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All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" which means, "God with us." Matthew 1:22 - 23

Mission Minded



If you have ever wondered how much impact a church mission trip makes, whether stateside or international, Donald Davis is a living testimony to what God can do when you least expect it. Brother Donald was born in Harrington, Kansas October 20, 1937. He married Margaret Lively July 25, 1959. They have two children and four grandchildren. As a member of First Baptist Zachary, he traveled on mission trips with the church, while owning a hardware business for eleven years. After serving on short mission trips in Honduras, Mexico, and other places, Davis was called into full time Christian service in 1984. He and his wife sold their business, their acreage, their home, and moved to New Orleans so he could study at NOBTS. He received an Associate's Degree from NOBTS, but he also pursued Master level courses while he was there.

Their first assignment with the IMB was to a region in West Africa, the Gambia, where they worked with the Mandinka tribe. Muslims constituted more than 90% of the population while Christians of different denominations and indigenous religions accounted for the remainder. The Mandinka tribe was and still is the largest ethnic group. Thanks in part to British colonization, the New Testament had been translated into the dialect only years before the Davises arrived. Because no language school was available, the Davises learned the language from the local people and through day-to-day experiences. They served in Gambia from 1986 through 1991 when Mrs. Margaret's health no longer permitted the lifestyle required.

Mrs. Margaret is completely accurate when she describes her husband as a man with a big heart and a servant's attitude. "Age doesn't have anything to do with it," she says. "He will serve and work until he can't anymore. I don't know what I would do if he retired! I do know that when the Holy Spirit tells him to do something, he does it."

Donald has been serving at the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge for 15 years. He served as Seamen Center Director from January 1992 until January 1996 before coming to Judson Baptist Association as Coordinator of Missions and Ministries. He served as the interim DOM after Rev. T. W. Terral and before Dr. Roddy Conerly. He is currently the Minister of Missions, Ministries, and Multiplication (3M). He is invaluable not only as a mentor to young ministers in our community but as a visionary for this Association. We thought you might enjoy knowing a little bit more about our beloved 3M Coordinator. Above is a picture of our very own Donald Davis who celebrated 70 years of age this past October. If you haven't seen him in a while, come by and visit...his door is always open!

God's Vision: Can You See It?

Rodrick E. Conerly, Executive Director

Pastor Red Brick was having a good natured chuckle at himself as he realized he had just been tricked. During the past twenty minutes he had felt a number of emotional responses to the exercise he had been asked to accomplish. His initial response of confidence to the task he had been given soon changed to bewilderment. As he looked around the room he realized that he was not alone in his reaction. Four of the other five men in the room working on the same task had similar responses.

These five men served churches close to one another. They and Pastor Red Brick had been invited by Brother Vision Nary of the Local Association to participate in a workshop on "God's Vision for the Local Church." The initial exercise Brother Vision Nary had given them was to select one of six quart size zip lock bags. The bag had a number from one to six on the outside and contained a child's 100 piece jigsaw puzzle. The instructions were simple. Each man had twenty minutes to complete the puzzle.

As he emptied the zip lock bag on the table in front of him, Pastor Red Brick noticed immediately that something was missing. At first Pastor Red Brick had felt confident that he could complete what appeared to be child's play without any problem. But his confidence soon changed to bewilderment when he realized he had no picture to guide him.

He decided that without a picture, his first task was to determine the borders of the puzzle. His confidence returned as he put together the last piece of the border of the puzzle. But just then Brother Vision Nary began to call time as the first five minutes had elapsed. His confidence changed to frustration as he realized he only had fifteen minutes to complete the rest of the puzzle without a picture to guide him. He hurriedly began to search for matching pieces.

As he searched for pieces to match together, he muttered to himself, "I sure wish I had a picture to show me what this would look like when it is completed." He began to sort the puzzle pieces into groups of the same color. Then he began to assemble the colored pieces. A hint of confidence returned just as Brother Vision Nary announced the ten minute mark. Red did not have even half the puzzle together.

Out of the corner of his eye he saw Pastor Onya Knees hold up his picture and look with satisfaction at his completed puzzle. With a look of disbelief, he said to Brother Vision Nary, "Why does he get a picture to guide him and I don't?"

"Hey, Red," said Brother Sav'em All, "I have a picture. Want to use mine?"

"Nah," said Red, "It probably won't be the right picture for my puzzle."

"Five minutes left," said Brother Vision Nary.

Red returned to the puzzle more frustrated than before. He noticed that of the five pastors, Brother Onya Knees was the only one with a completed puzzle. As he continued to attack the puzzle,

parts of the picture came together. He had part of a mountain scene with a waterfall completed when Brother Vision Nary called time and made them all stop. Red had only completed about one-third of the puzzle.

Brother Vision Nary began to explain what the puzzles had to do with discerning God's vision for the local church. Puzzle number one had all 100 pieces but no picture. Puzzle number two had all of the edge pieces removed. Puzzle number three had 100 pieces but they were mixed from three different puzzles. Puzzle number four had the picture and the edge pieces but a large number of the pieces were missing. Puzzle number five had all 100 pieces with the picture.

Brother Vision Nary explained, "Puzzle number one with all 100 pieces but no picture represents a church that functions without a vision. The people work hard, but no one knows what is to be accomplished." He continued, "Puzzle number two with the edge pieces removed represents a church with a vision that never has been clarified and has no framework within which to operate. These people work under a generic vision that they adopted from another church or pastor. The vision did not develop from God's leadership for their church specifically."

"Puzzle number three with 100 pieces mixed from different puzzles represents a church with many visions that generally will divide and cause disunity within the church. When the pastor presents no vision, the members will begin to do something without his leadership."

"Puzzle number four with the picture and the edge pieces but with lots of pieces missing represents the church with part of the vision. These people got impatient and did not wait for God's timing and for the complete vision to develop. They began to work without getting a complete picture of the vision from God."

"Puzzle number five with all the pieces in the picture represents what can be accomplished when the entire church works together with a common vision."

As the effect of the exercise began to be realized by the pastors in the room, Brother Vision Nary said, "Bob Logan on page 34 of his book, *Beyond Church Growth*, wrote the following about the importance of the pastor's vision for the local church:

The most universal fact emerging from our research was this: ***It is the personal vision of a pastor or church planter, and his or her ability to communicate that vision that drives churches to growth.***"

Brother Vision Nary continued, "Your vision for the church where God has placed you must present a clear and challenging **picture** of the future. The vision must present an image of God's **PREFERRED FUTURE** for the church and the community surrounding the church. As the leader of the church placed there under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, what do you believe the church can and **must become?** Above all, you must paint a picture with words if you hope to get others to see the vision."

Pastor Red Brick realized that he never had been challenged like this. Here was an exciting and new way of looking at what God

wants to accomplish in the local church. For the first time in his many years of ministry, someone was challenging him with the questions:

“What does God want your church to be?” and “What do you as pastor have to do so that it will become what God wants it to be?”

Pastor Red Brick needed an illustration and asked Brother Vision Nary, “Could you show us an example of the association’s vision?”

Brother Vision Nary replied, “The Local Association is a network of churches and missions functioning as agents for positive change in the spiritual, social, and cultural fabric of their communities through Christian redemption and determination. This vision will be accomplished by penetrating the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through family and community orientation, and social involvement that exemplifies the caring and sharing nature of Jesus Christ in order to effect life transformation in individuals, families, and communities. Actions developing from this vision will be relationship based, evangelism centered, service oriented, and training focused.”

Brother Vision Nary continued, “The vision statement is the first sentence of what I just presented. The rest is merely explanation of how the vision will be accomplished. The accomplishment of vision develops into the mission statements that must follow. The mission of the local church within its community must develop from the vision God has given for the church.”

Pastor Red Brick and the other men in the room began to nod as they mentally formed the picture of the churches of the association working as a network of connected churches. Each church would have its unique vision as part of that larger network of churches as their members caught the vision for their specific church and began to penetrate the local community as agents of transformation.

Each man in the room realized that his task was to capture God’s vision for the church he served and then to cast that vision to the members of the church so that everyone could understand what God wanted each person to do so that the church would achieve God’s preferred future.

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Association Support

If you would like to know how the Association can help you discern and cast a vision for the church, please contact us at 225-296-3943. Your Associational leadership is available to help you discern and cast God’s vision for your church.

RESOURCES FOR DISCERNING AND CASTING A VISION

- ◆ Barna, George. *The Power of Vision*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1992.
- ◆ Henry, Jim. “Casting a Vision for Reproduction of Your Church.” In *Reaching a Nation Through Church Planting*, 67-76.
- ◆ Lewis, Larry L. “Foresight.” In *The Church Planters Handbook*, 17-24.
- ◆ Malphurs, Aubrey. “Building a Fire in the Furnace *A Great Commission Vision*.” In *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century*, 119-130.
- ◆ Sanchez, Daniel R., Eddie C. Smith, and Curtis E. Watke, eds. “Vision and Mission.” In *Reproducing Congregations: A Guidebook for Contextual New Church Development*, 155-164.
- ◆ Stanley, Andy. *Visioneering*. Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah Publishers, 1999.

TRUST? In a Prison?

Donald Davis, 3M Coordinator

“Trust...you gotta trust again” was the theme of the annual tent revival at LA Correctional Institute for Woman in St. Gabriel. The first of four services was held in the gym because of inclement weather. A baptism service was held after lunch in the chapel. Twenty-two were baptized after having accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior during the worship services and one-on-one personal evangelistic encounter. Five women were assured of their salvation while nineteen others rededicated their lives to more obedient walks with their Lord.

Average attendance for the four services was 193 with the highest one being 211 in attendance. The average attendance by unchurched women was between 75 and 100. Associational pastors and state convention leaders preached and led in worship during the revival. Volunteers from Louisiana and Texas ministered in many ways, from eating with the ladies in the cafeteria to assisting in putting up and taking down the tent.

In 2008, the Annual Tent Revival will be October 3 - 5. Make plans now to participate in any way the Lord leads.

I’d like to extend a special thanks to all who gave of their time and efforts to this ministry.

Women's Ministry Team

The Association Women's Ministry Team met in October to discuss future plans for the Women’s ministries in our Association.

Within the next few months, a team representative will contact your church for the name of the WMU and / or Women's Ministry Coordinator of your church. If your church does not have a Women’s Ministry leader, we ask that you consider appointing a person.

We also ask for your prayers as we seek the Lord’s guidance as we plan for 2008.

Third Quarter 2007 BAGBR Contributions

2007	Jan -Sept 2007	Jan -Sept 2006		2007	Jan -Sept 2007	Jan -Sept 2006	
ASSOCIATION CHURCHES							
Addis, First Baptist Church	810.00	810.00		Northside Baptist Church, Plaquem.	450.00	210.00	*
Ascension Baptist Church	7,768.01	8,011.35		Oak Grove Baptist Church, Pra'ville	1,385.77	180.00	*
Baker, First Baptist Church	11,318.40	11,059.87	*	Oakcrest Baptist Church	3,297.71	2,649.33	*
Baton Rouge, First Baptist Church	17,641.94	19,413.02		Park Forest Baptist Church	4,462.07	4,814.18	
Bayou Plaquemine Baptist	3,638.40	2,653.41	*	Parkside Baptist Church	4,700.74	4,703.20	
Bayou Sorrel Baptist Church,	1,379.85	1,632.18		Parkview Baptist Church	31,538.92	34,536.84	
Bethel Baptist Worship, Morganza	240.00	-	*	Plaquemine, First Baptist Church	3,221.61	3,239.97	
Broadmoor Baptist Church	-	1,000.00		Port Allen, First Baptist Church	5,174.08	4,704.92	*
Brookstown Baptist Church	1,587.84	1,822.62		Riverdale Baptist Church	2,914.83	3,064.03	
Broussard Grove	1,500.03	500.22	*	Sharon Baptist Church	5,916.25	4,627.45	*
Brownfields Baptist Church	1,417.58	1,423.97		Sherwood Baptist Church	7,635.56	5,920.60	*
Cane Brake Baptist Church, Lottie	200.00	447.39		Sorrento Baptist Church	1,343.30	1,272.48	*
Cedarcrest Baptist Church	4,782.00	4,920.39		Southside Baptist Church	8,459.36	9,412.14	
Central, First Baptist Church	950.00	750.01	*	Starlight Baptist Church, Morganza	-	-	
Comite Baptist Church	3,314.22	3,247.73	*	Stevendale Baptist Church	450.00	450.00	
Community Bible Baptist, Baton	2,700.00	2,550.00	*	The Church at Riverbend	150.00	675.00	
God's Vineyard Baptist Church	-	158.00		Trinity Baptist Church	1,318.46	1,281.84	*
Courtableau Baptist Church, Port	451.49	768.74		Unity Baptist Church	-	-	
CrossPoint Baptist Church	6,750.00	6,750.00		University Baptist Church	16,610.21	14,861.51	*
Donaldsonville, First Baptist Church	280.00	502.00		Victory Baptist Church-Aitch	1,794.98	606.13	*
Douglas Avenue Baptist Church	-	-		Vietnamese Hope Baptist Church	1,365.63	1,327.14	*
Dutchtown Baptist Church	900.00	900.00		White Castle, First Baptist Church	812.66	646.93	*
Erwinville Baptist Church	1,688.00	2,722.41		Winbourne Avenue Baptist Church	229.52	-	*
Faith Baptist Church, Baker	2,461.06	2,417.75	*	Woodlawn Baptist Church	40,923.77	36,884.00	*
Faith Baptist Church, Livonia	2,926.73	3,127.71		Zoar Baptist Church	41,978.29	35,996.72	*
False River Baptist Church, Ventress	1,704.05	1,175.05	*	ASSOCIATION MISSIONS			
Fellowship Church, Greenwell Spgs.	4,515.60	5,135.16		Christian Fellowship Int.-Filipino	80.00	250.00	
First Baptist Deaf Church	80.00	-	*	Christ Way Mission, Vacherie	117.00	-	*
Florida Boulevard Baptist Church	36,182.39	42,595.75		Church of the Nations	331.30	213.27	*
Fordoche Baptist Church	3,036.66	1,404.14	*	Circle Baptist Mission, Baker	100.00	3,076.40	
Foster Road Baptist Church	5,082.48	5,405.06		Community Baptist Mission, Gnsbq	-	750.00	
Friendship Baptist Church, Baker	-	-		Fellowship Church, Pra'ville	2,665.66	4,622.61	
Glen Oaks Baptist Church	350.00	235.00	*	Gonzales Hispanic	266.55	-	*
Gonzales First Baptist Church	2,400.00	2,183.33	*	Grace Fellowship Baptist Church	50.00	1,860.00	
Goodwood Baptist Church	739.67	1,174.66		Haven	41.05	-	*
Grace Baptist Church	962.15	1,325.79		Hispanic Mission - FBC BR	28.39	-	*
Gramercy, First Baptist Church	700.00	800.00		La Croix	151.20	-	*
Greenwell Springs Baptist Church	19,883.00	18,954.00	*	LifeGiving	428.00	-	*
Grosse Tete Baptist Church	1,866.00	1,562.00	*	LifePointe	45.00	-	*
Hooper Road Baptist Church	60.00	110.00		New Covenant Christian Center	135.00	1,331.01	
Immanuel Baptist Church, Baton	3,110.00	3,094.00	*	North Highlands Community Baptist	50.00	-	*
Immanuel Baptist Church, Gonzales	199.51	617.62		Reserve, First Baptist Church	1,710.15	1,329.12	*
Indian Mound Baptist Church	5,062.33	4,784.68	*	Ring Community	2,808.17	250.00	*
Istrouma Baptist Church	36,210.68	35,244.68	*	Salvation Ministry of Jesus Christ	-	46.00	
Jefferson Baptist Church	26,625.42	28,482.83		Soiourn Church	-	-	
Krotz Springs, First Baptist Church	1,350.00	1,500.00		Vietnamese Baptist Fellowship	-	-	
Lake Martin Baptist Church, Pra'ville	165.00	747.33		Westside Fellowship, Brusly	-	-	
Lanier Baptist Church	7,496.89	7,031.65	*	CONTRIBUTING CHURCHES			
Latanche Baptist Church, Batchelor	2,045.79	1,405.33	*	DaySpring, St Gabriel	800.00	450.00	*
Little Prairie Baptist Church, Pra'ville	1,461.31	1,706.90		Graceworks, Pra'ville	1,120.00	-	*
Maringouin, First Baptist Church	384.04	215.28	*	Korean Baptist Ch - Burgin Dr.	600.00	600.00	
New Life Church of Baton Rouge	1,762.40	2,062.72		Mid City Baptist Fellowship	321.00	-	*
New River Baptist Church	684.21	1,811.77		Mt. Bethel Baptist Church	1,050.00	1,200.00	
New Roads First Baptist Church	8,688.00	8,813.00		The Lord's Church, Kentwood	1,178.53	587.87	*
				Total Contribution Receipts	447,723.85	445,797.19	

* 2007 contribution greater than 2006



Christmas Programs

Ascension Baptist Church: *"Unspeakable Joy"* will be presented by the Sanctuary Choir Sunday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. 13432 Airline Highway, Gonzales, 225-644-0111.

Broussard Grove Baptist Church: *"Glorious Joy"* will be presented by the Adult Choir Sunday, December 9th at 10:30 a.m. There is no charge for this event. 39258 Highway 42, Prairieville, 225-673-6674.

Comite Baptist Church: *"The Wonders of His Love"* will be presented by the Comite Music Ministry (Adult Choir and Band) Sunday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m. The Children's Choir, the Jesus Jammers, will present *"The Christmas Gift"* Sunday, December 16th at 10:30 a.m. Admission to both events is free. 12250 Greenwell Springs Road, 225-275-3382.

Fellowship Baptist Church: *"The Love of God at Christmas"* will be presented by the Adult Choir Sunday, December 16th at 10:15 a.m. Admission is free. 14512 Greenwell Springs Road, Greenwell Springs, 225-261-8903.

First Baptist Church of Baker: *"The Greatest Story Ever Told"* will be presented Sunday, December 16th at 10:30 a.m. Admission is free. 3213 Groom Road, Baker, 225-775-0520.

First Baptist Church of Central: *"Born to You This Day"* will be presented by the Sanctuary Choir Sunday, December 9th at 10:30 a.m. Admission is free. 9676 Sullivan Road, Baton Rouge, 225-261-3722.

First Baptist Church of New Roads: *"The Mystery of the Manger"* will be presented by the Crazy Praise Kidz' Choir Sunday, December 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the FBC Activity Center. Admission is free. 824 West Main Street, New Roads, 225-638-7541.

First Baptist Church of Port Allen: *"Emmanuel - Celebrating Heaven's Child"* will be presented by Grace Point Worship Sunday, December 16th at 10:30 a.m. 4200 Rebelle Lane, Port Allen, 225-344-1553.

Florida Boulevard Baptist Church: *"Peace on Earth"* will be presented by Voices in Praise Adult Choir & Sounds of Praise Orchestra, as well as additional orchestra members. Performances are Sunday, December 9th at 11:00 a.m. and at 5:00 p.m. FREE tickets available. 10915 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, 225-272-3740.

Grosse Tete Baptist Church: *"365 Days of Christmas"* will be presented Thursday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge for this event. 18285 Highway 77, Grosse Tete, 225-648-7573.

Istrouma Baptist Church: A Christmas Celebration with guest artist Larnelle Harris, featuring the Istrouma Worship Choir and Orchestra will be presented Sunday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. This is a ticketed event. Ticket information and purchases can be made through the LifeWay Bookstore, www.istrouma.org, or the church office. 10500 Sam Rushing Drive, Baton Rouge, 225-295-0775.

Lanier Baptist Church: *"Jesus, There's Something about That Name"* will be presented by the Sanctuary Choir Sunday, December 16th at 10:20 a.m. 4851 Lanier Drive, Baton Rouge, 225-355-5605.

Sherwood Baptist Church: *"Jesus, There's Something about That Name"* will be presented by the Adult Choir Sunday, December 16th at 10:30 a.m. The Children's Choir will present *"The Angels' Assignment"* Sunday, December 9th at 10:30 a.m. 1180 Flannery Road, Baton Rouge, 225-275-2432.

Southside Baptist Church: *"Come, Let Us Worship the King"* will be presented by the Sanctuary Choir during the morning service at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, December 9th. Admission is free. 1700 Lee Drive, Baton Rouge, 225-924-2269.

Zoar Baptist Church: *"A Miracle on Main Street"* will be presented by the Children's Choir Sunday, December 16th at 6:00 p.m. Admission is free. 11848 Hooper Road, Baton Rouge, 225-261-3434.

December 2007



- ◆ 1 Keyboard Festival
- ◆ 2 - 9 Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- ◆ 22 Winter Begins
- ◆ 24 - 31 Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge Office Closed

January 2008

- ◆ 1 Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge Office Closed
- ◆ 18 - 19 Children and Youth Bible Drill Retreat
- ◆ 12 - 13 LA Baptist Convention, Alexandria, Riverfront Center
- ◆ 18 - 20 Youth Evangelism Conference, Alexandria, Rapides Coliseum
- ◆ 29 Disaster Relief Training, Horseshoe Baptist Church, Alexandria

*Blitz on the Bayou 2008 coming to Parkview Baptist Church August 16!
Watch for details in upcoming newsletters.*

EP: Phone Home

Mary Smith, Prayer Team Member

His first words were much like yours: “Ma-ma, Da-da, no, mine, ball, go”. Between the years of one and five, he had no trouble calling out to Mommy or Daddy for assistance. At the age of ten, it seemed that Daddy was his hero, fixer of all things and no one could bake like Mommy. There were always a lot of “I love you”s to go around.

The teen years arrived with many changes. Mommy and Daddy became Mom and Dad. Their names were spoken more with pleading and asking permission or forgiveness rather than expressing love and admiration. When the cell phone came along with caller ID, their names were often totally ignored.

College arrived and phone calls became less frequent. Usually the calls were more about “I need money” or some car emergency. Phone calls morphed into quizzes from Mom always with the same answers: “Fine... OK... Will do... Love you, too.”

Now in adulthood, Mom and Dad wait eagerly for the son to call. Oh, he calls on Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, and birthdays. Sometimes even on a Sunday. Of course, he calls if there is a big decision to be made or a crisis to be handled. But the relationship has definitely changed.

Is God eagerly waiting to hear your voice? Is your life— and mine—constantly so busy that we seldom take the time to call on God?

When was the last time you called **home**? “Call to me and I will answer you [He doesn’t hang up] and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.” Jeremiah 33:3

If you need help and encouragement in your prayer life, as I do, then *EP: Phone Home!* Experience **P**rayer and talk to your Father!

Make plans to attend the **EXPERIENCING PRAYER WITH JESUS CONFERENCE** Friday and Saturday, February 15th and 16th in 2008, downtown at First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge. For details check bagbr.org.

We are looking forward to what God will do at this event and certainly hope you will be a part of it.

Reminder to Churches

We have not received everyone’s ACP! If you have not already returned your ACP (Annual Church Profile), **please do so now**. Call us at the BAGBR office if you any questions.

Ministry Opportunities

Cedarcrest Baptist Church has approximately 40 New King James Version pew Bibles they would like to donate. Please contact the church office at 225-924-5756 or Mr. Bob Kelly at 225-337-3663.

Gonzales Seamen Center is in need of men’s clothing, including jackets. Any size and style is welcome. Also, polyester knit fabric is needed to make ditty bags for the seamen. Please call Pat Caudill at 225-715-4991 or the BAGBR office if you can help.

Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home is in need of Cottage and / or Relief parents. Applicants must be Southern Baptist, a married couple without children at home or a single lady. Must have a chauffeur’s license or be able to qualify for one. This position is full-time with benefits. Please contact Tommy Frost at 318-343-2244 or P. O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

Park Forest Baptist Church is seeking a Youth Director. This is a paid part-time position. Interested persons may call the church at 225-275-3003 or fax a resume to 225-275-6319, attention Youth Director Search Committee.

Sherwood Baptist Church is in need of a part-time Pre-school / Children’s Director to develop, implement and lead programs of activities, ministry, and outreach to pre-school children and their families. Twelve office hours per week plus activities time are required. Interested persons may e-mail resumes to thechurch@sherwoodbc.org or fax to Personnel Committee at 225-275-2649.

The Church at Riverbend is looking for a volunteer to lead worship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. As God adds to His church, we hope this will grow into a paid part-time position. Come serve alongside us in the mission field. Riverbend is a small body of believers located off Hoo Shoo Too Road (on the Amite River) at 25837 Kendalwood Road in Baton Rouge. Call Todd Whirley at 225-715-6149 for more information.

Victory Baptist Church is in need of a new or used steeple, as well as 3 portable buildings for Sunday school classes. If you wish to help, please call Pastor Donald Ray at 985-631-2098.

Zoar Baptist Church is in need of a part-time pre-K teacher to work Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This is a paid position. Call Susan Mitchell at 225-261-5199.

Down East Boys in Concert

December 16th at 10:30 a.m., First Baptist Central, 9676 Sullivan Road, Baton Rouge. For more information, call 225-261-3722.

Come enjoy great Southern Gospel music!

Judson Baptist Retreat Center

Eugene Morris, Coordinator

You have our sympathy!

If you have not been at JBRC during the last two or three months, we are so sorry for you! From women's retreats to eighth grade boys' retreats, weddings to singles retreats, children's choir retreats to wagon rides in the early morning! God is alive and touching lives in this precious place! The weather has been beautiful and lives have been changed!

Mother/Daughter Equestrian Weekend

"Place these words on your hearts... Teach them to your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning until you fall into bed at night." Deuteronomy 11:18a - 19. Communication with our families and our Lord was the theme of the first annual Mother/Daughter Equestrian Retreat. Utilizing horsemanship instruction, our mothers, daughters, and GRANDMOTHERS learned about using correct communication skills to resolve conflict. Becky Brown provided music in our worship times and Kathy Frady, a Christian dramatist, used her gifts in drama to make learning about communication a pleasant and funny experience! What an amazing happening as mothers and daughters rode horses together, played games, and sang campfire songs. There were thirteen sets of M/D teams and a total of thirty-four in attendance. *(Pictures are at left.)*

Teens in Action Christmas Equestrian Camp

Calling all 7th, 8th, and 9th grade girls! It's that time again! TIA Christmas Equestrian Camp will be **December 27 - 30!** Forms and information are online. We will only take 24 ladies, so get your forms in quickly! Cost this year is \$200.00.

Volunteer Counselor Spring Retreat

If you missed last year's first Volunteer Counselor Retreat, you can get in on this one! We had a great time of fellowship and planning for camps. It will be **April 11 - 12, 2008.**

Summer Camp Dates (Is it really that time?)

Teens In Action	June 9 - 13
Boys' Missions Camp	June 16 - 20
Girls' Missions Camp I	June 30 - July 4
Girls' Missions Camp II	July 7 - 11
Girls' Missions Camp III	July 14 - 18
Girls' Missions Camp IV	July 21 - 25
Equestrian Camp	July 28 - 31

Check your mail for your registration packets by January 15, 2008! Early registration will be a MUST this year! Forms will be on the website by January 15, as well.

Personal Note: Thank you for your prayers as Ben is deployed! You may mail him a note or package to: Morris, Ben, FSC 769th EN BN, Unit # 43492, Camp Liberty, Iraq, APO AE 09344. Continue to pray for Ben, his family, and all soldiers that are defending our country.

May you always keep Christ in Christmas! God bless you from the staff at JBRC! Come see us soon!



Above: MD Weekend's Breakfast Trail Ride



Above: Kathy Frady and Clarissa

Below: MD Group Picture



Baptist Collegiate Ministry

Steve Masters, BCM Director

Our Tiger Legacy Building Renovation is continuing. We are making progress and hope to finish the project in March or April. We still need volunteer help. Volunteers can work during the day, at night, or Saturdays. If you would like to help, call us at 225-343-0408.

The total renovation is estimated to cost \$1,836,977.00. As of today we have raised \$1,623,816.38. This leaves us \$213,160.02 short of completing the project. We have raised \$811,908.19 from alumni, parents, current students, and local churches. The Louisiana Baptist Convention has pledged \$900,000.00 in matching funds toward the project and contributed \$811,908.19. This means they will match the next \$89,000.00 in contributions of the project. If your church hasn't made a pledge and/or contribution toward the project, we would ask you to do so.

We continue to have a good year of ministry. Due to the renovation we aren't sponsoring our Monday and Thursday Lunches. We are having our TNT worship services at University Baptist Church. Our participation isn't as strong as in the past but it's still pretty good. We do have an excellent group of freshmen. They are fired up about being a part of ministering in the renovated center when it is completed.

Our annual Disciple Now Weekend for Kids in the 2nd to 6th grade and Tiger Olympics for Kids in Kindergarten to 6th grade will be held on Friday night, February 29th and Saturday, March 1st. If your church is interested in participating, please contact us. Our BCM students are available to lead Disciple Now Weekends for youth groups during the Spring Semester.

Thanks for your support of our ministry. We also want to say a special word of thanks to University Baptist Church for their hospitality in hosting our TNT services.



(Formerly Judson Baptist Association)
 Adoniram Judson, Jr. Missions and Ministries Center
 10560 Airline Hwy.
 Baton Rouge, LA 70816

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Baptist Association of Greater
 Baton Rouge will be closed:
 Monday, December 24 –
 Tuesday, January 1
 We will return to the office at
 8:30 a.m. Wednesday,
 January 2, 2008.**



Good News Deadlines for 2008

- Feb. / March issue: **January 2**
- April / May issue: **March 5**
- June / July issue: **May 4**
- August / Sept. issue: **July 5**
- Oct. / Nov. issue: **September 5**
- Dec. 08 – Jan. 09 issue: **November 2**

Retreat Testimony

The Lord has blessed our Association with an outstanding retreat center. For years, pastors have been given the opportunity to come to the retreat center and stay in the hotel free of charge. Since 1999, I have taken advantage of this very generous offer. I try to slip away three or four times a year for a two day study and prayer retreat. I have found that I get more done in those forty-eight hours than I do during two weeks of office hours! The time at the retreat center has been a significant spiritual discipline in my life that has refreshed me many times over.

I felt compelled to mention this wonderful resource to my fellow pastors, especially after learning that just a few of us take advantage of this opportunity. Eugene and Debi Morris provide great leadership in the care and the coordination of ministries at the retreat center. I would encourage you to give them a call to set up a time for a personal study and prayer retreat or to coordinate a ministry event for your church. May the Lord bless you and your church family. *(The Retreat Center phone number is 888-490-8263.)*

Rejoice,

 Jim Law
 Pastor, **First Baptist Church of Gonzales**

Widows in Ministry

Christmas Celebration: Thursday, December 13, 2007
 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (east-side parking lot)
Inspirational Christmas Message from beloved Elly Mae Clampett from "The Beverly Hillbillies": Donna Douglas
Holiday Entertainment: Gene Shelburne
Special Christmas Music: Keith Brown
 Respond by December 8th to Mrs. Jean Brown at 225-272-3619 or Mrs. Jean Simmons at 225-763-9647.

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, January 10, 2008
 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Room A-143 (westside parking lot)
 "Brainstorming": Join us with your ideas and suggestions!

Bring a widowed friend!
 10915 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, 70815

Please Be In Prayer for Our Churches!

BAGBR churches currently seeking pastors include:

- Bayou Sorrel Baptist
- Broadmoor Baptist
- Brownfields Baptist
- Cedarcrest Baptist
- First Baptist, Central
- First Baptist Deaf, BR
- First Baptist, New Roads
- Florida Blvd. Baptist
- Fordoche Baptist
- Parkside Baptist
- The Church at River Bend

Dr. Rodrick E. Conerly.....Executive Director.....rodody@bagbr.org
 Donald Davis.....Coordinator of Missions & Ministry.....donald@bagbr.org
 Jan Terral.....Administrator of Office Operations.....jan@bagbr.org
 Norma Palma.....Administrative Assistant.....norma@bagbr.org

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