

## **MISSIONS AND MINISTRY TEAM**

John D. Hebert, Director

The Missions and Ministry Team of the Convention remains committed to helping our churches reach their full potential in reaching our state for Christ. Highlights for the year include a highly successful church planting effort, strides in our compassion ministry engagement with churches, and a growing mission builder program. These highlights accompany the execution of new strategies in Women's Missions and Ministry, Partnership Missions, Disaster Relief/Men's Ministry, and Missions Education.

### **Church Planting**

James Jenkins, Director of Church Planting, continues to lead the effort of Church Planting. His team is comprised of Lane Corley, our Anglo-Church Planting and Replant Strategist, and Carlos Schmidt, Language Church Planting and Partnership Missions Strategist. In partnership with our churches and associations, this team has worked to meet the goal of the 2020 Presidential Commission to plant 300 new churches by the year 2021. Even with the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, that number is now 277 or 92% of the goal. Churches planted since 2010, have now led over 17,000 people to Christ and church membership. Church planting has helped Louisiana Baptists to reach every people group including Anglo, African American, Vietnamese, Burmese, Chinese, Korean, Haitians, Eritrean, Arabic, Hispanic, and Portuguese.

Church Planting Orientation has moved online, with over 200 logging in for a monthly orientation to Church Planting and Replanting through Louisiana Baptists since April 2020. Greenhouse training for Church Planters is also moving to an online format with fewer in person retreats in the future. In the fall of 2021, church multiplication events will return with new roundtables on starting simple, disciple making movement focused churches and ministries.

### **Language Church Planting and Partnership Missions**

Carlos Schmidt has continued to foster and affirm all the existing partnerships Louisiana Baptist churches and organizations have with missions' projects in the United States and the rest of the world. These partnerships include Haiti, Belarus, Brazil, US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Brownsville/Matamoros, Cape Bretton Island Canada, Yucatan Mexico, and Madrid. Carlos led Missions Ready Roundtables at New Orleans Baptist Association, CenLa Baptist Association, Washington Baptist Association, William Wallace Baptist Association, and Gulf Coast Baptist Association. Missions Ready Roundtables were scheduled in other associations, but had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Carlos partnered with the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge to host two quarterly Asian Missions Leaders Fellowships. He also spoke at FBC Lafayette WMU meetings. He co- led in the formation of a Hispanic Southern State Hispanic Missions Coalition with the purpose of motivating, training, and mobilizing Hispanic churches in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, and Louisiana to local and global missions' opportunities. Carlos also is working in close relationship with "Mueven y Conmmueven" (formerly IMB Hispanic Mobilization), in missions local and global networking. Carlos has also participated in Zoom conversations with IMB personnel and with Southern States Partnership Missions leaders. Carlos has made IMB missions' trainings available to churches who have requested assistance.

The Church Planting trip to Belarus in July 2021 was cancelled due to political unrest in the country.

### **Compassion Ministries**

Jeffrey Cook leads efforts to engage Louisiana Baptist churches in Compassion Ministries. Many of our Louisiana Baptist churches are involved in some kind of Compassion Ministry seeking to: 1) Meet needs, 2) Build Trust, 3) Share the Gospel, and 4) Connect People to the Local Church. Jeff is assisted by a team of Association Compassion Missionaries (ACM) in several statewide associations. These workers are John Anderson, Deanna Corbett, Patrick Magee, and Pam Walker. Each ACM has hosted "Start Something"/Church Without Walls" meetings to encourage area pastors and church leaders to start new works of Compassion Ministry.

A new ministry has started in New Orleans that will have state-wide implications. Jacob Crawford is leading a Disciple Making Movement in New Orleans, utilizing Disciples Bible Study Strategies. Jacob is assisting our Louisiana Churches by training church leaders in DBS. Also, a Compassion Ministry Readiness Tool is being developed for online use to prepare churches to start Compassion Ministry.

### **Women's Missions and Ministry**

COVID cancellations affected fall and spring women's events in 2020-2021, but they also gave opportunity for other ways of connecting with our audiences. Louisiana Baptist women donated and packed over 900 gift boxes for the incarcerated women. Ministry to Ministers' Wives partnered through the Louisiana Baptist website with the executive office for a night of encouragement in October. Embrace, the event for all Louisiana Baptist women, was held in March 2021 as a hybrid event. Women gathered in person for a one-day Bible teaching and

worship event, while breakout conferences were offered on the Louisiana Baptist website. Four leader training events are scheduled in 2021.

Mission offering giving shows impacts of COVID, the hurricanes in 2020, and the ice storm of 2021. The greatest story, though, is the giving of many faithful churches. Our prayer is to be joined by more mission giving churches in 2021.

- Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering (Jan. 1-Dec. 2020)  
Received \$1,324,609.16                      State Goal \$1,700,000
- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions (Sept. 1, 2020-Aug. 31, 2021)  
(Report current as of June 2021)  
Received \$3,695,822.87                      State Goal \$5,200,000
- Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions (Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2020)  
Received \$1,272,306.16                      State Goal \$2,200,000

Janie Wise serves as Women's Missions & Ministry Strategist.

### **Missions Education**

Missions Education had a wonderful start to 2021. The first event of 2021 was M-JAM at Tall Timbers. The great part about this exciting mission's event is that children were able to hear the Gospel message in a fun and exciting way and learn how to share it with their friends. Students were also able to meet a young pediatrician who serves with the IMB in Africa and learn about her ministry there. The 2021 total attendance for M-JAM will be higher than 2019, since we will add our first fall M-JAM at Parkview Baptist in Baton Rouge on October 30.

Our 2021 camp numbers have exceeded our 2019 camp totals! We are hosting two camps this year as opposed to only one camp in 2019. Over 550 people will be in attendance between both camps.

Jess Archer will be conducting several "Women Who Lead" training events around our state.

### **Men's Ministry and Disaster Relief**

Men's Ministries experienced a change in leadership in 2021. Dr. Gibbie McMillan retired, and Dr. Stanley Statham was hired to lead our efforts in Disaster Relief and Men's Ministries.

Disaster Relief was able to conduct all five of our in-person training events that were held January-March 2021. The first training in New Orleans followed the strict COVID-19 guidelines for masking and social distancing. We had just over 300 volunteers attend the five training events.

We have made a concerted effort to increase online training options. In part, we desire to engage the younger generations in Disaster Relief training and believe they will be more likely to take part in the training if online courses are offered. We also want to be better prepared for future pandemics and other possible problems that could force another shutdown. We are currently planning on offering training in-person, online, and a hybrid model.

On May 17, 2021 Lake Charles had about 1,200 homes flooded that initiated a Disaster Relief deployment. We had about seven state conventions deploy DR teams to assist us with mud-out efforts. Again, COVID did not keep volunteers from responding to the needs of those impacted by the flood.

Volunteers also returned to the Bahamas for the rebuild at St. Matthews Baptist Church. They were required to have COVID tests before leaving the states and before returning. We hope to be able to send more groups in the near future to assist with the rebuild.

### **Mission Builders**

Mission Builders strategist, Mike Shumock has worked with seven churches and one mission as well as putting on a roof for one church damaged from Hurricane Delta. He also consulted with and helped ten other churches and projects securing labor, materials, and providing information about construction needs.