



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

September 30, 2021
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John 3:16

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🌀 AUGUST 29, 2021 🌀

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IDA SHREDS LOUISIANA



Submitted/Staff photos

These photos show the devastation caused by the 170-mile-per-hour gusts of Hurricane Ida after it hit the Louisiana coast on Aug. 29. (main photo) Beachfront homes and camps in Grand Isle were obliterated by the strong winds while a heavy storm surge caused extensive flooding; (inset photo, top) emergency vehicles and electrical crews cautiously made their

way down a road littered with debris, downed power lines and leaning electrical poles outside of Amelia; (inset photo, bottom) a mobile home is smashed to pieces outside of Golden Meadow. Ida is tied with Hurricane Laura (2020) and Last Island Hurricane (1856) as the strongest hurricanes to make landfall in state history.

Louisiana Baptists joined by state partners in recovery ops

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

GOLDEN MEADOW, La. (LBM) – Hurricane Ida left a trail of destruction, Aug. 29, in southeast Louisiana and already churches and Disaster Relief teams from across the nation have responded yet again to offer hope in Christ amid the devastation, hav-

ing aided Louisianans in 2020 to recover from three hurricanes and two major storms.

Ida made landfall in Port Fourchon as a Category 4 storm (maximum sustained winds of 150 mph, 7 mph under Category 5 status), tying Hurricane Laura (2020) and the Last Island

See **PRESSED**, page 6



Patrick Dennis photo

A member of the Texas Baptist Men chainsaw team cut through a tree near St. Amant shortly after Hurricane Ida.

'Weekend warriors' needed for chainsaw crews, mud out work

By Staff
Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) — Individuals and church teams are being urged to volunteer as "weekend warriors" to aid in the massive cleanup of damaged churches and homes from Hurricane Ida.

Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief

See **WEEKEND**, page 2

Gift of ice affirms pastor's praying, believing

By Staff
Baptist Message

GOLDEN MEADOW, La. (LBM) – Ice was nowhere to be found in Golden Meadow, Sept. 1,

three days after Hurricane Ida. So, Pastor Shane Terrebbonne lifted a request to God, believing.

Moments later, just as he said "amen," a truck arrived at Gulf Coast Baptist

Church with two bags of ice. He had not met the driver before and has not seen him since, causing Terrebbonne to describe the

See **ICE**, page 2

State, national Baptist leaders visit key Disaster Relief sites

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS, La. (LBM) – Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Litton and North American Mission Board Send Relief President Bryant

Wright visited Louisiana Baptist churches, Sept. 6, who are hosting disaster relief teams in areas hit hard by Hurricane Ida.

Joining them on the tour were Litton's wife, Kathy, other Send Relief staff, Louisiana Baptist

Missions and Ministry Team Leader John Hebert and his wife, Kitty, and Louisiana Baptist Convention President David Cranford. They stopped at First Baptist Church, LaPlace, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula, and Woodland Park Baptist Church in Hammond.

"We are really here not only seeing what has occurred but hopefully helping others know how you can be of help to churches like this in LaPlace Louisiana," Wright said during a visit to First Baptist LaPlace.

Litton led prayers with Pastor Shane Newton and members at First Baptist Church, LaPlace. He also prayed with Arkansas Bap-



Patrick Dennis photo

(l-r) Louisiana Baptist Missions and Ministry Team Leader John Hebert, Louisiana Baptist Convention President David Cranford, First Baptist LaPlace Pastor Shane Newton, Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Litton and North American Mission Board Send Relief President Bryant Wright lift Newton and his church up in prayer during a Labor Day tour, Sept. 6. Litton and Wright visited damaged Louisiana churches and key Disaster Relief sites.

ICE from page one

incident as an example of God's faithfulness.

"God is on time, every time when you need Him," Terrebonne said. "And He answers prayer."

Terrebonne added his thanks for the ongoing prayers from churches and their encouragement to

his congregation as they continue to minister to the community.

"God uses his people to show love to those who need it," he said. "If it wasn't for the prayers and support from other churches, we would have a more difficult time doing ministry."

Weekend from page one

strategist Stan Statham said, "We have 70 chainsaw work requests alone just in Laplace. Multiply that by the hundreds of affected communities and the thousands of downed trees around homes and it's easy to see that we need some supplemental

help for the 1,000 boots on the ground we have for the entire state."

Any person or church team that can volunteer time during a weekend is encouraged to sign up on the "Churches Helping Churches" webpage on louisianabaptists.org. In the box for question "1," simply note you are signing up to be a "Weekend Warrior." Also, indicate what work you would like to contribute, set off by parentheses — e.g., **Weekend Warriors (chainsaw crew)**.

Volunteers are needed for chainsaw crews, mud-out teams and food distribution.

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'Churches Helping Churches' initiative launched to aid 91 congregations, 85 pastors facing losses

By Staff
Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM)—State convention leaders are asking Louisiana Baptists as well as the larger Southern Baptist family to pray for and partner with congregations who have been devastated by Hurricane Ida.

The storm wreaked havoc in New Orleans but caused severe damage in Houma, Thibodaux, Cut Off, South Lafourche, Larose, Laplace and many more small communities. Just among Louisiana Baptists, 91 churches were seriously impacted, with 22 experiencing catastrophic losses. At least 85 pastors are facing significant personal property replace-



Steve Horn

ment costs for cars, homes and belongings, according to Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief reports.

Steve Horn, Louisiana Baptist Convention executive director, told the *Baptist Message* that these churches and pastors "have a tough path ahead."

"Some of these churches do not have the resources to carry wind and hail coverage on their property because it is so expensive near the coastal areas," he explained. "Therefore, they don't have insurance funds to repair and restore their churches."

Yet, he added, while they are recovering, "they still are ministering to – assisting others – in their communities."

Horn called on indi-

viduals and congregations "to be the hands and feet of Jesus" to these impacted bodies of believers and their leaders, specifically calling on others "to help with financial assistance, cleaning supplies, building materials, and so much more."

"They also need people who will take the time to travel and work hand in hand with them to rebuild what was lost," he explained. "Along the way, we can love on, encourage and share the Gospel with their friends and neighbors who need our help right now, too."

Horn referred interested individuals and congregations to two web links:

-- Churches wishing to be matched with one or more of the 91 churches having serious losses can register using <https://louisianabaptists.org/missions-ministry/disaster-relief/churches-helping-churches/>.



Submitted photo



Trinity Baptist Church in Matthews, La. is one of 91 churches in Louisiana that sustained heavy damage from the high winds (150 miles per hour or better) from Ida.

louisianabaptists.org/missions-ministry/disaster-relief/donate/.

-- Anyone desiring to offer general financial assistance for the ongoing disaster relief operations can sign up using <https://louisianabaptists.org/missions-ministry/disaster-relief/donate/>.

"In either case, please join us in prayer as we ask God to use this opportunity to bring revival to Louisiana and beyond," Horn urged.

Change ME

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Brian Blackwell photo

The faithful members of Gulf Coast Baptist Church have continued to be the hands and feet of Jesus through various ministry endeavours despite dealing with Hurricane Ida.

Son shines after the storm in Golden Meadow

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

GOLDEN MEADOW, La. (LBM) – Misty and Hilario Escobar were on a quest for food shortly after Hurricane Zeta made land-fall, Oct. 28, when they discovered a grocery distribution line manned by Gulf Coast Baptist Church members.

They received a box of non-perishables to tie them over until their power was restored (a week later), but the Escobars found something more eternally valuable – an encouraging church that played a role in both of their sons trusting in Christ, one in April and the other in May, after speaking with Pastor Shane Terrebonne. Misty and Hilario, who previously had accepted Christ but were not baptized, celebrated by joining their sons in baptism, July 11.

“Since my boys have accepted Christ and we all were baptized as a family, we feel like life is so much better because of the decisions we made,” Misty Escobar told the Baptist Message. “Our life hasn’t been perfect, and we have gone through trials since the baptism, but we have a great confidence knowing we gave it all to God.”

ON MISSION

The baptisms underscore the mission of Gulf

Coast Baptist, Terrebonne said.

During a two-week span in November, 20 members handed out 500 food boxes a day that were donated by Second Harvest Food Bank of New Orleans. The church also grilled sausage, chicken, hot dogs and hamburgers for those without electricity, and distributed clothes and cleaning supplies that were donated by Concord Union Baptist Association.

In the ensuing months, members have continued this compassion ministry focus, distributing 75 backpacks filled with food and other necessities in December and hosting a community block party in May that featured food, games and inflatables. The church also continues, monthly, to give away food provided by Second Harvest Food Bank of New Orleans.

Terrebonne is thankful his church accepted Christ’s command to share His love in their own backyard and that they were able to witness His saving power through the food distribution.

“Everybody was smiling and joyful the day of the baptism and it reminded us of how important it is to invest in others for the Kingdom,” Terrebonne said. “After the baptism we threw a big celebration because we knew this was symbolizing something new.”

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Iorg urges 'Preach the Word of God,' signs seminary agreement with LC

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – The core message of God's Word is the Gospel and must be shared with a culture in desperate need of Christ, Jeff Iorg said during the recent E4 Preaching Conference. "The Bible is the enduring word of God," said Iorg, president of Gateway Seminary in Ontario, California. "We preach those words and we do so primarily because the enduring word of God has the only message of salvation possible for humankind. "People are trusting something for their salvation," he continued. "The great message that people need to hear from you from the enduring word of God is how to be saved. You aren't going to get that

message from any other word."

Citing 1 Peter 1:22-2:1-3, Iorg told the 66 pastors and 14 pastors' wives in attendance at the First Baptist Church in Pineville that the Bible has multiple purposes. Among those are: facilitate salvation, define relationships, shape character.

"When you live out the Bible's teachings you will treat people differently," he said. "When you live out the Bible's teachings you will love people. You will even sacrifice to show them true love.

"The Bible defines relationships," he said. "It's the enduring word of God and it gets the last say in how we treat each other."

He added that the Bible will outlast all generations of mankind, animals and nature.

"We preach an enduring word of God," he said. "It's going to outlast all people, all animals, all nature. And by extension I can say it's going to outlast all other words.

"So let's have the spiritual discipline and focus to preach the Word of God," he said. "Because within it is the message of salvation, the definition of relationships and the shaping of character that is the core work of everyone one as a preacher and a pastor."

The Sept. 14 E4 Preaching Conference presented a program intended to "exemplify, encourage, equip and empower our pastors to preach expositional sermons."

Past speakers have included Steve Gaines, former Southern Baptist Convention president, and pastor, Bellevue Baptist



Brian Blackwell photo

Golden Gate Seminary President Jeff Iorg challenged pastors attending the annual E4 Preaching Conference to proclaim God's Word to a culture in need of Christ.

Church, Cordova, Tennessee; Don Wilton, pastor, First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina; Fred Lowery, pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, Bossier City; David Uth, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida, and Stephen

Rummage, pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The conference also featured music by the praise team from First Baptist Pineville and surrounding churches.

See E4 CONFERENCE, page 7

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Pressed from page one

Hurricane (1856) as the most-powerful hurricanes to hit Louisiana. The storm dumped up to 15 inches of rain in some areas, knocked out power to more than 1.1 million at one time and spanned a diameter of 414 miles, according to AccuWeather.

Some areas in Lafourche, Lower Jefferson,

St. Charles and Terrebonne parishes were told by Entergy they would not have power restored until Sept. 29.

Two weeks after Ida made landfall, Hurricane Nicholas came ashore, Sept. 14, on the south Texas coast as a Category 1 storm (75 mph). By the time it reached Louisiana, it had weakened to

a tropical depression, but still knocked out power to more than 120,000 homes and businesses and dumped 10 inches of rain on the state.

Just among Louisiana Baptists, 91 churches were seriously impacted by Ida, with 22 experiencing catastrophic losses. At least 85 pastors are facing significant personal property replacement costs for cars, homes and belongings, according to Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief reports.

To that end, Louisiana Baptist state missions team members distributed funds to the churches and pastors whose homes were heavily damaged by the storm. The emergency gifts were made possible because of donations to the Georgia Barnette State Mission Offering as well as designated contributions from churches and individuals.

“As Hurricane Ida approached, our team fo-

cused on preparedness,” John Hebert, Louisiana Baptist missions and ministry team director, told the Baptist Message. “After the storm passed through, our focus was on feeding people in conjunction with the Red Cross and helping communities recover from the carnage left by the storm, and almost immediately focusing on our pastors and churches. Our operations have supported the recovery effort while LBC staff have focused on the needs of our churches. At the present time, we are delivering checks to the approximately 91 churches from monies that have been donated for this storm. The Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering has been vital to our recovery and efforts from Hurricane Ida.”

Many groups have responded, including the National Guard that sent 5,220 Louisiana Guardsmen and an additional

3,116 Guardsmen from 15 other states to protect lives and property, maintain communications and ensure continuity of operations and government throughout the state, and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers that installed 2,640 blue roofs on homes.

But while many other organizations provided much-needed physical assistance to residents impacted by Ida, Southern Baptists responded by also sending Disaster Relief teams to “give a cup of cold water in Jesus’ name.”

Through Sept. 20, Disaster relief teams from 29 state conventions manned 25 ministry sites around southeast Louisiana. SBC feeding units had prepared 638,660 meals, assessed 3,163 damaged properties, completed 494 chainsaw jobs, offered 7,558 showers and finished 5,243 loads of laundry.

See **PRESSED**, page 7



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E4 CONFERENCE from page 5

Breakout sessions were led by conference organizer Stewart Holloway, pastor, First Baptist Pineville; Argile Smith, pastor, Parkway Baptist Church, Biloxi, Miss.; Deron Biles, professor, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Adam Hughes, professor, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Matthew McKellar, professor, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Preston Nix, professor, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Nix's wife, Diane, led the breakout sessions for the E4 wives.

Sponsors included Louisiana Baptists, NOBTS, the Adrian Rogers Center for Expository Preaching at NOBTS, SWBTS, LC, Mission Dignity, North American Mission Board, First Baptist Pineville, and the Cason Foundation. Quebedeaux's Cajun Café in Pineville also provided lunch at a discount.

Holloway told the Baptist Message the E4 Conference, now in its 13th year, began with a desire to sharpen and encourage pastors.

"I am grateful for our partner sponsors who help make this conference

such a blessing to those who attend," he said. "We bring in top notch presenters and are able to give back to the attendees far more in resources than they spend on registration."

The 2022 E4 Conference will be held Sept. 13. NOBTS President Jamie Dew will be the keynote speaker.

IORG SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH LC

Iorg also addressed students at LC during their chapel service and signed an agreement between Gateway Seminary and LC that will allow graduates to earn their seminary degrees more quickly to pursue God's calling on their lives. Students who successfully complete certain senior-level courses in LC's missions and ministries program may receive at least 15 credit hours toward a Master of Divinity at Gateway Seminary, which is in Ontario, Calif. LC previously signed similar agreements with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southeastern Baptist Theological



LCNews photo

Following chapel, Sept. 14, Louisiana College President Rick Brewer joined Jeff Iorg, president, Gateway Seminary in Ontario, California, in signing a memorandum of understanding between the two institutions that will allow LC students to apply college credits to their first year of studies with this Southern Baptist Convention supported seminary.

Seminary.

"I am grateful for Dr. Jeff Iorg's leadership and commitment to kingdom advancement," LC President Rick Brewer said. "This agreement is further affirmation of the relevant, relational, and rigorous education afforded our students at Louisiana College. Enabling students to save time and money toward completing missions and ministry training expedites mobilization for Kingdom Service."

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Pressed

from page 6

Teams also have distributed 715 Bibles, shared the Gospel 513 times and saw 87 people profess their faith in Christ.

"We are grateful for the help that we have received from other Southern Baptists," Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn said. "We would be in a much more difficult place if we would not have their support."

"In addition, as I have traveled to meet pastors, I am amazed at their resiliency. Their resiliency does not mean that they are not weary, but they really are capitalizing on the moment. Continue to pray for these pastors and churches."

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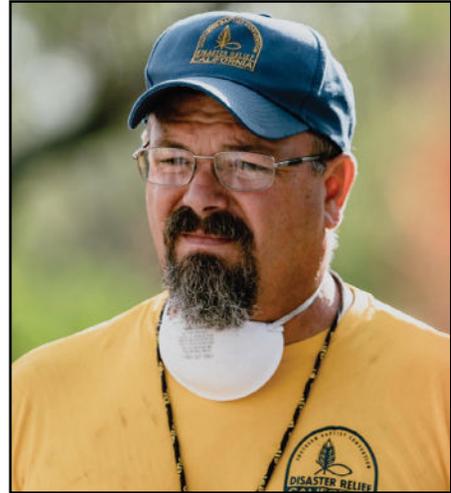
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HANDS & FEET OF JESUS

Photos by Patrick Dennis, Sam Evans and Brian Blackwell



HANDS & FEET OF JESUS

Photos by Patrick Dennis, Sam Evans and Brian Blackwell



OCTOBER IS PASTOR AND MINISTER APPRECIATION MONTH

Use this opportunity to express your appreciation to those who serve the Lord and you!

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Pray for them during a worship service
- Organize a prayer calendar and ask members to sign up for a day to pray for the pastor/staff
- Plan a church-wide fellowship
- Give them a love gift from the congregation (a love offering or gift cards to local restaurants)
- Include appreciation for the entire family
- Write/send personal notes/cards
- Offer to mow the yard, clean the house, or wash their car
- Be faithful in attendance and giving

Be creative and be a blessing!

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS PASTORAL LEADERSHIP
LouisianaBaptists.org/Pastors

Georgia Barnette Offering helps rescue women and children from sex trafficking

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

MONROE, La. (LBM) – Lindsey Crawford had not realized how prevalent sex trafficking was in her community until she met a young mother who was a former victim.

For several weeks, Crawford could not forget the incident and asked God how she could be a part of the fight to end human trafficking in her hometown and beyond. What resulted was the creation of “Freedom13,” a jail ministry that focuses on outreach to formerly trafficked people in northeast Louisiana with the intentions of rebuilding



Lindsey Crawford

their dignity.

The ministry’s name is based on Galatians 5:13: “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

“At ‘Freedom13’ we want to provide opportunities for women to start over,” Crawford said. “But more than that, we want women to know how important they are to the Lord, to us, and to the Body of Christ. We hope they will find or be reminded of their Gospel-centered, God-given purpose and walk it out, every day.”

Since its founding,

“Freedom13” has helped rescue more than 20 women and children from the sex trafficking industry and offers them resources to gain a new life through a 12-month trauma-informed program. The ministry is part of the network “Purchased: Not For Sale,” which has other locations in Lafayette, Shreveport and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Additionally, through its jail ministry in Lincoln and Ouachita parishes, “Freedom13” staff and volunteers have counseled more than 10 women who have accepted Christ, distributed 250 Bibles, taught Bible study, life skills, and trauma-based classes to 200 women and helped six women transition out of incarceration into a life of independence.

Looking to the future, Crawford is excited about continued opportunities to



Submitted photo

Freedom13 in Monroe has shared the hope of Christ with women and children who have fallen victim to sex trafficking.

help women and children who are rescued from the sex trafficking industry, and he thanked Louisiana Baptists for their support through the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering.

“Our partnership with the LBC has been an answer to prayer. We are so thankful for the church partnerships made possible because of Georgia Barnette and give all the praise to the Lord for what He will do through this state-wide offering,” Crawford said. “Please pray the Lord will

bring women for us to minister to in His timing and for wisdom as we seek creative ways to serve our community during this unique time in our culture. Pray we keep the Gospel at the center of all we do. Without Jesus, we can do nothing worth doing.”

Sept. 12-19 was set aside as the Week of Prayer for state missions and ministries. More information about the offering is available online at www.GeorgiaBarnette.org. This year’s offering goal is \$1.7 million.

We must go to the nearby towns, so that I can tell the good news to those people.

MARK 1:38 CEV

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THE NEEDS
NEXT DOOR

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STATE GOAL

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We must go to the nearby towns, so that I can tell the good news to those people.

MARK 1:38 CEV



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STATE GOAL

\$1,700,000

Steven Kelly to be nominated for first vice president

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

MONROE, La. (LBM) –

Steven Kelly, pastor of Bayou Vista Baptist Church in Morgan City and director of missions for Gulf Coast

Baptist Association, will be nominated for first vice president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention during the 2021 annual meeting, according to Ron Thompson.

Thompson, associational mission strategist for District 8 Baptist Convention, confirmed to the *Baptist Message*, Sept. 22, that he intended to make the nomination.

The LBC annual meeting is scheduled to be held Nov. 16 in the North Monroe Baptist Church.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Thompson said he was motivated to make the nomination because of Kelly's example as a pastor and a director of missions.

"I believe Steve is the type of leader we need in Louisiana to help us accomplish the great commission in these challenging times," Thompson told the *Baptist Message*. "He has been faithful to his family, his church and to

the Cooperative Program and believes in missions in all that he does.

"Steve is evangelistic, innovative, and faithful," he continued. "Steve has taken on the challenge of full-time ministry and bi-vocational associational leadership."

BY THE NUMBERS

The database of the Annual Church Profile shows that Bayou Vista Baptist Church gave 6.4 percent of its undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program in 2020 to support cooperative missions and ministries. Last year, those contributions amounted to \$23,908 through CP and \$12,999 to the Gulf Coast Baptist Association from undesignated receipts amounting to \$370,717.

The congregation also supported the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, \$6,163, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, \$2,675, and the Georgia Barnette State

Missions Offering, \$3,274.

Additionally, Bayou Vista Baptist averaged 118 in Sunday worship service and baptized three new believers this year. The congregation has witnessed 189 baptisms combined during Kelly's tenure, 2009-2021.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, Bayou Vista Baptist Church is serving as a host site for the Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief team that is ministering to the community.

CANDIDATE'S RESPONSE

"I was approached by a friend in our state who is well respected in our Baptist work, and he said he and others felt I would be a good candidate for this position," Kelly said. "I support the ongoing work of the LBC and wanted to do what I could to encourage the work by doing my part."

See KELLY, page 17

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**REGISTER
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See KELLY, page 17

LOUISIANABAPTISTS.ORG/JBSPREVIEW



CENLA Pregnancy Center banquet celebrates 'Gift of Life'

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Pro-life supporters have a chance to be part of modern-day miracles taking place through the CENLA Pregnancy Center, former Planned Parenthood clinic director Abby Johnson said during the center's annual Gift of Life Banquet, Sept. 14.



Abby Johnson



Brian Blackwell photo

Nearly 900 supporters gathered inside the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria on Sept. 14 to celebrate how God has moved through the CENLA Pregnancy Center. The annual Gift of Life Banquet netted \$363,713.77 and featured keynote speaker Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood clinic director who left the organization in 2009 and founded a pro-life organization that reaches men and women faced with difficult pregnancy decisions.

“Everyday miracles are taking place at CENLA Pregnancy Center,” Johnson told a crowd of nearly 900 gathered inside the Randolph Riverfront Center. “Every time a woman walks in and she hears about the Lord, it’s a miracle. Every time a mother walks in and learns how to be a better mom, what to expect when she is pregnant, when she has a baby, that’s a miracle. There are miracles taking place every single day here in your community. And what an amazing opportunity it is that you get to be a part of those miracles, that you get to invest in the miracles that God is

doing right here in your community.

Johnson was the keynote speaker for the fundraiser, which netted \$363,713.77 for the CENLA Pregnancy Center. The event also featured remarks by other pro-life advocates, musical entertainment by a Louisiana College graduate who now is a Southern Gospel recording artist in Nashville, Tenn., and an announcement that the center will

open its third location in Vidalia next year. CENLA Pregnancy Center currently has locations in Alexandria and Marksville.

CHANGED LIVES

Located on the Louisiana Baptist Building campus at 1254 MacArthur

Drive in Alexandria since December 2017, CENLA Pregnancy Center has

See GIFT OF LIFE, page 14

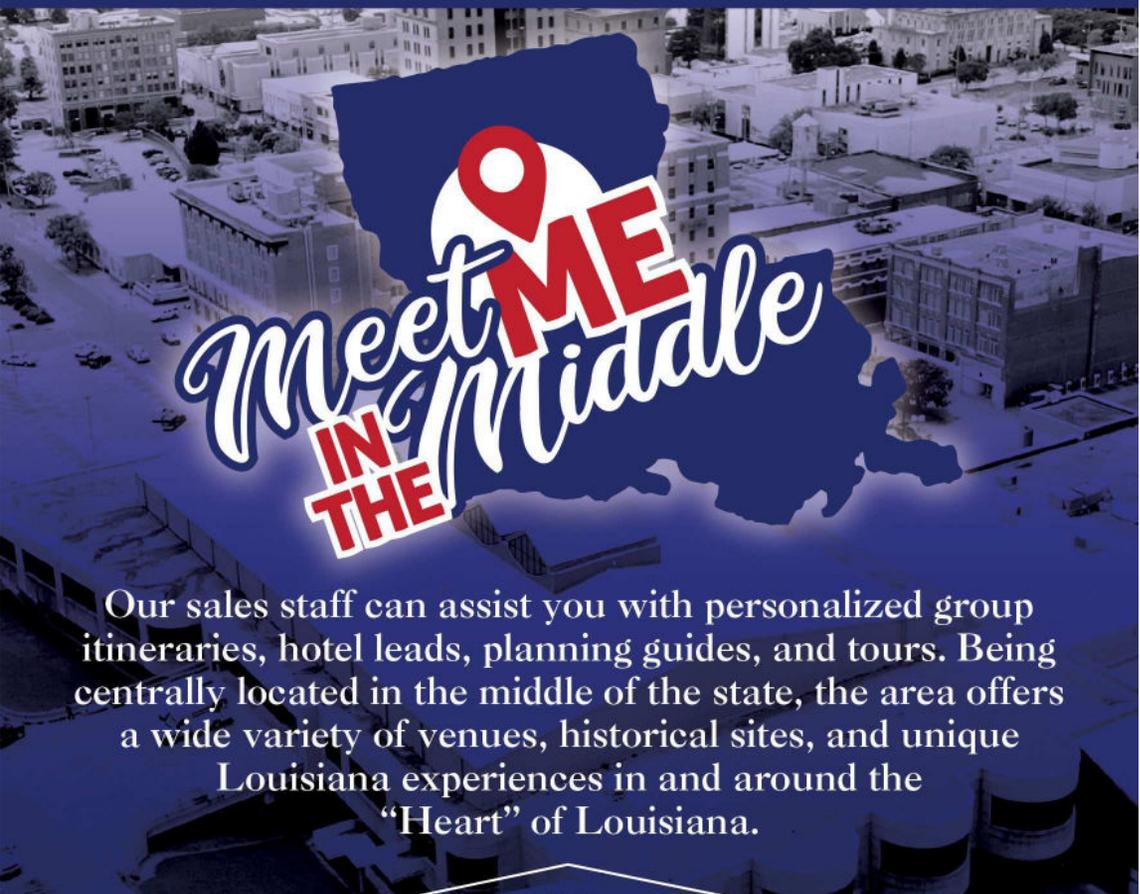
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Gift of Life from page 13

served 964 women through pregnancy decision coaching (by trained advocates), free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, information about pregnancy options, referrals for mental health counselor and obstetrician-gynecologists, safe house and affordable housing recommendations, adoption support (referrals to assist expectant mothers with an adoption plan and limited financial assistance) and post-decision support that includes parenting education as well as recovery groups for those who regret having an abortion.

Additionally, the center meets basic needs for mothers and babies by distributing diapers, food, baby beds, hygiene products, car seats, clothing as well as limited stipends to assist women with rent or other needs.

In all, 155 babies have been saved (out of 171 unborn children of mothers who considered abortion) during the few years that the ministry has been fully operational (services were limited by state restrictions at times during 2020).

More than 200 churches of multiple Christian denominations worked together to establish the

pregnancy resource center, a non-profit, pro-life organization to provide compassionate support to women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions.

First Baptist Pollock was instrumental early in the process, when they began praying in January 2014 for the establishment of a pregnancy care center in central Louisiana. Originally, they pondered setting up a center in the back of their church property. But hundreds of churches, business leaders and other pro-life advocates in central Louisiana learned about the idea and began contributing money and other forms of support.

By December 2016, a nine-person board of trustees had been formed, with members, then, from Big Creek, Central Louisiana and North Rapides Baptist Associations. Then a \$1 annual lease was signed in 2017 for use of the 5,660-sq.-ft. facility, a \$72,000 annual benefit provided by the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

CHANGED HEART

Johnson left Planned Parenthood after she

assisted with an ultrasound-guided abortion on Sept. 26, 2009, and watched a 13-week-old baby die fighting for its life. She quickly departed the nation's largest abortion provider, vowing to become an advocate for life inside the womb and to expose the lies of the abortion industry. Johnson now travels around the globe to share her story and has helped more than 430 former abortion clinic workers leave the industry through her ministry, *And Then There Were None*.

"People assume that watching this baby on the ultrasound screen being aborted," Johnson said. "That was a terrible loss, but it wasn't the worst part. The worst part came later. The worst part was actually knowing when I could have done something to intervene, I just stood there and did nothing. I just watched. I remember wanting to go out and say stop, but I didn't. I just stood there."

Johnson encouraged participants to join her in the fight to save lives of the unborn by donating to pro-life causes, preaching messages from the pulpit and showing up to minister to women who are about to enter a Planned Parenthood



Brian Blackwell photo

CENLA Pregnancy Center Executive Director Claire Lemoine told the large crowd she was thankful for God's faithfulness to allow her and her team to minister to women and do their part to help save the unborn.

clinic.

"I can't end abortion alone," she said. "I can't end it by myself. CENLA Pregnancy Center can't end abortion by themselves. It is going to take all of us. It is going to take the entire body of Christ to end this."

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

David Brooks, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, in his prayer to open the banquet asked God to grant wisdom to the CENLA Pregnancy Center staff and others who stand for life.

"Dear Jesus, we come to you to pray for the most innocent and help-

less among us, for those that are not yet born," Brooks prayed. "We know that no one really wants to have an abortion, they just feel like they have no other choice. But they do have a choice. They can choose life. Lord, we pray that you will touch each of their hearts so they will choose life."

"God has transformed so many lives by this ministry," CENLA Pregnancy Center Board President and First Baptist Church in Pollock Pastor Brian Gunter said. "And I'm so thankful for what the Lord has done. There is not really one person who can take credit because this is ultimately God's ministry. This is something he is doing. Who knows what the Lord has ahead for Cenla Pregnancy Center and all the other centers that we hope to see in the future."

CENLA Pregnancy Center Executive Director Claire Lemoine said she was reminded through the banquet of God's faithfulness as they minister to women and do their part to help save the unborn.

"A team of dedicated, passionate people pushed through challenging times to orchestrate a night which allowed almost 900 people to hear a message of utmost importance," Lemoine told the Baptist Message. "Everyone gathered in the Riverfront Center heard the powerful message of God's mercy and the truth, lies and evil of the abortion industry. We pray people took this message home and allowed it to sink into their hearts. When hearts are transformed and convicted in the truth, people act. People want to make a change and want to be part of building God's kingdom. This night gave them that opportunity."

For more information about the CENLA Pregnancy Center, visit cenlapc.com.

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Price Harris to be second vice president nominee

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

MONROE, La. (LBM) – Evangelist Price Harris will be nominated for second vice president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention during the 2021 annual meeting.

James Hester, pastor of Social Springs Baptist Church in Ringgold, confirmed to the Baptist Message, Sept. 22, his intention to make the nomination.

The LBC annual meeting is scheduled to be held Nov. 16 in the North Monroe Baptist Church.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Hester said his plan to nominate the candidate was due in large part due to Harris's passion for sharing the Gospel and desire to see the state and world turn to Christ.

"I am nominating Brother Price Harris because he epitomizes Christian servitude," Hester told the Baptist Message. "His unwavering faith-

fulness spans decades and he continues to be a bold Gospel witness at home and to the nations at 80 years old. I see in him the fruit of the Spirit, and he has set an example worthy for Louisiana Baptists and all believers to follow."

CANDIDATE'S RESPONSE

Harris, who is a member at Calvary Baptist Church in Shreveport, said he has enjoyed serving Louisiana Baptist churches in his evangelistic ministry and would use this opportunity to give back to them.

"Since evangelism is my focus, I also would look forward to helping others develop a greater passion for sharing the Gospel," Harris said. "I feel like we have better days ahead and I want evangelism to be a vital part of our mission as we move forward as a Convention."

BY THE NUMBERS

The database of the Annual Church Profile shows

that Calvary Baptist gave 0.5 percent of its undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program to support cooperative missions and ministries in 2020, amounting to \$7,800 from undesignated receipts of \$1,506,396. Calvary also contributed \$6,000 to the Northwest Baptist Association. The congregation supported the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering with a gift of \$8,565.

Calvary Baptist averaged 643 in Sunday worship service and baptized 27 new believers in 2020.

PERSONAL DATA

A native of Tupelo, Miss., Harris has served as an evangelist since starting Price Harris Evangelism in 1989. While his music and missions ministry has taken him around the state and world, he has particularly enjoyed developing strong relationships with the local church and others in Jamaica, Romania, Mexico, Brazil, and the Philippines. Harris has led more than 500 people on

more than 50 foreign mission trips.

Before he started Price Harris Evangelism, Harris was on staff as a music and youth minister at Hickory Baptist Church in Meridian, Mississippi, Richton Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Calvary Baptist Church in Columbia, Mississippi, First Baptist Church in Union, Mississippi, and First Baptist Church in Satsuma, Alabama. He also served

as the single adult minister at Calvary Baptist Church, Shreveport, Louisiana.

Harris and his wife, Ann Leonard, have been married 58 years and have two children and eight grandchildren.

Harris holds the Bachelor of Music in church music from William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where, in June, he was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame.

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LOUISIANABAPTISTS.ORG/MWR

Missionary, minister residential care programs resume

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

MONROE, La. (LBM) – After COVID-19 temporarily halted a program that assists ministers and missionaries, the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home and Family Ministries has restarted the Ministerial Care Residential Program.

The program that began in 2018 will host its first approved applicants as soon as Sept. 1. Louisiana Baptist terminated missionaries, and International Mission Board missionaries on stateside assignment, transitioning to a new ministry or recently retired will be eligible to receive a free apartment on the LBCH-FM’s campus in Monroe for up to one year.

LBCHFM President and CEO Perry Hancock told the *Baptist Message* he is

excited to offer the opportunity for ministers and missionaries to rest while they seek God’s direction for their future plans.

“Ministers have benefitted greatly from the program,” Hancock said. “They have

been able to rest from the challenging demands of ministry. That may sound ‘elementary’ but burnout is an ever-present possibility in ministry.

“I believe that the program has also helped some to refocus or clarify God’s call for their ministry,” he continued. “Some have discovered that, rather than being a senior pastor, they need to serve in a different ministry posi-



Perry Hancock

tion. That’s why the program is so important. It provides the support ministers need to make important decisions as God leads.”

Dennis Phelps will serve as director of the program, and he will be the director of

church and alumni relations. Phelps was called to vocational ministry, licensed and ordained at College Place Baptist Church in Monroe and has more than 40 years of ministry experience as a pastor, seminary professor and interim pastor.

“Dr. Phelps is a gifted preacher and a great encourager,” Hancock said. “He will serve well as a compassionate mentor for

the ministers in our program.”

David Rhymes, who participated in the program in 2018, said his family received much encouragement at LBCHFM when they returned to the United States during a stateside assignment as IMB missionaries. Rhymes now serves as pastor of family discipleship at First Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.

“What began as normal stateside assignment from the mission field turned into a period of transition and uncertainty,” Rhymes said. “God used our Louisiana Baptist Children’s



Dennis Phelps

Home to provide our family a place to live while we prayerfully sought the Spirit’s guidance. What a blessing.

“Of all the things we needed to process during this season of life, housing was

one of them,” he continued. “This allowed us to focus on our family and feel a sense of normalcy. We are forever grateful to LBCH for serving our family in this way.”

For more information on the Ministerial Care Residential Program, visit <https://www.lbch.org/ministercare.php>, e-mail home@lbch.org or call 318.343.2244.



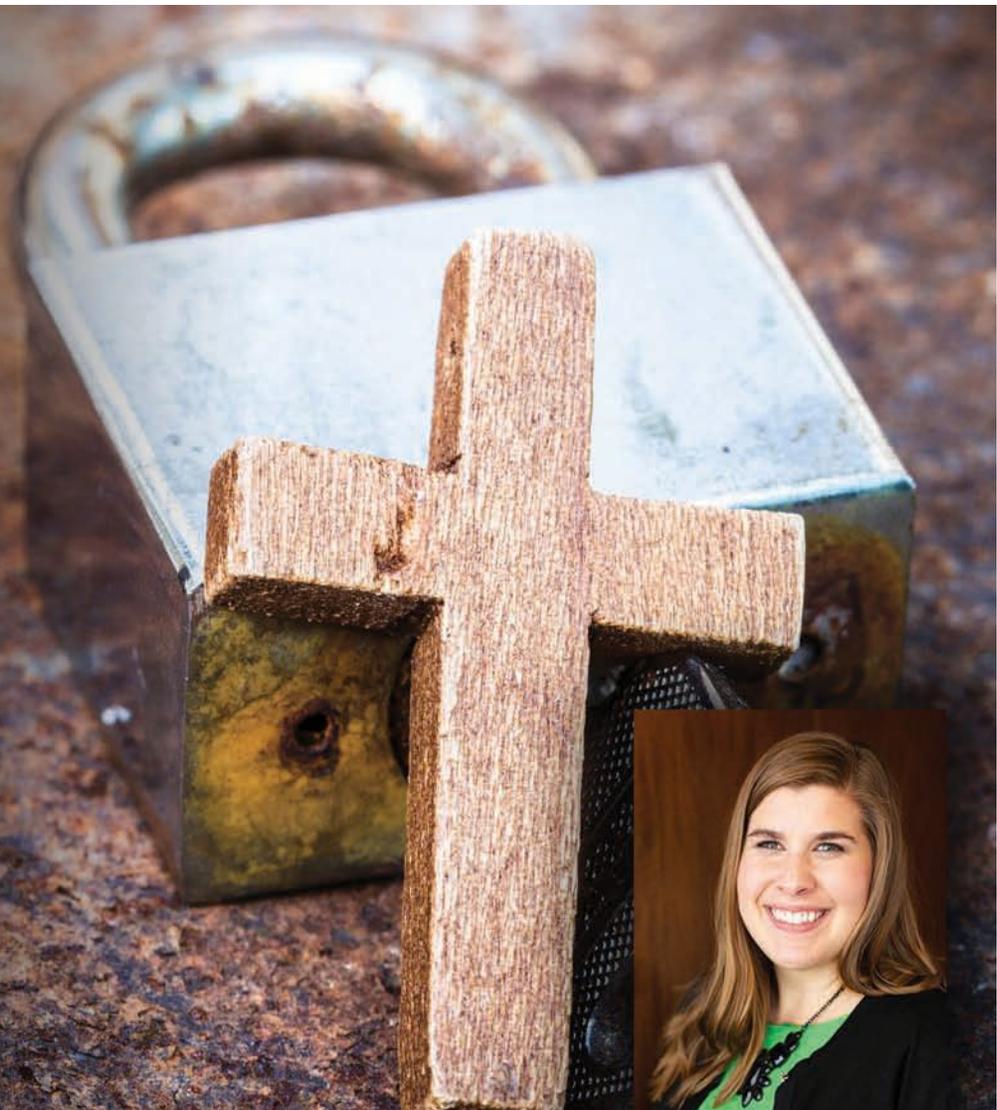
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Louisiana College's C3 speaker declares CRT unbiblical

By Staff
Baptist Message

PINEVILLE, La. (LCNews) -- "CRT bears witness to the reality of whether or not you believe the Bible is true," Dale Clayton said, Sept. 20, as the keynote speaker for Louisiana College's annual Christ Church Culture Conference.

"You have to question if you really believe in the Bible or not," Clayton, vice president of Coaches' Ministries at Nations of Coaches, emphasized. "If you believe in the CRT junk, you've got a blind mind."

Critical Race Theory is an academic and social movement based on claims that U.S. law and institutions are inherently racist and function to create and maintain social, economic and political inequalities between whites (oppressors) and minorities, in particular blacks, (oppressed).

"If you buy into this, you are buying into destruction of the United States," Clayton observed.

LC President Rick Brewer told the crowd that CRT is surging among diversity training programs and public policy positions by governments, corporations and educational systems of all levels nationwide.

"Equity. Social justice. Inclusion. These are CRT buzz words," Brewer said. "Equity sounds non-threatening as opposed to neo-Marxism. But this will be the end of federalism and of free speech in America."

Clayton said the biggest problem with CRT is its lack of room for Christ in the equation.

"Jesus has no place in the resolution of the problem," he said. "If you're white, you'll always be white, so you can't not be racist. If you believe that you're dumber than dirt.

"[CRT is] saying the Gospel has no power to change you," Clayton emphasized. "CRT has no place for the Gospel."

Critical Race Theory writes white people com-

pletely out of the conversation, Clayton said. The only opinions or solutions that matter are those of minorities. Whites have no opinion of value to right any wrongs or perceived wrongs.

"It's just wrong," Clayton said. "It's just as wrong as what whites did to blacks."

Based on reporting by Sierra Boudreaux and Victoria Watson of Wildcats Media.

Kelly from page 12

PERSONAL DATA

A native of Chalmette, Kelly has served on staff of churches in other areas of the state, as well as in Iowa and Mississippi. Before serving with Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Kelly was the pastor of Circle Baptist Church, Baker, First Baptist Church, Doyline, and First Baptist Church, Many, in Louisiana.

He also served as a summer missionary in San Francisco, California, where he sensed the call to ministry as well as met his wife, Tamilee, who was a partner on his team during the summer of 1986. The couple has three children, Andrew, Adam and Sarah, and one grandchild.

In 2015, Kelly became director of missions for the Gulf Coast Baptist Asso-

ciation, an association of 15 churches primarily in St. Mary Parish. During his time as bi-vocational DOM, Kelly has continued to serve as a full-time pastor.

Kelly earned the Bachelor of Science from the University of New Orleans and the Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Visit from page 2

tist Disaster Relief team members who are working out of Woodland Park Baptist Church in Hammond.

"You love people," Litton told the Arkansas team. "You don't ask people what their politics are before you feed them. You don't ask their skin color. You just say, 'We love you in the name of Jesus.'"

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SEEKING A FULL-TIME OR BI-VOCATIONAL
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Leesville First Baptist, Leesville, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send résumés to:
Roger Rolon
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or First Baptist Church,
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Leesville, LA 71496

FULL-TIME PASTOR
Board Camp Baptist Church, Board Camp, Arkansas is seeking a full time pastor. Board Camp is located 10 miles east of Mena, 72 miles west of Hot Springs. Please send résumé to Bill McCartney, 228 Dogwood Springs Lane, Mena AR 71953 or barmcranch@yahoo.com

FULL-TIME PASTOR
First Baptist Church, Mansfield is seeking a full-time pastor. The church is located at 1710 McArthur Drive, Mansfield, LA. Please send your résumé to churchoffice@firstmansfield.org

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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.

■ **David, wife Joan, Richmond** is the new pastor at New Light Baptist Church, Mangham.

■ **Will Englerth** will be ordained for the Gospel ministry October 17, 3:00 p.m. at Conway Baptist Church, located at 4323 HWY 549 in the Conway community in Union Parish. The council will meet at 2 p.m. Friends and family are invited to attend.

HOMECOMING

■ New Prospect Baptist Church, Dubach: **150th annual Homecoming**, October 3, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: **Marvin Winham**. Special Music: **Mary Auld and Lane Brown** will be bringing the special music, along with our **NPBC Choir**. A covered dish lunch will follow the worship service. Pastor:

■ New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong: **97th annual Homecoming**, October 10., 10 a.m. Dinner will be served after the service. Speaker: **John Willie, pastor of Alpine Baptist Church**. Worship: **Robert Willie**. Pastor: Trey Lewis.

REVIVAL

■ Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: **Fall Revival**, October 3-6. Evangelist: **Gary Bowlin**. Pastor: Carl Gulde.

■ New Hope Baptist Church, Elmer: Revival, October 10-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 nightly. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Worship: **The Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor: Rob McLane.

■ Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, DeRidder: Revival, October 10-13, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Dennis, wife Laura, Leavell**. The church is located at 8553 Hwy 464, DeRidder, La. Pastor: Paul Moore.

■ Pioneer Baptist Church, Pioneer: **Revival**, October 23-27, Saturday will be a Revival Kick-Off Concert at 6:30 p.m. with **Ben Waites**, Sunday 10:45 a.m. &



Submitted photo

Friendship Baptist Church, Bienville, celebrated the 45 years of service by their pianist, Jackie Lewis, on Sept. 12, 2021. The church wrote that it was blessed by Lewis's God-given talent and expressed hope that she will continue blessing the church for years to come.

5 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Speaker: **Tim Post, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Bastrop**. Worship: **Ben Waites**. Contact pastor, Gary R. Wolfe, at 318.282.8653 for more information. Pastor: Gary Wolfe.

■ Georgetown Baptist Church, Georgetown: **Revival**, October 24-27, Sunday 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the groups and 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 nightly. Evangelist: **David Han-**

na. Worship: The Lisembys. Pastor: Carl Griffith.

■ First Baptist Church, Benton: Revival, October 24-27. Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Robert Beadle.

■ Cooper Baptist Church, Leesville: **Revival**, October 24-27, Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Casey Johnson**. Music: **Jared Pruitt**. Pastor: Edgar Evans, Sr.

■ Trinity Baptist Church, Turkey Creek:

The Mackey Willis Family in concert, November 7, Pastor: Eddie Douglas.

LAGNIAPPE

■ First Baptist Church, Pineville: **First@First Business Leader Luncheon**, October 7, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Speaker: **Louisiana College Assistant Professor of History Mark Janzen**. Cost: \$10 (lunch catered by Southern Creations) and open to the business community. Please RSVP to <https://fbcpineville.secure2.agroup.com/events/firstatfirst/2021-10-02+11%3A50%3A00>. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.

■ Palestine Baptist Church, Columbia: **Ben Waites in concert**, October 10, 10 a.m. Pastor: Hudey Beaubouef.

■ Toledo Bend Baptist Resort Ministries, Zwolle: **Groundbreaking ceremonies**, October 10, 2:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to come to this ceremony. Toledo Bend Ministry Center is located at 3840 Carters Ferry Road in Zwolle. For more information, call Mary Gore at 318.452-9731.

■ Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Columbia: **Ben Waites in concert**, October 10, 6 p.m. Pastor: Jerry Hendrixson.

■ First Baptist Church, Winnfield: **Judgement House 2021**, October 13, 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, 27, 30 and 31. Pastor: Jerry Pipes.

■ Mount Paran Baptist Church, Shongaloo: **Mark Lanier Ministries in concert**, October 17, all day. Pastor: Ed Bryan.

■ Cotile Baptist Church, Boyce: **The Southern Plainsmen in concert**, October 23, 5 p.m. Pastor: Joey Rudisill.

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 Scripture Crypto. 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.

Y HJVOS NVZ GYOR ECMHOYPK MPX GYOR JYCXSG MPX

GYOR RMYC YP MCC ORS CMEVZUH VD NVZU RMPXH; NSO

NS OZUPSX PVO OV JS, HMYOR ORS CVUX.

RMKKMY OGV:HSASPOSSP

Clues:
G = W; M = A

Answer to August 26 Scripture Crypto:
Matthew three:four



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Children's home opens new recreation center

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

MONROE, La. (LBM) – The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries has opened a new recreation center that not only will provide a place to swim, play basketball and enjoy birthday parties but will offer healing to the many children on campus.

"This place will be special because it will be filled with joy and laughter of our children," LBCHFM President and CEO Perry Hancock said during his remarks at the dedication ceremony, Aug. 20. "For them, that is more than special. Most of them have experienced neglect. Many have faced abuse. But here, they will be able to relax and enjoy life.



Submitted photo

The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home dedicated and opened its new 18,300 sq.-ft. Children's Recreation and Activity Center, Aug. 20. The 'RAC' includes an indoor pool, gymnasium, and gift room (Christmas and birthday surprises are processed and stored here). The facility replaces the former gymnasium and pool which were more than 60- and 40-years-old, respectively. The project was supported by gifts from more than 800 donors.

And while they are playing, God will be at work healing their minds and hearts."

The 18,300 sq.-ft. Children's Recreation and Activity Center includes an indoor pool, gymnasium,

and gift room (Christmas and birthday surprises are processed and stored here), and replaces the former gymnasium and pool, which were more than 60 and 40 years old, respectively.

Though the project was announced in 2018 and set to open in 2020, the novel coronavirus pandemic, hurricanes and unexpected rising construction costs delayed the dedication until this

year.

The recreation and activity center was made possible through donations of more than 800 donors, including three who made significant donations.

The (Sum) of the = Some

HereForYou.org
LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

STICKER SHOCK

I'm sure you've experienced it on many occasions:

You need just a few things from the store. You grab a cart and mysteriously you find yourself with lots of stuff that you didn't have on the list and your bill equals a car payment!

You buy that new truck and the reality of the payment sets in. You've got another mortgage for the next 5-8 years!

You lower your thermostat in July, then the bill arrives in the early part of August.

OUCH!

There is a thread of truth in the old adage, "It all adds up!"

This is true in all other areas of life.

On one occasion as Jesus was addressing those who gathered around him, He said, "A farmer went out to plant his seed. While he was planting, **some** seed fell by the road, and the birds came and ate it all up. **Some** seed fell on rocky ground, where there wasn't much dirt.

That seed grew very fast, because the ground was not deep. But when the sun rose, the plants dried up, because they did not have deep roots. **Some** other seed fell among thorny weeds, which grew and choked the good plants. **Some** other seed fell on good ground where it grew and produced a crop. **Some** plants made a hundred times more, **some** made sixty times more, and **some** made thirty times more." Mt 13:3-9, NCV.

The truth of this parable remains. **Little things, over time, produce big results.** I call this the "**sum**" of the "**some**."

Wherever your feet take you today, you have the opportunity to scatter seeds. **Some** will make no difference. They simply bounce off the soil and lie there unnoticed. **Some** appear to take root only to quickly die. **Some** start showing potential only to be choked by the distractions of life. But **some**, just **some**, land in good soil that has been waiting for the right seed to be scattered at just the right time. These seeds spout roots, break through the soil and become visible for all to see.

The "**sum**" of the "**some**" has great potential – even up to a hundred times more than what was scattered.

Louisiana Baptists are scattering seeds through our multi-media evangelism strategy, **Here for You**. These are not church seeds ("Come to our building"). They are not moral seeds ("You need to be a better person."). These are seeds of God's truth that have the potential to changes lives here and hereafter.

They are seeds that lead to true freedom (John 8:32).

You can scatter this life-changing seed.

You don't need a seminary degree. You don't have to be a public speaker or an extrovert. Simply go to **HereForYou.org** and share the **Here for You** spots using your preferred social media platform.

Every time you do, you are scattering "**some**" seeds of God's truth with those who view your posts.

It all begins when "**some**" people take a moment to scatter "**some**" seeds of truth.

Will you scatter **some** seeds with us? The sum of these efforts could change thousands of lives for eternity.