

BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

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Every report of 2021 will mention literally if not implied the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on ministry. BCM is no exception to this rule. We were impacted greatly by having to find new ways to reach students virtually and in person. The struggle made us better at reaching students because it gave our leaders new skill sets. We entered summer with loosened restrictions and had a very good summer missions program. Among the hundreds of students that went out to serve on mission this summer, we sent three GoLa VBS and youth ministry teams out. The Louisiana teams saw over 65 new decisions to follow Christ. Also, we assisted Level Ground Church of New Orleans in having their very first Vacation Bible School. One team spent the summer assisting churches in the Wyoming Baptist Convention in VBS, community evangelism, compassion ministry, youth ministry, and as camp counselors. That team saw 24 decisions for Christ.

BCM also held its first annual sermon scholarship competition. BCM students from around the state submitted videos of their sermons to a committee that listened and evaluated the presentation. Five young men were awarded scholarships for excellent submissions. We are planning to continue this program in 2021-22.

Below is an evaluation of impact the Covid changes brought to BCM. Shutting down for the quarantine allowed us to accomplish several important tasks for our ministry.

1. Buildings received much need updating and maintenance.
2. Staff received extra training in the area of digital communication including Webex seminars, Zoom meetings, and meeting rooms in FB groups.
3. We began to utilize these formats for reaching out to incoming freshmen earlier than ever by forming freshman meet and greet groups on Zoom weekly.
4. The University campuses became more generous by giving us contact information for incoming freshman and relying on BCM staff to serve in an advisory capacity with the campus officials and meeting crucial needs in the quarantine response period.
5. International student ministry has had an all-time high impact this summer, particularly at LSU. These students were stranded on campus without work visas or campus cafeterias. The BCM has been providing boxes of groceries, through donations, to around 90 families a week throughout the year.
6. Emphasis had to move from large events to primarily Gospel appointments and Discipleship.

There are many more good things that came from this time of struggle.

This fall BCM staff and facilities will be utilized to continue to reach the University city all over our state. There are adaptation plans in effect at every campus, and we will continue to strive to proclaim the Gospel daily.