

# NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

## Staff Updates

### Pastor Anniversaries

Chuck Pourciau 1999  
 Michael Reichard 2011  
 Bill Treadway 2013  
 Larry Earhart 2013  
 Thomas Myles 2020  
 Brad Kirby 2022

**Broadmoor**  
**Koran**  
**Mt. Gilead**  
**Salem**  
**New Birth**  
**Eastwood**

### New Staff

**Westwood:** Paul Bell, Music, from Laity

### Staff Changes

**Belle Park:** Jackson Powers, Youth

**Pilgrim Home:** Gary Johnson, Pastor, from Interim

**Red River:** Mike Palmer, Pastor

## Church News

**Brookwood:** Shreveport Chapter of Reasons to Believe, live presentation of "Investigating the Resurrection." April 9, 6:30 pm. For further info or to schedule this presentation in your church, contact Mark Riser, (markriser1@comcast.net)

## Fellowship Trips

**Cypress:** Savannah, Charleston, Jekyll Island, Callaway Gardens, Georgia Sea Turtle Center, Magnolia Plantation & Gardens and much more. April 13-20, 2024. \$2,225 plus trip insurance. Contact Stephanie at Cypress Baptist Church, 318-965-2296.

5875 W. 70th St  
 Shreveport LA 71129  
 318-686-5736 FAX: 687-9701  
 Return Service Requested  
 E-mail: [carlene@nwlba.org](mailto:carlene@nwlba.org)  
 Website: [www.nwlba.org](http://www.nwlba.org)  
[www.Facebook.com/NWLBA](http://www.Facebook.com/NWLBA)  
 Hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm/Mon-Thur.  
 8:30 am - 12:00 noon/Friday  
 Lane Moore, Director of Missions

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## WMU/MISSIONS/Virginia Disotell WMU TURNS 150



In 1874 the Women's Missionary Union was formed. Women saw a great need to support the work of missions abroad. These were praying women who taught church members about the importance of our missionaries.

Everyday 3,505 IMB field personnel and 3,057

NAMB missionaries and church planters are working to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Hundreds serve at great risk in many parts of the world. For these reasons we should take time to pray for our brothers and sisters.

The current officers of the Association's WMU have evaluated our past year of service. Have we accomplished our purpose, goals and expectations? The answer is yes and no.

Yes, because many of our Northwest churches have mission-minded pastors who continually challenge their members to move out of the pews and engage in some area of missions in their own community. Many of our smaller churches are also busy reaching people for the Lord and serving the least of these in their communities.

No, because many of our churches are uninformed about the 6,562 people our Southern Baptist Convention supports financially to be the hands and feet of Jesus each day somewhere in this country and in the world. No, also because we don't pray as we should and perhaps that's because we're uninformed.

Your church can subscribe to the *Missions Mosaic* magazine. It's a great tool to educate your congregation on the work around the world of our IMB and NAMB servants.

Hundreds of faithful Women on Mission in Northwest Association will continue to serve for the glory of God and His Kingdom.

**PRAY, GIVE, & SERVE**

## Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Ford Park - Bi-Vo Shreve City - Bi-Vo	Ferry Lake - PT Greenwood - PT Lakeview - PT Mooringsport - PT South Bossier - PT Trees - FT/PT	Mooringsport - PT North Keithville - PT Plain Dealing - PT/FT Princeton FBC - PT Westwood - PT Vivian FBC - FT	Belcher - PT Ferry Lake - PT	FBC Blanchard - Hourly Nursery Workers New Birth - Children's Church - Volunteer

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

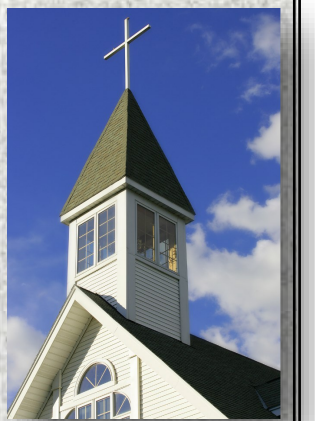
# Baptist News

Churches, Missions &  
 Ministries Working  
 Together To Be  
 More Effective

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 4  
 APRIL 2024



## THE CHALLENGE OF CHURCH UNITY



There are some individuals in churches who cannot be reasoned with. They will reject every logical, sensible and even biblical plan suggested to bring about positive renewal of their church. In my almost two decades with Northwest Association working with churches that are struggling and those that are flourishing, I've noticed three general groups of people.

**Group 1.** Those who know the church is struggling and desperately want to see it reversed and the church returned to a healthy status.

**Group 2.** Those who recognize the decline and are grieved about it, but don't know how to address the issues that have caused the decline. They're very aware that new actions and approaches will involve change which will create some conflict in the church.

**Group 3.** Those who know the church is in decline and prefer it stay that way rather than institute any changes. Those changes would impact them personally and possibly their control in the church, therefore they are resolved to the decline and perhaps the eventual death of the church. This third group is usually a minority of people, but they can be a very vocal minority.

Leadership principles will sometimes refer to these three groups as *Early Adopters*, *Late Adopters*, and *Never Adopters*. The first two groups will give their support as they are presented with a plan based on good data and a clear vision. However, they will need to be encouraged, pastored and guided to realize that conflict is part of life and isn't the end, but rather often the beginning, of God's work in bringing health and vitality back to the church. The *Never Adopters* are those who continually reject pastoral leadership and biblical appeals for needed change regardless of sound information before them.

### How Does The Church Move Forward With Never Adopters?

**1. Pray, Pray, Pray** - The Holy Spirit has the power to change the most resistant hearts. If the One we are praying to can move mountains, push back a wall of water and raise the dead, He can change a heart.

**2. Shepherd Carefully** - Love them through the struggle. Give them time to accept the change, and explain the changes with great patience. Help them see the vision and invite them to come along with the rest of the church.

**3. Press Forward With Who You Have** - You'll never have 100% buy-in for every church initiative. Some church members will move forward and some will not. Don't be foolish in your actions, but as you're led by the Holy Spirit, press on.

**4. Prepare To Say Goodbye** - I have watched this happen many times in our Northwest churches, and in most cases it was the best thing. A clean slate was needed on all sides. The departing church member can be a blessing to another fellowship and the church can move forward without continued resistance.

Stay faithful and serve well.

Lane



Shreveport BCM / Stephen Craver



The spring semester at the Shreveport BCM has been one of blessings and new opportunities for ministry. The BCM took a great group of students to Louisiana Christian University for the annual Collegiate Evangelism Conference. At this conference, our students received a challenge to engage in outreach, evangelism, and missions. Since then, our students have worked hard at leading worship, family group bible studies, and welcoming new students. Even more exciting is the number of international students God has brought to the BCM. Several of these began attending our Thursday night Refuel services where they have had gospel conversations, and even received their first copy of the Bible! **The way in which these students first encountered the BCM was our weekly lunch program.** This outreach wouldn't be possible without the continued participation of our churches. **On behalf of all of us at the BCM, "Thank you!"**

communities where there is little or no gospel exposure. Working alongside the Metro New York Baptist Association and local Baptist missionaries, our students will seek to build relationships and have gospel conversations with those they meet. For some of our students this will be their first missions experience far from home. **Be praying for them as we prepare to go and grow the kingdom where it is greatly needed.**

If you would like an amazing opportunity for ministry and missions, come join the BCM! You could organize a group from your church to provide a lunch or snacks for Refuel. You could help maintain the BCM building with a fun and helpful workday. Perhaps the Lord may even lead you to become a financial partner with the BCM.

However you may be led to work to reach the next generation for Christ, it will be an incredible opportunity!



Another great opportunity we have coming up will be a mission trip to New York City. We will be working among international and immigrant



**2024**  
**Annual Meeting & Pastors Conference**  
**June 9-12, 2024 Indianapolis, IN**

**Does Your Pastor Exhibit These Shepherd Characteristics?**

*7 Principles from the Gospel of John Chapter 10*

- 1. He shows the doorway to eternal life for the sheep.** (10:1-2) The good shepherd says there is a sheep pen in which He alone has established the DOOR and has clearly laid out the way to enter that door. To use another door, Scripture says he is a thief and a robber. The shepherd leader of the Church is to show us that doorway.
- 2. He leads by example before His sheep.** (10:3-4) Any true leader who loves his people will lead by example. True leaders must be worthy models to follow.
- 3. He is trustworthy to his sheep.** (10:4) A true leader needs to cultivate a sense of trust within those he leads. This is a quality by which one evokes the character and care of a shepherd-leader.
- 4. He provides for his sheep.** (10:9-10) A good shepherd provides good pastures to graze in. He must spiritually feed the sheep.
- 5. He is sacrificial for his sheep.** (10:11, 15,17-18) Five times Jesus speaks about laying down His life for His sheep. The good shepherd chooses personal sacrifice for the welfare of His sheep.
- 6. He is invested in his sheep.** (10:12) The shepherd has a personal stake in the well-being of the sheep. The shepherd is invested in the sheep and sticks with them through thick and thin.
- 7. He is relational with his sheep.** (10:14) A true shepherd takes the time and energy to build solid and genuine relationships with those he leads.

*Pray for your pastors and staff that they will lead your Church with a SHEPHERD'S HEART.*



**THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE**  
*What We Believe*  
**as Southern Baptists**

The following is another in our series on the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, with this month's column.

**Article VII: Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

*"Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper."*

*"The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming."*

Southern Baptists refer to baptism and the Lord's Supper as ordinances. That means the Lord commands believers to carry out these symbolic activities, which picture the finished work of Christ and prepare us for His imminent return.

Ordinances have no saving value, for a person receives everlasting life only by faith in Jesus. Even so, baptism and the Lord's Supper are important acts of obedience.

Some, like Roman Catholics, refer to baptism and Holy Communion as the sacraments, meaning they are necessary for salvation.

Others, like Presbyterians, also call baptism and the Lord's Supper sacraments, but that doesn't mean they are necessary for salvation. Rather, they are "means of God's grace," special ways that God speaks to our hearts, gives us a visible way of establishing the difference between believers and unbelievers, and prepares us to serve Him.

Believers are to be immersed rather than sprinkled because immersion properly pictures our identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior.

Only believers take part in the Lord's Supper. Jesus instructs those who partake to, *"Do this in remembrance of me."* (I Cor. 11:24) Unbelievers have no reason to remember Christ's sacrificial death, since they have rejected Him. The Bible gives no instruction as to the frequency with which the Lord's Supper should be observed.

*Next month: Article VIII of the BF&M: The Lord's Day*

**Culture Watch** *National & World News*



**U.S. Supreme Court Justice Alito Sounds Alarm When Christians Denied Jury Duty**

The barring of two Christians from jury duty in a trial involving a lesbian is evidence that Christians with a biblical worldview are increasingly seen as bigots, said Justice Samuel Alito, after the state of Missouri asked the High Court to review the ruling. Alito had predicted in his 2015 dissent that the Obergefell vs. Hodges ruling would "be used to vilify Americans who are unwilling to assent to the new orthodoxy."

*Source: Baptist Press*

**Executive Committee in Nashville Cuts 2025 CP Allocation Budget By 5 Million**

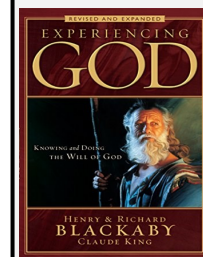
At their semi-annual trustee meeting, EC members approved a recommended \$190,250,000 Cooperative Program allocation budget for the upcoming 2024-25 fiscal year. The proposed budget is down 5 million from the current 2023-24 budget year. The budget allocation percentages remain the same as in recent years.

- IMB - 50.41%
- NAMB - 22.79%
- Six Seminaries - 21.92%
- ERLC - 1.65%
- EC & SBC operations - 2.99%



*Source: Baptist Press*

**Author Henry Blackaby Passes Away**



The writer of dozens of books that have been read by millions of believers around the world has passed away at the age of 88. His most celebrated work, "Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God," has sold more than 8 million copies and has been translated into 75 languages.

*Source: Washington Stand*

**Young Americans Think The Holocaust Is A Myth or Exaggerated**

A recent poll conducted by You Gov, revealed more than one in five young American adults believe the Holocaust never happened. At least 30% of the respondents, ages 18-29, doubt the event actually happened, and about a quarter of this same group claimed the retelling of this historical account has been "exaggerated." Four years ago a first ever 50 state survey of Holocaust knowledge among millennials and Generation Z was released, and the results showed a "significant lack of knowledge about the Holocaust."



*Source: Washington Stand*