

Purpose: To Impact Our Parish with the Gospel

Plan: Equip members of EBLA Churches to be Foster Care Parents

Experts: Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries

Where: Riverside Baptist Church, 368990 LA Highway in Watson, LA

When: January 30, 2022, at 5 PM

Dear Pastor,

The Daily Wire reports: Children need a mother and a father — a context that more American youth than ever are lacking. Among the 130 million households in the United States, only 17.8% feature married parents with children — down from over 40% in 1970, according to the Census Bureau (See the story here <https://www.dailywire.com/news/only-18-of-american-households-are-families-with-married-parents>).

These numbers are shocking even to a society that has witnessed a historical, moral decline. Our people know well the condition of the families both in the community and even in the local church. However, we are all shocked to find that less than 18% of families have fathers and mothers. We know that the gospel is our only hope; thus, we pray for the spiritual awakening of our nation and parish. Our Lord Jesus taught that everyone must be born again not only to enter the kingdom of God (see John 3) but also to withstand the storms of life (see Matthew 7). Christ is the only one that can take a broken society recast it for His purpose to build the kingdom of God. While we take great comfort knowing that He will take broken members from each nation to make a perfect kingdom (Rev 7:9), we must ask how we can be salt and light in a culture of moral decline?

Churches have sought to stand against the destruction of the family, but our culture continues to decay with little or no lasting transformation. We must not give up. The church must know that Scripture is our sole authority, and thus we turn to the Word of God. Scripture is undoubtedly sufficient that we must study faithfully. Two truths are understandable to us all. 1) We must pray. 2) We must seek counsel. We must pray individually but also collectively. Our request to God is to pray for wisdom (See James 1). We will have “Concerts of Prayer” throughout the year 2022. Secondly, we must seek knowledge. One of the great resources for the churches in our state is the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries. See the enclosed letter from Perry Hancock for more significant explanation. They will host a meeting held at Riverside Baptist Church for the churches of ELBA on January 30, 2022, at 5 PM. This meeting aims to discuss the “Concert of Prayer” and equip members of EBLA Churches to be Foster Care Parents. We will be sharing more about this meeting in the days ahead. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 225-610-3669.

Larry Hubbard, Pastor  
Riverside Baptist Church

I am writing to let you know of a new ministry the Children's Home will be offering Louisiana Baptist Associations in 2022.

You already have an associational evangelism ministry, a missions ministry, and several other associational ministries. Our new program will help you establish an associational Foster Care and Adoption ministry.

The program will provide training for an associational Foster Care and Adoption director. We will assist you in establishing a multifaceted Foster Care and Adoption ministry. The ministry will include a respite care program where church members provide a "day off" for foster parents. We will help your association establish a life essentials ministry for foster children in your area which provides shoes, clothes, and other needed items.

We will also help you start a Foster Care and Adoption support group ministry. Associations and churches that have established support groups have found that the ministry reaches unchurched foster parents in the area. The program will also provide you with resources to promote foster care and adoption in your churches.

If you have an interest in establishing an associational Foster Care and Adoption ministry, please contact Kerri Byrd at 318.918.0091 or Susan Nolan at 318.343.2244. We look forward to partnering with your association to meet the needs of the foster children in your area, knowing that God will bless your efforts with lives changed by the power of the Gospel.

In His service and yours,

Perry Hancock, Ph.D., President and CEO  
Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries