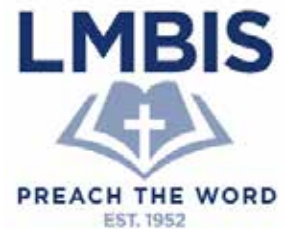


The MISSIONARY BAPTIST NEWS

July 2026 | Volume LXXV Number 4



100th Session in the Books!



The messengers of the American Baptist Association met in Hot Springs, Arkansas, for their 100th messenger meeting. The meeting was very well attended, with a great spirit among the messenger body. The theme for this year's meeting was "From Generation to Generation" emphasizing God's faithfulness in every generation.

Dr. Micah Carter, this year's president, called the meeting to order and delivered an encouraging and challenging address to the body, celebrating and declaring God's mighty acts from generation to generation.

Dr. Roger Copeland preached the annual sermon from Acts 17:1-9, reminding the body that God can use His churches to change the world around them. Bro. Gediminas Kapustavicius preached the Mission Sermon from John 20:21 challenging the body to embrace Christ's mission as our mission.

A total of 154 missionaries, missionary helpers, and mission ministries were approved by the messengers for support for the 2026-2027 associational year.

Homecoming 2026!

Calvary Baptist Church of Minden, Louisiana, is inviting everyone to attend the seventy-fourth Homecoming Services for Louisiana Missionary Baptist Institute and Seminary on Monday, August 3rd, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The services will be held in the auditorium of Calvary Baptist Church, followed by lunch in their multipurpose building.



The faculty and staff of LMBIS have selected Bro. Donovan Jarvis, pastor of Concord Missionary Baptist Church in Omaha, Texas, to deliver the morning message. Special music and introductions will also be a part of the morning itinerary. Registration of new and returning students will be available in the afternoon. The Baptist Bookstore will be open all day. Following lunch, the Alumni and Friends of LMBIS will meet in the seminary chapel. This group is open to all alumni, former students, and supporters of the seminary. For more information, please contact Bro. Monroe Mercer at (318) 655-8359.

ENROLL FOR ONLINE CLASSES NOW

View available classes at www.lmbis.org.

Contact Jason Hebert at (318) 344-3061 with any questions relating to online classes.



From the President Why LMBIS?

Mike Wilkes

Obviously, I am biased. Even though I know otherwise, I feel like every man who surrenders to preach should attend the Louisiana Missionary Baptist Institute & Seminary.

Within the ranks of the churches of the American Baptist Association, we have many good seminaries. Many of the brethren who labor within these schools are dear brothers and friends. But having never attended any of our other schools, I do not have insider knowledge of their operations. But I do of LMBIS.

I first attended LMBIS in the fall of 1986. I started pastoring in Texas in 1992. While spending 13 years pastoring a church in Texas, I served on the finance committee for the seminary for several of those years. After moving back to Louisiana in 2005, I was able to attend school again and eventually finished in 2009. I have been serving on the faculty since 2011. The purpose of this short bio is to simply let the reader know that I have, in one way or another, been involved with LMBIS for 40 years.

During those 40 years, many things have changed. Leadership has changed. Faculty and staff have changed. Buildings have changed. Classes have changed. Technology has changed. While there have been many changes, the things that have remained the same are the reasons I hold LMBIS in such high regard.

The objective has never changed. Our objective for every student is to help them become the very best they can be for the honor of our Lord. Every student is not a preacher. Every student is not a pastor. Not every student walks through our doors with the same academic background. We recognize the uniqueness of every student and work with each student to help them advance in their personal walk with our Lord.

The fellowship has never changed. I remember, as a young 18-year-old, eating lunch while sitting next to Bro. Don McCormick, Bro. Roy Chapman, Bro. Wayne Watson, Bro. Clayton Shook, and Bro. Joe Morrell. These men were faith giants to me as a young preacher, and there I sat in their midst while fellowshiping together. Today, this fellowship continues. More important than the teacher-student relationship is our relationship as brethren. As instructors, we love our students as brethren in the Lord's work and are very concerned about their lives and walk with the Lord.

The core of the curriculum has never changed. While we do teach classes to assist the student in his Bible study and life as a pastor, the heart of everything we teach is the Word of God. Bro. Roy Chapman often said, "Students of men become preachers of men. Students of the Word become preachers of God". We want our students to become skillful handlers of God's Word.

Is LMBIS right for you? Well, I reckon I am a little biased. But why not come by, visit, and find out for yourself?



From the Dean of Students Back to School

Micah Carter

As another school year approaches at LMBIS, we have much to look forward to. On August 3rd, we will gather for our Homecoming Service, and on August 4th, our classrooms will once again hold students eager to learn. Our faculty is prepared and excited to teach, and it is our prayer that every student comes with a heart that desires to grow in the knowledge of God's Word. Every new semester is more than the beginning of another academic year; it is a fresh opportunity for spiritual growth and maturity.

It is easy to view education as simply completing assignments and earning enough credits for a diploma. While those things certainly have their place, our greater purpose is to train bible students to be faithful servants of Jesus Christ. Bible education is not merely about gaining knowledge; it is about allowing God's truth to shape our hearts, strengthen our convictions, and prepare us to serve Him more effectively.

Paul reminded Timothy, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). Those words remind us that our greatest desire should never be the approval of an instructor, a church member, or even our peers. Our goal is to be approved unto God. Every class attended, every page read, every assignment completed, and every hour spent studying is another opportunity to become a better student of God's Word and a more useful servant in His kingdom.

I know many of our students balance school with full-time jobs, family responsibilities, and faithful service in their local churches. They will have many long days, late nights, and moments when they wonder how they are going to fit it all together. Those seasons are not wasted. God often uses them to teach us dependence upon Him, discipline in our lives, and perseverance in our calling. We encourage them now: keep on going!

To our returning students, thank you for continuing the journey. Keep building on the foundation the Lord has already laid in your life. To our new students, welcome to the LMBIS family. We are honored that you have chosen to study with us, and we are praying that these years will not only deepen your understanding of Scripture but also prepare you for a lifetime of faithful ministry.

As we begin this new year together, let us seek the Lord with prayerful hearts. Ask Him to deepen your love for His Word, strengthen your walk with Him, and use your time at LMBIS to mold you into the servant He desires you to be. If you aren't attending LMBIS, please join us in praying for those who are and look for ways to bless our student body. The writer of Proverbs declared, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

May God bless Calvary Baptist Church, each student, faculty member, and family represented at LMBIS this year. We look forward to seeing what God will accomplish as we study, serve, and grow together.

LOUISIANA MISSIONARY BAPTIST
INSTITUTE AND SEMINARY
May/June 2026

Balance Forwarded.	56,499.68
Receipts	29,934.02
Disbursements	22,620.89
Balance	63,812.81

Receipts: General Operating Funds

Acadian BC, Lafayette, LA	50.00
Adams Chapel MBC, Chidester, AR	400.00
Anonymous	150.00
Bethel BC, Rison, AR	480.00
Bethel MBC, New Orleans, LA	20.00
Big Sky MBC, Dillon, MT	50.00
Bryan & Sandy Simoneaux, Enterprise, AL	100.00
Calvary BC, DeRidder, LA	893.30
Calvary BC, Magnolia, AR	800.00
Calvary BC, Sheridan, AR	200.00
Carthage MBC, Carthage, TX	464.33
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 MBC, Timpson, TX	600.00
Corinth MBC, Stephens, AR	150.00
Delight BC, Delight, AR	1,515.00
El Dorado MBC, El Dorado, AR	119.62
Emmanuel MBC, Bogalusa, LA	200.00
Enterprise MBC, Gary, TX	526.97
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	228.00
Liberty, Shreveport, LA	200.00
Eastside, Minden, LA	432.00
Greenacres, Bossier City, LA	800.00
Heritage, Bossier City, LA	1,200.00
Mansfield, Mansfield, LA	200.00
Old Sarepta, Sarepta, LA	1,105.92
Springhill, Springhill, LA	275.20
Stockwell Road, Bossier City, LA	500.00
Walnut Hill, Vivian, LA	100.00
Whispering Pines, Minden, LA	900.00
Forest Grove BC, Taylor, AR	400.00
Gary Eastside BC, Gary, TX	3,588.88
Grapeland MBC, Grapeland, TX	400.00
Hampton MBM, Hampton, AR	70.00
Hatley MBC, Amory, MS	400.00
Holleyman Chapel MBC, Maydelle, TX	400.00
Hyde Park BC, West Monroe, LA	100.00
Lawrence MBC, Loranger, LA	76.04
Lone Cedar BC, Joaquin, TX	200.00
Marshall MBC, Marshall, TX	155.74
Mt. Bethel MBC, Gary, TX	200.00
New Home BC, Stephens, AR	246.00
Oak Flat BC, Huntington, TX	300.00
Park MBC, Prescott, AR	250.00
Pettitt Memorial BC, Bogalusa, LA	200.00
Promise Land BC, Hamburg, AR	400.00
Providence MBC, Center, TX	200.00
Providence Landmark MBC, Thornton, AR	250.00
Robert Slack, Minden, LA	600.00

Salem BC, Rusk, TX	200.00
Second Avenue MBC, Strong, AR	400.00
State Line BC, Taylor, AR	300.00
Sulpher Springs BC, Cushing, TX	166.00
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	196.02
White Rock MBC, Center, TX	200.00
Baptist News	970.00
Rent & Utilities	155.00
Tuition	125.00

Memorials

Homer Stout, Hot Springs, AR	100.00
In Memory of David Lee	
Paul Kitchens, Minden, LA	150.00
In Memory of David Lee	

Scholarships

Hunter & Lexi Wilkes Scholarship	
Charales & Lynda Buck, Haughton, LA	500.00

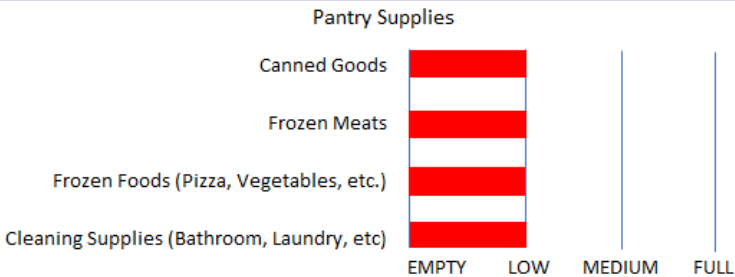
Pantry

Adams Chapel MBC, Chidester, AR	400.00
Central MBC, Pineville, LA	100.00
Central MBC, Pineville, LA Ladies Auxiliary	60.00
Faith BC, Sterlington	500.00
Landmark MBC, Libby, MT	100.00
Old Shongaloo MBC, Shongaloo, LA	400.00
Promise Land BC, Hamburg, AR	500.00
Union Chapel MBC, Strong, AR	315.00
Westside BC, Haynesville, LA	150.00
Whispering Pines MBC Ladies Auxiliary, Minden, LA	130.00

PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED

With school soon to start, the pantry will be back in full operation. This ministry is a great blessing to the students at LMBIS, and the school is very thankful for each and every donation made to this ministry.

Please prayerfully consider donating to our school pantry. We accept nonperishable items, prepackaged meal kits, some frozen and refrigerated items, toiletries, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, etc. If you have any questions about any specific need, please reach out to Bro. Mike Wilkes at (318) 840-8092.





Justin Coburn



ABA Secretary-Treasurer of Missions

It was a joy to preach revival services and fellowship with the good folks at Meadow View MBC in Malvern, Arkansas the first week of June. After the ABA messenger meeting, my family and I enjoyed being with Pastor Jason Hebert at Acadiana BC in Lafayette, Louisiana. Missionary John Strader presented his new work to England and preached, and I had the blessed opportunity to report and give an update on ABA Missions at the end of the service. I was at the launch service at Acadiana BC and each time I go back there are new faces. I praise the Lord for what He is doing in and through them in south Louisiana. Of course, we had to see a gator before we left, and I enjoyed a little rest and visiting with my mom before heading back to get into the office.

We had a great time of meetings and celebration at the 100th session ABA messenger meeting. We heard some great reports at missionary share time. We had approximately 900 in attendance and our hearts were blessed to hear from 96 missionaries and ministries from 23 states and 24 countries. By the vote of the messengers, we have 153 missionaries, missionary helpers and mission ministries this coming 2026-2027 associational year. They are serving in 24 states and 29 foreign countries. The projected monthly payout for this coming year is expected to be \$215,000 per month. Please be in prayer for all missionaries and for everywhere the gospel is preached.

We ended last associational year with 5,260 professions of faith and 564 baptisms. Another blessing to rejoice over is for the month of June, the recommended missionaries of the American Baptist Association reported 420 professions of faith and 79 baptisms.

It is a high honor to serve God by serving the missionaries and churches of the ABA in the role as Secretary-Treasurer of Missions. Pray for us! Pray for the harvest! Pray for more laborers!

June 2026 Report

BEGINNING BALANCE	2,977,603.48
Receipts:	
Interstate Salaries	50,078.04
Foreign & National Salaries	48,426.77
Designated	33,105.11
Undesignated	7,718.93
TOTAL RECEIVED	139,328.85
BALANCE FOR SALARIES	3,116,932.33
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Interstate Salaries	54,330.00
Foreign Salaries	43,520.00
National Salaries	27,361.40
Designated	33,329.71
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	46,909.68
TOTAL DISBURSEMENT	205,450.79
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	2,911,481.54
DEFICIT FOR THE MONTH	\$(66,121.94)



Ray Meigs



Louisiana State Secretary-Treasurer of Missions

As I take the time to reflect on the 100th Messenger Meeting of the churches of the American Baptist Association, I am grateful for all the great men of God who stood for truth and biblical mission work. Our association does not have a board who hires and fires missionaries. That decision, rightfully so, rests with the sponsoring church. All we can do as an association is to recommend or not recommend a missionary for support. Churches are free to do as they see fit. I am, however, grateful for the support of individuals and churches for mission work in the state of Louisiana.

Now, we begin to look ahead at our state association meeting. The meeting will be held on November 12-13 at Calvary Miss. Baptist Church in Minden. I need to remind everyone of two important dates in connection with this meeting. First is September 12. This is the day that any requests for loan funds should be in the office. This will give time for the standing missionary committee to meet and make any recommendations to the messenger body.

Second is October 12. This is the date any requests for state project funds should be in the office. The missionary committee and the messengers will consider the request at the meeting at Calvary. If there are any questions about the purpose and requirements of the these funds feel free to contact me by phone or email. My email address is: raymeigs@myyahoo.com

Thank you for your prayers and support of Louisiana Missions. It is through your support that great things are happening for God's glory in the state of Louisiana.

June 2026 Report

Gen. Operating Fund Beg. Balance	\$1,000.00
Receipts	\$383.20
Disbursements	\$383.20
Gen. Operating Fund Balance	\$1,000.00
LA State Association General Fund Balance	\$2,857.18
Emergency Fund Balance	\$7,691.46
Offerings for the Goal	\$1,066.39

MISSIONARY BAPTIST NEWS
May/June 2026

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
Stockwell Road MBC, Bossier City, LA	100.00
Whispering Pines MBC, Minden, LA	50.00
Total	\$970.00

MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHTS

Bro. Kevin Hutcheson, Sterlington, LA:

Hello friends, family, and faithful supporters! We are grateful to God for each of you and are humbled by your generous offerings and faithful prayers! To God be the glory!

June began with a special deputation appointment at Lakeside MBC in Des Arc, AR. It was a special appointment because one of our church members and his son asked if they could go with me. They picked me up and drove me up there and we had the best time of fellowship! It was a tremendous blessing for them to see what it looks like when a missionary goes on a deputation and know that from now on, they will understand it better. The biggest blessing was the way that the church loved on them and welcomed them so warmly in the greatest example of how God's family should be. Thank you, Lakeside in Des Arc and Brother Eddie Addison for how you blessed us!

Next on our agenda was the 100th ABA National Messenger Meeting. We had a wonderful time. I gave a report at the missionary share time, we had a lot of traffic at our table, AJ helped with the music for the National Youth Meeting, and Nicholas preached the annual message at the National Youth Meeting. My cup runneth over! Truly there is no greater joy to see my children walking in the truth! I was elected to be the speaker for next year's national meeting for the missions sermon on Wednesday night. Please pray for me as I prepare to preach God's Word! What an honor!

The building project is progressing along at a rapid pace. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Floors are being installed, the chairs are on the way, the pulpit and communion table are ready to be picked up, and the spirit of the Lord is moving! Please continue to pray for us! Please pray specifically that we can be in our building by July 18th so that we can host our VBS! Please, please, PRAY!

We leave on Monday morning, June 29th for Family Camp at Bogg Springs! We will have 10 campers this year! This is an answered prayer and an awesome opportunity to reach souls for Christ! I have the privilege of preaching Tuesday night and covet your prayers!

Once again, we thank you for your faithful support and fervent prayers. We praise God for every single one of you! May God continue to richly bless you all! You always have a place at our campfire! God bless you all!

(Sponsored by Promise Land MBC, Hamburg, Arkansas)

Bro. Trey Campbell (LA Tech MBSC):

One. Year. Down!

That's right, we began on September 11th, 2025, & our final service was on May 14th, 2026. During that time, we completed all of the book of Joshua and ALMOST finished the book of Judges (minus the final 3 chapters), as well as conducted seven Campus Engagements.

We enjoyed many meals w/ the students and have even gotten to pray with some students out on the sidewalk between the Student Center and Tolliver Hall.

For the month of March, we asked students, "What Does Success Look Like To YOU?" The purpose of this question was to see where the participants

placed their faith. In their major? Their future careers? Their families? We in turn found that most students hope to end their life feeling comfortable, loved, and safe / secure.

For the month of April, the question was simple, "What's The Hardest Thing You've Faced This Year?" Many students opened up and were honest, including one whose father was diagnosed with cancer. This was the opportunity where I got to pray with said student.

In the month of March, I was blessed to attend the Defender's Conference, which was hosted by Sharon Baptist in Benton, AR. Then in April, I was able to attend AYC '26 in Little Rock, AR! But once May got kicked off, I was able to attend the Following Churches & Association Meeting for the second half of the #DeputationTour:

- Springhill MBC in Springhill, LA
- Sharon MBC in Benton, AR
- Kentucky MBC in Benton, AR
- New Prospect MBC in Benton, AR
- Lakeview MBC in Farmerville, LA
- A Quarterly Youth Rally @ Beech Creek MBC in Waldo, AR
- A Quarterly Youth Rally @ Sandyland MBC in El Dorado, AR

During March's #CampusEngagement, we had my Brother Joel Campbell & his pastor Bro. Jared Conatser come to film a promotional video that I could take to churches.

In the video, we asked four questions of the students who agreed to participate to get a feel for the "Spiritual Atmosphere." We had a TON of engagement, and filmed eight students interviews, as well as an anonymous teacher's interview. We had such a positive response that we are now in the process of planning to film a documentary series, which will be conducted over nine episodes as we go through the nine fruits of the spirit w/ the students.

We are in need of the following:

- Prayer
- Volunteers (we still plan to feed students weekly and are looking for churches or individuals to sponsor meals once-a-quarter).
- Monthly Support. (We currently sit at around \$2,600/month of our goal of \$10,000).
- Personal Prayers. (At the time of this writing this newsletter, we have had our foster son, Legend, for eight months! He was even able to attend a few of these deputation appointments. Please pray it will be in God's Will that he will permanently become a Campbell.)

(Sponsored by Hyde Park BC, West Monroe, Louisiana)

Come Unto Me

*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart:
and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).*



Levi Cohorst

In Matthew chapter eleven, Jesus has been preaching the gospel, performing miracles, and ministering to people in the cities of Galilee. Although His message was clear and the evidence was abundant, many still rejected Him. The religious leaders of that day constantly opposed Jesus, and did their best to influence others to do the same. In this chapter, Jesus issues a severe judgment on these cities and reveals that all authority has been given to Him.

Jesus, surrounded by people who have been oppressed by the religious leaders and have been deceived by teachers of that day, offers to the multitudes the greatest invitation ever given to man: "Come unto me..." (Matthew 11:28).

This invitation was extended by the same one who spoke the light into existence, commanded the waters to gather together, and instructed the dry ground to appear. The only difference is that when He spoke those things, they had to respond and obey. When Jesus issues this invitation, sinners are not required to obey. Unfortunately, many will not. They hear the invitation, but for some reason, they dismiss it and continue going their own direction.

Maybe you are on the fence. You know Jesus is calling, but you have yet to respond in obedience. In this text, there are three strong reasons for us to respond in obedience.

1. THE PROBLEM WE HAVE.

Jesus uses two ideas to describe the people He was inviting. They that "labour and are heavy laden". He was referring to those who were weary and fatigued from trying to be enough on their own. They were carrying a burden they were not meant to carry. Trying to earn righteousness and favor with God will always exhaust you, weigh you down, and prove to be a vain effort.

2. THE PROMISE HE GAVE.

Jesus promised rest, and He promised it two different times. Both times the same word is used, and it has the idea something being "refreshed, or ceasing to labor". Jesus was promising a sense of calmness and quietness that could not be found anywhere else. The mention of rest twice is more than just repetition; it is revelation. The first rest is given to the person when they come to Jesus, and the second rest is found when they take on the yoke of Jesus. It could be said that the first rest settles your eternal destination, and the second rest settles you as your journey towards your eternal destination.

a. The first rest is of salvation.

When a person comes to Jesus in faith, He in return GIVES them rest. They are made at peace with God, and the burden of guilt and shame is lifted because they are forgiven of their sin and reconciled to God.

b. The second rest is of submission.

The yoke was the wooden beam laid across the neck of the oxen so he could work the field for his owner. It was a sign of submission. Jesus reminds His disciple that rest is FOUND when we submit ourselves to

Jesus. The first rest is about being at peace with God and the second rest is about having the peace of God. There is a misconception that true peace comes from living for yourself, but Jesus taught the opposite. This rest is not found in rebellion, but submission. It is a sad reality that many people have received the first rest in salvation, but they have yet to discover the second rest by submission. Satan would have you believe that serving Jesus is too hard, but Jesus makes it clear, his yoke is easy and His burden is light.

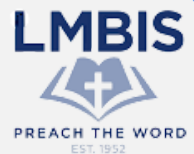
If you need rest, Jesus is the source of it.

3. THE PERSON WHO INVITES.

Jesus was not like the religious leaders of that day who were controlling and manipulative. They carried themselves with pride and self-righteousness, looking down on others. Not Jesus, He was meek and lowly. He is gentle, approachable, and humble. You do not have to be afraid to come to Jesus. He will not turn you away. Instead, He will embrace you and give you the rest you need.

Jesus has not pointed you to others; instead, He has invited you to come to Him, the only source of true rest.

LMBIS ONLINE CLASSES



Classes will be offered during the Fall & Spring Semesters, meeting weekly on Zoom.

These courses are open to everyone—not just ministers—and are designed to help anyone grow, no matter their background or experience. Classes will be offered live and available as recordings. **All you need is an internet-connected device that can video chat, plus any books or resources for the course.**

Online classes are available for course credit or audit through LMBIS and will be \$150 plus processing fees. You can enroll right now at LMBIS.org

Our Classes Available:

Bryan Sellers
Delight First MBC
Delight, AR



Fall: Christian Doctrine
Spring: Life of Christ

Jason Hebert
Acadiana BC
Lafayette, LA



Fall: Lesson/Sermon Prep
Spring: Discipleship

Daniel Clark
El Dorado MBC
El Dorado, AR



Fall: OT Overview
Spring: NT Overview

Keith Rose
Egypt MBC
Hamburg, AR



Fall: Holy Spirit
Spring: Cults/World Religions

Scott Bourland
Grace BC
Hope, IN



Fall: Missions
Spring: Apologetics/Soul Winning

For more information, you may contact Bro. Jason Hebert, Dean of Online Studies at (318) 344-3061 or @acadianabaptist@gmail.com



BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

The 100th session of the messengers of the churches of the American Baptist Association was a blessing. The fellowship was encouraging, the singing inspiring, and the preaching filling. I felt very blessed to be present for a time like this. Being in central Arkansas certainly helped with ABA folk attending. Next year, though the meeting will be a bit farther away, Erie, Pennsylvania, the trip will be worth it to be again among the brethren.

The messengers voted to allow for a 10% raise in literature prices and a 4% raise for the CEO and the EIC. I am very grateful for their kindness toward us, and especially thankful for the raise in prices. While our cost of operation continues to rise and our building needs costly repairs, the prices on our literature has remained lower than most any other comparable publication. The Adult Sunday School book will rise from \$3.95 to \$4.35. Several competing publications have a comparable book costing from \$4.98 to \$9.00. We make every effort to keep our prices as low as possible while trying to keep the ministry viable in modern times. Again, thank you, the messengers, for your kindness and care for the ministry.

I am thankful for the leadership and watch care of the Baptist Sunday School Committee. Being directly involved for almost 4 years, I have been called, prayed for, and encouraged in many other ways by these brethren. They always find ways to make my experience better. I am also thankful to the messengers of the churches. Bogard Press exists and serves by the will and wants of the messengers. We don't do anything of consequence without the vote of the messengers. These people of God have been kind and encouraging to us and we are deeply thankful.

The ministry faces various challenges. The building needs many thousands of dollars of repairs. I am currently talking to and finding counsel from some of our brethren who build for the Lord, such as, Brant Lane with Macedonian Builders, Mike Pearson with Texas Builders, and Donny Blackerby with Arkansas builders. These brethren and others serve in such a great way. I appreciate their counsel and help. We also continue to have our older machinery growing old and breaking down. We are in the midst of trying to continue our printing conversion and this process touches many parts of our building and equipment. Please pray for us as we move forward in this conversion process.

Thank you all for your love for this ministry. Come visit anytime or call if we can be of help to you.

J.A. Crain

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF REPORT

SERVING THE LORD

What a privilege and joy it is to serve our God! The Lord has blessed me with so many ways to serve Him over the years, and I am so thankful to be a small part of the work He is doing. I am honored to serve another year in my current position. I look forward to seeing how the Lord continues to use the writers, staff and myself at Bogard Press to be a blessing to His churches.

LOOKING BACK

Over the last year, we have been blessed to begin many new projects at Bogard Press. The new **Teen Study Guide** was already in development and was launched in Fall of 2025. The feedback on this new book has been overwhelmingly positive, and I am so encouraged to see the sales continually increase.

GROW for VBS 2028 is nearing the end of development and almost ready for printing. Watching the Lord bring people together and use them to collaborate on a VBS program from the ground up has been a thrill. I rejoice in the Lord and look forward to seeing how God uses it to reach children for Jesus Christ and teach them to grow in Him.

The **Adult Lesson Commentary** was up for a whole new design with the need to move to a different way of binding. As a result, the employees rose to the challenge and have created a book with larger font and better graphics. While some miss the older format and size, many have informed me how much they like the larger book along with the maps and charts that help them in their Bible study.

Knowing there was a need for new children's Sunday School curriculum, following the Lord's leadership, development of new material is underway. **Bible Foundation** is a new children's program that will launch in Fall of 2028. The Lord has used the right person to develop it and raised up a group of talented writers. We are trusting in Him to see this new three-year program to completion.

LOOKING AHEAD

There is still so much before us. A new **Spanish Teen Study Guide** will be released in the Fall of 2026, development for **VBS 2029** is underway and reformatting and reprinting **Bogard Books** are just a few of the things before us now. We continue to look to the Lord to lead us and ask for your prayers as we follow Him.

Nathan Luellen

THE MB NEWS

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CHAPEL SCHEDULE

You are invited to attend chapel at any time.
Lunch is served from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
with Chapel directly following lunch.

- Monday, August 3rd - Donavan Jarvis (Homecoming at Calvary)
- Tuesday, August 4th - Mike Wilkes
- Monday, August 10th - Micah Carter
- Tuesday, August 11th - Kevin Hutchinson
- Monday, August 17th - Joseph Stacks
- Tuesday, August 18th - Doug Gregg
- Monday, August 24th - Levi Cohorst
- Tuesday, August 25th - Justin Gatlin