



Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association

VOL. 45 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021 NO. 5

Together We Do What We Cannot Do Alone

Blue's News

Years ago, atop of the First United Methodist Church in downtown Shreveport at the head of Texas Avenue was a large neon cross. It was an attention-grabber driving off the Red River Bridge at night, especially when the city streets were decorated for Christmas. Later replaced by a tall steeple crowned once again, by a cross, the message was the same. These symbols were an invitation to come to the cross, a sense of the presence of God, and the church stood in what seemed like a guardianship over downtown Shreveport.

Psalms 120-134 are called Psalms of Degrees or Steps or Ascent. The Temple, located on the top of Mt. Moriah, could be seen from all around Jerusalem. When pilgrims would come to worship, they would begin singing these songs as they walked upwards toward the Temple to meet God.

Psalm 121 exalts the Lord as Creator, Sustainer, Guide, and Protector. As such, we declare God's ownership over our lives and commit to live our lives for Him. As Protector, the Lord is our keeper, shade, and keeper of our soul. No matter what life throws our way, our God is with us—whether on the mountaintop or in the deepest darkest valley. We are not alone. *I lift my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth...The LORD will protect your coming and going both now and forever (Psalm 121:1,6).* Our protection and strength comes from the Lord. We are called to steadfastness. Do not quit! Do not give up! Stay focused on the Lord! He is our Protector, Shield, and Sustainer.

Back-to-school time has been the time our churches have made great gains in the work of the gospel. Vacations are over, daily routines return to normal, and attendance usually is high. Introduce now the Covid-19 Delta Variant. Illness sweeps our land, people are sick, some hospitalized, and others die. Mask and vaccine directives return once again. Many have hunkered down and for good reason, but they also hide out of fear. I do not blame them. Still, we are not forced to close nor are we restricted in attendance. What must we do? We press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ (Philippians 3:14). Evaluate your situation. Some churches are at full steam ahead. Others have reduced activities because of the outbreak, and still others have had to go back to livestream until this round of Covid passes over.

Things for your attention:

August 30: 10:30: **Minister's Conference** @ One Life Church: Dr. Philip Caples will speak an encouraging message to our pastors.

6:30-8:30: **Reignite** FBC Denham Springs: contact Paul.keating@firstdenham.com for more information; free to attend. Dr. Ken Braddy, Lifeway Director of Sunday School. Bring your teachers and small group leaders to be inspired and trained for new church year.

September 18: 10:00-2:00 **Ramblin' for a Cause Car Show** @ First Baptist Church, Denham Springs.

September 16: 9:00-3:00: **Revive Christ and His Church** featuring Richard Blackaby and sponsored by Northshore at FBC, Covington. Register with the Northshore Office at 225-567-5086. There is a \$10 registration fee for lunch and two books.

September 19-22: **Live Oak Baptist Church Revival** (Dr. Steve Horn Sunday 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 AM services; Keith Manual Sunday; 7:00 PM; Eddie Briery Monday-Wednesday 7:00 PM)

Emmanuel Baptist Church Revival (Rev. Charles Ray Smith Evangelist; regular times Sunday, Monday - Wednesday)

October 4: **Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association Annual Meeting** Pine Grove Baptist Church, 21949 LA-444, Livingston, LA 70754
Meal: 5:00; Meeting begins 6:30.

As a final thought, please pray for our Spanish Ministry. They started their first worship service in Spanish in August and had three new visitors! English as Second Language (ESL) Class Registration began August 27, 2021. Classes are held at 6:30pm at will begin September 3, 2021. They will be giving school supplies, backpacks, and school uniforms for the whole church and community on the same day.

Thanks and have a blessed day.

Richard Blue

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES
JULY 2021**

Agape	\$0.00	\$0.00
Amite	\$0.00	\$2,800.00
Bethel	\$111.82	\$995.82
Carroll	\$0.00	\$173.60
Central	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christ Community	\$1,245.00	\$8,468.00
Colyell	\$1,041.62	\$9,582.38
Denham Springs, FBC	\$1,149.09	\$9,510.03
Don Avenue	\$514.68	\$3,367.24
Emmanuel	\$125.00	\$2,490.00
Faith	\$0.00	\$0.00
French Settlement	\$256.36	\$2,316.13
Gray's Creek	\$0.00	\$2,638.00
Greater Third Zion	\$0.00	\$0.00
Head of Island	\$0.00	\$675.40
Hebron	\$317.34	\$2,499.47
Holden	\$213.00	\$1,815.03
Judson	\$1,296.74	\$13,191.23
Live Oak	\$2,814.16	\$19,789.49
Livingston FBC	\$414.00	\$4,042.00
Macedonia	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Magnolia	\$200.00	\$1,400.00
Maurepas	\$0.00	\$438.90
Midway	\$0.00	\$1,476.34
New Bethlehem	\$20.61	\$639.69
New Covenant	\$0.00	\$100.00
Northside	\$564.53	\$4,185.76
One Life	\$0.00	\$1,230.00
Pine Grove	\$453.00	\$3,304.49
Red Oak	\$100.00	\$500.00
River of Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Riverside	\$221.68	\$1,808.68
Salem	\$0.00	\$0.00
Satsuma	\$0.00	\$0.00
South Walker	\$0.00	\$1,186.50
Southside	\$0.00	\$2,750.00
The New Beginnings	\$0.00	\$994.50
Victory	\$156.23	\$1,537.15
Walker	\$2,672.06	\$16,963.38
Watson	\$787.94	\$3,598.11
The Way Church	\$325.00	\$2,275.00
Community Ch Spfd	\$50.00	\$400.00
Walker Comm Min	\$600.00	\$600.00
Total Contributions	\$15,649.85	\$130,942.32

Capita! One	\$130,329.46
Louisiana Baptist Foundation	\$825,548.18
TOTAL Checking & Savings	\$955,878.64

News from the Churches . . .

Emmanuel Baptist Church will hold a revival from Sunday, September 19th through Wednesday, September 22nd. Bro. Charles Ray Smith, Evangelist. Bro. Max Landry, Pastor.

Live Oak Baptist Church will hold revival services from Sunday, September 19th through Wednesday, September 22nd. See the following list of speakers...

Sunday September 19th-8:00am, 9:15am & 10:30am

Dr. Steve Horn-LBC Executive Director

Sunday September 19th-6:30pm

Keith Manuel-LBC Evangelism/Church Grow Team Director

Monday September 20th-7:00pm

Kevin Roberts-Senior Pastor, Trinity Baptist Pineville & Former LA Lifeway Representative

Tuesday September 21st -7:00pm

Lane Corley-LBC Church Planting Strategist

Wednesday September 22nd-7:00pm

Eddie Briery-Lead Pastor Church of Red River Bossier

September 19-22 - 7:00pm

Michael John Clement -Worship Pastor First Colleyville, TX

Bro. Berkley Boyd, Pastor, Magnolia Baptist Church, retired after 52 years service in the gospel ministry.



ELBA's CWJC will hold an Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday, September 23rd at the ELBA's Missions and Ministries Meeting Room at 6:00pm.

Contact Dr. Bobbie Shaffett with questions.

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association will hold its 179th Annual Meeting

On Monday, October 4th, 2021

Pine Grove Baptist Church at 6:30p.m.

Please elect your messengers and plan to attend

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



NEARBY: THE NEEDS NEXT DOOR

The glorious message of the gospel is that God came near to us. Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of John 1:14 says it all, "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." As Christ-followers, we can sometimes be focused more on the far away and neglect the nearby. The Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering is making a difference in reaching our state – those nearby. Every gift given through this offering goes to plant churches, evangelize, give hope and truth to the people of Louisiana. We believe Louisiana is a mission field and we're ready to meet the needs next door. Jesus' words to the disciples still ring true today: Jesus replied, "We must go to the nearby towns, so that I can tell the good news to those people. This is why I have come."

We need to take the Gospel to the nations, cities and towns beginning with those nearby.

Week of Prayer

State Goal

September 12-19, 2021

\$1.7 Million



Keynote Speaker: Ken Braddy

Ken Braddy, the Director of Sunday School for Lifeway Christian Resources. He manages the work of the editorial teams that create all of the ongoing Bible studies that Lifeway produces for adults, such as Bible Studies For Life, Explore The Bible, MasterWork, The Gospel Project, YOU, and more. He along with his team serves the Bible study needs of approximately 2.5-3 million adults each week.



Cost: **FREE!**

Other Guest Speakers:

- Dr. Randy Stone | New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- Don Pucik | Mission Strategist, Northshore Baptist Association
- Ernest Graham | Pastor, Woodland Baptist Church
- David Odom | New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Schedule:

- 6:30PM – Welcome and Introductions
- 6:40PM – Ken Braddy Keynote:
- 7:20PM – Break
- 7:30PM – Break-Ins
- 8:00PM – Break
- 8:10PM – Q&A with Ken Braddy
- 8:30PM – Closing Prayer

Break-Ins:

- Evangelism *IN* Small Groups (Randy Stone)
- Teaching *IN* Small Groups (Ernest Graham)
- Equipping/Multiplying Leaders *IN* Small Groups (Don Pucik)
- Congregational Care *IN* Small Small Groups (David Odom)

No childcare will be provided for sister churches

Children's Ministry Training 2021

Tuesday, October 19

Judson Baptist Church

5:30 to 8:30pm



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.

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Dr. Richard Blue
Associational Missions Coordinator
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(225) 305-0675

The next ELBA Newsletter will be mailed in November. 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

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 5 Single Adult Sunday
- 6 Labor Day-Offices Closed
- 10-11 Survivorman 2021 - Acadian Baptist, Eunice
- 12 Anti-Gambling Sunday
- 12 Grandparents Day
- 12-19 Week of Prayer for Georgia Barnette Offering
- 18 Rumblin' for a Cause - FBC DS -10:00am
- 20 Association Council - 10:00am
- 22 Autumn Begins
- 23 CWJC Advisory Board Meeting—6:00pm
- 25 Outdoorsmen Event—Live Oak Baptist

OCTOBER 2021 Pastor/Staff Appreciation Month

- 3 Personal Evangelism Commitment Day
- 4 ELBA Annual Meeting - Pine Grove Baptist
- 5 State WMU Council Meeting
- 10 Global Hunger Day
- 11 Pastor's Luncheon - Riverside
- 12 ELBA's Children's Ministry Training - Judson
- 16 National Boss's Day
- 16-17 Ministers' Wives Retreat - Tall Timbers
- 17-23 Week of Prayer for Baptist Associations
- 19 ELBA Children's Ministry Training
5:30pm til 8:30pm - Judson Baptist Church
- 30 M-Jam



*Happy
Labor Day*

ELBA Offices
will be
closed on
Monday,
September
6th in honor
of this
holiday



Associational Council Meeting
Monday, September 20th
ELBA's Missions and Ministry Meeting Room
10:00am
ELBA's Annual Meeting
Monday, October 4th
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