

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

Mike Stowell	1987	FBC Keithville
Ron Johnson	2008	Mission Point
Calvin Hubbard	2010	Barksdale
Luke Allen	2010	Covenant Bossier
Terry Young	2016	Airline
James Snider	2019	Elm Grove
Chris Keeny	2021	Westlake

Staff Changes

Woodridge: Chuck McInturf, Pastor, retiring.

Sympathy

William "Bill" Crosby, Sr.
1936-2022

After a lengthy pastorate at First Mansfield, Bro. Bill served numerous churches in the Association as interim pastor or supply during his retirement.

Fellowship Trips

Airline: Charter bus trip to the National Quartet Convention in Pigeon Forge. Sept. 25-30. Contact Sharon Glasscock, 318-272-2226 for more information.



Kidz Kamp
\$185 PER CAMPER

BIG CAMP EXPERIENCE
SMALL CAMP PRICE

Wrecked!

CAMP #1 - JUNE 20 - 24 **CAMP #2 - JUNE 27 - JULY 1**
REGISTER @ BETHANYC3.COM

DAKOTA BURTON - SPEAKER **BROKEN VESSELS - BAND**

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
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

2022 1st Quarter Financial Report

Church Contributions to Association Budget - 144,503.30
Budget Expenses of Association - 126,713.72



BIG CAMP EXPERIENCE
SMALL CAMP PRICE

\$240 PER STUDENT

BETHANY STUDENT CAMP

STUART HALL SPEAKER

SQUATCH THE LEGEND

BROKEN VESSELS WORSHIP BAND

JUNE 13-17
REGISTER @ BETHANYC3.COM

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
North Keithville - Bi-Vo Red River - Bi-Vo Shreve City - Bi-Vo Woodridge - FT	Lakeview - PT Trees - FT Westwood - PT Woodridge - FT	Barksdale - PT Elm Grove - PT Emmanuel/Sport - PT Grawood - 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 Blanchard FBC - Custodian

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Baptist News

Churches, Missions &
Ministries Working
Together To Be
More Effective

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 5
May 2022



HEAVENLY PEACE WITHIN THE EARTHLY CHAOS

Our world is a very different place than it was a few months ago, much less than a few years ago. It's easy to be unsure of what lies ahead. We have people all around us who are afraid and need a steady, calming hand of wisdom. The Body of Christ must be ready for this moment.

1. God Always Crafts A Purpose

We love to quote **Romans 8:28** during times of difficulty. Yes, God does specialize in taking our messes and working His purposes through it. The Father is not up to hundreds of things in our life. He is up to ONLY ONE. To conform us to the image of His Son. However, the various methods He takes in all our lives to lead us on this journey are as numerous as the stars above. We must be sensitive to the leading of His Holy Spirit in the midst of our discomfort, pain, and chaos. Always look for God's purpose for ourselves and those around us.

2. God Always Provides Perspective

Sometimes when it may seem like the weight of the world is on our shoulders, we need to see things from God's perspective. This did not catch our Father by surprise. *What is the good that God has for me in this trial? What is this current trouble compared to the glory that will come from this?* **2 Corinthians 4:17**

No one wants to hurt. We don't want difficulties. We want security and safety at all costs. *In America, has our desire for ease, comfort, and convenience, produced a weak people who cannot handle the common trials of life?* Perhaps even those in the Church! *Could this be why the Church has become so weak and anemic before the world?* We must take **Romans 5:3-4** seriously. *"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."*

Character is expensive and perseverance is costly! That is why we always need God's perspective in our trials and sufferings.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Broadmoor Baptist Church 4110 Youree Dr., Shreveport, LA
Thursday, May 12, 2022 **Use the Atlantic Street entrance at Broadmoor**



11am Leadership Session (Room 1304)

Rev. Carlos Schmidt will discuss partnership mission opportunities for your church both domestic and foreign for 2022 and 2023.



12 Noon Luncheon & Business Meeting (Dining Room)

We're delighted to welcome back to Northwest Louisiana, Bro. K. Vijayan (Bro. Vee) with Mission Voice Network in India, to give a report on the thousands that are leaving Hinduism and turning to Christ.

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

Lunch provided by
Guidestone Financial
Resources

THE MINISTERIAL EXCEPTION

Is Your Church Using The Right Language To Describe Those Serving Within Your Church?

Any mission statement is central to the identity of an organization, including a church. To advance that mission, the church or institution needs people who align with their core values and actively carry them out. The Church, with the ministry of taking the gospel to the lost, must decide what the qualifications are to perform that function and not the government. That is why the courts have always recognized the principle of the "ministerial exception."

What is the ministerial exception, and who qualifies for it?

The ministerial exception allows a religious organization to make employment decisions regarding ministers without government interference.

In *Hosanna-Tabor*, the Supreme Court stated, "The authority to select and control who will minister to the faithful - a matter 'strictly ecclesiastical' - is the church's alone." That means that when an employment position at a faith-based ministry is ministerial, that organization has total freedom to make employment decisions.

In 2020, the Supreme Court ruled again by a 7-2 margin, in *Our Lady of Guadalupe School vs. Morrissey-Berru*, that a religious school (in this case a teacher who was instructing) need not have the title of "minister" or have theological training to fall under the ministerial exception.

The Supreme Court has upheld twice the ministerial exception as a fundamental piece of the First Amendment and essential to the free exercise of religion. Everyone benefits when the government is not interfering in the hiring decisions of a faith-based organization.

One way to protect your church from a future legal challenge concerning a possible hire is to make sure the job descriptions for employees clearly communicate the ministerial responsibilities of a given position. Northwest Association and the **Alliance Defending Freedom** are available to assist your church with sample job descriptions which have been fully vetted by their team of attorneys to ensure the wording accurately describes the ministerial function. Then you can add to the job description to fit the context of duties for your church.

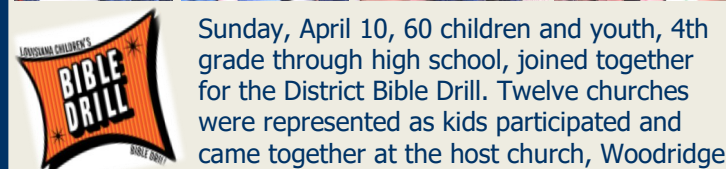
ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM

MINISTRY ALLIANCE

In today's culture, job descriptions should at a minimum explain the following:

- * **How this job furthers your churches mission**
- * **What's the spiritual responsibilities of this position**
- * **What religious training or skills are necessary for the position**
- * **Why this job is important in the life of your church**

Samples available from ADF: Pastor, Church Secretary, Children's Minister, Music Minister, Custodian, and Church Treasurer.
Contact the Association office (686-5736 or carlene@nwlba.org) and we can email copies of these samples to your church.

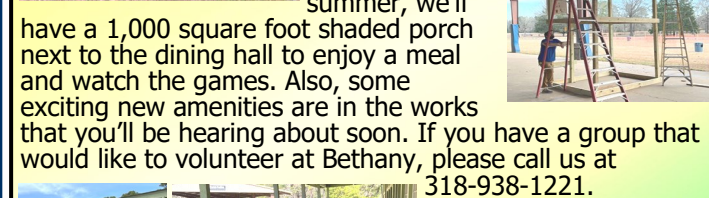


Sunday, April 10, 60 children and youth, 4th grade through high school, joined together for the District Bible Drill. Twelve churches were represented as kids participated and came together at the host church, Woodridge Baptist. A special thank you to Woodridge Baptist. A special thank you to Woodridge Baptist and to the adults leading and teaching each week.



SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE!

We are grateful for over 100 volunteers in the last month who have helped prepare Bethany for the busiest summer since 2019. New bunk beds, flower beds, cleaning cabins, new picnic tables, along with breaking up old concrete, have all been on our work list. Our team is constantly improving the Camp with new projects. By summer, we'll have a 1,000 square foot shaded porch next to the dining hall to enjoy a meal and watch the games. Also, some exciting new amenities are in the works that you'll be hearing about soon. If you have a group that would like to volunteer at Bethany, please call us at 318-938-1221.



Trey Miller, Director

Bethany
Camp & Conference Center
Bethanyc3.com

CULTURE WATCH

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

SBC Update:

Dr. Willie McLaurin Named Interim President Of The Executive Committee



Willie McLaurin from Antioch, TN, becomes the first African-American to lead an SBC entity. "No network of churches is without challenges. My prayer is that this season will bring healing and unity to our Convention," McLaurin stated after his appointment. The

past year has been tension filled. The process of waiving attorney-client privilege related to the ongoing investigation over allegations of mishandling reports of sexual abuse in the Convention took a heavy toll on EC members and the way they are viewed by the SBC.

Gambling Industry Booming In America

According to the *International Center for Responsible Gaming*, 75% of college students have placed sports gambling bets in the last year. Kathleen Benfield, of Louisiana Family Forum, said "the gambling industry has now replaced the oil and gas industry as the number one revenue generator for Louisiana in terms of revenue and budget."



India Experiencing Explosive Growth In Christianity

Christian News Net says hundreds of thousands of Hindus are converting to Christianity. With this movement of God, fierce resistance has also occurred. Pastor Samuel Nayak



was recently killed by a violent mob in his own ancestral village. In these government sponsored crackdowns, beatings and arrests are regular occurrences. However, none of the

uprisings from Hindu nationals has deterred the work of the churches. *Christian News Net* stated what is occurring in India is something similar to what the early days of the Book of Acts presents.

U.S. Birth Rate Falls To Lowest Point In History

Birth rates among American women at the end of the first year of Covid (2020), were at the lowest point ever. A *Pew Research* survey showed that nearly half of adults without children think they'll never have kids.



Afghanistan Replaces North Korea As The Most Dangerous Place To Live As A Christian

According to *Open Doors USA*, the pullout last August of all American troops, leaving the Taliban in charge of the government, created an unbearable situation for Christians. The Taliban's interpretation of Islam considers a Christian to be a traitor. They are an enemy of the state and of the their tribe. They are infidels of Islam, and to the Taliban, the only punishment is death. It is believed that every remaining Christian in Afghanistan is either on the run or in hiding.

Pastor's Perspective



Small. Yet Great Obedience

Billy Sutton, Pastor,
Redeemer Community Church,
Shreveport, LA

In the history of Christianity generally and the Southern Baptist Convention particularly, there is likely no more influential passage of Scripture than the Great Commission recorded by Matthew in his Gospel (Matthew 28:16-20). It is here that

we learn of the church's responsibility and privilege of making mature followers of the Lord Jesus Christ by going, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and teaching followers to observe all things commanded by Jesus. With a careful reading of this text, there is an important lesson nestled in verse 16. Matthew writes, "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them." What is the lesson? We must obey the seemingly small commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. Earlier in Matthew, Jesus' interaction with the women at the tomb is recorded, "And behold, Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me' (Matthew 28:9-10). The ladies were to communicate this command to the disciples, and they did so faithfully.

What if the disciples refused to take Jesus' command to be in Galilee seriously? Humanly speaking, they had reasons to doubt and thus justify disobedience. First, they had followed Jesus for three years hoping to see him take his place as the Messiah of Israel only to see him rejected by the religious leaders and slaughtered by Roman crucifixion. This was a dramatic disappointment. Second, this public execution, no doubt, engendered fear in them as they pondered whether they would be the next sufferers on the cross. Last, the messengers were a group of women, which society viewed as unreliable. How would they respond?

Thankfully, the eleven believed enough to get themselves to the mountain in Galilee. As a result, God blessed them with the presence of their risen Lord, and Jesus gave them the marvelous privilege of preaching the Gospel and bringing others into the kingdom. Consider the magnitude of the results of "small" obedience. Their obedience to the command to go to Galilee advanced to them the opportunity to receive the Great Commission, a command they also obeyed. Over two millennia later, we and countless others are believers because of their obedience to Christ in both small and great commands.

Therefore, do not take lightly the "small" obediences to which Jesus calls you. Remember, all that he commands is important because the King of kings and Lord of lords has demanded it from you. It is your privilege and honor to obey Jesus in everything. Understand we cannot discern where these "small" obediences will lead us. Realize, if you are negligent to obey in the small things, God will not give you the great (Matthew 25:21,23). Believe that God is glorified in our obedience and uses it for our utmost good. Trust and obey, for there is no other way; to be happy in Jesus, than to trust and obey.

Billy Sutton has been the founding pastor of Redeemer Community Church since 2008. Billy and his wife Kara have 3 sons.