

THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

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September 26, 2024
Volume 139 • Issue No. 10

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Submitted photo

Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief leaders and team members along with others gathered, Aug. 31, to celebrate the dedication of two homes that were rebuilt by DR and other organizations since Hurricane Ida caused damaged to 78 of the 92 homes in the Ponte-au-Chien tribal community.

Post Ida: DR teams celebrate rebuilt homes in Montegut

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

MONTEGUT, La. (LBM) – Hurricane Ida washed ashore the Ponte-au-Chien tribal community, Aug. 29, 2021, destroying most homes and leaving the residents discouraged and hopeless.

See REBUILT, page 2



Submitted photo

Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief State Director Stan Statham (third from left) visited with other leaders inside a home LBDR and other organizations rebuilt in Montegut.

Special needs campers treated like 'champions'

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – A field at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center was transformed into a bazooka battlefield for 23 individuals with special needs during the fourth annual Champions Camp, Sept. 6-8.

The campers, accompanied by 30 “buddies” and staff, did their best to dodge nerf rockets that were fired from air launchers.

Among those campers was Matthew Otto, a member of Christ’s Community Church, Denham Springs.

“I really loved all of it,” Otto, who attended his first Champions Camp, told the Baptist Message. “I’m loving the chance to shoot the balls and I’m very excited about singing some Sesame Street songs later during the karaoke party. This weekend has been one of my favorite times of my life.”

Jon Johnston, Christ’s Community Church, was a “buddy” to Otto. He enjoyed the chance to share Christ with him.

“It’s an opportunity for us to get guys like Matthew and whole bunch of other folks that



Brian Blackwell photo

Matthew Otto and his “buddy”, Jon Johnston, Christ’s Community Church, spent the weekend having fun with other campers and sharing the Gospel during Champions Camp.

See CHAMPIONS, page 3

CENLA Pregnancy Center celebrates lives restored

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Toni McFadden, who chose to have an abortion as a teenager, shared with approximately 800 guests gathered at the

CENLA Pregnancy Center’s Gift of Life banquet that Christ brought her on a path of healing and eventual restoration with her child’s father.

The sixth annual event,

Sept. 17, was held in the Randolph Riverfront Center.

“If I could spare any woman from going

See RESTORED, page 12

Rebuilt from page one

But by early 2023, despair gave way to optimism when Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief teams and other groups came to help the residents rebuild. Since March 2023, teams have restored two houses in the community, where 78 of the 92 homes

were heavily damaged by the Category 4 storm (maximum sustained winds of 150 mph).

“We have just helped a lot of people and that has injected some hope into the community that felt hope was gone,” Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief Associate

Mark Morelock told the *Baptist Message*. “There still is hopelessness in the area but some people are starting to realize that they do have a future. They are seeing a presence of a church that is growing again and projects that are being completed; and they have begun to realize that they shouldn’t give up.”

Marvin and Debbie Savoie, former International Mission Board missionaries who now are members of First Baptist Church, Lafayette, have overseen the rebuild project. Marvin Savoie said the cooperation among so many groups has been encouraging to the community.

“People here now are seeing light at the end of

the tunnel,” he said. “Seeing these groups of different denominations come together for Christ is a little bit of heaven. The community is meshing together, fellowship together and praying together. When that happens it’s like a big celebration.”

GOSPEL PRESENCE

In addition to rebuilding two homes, teams also renovated the Ida-damaged Live Oak Baptist Church worship center, education space and parsonage.

Live Oak Baptist Church, which is the only evangelical church in the community, has served as a Gospel lighthouse since teams began working. Worship attendance has increased from 20 in March 2023 to 60 in August 2024, and the church has seen baptisms of 10 converts since July 2023 – the first since 2019.

Jerry Dupre Jr., who became pastor in November 2023, said he has enjoyed seeing the members embrace outreach, including Vacation Bible School, an afternoon of water-based recreational activities, community meals and Father’s Day and Mother’s Day services.

“I have told the church over and over that we will be a beacon of light in the

midst of darkness, and that is coming to fruition, in a big way,” he said. “We are a beacon of light in the midst of darkness, in the midst of all the trials, in the midst of all the tribulations, in midst of hurricanes, the spawning of tornadoes, sickness and health. Whatever comes down the road, whatever the world, whatever the devil throws at us, we are going to be an overcoming and persevering people.”

GBO IMPACT

Morelock said more work remains in the tribal community. LBDR leaders have committed to helping rebuild eight more homes, and a large portion of the funding for volunteer housing, feeding teams, building materials and other support comes from the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering. Additionally, the offering funds part of Morelock’s salary and other LBDR efforts. These projects would not be possible without the assistance of GBO.

“This work is such an important part of the fulness of ministry of disaster relief,” he said. “When the storm is over and the recovery teams have gone, new concerns

See **REBUILT**, page 10

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Champions from page one

wouldn't normally be able to go to a camp to experience this," he said. "We can serve them and best of all tell them about Jesus while we have lots of fun."

The Louisiana Baptist summer camp for people with special needs matched participants with buddies who accompanied them during the event. The camp featured karaoke, petting zoo, glow in the dark foam party with snowballs, an ice cream party, fishing, Bible study and worship designed for campers from ages 8 and up who have intellectual or development disabilities.

Champions Camp Director David Anderson, who also serves as the Louisiana Baptist children's ministry strategist, said the camp allowed individuals with special needs a chance to experi-

ence the camp experience that so many of them have never had a chance to experience. It gives us the opportunity to give them a sense of normalcy and while they are there to pour Jesus into them.

He noted that they, along with their families, are one of the most unreached people groups in the state. He cited a 2022-2023 study from the National Center for Education, which found that the number of students ages 3-21 who received special education and/or related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was 7.5 million, or the equivalent of 15 percent of all public-school students.

"It gives people that normally don't a chance to experience camp in their own environment," Anderson said. "This camp is a great oppor-



Brian Blackwell photo

Jacob Hall prepares to shoot a bazoooka gun during Champions Camp at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center, Woodworth. The Louisiana Baptist summer camp for people with special needs matched participants with buddies who accompanied them during the event.

tunity for a church and families to offer something of quality to their members and family that include those with special needs. A church can advocate and offer

this ministry as a key to reaching people in their community by showing that they care.

"Some of the best moments every year is getting to participate in

worship and Bible study with our campers. But sometimes the small, unexpected moments speak just as loud," he continued. "One of those moments was one evening when a camper was getting ready for bed and struggling, and all of our buddies and staff were involved in other situations at that moment. So, a camper with special needs stepped in and helped his friend complete his bedtime duties. It was a great moment as we saw what we had been teaching them about how God can use every one of them get put into practice. It really was a beautiful moment."

Next year's Champions Camp is set for Sept. 5-7.

"Our future plans are to keep the camp scheduled for the weekend after Labor Day every year," he said. "That will allow families and church to plan ahead when looking at their future calendars."

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Jailhouse to church house: Gause named ‘NAMB Replanter of the Year’

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

MARRERO, La. (LBM) – Troy Gause was headed on a road to destruction when he was in Plaquemines Parish Detention Center in 1998, but an encounter with God inside the jail set him on a path

to redemption in Jesus.

Gause, who was serving a sentence for drug possession, was at a breaking point and realized he needed to reconnect with Christ, who saved him as a youngster. Vowing to stay close to God, he was released six months later and began to grow in his faith that one day would lead him to become a pastor.

“Don’t underestimate what God can do with a young man with a broken life and a surrendered heart,” said Gause, who was named “Replanter of the Year” during the 2024 North American Mission Board Replant Summit, Aug. 22-23.

Gause, who sensed a call to vocational ministry after his release from prison, enrolled at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2009. He eventually started Church Without Walls, a ministry that shares Jesus with the homeless and addicted individuals in New Orleans, and in 2017, began Cross

Culture Church.

REBIRTH

Cross Culture Church grew from eight people that first met inside a member’s living room in Marrero to 45 within five years. However, despite the increase in attendance, they were unable to find a permanent home and leaders of the church prayed for God to provide resources to purchase a new facility and for them to team up with a struggling church for revitalization.

Gause in July 2022 was notified by Derek Kitterlin, son-in-law of Ames Boulevard Baptist Church Pastor Steve Foxworth, that the church property needed lawn maintenance. Gause, who owns a lawn care business, began taking care of the property for free without any discussion with Foxworth about a merger.

Ames Boulevard Baptist

See GAUSE, page 7

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Hopewell Baptist Church reborn through prayer

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” – Romans 15:13

CENTER POINT, La. (LBM) – Just four years ago, Hopewell Baptist Church was down to 15 in worship when Ricky Belgard felt led to accept God’s call to become pastor.

Reluctant at first to leave his position as prayer minister with Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, Belgard instead chose to put aside his security and join God in an adventure that eventually led to a prolonged season of revival and a drastic increase in worship attendance, decisions for Christ and baptisms.

“I had told (PBC Pastor) Philip Robertson I’d be there with him ‘til I died,” Belgard told the *Baptist Message*. “You probably shouldn’t say that because God has a tendency to change your thinking and change your mind for you. We preached that first ser-

vice, and the power of God just moved and fell in that place. What was meant to be just a few months turned into something that has continued and we continue to see God move.”

PRAYER MOVEMENT

Belgard, who became pastor in October 2020, preached for the first six months on prayer. Additionally, his members began to gather before the Sunday worship service and Sunday school to lift their concerns to the Lord in prayer.

As his members began to pray, the Holy Spirit moved and added to their number, he said. During the first six months, the church saw its first baptisms in several years, as four were baptized during that time. Since then, Belgard has baptized more than 40 new converts, with an additional seven awaiting baptism and Sunday worship attendance has increased to between 90 and 140. Furthermore, prayer groups continue to meet on Sundays but have begun to gather on Wednesdays both inside the worship center and student building.

“The most critical ministry of any church is the prayer ministry,” Belgard said. “Prayer is the foundation for everything in the church or else the foundation will not support the ministries. Oh, you can have work and busyness – but you will not have ministry that will grow Christians and reach the lost.”

EVANGELISM EXCITEMENT

Prayer has facilitated evangelism, Belgard offered.

He adopted an evangelistic method used when he was with PBC. Hopewell’s members are given a “You’re Invited” card that they distribute to individuals they encounter. Each card has a space to list which member invited the guest, the church mission statement “Sharing the hope of Jesus with

others” and the name and address of the church.

“I taught our members about lifestyle evangelism so it would become their lifestyle to where no matter where they go, they can witness at any time and share that hope of Jesus that lives within them,” Belgard said. “They may never come darken the door of our church, but we’re planting seeds. And that’s what God wants us to do.”

“Our purpose is to share the hope of Jesus with others, and they’ve caught

that vision,” he continued. “What is going on at Hopewell is a supernatural move of God. Our services every Sunday are like a revival service with altars filling up and people praying. It’s incredible what God’s doing.”

Eric Long, a longtime church member and deacon, said he has been amazed by the unification that has come about in recent months.

“We have experienced unity since Brother Ricky

See HOPEWELL, page 9

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LBF celebrates Baptist Foundation Month

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Foundation

ALEXANDRIA, La. – The Louisiana Baptist Foundation, amid its 80th anniversary commemoration, recently

celebrated Baptist Foundation Month to remind churches and individuals of the need to invest in the people, ministries and causes they love, according to LBF Executive Director Jeff Steed.

Steed said Baptist Foundation Month, established in 1971 by the Louisiana Baptist entity, also was a reminder that the LBF can assist individuals in gift planning by setting up endow-

ments, non-cash gifts (such as stocks, bonds and real estate), estate gifts, charitable gift annuities, donor-advised funds and other types of gifts that benefit the people and organizations they cherish now and in the future.

“We are very honored to partner in ministry with donors and churches to advance the Kingdom,” he shared.

Throughout the year, the LBF has celebrated its anniversary by adding \$80 to each gift from donors to Louisiana Baptist churches and ministry made through the Foundation, as well as contributing \$80 to each new account opened (one per church), while funds are available for both offers. Also, the foundation has posted monthly updates on its social media pages about its history and how God has blessed it since inception.

Steed noted the ministry has helped Louisiana Baptists receive a return of \$35 for every dollar of Cooperative Program budgeted to the Foundation in the most recent

year.

Among the services offered by the LBF are the Short Term fund. Like a savings account, the Short Term Fund allows churches to invest their money with no minimum balance or investment period, limitless and penalty-free withdrawals, deposits and accounts, and daily-earned interest that helps steward funds for Kingdom impact.

The LBF also offers other money management services for churches, gift planning for individuals, estate stewardship for churches and Church Biz Central (accounting services, capital/stewardship campaigns, cash management, church loans, computer support line, giving-gateway.net, online giving, and payroll services).

Among those who have been impacted by the LBF is Clark Palmer, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Pineville.

“We have kept our reserve funds there for years,” he said. “The foundation offers a great interest rate and a safe place for your money.”

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Gause from page 4

Church had experienced a decline in membership and was looking for “next steps” to reach the community when they approached Cross Culture church about merging in August 2022.

The once vibrant congregation had dwindled to 25 members who had seen just one baptism from 2015 to 2022, and they felt Cross Culture could help them better reach the community and ensure its survival.

After several meetings and much prayer, both congregations finalized the merger and became Cross Community Church at Ames on April 30, 2023.

Since the merger, the church has baptized 18 new believers and averages 90 in worship. The church has made reaching the community an ongoing priority through men’s and women’s small groups and outreaches such as a men’s breakfast, movie nights, fall festivals



Submitted photo

Since the two congregations merged into Cross Community Church at Ames in April 2023, the church has baptized 18 new believers and averages 90 in worship.

and a back-to-school giveaway.

“We’ve trusted the Lord, who told us to ‘Go,’” Gause said. “We’re getting out into the neighborhoods, reaching the youth and kids and pouring into people’s lives.

Our people are mobilizing others and bringing them from outside the church inside the church. A lot of members are just getting excited and inviting people.”

Troy is an endorsed church planter through

Send Network Louisiana, a partnership between the Louisiana Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention’s North American Mission Board. His certification made Cross Community Church eligible to receive church planting grants.

“We’re thankful for churches that give to the Cooperative Program, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and the Georgia Barnette Louisiana State Missions

Offering that allow us the opportunity to support great projects like Cross Community Church across our state” said Lane Corley, Send Network Louisiana director.

If you are interested in exploring a merger, replanting a church or supporting a project like Cross Community Church, contact the Send Network Louisiana team at 318.448.3402 or lcorley@namb.net.

Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

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LBC ministries connect with new Louisiana Baptist pastors

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist state missions and ministry directors and entity heads rolled out the welcome mat for nine new pastors and six spouses, Sept. 10.

Held at the state mission office in Alexandria, the event featured remarks by Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn, introductions by state ministries and entities, a tour of the building and lunch. The time of information and fellowship was open to any new Louisiana pastor or staff member who had transitioned to the role of pastor since October 2023.

“The strength of our cooperative work is contingent upon the strength of our relationships with



Brian Blackwell photo

Jenny and her husband, Joe Weaver, pastor with First Baptist Church, Harrisonburg, visited with Steve Horn, Louisiana Baptist executive director, and David Jeffreys, Louisiana Christian University acting president.

pastors,” Horn told the *Baptist Message*. “The goal of this annual event is to begin the process of relationship building with pastors new in our state. We believe that meeting them in a small and informal setting will begin

a process that will forge meaningful relationships for years to come. We have discovered that in addition to going to see them in their community, we want them to come here to our office and see

our work firsthand.”

Louisiana Baptist Pastoral Ministry Team Director Ray Swift said the event reflected God’s grace and the unified work of Louisiana Baptists maximizing the Gospel’s impact across the state.

“This event has so many great benefits,” Swift said. “It is educational, informational and inspirational. However, the best benefit is starting new relationships and friendships. It is such a joy to meet these pastors and wives from all over the state and to enhance our partnerships with them and their churches.”

Pastor Douglas Doyle enjoyed the opportunity to become acquainted with the Louisiana Baptist staff and entities. He serves as pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church, Hineston, and attended

with his wife, Dana.

“I enjoyed a really great informational time, getting to meet some new people here at the building and other pastors who serve around the state,” he said. “It’s just a great atmosphere being around everyone and learning more about what Louisiana Baptists do together.”

Likewise, Darren Carpenter enjoyed the fellowship with other pastors and Louisiana Baptist state missions services team members. Carpenter is pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church, Many, and was joined by his wife, Malinda.

“It was good to meet different people and be made aware of the different ministries that operate out of the building,” he said. “It’s neat to see how much access we have as a Louisiana Baptist.”



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Candidates should also have a proven track record of support of the Cooperative Program and participation in a local association and should be hard-working and visionary.

Resumes may be submitted via email to Jill Lewis at jill@baptistmissioncenter.org or by mail to CenLa Baptist Association, AMS Search Team, P O Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309.

Hopewell from page 5

came and our prayer life has really reached a new level," Long said. "God has blessed our church and has drawn more people at the church, which has risen the excitement level even more. We are at a point as a church that no matter what the devil tries to throw at us, we have God who gives us comfort to withstand anything. For me, I've always led my family but not like in the last few months thanks to Brother Ricky and others at the church. I'm praying more, sharing Jesus more and enjoying being a member here even more."

Cheryl Corbitt, HBC worship leader, said Belgard's passion and excitement to see others develop a deeper prayer life and come to know Jesus has "rubbed off" on the entire church.

"We prayed for so long that God would send us someone to be our new pastor," she said. "Then



Submitted photo

Ricky Belgard, pastor with Hopewell Baptist Church, Center Point, baptized Carla Killeen, Sept. 15. Killeen was one of eight baptized that day.

came Brother Ricky who is on fire for God. To see the church growing is a direct answer to prayer. People

just feel the love and feel welcomed when they come in. We can't wait to see what else God has for us."

OCTOBER IS PASTOR AND MINISTER APPRECIATION MONTH

Express your appreciation to those who serve the Lord and you!

Be creative and be a blessing!

Here are some ideas:

- Pray for them during a worship service
- Ask members to sign up for a day to pray for the pastor/staff
- Plan a church-wide fellowship
- Give them a love gift (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

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Evangelism strategist Ulmer to partner in the Gospel with churches

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La.
(LBM) – Kevin Ulmer,

pastor with First Baptist Church, Ferriday, is the new evangelism strategist for Louisiana Baptist congregations.

Ulmer, whose first day on the job was July 1, said he is excited to work with Louisiana Baptists toward one common goal in the

state.

“I can’t think of a greater task to be carrying out than to encourage people to share the Gospel,” Ulmer told the *Baptist Message*. “I want to encourage them to not only have a sense of duty to evangelism, but to have a sense of desire for evangelism.”

“I think for the most part, most church members have a sense of duty to evangelize,” he continued. “But how can I instill in them a desire to evangelize, to share Jesus as much as they have desire to share about football. If we had a desire to share the Gospel like we do about sharing our own interests, I think we could change and transform this state for Christ.”

A native of Laurel, Mississippi, Ulmer trusted in Christ while attending a fish fry at Victory Baptist Church in rural Jasper County, Mississippi, at age 17. Though he sensed a call to ministry soon afterward, he did not surrender to it because of a bashful temperament that he believed would prevent him from speaking to large groups.

However, Ulmer finally said “Yes” to that call nine years later while working as a design engineer at Hol-Mac Corporation, Bay Springs, Mississippi.

During a revival service at his home church, Salem Heights Baptist Church, Laurel, Mississippi, Ulmer stepped forward in response to an altar call by the guest evangelist.

The church leadership began mentoring Ulmer for the next 13 years as he served as volunteer children’s director. During that time, attendance for that age group grew from around 35 to more than 100.

Eventually, the church asked him to become children’s pastor, a staff position he held from 2009-2015.

With the encouragement of other pastors, Ulmer and his wife, Melanie, moved to Fort Worth, Texas, in 2015 and he began pursuing a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. While taking classes, he was called as senior pastor with Maplewood Baptist Fellowship, North Richland Hills, Texas. During his time with that congregation, 2016–2021, attendance grew from 12 to 70 by the time he was called to serve as pastor with FBCF.

FBCF has grown, too, increasing in attendance from 80 to 150, and baptiz-

See ULMER, page 13

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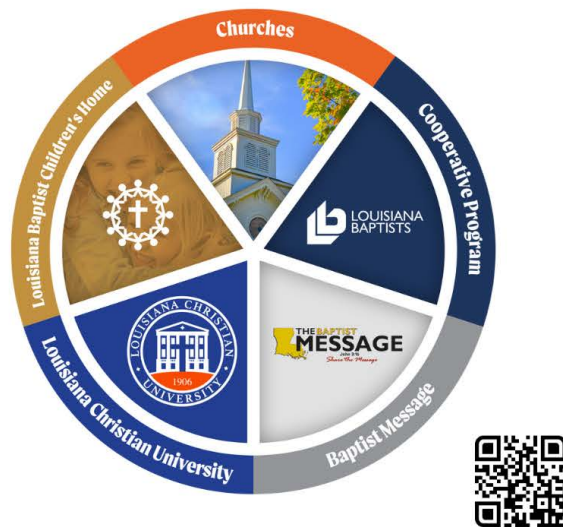
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LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Rebuilt

from page 2

are realized, how will we rebuild? As time goes on a hopelessness sets in, and when a home or church rebuild nears completion there as a new hope realized.”

For more information on mission opportunities or how to support the rebuild and other LBDR efforts, visit louisiana-baptists.org/dr. Sept. 8-15 has been set aside as the “Week of Prayer” for state missions and ministries. Resources, including videos demonstrating the scope and impact of the Georgia Barnette Offering have been mailed to churches across the state. Additional resources are available online at www.GeorgiaBarnette.org. This year’s offering goal is \$1.75 million.

www.LBInfo.org
1-877-523-4636 contact@LBInfo.org

Send Network Louisiana launches assessment center

By Brian Blackwell
 Message staff writer

BATON ROUGE, La. (LBM) – A center to assess potential Louisiana Baptist church planters was launched recently in the facilities of Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, by Send Network Louisiana leaders.

“This is a big piece to the puzzle for Send Network Louisiana,” Send Network Louisiana Director Lane Corley told the *Baptist Message*. “To this point, we’ve had to send candidates to other states to finalize their assessments, which can be costly. Now, we’ll have an assessment center right here in Louisiana to launch from, and with an incredible group of Louisiana assessors who’ve planted and pastored churches in our unique context.”

Corley expressed his appreciation for the

Istrouma congregation’s assistance. The church’s minister of missions, Jay Spivey, will serve as the assessment director.

“I’m deeply appreciative of Pastor Tim Keith and the staff at Istrouma, who have extended their warm hospitality to Send Network Louisiana and have integrated this process into their future strategy,” Corley said.

During the first Send Network Louisiana assessment retreat at IBC, Sept. 4-5, five candidates were assessed, and 16 assessors were trained. This served as the official launch of the assessment center, which will host two assessments retreats each year, with the goal of assessing 12 potential candidates during each retreat.

Corley explained that Send Network Louisiana leaders will walk potential planters and their wives through a process

of affirming their call to start a church that includes an application that examines their fit for the New Testament role of pastor and their theological fit as a Southern Baptist pastor, utilizing the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as a standard.

The assessment also examines their unique gifts and calling specifically for the role of church planting, utilizing the Send Network planter profile as a framework:

- walks closely with God;
- cultivates healthy relationships;
- confident in the calling;
- theologically grounded and Gospel-centered;
- embraces evangelism and disciple-making;
- teaches the Word effectively;
- loves the Church;
- prioritizes global engagement; and

-- possesses the practical leadership skills to plant a church

After completing a “Prepare and Enrich Marriage” assessment to explore the marital health of the church planter and his wife, they then will attend the assessment retreat with 11 other planters and wives

to affirm their calling and readiness to start a church within the next 18 months.

The assessment can end with one of three recommendations:

- ready for endorsement (planter is ready to plant and can apply for

See NETWORK, page 13

Restored from page one

through what I went through, it's worth it for me to share because I want fewer stories like mine," McFadden told the crowd. "I'm so thankful I have a beautiful ending only because of Jesus, but if I can spare women from having to go through that, this is why it's worth it for me."

McFadden, who authored "Redeemed: My Journey After Abortion," shared how her boyfriend broke up with her after the abortion, only to come to her and apologize nine years later. Soon after, the two married and now have four children.

Even though she does not forget about her child who was aborted, she is grateful God has redeemed her through Christ.

"We've been married for 16 years, and on our wedding day, we were able to honor our unborn baby," she said. "We let our guests know that we were lighting a candle to represent the life of our unborn child, because we be-

lieve every time we share our story, our child is no longer a statistic. God is using that life to impact others."

McFadden was the keynote speaker for the largest fundraiser of the year for the pregnancy center. The event also featured the Highs and Lows, Alexandria Senior High School's acappella choir; a preview of the center's donor website that launched at the banquet; information on how businesses can receive a tax credit for supporting pregnancy centers in 2025; and how God led a woman to undergo abortion pill reversal that saved the life of her child.

SAVING LIVES

Since the Alexandria location was launched on the campus of the Louisiana Baptist Building in 2017, the CPC has added two locations and served 2,000 women, completing 8,000 client visits, 2,000 pregnancy tests and 1,500 ultrasounds (a vital ser-

vice to the decision-making process for many pregnant women).

The centers are saving lives by offering such services as Options counseling (pregnancy decision coaching by trained advocates), free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, information about pregnancy options, referrals to mental health counselors and obstetrician-gynecologists, safe house and affordable housing recommendations, adoption support (referrals to assist expectant mothers with an adoption plan and limited financial assistance), post-decision support that includes parenting education and material assistance for up to two years into the child's life, as well as post-abortion services.

Additionally, the center meets basic needs for mothers and their babies by distributing food, baby beds, diapers, women's hygiene products, car seats, and clothing.

The ministry also offers abortion pill reversal services. The center is listed on a national hotline that connects

CENLA Pregnancy Center staff with women seeking to reverse the effects of the first pill taken for a chemically induced abortion.

CENLA Pregnancy Center Executive Director Kim Lyons shared that the pregnancy center recently served its 2,000th client.

"So many of the women who come to us find themselves in a situation that's filled with fear and anxiety around an unplanned pregnancy," she said. "And we just are blessed to be able to help them find their way out of the darkness and out of the desert of the situation that they're in. We are gifted with the opportunity to hold each woman's hand to help navigate a challenging time."

Lyons later had an on-stage conversation with Heidi Peavy, Avoyelles Pregnancy Center satellite director and CENLA Pregnancy Center client advocate, who took a call from a woman in need of abortion reversal. Despite being nervous, Peavy felt compelled to act, believed it was her calling to help preserve the future of the un-

born child, and was equipped to initiate a reversal.

The woman opted for the abortion reversal pill and gave birth to a baby girl.

"These women who come to us need us," she told supporters of the center. "And if it wouldn't be for y'all, we wouldn't be able to do it."

Stewart Holloway, pastor with First Baptist Church, Pineville, gave thanks to God during the celebration.

"We're grateful, Lord, for the 2,000 women whose lives have been impacted by the ministry of CENLA Pregnancy Center and the hundreds of babies impacted, many of them who have been given a chance for life that maybe they would not have had," Holloway prayed. "And so, Lord, tonight we gather together to make sure that this ministry continues in a day when some battles are being won and other battles are still raging in terms of life. We want to make sure that we do our part to uphold your plan and to make sure children have every chance to fulfill the plans that you have to do."

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Study led by:
Dr. Waylon Bailey
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Covington

For details and to register, visit:
LouisianaBaptists.org/JBSpreview

NETWORK from page 13

Send Network and state convention resources)

-- needs development (the prospective planter is given a development plan to complete for six months to one year); or

-- redirect (another role in ministry would be best for the couple).

Read more: SendNetwork.com/Assessment.
Personal contacts:

-- James Jenkins, LBC missions and ministry team director, jjenkins@sendnetwork.com

-- Jacob Crawford, Send Network Louisiana church planting catalyst, jcrawford@sendnetwork.com

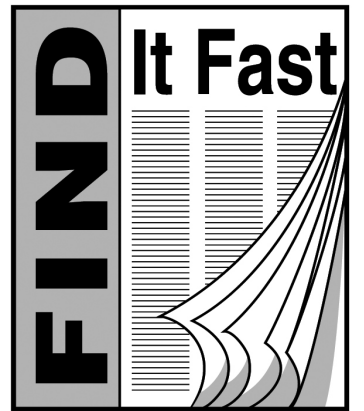
-- Tracy Graham, Send Network Louisiana church planting catalyst, tgraham@sendnetwork.com

com.

-- Carlos Schmidt, Send Network Louisiana church planting catalyst, cschmidt@sendnetwork.com

-- Lane Corley, Send Network Louisiana director, lcorley@namb.net

-- Ryan Rice, Send New Orleans, rrice@namb.net



In The Classifieds

ULMER from page 10

ing seven new believers since January.

Ulmer, who will remain at FBCF as interim pastor until the congregation calls its next pastor, said he is excited about partnering with other Louisiana Baptist churches to increase their evangelistic zeal in a state where researchers estimate that 60 percent of 4,648,794 residents are lost (about 2,789,276).

"With this number of lost people in Louisiana, we must foster, not only a sense of duty as it relates to evangelism in the state,

but also a sense of desire to share the Good News of the Gospel with those that we encounter in our daily walk," Ulmer said. "We must rekindle a love for

lost people that will propel us to share the Gospel with people who are without hope. We have a hope worth sharing and that hope is found in Jesus."

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UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH in Campti, La. is seeking a Full Time or Bi-Vocational Pastor. Send résumés to P. O. Box 8 Campti, La. 71411 or email to ubccampti@outlook.com

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Heflin Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Send your résumés by November 20 to: Heflin Baptist Church, Attn: Gary Cooper 143 South Church St. Heflin, LA 71039 Email: gtcooper13@gmail.com.

SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH OR FULLTIME YOUTH/CHILDREN MINISTER
Cherry Ridge Baptist Church is accepting résumés for a P/T Youth Minister or a F/T Youth/Children Minister. Résumés may be e-mailed to crbapt@gmail.com or mailed to **Cherry Ridge Baptist Church, 1005 Cherry Ridge Rd, Bastrop LA 71200.**

Music MINISTRY
Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jasper, Texas is seeking a FT Minister of Music/Worship to lead a blended style of music. Experience in audio/visual technology is needed. If interested, send résumés to debbiereed@hbcjasper.com, 409.384.3371. A full job description can be requested.

magnolia BAPTIST CHURCH
SEEKING FULLTIME PASTOR Magnolia Baptist Church in Holden, Louisiana is seeking full-time Pastor. Please send résumés to: dewayneh1965@gmail.com

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Sandy Bayou Baptist Church, Columbia, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Parsonage is available as part of compensation. Send résumés to William Parker, search committee chairman, 6441 Highway 559, Columbia, LA 71418 or email to SBBC2024@yahoo.com

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First Baptist Church of Ferriday is searching for a senior pastor. Please have résumés sent to ferriday.secretary@gmail.com. We will accept résumés through December 31, 2024.

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SEEKING A FULL-TIME OR BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR
Social Springs Baptist Church in Ringgold, LA is seeking a full-time or bi-vocational pastor. Please email your résumés to socialspringsbcpastorsearch@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Baptist Message provides churches an opportunity to share with other Louisiana Baptists an upcoming revival, homecoming, new pastor, new staff member, a community outreach, or a concert in Louisiana Notables. To place your event in the paper, send your information (who, what, where, when, time) to philip@baptistmessage.com or call 318.449.4345. Please submit your information four weeks prior to the event to insure placement in the Message.*

ON THE MOVE

- **Robert Beadle** is retiring as pastor of Benton First Baptist Church, Benton.
- **Adam Thornton** is the new pastor at Macedonia Baptist Church, Effie.
- **Mike Anderson** is the new pastor at Westlake Baptist Church from interim.
- **New Hope Baptist Church, Elmer** welcomes Mark Morelock as its new pastor.
- **Ben Martinson** is the new youth minister at First Baptist Church, Vivian.
- **Ryan James** has been called as executive pastor of ministries at Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles.
- **David Keeny** is retiring as pastor from Woodlawn Hills Baptist Church, Shreveport.
- **Zander Kirkland** is the new full-time maintenance technician at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center.
- **Jordy, wife Jessika, McCaskle** is the new executive pastor/singles minister at North Monroe, Monroe.
- **Darren, wife Lacey, Guess** is the new pastor at Twin Oaks Baptist Church.
- **Zach, his wife Jessica, Kennedy** is the new youth ministry director at Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Lisbon.

HOMECOMING/ANNIVERSIES

- First Baptist Church, Ferriday: Centennial Celebration was held September 14-15.

- Saturday 7 p.m. worship & entertainment with Bruce and George Fields; Sunday, Centennial Celebration and worship service 10:30 p.m. Guest Speakers: John Connell and Robert Johnson. Special Music: Tim and Malaine Hubbard. Lunch will be served in the Family Life Center following the worship service. Pastor: Kevin Ulmer.
- Longview Baptist Church, Deville: **100th anniversary**, September 29, 10:30 a.m. There will be Gospel singing, a word from former pastors at Longview, a jambayla meal will be served. Pastor: Robby Poole.
- Alto Baptist Church, Alto: **Homecoming Sunday**, September 29, 10:30 a.m. Guest Speaker: **James David Miller**. Special Music: **Jay Ellerman**. Lunch will follow the worship service. Pastor: Alan Miller.
- First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: **Sesquicentennial Celebration**, September 29, 10 a.m. Pastor: Andrew Ogea.
- Jamestown Baptist Church, Jamestown: **102nd Homecoming**, September 29, 2024, 10:30 a.m. Guest Speaker: **Bobby Griffith**. Please bring a covered dish and stay for a fellowship luncheon immediately following the morning service. Pastor: Stan Foster.
- Unity Baptist Church, Deville: Homecoming, October 6, 10 a.m. There is no Sunday School and a meal will follow the worship service. Guest Speaker: **Jack West**. Music: **Mountain View Connection**. Pastor: James Brown.
- First Baptist Church, Dry Prong: **2024 Homecoming**, October 6, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Guest Speaker: **Steve Horn executive director of the Louisiana Baptists**. Pastor: Kevin Goodman.
- Bayou Macon Baptist Church, Gilbert: **Homecoming**, October 13, **Evangelist: Waylon Tibbs**. A fish fry will follow the worship service. Pastor: Larry Russell.
- Pine Grove Community Church, Bastrop:

- Homecoming**, October 13, 10:30 a.m. Special Music: **Louisiana Melody Boys**. Pastor: James Moffit.
- First Baptist Church, Folsom: **Homecoming**, October 13, 9 a.m.- noon; 9 a.m. Fellowship; 9:30 a.m. Singing and 10:45 a.m. The Message. Pastor: Will Robbins.
- New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong: **100th anniversary**, October 13, 9:30 a.m. **Musical Guest: Southern Plainsmen of Hornbeck**. Pastor: Trey Lewis.
- Brushy Creek Baptist Church, Merryville: **150th Anniversary**, October 13, 11 a.m. **Guest Speaker: Lewis King**. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Pastor: Christopher Streams.

REVIVAL

- Judson Baptist Church, Walker: **God of Revival**, September 29, 6 p.m. There will be prayer, music, and there will be community. Pastor: David Lane.
- First Baptist Church, Logansport: **Revival**, September 29-October 2, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Guest speaker: **Matt James**. Special Music: **WeRcalled**. Pastor: Shawn Thrapp.
- Plain Dealing Baptist Church, Plain Dealing: **Revival**, September—October 1; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. September 30, October 1. A free meal will be provided September and October 1 at 5 p.m. Evangelist: **Jacob Crawford**. Worship Music: **Caleb Robison**. Pastor: Robert Brown.
- Sweetwater Baptist Church, Quitman: **Revival**, September 29 – October 2, Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Walt Witman.
- Unity Baptist Church, Deville: **Revival**, September 29-October 2, 6:30 p.m. night-

- ly. Pastor: James Brown.
- First Baptist Church, Converse: **Youth Rally**, October 12, 5 p.m. Guest Speaker: Brandon Digilormo. Special Music: Band Reeves. Pastor: Brian Rankin.
- Woodlawn Baptist Church, Iowa: **Revival**, October 6-9, 2024, Evangelist: **Terry Long**. Pastor: Richard Louviere.
- New Beulah Baptist Church, Hammond: **Revival**, October 13-16. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Leslie Fogleman.
- Fellowship Baptist Church, Trout: **Revival**. November 7-9. Evangelist: **Malcolm Ellis**. Pastor: Shad Tibbs.
- Rescue Community Church, West Monroe: **Fall Revival**, November 10-13. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Russell Caldwell.
- First Baptist Church, Robeline: **Revival**, November 10-17, Evangelist: **Sam Moore**. Pastor: Brian Ray.

LAGNIAPPE

- Benson Baptist Church, Converse: **Southern Plainsmen of Hornbeck** in concert, September 28, 6 p.m. Pastor: Jeff Freibel.
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Monroe: **Sanctuary Quartet in concert**, September 29, 5 p.m. Pastor:
- First Baptist Church, Keithville: **Outdoorsman Fellowship**, September 28, 5-8 p.m. Guest Speaker: **Gevan Spinney, First Baptist Church, Haughton**. Cost: \$10. There will be fish, deer burgers, gumbo and pulled pork. Door prizes for youth boys and men and a gun raffle. To register go online to, <https://onrealm.org/FBKeithv.../PublicRegistrations/Event...> Pastor: Michael Stowell.
- Clark Springs Baptist Church, Eros: **Fifth**

- Sunday Singing**, September 29, 5 p.m. Special Music: **Louisiana Meldoy Boys**. Pastor: Kyle Bryan.
- Ashland Baptist Church, Ashland: **Jonathan Bonds in concert**, October 13, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Danny Slack.
- Mt. Calvary Baptist, Independence: **Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert with 4Calvary Quartet**, October 20, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Chris Hoyt.
- Beulah Baptist Church, Oak Grove: **11th Hour in Concert**, October 20, 11 a.m. Pastor: Kenneth Herring.
- Lighthouse Baptist Church, Independence: **Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert with 4Calvary Quartet**, October 20, 6 p.m. Pastor: Gene Hoyt.
- First Baptist Church, Anacoco: **Rhett Walker: Days That We Dreamed Of tour**, October 23, 7 p.m. Pastor: Chad King.
- First Baptist Church, New Orleans: **Fall Festival**, October 27, 4-6 p.m. There will be Huge inflatables for kids of all ages to bounce and play; face painting stations; delicious cotton candy and refreshing snowballs for sweet treats; free food for everyone to enjoy; carnival games with fun challenges and candy prizes. There will also be a small pumpkin patch. Pastor: Chad Gilbert.
- Searcy Baptist Church, Trout: **Fall Festival**, October 27, 5 p.m. There will be trunks, games, candy, cake walk, face painting and family fun. Pastor: Steve Jenson.
- Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Lisbon: **Trunk or Treat**, October 27, 6 p.m. The community is invited to attend a Trunk or Treat. There will be a cake walk, free hot dogs and a costume contest. Pastor: Chris Stephens.

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.

OFG UXSRGCV HKKGHC SD OFG GHCOF; OFG OTPG SU

OFG VTDLTDL SU YTCMV TV QSPG, HDM OFG BSTQG SU

OFG OJCOXG TV FGHCM TD SJC XHDM;

OFG VSDL SU VSXSPSD ORS:ORGXBG

Clues:
S = O; M = D

Answer to August 29, Scripture Crypto:
John one:twenty-one

JOB OPENINGS!

COTTAGE PARENTS Needed - Monroe (Full & Part-Time)

Please send resume to: Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES - Monroe

Please send resume to: Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS - Alexandria (Full or Part-Time)

Must be licensed as LPC, LMFT or LCSW. Please send resume to: kathy@lbch.org or Granberry Counseling Centers, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

COTTAGE MANAGERS - Monroe (Part-Time)

Please send resume to: Jonann Byargeon at jonann@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.





GBO

GEORGIA BARNETTE

LOUISIANA MISSIONS OFFERING

WE MUST GO TO THE NEARBY TOWNS, SO THAT
I CAN TELL THE GOOD NEWS TO THOSE PEOPLE.

MARK 1:38

STATE GOAL
\$1,750,000

GEORGIA.BARNETTE.ORG

