

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

<i>Chuck Pourciau</i>	1999	Broadmoor
<i>Gene Nix</i>	2001	Shreve City
<i>Michael Reicard</i>	2011	Koran
<i>Bill Treadway</i>	2013	Mt. Gilead
<i>Larry Earhart</i>	2013	Salem

Staff Changes

Ferry Lake: *John McCatherty*, Pastor, from interim.

Fellowship Trips

- **Israel Trip** hosted by Eddie DeHondt. Sept. 28, 2021 - Oct. 6, 2021, \$3,700.00. For more information call Annette Fredericks, 318-218-3141.
- **Ark Encounter Trip** for Ministers & wives. Sept. 20-25, 2021. \$577 per person based on double occupancy. \$75 due upon signing up. Final Payment due 7-3-21. Contact Mark Crook, Pastor, Trees Baptist Church, at 318-375-2104 or mcrook@treesbaptist.org

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Return Service Requested
E-mail: carlene@nwlba.org
Website: www.nwlba.org
www.Facebook.com/NWLBA
Hours: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm/Mon-Thur.
8:30 am - 12:00 noon/Friday
Lane Moore, Director of Missions

Non-Profit Org
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Church News

North Shreve: Revival, April 11-14. Bill Britt, Evangelist. Sunday, 11 am and 6:30. Mon-Wed, 6:30 pm. 4930 Old Mooringsport Road.

COMING SOON THIS SPRING...TO BETHANY CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER



Bethany's decades old wooden playground equipment was removed last year. The new play system pictured at left can handle dozens of children at one time.



The Cherokee Park Activity Center (CPAC) was built in 1989. After 30 years, CPAC will be receiving a complete inside makeover. CPAC'S primary function today is a large group Event Center, rather than a multi-purpose gym as it was designed. These remodeling changes will better serve our churches and ministries for years to come. The new play system installation and the CPAC remodeling are scheduled for completion by late May.

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Mooringsport Westlake Westwood South Bossier	Emmanuel/Vivian-PT Keithville FBC-PT	Bethany-PT Emmanuel/S'port-PT Princeton FBC-PT Westwood-PT North Keithville-PT	Belcher-PT Cross Point-PT Ferry Lake-PT	Emmanuel/Vivian-Pianist Haughton FBC-Media Personnel-PT

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Baptist News

*Churches, Missions &
Ministries Working
Together To Be
More Effective*



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MORE 2021 TRENDS...

As we return to normal in our churches and personal lives

I received a tremendous amount of feedback from last month's article on **Church Trends for 2021**. As I continue to study new information, there is a great deal more that is changing quickly with the Church and many aspects of our personal lives.

1. NOTHING AND NO ONE MAY QUITE GO BACK TO NORMAL. Think about how much your patterns and habits have shifted in the last year. Going back to normal only works if normal still exists. That's because a **CRISIS IS ALWAYS AN ACCELERATOR!** Trends that would have taken years or decades to materialize, are happening right in front of our eyes. That's true in every area of life, from culture, to government policy, and even your church.

2. LOYALTIES ARE SHIFTING. When everything is changing, people change. How many of your existing church members will still be with you when this pandemic ends? Pastors and staff I've spoken with say it's harder to track who's still with them. As things continue to settle, we'll get a much clearer picture of who has left, who's still here and who we added. Church members have developed new habits and many of those habits are not spiritually healthy.

3. THE HOME HAS EMERGED AS THE NEW HUB. As much as people are longing to get out of their homes and back into culture, the home may never be the same. Over the last 365 days, the home has become the new hub for six things that usually happened outside of the home: **School, Work, Shopping, Entertainment, Fitness, and Church.** Some of that will snap back, but not all of it. The world we left in early 2020 was a **"come to us"** world. Several of those six items were already showing realignment before COVID. Working remotely, home schooling, and shopping online, were all on the rise. If your church is only designed to have people come to you, you'll need to be creative to reach people from this point forward.

4. THE NEED FOR EVERYONE TO FIND SUSTAINABLE PEACE. Over the past year, stress, depression, anxiety, and thoughts of checking out on life, for millions of Americans were far too high. The Gospel of Christ is the Hope of the World. Jesus said, *"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you..."* John 14:27. We know the true vaccine for a sin sick nation. A weary, waiting world needs the healing touch of the Great Physician.

Blessings,

Lane

HIS GREATEST SHOW

PREMIERING

June 14-18

June 21-25

FEATURING

WORSHIP BY

BROKEN

VESSELS

STARRING

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WMU/MISSIONS

Rhonda Berry



There is so much to be grateful for,

even in these crazy

days in which we live. Our Association's MASADA Transitional Living Center on Pines Road has new residents moving in weekly. Church volunteers are needed to provide an evening meal for the residents. Soups and sandwiches, or pan dishes such as casseroles, or spaghetti, will work well to provide several meals. Sunday School classes, church mission organizations, choir groups or just an individual can serve in this ministry. If you would like to provide a meal or two, contact John Anderson at the Association office (318-686-5736) to schedule a day.

We had a great day at **RefresHer** in February. Trey, Linda and the group at Bethany Conference Center were most helpful and welcoming to us. We had everything we needed and the food was wonderful. It was a very cold day, and I thank those of you who braved the weather to come.

Our quarterly meeting is May 4 at 10:00 am, and we will let you know where soon. Please plan on coming. If you feel led to serve, please contact someone on our Nominating Committee: *Velma Gullede, June Brabham, and Karen West*. We had a short business meeting at RefresHer and voted to remove the three-year limit on terms of office. This was to help the Nominating Committee in their search for Council Members.

"Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" *Esther 4:14b*

Shreveport Metro BCM Baptist Collegiate Ministry

Stephen Craver

On a rare, rainless Friday night in March the



Shreveport BCM gathered at Bethany Camp and Conference Center for our first ever **Bonfire at Bethany** event. Students played volleyball and basketball, worshipped, and bonded together. In many ways it felt like the first post-COVID gathering, and it made all of us hope that it's preview of a fun and successful Fall semester.

Reflecting on that event, multiple ministries across our association came together to make it possible. In addition to Bethany Conference Center and the BCM, two of our local churches provided ministers to lead worship and bring the Word, and another church provided a promotion that our students loved. Thank you to the great folks at Bethany, Joe Tarr of Brookwood Baptist, Jahill Richards of Springs of Grace Baptist, and Raymond Wilkinson of Open Road Fellowship, for helping make this event great!

When we as Baptists cooperate together awesome things happen. Here are some ways you can be a part of helping us reach our college students:

- Let us know of students in your church that are planning on attending one of our local college campuses this Fall!
- Pray for our current students as finals loom large and as some are preparing for summer missions and ministry positions.
- Become a financial partner with us. You can do that at <http://shreveportbcm.com/give>

CULTURE WATCH in NATIONAL NEWS

PERSECUTION IS COMING!

Pastor James Coates of Grace Life Church in Spruce Grove, Alberta Canada was recently jailed. His crime according to Canadian officials: **continuing to preside over worship gatherings**. His wife and children have not been allowed to visit him. As of this printing, Coates remains in jail until his trial date is announced.



In December, the chief medical officer of Alberta issued a mandate restricting worship gatherings to 15% capacity. Attorneys for the church issued this statement, "Such

restrictions violate the constitutional rights and freedom of conscience and religion, expression, peaceful assembly and association as protected by section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

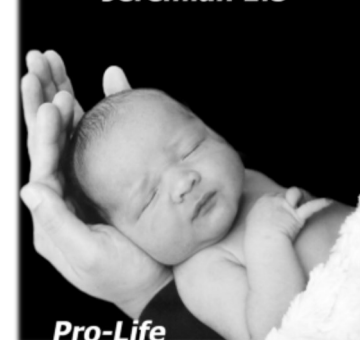
Just before Christmas, a health inspector posted a report against the church. In mid January, a court order was filed to imprison Pastor Coates. Then the health department issued a closure order to the church. However, Grace Life continued to gather for corporate worship. In early February, Canadian police told Pastor Coates he was under arrest for continuing to preside over worship gatherings. Coates stated he could not violate his conscience and he was called to shepherd God's people. The police chose to leave without incident. The following Sunday police returned and arrested the pastor of Grace Life Church and took him to jail.

Canadian authorities have said, they will release Pastor Coates from jail under the condition he doesn't preside over worship services at Grace Life. He has declined their offer.

EXECUTIVE ORDER FUNDS GLOBAL ABORTIONS WITH U.S. TAX DOLLARS

A new Marist poll of 1,200 adults found that 77% oppose using tax dollars to support abortions overseas, *World News Group* reports. However, President Biden rescinded the Mexico City policy, which barred the government from giving taxpayer money to organizations that perform or promote the procedure internationally.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." *Jeremiah 1:5*



A Pastor's Perspective



Chuck McInturf
Pastor,
Woodridge Baptist,
Shreveport, LA

CHARTING OUR GROWTH

My family uses text messages to pass on vital information; like this from my wife, "Family dinner Monday night will be taco soup. Who'll be there?" Or this one from my daughter Erin: "Libby just said 'I'm gonna be just like Pop when I grow up and watch SpongeBob,'" (by the way, I'm her Pop). One we recently received from my daughter Lindsay was about her newborn son Oliver who was born six-weeks early: "Olly's 2-month check-up: 10lbs 11 oz., 22" long and head circumference is 15". He's completely on track with full-term babies in all areas. First round of shots is done. He cried real tears for the first time..." Of course, we all reacted with "poor baby" and "glad he's healthy!!" That text was great news, but not unexpected. Olly has quite an appetite. Every time I see him, I'm surprised at how much he's grown. But should we be surprised or "congratulate" a baby or a child for growing? I'm not sure, but we do.

I would love to see church folk do something different. Instead of texting one another: "Chuck's 673-month checkup: 195lbs, 74" long and head circumference is 22 inches," maybe we could share our SPIRITUAL GROWTH. Something like, "Hey, today I was tempted to share some gossip but then I remembered reading Proverbs 20:19 'The one who reveals secrets is a constant gossip; avoid someone with a big mouth' so I kept my big mouth closed, LOL." Or maybe "Today marks a full month of me reading the Bible every morning. WOOHOO!!!" Or "I told my co-worker I am a Christian. I'm gonna ask her to come to church with me. Pray for me...I'm nervous but I feel like God is telling me to do this."

I love hearing the growth progress of my grandchildren. But I love it even more when my church family shares with me how they are growing in Christ. That's the goal of a disciple, to grow and become more like Christ every day. "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up..." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Chuck McInturf has been the pastor of Woodridge Baptist Church since 2012. Chuck and his wife, Stefanie, have three children and two grandchildren.

Compassion Ministries

John Anderson



It didn't take long for the word to get out about **MASADA** being a wonderful place to call home for families and individuals, who are displaced for various reasons. We currently have a number of single men and women living at the Center, paying a reasonable weekly rate. Just to remind you again, Masada can house up to eight men and eight women, along with three families. Accommodating all of our residents, takes a number of ongoing essentials and supplies.

Below is a list of items the Living Center uses daily. Our current need is for ADDITIONAL appliances and items. If your church group can assist us with these needs it would be a blessing. Thank you for all that your are doing to help make our associational living center a huge success.

ITEMS WE HAVE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR

- 2 Freezerless Refrigerators
- 1 Microwave Oven
- Twin Blankets, Pillows
- Twin/Queen Bed Sheets
- Cleaning Supplies



For more information concerning this or any other type of Compassion Ministry, please call John Anderson, Compassion Ministry Strategist @ 318-230-3446. You can also email me at janderson@nwlba.org