

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

Buddy Hankins	1993	Southside
Robert Beadle	1993	FBC Benton
Larry Black	2002	Faith Fellowship
Shaun Armstrong	2009	Grace
Mark Cook	2010	Trees
Shane Nugent	2012	Cross Point
Wade Allen	2016	Pilgrim Home
John Anderson	2020	Northwoods

New Staff

**Bethany:** Sam Haggard, Youth  
**Blanchard:** Kirk Talley, Music, from Open Door, Ragley, LA (wife, Jordan)

Staff Changes

**Calvary:** Will Simmons, Dicipleship Pastor, from North Keithville  
**Calvary:** Austin Eakin, Youth, from Grawood  
**Westlake:** Chris Keeny, Pastor, from Mooringsport

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Hours: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm/Mon-Thur.  
8:30 am - 12:00 noon/Friday  
Lane Moore, Director of Missions

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Church News

**Narrow Gate:** LIFE OUTSIDE free event for all. June 5, 2021. Vivian Elem./Middle School, Food served at 4:30 pm, \$10.00 per plate. Guest Speakers: Hank Hough, Kingdom Dog Ministries, Kathryn "Kat" Arnold, Bought Caught & Released Angler for Christ. Live entertainment throughout the evening. Love offering will be received for guest speakers.  
**Northwoods:** North LA families need your help! Diapers-size 3 & up, car seats, baby furniture, baby accessories. These and other baby items would be greatly appreciated. For more information, call Lynn at 318-560-4471.

NEWS AROUND the ASSOCIATION



Northwest Association's MASADA Transitional Living Center is being used to house displaced Fairfield Oaks Condominium residents from the recent fire.



Faith Washington has been named House Manager at MASADA Transitional Living Center.



Half of the churches in Northwest Association are led by Bi-Vocational pastors. Congratulations to one of our men, Rev. Josh Cagle, pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church, just north of Plain Dealing. Josh was recently promoted to Sergeant and K-9 supervisor for Bossier Parish by Sheriff Julian Whittington.



The new playground system is completed at Bethany Camp & Conference Center just in time for the summer camp season.

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Mooringsport North Keithville Westwood South Bossier	Benton FBC-PT Emmanuel/Vivian-PT Keithville FBC-PT	Emmanuel/S'port-PT Grawood-PT Mooringsport-PT Princeton FBC-PT Westwood-PT North Keithville-PT	Belcher-PT Cross Point-PT Ferry Lake-PT	Brookwood - Ministry Assist./Youth & Family-- FT Emmanuel/Vivian-Pianist

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Baptist News

Churches, Missions &  
Ministries Working  
Together To Be  
More Effective

VOLUME 51, NUMBER 6  
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THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL...  
and the rapid change in the last century.

Over the last 2,000 years the reach of the gospel has truly been amazing from a geographical perspective. Obviously, technology in the last few decades has broken down barriers for the spread of the gospel.

The early geographical center of the Christian faith was in and around Israel. It didn't stay there long. Some disciples went to Asia Minor. Thomas went as far as India. Paul tried to get to Spain. Places like Cyprus, Caesarea, Damascus, Athens, Rome, and Ephesus are mentioned throughout the book of Acts as Paul and his followers undertook four long missionary journeys.

The gospel has been advancing and spreading for centuries. The Holy Spirit has compelled believers everywhere to share the message of Christ crucified and risen in places near and far. Paul and Christ's own disciples demonstrated this. Their travels included continents and people groups far from the place where our Christian faith began.

According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity, in 1910, Europe and North America contained 80% of the world's self-identified Christians. Today it's 40% and declining. Today almost one-fourth of the world's Christians live in Sub-Saharan Africa, compared to less than 2% a hundred years ago. In Robert Dana's book, "Shifting Southward: Global Christianity Since 1945," referencing the gospel's tremendous growth in the southern hemisphere, he writes, "The typical twenty-first century Christian is no longer a European man, but a Latin American or an African woman."

**How have these changes affected our Southern Baptist Convention?** In the next few days I will travel to Nashville, Tennessee, where thousands will gather for our annual Convention. I've noticed in the last decade of attending Conventions that the messengers are getting much younger and don't look like me. This is who the SBC is today;

- **22.3% of all SBC congregations are non-Anglo or ethnic minority congregations.**
- **SBC non-Anglo or ethnic minority congregations have grown by nearly 8,000 fellowships since 1990, an increase of 223%.**
- **From 1990 –2018, ethnic minority groups increased by more than one million people in our SBC.**
- **More than 60% of our new church plants in the past five years have been non-Anglo or multiethnic.**

Don't lose heart, the gospel is spreading around the globe, and people around the world are accepting the message even if it's becoming harder and harder to see God at work in our own churches and communities. Of course, we should always be concerned for the health and well-being of our own place of worship, or the church down the street. However, a Kingdom mindset for a lost world should always be our goal. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15.

Blessings,

Lane



## Shreveport Metro BCM Baptist Collegiate Ministry

Stephen Craver



With our students off to enjoy a well-earned and long-sought summer vacation, the Shreveport BCM turns to a productive summer. You might think of summer as a "slow season" for the BCM, but we're busier than ever. The **GOLA Coffee Shop** in our BCM remains open with volunteers coming to help make it a warm, satisfying experience. We've begun reaching out to our local churches seeking the contact information of incoming college freshmen. Our building will be getting much needed updates and refurbishments to welcome students back in the fall. LSUS will host multiple in-person new student orientations this summer as well, and the BCM plans to be at as many of them as possible!

With this whirlwind of activity, we'll need our church partners' help more than ever.

Here are some ways you can come join this important ministry:

- Send us the contact information of incoming students for the fall of 2021. You'll find a helpful link on our website: <http://shreveportbcm.com/newstudents>
- Put together a team from your church to provide a meal for the return of our Free Lunch program at LSUS or BPCC
- Partner with us financially and help impact campuses across Shreveport-Bossier at <http://shreveportbcm.com/give>

# HIS GREATEST SHOW

PREMIERING

June 14-18  
June 21-25

FEATURING

WORSHIP BY  
BROKEN  
VESSELS

STARRING

Grades  
2-6

big camp  
experience  
small camp  
price

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\$185

register at  
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## Compassion Ministries

John Anderson



God's timing  
is always  
perfect.

We can't see the big picture or understand God's timing, but it's always perfect. Just a couple of months ago, there was an incredible fire that took place at Fairfield Oaks Condominiums. Little did we know just how big a part MASADA would play towards helping the victims of this tragedy.

The director of Fairfield Oaks contacted us to see if it would be possible for us to house some of the residents who were displaced due to the fire. Our response was, "yes, most definitely." This is one of the main reasons we opened the MASADA Transitional Living Center.

Currently, we have three residents that came from Fairfield Oaks. In addition to these residents, we have a single mom with a seventeen year old son. As I write this article, I just received news from our new House Manager that a nurse her daughter knows, will be coming next week. As you can see, Masada is up and fulfilling the purposes it was intended for. That being said, with this many residents now, and more to come, we need help with a few items.

We are still in need of meals being provided for at least ten people at this time. If you or your group would like to help provide meals or any of the items below, please contact me at the association office-318-686-5736 or my cell or email: 318-230-3446/janderson@nwlba.org

ITEMS WE  
HAVE IMMEDIATE  
NEED FOR

- Paper towels/toilet paper
- 30 gallon trash bags
- Cleaning products

**bethany**  
student camp

JUNE 28 - JULY 2



ben hackler  
SPEAKER

BIG CAMP EXPERIENCE  
small camp  
price

nick parish  
WORSHIP



FROM THE CREW  
WHO DIRECTS  
kid z kampa  
Terry & Jerrab

\$240  
PER STUDENT

register @ BethanyC3.com

## CULTURE WATCH in NATIONAL and WORLD NEWS



won a significant Supreme Court victory in 2018 over a similar lawsuit.

Jack Phillips, owner of **Masterpiece Cake Shop** in Colorado is again having to defend his faith and religious liberty in court when he declined to bake a cake commemorating a person's gender transition. Phillips

**UNBORN LIVES MATTER**  
"Abortion rights are as important as religious liberty," says Secretary of State, Anthony Blinkin. The Secretary said the State Department was re-inserting the phrase "reproductive rights" into their Human Rights reports. He said the phrase is used by the pro-choice community to make sure legal abortion is available.



**China Closes House Churches**  
Chinese officials in March closed and ransacked house churches across the country as part of a continued crackdown on Christianity. Protestant churches in China are required to register and join the Three-Self movement, which is legal but places churches under severe restrictions, such as limits on what can be preached.

Source: International Christian Concern

**Church Members are a Minority in U.S. for the First Time.**

Gallup Poll, March 2021

A growth in adults with no religious preference and lower rates of church membership are major trends driving the 47% who identify with a congregation. That number was 70% in 1999. Millennials hold the lowest rates of church affiliation at 31%. The southern part of the country had the slowest rate of decline.



## A Pastor's Perspective



Jim Gstohl  
Pastor,  
Tower Baptist,  
Mooringsport, LA

### Political Paranoia vs. The Presence of God

We are living in an age of political chaos and rampant paranoia. I've challenged our church members to spend less time watching the news and spend more time in prayer with the Word of God, while enjoying His presence.

However, we do have important issues and freedoms that we all hold dear. Whether it's freedom of speech, religion, or bearing arms, just to name a few, we see them at great risk. So what should we do?

First, **PRAY UP**. Pray for our nation. Pray with a sincere heart that is rooted in scripture. This will also help keep us from being pulled into the political paranoia we see every day. The prophet Isaiah was well acquainted with the glorious presence of God. In chapter 6:1-8, Isaiah's vision reminds us of the awesomeness of our God along with His strength, grandeur, and perfection. Verse 3 reads, "And one called out to another and said, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." God clearly showed Isaiah that He is in control, and He is still in control for us today.

Second, **TIGHTEN UP**. That will keep our hearts sincere as we receive our instructions from the Lord. Verse 5 says, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips..." Notice what the Seraphim did in verse 6-7, "Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said, behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

Third, **LIGHTEN UP**. Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

And fourth, **BRIGHTEN UP**. Remember being in the presence of God begins with remembering that God is still in control in spite of our circumstances. We do have a bright light in a dark world. And because of that, we can sing, *This little light of mine, I'm gonna to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

Jim Gstohl has been the pastor of Tower Baptist Church since 2005. Jim is the father of two children.