

Eastern Louisiana  
Baptist Association

181<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL SESSION

2023

PROGRAM

&

BOOK OF REPORTS



“Together We Do What We Cannot Do Alone”



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**ORDER OF BUSINESS  
EASTERN LOUISIANA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

181<sup>ST</sup> Annual Meeting  
October 2, 2023  
Hebron Baptist Church  
Denham Springs, LA

**Welcome**.....Bro. Travis Cronan

**Song Celebration**                                    *“Praise Him, Praise Him”*                                    Bro. Tyler Williams

**Call to Order** .....Dr. Larry Hubbard, Moderator

**Motion to Seat Messengers**

**Motions to Adopt:**

- Printed Program
- Book of Reports
- Arrangements Committee Report
- Resolutions Committee Report

**Recognition:**

Mary Broussard, Retiring as Historian – Dr. Richard Blue

**Mission/Ministry Reports:**

- Treasurer/Financial Report – Mrs. Elena Lavigne
- Connect1Child Foster Care Report – Mrs. Bridget Dickson

**Associational Missions Coordinator Report** .....Dr. Richard Blue

**Love Offering**

**Song of Praise**                                    *“O Praise The Name”*                                    Bro. Tyler Williams

**Recognition of New Pastors and Staff** .....Dr. Larry Hubbard

**Recognition of Guests** .....Dr. Larry Hubbard

**Song of Praise**                                    *“His Mercy More”*                                    Bro. Tyler Williams

**Celebrating Challenge from God’s Word** .....Dr. Keith Manuel

**Benediction**

**Adjourn to Serve and Minister**

# **ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Arrangements Committee recommends that the 182nd Annual Session of the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association be held on Monday, October 7, 2024, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at Judson Baptist Church in Walker, Louisiana.

## **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION To Hebron Baptist Church**

Whereas Hebron Baptist Church, Pastor Travis Cronan, has graciously hosted the One Hundred Eighty-First Annual Meeting of the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association, and

Whereas, the worship team of Hebron Baptist Church and under the leadership of Bro. Tyler Williams has graciously led in the music and worship periods of the meeting, and

Be it resolved that the messengers of the One Hundred Eighty-First Annual Meeting of the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association express our thanks and heartfelt gratitude to each of them.

# **ASSOCIATION MISSIONS COORDINATOR REPORT**

## **Dr. Richard Blue, Association Missions Coordinator**

In May, the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association Executive Board approved the formation of a Strategy and Constitution ad hoc Team (SAC-Team) to study our current association structure and recommend any necessary changes to streamline the business organization of the association. In the Executive Board's August meeting, the updated proposal for the SAC-Team was approved to develop a six-member Executive Team for the purpose of working with the Association Missions Coordinator to administer the work of the association between annual meetings. This model is effectively working in other associations similar to ours (BAGBR, NOBA, NWLBA). When recommendations to the constitution and by-laws are developed and approved, the Executive Team will be elected, will meet three times a year to conduct the business of the association. The Executive Board will meet once on the first Monday in May to hear reports and recommendations from the Executive Team. The Annual Meeting will remain at the same time with the desire to focus on worship with as little business as possible.

Be prepared for changes in your church insurance premiums at your next renewal as related to wind and hail coverage. David Galloway with Guide One Insurance wrote a letter to our association and area churches informing us of an insurance crisis affecting the entire Gulf Coast. He wrote that Church Mutual is in the process of leaving our state and some larger named carriers are not writing new church policies in the state. The wind-hail coverage is the most expensive part of a church's renewal cost in the future. Some insurers are cancelling wind-hail coverage in their policies. While an independent wind-hail rider can be purchased, it is very high for most churches, especially when an additional 5% overall deductible is included. Some churches have no choice but to pay the higher premiums. A growing number of churches are surrendering their wind-hail coverage to keep their premiums affordable. Without a plan to have a reserve for roof repair and subsequent water damage, churches may find themselves in a bind the next time a tornado, hailstorm, or hurricane blows into town. Some legislators and insurance agents are meeting with the insurance commission to study a better way to address the crisis. Until then, each church must prepare and plan for how they will address this crisis.

This year, we welcome new pastors to our ELBA family: Michael Didon is the pastor of Carroll Baptist. Pastor Michael comes to Carroll from Mississippi. Currently, ELBA has six churches without pastors. Five are blessed with strong interim pastors. Continue to pray for these churches without pastors.

The Christian Counseling Center continues to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of people and families. Pray for this ministry as it helps the people of our churches. Jarrod Hegwood (LPC-S) is our director. I am glad we continue our relationship with the Denham Springs Addictive Disorders, which is separate from our Christian Counseling Center. Their presence provides a substance abuse option for those needing help. David and Bridgett Dickson teach Sunday School at South Walker Baptist Church and Bridgett is our Connect1Child Director for ELBA.

Year One of Connect1Child is in the books. Bridgett Dickson has worked hard developing networks and speaking at churches to promote the opportunity to change our world through the gospel and Foster Care. Connect1Child is the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home Foster Care and Adoption Initiative partnering with associational churches to provide foster homes for children in need in Livingston Parish.

ECON-LP 2023 was a great success with eleven ELBA churches represented and seven churches from Baton Rouge, Central, Zachary, Franklinton, and from the Northshore joining us. We had a total of 103 in attendance. Thank you to the pastors who organized and promoted this exceptional training day,

First Denham, Dr. Leo Miller, Paul Keating, Matt Calhoun, the deacons and teams who provided lunch, and to those who led our breakout sessions.

Mark your calendar for the MINISTERS AND WIVES CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP Monday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. at Northside Baptist Church. We thank Pastor Lynn and the people of Northside for your hospitality and grace.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Associational Missions Coordinator for the past five years. Vickie and I are blessed to be in as many of our ELBA churches as possible each year. 2023 has been a good year for our churches. Some of our churches are experiencing both revival and spiritual awakening. Yet, from where I sit and what I see, the best is yet to come! *We do together what we cannot do alone!*

## CONNECT1CHILD MINISTRY

Bridget Dickson, ELBA/LBCH Liaison

April/May 2023

**On April 20, 2023 I sent out an E-Mail to all 44 churches introducing myself and asking each church about the number of foster families in their church. I had 3 responses from that e-mail:**

Christ Community Church – Paster Willis Easley- 2 foster families in their church

Riverside Baptist Church – Pastor Larry Hubbard – No mention of foster families

South Walker Baptist Church – Pastor Mark Carroll – 1 foster family

**Resent the E-Mail again on 5/9/2023:**

Judson Baptist Church – Pastor David Lane – Indicated no foster parents.

1Life Church – Pastor Cameron Gober – No foster Families

Satsuma Baptist Church – Debbie Brock, Office Assistant – No foster families

I will continue to reach out to churches in regard to correct e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Susan Nolan is also working on a database of churches' information.

**On April 19, 2023,** I was asked to speak at the New Foster Parent Training in Hammond, Louisiana. I shared about foster parenting and introduced Connect1Child Ministry.

**May 1, 2023** was the Executive Board Meeting of the ELBA. I was in attendance and introduced myself, networked with pastors and arranged some presentation dates.

**May 4, 2023** I took part in the Foster the Connection 2023 Conference. I was able to sit on the Discussion Panel on Trauma with 6 colleagues. I also presented in a break-out session "Trauma-Informed care in the home."

**Speaking engagements have been as follows: Don Avenue Baptist Church – May 14, 2023 (Mother's Day) 1 Hour Presentation – My beginning journey into Foster Care to being involved in Connect1Child. Judson Baptist Church – May 21, 2023 – Technical Difficulties with slides. Decided to reschedule as the slides have a lot of current information.**

June/July 2023

In June I began working on a database for each of the 44 churches in our association. As many know, this is a very slow process, getting in touch with small church administrations. My database is half-way complete, talking with church staff as I am reaching out to them.

Began conversation with Christina Varnado from First Baptist Denham Springs about TBRI training for people interested in the training. This would be a 12-week course offered to the churches' members who are interested in learning how TBRI works with Children From Hard Places.

We (Christina Varnado and I) also are discussing having a Fall Foster Care Fun Day while the foster parents have a day for themselves. We are beginning the first steps of this by securing a place to have it and looking at what it will take to make it successful. Before this happens, I would provide a 4 hour course in TBRI, and vetting for all persons interested in playing any part in this fun day.

I started and am currently working with a family, providing information and resources to become a foster family. The couple has signed up for the mandatory classes which begin in August. We will begin walking through the certification process in order to complete the required documents.

I have left messages at Agape Baptist Church, Bethel Baptist Church, and First Baptist Denham Springs and Salem Baptist Church to set up presentations in each church. Currently waiting for a call back.

In July, I spoke with David Lane at Judson Baptist Church to reschedule the Connect1Child presentation. That presentation will be on August 20, 2023. Pastor David and I talked about June/July is when many people are involved in Church Camps and Missions projects. In August, children are back in school, and churches can access their schedules more. I have also been working with Louisiana Baptist Children's Home on getting the word out for the Pastors Discussion – One Church – One Family – One Child conference on August 8 from 10:30 – 1:00. I sent out an e-mail to all churches in the Association on July 20, 2023, to remind them to register.

### August 2023

On August 7, 2023, I attended The ELBA Associational Council Meeting at the ELBA office. I gave a report to the meeting like the one I sent to LBCH. The meeting went very well.

On August 8, 2023, I attended 1Church, 1Family, 1Child conference at Bethany Baptist Church. This conference was organized by the Governor, and I was able to introduce myself to many resources as a liaison for Connect1Child. I collected resources that will be helpful to foster families.

On August 20, 2023, I presented at Judson Baptist Church on behalf of Connect1Child. Unfortunately, no one responded to Foster Parenting or Foster Care Ministry. Spoke with a member I know at that church, and he stated the church has a "weird" foyer and members exit out of many doors. I'm sure if I need the members for a ministry opportunity, they will respond.

On August 24, 2023, Pastor Higgenbotham at Don Ave Baptist Church reached out to me. He asked that I contact a member's friend. Don Avenue was taking a love offering to help this person and asked if I would talk to her about the validity of the request. Pastor and I, and VL and I have stayed in touch. I reported back to Pastor about the lack of communication on VL's part so they could make an informed decision.

August 27, 2023, spoke at Salam Baptist Church. They gave me extra time and was able to answer questions. The members were very supportive of the ministry opportunity and have agreed as a church to be a part of the Foster Care Ministry. I did have one couple interested in becoming a foster parent.

I presented 3 families to DCFS Home Development and they in turn started them on the process of being Certified as a Foster Parent.

The interest is peaking, and I was given more statistics to expound on. The one specific to the churches in Livingston Parish is we currently have 183 children in Foster Care and 34 Foster families. People are beginning to see the need.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve with this ministry.

## **DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY REPORT**

### **Bro. Howard Turner, Team Leader**



Greetings from your Disaster Relief team. While this year has not been as busy as some, that's not necessarily bad, the team has ministered to many in need. Your team made four out of state trips responding to floods, tornadoes, and a straight-line wind event. Volunteers also responded to 6 other local tree needs from thunderstorms and one fire.

Due to the lack of major long-term events, the team was able to build and install seven handicap ramps locally. This helped a retired seventy plus year old pastor, a thirty-year old with a disability from sudden illness, and five others between.

Grateful to our association for its continued support. Come join us in serving our savior.

# Camp Living Waters Report

Stacy Morris, Director



Stacy Morris, the Camp Director, and her team at CLW have worked very hard this summer hosting scheduled camps and continued camp ministry. The following activities were taken from recent Quarterly Reports:

Overview of CLW Summer Activities:

\*65 saved \* Highropes ran successfully \*Camp Counselors were the camp's biggest blessing \* Volunteers and Chaperones were amazing \*New churches attended this year

The Camp's finances are in good shape finishing the summer and entering the Fall Months. How you can help?

1. Donations needed: Cleaning supplies, gasoline & diesel
2. Referrals are needed for next summer's Camp Counselors
3. Prayers for the Camp: Continued spiritual growth of new converts from this summer, Staff, Camp Counselors who are heading back to high school and college, Remainder of the 2023 Camp Year and Construction of a new dining hall

Follow Camp Living Waters on Facebook. Please pray for the team leaders as they prepare for the 2023-2024 ministry year events.

## CHILDREN'S/VBS MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

Bro. Robbie Isom, Team Leader



**Kid Min Expo was held at Greenwell Springs Baptist Church on March 4th. Kid Min Expo doubles as VBS training and general children's ministry training. A few churches from our association attended this event. I would encourage more churches to attend, the training is exceptional, and the cost is minimal.**

**October 24th, we will have our 6th Annual Children's Ministry Training. Satsuma Baptist Church will be hosting it this year. Supper will be provided at 5:30pm, with the training beginning at 6:00pm. Our main session will be led by Dr. Donna Peavey from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Other breakout leaders are: David Anderson, LBC; Delece Nichols, Greenwell Springs Baptist Church; Frank Mons, Live Oak Baptist, and Robbie Isom, Judson Baptist.**

# CHRISTIAN SOCIAL SERVICES TEAM

**KaRetha Kelley, Leader**

The Christian Counseling Center continues to faithfully serve our churches and the community with godly guidance and life skills counseling to improve the quality of lives for those who walk through our doors. A GriefShare group is held each week on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00pm. It is open to anyone in need of grief comfort and led by our very own Darlene Abbott. She offers a holiday seminar to help with grief during this time once a year. It will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

The changes to our fee schedule with church partnerships that were made last year have proven to be very beneficial. We are continuing to serve our “church referral” clients now at the rate of \$50.00 for the church/client. The support of ELBA has helped keep our center at the industry rate for our counselors. We can’t thank the association enough for agreeing to allow a “stipend” of up to and not to exceed \$3,000.00 per month to be used to offset the difference. You may contact the office for details.

We are thankful for the counselors that continue to serve our center.



**Jarrod Hegwood, LPC**  
Director of the Center



**Erica W. Matthews, MS, PLPC**



**Darlene Abbott, BCSW, S**



**Ellie Hughes,**  
Counselor Intern

Please remember the scripture directive for the ministry has been and continues to be:

***Luke 4:18- 19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, <sup>19</sup>To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.***

We continue to refer clients to Denham Springs Addictive Disorders and vice-versa. We are grateful for the counseling they bring and their passion to help those dealing with addictive disorders. Please continue to pray for them as well as our counselors as they minister together to help those in need. The Dicksons can be reached at 225-243-5573.



The year 2023 has been a very busy time. Our CommUnity Hands ministry is still operating every Thursday from 9:am until Noon. We continue to try to provide services to “ward off “homelessness, hunger, and health issues” on an emergency basis with case-to-case decisions being made by the board of directors. Our mission statement is ***“We are disciples of Jesus Christ, proclaiming the Gospel by coordinating our friendship to serve the needs in our community; offering help and hope to families in danger of experiencing homelessness, hunger and health issues.”*** If you or your church would like to participate with this ministry in 2024, please contact the ELBA office for details. Please continue to pray for this ministry as we serve the Lord by serving our CommUnity.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM**

**Bro. Mike Fielding, Leader**

The FORGE was a huge success and we have over 30 decisions and salvations from 12 different churches. I want to thank everyone who helped make the Forge a great success this year. It was hosted by Amite Baptist Church. We were excited to welcome Josh Spinks as our speaker this year. He did an excellent job proclaiming God's word and ministering to our students.

The Worship was led by Taylor Wilson from Amite Baptist and his team of musicians led us in some incredible worship. We had a cardboard testimonial time that was incredibly moving with over 30 volunteers sharing their story on a piece of cardboard. Our attendance was just shy of 300. It sparked a lot of interest in other churches that have not participated, and I feel like our attendance will grow next year. We have a lot of momentum for the FORGE again after last year's event and this year's. We will be planning the 2024 FORGE very soon.



## **CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S & MEN'S JOB CORP**

**Dr. Steve Bond, Ph.D., Director CMJC**

Dr. Bobbie Shaffett retires at the end of 2023, after leading the ELBA CWJC program for 10 years. She still plans to be involved in volunteer service.

### Summary of the CMJC:

The Christian Men's Job Corps (CMJC) is a strategic ministry that meets a specific need in our parish, and meets the ELBA criteria. Its ministry goals should be synergetic with the goals of ELBA member churches. Based on the model and experiences of the Christian Women's Job Corps, the focus is helping men who need to find jobs learn how to search, apply, interview and retain employment; and to develop productive life skills and successful behavior at their place of employment, and of course, minister in the name of Jesus.

Required training and certification was completed in the Fall of 2021, and a CMJC advisory committee was organized. The advisory committee (Dr. Stephen Bond, Dr. Richard Blue, Gary Watson, Rev. Mark Carroll, John Broussard, and Matt Belser) met quarterly in 2022, with input from Dr. Bobbie Shaffett, Director of CWJC, Roger Kelley, KaRetha Kelley, and Theresa Broussard. The committee met about 6 times in 2023 to strategize format and content as needed. Efforts during the late summer focused on speaking to men's groups and Sunday School classes at various churches and pastor conferences to solicit volunteer mentors. Dr. Bobbie Shaffett conducted mentor training on September 19, 2023, with seven volunteer

mentors present. There are several volunteers who were unable to attend this session but intend to participate. A group of prospective participants from the men's ministry at Live Oak Baptist, led by John Broussard, have shown interest in becoming the first group to participate in the program. The first class is scheduled on October 12, 2023.

Projected Format:

The advisory committee has tentatively set the format as follows: a meeting once per month, at 6:30 in the evening beginning with a meal for participants and volunteers, then a short devotional, followed by a learning session related to job search, application, interview and job retention. The initial learning topics on job search and retention will be led by Steve Bond and Gary Watson, after which a session on Personal Finance will be led by Bobbie Shaffett, with future expectations of related topics and guest speakers from business at later meetings.

Timeline:

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

September 2023	Mentor training conducted by Dr. Bobbie Shaffett
October 2023	Introductory meeting with participants and mentors/prayer partners and overview of program and upcoming classes
November 2023	First class, devotional speaker TBA, learning topic on the basics of a job search, including self-defining skills, how to dress, how to search for jobs, department, awareness of requirements, and other topics.
December 2023	Christmas meal, class meeting, devotional speaker TBA, learning topic will focus on completing applications and other pertinent paperwork.
January 2024	Class meeting, devotional speaker TBA, learning topic on interviews and expected behaviors (some separate interview practice sessions may be scheduled)
February 2024	Class meeting, devotional speaker TBA, learning topic on keeping a job once accepted, and helping those who are employed who want to upgrade, both within their organization and seeking a better position elsewhere.
March 2024	Class meeting, devotional speaker TBA, learning topic on personal finance, led by Dr. Bobbie Shaffett.
April 2024	Class meeting, devotional speaker TBA, Summary and review of learning topics to date.
May 2024	Graduation/Completion celebration meal and program.

# WOMEN'S MISSIONS AND MINISTRY

## Theresa Broussard, Leader

**THERESA  
BROUSSARD**

### WOMEN'S MISSIONS AND MINISTRY

- See the emailed Quarterly Smore Flyer for more details and clickable links
- Share these exciting upcoming events
- I'd love to connect and partner with your missions and ministry group through the links below to impact our parish for Christ!
- Don't have a missions and ministry group? Let's create one!



AND...

Just like **Annie Armstrong, GEORGIA BARNETTE, and Lottie Moon**, women have been and are currently being used by God in mighty ways. We just have to be available and willing. For such a time as this, the women of our parish need Jesus. Connect with me as we **equip and encourage** others to make the most important **CONNECTION** of their lives - **JESUS!**

**Email:** [tbroussard2@currently.com](mailto:tbroussard2@currently.com)

**Website:** <https://elbamissions.org/welcome>

**Location:** Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association, Comar Drive, Walker, LA, USA

**Phone:** 225-678-6235

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/TBWMM/>

### MISSION EDUCATION AND PRAYER NIGHTS



**SAVE THE DATES and promote with your congregation:**

**Annually** we have established **3 dates each year** to celebrate and pray for the missions offerings, which be held **at the ELBA office.**

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions**- our last missions emphasis of each year will be the night of **December 11th (2nd Monday) @6:30**

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions - March 4, 2024 (1st Monday) @6:30**

**Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering - September 9th, 2024 (2nd Monday) @6:30**

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions - December 9th, 2024 (2nd Monday) @6:30**

### QUICK LINKS



**November 4th - Women Who Lead**

**Register NOW!**

[Women Who Lead, Walker - Louisiana Baptists](#)



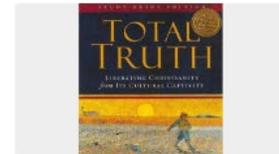
**Remember Georgia Barnette offering and her passion for missions!**

**Learn more at:**

[GeorgiaBarnette.org](#)

[Who Was Lottie Moon? - IMB](#)

[ANNIE ARMSTRONG: THE "MASTERMIND" BEHIND WMU - WMU](#)



**Monthly - 2nd Tuesday Total Truth Book Club**

**Next meeting is October 10th**

Click Here to register. Meeting link is emailed when you register.

[Event Search - Classical ConversationsClassical Conversations](#)

Books can be ordered at:

[If God is eliminated from culture, can culture ever benefit from truth?](#)

[\(classicalconversationsbooks.com\)](#)

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

The ELBA scholarship committee awarded three seminary students scholarships equivalent to \$1,000 each. The committee plans to meet to discuss and write updated scholarship-award guidelines.

The recipients this year are: Frank Mons, Live Oak Baptist Church attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Melissa Cothorn, Christ's Community Church attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Thank you.

Linda Burleigh

## **2023 HISTORY REPORT** **Mary Broussard ELBA Historian**

Every CHURCH should celebrate their pastors, anniversaries, historical milestones, and ministry successes. Please keep these many ministry markers in your church records. If you need help in recording and preserving your church history, please contact your Association office and we will be happy to help.

Remember, *"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next."* - C.S. Lewis

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Nominating Committee recommends that the following be elected to serve in leadership positions in the Association for 2023–2024 and for terms listed on Committees:

### **Officers**

Moderator – Johnny Morgan

Vice Moderator – John Pemberton

Clerk – KaRetha Kelley

Treasurer – Elena Lavigne

Historian – Larry Hubbard

### **Ministry Team Leaders**

Children’s Ministry Team Leader – Robbie Isom

Christian Social Services Leader – KaRetha Kelley

Christian Men Job Corps. – Steve Bond

Church Strengthening Team Leader – Joshua Spinks

Disaster Relief Ministry Leader – Howard Turner

Women’s Missions & Ministry Leader – Theresa Broussard

Youth Ministry Leader – Mike Fielding

### **Committees**

Credentials – David Lane (25) Chad Ward (26)

Finance – Henry Shelton (26)

Nominating – Frank Mons (26) James “Bubba” Courtney (25)

Personnel – Brian Gunter (26)

Scholarship – Daniel Martin (26)

Camp Living Waters Trustees – Ray McCon (26) Bill Pianki (27)

## **NEW CHURCH STAFF**

Welcome to new ministers called to our churches since the 2022 Annual Meeting.

### **Pastor**

Mike Didon, Carroll Baptist Church

### **Minister of Music**

Kyle Pittman, Red Oak Baptist Church

### **Youth Pastor**

Jason Iblings, First Baptist Church, Denham Springs

# REPRESENTATIVES ON ASSOCIATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

(From 2023 Annual Church Profiles)

**AGAPE'**: Rev. Chris Hardison  
**AMITE**: Rev. Michael Luce  
**BETHEL**: Rev. James "Bubba" Courtney  
**CARROLL**: Rev. Mike Didon, Floyd Patterson  
**CENTRAL**: Rev. Robby Dickerson  
**CHRIST'S COMMUNITY**: Rev. Willis Easley, Rev. Robert Ingalls  
**COLYELL**: Rev. Jeremy Glascock  
**COMMUNITY**: Dr. Dane Blankenship  
**DENHAM SPRINGS, FIRST**: Dr. Leo Miller  
**DON AVENUE**: Dr. Tom Higginbotham, Mr. Jimmy Miley  
**EMMANUEL**: Rev. Max Landry  
**FRENCH SETTLEMENT, FIRST**: Rev. Bill Pianki, Richard Bowlin  
**GRACE COVENANT**: Rev. Mike Wilkes  
**GRAY'S CREEK**: Rev. Byron Commish, Mr. Billy Pruett  
**GREATER THIRD ZION**: Rev. Calvin Brown  
**HEAD OF ISLAND**: Rev. Billy Minyard  
**HEBRON**: Rev. Travis Cronan  
**HOLDEN, FIRST**:  
**JUDSON**: Dr. David Lane, Rev. Robbie Isom  
**LIVE OAK**: Rev. Johnny Morgan, Rev. Frank Mons  
**LIVINGSTON, FIRST**: Rev. Brian Gunter  
**MACEDONIA**: Rev. Jessie White  
**MAGNOLIA**: Rev. David Howie  
**MAUREPAS**: Dr. Glynn Reine, Sr.  
**MIDWAY**: Rev. Daniel Martin  
**NEW BETHLEHEM**: Rev. Randall Gill  
**NORTHSIDE**: Rev. Lynn Rodrigue, Joe Wheat  
**ONE LIFE**: Rev. Cameron Gober  
**PINE GROVE**: Rev. Paul Taylor, Timy Martin  
**RED OAK**: Rev. Jack Varnado  
**RIVER OF LIFE**: Rev. Bobby Ready  
**RIVERSIDE**: Rev. Larry Hubbard  
**SALEM**: Rev. Chad Chauvin  
**SATSUMA**: Rev. Henry Shelton, Ralph Bryson  
**SOUTH WALKER**: Rev. Mark Carroll  
**SOUTHSIDE**: Rev. Larry Badon  
**THE NEW BEGINNINGS**: Rev. Charles Ray Smith, Johnny Fuentes  
**THE WAY**: Rev. Joshua Spinks  
**THE WAY LIVINGSTON**: Rev. Rhett Major  
**VICTORY**: Rev. Chad Ward, Rev. Fred Dyess  
**WALKER**: Rev. Jason McNaughten, Rev. Merelin "Ray" McCon,  
**WATSON**: Rev. John Pemberton  
**WHOLLY GROUNDS**: Rev. Joey Beeson

## MESSENGERS

(As listed on the 2023 Annual Church Profiles)

**AGAPE'**: Rev Chris Hardison

**AMITE**: Rev. Michael Luce, Mrs. Shawn Wilson, Mrs. Fran Bolen

**BETHEL**: Rev. James "Bubba" Courtney

**CARROLL**: Rev. Mike Dedon, Mrs. Denise Flippen, Mr. Randy Flippen, Mr. Floyd Patterson

**CENTRAL**: Rev. Robby Dickerson

**CHRIST'S COMMUNITY**: Rev. Willis Easley, Mr. Robert Ingalls, Mr. Ben Eisenberg, Mr. Derick Kimble, Mr. Jeff Miller, Mr. Joey Cothorn, Mr. Darren Blevins, Mr. James Martin, Mr. Kenny Glover, Mr. Leory Scott, Mr. George Ken Easley, Mr. David Branton, Mr. Jimmy Bell, Mr. Steve Barnett, Mr. Jonathan Johnston

**COMMUNITY CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD**: Rev. Dane Blankenship

**COLYELL**: Rev. Jeremy Glascock, Mr. Ron McMorris, II, Mrs. Debra Schexnayger, Mrs. Amanda Glascock, Mr. Shain Picou, Mr. Raymon Schexnayder

**DENHAM SPRINGS, FIRST**: Dr. Leo Miller

**DON AVENUE**: Rev. Tom Higginbotham, Mr. Jimmy Miley, Mrs. Jeanie Hudson, Mrs. Sheryl Johnson

**EMMANUEL**: Rev. Max Landry, Mrs. Joannie Landry, Ms. Elise Foster, Ms. Bobbie Street, Mr. Rick Fornea

**FRENCH SETTLEMENT, FIRST**: Rev. Bill Pianki, Mr. Larry Clegg, Ms. Debbie Clegg, Mr. Roy Farrow, Ms. Tammy Farrow

**GRAY'S CREEK**: Rev. Byron Comish, Mrs. Marian Cavalier, Mr. Window Cavalier, Mr. Billy Pruett, Mrs. Barbara Pruett

**GREATHER THIRD ZION**: Rev. Calvin Brown

**HEAD OF ISLAND, FIRST**: Rev. Billy Minyard

**HEBRON**: Rev. Travis Cronan

**HOLDEN, FIRST**: Mrs. Lorraine Pankey, Mr. Phil Pankey

**JUDSON**: Dr. David Lane, Mrs. Lea Anne Lane, Mrs. Gayla Isom, Mr. Freddie Arnold, Mr. Cody Wilson, Rev. Robbie Isom, Mr. Kerney Arnold, Mrs. Katherine Arnold, Mr. Travis Achord, Mrs. Brittney Achord, Mr. Seth Gauthier, Mrs. Jennifer Gauthier, Mr. Ronnie Palmer, Mrs. Sherri Palmer

**LIVE OAK**: Rev. Johnny Morgan, Rev. Frank Mons, Mr. Joseph Hinson, Dr. Richard Blue, Mrs. Vickie Blue, Mr. Harold Robinson, Mr. Wesley Bennett

**LIVINGSTON, FIRST**: Rev. Brian Gunter, Jim Jenkins, Mrs. Terry Jenkins, Mr. Tommy Wallace, Mrs. Carlene Wallace, Mr. Jimmy Morris, Mrs. Julia Morris

**MACEDONIA**: Rev. Roger Dunlap, Mr. Bobbie Sullivan, Mrs. Odette Sullivan

**MAUREPAS**: Mrs. Jeannie Stewart, Ms. Rosemary Balfantz, Mr. Troy Brettel, Dr. Glynn Reine, Sr., Mrs. Kathy Reine, Mr. Paul Carroll

**MIDWAY**: Rev. Daniel Martin

**NEW BETHLEHEM**: Mr. Neil Gill, Mr. Dennis Sheffield, Rev. Randall Gill, Ms. Jody Settoon, Ms. Donna Starns, Mr. Byron Starns

**NEW COVENANT**:

**NORTHSIDE**: Rev. Lynn Rodrigue, Mrs. Nicole Rodrigue, Mr. Joe Wheat, Mrs. Elaine Wheat, Mr. George Travis, Ms. Gloria Barton, Mr. Will Shilling,

**ONE LIFE**: Mr. A. J. Holland, Rev. Cameron Gober

**PINE GROVE**: Mr. Clark Robertson, Rev. Paul Taylor, Mrs. Jerri Taylor, Mr. David Draper, Mrs. Jennifer Draper, Mr. Josh Martin, Mr. Jason Dyess, Mr. Kenny Morrison, Mr. Timey Martin, Mrs. Daralyn Martin

**RED OAK**: Rev. Jack Varnado, Mr. Gerald Hughes, Mrs. Mary Hughes, Charlotte Hutchinson

**RIVER OF LIFE**: Rev. Bobby Ready

**RIVERSIDE**: Rev. Larry Hubbard

## MESSENGERS CONTD.

**SALEM:** Rev. Chad Chauvin

**SATSUMA:** Rev. Henry Shelton, Mrs. Sherry Shelton, Mr. Ralph Bryson, Mrs. Sheila Bryson, Mr. Ed Sullivan, Mr. Randy Simoneaux, Mr. Dana Hudson, Mrs. Dianne Sullivan

**SOUTH WALKER:** Rev. Mark Carroll

**SOUTHSIDE:** Mr. Buddy Nelson, Mrs. Betty Nelson

**THE NEW BEGINNINGS:** Rev. Charles Ray Smith, Ms. Audrey Lazarus, Mrs. Margie Jones

**THE OAKS:** Rev. Mike Wilkes

**THE WAY DENHAM SPRINGS:** Rev. Josh Spinks

**THE WAY LIVINGSTON:** Rev. Rhett Major

**VICTORY:** Rev. Chad Ward, Rev. Fred Dyess, Mr. Cecil Dyess, Mr. Dailey Hite, Mrs. Barbara Hite

**WALKER:** Rev. Jason McNaughten, Mrs. Edna Leonard, Mr. Steve Bond, Rev. Ray McCon, Mrs. Hilda Daniels, Mrs. Ginger Glascock, Mr. Paul Roberts, Jr., Mrs. Janice Roberts

**WATSON:** Rev. John Pemberton, Rev. Gerald Martin, Matthew Simmons

**WHOLLY GROUNDS:** Rev. Joey Beeson

## IN REMEMBRANCE

**BETHEL:** Joyce Dubois, Larry Devall

**CHRIST'S COMMUNITY:** Mavis Ballard, Thomas "Sonny" Aucoin, Terry Caye, Bill Bolton, Emory Cox, Janis Van Veekin

**EMMANUEL:** Cline Street, Edith Foster, Frank Schoonmaker

**HEBRON:** Thomas L. Aucoin, Jerry F. Ball, David Barron, Elise Campbell, Candy Courville, Henry Stanley Davis, Brian Dugas, Sharon Dungan, Laverne Facundus, Beverly Lois Grimmer, Janice Harris Henderson, Cappy J. Jackson, John Ed Juban, Terry Martin, Clarence Joe O'Neal, Audrey G. Ortego, Dale Soileau, Linda Stelly, Glenda Pauline Wilson

**JUDSON:** Francis Jewel Brown Burch, Dale Wesley Sterling, Luna Pearson, James Morris Foster II, Judy Lou Middleton Wascom, Russell "Rusty" Keith Graham, Terrie Lynn Wascom, Bart Joseph White, John Marvin Ervin, Anita Watson, Jack Edmond Middleton, Daniel Barry Warner, Eloise Audrey Webb Crowe, Raymond J. Gomez

**LIVE OAK:** Lorraine Blades, Mary Font, Lynn Palmer, Roger West

**NORTHSIDE:** June Ott, Charles Wesley, Shirley Carlisle, Johnny Bass, Rev. James Carson, Lester Kohler, Meredith Stephens

**SATSUMA:** Linda Stewart Rhodus, Betty Baham

**SOUTHSIDE:** Kitty Henderson

**Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association**  
**Balance Sheet - January 1, 2023 through August 31, 2023**

1030 - Capital One Checking -Operating	\$54,850.73
1040 - Designated Capital One Checking	\$53,704.65
Total Checking	\$108,555.38
Savings	
1200 - LBF Savings - Operating Fund	\$60,555.47
1202 - LBF Savings - Church Planting	\$5,626.42
1204 - LBF Savings - Temporary Savings	\$663,784.32
Total Savings	\$729,966.21
Fixed Assets	
1002 - ELBA's Addition of Suites B & C	\$343,685.00
1003 - ELBA's Shower Addition	\$11,850.00
1004 - ELBA's New M&M Building on Comar Dr	\$718,714.20
1006 - ELBA M&M Land on Florida Blvd.	\$140,000.00
1007 - Lot on Comar Drive for Storage	\$73,510.20
1011 - Konica Copier	\$7,181.40
1020 - Furniture and Fixtures	\$4,171.39
1021 - Computer & Office Equipment	\$30,115.46
1022 - Media Library & Equipment	\$18,452.65
1023 - Chain Saw Trailer	\$6,838.27
1025 - Party Trailer	\$11,057.89
1026 - Mobile Church Unit	\$10,000.00
1027 - Disaster Relief Truck	\$19,041.00
1028 - Disaster Relief Flatbed Trailer	\$8,815.10
1029 - DR Heavy Equipment-Bobcat	\$60,339.41
Total Fixed Assets	\$1,463,771.97
Total Assets	\$2,302,293.56
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
2000 - Federal Tax Payable	-\$6.94
2010 - FICA Payable	-\$418.38
2020 - Medicare Payable	-\$4.23
2030 - LA Tax Payable	\$186.03
Total Current Liabilities	-\$300.00
Total Liabilities	-\$543.52
Fund Principal	
2999 - Unrestricted Funds Balance	\$2,241,726.61
Excess Cash Received	\$7,405.82
Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received	\$2,249,132.43
Restricted Funds	
Total Temporary Restricted	\$53,704.65
Total Restricted Funds	\$53,704.65
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds	\$2,302,293.56

## CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS 2023

4000 - Agape	\$0.00
4001 - Amite	\$3,200.00
4003 - Bethel	\$1,286.77
4005 - Carroll	\$296.57
4006 - Central	\$0.00
4007 - Christ Community	\$9,686.00
4008 - Colyell	\$12,255.64
4009 - Denham Springs FBC	\$15,539.67
4010 - Don Avenue	\$5,719.41
4012 - Emmanuel	\$1,290.00
4014 - French Settlement	\$1,711.00
4015 - Gray's Creek	\$2,920.00
4016 - Greater Third Zion	\$0.00
4017 - Head of Island	\$508.10
4018 - Hebron	\$3,586.14
4019 - Holden	\$1,628.37
4020 - Judson	\$12,836.87
4021 - Live Oak	\$25,647.22
4022 - Livingston FBC	\$9,240.00
4023 - Macedonia	\$1,200.00
4024 - Magnolia	\$1,600.00
4025 - Maurepas	\$597.00
4026 - Midway	\$0.00
4027 - New Bethlehem	\$825.00
4028 - Grace Covenant	\$0.00
4029 - Northside	\$4,508.18
4030 - One Life	\$0.00
4031 - Pine Grove	\$4,047.02
4032 - Red Oak	\$900.00
4033 - River of Life	\$0.00
4034 - Riverside	\$2,772.44
4035 - Salem	\$500.00
4036 - Satsuma	\$0.00
4037 - South Walker	\$2,506.50
4038 - Southside	\$1,727.84
4039 - The New Beginnings	\$1,094.18
4040 - Victory	\$1,491.39
4041 - Walker	\$17,581.66
4042 - Watson	\$4,281.62
4043 - The Way Church	\$1,800.00
4044 - Community Church of Springfield	\$350.00
4046 - Wholly Grounds Church	\$0.00
4999 - Total Budget Church Contributions	\$155,134.59

## **EXPENSES – January – August 2023**

### Missions & Ministries

5000 - Baptist Collegiate Ministry	\$5,514.47
5001 - ELBA Mission Projects	\$1,306.66
5002 - Fellowship Christian Athletes	\$745.36
5004 - Camp Living Waters	\$6,305.75
5005 - Mission Support	\$0.00
5007 - Scholarships	\$2,000.00
5014 – Christian Social Serv./Benevolence	\$1,502.96
5009 – Disaster Relief/Chain Saw Ministry	\$800.00

Total Missions & Ministries \$18,175.20

### Organization & Promotion

5015 – Christian Women Job Corp	\$716.31
5100 - Annual Meeting	\$0.00
5101 - Church Enrichment	\$1,069.72
5103 - History	\$0.00
5104 - Media Library	\$0.00
5105 - Minister's Conference	\$59.61
5106 - Children & Vacation Bible School	\$180.34
5107 - Women's Missions and Ministry	\$0.00
5108 - Youth	\$3,980.36

Total Organization & Promotion \$6,006.34

### Operations & Maintenance

5200 - General Office Expense	\$3,301.73
5201 - Postage	\$618.64
5202 - Utilities	\$16,333.95
5203 - Janitorial	\$4,587.06
5205 - Multi-Peril Insurance	\$15,634.13
5206 - Software (Pur, Sup, Train)	\$470.00
5207 - Equipment & Maintenance	\$6,113.78
5208 – Website	\$0.00
5209 - Miscellaneous	\$0.00
5210 – Lawn Service	\$3,200.00

5211 – Heavy Equipment	\$0.00
Total Operations & Maintenance	\$50,259.29
Salaries & Benefits	
5313 - Financial Secretary	\$19,668.88
5350 - Employer Tax Expense	\$1,504.64
5351 - Other Expenses	\$0.00
5360 - Staff Appreciation	\$1,826.62
AMC Compensation Package	
5300 - AMC Salary	\$23,057.76
5301 - AMC Housing	\$17,866.72
5302 - AMC Retirement	\$12,800.00
5303 - AMC Life & Health Insurance	\$3,159.68
Total AMC Compensation Package	\$56,884.16
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$79,884.30
Administrative Expenses	
5010 - AMC Ministry Expense	\$1,429.15
5011 - AMC Auto Expense	\$2,418.15
5012 - AMC Convention/Cont. Ed	\$518.16
Total Administrative Expenses	\$4,365.46
Total Expenses	\$158,690.59

## BUDGET 2024 (Recommends staying the same)

Account	Total
Missions & Ministries	
Baptist Collegiate Ministry	
ELBA Mission Projects	
Fellowship Christian Athletes	
Camp Living Waters	Percentage Basis Est.
Mission Support	
Scholarships	
Disaster Relief/Chain Saw Ministry	
Christian Social Ser./Benevolence	
Estimated Total	\$36,000.00
Organization & Promotion	
Christian Women Job Corp	\$1,200.00
Annual Meeting	\$1,000.00
Church Enrichment	\$1,000.00
History	\$75.00
Media Library	\$200.00
Minister's Conference	\$2,000.00
Children & Vacation Bible School	\$1,000.00
Women's Missions and Ministry	\$1,300.00
Youth	\$4,000.00
Operations & Maintenance	
General Office Expense	\$5,000.00
Postage	\$1,000.00
Utilities	\$30,000.00
Janitorial	\$5,200.00
Multi-Peril Insurance	\$25,000.00
Software (Pur, Sup, Train)	\$1,700.00
Equipment & Maintenance	\$2,154.00
Website	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Lawn Service	\$5,000.00
Heavy Equipment	\$500.00
Salaries & Benefits	
Financial Secretary	\$29,503.32
Employer Tax Expense	\$2,385.00
Other Expenses	\$600.00
Staff Appreciation	\$1,125.00
Salaries & Benefits	
AMC Salary	\$31,721.68
AMC Housing	\$26,200.00
AMC Retirement	\$22,800.00
AMC Life & Health Insurance	\$6,313.32
AMC Total Package	\$87,035.00
Administrative Exps.	
AMC Ministry Expense	\$2,000.00
AMC Auto Expense	\$2,500.00
AMC Convention/Cont. Ed	\$2,600.00
Total	\$251,577.32

# STATE MISSIONS SERVICES FOR CHURCHES AND ASSOCIATIONS EXECUTIVE TEAM

Dr. Steve Horn, Executive Director

A backwards look. A current desire.

Looking back has some benefits. Hopefully we can learn from the things we did right as well as areas where we need to do better. A reflective look back can teach us how to avoid repeating unpleasant history - if we pay attention. This perspective also allows us to see how God directed, protected, and corrected us in our efforts to serve Him and carry out His purposes for us as individuals, congregations, and our larger cooperative efforts.

As I look back at 2022, one of the highlights for me was things began to feel somewhat “normal” again. Now I realize that “normal” is subjective to some extent. I realize there were still cautions that had to be heeded, but people started to reemerge from their isolation. Congregations gathered again for worship and opportunities to minister and reach out began to reappear.

When you review the information in the following reports, I pray you’ll see how God’s hand navigated us through the challenges of the pandemic. But I also pray God will give you a sense of urgency regarding the current condition of our culture and the part He desires Louisiana Baptists (you and me) to play as we work together “to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,” Luke 1:79, NLT.

Paul Chitwood, President of our International Mission Board, has rightly proclaimed that the great problem in the world today is lostness. I concur. We address this need in Louisiana by developing a daily culture of evangelism.

God has placed much on my heart regarding this culture of evangelism. To read more, visit <https://louisianabaptists.org/DrHornBlog>.

The need for us to work together to address the lostness in our state has never been greater. Join me in praying and working toward establishing this daily culture of evangelism.

## BUSINESS AND INFORMATION SERVICES TEAM

Dale D. Lingenfelter, Director

The Business and Information Services Team serves as a support group for all the work of the LBC State Missions Services. The team provides expertise in the areas of financial accounting, information technology, facilities maintenance, office services, and human resources as well as providing hosting and program services for conferences and camps through Tall Timbers. Our goal is to enhance and support the work of all LBC Teams, so they accomplish the missions and ministry goals of the Convention.

In addition to coordinating the Annual Church Profile (ACP) process for the state, Shana Johnson serves as **Information Services** Support Manager and is responsible for the overall information technical support systems of the Convention and provides assistance to several state entities that are housed within the Baptist Building. In cooperation with other SBC state conventions and national SBC entities, Information Services has been instrumental in developing an online database of all SBC congregations and leadership. This program has become the national database for all SBC congregations and all SBC entities, both state and national. The database consists of all information collected through the ACP each year, as well as information directly communicated to the office. All information is retained to maintain historical, statistical, and leadership information for each reporting congregation.

Through her team's effort along with assistance from the entire State Mission Services Staff, ACP reporting of all Louisiana Baptist congregations maintains an above average reporting percentage within the SBC network of congregations.

The LBC **Accounting Team** provides competent tax and accounting information to Louisiana Baptist churches. In addition to supporting the finances of State Missions Services, we assist with questions on Budgeting, Accounting, Payroll Taxes, and Church Accounting issues. We are here to help you! Our contact information can be found on the LBC website. In addition, consistent with prior years, the Louisiana Baptist Convention received an excellent review on our Annual Audit Report.

**Tall Timbers** finished 2022 having bounced back fully since the 2020 pandemic. The summer of 2022 was record-breaking in camper attendance and in spiritual decisions made by campers. The properties committee of the Executive Board approved plans for a new swimming pool which will be built after summer of 2023, replacing the existing pool, which was an original structure from the time the campground opened. We have seen an increase in adult church retreats, largely thought to be a result of renovations to Lee Lodge hotel rooms. We anticipate more needs in the future for our increasing number of guests as God continues to move in the lives of those at Tall Timbers.

The Business and Information Services Team considers all its various areas of support work as ministry unto the Lord. We count it a privilege to serve our Lord by serving our colleagues and Louisiana Baptists in the work of reaching Louisiana for Christ and strengthening our churches.

### **BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY**

Mark Robinson, Director

This year we have emphasized "calling out the called" by identifying, training, and mobilizing college students that have heard the call of the Lord to serve Him in vocational ministry. This includes training students in leadership skills, evangelism, missions, and preaching. While reaching over 35,000 Louisiana college students through BCM, 1,532 students were involved in intentional discipleship training last year with 249 students leading groups. We had 615 students who served on mission, and 484 were in leadership training. From these, 101 of them have recognized the call to serve in vocational ministry. You can direct your young leaders to a website we have designed to help them navigate their way through the process of training and identifying a place of service. Go to [www.calledtoministry.org](http://www.calledtoministry.org).

Fifty student Baptist Collegiate Ministry ambassadors from campuses across the state served at the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention as registration representatives, ushers, and greeters. There was a universally positive response from the students. They enjoyed seeing the inner workings of the election process and exhibitors. One student made a profession of faith in Christ through relationships he made there, and two young men were called to ministry.

Our GOLA VBS program has expanded to involve five one-week VBS teams and one six-week team serving in Louisiana. The Wyoming VBS/Camp team served this summer all over the state and did very well inspiring a request from the Montana Baptist convention for another team that will serve there next summer. The teams served 37 churches seeing 40 first professions of faith in Christ.

Finally, BCM is championing a ministry that helps churches mobilize students from their youth group that are exploring the possibility of serving as missionaries to their high school campus. This effort has been crafted by youth and college leaders with extensive experience from across the nation. You can look into this by going to [www.studentmissionary.com](http://www.studentmissionary.com).

## COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

John Kyle, Director

Who are we talking to?

Communication is crucial for every aspect of life. Communication becomes more effective when it considers the intended audience. So, who you're talking to will shape the type and frequency of your communication.

The Communications Team focuses on two audiences. The internal audience and the external audience. The internal audience includes the various teams that comprise Louisiana Baptists (State Missions Services) and the churches. Specific platforms and tools are utilized that will hopefully connect with these audiences.

In 2022, some of the communication tools we utilized to connect with our internal audiences included email, social media, websites, videos, and targeted print pieces. Below is a quick summary:

- We sent e-newsletters to over 9,000 subscribers each week.
- We generated 539 Facebook posts resulting in a reach of 914,000 people.
- There were 118 Instagram posts that reached an additional 161,000 people.
- Twitter continues to be popular with more than 3,900 followers of @LaBaptists.
- LouisianaBaptists.org experienced over 246,000 page views and just under 5,000 downloads.
- We designed over 130 print projects that were either mailed or distributed during events.
- Over 110 new web/event pages were created for churches to learn about and sign up for upcoming events and opportunities.
- Seventy promotional videos and promotional spots were also produced to undergird these opportunities.

The Lord has blessed Louisiana Baptists with godly and talented team members who make all the above possible. Join me in giving thanks for Gavin Stevens, our Art Director and Webmaster, Steven Haney, our Production Manager, Kristina Henry, our Production Coordinator, Stacy Morgan, our Associate for Cooperative Program and Stewardship, and Leanne Treme, our Administrative Assistant.

Our second audience is the external audience. These are people who do not attend anyone's church. Some might refer to them as the "nones." We believe we have a divine charge to communicate God's good news to people we may never meet or may never attend a Louisiana Baptist Church. They are headed for a Christless eternity separated from God. Only God's truth can set them free and change their eternal destination.

Our current communication strategy for this audience is *Here for You*. This multi-platform, multi-media approach strives to creatively and consistently seed God's truth into the hearts and homes of people across our state. In 2022, here is how God used you to accomplish this charge:

- Over 90% of TV households were touched during the weeks the commercials aired on broadcast TV.
- An average of 110,000 people were reached monthly via social media.
- Streaming services reached an average of over 53,000 people every month.
- There were over 6,400 views of the online Gospel presentation.
- 884 people indicated a decision for Christ via our partnership with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

We are grateful for the seeds of God's truth being scattered. God promises some of the seeds will find good soil and produce a robust harvest. Join me in praying for laborers to gather what God has prepared. Jesus said the harvest is plentiful, but He never said it would be delivered. It has to be gathered.

Louisiana Baptists, we're scattering the seed. Let's complete the task by going out and gathering the promised harvest.

## **EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH TEAM**

Keith Manuel, Director

This past year's Evangelism Conference hosted by First, West Monroe focused on personal evangelism. Next year ECON will be January 22-23, 2024. Our host is Temple, Ruston, and we will focus on missional evangelism.

Sean Keith is your Sunday School, Discipleship, and Revitalization Strategist. First, Lafayette hosted last year's ReGroup and included a Spanish language track with an attendance of approximately 400. In addition, 300 people received small group training around the state. Fresh Start, our strategy for helping churches that need some form of revitalization, continues to connect with Pastors and churches. ReGroup was held at Jefferson, Baton Rouge, August 12, 2023. In 2024, ReGroup's locations are First, Moss Bluff, August 24, 2024, and Cypress, Benton, August 10, 2024.

Your Adult Ministries and Church Administration Strategist is Jeff Ingram. He coordinated the Senior Adult luncheon at ECON, which included over 400 participants. He also led meetings across the state for the Louisiana Association of Baptist Ministry Assistants, January Bible Study Previews, and the Bi-Vocational Ministers' Banquet. His work in Church Administration is mainly in consultations with churches/associations that cover the following areas: Pastor/Staff Salary Breakdowns; IRS Compliance; Best Practices for Church Finance Committees; Church/Associational By-Laws; Code of Ethics for Ministerial Staff; Church Staff Job Descriptions; and Sexual Harassment & Abuse.

Brandon Lewis serves as your Youth Consultant through YEC of 2024. The Youth Evangelism Celebration (YEC) ministered to over 5,300 youth and adults. Over 830 students made spiritual decisions. Summer camps at Tall Timbers saw an attendance of approximately 1,200 teens gathering for worship, equipping, and fun. Over 175 students made decisions for the Lord, with 20 responding to a call to ministry. In addition to the spiritual decisions made at camps and YEC, students learned how to share their faith and returned home equipped to impact others with the Gospel. Over 6,500 students learned how to share their faith or personal testimony to share the Good News. We are praying for a great YEC, November 19-20, 2023, at the Rapides Coliseum in Alexandria.

Serving as your Children's Ministry Strategist is David Anderson. This year our children's camps at Tall Timbers had an attendance of over 1,200. We had 120 children make professions of faith and gave \$10,000 to missions. VBS trainings allowed approximately 500 workers to learn how to lead their congregations through the most effective evangelistic outreach across the SBC. David also assists our churches with the State Bible Drill, Childhood Education Workshops, and a statewide retreat for Children's Ministers.

The Evangelism & Church Growth Team loves to serve you by training your leaders and church members in evangelism, discipleship, administration, and age-group ministries. You can get updates from our team on Facebook by liking and following our page, "Evangelism & Church Growth Team of Louisiana Baptists."

## **MISSIONS AND MINISTRY TEAM**

James Jenkins, Interim Director

Reaching Louisiana for Jesus is the primary goal of the Missions and Ministry Team of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Church Planting, Compassion Ministries, Baptist Men/Disaster Relief, Women's Missions and Ministry, Mission Builders, and Partnership Missions all focusing their attention on helping our churches to build a culture of evangelism in Louisiana. Below you will find the reports from every area of our work.

### **Church Planting**

James Jenkins, Lane Corley, Carlos Schmidt, Jeff Cook

The Louisiana Baptist Executive Board voted in May 2023 to strengthen the state convention's relationship with the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) Send Network. As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, the state's church planting platform is now Send Network Louisiana. The convention joined 25 other state conventions and 32 Send Cities as part of the Send Network.

The vision of the Send Network is to see God's kingdom expand, over the next decade, through churches planting churches that will collectively evangelize and baptize at least one percent of the lost population of North America.

The Church Planting team is comprised of Lane Corley, our new SEND Network Louisiana Director, Carlos Schmidt, Language Church Planting and Partnership Missions Strategist, and Jeff Cook, Non-Traditional Church Planting Strategist.

Our church planting team entered the new SEND Network partnership with NAMB after successfully utilizing an associational strategy called 10-3-1 to plant 301 new congregations from 2010 to 2022. New congregations were planted in over 100 cities and towns. Over 16,000 people have found Christ in these churches, and today 10% of all worshippers in SBC churches in our state worship in a church planted or replanted since 2010.

Church planting has helped Louisiana Baptists to reach people groups including Anglo, African American, Vietnamese, Burmese, Chinese, Korean, Haitians, Eritrean, Arabic, Hispanic, and Portuguese.

### **Language Missions and Partnership Missions**

Carlos Schmidt

In the past several years, we have used a simple church strategy in language church planting. In the past year, we conducted simple church training in Lafayette, Opelousas, and five separate locations in New Orleans with a total attendance of 320.

Our simple church trainings prepared volunteers for the Crossover event before SBC. The results of Hispanic Crossover were: 405 volunteers, 1,942 people served, 676 gospel conversations, eighty people trusted Christ, 1,761 meals served, and 110 volunteers served in construction projects. There are three new traditional Hispanic Church plants being started in the New Orleans areas of Lakeshore and Michaud; one replant in Algiers; and three Asian works, Chinese in Baton Rouge and Slidell, and a Vietnamese work in Plaquemine.

Partnership Missions was instrumental in mobilizing churches to Senegal, Colombia, Mexico, and Spain. Current partnerships still include Haiti, Belarus, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Piedras Negras, Mexico, Cape Bretton Island Canada, Yucatan Mexico, Indonesia, Senegal, London, Colombia, and Madrid. Louisiana Baptists also hosted a Hispanic Mobilization Conference at Tall Timbers with an attendance of 120 participants.

## **Compassion Ministries**

Jeffrey Cook

Compassion Ministry seeks to: 1) Meet needs, 2) Build Trust, 3) Share the Gospel, and 4) Connect people to the local church. Compassion ministry is evangelism through such strategies as ESL (English as a Second Language), Christmas Backpack Ministry, Drug Recovery, and food pantries.

Jeff continues to develop his team of Association Compassion Missionaries (ACM) in several associations across the state. Each ACM is tasked to lead and start new compassion ministries.

One major Compassion Ministry goal is to have a multi-function Compassion led Non-Traditional Church Plant in every major city. We now have these types of churches started and sustained in New Orleans and Shreveport. We have added two Drug Recovery Ministries/Church Plants in both Gilbert and West Monroe, LA. Churches that are closing in rural areas are being replanted with compassion ministries and non-traditional church plants.

The Compassion Ministry web page is being revamped with a Compassion Ministry Readiness Tool, inspiring videos from compassion leaders and free how-to pages for starting Compassion Ministry.

In the past year, Jeff has led training for Police and Fire Chaplains, Lay Church Planting, and coaches for church planters.

## **Men's Ministries and Disaster Relief**

Stanley Statham

Since our last report, Louisiana has suffered multiple severe thunderstorms and tornadoes in several areas of the state. We have deployed chainsaw teams, chaplains, our quick response feeding unit, and shower trailers to multiple locations. Additionally, LA DR deployed to Naples, FL last summer and joined with TBM (Texas Baptist Men) to run one of the major DR Sites for almost six weeks. The site included shower/laundry units, IMT (Incident Management Team), chainsaw teams, mud out teams, chaplains, and LA's largest feeding unit (Rolling Hills).

We are currently developing a training program for our DR Training leaders. The goal is to develop a "Training Cadre" equipped with the tools to provide the best training possible for our volunteers. We are expanding the training possibilities through online training, in-person training, and hybrid courses.

The Disaster Relief Rebuild Ministry continues to grow. We currently are focusing on the Point Aux Chenes area which is predominantly an American Indian tribe. Former IMB missionaries, Marvin and Debbie Savoie are serving as our on-site coordinators who coordinate volunteer rebuild teams. They are also building relationships in the community which has impacted Live Oak Baptist Church, an LBC church that has seen its first baptisms in four years.

## Volunteer Mobilization and Mission Builders

Mark Morelock & Mark Jelks

This year has been another great year for the Louisiana Baptists Mission Builder program. We again had a great response of volunteers to assist with the labor of church building projects within our state.

We have hosted many volunteers in coordination with churches and their membership supporting and working alongside one another. We have seen three projects completed during this time, as well as three on-going projects which include one mission church project at 93% completion.

We recently broke ground on a new project and have another new mission church project scheduled to start this winter. In addition to the current project load, there are several mission church projects and church growth opportunities in the planning phases.

One of the highlights was the dedication of Immanuel Community Church in New Orleans in June. Although the project was filled with many challenges, the church is now operating in a vital location for reaching the city for Jesus. There had not been a church at this location since Hurricane Katrina, but now the neighborhood is welcoming a Louisiana Baptists presence once again.

We are looking forward to more project dedications and to another great year of service to our Louisiana Baptists partners. We are excited to continue supporting the advancement of the Gospel and Kingdom building through our Mission Builder program.

## Women's Missions and Ministry

Christine Gill & Erin Jones

Women's Missions and Ministry (WMM) events are thriving in 2022-2023. We are excited to share how God is using Louisiana Baptist women to serve in and minister throughout our state.

**Embrace**, the annual WMM conference for all Louisiana Baptist women, was held in April 2023 at FBC Natchitoches, and 226 women attended. This event will be held in April 2024 at FBC New Orleans. **Embrace** 2024 will celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WMU in Louisiana!

In June 2023, Louisiana WMM hosted National WMU for its annual **WMU Missions Adventure and Celebration**, which occurred in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

Two **Women Who Lead** training events are scheduled in Northwest (Shreveport) and Eastern/BAGBR (Denham Springs) Associations before the end of 2023. Last year, **Women Who Lead** events trained women in District 8 (Natchitoches), Northeast (West Monroe), Northshore/Washington (Franklinton), and Cenla (Ball).

WMM led Louisiana Baptist women to donate and pack over five-hundred gift boxes for incarcerated women in 2022. The Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW) is allowing visitors to distribute giftboxes within the prison this year.

**Ministers' Wives Retreat**, a weekend of renewal and appreciation for our ministers' wives in the state, took place in October 2022. The retreat for 2023 is scheduled for October 20-21 at Tall Timbers.

Louisiana Baptist churches remained generous in their giving for 2022. Our prayer is to be joined by more mission giving churches in 2023.

- Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering (Jan. 1-Dec. 2022)  
Received \$1,676,961.33                      State Goal \$1,700,000

- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions (Sept. 1, 2022-Aug. 31, 2023)  
(Report current as of June 2023)  
Received \$4,544,621.59                      State Goal \$5,200,000
- Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions (Jan. 1, 2022-Dec. 31, 2022)  
Received \$1,607,327.30                      State Goal \$2,200,000

The WMM team welcomed Erin Jones as the new Children & Youth Mission Education Strategist in January 2023. Erin led our camp efforts in 2023 where there were 356 in attendance for Children’s Mission Camp and 280 in attendance for Mini MAC bringing the total attendance to 636. This number represents 31 different churches. Ten decisions were made to follow Christ along with one student who feels the call into missions. Eighteen college age students from BCMs around the state were hired and served as staff helping lead Bible studies and the different camp activities. Over \$1,500 was collected for the Georgia Barnette Missions Offering.

### **PASTORAL LEADERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

Ray Swift, Director

As I continue in my third year with the convention I continue to focus and learn better the reason the Lord brought me to Louisiana Baptists. Essentially, I see my purpose as to LOVE, LISTEN, LEAD, and LIFT UP Louisiana Baptist pastors and churches.

Believing more so today that healthy pastors produce healthy churches, I will continue to intentionally focus on pastor wellness: emotional, financial, physical, relational, and spiritual. With that focus the Lord is showing me two specific avenues/paths to make this happen. 1) Helping Louisiana Baptist pastors have a good start in their call and in their church; 2) Helping Louisiana Baptist pastors stay true to their call and to stay longer at their church as God leads so.

**The following resources are available to help churches and pastors make a good start:**

- > **Resume Services:** [www.goservela.org](http://www.goservela.org) This website helps pastors review other ministry opportunities and gives churches the opportunity of posting a ministry position.
- > **Pastor Search Committee training:** guide churches through a deliberate process and to help churches select the right candidate.
- > **Deacon Training:** the New Testament ministry of the Deacon is a needed component for the pastor and church.
- > **New Pastor/Wife fellowship:** introduction to the State Missions Services Staff, the convention entities, and the Louisiana Baptist Convention building, for fellowship with other pastors and wives.

**These resources are provided to help pastors stay longer:**

- > **Pastor Appreciation month – October:** we all need encouragement from time to time and October helps us show love and appreciation to all our pastors.
- > **Pause Retreat:** weekend for pastors/wives at Tall Timbers Conference Center. A wonderful time of worship, teaching, and fellowship.
- > **Shepherd’s Rest:** sabbatical for pastors to get away to refresh and renew.
- > **Granberry Counseling:** we are blessed and privileged to partner with the wonderful staff and counselors at Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home & Family Ministers for this service.
- > **Church Conflict Summit:** 18% left a church due to church conflict; 13% for burnout, 12% poor fit with church. Conflict can be managed and dealt with Biblically.

**Sexual Abuse Response Council (SARC)** continues to provide new and updated resources to churches and individuals for all matters related to Sexual Abuse. Information is available at our website [www.louisianabaptists.org](http://www.louisianabaptists.org) – resources.

**Singing Ministers & Singing Women:** These volunteers gather each August to prepare for concerts in local churches, detention centers, youth intervention programs, and prisons. As they share their talents, they also share their faith. For more information visit [LouisianaBaptists.org/pastors](https://LouisianaBaptists.org/pastors).

With sincerity of heart and with an abundance of joy it is my pleasure to serve all of Louisiana Baptists.

### ***LOUISIANA BAPTIST MESSAGE***

Dr. Will Hall, Executive Editor

#### **BAPTIST MESSAGE**

In 2023, the *Baptist Message* celebrated its 104th anniversary of ministry with Louisiana Baptists and completed 138 years of service overall as the *Baptist Chronicle* and the *Baptist Message*.

We continue to remain committed to reporting the Good News that defines the cooperative missions and ministries of Louisiana Baptists as well as the stories of congregations and individuals that offer to inspire and equip others.

This year we had the special opportunity to work with the other 41 members of the Association of State Baptist Publications to provide coverage of the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, which was held in New Orleans.

We specifically helped coordinate coverage of several related evangelistic initiatives that preceded the business meeting, including Crossover and the Serve Tour. These fell short of a goal for 2,023 salvation decisions, but still recorded 336 souls won largely because of a weekend of block parties, door-to-door witnessing, prayer walks, compassion projects, and other evangelistic efforts by 1,300 volunteers from 21 states. We helped Southern Baptists see the many changed lives among the 12,180 persons who were touched by this cooperative outreach, and the potential for even more spiritual miracles because of the 3,487 Gospel conversations that took place.

Our *Baptist Message* team published a special edition for the 2023 SBC Annual Meeting, highlighting the living legacy of soul-winning in our state with features about:

- Joseph Willis, who swam the Mississippi on the back of the mule to carry the Gospel to Louisiana.
- Georgia Barnette, who for 25 years championed Louisiana Baptists to engage in missions and ministries to reach our state.
- M.E. Dodd (FBC Shreveport), who was the catalyst behind the development of the Cooperative Program for the SBC; and
- Billy Graham's several crusades in the state, including on the campus of Louisiana College when he was a candidate for president of the school.

Importantly, the special edition also featured the pastors, evangelists, church planters, and others who continue to keep alive this rich heritage of soul winning today.

During the 2022 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Vision 3030 was launched with ambitious goals to grow the LBC from about 1,600 churches to 2,000 LBC congregations by 2030 through: connecting 125 churches; saving 125 churches; replanting 125 churches; planting 225 new churches; and performing 25,000 baptisms.

Now those goals will be pursued under the Send Louisiana Network, a church planting partnership with the North American Mission Board which was announced by the LBC Executive Board in May and officially began August 1. NAMB has pledged \$300,000 per year through 2025 to support church planting, and \$150,000 annually afterward. Also, church planters and their families will have access to a year of free health insurance through GuideStone, supplemental start-up grants, and a year of support beyond the three-year LBC commitment to church planters.

The *Baptist Message* will prioritize coverage of this joint effort and how the partnership benefits church planting efforts in our state.

In March, the *Baptist Message* had the fortunate opportunity to interview former Vice President Mike Pence and shared about this key Christian leader's prayerful search for a "clear sense of our calling" about the 2024 presidential campaign. Finally, the *Baptist Message* is in a positive financial position, with our strong ad revenues and Cooperative Program support in 2023 supplemented by a \$31,000 Employee Retention Credit tax refund from the Internal Revenue Service.

## **OFFICE OF PUBLIC POLICY**

Louisiana Baptists were highly successful in shaping the culture of our state through the work of the Office of Public Policy.

Messengers to the 2022 LBC Annual Meeting adopted four resolutions which addressed various moral issues and social concerns, and each of these were translated into public policies of the state.

House Bill 648, authored by Rep. Gabe Firment, a deacon with the First Baptist Church in Pollock, was shaped in large part by "RESOLUTION 2: ON PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM PERMANENT HARM OF SEX CHANGE SURGERIES AND DRUGS." Also known as the "Stop Harming Our Kids Act," the legislation specifically prohibits doctors and therapists from performing sex change surgeries and prescribing puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones simply to change a child's appearance from his or her biological sex. Additionally, the bill, which now will become law, Jan. 1, 2024, allows children victimized in this way to file a lawsuit up to the age of 30.

Rep. Dodie Horton, a member with the First Baptist Church in Haughton, joined by Rep. Valerie Hodges as co-sponsor, championed House Resolution, which put into policy "RESOLUTION 1: ON THANKING GOD FOR THE SUPREME COURT'S PRO-LIFE RULING IN DOBBS V. JACKSON." Consequently, each June will be recognized as "Sanctity of Preborn Life Month" in Louisiana. The measure was made official with the signatures of the Speaker of the House Clay Schexnayder and Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin.

Based on "RESOLUTION 4: ON A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THOSE EXPERIENCING MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, RELATIONAL AND ADDICTION ISSUES," HR 71, drafted by Rep. Laurie Schlegel, establishes a subcommittee within the House Committee on Health and Welfare "to study the mental health crisis plaguing the citizens of Louisiana and the resources available to assist individuals with a mental health diagnosis in this state." The first meeting of this panel is set for August 24.

Sen. Beth Mizell, the president pro tempore of the Senate and a member with the First Baptist Church in Franklinton, shepherded Senate Resolution 96 through the legislative process to create a task force "to study acute and long-term adverse health events related to medical marijuana." This aligns with "RESOLUTION 3: ON PROTECTING LOUISIANA'S YOUTH FROM THE HARMS OF MARIJUANA."

Finally, in March, Steve Horn, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, reached out to the Office of Public Policy to share that churches were contacting the state missions office about insurance notices of nonrenewal and soaring premiums due to the four hurricanes of 2021-22. Church Mutual announced it was withdrawing from Louisiana below the I-10 corridor, and then out of the state altogether. Meanwhile, premiums with another major insurer soared, and a third company has been severely selective in what churches it picked up from those dropped by other companies.

Sen. Robert Mills, a member with the First Baptist Church in Bossier City, with co-sponsor Sen. Katrina Jackson, pushed through SB 147 which establishes a church self-insurance program. So, legal authority is in place to begin the program. However, the one-time seed money needed to set up the program was deleted from the budget bill, HB 1. The Office of Public Policy is working with state and national leaders, as well as other possible sources, to find the necessary funds to get the authorized program up and running. The program will then be sustained via the premiums paid by churches and other faith-based organizations that join the cooperative, officially known as the "Louisiana Churches and Nonprofit Religious Organizations Self-Insured Fund."

Other conservative voices joined with Louisiana Baptists to champion other legislation, while successfully standing firm to defeat some onerous bills.

Sen. Mizell successfully shepherded SB 63, a religious liberty initiative, through the legislative process. The measure will be listed as “Amendment #2” on statewide ballots, and if approved by voters on October 14, 2023, the

Constitution of Louisiana would be amended “to provide that the freedom of worship in a church or other place of worship is a fundamental right that is worthy of the highest order of protection.”

Meanwhile, the Office of Public Policy collaborated with pro-life forces to defeat HB 598 (by Rep. Candace Newell) and HB 549 (by Rep. Cedric Glover) which would have modified state pro-life laws to allow exceptions for rape and incest. Three other similar bills were subsequently tabled or otherwise killed through the legislative process. Likewise, HB 40, sponsored by Rep. Delisha Boyd, which would have established special rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity was defeated in committee.

Finally, the Office of Public Policy was the only testimony against three bills which would have legalized recreational marijuana or otherwise set the stage for legalization. All three, HB 17, HB 24 and HB 612, written by Rep. Newell, were soundly voted down during the first hearing for each.

### **LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION**

Dr. Jeffrey Steed, Executive Director

Thank you, Louisiana Baptists, for the opportunity to partner in ministry. God is continuing to bless your Louisiana Baptist Foundation, and we are grateful. We ended 2022 with over \$229 million in assets under management that represents funds owned by Louisiana Baptist churches and other ministries, as well as gifts perpetually managed for Kingdom-impact. Every dollar generated on these funds represents another dollar to advance the Kingdom by spreading the Gospel.

The Foundation continues to execute its LBF Vision200™ strategic plan as it seeks to partner with churches and other ministries. We are driven to advance the Kingdom...*one dollar at a time, one ministry at a time, one life at a time.* The overall vision of this plan is to specifically advance the Kingdom through the Foundation’s ministry by \$200 million over the next twenty years or less. Specifically, the Foundation will benefit the Kingdom through (1) facilitating planned gifts (example: non-cash gifts, estate gifts, charitable gift annuities, endowments, donor-advised funds, and other special gifts beyond cash) and (2) serving churches and other ministries with funds management, as well as other services to enhance their impact. As of the end of 2022, the Foundation’s current Kingdom-impact amount achieved is \$19.5+ million towards the 20-year goal of achieving the \$200 million impact level.

To accomplish the goal of \$200 million over the next 20 years or less, the Foundation is focusing on four overall objectives:

(1) Planned Giving:

The following are provided for a comprehensive planned giving emphasis:

- A. Providing educational content to churches such as the *Louisiana Legacy* publication to provide members with practical ways they can benefit their church beyond cash,
- B. Speaking in churches and other ministry organizations to educate constituents on being good stewards related to their estates,
- C. Providing an online platform for giving non-cash gifts to churches and ministries ([www.Giving-Gateway.net](http://www.Giving-Gateway.net)),
- D. Having robust and comprehensive planned giving website content,
- E. Sending periodic communications to constituents,
- F. Providing confidential one-on-one meetings with prospective donors on benefiting the Kingdom,
- G. Encouraging individuals to have an impact on their family through their estates while also impacting the Kingdom through their estates,
- H. Having the infrastructure in place to facilitate the logistics of special gifts, and

I. Providing an opportunity for every Louisiana Baptist to obtain a free basic Will document when at least tithing his/her estate to a church and/or other ministry.

(2) Church/Ministry Services: The Foundation helps churches and other ministries earn more money on their God-given funds for the sake of having more money to fulfill ministry purposes and to impact lives with the Gospel. As an example, the Short-Term Fund helps ministries by allowing them to earn more on their cash reserves and designated accounts than they would at a typical bank. In 2022, additional church-business related services were added through our emphasis, ChurchBiz Central™, to add value to churches and other ministries. These additional services include accounting services, a computer support line, and online giving services.

(3) Comprehensive Marketing Plan: The Foundation continues to have a comprehensive communication plan that utilizes multiple communication channels and platforms that focus on the Foundation's services to help advance the Kingdom.

(4) Operations: The Foundation will continue to have a well-skilled and well-experienced staff that seeks to provide churches and ministries with top-tier service to help those organizations further enhance their impact on the Kingdom.

Through God's guidance, the LBF Vision200™ strategic plan is helping the Foundation move forward in advancing the Kingdom...*one dollar at a time, one ministry at a time, one life at a time*. The Foundation is grateful to Louisiana Baptists for the many partnerships in ministry around the state. Please contact the Foundation by phone at 877-523-4636 or by email [contact@LBInfo.org](mailto:contact@LBInfo.org) if we can serve you.

## **LOUISIANA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME AND FAMILY MINISTRIES**

Dr. Perry Hancock, President and CEO

In its 124<sup>th</sup> year of ministry Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries continued its mission of providing love, care, and hope in Christ for children and families in need. The Children's Home provided a positive Christian witness through its residential child and family care programs, foster care and adoption ministries, Granberry Counseling Centers, Minister Care Residential program, Women's Learning Center, Compassion for Kids, and Orphans Embrace.

The Children's Home provided ministry services for over 6,800 children, families, and individuals. Through its on-campus and off-campus residential programs, 120 children and 30 homeless mothers were served. An additional 264 families received placement referral services.

Granberry Counseling Centers provided professional Christian counseling for 861 individuals. Through its Minister Care program, a partnership with the Louisiana Baptist Convention Pastoral Leadership division, Granberry provided counseling for 41 Louisiana Baptist minister families.

Women's Learning Center (formerly Christian Women's Job Corps) provided educational and job skills training for 34 women and support services for 126 additional women. The ministry maintained its adult education certification as an official HiSET training and testing site. Additional certifications including Paraprofessional Education and Banking Services were added to the curriculum. Each day, WLC staff lead the students in Bible study and prayer.

Through its Compassion for Kids ministry, the Children's Home served over 5,400 economically challenged children and family members. During the SBC Serve Tour in New Orleans and a church event in Monroe, 20,880 ready-to-cook meals and a gospel witness were provided for over 5,000 individuals.

The Children's Home also shared God's love in word and deed through its international orphan care ministry, Orphans Embrace. Eighteen children were served through Louisiana Reach Haiti. During the year, the children's village was relocated from Croix-des-Bouquets to Cap-Haitien.

Trustees approved a major expansion of Compassion for Kids for 2024. The expansion includes the construction of a 15,000 square foot Compassion Center in Monroe. The center will meet local needs and will provide products to other compassion ministries throughout the state. The ministry could provide a gospel witness for as many as 25,000 people annually.

In January of 2024, the Children's Home will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Special events are planned throughout the year to recognize the impact Louisiana Baptists have made on the lives of children and families in need.

Louisiana Baptist churches once again provided support for the Children's Home through the Cooperative Program and the Annual Children's Home Sunday Offering. Churches also met the needs of the children and families through the Fall Food Roundup, VBS offerings, and other special projects.

As a result of the support from our churches and the witness provided by the various ministries of the Home, many children and family members experienced the joy of salvation in Christ. Others made new commitments to the Lord. Thank you, Louisiana Baptists, for meeting needs and changing lives in Jesus' name through your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries.

## **LOUISIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Rick Brewer, President

Louisiana Christian University has been blessed this past year. Across campus, you can feel the Holy Spirit at work, and I thank the Lord every day for allowing me to be a part of His great plans here in Central Louisiana.

Part of our mission at LCU is to ensure we tackle the current issues in today's secular culture. Rather than shy away from controversial—and downright evil—bombarding our youth in popular media, in school classrooms, and even in some churches, we strive to engage students in learning how to respond and react based on God's word. Christians must be able to stand up to sin.

This year LCU hosted well-known speakers who addressed Critical Race Theory, if God is good then why does evil exist, abortion, same-sex attraction, and America's founding values. We will not waiver in our responsibility to uphold godly values and train tomorrow's leaders on biblical ideals.

Today's students are tomorrow's parents, pastors, physicians, teachers, and leaders in industry. We must prepare them well.

It's been an incredibly busy year in the Ray and Dorothy Young School of Business.

The Jonathan E. Martin MBA program was officially dedicated in the fall, and its first students graduated in the May 2023 commencement.

The first Maggie Martin Marketplace Leadership Summit was held in April with the founder of Auntie Anne Pretzels, Anne Beiler, as the keynote speaker.

A \$1.25 million gift from Ellis and Heather Fowler to create the Mary Martin Fowler Endowed Chair in the JEM MBA program will allow expanded teaching, research and scholarship by attracting world-class faculty. They have also established a scholarship fund to attract top-notch Louisiana students to stay in Louisiana to attend the MBA program.

In addition, the Young School of Business has partnered with the Ron Blue Institute. This gives LCU business students a significant marketplace leadership advantage, as it allows them access to all the intellectual property and wisdom from Blue's 50 years as the most-respected leader nationally in biblical financial management.

LCU has also announced a fifth graduate program to start in August 2023. The Master of Strategic Leadership (MSL) will be housed within the Young School of Business and offers the opportunity for students with any undergraduate degree the opportunity to become leaders in their particular fields. Our other four graduate programs are the Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT), Master of Education (MEd), and the Master of Social Work (MSW).

Nineteen LCU alumni were recognized as top educators in Rapides Parish School District. All earned degrees or educational credentials at the university, and we couldn't be prouder of them and how they represent the wonderful education at LCU.

LCU has announced the launch of the Louisiana Christian Scholars Academy for fall 2023. LCSA will allow high school students to earn an associate of arts degree in general studies by the time they complete high school, while being taught by our university faculty from a biblical perspective. This also provides significant cost savings for college.

In athletics, our varsity student-athletes attained a cumulative GPA for the year of 3.04. This is a remarkable achievement. But LCU is even prouder of these students for receiving the Red River Athletic Conference Sportsmanship Award for the second year in a row. Knowing our student-athletes and our coaching staff are sharing our mission and vision in their sportsmanship on and off the playing field gives me great joy.

We continue to improve facilities and landscaping across campus. The Hattie B. Strother Dining Hall has had a complete makeover with up-to-date furnishings as well as dining options to accommodate students with dietary restrictions.

In addition, a beautiful and solemn addition to campus, the Joshua D. Perry Prayer Garden will be dedicated Tuesday, October 2.

We are grateful for the support from over 3,200 individuals and organizations providing more than \$50 million in unrestricted and restricted support since 2015.

Thank you all for your continued financial and spiritual support for LCU—its students, faculty, and staff. We could not do it without you.

## **BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY REPORT**

Southeastern Louisiana University

Joe Lune, Director

The Baptist College Ministry at Southeastern Louisiana University strives to equip students to be mature followers of Jesus that impact the campus with the Gospel and help transform the world around us.

1. **LEADERSHIP TEAM**—A total of 15 students serve on the BCM Leadership Team. These students strategize, plan, coordinate, and implement the activities and various ministries at the BCM. This year we are pushing much more the idea of personal discipleship for the student leaders themselves as well as the students that are in their groups. For the first time in my time at Southeastern, students are starting to disciple students. We are currently training 18 students that would like to join leadership.
2. **ATTENDANCE**—300+ students attended one or more BCM ministries or events so far during the 2023-2024 school year. This is up significantly from last year.
3. **FUSE**—FUSE is held every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. FUSE is a time of praise and worship followed by the studying of God's Word. We are averaging 80 students each week. This semester we have added a Coffee House mixer before Fuse every week. This is an opportunity to build relationships over coffee and snacks. This has been a great opportunity for service for some of our inreach team.
4. **INREACH TEAM**—Inreach is a newer part of our leadership team. They are responsible for greeting new students when they come in for Fuse and Free Lunch as well as making sure people feel tended to during our events. This is lead by one of our leadership team members, but any student is able to join.
5. **BIBLE STUDY GROUPS**—The BCM sponsors a variety of Bible study groups each week. These Bible studies meet at various times and locations. These Bible studies are led by students who are on the BCM Leadership Team

6. SPARK GROUPS—Spark groups are basically bible studies on steroids. They meet weekly for Bible study but each of the members of the group are encouraged to get into deeper discipleship with the leader. For example, 2 leaders in a group, 10 members in the group, each leader meets in smaller groups for more focused discipleship and life on life ministry. This life on life ministry includes; relational evangelism, mission mobilization, evangelism and prayer on campus, training for leadership, spiritual growth and development. Spark Groups are also tasked with the community apologetic; inviting non-believing friends into social activities with Christians so they can see the love we have for each other.

7. SUMMER MISSIONS—About 20 BCM students served as summer missionaries through the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the North American Mission Board, the International Mission Board, and in various camp settings. This is almost double last year's number.

8. INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY—BCM is attempting to restart an international ministry. With the help of some of our local churches we are attempting to build bridges in that area, prayer for that would be much appreciated. This year we were able to host an international potluck with over 100 in attendance. We have been successful in reaching out to a number Nigerian students and they are interested in helping us reach more.

9. GO GROUPS—Go groups are small groups of 2 to 3 students that share the gospel on campus with classmates or strangers. There are nearly 30 students involved currently with GO Groups which has had a few main benefits: 1.) We've seen multiple students come to know the Lord through sharing the gospel on campus, 2.) It helps Christian college students sharpen their skills and boldness in sharing the gospel, 3.) Aids in discipleship, 4.) Brings new students into BCM and our local churches by default, 5.) Builds bridges of understanding between BCM students and secular students.

10. Vision moving forward... God has placed a strong desire in me to see students on the campus of SELU be introduced to Jesus and grow into mature followers of Jesus. We have already implemented leadership training for students interested in growing as leaders. We have also implemented impact training to train leaders to engage the culture of the campus and seek the restoration of the broken. That being broken people as well as physical things that can be repaired. My hope is to develop leaders who have a deep desire to become all things to all people so that some may be saved. As that happens, my prayer is that we will see an influx of students that do not have a church background that we can help disciple and send into our local churches to be a blessing and support, thus increasing the overall church attendance in this area.

## Goals

- To train and equip 20 new leaders that are ready to start leading by the end of the school year
- To see 15 students surrender their lives to Christ through the ministry of the BCM to campus
- To see 20 students equipped and sent out to the mission field
- To start a culture of discipleship that includes evangelism and mission mobilization.
- To build stronger ties with churches in the associations we relate with
- To see most of the students involved in our spark groups involved in personal discipleship

I want to thank you for your continued financial support and encouragement. The BCM would not possibly reach our campus if it were not for your support. I would ask that you pray for the BCM staff and students as we impact our campus for Jesus Christ. I would also like to invite you to let us know how we can assist you in your ministry. We would be happy to help you in any way we can.

Joe Luna  
SELU Baptist Collegiate Ministry

# 2023-24 ELBA CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Every Tuesday – Pastor Prayer Time – 10:00am VIA Zoom

## OCTOBER 2023

- 2 Annual Meeting, Hebron Baptist
- 16 National Bosses Day
- 22 Day of Prayer for Association Missions
- 24 ELBA Children's Ministry Training

## NOVEMBER 2023

- 4 WMM "Women Who Lead" - Judson
- 6 Ministers' Conference
- 14 LBC Annual Meeting, Franklin Ave BC
- 20 YEC – Alexandria, LA
- 23-24 ELBA Offices Closed – Thanksgiving

## DECEMBER 2023

- 4 ELBA Christmas Party – Northside BC
- 3-9 Week of Prayer - Lottie Moon Missions
- 25 Christmas Day
- 20-1/3 ELBA Offices Closed – Holidays

## JANUARY 2024

- 1 New Year's Day
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 15 Association Council – 10am ELBA
- 21 Sanctity of Human Life

## FEBRUARY 2024

- 2-3 DR Training – Philadelphia Baptist
- 5 Executive Board
- 5-6 Kid Min Retreat - Natchitoches
- 18 Focus on WMU Sunday
- 23-24 DR Training – DeRidder
- 25 Racial Reconciliation Day

## MARCH 2024

- 2 Kid Min Expo
- 8 DR Training – Baton Rouge
- 3-10 Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Offering – NAMB
- 10 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 19 Spring Begins
- 29 Good Friday
- 31 Easter Sunday

## APRIL 2024

- 2 Baptism Sunday
- 12 DR Training – Ruston
- 13 Scholarship Forms Due
- 19 EMBRACE Women's Conference – NO
- 19 DR Training – Sulphur
- 22 Association Council – 10:am ELBA

- 24 Administrative Professional's Day

## MAY 2024

- 2 National Day of Prayer
- 6 Executive Board
- 12 Mother's Day
- 18 M-Jam - Lutcher
- 27 Memorial Day – ELBA Offices Closed

## JUNE 2024

- 2 Disaster Relief Sunday
- 3-6 Kids Camp 1, Tall Timbers
- 10-13 Kids Camp 2, Tall Timbers
- 11-12 SBC Annual Meeting – Indianapolis, IN
- 16 Father's Day
- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 Summer Begins
- 20-22 Breakaway Youth 1 – Tall Timbers
- 25 State WMM Leadership Team Meeting
- 24-28 Breakaway Youth 2 – Tall Timbers

## JULY 2024

- 1-5 Breakaway Youth 3 – Tall Timbers
- 4 Independence Day – Offices Closed
- 7 Religious Liberty Sunday
- 22 Association Council
- 22-25 Children's Mission Camp–TallTimbers

## AUGUST 2024

- 5 Executive Board – 6:30pm
- 10 Regroup Conference-Moss Bluff
- 24 ReGroup North - Benton
- 25 Global Hunger Sunday

## SEPTEMBER 2024

- 2 Labor Day – Offices Closed
- 6-8 Champions Camp – Tall Timbers
- 8-15 Week of Prayer for Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering
- 21 Children's Missions Day
- 23 Association Council – 10am ELBA

## OCTOBER 2024

- 7 ELBA's Annual Meeting – Judson BC