

## NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

### Staff Updates

#### Pastor Anniversaries

<i>Ed Gonzalez</i>	2003	<b>Linwood</b>
<i>Jesse Colston</i>	2012	<b>Oil City</b>
<i>John McCatherty</i>	2021	<b>Ferry Lake</b>

#### New Staff

**North Keithville:** *Coy Fuqua*, Pastor, from interim (wife, LeAnne)

**Shreveport FBC:** *Luke Lusted*, Music, from Camelback Bible Church, Paradise Valley, AZ (wife, Jenn)

**Woodridge:** *Aaron Greenwood*, Music, from Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, TX (wife, Seana)

#### Staff Changes

**Belle Park:** *John Oswalt*, Music, retiring

**Calvary:** *J. D. Jones*, Children, resigning to Fellowship Community Church, Stonewall, LA, as Assoc. Pastor

**Elm Grove:** *Kurt Zortman*, Pastor, from interim.

5875 W. 70th St  
Shreveport LA 71129  
318-686-5736 FAX: 687-9701  
Return Service Requested

E-mail: [carlene@nwlba.org](mailto:carlene@nwlba.org)  
Website: [www.nwlba.org](http://www.nwlba.org)  
[www.Facebook.com/NWLBA](http://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

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### DISTRICT BIBLE DRILL

**Bible Drill is right around the corner!**

- **Sunday, April 2, 2023, 2:30 pm**
- **First Baptist Church Haughton-Host Church**

All church drill information needs to be sent to Teresa Small by Friday, March 24, 2023. Email to [teresa@fbchaughton.org](mailto:teresa@fbchaughton.org) or mail to Teresa Small, 105 E. Washington Ave., Haughton, LA 71037

## GUARDED

An Internet Safety and Device  
Training Workshop for Parents

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH @ 6:00 PM**  
**TRINITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH**

Learn about popular apps, the dangers and effects of social media, how to manage your child's device and web searches, implement time restraints, and much more! For adults/parents only. Bring your child's devices.

Guard Your Home. Guard Their Hearts. Guard Your Devices.

Licensed counselor, Clint Davis, will be speaking, along with Caddo Sheriff personnel.

### Fellowship Trip

**FBC Keithville:** Savannah, Jekyll Island & Beaufort, South Carolina. May 21-27, 2023. \$851.00 per person. For reservations or more information, contact Linda Haydel, 318-455-9571.

### Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Belcher - Bi-Vo Emmanuel - Bi-Vo Haynes Avenue - Bi-Vo Shreve City - Bi-Vo Westlake - Bi-Vo	Belle Park - PT Lakeview - PT Westwood - PT	Barksdale - PT Blanchard - FT Eastwood - FT Mooringsport - PT North Keithville - PT Plain Dealing - PT/FT Princeton FBC - PT Westwood - PT Vivian FBC - FT	Belcher - PT Ferry Lake - PT	Bethany - Nursery Coordinator - PT Blanchard - Hourly Nursery Workers Norris Ferry - Administrative Assistant - PT New Birth - Children's Church - Volunteer

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

# Baptist News

*Churches, Missions &  
Ministries Working  
Together To Be  
More Effective*

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 3  
MARCH 2023



## 250 YEARS OF AMAZING GRACE

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the classic hymn, "Amazing Grace." In early 1773, John Newton in Olney, England, led his congregation to sing a new hymn he had just written for a special occasion. It spoke of his conversion, of his self-proclaimed wretchedness, and the saving power of God's grace. Its popularity has never wavered across cultures and generations.

John Newton, a former slave-trader, was now a converted follower of Christ. After his conversion, Newton became a minister. A young articulate politician named William Wiberforce, who had also recently converted to faith in Christ, came calling one day. He won his first seat in Parliament at the age of 21. Newton counseled and mentored Wiberforce for years. That launched the young Parliament member to work tirelessly to end the slave trade in the British Empire. Newton encouraged Wiberforce to remain in Parliament, believing his integrity, reputation and influence could serve the cause of Christ better there, rather than a life in vocational ministry. In 1787, Wilberforce wrote in his dairy, *"Almighty God has set before me two great objectives, the abolition of the slave trade and the reformation of morals."* Wilberforce's emancipation battle would last decades. Due to failing health, he resigned his Parliament seat in 1825. When Wilberforce was on his death bed in 1833, he received word that Parliament had voted to free all 800,000 slaves throughout the British Empire.

William Wiberforce is a great example of what Jesus can do to those fully committed to Him in whatever position God places them, when God's "amazing grace" grips a life committed to Him.

What would ministers in 2023 counsel a young William Wilberforce to do? Perhaps, *"Keep quiet. Keep your opinions to yourself. Don't challenge the status quo. Politics and faith don't mix?"* President Calvin Coolidge said in the 1920's, *"If good men don't hold office, bad men will."*

Stay faithful in the fight for truth and righteousness.

*Lane*



## HIGHLIGHTS

### CALL TO PRAYER VIII 2023

33 Association pastors prayed, preached, and worshiped with nearly 400 in attendance at First Blanchard in early February! Also, a special time of prayer was given for several north Caddo mayors, aldermen, and LA state representatives.







**'23**

**YOU are invited to our first...**

**BCM/BSU REUNION**

**MARCH 31ST, 6:30-8:30PM**

Please RSVP by March 24th via:  
[shreveportbcm.com/alumni](http://shreveportbcm.com/alumni)



**GOD'S STILL  
WORKING ON ME!**

All his life Matt Penn has been a carpenter. Taught by his own dad, carpentry has always been the family business. But this builder is in the process of seeing the master builder work on him from the inside out.

For many years Matt struggled with substance abuse. After a series of bad decisions, Matt found himself in jail on two different occasions. Having paid his debt, he's determined to make better decisions that will honor the Lord and his family.

Matt is grateful to be at Masada Transitional Living Center. After landing in several less than desirable locations which struggled to keep their facilities drug and alcohol free, Matt knows he's found his temporary home at Masada.



Clean and free from drugs, Matt was quickly hired at Brookshires to work in the meat department. In just a few weeks of employment, he has saved over a thousand dollars to apply toward a vehicle that will allow him to return to his career in construction. Matt Penn typifies a great example for the reason Masada exists. Lessons have been learned, and a life has been turned around that's ready for a second chance at success.

Let's be thankful God's still working on each one of us!



**Compassion Ministries**  
*John Anderson*

## OVER A HUNDRED AND FIFTY... AND STILL COUNTING!

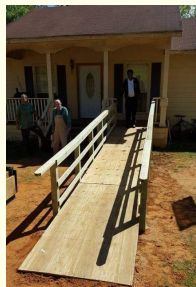
Preaching the gospel can be done in many different ways other than from behind a pulpit. For the last ten years, First Baptist, Benton, has found a creative way to express the love of Christ towards their neighbors by building wheel-chair ramps for homeowners to give them greater freedom and less stress without having to climb stairs.



In 2013, a layman named Gene Wilson, who's with the Lord now, was inspired to see this come to fruition and began to put together a team of men with the knowledge and carpentry skills to begin this new ministry. Over the last decade, fourteen men from First Baptist Church have served the Benton community by building ramps for homeowners with disabled children and other family members. The oldest homeowner was 104. Completed ramps: Over 150 and still going.

Each ramp costs approximately \$1,000 for materials. God has always provided the funds whenever a new ramp was needed. These servants from Benton know they are the ones who are blessed by exercising their gifts for the Lord.

The harvest is great, but laborers like these men are making a difference for the Kingdom, one ramp at a time!



## VBS TRAINING

**and so much more!**

**Saturday, March 4, 2023**

**FBC Haughton 8 am - 3 pm**

**Cost: \$10 (includes boxed lunch)**

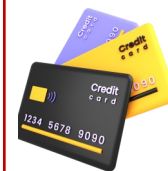
**Registration Deadline: March 2, 2023**

**Register on line:**

**[louisianabaptists.org/kidminexpo](http://louisianabaptists.org/kidminexpo)**

## CULTURE WATCH & National & World News

### U.S. Credit Card Debt Jumps 18.5%



American's credit card debt reached a record \$930 billion dollars in 2022, a jump of 18.5% in one year. Inflation is driving people to put everyday expenses on their credits cards.

Americans carry an average of \$5,805 on their credit cards, most of which charge interest of nearly 20%. Americans opened up 202 million new credit accounts in the fourth quarter of 2022, bringing the total number of credit cards held by all Americans living in the U.S. to 518.4 million.

*Source: Newsmax*

### God Brings Healing To Ukrainian Refugees

Moldova shares an eastern, southern and northern border with Ukraine and a western border with Romania. When news of the war emerged, the Moldova Baptist Union, comprised of 400 churches, converted their buildings, summer camp facilities and children's homes into shelters. Dancu Baptist Church sent buses to the border to meet refugees. The church created an environment for the children to be able to have beds, new clothes, stuffed animals, and school supplies. Several churches assisted in providing three home-cooked meals a day and counseling.



*Source: International Mission Board*

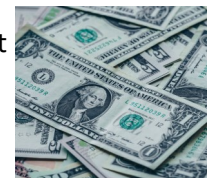
### Professor: Generation Z Is Useless! Mentally Fragile And Causing National Harm

New York University professor Jonathan Haidt, a prominent social psychologist, said that Gen Z "Could be the death of all of us." Haidt stated, "Those born after 1995 are too brittle and are putting America's future in jeopardy, especially if we had to go to war. Gen Z has been raised to be addicted to pointless social media posts, and to be whiney victims who have no love for traditions, family, or the United States." Haidt went on to state that terrible parenting has made Gen Z too "fragile" and unable to deal with the stress of early adulthood.

*Source: Wall Street Journal*

### Economy Hurting Churches

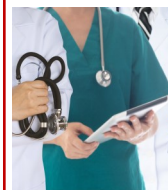
52% of Protestant pastors say the current economy is having a negative impact on their churches. Another 40% stated the current economy has had no affect at all, and the remaining 8% said their church was seeing a boost in giving.



*Source: Lifeway Research*

### Medical Associations And Doctors Sue FDA

The lawsuit states that the FDA "illegally" prioritized abortion politics over science and patients' health when it approved the abortion drugs *Mifepristone* and *Misoprostol* several years ago. The lawsuit goes on to say authorities skirted the process and put patients' lives at risk with these dangerous drugs.



*Source: WORLD News Group*



## THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE

*What We Believe*  
**as Southern Baptists**

As we continue our study of the Baptist Faith & Message, we come to:

### Article II: God

*"There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in His holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being."*

The Bible consistently declares there is one true and living God, the self-revealed Creator who alone must be loved and worshiped. All other gods are false.

Perhaps nowhere is the exclusivity of God stated more clearly than in the *Shema*, an affirmation of Judaism and a declaration of faith in one God. It is the oldest fixed daily prayer in Judaism, recited morning and evening since ancient times. It consists of three biblical passages, two of which instruct the Israelites to speak these things "when you lie down and when you rise up."

The best known part of the *Shema* is from the biblical passage: "Hear O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might." Deut. 6:4-5. The Prophet Isaiah echoes this in 45:5, "I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God."

While the theme of one God runs consistently through Scripture, both the Old and New Testaments offer us increasing light into the existence of this One Being in three persons. Mark 12:29-30 and I Timothy 2:5-6.

How do we biblically define a term that never appears in the Bible? Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslim, and others are quick to point out the word Trinity is conspicuously absent from the pages of scripture. That doesn't mean the doctrine is missing in action. When we talk about the Trinity, it's important to show how Scripture describes God as one eternal being in three persons. This is not as easy it sounds, for the Trinity in some respects is a mystery, a revelation of God hidden in times past but revealed progressively from Genesis to Revelation.

**Next month: Article II-B, God the Son**