

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

Randy Johnson	1974	Countryside/Keithville
James Jenkins	1991	Baptist Bible
Draper Wright	2016	New Zion
Cecil Marr	2017	North Shreve
Roger Harris	2019	Countryside/Mooringsport
Corey Smith	2019	Heritage
John Anderson	2020	Northwoods

New Staff

Summer Grove: Ashley Young, Children
Cassidy Richardson, Children/Family Associate

Staff Changes

Airline: Philip Green, Music, to Rose Park
Emmanuel: Chad Hardbarger, Pastor, resigned
Rose Park: Rocky Paul Maddox, Music, to Dallas, TX
Waller: Gary Johnson, Pastor, resigned

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8:30 am - 12:00 noon/Friday
Lane Moore, Director of Missions

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Church News

Blanchard FBC: Marvelous Mondays, 6pm. Guest speakers include: July 11-*Chuck Pourciau*, July 18-*Gevan Spinney*, July 25-*Shannon Talley*.

A PACKED HOUSE on
DECICATION SUNDAY
IN VIVIAN



COLQUITT
BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School 9:00am Morning Worship 10:30am
Wednesday Night Worship 6:30pm
Pastor Robert T. Green Jr.
119 W. James St.

Colquitt Baptist Church is
the newest church to
affiliate with Northwest
Association. This location
is the former home of
Emmanuel that closed in
2021. Pastor Robert T.
Green is welcomed by
Mark Crook, NLBA
Moderator.



NLBA Pastor Sightings at the
2022 Convention in Anaheim, CA

Over 8,100 messengers from across the country gathered on June 14-15 to elect new officers and conduct business. In the Presidential race, Bart Barber, pastor from Texas, defeated Florida pastor Tom Ascol, with 60% of the vote. SBC voted overwhelmingly to create a way to track pastors and other church workers credibly accused of abuse and launch a new task force to oversee reforms. Interim Executive Committee President, Willie McLaurin, stated, *I believe the trust within our denomination can be rebuilt.* Convention entities IMB and NAMB gave great reports from the mission field and your six seminaries are on solid ground financially and student enrollments are increasing.



Pastor Corey Smith, Heritage Baptist in Shreveport, introduces a motion on the Convention floor.



Staff Opportunities				
PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Emmanuel - FT North Keithville - Bi-Vo Red River - Bi-Vo Shreve City - Bi-Vo Waller - Bi-Vo Woodridge - FT	Airline - FT Lakeview - PT Trees - FT Westwood - PT Woodridge - FT	Barksdale - PT Emmanuel/S'port - PT Mooringsport - PT North Keithville - PT Plain Dealing - FT Princeton FBC - PT Westwood - PT	Belcher - PT Ferry Lake - PT Eastwood - FT	Norris Ferry - Administrative Assistant - PT


Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Baptist News


Churches, Missions &
Ministries Working
Together To Be
More Effective

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 7
July 2022





MAKING SENSE OF MORAL FAILURES IN THE CHURCH



Unfortunately, the history of the Church has a long list of flawed, fallible people who have ruined their ministries with moral failures. Recently the Discovery + channel has featured a documentary titled, "Hillsong: A Megachurch Exposed." The program focuses on the moral scandal of Brian Houston, pastor of Hillsong, a charismatic megachurch based in Australia, with satellite churches all over the world. This spring, Brian Houston, church founder, resigned following a breach of the church's code of conduct. Mr. Houston could assure all of us, the temptations of pride, lust, greed and self-promotion are very real.

When King David's sin with Bathsheba was disclosed, the prophet Nathan assured him the Lord had forgiven him. Then Nathan added, *"However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme..."* (2 Samuel 12:14) The failures of pastors and staff members usually result in embellished publicity in the secular media. Satan gloats over his victories and taunts believers by insinuating ALL Christians are hypocrites. When prominent leaders fall, the Lord's church is disrespected and blasphemed, even in the Southern Baptist Convention.

In the wake of recent revelations, here are some principles to hold on to as followers of Christ.

- 1. Don't be discouraged. Remember, the Lord said these things would happen in the later days.** While there have always been leadership failures, the pace is quickening. Jesus warned in the last days, *"...many false prophets will appear and deceive many people."* (Matthew 24:11) *"In later times some will abandon the faith and follow the deceiving spirits and things taught by demons."* (2 Timothy 4:3-4)
- 2. Don't judge every church by the moral failures of a leader. Encourage the leaders who remain faithful.** For those who have fallen, there are thousands more who have served faithfully for years. Be grateful for them and appreciate them.
- 3. Don't play with temptation. Abstain from all potential vices.** Substance abuse or too many drinks often precedes moral failures. Therefore, it's not surprising that Brian Houston's fall was blamed in part on his drinking. Years ago most Southern Baptist pastors were expected to be total abstainers. Today that position has softened with some pastors and churches. The Bible never says, don't drink. It says, *"be not drunk with wine."* The Bible also admonishes us to be alert to Satan's schemes and not overestimate our ability to withstand temptation. *"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."* (1 Corinthians 10:12)
- 4. Stop overcompensating in your efforts to make the world like you. Preach Christ and Him crucified.** The late British theologian John R.W. Stott suggested the gospel is "prickly" at times because it calls people to repentance. The preaching of the Cross is almost always going to offend and convict the world. It should. No matter how hip pastors appear or how palatable we try to make the gospel, it still challenges people to turn from sin and walk in Godly obedience.

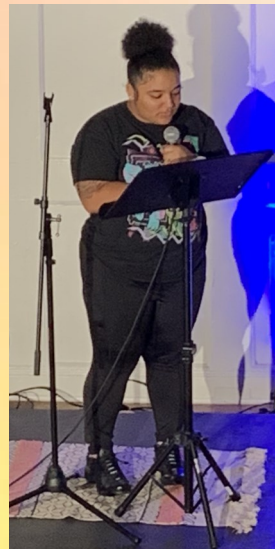
The world will always zealously attack the Church when she fails to live up to her own moral standards. The "in crowd" Hillsong sought to impress over the decades are now the church's greatest critics, and the recent black eye Southern Baptists have received is something we'll have to wear for a while.

Blessings,
Lane

Shreveport Metro BCM Baptist Collegiate Ministry Stephen Craver, Director



Shreveport BCM recently took seven students to New York City on our first such trip in over 2 years! While in New York, our students learned about church planting by Southern Baptist missionaries in a major metropolitan area. They helped ready One Community Church's new worship space by painting, cleaning, and hanging projectors. This work allowed the church to worship in their new space the following Sunday. They also assisted by handing out bottled water and met New Yorkers on the street to invite them to be a part of the church. Our



There's no better way to wrap up the spring semester than with a mission trip. The

students came away from the trip with a greater appreciation of what a SBC church planter does, and how grateful we are to be a part of the blessed churches of the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association.

I would like to add a very special thank you to the churches, groups, and individuals who gave to send our students on this amazing mission experience! If you'd like to help send the next generation of BCM missionaries, we'd love to tell you how you can partner with us. Reach out to us at the BCM office or at shreveportbcm@gmail.com.

SHV
BCM



Bethany Camp & Conference Center Trey Miller, Director



We are celebrating a summer of new life at Bethany Camp & Conference Center. After a labor-intensive Spring of serving groups and building new amenities for summer camp, we are so excited to see the camp full of students enjoying their experiences. It is so gratifying to be able to see projects completed and instantly used and enjoyed. A prime example of this is the new porch on the Dining Hall. The day we finished the porch and opened it for the Bethany Student camp, I was blessed to watch a youth minister walk a student onto it for a life-changing conversation.

When we build amenities or structures at the camp, it's always with the intent to draw campers into an environment where they can meet with the LORD. So watching a high schooler meet Jesus for the first time on a structure that my staff sweated over for hours makes it instantly worth any effort. Needless to say, we are having an amazing summer and students are having meaningful opportunities to grow relationships with their church leaders as well as with the LORD.

On a personal note, this has been a summer of new life in our camp family. Our daughter Amelia was born healthy just before summer started. It has been a wild month, but support from the camp staff and our friends has made this big change in our home life as smooth as it can be. We are so grateful to live here knowing what a wonderful and safe place this is for Amelia.



CULTURE WATCH National & World News



National Church Attendance Still Slow To Come Back

Only 22% of Protestant pastors say their church has returned to January 2020 attendance. 12% say they have surpassed pre-pandemic numbers. (Lifeway Research)

Christian Flag Can Be Flown Says The Supreme Court

The nation's highest court ruled 9-0 that Boston, MA, city officials violated a man's free speech rights by refusing his request to fly a Christian flag outside City Hall. For 12 years private groups have raised money flying specialty flags at City Hall. 300 consecutive applications had been awarded until the request for the Christian flag.



Conservatives Leave United Methodist Denomination

The launch of the Global Methodist Church is a new conservative denomination formed in part, by the Wesleyan Covenant Association. They are a coalition of self-described "orthodox evangelical" United Methodists that formed in May 2022. "We are not leaving the United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Church has left us," said Jay Therrell, president of the WCA-Florida.

Biden Administration: Go Woke Or No School Lunch Program

The National School Lunch Program feeds approximately 30 million kids daily. But now, getting access to federal funds for the program will come with a huge catch: K-12 schools will have to allow boys into girls' bathrooms and locker rooms if they want to continue receiving funds for the program. Biden said he was re-interpreting, "the prohibition on discrimination based on sex found in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity." Source: World Net Daily



Not So Fast Christianity Today!

In a recent article in Christianity Today, they urged evangelicals to reject the historical existence of Adam as the first human being. In a written rebuttal, Dr. Craig A. Carter, Research Professor at Tyndale University, stated, "The issue isn't just whether a man named Adam lived a long time ago. The issue is whether humans were specially created by God and fell into sin, thus plunging the entire race into damnation and subjecting the cosmos to the curse imposed by a holy God on a fallen creation." Source: WORLD Magazine



Pastor's Perspective



Calvin Hubbard, Pastor
Barksdale Baptist Church,
Bossier City, LA

Hospitality, Hostility, Encouragement, and Love

Gabe opened his home to traveling followers of Jesus, showing hospitality and service. His care for these brothers in Christ was later reported back to a local church. Gabe's hospitality shone with Jesus' love.

Gabe's hospitality was met with hostility from within the congregation! Dion didn't appreciate Gabe's service. Dion didn't appreciate anything unless *he* was the center of attention. Dion badmouthed John, a long time follower of Jesus, and excommunicated anyone showing hospitality to traveling brothers in Christ. John got word of this and felt it urgently necessary to support Gabe.

In his letter, John affirmed his love for Gabe. John shared prayers that Gabe would be led in the good way of God's wisdom and for physical health. John conveyed the joy of Gabe's living out gospel generosity to strangers. John stated that his church heard about Gabe's generosity.

Finally, John challenged Gabe not to imitate evil but to do good. Gabe's temptation might have been to retaliate in kind (3 John 11). Jesus' words that John had heard years before may have echoed in John's ears – "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." (Luke 6:27-28)

We believers expect worldly pressures to conform. Let's be real. We don't expect internal, congregational conflict caused by selfishness. (James 4:1ff.)

Gaius' (Gabe's) situation was one of internal conflict. As John hinted to Gaius that Diotrephes may "not be of God," John's and Jesus' words and actions frame the response to Diotrephes' actions – a word of support communicating love, prayer, expressed joy, compliments for work well done, and a command to do right (3 John). That command reflected Jesus' words to act in the best interests of enemies, to do good for haters, to seek an outpouring of God's grace upon those invoking harm, and to speak to God concerning those insulting him and others.

Know that worldly pressures and congregational conflict caused by sin among the saints were prompts for the writing of the Scriptures. In the pressures and the conflicts are opportunities to apply Scripture.

Learn the Scriptures and apply them well (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Encourage fellow believers through loving actions, prayer, expressed joy, compliments, and challenges. Show the love of Christ to Christ's enemies, to those who hate, curse, and mistreat us, while we, like Jesus, pray for and work for their salvation through good works (Eph. 2:8-10).

Calvin Hubbard has been the pastor of Barksdale Baptist Church since 2010. Calvin and his wife, Cindy, have one son.