

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

Robert Beadle	1993	FBC Benton
Larry Black	2002	Faith Fellowship
Shaun Armstrong	2009	Grace
Mark Crook	2010	Trees
Shane Nugent	2012	Cross Point
Danny Mitchell, Jr.	2013	New Elizabeth
Chris Willcutt	2015	Grawood
Scott Teutsch	2020	Trinity Heights
Matt Tyson	2022	3:18 Ministry
Grant Rose	2023	Springs of Grace

Staff Changes

Greenwood: Chuck Clinton, Music

Sympathy

Eduardo Gonzalez
1954-2024

Ed Gonzalez was Pastor of Linwood Baptist Church, Shreveport, LA, since 2003.

Billie Munnerlyn
1927-2024

Mike & Billie Munnerlyn were the very first camp directors at Bethany in 1980, and served until their retirement. The Munnerlyns were members of FBC Vivian.

Church News

North Keithville: Praise & Worship Concert featuring Harold & Katie Ashcraft. June 29, 11 am - 12 pm. Lunch & fellowship, 12:15 pm. Love offering.



Dr. Rocky and Mary Maddox celebrated 50 years in ministry and 39 years as pastor of Rose Park Baptist Church.



Rev. Robert and Mary Green celebrated 30 years as pastor of Colquitt Baptist Church in Vivian.



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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

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Northwest pastors pray over Ukraine missionary Shawn Sullivan at the May Executive Board meeting.

INDIANAPOLIS 2024
June 11-12 To watch online, go to <https://sbcannualmeeting.net/live>

Highlights
MAY-HIM 2024
41ST ANNUAL
CHOIR FESTIVAL

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Ford Park - Bi-Vo Shreve City - Bi-Vo	Eastwood - FT Ferry Lake - PT Lakeview - PT Mooringsport - PT South Bossier - PT Trees - FT/PT	Mooringsport - PT North Keithville - PT Princeton FBC - PT Westwood - PT Vivian FBC - FT	Belcher - PT Ferry Lake - PT	Elm Grove - Pianist/Keyboard FBC Blanchard - Hourly Nursery Workers New Birth - Children's Church - Volunteer



PROTECTORS, POSSUMS AND PREDATORS

...Every Church Has a Few

In a chapter of their book, *Rare Leadership*, authors Marcus Warner and Jim Wilder discuss the importance of helping your church members live out their identity in Christ. Even as saved believers, many times we bring old pre-programed baggage into our walk with Christ. Some believers allow the emotional damage of past hurts and disappointments define who they are in Christ. Warner and Wilder put their own unique word usage to these three descriptions to help the church measure their spiritual health. They give a

caution as well. The church can get out of balance and unhealthy when too many of one personality dominates a fellowship. You might be familiar with the more traditional words like sheep, sheepdogs, and wolves.



PROTECTORS, every church must have them. They maintain balance in the Body of Christ. The classic example of the protector in the Bible is the good shepherd. Sheep tend to be worry free when the good shepherd is around. They know this protector will put their good ahead of his own. Protectors in the church are emotionally mature people. They act like themselves and don't wear masks while around other believers. Protectors do not enable dysfunctional behavior but quickly protect the weak from it. They have the capacity to deal with hardships without getting overwhelmed to the point that they turn into a different person and stop being relational. Church staff and age-graded Sunday School leaders, you must be a protector for those under your care.

POSSUMS (like sheep) are vulnerable people who tend to be hunted by predators. When possums sense trouble or face danger, if they can't run away, their only strategy is to play dead. You've heard the old saying "playing possum." Without enough protectors in the church, possums may leave the church when trouble arises. If the possum members stay in church, they may role play and wear a mask to outwardly pretend everything is fine. However, if there are protector leaders willing to stand up to the predators, possum members will flourish and serve the Lord in a multitude of ways. What happens when a possum becomes a pastor? Often he is the nicest person in the world, and desires to make everyone in the church happy, but in times of crisis he can fade into the background, or make things worse.

PREDATORS (like wolves or bad shepherds) devour the weak. Most predators display clear signs of narcissism. They deflect guilt onto others. They justify themselves at the expense of others. The essence of narcissistic leadership is its lack of tenderness towards weakness. In the same way as the Pharisees of Jesus' day, today's predators are experts in legalism. In their world, there is a rule for everything. They view themselves as the most spiritual among us. We need to remind ourselves that our fallen fleshly nature can dominate and return to this behavior unless we die daily to self. Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:11-13.

Don't allow your church to be out of balance and begin to lean to one side, because possums flourish in healthy churches!

Blessings,
Lane



1,400 Ladies and Counting!



A Spotlight interview with WMU President Virginia Disotell

God opened a door in 2014 for Virginia Disotell, (FBC Haughton) and Karen Moore (Broadmoor). Along with different volunteers, they travel each week to the Bossier Parish jail to minister to ladies through Bible Studies, job search programs, Celebrate Recovery, and life skill classes.



Virginia Disotell answered our Lord's call of Matthew 25:40. "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to the least of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me." In verses 43 & 44, Jesus was referring to those who were hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick and imprisoned. God's people are expected to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

The idea for this type of local ministry came from a "Ministry Day" at a men's prison in South Louisiana. The prison started an "After Care Service." The ministry was designed to help men successfully re-enter society. Virginia knew the same concept would work with ladies who were incarcerated in northwest Louisiana.

For the last ten years Virginia and her ladies have had the privilege of ministering to over 1,400 ladies. An additional ministry that has come from the prison visits are the "Letter Writers." These are women who continue to minister long distance and keep a presence in the incarcerated ladies' lives. Letters of encouragement, strength and discipleship are a tremendous help. Here's a sample of comments the "Letter Writers" have received:



*** It brightens my day. It brings joy and inspiration. It's nice to be remembered, because many of us are forgotten.**

*** It's amazing. It means someone cares and that Jesus is working through you ladies. Thank you.**

***Receiving a letter makes me feel like I'm not alone. Knowing that I have others who care about my situation helps me believe that God is working. It also makes my thoughts positive.**

The Women's Prison Ministry has been a blessing to hundreds of ladies, and Virginia said, "God is just getting started." For additional information about this ministry, contact Virginia Disotell at 318-518-4520. For other Compassion Ministry opportunities, contact John Anderson at 318-230-3446 or janderson@nwlba.org.

REGROUP

NORTH CONFERENCE

WHEN: Saturday, August 24, 2024

WHERE: Cypress Baptist Church, Benton, LA

TIME: 9 AM - 12 PM

Keynote:

**James Pritchard, Pastor,
First Baptist Church, Lafayette, LA**

Worship Leader:

**Glenn Price, Minister of Music,
Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, LA**

- **Louisiana Baptists' Premier Training for Sunday School and Small Group Leaders**
- **Breakouts for multiple ministries: Adult, Youth, Children/Preschool, Pastors/Staff, En Espanol and more!**
- **Registration at: LouisianaBaptists.org/ReGroup24**
- **Cost: \$15**



THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE

What We Believe as Southern Baptists

The following is another in a series on The Baptist Faith & Message.

Article IX: The Kingdom

"The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom in the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of the age."

The terms kingdom of God, kingdom of heaven, and kingdom with a reference to the kingdom of God/heaven, appear nearly 150 times in Scripture. None of these passages offers a straightforward definition of the kingdom. Yet the kingdom is proclaimed throughout the Old Testament and is the primary focus of Jesus' teachings in the New Testament.

Many of the parables tell us what the kingdom is like. The apostles preach the gospel of the kingdom, the good news of redemption and restoration received through faith through Jesus Christ. The biblical prophecies of the last days point toward a time when God's kingdom comes in its fullness. What is the kingdom of God? Simply stated, the kingdom is God's reign and His authority to rule.

In the Old Testament, the kingdom is revealed as God's rule over creation. Those writers depicted God as a king whose sovereignty extends to the ends of the earth (Psalm 47:2,7; 95:3-5). In the New Testament, Jesus preaches about the kingdom and tells parables to reveal what it's like. In his ministry, He declares that the kingdom "has come near" (Matthew 4:17).

The first century Jews were looking for a political and military kingdom. They largely ignored the prophecies of Isaiah 53 and elsewhere of a suffering Servant and therefore rejected Jesus, who declared that His kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36).

So, the mystery of the kingdom is that it must first come without fanfare in the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). The kingdom is present where Jesus is present - on the earth briefly 2,000 years ago - and today, in the hearts of believers. One day, it will come in fullness as the Lion of Judah returns to claim His throne, judge all the nations, cast the usurper and his followers into the lake of fire, and create a new heaven and a new earth (2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 19:11-16; 21-22).

Next month: Article X of the BF&M: Last Things

Only Two States in America Have a Majority of Households That Consist of Traditional Families.

According to 2020 Census Bureau data, Utah and Idaho were the only states that ranked over 50% in households headed by married couples of the opposite gender. New Hampshire and Wyoming came in slightly under 50%. While all ages of married-couple households still make up the greatest proportion of coupled households, their share has been in steady decline over the past decades. According to the Census Bureau, in the last 50 years, the share of adults ages 25-43 living with a married spouse decreased from 82% to 40%, while the share living with an unmarried partner increased from 0.2 % to 15%. New York ranked at the bottom of households headed by male and female married couples at 40.6% and Louisiana was 49th with 40.7%.



Source: Daily Signal



Half of U.S. Hispanics to Identify as Evangelical by 2030

Demographic researchers now estimate that, "by 2030, half of the U.S. Latinos will identify as Protestant evangelicals," said Family Research Committee Action President Jody Hice. Pastor and President of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, Samuel Rodriguez, said, "We don't believe government is God. Socialism and Communism are antithetical to our faith. We believe in parental rights. We are pro-life and pro-religious liberty."

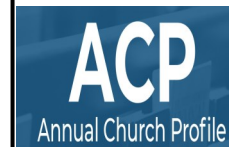
Source: Washington Stand

'Allah is Displeased' Warns Islamic Extremists in Uganda



Islamic extremists in eastern Uganda killed several Christians including one pastor. According to the Christian Daily International-Morning Star News, Pastor Kiisa Masolo, 45, had just returned home from a preaching service when seven masked men in Islamic attire broke into his home and captured him. Some of the men stayed behind and told his mother, Norah Nandege, "Allah is displeased with your son, and we are here to punish him." Her son's body was found the next day.

Source: Open Door International



SBC Lost 1,200 Churches in 2022

According to Lifeway Research's analysis of 2022 Annual Church Profiles (2023 data is still being tabulated), 1,253 congregations that were part of the Convention in 2021 were no longer connected in 2022. Many new church plants were started in 2022, but there was still a net loss of 416 fewer churches. Four out of five of those lost congregations (79%) disbanded. The rest chose to dis-fellowship from Southern Baptists.

Source: Lifeway Research