



Near and Far

A Newsletter for Bienville and Webster-Claiborne Baptist Associations

PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

Randy R. Hales, Director of Missions



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We will have an "Executive Board-Pastors' Conference" on April 25th. Webster-Claiborne Baptist Association will meet April 25th at 11 am at the Mission Center. Bienville Baptist Association will meet April 25th at 6 pm at New Ebenezer, Castor. Both Associations will receive written reports from our mission organizations and will approve future meeting dates. I encourage you to have representatives from your church present. Meals at both.

Rolling Hills, Baptist Student Ministries at Tech, Camp Harris, Granberry Counseling, and our other ministries continue to thrive. I especially ask that you keep **Camp Harris** in your prayers and consider special "over the top" giving to help us during this critical time. We are doing a major overhaul of the camp and will soon be forming a search committee for our future director. Look at the chart on page two of this letter and consider how your church can plug in to our "It's a New Day" Financial Campaign. Bless you for your generosity!

Camp Harris' next **Friday night Fish Fry and Bluegrass Gospel Singing at Camp Harris is APRIL 22**. This is a fun time and a good fish eating time! Come see what is happening at Camp Harris. Consider getting your Sunday School class or other fellowship group together at the fish fry. The venue provides an excellent fellowship time and where else can you get a fish dinner for only \$10 a plate?

I mentioned to you before that Psalm 23 has been my constant companion during my recent surgery and during the recuperation time that has followed. Consider **Psalm 23**. It begins with a testimony of God's care and ends with a testimony of God's care and although sandwiched in between is trouble, the promise that He is near sustains me. *The beginning blessing* ... He lets me lie down in the green grass and leads me beside the quiet waters and he restores my soul. *The middle hints of possible dark times* ... Although our paths may go through a dark valley the Lord is with us. *The end*, He will lead me through those dark times to a banquet table. Even in the presence of my enemies I won't fear, because He is with me to bless me. He will pour goodness and mercy on me throughout my life and I can dwell in his loving presence forever! Sometimes trouble comes, but never lose sight of the blessings that *preceded them* or the *blessings promised to follow them*. Don't despair in the dark times. Don't get mired down or discouraged in the dark valley, instead consider the blessings of the past and consider the promised blessings of the future. *Consider 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond comparison. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal...* We may be living in dark times, but consider this, *God's blessings of the past and the blessings promised in our future testify of God's constant care*. There is "Son" light behind the dark clouds. Let's not tire or become discouraged but faithfully press on to the finish line that God has set before us. (Hebrews 12). Let's walk into the light of a new day trusting the Lord. Let us faithfully share the Gospel with our community and minister in Jesus' name to the hurting. Let's pool our resources and give generously so we can start new missions and reach a lost world.

Easter testifies of life after death, light after darkness! Luke 24:1-6 testifies of the an empty tomb and a risen savior! Let's put the darkness behind us and embrace the light and life of Christ! **Bro. Randy**

Webster Parish Men and Women of Courage events announced. These exciting events have energized and encouraged all who attend.

Women of Courage Louisiana
WEBSTER PARISH
APR 19 6:00 PM
FREE WOMEN'S EVENT

This is an invitation for women from all over the community to come together and worship with us in spirit and truth.

BRING YOUR BIBLE & YOUR FRIENDS!

- WORSHIP SERVICE
- DINNER PROVIDED
- DOOR PRIZES
- CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

Join us at the **MINDEN CIVIC CENTER**
520 Broadway St.
Minden | 71055

SPEAKER
CASSIE HAMMET
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE NEW URBAN MINISTRIES

SCAN ME

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK FOR A FULL LIST OF OUR EVENTS.
fb.com/WomenOfCourageWebsterParish

Men of Courage Louisiana
WEBSTER PARISH
APR 21 6:00 PM
FREE MEN'S EVENT

This is an invitation for men from all over the community to come together and worship with us in spirit and truth.

MANLY MEAL • MANLY MUSIC • MANLY MESSAGE

LIVE MUSIC DOOR PRIZES
MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

Join us at the **MINDEN CIVIC CENTER**
520 Broadway St.
Minden | 71055

SPEAKER
DOYLE ADAMS
PASTOR | ELIZABETH BAPTIST CHURCH

MEN OF COURAGE
is held the 3rd Thursday of every month.

SCAN ME

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK FOR A FULL LIST OF OUR EVENTS.
fb.com/MenOfCourageWebsterParish

Mission Corner

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

Fish Fry and Bluegrass Gospel Singing April 22 at Harris

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

RA Congress April 8-9 at Tall Timbers. Introduce boys to missions and ministry as they learn to work and worship together. Sign up with Tall Timbers 318-445-6797

Retired Ministers and Spouses Fellowship meet April 7th, noon, at FBC Minden.

Pray for Easter Ministry Opportunities *near and far*. Many local churches are having special outreach events. International ministries also do outreach at Easter.

Although I had to cancel our **Portugal Easter Mission Trip** due to Covid and other health concerns, the mission continues. We have sent 4 (50 pound) luggage bags of candy, eggs, crafts, and other materials with other volunteers. There will be several neighborhood Easter egg hunts that provide Gospel sharing opportunities in unchurched communities. Plan on joining me next Easter for a Portugal Mission Trip.



Easter is an opportunity to impact your community. It is also time to emphasize "Annie Armstrong" week of prayer and mission offering.

April

- 4 BWC Youth Network Leadership Meeting, 6PM at the Mission & Ministry Center
- 7 Retired Ministers' Fellowship, noon, FBC Minden
- 19 Webster Parish Women of Courage
- 21 Webster Parish Men of Courage
- 22 Camp Harris Fish Fry 5-7 with Bluegrass Gospel

25 Webster-Claiborne Executive Board Mission Center (11 am lunch meeting following)

25 Bienville Executive Board 6 pm, New Ebenezer

27 Ministry Assistants Meeting, District Eight Baptist Assoc. Natchitoches, La *Affirmed & Encouraged Register @ LouisianaBaptists.org/labma*, call 318-449-4227 Encourage your ministry assistants to attend.



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 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 this!!!

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

"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.



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

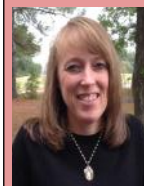
A ministry of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries
Amy Butler, LPC, LMFT

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 149

Dixie Inn 38

Total Bibles 187

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

402 Broadway St., Minden, LA 71055
PO Box 579, Minden, LA 71058-0579
Phone 318-639-0907

Text 318-707-9237

Fax 318-299-3823

Email: info@nwlpc.org

SeedsWomensCenter.com

Baptist Association Emphasis & Week of Prayer is May 17-May 22
*** Please take time in May to reflect and pray for Associational Ministries**

Reflections



Randy & Margaret Hales

from your Director of Missions

Webster-Claiborne and Bienville Associations are composed of 62 churches and missions and ministries committed to reaching our world for Christ. The Great Commission appearing below, taken from Matthew 28:18-20, provides our orders. We seek to obey our Lord's command thus introducing our world to Jesus Christ

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 NIV

Our churches are both different and the same.

While one church is found at the end of a beautiful, winding, country lane, another is found on main street in the center of town. Some are small, others large. Some are filled with "city-folk", the others filled with "country-folk". Although different in many ways, they are all committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and seek to bring our world to Him.

Thirty-six churches in Webster and Claiborne parishes form the Webster-Claiborne Association. Twenty-six churches and missions in Bienville parish form the Bienville Association. While these two associations have their own officers and ministries, they also share many cooperative ministries as well. The common thread that brings these churches together is our Cooperative Spirit and Support of Missions. Most of our churches give through the Cooperative Program, a voluntary giving program in which Southern Baptist Churches combine their strengths to support mission causes around the world. Together these churches support missions in Louisiana, North America, and through the International Mission Board. These churches also give to Webster-Claiborne and Bienville Associations to support parish wide education and ministry.

Our two associations support several core ministries including Rolling Hills Disaster Relief and Thrift Stores, Student work through Louisiana Tech Baptist Collegiate Ministry in Ruston, Camp Harris Retreat Center, Granberry Counseling Center, and Truck-Stop Bible Distribution. We also provide training and development of parish wide ministry opportunities including student events, family ministries, organizing short-term mission trips nationally as well as internationally, church and community training, and provide resources to do outreach and ministry events. We help plant new missions and churches and ministries. We have planted various ethnic and language ministries and churches. We are currently planting a mission church in Bienville Parish.

Our belief is that we are stronger together than apart. We can combine resources to do big things that no single church could do on its own. Our associations provide identity, fellowship, encouragement, purpose, accountability, and service. By associating with other churches, we understand better the Great Commission to go into *all the world* and better understand *John 3:16 that God so loved the world...* Our associations keep us from becoming narrowly focused only seeing our immediate locale without realizing the whole world is before us and it is our mission to reach it.

We desire to serve God in an ever expanding realm of ministry. We ask that God blesses our work and invigorates us through the power of His Holy Spirit. I ask that you join us in our mission to lift Jesus up in our world. We can do more together than alone.

Go to www.wcbcenter.com to read recent newsletters and to keep up with up to date news and reports.

God bless,

Bro. Randy

**** Use this newsletter as a prayer guide to pray for our associational ministries. Pray for the Director and leaders of each ministry. Pray for a new vision, new energy, a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit. Pray for open doors. Pray that our work can expand and pray that Satan be bound and obstacles removed. May 17-May 22, pray for your association.***