

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

Freddie Williford	2006	Ford Park
Skip Rainbolt	2008	Fillmore
Billy Sutton	2008	Redeemer Community
Steve Petty	2014	Pinecroft
Gary Johnson	2016	Waller
Bill Stewart	2017	Caddo Prairie

New Staff

Airline: Rusty Richardson, Education, Dicipleship, (wife, Sandy)

Staff Changes

Greenwood: Billy Flowers, Pastor

5875 W. 70th St
Shreveport LA 71129
318-686-5736 FAX: 687-9701
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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Shreveport LA
Permit 37

District Bible Drill Fun Night



WHEN: JANUARY 7, 2022

WHERE: HAUGHTON FBC, 105 E. Washington, Haughton, LA

COST: \$5.00 per person attending

This night is for all 4th-6th graders planning on participating in the upcoming drills. We will have fun learning and reviewing with each other. Call Teresa Small, 318-949-2441 to RSVP the number attending from your group.



Ladies from Brookwood and Summer Grove brought a Thanksgiving Meal to residents of MASADA Transitional Living Center.



Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering
November 28-
December 5, 2021

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

CALL TO PRAYER VII

SUNDAY NIGHT
JANUARY 30, 2022
6:00 PM



WOODRIDGE
BAPTIST
CHURCH

850 E. BERT KOUNS,
SHREVEPORT, LA

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Baptist News

Merry Christmas

Churches, Missions &
Ministries Working
Together To Be
More Effective



VOLUME 51, NUMBER 12
DECEMBER, 2021



SORRY CANCEL CULTURE, WE ARE HAVING CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR!

The war on Christmas and the battle to remove any vestige of the Christian faith from public view wages on. Excuses you might hear this month...supply chain problems may have hit Santa, so he won't have his gifts in time to deliver. Inflation has led to sky high turkey and dressing prices, or a new Covid variant could arrive any day. So the learned elites could be recommending cancelling Christmas!

Is it time to push back? Aside from Christmas, have believers become too timid when it comes to speaking up for our Biblical values? We frequently hear when persecution begins, "turn the other cheek," "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's," or "Jesus didn't get mixed up in politics." During our Lord's earthly ministry, there was no way He could avoid politics. Political tension and divisiveness were everywhere under Roman rule.

You recall in Acts 5 that the apostles were brought before the Council and told to no longer teach in His name. Peter and the other apostles response in verse 29 was, "we must obey God rather than men."

Notice that Peter doesn't cite any exceptions in his words of I Peter 2:13, "submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake..." Did Peter change his mind? Not at all. Peter's admonition tells us that we must wisely evaluate our submission to authority (not surrender) in terms of the entire Bible. All through the Old Testament we find examples of righteous push back. The Hebrew midwives. Rahab and the spies. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaiah, and Azariah.

In Acts 16 we find Paul and Silas choosing not to surrender their rights as Roman citizens and Christians. When the chief magistrates wanted them silenced, they didn't keep quiet and were beaten with rods and thrown in jail. Following their miraculous jail break by the Holy Spirit in verse 26, the jailer and his family were saved, and the news reached the authorities. The magistrates were wishing Paul and Silas would just quietly leave town in verse 36. Paul said NO INDEED! "They have beaten us in public without a trial, and we are Romans, let them come themselves and let us out," Paul said in verse 37.

Did Paul damage his witness by making such a demand? Not at all. He was standing up for his rights as a Roman citizen. This was not a "turn the other cheek" moment.

So for this Christmas, as Peter stated, "Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation." I Peter 2:12

Merry Christmas,
Lane

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Eastwood - FT North Keithville- Bi-Vo Red River-Bi-Vo Shreve City - Bi-Vo Westwood-Bi-Vo	Benton FBC-PT Trees- FT Woodridge - FT	Barksdale-PT Ellerbe- FT Emmanuel/S'port-PT Grawood-PT Mooringsport-PT North Keithville-PT Princeton FBC-PT Westwood-PT	Belcher-PT Ferry Lake-PT	Haughton FBC- Preschool-FT

WMU/MISSIONS/Rhonda Berry



One of the most asked questions this time of year is "Are you ready for Christmas?" A few years ago, I found a newspaper clipping that my mother had saved, and it answered this question very well. I don't the paper she cut it out of, so I do not know who to give credit to. She's been gone for nine years and I feel sure from the state of the clipping that she had had it for 15-20 years or more. Here it is:

Ready for Christmas, she said with a sigh, as she gave a last touch to the gifts piled high. Then wearily sat for a moment and read, till soon, very soon, she was nodding her head.

Then quietly spoke a voice in her dream, "Ready for Christmas? What do you mean? Ready for Christmas when only last week you wouldn't acknowledge your friend on the street.

Ready for Christmas, while holding a grudge? Perhaps you had better let God be the judge. Why, how can the Christ-child come and abide in the heart that is selfish and filled with pride?

Ready for Christmas? When only today a beggar lad came, and you turned him away without even a smile to show that you cared. The little he asked—it could have been spared.

Ready for Christmas? You've worked it is true, but just doing the things you wanted to do. Ready for Christmas? Your circle's too small—Why, you are not ready for Christmas at all!"

She awoke with a start and a cry of despair. "There's so little time and I've still to prepare. Oh, Father, forgive me, I see what you mean. To be ready means more than a house swept clean."

Yes, more than the giving of gifts and a tree. It's the heart swept clean that He wants to see. A heart that is free from bitterness, sin, ready for Christmas—and ready for HIM. Copied/anonymous

May we never forget why we "get ready" for Christmas, and may we be reminded all the year through.

Jesus is the Reason for the season

**MERRY CHRISTMAS,
AND A VERY
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Bethany Camp & Conference Trey Miller, Director



The fall season at Bethany is always so peaceful. We rake the fallen leaves and build campfires for groups. We spend our weeks preparing the camp for the weekend, and our weekends watching ministry opportunities unfold. Since the first weekend in September, we have seen at least one group at the camp every weekend. In



October we saw 9 groups utilize our facility, from a small ladies group prayer walking to an entire junior high giving their students a gospel centered retreat.

We look forward to the 11 groups we have coming next month and we are blessed to partner with so many ministries all working toward the same goal, growing closer with the LORD.

Compassion Ministries John Anderson



Over seven years ago, Donna Allen and Amanda Beard, two incredible ladies who already had full time jobs—Donna, a Physical Therapist with the Texas School District, and Amanda, owner of One Way Dog Grooming, felt the compassion of God to help support missions locally and abroad. On November 7, 2014, Donna and Amanda opened the Light House Mission Thrift Store in Vivian, LA, to fulfill the vision God laid on their hearts. Now, every Friday from 9 am-5 pm, people come from all over to this wonderful thrift store and purchase all kinds of items that in turn support more than thirty different ministries such as: K-Love Radio, Crisis Pregnancy Center, McNeese BCM, Samaritan's Purse, Mission Dignity, Water Springs Youth Ranch, Medical Brigades in

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."



Mexico, and Shattering Darkness in Africa, a Pastor/Adoption support ministry in India. The Lighthouse Thrift store is a great example of how Jesus said just a few seeds could produce a great harvest. This thrift store is proving that on a big scale. Every penny spent is a seed for the salvation of souls. I encourage you to go and patronize this incredible ministry. In doing so, you are helping change a person's eternal life one item at a time. Donna and Amanda want to especially invite you to come walk through the Tour of Trees. Each tree represents a ministry supported by Lighthouse Mission Thrift Store.

For more information concerning this or any type of compassion ministry please contact John Anderson, Compassion Ministry Strategist, at janderson@nwlba.org or 318-230-3446.



CULTURE WATCH

& NATIONAL NEWS



Supreme Court Sets December 1st For Challenge To Roe vs. Wade

Oral arguments in a major abortion case that could lead to the undermining or overturning of Roe v. Wade, begins in December. The case involves a Mississippi law that prohibits abortion after 15 weeks, although it contains exceptions for medical emergencies and fetal abnormality. Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch, said, "the high court has the opportunity to return decision-making about abortion policy to the elected leaders and allow the people to empower women and promote life."



COVID Claims Plus Inflation Will Impact Health Insurance Rates For 2022

In the past couple of years we have witnessed hospitals and ICU's filled to capacity and routine medical care delayed due to COVID. These issues and more are contributing to insurance rates increasing in 2022 throughout the country. GuideStone announced health plan participants will see an average increase of 5.7% in group plans and 8% in personal plans.



SBC Executive Committee Approves Waiving Attorney-Client Privilege

This recent action was taken in the context of an independent third-party investigating the EC concerning sexual abuse claims. In protest of that action, over 20% of the Executive Board resigned, including President Ronnie Floyd along with the Nashville law firm that has represented the SBC and Executive Committee since 1966.



IMB celebrates A Record Year Of Giving for 2020-2021

Southern Baptists have met and exceeded their \$175 million offering goal. This marks back to back years of growth in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This Fall, the IMB Trustee Board approved an additional 36 fully funded new missionaries to take the gospel to unreached people. Dr. Chuck Pourciau, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, serves as IMB Trustee President.



Atlanta Interstate Renamed To Honor Dr. Charles Stanley

The Georgia Legislature voted to rename a portion of Interstate 285 "Dr. Charles Stanley Highway" on his 89th birthday. Stanley has been pastor of First Baptist Atlanta for over 50 years, and became pastor emeritus in September 2020.

Pastor's Perspective



Dr. Jeff Raines, Pastor,
First Baptist Church,
Shreveport, LA

Picture the manger. Jesus is there in a cattle trough, born to a peasant couple from a village so insignificant it is never mentioned in any writing before the New Testament. Out of all the ways God could have arrived to rescue us and redeem the world, could any have been more surprising? Jesus was born at the bottom of the ladder, far from the seats of power and the newsmakers of the day. There was no newsboy in Rome shouting, "Extra, extra, baby born in animal stall in Bethlehem!" This is how the son of God arrived to save us! He started at the bottom.

In Jesus' ministry his teaching traced the same lines. One of the most common phrases from Jesus' lips was: "The last shall be first and the first last." Jesus started his revolution among the most ordinary of

people in an obscure part of northern Israel. These people, though, changed the world through the power of the Holy Spirit and through their testimony of Jesus Christ.

So often we are fascinated and absorbed by the workings of fame and power today. We come to think that power and

controlling it are the ways to change the world. The manger, though, is a reminder. God works in and through simple, faithful people in surprising places—when everyone's attention is elsewhere. Let us never be so distracted by Washington that we lose sight of our neighbors. Our faithfulness, showing God's love to the people around us, is the way Jesus taught us to change the world.

Dr. Jeff Raines has been the pastor of First Baptist Church Shreveport, since 2012. Jeff and his wife, Darcie, have two sons.