

# An evening with Brother Billy Bob Bohannon

Christian humorist,  
musician to perform  
at Providence Baptist

JACOB WILDER  
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

BEAUREGARD — Adorned in a plaid sports coat, a bright, multicolored button-up shirt, bold green slacks and a red bow tie, Brother Billy Bob Bohannon has performed his Christian comedy and music at different churches and events across the Southeast.

Bohannon, also known as Dr. Bill King and director of missions for the Tuskegee Lee Baptist Association, will be performing and signing copies of his new book "No Really My Name is Brother Billy Bob Bohannon" at Providence Baptist Church's West Campus, Sunday, Aug. 9, at 6:15 p.m.

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SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Brother Billy Bob Bohannon (Dr. Bill King) performs his Christian comedy and music at different churches and events.

## HUMORIST: King is the director of missions for the Tuskegee Lee Baptist Association

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While he serves the TLBA, King is also a Christian humorist and musician from Rainsville. He attended both Samford University and New Orleans Baptist Seminary, and has a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degree.

King has been a pastor of churches in Alabama and Georgia, but it wasn't until he was pastor of Gracewood Baptist Church in Southaven, Miss. that he would discover his eccentric preaching character Bohannon.

King said that his wife Jean calls Bohannon his altered ego.

His first performance as Bohannon was to be his last for one of his church's annual events. News of his performance spread, and soon King was being asked to perform at another church. Requests for Bohannon grew, and King has now taken his show to more than 50 other churches and events.

Billy Bob plays several instruments including the acoustic guitar, electric guitar, air guitar, harmonica, banjo, dulcimer and the multi-knobbed radio, King said with a smile from ear to ear.

Bohannon's performances typically include music, humor and audience participation. He occasionally makes jokes at the pastors expense.

At first, King did not pursue his Bohannon act. The pastor had made up the character last minute from an old sports coat from the 1970s. King said he did not know why he kept that dated jacket.

He said he is amazed at how God has used this unique act to reach so many people. King believes that most people enjoy something they can laugh at.

People loosen up, and it opens up a channel of communication, King said.

He said that he soon realized how God was using his humorous character. His act had become more than just entertainment. It is a way to communicate God's good news.

In his recently published book, King tells some of Bohannon's humorous stories. The book also has serious points in each story. The fictitious stories provide life lessons and can help people learn more about Jesus.

King said like all great stories, they are inspired by true events from his life. When he was younger, he played rock 'n' roll. At 18, he started preaching, and by 21, he was pastor of a church.

"It was like God pulled all that together in Billy Bob," King said.

Through his ministry, King has witnessed to scores of people. Some have come to know Christ and others have made commitments of their faith, but King does not take credit for his work. Instead, he gives God the credit.

He said that while his act is mostly humor, there are also very serious points that he makes. These points are hidden throughout his stories and songs, and King also takes time during his routine to talk seriously about his faith.

I want people to know that real joy and happiness comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ, he said.

# Providence Baptist church expands

## Church celebrates the opening of new fellowship hall

JACOB WILDER  
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Providence Baptist Church will celebrate its annual Liberty Celebration and grand opening of its new multipurpose facility located at 2900 Lee Road 166 to the community Sunday, June 28, at 10:30 a.m.

The event will be celebrated with gospel singing from the Providence Baptist Church Choir and a message of commemoration from church pastor Dr. Rusty J. Sowell.

"We give glory to God for this new building that will help us minister to our community," Sowell said.

Groundbreaking for the new building started one year ago at last year's Liberty Celebration. The completed building will serve as a temporary sanctuary for the church, and a facility for community outreach.

After the service, there will be a time for fellowship, and barbecue will be provided by the church and trimmings by its members. Both the service and the celebration are open to the community.

The celebration is one of many milestones the church has this year. Providence recently celebrated its 125th anniversary as well as the 25th anniversary



**The multipurpose building at Providence Baptist Church's West Campus will have its grand opening Sunday, June 28, at 10:30 a.m.**

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sary of Sowell and the 35th anniversary of music minister Dr. Tom Smith.

"The event will give us an opportunity to use the new facility and give God the glory for leading us thus far as we prepare for the growth in our church community," Smith said.

The church not only serves the Beauregard community, but the Lee County community with its ministries. Providence's recreational fields have been used for several events this year like the CAST Ministries Run, Walk and Roll, the Dads on the Ball youth baseball camp and the Beauregard Youth Athletic Association tee ball league.

"We are simply following God's calling," said Gene Gwaltney, education minister. "This is all possible because of our obedience and the Lord's provision."

Providence Baptist is located in the Beauregard Community of Lee County at 2807 Lee Road 166.

Worship times are each Sunday at 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. Sunday school is at 9:15 a.m. Providence offers a range of music and mission opportunities for all ages, as well as men's and women's ministries. Contact the church office at 334-745-4608 for more information.