NEW IBERIA — A bilingual religious service featuring both English and French will be conducted at the Highland Baptist Church here Sunday at 7 p.m.

The featured speaker for the event will be Rev. Jean Michel Woerner from Douay, France, who speaks no English. His sermon will be delivered in French but will be interpreted by his son Rev. Elie Woerner, pastor of the Loreauville Baptist Mission. Rev. Bill Fuller, pastor at Highland Baptist Church has extended an invitation to the public to attend the service Sunday night.

The Rev. Jean Woerner and his wife are presently on vacation in the Loreauville area visiting their son who has pastored in Loreauville for over three years. He came to the area from France.

His father has been a leader among the French Baptists for the past 35 years in France. The Rev. Jean Woerner is presently pastor of the Douay Baptist Church. He is responsible for 11 churches and their ministry involving about 1,500 persons.

Rev. Woerner has been instrumental in the organization of many Baptist Churches in northern France in addition to the ones he is presently responsible for in the Douay area. He is presently serving as vice president of the Federation of Baptist Churches of France. This federation is composed of all the Baptist churches in northern and central France. His preaching outreach is extended through a radio ministry and he has also authored several books.

Much of Woerner's ministry was carried out during World War II under German occupation. During that time he continued to preach even though he was threatened and once imprisoned. Many of his experiences during those times will be related in the Sunday night service.

The Rev. Jean Woerner will hold a revival June 13-14 and the revival services will be conducted in the same manner as the Sunday night service with his son interpreting for him.