

# Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association

182<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL SESSION

2024

PROGRAM

&

BOOK OF REPORTS



“Together We Do What We Cannot Do Alone”



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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**  
**EASTERN LOUISIANA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

182<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting

October 7, 2024

Judson Baptist Church (moved to Walker Baptist Church)  
Walker, LA

**Welcome.....**Dr. Jason McNaughten

**Song Celebration .....** “My Lighthouse”.....Bro. Tim Richardson

**Call to Order .....**Bro. Johnny Morgan

**Motion to Seat Messengers**

**Motion to Adopt:**

Book of Reports (exception on pages 4-10)

Arrangements Committee Report

Resolutions Committee Report

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

**Songs of Praise .....** “Always”..... Bro. Tim Richardson

**Recognition of New Pastors and Staff**

**Songs of Praise .....** “10,000 Reasons – Bless the Lord” .....Bro. Tim Richardson

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker.....**Bro. Johnny Morgan

**Celebrating Challenge from God’s Word .....**Bro. Kirk Jones

**Songs of Challenge .....** “Lord, I Need You”.....Bro. Tim Richardson

**Benediction**

**Adjourn to Serve and Minister**

## **ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Arrangements Committee recommends that the 183rd Annual Session of the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association be held on Monday, October 6, 2025, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at Colyell Baptist Church, Livingston, Louisiana

### **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION To Judson Baptist Church and Walker Baptist Church**

Whereas Judson Baptist Church, Pastor Dr. David Lane, has graciously prepared the meal at Walker Baptist Church due to air conditioning mechanical trouble at their location; and Walker Baptist Church, Pastor Dr. Jason McNaughten, has graciously served the meal and hosted the One Hundred Eighty-Second Annual Meeting of the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association, at the last minute, and

Whereas, the worship team of Walker Baptist Church and under the leadership of Bro. Tim Richardson has graciously led in the music and worship periods of the meeting at Walker Baptist Church, and

Be it resolved that the messengers of the One Hundred Eighty-Second 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

I am thankful to have served you and the churches of Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association for the past six years. I am working with our associational leadership to recommend administrative changes I believe that will help our association moving forward. We are grateful for the willingness of Judson Baptist Church to host our meeting, but with their air conditioning calamity, I am grateful for their cooperation with Walker Baptist Church for the last-minute change of venue for this year's annual meeting.

**Constitution and By-laws:** The Constitution and Strategy Team is recommending changes in the associational operation and the constitution and by-laws to support these changes. The proposed changes can be seen on the pages following my report. (changes highlighted in yellow)

Our association has faced some financial challenges in the past year that has resulted in a reduction of our missions giving to the SLU-BCM and Camp Living Waters. Associational and church leaders are working with The Way Church Livingston for them to be able to pay for their own utilities and insurance that the association has been paying.

### **Three considerations we must face with our ELBA Properties:**

1. Guide One Insurance will discontinue Wind and Hail coverage for the ELBA Mission and Ministry Center and the Beech Ridge property in March 2025. This change also applies to many church buildings insured by Guide One or possibly other church insurance carriers in our association.
2. ELBA entered into a contract with Covington Real Estate to sale the associations US 190 property and the Comar Industrial Park Lot 9. Johnny Morgan was elected by the ELBA Executive Board in August to serve as Trustee to negotiate and return to the Executive Board or Executive Team any offers for the sale of these properties. There is the possible sale of these properties after the first of the year.
3. Moderator Johnny Morgan and I have met with The Way Denham Springs and The Way Livingston leaders to determine steps forward in determining the future of the Beech Ridge property.
  - a. Recent water leaks on the property have been repaired and paid for by ELBA.
  - b. The association pays \$1,700.00 per month to maintain insurance and utilities on the Beech Ridge property. Monies transferred to the association by Beech Ridge Baptist Church to help the mission effort were depleted April 2019 and ELBA has been paying utilities and insurance on the property reflecting a budget expense deficit each year since.
  - c. Meetings are being held to determine the if, and when The Way Church Livingston can pick up these expenses and become a constituted church.

For the past six months, several of our ELBA churches are participating in the planning of a **LIVINGSTON PARISH GO TELL Crusade** with evangelist Rick Gage scheduled for March 16-19, 2025, at the Denham Springs High School Stadium. An areawide crusade requires the full support of the evangelical community and an Executive Team has been selected to help in the organizational work for the crusade. Our Executive Board approved a commitment of \$10,000.00 from ELBA to help with the crusade effort. There will be an informational meeting of pastors and church leaders from across our parish tomorrow. I am asking our churches to do the following:

1. Commit to participate in the crusade effort.
2. Plan to have people in your church attend the Crusade Banquet
3. Receive a love offering above and beyond your church's tithes Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.
4. Pray for God to lead some of our church leaders to serve on the various pre-crusade ministry opportunities.
5. Reach out to the Christian business community to support this effort.
6. Prayer is the essential element in preparing for the crusade. Please remember this crusade in your prayers.

**Hispanic Ministry:** ELBA will begin contributing \$750.00 monthly from its mission line item to Christ Community Church's Latino work, Iglesia Comunidad de Cristo, which has begun meeting at the former One Life property on Walker South Road. Pastor Danny Carpenter has completed his credentialing as a church planter with NAMB, and ELBA has received and since forwarded the first check from SEND Louisiana to this work. It is time for ELBA to join them along with any other church who desires to co-sponsor this work. People from our churches who desire to reach the lost for our Lord are invited to serve alongside with Christ Community in this ministry. Pastor Willis Easley told me they will also need ESL teachers and other helpers to make this work thrive.

**Pastor's Prayer Zoom Prayer Meeting:** A growing number of ELBA pastors are meeting for prayer each week. We pray for revival and other ministry needs each Wednesday morning, 10:00, on Zoom. Bro. Larry Hubbard is our prayer leader each week.

# CONSTITUTION Of the EASTERN LOUISIANA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

## ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this Association shall be the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association (referred to as ELBA), cooperating with the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

## ARTICLE II. MISSION

In order to serve God, the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association will involve and assist churches in a cooperative fellowship to do missions, evangelism, leadership, and ministry support to build the Kingdom of God.

## ARTICLE III. ARTICLES OF FAITH

The ELBA Statement of Faith shall be the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

## ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be composed of messengers elected by and representing the churches affiliated with this body. Messengers approved by the Association shall be seated and entitled to participate in the affairs of the body. Qualifications for membership and messenger representation are outlined in the ELBA Bylaws, Section 1.

## ARTICLE V. AUTHORITY

This Association shall never attempt to exercise any power or control over any church, but may offer counsel founded upon Biblical principles. Although the Association recognizes and affirms the autonomous nature of each church, ELBA is an autonomous body and therefore reserves the right to determine its own policies and direct its own business.

## ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

Officers of this Association must be members in good standing of churches within the Association, and be recognized for their loyalty to Southern Baptist doctrines. At the May Semi-Annual Meeting of the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association the following officers shall be elected to serve for a one-year term beginning at the close of the next Associational Annual Meeting:

1. Moderator, who shall serve as Chairman of the Executive Team, and President of the Corporation; the Moderator shall be limited to two consecutive terms.
2. Vice-Moderator, who shall serve as Vice-Chairman of the Executive Team, and Vice-President of the Corporation.
3. Clerk, who shall serve as the Secretary of the Executive Team and Secretary of the Corporation.
4. Treasurer, who shall serve as Treasurer of the Executive Team and Treasurer of the Corporation.

Other officers and committee chairpersons may be elected by the Executive Team, or by the Messengers at the Associational Annual or Semi-Annual Meetings as needed by the Association. Selection and service of these officers are outlined in the ELBA Bylaws, Section 2.

## ARTICLE VII. TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Association shall be the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Associational Mission Strategist.

## ARTICLE VIII. EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Association shall have an Executive Team consisting of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk, a representatives from churches from different regions of the Association to attend to all matters of the Association between sessions and carry out all directions given by the Association. Selection and service of this Team is outlined in the ELBA Bylaws, Section 3.

## ARTICLE XI. MEETINGS

The Association Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of October. The Executive Team shall recommend the exact time, date, place, and preacher for the annual session as outlined in ELBA Bylaws, Section 8. A Semi-Annual Meeting shall be held in May between annual meetings. Special associational meetings may be held as are deemed wise for the promotion of its work. The Executive Team shall have the power to change the stated time and place of these meetings in case of emergency or necessity. The Executive Team can direct that a video-conference format be used for a meeting.

## ARTICLE XII. COMMITTEES

Standing committees deemed necessary for the work of the Association shall be nominated by the Executive Team and shall be elected by the Association at the Associational Annual or Semi-annual Meeting. Any ad hoc or special committee deemed necessary shall be named by either the Executive Team or Moderator. Committees of the Association shall function as outlined in the ELBA Bylaws, Section



## **ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS**

The Constitution may be amended at any regular session of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the messengers present. Notice of such changes shall be published twice in the Associational newsletter prior to such meeting, presented at the beginning of the annual meeting, and then voted on before the close of the meeting.

# **BYLAWS**

## **Of the**

# **EASTERN LOUISIANA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

### **SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP**

#### **A. MESSENGERS**

Each church shall be entitled to three (3) messengers for the first fifty (50) members and one (1) additional messenger for each twenty-five (25) members, up to a maximum of fifteen (15) messengers. This Association may refuse to seat messengers who are not in fellowship or doctrinal agreement with this body. It may also refuse to seat messengers whose church is not in fellowship or doctrinal agreement with this body.

#### **B. AFFILIATION**

##### **1. CHURCH AFFILIATION**

##### **1. Church Actions**

Any church seeking affiliation with this Association which is not a mission sponsored by a member church of this Association, shall take the following steps:

- 1) Present a letter of petition to the **Executive Team** at least 90 days prior to the annual meeting.
- 2) Provide a copy of the minutes of the church business meeting in which the vote to pursue affiliation is recorded.
- 3) Provide information concerning the manner by which the church was constituted and provide a copy of the church's governing documents, budget, and ministries.
- 4) Submit a copy of the minutes of the church business meeting in which the vote to adopt the Baptist Faith and Message, year 2000, is recorded.
- 5) Provide evidence of the church's commitment to both support Associational activities and provide regular and systematic financial support. (i.e. statement concerning intent to promote Associational events within the church, statement of anticipated financial support to the Association and Cooperative Program [explain Cooperative Program if needed]).
- 6) Provide evidence of the church's commitment to support and attend both the Associational Annual Meeting and the Semi-Annual Meeting (i.e. statement of intent to elect messengers to the Associational Annual and Semi-Annual Meetings).
- 7) Commit to providing reports to the Association each year in a timely fashion using the Annual Church Profile.

b. Association Actions

- 1) Letters of petition seeking Associational membership shall be referred to the Credentials Committee, which shall make a recommendation at the Associational Annual Meeting.
- 2) The Credentials Committee shall guide the petitioning church through the affiliation process.
- 3) Petitioning churches shall be taken under watchcare of the Association for one year. While under watchcare the petitioning church will be invited and encouraged to participate fully in Associational activities but will not be seated as messengers at the Associational Annual Meeting. Members of said church will not be allowed to be elected to positions of Associational leadership. At the conclusion of the year of watchcare, at the next Associational Annual Meeting, the Credentials Committee shall make the recommendation to either accept or reject the petition.

2. MISSION AFFILIATION

a. Mission Actions

A mission that has constituted, having been sponsored by a local ELBA church, shall be considered for admission into the Association as a church upon meeting the following requirements:

- 1) Present a letter of petition to the **Executive Team** at least 90 days prior to the annual meeting.
- 2) Provide a copy of the minutes of the church business meeting in which the vote to pursue affiliation is recorded.
- 3) Provide information concerning the manner by which the church was constituted and provide a copy of the church's governing documents, budget, and ministries.
- 4) Submit a copy of the minutes of the church business meeting in which the vote to adopt the Baptist Faith and Message, year 2000, is recorded.
- 5) Provide evidence of the church's commitment to both support Associational activities and provide regular and systematic financial support. (i.e. statement concerning intent to promote Associational events within the church, statement of anticipated financial support to the Association and Cooperative Program [explain Cooperative Program if needed]).
- 6) Provide evidence of the church's commitment to support and attend both the Associational Annual and Semi-Annual Meetings (i.e. statement of intent to elect messengers to the Associational Annual Meeting).
- 7) Commit to providing reports to the Association each year in a timely fashion using the Annual Church Profile.

b. Association Actions

- 1) When a letter of petition is received by the Association, the Credentials Committee shall guide the petitioning church through the affiliation process.
- 2) The one-year watchcare period shall be waived.
- 3) The Credentials Committee shall make a recommendation at the Associational Annual Meeting to either accept or reject the petition.

-3-

C. CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP OF AFFILIATED CHURCHES

One of the purposes of an Association is to maintain biblical, theological, and ecclesiastical integrity among Baptists. While the Association cannot tell a church what its beliefs and practices should be, the Association can insist that any member church meet certain standards that define a Baptist church. Credential requirements and a screening committee are necessary for associational churches to maintain relationships with churches of like faith, order, and practice. Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association extends membership only to churches that meet Associational standards for faith, order, and practice. Any member church that no longer meets these standards will be subject to dismissal.

The basic theological and ecclesiastical order expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message is our test for membership. All member churches will subscribe to or affirm the current Baptist Faith and Message as our doctrinal standard. Other, more specific criteria used to measure like faith, order, and practice include the following:

- The Bible is our sole authority of faith, order and practice.
- A Baptist church is a body of baptized believers.
- Baptism is by water immersion upon confession of faith in Christ.

- The Lord's Supper commemorates the death of Christ, causes us to remember the cross, and helps us to anticipate his second coming.
- Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association encourages churches to cooperate with the Louisiana Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.
- Scriptural officers of a church are pastors and deacons. We believe that churches are pastor-led, deacon-served, and congregationally-governed, all under the headship of Christ. Scripture directs that the office of pastor shall be reserved for men.

#### D. DEFINITION OF A CONTINUING COOPERATING CHURCH

A cooperating church in the Association shall be defined as one which does the following:

1. Maintains faith, order, and practice consistent with the Baptist Faith and Message.
2. Contributes financially to support the work of the Association.
3. Reports to the Association each year in a timely fashion using the Annual Church Profile.
4. Elects messengers to the annual meeting of the Association.
5. Participates in cooperating ministries.

Failure to maintain meaningful participation through these means for a period of two years in succession shall invite inquiries from the Credentials Committee as to the church's future intentions regarding participation in the Association.

#### E. CHURCHES ON PROBATIONARY STATUS

When a serious question has been raised about a member church's faith, order, or practice, the Association or Executive Team, by a majority vote, shall ask the Credentials Committee to investigate the charges and bring a report of its findings at the next meeting of the Association.

- The Credentials Committee shall investigate and present a recommendation that the church be: 1) Absolved of the charges, if based on erroneous information; 2) Restored, if the church has corrected the problem; 3) Placed on probationary status for a period of one year, in hopes the problem can be corrected. Two-thirds vote of the messengers present shall be necessary to place a church on probation.
- Messengers from a church that is under scrutiny by the Association shall not be allowed to vote on matters to come before the body until the church has been cleared of the charges made against it. This prohibition includes matters related to its own status in the Association.
- Should a member church be placed on probationary status, the Credentials Committee shall continue to dialogue with the church and encourage renunciation of the aberrant faith, order, or practice.
- Upon completion of the probationary period, the Credentials Committee shall recommend that the church be restored to membership in the Association along with any necessary contingencies or dismissed from the Association because of aberrant faith, order, or practice.

#### F. REMOVAL

The Association shall be at liberty to withdraw its affiliation from any church, which has failed to evidence doctrinal soundness, spiritual unanimity, accord, and cooperation with the Association. The following action shall be taken: The Executive Team shall refer such actions to the Credentials Committee for review and recommendation at the next Associational Annual Meeting.

#### G. WITHDRAWAL

Any church may withdraw from cooperation with the Association by providing the following:

1. A copy of the business meeting minutes of the church as evidence of the church's desire to withdraw.
2. A written notice of the intention to withdraw from the Association and the effective date of the withdrawal to be presented at the Associational Annual Meeting.

### SECTION 2. OFFICERS

Officers of this Association must be members in good standing of churches within the Association, and be recognized for their loyalty to Southern Baptist doctrines. Duties of the officers shall be as follows:

**The Moderator** shall call to order and preside over the meetings of the Association and the Executive Team in an orderly manner and Christian spirit. He may have other officers of the Association to preside on such occasions as he may see fit. The Moderator may appoint ad hoc or special committees as necessary to accomplish the work

of the Association. The Moderator shall be limited to two consecutive terms. Upon vacating the office at the end of a second term, he may not succeed himself for the period of one year.

**The Vice-Moderator** shall assist the Moderator and preside at his request or in his absence. The Vice- Moderator may, if the Moderator so directs, preside over sessions of the **Associational Annual, Semi-Annual, or Executive Team Meetings**.

**The Clerk** shall keep a full and accurate record of all proceedings of the **Associational Annual and Semi-Annual Meetings, and the Executive Team**. He/she shall provide all minutes of previous meetings in written form, and at all meetings, have on hand, minutes from the previous year.

**The Treasurer** shall receive all funds of and for the work of the Association and shall disburse them in accordance with the instructions of the Association. The Treasurer is to be **an ex-officio member of the Executive Team** and the Finance Committee. He/she shall:

- keep an accurate record of all monies received, with their sources and designations
- review vouchers for compliance to financial policy and approve/disapprove payment
- be authorized to sign checks according to financial policy
- review the monthly financial report
- make quarterly reports to the Executive Team and the Associational Annual and Semi-Annual Meetings for approval
- be responsible for the filing and payment of quarterly taxes.

**The Historian** shall make a record of the current events and provide a printed annual report at the Associational Annual Meeting for adoption.

Other officers and committee chairpersons may be elected by the **Executive Team** or by the Messengers at the Associational Annual Meeting as needed by the Association.

### **SECTION 3. EXECUTIVE TEAM**

**Composition:** The Executive Team is composed of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and representatives to be nominated by the Nominating Committee, and approved by the Association from the four designated areas of the association (Northeast-1, Northwest-2, Southwest-2, Southeast-1). The number of representatives are recommended as needed by the Executive Team and approved by the association in its annual meeting. The Associational Mission **Strategist**, Associate Associational Mission **Strategist**, Clerk, and Treasurer are ex-officio members. The members shall be elected each year, but can serve for up to three (3) years before being off the Team for at least a year before being eligible again to serve on the Team.

**Responsibilities:** **Executive Team** meetings will be held to discuss office matters, programs, and procedures for resolving problems that may arise. The Team is responsible for recommending program objectives, goals, and schedules for association emphases. The Team recommends the salary for the Associational Missions Strategist and for other staff, which are forwarded to the Finance-Stewardship Committee. The Team reviews and approves budget recommendations as provided to them by the Finance-Stewardship Committee.

The Executive Team reviews worker assignments, approves any new staff positions, and hires new personnel to fill vacancies. The Team provides oversight to program service needs, worker assignments, publication of related materials, budgeting, teamwork, and promotion among and motivation of the churches and missions of the Association. The **Executive Team** recommends those who will be added to serve on the Nominating Committee each year.

**Meetings:** The Executive Team will meet the first Monday of February, April, and August to care for the business of the association between the Annual and Semi-annual Meetings.

## SECTION 4. TRUSTEES

The Trustees will perform the execution of the Association's legal documents as required by law in effectuation of direction given by and only with the prior approval of the Association's messengers or **Executive Team** between sessions. The Trustees shall have no authority or powers except those explicitly granted to them by the Association's Articles of Incorporation. The messengers may delegate authority to officers or committees; however, the Trustees shall be accountable to the messengers as provided in the Association's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

## SECTION 5. ASSOCIATIONAL MEETINGS

This Association shall meet annually in the month of October. The exact time, date and place shall be recommended by the **Annual Meeting Arrangements Committee** and approved in the annual session. A semi-annual meeting will be held in May to conduct any business of the association between annual meetings.

Special meetings of the membership of the Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association may be called by the following: 1) **Executive Team**; 2) Moderator/Chairman; or in his absence, 3) Vice-Moderator/Vice-Chairman; or in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, 4) Clerk/Secretary; 5) or any three members of the **Executive Team**.

Notice of all regular and special meetings of the membership and the **Executive Team** shall be given by email or written notice at least seven days prior to such meetings. The purpose of special meetings shall be included in the written notice.

## SECTION 6. MINISTRY TEAMS

This Association shall maintain such ministry teams as may be deemed necessary to achieve its mission and that of its member congregations. Ministry Team Leaders shall be nominated by the **Executive Team** and presented in the May Semi-Annual Meeting and assume the responsibility of their respective positions immediately following the Associational Annual Meeting. Ministry Team Leaders may appoint team members as needed in order to assist them in carrying out the team tasks. A list of Ministry Team and Job Descriptions shall be reviewed annually by the **Executive Team** and published in the Annual Book of Reports. The **Executive Team** shall recommend to the Messengers of the Annual Meeting or the **Semi-annual Meeting** between sessions the following: (1) addition of Ministry Teams; (2) deletion of non-functioning Ministry Teams; (3) or modification of Ministry Team structure.

## SECTION 7. COMMITTEES

**Standing Committees** shall be organized with at least a chairperson and secretary. Standing committee members are elected for three-year rotating terms so as to provide continuity in the work of the committee. The chairperson may serve two years of a three-year term. Each committee shall maintain written records and minutes of all meetings. These records are the property of the Association and will be passed on to subsequent committee leaders and filed at the Association office.

**The Nominating Committee** shall nominate the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Historian. In addition, they shall nominate team leaders with the help and assistance of the above nominees as outlined in Article VII, ELBA Constitution. The Nominating Committee shall nominate members for the Finance Committee (3), Credentials Committee (3), and Scholarship Committee (3). They shall also nominate Baptist Collegiate Ministry Representatives (2) and Living Waters Baptist Assembly Trustees (4).

**The Finance Committee** shall consist of six members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Association to serve rotating terms. They shall oversee the general financial policies and procedures for accountability. They are to prepare the annual budget for the Association, seeking the input of the Executive Team. Quarterly, the Finance Committee and Treasurer shall review the financial report and present it to the Executive Team and at the Annual Meeting. This Committee is to promote appropriate Associational stewardship emphases. The Committee shall call for an annual financial review from a qualified Association member. This Committee shall be assisted by the Associational Treasurer.

**The Credentials Committee** shall consist of three members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Association to serve rotating terms. They shall: 1) examine petitioning documents, 2) meet with petitioning congregations to orient them to the purposes and work of the Association, and 3) provide them with Associational

information (i.e. most recent Associational Minutes Book, Budget, Constitution and Bylaws, Calendar, Leadership, Ministry Teams, etc.). This Committee shall also investigate matters concerning membership referred to it by the Association.

**The ELBA Scholarship Committee** shall consist of three members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Association to serve rotating terms. The Committee shall have sole authority in granting the two Associational scholarships and report the names of the recipients at the Spring Semi-annual Meeting. Scholarships shall be awarded to students attending or desiring to attend either Louisiana College or New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary according to the adopted scholarship policies.

**Ad Hoc and Special Committees** shall be appointed for the duration of the task. Special committees are appointed for a task that recurs annually. Each committee shall maintain written records and minutes of all meetings. These records are the property of the Association and will be passed on to subsequent committee leaders and filed at the Association office.

**Annual Meeting Arrangements Committee.** The Executive Team will appoint a committee prior to the present year's annual meeting for the purpose of recommending the time, place, and preacher and planning the program for the Associational Annual Meeting of the following year. The Committee shall provide the information to the Executive Team in time for the proposed time, place and preacher to be printed in the Book of Reports and the Annual Minutes Book. This committee shall be made up of the pastor and minister of music of the host church, the Associational Mission Strategist, and one member of the Executive Team.

**The Resolutions Committee** shall be a special committee appointed for the purpose of receiving and preparing resolutions to be presented at the Associational Annual Meeting.

**Living Waters Baptist Assembly (LWBA) Trustees** shall be nominated by the Executive Team. Four members are elected to serve on the LWBA Board of Trustees for three-year terms on a rotation system and to act as a liaison between the Assembly and the Association.

**Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) Representatives** shall be nominated by the Executive Team. Two members are elected to serve for three-year terms on a rotation system. They assist in providing direction in the administration of the BCM ministry and act as a liaison between the BCM and the Association.

## **SECTION 9. MISSIONS AND MINISTRY CENTER AND CHURCH INCUBATOR**

Associational Missions and Ministry Center shall be used for the following purposes: 1) Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association Offices; 2) Disaster Relief Chain Saw Unit; 3) Associational Volunteer Builders Team; 4) Associational Party Trailer; 5) Future ministry units or teams may be added as opportunities present themselves. Additionally, these facilities shall be used as a Church Incubator for new mission church starts. All terms of agreement between the new mission and the Association are covered in the Church Incubator Policies and Procedures Manual.

## **SECTION 10. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

This Association shall be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 12th ed. (Cambridge, Mass.: Perseus Publishing, 2020).

## **SECTION 11. FISCAL YEAR**

This Association's fiscal year shall be from January 1 to December 31 inclusive.

## **SECTION 12. RECORDS**

Records of the Association shall be protected from fire, theft, and other damages with regard to the importance of such records, and shall be open for public review by members of the Association upon written request and authorized by the Association and/or the Executive Team.

## **SECTION 13. REPORTS**

All Associational Ministry Teams and standing committees shall provide written reports at the regular meetings of the Executive Team. Ad hoc and special committees shall provide written reports to the Executive Team as deemed necessary or as requested by the Moderator.

## **SECTION 14. AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended by a simple majority of messengers present at the Associational Annual or Semi-annual Meetings provided notice of change has been given as stated in Article XII of the Constitution.



# CONNECT 1 CHILD MINISTRY

Bridget Dickson, ELBA/LBCH Liaison

## Connect 1 Child

Report submitted for August and September

August 1, 2024: Attended a Zoom meeting with mentors across the state and Secretary Matlock to voice concerns and questions, information, and frustrations that Foster Parents have around the state.

August 22, 2024: I met with the new foster mother that had questions concerning some issues she is having within the system. I was able to answer her questions and encourage her.

August 25, 2024: Attended ELBA Council meeting and gave an update on Connect 1 Child and the frustrations I am having between CDFS and Connect 1 Child.

September 4, 2024: Attended a Zoom meeting with mentors across the state and Secretary Matlock and shared insights and solutions to some problems happening around the state.

As this ministry comes to a close at the end of the year, I wanted to thank each and every one of you for the prayers and support you have given me. I believe we started a great ministry for our churches. Administration at DCFS has changed and a lot of changes are happening in the area of Foster Parent Recruitment. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with each and every one of you. I am still a resource for foster care for all the churches in our region, even though it will not be through the ministry.

He is Love;

Bridget Dickson

## 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



We are excited to announce the upcoming

Founders Day

Celebration at Camp Living Waters!

Join us as we honor the legacy of our founders,

celebrate the community,

the associations, and Churches

that have helped grow over the years.

**\*\*Date:** Saturday, November 2, 2024

**\*\*Time:** 11:00am

**\*\*Location:** [21230 Livingwater Rd, Loranger, LA 70446](#)

This special day will include lunch and fellowship. We will hear from our guest speakers and take a tour of the facility. We would love for you to be a part of it. Please be on the lookout for a mailed invite where an RSVP will be required to attend.

## CHILDREN'S/VBS MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

Dr. Robbie Isom, Team Leader



The Kid Min Expo (including VBS Training) was held at Greenwell Springs Baptist Church on March 2. Several churches from our association participated. We have been working with other age-group ministers in the association to change the Children's Ministry Training event to an Next Gen Training event (including children, youth, and college/career). We are targeting November 9 but may have to postpone until the Spring to ensure a quality training event for our people.

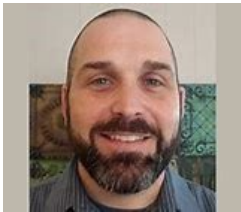


## CHRISTIAN SOCIAL SERVICES TEAM

### 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 12, 2024.

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. Two of our counselors have moved on from our center to continue serving their new areas. We continue our partnership with DSAD (Denham Springs Addictive Disorders). We are thankful for the counselors that continue to serve our center. Please continue to pray for our counseling ministry of the Christian Social Services Team.



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



**Darlene Abbott, BCSW, S**



**David & Bridget Dickson, DSAD**

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.***

Our CommUnity Hands ministry is still operating every Thursday from 9:am until Noon. We continue to try to provide services to help in emergency cases with utilities and hunger needs. We do make case-to-case decisions concerning rental needs with these being decided 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 2025, 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 great success again this year. We had over 300 students in attendance and a few new churches from surrounding communities participated. I want to thank everyone who helped make the Forge a success this year. It was hosted by Amite Baptist Church. We were excited to welcome Greg Wilton, state coordinator with Fellowship of Christian Athletes, as our speaker this year. He did an excellent job proclaiming God's word and ministering to our students.

The Worship was led by Johnathan Curtis Turner and his team of musicians led us in some incredible worship. We will be planning the 2025 FORGE very soon.



### **CHRISTIAN MEN'S JOB CORP** **Dr. Steve Bond, Ph.D., Director CMJC**

Our second year (2024-2025) has begun! On August 29, we began a new semester with a new group of participants. We started the semester with 9 participants, and 5 advisory Board participants.

The job search skills classes will tentatively continue through May 2025, covering the same topics as last year; introduction to job search skills, completing an application, building a resume, interviewing, how to keep a job, a summary and then Dr. Bobbie Shaffett will present a class on personal finance as the semester ends. We may add content as needs dictate. The format continues to be a meal with mentors, a short devotional by a local pastor, sometimes a testimony, and a class in some aspect of job search skills, which lasts from 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes, Dr. Stephen Bond and Gary Watson.

An Advisory Board Meeting was held on August 6, 2024. The 2024-2025 Advisory Board consists of Matt Belser, Dr. Richard Blue, Dr. Stephen Bond, John Broussard, Rev. Mark Carroll, and Gary Watson. The Board also voted to add Taylor Maness, of Walker Baptist Church, a local business owner who has been very supportive and participative since the program began.

The Advisory Board acted on the following as well:

1. Reviewed the format and agreed to continue with the current format and content as the first year was successful, adjusting content for relevance and need.
2. Proposed to ask ELBA to include funds for meals in the budget (this was done and agreed upon)
3. John Broussard proposed CMJC requests to member churches for donations of bicycles (used or new), to assist some participants in getting to work. One of the churches did this for someone and the need was recognized. The Board agreed. John Broussard will lead this effort.

## **WOMEN'S MISSIONS AND MINISTRY**

**Theresa Broussard, Leader**

The Women's Ministry has focused our efforts this year on praying. Each quarter there was an evening of prayer held at the ELBA office. A different Southern Baptist Convention's mission emphasis was the focus of prayer. Our next and final prayer time for this year will be held Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm. The Lottie Moon Missions offering will be our focus. Please be in prayer for all missions as we move into the new year expectantly waiting to see all God has planned for the Women's Missions and Ministry team.

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

The ELBA scholarship committee awarded five seminary students scholarships. The total of \$3,000.00 was disbursed.

The recipients this year are: Cody Wilson, Melissa Cothorn, Matt Simmons, Kaylin Cantu & Benjamin Travis.

Thank you.

Linda Burleigh

## **2024 HISTORY REPORT**

**Bro. Larry Hubbard, 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 2024–2025 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

Disaster Relief Ministry Leader – Howard Turner

Women’s Missions & Ministry Leader – Theresa Broussard

Youth Ministry Leader – Mike Fielding

### **Committees**

Credentials – Mark Carroll (27)

Finance – Delaine Hood (27)

Missions – Jason McNaughten (27) John Adams (27)

Nominating – Jim Forbes (27)

Personnel – West Bennett (27)

Scholarship – Ginger Glascock (27)

## **NEW CHURCH STAFF**

Welcome to new ministers called to our churches since the 2023 Annual Meeting.

### **Pastor**

Bro. Michael Didon, Carroll Baptist Church

Bro. Luke Hand, Amite Baptist Church

Bro. Danny Carpentar, Christ’s Community Iglesia Spanish Church

Bro. John Adams, Southside Baptist Church

Bro. Wes Bennett, Red Oak Baptist Church

### **Youth Pastor**

Brodie Hutchison, Holden Baptist Church

# **REPRESENTATIVES ON ASSOCIATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD**

(From 2024 Annual Church Profiles)

**AGAPE’:** Rev. Chris Hardison  
**AMITE:** Rev. Luke Hand  
**BETHEL:** Rev. James “Bubba” Courtney  
**CARROLL:** Rev. Mike Didon, Floyd Patterson  
**CENTRAL:** Rev. Robby Dickerson  
**CHRIST’S COMMUNITY:** Rev. Willis Easley  
**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. Derek Wall  
**GREATER THIRD ZION:** Rev. Calvin Brown  
**HEAD OF ISLAND:** Rev. Billy Minyard  
**HEBRON:** Rev. Travis Cronan  
**HOLDEN, FIRST:** Rev. Jessie Waller  
**JUDSON:** Dr. David Lane, Rev. Robbie Isom  
**LIVE OAK:** Rev. Johnny Morgan, Rev. Frank Mons  
**LIVINGSTON, FIRST:** Rev. Brian Gunter  
**MACEDONIA:**  
**MAGNOLIA:** Rev. David Howie  
**MAUREPAS:** Dr. Glynn Reine, Sr.  
**MIDWAY:** Rev. Daniel Martin  
**NEW BETHLEHEM:** Rev. Randall Gill  
**NORTHSIDE:** Rev. Lynn Rodrigue, Joe Wheat  
**PINE GROVE:** Rev. Paul Taylor  
**RED OAK:**  
**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. David Annison  
**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 2024 Annual Church Profiles)

**AGAPE’:** Rev Chris Hardison

**AMITE:** Rev. Luke Hand, 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. 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

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

**DON AVENUE:** Rev. Tom Higginbotham, Mrs. Jeanie Hudson, Mrs. Sheila Crotwell, Ms. Wanda Hickman

**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

**GRACE COVENANT:**

**GRAY’S CREEK:** Rev. Derek Wall, 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:**

**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

**NORTHSIDE:** Rev. Lynn Rodrigue, Mrs. Nicole Rodrique, Mr. Joe Wheat, Mrs. Elaine Wheat, Ms. Cheryl Neal, Mr. Robbie Tidwell, and Mr. Will Shilling.

**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. David Annison

**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, Matthew Simmons

**WHOLLY GROUNDS:** Rev. Joey Beeson

## IN REMEMBRANCE

**BETHEL:** Gayle Miller

**CHRIST'S COMMUNITY:** Nola Mouille, Lilly Carpenter, Corey Scanlon, Bob Ingalls, Dorthy Lanier, Sally Rouse, Linda Bennett

**EMMANUEL:**

**HEBRON:** Marjorie Bond, Bessie Bond, Helen Bruner, Rose Carpenter, Elizabeth Crow, James Dupuy, Donald Facundus, Don Freeman, Juanita Garrison, Malcom Glover, Raymond Hood, Wesley King, Gilda Fay Morrison, Billy Mungle, Lucille O'Neal, Jo Ann Penton, Lucy Pratt, George Provost, Jerry Stockton, Mary Thompson, Jewell Wisner

**JUDSON:**

**LIVE OAK:** Rev. Don Bassett, Barbara Chandler, Ella Jean Lockhart

**MAGNOLIA:** Bro. Ronnie Langlois, Pastor

**NORTHSIDE:** Scott Vincent, Roxanne Buie, George Taylor, Libby Carson, Emily Brown, Barbara Morgan, Juanita Chandler, Everette Roberts, Larry Register, Rosemary Register, Jimmye Powell, Gertrude Mitchell, Johnny Hood, Opal Coleman, Pearl Stafford, Joyce Stephens

**SATSUMA:** Marcia Bryson, Rosalie Whitehead, Lucille Harrell, Carolyn White, Crystal Crozier, Randall Crozier, Patricia Sziber, Alton Sziber

**SOUTH WALKER:**

**THE NEW BEGINNINGS:** Anna Kuhn

**WALKER:**

**Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association**  
**Balance Sheet - January 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024**

|                                                       |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1030 - Capital One Checking -Operating                | \$47,040.74    |
| 1040 - Designated Capital One Checking                | \$55,459.15    |
| Total Checking                                        | \$102,499.89   |
| Savings                                               |                |
| 1200 - LBF Savings - Operating Fund                   | \$30,334.51    |
| 1202 - LBF Savings - Church Planting                  | \$5,760.69     |
| 1204 - LBF Savings - Temporary Savings                | \$707,045.61   |
| Total Savings                                         | \$743,140.81   |
| 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                                          | \$2,309,412.67 |
| Liabilities                                           |                |
| Current Liabilities                                   |                |
| 2000 - Federal Tax Payable                            | \$325.46       |
| 2010 - FICA Payable                                   | -\$618.85      |
| 2020 - Medicare Payable                               | -\$136.16      |
| 2030 - LA Tax Payable                                 | -\$26.43       |
| 2040 - Guidestone Payable                             | -\$300.00      |
| Total Liabilities                                     | -\$755.98      |
| Fund Principal                                        |                |
| 2999 - Unrestricted Funds Balance                     | \$2,261,431.65 |
| Excess Cash Received                                  | -\$6,722.15    |
| Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received         | \$2,254,709.50 |
| Restricted Funds                                      |                |
| Total Temporary Restricted                            | \$55,459.15    |
| Total Restricted Funds                                | \$55,459.15    |
| Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds | \$2,309,412.67 |



## CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS 2024

|                                          |              |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 4000 - Agape                             | \$0.00       |
| 4001 - Amite                             | \$1,500.00   |
| 4003 - Bethel                            | \$1,297.37   |
| 4005 - Carroll                           | \$779.01     |
| 4006 - Central                           | \$0.00       |
| 4007 - Christ Community                  | \$8,894.00   |
| 4008 - Colyell                           | \$11,440.34  |
| 4009 - Denham Springs FBC                | \$13,406.35  |
| 4010 - Don Avenue                        | \$6,177.61   |
| 4012 - Emmanuel                          | \$1,525.00   |
| 4014 - French Settlement                 | \$1,820.00   |
| 4015 - Gray's Creek                      | \$1,952.00   |
| 4016 - Greater Third Zion                | \$0.00       |
| 4017 - Head of Island                    | \$799.40     |
| 4018 - Hebron                            | \$3,665.37   |
| 4019 - Holden                            | \$1,892.63   |
| 4020 - Judson                            | \$11,202.37  |
| 4021 - Live Oak                          | \$26,614.44  |
| 4022 - Livingston FBC                    | \$10,720.00  |
| 4023 - Macedonia                         | \$1,200.00   |
| 4024 - Magnolia                          | \$1,800.00   |
| 4025 - Maurepas                          | \$769.00     |
| 4026 - Midway                            | \$0.00       |
| 4027 - New Bethlehem                     | \$525.00     |
| 4028 - Grace Covenant                    | \$1,800.00   |
| 4029 - Northside                         | \$3,712.32   |
| 4031 - Pine Grove                        | \$4,427.79   |
| 4032 - Red Oak                           | \$800.00     |
| 4033 - River of Life                     | \$0.00       |
| 4034 - Riverside                         | \$2,778.78   |
| 4035 - Salem                             | \$500.00     |
| 4036 - Satsuma                           | \$250.00     |
| 4037 - South Walker                      | \$1,186.50   |
| 4038 - Southside                         | \$1,662.15   |
| 4039 - The New Beginnings                | \$1,220.38   |
| 4040 - Victory                           | \$1,653.39   |
| 4041 - Walker                            | \$17,646.45  |
| 4042 - Watson                            | \$3,708.37   |
| 4043 - The Way Church                    | \$1,800.00   |
| 4044 - Community Church of Springfield   | \$0.00       |
| 4046 – Wholly Grounds Church             | \$0.00       |
| 4999 - Total Budget Church Contributions | \$151,126.02 |

## EXPENSES – January – August 2024

### Missions & Ministries

|                                           |            |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|
| 5000 - Baptist Collegiate Ministry        | \$5,578.29 |
| 5001 - ELBA Mission Projects              | \$0.00     |
| 5002 - Fellowship Christian Athletes      | \$814.47   |
| 5004 - Camp Living Waters                 | \$6,495.19 |
| 5005 - Mission Support                    | \$837.25   |
| 5007 - Scholarships                       | \$4,000.00 |
| 5014 – Christian Social Serv./Benevolence | \$800.00   |
| 5009 – Disaster Relief/Chain Saw Ministry | \$2,000.00 |

Total Missions & Ministries \$20,525.20

### Organization & Promotion

|                                         |            |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|
| 5015 – Christian Women Job Corp         | \$851.57   |
| 5100 - Annual Meeting                   | \$0.00     |
| 5101 - Church Enrichment                | \$549.01   |
| 5103 - History                          | \$0.00     |
| 5104 - Media Library                    | \$72.28    |
| 5105 - Minister's Conference            | \$316.31   |
| 5106 - Children & Vacation Bible School | \$79.14    |
| 5107 - Women's Missions and Ministry    | \$260.78   |
| 5108 - Youth                            | \$2,150.00 |

Total Organization & Promotion \$4,279.09

### Operations & Maintenance

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 5200 - General Office Expense     | \$3,691.82  |
| 5201 - Postage                    | \$279.00    |
| 5202 - Utilities                  | \$18,449.72 |
| 5203 - Janitorial                 | \$4,208.96  |
| 5205 - Multi-Peril Insurance      | \$23,858.37 |
| 5206 - Software (Pur, Sup, Train) | \$890.72    |
| 5207 - Equipment & Maintenance    | \$2,134.54  |
| 5208 – Website                    | \$320.29    |
| 5209 - Miscellaneous              | \$286.61    |

5210 – Lawn Service \$4,100.00

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 5211 – Heavy Equipment             | \$0.00       |
| Total Operations & Maintenance     | \$58,220.03  |
| Salaries & Benefits                |              |
| 5313 - Financial Secretary         | \$19,668.88  |
| 5350 - Employer Tax Expense        | \$1,504.64   |
| 5351 - Other Expenses              | \$0.00       |
| 5360 - Staff Appreciation          | \$0.00       |
| 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 | \$3,665.83   |
| Total AMC Compensation Package     | \$57,390.31  |
| Total Salaries & Benefits          | \$78,563.83  |
| Administrative Expenses            |              |
| 5010 - AMC Ministry Expense        | \$1,266.22   |
| 5011 - AMC Auto Expense            | \$3,116.57   |
| 5012 - AMC Convention/Cont. Ed     | \$2,067.69   |
| Total Administrative Expenses      | \$6,450.08   |
| Total Expenses                     | \$167,273.45 |

## BUDGET 2025

| Account                   | Total                              |              |       |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Missions & Ministries     | Baptist Collegiate Ministry        | \$4,455.00   | 1.75% |
|                           | ELBA Mission Projects              | \$2,000.00   |       |
|                           | Fellowship Christian Athletes      | \$1,250.00   | .5%   |
|                           | Camp Living Waters                 | \$5,100.00   | 2%    |
|                           | Mission Support                    | \$9,000.00   |       |
|                           | Scholarships                       | \$3,000.00   |       |
|                           | Disaster Relief/Chain Saw Ministry | \$2,000.00   |       |
|                           | Christian Social Ser./Benevolence  | \$1,900.00   | .75%  |
|                           | SBC of Assoc. Leaders (SBCAL)      | \$300.00     |       |
|                           | Estimated Total                    | \$29,005.00  |       |
| Organization & Promotion  | Christian Women Job Corp           | \$1,800.00   |       |
|                           | Annual Meeting                     | \$1,000.00   |       |
|                           | Church Enrichment                  | \$1,000.00   |       |
|                           | History                            | \$75.00      |       |
|                           | Media Library                      | \$200.00     |       |
|                           | Minister's Conference              | \$1,000.00   |       |
|                           | Children & Vacation Bible School   | \$800.00     |       |
|                           | Women's Missions and Ministry      | \$1,000.00   |       |
|                           | Youth                              | \$4,000.00   |       |
|                           | College Ministry                   | \$1,000.00   |       |
| Total Organization & Pro. |                                    | \$11,875.00  |       |
| Operations & Maintenance  | General Office Expense             | \$5,000.00   |       |
|                           | Postage                            | \$600.00     |       |
|                           | Utilities                          | \$30,000.00  |       |
|                           | Janitorial                         | \$8,000.00   |       |
|                           | Multi-Peril Insurance              | \$40,800.00  |       |
|                           | Software (Pur, Sup, Train)         | \$1,700.00   |       |
|                           | Equipment & Maintenance            | \$2,154.00   |       |
|                           | Website                            | \$500.00     |       |
|                           | Miscellaneous                      | \$0.00       |       |
|                           | Lawn Service                       | \$5,000.0    |       |
|                           | Heavy Equipment                    | \$500.00     |       |
| Total Operations & Main.  |                                    | \$94,254.00  |       |
| 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                         | \$34,586.64  |       |
|                           | AMC Housing                        | \$26,800.00  |       |
|                           | AMC Retirement                     | \$20,435.00  |       |
|                           | AMC Life & Health Insurance        | \$5,213.36   |       |
|                           | AMC Total Package                  | \$87,035.00  |       |
| Administrative Exps.      | AMC Ministry Expense               | \$2,000.00   |       |
|                           | AMC Auto Expense                   | \$5,000.00   |       |
|                           | AMC Convention/Cont. Ed            | \$2,600.00   |       |
| Total                     |                                    | \$265,382.32 |       |

# STATE MISSIONS SERVICES FOR CHURCHES AND ASSOCIATIONS

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

Dr. Steve Horn, Executive Director

In Paul's famous Areopagus Address (Acts 17), in the midst of his great apologetic, evangelistic appeal, he declared: "From one man he has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live." (Acts 17:26)

I think of this verse often as I reflect on God's appointment of our living in Louisiana at this moment in history. As we work to establish a culture of evangelism in our state, you have hopefully heard me say, "There are approximately 4.6 million people living among us in these boundary lines of Louisiana. Every one of them has a name and a story. This is our work. This is our calling."

How can we fulfill this calling? How can we establish a culture of evangelism that permeates everything we do as Louisiana Baptists? Together we can ...

- Seek the Lost
- Strengthen Churches
- Support our Missions and Ministries

Notice how one feeds the next. As we seek the lost together, we strengthen churches. As together we strengthen churches, we can better support cooperative missions and ministries that feed this culture of evangelism.

For example, we celebrate the increased baptisms of 2023. To God be the glory. We know He gives the increase, but you have been the ones who have planted and watered through your individual witness as well as through our media outreach strategy, *Here for You*. Thank you for your faithfulness to this ongoing task of seeking the lost.

As you read this, you might be one of those churches that has not realized an increase in salvation decisions and baptisms. Through the power of cooperation, we can come alongside you to equip and help strengthen your church.

Cooperative missions and ministries are in the DNA of Louisiana Baptists. As we approach 2025, we'll have the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cooperative Program, which was championed by Louisiana pastor M.E. Dodd. We want to be the pacesetter in showing the effectiveness, efficiency, and genius of the CP. We still believe that the Cooperative Program is the best strategy for fulfilling the Acts 1:8 mandate.

In the pages that follow, you'll read about some of the ways you are maximizing Gospel impact as you participate in the Cooperative Program. As you read, give thanks to God for what He has done, and ask Him what He wants to accomplish through your church and this family of faith called Louisiana Baptists.

Louisiana Baptists—we are *here for you*!

## 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** is continuing to strive to provide a quality retreat and camp facility that honors the Lord, and desires individuals to experience life change through the power of the gospel. Tall Timbers has many things to celebrate, including a record number of guests, along with several new hires. Brandon Penton was named Director in February, and Lisa Broussard was named Associate Director a few months later in May. The camp is also celebrating the completion of its pool project that started back in 2023.

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

BCM continues to facilitate a culture of evangelism on our college campuses. Students are being trained to share their faith with family and classmates each week of the year. This coming fall we will observe ENGAGE 24, a statewide evangelistic emphasis on October 22, 2024. Campuses will have 24-hour intensive programming, gospel appointments, prayer tables and worship events focusing on responding to the Gospel. We will also focus on leading students to discover their call to serve the Lord at the Geaux24 conference October 4-5 at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria. 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).

Over 200 students from 7 campuses across the state served on mission to Mexico last December. This has become a consistent part of the GOLA missions program. 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 continued to serve this summer and a new team served with the Montana Baptist Convention this summer.

We are looking forward to another great year reaching the colleges in Louisiana with the Gospel of Christ!

### **COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

John Kyle, Director

What is our goal?

The obvious answer is to communicate. But in the process of communicating, your Communications Team is attempting to raise the creativity and quality of all we do.

We do this for three reasons:

1. We believe striving for this goal honors the Lord. He is the author of creativity and quality. Everything He does is good, and when we pursue Paul's admonition, "*Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord ...*" (Colossians 3:23), we believe it pleases and honors Him.

2. We believe this goal encourages the teams. Your strategists work hard to provide relevant resources and exciting,

substantive events. We work with them to capture their ideas and translate those into what you see and hear. The strategists often share your feedback when you notice the designs and videos are creative, current, and professionally done.

3. Finally, we believe it blesses the churches. You deserve resources and events that not only capture your eye, but also your heart. Hopefully, as you review the available opportunities, the creativity and quality of what you see motivates you to pursue additional information relating to the opportunity presented.

As we pursued this goal in 2023, we conducted 18 production meetings with 17 strategists. In addition, we conducted 80+ ideation meetings where we prayed through, talked through, and researched ideas that became concepts for the strategists to review and eventually deploy.

Some, but certainly not all, of the events created and designed by the Communications Team include:

- YEC
- CEC
- Embrace
- Breakaway Camps
- Kids Camps
- Children's Mission Camps
- ReGroup
- Champion's Camp
- ECON
- PAUSE
- Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering

In addition to the opportunities above, we continue to create and air *Here for You* commercials that creatively and consistently share God's truth in hearts and homes across Louisiana. We share your desire to reach people who do not attend anyone's church. Since 2019, there have been over 2,000 searches for local churches and more than 4,300 indicated decisions for Christ.

What is our goal? To raise the creativity and quality of all we do in order to help you seek the lost, strengthen your church, and support cooperative missions and ministries. We pray that both you and the Lord have been pleased with these efforts.

## **EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH TEAM**

Keith Manuel, Director

This past year's Evangelism Conference was hosted by Temple, Ruston and focused on a culture of evangelism. Next year ECON will be January 27-28, 2025, at First, Covington.

Sean Keith is your Sunday School, Church Administration, and Revitalization Strategist. Jefferson, Baton Rouge hosted last year's ReGroup and included a Spanish language track with an attendance of approximately 550. 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. In 2025, ReGroup's locations are Franklin Avenue, New Orleans and Central Louisiana, TBD.

Lee Myers serves as your Youth Strategist. The Youth Evangelism Celebration (YEC) ministered to over 5,300 youth and adults. Summer camps at Tall Timbers saw an attendance of 1,364 teens gathering for worship, equipping, and fun. Over 104 students made decisions for the Lord, with 13 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 6,600 students learned how to share their faith or personal testimony to share the Good News. We are praying for a great YEC, November 24-25, 2024, 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 1,194. We had 53 children make professions of faith and gave \$6,845 to missions. VBS trainings allowed

approximately 300 hundred 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.

New to our staff as of July 1, 2024, is Kevin Ulmer who serves as your Evangelism Strategist. He will work in all areas of evangelism but especially in the areas of personal and church evangelism. He will also coordinate the Senior Adult Luncheon at ECON.

The Evangelism & Church Growth Team loves to serve you by training your leaders and church members in evangelism, discipleship, and age-group ministries. Please, contact us if we can assist you in any way.

### **MISSIONS AND MINISTRY TEAM**

James Jenkins, Director

Reaching Louisiana for Jesus is the primary goal of the Missions and Ministry Team of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Strategists on our team all focus their attention on helping our churches build a culture of evangelism in Louisiana. Below you will find the reports from every area of our work.

### **Send Network Louisiana**

Lane Corley, James Jenkins, Carlos Schmidt, Jacob Crawford

The vision of Send Network is to reach 1% of North America's lost population through planting 11,000 new churches that each reach at least 125 people with the gospel over the next decade. For North America, that means reaching 2.75 million people.

For Louisiana, 1% of our lost population would mean reaching 29,000 people with the gospel. That means that there are at least 2.9 million people lost without Christ in our state. To achieve this goal through church planting, we are working to plant 231 new churches that each must reach 125 new people for Christ.

In the last year, we have seen 35 church planters endorsed through Send Network Louisiana and nine new church plants in which over 500 people came to faith in Christ.

We have also developed a Send Network Louisiana strategic prayer plan. Our goal is to mobilize churches to pray for a movement of God in our state and to see lostness impacted with the gospel of Jesus. We are currently hosting weekly online prayer gatherings and seek to multiply these prayer groups to each region of the state: Southeast, Southwest, Central, and North.

Church planting has helped Louisiana Baptists 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 partnership with Send Network Louisiana, three traditional Hispanic Church plants were started in New Orleans and one in Denham Springs. We are still working on two new Hispanic churches in New Orleans, one in Luling and one in Franklin, one Chinese church in Slidell, and a New Pilipino Church in Hammond.

In Language church development four Hispanic simple church evangelism trainings were conducted in the New Orleans area and two small group workshops were conducted, one in the North and one in the South.

Partnership Missions was instrumental in mobilizing a team of 14 people to Indonesia and collaborated on a DR Feeding team to Israel. Current partnerships still include Belarus, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Cape Bretton Island, Canada, Honduras, Yucatan Mexico, Indonesia, Senegal, London, Colombia, and Madrid.



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

Stanley L. Statham

Since our last report, Louisiana has suffered two significant wildfires, multiple severe thunderstorms, and tornadoes across the state. North LA recorded the most tornado warnings in recorded history (67). We have deployed chainsaw teams, chaplains, quick response feeding units, asset protection, and shower trailers to various locations.

Since the last report, several churches (Shady Grove in Pitkin, FBC, Slidell, and the Bridge Church Fellowship in Breaux Bridge) have suffered damage from storms, with Beulah Baptist Church in Mansfield, LA, suffering catastrophic damage.

We have deployed DR teams to Texas multiple times. LA DR operated a major site in Huffman, TX, for two weeks to assist the community in recovering from flooding. We also deployed a team to Pennsylvania for flood recovery work. A feeding team served for two weeks in Hawaii, assisting with recovery work related to the wildfire there. Members of LA DR participated with Texans on Mission to feed soldiers in Israel.

The Disaster Relief Rebuild Ministry continues to grow. We currently focus on the Point Aux Chenes area, which is predominantly an American Indian tribe. Former IMB missionaries continue to serve as our on-site coordinators, coordinating volunteer rebuild teams. Working with multiple partners, we have completed the construction of two homes.

We have also completed several homeowner site demolition and clean-up and many home repair projects in Pointe aux Chenes and surrounding communities. The first two home dedications will take place on August 29, 2024, on the 3rd anniversary of Hurricane Ida and the 1-year anniversary of beginning the first new home construction. We are evaluating and planning to begin church property rebuilding project(s) in 2025.

## **Compassion Relief Ministry**

Stanley L. Statham

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

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

Since our last report, we are working to expand the chaplain ministry by engaging pastors and laypeople in one of the seven disciplines recognized by NAMB. In the regular 2024 session, the LA State Legislature passed Senate Bill 123, allowing LA schools to employ or accept volunteer chaplains to support programs for students, teachers, and parents. The local school board must approve chaplains. The LBC Compassion Relief Ministry is developing a strategy to train school chaplains and assist in placing them in schools.

In August of each year, the SBC sets aside the last Sunday of the month to promote the Global Hunger Fund. LA Compassion Relief promotes this offering through the LA / Global Hunger Fund. The LBC receives twenty cents of each dollar donated, and these funds help support food banks and feeding ministries across Louisiana. The remaining eighty percent of the funds go to support Send Relief and the important ministry they engage in globally.

## **Volunteer Mobilization and Mission Builder**

Mark Morelock & Mark Jelks

The Louisiana Baptists Mission Builder program has had a great year serving the churches of our state. We continue to prioritize our focus on serving mission churches to achieve their goal of obtaining a permanent place of worship to strengthen their discipleship efforts and to better serve and evangelize their communities.

We have had the pleasure of hosting volunteer groups from all around our state and from other parts of the country as they partner with Louisiana Baptist churches to achieve their construction goals.

Your Mission Builder team is looking forward to another great year of service to our Louisiana Baptists partners. Thank you for your continued support through volunteerism and the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering to make the Mission Builder program a success!

## Christine Gill

Embrace, the annual WMM conference for all Louisiana Baptist women, was held in April 2024 at FBC New Orleans. During the conference, we celebrated 125 years of WMU in Louisiana! Leadership from 43 churches participated in the celebration.

Ministers' Wives Retreat, a weekend of renewal and appreciation for our ministers' wives in the state, took place in October 2023 at Tall Timbers.

- Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering (Jan. 1, 2023-Dec. 2023)

- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions (Sept. 1, 2023-Aug. 31, 2024)

- Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions (Jan. 1, 2023-Dec. 31, 2023)

Erin Jones

Two Mission Jamborees (M-JAM) took place in 2024. M-JAM North was hosted by McClendon Baptist Church in West Monroe with around 180 in attendance. M-JAM South was hosted by First Community Antioch Baptist Church in Lusher with around 65 in attendance. North and South M-JAM events will be held again in 2025.

-30-

Mini MAC. This makes a total of 622 in attendance for both camps. We had 30 staff not included in that number. We collected \$1,645.09 towards GBO. Five decisions were made to follow Christ and more seeds were planted.

## **PASTORAL LEADERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

Ray Swift, Director

Psalms 3:3-4 has been my theme since I came to the convention in 2021. "But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy mountain."

As I continue my fourth year here at the convention, I have been able to better define 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.

Last year the Lord blessed in so many ways through the events that we were able to host. We had great attendance and sweet participation in each of these. I am looking forward to continuing several of these events and even adding new ones in the year to come.

### **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 ministry opportunities and gives churches the opportunity of posting a ministry position.
- > **Pastor Search Committee training:** guides churches through a deliberate process and helps 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.
- > **Church Administration Resources:** a Louisiana Baptist website devoted to numerous forms, articles and information related to all matters of church budget/finances, security, policies, committees, and staff.

### **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 and 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 on our website [www.louisianabaptists.org/resources](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](http://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

In 2024, we celebrated our 137th anniversary as the first cooperative ministry established by Louisiana Baptists, and it is a pleasure to report that the news looks good for our entity as we move toward the future:

-- The *Baptist Message* is on sound financial footing.

- Operationally, we have the right team in place and have refined our processes to ensure best practices.
- Moreover, our vision “to establish a fellowship with Louisiana Baptists as a partner in the Gospel in reaching the lost in our state, the nation and the world” remains relevant as does our mission “to equip Louisiana Baptists for life, work and ministry.”

During this past year, we continued to focus our reporting on the Louisiana Baptist Convention’s efforts to restore a culture of evangelism among our churches. Indeed, in June we broke the news that baptisms had surged more than 31 percent in the past year among Louisiana Baptists, to a new post-COVID high of 8,770 salvations! This was on top of the nearly 19 percent jump that was recorded in 2022 – meaning that Louisiana Baptists baptized 3,140 more new believers in 2023 than in 2021 (5,630).

In the near term we are committed to specific coverage about the church planting initiative, Send Network Louisiana, which was announced a year ago. We will provide ongoing updates about Louisiana Baptists’ partnership with the SBC’s North American Mission Board to see God’s Kingdom expanded in Louisiana by one percent over the next decade. Researchers estimate that 62.4 percent of 4,648,794 Louisianans are lost (or, 2,789,276). If successful, 28,875 Louisianans will be added to the Kingdom through 231 new churches planted in the state by 2033 (based on each reaching 125 people with the Gospel). These salvations will be in addition to those recorded by already established Louisiana Baptist congregations. Meanwhile, in the longer term, specifically the next 1-3 years, we will be developing and adding electronic products and services to complement our website and social media channels. We are conducting something of a “Nehemiah’s walk” this year and possibly into 2025 to get a better understanding of what is being offered on other platforms and what would be beneficial to our newspaper readers and online viewers.

### *Office of Public Policy*

The Office of Public Policy worked with Louisiana Baptist lawmakers and other like-minded legislators to successfully champion key legislation relating to moral issues and social concerns:

- Act 676, championed by Rep. Dodie Horton, a member with First Baptist Church, Haughton, is a first-in-the-nation requirement to restore, after about a 50-year absence, the Ten Commandments to every publicly funded classroom, kindergarten through college, in Louisiana. The displays are to be paid for by public donations, and proponents estimate that about \$100,000 in gifts are needed to outfit all Louisiana schools.

- Act 293, authored by Sen. Mark Abraham, a member with Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, allows “Each city, parish, or other local public school board” to “employ or accept as a volunteer a certified chaplain to provide support, services and programs for students, staff, and parents.”

- Horton and Rep. Raymond Crews, a member with First Baptist Church, Bossier City, successfully pushed through Acts 681 and 680, respectively. The first prohibits school employees from discussing LGBT matters during instructional time. The second, officially known as “The Given Name Act,” requires schools to use an individual’s legal name or a derivative of it and the pronouns that are consistent with a person’s biological sex.

- Rep. Kim Carver, a deacon with First Baptist Church, Covington, authored Act 656, which bans social media companies from collecting data that can be used to target advertising at minors, and Act 216, which requires any individual who provides care for or services to a child in a voluntary or professional capacity “to be offered training on the statutory requirements and responsibility of reporting child abuse and neglect.”

- Act 436, authored by Rep. Roger Wilder, a member with Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs, requires facilities designated for biological females (dormitories, restrooms, changing rooms, domestic violence shelters, juvenile detention and correctional centers) to remain that way as a means to protect girls and women from sexual assault, violence and harassment by biological males.

- Sen. Stewart Cathey, a member with First Baptist Church, West Monroe, championed Act 586 to significantly strengthen penalties for human trafficking, with the harshest punishment for those who prey on minors for commercial sex. These more stringent sentencing requirements could figure prominently as deterrents to sex crimes early in 2025, when Super Bowl LIX comes to New Orleans. Sports championship events like it have been linked with surges in human trafficking for sexual activity.

-- Sen. Adam Bass, a member with Cypress Baptist Church, Benton, pushed through Act 398 to expand the use of “safe haven baby box” (a climate-controlled, electronically monitored device that allows parents to anonymously surrender an “unwanted” newborn in a safe environment) to now include “any designated emergency care facility that is staffed continuously on a 24-hour basis, seven days a week, and 365 days a year” if it meets detailed requirements for qualified personnel on duty, constant monitoring of the baby box and essential equipment on hand to ensure the newborn’s safety and health. The new law promises to rescue babies who otherwise might face abandonment in less ideal conditions.

-- Sen. Rick Edmonds, who retired as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Shreveport, and now serves as pastor of First Baptist Church, McComb, Mississippi, carried the banners for adoption and school choice during the 2024 legislative session:

-- Act 332 mandates that mothers who receive a “fetal abnormality” diagnosis for an unborn child must be informed about “resources, programs, and services for pregnant women and resources, programs, and services for infants and children born with disabilities” within 48 hours of such a diagnosis (to encourage and assist a mother and father to carry such a baby to term).

-- Act 515 creates an “Adoption Awareness Program” that will “encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.” The Department of Children and Family Services must hire a vendor to facilitate marketing, create a website, and provide a telephone or video hotline, with each promoting educational information about resources that encourage adoption.

-- Act 362 restricts adoption services in the state to “an adoption facilitator or an entity ... licensed in La. To assist in the adoption of children.” This restriction applies even “to advertise for adoption services.” It also requires these individuals and organizations to be designated as mandatory reporters of abuse.

-- Act 334 authorizes “school choice options for parents, teachers, and pupils,” by granting operational autonomy for “innovative kinds of independent public charter schools” from the control of city and parish school boards. However, these charter schools are still accountable for their academic results which will “be analyzed, considered, and repeated or replicated if appropriate.”

-- Act 91 recenters the authority for a child to participate in the “Course Choice Program” from the local school superintendent or other governing authority of a school to the student with his or her parents to make such decisions “after consultation with the person designated by the governing authority of the school.”

-- Act 1, “Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR) Scholarship Program” provides for educational savings accounts to support parental choice in K-12 education. Essentially, state tax dollars for education will follow the student “whether the child’s best opportunities are found at a public school, charter school, private school, home study program, or at a faith-based or religious school.” The program also ensures students in non-traditional school settings may subsequently participate in the “Taylor Opportunity Program for Students” (TOPS) which provides funds for postsecondary education.

Meanwhile, the Office of Public Policy collaborated with conservative allies to protect the state from perilous legislation that would have endangered the unborn as well as negatively impacted the general population, including pro-abortion, anti-traditional marriage and recreational marijuana bills:

-- House Bill 98 would have deleted the Defense of Marriage Act from the Louisiana Constitution. However, we successfully argued in committee that DOMA should be kept on the books while social conservatives fight to overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage.

-- HB 164 offered to narrow the abortion ban in Louisiana by creating exceptions for rape (which accounts for less than 1 percent of all abortions in the United States) and incest (about 0.5 percent of abortions). Groups like Planned Parenthood would have exploited these loopholes to advise all their clients to claim rape and incest, effectively ending the state’s abortion ban. The bill died in committee.

-- HB 649 proposed a scheme to regulate recreational marijuana in case it was legalized. The bill was moved favorably out of committee but was defeated on the House floor (as a substitute bill, HB 978), with 58 against the measure and 36 in favor.

Although lawmakers handily killed this recreational pot bill, they rejected legislation that would have banned THC from hemp consumable products that are being pushed in convenience stores, local grocery markets and gas stations.

Importantly, the issue is not marijuana (cannabis, weed, pot) or hemp, but THC, which is the psychoactive element in both.

Moreover, the debate took place the week that news broke from sheriffs of various parishes about children being rushed to emergency rooms after eating THC candies shared with them by classmates (data indicates THC poisonings have soared 645 percent in the state).

In the end, most lawmakers bowed to the pressures from 1,500 hemp merchants who are seeing profits rocket from selling THC-laced edibles and drinks, and both chambers of the legislature eventually approved THC in hemp consumables (with some minor limits) via passage of HB 952.

Fortunately, conservatives in the U.S. Congress may come to Louisiana's rescue, with the House Agriculture Committee crafting a farm bill (Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024: H.R. 8467) that would "prohibit the commercial production, sale, and distribution of certain intoxicating hemp derivatives and products."

### *Church Self-Insurance Update*

Louisiana Baptists have led the effort to establish a response to the church insurance crisis in our state, and major milestones have been achieved:

- Act 259 was signed into law and authorizes the creation of the Louisiana Churches and Nonprofit Religious Organizations Self-Insured Fund.
- Leaders of six faith communities have volunteered to serve on the governing board of the initial corporation (they will create the permanent corporation that will administrate the self-insurance program). They held their organizing meeting August 6, and voted to adopt Articles of Incorporation and to apply for nonprofit status with the Louisiana Secretary of State and the Internal revenue Service.
- A state source for \$3 million of initial funding has been tentatively identified by Gov. Landry. This money will cover costs for catastrophic modeling and other steps needed to establish a premium schedule for participants. An estimated \$6 million of additional money will be needed to purchase the reinsurance policy for the first year of operations. The combined \$9 million of funding will be a one-time grant that will be replaced in future years by the ongoing premiums paid by participants.
- The Risk Program Administrators, a subsidiary of Gallagher Risk Management (Monroe) continues to guide our efforts to bring this program online, with a projected start-up date in the second quarter of 2025.

**Dr. Will Hall is executive editor of the *Baptist Message*. He also serves as the director of the LBC Office of Public Policy, representing Louisiana Baptists' values and beliefs on key moral issues and social concerns to lawmakers and government officials.**

### **LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION**

Dr. Jeffrey Steed, Executive Director

Thank you, Louisiana Baptists, for partnership opportunities as we celebrate 80 years of ministry! We are grateful for God's blessings on the Louisiana Baptist Foundation. We ended 2023 with \$257 + million in assets under management, representing funds owned by Louisiana Baptist churches and other ministries and gifts primarily managed perpetually for Kingdom-impact. Every dollar generated from these funds represents another dollar to advance the Kingdom by spreading the Gospel.

In 2023, the Foundation continued executing its LBF Vision200™ strategic plan that was initiated in 2020. 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 is to advance the Kingdom through the Foundation's ministry by \$200 million in twenty years or less. Specifically, the Foundation will benefit the Kingdom through (1) facilitating planned gifts beyond cash and (2) providing funds management and other

services for ministries to enhance their impact. As of the end of 2023, the Foundation's current Kingdom-impact amount achieved is \$43+ million towards the 20-year goal of \$200 million.

To accomplish this goal, the Foundation focuses on four objectives:

(1) Planned Giving:

- A. Providing educational content to churches to teach practical ways members can benefit their church beyond cash (*Louisiana Legacy* publication),
- B. Speaking in churches and other ministry organizations to educate constituents on being good stewards of 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 comprehensive planned giving website content,
- E. Sending periodic communications to constituents,
- F. Providing confidential one-on-one meetings with prospective donors,
- G. Encouraging individuals to impact their family and the Kingdom through their estates,
- H. Facilitating the logistics of special gifts, and
- I. Providing every Louisiana Baptist the opportunity to obtain a free basic Will document when at least tithing her/his estate to a church and/or other ministries.

(2) Church/Ministry Services: The Foundation provides church-business-related services through ChurchBiz Central™ to help churches and ministries increase their God-given funds. For example, the Short-Term Fund helps these organizations typically earn more on cash reserves and designated accounts than a bank. Other valuable services available include online giving and payroll services.

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

(4) Operations: The Foundation will continue to have a well-skilled and experienced staff that provides top-tier service to help organizations further enhance Kingdom-impact.

The Foundation continued toward its LBF Vision 200™ in 2024 by implementing a promotional focused on celebrating 80 years of ministry. For each new account opened, the Foundation will donate an additional \$80 to the new account. For each new gift created, the Foundation will donate an additional \$80 toward the gift.

The Foundation is grateful to Louisiana Baptists for ministry partnerships around the state over the last 80 years. We look forward to the next 80 years for His glory!

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

Perry Hancock, PhD, President and CEO

In its 125<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 8,000 children, families, and individuals. Through its on-campus and off-campus residential programs, 126 children and homeless mothers were served. An additional 310 families received placement referral services.

Granberry Counseling Centers provided professional Christian counseling for 837 individuals. Through its Minister Care program, a partnership with the Louisiana Baptist Convention Pastoral Leadership division, Granberry provided counseling for 38 Louisiana Baptist minister families.

Women's Learning Center (formerly Christian Women's Job Corps) provided educational and vocational training for 47 women. The ministry maintained its adult education certification as an official HiSET training and testing site and offered Paraprofessional Education and Banking Services certificates. Each day, WLC staff lead the women in Bible study and prayer.

Through its Compassion for Kids ministry, the Children's Home served over 7,000 children and family members. Items provided include diapers, toys, backpacks, school supplies, food, and other life essentials. Hundreds of Bibles and 1,000s of gospel tracts were distributed.

The new Compassion Center opened late in the year. The 15,000 square foot facility houses the offices of Compassion for Kids and serves as a distribution facility that provides life essentials to partner churches and other compassion ministries. The goal of Compassion for Kids is to reach 25,000 – 30,000 children and families in need each year.

The Children's Home also shared God's love in word and deed through its international orphan care ministry, Orphans Embrace. Thirty-four children were served through Louisiana Reach Haiti. The ministry is sponsored by the Children's Home and several Louisiana Baptist churches.

Throughout the year the Children's Home celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The theme for the observance was A Legacy of Hope. Special events highlighted the impact Louisiana Baptists have made on the lives of children and families in need since 1899. In July a new Legacy Room was opened which features a ministry timeline and memorabilia.

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 and were baptized in local churches. Many 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. David Jeffreys, Acting President

American culture is changing, but God's Word is not. Louisiana Christian University remains committed to the constancy of God's Word. Its message resonates for all generations.

While culture shifts beneath our feet, we pledge to remain rooted in God's Word, our hope now and in the future.

**Just as many Christian colleges and universities have experienced declining enrollment over the last few years, LCU, too, has struggled. Yet, as Romans 5:3-4 tells us--**

*"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."*

LCU will persevere while remaining true to its mission to be a Christ-centered community committed to academic excellence where students are equipped for lives of learning, leading and serving. We will not lower our standards. We will not weaken our academic rigor nor our Christian foundations. While we open our doors to students from all backgrounds, LCU will maintain its high standards of morality, academics, and sportsmanship.

We believe this is the only way to honor our mission to produce well-educated, God-fearing, loving, and empathetic leaders regardless of the career paths or callings that are placed on our students' lives.

The 2023-24 academic year was one of change at LCU, as President Dr. Rick Brewer, the university's ninth president, retired from higher education administration in the Spring.

In addition, the university saw the academic infrastructure reorganized into schools and colleges headed by deans to further the professionalism and stability of the school moving into the future. We believe these changes will promote strength and growth.



Our desire moving forward is to make Louisiana Christian University the best it can be and continue its longstanding tradition of both preparing graduates and transforming lives for the Kingdom of God for generations to come.

In that comes a renewed pledge to be honorable stewards of the Cooperative Program funds and generous gifts that LCU has received from its churches and members across the state of Louisiana.

We are thankful for your money, your time, your prayers, and your continued support now and moving forward as we search for our next president of this great university.

We are hopeful and confident the Lord will send LCU exactly the right person for this important mission field in Central Louisiana.

## **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

# 2025 ELBA CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

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

### OCTOBER 2024

- Pastor/Staff Appreciation Month*
- 7 ELBA's Annual Meeting – Judson BC/Now Walker BC
  - 16 National Boss's Day
  - 18-19 Minister Wive's Retreat–Tall Timbers
  - 24 LBC January Bible Study Preview – ELBA M&M Room

### NOVEMBER 2024

- 3 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 11 Veterans Day
- 12 LBC Annual Meeting – Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport
- 28 Thanksgiving
- 24-25 YEC – Alexandria

### DECEMBER 2024

- 2 ELBA Ministers & Mates Christmas
- 1-9 Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon
- 9 Night of Prayer – Lottie Moon 6:30pm
- 23-31 ELBA Holidays
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Year's Eve

### JANUARY 2025

- 1 New Year's Day
- 2 ELBA Holiday
- 5-12 January Bible Study Week
- 19 Sanctity of Life
- 20 Martin Luther King Day
- 27 ECON – FBC, Covington

### FEBRUARY 2025

- 7 Collegiate Evangelism Conference (TBD)
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 Focus on WMU Sunday
- 23 Racial Reconciliation Sunday

### MARCH 2025

- 2-9 North American Missions Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Offering
- 9 Daylight Savings Time
- 16 Church Planting Emphasis Sunday

### APRIL 2025

- 18 Good Friday
- 20 Easter
- 27 Baptism Sunday

### MAY 2025

- 1 National Day of Prayer
- 11 Mother's Day
- 4 SBC Seminary Sunday
- 18 Children's Ministry Sunday
- 22 Community Wide Crusade Meeting Wholly Grounds
- 26 Memorial Day
- 27 Memorial Day – ELBA Offices Closed

### JUNE 2025

- 15 Father's Day
- LB Children's Home Sunday
- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 Summer Begins
- 16-20 Breakaway Youth 3 – Tall Timbers
- 30-5 Kids Camp – Tall Timbers

### JULY 2025

- 1-4 Kids Camp – Tall Timbers
- 4 Independence Day
- 6 Religious Liberty Sunday
- 21-24 Children's Mission Camp–TallTimbers

### AUGUST 2025

- 3 SEND Relief Sunday
- 24 Global Hunger Sunday

### SEPTEMBER 2025

- 1 Labor Day
- 5-7 Champions Camp – Tall Timbers
- 7-14 Week of Prayer for Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering
- 14 Children's Baptism Sunday

### OCTOBER 2025

- 6 ELBA's Annual Meeting – Colyell BC

### NOVEMBER 2025

- 2 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 23-24 YEC
- 27 Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER 2025

- 1-7 Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon Offering
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Year's Eve