



# Near and Far

A Newsletter for Bienville and Webster-Claiborne Baptist Associations

## PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

Randy R. Hales, Director of Missions



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If you have been following the news feeds, you realize that Southern Baptists have had a lot of negative press lately. Some of that press is deserved and some of the articles are just looking for a reason to malign a Christian organization. As a result, many are questioning their support of the cooperative program and their relationship with Southern Baptists.

I have attended Southern Baptist Churches beginning 9 months before I was born. I was saved, licensed, and ordained in a Southern Baptist church. I started pastoring at 19 and served 4 SBC churches over a 25 year period and now have been a Director of Missions for two associations for 21 years. I have a daughter and son-in-law who serve with the International Mission Board. Like me, both of them received advanced degrees through New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. I say all of this to say that I speak from life experience.

From this background I first want to say I have gratitude for the Southern Baptist Convention. Margaret and I started hanging out together in a Baptist Student Union ministry and dated and served and received our education through Southern Baptist ministries and institutions. This was made possible through gifts made to the Cooperative Program by thousands of Southern Baptist churches, most we will never know or visit. We have lived and are still living a blessed life all because churches have worked together down through the years as Southern Baptists. God used this one organization to shape us and make us what we are today.

Secondly, I want to say that because of the SBC autonomy, that most people don't fully understand, the SBC can easily be abused. Immoral members can bounce from church to church, county to county, state to state, going from church to church and never be held accountable. Since there is no direct connection between church, institutions, and other entities, the bad apples can get lost in the shuffle. Much of our recent controversies have been the result of this. As a convention we are struggling how to speak to this issue to protect innocent people from being abused by those fallen and immoral people. Our very polity sets us up for trauma.

Thirdly, let me say that over my 66 years in Southern Baptist Churches I have seen theological, polity, and social issues rock our Ship. From time to time we have strayed off course. In every instance God spoke through our churches and messengers to bring our Ship back on course. In every instance it was difficult sailing through the storm. As a result, some abandoned the ship while others stayed on board and eventually brought the ship back to port. I believe we are at that point again. I firmly believe God is still in control and no matter how rough the waves will be, God has sailors that will bring the ship back on course.

Fourth, I'm staying with the ship. Too much good has been done and is still being done for me to abandon ship. As long as the ship floats, I plan on doing my part to bring it safely to port.

Fifth, some are using their cooperative program gifts as rudders and oars to get the ship back on course. Churches are designating funds, supporting areas they believe in and removing support from areas that they don't. Because of our autonomy, every church has always been in charge of funding, determining how little or how much and in what ways their funds will be channeled into ministry. Not every church can send messengers to vote at the convention, but every church can and does vote with their funding. Each church prays and votes their convictions with their support of mission causes. On June 30th Dr. Horn with the Louisiana Baptist Convention will meet with us to discuss the Southern Baptist Convention, Cooperative Program giving, and options churches have to give to mission causes. I hope you will come and learn how we can cooperate together to support missions.

*Continued on page 2 . . .*

### Mission Corner

*Camp Harris needs volunteers to paint, clean, and do remodeling projects. Call Camp Harris at 927-3706 for details.*

Go to [www.Harrisbaptist-camp.com](http://www.Harrisbaptist-camp.com) for calendar of events including announcements about monthly fish fry and camp schedules.

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*Louisiana Disaster Relief has a Ukraine project. Call Stan Statham, Disaster Relief Director, at the Baptist Building 800-622-6549.*

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Rolling Hills opened a new Book Store and Coffee House in Ruston. Go by and check out the books and drink a cup of coffee.

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**Thank you to the Men of Courage who recently met at Camp Harris for two nights. A couple of hundred men met and took up an offering for the Camp Harris Roof project. \$32,000 was raised! Thank you for supporting Camp Harris.**

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*BWC Youth Network have big plans. Please check out Facebook and follow BWC Youth Network to keep up with rallies and other events. BWC (Bienville Webster-Claiborne) Youth Network*

Finally let me briefly share how mission support works so you can think about issues and questions to bring to Dr. Horn. The Baptist Association is separate from the Cooperative Program. We receive direct support from our churches. A church has to write us a separate check to finance our work. A church sends a separate gift to the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Approximately 65% of those funds stay in Louisiana supporting church plants and mission education which includes Louisiana Christian College and the Baptist Children's Home. The rest of the funds, approximately 35%, are then forwarded to SBC causes which includes International Missions and North American Missions and our seminaries. Special offerings like Lottie Moon (International Missions), Annie Armstrong (North American Missions), and Georgia Barnette (Louisiana State Missions) by-pass all convention formulas and goes direct to the designated mission field. Churches can designate funds to their local association, LBC, SBC, or to the three mission offerings at whatever amount they desire. The church is totally autonomous determining what happens in its own doors, and also sending messengers to the association, to the LBC, and to the SBC to make decisions. The SBC, LBC, nor the local association can make decisions for the local church. We are not a "top down" structure, just the opposite.

Attend the Southern Baptist Convention if you can. Attend the LBC, and please attend your associational meetings. Come to FBC Gibsland on June 30th and hear Dr. Horn. Pray, participate, and by all means let's work to present Jesus to our lost world.

**Blessings,  
Bro. Randy**



**Harris Board has Gene Gibson acting as the interim director at the camp. You can contact Gene Gibson for reservations and questions about Camp Harris. The camp phone is (318) 927-3706. Email the camp at [info@harrisbaptistcamp.com](mailto:info@harrisbaptistcamp.com)**

**"It's a New Day At Camp Harris"**  
**The Camp Harris Board is requesting you to help us raise \$600,000. Webster-Claiborne and Bienville's share is \$300,000. What can you do? You can lead your church to designate 1% of your undesignated receipts to the Camp Harris Building Fund "It's a New Day at Camp Harris" for the next 3 years. Details can be found at [WCBcenter.com](http://WCBcenter.com). Together we can do this. Individuals can give, churches can give, businesses or organizations can give. Together we can give and build for a new day. Call me if you would like me to come talk with your church or finance committee.**

**Go to [wcbcenter.com](http://wcbcenter.com) and click on It's a New Day at Camp Harris or click on our e-blasts and newsletter tabs to read about the 1% Camp Harris Building Fund Plan.**

## Men Of Courage Regional meeting at Camp Harris.



## BWC Youth Network Spring into Summer!

120 youth gathered on May 22 for hamburgers, games, and worship at Camp Harris. Get your youth group involved with BWC Youth Network!



Ministerial Retirees enjoyed a luncheon and learned about staying healthy in the retirement years from Dr. Fegley. Thank you Bill Crider for leading our group.



**JUNE**

3 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Nursing Mission Trip, Donations Appreciated!! 318-579-3795

3 Pine Grove Fish Fry Mission Fund Raiser 5-8 pm Raising funds for Brazil and Portugal missions

**JUNE**

27 Webster-Claiborne Executive Board 11AM Mission & Ministry Center \*

27 Bienville Executive Board, 6PM Bryceland \*

30 Meeting with Dr. Steve Horn, LBC Director FBC Gibsland 5:30 pm, refreshments, no meal

**\* Associational June meetings will approve budget and nominating committee.**



Consider giving an additional 1% of your offerings to the Camp Harris "It's A New Day" building fund. If we all did this, the total over three years of giving would be \$300,000. Our portion added to the churches in Concord Union Association would be around \$600,000.

To put this in perspective... If for the next three years ... churches or individuals joined together, this could happen.

9 churches would commit to give \$10,800 each, which would be \$3600 a year, \$300 a month, would raise \$97,200.

8 churches would commit to give \$ 8,400 each, which would be \$2800 a year, \$233 a month, would raise \$67,200.

7 churches would commit to give \$ 6,000 each, which would be \$2000 a year, \$165 a month, would raise \$42,000.

13 churches would commit to give \$ 3,600 each, which would be \$1200 a year, \$100 a month, would raise \$46,800.

25 churches would commit to give \$ 1,800 each, which would be \$ 600 a year, \$ 50 a month, would raise \$45,000.

2800 Camp Harris Rd. Minden, LA 71055



Contact Gene Gibson, interim director, to book retreats.

Harris office—318-927-3706

Gene Gibson cell— 318-401-3759

Email

info@harrisbaptistcamp.com

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

We are looking for church teams that would volunteer to help us spruce up Camp Harris. We need cleaners, painters, carpenters, handy men and women! We are attempting to renovate the hotel rooms. We need new beds, mattresses, flooring. We hope that mission teams would adopt a range of rooms to come out to the camp and help us with the process. Call Gene Gibson at 401-3759 or Camp Harris at 927-3706 to discuss our projects. Much work needs to be done, but together we can do

**"Kingdom Builders"**

if interested in using your carpentry skills in ministry.

Call or text Randy Ray 318-312-0884 or email at rray1.ch@gmail.com

June 13-17 The Way Baptist Church, Rosepine, LA

**STAFF NEEDS**

Brother Randy has training materials for Minister-Search Committees.

Please send resumes to the associational office or direct to the church. Also send notices of staff vacancies you want us to announce.

Remember, the Party Trailer is available for your events.. Call the office to reserve at 318-377-3005. Cost is \$25.00



We can help your students participate with other groups and share ideas with youth leaders.

See BWC Youth Network on Facebook for schedules and events.



**Rolling Hills Ministries**

David Abernathy, Director Phone: 318-251-0065, E-mail: rollinghills33@bellsouth.net Website: mmwww.rollinghillsministries.com

Rolling Hills Drop Off Building is located behind our Mission Center. We accept anything except for mattresses. The building has a lock. You can call the number posted on the door 24 hours a day to get the combination. Thank you for your gifts.



**GRANBERRY COUNSELING CENTER**

Help for Today Hope for Tomorrow

A ministry of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries Amy Butler, LPC, LMFT



Missions & Ministry Center 1408 Sibley Rd. Minden, LA 71055 Call 773-5539 for an appointment.



**LA TECH BCM**

Kevin Inman, Director 318 - 255-1982 Cell: 680-0534 801 W Alabama Ave. Ruston, LA 71270

**Randy Ward, Truck-Stop Chaplain**

Bible Distribution 2022



**Bible Distribution**

Love's 245

Dixie Inn 83

Total Bibles 328

If you would like to donate funds for this ministry, call us at the Mission Center.



**Like us on Facebook & Instagram**

We offer free and confidential services in a safe and non-judgmental setting all at no cost to our patients.

We listen and we care.

Services offered: Trained & Licensed Medical Staff, Free Pregnancy Testing, Nurse Consultation, Free Ultrasound, Prenatal Care, Reproductive Loss Recovery, Parenting Classes, Community Referrals, Physician Referrals

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