



Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association

VOL. 44 JULY/AUGUST 2020 NO. 4

Together We Do What We Cannot Do Alone

Blue's News

Galatians 6:7-10

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

The continuation of Phase Two has brought with it a deep disappointment on two fronts: the continued crowd limitations, and an upward spread of the virus in our area. Phase Two protocols will continue through July 23rd. What will happen then? Wait and see. The purpose for the continuation is a drastic effort to curb the spread of the Covid-19 virus so school can begin in August. As such, this continuation also affects our churches' ability to provide child care on Sundays along with children's Bible study activities. We can have some children's activities on a strictly limited basis right now, but the restrictions hamper more than they help our situations.

My view on Covid-19: I am working hard to avoid catching it. While some recover quickly and without any apparent side effects, others face extreme difficulties that require hospitalization and may lead to death. Only time will reveal the long-term effects of this bug on its victims. Do not take this lightly and do not stand down in your mitigation efforts. Do not embarrass anyone who wants to wear a mask or not shake hands.

What must we do? Do not quit! We reap what we sow, more than we sow, later than we sow. Be faithful in the doing the things we need to do to keep our churches on track for the day when we can finally have our church families back together. Our Sunday School playbook has some of the same plays we need to execute. Also, there are some new plays we need to learn. Demonstrate due diligence. Go the second mile.

- ◆ Lead your congregation in practicing good hygiene and wearing masks.
- ◆ Prepare your church for when we can finally reopen fully. Remember, you eat at restaurants that appear to be the cleanest and take this virus serious. You want your church to have the same appearance.
- ◆ Nominating Committees need to work. The new church year begins in September and will be here before we know it.
- ◆ Training must be held for new and returning teachers—especially on the how-to under Phase Three protocols when they arrive.
- ◆ Cultivate... Tend and care for your congregations the best way you know how. Consider using Sunday School teachers/care leaders to contact their classes.
- ◆ Do not box-in your Sunday School classes. It is still a small group Sunday School class if they meet on any other day of the week than Sunday. Some classes might consider making their weekday meeting time permanent.

Specialized Training:

Sean Keith, Sunday School/Discipleship Strategist for the LBC is offering online training for teachers. Our state convention is doing all they can do to provide churches with the opportunity to train our Sunday School/small group teachers and leaders through webinars before the new church year begins. (see article on page 3)

Blues News Continued on page 3

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES
May-June, 2020**

Agape	\$0.00	\$0.00
Amite	\$2,659.70	\$6,588.27
Bethel	\$222.67	\$654.92
Carroll	\$0.00	\$518.84
Central	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christ Community	\$1,055.00	\$5,359.00
Colyell	\$1,194.82	\$6,095.82
Denham Springs, FBC	\$878.69	\$5,986.17
Don Avenue	\$912.75	\$2,182.62
Emmanuel	\$1,100.47	\$2,563.57
Faith	\$0.00	\$0.00
French Settlement	\$232.23	\$1,132.68
Gray's Creek	\$1,876.00	\$2,775.00
Greater Third Zion	\$0.00	\$0.00
Head of Island	\$117.50	\$540.70
Hebron	\$618.74	\$2,144.31
Holden	\$471.93	\$1,381.55
Judson	\$1,642.08	\$8,109.06
Live Oak	\$3,322.76	\$13,829.43
Livingston FBC	\$1,698.00	\$4,090.00
Macedonia	\$0.00	\$600.00
Magnolia	\$600.00	\$1,200.00
Maurepas	\$242.00	\$485.00
Midway	\$0.00	\$346.47
New Bethlehem	\$81.40	\$404.84
New Covenant	\$0.00	\$0.00
Northside	\$930.11	\$3,387.37
One Life	\$0.00	\$649.00
Pine Grove	\$810.82	\$2,466.69
Red Oak	\$100.00	\$800.00
River of Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Riverside	\$394.99	\$1,367.56
Salme	\$0.00	\$0.00
Satsuma	\$0.00	\$250.00
South Walker	\$1,878.16	\$1,878.16
Southside	\$0.00	\$300.00
The New Beginnings	\$326.08	\$708.50
Victory	\$371.56	\$1,188.61
Walker	\$3,214.90	\$11,880.25
Watson	\$941.43	\$3,228.22
The Way Church	\$225.00	\$1,125.00
Community Ch Spfd	\$100.00	\$300.00
Walker Comm Min	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Contributions	\$28,309.79	\$96,517.61
Capital One	\$107,889.31	
Louisiana Baptist Foundation	\$599,454.53	
TOTAL Checking & Savings	\$707,343.84	

News from the Churches . . .

Bro. Roger Dunlap has retired as pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church effective June 28, 2020.

Bro. Charlie McCants has retired as pastor of Midway Baptist Church.

Bro. William "Bill" Pianki has been called as the pastor of First Baptist Church of French Settlement.

Bro. John McNaughten has been called as the pastor of Walker Baptist Church.



Please pray for our churches currently seeking pastors:

Carroll Baptist Church,, Don Avenue Baptist Church,
Midway Baptist Church and
Macedonia Baptist Church



From LBC...



In this strange season of unprecedented circumstances, we've all found ourselves needing to get creative with different aspects of church ministry. As programming needs and methods shift, one thing remains the same—people need to hear the good news of the gospel, perhaps now more than ever. VBS is the single largest evangelistic outreach of the year for most churches. So we've got to get creative in how we effectively and safely to utilize this important strategy to reach our communities this year. No one knows what public gatherings will look like but we know there are at least four forms that VBS might take this summer. Pick the one that works best for you!



1. **Traditional VBS**
2. **Neighborhood VBS**
3. **Alternate VBS**
4. **VBS at HOME**

As we seek creative solutions, we are sure of this: VBS is worth it because the gospel is worth it! No matter the circumstances. Please continue to help reach kids with the gospel this Summer.

Ministry News

Re-Engaging Your Sunday School or Small Groups Ministry

Are you, like me, growing weary of hearing or talking about Covid 19? When are we ever going to get back to normal? Even so, it is our current reality, and we talk about it because it affects our everyday lives. But, it doesn't mean that we shouldn't be talking about and planning for Sunday School and Small Group Ministry to resume on our church campuses. "When" and "how" are important questions that we must use to address, plan, and prepare.

In our planning and decision-making, we need to be mindful of the following: 1) Sunday School and/or Small Group ministries in our churches' are foundational to the health and growth of our churches. The longer we go without regular, on-campus or online meetings, the harder it will be to re-build our ministry. 2) It is important to make sure that our members and guests are able to come back to a safe, clean and healthy environment. 3) As we maintain or restart our ministry, we must ensure that it is biblically-based, ministry-focused and continues to connect new people to the Gospel and a small group of people that will teach and minister to them.

So, on **Monday, August 10th** and **Tuesday August 11th**, Louisiana Baptists will host our first ever, **Digital ReGroup Conference**. Not only will this be a timely message for those who lead the Sunday School and/or Small Group Ministry in their church, but **ESPECIALLY** for all those who lead a class or small group every week. We need to prepare these wonderful lay people who have the responsibility of making disciples through their class or small group for the New Normal.

We are asking you to commit to one hour. Below, you will see the schedule. These sessions will help us understand the opportunities and challenges we face for the next few weeks and months. The webinar is free. All you have to do is register and watch. If you can't participate in the live webcast, you can view it online. The recording will be available by Friday, August 14th on our website at www.LouisianaBaptists.org/ReGroup20.

For Pastors/Staff/Key Ministry Leaders - Monday, August 10th from 6:00-7:00 PM

For All Adult Leaders – Monday, August 10th from 7:30–8:30 PM

For all Preschool/Children's Leaders – Tuesday, August 11th from 6:00-7:00 PM

For all Student Leaders – Tuesday, August 11th from 7:30-8:30 PM

Sean Keith, Church Growth Team of LBC

Blues News (continued from page 1)

Here are a few things to celebrate:

Rev. Charles McCants announced his retirement from Midway Baptist Church

Dr. Roger Dunlap announced his retirement from Macedonia Baptist Church

We want to welcome two new pastors to our Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association family. Both began their service for our Lord and His churches in this area June 28th.

Rev. William Pianki at First Baptist Church, French Settlement

Dr. Jason McNaughten at Walker Baptist Church

May God bless them both and give them an open door for the gospel. I look forward to having these brethren in our fellowship.

Here are some sites where you can find information on reopening protocols.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/community-faith-based/faq.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/checklist.html>

Richard Blue

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1
Walker, LA 70785

PO Box 305 ❖ 9126 Comar Drive
Walker LA 70785

PH (225) 664-9309 FAX (225) 664-9349
www.elbmissions.org info@elbmissions.org

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@elbmissions.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mondays at 10:00am Pastor Prayer Time

JULY 2020

- 4 4th of July Holiday
- 14 Finance Committee Zoom Meeting
10:00am
- 20 Association Council 10:00am

AUGUST 2020

- 3 Executive Board 6:30pm



Association Council

Monday,
July 20, 2020

10:00AM at ELBA

Executive Board

Monday,
August 3, 2020

6:30PM at ELBA

Association Council Members

David Lane, Moderator Larry Hubbard, Vice Moderator, KaRetha Kelley, Clerk
Elena Lavigne, Treasurer, Mary Broussard, Historian, Team Leaders—Bobbie Shaffett, Justin Woulard,
Howard Turner, Tom and Patti Higginbotham, Robbie Isom, and
Luke Hand

Executive Board Members

All pastors and the church elected representatives