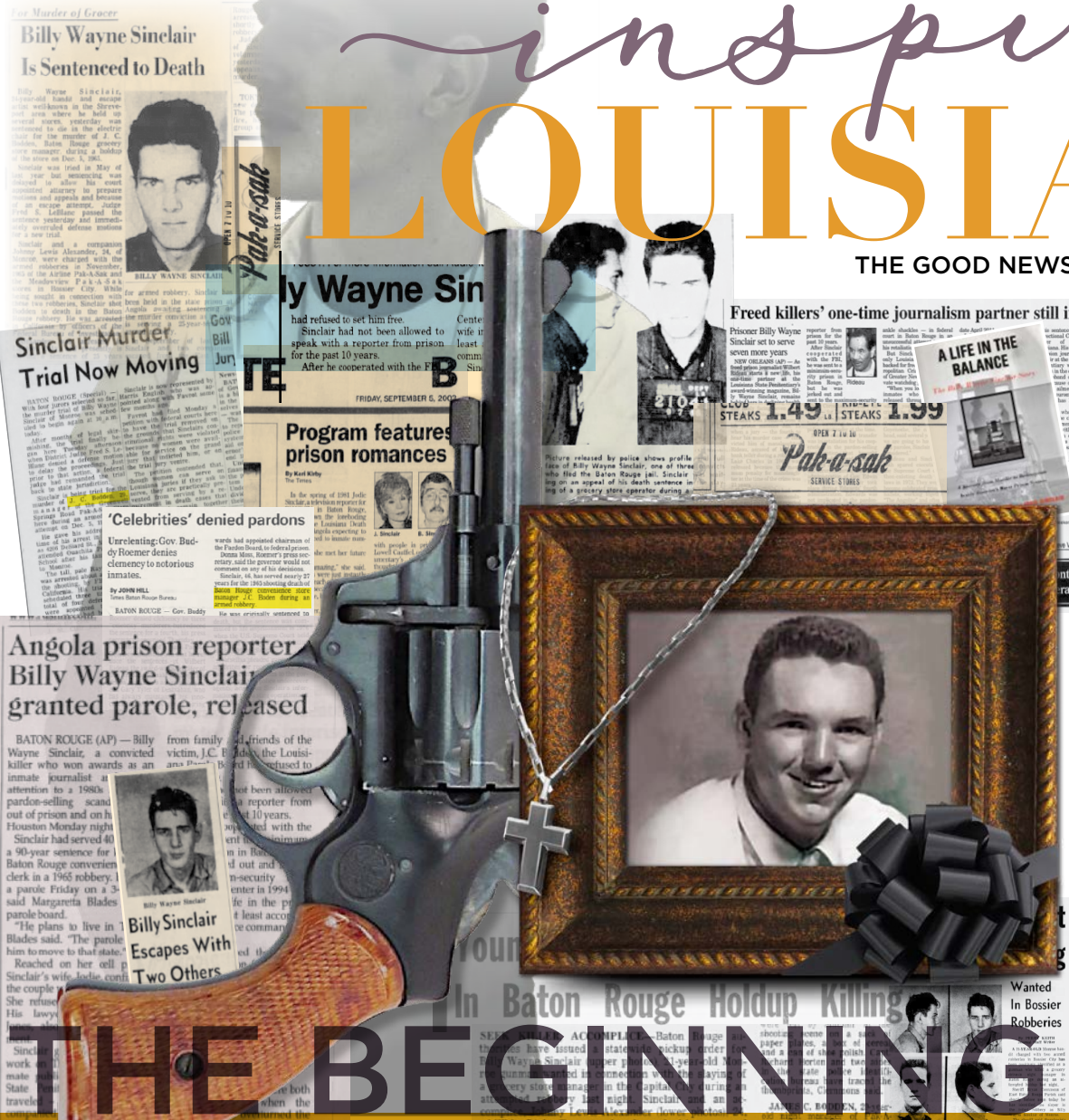


# inspire LOUISIANA

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THE GOOD NEWS PUBLICATION OF LOUISIANA



## Live Oak Church Leaves The United Methodist Denomination Over LGBTQ Issue

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

It was horse and buggy days for sure when some residents of what is now the Watson community in northern Livingston parish began to organize a church around the tenets of the Methodist Church. Some historical accounts indicate that the church that became known as Live Oak Methodist existed before the Civil War. Apparently, the church building was burned during the war and was rebuilt through the efforts of at least five men, Newsom, Jones, Nesom, Easterly, and Chandler. The official property records pertaining to the church date from 1884.

However, a lot of dissatisfaction with the direction and focus of the United Methodist Church denomination began at least a decade ago by some church members and congregations. On October 30, 2022, the Live Oak Methodist Church members by an overwhelming majority (9 to one in favor) voted to leave the denomination over same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ clergy. 40 other Methodist Congregations in Louisiana also voted to disassociate themselves from the United Methodist denomination.

"We are beyond thankful and humbled by the immense support of countless believers and churches that have stood with our congregation this weekend through prayer," the Live Oak Church stated publicly at the time of the vote. Their executive pastor, David Orges, was quoted as saying:

"It's been a really huge process. It's been on the horizon for the denomination for about a decade. Over the last two years, leaders in our church began speaking with its 45 member administrative board about the possibility of leaving the United Methodist denomination. Over the course of many meetings with church members on the issue, back in April, we decided it would be in the best interest of our church to disaffiliate."

Pastor Orges also added: "Anytime something comes up that does not support what the Bible teaches, we've committed to saying that this is a sin. Jesus has paid for all our sins. We try to help people in those situations to be in the right relationship with God."

The Live Oak Church in Watson, 2,800 members strong has no plans to join any other denomination according to a church letter mailed to its members. Live Oak Church is a very active church with almost daily activities for its members including extensive Bible teaching.



# THE BEGINNING

## of the SENSELESS KILLINGS in Baton Rouge

By Don Fontenot

As a resident of Baton Rouge since birth, I have very fond memories of my childhood and beyond, growing up in the southern small town atmosphere of Louisiana's capitol city. I am one of a shrinking number of native citizens of this town that remembers "the good old days" when we could walk the streets "downtown" or in the suburbs without fear of danger or harm.

In the late 50's our family moved into a brand new home built especially for us in the new subdivision of Broadmoor at the crossroads of Airline highway and Florida Street connected by the traffic circle, similar to our current "roundabouts". The new neighborhood was in the infancy stage of development and overflowing with an abundance of wooded land to roam and explore.

It wasn't until my late teen years that the reality of violence exploded into my life. I was on my way back to Southeastern Louisiana College in Hammond in my freshman year (the college didn't achieve university status until 1970), just a couple of weeks before Christmas when I heard a bulletin on station WLCS on my car radio. In those days I held a part-time job with Pak-A-Sak convenience stores (21 locations at that time) and had just visited with J.C. Boden, the manager of the store on Greenwell Springs Road in Baton Rouge.

The radio announcement on WLCS blared out the news of an armed robbery at the store I was at minutes before and that the manager of the store had been shot. I immediately turned around and headed back to the store and when I arrived, I witnessed the traumatic scene of my friend's lifeless body lying on the curb of the parking lot. The incident was the first convenience store murder in the city of Baton Rouge. So went my first real life

experience of the violence which is now running rampant in our city.

Now, as we are rapidly approaching award-winning status on the national murder-rate charts, where do we go from here? I say we are at the "but God" stage of the dreadfully unsuccessful attempts of our leaders to curtail our frightening rise to number one status. As a born again Christian, I have learned the hard way, to seek the wisdom of my Father in heaven when I face hard times in my life.

Jesus Himself said that He consulted His Father before He made any major decisions. Brothers and sisters...we are there. This crisis cannot be defeated without God's intervention. 2nd Chronicles 7:14 says that the Lord appeared to Solomon and said to him "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Our leaders and our citizens must humble ourselves and admit that we can't do this without God. Proverbs 16:18 declares "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." My friends, our leaders are not going to find the answer until they admit that, just as the leaders that founded our country did, by seeking the help of God.

Instead of seeking the help of so-called "experts" out of state, we have access to the king of experts Jesus Christ! WWJD! What would Jesus do? He would honor His Father's promise. He would gather ALL Christians together and do what 2ND Chronicles says and God will hear our prayers. If all Christian church members would swallow

# Andy Pierce – the Singing Pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church



By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

“I found out very quick the big difference in being the worship leader/music minister in a church and being the pastor,” Pastor Andy Pierce of Immanuel Baptist Church in Central told InspireLa. “My ministry career started behind a microphone when I was barely a teenager back in Crossett, Arkansas singing hymns and songs of praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

“I knew early on in life that I wanted to sing and play church music soon after my parents bought me a Silvertone guitar. We lived in Crossett, Arkansas, a small southeast Arkansas town in the Piney Woods near the Louisiana line. There was a big Georgia-Pacific paper mill in town and that was where most people worked including my dad.”

“In those days, life pretty much evolved around our families, our church, and our school,” Pastor Andy pointed out. “We had a very active church in Crossett with plenty of services each week, church dinners, revivals, and church camps. In fact, our church had to have two services on Sunday morning to accommodate those attending.”

“There was a sizable wave of young men accepting the call of the ministry between 1973 and 1982 in the Crossett area like never before or since. It was a grand time to be young and growing up. We had plenty of people in town who were faithful Christian believers and set good examples for us to follow. I accepted my call to Music Ministry when I was 17 years old. After high school, I chose to attend Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas to study voice and music ministry.”

“Fast forward fifty years from those growing up years and its a whole new world,” Pastor Andy elaborated. “Drugs, alcohol, gambling, divorce, broken homes and pornography are for the most part are now accepted as just part of life. Nothing could be further from the truth in Christ’s kingdom. The church in general has been pushed to the edge of Satan’s abyss.”

“Another factor that was very much part of our culture back in my Crossett years was the concept of

starting to work as soon as you were old enough. I and most of my friends started working during our high school years at either the Georgia-Pacific mill or doing construction. Even during my four years at Ouachita Baptist, I continued to work weekends at the Paper Mill on the Brown Bag Machine and lead music at local churches.”

Pastor Andy’s Music Ministry took him from Crossett to Ouachita Baptist to Junction City, Arkansas then after graduation to lead the music team in Sterlington, Louisiana north of Monroe. In 1981, Pastor Andy married Laurie and they have two girls, Wendy and Whitney. Pastor Andy’s first stop in the Baton Rouge area was at Laurel Lea Baptist which is now New Light Baptist.

“I was at New Light Baptist for 11 years before I moved out to Comite Baptist on Greenwell Springs Road where I spent 14 great years with Brother Bubba Dale Phillips,” Pastor Andy stated in relating his previous church ministries in the Baton Rouge area. “I’ve been here at Immanuel now for nearly fourteen years.”

“I came as a music minister but then was asked to step up as a full time pastor. I didn’t have any actual training as a pastor except as being part of the Church ministry team. About three years before I was asked to step up as pastor here at Immanuel, I had gotten the desire to study the Bible more in depth, read more commentaries and text books about being a pastor. So, although I didn’t realize it at the time, I had began preparing to become a pastor just at the right time in my life.”

Pastor Andy is not exactly your typical pastor with a seminary degree. His favorite hobby is also a little bit out of the ordinary for a Clergyman. Pastor Andy immensely enjoys riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

“I had made some long over the road bike rides before, but in 2020, a friend and I decided to trailer our bikes and go to the big Sturgis, South Dakota

Motorcycle Rally,” Pastor Andy recalled. “On the way up there, I began to feel a little out of sorts. I thought it was a sinus problem or a head cold. I was able to ride on the first day at Sturgis although I wasn’t feeling very well.”

“The next morning I had to admit that I was sick with fever and chills although the outside temperature was 89 degrees. So I went to the local Medical Clinic where I was diagnosed with COVID 19. They didn’t give me any medicine but told me to isolate for the next three days which I did in the cabin we had rented. But I didn’t improve but slowly got worst. On the way back home, by the time we got to Oklahoma City I had to go to the ER Room.”

“We were in a real quandary because I was on the verge of having pneumonia along with Covid and we were a long way from home. We decided to go to my sister-in-laws in Dallas. By the time I got admitted to the Mansfield Methodist hospital I was medically in a real serious condition. For the next 11 days, I didn’t know anything and was basically in and out of a coma. I was isolated as my wife or no one else could get in to see me. My only communication with the outside world was through SKYPE calls with my family.”

“I was on a ventilator for several days,” Pastor Andy said in recalling his COVID 19 experience. “I was extremely sick and medically wasn’t expected to recover. But praise be to God, I did recover. I lost 25 pounds although I never lost my sense of taste or smell. By getting off sugars completely for awhile actually helped me get my diabetes under control.”

“It took several months before I had the lung capacity to sing more than one song in a set. I’m not sure that I’ve got 100% lung capacity back even after a year and half of recovery. Although, I didn’t plan on becoming a pastor, I am really enjoying being a pastor, especially the teaching part. I like to take one book of the Bible and go through it, teaching verse by verse. I do realize that God has me exactly where I am supposed to be.”

# Jambalaya Shoppes were an Inspired Answer to Prayers says Cheryl Fontenot



**Cheryl Kernan Fontenot founder and CEO of 17 chain Jambalaya Shoppe Restaurant Chain**

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

**B**ack in the late 1980's, my husband, Stefan, and I were having severe financial problems due to the huge downturn in the oil industry in Louisiana," Cheryl Fontenot, founder and CEO of the Jambalaya Shoppes, a seventeen restaurant chain headquartered in Gonzales told InspireLa. "We had both worked in the finance industry for many years and at the time had our own finance company in Gonzales."

"But with the downturn in the oil industry, our customer base was not what it needed to be plus a major problem was for us to get the funds from major lenders to make our loans. We had to sell out to another company at a loss and then go find a job. But no jobs were available with any other lenders in the area so I started cleaning houses in Gonzales and Baton Rouge. Stefan started selling cars."

"It was some very tough times for us because we had five kids and had lost our house and were renting," Cheryl recalled. "I was doing a lot of praying. In fact I was praying almost constantly as I was cleaning houses and driving from job to job and then back home."

"I finally reached the point of where I couldn't handle the work load and take good care of my five kids. One afternoon I was laying on my bed praying. I remember specifically praying, 'Lord I trust you completely but what are we going to do?' Then the word Jambalaya came into my mind. At first I thought it meant that I wanted to eat a big meal of Jambalaya but the word stayed in my mind as I continued to pray day by day."

"So I finally realized that God was telling me that to solve our financial problems, we should open a Jambalaya Restaurant," Cheryl, the CEO of the Jambalaya operation said in elaborating on the very beginning of the restaurant chain. "Even though I thought it was a wild idea because we had no money nor credit or experience in the food industry, I finally told my husband that I thought we should open a Jambalaya Shoppe"

"Stefan was amazed at my idea," Cheryl remembered. "The first thing that he said was, 'Do you realize what you are saying. Here we are in Gonzales, Louisiana the Jambalaya Capitol of the world and you are talking about opening a Jambalaya Restaurant. If people in Gonzales want Jambalaya, they are going to cook it at home. No body will come to our restaurant to buy Jambalaya when they can fix it at home."

"After I told my husband about all my praying about our financial problems and it seemed that after every

prayer Jambalaya came to the forefront of my mind, Stefan begin to warm up to the idea of opening a Jambalaya Shoppe although we were ill prepared to do so. We began to look for a location and found an old donut shop that was vacant."

"However, the previous owner who had moved his Donuts shop to a new location still had the building we wanted leased," Cheryl pointed out the first big obstacle they overcame. "He didn't want to lease it to unless we promised that we were not going to do donuts in shape form or fashion. We were able to make a \$2,500 loan each at two different finance companies we knew in Gonzales so we barely had the money to open the doors and stock our kitchen."

"One of the Champion Jambalaya Chefs in Gonzales was a friend of ours so he helped us learn how to make good Jambalaya and potato salad," Cheryl said in recalling the days of the startup operation. "We opened the doors for business not expecting to have many customers but then they began pouring in for lunch and dinner and haven't slowed down over the years."

"I would have been amazed at our instant success with the Jambalaya Shoppe except I remembered who first told me to open a Jambalaya Shoppe. Nothing is impossible with my God, especially opening up a little Jambalaya Shoppe and providing us with overflowing customer for 25 years."

**WRITERS NOTE:** Cheryl Fontenot at her lowest point of difficulty in life employed the concept of PUSH...Pray Until Something Happen. Because of her prayers and obedience to her master, she was able to take care of her five kids as they grew up and are now most are associated with the Jambalaya Shoppe. Even some of her grand-kids are involved with the Jambalaya Shoppes giving them a great place to work and earn a good income so they can take care of their families without having to go through the difficult times their grandparents endured.

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**Dennis Aucoin, Charter Member of Dixie Business Center Board of Directors and his wife, Rachael**

## Dixie Business Center In Denham Springs Celebrates 30 Years Of Economic Development

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

**D**ixie Business Center opened their Dixie Business Development Center in 1992 under the direction of Henry Locklear who was CEO of DEMCO at the time. It was founded as part of a regional response to the economic downturn in the late 1980's in the oil industry.

"The concept came to the board of directors at DEMCO through Henry Locklear, a man of great courage," DBDC Executive Director John Ware told those assembled in late fall 2022 to celebrate their 30 year milestone. Those in attendance included Dennis Aucoin and his wife Rachael. Dennis is the only remaining DBDC Charter Board member still active.

"I was only in my early 30's when I was approached by DEMCO to become part of the Development Center," Aucoin explained. "To develop an incubator for entrepreneurs wanting to start companies made sense to me, so I jumped at the chance to be part of the team. In fact, I was quite honored to be asked to join such a well known group of businessmen."

At that time of being asked to join the Board of DBDC, Aucoin was in the beginning stages of establishing his logging business headquartered in Clinton. At the time, Aucoin did not have any formal education behind a high school diploma. Later, Aucoin was able to attend an 18 month Executive Training Program with LSU Ag Center which culminated in an overseas trip.

"One of my first jobs at 19 was shoveling out stalls at an auction barn in Baton Rouge," Aucoin noted. "From there I went to work with my Uncle that was married to my mother's sister in the logging woods. I started out as a saw hand, then a skidder driver and bull dozer operator then was trusted to operate the log loader loading trucks to go to the mills with logs. I guess I reached my rightful skill in the logging woods when I became a log loader because I still operate the log loader when my crew is short handed."

For the entrepreneurs coming through the DBDC in the last thirty years, Aucoin was always a guiding light for success because of his own success in not only logging but other business endeavors. Aucoin



**Dennis Aucoin (on right) in Mexico on January 27 giving lessons on how real Cajuns Duck hunt.**

is a stockholder in Landmark Bank, is a member of their Board of Directors and heads up the Landmark Loan Approval Committee. Aucoin has invested in his industry by becoming a land owners with many acres in planted in pine trees.

In addition, Aucoin has been honored by his peers in the logging and forest industry by being selected as outstanding Logger in Louisiana and as member of the La Forestry Association. Aucoin also served a term as president of the Louisiana Loggers Association and as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Loggers Association.

But perhaps his greatest accomplishment in the logging and forest industry was becoming a member of the Southern Loggers Cooperative (SLC). The SLC, now operating in more than a dozen states was once a figment of imagination of a fellow logger and friend of Aucoin's, Travis Taylor in Winn Parish. The concept of the SLC was for loggers to band together to purchase products they used regularly such as diesel, oil, and grease for their equipment.

Thanks in a large measure to Aucoin's business savvy and leadership during SLC formative years, SLC surpassed \$100 million in 2022.

"When I joined the DBDC 30 years ago, the Boards thoughts were focused on faith, family and community

service in that order which is still true today," Aucoin pointed out. "We know that the Lord has blessed our endeavors mightily as we have tried to help get businesses started that produced good jobs for people in the area."

"I have gotten quite a business education just being part of DBDC and seeing how good business development really works," Aucoin stated. "There have been a great number of real businessmen that I have been able to learn from as a member of the DBDC."

"All the operations of DEMCO and DBDC are just like a big happy family," Aucoin said. "For the guys and Ladies who have been part of DBDC over the years who have gone on, we miss and honor them for their contributions."

DBDC John Ware warmly made note of many who have been part of DEMCO and DBDC over the years. "Its a family atmosphere and focus and we're proud of our successes. We've never had much problem attracting entrepreneurs to our business incubator and are usually operating close to capacity."

The DBDC business incubator began in 1992 with 8,000 feet of space. In 1999, a new 23,000 square foot facility opened. In December of 2001, the DBDC completed building 2 with 19,000 square foot.

# The Power Of Prayer

*'Interceding with Heaven to Get America Back on Track'*

By Hawley Wolfe

America is veering off track. Everybody is worried. Even the depoliticized' and 'neutrals' among us—those who are sick of politics and want to scream or walk out of the room whenever the subject comes up—even we have to admit that things are not as they should be, in our great country. And, the problem with a runaway train is that some time there will be a crash, and innocent people are going to get hurt. No one wants that to happen. So, as much as we may want to avoid the third-rail topic of 'politics,' something still needs to be done. But what?

To (mis)quote a classic line: 'Don't just do something, stand there!' Stand still, and pray! The saints of the Bible never did anything without prayer. Moses prayed, and the sea parted for Israel to cross over on dry land. Elijah prayed, and fire came down from heaven, devouring the sacrifice on Mt. Carmel. Jesus prayed, and Lazarus rose from the dead. Real estate people say there are three things to remember: 'Location, location, location.' Christian believers if they are looking for spiritual awakening in America—also need to know that there are three things to remember: 'Prayer, prayer, prayer.' Pray regularly, pray often, pray aloud, pray silently, pray by yourself, pray with others, pray over the phone, pray by text or email, pray while walking the dog, pray while driving (carefully, with both hands on the steering wheel!), pray at church, pray at home, pray when you get up, pray in the shower, pray when you eat a meal, pray when you wash the dishes, pray when you go to bed at night. Just pray!

We mentioned Jesus' healing of Lazarus at Bethany. It is the Gospel of John, chapter 11. Jesus weeps when he comes to Bethany and learns that his friend Lazarus has already died of his illness, and has been buried in his grave for four days. Jesus commands Lazarus' sister Martha to remove the stone from the tomb, but Martha (ever the practical one) objects, because there is sure to be a stink. Then Jesus prays, and talks to God. First, he calls God 'Father.' Our God is indeed our heavenly Father, and He loves to hear from His children: He is always poised, ready to hear and to provide. We don't have to shout and beg, and worry that God is too busy to hear us.

Then Jesus says, 'I thank you.' Prayer should always start with praise and thanksgiving. God has been incredibly generous to Louisiana, and to America! Yes, we have issues and troubles. But, the starting point is to be grateful for what God has done, before we start asking Him to do more. I would even go so far as to say we have no right even to ask for new things, unless we have fulfilled our obligation of gratitude first.

Jesus then says, 'I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.' Sometimes people say grace before a meal at home, but they won't say grace in a restaurant: 'it's too public; my family might be embarrassed.' Jesus shows us that prayer is a public witness to the world. We should never be ashamed of the gospel, nor hide our candle under a bushel basket. When we get to heaven, do we want Jesus to be ashamed of us? Pray, and tell others that you are praying, and let them see you praying.

Finally, when Jesus is 'all prayed up,' and has asked the Father for help, he commands boldly: 'Lazarus, come out!' The two sisters Mary and Martha must have been shocked (even horrified) at the audacity of his words. But, when we have prayed hard, and have committed the outcome wholly to God, what else can we do but expect God to act and to do what God always does? In other words, we must now trust God to provide, supernaturally, for His beloved children. We must confidently claim the answer to the prayer. When we have prayed, we must do something that proves we believe what we have just said. Otherwise, prayer is just a beautiful corpse: nice-looking, but still dead. Prayer is always followed by action.

On May 12, 2015, Michael Ecuyer was praying in an office in Baton Rouge, with some brothers in Christ. The group was praying for renewal and revival in Louisiana, and so they had laid out a map of the state on a table in the room. They then laid hands on the map and began praying aloud together, beseeching God for the mercy of His Holy Spirit to fall upon the people of Louisiana. Suddenly, Michael had a supernatural vision: a 'wall of fire.' A verse from the Bible sprang to his mind. The verse was from Zachariah 2:5, and it says 'For I will be to her (Jerusalem) a wall of fire about her, says the Lord, and I will be glory within her.' God's 'wall of fire' will protect the people of Louisiana from harm, and will also spring up as a holy fire of Spirit-Life within us.

What Michael Ecuyer and his friends were doing that day, is one way of making your prayers more tangible, more 'real.' You, too, can lay out a map of Louisiana, or a map of the US, out on the table, and lay hands on it and pray for renewal. Pray parish by parish, or state by state, if that is possible for you. Or prayer walk. Walk around a neighborhood, or strip mall, or public park: march around it, like Joshua and the Israelites marched around the walls of Jericho. Pray that walls of pride and fear and temptation will all come crashing down!

Remember, unbelievers may oppose us, or mock us or criticize us, but there is one weapon of the Christian that they are absolutely helpless against. They cannot resist our prayers! To sum up, there's no bad way to pray. Just do it. Q: What are the three most important things in renewing our nation? A: 'Prayer, prayer, prayer.'

## UNINVITED GUEST

By Pastor Melanie Groce



In the book of John, chapter 8 verse 32 we read: "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free!" What if you haven't been taught His truth? The truth being that Christians can need deliverance

Because you see as we journey through life as Believer or as a sinner there are doors that we open – sometimes willfully and sometimes ignorantly. Imagine leaving the front door of your house open and watching all the unwanted guest come in. Even though you didn't send them an invitation here they come.... because the door is open. The same is with us.

Because you see as we journey through life as Believer or as a sinner there are doors that we open – sometimes willfully and sometimes ignorantly. Imagine leaving the front door of your house open and watching all the unwanted guest come in. Even though you didn't send them an invitation here they come.... because the door is open. The same is with us.

If we have open doors in our lives (meaning areas of our life that aren't submitted to Christ then we can have uninvited guest. Think about an area in your life that you have tried all your best efforts to get under control or change. Maybe it's anger to the point of that you throw things or punch things or lust that you hate, but can't help fall prey to.

It might be an addiction to something and you know the Lord is not pleased, but despite all the prayer and fasting, and scripture reading, it's still there. Chances are you have an uninvited guest in your life. Many of the American Christian Churches have been taught that Christians cannot be influenced by demons, however, much of Jesus' ministry doing deliverance in the church to Believers.

Mark 1:39 says: "And He preached in their synagogues throughout all of Galilee and cast out devils." My question to you today is this, "Where have all the demons gone?" Everywhere Jesus went, He was casting out demons. Perhaps, we've been incorrectly indoctrinated which Satan would love because in that case he could stay hidden and at work while meanwhile we are blaming our flesh, or our spouse, or this or that when it's actually a spirit at work that needs to be cast out.

While we are humans beings we also have a spirit and are surrounded by the spirit realm. It's time we stop diagnosing things in the natural and start getting to the root of our problems. Deliverance is "the children's bread (Mathew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30) which means it is for God's own children; purchased by the blood of Jesus therefore a distinction is made as to who qualifies. It is for Believers.

John 8:36 reads: "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed!" Are you free today as you read this? Victorious living is available, but seldom lived. Jesus desires victory for you. He came to set the captives free!

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State Treasurer John Schroder with Inspire Louisiana Publisher J. R. Skains

## LA State Treasurer John Schroder has his Focus on the People of Louisiana

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com



When I was serving in the La House of Representatives, I saw time and again money that rightfully belonged to individuals or businesses in Louisiana swept up in the budget crunches into the General Fund," State Treasurer John Schroder told InspireLa. "This was not money that belonged to the state of Louisiana but to individuals and businesses that had become lost in the system basically unclaimed property."

"For whatever reason, whether it was refunds owed or over payment of fees by individuals and businesses, deposits or lost accounts, the money did not belong to the State Treasury but the individuals and should be returned if at all possible," Schroder explained. "This issue of surplus money of individuals, unclaimed property, held by the State of Louisiana was one of the reasons I ran for State Treasurer."

John Schroder, former State Representative in District 77 in St. Tammany parish has made good on his promise to return unclaimed property to its rightful owners to the tune of \$705,644,950 (three quarters of a billion dollars). Schroder's Louisiana Department of Treasury hosted a "Unclaimed Property Seminar" for compliance personnel on September 1, 2022.

Schroder was born and raised in the New Orleans area but based his business career which involved construction and property development in Covington on the Northshore. Schroder did not begin his political career until age 47 in 2008 when he ran for and was elected State Representative.

"My wife Ellie and I had successful businesses but I felt the call to do public service but in the right way," Schroder pointed out. "I knew that doing public service as an elected State Representative involved being away from home a lot so we waited until our children were grown before I made the decision to run for office."

After ten years as a State Representative, Schroder resigned his office in 2008 to seek the office of State Treasurer after then State Treasurer John Kennedy was elected to the U.S. Senate. "I did not think it right to hold one elected office while seeking election to another office."

The Times-Picayune in New Orleans noted his candidacy in 2017 by saying: "I am 'all in' for the people of this great state and am fully committed to running for treasurer of all the people of Louisiana," Schroder said in a statement. "I hope I am able to look back at my time here (as a State Representative) and say that I chose the needs of the people of this state and my district over the wants of special interests and politics."

Since taking office as State Treasurer, John Schroder has been very active in pursuing what he believes is the best interest of the people of Louisiana. Not only bringing the issue of "Unclaimed Property" to the forefront and developing a simple system for the people of Louisiana to claim their property but also he has been in the forefront on another issue confronting the people of Louisiana.

"I as the Treasurer of the State of Louisiana will not do business with any company that wants to take jobs away from our hardworking Louisiana citizens," Treasurer Schroder stated in discussing his decision to withdraw \$800 million State investment funds from the gigantic Black Rock Investment company over their policy of ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance).

Political activist use ESG tactics as a way to drive a progressive socialist ideological agenda with allies in the business community to help push their agenda

through coercion and ignoring democratic processes. Treasurer Schroder has appeared on the "Tucker Carlson Show" on Fox News to discuss his actions in standing firm against the ESG movement.

Schroder's complete timeline of activities regarding his push back against the ESG movement began soon after he took office in April of 2018. As to date his timeline of major PR actions concerning the ESG numbers seventeen and details can be found on his website.

John Schroder obtained a degree in Criminal Justice from Southeastern University in Hammond. Schroder is also a military veteran and was a "special military agent" in military law enforcement activities. Schroder proudly displays his three Law Enforcement Patches" in his State Treasurer's office at the State Capitol.

Despite Schroder's political career and longtime business career, he has always found time to engage in his lifelong spiritual faith journey. Schroder is a regular attendee at the Montessori Manresa Retreat Center in Convent, Louisiana down on the Mississippi River north of New Orleans.

To see if you have any "unclaimed property" that is available to you through the State Treasurer's office, go to the website of the State Treasurer.

On January 9, State Treasurer John Schroder announced that he would be a candidate for Governor in the 2023 Louisiana election.

# Louisiana Turns to Tourism to Jump Start Economy After Covid During Economic Turmoil

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

**U**nder the direction of Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nunguesser, the 54th Lt. Governor of the State, one section of the Louisiana economy has gained widespread attention after the Covid 19 Pandemic wrecked havoc on most traditional businesses.

"I thought that the wonderful natural resources that we have in what makes Louisiana so unique in culture and history was a great way to jump start our economy after suffering through the Pandemic in 2020 and 2021," the Lt. Governor told InspireLa. "Before the Covid Pandemic, over 53 million tourist were visiting the state of Louisiana."

"Our first step to get our tourist economy humming was to focus on our great State Park System as a safe and enjoyable place to visit," Lt. Governor Nunguesser explained. "Secondly, we began to work more closely with the numerous Fairs and Festivals that are held each year across our great state. The one big challenge that most all faced was limited budgets for advertising and promotion. That's where our Office of Tourism under the Lt. Governors Office stepped in to help."

"We have seen great successes in both arena's as people both from instate and out of state have been visiting our State Parks in record numbers. Almost half of our State Parks are paying for themselves through fees and on-site spending generated by visitors.

We have seen very large turnouts for our fairs and festivals after we began to help each one with promotion and publicity."

"Two things that I am exceptionally proud of accomplishing which are first for the State of Louisiana is that we had a big float featuring an alligator in the Macy's Thanksgiving parade in New York," Lt. Governor Nunguesser said with pride. "We also have a float featuring an old Mississippi River boat in the Rose Bowl parade in Pasadena , California all decked out in greenery and roses."

"Another thing that is dear to my heart is establishing regularly scheduled River Boat cruise on the Mississippi river. We are making a lot of progress on making River Cruises on the Mississippi a reality similar to the Viking Cruises on the rivers in Europe.

We have a lot of things to show people in Louisiana and on up river. The Cruise ships will be operated out of New Orleans."

"My office is also making big effort to clean up the litter and keep it cleaned up as more and more visitors come to Louisiana. When you really think about it, Louisiana is just one big ATTRACTION with our people, our unique food, and music galore of all genres," Nunguesser said in conclusion.



Louisiana Lt. Governor Bill Nunguesser

Photos: LouisianaTravel.com

## GOD LOVES LOUISIANA: 'Our State's Glorious Miracle-History'

By Hawley Wolfe

**G**od loves Louisiana. Did you know that? Louisiana is lavishly blessed with water, wildlife, and wealth. There are oysters, shrimp, and crawdads in abundance. There is mineral wealth—petroleum, salt, sulfur. There are our wonderful watery trade arteries—the mighty Mississippi River, and of course our sprawling Gulf Coast ports. There is the 'largesse of the land': sugar, cotton, rice, pecans, onions, sweet potatoes, and everything else you can think of, 'springing up' in God's 'Garden of Eden on the Bayou'. And then, there is that wonderful gumbo of peoples and cultures that makes our cuisine, our music, and our festivals the very envy of the world! Mississippi River, and of course our sprawling Gulf Coast ports. There is the 'largesse of the land': sugar, cotton, rice, pecans, onions, sweet potatoes, and everything else you can think of, 'springing up' in God's 'Garden of Eden on the Bayou'. And then, there is that wonderful gumbo of peoples and cultures that makes our cuisine, our music, and our festivals the very envy of the world!

Yes, God loves Louisiana! And God loves the people of Louisiana. (To be sure, there are some hurricanes once in a while, but God can't make it too much like heaven, or the real heaven won't even seem worth thinking about!)

God's hand is on the people of Louisiana spiritually, as well. The Holy Spirit has marked out the State of Louisiana as a crucial linchpin of His plan for the renewing of America.

In 1995, megachurch pastor Paul Yonggi Cho of Seoul, South Korea, came to preach at a large renewal event at Brownsville, Florida. God gave Cho a prophecy, saying, "This renewal will move to the Mouth of the River. Where is the Mouth of the River, if not the Mississippi River delta of Louisiana?"

In 1999, Todd Trahan of Cecilia, Louisiana, went on a trip to the Holy Land. The tour took him to the Wadi-Rum desert in Jordan, the so-called 'Valley of the Moon,' with its striking granite formation 'The Seven Pillars of Wisdom.' Just as his group was praying, an earthquake struck, and the ground trembled beneath their feet. 'Everyone was speechless. The Holy Spirit spoke to my heart. Firstly, I tell you that I will shake the earth! Lastly, I tell you to go home, and to believe me for great things for Louisiana.'

Pastor Kim Voisin of Bourg, Louisiana, reported a supernatural prophecy that "The Sun shall rise in the South.' The sun rising in the south is, of course, a scientific impossibility. The sun always rises in the east, not the south. The universal interpretation of this prophecy is that the spiritual renewal of America may not arise from the northern, eastern, western, or central parts of the nation, but rather from the south. Louisiana is at the heart of the South, positioned at the center of the south's Gulf Coast. It is Louisiana's joy and privilege—no, it is Louisiana's duty—to be ready to become a free conduit for God's redemptive power in our nation.

In 2014, Terry Smith was also given a vision, which told him, "The Lord will hold to Himself the Louisiana Purchase, as a Faithful Remnant. My Living Waters will flow up through the heartland of America.' Again, waters do not flow upstream against their own current, against gravity: that is a scientific impossibility. Here, we are to think spiritually, not physically. Yet, what might be impossible in earthly terms is always possible for the Lord our God! Just as the waters of the Mississippi flow down to us, from the Ohio and Missouri tributaries, so also the power of revival will move up, in 'contraflow', from Louisiana northward to all areas of America's heartland.

These are just a few of the many prophecies in which God has promised to move in a mighty way in the people of the Bayou State. Get ready for God to act! Pray, pray, pray!

Become an inviter. Tell people about your wonderful soul-friend, Jesus, and invite them to make friends with Him too. Of course, you will sometimes be ignored and rejected. Wasn't Jesus ignored and rejected? But take heart from this: that God has spoken supernatural promises of empowerment to the people of Louisiana, in these and other prophecies. Our God is a God of truth. And our God never lies.

# Jesus Christ is Alive in Me

*'Living God's Will by Daring the Impossible, Sharing the Good News, Caring for the Hurting'*

By Hawley Wolfe

America is under attack. Not by any outside nation. By the spiritual Enemy within. People are often reluctant to talk about the 'Enemy', Satan. But Jesus was not shy on the subject. From the very beginning of his ministry at his Temptation in the Wilderness (see Matthew 4:1-11), Jesus was aware of the fierce ongoing conflict between the forces of light, and the forces of darkness. This spiritual warfare is still going on. America is right at the vortex of this conflict. Which side do you want to be on?

Satan is operating deeply embedded and 'under cover', so you don't usually see him. It takes patience and wisdom to figure out how the Enemy is actually working to distort our thinking. He is always 'switching labels,' so that what is good, seems to be bad, and what is bad, seems to be good. As an example, let's look at the ways we deal with the most common and troublesome of human experiences—pain!

Everybody's in pain. We all suffer in one way or another. 'Man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward' says the Book of Job (and Job should know!) Nobody likes pain. Pain is hateful by definition. So, what do we do with our pain? How do we react when our hopes are dashed, when we get bad news from the doctor, when our boss tells us off, when someone we trust betrays us, or even when an idiot driver cuts us off in traffic? What we do in that moment of stress defines our entire spirituality. Are we being influenced more by Jesus, or by the Devil?

Here are some things in the Enemy's 'bag of tricks.'

**#1. Satan wants you to blame your circumstances.** If the Enemy can get you to blame your circumstances, he knows that he can get you to avoid taking

responsibility for your actions. I'm a victim! It's his/her/their fault, not mine! They made me do it! I really have no choice!

Anybody would've done the same, if they'd been me! This is a very seductive way of thinking, and we hear it all the time. Nobody wants to own up to their mistakes. Jesus, on the other hand, wants us to confess it whenever we do wrong. Jesus wants us to muster up the strength to say we're sorry, and then busy fixing up our mess. Sure, circumstances may have made it easier for you to do the wrong thing, but nobody 'put a gun to your head.' You did it all by yourself. You made your own choices—that's what God's 'difficult gift' of free will means.

**#2. Satan wants you to vent on other people.** Notice that Satan doesn't want you to vent to other people. That's okay, and often highly therapeutic. No, Satan wants you to vent on other people. He wants to take out your frustration on the innocent people around you. When you are angry or upset, do you tend to lash out at your kids, your spouse, your employees, the minimum-wage waitress that spills a drop of coffee in the restaurant? Do you kick the dog? If so, you are doing exactly

what the Enemy wants you to do. After all, if you vent on other people, you can avoid facing your own problems! And, you selfishly spread the pain around, so that lots of other people get to enjoy your misery with you.

**#3. Satan wants you to cover up your pain through drugs, alcohol, gambling, sex, overwork, dangerous thrill-seeking, etc.** Satan is whispering, 'Just take a little vacation from reality. Forget about it all for a while! Hey, everyone else is doing it! Take this, it will dull the pain!' The obvious problem with these tawdry escapes is that they are all only temporary.

When they wear off, you're in twice as much trouble as you were before. You still have the original pain ('cause you haven't done anything to fix it), and now you have all the new troubles from your bad behaviors: abusing your body, wasting your time, spending your money, etc.

Satan is delighted! Once again, he has gotten you to avoid responsibility, and 'kick the can down the road.'

**#4. Satan wants you wallow in self-pity.** If he can't get you to do the above three things, then Satan just wants you to isolate yourself, hole up in front of the TV, and cry and feel sorry for yourself. Depression is rampant in America today. Satan absolutely loves it! Satan would like for your injury to grow and grow and be magnified in your mind until it becomes your entire universe. He wants it to assume an importance that is grossly out of proportion to reality. He wants you to totally forget the mountain of blessings that God has heaped upon you in your life, and the wonderful opportunities that now lie all around you. True, when you go off and hide, you're at least not hurting or endangering other people directly.

But you immobilize yourself, so that you cannot be an active force for good out in the world. Instead you are obsessed, paralyzed. How can that be good for anybody? It is, to say the least, very disappointing to a Jesus who died for you on the cross, and who commands you to be 'salt and light' to a dying world.

**#5. Satan wants you to stop talking to God.** When you're in pain, who do you need to talk to most? God. Who is the one who can give you answers in your anguish and confusion, and tell you what to do next? God? Who can relieve your pain, and give you hope? God. Who understands your pain like no one else, because he died for you on the cross? God. Satan knows all these things. So he has to be very sneaky. He tries to twist your mind into thinking that all your pain is God's fault. He whispers: 'God doesn't love you, He hates you. If He really cared about you, He would not have let you be in this pain to begin with.' Never mind, of course, that much of your pain is likely self-inflicted, by your own bad choices. Satan knows that if he can just sabotage your prayer life, and get you to turn your back on the Father, he's got you. God forbid that this should happen! The best response to pain is to cling ever tighter to the promises of God. The stronger the storms of trouble that blow over you, the harder you must cling to the Cross! You must stand by the God who stands by you—the God who 'will never leave you nor forsake you.'

Satan has lots of other tricks, of course. He is a liar, after all, and the Author of Lies.

Make no mistake, friends, America is under attack! So, It's time for us all to report to Headquarters, and ask for our marching orders.

## The Twelve Most Dangerous Nations on Earth to be Christian

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

An organization that I have been following for years that at one time had an office in Central, Back to Jerusalem recently published their 2023 Calendar. In the introduction to the 2023 Calendar, some horrifying statistics are noted.

More than 360 million Christians worldwide suffer from varying degrees of persecution. It is estimated that 90,000 Christians die for their faith every year, or more than 10 Christians per hour. That means that one Christian will die for their faith in the amount of time that it will take you to read this article. It is illegal to own a Bible and even the Back to Jerusalem 2023 calendar in 52 COUNTRIES and there are at least 10 countries in the world today where converting to Christianity is punishable by death.

The Back to Jerusalem (BTJ) publication also draws not of the verse in the Bible in the Book of John, chapter 15 verse 20: "Remember the word I said unto you. The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you."

The publication goes on to say: The Good News is spreading at a faster rate today than ever before and the persecuted church is determined to help complete the Great Commission and usher in the return of Jesus Christ. As a result, the enemy is panicking, because he knows that his time

is short. Unfortunately for him though, throughout history we have seen that persecution has a way of contributing to revival – revival feeds a ravenous desire for mission and missionaries can't help but to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the nations.

The list of dangerous nations in which to live as Christians begins with Pakistan where there are 2.6 million Christians. Mozambique is followed on the DANGEROUS LIST by China and their underground churches and then by Libya. Saudi Arabia is listed but has only so few Christians left to persecute. Yemen, is next on the LIST where they are living with persecution in the midst of war and famine.

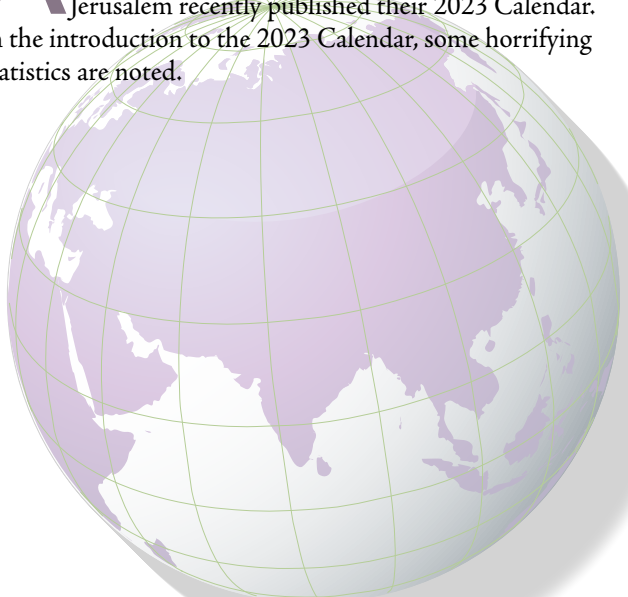
Iran comes next in the calendar month of July where winds of change are sweeping through the nation and the number of Christians is increasing in astronomical rates. Syria, once a vibrant Center of Christianity is now a sad, bleeding center of war, misery, and a breeding ground for extreme Islam. Somalia is sometimes referred to by "non-believers" as the land

that God has forgotten. Somalia, where the BTJ organization lost a field representative in 2022 is the September highlight.

The nation of Afghanistan is the month featured in the October calendar month. Since the recent fall of Afghanistan back to the Taliban, the nation has faced international isolation. No one probably feels more isolated than the Christian Believers left behind. Reports from North Korea, indicate that the Hermit Kingdom has invented unique ways of to torture Christians including driving over their heads with steamrollers.

In Nigeria more than 6,000 Christian believers were savagely killed between January 2021- March 2022. However, in the last 13 years it is accurately estimated than more than 45,644 Christian believers have died because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

For more information about BTJ, visit their website at [www.BACKTOJERUSALEM.COM](http://www.BACKTOJERUSALEM.COM) or email to: [info@backtojerusalem.com](mailto:info@backtojerusalem.com) or write to P. O. Box 607 Travelers Rest, South Carolina 29690





## Pastor Walter Hackney has Spent More than 10 Years Writing Book on Marriage and Emotions



By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

About a dozen years ago, I began to really think about the less than stellar role that I played in the early years of my marriage," Pastor Hackney explained. "As a married pastor, you not only deal with the issues of preaching a sermon, providing leadership in keeping the church moving forward, you also spend time keeping people encouraged in their daily struggles in life. But you also must take time to make sure your marriage is working and in good shape."

The most prevalent struggles in people's lives centers around their marriages which usually entails husbands not being able to engage with their wives strong emotions," Pastor Hackney pointed out. "Wherever I've served as a pastor, I've tried to be involved in men's groups. Countless times I have heard husbands say either "I don't understand my wife or my wife doesn't understand me."

"Over the years of being a Clergyman and being involved in men's groups, I came to the conclusion that there were spiritual factors at play in marriages that men were ignoring or overlooking. When I added my own experience as a husband, which early on was really not good on my part to what I was observing in other men, I came to the conclusion that some integral part of the marriage was missing."

"As my thoughts evolved about the problem, I began to be able to pinpoint a major cause of dysfunction in marriages as being the husband's lack of skills to engage their wives strong emotions," Pastor Hackney elaborated. "As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, I always look to the Scriptures to find answers to any problem. I did that with the concept of why and how men were not engaging in their wives strong emotions in a Godly manner."

"Over the period of years of researching this topic, I was amazed at the number of instances where strong emotions of the wife or female are illustrated in the Bible. I began to meticulously develop my outline for what I wanted to say about issues between husbands and wives. Everything centered around the base belief that is stated clearly several times in the Scriptures that a husband should love his wife like Christ loved the Church, unconditionally 24/7."

"I was amazed to see how that following that commandment found in the Bible and observing a few of the men that I encountered in life who were trying to follow that commitment in marriage produced great results," Pastor Hackney stated. "Those husband who were able to help channel the strong emotions of the wife for the benefit of their marriage did not give up their role as spiritual leader in the marriage but enhanced it."

"The book manuscript that I was blessed with writing ultimately developed the concept of "Engaging Your Wife's Strong Emotions." It is for both men and women and is even a good guideline for those who are not at the moment married or in a relationship. The goal my book is aiming for is harmony in a marriage based on Godly principals as Christ loves the church and a wife respects her husband."

"I have been testing the concepts in the book to determine their results in

some of the men's groups that I have been involved with in the past twelve years," Pastor Hackney pointed out. "The men who have diligently tried to use the Biblical precepts that I detail in my book have found great success. Men find it difficult to listen to their spouses emotional thoughts which are almost always different from the male concepts."

"With the divorce rate so high and so many other people in relationships that are strained, I felt motivated to spend a lot of time researching the matter," Pastor Hackney said. "Most all the answers come from the Bible and from personal experiences. My step mother who raised me was a lady with strong emotions."

"By the time I was in high school, I had to deal with the 'self-worth issue.' Looking back, I can see that my father was never able to engage my step-mother's strong emotions which led to conflicts and tension. After college, I had developed a unhealthy attitude that carried over into my marriage. How and why my wife put up with my unhealthy attitude until I came to realize how my attitude was effecting our marriage, I'll never know but thank God she did."

"I hope my book will help many men to build harmony with their wives by engaging in their strong emotions for the betterment of their marriage," Pastor Hackney said in conclusion.

Walter Hackney is not your typical pastor. He grew up in Metairie, Louisiana a suburb of New Orleans. Walter was a "jock" who played football and was on the wrestling team in high school. He continued playing football at University of Southern Mississippi until injuries cut his gridiron career short. After completing his Divinity Degree at ??????? in Boston, Walter continued to pursue athletics by coaching, referring football games and wrestling matches until health issues sidelined him.

His pastoral career has taken him from Baton Rouge to Luling, La, to Chicago to Oostburg, Wisconsin and back to Louisiana at Amite-Arcola. Currently, Walter is serving a year as interim pastor at a church in Oostburg, Wisconsin where he served previously for several years about fifteen years ago.

To reserve your copy of Walter Hackney's book, "*Intimacy in Marriage – Engaging Your Wife's Strong Emotion*" at a pre-publication discount price please email your name, address, and phone number to: [gentle.prophet@gmail.com](mailto:gentle.prophet@gmail.com)

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# The Christian Magic Carpet Ride Opportunity

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

Apparently the most difficult task facing Christian Believers today is to convey their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to their descendants. The proof of their failure is evident all around us as we have seen a steady decline in the last forty years in those who profess to be Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ or even simply believe in the existence of God. Perhaps the reason for this difficulty to convey our faith to our descendants is four-fold beginning with a lack of a clear plan to make this conveyance of faith to our children.

How many of us Believers have a clear plan of action, including a time-line in our home life for Bible study, family prayer time, and consistent application of walking in faith daily by the spiritual leaders of our families? The conveyance of our faith to our children and grandchildren does not start or stop with attending church and being active in church activities. It starts and grows or it does not start and grow, and just hits a dead end with the spiritual leadership in the family home.

Secondly, the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ as we believe it is not a “have-to” scenario but a “want-to” scenario. The good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ presents us with the awesome opportunity of peace of mind, plenty of motivation, and plenty of more; i.e., the POM-POM concept if you like Believer’s acronyms. The Holy Scriptures clearly outlines a plan of action for each of our lives that allows us reap the benefits of “heaven on earth;” in example, the “Magic Carpet Ride of Believers.”

The collection of the Holy Scriptures that we call our Bible is very simply the greatest book ever written, plain and simple bar none. It tells the greatest story ever told on the face of the earth; and it tells us plainly how the only way we can get out of this world alive. When our spirit leaves our mortal bodies as Believers, we are immediately face to face with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in heaven.

**The good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ presents us with the awesome opportunity of peace of mind, plenty of motivation, and plenty of more**

Thirdly, our faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is presented as a “round-to-it” concept in that perhaps becoming a full-fledged Believer before reaching your point of death maybe a good thing. Or it is presented as belief factor that is usually brought about when the trials and tribulations of life break through our natural inhibitions of arrogance. Our faith message is presented if not in so many detailed words, but as an alternative to living life the way we want to and if that doesn’t work out, and we are faced with overbearing problems, we can take advantage of the mercies of our great Lord at that point in time and place; that is if it ever occurs for us in our lifetime on earth.

Fourth, most pastors, laymen and evangelist have their own personal “war story” to preach which usually goes something like this: “I was an alcoholic, drug abuser, convict, fornicator or adulteress and my family was ready to leave and disown me;

so I got down on my knees and prayed for redemption and reconciliation and my life has been wonderful ever since.” How many times have we as Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ heard a similar story. Not that I doubt that any that I have heard are not true; but the point is why do we have to be broken before we Believe and obey our great and mighty God.

Is there any reason that we can not Believe in our Lord and Savior because we admire, respect, adore, and truly love God for what He is really is: the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, the Alpha and Omega, and the true Miracle Worker. And can we not love God for all His wonderful attributes including inspiring men to write the Holy Scriptures and preserving the scriptures throughout Satan’s many attacks and years of theological debate.

Fifth, and of utmost importance is our inability to convey our faith that our direct connection to the awesome throne of grace of God the Father is a mental attitude connection. There is nothing that we can do in our life outwardly or overtly that

helps us connect to His mighty throne of grace resulting in eternal salvation except to Believe. Everything else is a mental attitude connection based on our faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ because after Belief (salvation), we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit which will lead and guide us faith if we are willing and our mental attitude is one of humility to the Father.

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denominational pride and come together as “His” people which are called by “His” name and pray, God will answer our prayers and heal our land. Governor, Mayor, Police Chief, Senators, members of Congress and so on....let’s get on our knees and prove ourselves as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and allow Him to do what He does best. Miraculously stop the bleeding before all of the lifeblood drains out of our state. As the murder rate climbs, so do the people’s senseless fascination with Mardi Gras, drunken tailgate soirees, laissez le bon temps rouler, gambling casinos, sports betting, etc. No one seems to take the reality seriously. It is not going to away! Jesus Christ is the answer Christians!

Dredging up the memory of the robbery/murder incident that took the life of my friend J.C. Bodden in 1965, sparked a compelling desire to fill in some of the blanks that I had never queried about before. I wanted to hear from a possible eye witness, details of the actual robbery attempt and ultimate murder as they occurred. Additionally, I was curious to know the impact on the perpetrator’s life after being captured and also the effect on the victim’s family and friends.

I knew that Billy Wayne Sinclair was the killer’s name but I had no certain recollection of any other details. I began to search for more information and found that Sinclair was released from prison after seven years on death row and over thirty years in various prisons in Louisiana and was paroled in 2006 while serving time in Texas. He was married by proxy while in prison in 1982 to a WAFB TV reporter by the name of Jodie Bell whom he met during an interview with her. The couple co-authored a book entitled, “A Life In The Balance”: The Billy Wayne Sinclair Story. Sub-title: A Journey from Murder to Redemption inside America’s Worst Prison System. Jodie Sinclair also authored a book entitled “Love Behind Bars” prefaced by Sister Helen Prejean of “Dead Man Walking” movie notoriety.

As a Christian, the bi-line of Sinclair’s book title “A Journey from Murder to Redemption” became a driving force to discover if his “redemption” was indeed his surrender to Jesus Christ or his release from his destiny on Death Row to life in prison.

I purchased Sinclair’s book and stopped reading it less than halfway through after being subjected to a barrage of vile, repulsive language and violent descriptions of prison life. I suppose I will just have to wonder about any confession of faith unless testified to me by Sinclair himself. Sinclair did admit in his book (the part I read), that prior to his decision to go ahead and walk into the Pak-a-Sak store and pull the pistol, “an ominous and foreboding voice” convinced him to go through with the plan.

In his own words he admits “Destiny beckoned and I could not resist the “FORCE” telling me to enter the store. DESTINY? Sinclair’s timeline of the incident revealed a startling detail I had not known before. He described hearing the same bulletin broadcast by WLCS radio announcing the robbery/murder that notified me of the incident. It is highly probable that Sinclair was sitting in his car in the parking lot contemplating the robbery while I was visiting with J.C Bodden. Not only was the event dramatically life-changing for Sinclair but only by the grace of God was I protected from possible danger and harm by sheer minutes of time.

I have to wonder if I would have come to the aid of my friend and risked my life in the moment and struck by one of the bullets in Sinclair’s gun or could I have possibly been able to somehow change the outcome of my friend’s death? Of course I will never know but I’m sure that I will replay the tragedy many times in my mind but one thing I know for sure is that God was watching over me before I even knew Him.

Since that time I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and my name is written in His Book of Life. Of that I am certain!

## Let Us Brand Ourselves as Believers Through the Use of Christian Acronyms

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

I enjoy using Christian Acronyms in my texting and emails for want of better a term, to carry a coded message to my recipient concerning my faith, and to brand myself as until the Lord as Paul has written in one of his letters: “I have the brand of Christ on me!” We would enjoy hearing from our InspireLa readers as to any of your favorite Christian Acronyms. Here are 25 suggested Christian acronyms. (*Faith Based Messages, Five Letters Or Less*)

- PUSH ..... Pray Until Something Happens**
- ASAP..... Always Stop and Pray**
- BIC ..... Believers in Christ**
- OOKL ..... On Our Knees Lord**
- LW..... Lord Willing**
- BFTG ..... Be Faithful To God**
- GIG ..... God Is Good**
- TPAYV ..... Today’s Problems Are Yesterday’s Victories**
- TIGF ..... Trust In God First**
- SOPOG..... Standing On Promises Of God**
- GWSY ..... God Will Strengthen You**
- NCYWY ..... Never Compare Yourself With Yourself**
- HKOK ..... Holy King Of Kings**
- FWABF ..... From Whom All Blessings Flow**
- GHNL ..... God Has No Limits**
- FWGG..... Filled With God’s Grace**
- FOG ..... Fear of God**
- OYKTP ..... On Your Knees To Pray**
- GOG ..... Grace of God**
- VBWTL ..... Very Best Way To Live**
- OGIH..... Our God Is Holy**
- PTL ..... Praise The Lord**
- GGATG..... Give God All The Glory**
- KTF ..... Keep The Faith**
- FROG..... Forever Rely On God**

## DEVOTIONAL

### 1 John 3:8

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Why did God send His only begotten Son into the world to go to Calvary, conquer death, hell and the grave, and rise on the third day? So that He might break the chains of sin from our shackled and tattered lives, mend our ruined lives, and give us the opportunity to see our lives changed, thus destroying the works of the devil. Every time you encounter Jesus' presence, He has the ability to meet your every need according to His riches in glory. He can heal sickness in your body, lift the burdens and yokes off of you, and set you free from bondage and addiction. For whom the Son sets free is free indeed!

When you see what Jesus came to do, the first thing you have to ask yourself is whether you are willing to allow Him to do His work in your life. Jesus said, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23). You have to believe He can destroy the works of the devil in your life before He will. Today, recognize that you need to see Him as your only source and put Him first. Let Him in and let Him do His work.

#### Today's Blessing:

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you and give you His peace. May you walk in the confidence that Jesus Christ is Lord, and all of our tomorrows are safe and secure in Him. Lift up your heads and rejoice, the King of glory is coming, and the victory is ours in Christ the Lord. Hope thou in God for He is the source of our strength. In Jesus' name, we receive this blessing, Amen.

#### Today's Bible Reading:

##### Old Testament

Exodus 4:1-5:21

##### New Testament

Matthew 18:1-22

##### Psalms & Proverbs

Psalms 22:19-31

Proverbs 5:15-21

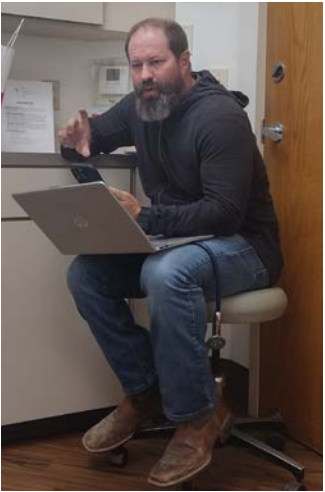
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## The Legacy of Dr. Dustin Logue

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

In the middle of a June night in 2011, I woke up with severe chest pains. Living only five miles from Lane Regional Hospital emergency room, my wife and I decided to drive to the hospital and within nine minutes from the time I woke up with the severe chest pains, I was hobbling into the Lane ER Room.



After receiving the appropriate cardiac ER Room Care, and becoming stabilized, I was transferred into a hospital room to await the arrival of a Cardiology Team with Cardiovascular Institute of the South. I didn't have long to wait until Dr. Deepak and his Nurse Practitioner, Dustin Logue came into the room. I don't think that I will ever forget the first words spoken to me by Dustin Logue: "We came here to help you get better sooner than later."

More than just hearing those words of comfort from Dustin, was hearing the compassionate tone in which he spoke those words of encouragement. That was nearly 12 years ago. During those years, I have come to realize the care and compassion of Dustin Logue. I later learned that Dustin Logue did not have a goal to become a Doctor as a high school student, but

after entering college in pursuit of another educational endeavor and degree, he felt the calling to be more than a by-stander in life and become a caregiver of exemplary characteristics; namely compassion for his fellow-man.

Dr. Dustin first obtained a degree in Nursing and worked as a floor nurse, ER and specialty Nurse for four years before committing to the calling to become a licensed Nurse Practitioner. After spending five years as a Nurse Practitioner in Cardiology with CIS, Dustin transferred to an Internal Medicine practice in Zachary.

About five years ago, Dustin began practicing family medicine with Dr. Gene Thompson with South Louisiana Primary Care (SLPC). With his passion for his profession of front-line medicine and a compassion for his patients, Dustin has become the managing partner in the SLPC clinic. SLPC has recently acquired a locations in Chaneyville and Baker.

In a recent checkup with Dustin, he told me that I was doing better health wise at 77 than I was at 67. "Praise the Lord," was my reply as I added: "Give God all the Praise and Glory."



## DUSTIN LOGUE, ANP



**Now accepting  
new patients**

South Louisiana Primary Care is a growing healthcare clinic in the Baker and Zachary community. They are made up with a team of 5 providers devoted to providing the best care to their patients. The providers are Dustin Logue ANP, Gene Thompson MD, Hailey Murphy FNP, Rachel Simmons ANP and Raoul Manalac MD.

South Louisiana Primary Care has three convenient locations making healthcare easily accessible to the surrounding communities. All three locations are currently accepting new patients! Medicaid, Medicare and most Commercial insurance is accepted!

To schedule a new patient appointment,  
please call the number below!

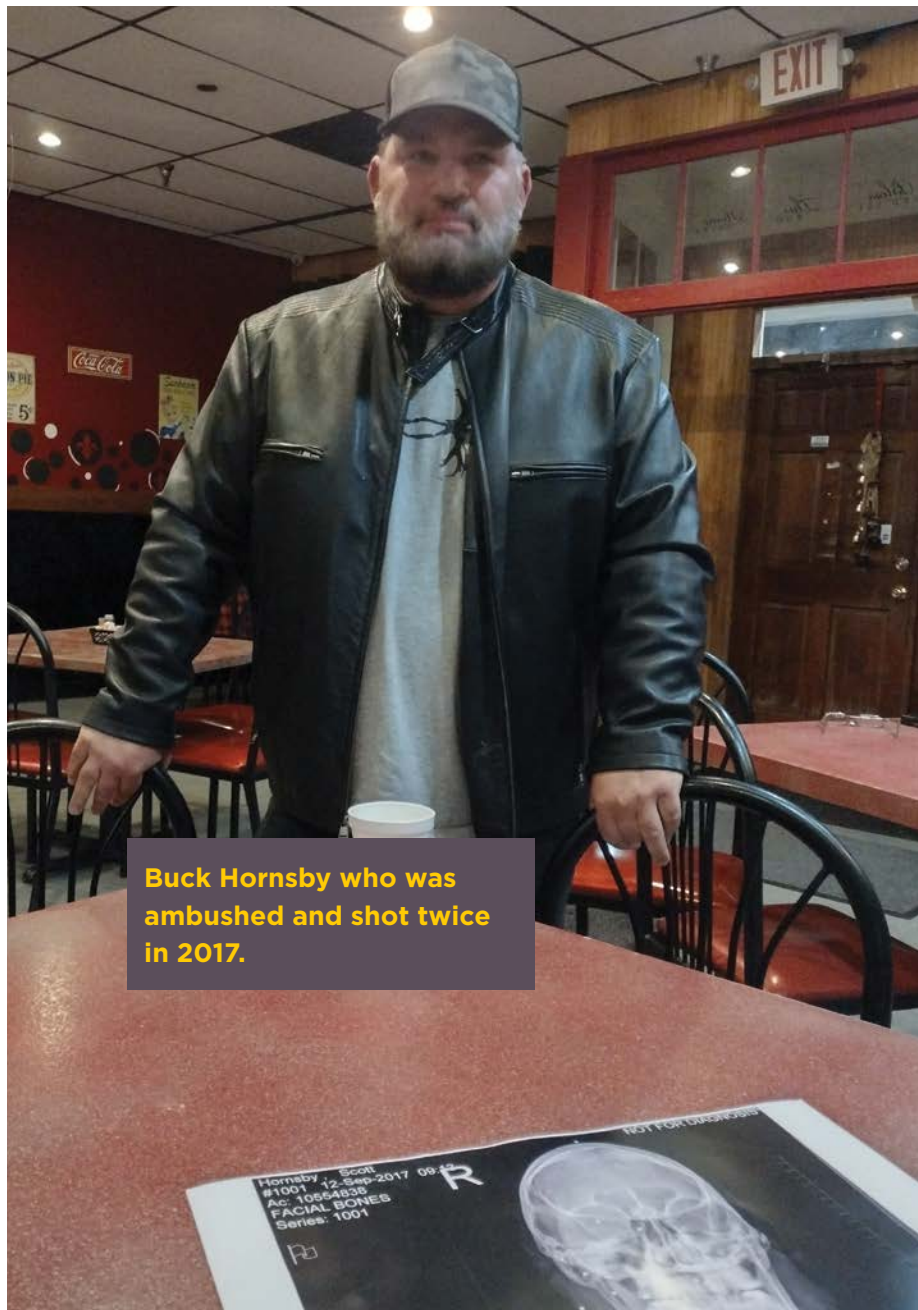
12902 Plank Road  
Baker, LA 70714  
225-774-0733

3034 Ray Weiland Drive  
Baker, LA 70714  
225-775-8500

13211 Jackson Road  
Zachary, LA 70791  
225-286-1900



Miss Ineeda Lotta Halp gives her testimony at Me'Pa's Bible Study on Jan. 10



Buck Hornsby who was ambushed and shot twice in 2017.

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Hebrews 4:12

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