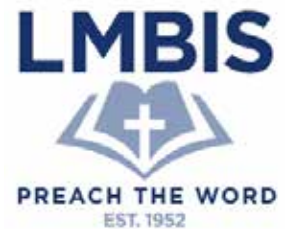


# The MISSIONARY BAPTIST NEWS

September 2026 | Volume LXXV Number 5



## FALL VISITORS' DAY



Mark your calendars and make plans to be with us for Visitors' Day on Monday, September 28th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Services will be held in the LMBIS Chapel, and we will provide lunch afterward.

Bro. Richard Merritt, a graduate and longtime friend of the seminary, will be preaching. It will be a great day of worship, preaching, and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Thank you Calvary Baptist Church!

Your VBS offering of \$2,264.75 given to the pantry fund was such a blessing.



## STERLINGTON MISSIONS

On August 15th, 2026, over 200 people gathered to celebrate what God is doing in Sterlington, Louisiana, joining Faith Baptist Church in Sterlington and her sponsoring church, Promise Land Missionary Baptist Church of Hamburg, Arkansas, for a Building Dedication Service. It was a day of special singing, worship, preaching, recognizing faithful servants, fellowship, and, most importantly, thanking God for His provisions for this great work.



Mrs. Merlyn Higginbotham, pictured with Bro. Kevin Hutchinson and sponsoring pastor Bro. Josh Luellen, receives a plaque honoring her late husband, Bro. Norman. Bro. Norman, a longtime faithful servant at Promise Land MBC in Hamburg, was the first man to share his burden for a church to be planted in Sterlington.

## STATE MEETING DATES AND HOST CHURCHES

ARKANSAS: November 5-6 at Sharon Baptist Church of Benton

LOUISIANA: November 12-13 at Calvary MBC of Minden

TEXAS: November 17-18 at Walnut Street Baptist Church of Hillsboro



*From the President*

## What Makes LMBIS Special?

Mike Wilkes

Sometimes I wonder, "What makes LMBIS unique?" What is it that makes the school so special? Is it just me? Or do others feel the same way I do?

Obviously, I do not have all of the answers to these questions. I can't ever truly know the heart of another person, so knowing what makes our seminary special to anyone else would require their perspective. For me, the answer is somewhat complicated because there are multiple reasons LMBIS is special to me.

But if I were forced to narrow it down to one particular thing, my answer to the question "What makes LMBIS unique?" would be this...the instructors' love for their students.

When Paul addressed Timothy, he referred to him as his son twice. Paul wrote, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope; Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Timothy 1:1). Again, he wrote, "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 2:1-2).

While Timothy was not saved under Paul's ministry (Acts 16:1-2), it is possible, probably even likely, that he surrendered to preach under Paul's ministry. This is a pattern still followed today when a man refers to the pastor he surrendered to preach under as his "father" in the faith.

While the students at the seminary are not always men who have surrendered to preach under the instructors' ministries, the students become like sons to us instructors. We love them and their families. Their well-being becomes very personal to us. When they excel, our hearts rejoice. When they stumble, our hearts break.

One thing I personally enjoy is watching the reaction of a young preacher as he begins his seminary classes. He often sits in awe as he listens to the battle-tested pastor open and expound upon God's Word. The young preacher is like a dry sponge soaking up everything that drips from the lips of the aged veteran. While the young man sits in admiration, he is completely unaware that very little of what he is absorbing is original with the instructor.

What we instructors give our students is what our instructors passed down to us. This process of passing the baton is exactly what Paul meant when he told Timothy, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (1 Timothy 1:2).

There is a day in my future when I will no longer be able to teach at LMBIS. I do not know if that day is near, or much farther down my life's road. Whenever it is, it will be a sad day for me. But I will rejoice in knowing that the truth that was handed to me has been handed off to the next generation of qualified men. Men who are like sons to me. Men that I love.



*From the Dean of Students*

## The Exception is Not the Rule

Micah Carter

Recently, a documentary involving the tragic actions of a "pastor" and his wife has received considerable attention. Stories like this capture an audience because they are shocking, disturbing, and far outside what most people experience. The danger comes when the exception is treated as the rule.

There have been pastors who have failed morally, abused their position, mishandled money, or brought reproach upon the name of Christ. Such behavior should never be excused or minimized. Scripture holds pastors to a high standard. A pastor is to be "blameless" and "of good behaviour" (1 Timothy 3:2), and those entrusted with spiritual leadership should understand the seriousness of that responsibility.

This truth, however, does not make the exception the rule. The overwhelming majority of pastors will never have a documentary made about them. Their lives are not sensational enough for television. They simply get up every day to serve the Lord and His people. They study and preach the Word. They visit hospitals and nursing homes. They sit with families in times of tragedy. They counsel marriages, encourage the discouraged, conduct funerals, pray for their people, and carry burdens that many will never know they carry.

Their stories rarely make headlines because faithfulness is seldom considered newsworthy. Unfortunately, the failures of a few can breed suspicion of the many. Satan is called "...the accuser of our brethren" (Revelation 12:10c), and he is certainly willing to use the sins of one preacher to discredit every preacher. If people can be convinced that pastors are hypocrites, that churches are corrupt, and that spiritual leaders cannot be trusted, they may use those exceptions as reasons to distance themselves from the Lord's churches and the preaching of His Word.

Pastor, do not let that discourage you. You may sometimes feel you are paying for the reputation created by men you have never met and for actions you would never condone. You may faithfully serve for years with little recognition, while another preacher's failure receives national attention. Do not grow weary. Paul wrote, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9). Our responsibility is not to answer for every man who has ever stood behind a pulpit. Our responsibility is to be faithful with the ministry God has entrusted to us (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Keep preaching. Keep loving people. Keep serving. Keep pointing people to Christ. There will always be exceptions. By the grace of God, determine that your life and ministry will demonstrate the rule: countless faithful servants of God quietly doing His work for His glory.

LOUISIANA MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
INSTITUTE AND SEMINARY

July/August 2026

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Balance Forwarded. | 63,812.81 |
| Receipts           | 36,097.50 |
| Disbursements      | 51,692.73 |
| Balance            | 48,217.58 |

Receipts: General Operating Funds

|                                         |          |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|
| Acadian BC, Lafayette                   | 50.00    |
| Adams Chapel MBC, Chidester, AR         | 400.00   |
| Anonymous                               | 129.88   |
| Bethel 2 BC, Rison, AR                  | 365.00   |
| Bethel MBC, New Orleans, LA             | 20.00    |
| Bryan & Sandy Simoneaux, Enterprise, AL | 100.00   |
| Calvary BC, DeRidder, LA                | 835.40   |
| Calvary BC, Magnolia, AR                | 800.00   |
| Calvary BC, Sheridan, AR                | 200.00   |
| Carthage MBC, Carthage, TX              | 414.29   |
| 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                | 400.00   |
| Delight BC, Delight, AR                 | 1,505.00 |
| El Dorado MBC, El Dorado, AR            | 159.82   |
| Emmanuel MBC, Bogalusa, LA              | 200.00   |
| Enterprise MBC, Gary, TX                | 435.88   |
| Faith BC, Sterlington                   | 500.00   |
| 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                 | 200.00   |
| Liberty, Shreveport, LA                 | 200.00   |
| Eastside, Minden, LA                    | 432.00   |
| Greenacres, Bossier City, LA            | 800.00   |
| Heritage, Bossier City                  | 1,200.00 |
| Mansfield, Mansfield, LA                | 200.00   |
| Old Sarepta, Sarepta, LA                | 1,341.83 |
| Springhill, Springhill, LA              | 140.00   |
| Stockwell Road, Bossier City, LA        | 250.00   |
| Walnut Hill, Vivian, LA                 | 100.00   |
| Whispering Pines, Minden, LA            | 877.53   |
| Forest Grove BC, Taylor, AR             | 400.00   |
| Gary Eastside BC, Gary, TX              | 5,975.04 |
| 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   |
| Hopewell BC, Gary, TX                   | 75.00    |
| Hyde Park BC, West Monroe, LA           | 100.00   |
| Lawrence MBC, Loranger, LA              | 167.16   |
| Lone Cedar BC, Joaquin, TX              | 200.00   |
| Marshall MBC, Marshall, TX              | 134.29   |
| Mt. Bethel MBC, Gary, TX                | 200.00   |
| Morris BC, Prescott, AR                 | 800.00   |
| New Home BC, Stephens, AR               | 194.00   |
| Oak Flat BC, Huntington, TX             | 150.00   |
| Pettitt Memorial BC, Bogalusa, LA       | 200.00   |
| Pleasant Springs BC, Springfield, AR    | 520.00   |
| Promise Land BC, Hamburg, AR            | 400.00   |
| Providence MBC, Center, TX              | 200.00   |
| Providence Landmark MBC, Thornton, AR   | 250.00   |

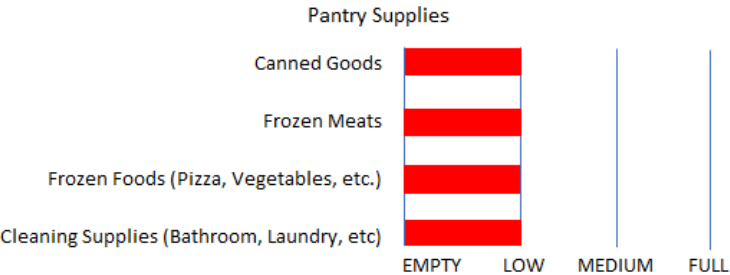
|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Robert Slack, Minden, LA          | 600.00   |
| Salem BC, Rusk, TX                | 200.00   |
| Second Avenue MBC, Strong, AR     | 400.00   |
| Shiloh MBC, Springhill, LA        | 300.00   |
| State Line BC, Taylor, AR         | 358.00   |
| Sulpher Springs BC, Cushing, TX   | 151.00   |
| Timpson MBC, Timpson, TX          | 375.00   |
| 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   |
| Unity BC, Texarkana, TX           | 162.01   |
| West Heights MBC, West Monroe, LA | 463.25   |
| White Rock MBC, Center, TX        | 200.00   |
| Baptist News                      | 485.00   |
| Enrollment Fees                   | 750.00   |
| Printing Services                 | 380.12   |
| Refund-Capital One                | 85.40    |
| Rent & Utilities                  | 1,168.00 |
| Rent Deposit                      | 200.00   |
| Tuition                           | 702.60   |

Scholarships

|                                  |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Hunter & Lexi Wilkes Scholarship |        |
| Georgina LeBaron, Minden, LA     | 250.00 |
| Holvis M. Stout Scholarship      |        |
| Holvis M. Stout Scholarship Fund | 100.00 |

Pantry

|                                                   |                         |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Adams Chapel MBC, Chidester, AR                   | 400.00                  |
| Big Sky MBC, Dillon, MT                           | 50.00                   |
| Calvary VBS, Minden, LA                           | 2,265.00                |
| Central MBC, Pineville, LA                        | 100.00                  |
| Central MBC, Pineville, LA Ladies Auxiliary       | 60.00                   |
| Corinth BC, Stephens, AR                          | 300.00                  |
| Esther SS Class, Eastside, Minden, LA             | 200.00                  |
| Friendship Baptist Association Ladies Auxiliary   | 549.33                  |
| Greg & Phyliss Hearnberger, Hampton, AR           | 200.00                  |
| Landmark MBC, Libby, MT                           | 100.00                  |
| Old Sarepta MBC, Sarepta, LA                      | 1,000.00                |
| Old Shongaloo MBC, Shongaloo, LA                  | 400.00                  |
| Plate Offering—School Opening                     | 587.00                  |
| Promise Land BC, Hamburg, AR                      | 500.00                  |
| State Line BC, Taylor, AR                         | 100.00                  |
| Trinity MBC, Camen, AR                            | 1,814.00                |
| Tylier Collier                                    | 175.00                  |
| Westside BC, Haynesville, LA                      | 150.00                  |
| Whispering Pines MBC Ladies Auxiliary, Minden, LA | 65.00                   |
| Temple MBC, Ringgold, LA                          | paper goods             |
| Tommy Frye, Minden, LA                            | peaches                 |
| Tom & Junne Lowe, Sibley, LA                      | paper goods & groceries |
| Whispering Pines MBC, Minden, LA                  | groceries               |
| Old Shongaloo MBC, Shongaloo, LA                  | groceries               |
| Dot Lopez, Minden, LA                             | groceries               |





Justin Coburn



ABA Secretary-Treasurer of Missions

I enjoyed the privilege of preaching and presenting ABA Missions at the following churches: White Rock MBC in Center, TX, pastor Greg Sutis; East Post Oak MBC in Detroit, TX, pastor Henry Blackmon; Hawthorne MBC in Shelbyville, TX, pastor Mike Oliver; Corinth MBC in Timpson, TX, pastor Carroll Jones. We truly enjoyed the fellowship and worship with these churches.

Many seminaries began a new school year this month. I attended LMBIS in Minden, LA; TBI in Henderson, TX; and MBS in Alexander, AR. It was a joy to visit with brothers and sisters on each opening day. I pray all seminaries have a great year.

It was also a month of several special services. I was honored to be at the building dedication service for Faith BC in Sterlington, LA, where missionary Kevin Hutcheson serves. The new building is beautiful, and it was standingroom-only.

I was also honored to bring the message at the organization service of Iglesia Bautista Betel in Houston, TX, where missionary Michael Torres serves. The service included a time of reflection on the history of the work. Emotions were high, as there have been hurdles and hardships in the past, but also a time of great rejoicing in God's faithfulness. This young church will be sending a missionary to start a Spanish-speaking work in Mt. Pleasant, TX.

We also rejoice that New Horizon BC in Port Byron, NY, where missionary Don Hagen has served, has organized. To God be the glory!

In August, the ABA Recommended Missionaries reported 307 professions of faith and 24 baptisms! This brings our first-quarter totals to 1,108 professions of faith and 175 baptisms.

Looking Ahead: Thanksgiving Missions Offering Our goal for the upcoming Thanksgiving Missions Offering is \$350,000, and we ask that you set aside a Sunday in November to give. We pray that God will use this vital offering in a great way to support the missionaries of the ABA.

August 2026 Report

|                                                 |               |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| BEGINNING BALANCE .....                         | 2,842,723.48  |
| Receipts:                                       |               |
| Interstate Salaries .....                       | 49,773.96     |
| Foreign & National Salaries .....               | 47,842.68     |
| Designated .....                                | 37,877.76     |
| Undesignated .....                              | 9,290.06      |
| TOTAL RECEIVED .....                            | 144,784.46    |
| BALANCE FOR SALARIES .....                      | 2,987,507.94  |
| DISBURSEMENTS:                                  |               |
| Interstate Salaries .....                       | 77,215.00     |
| Foreign Salaries .....                          | 46,320.00     |
| National Salaries .....                         | 27,251.00     |
| Designated .....                                | 37,945.76     |
| Salaries & Expenses of Sec.-Treas. Office ..... | 20,470.97     |
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENT .....                        | 209,202.73    |
| BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD .....                   | 2,778,305.21  |
| DEFICIT FOR THE MONTH .....                     | \$(64,418.27) |



Ray Meigs



Louisiana State Secretary-Treasurer of Missions

On August 30, I was honored to bring the message at the 3rd Anniversary of the organization of Victory MBC in Greenwood, LA. It was good to see the dedication of the members of this work and their pastor, Bro. Mike Russell. I also had the opportunity to talk about our state mission work and how our association of churches are helping the mission in Sterlington, LA. I look forward to seeing how this young church responds to the challenges made.

Our state project for the 2025-26 associational year has been Faith Baptist Mission in Sterlington. God has blessed them with a permanent building to meet in. Their building dedication was August 15. Continue to pray for and support this work and her missionary, Bro. Kevin Hutcheson.

Before you know it, our state association will meet at Calvary Miss. Baptist Church in Minden. As I noted in my last report, there are two important dates to keep in mind. 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@yahoo.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.

August 2026 Report

|                                                 |            |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Gen. Operating Fund Beg. Balance .....          | \$1,000.00 |
| Receipts .....                                  | \$460.00   |
| Disbursements .....                             | \$460.00   |
| Gen. Operating Fund Balance .....               | \$1,000.00 |
| LA State Association General Fund Balance ..... | \$2,857.18 |
| Emergency Fund Balance .....                    | \$8,271.46 |
| Offerings for the Goal .....                    | \$1,027.17 |

MISSIONARY BAPTIST NEWS  
July/August 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 ..... | 50.00    |
| Whispering Pines MBC, Minden, LA .....     | 50.00    |
| Total .....                                | \$920.00 |

# MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHTS

## Bro. Kevin Hutcheson, Sterlington, LA:

Hello again friends, family and faithful supporters! August has been the busiest and best month so far of this year! We are grateful to God for how He has so richly blessed us!

The week before our building dedication service, we worked hard around our building to make sure that everything would be ready for the big day. The biggest job was finishing the installation of our sound system. Brother Travis Robinson and Brother Tim Gustafson from MacTech worked 2.5 very long days to ensure that we would have what we needed. They installed our new camera for live streaming, a new sound board, microphones, and speakers. Thank you, Lord for our association and those that labor so faithfully within it.

Our dedication service was on August 15th. To say that it was a great day would be an understatement. We had singing by the Haley Creek Boys from Hamburg, AR, some special recognition for several individuals that worked above and beyond to help us get into our new building, and the preaching of the Word of God by our sending church's pastor, Brother Josh Luellen. We had representation from many of our sending churches from four different states, our editor-in-chief, and our Secretary-Treasurer. Our mayor and one of the town aldermans were also in attendance. We are especially grateful to all of the pastors that loaded up their church vans and/or personal vehicles that took time out of their Saturday to come and be a part of our dedication service. I am still trying to get over the fact that 250 showed up that day! We ended with a fellowship and a wonderful meal that was prepared by our members and our sending church. I want to say a special "thank you" to Brother Trey Emory and Hyde Park Baptist Church of West Monroe, LA for providing the meat!

God has been blessing and moving and it has been a thrill to be right in the middle of it. We have had 29 first time visitors this month! I have already had 3 meetings in the office with 2 families looking for a church home and 1 couple that is interested in joining. One of the men that I have talked with admitted that he is lost and we are still discussing the plan of salvation and what he needs to do next. Please pray for him, his name is Q!

We had our first ever baby dedication since I moved to Sterlington. We praise the Lord for our members that came forward to announce their desire to raise their child up according to the Scriptures. At the end of that service, a couple that moved into town 2 months ago have been visiting with us for 3 weeks. They came forward during the invitation this past Sunday to join our church on promise of a letter! Praise the Lord!

Thank you to everyone that prays and keeps on praying for us and the work here! We praise God for your faithfulness and generosity!

*(Sponsored by Promise Land MBC, Hamburg, Arkansas)*

## Bro. Scott Bourland, Hope, IN:

Eastern Baptist Association

We had a marvelous meeting of the Eastern Baptist Association. This year's meeting was very well attended, and it was a pleasure to see all of our friends from our sister churches in this region.

Our people did an outstanding job with all the elements required to host such a meeting, and I could not be prouder of the work they did. It is one more display of their growing maturity.

### Mission Conference

We host our mission conference about every 18 months. It is a means of being reminded of the importance of mission work around the world and making commitments to mission support. The work here never took the "one day we will be able to support missions" approach, but rather sought a strong commitment to mission support from the beginning.

Our church is very faithful in praying for missionaries; this year several have gone to help missionaries on their fields, and the financial support towards missions is stronger than ever. Once again, so proud of their maturing in this vital area.

Our visiting missionaries were the Strader family (Preparing to go to Manchester, England), the Hansen family (serving in Zhytomyr, Ukraine), and the Maness family (serving in Cordoba, Argentina). We would recommend these missionary families for your support.

Our speaker for the conference was Doug Wiersema. It was such a thrill to have him and Dianna with us and learn more about their mission efforts as well.

*(Sponsored by Calvary Baptist Church, Magnolia, Arkansas)*



## My Time as a Student at LMBIS

Phillip Baker

I have had the honor and privilege of studying at LMBIS for four years, and I am now entering my fifth year. As I reflect on my time at this school, I am grateful for the many meaningful, life-changing experiences I have been blessed to have. If you or someone you know is searching for a Christ-centered institution where you can deepen your understanding of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I believe LMBIS is an exceptional place for that growth.

The men and women who dedicate their time to teaching us the Word of God are not simply here to earn a paycheck or build a reputation. They show a genuine love for Scripture, a sincere devotion to Christ, and a deep concern for their students' spiritual growth. Whether you have been called into the ministry or simply desire to understand God's Word more deeply, the faculty are willing to invest their time, wisdom, and experience to guide you every step of the way.

When I first arrived at LMBIS four years ago, I had recently felt the Lord's calling upon my life to enter the ministry. At that time, I realized I did not understand much about the Bible, its history, and its teachings. The faculty patiently took the time to teach me, answer my questions, and share the knowledge they had gained through years of study and service to the Lord. I could not have asked for a better group of men and women to help prepare me for the calling God has placed upon my life.

Throughout my time at LMBIS, I have been on a remarkable journey through Scripture. We have studied the Old Testament, learning about the historical context of its books, including when they were written, who wrote them, and the circumstances surrounding them. We have also studied the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, learning about the places He traveled, the people He encountered, and the miracles He performed.

Yet, perhaps the most important lesson I have learned is that biblical education is not simply about gaining knowledge. My instructors have taught me to become not only a better student and preacher of God's Word, but also a better follower of Christ.

Over the past four years, LMBIS has played a significant role in strengthening my faith and preparing me for ministry. This is not simply a school where students attend classes, earn a degree, and move on. I believe it is an institution the Lord has established to strengthen His people, equip those He has called, and help believers grow in their knowledge of Him and His Word.

I am deeply grateful for the education, relationships, and spiritual foundation I have gained at LMBIS. I pray that what I have learned here will extend far beyond the classroom and be used throughout my life to serve Jesus Christ and share His Word with others.

- Bro. Phillip Baker serves as the pastor of Calvary MBC, Deridder, LA.



## Your Pastor Needs You

Amanda Jones

Every Sunday, we see him standing behind the pulpit. We hear him preach, watch him lead, and listen as he opens the Word of God. But it is easy to forget that before he is the man behind the pulpit, he is simply a man.

A man who gets tired. A man who carries burdens. A man who has difficult decisions to make. A man who needs encouragement just as much as the people he encourages.

As a pastor's wife, I have had a front-row seat to a side of ministry that most people never see. I have watched my husband pray over people, lose sleep over people, rejoice with people, and hurt with people. I have watched him give of himself again and again because he loves the Lord and loves the people God has entrusted to him. That is why I have come to appreciate something more deeply with each passing year: your pastor needs you.

He needs more than an occasional "good sermon." He needs people who will pray for him when they don't know what he is carrying. He needs people who will encourage him when ministry feels heavy. He needs people who will stand with him, rather than simply stand around him.

Pray for your pastor—not just for his preaching, but for his heart. Pray that he will remain faithful when it is difficult, humble when he is praised, and strong when he is weary.

Encourage your pastor. Tell him you appreciate his faithfulness. Let him know that his labor matters to you. You may never realize how much a simple word of encouragement can mean to someone who spends so much of his time encouraging others.

And perhaps most importantly, love your pastor's family. Ministry affects more than the man in the pulpit. His wife and children are walking alongside him, too. They need encouragement, friendship, grace, and support as they experience the joys and challenges of ministry. Love them for who they are, not simply because they are the pastor's wife and children. When you care well for his family, you strengthen and encourage the man who has been called to serve your church.

Your pastor is not perfect. He doesn't expect you to think that he is. But he is a man whom God has called to serve His church—and that calling deserves our respect, our prayers, our patience, and our support.

The next time you see your pastor standing behind that pulpit, remember to look beyond the position and see the person. See the man who has given his life to serve the Lord, and pray for him.

- Sis. Amanda Jones is the wife of Bro. Brandon Jones, pastor of Center MBC, Center, TX.



## BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

September is a welcome new arrival with the long summer heat hopefully waning. Good things are happening at Bogard Press in Texarkana. We have been making our way through a long and tedious printing conversion for about two years. God has been good to guide us and sustain us through it one step at a time. Recently, we have just sold and cleared out the old presses and a lot of older stuff that goes with the old systems. God has provided buyers and the means of getting all of this done in a needed time. This transition has allowed us to do some serious cleaning out of closets and storage areas, as is needed from time to time.

We also have recently installed two new Print-on-Demand printers, now giving us a total of six. We were able to place all six of these in a single room where the smaller room provides a better atmosphere (less humidity) for the paper and the machines. This move has opened the possibility of downsizing our operations inside our building and we will be studying the possibility of moving our shipping and warehouse back to where it was about 30 years ago. Modern technology does not require as much space as the old systems.

In the recent past and during this conversion, we have had to outsource some of our printing, but, beginning in September, we are doing all of our own printing, and are staying within budget. Also, I am glad to say that we are on schedule and even ahead of schedule. God has been good to bring us through this long and concerning transition to a good place.

It has been mentioned in the past that our bookstore area will have to have a new HVAC system. We have delayed it because of the cost (estimated \$40,000.00), but this will need to be done in October. This is a huge cost, but necessary. If anybody feels the burden of helping us with this cost, it would certainly be appreciated.

I am looking forward to our Sunday School Committee visiting with us in the latter part of September. These brethren are a great encouragement and mainstay for Bogard Press. Anytime I can be of assistance to anyone, please call.

J.A. Crain

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF REPORT

### FALL STUDIES

There is never a bad time for God's people to begin studying the Word of God. Bogard Press provides many Bible studies to assist churches in learning the Bible so that their membership can "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). September introduces a new quarter of study for all ages.

- The Through-the-Bible series for adults and teenagers introduces classes to the book of 2 Corinthians. As Paul pens his second letter to this troubled church, he gives instruction that all members are to be involved in Christian ministry. Each week, the lesson explores different ministries of the Lord's churches.
- The fall quarter of Bible Basics introduces children to the topic of "God's Gift to Us." Children from PreK to Junior will learn about how that God gave us the world, our homes and the Bible. Splat children's curriculum will cover different stories from Joshua, Judges and Ruth.
- Baptist Discipleship Series for adults and teens explores the topic of The Prayers of Jesus giving us the best example of a life of prayer. BDS for children covers the topic of "God Helps Me To Choose." These studies are great for Sunday nights, Wednesday or any other time for Bible study.

### PREPARING FOR WINTER

It is never too early to begin preparing for the next quarter's study! The next Through-the-Bible series will cover the book of Ephesians. The Adult Lesson Commentary will be available for sale on October 1st and will greatly enhance the study of this coming set of lessons. Another great resource for studying Ephesians is the Baptist New Testament Commentary available at the Baptist Bookstore or online at [bogardpress.org](http://bogardpress.org).

### SERVING YOU

Bogard Press exists to serve the needs of the Lord's churches. If we can serve you better, please do not hesitate to reach out to us and let us know. My email is [nathan.luellen@bogardpress.org](mailto:nathan.luellen@bogardpress.org) or you may leave us feedback on our website.

Nathan Luellen

## THE MB NEWS

Levi Cohorst . . . . Editor  
Brandon Jones . . . Assistant Editor  
Margie Barnett . . . Print Manager



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Bookstore: (318) 371-1111

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www.lmbis.org

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# LMBIS

# VISITOR'S DAY

**September 28th, 2026**  
**10:00 a.m.**

102 SEMINARY LN  
MINDEN, LA

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
**LUNCH TO FOLLOW!**

**BRO. RICHARD MERRITT**



## 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.

- Mon., Sept. 21 - FACULTY AND STUDENT BODY
- Tues., Sept. 22 - Justin Coburn
- Mon., Sept. 28 - FALL VISITORS' DAY
- Tues., Sept. 29 - STUDENT TBD
- Mon., Oct. 5 - Mack Banks
- Tues., Oct. 6 - Dale Walker
- Mon., Oct. 12 - Tommy Barrios
- Tues., Oct. 13 - STUDENT TBD
- Mon., Oct. 19 - Jason Walker
- Tues., Oct. 20 - Nathan Luellen
- Mon., Oct. 26 - FACULTY AND STUDENT BODY
- Tues., Oct. 27 - Charles Wooley
- Mon., Nov. 2 - Colton Kelley
- Tues., Nov. 3 - STUDENT TBD
- Mon., Nov. 9 - Cameron Hayes
- Tues., Nov. 10 - David Hardin
- Mon., Nov. 16 - FACULTY AND STUDENT BODY
- Tues., Nov. 17 - Justin Gatlin