

An Editorial from your DOM...

The New Leading Demographic Group in America, Single Adults

But Few Churches are Prepared to Reach Them

It took several generations, but single adults have overtaken married adult couples in America. According to Barna Research, 54% of U.S. adults are now single, compared to 46% that are married. In 1950, over two-thirds of adults were married.

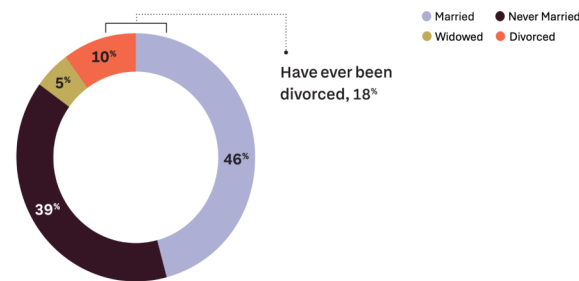
The "nuclear family" is no longer the dominant household type for Americans. Today, nearly one in five adults experience a divorce. Never-married singles, blended families, single-parent households, multi-generational homes, and nontraditional structures now make up a significant share of America.

Younger adults continue to delay marriage for a variety of reasons or favor long-term partnerships without formal vows. But across all demographic groups, married adults consistently report stronger relational satisfaction and emotional stability than their single peers.

The Major Question...

Is the Body of Christ prepared to make the ministry adjustments to reach over half of America? Most Protestant churches in America are still structured to provide ministry as they did in the 1970's. Nearly 95% of pastors are married and have children. Their life experiences will naturally lean them toward ministry to the traditional nuclear family. The challenge for churches in 2026 will be balancing strong marriage and parenting ministries with an equally clear and compassionate path for single adults and families that don't fit the traditional mold.

Most Americans are Not Married



n=3,508 U.S. adults, August 16-29, 2024.

The History...

The trend of single adults having no church affiliation has been decades in the making. Single adults in the 25-39 age range make up only 5% of church attenders. Nearly 4 in 10 single women in their 20's in the U.S. now identify as "religiously unaffiliated."

This trend originated as students left high school. According to Lifeway Research, two-thirds of those who attended church regularly as teenagers say they dropped out as young adults, and most churches will not have a chance to get them back until they marry and have children. Virtually all who dropped out (96%) listed a change in their life situation as a reason for their leaving. A lesser number (73%) stated their main reason for leaving was because of the church or the pastor, and another (63%) said their values or political beliefs changed, which caused them to drop out of church.

Some Needed Changes...

1. Create ministries that focus on the needs of singles. Single adults know other single adults. Young adult based activities will help them form relationships within the church.
2. Use social media to engage singles. You'll need to be welcoming without being judgmental of poor life choices they may have made.
3. Have a clear vision of what your church wants to accomplish with single adults and how you're going to achieve this. Honesty and consistent transparency is what young adults are hungry for today.
4. Provide leadership for this ministry. This could be either a staff member or a strong, confident layman.
5. Provide funding. Effective ministry is going to cost time and money. Do ministry with excellence. Single adults know the difference.

CULTURE WATCH - NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS



CCP Conducts Mass Arrests of Christians During Christmas

Hundreds of Christians in China spent their Christmas in jail. The Chinese Communist Party

mobilized "more than a thousand police officers, SWAT units, anti-riot forces, and firefighters" raiding churches and conducting mass arrests, according to ChinaAid founder Bob Fu, Senior Fellow for International Religious Liberty at the Family Research Council. CCP officials have destroyed church property, including visible crosses, and installed CCP imagery, such as the five-star red flag and the CCP's constitution.

Source: Washington Stand

Culture of Death Advances With Euthanasia Legislation in Illinois and New York

Several weeks ago the governors of New York and Illinois signed bills (Medical Aid in Dying Act) legalizing the practice of physician-assisted suicide. Canada has been a pioneer in physician-assisted suicide in North America. They first legalized "medical assistance in dying" in 2016. In 2023, 15,300 Canadians died by assisted suicide, accounting for 4.7% of all deaths nationwide. The Netherlands and other Scandinavian countries have been supportive of the practice for decades.

Source: Daily Signal



The Pope Said What During Christmas Eve Mass?

During his traditional Christmas Eve Mass, Pope Leo XIV said, "Real salvation isn't found by looking upward for answers, but by looking down, toward humanity, care for the poor, children, and the excluded. Therefore, announce the joy of Christmas, which is a feast of faith, charity, and hope," he told parishioners at the Vatican.

Source: Newsmax Digital

Resurrection Of The Christ Is Filming In Italy

More than 20 years after the release of the biblical epic "The Passion of the Christ," Mel Gibson is filming the sequel, "The Resurrection of the Christ," in Rome, Italy. Finnish actor Jaakko Ohtonen has been cast as Jesus, replacing Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Christ in the original film. Gibson wanted Caviezel to return in the role of Christ, but both men agreed that Caviezel who is now 57, plus the expense of digital re-aging of Caviezel, would push the film over budget. Therefore, the mid-thirties-year-old Ohtonen was cast in the role. The sequel will be released in theaters on Good Friday, March 2027.



Tactics and Firearms Handling Inside the Church

Sponsored by Northwest Association



PROTECTORS

Led by Jeremy Allen
with Triad Security Solutions in Florida

Saturday, March 14, 2026

Time: 8 am - 12 Noon

Cost \$99 to register at www.ServingProtectors.com

This course is held inside the church and focuses on behavior based responses, including decision making in and around crowds during an active threat. Training guns and holsters will be provided and utilized during the training (no live weapons used).

This course includes drills for a variety of firearm carry positions and movements to keep your church safe. You will learn to apply these principles in different environments and in the correct contexts. Due to the hands-on nature of this training, the class is limited to 35 participants.

TOPICS COVERED

Sanctuary Safety
Real-World Safety Rules
Firearms Handling in Crowds
Team Tactics
Avoiding Danger
Dry Practice
Situational Awareness
Behavioral Based Content
Scenario Based Exercises

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Armed Church Security
Constitutional Carry
CCW and CHL License Holders
Law Enforcement
Military & Veterans
New Firearms Carriers
Non-CCW/CHL Holders

* All Attendees will receive a certificate of completion after the Level 1 Training

Host Location

Brookwood Baptist Church, 9014 Brookwood Church Way, Shreveport, LA



Week of Prayer

for North American Missions
& Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering

March 1 - 8, 2026

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

Stanley Bennett	2003	Liberty
William Valentine	2005	Lakeview
Don Crook	2006	Fellowship
Darrell Cooper	2006	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 Mission
Roy Davis	2018	Gray
David Rice	2018	Brookwood
Kurt Zortman	2023	Elm Grove

Staff Changes

Bethesda: Corey Coleman, Pastor
Oak Hill: Marty Wright, Interim Pastor
South Bossier: Kelly McGuffee, Children
Summer Grove: Jeremy Fortenberry, Music, to Knoxville, TN

NLBA 2025 4TH QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT
 Church Contributions to Association Budget - \$131,728.07
 Budget Expenses of Association - \$139,736.93

WEEK #1
June 15-19

WEEK #2
June 22-26

SPECIAL GUEST: JEFF SLAUGHTER

\$200/PERSON
register at bethanyc3.com

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 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 - 4:30 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

Brookwood: Mama Bear Apologetics, Saturday, Feb 8, 6:00 - 8:30 pm. \$10 for adults, \$5 for Young Adults/Students. To register or for more information, call 318-861-8911, ex.1112.

CAMP 318
 BIG CAMP EXPERIENCE. SMALL CAMP PRICE
THE RISING
 JUNE 8-12
 2026
 \$245 Per Person
 REGISTER YOUR GROUP AT BETHANyc3.COM

DEREK GRIFEON SPEAKER
 MICAH STOWELL WORSHIP

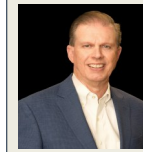
Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Belle Park - FT Countryside - PT Ida - PT New Bethel - PT Oak Hill - PT Pinecroft - PT	Haynes Avenue - PT North Keithville - PT Providence - PT Westwood - PT	FBC Benton - PT Emmanuel - PT Mooringsport - PT North Keithville - PT	Belcher - PT Ellerbe - FT Ferry Lake - PT	FBC Blanchard - Hourly Nursery Workers New Birth - Children's Church - Volunteer

Baptist News

FROM NORTHWEST LA ASSOCIATION

Churches, Missions & Ministries Working Together To Be More Effective
 VOLUME 56 NUMBER 2
 FEBRUARY 2026



AN EVENING OF PRAYER & PRAISE

In Isaiah 9:6

That is our theme for the 2026 Call To Prayer. **This Sunday, February 1, 2026, at 6 pm**, your Association churches will gather for our 11th annual CALL TO PRAYER. Our host church this Sunday is Trinity Heights Baptist Church in north Shreveport. Each year hundreds of Southern Baptists have come together to join their voices and hearts in crying out to God for a fresh work in our lives and in our churches.

There is much in our world to pray over with crises around every corner. Even with all our technology people are more lonely and disconnected than ever. Our major cities are filled with rage and turmoil with wars and rumors of war on display around the world. We do indeed need a Wonderful Counselor, a Mighty God, an Everlasting Father, and a Prince of Peace.

This Sunday, four of our pastors in the Association will bring devotionals as we move into separate sections of prayer.

Scott Teutsch - Trinity Heights
"The Lord Is My Wonderful Counselor"

James Sykes - Gospel Light
"The Lord Is My Mighty God"

Jessie Colston - First Oil City
"The Lord Is My Everlasting Father"

Alan Brown - Plain Dealing
"The Lord Is My Prince of Peace"

Scenes from CALL TO PRAYER 2025



Throughout the evening the choirs of Trinity Heights, First Blanchard, and Gospel Light will lead us in worship. Over two dozen pastors and laymen will be reading Scripture and leading us in corporate prayer. Don't miss a great evening of encouragement, praise and prayer. I'm looking forward to seeing you this Sunday evening at Trinity Heights at 6 pm.

NLBA QUARTERLY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Woodridge Baptist Church 850 E. Bert Kouns, Shreveport, LA

LEADERSHIP SESSION

With Dr. Steve Horn, President of the Louisiana Baptist Convention
 11 am - 12 noon

"STATE OF THE STATE IN LBC"

Dr. Horn will be discussing all things Southern Baptist and answering your questions on a variety of issues.



Lunch at 12 noon. Please RSVP 318-686-5736 or carlene@nwlba.org