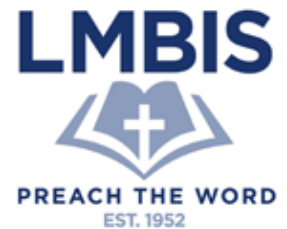


The MISSIONARY BAPTIST NEWS

May 2025 | Volume LXXIV Number 3



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

The 2024-2025 LMBIS school year is the books! With a crowd of over 200, the students were awarded their degrees and certificates to acknowledge their completion of requirements for their education. Twenty-four on campus students were recognized with three receiving their Associate's Degree of Ministerial Studies, three receiving their Bachelor of Theology Degree, and one receiving his Master of Theology Degree. In addition to these, five online students were recognized for their work.

To begin the evening, Calvary Baptist Church hosted a reception for the student body, faculty, staff, and alumni plus their families. Following this time of fellowship, services began with a welcome by Pastor Doug Gregg, an address by President Mike Wilkes, and special music by Brianna Schumacher. Former Dean, Dr. Joseph Brown, brought the evening message from Proverbs 3:5-6 sharing the greatest lesson of all for a student to learn—to trust the Lord above all else.

The faculty and staff wish to congratulate all the students for their faithfulness throughout the school year. They further want to thank the trustees of LMBIS, Calvary Baptist Church, and Pastor Doug Gregg for their oversight and leadership of the seminary. The school looks forward to continuing to equip men to "Preach the Word" until Christ returns.



ENROLL NOW FOR FALL CLASSES

Enrollment is now available for all on campus and online courses through LMBIS. To view our schedule and to register, please visit www.lmbis.org. For more information about taking classes on campus, you may contact Bro. Nathan Luellen at (318) 542-2597. For more information on the available online courses, you may contact Bro. Micah Carter at (870) 831-9449.





From the President Peace? Peace? Where Are You?

Mike Wilkes

I was recently talking to some members of a family which is sadly too familiar with tragedies and bad news. One of the repeated comments from the family was the consistent struggle to find the peace that Jesus promised. When one reads the promises of Jesus, it seems as though peace is just a prayer away. Just ask for it, and you get it. But the reality is that peace often proves itself to be quite elusive.

Usually, the word peace is used in the Bible to describe the absence of conflict between men, or the absence of conflict between man and God. Even one of the most touted verses, Colossians 3:15, is in the context of getting along with one another in love. The word peace is also often used to describe being silent or holding your peace.

However, there are times when the word peace is obviously used to describe a condition of emotional tranquility. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

When the worst news has found you, hiding is futile. You get swept away by an emotional tsunami, and a quick recovery is impossible. Wave, after wave, after wave, bash the emotions and toss a person around like a tissue in a hurricane. Finding footing seems impossible. The cries for help and peace are regular, but the storm rages without regard. You beg God for peace, but peace seems to have hidden herself. She is now only a memory that once accompanied your former life.

Did not Jesus promise peace? This dilemma plagues the heart of the broken. The broken saved person starts to wonder. "Why is God doing this to me?" "Am I really saved?" "What is God trying to tell me?" "Why is God angry with me?" "Where is the peace that Jesus promised?" are just a few of the myriads of questions and doubts that regularly haunt the thoughts of the broken. The broken is begging God for a supernatural peace that makes everything ok, but is this really what Jesus promised?

Jesus promised His apostles a peace that was not of this world, but He never promised that everything in their life would be ok. As a matter of fact, their lives were not ok. Every one of those men died as martyrs. They were hunted, humiliated, tortured, and killed. The condition of these men's lives does not sound like peace.

The broken must understand that Jesus promised a peace that isn't of this world. The only way man understands peace is as the absence of conflict or chaos. Logically, the only way a person can have peace is for their storm to end, and their life be restored to a pre-storm condition. Anything other than this is troubling. Peace as man understands it is no longer an option for the broken. But Jesus offers an undefinable peace.

Because His peace is undefinable, it is often difficult to recognize. Peace from Jesus doesn't dry all tears. Peace from Jesus doesn't miraculously eliminate grief. His peace, however, has a remarkable way of patching until the full repair is made.



From the Dean of Students Ministry Transitions

Nathan Luellen

I reached a milestone in my ministry a few years ago. It was sudden, and, though I knew it would come one day, it still caught me off guard. This milestone was not a single event on a particular day, but a gradual transition dictated by separate events.

The first notion of a change came in the fall of 2016. I had recently moved to Bossier City to pastor and decided to take a couple of seminary classes that was not offered when I was a student. I sat beside a twenty-two-year-old and realized quickly that my nearly forty-year-old mind was not as sharp. Furthermore, I was viewed by the students as an "older preacher" and addressed as "sir" by nearly all of them. I felt so disconnected from a generation of which I still considered to belong.

The next thing I noticed was the lack of "older preachers" everywhere I went. Every association meeting was attended by a growing number of preachers younger than me. Only a few preachers older than me seemed to attend, but they seemed closer to my age than ever before. I also found myself gravitating toward these older gentlemen, seeking fellowship and finding more in common with them than ever before.

The most notable transition was in my pastorate. No longer was I the young, naive pastor the same age as most member's grandchildren. I had become someone taken more seriously and looked to for spiritual guidance by the membership. My words and actions seem to carry more weight. Mistakes and silliness became less tolerated. People seemed to respect me beyond the office I held as their pastor and had greater trust in my counsel.

A final event pushed me further down the path of ministry. The Lord called my father home to heaven in 2021, and the weight of life hung heavy on my shoulders. While I have always been independent, my dad would no longer serve as a potential safety net in case I made a mistake. I had to learn to trust solely on my Father in heaven in ways that I never had before. The Lord grew me and my faith in ways that causes me to praise Him despite my grief.

As I consider my situation right now, if the Lord delays His coming for me and doesn't call me home, I'm at the halfway point. I have been in the ministry for twenty-seven years, and I will have pastored for twenty-five this year. I remind myself more often that it is by His grace I have made it this far and that by His grace that I will continue. He has taught me that the greatest requirement for me is my faithfulness to Him. Above all else, I have learned that the Lord is good.

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:2)

LOUISIANA MISSIONARY BAPTIST
INSTITUTE AND SEMINARY
March/April 2025

Balance Forwarded.	50,599.54
Receipts	97,752.68
Disbursements	97,020.76
Balance	51,331.46

Receipts: General Operating Funds

Receipts: General Operating Funds	
Acadiana BC, Lafayette, LA	50.00
Adams Chapel MBC, Chidester, AR	600.00
Anonymous	300.95
Bethel 2 BC, Rison, AR	495.00
Bethel MBC, New Orleans, LA	20.00
Bethlehem BC, Joaquin, TX	100.00
Big Sky MBC, Dillon, MT	75.00
Bryan & Sandy Simoneaux, Enterprise, AL	100.00
Calvary BC, DeRidder, LA	814.30
Calvary BC, Magnolia, AR	900.00
Calvary BC, Sheridan, AR	200.00
Carthage MBC, Carthage, TX	441.06
Center MBC, Center, TX	200.00
Central MBC, Bastrop, LA	900.00
Central MBC, Pineville, LA	300.00
Central MBC, Warren, AR	200.00
Corinth BC, Stephens, AR	150.00
Corinth MBC, Timpson, TX	400.00
Delight BC, Delight, AR	2,942.00
El Dorado MBC, El Dorado, AR	135.80
Emmanuel MBC, Bogalusa, LA	200.00
Enon BC, Rison, AR	100.00
Fellowship BC, Joaquin, TX	100.00
First Baptist Church, Angie, LA	200.00
First Baptist Church, Wells, TX	600.00
First Springhill Association:	
Calvary, Minden, LA	2,000.00
Landmark, Stonewall, LA	192.00
Liberty, Shreveport, LA	200.00
Eastside, Minden, LA	432.00
Grace, Many, LA	491.00
Greenacres, Bossier City, LA	700.00
Heritage, Bossier City, LA	1,200.00
Mansfield, Mansfield, LA	200.00
Old Sarepta, Sarepta, LA	1,218.05
Springhill, Springhill, LA	142.40
Stockwell Road, Bossier City, LA	500.00
Walnut Hill, Vivian, LA	100.00
Whispering Pines, Minden, LA	1,248.30
First Springhill Association Youth Rally	278.00
Forest Grove BC, Taylor, AR	200.00
Gary Eastside BC, Gary, TX	2,857.73
Grapeland MBC, Grapeland, TX	400.00
Hampton MBM, Hampton, AR	70.00
Harley Bobo, Hope, AR	99.40
Hatley MBC, Amory, MS	400.00
Holleyman Chapel MBC, Maydelle, TX	400.00
Hyde Park BC, West Monroe, LA	100.00
Jason Walker	23.95
Lawrence MBC, Loranger, LA	109.30
Lone Cedar BC, Joaquin, TX	300.00
Mt. Bethel MBC, Gary, TX	200.00
New Home BC, Stephens, AR	270.00
Oak Flat BC, Huntington, TX	300.00
Oakridge MBC, Maud, TX	471.00

Old Shongaloo MBC, Shongaloo, LA	200.00
Park MBC, Prescott, AR	460.00
Pettitt Memorial BC, Bogalusa, LA	200.00
Pleasant Springs, Springfield, AR	520.00
Promise Land BC, Hamburg, AR	600.00
Providence MBC, Center, TX	200.00
Providence Landmark MBC, Thornton, AR	50.00
Robert Slack, Minden, LA	600.00
Salem BC, Rusk, TX	200.00
Samuel & Dorothy Neeley, Hughes Springs, TX	100.00
Second Avenue MBC, Strong, AR	400.00
State Line BC, Taylor, AR	396.00
Timpson MBC, Timpson, TX	250.00
Trinity MBC, Camden, AR	200.00
Trinity MBC, Doyline, LA	200.00
Trinity BC, Carthage, TX	400.00
Union Heritage BC, Bogalusa, LA	50.00
Unity MBC, Camden, AR	275.00
West Heights MBC, West Monroe, LA	178.26
White Rock MBC, Center, TX	200.00
Baptist News	910.00
Enrollment Fees	50.00
Rent & Utilities	2,018.78
School Goal	58,348.45
Seminary Baptist Bookstore- Credit Card	4,286.52
Emergency Fund-Credit Card	807.43

Scholarships

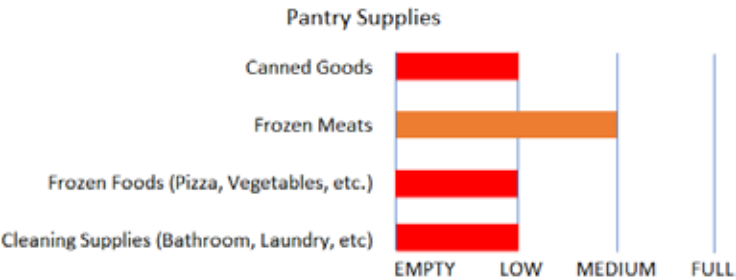
First Union Association	300.00
Bill Westfall Scholarship	
TGlazier Peau MBC, Hot Springs, AR	500.00
Regions Bank - Interest - David Talbert	1.74
Hunter & Lexi Wilkes Scholarship	
Tracey Calogero, Bossier City, LA	50.00

Memorial

Gloria Eubanks (IMO Bill Harold Cauldwell)	25.00
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Pantry

Adams Chapel MBC, Chidester, AR	600.00
Central MBC, Pineville, LA	100.00
Faith BC, Sterlington, LA	750.00
Hyde Park MBC, West Monroe, LA	247.00
Landmark MBC, Libby, MT	100.00
Old Shongaloo MBC, Shongaloo, LA	200.00
Promise Land BC, Hamburg, AR	750.00
State Line BC, Taylor, AR	100.00
Westside BC, Haynesville, LA	150.00
Whispering Pines MBC Ladies Auxiliary, Minden, LA	130.00
Whispering Pines MBC, Minden, LA	mean & groceries
Green Acres MBC, Bossier City, LA	meat





Justin Coburn



ABA Secretary-Treasurer of Missions

For the month of April, the ABA-recommended missionaries reported 457 professions of faith and 62 baptisms, bringing our totals for this year to 4,957 professions of faith and 429 baptisms!

On Resurrection Sunday, my family and I were blessed to attend and worship with Walnut Hill MBC in Vivian, LA. I enjoyed bringing the message that morning. On April 27, I drove to Omaha, Nebraska, for the organization service for Immanuel BC. Missionary Danny Fudge has faithfully served there as missionary, and God has tremendously blessed the work. It was such a sweet service filled with a roller coaster of emotions, remembering struggles but also celebrating the victories given by God. On my way home, I stopped by Shining Light MBC in Topeka, Kansas. It was a blessing to preach, visit with missionary Everett Ledbetter, and fellowship with the members. God has blessed them with a great facility, and He is doing great work through them there.

For this coming association year, we have received recommendation forms for 144 missionaries to be considered at our upcoming annual Messenger Meeting in Springfield, MO. Please pray for that meeting and our upcoming 2025 Pre-Association Standing Missionary Committee Meeting, which will take place at Northern Hills BC in Texarkana, AR, on May 19-20. The meeting will begin at 1 PM on Monday and should be over by noon on Tuesday. I hope you can join us for that meeting.

A SPECIAL REQUEST FOR MISSIONARIES AT OUR SPRINGFIELD MEETING. One of the highlights of our meeting is the Wednesday Night Missions Presentation. We would love for all missionaries to be recognized and participate in that special presentation! Please help us prepare by filling out a short form. It can be found by clicking "2025 ABA MEETING INFORMATION" under the "EVENTS" tab. I am praying for a great meeting! Please help us to spread the word.

April 2025 Report

BEGINNING BALANCE	2,754,542.45
Receipts:	
Interstate Salaries	52,004.99
Foreign & National Salaries	48,710.21
Designated	37,653.82
Undesignated	10,504.51
TOTAL RECEIVED	148,873.53
BALANCE FOR SALARIES	2,903,415.98
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Interstate Salaries	62,996.00
Foreign Salaries	34,181.52
National Salaries	25,065.00
Designated	37,133.82
Salaries & Expenses of Sec.-Treas. Office	17,212.73
TOTAL DISBURSEMENT	176,589.07
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	2,726,826.91
DEFICIT FOR THE MONTH	\$(27,715.54)



Ray Meigs



Louisiana State Secretary-Treasurer of Missions

Very soon our annual messenger meeting of the churches of the American Baptist Association will be held in Springfield, MO. Mission work is always a highlight of this meeting. Our Louisiana missions are well represented. Brothers Kevin Hutcheson and Jason Hebert have served as Interstate missionaries for several years now. In his report, Bro. Hebert announced that he will not come for recommendation for support for the coming year. The reason is very exciting! The mission in Lafayette has set the month of November for their organization. We praise the Lord for this development! He will need support to continue until November, so keep this a matter of prayer.

Bro. Hutcheson in Sterlington also has some great news. Building plans have taken a major step. Foundation work is being done as of this writing and they plan to pour concrete for the slab the second week of May. Pray that the weather will cooperate and the work will continue.

Please take the time to read the reports of Brothers Hutcheson and Hebert. In addition to these announcements, many more exciting things are happening at their respective missions.

As always, thank you for your support of Louisiana Missions and continue to pray for our missionaries and their work.

April 2025 Report

Gen. Operating Fund Beg. Balance	\$1,000.00
Receipts	\$320.00
Disbursements	\$320.00
Gen. Operating Fund Balance	\$1,000.00
LA State Association General Fund Balance	2,746.03
Emergency Fund Balance	\$5,031.16
Offerings for the Goal Balance	\$9,936.87

MISSIONARY BAPTIST NEWS
March/April 2025

Calvary MBC, Minden, LA	\$100.00
Central MBC, Pineville, LA	100.00
Forest Grove MBC, Taylor, AR	40.00
Grapeland MBC, Grapeland, TX	200.00
Heritage MBC, Bossier City, LA	160.00
Landmark MBC, Stonewall, LA	80.00
Liberty MBC, Shreveport, LA	50.00
Mansfield MBC, Mansfield, LA	50.00
State Line MBC, Taylor, AR	40.00
Whispering Pines MBC, Minden, LA	50.00
New	40.00
Total	\$910.00

MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHTS

Bro. Jason Hebert, Lafayette, LA:

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT After discussions with our mission committee at Calvary, we are so excited to announce our plans to organize Acadiana Baptist Church in November! This would not be possible without the strong support and many prayers that have been lifted up on our behalf since November 2015! I pause and thank the Lord often for what He has done here. Beginning with just the 4 of us in a rented school facility, to consistent attendance in the mid-thirties and meeting in our own beautiful church building that is debt free is all a testimony to the glory of God, proof of our church's paramount belief in missions, and the generous and liberal giving of His people! More details of the Organization service will be made available soon, but right now, we are planning on the 2nd Saturday in November in Lafayette at the mission. We would love for as many people to come as possible!

I will not be coming for any salary support from the ABA this year; however, we do ask that your support remain with us through November. Our house lease is up at the end of July, and we are looking for the best affordable option for permanent housing in Lafayette. Any special offerings toward housing would greatly help us as we hope to pay as much down as possible to make a monthly payment more manageable. We humbly request that, as of November, you graciously direct your mission support elsewhere. If you would like any recommendations, please feel free to reach out.

EASTER AT ABC With 5 regulars out, we still had 40 in attendance! We made much of Jesus on Resurrection Sunday! We had our 2nd annual Sunrise Service which was well attended. We had 8 first-time visitors and almost all of them have continued to visit! One of them, Mrs. Betty, said after church with tears in her eyes, "I am so thankful to have found a church that feels like home."

LADIES BIBLE STUDY Our ladies have begun to study God's Word together and it has been a great time of fellowship for them! They were originally going to meet once a month, but they decided to meet twice a month on Thursdays. They have been averaging 11 and it is turning into a great outreach!

DRIVE-THRU PRAYER No greater joy can be experienced than seeing the church in action! We hosted our drive-thru prayer by ourselves (14 of us) for two hours on Saturday, April 26th. We prayed with 10 cars and had several Gospel conversations! It was awesome to see ABC mobilized for ministry!

(Sponsored by Calvary MBC, Minden, Louisiana)

Bro. Kevin Hutcheson, Sterlington, LA:

Hello friends, family, and faithful supporters! We pray that this report finds you all well and enjoying the blessings of our Lord. He has certainly been good to us all!

The work on our new building is chugging right along. On the days that have been too wet, we got deliveries and every other day the crews have been working hard. We have our catch basins delivered and ready to be installed along with the drainage pipes, the bad dirt has been taken out,

and the new dirt has been brought in and compacted. We met with the electrician, plumber, and concrete contractors and they are all ready to go. Lord willing, this week the dirt will be corrected back to the grade that is on the plans and then batter boards will be put up which will give the plumbers what they need to work off of for the roughing in portion of their labor. The concrete man told us that he wants to pour during the 2nd week of May. Please join us in praying for this!

I had the honor of preaching once again at the First Springhill Mission Rally this month. It was hosted by Greenacres MBC in Bossier City. I am grateful for every chance that I get to visit the meetings of this association because they have been so generous to the work in Sterlington and we are eternally grateful to them and our God for these churches that give and love missions.

I was asked to be on the board for the "Keep Sterlington Beautiful" committee. We are tasked with keeping things neat around town. There was a tree planting event that I missed last month because I had Flu A, but this month I got to attend my first official event. It was "Love the Boot Week" and we hit the highways picking up litter off of the sides of our roads. I was teamed up with the Mayor and I guarantee you no one else enjoyed picking up trash more than we did.

On the last Sunday of this month, my sending church had "Church at the Park" in Hamburg. It was an awesome time of fellowship and a reminder that church is not the building, its the people. We heard God-honoring music, Christ-edifying preaching, and enjoyed being outside.

We thank you for generous support and faithful prayers for Sterlington. Last month, we were hit hard with Flu A and Covid and our folks are slowly making a comeback. The last two Sundays of April were great and for the most part, everyone was back. We have had visitors every Sunday but 2 and on Easter Sunday, we had 3 first time visitors. God is good and He gets all of the glory! God bless you all for your obedience to God and for your love of missions!

(Sponsored by Promise Land MBC, Hamburg, Arkansas)

Bro. Brandon Jones, ABATech:

It was a pleasure working with Bro. Eddie Williams on a new logo for Turkana Missions. Check out ABATech on Facebook to see what we came up with. I transferred all of the websites that I host from an older server to a new server running the latest software. This upgrade adds security and keeps the sites running at optimal performance, and compatible with the latest features. I also began working on a new website for First Baptist Church of Port Salerno, Florida. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Winfield, Alabama, voted to approve a large upgrade to their church sound and video equipment. I will be traveling there to complete this project the first week of July. I am quoting a similar project for a church in Mississippi. My preaching calendar is full for the month of May but I would love to share the ministry or preach in your church. Contact me for an appointment. Please pray for upcoming projects and the Lord's provision and protection.

(Sponsored by White Rock MBC, Center, Texas)



My First Year at LMBIS

Jaden Durst

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen." (2 Peter 1:18)

Peter perfectly describes my experience at LMBIS. My seminary experience has been nothing short of a blessing. This school, the students, and especially the staff, have grown me as a preacher of the Word, a student of the Word, and as a man of the Word. This seminary has opened the door for me to experience so many wonderful blessings of God.

LMBIS has also opened the door for me to meet fellow servants of God who have sharpened me. Bro. Nathan took me under his wing when I arrived at the seminary. Bro. Stacks poured into me Ministerial wisdom. Bro. Micah showed me how to improve my preaching in ways I had never considered. Bro. Levi provided necessary historical and cultural information to help me better understand scripture. Even the English offered by Mrs. Corley has blessed me in ways that I would not have been able to achieve without this school and its people.

There is no place that I'd rather be to learn to become a preacher and a minister than here. The fellowship with my fellow students cannot go unmentioned. I have received encouragement, support, prayer, admonishing, and friendship from these men who share my calling. The only way to accurately describe this school is a blessing.

- Bro. Jaden is a former member of Landmark MBC of Waco, Texas and has completed his first year of seminary. He is currently a member of Stockwell Road MBC in Bossier City, Louisiana and is engaged to fellow student Sis. Aubrey Mercer.



HYDE PARK ANNOUNCES NEW MBSF DIRECTOR



My name is Trey Campbell, and I am the new MBSF Director for Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. My wife, Hagan, and I moved to Ruston at the very end of 2024, unsure of what the future held; for the last three- and one-half years I've been serving as youth pastor at a church in Oak Grove.

Through faith and prayer, God allowed us to cross paths with Bro. Trey Emory of Hyde Park Baptist Church out of West Monroe. Hyde Park had been praying for God to send them a director for this work that they felt Him moving them to begin, even though they themselves aren't located in Ruston. I began to feel God's conviction and call to this ministry. Though I have been in youth ministry for over 10 years, I have developed a passion for apologetics, connecting with people from all walks of life, and specifically those of the upcoming generation.

Louisiana Tech is growing rapidly, with over 11,000 students currently enrolled with 2,000 of those being freshman. The campus has students from forty-four states and more than sixty foreign countries. They have over twenty religious/spiritual organizations. It is a massive mission field.

While Tech has several wonderful Baptist Churches in the area, Ruston currently does not have any institutions from our work. Hagan and I are both excited and anxious to begin this work. The church has been a wonderful sending church, supporting us in ways we didn't even realize we needed.

We need more support from churches like yours. To say this ministry is in its infancy is an understatement; we currently have no building or framework from which to launch. We need help financially, but we also need help making connections. I am spending this summer on deputation, trying to raise support and meeting students who are either already enrolled or coming to Tech in the Fall. Our plan is to start with a group of students coming from churches within our work, training them up in scripture and apologetics-focused evangelism, and reaching the rest of the campus.

Classes for the Fall Quarter begin in September, and we aim to have our first service on September 9, 2025. If you would like to hear more about this ministry, please reach out. I would love to come and present this work to your church. We want as many churches as possible within our association to be involved.

We also need your prayers for myself, entering this new field of ministry, for my wife, and for Bro. Trey and our sponsoring church. Most importantly, please pray for the students.

- Bro. Trey is available for deputation appointments and is willing to contact prospective Tech students. You can also reach him at (870) 940-2061 or at bro.bear@hydeparkbaptist.org.

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

The Sunday School Committee met in Texarkana at the end of April. They accepted my recommendation to allocate \$30,000.00 from our Building Fund for an enclosure for our Print-on-Demand presses. This is to stop a problem we have been having in that area. They also allocated \$40,000 from the Building Fund for a new air conditioner unit for the bookstore. The present one is much beyond its lifespan. Also, \$105,000 was allocated from the Equipment Fund for I.T. upgrades. In addition to these expenditures, we recently paid off a \$27,000 loan. Having the money to pay for these things is a blessing from God.

Although we have always sought ways to advertise and promote our products, we are presently looking into new marketing strategies. We have recently set a time for a marketing specialist to meet with us and discuss new ideas. This service will be a no-cost-to-us service for which I thank the Lord. Looking forward, some of the ideas for marketing will cost and some are very expensive. It is sort of like one said, "it's the cost of doing business." I'm sure glad God is helping us.

The Heidelberg Press and the Print-on-demand presses are keeping busy printing. All our printing processes are on schedule or ahead of schedule. Our finances are good and steady, even with our recent decisions to spend some extra on needs. All is well in Texarkana.

I am looking forward to attending the meeting of the messengers of the churches of the American Baptist Association in Springfield, Missouri in June. The Baptist Sunday School Committee is scheduled to have a meeting on Tuesday morning at 10:00 am. Brother Clements and I will have an opportunity to report on the ministry to the committee members and to any visitors at the meeting. The main messenger meeting will begin on Tuesday afternoon and continue in the Tuesday evening session. It is my understanding that an opportunity will be given in the Tuesday evening session for nominations to be given for the position of Editor-in-Chief. When the Sunday School business occurs on Thursday morning, the actual election of Editor-in-Chief will take place. I encourage the people of God to be praying concerning this election.

To the messengers I say thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve you in Texarkana. God continues to bless us, and I am excited as I ponder what God will do in our future.

J.A. Crain



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF REPORT

"Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest. And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him. And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great" (Luke 9:46-48).

Jesus had been informing the disciples of his impending rejection, suffering, death and resurrection (Luke 9:22, 44). The disciples did not fully understand this, because God did not want them to understand completely, seeing that their expectation of the Messiah was a political leader instead of a suffering Savior. Not only did they misunderstand, but also, they were afraid to question Jesus further about His destiny (Luke 9:45). Their lack of understanding concerning the suffering of Jesus led them to pontificate about their own greatness. If Jesus would not be their version of the Messiah in worldly power and authority at that time, what would that mean for them?

Jesus knew their hearts, so He illustrated true kingdom greatness for them. He presented a child, and drawing their attention to the child, He taught that whoever receives a child in His name receives Him. If a follower of Jesus wanted to be held in honor, he would minister to children and welcome them in His name. In this poignant illustration, Jesus showed that ministry to children is highly important, and serving the most vulnerable in society is a mark of kingdom greatness.

Every child of God wants to be great in God's estimation. Humbly serving society's most vulnerable will not likely make one rich or famous, and it requires dedication and a willingness to be overlooked by fellow man. But God grants His favor and honor to those who faithfully minister to children, opening their eyes to the truth of God's Word. That is what it takes to be truly great.

Mark Clements

STUDY THE BIBLE ONLINE WITH LMBIS

ENROLL NOW THRU
August 4, 2025

- HOMILETICS/LESSON PREP
- CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE
- INTRO TO MISSIONS
- CHRISTIAN MUSIC
- TABERNACLE



LOUISIANA MISSIONARY BAPTIST
INSTITUTE & SEMINARY
EDUCATING • EQUIPPING • ENCOURAGING



Bogg Springs Family Camp will be held June 30 to July 4, 2025, this summer. This camp is open to all with activities and lessons geared for every age. This year's theme is "Do Not Fear" from Isaiah 41:10. This year's speakers are: Cameron

Hayes (Monday Evening), Joseph Schwartz (Tuesday Morning), Todd Pickard (Tuesday Evening), Colton Kelley (Wednesday Morning), Jason Hebert (Wednesday Evening), Mark Calogero (Thursday Morning), and Micah Carter (Thursday Evening).

An information packet for the camp is available on the Bogg Springs Family Camp Facebook page. For general questions, you may contact the camp director, Tim Herrington at (318) 840-3529 or timherrington1974@gmail.com. For questions regarding registration, you may contact Jason Hebert at (318) 344-3061.

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99th AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION 2025 MESSENGER MEETING

The 99th Annual Messenger Assembly of the American Baptist Association will be held in Springfield, Missouri, from June 16 to June 19, 2025. Our sessions will be held at the University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center and the Springfield Expo Center. The headquarters hotel will be the University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, with the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center available as an alternative option.

This year, the messengers will vote on a new president, new vice-presidents, a new Editor-in-Chief, along with many committee positions. Please make all attempts to attend, and, above all else, please pray for God's will to be done in all the decisions made.

For more information about hotels, exhibit booths, or general questions about this year's meeting, please contact Bro. Neal Sutton at (903) 244-2647 or aba@nealsutton.com.

