



Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association

VOL. 45 JULY/AUGUST 2021 NO. 4

Together We Do What We Cannot Do Alone

Blue's News

One Man's Perspective on the 2021 SBC

This year's Southern Baptist Convention was filled with tension that seemed to be moving us toward a split or fracturing of some kind. The Lord heard our prayers as we prayed for cooler heads to prevail. It seemed that they did. The national news media had their day as they wrapped every SBC action with political overtones. Still, I left Nashville with a spirit of hope.

There has always been a dynamic tension in Baptist life stretched between the extremes of the theological left and right. A vast majority of Baptists are somewhere in the middle holding to a thorough conservative theology and practice. While churches may be different in appearance and style, the Bible remains our sole source of authority for faith and living. Our message remains that Jesus Christ, God's Son died on the cross and arose from the grave to save sinners who must be born again. Our mission remains to reach the unreached people groups around the world along with the unreached in our own nation. Our passion remains to train ministers to reach the next generation in our churches and mission fields. Scripture does not change, and hence, our message, mission, and passion has not changed.

I agree with Ed Stetzer, Chairman of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College, who offered these insights moments after the SBC meeting ended.¹ *The SBC faced a fork in the road as to its future direction and the next generation showed up and set the course for the SBC future. Look for the SBC to be more diverse in the future. The SBC will have a continued argument over issues not resolved at the meeting by the means of social media.*

At the end of the day, he believes the SBC will hold together. Here are a few take-aways from the 2021 SBC that you may find important:

Our own Robin Purdy, wife of pastor Jason Purdy, FBC, Livingston, served on the Committee on Committees for the SBC.

Ministry Reports were heard from NAMB and IMB.

NAMB: Greatest gains in SBC life have been in African American and Latino churches. By 2030, one-third of all SBC churches will be newly planted churches.

IMB: Paul Chitwood stressed that 154,937 people die without Jesus daily and are destined to eternity in hell. Over sixty missionaries were commissioned in a Monday evening commissioning service with many going to last frontier areas of our world. Support your missionaries through giving to the Cooperative Program along with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The biblical goal of the IMB is Revelation 7:9a: *After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.*

The SBC approved Vision 2025 with six goals to attain:

Increase full-time, fully-funded missionaries by a net gain of 500, giving us 4,200 full-time, fully-funded missionaries through the International Mission Board.

Add 5,000 new SBC congregations to our Southern Baptist family, giving us over 50,000 SBC congregations.

Increase total workers in the field through a new emphasis on "calling out the called" and then preparing those who are called out by the Lord.

Turn around our ongoing decline in reaching, baptizing, and discipling those under the age of 18.

Increase our annual giving in successive years and establish a new path of growth that will lead us to reach and surpass \$500 million through the Cooperative Program to achieve these Great Commission goals.

Prayerfully endeavor to eliminate all incidents of sexual abuse and racial discrimination among our churches.

Looking forward for ELBA: No doubt 100 people will have 100 different opinions on what happened in Nashville recently. Yet, our churches have not changed nor has our faith in Christ nor the authority of God's Word. Let us do what we know to do while the door is open. *It is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed* (Romans 13:1b). Remember the old gospel song, "We'll work till Jesus comes."

Bro. Richard

¹Stetzer, Ed. "Faith Matters: The 'Watershed Moment' for Evangelicals on Race, Sex Abuse." Interviewed by Judy Woodruff. June 16, 2021. Accessed June 24, 2021. <https://www.pbs.org/video/matters-of-faith-1623867460/>.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES
MAY 2021

Agape	\$0.00	\$0.00
Amite	\$0.00	\$2,800.00
Bethel	\$140.85	\$763.53
Carroll	\$0.00	\$0.00
Central	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christ Community	\$2,414.00	\$6,048.00
Colyell	\$1,646.87	\$7,157.76
Denham Springs, FBC	\$0.00	\$6,928.75
Don Avenue	\$533.01	\$2,486.98
Emmanuel	\$750.00	\$2,240.00
Faith	\$0.00	\$0.00
French Settlement	\$348.96	\$1,780.00
Gray's Creek	\$987.00	\$2,275.00
Greater Third Zion	\$0.00	\$0.00
Head of Island	\$0.00	\$600.65
Hebron	\$388.22	\$1,716.95
Holden	\$268.30	\$1,324.03
Judson	\$0.00	\$9,196.34
Live Oak	\$3,361.54	\$14,211.75
Livingston FBC	\$450.00	\$2,866.00
Macedonia	\$0.00	\$0.00
Magnolia	\$200.00	\$1,000.00
Maurepas	\$0.00	\$226.00
Midway	\$392.80	\$1,324.87
New Bethlehem	\$0.00	\$439.47
New Covenant	\$0.00	\$100.00
Northside	\$605.06	\$3,030.41
One Life	\$0.00	\$630.00
Pine Grove	\$455.14	\$2,506.49
Red Oak	\$200.00	\$400.00
River of Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Riverside	\$366.15	\$1,443.85
Salem	\$0.00	\$0.00
Satsuma	\$0.00	\$0.00
South Walker	\$0.00	\$593.25
Southside	\$0.00	\$1,850.00
The New Beginnings	\$0.00	\$694.40
Victory	\$358.04	\$1,262.18
Walker	\$2,848.29	\$12,454.06
Watson	\$636.15	\$2,810.17
The Way Church	\$325.00	\$1,625.00
Community Ch Spfd	\$50.00	\$300.00
Walker Comm Min	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Contributions	\$17,725.38	\$95,085.89

Capital One	\$77,469.71
Louisiana Baptist Foundation	\$835,738.79
TOTAL Checking & Savings	\$913,208.50

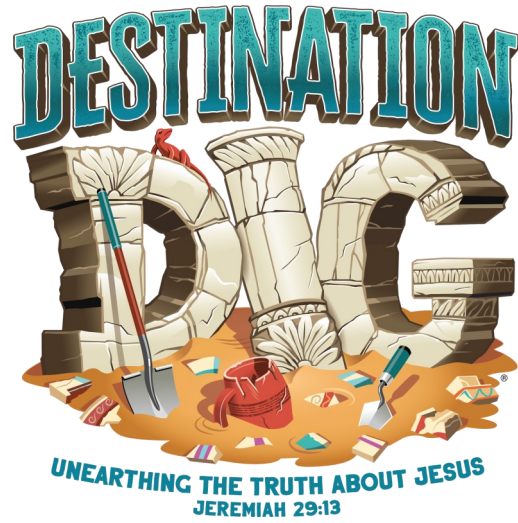
News from the Churches . . .

Bro. Jason Purdy has resigned as the pastor of **First Baptist Church, Livingston**.

Satsuma Baptist Church is in search of a part-time youth director. Please send resume’ or questions to teacherpb@bellsouth.net.

Red Oak Baptist Church is in need of helpers with their Vacation Bible School to be held July 26th – 30th. Please contact Bro. Jack Varnado at 225-362-1653 for details.

Some of our **churches** are interested in your leftover VBS decorations and materials if you used Lifeway’s “Destination Dig”. Please contact the ELBA office for their information.



Watson Baptist Church has Vacation Bible School materials available from their VBS “Roar” by Group. Some items are to be returned. If interested, please contact Judy at the church office 225/667-8818.

Red Oak Baptist Church is going to visit the “ARK” and the “Creation Museum” in Kentucky during the month of October. They still have spots available . If you are interested in taking this tour, please contact Bro. Jack Varnado at 225-362-1653.

Please pray for all of our ELBA Pastors and Church Staff Members and please pray for our churches currently seeking pastors:

Carroll Baptist Church, Don Avenue Baptist Church, Macedonia Baptist Church, Satsuma Baptist Church, Hebron Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, Livingston and Magnolia Baptist Church

Ministry News

CommUnity Hands

A Ministry of the Christian Social Services

It is with great joy and thanksgiving that we have reestablished our regular weekly hours. It has been a tough time for everyone and we reopened our doors on Thursday June 3rd from 9 AM to 12 Noon. We are located at 2151 Tower Dr. Denham Springs, with appropriate pandemic protocols in place.

God has blessed with some volunteers and sufficient funding to once again allow us to help those in need in our community. We would encourage your church and church members to once again consider supporting this worthy effort with your time (more workers are needed), your funding, but most importantly... your prayers, as we strive to demonstrate the love of Christ by helping the needy in our area. Contact the ELBA office with questions.

Thank you for your continued support of CommUnity Hands.

Discipleship Training—Reignite

Attention All Pastors and Sunday School Leaders
First Baptist Church of Denham Springs will be offering a
Discipleship Teaching Training

Monday, August 30th – 6:30pm to 8:30pm
at First Baptist Church Denham Springs

Bro. Ken Brady with Lifeway will lead “Discipleship Training - Reignite”

Contact Bro. Paul Keating

paul.keating@firstdenham.com or 985-774-3454 with questions



We are continuing to collect money to meet our goal of providing 2,000 “Good and Evil” Bibles. We will send the money to our missionary at the end of August. Andrew Rhyzkov will purchase the bibles.

Amount Collected to date is \$3,108.78

Please mail your support to P. O. Box 305,
Walker, LA 70785 and reference “Bibles”



The Forge is back! A ONE DAY ONLY EVENT!

For 7th-12 graders, Leaders, Parents, & Pastors

When: Saturday, August 21, 2021 9am-5pm

Speaker: Derek Griffon Worship: Taylor Wison

See your leaders for details

2nd Annual Rumblin' for a Cause Car Show

First Baptist Church of Denham Springs will host this car show on Sept. 18, 2021 from 10am until 2pm. Our cause this year is **Camp Living Waters** youth camp. Please come out as either a participant or attendee. Please contact Len Hodges at 985-662-6910 or lbkh@bellsouth.net.



SELU

BCM

is looking
to borrow
a van/
people-

mover or 2 to take students to Collegiate Week, Aug 8-12, in Davis, OK. If you have vans/people-movers that would allow us to borrow them, please contact Matt Middlecamp, Director at mmiddlecamp@gmail.com



Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association

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Dr. Richard Blue
Associational Missions Coordinator
richardblue8@gmail.com
(225) 305-0675

The next ELBA Newsletter will be mailed in September. Updates will be emailed as needed.
If you are not presently on our email list and would like to be included,
please send the information to info@elbamissions.org.

☑ MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Wednesdays at 11:30am Pastor Prayer
Time at ELBA's Missions and Ministry Room*

JULY 2021

- 1-3 Kid's Camps - Tall Timbers
- 4 Independence Day
- 5 ELBA Offices Closed
- 19 Association Council – 10:00am

AUGUST 2021

- 2 Executive Board – 5:45pm Meal,
6:30pm –ELBA's M&M Room
- 8 Student Evangelism Day
- 15 Love Your Church Sunday School
Emphasis
- 15-21 Worship Music Week
- 16 Pastor's Luncheon - Riverside *
- 16 Personnel Committee Meeting –
10:00am
- 21 FORGE Event
- 30 Minister's Conference – 10:00am
Dr. Phillip Caples, at OneLife Church
- 30 FBC Denham Springs, Reignite
Training, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

* Final plans to be determined



Happy 4th of July

ELBA Offices will be closed on Monday, July 5

Associational Council Meeting
Monday, July 19th
ELBA's Missions and Ministry Meeting Room
10:00am

Executive Board Meeting
Monday, August 2nd
ELBA's Missions and Ministry Meeting Room
5:45pm—Meal and 6:30pm—Meeting