



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

November 22, 2018
Volume 133 • Issue No. 23

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John 3:16

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Brian Blackwell photo

The streets of Brazil were ripe for harvest during Wayne Jenkins' mission trips. Jenkins was known as a soul winner who was passionate about others coming to Christ. Before he retired in early 2018 as evangelism and church growth director for Louisiana Baptists, Jenkins had led 35 mission trips to Brazil, recording more than 100,000 conversions to Christ and constructing 68 chapels.

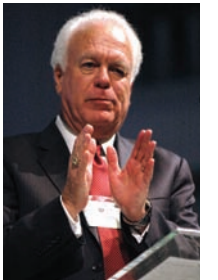
Marcio Alexandre de Moraes Santos, executive director of the Minas Gerais State Baptist Convention, presented medallions to Wayne Jenkins and Dwight Lowrie, pastor of Liberty-Eylau Baptist Church in Texarkana, Texas, for their work in evangelism in Brazil in late July. They were recognized among the top 100 influential persons in the area of evangelism in Brazil.

Hankins announces retirement

By Staff
Louisiana Baptist Message

RUSTON (LBM) — David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, has announced his plans to retire, sharing the news during the Convention's Executive Board meeting in Ruston, Nov. 12, just prior to the LBC annual meeting.

"At the close of this annual meeting, I will be giving Dr. Bailey, president of the Executive Board, official notice of my intention to retire," said Hankins.



David Hankins, executive director for Louisiana Baptists, shares with messengers his intention to retire June 30, 2019.

His retirement will be effective June 30, 2019.

"The theme of this year's annual meeting is 'Marking the Next Generation,'" Hankins told the Board. "I have great confidence in the future generation of leaders God will choose to lead Louisiana Baptists."

According to Convention by-laws, Hankins' announcement will initiate a process in which the

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JENKINS MADE AN ETERNAL IMPACT

By Will Hall
Message Editor

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) — Wayne Jenkins passed away November 13, but the retired Louisiana Baptist evangelism director made a spiritual impact that will last through eternity.



Jenkins served as pastor with six Southern Baptist churches in Texas and Louisiana for 25 years before joining the Louisiana Baptist Convention staff as director of evangelism and church growth in 1990.

He brought with him a seven-year evangelism partnership with Brazilian Baptists and continued that international relationship another 28 years, until his retirement in January.

He was equally committed to soul-winning in Louisiana from 1990-2018, equipping numerous pastors and

See JENKINS, page 2



Message file photo

Wayne Jenkins prays with an inmate during a mission trip to Brazil. He saw more than 100,000 people come to Christ during his mission trips there.

Bilingual Pastors Conference celebrates unity

By Staff
Louisiana Baptist Message

RUSTON — Louisiana Baptists came together for worship in English and Spanish as a means to cel-

brate their unity in Christ during the opening session of the Pastors Conference, Nov. 11-12, at Cook Baptist Church in Ruston.

In step with the conference theme "Whole:

Equipping the church to love the whole church," the session featured music led by Fellowship Church in Prairieville and Istrouma

See BILINGUAL, page 8

Jenkins from page one

congregations for reaching the lost.

Most recently, he was a central figure in visualizing and implementing the statewide Harvest initiative which is underway to “pray for every home and share Christ with every person” in Louisiana.

HARVESTS AT HOME

Jenkins led the effort to enlist more than 900 of 1,650 Louisiana Baptist churches to join together across the state for Harvest prayer events and soul-winning activities, far-exceeding the goal of 700 participating congregations.

He helped lay the groundwork in 2015; planned and enlisted leaders and churches in 2016; set up statewide training and pilot projects in 2017; and, con-

tinued to foster the growth of the initiative until retiring this year.

Already, reports indicate a spiritual harvest is underway in different areas of the state.

In LaSalle Parish, as a result of Tomorrow’s Hope, an area-wide evangelistic campaign, 228 persons repented, 119 for salvation and 109 to restore their fellowship with Christ, and another 15 men and women made ministry or missions commitments.

Meanwhile, about 860 lives were changed during Hope4U2018 crusade events in Rapides and Grant Parishes, with 459 of those individuals repenting to follow Jesus and the 401 others repenting to return to Him.

State leaders believe this is the largest joint evangelistic effort by Louisiana Baptists in two decades.

Just prior to his retirement in January, Louisiana College established a center of evangelism and missions to honor him and his wife, Martha, for their lives of soul-winning service. It will serve to equip evangelists and missionaries to “be transformational leaders.”

HARVESTS ABROAD

Jenkins’ commitment to share the Gospel with the people of Brazil has had sustained success, netting about 9,000 new believers in Christ, combined, in just the last three years:

-- In 2016, he led a team of about 97 members, mostly Louisiana Baptists, to share the Gospel through street evangelism, Vacation Bible School, health clinics, drama performances and other opportunities, resulting in 3,202 recorded salvation decisions. The names and contact information of these individuals were turned over to local churches for follow up home visits as part of the discipleship process.

-- Last year, a team of 87 volunteers witnessed 2,568 persons repent and turn to Christ.

-- This year, Jenkins and 129 others teamed up for evangelism and 3,212 Brazilians became children of God.



Brian Blackwell photo

Wayne Jenkins embraces Keith Manuel at the 2018 state Evangelism Conference. Manuel assumed the position of director of evangelism for Louisiana Baptists after Jenkins retired Jan. 31. The pair had a close friendship.

LASTING LEGACY

Jenkins made such a significant impact on the spiritual health and growth in Brazil that Baptist leaders in the country awarded him a special honor during

his last evangelistic outreach in July.

As part of the celebration of 100 years of Baptist work in Minas Gerais, Jenkins received a medallion to mark his tireless Gospel efforts among Brazilians.

Moreover, Marcio Alexandre de Moraes Santos, executive director of the Minas Gerais State Baptist Convention, named Jenkins one of the “top 100 influential persons in the area of evangelism in Brazil.”

In all, about 100,000 Brazilians have repented for salvation during Jenkins’ many evangelistic outreach visits to the country, and his teams have built 68 chapels since 1984 when Jenkins led his first mission trip there with 10 volunteers.

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Volume 133 November 22, 2018 Number 23

WRAP-UP: Hankins to retire, leads call to reach the next generation

By Staff
Louisiana Baptist Message

BATON ROUGE –David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, has announced his plans to retire, sharing his intentions during the 2018 LBC Annual Meeting, Nov. 12-13, hosted by Temple Baptist Church in Ruston.

“I have every confidence that God is going to take care of this Convention and bring about good things and better things for His glory,” Hankins told messengers during the Monday evening session. “So I know you will join me in praying during these transition days.

“I’ve been reminded as I come to this time of approaching retirement of this truth,” he continued. “It is always the duty of every generation for God’s people to teach the next generation. There’s always a next generation that we have a duty to. We stand on the shoulders of those

who came before us and somebody’s going to need to stand on our shoulders. So we’re to mark the next generation.”

His retirement will be effective June 30, 2019.

Waylon Bailey, president of the LBC Executive Board and pastor of the First Baptist Church in Covington, spoke to the *Baptist Message*, expressing high regard for Hankins.

“Dr. Hankins has brought strong, clear, and principled leadership to the office of executive director of the LBC,” he said. “It’s been a great 14 and one-half years. We are praying for a great future for David and Patty and hold the same hope for the Convention because of his exceptional work.”

Bailey also said he was buoyed about the prospects for the search process, particularly because of the spiritual character he senses about the team.

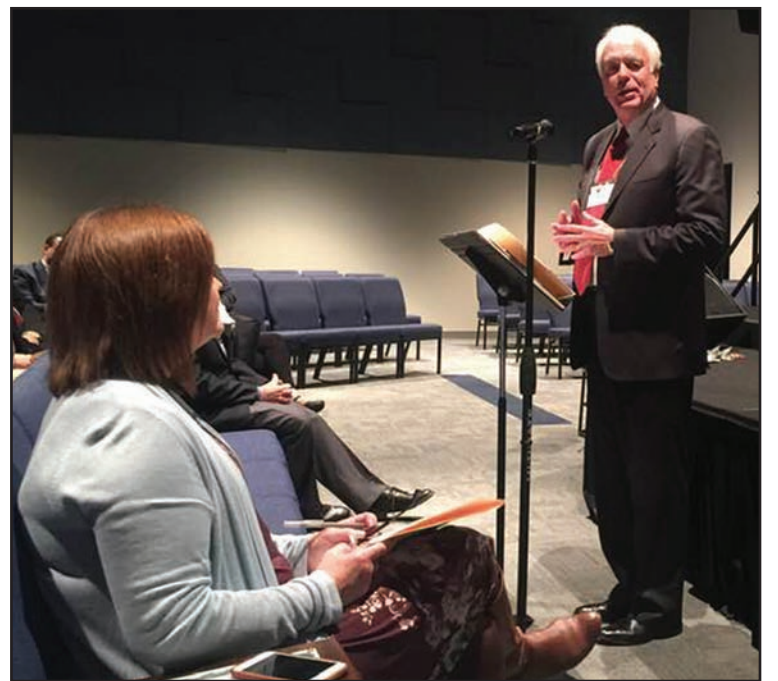
“I am encouraged by the composition of the

search committee,” he said. “There is wide representation of Louisiana Baptists.

“Each of them love the local church, the Lord Jesus, and Louisiana Baptists,” he explained. “I expect a great result.”

Bailey also noted that all 15 members of the search committee were present and participating in the business of the Convention during the annual meeting, without being prompted to attend or having prior notice of Hankins’ plans to retire and the potential for being named to a search com-

See WRAP UP, page 4



Philip Timothy photo

David Hankins, executive director for Louisiana Baptists, tells members of the Executive Board his intention to retire June 30, 2019. According to Convention by-laws, Hankins’ announcement will initiate a process in which the Executive Board will form a search committee. Once formed, the search committee will elect a chairman and begin its work. Hankins has served as executive director since 2005.

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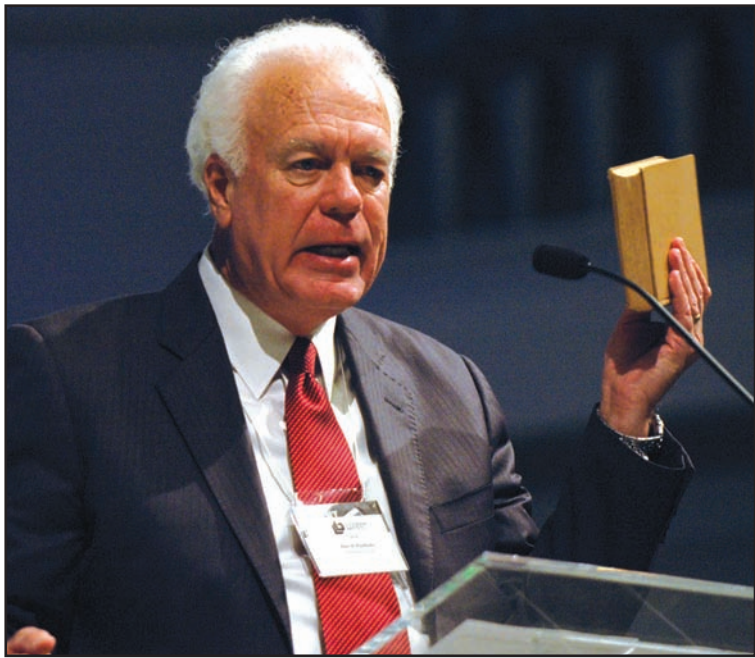
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Philip Timothy photo

After sharing with messengers his intention to retire June 30, 2019, David Hankins, executive director for Louisiana Baptists, spoke how he used a book given to him by his grandfather to guide him over his 50-year career. According to Convention by-laws, Hankins' announcement will initiate a process in which the Executive Board will form a search committee. Once formed, the search committee will elect a chairman and begin its work. Hankins has served as executive director since 2005.

Hankins from page one

Executive Board will form a search committee. Once formed, the search committee will elect a chairman and begin its work.

Hankins has served as executive director since 2005.

He is a California native who was reared in Texas. He holds M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas and an undergraduate degree from Dallas Baptist University.

In a statement on his résumé, Hankins shared how he was exposed to Christianity all of his life, noting that his father was a Baptist deacon and a grandfather was a Baptist preacher.

Hankins made a profession of faith in 1963 – at age 13. Four years later, he committed himself to the Gospel ministry and in 1970 was ordained to the Gospel ministry.

Hankins served three Texas Baptist churches from 1971-85.

He then traveled to Lake Charles, Louisiana, where he grew Trinity Baptist Church from 2,500 members to nearly 3,500 from 1985-1995, baptizing more than 900 persons.

He also was heavily involved in state and national denominational life during that time.

He chaired the LBC Committee on Committees from 1989-92, and was president of the state Pastors Conference in 1995. He chaired the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee, and was an SBC Executive Committee member from Louisiana during 1986-94, serving as chairman in 1991-1992.

In 1996, Hankins joined the SBC Executive Committee staff as vice president for convention policy

and worked on such SBC restructuring initiatives as the formation of the North American Mission Board. He was named vice president for Cooperative Program in 1998 and charged with expanding Southern Baptists' financial support for their national and international cooperative missions and ministries. He was named executive vice president in 2004.

Hankins and his wife, Patty, wed in 1969 and have three grown sons: Andy, a businessman in Lake Charles, Louisiana; Eric, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fairhope, Alabama; and Adam, a surgeon in Mandeville, Louisiana.

Hankins and his wife are members of the Philadelphia Baptist Church, Horseshoe Drive, in Alexandria.

Based on a press release by John Kyle, Louisiana Baptist communication director, and prior reporting by the Baptist Message.

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mittee. He added that he expects the committee to begin the search process by the end of November.

REACHING NEXTERS

Under the mantle of "Imprint – Marking the Next Generation," adapted

from Deuteronomy 6:7, messengers learned about progress being made toward completing one of the key goals outlined in the President's 2020 Commission Report.

The next generation is one of two groups identified as a target audience in

that document, adopted by messengers at the 2013 Louisiana Baptist Convention annual meeting. The 2020 initiative seeks to reach every generation and every people group in Louisiana with the Gospel by the year 2020 through congregational revitalization, church planting, communications and collaboration.

Examples of reaching the next generation include:
 -- Ongoing efforts by Louisiana College to increase scholarship funding and expand curriculum offerings, with a goal to build its student body to 1,500 by 2020.
 -- Completion of nine new or remodeled or expanded Baptist Student Ministry buildings since 2006 on campuses reaching a combined population of nearly 90,000 students.

-- Continued growth at Tall Timbers, from 995 in total camp attendance in 2009 to 2,428 campers in 2018, punctuated by 1,510 salvation decisions during that 10-year period.

ELECTIONS AND BUDGET

Messengers approved a year-to-year reduced Cooperative Program budget.

See WRAP-UP, page 12

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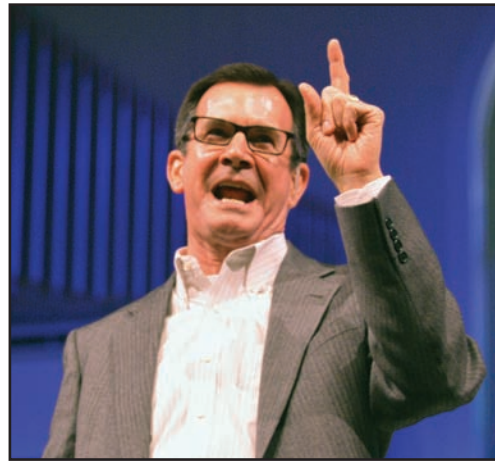
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 with Kevin Richard
MARCH 1-2, 2019 | WOMEN'S RETREAT
 with Rachel Norris, Speaker & Potter
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Nik Ripken, author of the book "The Insanity of God," during three Bible study sessions, shared stories about the persecuted church and challenged messengers not to keep Jesus to themselves.



Jeff Ginn said in the Convention Sermon that God commands the more seasoned Christ followers to leave an imprint on the rising generation. Ginn is pastor of Istrouma Baptist in Baton Rouge.



Herb Reavis closed out the Annual Meeting by describing qualities of the ideal congregation. He said God would attend a church that has dynamic Christians, gathers on a special day, fulfills a unique responsibility and worships a living Savior.



Johnny Hunt declared, "The Gospel is not just a message to be believed. It is a message to be obeyed." Hunt is the newly appointed senior vice president for evangelism and leadership at the North American Mission Board.

Speakers plead to 'imprint' the next generation



Louisiana Baptist Convention President Eddie Wren challenged messengers about passing their faith to the next generation. Referencing Psalm 78, Wren said God has proclaimed that we must witness to and disciple "the generation to come." Wren is pastor of First Baptist Church, Rayville.

By Staff
Louisiana Baptist Message

RUSTON (LBM) – A exceptional lineup of speakers made point after point that Louisiana Baptists must be more intentional in imprinting the next generation, the nation and the world with the Gospel.

EDDIE WREN

In his message on "Marking the Next Generation," LBC President Eddie Wren issued a call to pass a living faith onto the next generation.

Referencing Psalm 78, Wren said God proclaimed

that we must witness to and disciple "the generation to come."

"As we think about imprinting the next generation, we do not need a new gimmick or a new tool," said Wren, pastor of First Baptist Church in Rayville. "Instead we need folks who are more interested in the old, old story of Jesus and His love than they are about the things of the world."

Wren said parents have a duty to disciple their own children and share with them about how God blesses His own, especially in times of trouble. Stories of God's provision and miraculous power will help them under-

stand God's faithfulness, and their confidence in Him will grow, he said.

Wren said the older generation can build relationships by mentoring and involving youth in ministry opportunities.

"The faithful must disciple the coming generations," he said. "If we do not testify and set the example they will be tossed here and there by the deceitfulness of the enemy. But if we set the example and invest in their lives, training them to walk after Christ, notice they will not be like their fathers -- a stubborn and rebellious generation. They'll not be a generation who did not

prepare its heart and who are not faithful to God. They will be faithful."

NIK RIPKEN

During three Bible study sessions, Nik Ripken, founder of Nik Ripken Ministries and author of the book "The Insanity of God," reminded messengers of the persecution Christians face in other parts of the world.

Ripken and his wife, Ruth, traveled the globe to collect stories from Christians who were tortured for their faith, and found these individuals were not victims but victors for the great courage they experienced under extreme circumstances.

Ripken said he and his wife encountered more than 100 Muslims who had converted to Christianity. Some had traveled to three

See IMPRINT, page 9

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Messengers received cooperative missions and ministries updates

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

RUSTON – Messengers received a number of entity and ministry reports during the 2018 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, including efforts to reach the next generation.

MISSIONS EDUCATION

Missions education is a vital resource to equip the next generation to make disciples of the nations, Louisiana Baptist state missions staff said during their presentation.

“Our leaders, Dr. Gibbie McMillan and Miss Jess Archer, are deeply committed to this task,” Louisiana Baptists missions and ministries director John Hebert told messengers. “We try to take this serious challenge and mold it into an intensely fun experience with the goal of creating a passion in the next generation for completing the mission of the church in bringing the Gospel to the world.”

Archer, children’s and youth missions strategist, said missions focused camps are a starting point for engaging the next generation. Last summer, 369 children attended Children’s Missions Camp at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth.

By the end of the camp, 30 children turned to Christ, eight restored fellowship with the Lord and several others responded to a call to missions.

“Our hope is to seed this generation with the missionary call and pray the Spirit will quicken that call in their lives,” McMillan said.

State missions leadership plans to offer material that will be downloadable from its website beginning in January 2019. It will focus on Louisiana Missions and your children will be learn about church planting, disaster relief, compassion ministry, language missions, as well as partnerships with the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board.

“Our hope is that these lessons will inspire a new generation of missionaries,” McMillan said.

SPECIAL NEEDS OUTREACH

Children’s ministry strategist David Anderson told messengers last summer Louisiana Baptists hosted a camp at Tall Timbers to minister to people with special needs. The first-ever Louisiana Baptist summer camp of its kind matched 14 participants with buddies who accompanied them during the event June 25-27 at Tall Timbers. The camp featured games, activities, worship and Bible study designed for children and adults from ages 8 and up who have intellectual, developmental or physical disabilities.

Anderson said many participants enjoyed a camp experience for the first time. He believes families of people with special needs are one of the most unreached people groups.

“In almost every community there are families that

have members with special needs,” Anderson said.

“Many of these families have checked out of church because our churches are not ready or able to accommodate their whole family. With some compassion and effort every church can be a lighthouse to share God’s love with all members of our communities, including our special needs friends. This camp is a great start.”

WOMEN’S MISSIONS

Janie Wise, women’s missions and ministry strategist, assisted by A-Team members Cameron Mullins and Lisa Shyne and Cameron Mullins, gave a report on how women in the state are building a leadership network that will better connect with women who lead children, teens and other women in churches throughout Louisiana. Through the A-Teams, each of the 25 team leaders will help establish connectivity with each church, assess leadership development needs, encourage mission

giving and mission involvement and share information about upcoming events.

Wise said the women are modeling a lifestyle similar to the biblical character Lydia, who was a well-respected business woman who served the Lord courageously and welcomed the apostles into her home.

“As we seek to connect with the hearts of women, teens and children, will you pray with us, that we would be as Lydia, using our influence and leadership to reach our worlds for Christ?” Wise said.

CHILDREN’S HOME

Perry Hancock, president of the Children’s Home and Family Ministries, thanked messengers for their support as his staff helped impact the lives of more than 4,000 children and others, including 160 who accepted Christ through its various ministries this year.

“When I think of our

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ECON

EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

JAN. 28-29, 2019
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David Phelps
Gospel Singer



Lee Strobel
Woodlands, TX



Argile Smith
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Ed Newton
San Antonio, TX



Fred Luter
New Orleans, LA



Chip Luter
New Orleans, LA



David Hankins
Alexandria, LA



Eric Hankins
Fairhope, AL

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Updates from page 6

theme, Imprint, I think of fingerprints, particularly the fingerprints of a potter on a piece of clay," Hancock said. "I see God using our hands to mold and shape the next generation."

Hancock noted that more than 300 economically-challenged children in northeast Louisiana received assistance to meet various physical needs, but also were exposed to the Gospel through its newest ministry Compassion for Kids. Monroe is one of the top 10 poorest cities in the U.S., and the poverty rate is almost 57 percent.

LOUISIANA COLLEGE

Rick Brewer, president of Louisiana College, confidently declared LC is "preparing graduates and transforming lives" and told messengers his faculty is speaking truth into students in a culture that is becoming hostile to absolute moral truth.

"The world today is

redefining and trying to create truth where there is not truth," he said. "We seek to serve in the midst of that."

Even before students step on campus, Brewer said LC is partnering with local churches to help reverse this alarming trend. High school students who complete the workbook "Thinking Like a Christian: Understanding and Living a Biblical Worldview" may qualify for a \$2,500 annual scholarship to LC.

"It's our faith that forms our teaching," Brewer said. "Our faith drives us to excellence."

BAPTIST MESSAGE/PUBLIC POLICY

Will Hall, editor of the *Baptist Message* and director of the Office of Public Policy, presented a combined report to showcase some of the significant storylines of the past year as a means to emphasize the important role of the state newspaper in equipping and informing Louisiana Baptists.

He presented the Sham-mah's Courage Award to David Cranford, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Ponchatoula, Louis Husser, pastor of the Crossgate Church in Robert, and, in absentia, Sherman Mack, a deacon of the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Albany and a state representative who chairs the House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee. The award recognized the three men's respective efforts to defeat bills that would have allowed a riverboat casino to move to Tangipahoa Parish.

Hall also honored state Senator Beth Mizell, a member of the First Baptist Church in Franklinton, with the Esther's Courage Award for her biblically-principled stands in the legislature to protect children and women from sexual exploitation in human trafficking, safeguard young ones from online pornography and prevent minors from obtaining abortions without parental consent.

"Is anyone surprised by the accomplishments of these outstanding Louisiana

Baptists?" Hall asked the messengers. "Then you don't get the *Baptist Message*."

"If you want to know whether your legislators truly are pro-life and pro-family in how they vote – whether they just talk the talk or actually walk the walk – you need to read the *Baptist Message*," he said, referencing a legislative scorecard published in the paper.

Then Hall pointed out key articles and reports that told the story of Louisiana Baptists and informed Louisiana Baptists "to participate in our family of faith in the state and in the extended community of faith known as the Southern Baptist Convention." He concluded his remarks by urging messengers "to get the *Baptist Message* and to share the message of the Gospel we carry in our reporting."

OTHER REPORTS

-- Mark Robinson, director of Baptist Collegiate Ministries for the state, asked messengers to join Louisiana Baptist Collegiate

Ministries as they pray daily at 10:02 a.m. for revival. He suggested setting a smart phone alarm for that specific time every day to form the habit of praying for God to move on college campuses.

The time for daily prayer was selected as a reminder of Luke 10:2 that "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" and asks God "to send out laborers into His harvest."

"The Lord is working in the hearts of students all across our state," Robinson said. "We are encouraging Louisiana Baptists to join us in prayer for spiritual awakening on our campuses, specifically university students that are far from God to be drawn by the Holy Spirit into a saving knowledge of Him and campus ministry volunteers to catch a vision for our community colleges and vocational colleges in our state."

-- Louisiana Baptist Foundation Executive Director Wayne Taylor shared that the entity is celebrating its 75th anniversary in

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ECON

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SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON AT ECON

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29 • 11:30 AM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, COVINGTON, LA

FEATURING



David Phelps
Solo artist and former member of the Gaither Vocal Band

Argile Smith
Evangelist
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GROUP 1 SCHEDULE

- 11:30 Lunch 1 in Fellowship Hall
- 12:30 Special Program in Central Hall
- 1:30 David Phelps Concert in Worship Center
- 2:30 Argile Smith
- 3:10 Senior Adult Breakouts Begin

GROUP 2 SCHEDULE

- 11:30 Special Program in Central Hall
- 12:30 Lunch 2 in Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 David Phelps Concert in Worship Center
- 2:30 Argile Smith
- 3:10 Senior Adult Breakouts Begin

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Bilingual from page one

Espanol in Baton Rouge, and included a message shared by Louisiana Baptist Church Planting Strategist Carlos Schmidt.

"Since we are all in Christ, all ethnic, social, economic and gender barriers have crumbled," Schmidt said during his message. "He does away with it. Christ is all in all. We can truly say we are one family in Christ.

"Therefore, our relationships with one another should be saturated with kindness, mercy, humility and forgiveness," he continued. "There is no place for un-forgiveness in the Christian life. As you have been forgiven by Christ, therefore you should also forgive one another.

"All of us might be different but the Scripture says there is none good

enough, there is none righteous," he said. "It doesn't matter if you are White or Hispanic in God's eyes, we are all sinners and Christ paid the penalty for that sin."

UNITY IN SPIRIT

"People enjoyed the unity and seeing diversity in music, prayers and the message," said Kirk Jones, pastor of Prairieville Church. "This night served as an encouragement for our people to see what God is doing in the Convention."

Alfonso Morales, a member of Broadmoor Hispanic Mission in Shreveport, said the evening allowed him to meet a wide representation of Louisiana Baptists.

"The night was about unity between the Americans and Spanish, which I thought was reflective that God is equal for all people," he noted.

Guillermo Mangieri, pastor of Spanish of Istrouma Espanol in Baton Rouge, enjoyed worshiping in both English and Spanish.

"Tonight we were reminded we are one church who is about Jesus," he said. "Singing together was an experience that all of us in this room will remember for a long time. Carlos Schmidt got it right when

he said we need to love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ."

BILL DYE

North Monroe Baptist Church Pastor Bill Dye opened the second day of the Pastors Conference by reminding pastors to adopt practices that allow them to stay in the race while avoiding burnout.

Early in his ministry, Dye took a small struggling church on the outskirts of Houston, Texas, and saw it grow from 120 to about 250 by his fourth year there. However, at age 34 he faced both emotional and spiritual collapse.

"Something had to change," he said. "I realized that if I'm going to do this for the long haul then I'm going to have to develop a much healthier approach to ministry."

Dye adopted five habits that he said have helped him better run his race in ministry. He said pastors must know what they are good at, know what they are bad at, be authentic, be an influencer and remember why they are in the ministry.

"God handcrafted you for the service of work that He has given you to do," Dye said. "You are tailor-made. You are designed for that. You are uniquely designed, master crafted,

to do the job you are called to do."

JON BENNETT

Jon Bennett challenged pastors to do as the Good Samaritan and demonstrate love in more than just words.

Referencing Luke 10:28-35, Bennett said the Good Samaritan was moved to compassion and helped the wounded man as he passed him, unlike a priest and Levite who came by, but avoided the same man.

"These are men -- who represented the religious community -- who obviously did not get the memo that social justice issues are the responsibility of the people who represent God in the community," said Bennett, pastor of Belfair Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. "The way that we handle the rejected, the broken-hearted, the impoverished, the way we take the initiative to love out loud actually serves to reveal the conditions of our own hearts.

"It's easy for us to say, well the Great Commandment is that we are to love and the Great Commission is that we are to make disciples," he continued. "It's easy for us to fill our churches on a Sunday morning but then have no application of the Word in and through our lives

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See BILINGUAL, page 12

UPDATES from page 7

ing its 75th anniversary in 2019, and reminded messengers about the foundation's continuing mission to help Louisiana Baptists be good stewards of their resources.

As part of his presentation, Taylor underscored how tithing on one's life accumulation of property and finances could fund Louisiana Baptists' cooperative missions and ministries long into the future.

"If one person in every Louisiana Baptist congregation would give a tithe (1/10th) of his or her estate to a church or other Baptist ministry, an additional \$50 million would be available for ministries throughout the state," he explained.

Imprint from page 5.

countries to find a Christian to tell them how to discover “the Jesus” who had spoken to them in their dreams.

“Are we going to continue to say to the 2.8 billion people on the planet, if you want us come find us,” Ripken said. “Are lost people going to be the ones who are obedient to dreams and visions and come looking for us?”

“Let’s change this,” he said. “At the very least, when God moves in their hearts and they come looking for us, let them find us at their front door.”

Ripken closed with a challenge to the messengers.

“You are the people of God and cannot keep Jesus to yourselves,” he said. “Let’s go to work until the last lost person hears that ‘Jesus saves.’”

JEFF GINN

During the Convention Sermon, Jeff Ginn said God commands seasoned Christ followers to leave an imprint on the rising generation.

Drawing from Deuteronomy 6:4-12, Ginn said this can be accomplished if the older generation will listen intently, love intensely and lead intentionally.

Ginn, who is pastor of Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, compared this effort to an Olympic relay race.

“In relay events, the race is won or lost often in the passing of the baton,” he said. “Do it well, you win. Do it poorly, you lose.”

“The continuance of the Christian faith depends upon one generation successfully passing the baton to the next,” he continued. “Leaders must make sure their disciples grasp the faith.”

JOHNNY HUNT

Johnny Hunt, the newly named senior vice president of evangelism for the North American Mission Board, challenged messengers to influence others with the Gospel after the model of the First Century Church.

“If you and I are to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, we’ve got to have confidence in our message,” he said. “I want to preach where God connects with the heart. It’s not a winsome sermon that will win them. It’s a powerful sermon of the Gospel that will reach them.”

“God’s Gospel has the power to change someone’s life,” he said. “The Word of God faithfully proclaimed is the most powerful force in the world.”

“Only the Gospel can change someone’s life,” Hunt declared. “The Word of God faithfully proclaimed is the most powerful force in the world. God takes it and uses it to change lives, to heal relationships and the likes.”

But, Hunt offered that

the results of the Gospel are achieved through the Holy Spirit.

“The Spirit without the Word is weaponless,” he said. “And the Word without the Spirit is powerless. And without His witness of the Holy Spirit ours is futile.”

“It is not my duty to convince the people of the truth of the Gospel,” he continued. Only the Holy Spirit can do that. The Gospel is not just a message to be believed. It is a message to be obeyed. It is not the truth you know that makes a difference. It’s the truth you obey that makes a difference.”

“The Gospel is not just a message to be believed,” he said. “It is a message to be obeyed.”

HERB REAVIS

Herb Reavis closed out the annual meeting by describing qualities of the ideal church of God.

He said God would attend a church that has dynamic Christians, gathers on a special day, fulfills a unique responsibility and worships a living Savior.

Reavis, who is pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Flori-

da, said Christ has issued a command to make disciples like the early church.

“The Bible says we are, through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to do God’s work, God’s way, for God’s glory, and raise up a generation of folks who have spiritual roots and a foundation of substance who have been infected with sound doctrine so that they can go out and live out their faith in a powerful way in a hostile environment,” Reavis said. “It’s time for the church of the living God to grow up and realize Jesus says that we’re to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. We’re to be full-grown, sold-out believers.”

Reavis said times of discouragement will come, and when moments of trouble arrive, Christ followers

should look to the cross for reaffirmation.

“We live in a day and age where people act like any pain or discomfort is wrong and we’re out of the will of God,” he said. “Sometimes it is the will of God that puts you in the place of pain and discomfort.”

“I’ve found in my own life it’s the pain and discomfort and even the difficult people that God uses like Heavenly sand paper to shape my character into the very likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ,” he said. “We need to teach our people that the pressure and the difficulty and the adversity are tools in the hands of God to deepen their faith, to expand their vision and even to develop their prayer life -- to make them into a strong saint of the living God.”

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First Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee, 203 E. Parker St. Hamburg, AR 71646 or email to fbchbg.office@gmail.com.
For more information, you may call the church office at 870.853.5520.

FULL-TIME PASTOR
Leesville First Baptist, Leesville, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send résumés to: Roger Rolon, 399 Liberty Creek Road, Leesville, LA 71446 or First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1568, Leesville, LA 71496.

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

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

ON THE MOVE

■ **Larry Baldridge** is the new pastor at Bayou Life Church, Cottonport.
 ■ **Brock Huffpauir** has resigned as pastor at New Life Church, Arnaudville.

HOMECOMING

■ First Baptist Church, Wisner: **95th anniversary**, November 25, 10 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will be served following the worship service. Guest Speaker: **Joshua Peoples, associate pastor, Providence Church in Ormand Beach, Fla.** Special Music: **Wayne Watson.** Pastor: Thomas Peoples.
 ■ Cherry Grove Baptist Church, Dry Creek: **100th Anniversary Celebration**, November 25, 10:30 a.m. A meal and a time of fellowship will follow immediately after the service in the Family Life Center. Pastor: Robbie Rollins.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Delhi: **Anniversary Celebration**, December 8, 6 p.m. Special Music: **The Sanctuary Quartet.** Pastor: Jeff Coleman.

REVIVAL

■ Antioch Baptist Church, Farmerville: **Harvest Sunday**, November 25, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt.** Special Music: **Brad Mount.** Pastor: Reuben Weaver.
 ■ Ouachita Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Harvest Sunday**, December 2, 10:45 a.m. Evangelist: **Joe Aulds.** Pastor: Mike Holway.

LAGNIAPPE

■ Searcy Baptist Church, Trout: Searcy Baptist has a **free pulpit and Communion table** to offer to a church in need. For more information, call Roger Whatley at 318.992.3270.
 ■ First Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Dennis Swanberg in concert**, November 25, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Pastor: Michael Wood.
 ■ Wilda Baptist Church, Boyce: **The Ball Brothers in Concert**, November 25, 6 p.m. Pastor: Joey Rudisill.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Slidell: **Pia Noel - Christmas Piano Concert**, November 25, 6 p.m. The concert will help to usher in the advent season as a group of the area's outstanding pianists perform. The concert is free. Pastor: Casey Stark.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Bossier: **The Carols of Christmas - Women's Christmas Soiree**, November 29, 5 p.m. There will be a pre-event where there will be music, photo booth and Christmas Ideas. The dinner and soiree begins at 6 p.m. in the loft. Cost: \$15 for the early sale and after November 25 it will cost \$30. For more information, go to www.fbwomen.weebly.com. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Moss Bluff: **Shane & Shane and Phil Wickham for their 2018 Christmas Tour**, November 30, 7 p.m. Cost: \$25 general admission & \$40 for VIP. Tickets can be purchased at www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-concert-with-shane-shane-and-phil-wickham-tickets-45557545846?aff=efbeventtix. Pastor: Steve Bennett.
 ■ Houston River Baptist Church, Sulphur: **Live Nativity in the Grove**, November 30, 6:30 p.m. and December 1, 6 p.m. The Grove is located at Heritage Square, 1211 Ruth St, Sulphur, LA. Pastor: Lonnie Gothrup.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Bossier: **Christmas - An Unforgettable Night of Music featuring Michael W. Smith and very special guest Melinda Doolittle**, December 1, 7 p.m. Cost: Free. Pastor:

Brad Jurkovich.

■ **"A night in Bethlehem" at Jimmie Davis State Park on Caney Lakes, Chatham**, November 30- December 1, 5-9 p.m. Come enjoy this live walk through. Cost: \$3 per person. Three and under and 62 and older get in free.
 ■ Nebo Baptist Church, Nebo: **From the Manger to the Cross**, December 1-2, 6-8 p.m. at the Nebo ball park, located at 140 Hwy 777, Jena, LA. The walk through will begin with the prophecy of Jesus birth and end with his ascension. It is handicap accessible with golf carts for those unable to walk. Hot dogs, hot chocolate and a warm fire will be available for everyone to enjoy. Pastor: Stephen Richardson.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Minden: **Love Came For Me presented by Minden First Baptist Church Celebration Choir and Orchestra**, December 2, 6 p.m. For more information, please call 318.377.4434. Pastor: Leland Crawford.
 ■ Bouef River Baptist Church, Winnsboro will sponsor **Christmas in Liddieville** on December 2. The parade begins at 4:30 p.m., followed by the chili judging at 5 p.m. The lighting of the Christmas tree will take place at 5:15 p.m. There will be a photo booth, hot cocoa, popcorn, chili and Christmas giveaways. Everyone is invited to come enjoy this community event. Pastor: Kevin Goodman.
 ■ Greenwell Springs Baptist Church: **Ben Waites in concert**, December 7, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Brian Robertson.
 ■ Calvary Baptist Church, Merryville: **Living Nativity** on Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8. Pastor: Jim Miers.

■ First Baptist Church, Port Allen at Gracepoint: **A Night in Bethlehem**, December 7-9, Friday, 6-8 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday, 5-8 p.m. You are invited to a walk-thru experience of the "Little Town of Bethlehem" on the night that Jesus was born. This is free and open to the public. Tours will run every 10-15 minutes each night. A Night in Bethlehem is presented by FBC at Gracepoint and Westgate Church. For more information, call FBC at 225.344.1553 or Westgate 225.381.5703. Pastor: James Pearson.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **Meredith Andrews in concert**, December 8, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 until December 7th through First Pineville's website www.fbcpineville.net. To purchase tickets go online to www.itickets.com/events/396746.html. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.
 ■ First Baptist Church, DeRidder: **Living Christmas Tree**, December 8, 5 p.m. Pastor: Josh Eubanks.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Plaquemine: **Adult Christmas Cantata**, December 9, 6 p.m.; **Children's Christmas Concert**, December 16, 6 p.m. Pastor: Keith Horton.
 ■ Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Melder: **"It's Christmas Time Again," a night of celebration featuring Charles Billingsley**, December 10, 6:30 p.m. Billingsley is the worship pastor at Shadow Mountain Community Church pastored by David Jeremiah, and a sought after worship leader who regularly appears at such

popular events as Women of Joy, Gridiron Men and Celebrators, among numerous others. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with one of the best voices in Christian music today! Cost: \$10 (children 0-5 years of age get in free). Tickets are available online at www.pineridgechurch.com. Pastor: Jason Townley.
 ■ First Baptist Church, Ruston: **Love Came For Me presented by Celebration and Kids Choirs**, December 12, 6:15 p.m. Pastor: Chris Craig.

CORRECTION

In the article "Operation Christmas Child set for 25th anniversary" that appeared in the November 8 issue it incorrectly stated that each box is sent with a Bible. It should have stated children receive a Bible after completion of a discipleship class. Also, while a number of children do turn to Christ after hearing the Gospel because of this ministry, it is not a majority. Only one in seven receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. The Baptist Message regrets the error.

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.

n ha hjbhni ej mel, wpuf n xhpc tpuferpi lkes mel

whtelb ns chns.

ohwhfnhsu jelb:pwpcps

Clues:
J = F; E = O

Answer to November 8 Crypto:
Jude: eighteen

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Wrap-Up from page 4

The 2019 financial plan is based on expected contributions of \$18,813,818, a decrease of \$693,587. Cooperative Program projections are based on actual receipts from August 2017 thru July 2018.

The allocation formula for distributing Cooperative Program gifts between Southern Baptist Convention and Louisiana Baptist Convention causes remains unchanged, with 63.26 percent supporting ministries in the state and 36.74 percent being forwarded to fund national entities.

This equates to \$11,901,622 in Cooperative Program funds for Louisiana Baptist missions and ministries, a decrease of \$438,579 from 2018.

Messengers also re-elected Eddie Wren, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Rayville as president. Leroy Fountain, church health strategist for the New Orleans Baptist Association, was elected first vice president; and Eddie Rhymes, director of mis-

sions for the Deer Creek Association, was elected second vice president.

All three men were elected by acclamation.

RESOLUTIONS

Messengers affirmed six resolutions, including a statement of appreciation to Temple Baptist Church in Ruston for hosting the annual meeting and to the individuals who contributed in important ways to the production of the two-day event.

Another resolution calls for the protection of faith-based adoption and child care-taking entities, and a third declares Louisiana Baptists' "unwavering commitment to rescue and protect life from the womb through eternity."

A fourth resolution asks state government leaders to "safeguard the constitutional rights of all students to engage in religious speech and expression" while also asking Louisiana Baptist students "to be ambassa-

dors of Christ in the exercise of their religious liberty rights on public school campuses."

The fifth consensus statement strongly admonishes predatory payday lenders and calls on governing officials "to investigate ... abuses" and "institute just regulations and policies" in this regard.

The final resolution declares that immigration laws should be obeyed and national borders should be secured, while also asking for "a carefully considered legal path to legal status, not amnesty" to address the illegal immigration crisis in the country.

MOTION REFERRED

Myrt Hales, a messenger from First Baptist Church in Rayville, submitted the only motion at the annual meeting.

Hales' motion called for the LBC to form a committee to "explore establishing a Christian-based addiction recovery center to aid people with chemical dependencies to overcome and be redeemed into

freedom from the chains of addiction and to experience the love and redemption found in Christ."

The motion was referred to the Executive Board

Bilingual from page 8

Monday through Saturday. Something has got to change. I believe God is calling the church, He is calling us, to love out loud."

Bennett said true Christian love leaves its comfort zone and goes the extra mile.

"If what's in your head does not move your heart to compassion and your hands to serve others, then what's in your head is of no value to you," he said.

Bennett said God is calling Christ followers to leave their comfort zone to love out loud and follow Him.

LAGNIAPPE

Elected to lead the 2019 Pastors Conference are Justin Clark, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lake Providence, president; Da-

vid Goza, pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, vice-president; and Ben Hackler, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sterlington, secretary-treasurer.

Also, for the fourth year in a row, Louisiana College recognized excellence in the pastorate within groupings of worship attendance up to 125, 126 to 500 and more than 500.

Within these congregational sizes, the school honored, respectively, Marc Gregoire, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wilson; Jeff Smart, pastor of Cook Baptist Church, Ruston; and Jeff Ginn, pastor of Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge.

For the remainder of the story please go online to www.baptistmessage.com.



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LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

Here for You is Louisiana Baptists multi-media evangelism strategy designed to give every person in Louisiana the opportunity to say "yes" to Jesus.

Launching statewide on February 3, 2019

Super Bowl Sunday

More info coming to your mailbox and inbox soon!