

# THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

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John 3:16  
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Submitted photo

The Covenant Church band leads a time of worship at its former location at the Supper Club venue in Shreveport. It is one of four locations the church has met in since its first worship service in 2011.

## GBO is lifeblood for Bossier church plant

By Brian Blackwell  
Message Staff Writer

BOSSIER CITY – Luke Allen dreamed of starting a church in Seattle, Washington, shortly after his graduation from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, but God shifted his church planting focus to his hometown of Shreveport-Bossier City.

After his May 2010 graduation, Allen and his wife, Ashley, found themselves meeting inside a rented warehouse in Bossier City with 40 other members of their core group to dream about how God would use them to reach the ethnic communities within their metro area with the Gospel through their predomi-

nantly Anglo congregation, the Covenant Church.

Over the next eight months, the Lord stirred a passion within them to reach people who had never or occasionally attended worship services as well as connect with those who grew up in church, but as they reached adulthood saw it irrelevant to their lives.

“Shreveport-Bossier is a little deceptive in that there are a lot of churches, but a lot of unreached people,” Allen said. “The area is very religious, but also is one of the worst places to live in terms of abortion, homicide and poverty. Though maybe biblically minded, a majority of people don’t follow Christ’s teachings. From the start, we wanted to bend the



Submitted photo

Luke Allen shares a message at Covenant Church. He and his wife, Ashley, began the church as a way to reach out to their community.

culture from just a religious one to one that walks with Jesus.”

See LIFE BLOOD, page 7

## Muddy waters a clear choice for baptisms

By Brian Blackwell  
Message Staff Writer

VIVIAN – Laura Hale lay nearly comatose in a Shreveport hospital March 8, but managed to muster up a tune that planted Gospel seeds into the heart of her husband, Tim.

Although he could not understand most of what she sang in the days before her untimely death, Tim managed to decipher one word that gave him hope – Jesus. Four months later, his wife’s deathbed testimony led to his decisions to repent for salvation, commit his life to Christ and obey by being baptized.

“I was raising our twins after she passed away and at that point I thought I needed some spiritual guidance for my family,” he said. “I decided then I wished to be baptized in the muddy waters of the river like Jesus -- that was going to be my path as I started my spiritual journey.”

### RIVER OF LIFE

Tim was baptized with three others during a special riverside service hosted by Mt. Gilead Baptist Church in Vivian, July 29.

One by one, each of the new believers stepped into the warm waters of the Red River near Hosston to publicly state his or her individual faith in Christ.

“Just a few hours before the baptisms, we had three inches of rain fall, but by the time of the service God gave us perfect weather that helped set the mood for a memorable evening,” said Pastor Bill Treadway. “After we ended the service, many

See MUDDY, page 2

## EDITOR’S NOTE: The message is Baptist

By Will Hall  
Message Editor

I want to reassure readers that the Louisiana *Baptist Message* is Baptist.

We are nearing the height of the Harvest initiative in our state, and I changed the masthead to emphasize what we do as

Baptists, share the message of the Gospel, highlighting John 3:16.

But to allay any concerns about the change, I have added Baptist to the new logo, making some other changes to further emphasize the Gospel is the Baptist message.

See MESSAGE, page 10

## Muddy from page one

members told me this is the way church ought to be and they want to schedule this again next year. They are a church that loves to share Jesus and this baptism service gave them another opportunity to share His love with others, including some who were there for an evening on the river.”

Karen Dowden, who was raised Catholic, said the baptism service took her back to her own con-

version a month earlier when she accepted Christ during a worship service at Mt. Gilead Baptist, June 25.”

“What better place to be baptized than a river, just like it used to be done,” she said. “My eyes were filled with tears of joy as I was put in the water. In church, I now feel more in tune with the Holy Spirit. In my everyday life, I’m more at peace.”



Submitted photos

Bill Treadway, pastor of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church in Vivian, baptizes new converts during a special riverside worship service, July 29. The waters of the Red River provided a nostalgic moment for many in attendance. Since Treadway became pastor in February 2013, he has baptized 39 people.

### A RENEWED PATH

The baptism service is representative of a rebirth Mt. Gilead Baptist has experienced since Treadway’s arrival in February 2013.

When Treadway became pastor, the Sunday morning worship service attendance averaged just under 30 and the church had seen one baptism in four years, according to church records.

By late July, attendance for worship services nearly had tripled, and 39 new converts have been baptized since his arrival.

“Once they asked

me to be their pastor, the members said they wanted their church to be strong again,” Treadway said. “I told them the only way that can happen is if they work together, and they did just that by inviting people that were lost to come -- and they kept inviting people to the point that it’s rare when we don’t have a visitor on a Sunday.”

### RETURN TO FIRST LOVE

Treadway credits a love for its community as a factor for the Holy Spirit moving in the hearts of the congregation.

When he arrived at Mt. Gilead Baptist, Treadway discussed with his congregation the idea of ministering outside the walls of the church. They wholeheartedly embraced the idea.

One team started ministry at a nearby nursing home, where they conducted worship services and even a few funerals. Some of the residents and staff noticed the concern of the members and placed their trust in Christ.

The church also has sent out a trio to sing at area churches, hosted Vacation Bible School and held a family night complete with music and games.

“They are seeing that ministry is not just coming and sitting on the pew,” Treadway said. “They are buying into the notion that we want to do something different -- we just want people to come to know Christ. We’ve enjoyed the growth, and the times of ministry, as a Mt. Gilead family that we’ve experienced so far, but we’ve only just begun.”

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# Crusade bringing hope to LaSalle Parish

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message Staff Writer

JENA – The Harvest is coming to LaSalle Parish and churches from the LaSalle Baptist Association with some congregations from other denominations are praying for a bumper crop of souls.

“Tomorrow’s Hope GO TELL Crusade” will be held Sept. 23-26 at Jena High School gymnasium with Rick Gage, founder of GO TELL Crusades in Duluth, Georgia, and Scott Camp, founder of Scott Camp Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas, bringing Gospel messages and vocalists, as well as an area choir, sharing about Christ through music.

“We as the Christian

community have the only hope for man,” said crusade chairman Wayne Davis. “There is a large segment of our population that doesn’t even know there is hope. You can see the hopelessness on their face. But those in our parish who know Christ definitely have the hope of Jesus that we will share with them throughout the crusade, and well after.”

The crusade is part of the statewide Harvest campaign to “pray for every home and share with every person” in Louisiana through the end of 2018.

Nearly 900 of 1,650 Louisiana Baptist churches have signed up to participate in concentrated



Rick Gage



Scott Camp

prayer and soul-winning activities such as multi-church crusades, door-to-door outreach, one-on-one evangelism, single-church revivals and other activities which leverage compassion ministries to share about the love of Christ.

Davis emphasized that for such a harvest to take place during the area-wide outreach effort, prayer must be a central activity. He told the *Baptist Message* that churches are

using a prayer calendar to concentrate every day on a different emphasis during the month leading up to the crusade.

“Prayer is the absolute key component to God moving at the crusade,” Davis said. “Our emphasis is not on having a revival for churches, though we certainly believe those Christians who come will see revival happen in their own lives. But our goal is to carry the Gospel to the lost.”

Gage said he is anticipating a mighty move of God, especially among youth within the community.

Pre-crusade rallies are scheduled Sept. 19, 6 p.m.,

at the First Baptist Church in Jena and Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m., at the First Baptist Church in Tullos.

“We’re praying this evangelistic outreach will have a huge impact on young people in LaSalle Parish,” Gage said. “Having these two rallies will help motivate and encourage the students to use this outreach to bring their lost classmates and family members to the nightly services we will have the following week. If we can spark a revival in the hearts of the young people, there’s no telling what God will do to in the rest of the parish.”

For more information on Tomorrow’s Hope GO TELL Crusade, visit [lasalleshope.org](http://lasalleshope.org).

## Louisiana Bible Prophecy Conference “ISRAEL - God’s Prophetic Timepiece”

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# Reflections on a half century of ministry

I made the decision. I am going to attend the fifty year reunion of my high school graduating class in a few weeks.

As I read posts about this event on social media, I think everyone in the class must be having the same questions I do: (1) where did all the time go, and (2) who are all these senior citizens? I am passing/approaching the half-century mark in other areas as well.

I preached my first sermon just over fifty years ago. The fiftieth anniversary of my wedding is a few months away as is that of my ordination to the ministry. There is something sobering about measuring life events in

segments of fifty years.

As I look back on the past half century, I remember the aspirations I had at the beginning. It was my desire that my life and ministry would be faithful, fulfilling, and fruitful. Have I hit the mark? Others (and ultimately God) will be the final arbiters; but I hope that there is evidence of my having lived consistently with these aims.

## FAITHFULNESS

I remember sitting in a restaurant as a high-schooler while my dad had a cup of coffee with a colleague. At one point, the man said, "David, what are you going to

be?" My dad answered for me. "David is planning to go into ministry." There was an awkward pause. Then the guy replied, "Well, a lot of young guys think that for a while. But then they move on to other things." So much for a word of encouragement. He probably thought he was just being a realist. But I have imagined a conversation from time to time where I would say to him, "Still here!"

I am thankful that, after all these years, I am still pursuing my calling. I make no claim of doing it perfectly and no one recognizes more than I that God's grace has been operating vigorously to keep me from veering onto destructive, disqualifying paths. Any number of the seven deadly sins

are always lurking nearby to trip me up so that Satan might sift me like wheat.

That is why, in my first few days as a pastor, I adopted my motto for ministry: "O Lord God of the armies of heaven, don't let me be a stumbling block to those who trust in you. O God of Israel, don't let me cause them to be confused." (Ps 69:6, The Living Bible). While this prayer is admittedly defensive, it has reminded me of the value of faithfulness for the long haul. If you are on the front end of ministry currently, a great aspiration for you would be "to finish well."

## FULFILLMENT

I like what I am doing. I grew comfortable a long while back telling people (when they inquired about my occupation) that I am a Baptist preacher. They don't always know what to say about that. One guy responded, "Well, I guess you get to work with a nice group of people." Yes and no.

Ministry hasn't always been easy, but it has always been fulfilling. In fact, for me, the more difficult assignments were often the most fulfilling. I do not mean to minimize the struggles some in ministry have faced. The circumstances can sometimes be grueling, even brutal. But I want to challenge my fellow strugglers to remember their high calling, to consider it joy to serve the Lord, and to be happy in their labor.

Ministry for Jesus ought to be satisfying. The satisfaction should come more from the what of your service than the where of your service. I find my ministry fulfilling because the cause is right. I find my ministry fulfilling because it is purposeful. I find my ministry fulfilling because it pleases God. God's ministers should say with Paul: I have learned, in whatever state I am, therewith

to be content.

## FRUITFULNESS

A psychology professor once taught me that there are two kinds of people: "get ahead" people and "get by" people. I have always wanted to get ahead--to achieve, to be successful, to be fruitful. (The caption on a picture of me and the other class officers in our senior yearbook reads: Climbing the Ladder of Success).

I applied the same drive to ministry. While we ought to avoid the excesses "get ahead" people can fall into (pride, self-sufficiency, misplaced priorities, burn out, etc.), there is nothing virtuous in laziness, lack of ambition, or being a slacker. God will evaluate our "fruitfulness." Will it be gold, silver, precious stones or wood, hay, and stubble?

I want to be a good steward of my opportunities to bear fruit for the Kingdom.

I look back thankfully on those individuals who came to salvation as we prayed together, on those families who renewed their commitment to God and one another, to those churches that sacrificed to be on mission, to those strategies that led to spiritual and numerical advance.

Carlos McLeod, the late Texas Baptist evangelism director, told of his boyhood days and picking cotton. When he was tempted to hide behind the plants and not do his work, he would remember that his father would be waiting at the end of the day to weigh the cotton he had picked. He didn't want to disappoint his father by a paltry amount in his sack. Then, Dr. McLeod challenged us all: We have an eternal harvest to reap. Let's not appear before the Father empty handed.

Thank you, Lord, for 50 years and counting. May God grant us all the gift of a faithful, fulfilling, fruitful ministry for Jesus sake!



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# First Bossier honors heroes

By Brian Blackwell  
Message Staff Writer

BOSSIER CITY – David Bailey, a special agent with the U.S. Capitol Police, does not consider himself a hero, but he saved the life of Louisiana native and House Majority Whip Steve Scalise during a firefight at a practice last year for the annual Congressional Baseball Game in Washington, D.C.

Bailey, who was injured in that June 14 incident, was at the First Baptist Church in Bossier City, Aug. 26 of this year and shared during the fourth annual “Honor Our Heroes Sunday” how his faith enabled him to overcome some resulting difficulties.

He was joined in the program by former Air Force Staff Sgt. Spencer Stone, and they as well as local police, firemen, military and first responders were honored during the service and at a breakfast and lunch on the church grounds. Ernie Haase and Signature Sound, a Southern Gospel quartet, provided special music.

“God gave me gifts, and I want to be able to use them,” Bailey told the 2,000 members and guests gathered inside the worship center at First Bossier. “Whichever way I need to use them, whichever way I have to use them, I will use them. I’m glad I’m in this position. I never would have thought this 10 years ago when I applied to join the Capitol police.”

Scalise, who represents Louisiana’s 1st Congressional District, said during a pre-recorded video message he would not be alive without Bailey’s act of heroism.

“That day over a year ago where the shooter came out, he was shooting at all of us,” Scalise said. “So many times people run away from the danger. David Bailey ran



First Bossier photo

Spencer Stone, Pastor Brad Jurkovich, Trent Brookshire of Brookshire Grocery Company and David Bailey were among those participating in First Baptist Bossier City’s fourth annual “Honor Our Heroes Sunday,” Aug. 26. Stone and Bailey each shared how their faith helped them persevere through difficult circumstances that required them to display courage.

toward the danger.”

## GOSPEL IMPACT

During a time of invitation at the end of the service, 81 people indicated their desire to repent and follow Christ. Brad Jurkovich, senior pastor of First Bossier, said leaders will follow up about discipleship and baptism with each person who made a decision.

“With our Honor Our Heroes Sunday there is a unique opportunity to share the hope of Christ,” Jurkovich told the *Baptist Message*. “Knowing that 81 people accepted Jesus as their Savior that day is extremely encouraging to build relationships and be bold with the Gospel.”

## SPENCER STONE

A leisurely train ride to Paris, France, on Aug. 21, 2015, quickly turned into a ride of terror for Stone and two of his childhood friends after a terrorist began attacking passengers.

Multiple times the gunman attempted to kill the men in his attempt to overtake the train, but God protected them throughout

the rescue attempt, Stone said during his testimony at First Bossier.

Stone, whose story was featured in the film “15:17 to Paris,” said his faith played a pivotal role in helping him persevere.

“God is someone I can rely on and give my problems to – to alleviate the weight of life – especially

See HEROES, page 10

## CULTURAL NEWS

### LSU expands alcohol sales in Tiger Stadium

LSU football fans 21-years and older will be able to buy beer in the “The Chute,” a ground level venue with the capacity for 1,250 customers at any one time.

Before last year, alcohol sales were restricted to premium seating areas associated with the “Stadium Club” and suites. The “Skyline Club,” a section of 1,500 seats in the upper level of the south end, opened for beer and wine sales in 2017.

LSU officials seem intent on following the example of the University of Texas, which began stadium-wide alcohol sales in 2015, and Ohio State, which began to sell beer and wine stadium-wide last year.

### Drag Queen movement expands in Louisiana

Lafayette joins New Orleans in hosting a public library reading time for kids, targeting children 3-6 years old, led by a drag queen.

The latest “Drag Queen Storytime” effort is being led by Delta Lambda Phi, a fraternity for gay, bisexual and transgender men, at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

Lafayette Parish Mayor-President Joel Robideaux has ordered a review of the library’s “approval process for taxpayer-funded events.” But library officials shot back that the program is needed to show children “every person is unique and should be treated with equal respect.”

Meanwhile, in Alexandria, D.C. Sills, a staff member with the First United Methodist Church, is advertising a “Gospel” drag queen brunch at a local bar and eatery.

Inviting the public to “eat, pray & slay,” his ad promises “ministering in word and song.”

### Army chaplain's convictions upheld

The First Liberty Institute announced the U.S. Army will abandon its “dereliction of duty” prosecution of Chaplain Scott Squires for his decision to stick to his biblical convictions and not conduct a marriage retreat open to same-sex couples.

Squires, a Southern Baptist, issued a statement saying, “I look forward to being able to focus on continuing my career serving my fellow soldiers,” adding that he was “eternally grateful” to First Liberty for “fighting to restore my religious liberty.”

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# These precious children

If you drive around any town or city in Louisiana you will find children in need. Our state has one of the highest poverty rates for children in America.

According to the latest census data, over 300,000 children in Louisiana (29 percent) live below the poverty level. Louisiana is ranked 49th in the nation for overall child well-being and 50th for child economic well-being.

In Monroe, the numbers are even more alarming. The poverty rate for children is almost 57 percent, the highest of the seven largest cities in the state including New Orleans. Monroe is not only the most poverty-stricken city in Louisiana but it is the 4th poorest

city in the country.

The demographics show that children make up the largest segment of those living in poverty. These children have low academic outcomes.

They suffer from high rates of social anxiety. They have more health issues than other children. They are more likely to have feelings of depression and despair. Even more disturbing is the fact that these children often have a negative view of God.

"If God loves me so much, why doesn't He do something to help me?"

These precious children have great needs. They need someone who will help them with basic life essentials. They need shoes that fit. They need clothes that are not worn to threads. These children need food. Yes, there are children in your town who do not always have the food they need.

But these precious children have an even greater need. They need to know that they are loved.

They need your church and my church to show up in their lives and say,

"We love you and God loves you. God loves you so much that He sent Jesus for you." These children need to hear the gospel.

Most of us in the church would say, "We do care about these children." The question is, what are we doing with our care? Jesus' care and compassion always moved Him to action. He had compassion on them and He fed them. He had compassion on them and He healed them. He had compassion on them and he taught them.

Matthew West challenges all of us to put our care into action with his song, entitled, Do Something. "Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of people living in poverty, children sold into slavery. The thought disgusted me. So, I shook my fist at Heaven and asked, 'God, why don't You do something?' He said, 'I did. I created you'. If not us, then who? If not me and you. Right now, it's time for us to do something."

Scripture is clear about God's heart for these precious children.

"He will have compassion on the poor and needy, and the lives of the needy He will save." (Psalm 72:3 NASB) The



Submitted photo

LBCH President Perry Hancock says Louisiana churches need to show up in the lives of "our precious children, so they know they are loved."

Bible is also clear about our obligation to help these children. "For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.'" (Deuteronomy 15:11 NASB) God also tells us in His Word that He will bless those who help these children. "He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor." (Proverbs 22:9 NASB)

If your church does not currently have a ministry for these children, consider how one could be established.

Begin by asking God for guidance. Pray. Then, discover what others are doing in your community

to help these children. Look for needs that are not being met or needs that are underserved.

Once you determine the areas of need, make a "could do" list that matches your church's passions, gifts, and resources. Choose one project from your list and move forward with the new ministry.

Consider this. Is it possible that a great spiritual awakening could come to your town just because you helped these children?

How? Well, if you meet the needs of the children, you could reach them and their families for Christ. If you reach the families, you could reach whole neighborhoods. Then you could watch God transform your entire community.

Could that happen? There is one way to find out. In the words of Matthew West speaking for God, "Do something." Do something for these precious children and watch God move.



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# Outgoing DOM Lonnie Wascom is faithful to the end

By **Brian Blackwell**  
Message Staff Writer

COVINGTON – Lonnie Wascom has one final prayer request as he closes out his time as director of missions for Northshore Baptist Association Oct. 1. “If God favors me, He’ll let me go out like Elijah,” Wascom said. “I do not want to burn out; I want to burn up. I want to see people saved. I want to

see our churches revived. I want to see an awakening before I die.”

Wascom, director of missions for Northshore Baptist Association since its formation in 2011, announced in early May of this year his intention to retire. At the time, Wascom said in his e-mail blast he had served in vocational ministry for 55 years, and the decision was one he did not take lightly.

With retirement just weeks away, Wascom said serving the association’s 90 churches has been an honor.

“I’ve loved being a director of missions,” he said. “I never saw myself in this office, but I’m still excited. One brother asked what I am doing when I retire. I said ‘I will keep praying, I will stay in the Word, I will keep sharing my faith with people, I

will preach as I have opportunity, and I’m going to encourage pastors and ministers. If God wants me in a local church as a pastor or another role, I’m going to do that. And I’m going to spend time with my wife Linda.”

## CALLED EARLY

A native of Baton Rouge, Wascom repented for salvation and was baptized at New Bethlehem Baptist Church near Live Oak when he was nine years old.

When he turned 15, Wascom began his service in vocational ministry as the assistant music director at Judson Baptist Church in Walker.

During the years that followed, Wascom served churches in California and Louisiana, and earned degrees from Southeast-

ern Louisiana University in Hammond, California State University in San Francisco, California, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, California (now Gateway Seminary in Fremont, California).

After 40 years of serving churches, Wascom was called as the director of missions for Chappapeela, LaTangi and St. Tammany Baptist Associations in 2004. Seven years later, the three associations voted to merge.

Wascom said Hurricane Katrina contributed to the merger.

In the weeks following the massive storm that made landfall in 2005, churches from the three associations demonstrated cooperation. Those not damaged by the hurricane

See **WASCOM**, page 10

## Lifblood from page one

### GBO IMPACT

With the help of the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering, the church began to grow and fulfill its mission, and added a second campus.

“We’ve been able to use some of those funds to help us funnel that money into our second location,” Allen said. “It’s helped us as we strive to reach our vision of sharing Christ with the people of Shreveport-Bossier.”

By the time Covenant Church held its first worship service in January 2011 at the Bossier Instructional Center, the congregation had grown to 150 members. Growth has been steady as they moved between locations – the Cohab business incubator in Shreveport, the Supper Club event venue in Shreveport and its current home at Providence Classical Academy in Bossier City. The average worship attendance was 215 in late August, and the church had baptized 75 since it started.

Covenant Church added its Shreveport campus in June, locating it inside a downtown office building. By late August, attendance there had increased from 40 to 70, nearly doubling in a three-month period.

### COMMUNITY GROUP IMPACT

Allen said much of the growth can be attributed to its focus on community groups.

Since they meet in rented facilities, the church is mobile. They have four community groups com-

prised of 30-40 people who meet once a month, and 20 smaller, gender-specific discipleship huddles that gather weekly.

“We try to equip everyday believers to live out the mission of God in their everyday life,” Allen said. “Our smaller groups are the pipeline of our church. We encourage each other with the Gospel and pray for our people of peace.”

Each community group is responsible for adopting its own ministry. These include sharing Christ at the Hub homeless shelter in Shreveport, tutoring at area schools, mentoring women at a half-way house and reaching out to single mothers. The church mem-

bers also feed the homeless at the Hub every Sunday evening.

“That’s part of our DNA,” Allen said. “You can’t be a member unless you commit to serve. When it’s so easy to stay inwardly focused, serving keeps us outwardly focused.”

Named for the first executive director of the Woman’s Missionary Union, the Georgia Barnette Offering’s annual Week of Prayer is set for Sept. 16-23. The theme for this year is “Think Big” inspired by 2 Corinthians 9:6. This year’s offering goal is \$1.7 million. For more information on the offering, visit [georgiabarquette.org](http://georgiabarquette.org).



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# THINK

# BIG

## GEORGIA BARNETTE STATE MISSIONS OFFERING 2018 PROJECTED ALLOCATIONS



**7%** Mission Church  
Builder Program

Assist mission churches with building costs.

**Mission  
Budget  
Supplements**

Financial assistance for mission churches' salary supplements.



**17%** Special Missions  
Projects

Resort Missions, Language Radio Outreach, Disaster Relief and Mission Projects.

**16%** Missions Education, Promotion,  
and Leadership Training

Provide ministry project assistance and leadership training/missions education events for adults, youth and children.



**46%**

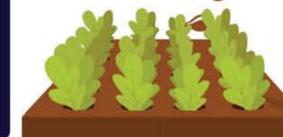
**1%** Equipment &  
Special Needs

Emergency needs of mission churches when other funding sources do not exist.



**9%** *Here for You*

A multi-media evangelism strategy.



**4%** Scholarships

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Christian Education Scholarship and Christian Vocational Service Scholarship at LC.

WEEK OF PRAYER: SEPTEMBER 16-23, 2018 • GOAL: 1.7 MILLION



## FAST FACTS



- The Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering provides the entire budget of Louisiana Baptists Disaster Relief.
- Hurricane Harvey displaced 71 churches in Texas last year. Thanks to disaster relief volunteers and your GBO gifts, most of them have returned to their places of worship.
- In 2017-2018 Baptist Builders assisted 10 mission churches with planning, building or remodeling facilities.
- The Georgia Barnette Offering provides construction equipment to assist volunteers working on projects.

- The Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering has helped plant various language churches including 1 Laotian, 2 Korean, 1 Burmese, 1 Zomi, 1 Ethiopian, and 29 Hispanic.
- Georgia Barnette funded church plants have reported 12,491 salvation decisions since 2010.
- In 2017, M-JAM welcomed 962 participants and saw sixteen students make decisions to follow Christ.
- More than 100 families have been served since the CenLa Pregnancy Center opened its doors in December 2017.

- *Here for You*, Louisiana Baptists multi-media evangelism strategy, enables us to seed God's truth in places we normally couldn't get to and reach people we typically couldn't reach.
- Your Georgia Barnette gifts enabled the *Here for You* commercials to air statewide in the Super Bowl and the Final Four for the last two years.
- More than 849,000 people in Louisiana were exposed to God's truth via the *Here for You* commercials that aired during the Super Bowl in February 2018.

A  
LOT  
OF  
SEEDS  
MAKE  
A  
BIG  
HARVEST.  
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 (CEV)



# Wascom from page 7

sent members to help with recovery efforts or even hosted disaster relief teams.

A few years after the storm passed and the area was on the path to recovery, these congregations began discussing the possibility of merging.

"Whatever imagined walls or threats existed

were blown down by Katrina's winds," he said. "It took us a few years to get used to the 'new normal' following the disaster and then we went to work on making the new association happen.

"At the annual meetings of the three associations, all three unanimously passed

a motion to disband and become the Northshore Baptist Association," he continued. "Each member church was informed it could be a member of the new association without having to be credentialed by simply passing a motion in their church conferences requesting membership in the new association. All but one church passed the motion during that first year. The one that did not has since applied, gone through a year of credentials process, and was voted into the association."

### PRESSING NEED

During his time as director of missions, Wascom has seen an increased emphasis on discipleship. He believes churches across the state must better equip their new converts and long-time members to grow in their faith and share the Gospel with others.

"We're seeking to get our people to catch a vision that they can share their faith," he said. "They don't have to be a trained theologian with a seminary degree to tell family members, friends, co-workers and those they go to school with what Jesus means to them."

To that end, the association's churches will meet in September at one of three

sites for Wascom's final large event as director of missions.

Church members will receive training and will be encouraged to invite their friends, family and others to attend with them a large rally at the First Baptist Church in Mandeville, 6 p.m., Sept. 12.

"I don't think you can do one without effectively doing the other and you can't effectively do the other if you aren't doing the one," he said. "They have to be evangelized before they become discipled."

"It doesn't require a degree from MIT," he continued. "It does require a commitment and prioritizing to become effective in this discipline."

### OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK

As he looks to the future, Wascom is encouraged by the increased commitment he sees by pastors and members to the local church.

"As long as we maintain that understanding at the local level, we can hold each other accountable for doctrinal integrity," he said. "Part of me is encouraged by that is because I see that grasped by many of the newer local pastors and churches that membership means something. I pray after my time ends that the churches of Northshore Baptist Association keep fighting the good fight and running the race as they impact this area and world for Him."

# Heroes from page 5

since that day," Stone said. "I've been pretty strong in my life, but more than ever now. There's no doubt in my mind that my entire life was God-orchestrated and I was used by Him that day as a vessel."

### HONORING LOCAL HEROES

This year's program featured a new element – the Hero of the Year Award that includes a \$1,000 cash award for a hero in the categories of active military, active law enforcement and active

firefighters in the Shreveport-Bossier City metropolitan area. United States Air Force Captain Khalisha Starr, Corporal Justin McDonnel with the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office and Jae-Preston Pollard with the Shreveport Fire Department were named winners from among 15 finalists.

Jurkovich told the *Baptist Message* his ability to preach freely in America is due largely because of the sacrifices and courage of those serving in law enforcement, military and emergency medical services.

"Honor Our Heroes is a very exciting gathering where the First Bossier Family can intentionally serve all those who serve our cities and nation every single day," he said. "We get the opportunity to let all individuals and families serving in our Fire, Police and Military know that God loves them, we love them and that they are not alone."

# Message from page one

Your *Baptist Message* team continues to seek to cover the news of our Louisiana Baptist churches to inform our faith community and the world about our cooperative ministries and missions, and the biblical distinctives that define us as Baptists. We also strive to keep you informed about people, events and issues important in how they shape or hold the potential to influence our life, work and ministries.

I appreciate the input

of many who graciously shared their views about the change. Most seemed to appreciate the reasoning behind the change, but I also was moved by the several heartfelt appeals to highlight Baptist in the masthead in emphasizing the message of the Gospel.

In Luke 19:10 Jesus declared He had come "to seek and save that which is lost." Indeed, a two-word summary of that passage is "Jesus saves."

It is the message of the Gospel. It is the message of Louisiana Baptists. It is the message of the *Baptist Message*.

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# Two Baton Rouge churches join as one to reach community

By Brian Blackwell  
Message Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE – Sherwood Baptist Church was at a crossroads only a year after renovating facilities that had been damaged heavily by the historic flood of August 2016. The multi-ethnic congregation was well-positioned with regard to location, space and amenities to minister to the surrounding neighborhood, but membership had dropped.

After months of seeking the Holy Spirit's direction, Pastor Bruce Worrell was introduced in September to Josh Causey, pastor of Living Hope Fellowship, a predominately Anglo congregation, in Baton Rouge.

Following multiple meetings to facilitate a merger, the two churches became one congregation February 25, creating a strong and dynamic body focused on reaching a community ripe for harvest.

"Both congregations voted 100 percent to come together and that's what I call a miracle," Worrell said. "Before we came together, the group I was left with was a group that, first of all, loved the Lord and they loved the people of this community regardless of an individual's background or economic status. They wanted to see this lighthouse continue to shine."

"They were willing to step out of their comfort zone and move forward with some new ideas and some new concepts and some new music," he said. "What I think it says about our folks and also Josh's folks is this we are willing to do some new things for the cause of Christ. Our hearts and their hearts were in the right place as we sought what God wanted."

## A GODLY FUSION

Worrell became interim pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in 2015, and the church was starting to recover from a downward trend in attendance. Before several feet of water poured inside its worship center in August 2016, the church had tripled in size from 30 to 100. But by the time they recompleted repairs 11 months later, membership had decreased to 55.

"After we rebuilt and started again, we found that about 60 percent of our members had either sold their homes or relocated to another area of town or city," Worrell said. "At that point we began to pray and I began to seek God's leadership on what we needed to do. We had a brand new building with a core group of people who loved the Lord and were willing to stay here and commit to reaching this community."

Several churches had approached the Sherwood Baptist congregation with proposals to merge, but Worrell said none were the right fit. Then, in November, Worrell and Causey



Brian Blackwell photo

Living Hope Fellowship and Sherwood Baptist Church in Baton Rouge officially fused in February. Josh Causey (left) was pastor of Living Hope Fellowship and Bruce Worrell was pastor of Sherwood Baptist before the two became one church focused on reaching the surrounding neighborhood.

struck up a conversation about where their two churches wanted to go, moving forward.

Since becoming a church plant of Parkview Baptist Church in Baton Rouge in 2006, Living Hope Fellowship had moved three times and was seeking a more permanent location. Causey was excited about the possibility Worrell presented.

After additional meetings, the churches voted to fuse together.

See JOIN AS ONE, page 13

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# Abused as a child, redeemed as a child of God

By Holly Jo Linzay  
Regional Reporter

LAFAYETTE – Tears glistened in Shermane Reed’s eyes as she recounted the horror of the abuse she experienced as a child, and how the power of God’s healing brought redemption to her life.

As a Mending the Soul facilitator and coordinator of the recovery support group at The Bayou Church in Lafayette, Reed has told her story to countless women and men. It is one of sexual abuse as a child, Reed said, and it helps her to connect with other abuse survivors.

It was through the ministry of Mending the Soul that Reed was able to find hope and healing.

Mending the Soul is a recovery support group that offers hope for those dealing with all forms of abuse. The 15-week study is a personal and specific look at the effects of abuse that brings hope for personal healing and provides deep discipleship.

The intense study,

Reed said, may be painful at times, but will lead to God’s healing and help individuals find redemptive purposes for the pain.

“I grew up in church. My family was very religious. We went to church every Sunday and every

Wednesday night prayer meeting. My Dad was very well known throughout the community, and everyone thought he was the perfect family man. But behind closed doors, my dad was an alcoholic,” Reed recalled.

She recounted how her father would become intoxicated and beat her mother as well as abuse her.

“I was molested at age 7 by my Dad. I remember telling my Mom for the first time but she didn’t believe me. She said I was making it up,” Reed said.

She attempted to tell other family members about the abuse. “I told my aunt and others in my family, but they told me to keep quiet about it, that it was personal, and we shouldn’t talk about it.”

But Reed said people

should talk about their experiences. As a matter of fact, Reed believes a person’s destiny is found in sharing his or her story and believes everyone’s testimony can be used to impact the kingdom of God.

Mending the Soul offers therapy groups separately to both women and men who have experienced abuse and trauma.

“All abuse is damaging, and the effects of it are the same,” Reed said, adding that her father was the first person to molest her, but there were others.

“I was raped by a friend of the family and other members of the family. I went through life in a lot of silence. I had a lot of anger and rage,” she remembered.

One day Reed said she got her dad’s shotgun and went through the house pointing it at all of them, and they joked about “crazy Shermane.”

“It wasn’t the first time I’d gotten the gun. Once, while everyone was asleep I contemplated killing everyone in the house and then myself. I remember thinking God couldn’t love me or He was angry with me,” Reed said. “I even felt I was a child of Satan.”



Shermane Reed



The Bayou photo

Because of God’s healing powers Shermane Reed has been able to use her experiences as an abused child to become a facilitator and the coordinator for the Mending Soul support group at the Bayou Church in Lafayette. Her abusive childhood, according to Reed, allows her to connect with other abuse survivors.

She did not have any self-worth, Reed recalls, and did not have a relationship with God. She blamed God for the abuse she had endured and she found herself in a very dark place.

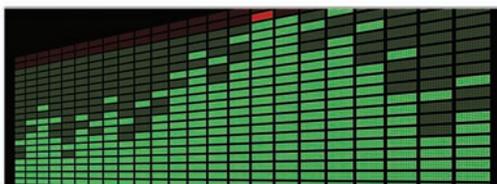
“On a Saturday, I would be molested, and my Mom would be beaten on the same night, till about 2 or 3 in the morning. My Dad would put on his suit on Sunday, drive to church

cursing my mom out, but when the door opened to go into church, we were the perfect family. I kept silent. I blamed myself. I thought the abuse was somehow my fault,” Reed said.

That charade of the “perfect” family took its toll. In high school, Reed started cutting herself and continued having suicidal

See REDEEMED, page 13

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## Redeemed from page 12

thoughts. Yet, somehow, Reed made it through. She got a job, saved her money, and went to college.

"I never went back home," Reed said believing she had "outran the abuse."

When she was 24 years old, she got married. Majoring in elementary education, she earned her degree from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, then moved to Lafayette where she began her teaching career.

It was there she had two miscarriages and fell into major depression. Pregnant again, Reed's daughter was born prematurely at 24 weeks. Her daughter lived, but her marriage was crumbling. Her husband committed adultery and the couple separated.

"I was living an isolated life because I was not trusting God. I had a mental breakdown," Reed said, "and my doctor had

me committed to a mental health institution."

At the hospital, Reed said there was no counselor or therapy group for sexual abuse, so she attended the Alcoholics Anonymous group.

"I was broken. I was at the bottom of a very dark pit. I remember telling God, 'If you are real, I need your help. If you are not real, I'm done with life,'" Reed recalled.

In her darkest hour, Reed said God snatched her up out of the pit.

"I physically felt God's hands on me and pull me out of the pit, and He said, 'Trust me,'" Reed said.

She got out of the mental hospital, found her own place, but did not file her divorce papers.

"God told me to hold on. I began to fall in love with God and with myself. We, my husband

and I, were invited to The Bayou Church, and God started restoring our marriage," said Reed.

The two started couples' therapy and Reed joined in a women's Bible study group.

"During the time of the Bible study, I started having flashbacks and nightmares, and I could feel depression coming on again. All the memories of abuse came flooding out," said Reed. "To help me cope, I was introduced to this group called Wounded Hearts which was what Mending the Soul initially was called."

For 15 weeks, Reed went through the small group sessions and then she realized God was calling her to be a part of the Mending the Soul ministry. She went through the training and became a certified facilitator and eventually a trainer.

At The Bayou, a group has been started for students aged 15- through 17-years-old who have experienced abuse or the effects of divorce. She has worked with women who have experienced sex trafficking. She also has recently trained facilitators

who have started new groups at five churches in Lafayette.

Reed even volunteered to help set up the ministry in a church in New Iberia and Baton Rouge while helping the Catholic Diocese in Lafayette set up Mending the Soul therapy groups.

She does not mind volunteering her time as she believes the Mending the Soul ministry was a gift from God. "God restored my life through this ministry," said Reed. "I felt a weight lift off of me and I finally felt free."

In January 2019, Reed will be one of the keynote speakers at the "Still I Rise" 2019 Women's Abuse Survivor Conference Jan. 25-26 at The Bayou Church café area in Lafayette on Jan. 25-26.

Reed said the theme for the conference is "We Are

No Longer Silenced" and will continue the overall theme of healing wounded hearts and giving a voice to abuse survivors.

"Abuse comes in all shapes and sizes, and the good news is Jesus Christ is waiting to heal those broken like only He can do," said Reed. "He certainly healed me."

To learn more about the ministry, go online to [thebayouchurch.org/mendingthesoul](http://thebayouchurch.org/mendingthesoul), or call 337.984.8291.

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## Join as one from page 11

"We become one fellowship," Worrell said. "We have senior adults and young adults meeting together for worship. We are still moving forward and every day is a new adventure. But God will use this fusion to not only change our lives but also to change our community and to win people for Christ and to disciple believers to go into the world."

### COMPLEMENTARY MINISTRY

The two former congregations suit each other well for ministry, Causey said, adding that the different ministries that were in place in each congregation before the merger stayed intact, such as ministering in nursing

homes, serving breakfast to the impoverished downtown and meeting for Bible study in small group settings.

"The general plan was us merging together doesn't cancel anything out," Causey said. "We said let's keep everything going. We're in a stage now where we are still transitioning and getting to know each other, but we are looking at the opportunity around us."

"For a while Sherwood was really making a tremendous impact, but they lost a lot of manpower because of the flood," he said. "We are starting to look at the fall semester and future. Now we have more foot soldiers and are seeking ways this facility can bless the community."

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

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Please submit résumé to Susan Nolan at [snolan@lbch.org](mailto:snolan@lbch.org) or P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.



### ON THE MOVE

- **Richard, wife Vickie, Blue** is the new Associational Missions Coordinator for Easter Louisiana Baptist Association. Blue resigned as the senior pastor of Walker Baptist Church, Walker to take the new position.
- **Daryl Stagg** is the new Director of Missions for Big Creek Baptist Association and the CENLA Baptist Association.
- **Joel Murrah** ordained to the Gospel ministry by Christ Church, Lafayette. He is commissioned to pioneer a new celebrate recovery ministry at the church, which starts in October.
- **Chad Ward** is the new pastor at Victory Baptist Church, Walker.
- **Cole Headrick** is the student minister at Bayou Oaks Baptist Church, Monroe.
- **James (wife Wanda) Lovell** is the new pastor at Pine Grove Baptist Church, Castor.
- **Jason Dubea** resigns as pastor at Gateway Bible Church, Ball.
- **Destry McFearin** has resigned as the music minister of Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs.
- **Christopher Hardison** is the interim pastor of Agape Baptist Church, Walker.
- **Shaun Martin** resigns as minister of music and senior adults at Kingsville Baptist Church, Ball.
- **David Cloud** resigns as pastor at Mansfield Road Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Warren Jackson**, who is currently the interim choir director at Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, has been approved by the executive board of the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association as the new director at Camp Bethany effect January 1, 2019.

### HOME COMING

- First Baptist Church, Maringouin: **90th Homecoming** celebrated on August 26. Dinner on the grounds followed the worship service. The church was organized in August 1928 with the help of First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge; Melville Baptist Church and Coliseum Baptist Church, New Orleans. Pastor: Jimmy Wommack.
- Fellowship Baptist Church, Trout: **Homecoming**, September 16, 9:30 a.m. Special Music: **The Sanctuary Quartet**. Pastor: Michael Devillier.
- Hebron Baptist Church, Bush: **Homecoming**, September 16, 10:30 a.m. Dinner on the grounds following worship. Speaker: **Sam Greer**. Pastor: Rickie Wilson.
- First Baptist Church, Broussard: **60th Anniversary**, September 16, 9 a.m.- noon. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Join us for some great music, guest speakers, and fond memories as we celebrate 60 years of ministry and look ahead to many more. Pastor: Weldon B. Moak.
- First Baptist Church, Melville: **100th Homecoming**, September 16, 10:30 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Speaker: **Jacob Crawford**. Special Music: **Gold Rush Quartet**. Pastor: Nathaniel Dutton.
- Oak Hill Baptist Church, Bastrop: **64th Homecoming**, September 23, 10:30 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Speaker: **Bill Robertson**. Special Music: **Kate Eppinette**. Pastor: Andy Myrick.

### REVIVAL

- **Two Rivers Baptist Association Harvest Revival**, September 15 at Spring Creek Baptist Church in Kentwood and October 20 at Taylor Creek Baptist Church, Kentwood. Evangelist: **Preston Nix, professor at NOBTS**. Worship: **Victory Days**. Both services begin at 6:30 p.m.

- Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Vidalia: **Revival**, September 16-19. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Dennis Baker.
- Community Baptist Church, Lafayette: **Revival**, September 16-19, 6 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Lyn-don Longoria**. Special Music: **Kerry Longoria**. Pastor: Tom Lambert.
- Meridian Baptist Church, Marion: **Revival**, September 16-19, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Paul Carter**. Music: **Brad Mount and Tim Post**. Pastor: Glyn Nale.
- **Senior Adult Fall Progressive Revival**, September 17-19, 10 a.m. Locations will be Ouachita Baptist Church, West Monroe, North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe and Cedar Crest Baptist Church, West Monroe. Speaker: **Waylon Bailey, pastor of First Baptist, Covington**. Special Music: **Greg and Kristen Oden and family**. Fellowship lunch daily: \$5. A love offering will be taken daily. This is sponsored by the Northeast Louisiana Baptist Association. Director of Missions: Jerry Price.
- First Baptist Church, Pleasant Hill: **Revival**, September 21-23, September 21-22, 6 p.m.; September 23, 11 a.m. Evangelist: **Doug Compton**. Worship Music: **WeRcalled & Crowned in Grace**. Pastor: Lynn Burkett.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Homer: **Revival**, September 21-23, Friday-Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Evangelist: **Joe Aulds**. Special Music: **Price Harris**. Pastor: Steve Beard.
- New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy: **Revival**, September 23-26, Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: **Mike Courtney**. Music: **American Idol's Chris Sligh**. Pastor: Roland Hebert
- Outreach Baptist Church, Columbia: **Revival**, September 23-26. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: CR Martin.
- Hopewell Baptist Church, Spearsville: **Revival**, September 23-26; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Paul Carter**. Pastor: David Martin.
- New Beginnings Baptist Church, Bush: **Revival**, September 23-26, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Richard Blue**. Worship: **Butch Reviere** (Monday through Wednesday). For more information, call 225.505.9745. Pastor: Sanford Sherman.
- Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: **Fall Revival**, September 23-26, mid-day services, noon and nightly services, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Lyn-don Longoria**. Pastor: Steven Kelly.
- LaSalle Baptist Association, Jena: **Tomorrow's Hope LaSalle area-wide pre-crusade student rally**, September 19-20, September 19, First Baptist Church, Jena, 6 p.m. and September 20, First Baptist Church, Tullos, 6:30 p.m.; **Tomorrow's Hope LaSalle Crusade**, September 23-26, 7 p.m. nightly at the Jena High School gym. Evangelist: **Rick Gage & Scott Camp**. Worship: **Noah Cleveland, Joy Fowler (guest vocalist) and Terrance Williams (guest vocalist)** Director of Missions: Buddy Willis.
- First Baptist Church, Hackberry: **Engage – Revival 2018**, September 23-26. Sunday, 10 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. nightly; Monday, 5:30 p.m., family night – free hot dogs and sno cones, 6:30 p.m. **Masters4 Southern Gospel Quartet**; Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., youth night – free pizza. Evangelist: **Eddie Briery**. Pastor: Monte Rowse.
- William Wallace Baptist Association, Franklinton: **Senior Adult Revival – Mature Trees Produce Good Fruit**, September 24-26, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 9:30, Choir Practice, Service, 10 a.m. followed by lunch. Monday, First Baptist Church, Zachary, Speaker: **Marc Gregoire**; Tuesday, Galilee Baptist Church, Zachary, Speaker: **Basil Wicker**; Wednesday, First Baptist Church, Slaughter, Speak-

er: **Paul Ballard**. Worship Leader: **Benji Harlan**. Director of Missions: Stan Statham.

- **Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge: Senior Adult Revival – Staying Strong**, September 24-26, 10:30 a.m. with lunch following; Monday, First Baptist Church, Gonzales; Tuesday, First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, Wednesday, Greenwell Springs Baptist Church. Evangelist: **Ken Schroeder**. A love offering will be taken and there will a \$5 donation for lunch. Director of Missions: Tommy Middleton.

### LAGNIAPPE

- First Baptist Church, Sulphur: **Louisiana Baptist Singing Women**, September 13, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Michael Linton.
- First Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Global Fest – Tour of International Cuisine**, September 14, 6 p.m. Cost: \$25. For more details, please visit port-ministry.com.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles: **Mark Lowry What's Not to Love? Tour**, September 14, 7 p.m. Cost: \$20 general admission, \$30 gold reserved and \$45 for VIP. Children 10 and under get in free. Go to <https://www.itickets.com/events/402480> to purchase tickets. Pastor: Steve James.
- First Baptist Church, Oakdale: **Masters4 Southern Gospel Quartet in concert**, September 14, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Dennis LaFleur.
- First Baptist Church, Moss Bluff: **Comedy of Love Marriage Conference**, September 14-15, Speakers: **Michael and Amy Smalley**. Cost: \$50 per couple (includes RSVP childcare) Pastor: Steve Bennett.
- First Baptist Church, Mandeville: **Beth Moore Living Proof Simulcast**, September 15, 9 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. Speaker: **Beth Moore**. Worship: Travis Cottrell. Cost: \$25 until September 1 and \$35 from September 1-15. Lunch will be provided. Pastor: Jake Roudkovski.
- Woodland Park Baptist Church, Hammond: **Beth Moore Simulcast**, September 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost: \$15 for early bird registrants. Contact the church office at 985.345.4013. Pastor: Mark Tolbert.

- First Baptist Church, Franklinton: **Beth Moore Simulcast**, September 15, 9:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m. For more information, contact Leslie Westmoreland at 985.515.2210 or FBC Franklinton at 985.839.3427.
- First Baptist Church, Covington: **Mark Lowry What's Not to Love? Tour**, September 16, 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Go to <http://fbccov.org/allevnts/mark-lowry/to> purchase tickets. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.
- Antioch Baptist Church, Florien: **Payback: When Revenge Turns to Ruin**, September 16, 19, 23, 26, 30, Oct. 3 and Oct. 7. This live performance deals with bullying. Bullying is a huge issue that affects the lives of thousands of students. In this story, a young man experiencing a difficult home life and the hurt of being bullied turns to revenge. He lashes out in the same way we have seen so many others by causing ruin in his life and the lives of many innocent people. See how the decisions made in this life affect what a person experiences for eternity. Walk-ins are welcome but reservations are recommended. For reservations call 318.332.1375. Cost: Donations are welcome or \$2 per person. Times of performances are 6, 6:20, 6:40, 7, 7:20, 7:40 and 8 p.m.
- Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: **Louisiana Baptist Singing Ministers in concert**, September 20, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Steven Kelly.
- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church: **WeRcalled in concert**, September 21-22, Friday, 7 p.m. Pastor: Lynn Burkett.
- First Baptist Church, Lafayette: **Refresh 2018**, September 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Speaker: **Debbie Stuart, author of "Twenty Minutes a Day for the Rest of Your Life."** Special Music: **Tyler and Aimee Hennessee**, Shreveport. Tickets for Refresh 2018 are \$25 (including lunch and childcare) and are available online now or at the church. Pastor: Steve Horn.
- Camp Living Waters, **Kids Fishing Rodeo**, September 22, 7-8 a.m. registration, 8-10 fishing, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. water slide and lunch. Cost: \$15 per person of \$40 per family. The rodeo is open to children ages 4-12 (parents must be present). Please RSVP at 985.345.1831.

- Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Lisbon: **Peter-son-Brown Music Celebration Concert**, September 23, 11 a.m. Pastor: Larry Sellers.
- Faith Baptist Church, Livonia: **Masters4 Southern Gospel Quartet in concert**, September 23, 10 a.m. Pastor: Freddie Rodrigue.
- Ridge Avenue Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Safe Planning for Senior Adults: Don't Lose Everything Paying for Nursing Home Care Even at the Last Minute**, September 25, 8:30 a.m.- noon. Speaker: Blake Rainey. Lunch will be provided. Make reservations by calling 318.396.1116. This event is free. Pastor: Jim Wolfe.
- First Baptist Church, Coushatta: **WeRcalled in concert**, September 26, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Nathan Davis.

### IN REMEMBRANCE

■ **Danny Keith Taylor**, 53, associate pastor at HIS Church in Pineville, passed away August 30, 2018 following a tough battle with chronic illnesses. Born June 8, 1965, he was a graduate of Buckeye High School, the University of Louisiana at Monroe and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned a Masters of Divinity. Taylor served as pastor in numerous churches as well as associate pastor in others in Louisiana. He mentored many aspiring young pastors during his years of ministry. His career path and enthusiasm for working with young people of all ages led him to teach and coach football and baseball at Buckeye High, Tioga Jr. High, Pineville Jr. High, Burleson High in Burleson, TX and Crowley High in Crowley, TX. He is predeceased by his father, Everett "Eddie" Taylor. Those left to cherish his memory are his mother, Loudie Taylor of Deville; wife, Darlene Poston Taylor of Pineville; daughters Robyn Taylor Grossman (Paul) Arlington, TX, Melissa Taylor, Natchitoches, LA, Roni Robertson, Ft. Worth, TX; son, Drew Robertson, Dallas, TX; honorary daughter, Leah Siewinski Ft. Worth, TX; brother, Mark Taylor (Connie); sister, Karen Creamer; nieces, Jessica Sinclair, Shelli McKay, and Megann Creamer; three great nephews and one great niece.

## 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.

nkg v tvqq jmcwdjm wd bdp wym bmnjc wynw

wym qdhpew ynwy mnwmk, wym hnkfmjtdje, nkg

wym hnwmjxvqqmj, nkg wym xnqemjtdje, eb ljmnnw

njeb tyvhy v cmkw nedkl bdp.

rdmq wtd:wtmkwb-svam

Clues:  
J = R; V = I

Answer to August 23 Scripture Crypto:  
Nehemiah nine:one

# Singing Ministers ready for 2018-19 concert season

By Staff  
Baptist Message

The Louisiana Baptist Singing Ministers are gearing up for a busy 2018-19 concert season that includes a stop at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola.

With the first performance just a week away, this group of 55 music ministers and laymen are eager to hit the highways and bi-ways of the state and share God's love through their variety of music that includes a cappella spirituals, hymn arrangements and contemporary Christian tunes.

"The spiritual and musical challenges of being in Singing Ministers builds our abilities to be used by God 'on the road' and especially when we go back to our individual home churches," said Frank Nihard, public relations officer with the group.

Since they organized in 1974, the Louisiana Baptist Singing Ministers have presented concerts at churches,

detention centers, intervention program facilities and prisons.

During each performance, the group collects an offering for needy students. The collection helps fund the Louisiana Baptist All State Choir and scholarships for two Louisiana College and two New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary students preparing for music ministry. Several former scholarship recipients are now members of the group.

The group gathers for a retreat in August to prepare for each concert season. Not only is the retreat a time to practice together but also is a chance to join in Christian fellowship.

"We work hard when we're together, but we have a lot of fun in the process," Nihard said. "A lot of burden and victory sharing goes on during our breaks and at mealtimes."

The concert schedule for 2018-19 is:

Sept. 20 – Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City



Submitted photo

The Louisiana Baptist Singing Ministers is comprised of 55 music ministers and laymen and have been performing concerts in churches, detention centers, intervention program facilities and prisons for the past 44 years.

Oct. 18 – First Baptist Church, Minden

Nov. 15 – New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy

Jan. 17 – Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City

Feb. 21 – Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola (not open to the public)

March 21 – Salem Baptist Church, Stonewall

April 11 – Temple Baptist Church, Ruston \*

May 16 – Houston River Baptist Church, Lake Charles

\* Combined concert with Louisiana Baptist Sing-

ing Women

For more information about auditioning for or booking the group for a future concert, e-mail Louisiana Baptist Singing Ministers President Glenn Price at [glenn@pbcmis.org](mailto:glenn@pbcmis.org).

## REVELATION

THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES



JANUARY BIBLE STUDY 2019

### JANUARY BIBLE STUDY 2019 PREVIEWS REVELATION 1-3: THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Gerald Stevens, Distinguished Professor of New Testament Greek, NOBTS  
Author of "Revelation: the Past and Future of John's Apocalypse"  
Available at: [wipfandstock.com/revelation-17945.html](http://wipfandstock.com/revelation-17945.html)

**\$10 PER PERSON FOR LEADER'S GUIDE**

MON., OCT. 15	MON., OCT. 15	TUES., OCT. 16	WED., OCT. 17	THURS., OCT. 18
9:30am - 11:30am	6:00pm - 8:30pm	6:00pm - 8:30pm	1:00pm - 3:30pm	9:30am - 12:00pm
Providence Learning Center, Conference Room, NOBTS. Hardin Student Center, Second Floor, Above Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126	David Carlton, DoM Evangeline Baptist Association Office 3000 West Pinhook Road, Lafayette, LA 70508 337.237.6956 *Light supper provided at 5:15PM	Jeff Ingram, Adult Ministry Strategist, LBC. Louisiana Baptist Building 1250 MacArthur Drive Alexandria, LA 71303 318.448.3402 *Light supper provided at 5:15PM	Jerry Price, DoM Morehouse, Northeast Louisiana Baptist Association Office 7103 DeSiard Street Monroe, LA 71203 318.537.9548	Lane Moore, DoM Northwest Baptist Association Office 5875 West 70th Street Shreveport, LA 71129

Register online at [LouisianaBaptists.org/JBS19](http://LouisianaBaptists.org/JBS19)



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