



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

February 27, 2025

Volume 140 • Issue No. 3

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John 3:16

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15 missing children rescued during Super Bowl anti-trafficking ministry

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

NEW ORLEANS, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists, other non-profit organizations, law enforcement agencies and civilians worked together to reunite 15 missing children with their families in the days leading up to last weekend’s Super Bowl LIX in the

New Orleans Superdome.

The effort involved the training of 70 volunteers at Celebration Church, Kenner and the distribution of 10,000 booklets featuring 36 missing and exploited children identified by law enforcement agencies in the New Orleans area. Each booklet contained a photo and information about each missing and exploited child. These

booklets were placed in convenience stores as well as other locations throughout the city. As information was received, it was relayed to a call center at an undisclosed location for security purposes.

Additionally, Freedom Stickers (containing the National Human Trafficking Hotline) were provided to convenience stores and strate-

gically placed in public restroom stalls (providing victims of human trafficking with a safe place to call or text for help).

According to “In Our Backyard,” a Bend, Oregon-based non-profit organization that fights against human trafficking, numerous survivors have been recovered

See REUNITED, page 3

ECON 2025: Continue to build a culture of evangelism

By Brian Blackwell

Message staff writer

COVINGTON, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists were encouraged to reach their friends and family for Christ as part of the continuing effort to create a culture of evangelism within their congregations. during ECON 2025, held in the facilities of First Baptist Church, Covington, Jan. 27-28.

ECON featured Louisiana Baptist pastors, seminary professors, a women’s ministry leader, vocational evangelists, an evangelism vice president from the North American Mission Board, and the president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. The event also included times of worship led by a combined choir (FBC Covington and area churches) as well as Selah, an award-winning Christian contemporary music trio.

MIKE COURTNEY

Mike Courtney, itinerant evangelist in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, reminded Louisiana Baptists to be faithful in their call to share the Gospel.

“In spite of your failures, keep

on fishing,” said Courtney, drawing from Jesus’ commandment to the disciples to be fishers of men in Luke 5:1-11. “This is a call to faithfulness even when and if we have failed.”

He reminded Louisiana Baptists that the passage is an example of conversion/change, compliance/obedience, confidence/faith, concession/surrender, and consistency/faithfulness.

“It is always right to do right, regardless of the results,” he said. “If we will do this nevertheless, then God will do the rest.”

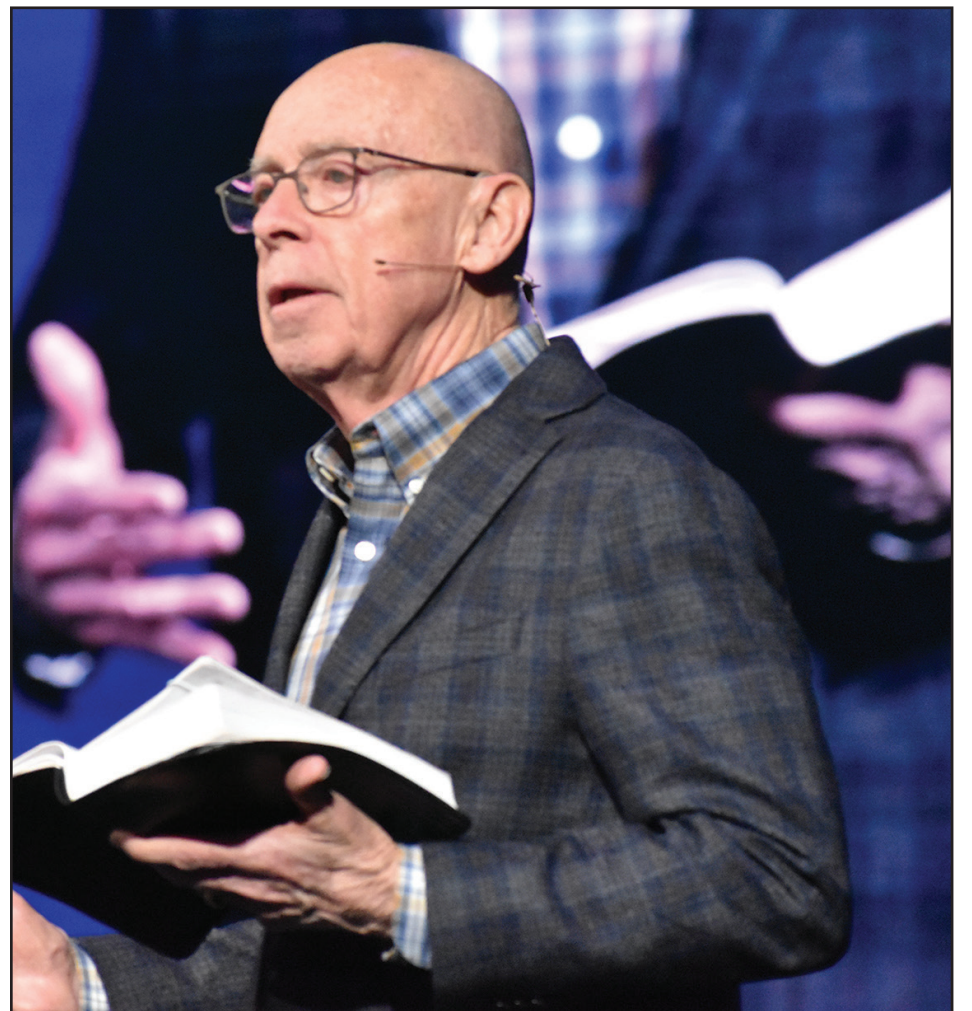
“We abide and He provides,” he continued. “When we’re faithful, eventually He will make us fruitful.”

BILL BLACKMON

Bill Blackmon, president and chaplain with Truckstop Ministries, encouraged the crowd in his testimony to share with others what God has done in their lives.

“Whatever God says to do is what I’m going to do,” said Blackmon, a member of the Louisiana Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. “And I’m going to tell

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Brian Blackwell photo

Waylon Bailey, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Covington, was among the speakers at ECON who offered encouragement to the crowd.

2024 Send Network LA: Church planting outcomes reported

By Brian Blackwell

Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists can celebrate multiple spiritual milestones reported for 2024 church planting efforts, including:

-- 11,748 Gospel conversations;

- 742 professions of faith;
- 361 baptisms;
- 2,839 people in combined average worship attendance;
- 1,186 people in intentional discipling relationships; and

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Send Network from page one

-- \$183,000 given through the Cooperative Program to support cooperative missions and ministries.

"The most exciting thing to see was those who professed their faith in Christ," Send Network Louisiana Director Lane

Corley told the *Baptist Message*. "These planters started a new church in a community and began to meet their needs in real, practical ways that opened the door for Gospel conversations. Every time I see

a new church start, it's just exciting because you know that there's just going to be a lot of good things happening through the local church that produces the kind of results in this report."

Researchers estimate that 60 percent of 4,648,794 Louisianans are lost (about 2,789,276). If successful, 28,875 Louisianans will be added to the Kingdom through 231 new churches planted in the state by 2033 (based on each reaching 125 people with the Gospel). These salvations will be in addition to those recorded by already established Louisiana Baptist congregations.

Since the partnership began, 21 new church plants have begun. Another 23 planted since 2020 currently receive Coop-

BACKGROUND

The Send Network Louisiana partnership between Louisiana Baptists and the North American Mission Board that launched on Aug. 1, 2023, seeks to expand His Kingdom in Louisiana by one percent (more than 28,000 new believers) over the next decade.

See SEND NETWORK, page 3

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Josh Durnell, ministry center coordinator with Send Relief, addressed the crowd during an anti-human trafficking training session at Celebration Church, Kenner.

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erative Missions fund- ing through the North American Mission Board and Louisiana Baptist Missions and Ministries Team. Combined, these two groups have reported 839 salvation decisions, 392 baptisms and more than 3,913 Gospel conver- sations.

BRIGHT FUTURE

Corley said two re- treats are scheduled this year at the Send Network Louisiana assessment center (Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge) to assess potential Louisiana

Baptist church planters. During that weekend, Send Network Louisiana leaders will walk poten- tial planters (and their wives) through a process of affirming their call to start a church. The var- ious application steps will examine the men for fit with the New Testa- ment role of pastor and their theological fit as a Southern Baptist leader, utilizing the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as a standard.

Corley said they hope to qualify enough candi- dates to plant XXXXXXXX new churches this year.

He urged Louisiana Baptist churches to help by:

- supporting missions giving;
- adopting a church plant for strategic prayer, a mission trip, and sup- port for the planting couple; and
- becoming a sending church (take responsibil- ity for a new church or replant).

Sending church Labs are scheduled for March 11 (Open Door Church, Lafayette) and March 18 (Norris Ferry Community Church, Shreveport). Register at LouisianaBaptists.org.

Contact Lane Corley, lcorley@namb.net or

985-373-2748, to learn more about Louisiana

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Reunited from page one

as a result of Freedom Stickers.

"The distribution of these books helps raise awareness about the miss- ing children among the public," said Jonsey Kend- all Jones, IOB major events

coordinator. "By featuring these children's photos and information, local businesses, residents, and visitors are more likely to recognize them and report any sightings or tips to law enforcement."

The Louisiana Baptist Compassion Relief min- istry and Southern Bap- tist Send Relief ministry provided logistical support for housing volunteers

See REUNITED, page 16

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Evangelists. “And I’m going to tell what He’s done for me.”

Blackmon shared that in 2024 alone, 582 accepted Christ as the truck stop chapels that the ministry operates in 28 states.

According to the group’s website, the Jackson, Georgia-based Truckstop Ministries was founded in 1981 by Joe and Jan Hunter and is directed by an executive board of “born-again” Christians, led by the Holy Spirit and dedicated to fulfilling a God-given vision. The ministry’s focus is operating chapels, but it also offers a 24-hour trucker prayer hotline that is manned by staff and volunteers.

He concluded his message by encouraging the audience to get engaged.

“Be excited about who you are in Christ and go tell somebody,” he said. “You start telling somebody about Jesus.”

STEVE HORN

Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn pleaded with the crowd to be a soul-winning people, and he encouraged them to preach about John 3:16 on March 16.

The 3:16 initiative aims to catalyze soul winning across the state and will include an emphasis on prayer leading up to that special day. Louisiana has joined other state Baptist conventions for the effort, which are being coordinated with the North American Mission Board.

“Pray about it,” Horn said. “Do as the Lord leads. But imagine what it could look like if we had hundreds of our churches sharing this idea with thousands of churches across the U.S. all together on this one Sunday. Imagine what would happen if we’re preparing, if we’re praying and then preach-



Steve Horn

ing on this simple one verse of Scripture together on that same Sunday. I think those are the kinds of things that help us to have a culture of evangelism.”

Sharing Zechariah 11:1-17, Horn said Louisiana Baptists need the favor of God and the unity of the people of God. For that to happen, he said we must “beg God for it,” seek to eliminate all that distracts us from it, and encourage everything that would build God’s favor and build



Jeff Iorg

the unity of the people of God.

“I think that if we would see hundreds, thousands of people being saved in Louisiana, that a lot of what distracts us today just wouldn’t matter,” he said. “And that’s what I’m praying for.”

WAYLON BAILEY

Waylon Bailey, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Covington, encouraged the crowd to proclaim the hope they have



Carl Bradford

in Christ.

Summarizing 1 Peter 3:15-16 and Romans 5:1-8, Bailey said the world can trust Jesus because: Christ came from the Father; Christ became sin for us and took our place; Christ bestowed His Spirit on all who believe; Christ changed the course of our lives; and God raised Christ and proved the power of His forgiveness.

“There is nothing great-

See ECON 2025, page 5

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er than hope," Bailey said. "But when we come to faith in Christ, we get faith and love; and we get the hope that comes from the God who is love and the faith that we have placed in Him.

"We get the hope that comes as a result," he continued. "And no matter what happens in life, the Scripture is so clear and so plain that God is with us, and we are never left alone, and He is there."

CARL BRADFORD

Louisiana Baptists must be bold, not reluctant, witnesses for Christ, said Carl Bradford, dean of Texas Baptist College and

assistant professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

"God did something in each and every one of us so later He can do something through us," he said.

Referencing Acts 26, Bradford said Paul was saved from something (an eternity in hell), by something and someone (Jesus Christ), and to something (a life of obedience). These are important considerations for Louisiana Baptists as they work to build a culture of evangelism in the state, he explained.

"Do we preach the Gospel?" he said. "Are we constantly declaring the Gospel? As a disciple of Jesus Christ this is what we are called to do – go and make disciples. Disciples are not made unless a person first accepts the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

MARTHA BAILEY

Martha Bailey, the wife of Waylon Bailey and women's community outreach Bible study leader at FBCC, shared in a testimony that God can use a painful past for His glory.

Bailey, who suffered multiple hardships as a child, said Romans 8:28 comforted her. Additionally, she explained that

her church was a positive influence on her and her family.

"I was drawn to the church because people were happy there and I felt secure," she said. "I realized I saw the love of Jesus at church. I saw the joy in everything there and it was something I couldn't get enough of."

For the last 28 years, Bailey has taught a Bible study to women of all denominations in the community.

Out of that ministry, multiple outreaches have developed, such as: donating \$13,000 to purchase coats for all schoolchildren whose families could not afford to do so; throwing a baby shower for Northlake Crisis Pregnancy Center; responding to disaster relief; promoting breast cancer awareness; purchasing birthing kits for a ministry for pregnant women in Uganda; buying sewing machines for women hoping to open a business; purchasing pajamas for children in foster care; and using her book "Swaddled In Love" in several countries for ministry efforts.

"God has blessed us exceedingly and abundantly more than we can ever dream or ask," she said.

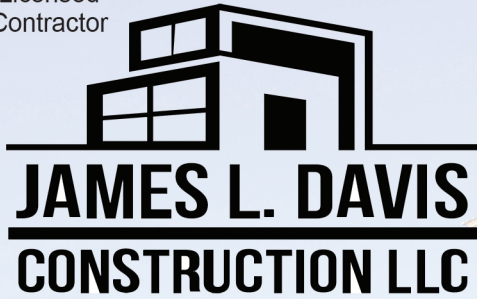
TIM DOWDY

Tim Dowdy, vice president of evangelism with the North American Mission Board, said Christ followers must not become distracted in their mission to make Jesus known.

"The need is so desperate in North America for the Gospel," he said. "We need more God moments in the hearts of believers so God's mission can be accomplished."

Sharing from Ephesians 6:18-20, Dowdy said Paul recognized the intensity of the spiritual battle he faced, believed in the power of prayer, knew the boldness he desired would only come through the work of the Holy Spirit, was confident in the power of the Gospel, and had a passionate desire to speak the Gospel in every opportunity.

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EVANGELISM 101 (Part 2): Four soul-winning approaches

By Will Hall

Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Leading someone to saving knowledge in Christ is not a “one size fits all” spiritual effort.

Just as Christ used different methods to heal the sick and afflicted, the Holy Spirit offers different methods for different contexts to successfully share

the Gospel with the lost.

Remember, the Holy Spirit was active in creation (Gen. 1:1), as well as during the times of the Old Testament (consider the anointing on Moses, Saul, David, Bezalel & Oholiab, Othniel, Samson, etc.) and New Testament (e.g. Peter at Pentecost, Paul while confronting the sorcerer Elymas).

Most importantly, He is

active today (John 14:15-18; 15:26-27; 16:5-15), specifically in salvation (John 16:8; Ephesians 1:13-14) and in holy living afterwards (Galatians 5:22-23).

There may be hybrids of each, according to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, but the following soul-winning approaches largely define how to engage unbelievers in the four contexts for evange-

lism presented in God’s Word.

CONFRONTATIONAL

Many people visualize all evangelism as publicly confronting sinners (something akin to “street corner” preaching). However, the Holy Spirit designed this soul-winning approach for specific situations in which the lost will be receptive.

Although identified as a prophet, it is no stretch to see Jonah as an evangelist, too, even if a reluctant one. Consider that his five-word sermon (as spoken in Hebrew), resulted in wholesale godly grief (2 Corinthians 7:10) within the hearts of the people of this exceedingly immoral capital city of Assyria -- and their heart change was so great as to move the

king to cry aloud mightily for his sins, too (Jonah 3:5-10).

Moreover, Jonah’s anger -- instead of what should have been joy -- at the repentance of 120,000 people showed that it was not him at work, but God (which is true in every approach to soul winning). It is not the evangelist but the Holy Spirit who produces repentance that leads to salvation.

On the other hand, Jesus confronted the Samaritan woman at the well about her five marriages and a man not her husband such that He firmly but lovingly convicted her of her sins (John 4:5-26). Interestingly, His constant ministry companions went into the city and came back with lunch (vv. 6, 8,

See **EVANGELISM 101**, page 7


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Evangelism 101 from page 6

31). But this excited new convert hurried back to her hometown and returned with newly won souls (v. 39).

CONVERSATIONAL

Perhaps Paul's appeal to

the religious philosophers of Athens is the ultimate example of the Conversational Approach to soul winning. Each of the four evangelism methods involve some form of direct communication, but the Conversational Approach

specifically is a purposeful discussion about a matter of interest to an individual or group that transitions into talking about the issue in relationship to their spiritual condition (lost) with regard to eternal life.

The Epicureans and Stoics of the city prided themselves about their special knowledge of the religions

represented by the 30,000 idols throughout the city. But the impressive display of gold, silver and marble images on the Acropolis, the highest point of the city where they typically met for intellectual discourse, especially distinguished them among the city's 10,000 people. Paul used their desire to know all things about religion and their hubris in lording their knowledge over others to lead them to know Jesus (referring to Him as The Unknown God) as Lord (Acts 17:1-34).

LIFESTYLE

This is something of an organic situation where opportunities to share Christ's love with others result from how people see you live your life. In other words, living supernaturally (or against your human nature) causes them to seek you out -- perhaps from curiosity or because they are experiencing difficulties and are looking for answers from someone "who has it together."

They may have seen you pray with others who might be experiencing troubles. Or, they may have grown to admire how you handle stressful or challenging situations with grace and peace. Maybe, they have noticed how you provide for others' needs outside of the limelight. Regardless, they see "something" in you and want "it."

This was the situation with the new Christian community that erupted in

Jerusalem on Pentecost.

Before this day, there were 120 disciples in the city of possibly 100,000. But then 3,000 believed and were baptized in one day -- an instant megachurch by today's standards. Importantly, their transformed hearts produced transformed lives. They dedicated themselves to learn from the apostles and were committed in their fellowship with one another. They had all things in common and met every need within their fellowship of believers. They were an exemplary faith community.

Luke described the result of this "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4) this way: "... having found favor with all the people ... the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). In other words, the rest of Jerusalem saw that the "before and after" change was real in these followers of The Way, and many wanted the same transformation for themselves.

Authenticity of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23) is the presentation of the Gospel through how you live.

RELATIONAL

While the Lifestyle Approach is largely passive, the Relational Approach

See **EVANGELISM 101**, page 11

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Likewise, Dowdy said we need to: pray that God would move our hearts to have this same kind of holy desire to make much of Jesus in every opportunity; infuse our churches with prayer for one another to have boldness in witnessing; teach and preach on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit; remind believers that fear and the hesitation to “speak” the Gospel is part of the spiritual battle with our enemy, Satan; help our people live on mission with confidence in the power of the Gospel; and practice what we preach that we would be bold to witness.

“We need to remind people that Jesus saves,” he said.

“We tell the story,” Dowdy reminded the crowd. “Jesus saves.”

JOHN SULLIVAN

John Sullivan, minister to mature adults with Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, and former executive director with the Florida Baptist Convention, reminded the crowd that Jesus is worthy

of their lives.

Basing his message on Revelation 5, he spoke about John’s frustration, Christ as the Lamb of God, and the celebration in Heaven for what Jesus had done.

Sullivan said we, too, should stop and celebrate what Jesus Christ has done for us.

“Jesus Christ is Lord of my life,” he said. “I confess to you today, without that knowledge, without that understanding, I would never be able to face life in all its difficult moments. God has given Him a name

above every name. Once you’ve said ‘Jesus,’ you can’t top it.”

JEFF IORG

Jeff Iorg, president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, preached the final message of the conference, reminding the crowd that God loves people and wants to reach them.

Sharing John 3:16, Iorg said we need to accept people just as they are, reach people where they are physically and spiritually, meet needs with people as you find them, and share the Gospel at every opportunity.

Iorg said people are most receptive to the Gospel when people die, relationships struggle, health fails and things break.

“When you share the love of God with people and to it, do concrete things that communicate that you really do love people, and you really do want to have an opportunity to talk with them about the last part of John 3:16,” he said. “Eventually you will find yourself talking about eternal life and introducing

them to Jesus Christ, who can change them forever.

“God has used John 3:16 from the beginning till today to help me be focused on what it means to love people and share the Gospel with them,” he continued. “And I pray that you will have that in your heart. Whether your church does it on John 3:16 day in March or not, you’ll walk out of here saying, ‘I know what it looks like to

See ECON 2025, page 15

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If one of your resolutions for 2025 is to know God more, consider deepening your relationship with Him while making a tangible difference in the world as part of an Extreme Missionary Adventures (XMA) mission trip.

XMA curates mission trips for churches and small groups, tailoring each experience to the group’s skills and comfort levels. During an eight-to-12-day journey you will connect with unreached people and share the Gospel while assisting with medical and dental care, providing access to clean water, constructing essential facilities, or supporting education initiatives. Likewise, you will experience God’s power as you make a tangible impact and a spiritual difference in their lives.

Our XMA team is exceptionally experienced, starting in the early 1990s when the Mack Anthony family from New Hope Baptist Church, Calcasieu (now Elmer), and their pastor, Tom Smith, began helping church planters with construction projects in Central America.

By 1997, Terry Parks, FBC Swartz, Randy Pierce, Woodlawn Baptist, Rayville, and Randy White, Crossroads Baptist Church, Farmerville, joined the effort, eventually dedicating themselves to full-time missionary work. Driven by a shared vision to bring the Gospel to remote and unreached communities, these men founded Extreme Missionary Adventures with the goal to empower fellow Christians to participate in short-term mission trips that have a lasting impact.

While growing in influence across the globe, XMA has remained steadfast in its mission to know Christ and make Him known, particularly among those who have limited access to the Gospel.

An exciting new adventure with a purpose will provide you a fresh perspective on your relationship with God and your connection to the Church body. Deepen your faith and make a lasting impact in 2025 by volunteering with XMA on a trip. You will discover the transformative power of serving others through missions.

Visit xmaonline.com to learn more about upcoming trips or to request a custom adventure for you and your group! Join us as we answer the call to know Him and make Him known.

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Evangelism
 from page 7

is an intentional effort to build a connection with someone. It is an attempt to find something in common with others that gives you enough significance in their social sphere that they invite you to tell them about the guiding force in your life.

Writing to believers in Corinth, Paul explained, "I became all things to all men [under the law of Christ] that I might by all means win some to Christ" (1 Corinthians 9:16-23).

You can't fake it but must appreciably invest yourself in an activity, or area of service, for the specific purpose of reaching someone with the Gospel. Paul repeatedly urged the congregations he mentored to do everything with all their might for God (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17) which is the same principle in the Relational Approach to soul winning.

FINAL THOUGHTS

So, knowing these four fundamental approaches to soul winning, where do you go from here?

Again, all evangelism is the work of God, so start by asking him to help you put someone who is lost on your heart. Then begin praying for them and ask Him to open the door for you to either confront them, converse with them, live righteously before them or relate to them so that you might win them to Christ.

But remember, He might have you only sow or water (1 Corinthians 3:6-8) before He lets you reap (John 4:37).

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"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ;" Ephesians 4:11-12



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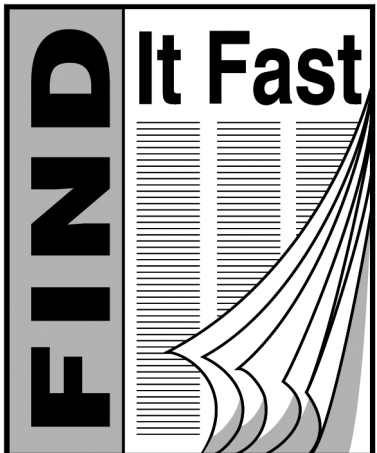
Stand Firm, Give Fully
 guest speaker
Rebecca Holloway

Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. - 1 Corinthians 15:38

To Learn More and Register:
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Find It Fast



In The Classifieds

La.'s Johnson was president for 37 seconds

By Staff
KVKI-Radio

BOSSIER CITY, Louisiana -- Bossier City Mayor Tommy Chandler holds a monthly Prayer Luncheon where he invites speakers to address the attendees with an inspirational message.


Last Tuesday, Feb. 18, new Supreme Court Justice Jay McCallum was at this month's scheduled speaker. But, in addition to Justice McCallum, Mayor Chandler also had a surprise up his sleeve.

While McCallum did speak at the luncheon, he delivered a very entertaining, inspirational message.

See JOHNSON, page 16

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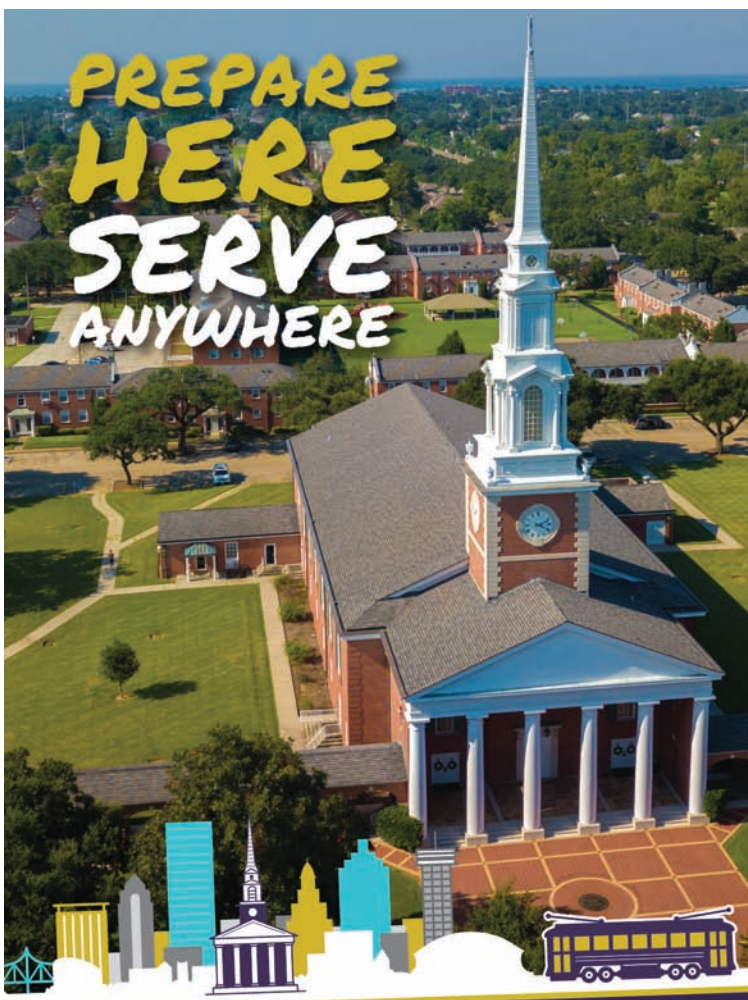


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EDITOR'S NOTE: The Baptist Message provides churches an opportunity to share with other Louisiana Baptists an upcoming revival, homecoming, new pastor, new staff member, a community outreach, or a concert in Louisiana Notables. To place your event 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

- Heath, wife Jenny, Peloquin has been called to pastor Rock Hill Baptist in Brownsboro, Texas and is leaving Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport. His last day at Summer Grove is March 30.
- Lakeshore Baptist Church, Monroe: Derek, wife Kaylee, Dozier are the new associate pastor of education and youth.
- Andrew, wife Lydia, Ardoin is the new pastor of First Baptist Church, White Castle. Ardoin previously served 15 years in the foreign mission field.

CRUSADES

- West Ouachita Crusade, March 30-April 2, 2025, 6 p.m. nightly. The Crusade is led by Evangelist Bill Britt and WeRCalled at West Ouachita High School and the crusade is hosted by churches of West Ouachita Parish.

REVIVAL

- Philadelphia Baptist Church, Horseshoe Drive Campus, Alexandria: March 1-2, 2025. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Stuart Sasser.
- Parkview Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: Mark Lanier in concert, March 1, 10 a.m. Pastor: Chris DeGeorge.
- Good Hope Baptist Church. Singer: Revival, March 2-5,

11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; third-5th, 6 p.m. Guest Speaker: Blake Newsome. Pastor: Mark Schultz.

- Beaugard Baptist Church, Longville: Revival, March 2-5, Evangelist: David Free, Brad Johnson, Belson Santa Ana, Tom Bruce and Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Ken Gilmore.
- Sweetwater Baptist Church, Quitman: Spring Revival, March 5-7, March 5, 6:30 p.m.: Thursday March 6, 9:30 a.m. (lunch provided) 6:30 p.m. March 7, 9:30 a.m. (lunch provided), 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: Bill Britt, Jerry Chaddick, Bob Pitman, Gevan Spinney, Herb Reavis, Rubin Weaver. Worship led by Ray Jones of Radiance Ministries. Pastor: Wilton Wall.
- Milldale Baptist Church, Zachary: Conference on Revival, March 5-7. Speakers Kevin Hamm, Malcolm Ellis; Mac Brunson. Praise and Worship presented by the Macey Willis Family. Pastor: Jeremy Pruitt.
- First Baptist Church, Gilbert: Spring Revival, March 9-12, 2025. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Bubba Ezell.
- Union Springs Baptist Church, Converse: Revival, March 9-12, March 9, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. Evangelist: David Hanna. Pastor: Ronnie Osborne.
- Nebo Baptist Church, Nebo: Revival, March 16-18, Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Carl Guilde
- First Baptist Church of Lone Pine, St. Landry: Revival, March 16-19; Sunday Ken Roberts, 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.; Monday, 6 p.m. Justin Berry; Tuesday: John Riddle, 6 p.m.; Wednesday: Revival, 6 p.m.; Benjie Richard. Praise and worship music: B.J. Richard. Pastor: Brandon Hood.
- Clarks Baptist Church, Clarks: Revival, March 23-26. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Stephen Laughlin.
- New Bethlehem Baptist Church, Denham Springs: Spring Revival, March 23-26, 2025. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Randal Gill.
- Singer Baptist Church, Singer: Revival, March 30-April 2, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: Jerry Chaddick. Pastor: Jimmy Clark.
- Westview Baptist Church, DeRidder: Revival, April 6-9;

April 6, 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; April 7-9, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: Derek Griffon.

- Lismore Baptist Church, Lismore: Spring Revival, March 30-April 2. Evangelist: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Ken Gilmore.

LAGNIAPPE

- Cheniere Baptist Church, Cheniere: Sportsman's Nigh of Worship, Feb. 27 6 p.m. meal \$10 per person. Meal limited to 200 tickets. Worship 6:45 p.m. Speaker: Gevan Spinney, 7 p.m. Live Auction: 7:30 p.m. All proceeds support Hon-

duras Mission. Pastor: Zach Anderson.

- Bethel Baptist Church, Coushatta: Reach Forward Ministries Benefit Fishing Tournament, March 1, at Grand Bayou Resort, Coushatta. Entry fee is \$120 per boat/\$10 big bass per team. Prizes: \$2,500 grand prize, \$1,000 for second and \$500 for third. For more info call Bethel at 3186273131 Randy Randall 318.664.1938 or Jonathon Zell 318.451.1404
- Grace Baptist Church, Goldonna: Southern Plainsmen in concert, March 8, 2025, 6 p.m. Pastor: Myron Thompson.
- Ridge Avenue Baptist Church, West Monroe: The Mc-

Neills in concert. March 8, 5 p.m. Admission is free. A love offering will be received. Pastor: Jim Wolfe.

- First Baptist Church, LeCompte: Jimmy Houston Outdoor, March 9, 6 p.m. fbcclecompte.net. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.
- North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: Live In Concert Cece Winans, March 19. Tickets and info at Cece-winans.com. Pastor: Bill Dye.
- Martin Baptist Church, Coushatta: Leo Lytle Ministries - The Door, March 29, 5 p.m. Come learn about the Cross Ministry. Pastor: Richard Kaufman

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.

wkcky cfkykoeyk riu nkwc zs wyzues: qpc

wyilky riu bitk rzcfepc gkiuzsa eo cfk gfpypg psce

aet oey fzb.

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Clues:
I = A; W = P

Answer to January 16, Scripture Crypto:
first john four:one

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LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Econ 2025 from page 5

Likewise, Dowdy said we need to: pray that God would move our hearts to have this same kind of holy desire to make much of Jesus in every opportunity; infuse our churches with prayer for one another to have boldness in witnessing; teach and preach on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit; remind believers that fear and the hesitation to “speak” the Gospel is part of the spiritual battle with our enemy, Satan; help our people live on mission with confidence in the power of the Gospel; and practice what we preach that we would be bold to witness.

“We need to remind people that Jesus saves,” he said.

“We tell the story,” Dowdy reminded the crowd. “Jesus saves.”

JOHN SULLIVAN

John Sullivan, minister to mature adults with Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, and former executive director with the Florida Baptist Convention, reminded the crowd that Jesus is worthy of their lives.

Basing his message on Revelation 5, he spoke about John’s frustration, Christ as the Lamb of God, and the celebration in Heaven for what Jesus had done.

Sullivan said we, too, should stop and celebrate what Jesus Christ has done for us.

“Jesus Christ is Lord of my life,” he said. “I confess to you today, without that knowledge, without that understanding, I would never be able to face life in all its difficult moments. God has given Him a name above every name. Once you’ve said ‘Jesus,’ you can’t top it.”

JEFF IORG

Jeff Iorg, president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, preached the final message of the conference, reminding the crowd that God loves people and wants to reach them.

Sharing John 3:16, Iorg said we need to accept people just as they are, reach people where they are physically and spiritually, meet needs with people as

you find them, and share the Gospel at every opportunity.

Iorg said people are most receptive to the Gospel when people die, relationships struggle, health fails and things break.

“When you share the love of God with people and to it, do concrete things that communicate that you really do love people, and you really do want to have an opportunity to talk with them about the last part of John 3:16,”

he said. “Eventually you will find yourself talking about eternal life and introducing them to Jesus Christ, who can change them forever.”

“God has used John 3:16 from the beginning till today to help me be focused on what it means to love people and share the Gospel with them,” he continued. “And I pray that you will have that in your heart. Whether your church does it on John 3:16 day in March or not, you’ll walk out of here saying, ‘I know what it looks like to love people and demonstrate it concretely and to do things

specifically that will get me into conversations about what it means to have everlasting life in Jesus Christ.”

CHARGE TO CHURCHES

Louisiana Baptist Evangelism and Church Growth Team Director Keith Manuel expressed excitement about how the conference equipped and encouraged participants to embrace a culture of evangelism.

“The incredible men and women of God who shared messages of encouragement for evangelism

are all practitioners of what they preach,” Manuel said. “Their messages came out of the overflow of the work of their hearts. Preaching and teaching evangelism is hard if it isn’t your practice. I am so thankful for their messages and encouragement to Louisiana Baptists. I am praying our people were encouraged and equipped to return to the 473 communities that make up Louisiana and let the light of Jesus push back the darkness so that many may be saved.”

2025



March 5 - 6 & 7, 2025



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Thursday,
March 6th
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Friday,
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9:30 am
Lunch Provided
6:30 pm



Worship led by
Ray Jones of
Radiance Ministries



Dr. Bill Britt



Dr. Jerry Chaddick



Dr. Bob Pitman



Dr. Gevan Spinney



Dr. Herb Reavis



Rev. Rubin Weaver

Reunited from page one 3

at Providence House and feeding those working at the call center. "As difficult a subject

as this is, we were proud to be able to partner with others to help see people rescued out of human trafficking," Louisiana Baptist Men's Ministry

and Disaster Relief Strategist Stan Statham said. "It's an important need that we need to continue to pray for and for our law enforcement agencies who are in that fight each day."

James Welch, president of New Orleans Baptist Ministries, the community ministry arm of the New Orleans Baptist Association, was among those who participated in the training at Celebration Church, distribution of booklets and coordination of food for the call center. He said the effort reinforced the power of people coming together for a common purpose.

"It's special to see lo-

cal authorities, non-profits, churches and the community come together to fight human trafficking," he said. "We can do more together than we can alone. It takes all of us to create awareness and see victims rescued."

GROWING PROBLEM

Despite some of the strictest laws in the nation against human trafficking, Louisiana has experienced increasing numbers of victims since, surging from "206 confirmed and prospective victims" in 2015 (the first statewide legislatively mandated report) to "1,615 confirmed and suspected victims" in 2023, with a 57 percent increase in just the last year.

Though human trafficking is a problem in the state throughout the year, events like the Super Bowl ramp up at least the visibility of trafficking because of sex slave traders' exploitation of the lusts of out-of-town crowds.

Johnson

_____from page 13

message. But before he spoke, the surprise guest, Speaker of the U.S. House, Louisiana Congressman Mike Johnson got up and shared a few words with the crowded room.

One thing that the Speaker told the crowd was how on Jan. 20, 2025, he was officially the United States President... for about 37 seconds. Speaker Johnson told KEEL News the story Wednesday morning.

"It's a true story, true story. On inauguration day, at noon under our Constitutional system the President ceased to be the President. So Joe Biden was no longer the President at noon on inauguration day. We were running a little bit behind on the schedule and (Vice-President elect) JD Vance did not take his oath of office, he was about 37 seconds late.

"So for that brief moment in time, I was the acting President of the United States. The Speaker of the House is second in line, so it fell to me."

Louisiana Congressman Mike Johnson has been

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Just like a church's multipurpose building adapts to different needs, a Donor Advised Fund offers flexibility, simplicity, and the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy of generosity. Whether giving now or planning for the future, a DAF helps ensure your generosity continues for years to come.

To learn more about how a Donor Advised Fund can be part of your giving strategy to advance the Kingdom, contact the Louisiana Baptist Foundation at 1-877-523-4636, email contact@LBFinfo.org, or visit www.Giving-Gateway.net today.

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