missionaries, not political platforms, are what we do."

Trevin Wax, director of Bibles & Reference for Life-Way was even more scornful, tweeting "has there ever been a full-blown campaign speech like this one?"

Denny Burk, an avowed "NeverTrumper" who teaches at Boyce College, the undergraduate school of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, declared, "This is a stump speech. Incredible."

PROMISES

Vice President Pence continued his theme of promises made and kept, by

making a vow specifically to the Southern Baptist Convention, which he thanked for "the essential and irreplaceable role you play in America."

"I'll make you a promise," he continued. "This president, this vice president and our administration will always stand with you. We will."

Then he closed his remarks by asking a commitment from the messengers – "to continue to do what each of you do every day: preach the word, 'in season and out of season.' Always be prepared to 'give a reason for the hope that you have.'"

"Keep changing lives, keep ministering to the spiritual and the practical needs of the American people, especially the most vulnerable."

Finally, citing 2 Chronicles 7:14, he urged Southern Baptists to pray, not for "an agenda or a cause" but for "America" and "America matters far beyond our shores."

"So thank you again for the honor to speak today. It's a joy to be with you all. I know that with your support and prayers, with the strong support of leaders at every level of government, with President Donald Trump in the White House, and with God's help, we will make America safe again. We will make America prosperous again; and, to borrow a phrase, 'We will make America great again.'

"Thank you very much. Thank you for the honor of being with you today. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America."

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.

kgbn lgvdtmv jgzi rivdmtnir kn zwbingmr, djin jgzi

dmtrib kn ltmdwtb pbrim qtt, djin jgzi kgri kn

luigvgbd ltmdwtb g rivtugdi ewurimbivv.

aimikwgj deiuzi:dib

Clues:
L = P; I = E

Answer to June 14 Scripture Crypto:
Romans five:seven

Hunting show to connect creation with the Creator

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL
Message Staff Writer

HAUGHTON – Pastor Gevan Spinney will soon take the Gospel from inside the worship center of First Baptist Church in Haughton to viewers of a national hunting TV show.

“The Way It Was” will debut June 29 on the Pursuit Channel, and Spinney and others hope they can offer more than just picturesque outdoor scenery and the best tips on how to snag the biggest elk, turkey or deer. Ultimately, they pray the show will introduce viewers to the message of Christ over the course of the 13-episode season.

“This is my wheelhouse,” Spinney said. “I’m a simple redneck guy who loves Jesus and the outdoors. Putting the both of them together will give us an opportunity to reach people who don’t normally go to church.

“When you’re outside it’s that time to get your mind and



Submitted photo

Gevan Spinney proudly poses with this impressive whitetail buck killed during the filming of an episode for the upcoming series “The Way It Was.” The 13-episode series will include tips about hunting, and present the Gospel at the end of each show.

life in neutral,” he continued. “It’s the creation connecting with the creator. The busyness of our lives keeps us from being still. But being in a tree there is a lot of stillness. It’s where you see the awe of God, feel His presence and see how big He is.”

The show will feature

Spinney and fellow hunters Lynn Beaty, a member of First Baptist Haughton, and Sid McCullin, a member of Cypress Baptist Church in Benton.

The show will include youth hunting in Louisiana, ladies using archery to snag giant whitetail deer in Kansas

and a quest for a turkey grand slam – one of the biggest feats in the sport – across five states.

But though each location and episode theme will be different, every show will end the same way – with Spinney sharing the Gospel.

Viewers will be invited to call a 1-888-JESUS20, a toll free number hosted by the North American Mission Board, or log onto endthehunt.org, a website that features live counseling via a person in a private message format hosted by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Spinney cites the success the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has seen using this method, a strategy he hopes will reap a similar harvest with the hunting show.

The title sponsor for the show is Bucks and Bulls Outfitters out of Ogden, Utah. Co-owner Steve Nichols, who lives in Shreveport, said the show allows him to advertise his company and support this ministry.

“With Gevan sharing the Gospel at the end of every show, it’s a good way to honor God and reach out to people who may not receive that message any other way,” he said. “Anytime you are investing in good men, you are going to win.”

McCullin, a veteran hunter for 49 years, said he was elated when the opportunity arose to be a part of a ministry-based hunting show.

“Being involved with this show is so exciting because it gives us that opportunity to share our faith along with our hunting adventures in God’s great outdoors,” he said.

“Man can create a lot of wonderful things, but we can’t come close to matching what he has done with this natural world and the wildlife that he provides for us. It’s something we need to give thanks for every single sunrise.”

“The Way It Was” will be shown every Friday at 10:30 p.m., and re-aired the following day at 3 p.m., from June 29-Sept. 22.

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