

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates  
Pastor Anniversaries

Joseph Ricard, Sr.	1999	New Beginning
C.V. Johns	2012	New Wine
Kham LaNang	2012	First Zo
Kenny Joyner	2018	Willow Point
Heath Peloquin	2018	Summer Grove
Weston Brown	2019	Covenant Shreveport
Billy Flowers	2021	FBC Greenwood

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](https://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

*Special thanks* to First Baptist Benton church family for hosting the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting. Initial business was conducted with the approval of a \$605,013 annual budget for the Association, and a \$876,000 annual budget for Bethany Camp & Conference Center.

Autry Brown, Jr., and the FBC Benton praise team led in worship.

Rick Daniels, newly ordained pastor at Belcher Baptist, shared his perspective and challenges as a new pastor, and Lane Moore discussed the value of partnership in ministry from the book of Philippians.



*Mark your Calendars*

**BETHANY CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

**1WKND for Students: January 19-21, 2024**  
**KIDZWKND for Kidz: January 26-28, 2024**

.....

**Register NOW @ [bethanyc3.com](http://bethanyc3.com)**

**2023 THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**


Church Contributions to Association Budget-\$135,201.63  
Budget Expenses of Association-\$133,262.80

**WE ARE IN NEED OF:**

- \* Toilet Paper
- \* Lysol Spray
- \* Pine Sol, Clorox Bleach

**ITEMS WE HAVE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR**

Please bring any donations to the Association Office.  
A big THANK YOU to all who have helped with supplies for Masada Transitional Living Center.



Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

# Baptist News



Churches, Missions & Ministries Working Together To Be More Effective

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 11  
NOVEMBER 2023



## Changes in Church Staffing are Happening Fast!

According to newly released data from the 2022 Annual Church Profile of the Southern Baptist Convention, the average church in the SBC has 80 people in worship on any given Sunday. In 2022, half of the churches in the SBC averaged fewer than 50 people on a Sunday morning, and over 75% of our churches averaged fewer than 100.

So what do these numbers mean? The reality is that thousands of SBC churches may not survive another 10 years. Over the next decade if the church hasn't already made the adjustment, they'll need to transition to a bi-vocational or co-vocational pastorate. It will be increasingly difficult for churches of fewer than 100 to afford a competitive salary, including benefits, for a full-time pastor.

Churches which have made the decision to call a bi-vocational pastor will need to look at three realities:

- 1. Depending on his weekday job, the pastor may not be available for emergencies during the week.** This is perhaps the biggest adjustment between having a full-time pastor and a bi-vocational or co-vocational pastor.
- 2. A church should consider increasing weekends off for a bi-vocational pastor.** He is already working 40 or more hours a week and squeezing in ministry hours wrapped around whatever is left of a seven day week. He is not playing in the "minor leagues" of ministry. He is the pastor of his church 24/7.
- 3. A bi-vocational role doesn't mean failure for the church.** Having a bi-vocational pastor is not a short-term fix. It's the church's reality. In many rural settings, the bi-vocational pastor can become the *de facto* pastor of the town, and can have a much greater influence than many full-time pastors.

2022 ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE	
Attendance	% of SBC Churches
2,000	0.25%
1,000-1,999	0.60%
500-999	1.64%
250-249	4.41%
100-249	16.38%
50-99	26.29%
1-49	50.43%

## So what's the next step when the church continues to struggle and decline?

Church Replanting or a Revitalization Program is becoming a reality for many churches. It's already happening and will continue to happen in our Association. There are several models in place to take the next step for your church. Here are two options:

- 1. Start over as a replant.** The Association and the Louisiana Baptist Convention will work to find a sister church that is thriving and has the workers and resources to place a new work in the facility.
- 2. Internal Revitalization.** The church still has the time and the workers for a strategic plan to be implemented that makes the necessary changes to achieve new growth.

Other options are available, such as merging with another church or selling the facilities and downsizing to a smaller building. The Association can also assist a declining church to transition to an ethnic fellowship by creating a shared partnership.

Many new changes are coming. Your Association leadership is ready to help with counsel for your church.  
Blessings,  
*Lane*

### Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Ford Park - Bi-Vo Pilgrim Home - Bi-Vo Red River - Bi-Vo Shreve City - Bi-Vo Westlake - Bi-Vo	Greenwood - PT Lakeview - PT Westwood - PT	Belle Park - PT North Keithville - PT Plain Dealing - PT/FT Princeton FBC - PT Westwood - PT Vivian FBC - FT	Belcher - PT Ferry Lake - PT	Blanchard - Hourly Nursery Workers New Birth - Children's Church - Volunteer





NORTHWEST  
LOUISIANA  
BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Thursday,  
November 9, 2023

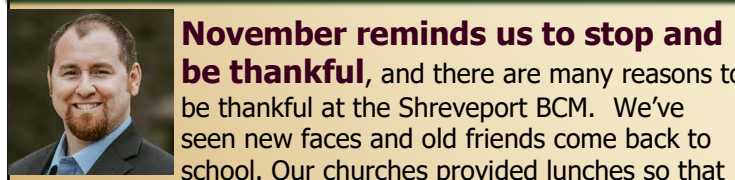
Haynes Avenue Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
610 Haynes Ave., Shreveport, LA

12 NOON - Lunch & Business Meeting

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

### Shreveport Baptist Collegiate Ministry

Stephen Craver, Director



**November reminds us to stop and be thankful**, and there are many reasons to be thankful at the Shreveport BCM. We've seen new faces and old friends come back to school. Our churches provided lunches so that hundreds of students at LSUS and BPCC could come and hear the gospel. Our BCM building was able to host events from multiple other student organizations including LSUS Phi Mu and International Student Association. At each event the opportunity to have a gospel conversation presented itself, and our staff and students have been

so faithful. As we think about giving thanks this time of year, let me say on behalf of our staff and students "Thank you!" Without the support of the NLBA and its churches this important ministry wouldn't be possible. As Paul said to Philemon, "I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints." What a testimony! That's *your* testimony to the Shreveport BCM staff and students!



### Compassion Ministries

John Anderson



### Building relationships through meeting needs.

This is the heartbeat of Children's Hunger Fund based in Frisco, Texas.

Earlier this summer, representatives of the Children's Hunger Fund reached out to me concerning being a point person for them. Their objective was to partner with local churches; to identify families in need, to develop home visitation teams, and to deliver Food Paks directly to their home. These families would be visited twice a month for a season of time to be determined by the church. These visits would help establish deep, real relationships with families, through which the gospel could be shared while material needs were being addressed. Several of our churches are now going out every other week spending quality time getting to know families while seeking every appropriate opportunity to open the scriptures and pray with them. These wonderful volunteers are helping to build bridges between the homes and the church.



Decades ago, simply having a neighborhood church was enough to draw people to the church. Today, the church must be outside the walls of the church. Jesus met both the spiritual needs and physical needs of His listeners. That method can still work

today, and does through the Children's Hunger Fund. If you or your group would like more information on how to be a partner with the Children's Hunger Fund just as these churches are, please contact me, John Anderson, at 318-230-3446. You can also email me at [janderson@nwlba.org](mailto:janderson@nwlba.org).

There is ALWAYS someone in need. Please answer the call!!!



**Tuesday AM & PM Shows are SOLD OUT!**

**HURRY!**  
Tickets are still  
available for the 9:30 AM show on  
Wednesday, November 29, 2023.

**Call 318-686-5736**



## THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE

### What We Believe as Southern Baptists

We continue with our series on the *Baptist Faith & Message 2000* with this month's column.

### Article IV-D: Glorification

*"Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed."*

Glorification is the final stage in God's work of salvation. It is the crowning achievement of sanctification, in which Christians are fully conformed to the image of Christ. It is the perfection of the body, rejoined with soul and spirit in resurrection, as well as the restoration of the universe to its original state.

Put another way, glorification is the means by which God fully reverses the effects of the Fall, purging sin and its stain from the created order. It involves the return of Jesus, the future resurrection and judgement of all people, and the creation of new heavens and a new earth.

For the most part, when Christians talk about glorification, we are referring to our own future resurrection, at which time we receive incorruptible bodies similar to the body of Christ had when He rose from the dead.

Theologian and scholar Wayne Grudem, provides an excellent summary statement: *"Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead, the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the time perfect resurrection bodies like His own."*

For now, Christians are not promised an earthly walk in the park, but an arduous race through enemy territory. If we are living faithfully, we may expect hardship, shunning, persecution, and pain, not health, wealth, or fame.

Christ is not the means to an end; He is the end Himself, accessed through a narrow gate (Matt. 7:13) and pursued down a path of good works he laid out for us ahead of time (Eph. 2:10). He walks with us, however, urging our faithfulness to him while we *"go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."* (Acts 14:22)

In the end, we may rejoice with the apostle Paul that *"the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed in us."* (Romans 8:18)

Next month: *Our Glorified Bodies*

## CULTURE WATCH & National News

### Barna: Only 1% Of U.S. Preteens Hold A Biblical Worldview

George Barna in his latest book, "Raising Spiritual Champions: Nurturing Your Child's Heart, Mind and Soul," states that only 1% of preteen children possess a biblical worldview. Also Barna reported that only 45% of teens believe God created the universe. An overwhelming majority (90%) believe that there are NO absolute objective truths, and moral truth is always relative to the individual and their circumstances. *Source: Barna Research*



### Gen X Church Attendance Hit Hardest During Covid-19

New research is showing Covid-19 and related church closures affected one generation more than others. According to the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, Generation X stopped going to church services at a higher rate than other generations between 2020 and 2023. In 2020, 41% of Gen X attended a church on a weekly basis. That dropped to 28% in 2023. Generation X are those born between 1965 to 1980, or currently between the ages of 43 to 58. *Source: Washington Stand*

### Residents Attribute D.C. Crime Wave To No Fear Of God

The nation's capital is suffering through a crime wave similar to hundreds of cities across America. D.C. is on pace for the most homicides in two decades. *"We live in a very wicked time,"* complained one resident. Another D.C. resident who would only give her first name, Gloria, agreed. *"When I was growing up in D.C., people feared God, and people respected the police,"* she said, *"but now, they just don't care."* *Source: Washington Stand*



### Pastors Are Experiencing More Loneliness And Less Support

Responding to the American Pastors Psychological Well-Being Survey, Protestant pastors said by 47% that sometimes they *"feel lonely or isolated."* An additional 18% said they frequently feel lonely or isolated. In the last seven years, the percentage of pastors experiencing loneliness and isolation at least "sometimes" increased from 42% to 65%. *Source: Barna Research*

### Public School Bible Program Spreads to 11 States

A Christian ministry out of Ohio is seeing massive growth in a new Bible-based education program for public school students, spreading to over 300 schools across 11 states since its launch in the Fall of 2019. LifeWise founder Joel Penton said, *"Most schools and parents are very open to the idea. Schools know there is a great need in the lives of students. Seeing it as completely optional, school leadership isn't viewing it as a problem."* *Source: The Christian Post*

