

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

Stanley Bennett	2003	Liberty
William Valentine	2005	Lakeview
Don Crook	2006	Fellowship
Darrell Cooper	2006	FBC Princeton
Jeff Raines	2012	FBC Shreveport
David McKinney	2014	Memorial
John Lary	2016	Calvary
Chad Mills	2016	Beulah Land
Marvin Cooper	2017	Bethany
Andy Liu	2017	Chinese
Roy Davis	2018	Gray
David Rice	2018	Brookwood

Staff Changes

Benton FBC: *Autrey Brown, Jr.*, Music

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](https://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
US Postage Paid
Shreveport LA
Permit 37

Church News

Cypress: Fresh Grounded Faith, featuring Jennifer Rothschild, Liz Curtis Higgs & Meredith Andrews, March 25, 7 pm - 9:30 pm, March 26, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm., 4701 Palmetto Rd., Benton, LA. For tickets: FreshGroundedFaith.com or 800-859-7992

The mission moves forward

ANNE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

March 6 - 13, 2022

2021 4th Quarter Financial Report
Church Contributions to Association Budget - 152,213.84
Budget Expenses of Association - 146,398.95

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS/
NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION
2021-2022 Church Planning Guides are now available.
318-686-5736

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
North Keithville - Bi-Vo Red River - Bi-Vo Shreve City - Bi-Vo Westwood - Bi-Vo	Lakeview - PT Oil City FBC - PT Trees - FT Woodridge - FT	Barksdale - PT Ellerbe - FT Elm Grove - PT 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

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Baptist News

Churches, Missions &
Ministries Working
Together To Be
More Effective



VOLUME 52, NUMBER 2,
FEBRUARY 2022



Ozzie and Harriet AREN'T COMING TO YOUR CHURCH

Many churches would love to see married folks with kids dressed in their Sunday best, walking through the church doors ready to serve and tithe immediately. That family probably isn't coming! New 2020 Census data presents some shocking information. There are 130 million households in the United States. Today, only 17.8% of American households are families that feature married parents with children in the home.



We were introduced to Ozzie and Harriet Nelson on ABC from 1952 to 1966. Sixty years ago, well over half of America's families were structured like the Nelsons, regardless of their ethnicity. Then came *Leave It To Beaver* and *Father Knows Best*. Today, simply finding a father in the home can be a challenge.



In 2022, are churches all fishing for the same 17.8%? If we are, we're fishing where 80% of fish are not! Perhaps that's why many of our nets are empty.

According to Census figures, over 37 million adults lived alone in 2020. Does your church have a plan to reach single adults, single again, or some combination of a family unit?

Americans are living alone longer at the highest rate in our nation's history. Today, the average age of a woman at her first marriage is 28.6 years. In 1960, the average woman married at the age of 20. The average age for a man to marry in 2020 was 30.4 years.

America's fertility rate dropped to 55 births per 1,000 people. The pandemic has had a lot to do with that statistic in addition to delaying marriage because of financial and cultural uncertainties.

If 1960 returns, many of our churches are ready to receive them. The *Modern Family* the Church must reach, sadly looks more like the totally dysfunctional ones portrayed on TV today. However, the reality is that both the Nelson family of the 1950's and today's family still need Christ to make a healthy home!

Blessings,

Lane

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

QUARTERLY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Thursday,
February 10, 2022

Redeemer Community Church

3030 Colquitt Road, Shreveport, LA

12 NOON - Lunch & Business Meeting

Please RSVP 318-686-5736 or carlene@nwlba.org

The regularly scheduled 11am Leadership Session is moving to Monday, March 14th, at Brookwood. Dr. Jeff Iorg, President of Gateway Seminary in Los Angeles, will be speaking on "Evangelism in a Multi-Cultural Environment."

Bethany Camp & Conference

Trey Miller, Director



We are having an eventful start to the year at Bethany Camp & Conference Center. We began January with some big winter camps scheduled. By the end of the month, we will have had over 450 youth campers between two weekend events. We are excited that NWLBA's new youth winter retreat called 1 Wknd is full and shaping up to be an amazing weekend version of our summer camp. We are also preparing to have NWLBA's new Kids Winter Camp which will be a ton of fun. I love having camps like these at the beginning of the year because it's a great way for a youth or child to start a new year with **Jesus at the front and center** of their lives.

These campers will also get to spend one of the first weekends of the year with counselors from their local churches, strengthening their relationships and creating excitement for all the events their churches have planned for the rest of the year.

Our staff is thrilled to be a part of another year helping Bethany serve, grow, and improve. A new year, new camps, new projects, new ministry opportunities and the same amazing God. **What could be more exciting?**



Bethany
Camp & Conference Center
Bethanyc3.com

RURAL TO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 30-31. 2022
CYPRESS BAPTIST CHURCH - BENTON, LA

featuring:

Johnny Hunt, John Freeman, Steve Horn

Call 318-965-2296 For More Information.

NAAMB
ruraltoaregional.com

MASADA
Transitional Living

ITEMS WE HAVE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR

- Disposable DINNERWARE
- BATH TOWELS
- TWIN SIZE BLANKETS
- Lysol SPRAY
- PAPER TOWELS
- TOILET PAPER

To help with these needs, please contact John Anderson, Compassion Ministry Strategist, janderson@nwlba.org or 318-230-3446

Shreveport Metro BCM Baptist Collegiate Ministry

Stephen Craver



will lead their first small groups, and new baristas will join the fun at our **GOLA Coffee Shop**. We're also excited to have two graduated students, Jennifer DeLeon and Pearl Merry, join us as interns for the spring semester.

In fact, this reminds me of one of the most important ministries we do at the BCM. Each semester students join us from our local churches. We take up our churches' investment in those students, and through **discipleship and prayer** we hope to make these students the best church members they can be.

Through the BCM students get a chance to lead small groups and worship, plan ministry events, and participate in missions. Our staff intentionally invests in them so that long after they've left campus they're still making an impact for the Kingdom. This work is only possible because our churches support the BCM and North Louisiana Baptist Association. Let me say on behalf of our staff and students, "Thank you!" **The Lord is doing amazing things** through your support.

(Pictured below: Annual BCM Hoe Down Throw Down & BCM Christmas Party)

If you or your church would like to get involved in this fun and important ministry reach out to us at shreveportbcm@gmail.com or 318-797-1946.



CULTURE WATCH

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

Post Christmas Review...How Much Do We Know Today?

Recent Lifeway Research reveals disappointing news of Americans knowledge of Christmas. While two out of three



Americans say Christmas should be more about Jesus, a large majority couldn't give you the details of the birth of Christ. Only 22% of all Americans polled said they could accurately tell the Christmas story

found in the Bible from memory. Those claiming to be evangelicals were three times as likely to recount the Christmas story from memory, while only 10% of religiously unaffiliated could tell the Christmas story.

Alabama Baby Sets World Record Born 19 Weeks Premature

Little Curtis Means weighed in at 14.8 ounces. Dr. Brian Sims, who oversaw the delivery said, "Curtis was a fighter and wanted to survive. He was on a ventilator for three months. He responded well to oxygen and his numbers kept going up." Unfortunately, his twin sister only lived one day after she and Curtis were delivered. 40 weeks is the desired gestation period for a full term pregnancy.



Biden State Department: We're Committed To Promote & Protect Abortion Around The World

"Reproduction freedom" is a phrase used by the pro-choice community to reference legal abortion. "We affirm our full commitment to promote and protect the sexual and reproductive health of all individuals, recognizing the essential and transforming role they play in gender equality and women and girls' empowerment around the world," said Ned Price, State Department spokesman.

China Orders Pastors To Support Communism and Practice Socialism

Under new requirements, pastors and religious leaders are required to "love the motherland, support the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, and practice the core values of socialism."



Most U.S. Christians No Longer Believe In The Holy Spirit

According to an Arizona Christian University study, there are 176 million Americans who claim to be Christians. The study shows that a majority believed in an all powerful, all knowing, Creator of the universe. However, more than half rejected several biblical teachings, including the existence of the Holy Spirit.



Pastor's Perspective



Dr. Chad Hardbarger, Pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Shreveport, LA

If you have little girls in your house like I do, then you probably have seen the movie *Beauty and the Beast* many times. "Tale as old as time," this Disney classic has captured our hearts. It's the story about a proud and handsome prince who is cursed to live as a terrifying beast for his self-absorbed lifestyle until he finds true love.

But who could love this beast? After all, he's one ugly dude now with a terrible voice and personality, and his palace is in ruins. Even his servants are under this curse, and they fear that their lives will never be the same again.

But just when all hope seems lost, a beautiful young girl takes a wrong turn and ends up at the beast's palace. To make a long story short, true love's kiss follows, and the beast is transformed into a handsome prince again, and all his servants are restored with him. The prince has learned his lesson well, and he will never be cruel and selfish again.

Just as love transformed the beast, so God's love has transformed us! Apart from Christ, we all were once beastly creatures, full of pride and selfishness. Under the curse of sin, all hope seemed lost. But then Jesus came and saved us in His love! Our lives were transformed, and we can never be the same again.

This Valentine's Day, my prayer is that you know the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord, and that you will allow His love to flow through you into your churches, your families, your neighborhoods, and your workplaces. Despite these trying times in which we live, "let us love one another, for love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God" (1 John 4.7-8).

Dr. Chad Hardbarger has been the pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church since 2011. Chad and his wife, Marsha, have nine adopted children.