

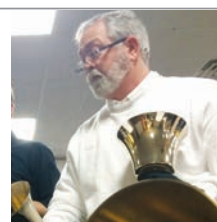


Inside:

- Griffin leads prayer at Ark. Capitol
- SBC Committee on Committees named
- ABN Day of Prayer May 17
- MABTS worship conf. April 27-29
- Honduras trip reaps 70 decisions

Handbell festival

41st State Handbell Festival held at Geyer Springs FBC, Little Rock
page 13



Stories of Faith

Tingle after accident: 'God, I'm totally in Your hands'

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK – “Lord, I’m not going to lie to You – I’d love to spend some more time with my wife and I’d love to see my kids have grand-kids and I’d love to continue to proclaim Your gospel. I’ve talked a lot about the fact that things are always in Your hands, but this totally is in Your hands.”



This was the prayer of Robby Tingle as he waited for someone to find him in the wreckage of his car the night of Feb. 16, 2014.

He had been driving home after preaching in Brinkley

when his car went off the road and collided with a tree at the Lonoke exit on Interstate 40. He waited in the wreckage, knowing if someone did not find him, he would bleed to death.

But a passerby – a nurse – did find him, and due to his close proximity to the Lonoke exit, emergency personnel were able to arrive quickly and transport him to the hospital.

As a result of the accident, Tingle, former team leader for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions ministries team, sustained broken ribs on his left

See **TINGLE** page 6



Robby Tingle (center) shares a light moment with his co-worker, Gwen McCallister (left) and his wife, Cynthia, recently in his office at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Building in Little Rock. Tingle has had 26 surgeries since a 2014 accident.

Warren addresses mental health issues in Hot Springs

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

HOT SPRINGS – Every year, 39,000-41,000 people commit suicide in the U.S. In 2012, 11.5 million people in the U.S. seriously considered suicide, and 2.5 attempted it.

Kay Warren, Christian author and co-founder – with her husband, Rick – of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., shared these statistics at an event sponsored by the Arkansas Chapter of

the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The event, titled An Evening with Kay Warren, was held at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, on March 13. Warren spoke on the faith community’s role regarding mental health issues.

Suicide became more than a statistic for Warren in 2013, when her son, Matthew, committed suicide.

Warren used the acrostic “church” to give practical

See **HEALTH** page 2

City of Refuge reaches homeless to PhDs

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK – After just a year, a Little Rock urban community church is reaching people from diverse backgrounds – many of whom are people who once thought they had little or no use for the Church.

City of Refuge Community Church, Little Rock, marked its one-year anniversary this month, growing steadily from a small Bible study group two years ago to a vibrant church body. It’s

basic goal: reaching all people, especially those whom the traditional church has neglected.

“We started with a Bible study in February of 2013. We started Sunday morning in November of the same year and then moved into the building that we are in now in December,” said Neal Scoggins, pastor and church planter of City of Refuge.

Scoggins remembers well that the first few Bible studies held were attended by only a handful of individuals – half of whom were his immediate

family. Today the group of five or six has grown to nearly 40 on most Sunday mornings.

“We have an eclectic mix, but it matches the community,” said Scoggins. “We have a lady that has an earned Ph.D. sitting right next to a homeless guy.”

The diversity of the church’s body is also present in the church’s staff. Scoggins is an African-American from North Little Rock, and the church’s worship leader is “a tall white guy who looks like Drew Carey from Cabot,” smiled Scoggins.

“His name is Travis

See **REFUGE** page 7



Scoggins

The ABN classifieds have a new, more readable design!

Read them on Page 10.

The ABN classifieds are a great way to advertise for your church or business.

You can now submit a classified ad via the ABN website at

arkansasbaptist.org/ad

Classifieds

<p>PASTOR: We are seeking a pastor for a church in the Little Rock area. The church is a growing, multi-cultural congregation. The pastor will be responsible for the spiritual and pastoral care of the congregation. The position is full-time and requires a Master of Divinity degree. Salary is negotiable. Please send your resume and references to: info@arkansasbaptist.org.</p>	<p>OTHER STAFF POSITIONS: We are seeking a variety of staff positions for our church. Positions include: Administrative Assistant, Music Director, Children's Ministry Leader, and more. All positions require a minimum of a high school diploma. Salary is negotiable. Please send your resume and references to: info@arkansasbaptist.org.</p>
--	--

ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Page applauds defeat of 'Chuck E. Cheese' bill

LITTLE ROCK – A proposed bill that would have expanded cash-operated arcade games that reward players with tickets that can then be redeemed for toys or novelties allowed to operate in Arkansas has been defeated following opposition voiced to legislators, said Larry Page, executive director of the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council. Page said as originally drafted, SB745 would have raised the limit to \$850 from \$12.50; and it didn't limit the number of prizes a player could win, essentially allowing "numerous convenience stores, restaurants/bars, gas stations, and other various retail businesses all over Arkansas to become little casinos."

Arkansas Senate OKs abortion bill restrictions

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Senate gave final passage March 17 to a bill to place new restrictions on use of the abortion-inducing drug RU-486, arkansasnews.com reported. The Senate voted 26-5 to approve House Bill 1394 requiring that dosage levels and administration protocols recommended by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration be followed when RU-486, or mifepristone, is administered. The doctor who administers the drug must have a contract with a doctor who agrees to handle complications, and the doctor who contracts to handle complications would have to have admitting privileges and gynecological/surgical privileges at a hospital that is designated to handle complications resulting from abortion-inducing drugs, arkansasnews.com reported.

For more ABN Digest, go to
www.arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest

David Platt unveils 'reset' of IMB strategy, structure

HOUSTON (BP) – International Mission Board (IMB) President David Platt proposed streamlining the mission agency's strategy and structure – in keeping with his desire for the IMB to exalt Christ and work more effectively toward accomplishing the Great Commission – during the IMB's Feb. 24-25 trustee meeting in Houston.

Platt addressed the agency's trustees with a proposal "to reset our strategy and realign our structure so that as we ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His field, we will be ready when He does." Trustees unanimously approved the proposal during the meeting.

"We want to empower limitless missionary teams to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached people," Platt said.

"We need a strategy that doesn't cap our number of missionaries merely based upon how much money we have."

Platt noted the IMB operated "in the red" last year, with the agency's operating expenses exceeding income by nearly \$21 million.

"Right now our funnel is really small ... such that we're turning people away," Platt said.

"And what I'm saying, what we know, is that we need to blow open this funnel and create as many pathways as possible for Christians and churches to get the gospel to unreached people."

The IMB must creatively consider how to leverage the avenues God has given for limitless men, women and families to join together on missionary teams to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached people groups, Platt said.

Since his election in August 2014, Platt has stated his five biblically based desires for IMB are to exalt Christ, mobilize Christians, equip the church, facilitate church planting and play its part in completing the Great Commission.

As a result of these desires, Platt recommended to IMB trustees a "reset" of the agency's strategy, and realignment of its structure, to focus on five main areas: Global Training, Global Engagement, Opera-

tions and Finance, Mobilization and Strategy.

Platt said the changes are intended to be reproducible through the IMB's national partners around the world: making disciples among unreached people and seeing churches established, then seeing those churches, in turn, send Christians to unreached people, training them and supporting them as they engage the world with the gospel.

"We want to fuel movement like this all over the world!" Platt said. "But let me be clear. Strategy and structure are not the ultimate answer to seeing Christians and churches engaging unreached people with the gospel. ... What that means is that more than we need a streamlined strategy or a simplified structure, we need the power of God to do what only He can do."

"This is why I am calling everyone across our IMB family – from trustees to personnel or otherwise – to fast and pray, because only God can do this work. ... Let's get down on our knees, then get up from our

knees and do whatever it takes, no matter what that means, to set the sails for God to empower limitless missionary teams who are making disciples and multiplying churches among unreached people for the glory of His name."

The impending changes are not about IMB employees or trustees in specific roles, but about the billions of people who die without a relationship with Jesus Christ, David Steverson, IMB vice president of finance, noted during his finance report.

"I'm confident that my colleagues on staff and our missionaries around the world are also single-mindedly focused on this reality: We must find ways to get the gospel to more and more people," he said, adding:

"Any change that facilitates that reality and moves us forward in our task is something we must do. I'm committed to doing all that I can, in whatever small way, to make it a reality that there is a multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ. May it be so for all of us."



Platt

HEALTH

continued from page one

tips on how churches of all sizes can respond to the issue of mental illness.

She encouraged churches to:

C – Care for and support individuals and families.

H – Help with practical needs.

U – Unleash trained volunteers.

R – Remove the stigma.

C – Collaborate with the community to provide education.

H – Offer hope.

She noted that every church body has their own unique resources to offer.

"You have something to give in your community; you have something to give in your own life. You have experiences that can benefit other people," she said, adding, "We can be a part of God bringing beauty from ashes. Me being in front of you here tonight is evidence that God brings beauty from ashes."

Other speakers at the event

were Rex Horne, president of Ouachita Baptist University, who addressed compassion in the Church, and Dr. John Wayne Smith, a local Hot Springs physician, who spoke on mental illness and the importance of the Church sharing hope with people.

Jessica Miller, Miss Lights of the Delta Outstanding Teen, gave a youth's perspective on suicide.

Father George Sanders, priest at Saint Mary of the Springs Catholic Church in Hot Springs, prayed for the evening's events. Michael Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Perryville, served as master of ceremonies.

A number of others also

took part in the ceremony or served behind the scenes.

A special meet-and-greet time was held with Warren prior to the event.



Kay Warren speaks to an attendee at an event on mental health held at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, March 13.

feel hopeful, to feel like, ... "There's something that I can do to make a difference in the life of my friend, my family member, my co-worker who's struggling," Warren said, noting she also wants people to

realize suicide is preventable and treatable.

Vicki Stanley, board member of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and chairwoman of the Programs Committee, coordinated the event. Stanley is a member of First Baptist Church, Hot Springs.

"After losing my son to suicide in 2011, I had to do something to remove the stigma around his death," she said, noting he had recently graduated from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences with honors in geriatrics and was a first-year resident at a hospital in Jonesboro. "Looking back, I can see the signs but thought he was a grown man and capable of making his own decisions. I realize I was wrong now. Now is too late for him, but hopefully I can use his death as a teaching instrument to others."

For more information, visit afsp.org. A crisis hotline for people struggling or in need of assistance is available at 1-800-273-TALK.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.

Floyd names SBC Committee on Committees

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP) – Appointments to the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Committee on Committees have been announced by SBC President Ronnie Floyd, pastor of Cross Church, Springdale.



Floyd

Floyd announced the appointments in accordance with SBC Bylaw 19, which calls for providing notice to Southern

Baptists of the appointees no later than 45 days in advance of each year's convention.

The 2015 SBC Annual Meeting will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio, June 16-17.

The Committee on Committees will assemble in Columbus just prior to the SBC's June 16-17 annual meeting to nominate members of the Committee on Nominations who, in turn, nominate trustees for the boards of SBC entities. SBC Bylaw 19 also provides that the Committee on Committees "shall nominate all special committees authorized during the sessions of the Convention not otherwise provided for."

The Committee on Committees has 68 members, two from each of the 34 states and regions qualified for representation on boards of SBC entities.

Floyd named Bryan Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., to serve as chairman of this year's Committee on Committees. See Floyd's blog at ronniefloyd.com for more information about the Committee on Committees' selection process.

Committee members from Arkansas are Tom Hatley, Immanuel Baptist Church, Rogers, and Bill Elliff, The Summit Church, North Little Rock.



PRAYER AT CAPITOL – Pastors, church members and members of the Arkansas Legislature came together at the Arkansas state Capitol in Little Rock March 17 to pray for Arkansas and for the state's ministers, elected officials and leaders. Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin was the event's keynote speaker. Griffin briefly addressed those in attendance and welcomed them to visit his office, which he referred to as "the parsonage," when visiting the Capitol. "Welcome to the mission field, folks," said Griffin. "I want y'all to view that office, and the coffee and the snacks and the coat rack as a place to rest in between sharing with folks, ... because the one thing we have in common as humans is that we are all broken and in need of Christ." Before leaving the meeting to speak to a bill, Griffin led the group in a time of prayer. *Photos by Caleb Yarbrough*

Ark. Baptist News Day of Prayer set for May 17

MAY 17 has been designated as the official 2015 *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) Day of Prayer.

Arkansas Baptists are encouraged to pray during the month of May for the work of their state Baptist newspaper, as well as for the work being done across the Natural State through the ministry of Arkansas Baptist churches and institutions.

"While the ABN staff and board of directors desire your prayers as we seek to further the gospel through our own work, we also want to draw attention to the wide range of kingdom work being done by Arkansas Baptists throughout the state," said Tim Yarbrough, ABN editor.

"Arkansas Baptists each

week report to us about how God is at work in their churches and communities, and we are honored to be able to draw attention to and celebrate His deeds through the Day of Prayer on May 17," Yarbrough said.

The focal Scripture passage of this year's Day of Prayer is 2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV): "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

"This verse parallels the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's current focus on prayer for revival and awakening," Yarbrough said. "America is in desperate need of revival.

May it start with Arkansas Baptists!"

In recognition of the 2015 ABN Day of Prayer, a special bulletin insert will be mailed to all Arkansas Baptist churches for distribution on May 17 or the following Sunday.

The insert is being produced by the ABN in cooperation with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive and administrative team.

Members of the ABN staff and board of directors are available to speak on May 17 or other times during May to support the emphasis. To request a speaker for a Sunday morning or evening service or a Wednesday night service, please contact the ABN at abn@arkansasbaptist.org or 501-376-4791, ext. 5153.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Same-sex marriage dividing evangelicals

NASHVILLE (BP) – From churches in California and Alabama to the largest Presbyterian denomination in America, same-sex marriage continues to prompt concern in the larger evangelical community. City Church in San Francisco has drawn criticism from evangelicals for lifting its requirement that members with same-sex attraction not engage in homosexual behavior. Meanwhile, Weatherly Heights Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., has been disfellowshipped from its local Baptist association after its pastor and an unpaid minister to the community expressed their support for same-sex marriage and the volunteer minister performed at least one same-sex wedding. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved a new definition of marriage from "a man and a woman" to "two people, traditionally a man and a woman."

Lethal injection upheld by Ark. Supreme Court

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Supreme Court ruled March 19 to uphold the state's lethal injection law, according to media reports. The decision released by the high court reverses a Pulaski County Circuit Court judge's 2014 decision. Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge said in a statement following the ruling: "I am pleased that the State's highest Court has upheld the constitutionality of Arkansas's death penalty law that provides for executions to occur by lethal injection. I am hopeful that this decision will allow the convictions of those on death row to move forward so that some closure and justice is brought to the families of the victims."

For more ABN Digest, go to
www.arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest

Editorial & Opinion

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have..."

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

America's support of Israel must be unwavering

There was a time when the foreign policy of the United States government was something that many Americans could readily champion.

In recent years, however, that has all changed.

With an activist liberal administration in the White House and many liberal leaders occupying Washington D.C., what Americans once considered as "givens" from its leadership have given way to indecision, inaction and outright left-wing post-modern progressivism.

Such is the case with the state of America's relationship with the Israel.

In spite of their personal belief concerning the matter, every U.S. president since the rebirth of the state of Israel has publically supported the

right of Israel to exist and pledged support for the nation with financial and strategic military support.

Recently, some watchers



PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough
Phil. 3:14

of Israel have asked, "Should evangelical Christians continue to support a nation that is in many ways secular and has not received Jesus Christ as Messiah?"

When I am asked to answer this question I point directly to Scripture. After all, Israel is God's original chosen people. What's more, God says He is not done with Israel just

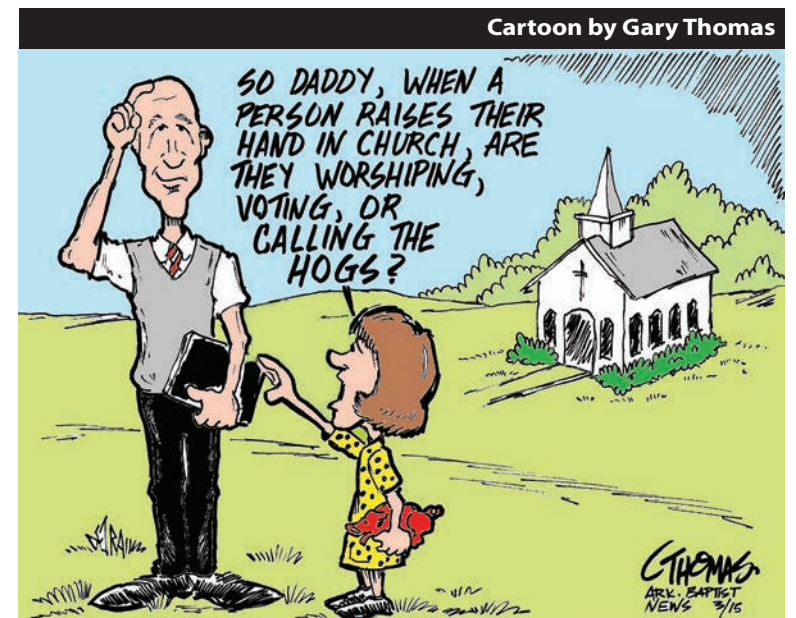
yet, as Paul writes in Romans 11:25-29 (ESV): "Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, 'The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob'; 'and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.' As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."

Yes, while we cannot fully understand the ways of the God of the Universe and

the Creator of all things, we should never, ever doubt His plan – even if it sometimes doesn't make sense to our human minds.

What really concerns me is what has happened to the nations that have turned

See **ISRAEL** page 5



A gospel famine

Last Friday night our family celebrated my brother-in-law's birthday, and I ate one of the top five best cheeseburgers I've had in my entire life, and I've eaten a lot of cheeseburgers! Although hunger is a problem for many in our country, we in the U.S. have never experienced it on the nationwide scale that we normally see in the Third World.

The scene on TV is all too familiar: pictures of little children with bloated stomachs, surrounded by flies, drinking putrid water haunt our minds. The U.S. annually

gives billions of dollars in aid to war-torn or famine-stricken countries to relieve this kind of human suffering. The truth is Americans throw away more food than many of these people have to eat.

VIEWPOINT

Kim Reeder
Barton Chapel
Baptist Church
Tyronza



a "gospel famine." As sad as it may be, countries that have no physical food are often plagued by an even greater trouble. They lack access to the gospel. Instead of empty stomachs, these people have a spiritual emptiness that is never filled. Instead of putrid

water, they drink from the dregs of sinful and dirty living that bring about pain and suffering. Instead of dying of malnutrition, they are dying in sin and spending an eternity in hell. The average American can turn on a TV, radio or Internet and access thousands of sermons or read the Scripture in any version.

In many countries around the world, people are dying of spiritual hunger, and while we eat our cheeseburgers here at home, we are doing very little to feed the masses. Mission agencies are sending, but more could go. More could give. More could pray. How much more could Southern Baptists do if we would really commit ourselves to help ad-

vance the gospel? When you start talking about missions, a common response is, "What about the lost people here in our community?" Don't get



me wrong – I don't see this as an either/or proposition. It's not a decision to either reach the rest of the world or focus our energies at home. It's a both/and issue. We are to both love the people here and reach out to the world.

The hard truth we must face, though, is that in general, our table is prepared for a feast while many are dying for lack of a single morsel of gospel Truth.

Don't give up on your friends, family and neighbors. They need Jesus. Pray for them, talk to them and share the gospel with them. Remember, though, that while they have access to the gospel on a regular basis and continue to reject Jesus, there are hundreds of mil-

lions of people who have not yet had the chance to even consider the claims of Christ. Should we not feed them too?

Kim Reeder is pastor of Barton Chapel Baptist Church in Tyronza and a frequent contributor to the Arkansas Baptist News.



Volume 114, Number 6
USPS08021
Member of the Association
of State Baptist Publications
and the
Arkansas Press Association

Telling the story of
Arkansas Baptists since 1901
Tim Yarbrough, editor/exec. director
Jessica Vanderpool, senior assist. editor
Caleb Yarbrough, assistant editor
Jeanie Weber, administrative assistant
Becky Hardwick, business manager
Advertising: ads@arkansasbaptist.org
Phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5161
Toll-free 800-838-2272, ext. 5161

Arkansas Baptist News (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly except the last issue of the year (25 issues) by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.

SUBSCRIPTION rates are \$7.75 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$8.75 per year (Group Plan), \$15 per year (Individual). Arkansas Baptist News, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 501-376-4791; toll-free 800-838-2272; email: abn@arkansasbaptist.org.

Periodical Postage paid at Little Rock, AR.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Send Letters to the Editor to tim@arkansasbaptist.org or to our mailing address. Letters must be typed, doublespaced and 300 words or less (fewer words the better). Letters must be signed and marked "for publication" and may be edited to fit space requirements.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist News, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Lyndon Finney, Little Rock, president; Jeff Thompson, Fort Smith, vice president; Mary Kisor, Pottsville, secretary; Bob Beach, Little Rock; James Bryant, Harrison; Jennifer Bryant, New Edinburg; Stephanie Copes, Crossett; Carl A. Garvin, Omaha; Jennifer Booth, Little Rock; Rickey Rogers, Arkadelphia; Troy Sharp, Desha; Doug Hibbard, Almyra; Mike Sheets, Texarkana; Mike Vinson, Corning; Juel Zeiser, Hot Springs Village.

Family Matters

Resurrection readings

Our family began reading about the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection in chronological order on March 1, five weeks before Easter, beginning with the Last Supper accounts in Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-30, and John 13:1-17. The purpose was to read and discuss the events surrounding the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I want my family to be extremely familiar with details surrounding the Death and Resurrection accounts in each of the Gospels. The days leading up to Resurrection Sunday are great opportunities to teach your children and grandchildren about Jesus and to tell others about Jesus.



Phillips

Here are a few reasons I would encourage you to read through the crucifixion, burial and resurrection accounts of Jesus Christ.

- It provides daily opportunities to talk about who Jesus is and what He did.
- It points us to all the prophecies in the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled.
- It enables us to understand the suffering Jesus went through to pay the penalty for our sins.
- It grounds us in the factual accounts of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
- It leads us to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.
- It draws us to fall more in love with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- It helps us to follow Jesus' example of being obedient to the will of the Father.
- It motivates us to tell others about the good news of salvation through Jesus.
- It gives us hope for eternal life and a home in heaven with Jesus.

Set aside some intentional time individually and with your family to read through the story of Jesus' death and resurrection:

Jesus' crucifixion - Matthew 27:32-56, Mark 15:21-41, Luke 23:26-49, John 19:17-37.

Jesus' burial - Matthew 27:57-66, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56, John 19:38-42.

Jesus' resurrection - Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-35, John 20:1-23.

Ben Phillips serves on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church health team.

'Church revitalization'

Whenever I go see my family doctor, Dr. Willie, he always weighs me first (and his scales are always wrong - too heavy); then he takes my blood pressure, my pulse and my temperature. These are my simple vital signs that show him whether I am healthy or sick.

We are hearing a lot today about "church revitalization." I like it. I believe in the local Church, and I believe the local Church is the last line of defense between godless people and the place Jesus called "hell." We are in a battle for the souls of men and women, boys and girls, but sometimes this battle takes its toll on the Church.

Admittedly, some of our churches are weak, unhealthy and battle-scarred; but always remember that Jesus said He would build His Church and the gates of Hades would not overwhelm it.

So how do we improve church health? We look to Scriptures such as Acts 4:31-37. In this passage, I see three characteristics of a healthy church.

First, they were a committed church. The congregation of believers (more than 8,000) was of one heart and soul. It's hard to get four Southern Baptists to agree on the same thing, much less 8,000, but verse 31 says, "And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness." Through the filling of the Holy Spirit, they were committed to the Great Commission of making disciples and the

Great Commandment of loving their neighbor. They were also committed to preaching the gospel. Preaching the gospel was always the focal point of the apostles' preaching and should be ours today. The gospel is offensive and is not politically correct, but the gospel is life changing and biblically correct.

Secondly, the early Church was a sacrificing Church.

Imagine the powerful testimony of the early Church found in verse 34, "not a needy person among them." This is a great picture of sacrificial giving. They were putting the needs of others before themselves. They were a giving church. They were living sacrificial lives. Today in church life, most Christians give less than 3 percent of their income to the Lord's work. In my opinion, most of us are a long ways from sacrificial giving.

Thirdly, they were an authentic church. Barnabas sold a piece of land and laid the proceeds at the apostles' feet to be distributed as they determined. This was real authenticity. But wherever God is active, Satan will be active also. That is why the Bible records for us Acts 5:1-11. Barnabas was real with the right motive, but Ananias and Sapphira were hypocrites. They said one thing, but did something else, and God dealt with their lie. This is not an exhaustive list of the characteristics of a healthy church. There are more, but I hope this stirs our hearts to consider what a healthy church looks like. May all of HIS churches be revitalized for HIS Glory!

Archie Mason is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and senior pastor of Central Baptist Church in Jonesboro.



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Archie Mason

Embracing the future together

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, for allowing me the opportunity to serve and lead at the Arkansas Baptist Foundation; the transition process has already been a tremendous blessing. In addition to being allowed to spend time each week volunteering in the office at Foundation, I have also been blessed to attend numerous meetings and events on behalf of the Foundation in these past two years.

The most exciting and encouraging times have been the meetings with convention leadership regarding strengthening partnership and cooperation as well as eliminating duplication. As we work together to promote biblical stewardship, we must align our stewardship philosophy with our eschatology; this will cause us to examine whether we are trusting God to provide for our current and future needs by putting to work what He provides. Our focus will shift more to considering our effectiveness in stewarding the resources we have.

I continue to be extremely thankful to David Moore and the Foundation board for allowing me this opportunity

to further serve in obedience to God. Never once have I questioned the call on my life to serve here at the Foundation. I am so thankful for the prayers and words of encouragement that have been received. I'd like to say a special "thank you" to our executive committee; they were charged with not only the personnel demands of the transition, but also the provision of leadership and guidance throughout this process.

This is a very busy and exciting time for the Foundation as we attempt to execute the insight found in the following excerpt from the book "The Choice: The Christ-Centered Pursuit of Kingdom Outcomes": "Obedience to God and the alignment of our strategies with Scripture position us for kingdom outcomes, also known as fruit. This does not mean that we won't have difficulties. It simply means that we will not try to use people and money to accomplish our purposes. We will, instead, invite others to participate with us in God's work as faithful stewards and obedient disciples. With this perspective, disciples are blessed, ministry is accomplished, and God gets all the glory."

Bobby Thomas is president of Arkansas Baptist Foundation.



KINGDOM FOUNDATION

Bobby Thomas

ISRAEL

continued from page 4

away from God and support of His chosen people.

Here are few other Scripture passages to look to when you are asked to defend your support of Israel.

"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen.

12:3, (ESV).

An example of a Gentile receiving a blessing from God because of love for Israel is the healing of the Roman centurion's servant in Luke 7:2-6 (NIV): "There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, 'This man deserves

to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.' So Jesus went with them."

Finally, a few other notable items (I could include more if space allowed):

- The roots of Christianity are in Judaism (Rom. 15:27).
- Jesus Christ has a Jewish lineage (Matt. 1:1-16).
- God commands us to pray for peace in Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).

Tim Yarbrough is editor/executive director of the Arkansas Baptist News.

TINGLE

continued from page one

side, a broken clavicle, a broken pelvis and a broken ankle. In addition, several other health complications arose in the following months, including a blood clot, internal bleeding, two bouts of pneumonia and wounds on his foot that occurred due to a lack of blood flow in his leg.

Since the accident, he has undergone 26 surgeries and has been in and out of the hospital multiple times.

And even now – more than a year later – the recovery process is by no means complete. Doctors are waiting on the wounds on his foot to heal before performing surgery that will flatten his foot out in order for him to walk. After that surgery, he will undergo therapy to help him walk.

Today, Tingle uses a knee scooter and sometimes walks with a cane, which he is able to do because of the way the crushed bone calcified in his leg.

But Tingle says the ordeal is not about him. It is about God and His work in his life and the lives of others. It is about his gratitude for those supporting him. It is about the “power and wonder of prayer.”

“My wife, Cynthia, and I know God in ways now that we’ve never known Him,” Tingle said, adding that while he would not want to go through the experience again, he also “wouldn’t trade this experience of knowing Him the way we know Him and know each other.”

Tingle said they have seen God’s hand at work all throughout the process, beginning the night of the accident when a nurse was the one to

find him and the emergency personnel were nearby. In addition, Tingle said one of the first responders was a former pastor of First Baptist Church, Lonoke. He rode with Tingle in the ambulance, contacted people for Tingle and waited at the hospital for Tingle’s wife so he could explain the situation to her.

Another one of the many times the Tingles saw God at work was in late February 2014, when a complication arose and part of the muscle in Tingle’s right leg died, which meant the leg needed to be amputated. But when the surgeon went in to amputate, all he found was a healthy leg. No amputation was required.

Since then, Tingle has had

said, adding, “God’s hand was on me when I didn’t know His hand was on me.”

While the physical results of the accident have been hard, Tingle said the mental and spiritual aspects have been even harder.

“You get to make a choice every day: How are you going to use this day? How are you going to value this day?” he said.

Tingle added, “I think the biggest challenge for me is I don’t want to live in the shadow of an accident, but I never want to lose light of what God has shown and what God continues to do in both mine and Cynthia’s life.”

He expressed his gratitude for all that has been done for him and specifically for the “graciousness” of J.D. “Sonny” Tucker, ABSC executive director, and convention staff, who have allowed Tingle to continue serving in ministry at the convention in a part-time capacity as he recovers.

Currently, Tingle is serving as associational missionary liaison for the convention. He

in his new roles, and he has taken them to new levels of impact. I am personally very thankful that God has protected him and allowed him to come back to work.”

Tingle said he is also grateful to his wife, who believed in him through it all.

“The caregivers, the ones who have to come along beside, are the ones who pay just incredible prices. ... She (Cynthia) has demonstrated such kindness to me, such love to me. And I thought we had a great marriage before the accident, but the love that we have for God and the love that we have for each other is deeper than it’s ever been.”

“God is bigger than I ever knew, closer than I could ever imagine and more faithful than I ever deserve,” said Cynthia Tingle, thanking everyone for their prayers and asking that they continue praying.

Robby Tingle noted that the Church has truly ministered to him and his family.

“There is no possible way

that Cynthia and I could express our gratitude for Arkansas Baptists and Christians around the world,” he said.

“What’s most important to me in all this is ... that it is in these times God will reveal Himself in ways that we’ve never seen Him before,” Tingle said. “But we still have to seek Him. He’s there.”

He said he can see God at work through the kindness of others, and in return, he has tried to reflect Christ as well – no matter the circumstances.

“I don’t want it (the accident) to be about me. ... It is about what God is doing in my life and how God has chosen this to move me further in His plan.”

“And one thing I know, one thing I am certain of: ... that whatever God has planned for me, He has planned. So I’m excited about the opportunity of serving Him and continuing to serve Him and make a difference for His kingdom.”

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.



Tingle (above) celebrates life with his family. Tingle (left) prepares for his 21st surgery and completes time in the hyperbaric chamber (below left).

numerous people tell him they were praying for him and the amputation the night before it occurred.

“We believe it (the healing of the leg) is because of God’s grace and it is His response to the people that prayed,” Tingle

also assists Randy Garrett, ABSC disaster relief director.

“Robby is a very valuable asset to the churches of Arkansas,” Tucker said. “He has a passion for our Lord and an enthusiasm that is extremely contagious. We have put him

Support the ABN Endowment Fund

An endowment fund for the *Arkansas Baptist News (ABN)* has been established at the Arkansas Baptist Foundation. Consider helping to secure the future of official news journal of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for years to come by including the *ABN* in your will or by making a contribution to the *ABN* Endowment Fund. Please contact Bobby Thomas at the Arkansas Baptist Foundation at 501-376-0732 or 800-798-0969 (toll free outside of Little Rock) for more information.



REFUGE

continued from page one

(Larison). ... He mixes it all together. He can go from Hill-song to Hezekiah Walker," he said.

City of Refuge is located at 3400 Roosevelt Road between the Little Rock Compassion Center and the Pulaski County Jail. Scoggins said the church has become a home for individuals who have never felt comfortable at church or who have been hurt by the Church in the past.

"City of Refuge church is striving to become the church that is reaching folks that many churches don't want," said Willie Jacobs, Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) church planting team member. Jacobs is the member of the ABSC staff who has worked most closely with Scoggins and City of Refuge.

"They are using various outreach methods in partnership with Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, and Pastor Gary Hollingsworth, who is their key sponsor church, as well as other community partners as they focus on reaching all ethnic groups of people for the kingdom," said Jacobs.

The concept for what would become City of Refuge came to Scoggins in July 2008, while Scoggins and his wife, Erin, were vacationing in Chicago.

Scoggins was on staff at another church at the time, but as he looked out of a window overlooking the Chicago River, he felt God speaking to him.

"It was like God was saying, ... 'If I asked you to walk out on this water, would you do it?'" said Scoggins. "Yeah, God, I'd do it."

"Right after that I started to get the vision for a place of safety for people who get hurt by church, for people that are afraid of church or afraid of church people and people that

kind of get thrown away," said Scoggins. "It doesn't match a specific demographic. It doesn't match a specific race or age. It's just people."

Before planting City of Refuge, Scoggins was working at Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock, where he continues to teach classes. He had worked with Jacobs and David James, ABSC collegiate and young leaders team leader, to help forward the school's Baptist Collegiate Ministry. However, he had never been involved in a Southern Baptist church plant until he began planning to start City of Refuge.

Scoggins said that at first many people cautioned him on attempting to start a church south of Interstate 630 where crime is high and businesses regularly fail due to the area's poor economy.

"Everybody kept telling me, 'Don't start in that area,' because everything is dying in that area. People don't want to come. Crime is high and all of that," said Scoggins. "I'm thinking, 'That's the place to start.'"

Scoggins said there have no doubt been challenges to starting a church in an economically and spiritually depressed area of Arkansas' urban center. However, he said he has heard countless stories from individuals who say City of Refuge has brought them closer to God.

Scoggins told the *Arkansas Baptist News* that he recently saw a young man quit using and selling drugs due in part to the ministry and love he received from the City of Refuge family.

"I always tell the story about Kenneth. I met him at Pulaski Tech. He came and was selling drugs in the area, and he told me one day, 'I've got tools I don't need any more - because you have given me new tools.'" said Scoggins. "So, in the Bible Study, he brought



Members of City of Refuge Community Church, Little Rock, give out free food to their Roosevelt Road community.

this drug paraphernalia in a bag and gave it to me."

After contacting the local authorities, the illicit materials were disposed of. However, the trust that Kenneth placed in his minister still amazes Scoggins.

"That blows my mind. I'm not that guy. I'm not the O.G. (original gangster) kind of dude," said Scoggins. "But for him to trust me, that really blows my mind."

Scoggins said Kenneth recently graduated from a leadership program, which was founded by former state Sen. Tracy Steele. As his project for the program, Kenneth presented a ministry called Refuge, which provides free nonperishable food and personal counseling. City of Refuge is now a Refuge ministry location.

"A friend of mine used to say all the time, 'If your church left the community that you're

in, would they (the community) know or care?'" said Scoggins.

One of his biggest goals for City of Refuge from its earliest beginnings, said Scoggins, has been for the church to "assimilate into the culture, without the culture getting into us."

"Jesus was God in flesh. So we have to be 'in flesh' to the community," he said.

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.



COME FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS, PREPARE FOR THE NEXT 30.

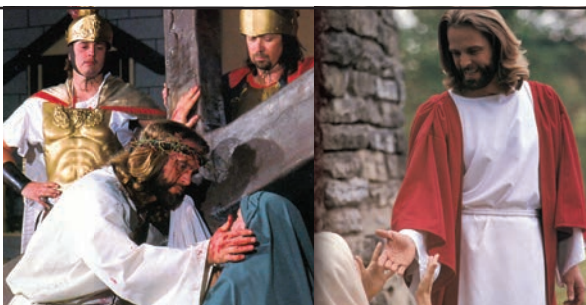
Ministry leaders are facing challenges previous generations could not imagine. Midwestern Seminary's nationally-ranked degree programs are innovative, affordable, and available fully online.

Apply today at mbts.edu/apply



UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATE DOCTORAL ONLINE

#MBTS | MBTS.EDU | 816-414-3733 | KANSAS CITY, MO



www.GreatPassionPlay.org

Get tickets now to the 2015 season!

Special discounts available for groups of 15 or more! **800-882-7529**

Listen to Gospel Music at TheGospelStation.com

Worship conf. April 27-29 at Mid-America Seminary

CORDOVA, Tenn. – The annual Adrian Rogers Conference on Worship: Preaching and Praise will be held April 27-29 on the campus of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, 2095 Appling Road, Cordova, Tenn. Featured at the 2015 conference are Arturo Azurdia



Azurdia

of Word and worship at Trinity Church and associate professor of pastoral theology at Western Seminary, both in



Jones



Priday

“Get ready to revive, renew, and rejoice ... Spring is a time of renewal, so make plans now to Revive!” reads a news release about the event.

Azurdia is senior minister

Portland, Ore. He is a frequent speaker at various national and international conferences. Azurdia and his wife, Lori, have two children, Katherine and Jonathan.

Ray Jones has 43 years of worship-leading experience.

He grew up in a minister's home and has led worship in Texas, Alabama and Louisiana.

Jones has also produced more than 40 worship and Christian music albums and recently wrote the book “Will You Worship?” The book was awarded Best of the Best 2012

by *Worship Leader Magazine*.

Priday was born in the small market town of Brecon, Mid Wales, and for the past 20 years, he has performed as a professional opera and concert artist.

He studied in London at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and at the Royal

College of Music. Priday and his wife, soprano Elizabeth Woollett, have sung to royalty and heads of state throughout the world.

For a complete schedule of conference events or to register, visit mabts.edu/ARC. For more information about the conference, call 800-968-4508.

CenturyMen return to Arkansas April 14

LITTLE ROCK – The CenturyMen will be performing at Second Baptist Church, located at 8th Street and Cumberland Street in downtown Little Rock, at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 14. Admission is free. It is the first visit of The CenturyMen to Arkansas since 2000 and their second concert tour under the direction of North Little Rock native Charlie Fuller, music director and conductor. Fuller is also the minister for congregational life at Second Baptist and former professor of music and dean of the School of Fine Arts at Ouachita Baptist University.

The CenturyMen is an auditioned men's chorus of pro-

fessional Christian musicians who are music ministers from across the United States. The CenturyMen assembles annually to present concert tours in various areas of the U.S. Their overseas tours have literally circled the globe. Their recordings, which include the Grammy-nominated Christmas album “Beautiful Star – A Celebration of Christmas,” are available on iTunes or at thecenturymen.com.

The CenturyMen have performed at a range of significant venues across the country, including the U.S. Capitol, Constitution Hall, the Crystal Cathedral, the Dove Awards, as well as on both NBC and

CBS television channels, said Fuller.

“They were invited to be one of the first outside music groups to visit mainland China and will embark on a groundbreaking performance/mission tour to Cuba in 2016,” Fuller added.

Prolific Baptist composer and hymn writer Buryl Red, a native of Little Rock, founded The CenturyMen in 1969. Red died April 1, 2013, at the age of 76.

Red is perhaps best remembered as composer of “Celebrate Life,” a musical created with lyricist Ragan Courtney, considered a landmark in church music. Released in 1972, “Celebrate Life” is still in print, sold through LifeWay Christian Resources.



Fuller

EVENING SESSIONS ARE FREE!

Revive!

Revive, Renew, Rejoice

**ADRIAN ROGERS CONFERENCE
ON WORSHIP:
PREACHING & PRAISE**

APRIL 27-29, 2015

**MESSAGES BY: DR. ARTURO AZURDIA
MUSIC BY: RAY JONES & HUW PRIDAY**

REGISTER+INFO: MABTS.EDU/ARC

MID-AMERICA
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Centurymen
in Concert

Dr. Charles Fuller, Music Director and Conductor

**Tuesday, April 14, 2015
7:30 p.m.**

Second Baptist Church
8th and Cumberland
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 374-9284

THE CENTURY MEN

Arkansas Baptists serve together in Honduras

FAIRFIELD BAY – Seventy lives were saved and rededicated, more than 1,700 patients were seen in clinics and almost 5,000 prescriptions were dispensed – and it was all during one mission trip.

For Christy and Michael Lester, members of Fairfield Bay Baptist Church in Fairfield Bay, this was one of seven mission trips they have taken to Honduras.

Theirs is one of many teams – including several Arkansas teams – that serve through the

Honduras Baptist Dental Mission (HBDM), which is based out of Laurel, Miss.

Christy Lester said she and her husband were called to the Honduran mission field in 2008 and took their first mission trip through HBDM in 2009. They have been going on trips with Team Honduras

– Brigade #1, also known as “The Clinton Team,” and serving on its leadership team ever since.

Christy Lester said the unique aspect of this year’s trip is that it was the “maiden voyage” for the newly established Team Honduras – Brigade #2. She explained that it was evident following the 2014 trip of Team Honduras-Brigade #1, which is sponsored by Clinton Church of the Nazarene in Clinton, that the team had

grown so large a second team was needed. The new team was sponsored by Fairfield Bay Baptist Church, and the Lesters served as captains of the team.

The 22 members of Team Honduras – Brigade #2 stayed busy during their trip, which took place Jan. 17-24. In ad-

dition to doing door-to-door evangelism, the Lesters led the team in helping with 19 church services, five evening revival services with praise and worship in Spanish, 23 children’s services, six home health visits and four days of medical, dental and optical clinics, which included a pharmacy.

The result was 51 people saved, 19 lives rededicated, 1,400 Bibles distributed, 700 salvation bracelets shared, 1,731 patients seen in the clinics and 4,949 prescriptions dispensed.

“Everyone that came to the clinics was first introduced to the good news of Jesus Christ before they entered the clinic. In the optical clinic, they read John 3:16 to check their eyesight,” explained Christy Lester. “All glory and honor is given to our almighty God for the privilege He has given this team of believers as part of His Great Commission!”

She noted that salvation and rededication cards were given to the local church pastor for follow-up.

She said taking part in Honduran missions is one more way Fairfield Bay Baptist can fulfill the Great Commission. The church is involved in multiple ministries. In fact,

she said Fairfield Bay Baptist, itself, was a mission church sponsored by Pulaski Heights Baptist Church in Little Rock and pioneered by Pastor A. Hilton Lane in June 1972.

Although several team members were from Fairfield Bay Baptist, Team Honduras – Brigade #2 team members also came from a number of other churches. Participating churches were: Fairfield Bay Baptist Church; South Side Baptist Church, Damascus; Siloam Fellowship, Mountain View; First Baptist Church, Center Ridge; First Baptist Church, Clinton; Calvary Baptist Church, Magnolia; Wyatt Baptist Church, El Dorado; Grace Church, Clinton; Clinton Church of the Nazarene, and Ss. Mary & Mathias Catholic Church, Muscatine, Iowa.

Churches worked with in-country missionaries John and Karen Ward, from Texarkana, and Kris and Alaina Hender-

son, from Bowdon, Ga.

One of the team members from Fairfield Bay Baptist Church was the church’s pastor, Kenneth Reece.

“Other than assisting a disaster relief team in Kenner, La., after (Hurricane) Katrina, I had no mission experience,” said Reece.

“Though I have given spiritual support to our Honduran medical teams, I didn’t really know how much good they were doing until I went with them. The medical needs of the Hondurans are great, and they are receptive to hearing the gospel while they are treated by Christian doctors and nurses. Hopefully, the Lord used this trip to bless souls in Honduras. He certainly blessed mine.”

The team is scheduled to return next January.

For more information on HBDM, visit medicaldental.org.



A child receives a salvation bracelet.

Mark your calendar!

Arkansas Baptist Communications Conference – May 8

Admission is free – To register visit arkansasbaptist.org/ABCC15

CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY

Baptistries/Steeple

Construction Sales Co., Inc.

P.O. Box 1049
Magnolia, AR 71753-1049
800-526-9663 FAX: 870-234-6475
Also laminated wood arches, beams and decking

Church Facility Planner

Sowell Architects

1315 North Street, Suite 100
Conway, AR 72034
501-450-9633 FAX: 501-450-7228
Email: rik@sowellarchitects.com
www.sowellarchitects.com
Master planning, site analysis
and all architectural services

Church Insurance

Michael B. Russell, MA, MBA

Member, Cross Church, Springdale
Mike Russell & Associates
P.O. Box 709, Bentonville, AR 72712
877-715-5336, 479-657-6369 fax
www.protectmychurch.org
AR Ins. Lic. #185726
Non-profit - Church - Commercial - Employee Benefits

James Greene & Associates

800-422-3384
www.jamesgreeneins.com
James Greene & Associates represents Brotherhood Mutual Insurance, a national leader insuring churches in alliance with GuideStone. Call today or go online for property, liability, auto and worker's comp quotes!

Kitchen Equipment & Supplies

Aimco Equipment Co.

10001 Colonel Glenn Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72204
501-228-0808

Lighting & Sound

American AVL

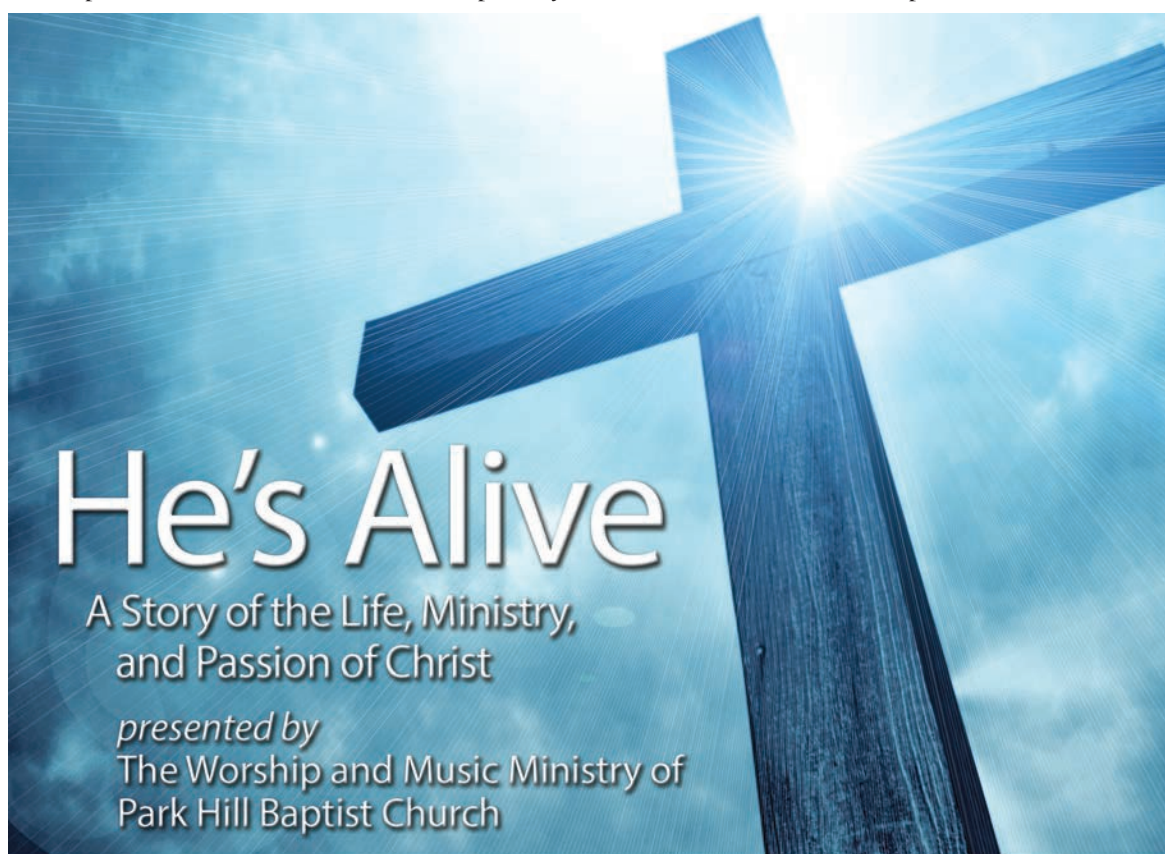
800-352-7222
Little Rock/Jackson/Ruston/New Orleans
Audio, Video, & Lighting Systems & Equipment
Ask about our free site needs AVL review

Playgrounds

Rusty Peoples

rusty@peopleslandscaping.com
479-769-0580, (toll-free) 866-388-1365
Quality park-playground equip, surfacing & shades
Free design consultations
www.heartlandparks.com

To advertise in the Church Services Directory, contact the ABN at 501-376-4791, ext. 5161, or email ads@arkansasbaptist.org



Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5 • 6:00 p.m. • Free Admission
Park Hill Baptist Church • 201 East C Avenue, North Little Rock
www.parkhillbaptist.org • 501.753.3413

Milestones

A drop-in retirement reception honoring **Jerry Gay**, executive director of the North Pulaski Baptist Association in North Little Rock, will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. March 29 at North Pulaski Baptist Association, 4500 North Hills Blvd., in North Little Rock. Gay has served as executive director of the association for 10

years. A scrapbook of letters is being prepared. To include a letter in the book, mail it to Levy Baptist Church, Attn: Amanda, 3901 Pike Ave., North Little Rock, AR 72218. Deadline to submit is April 1. It will be presented to him after the event.

Members and friends of Village Baptist Church in Bella Vista will honor **Bill Bowen** April 20 for his 15 years as pastor during the morning service with special guests. A reception will follow.

Arkansas Master'Singers Memorial Scholarship

Application forms are now available for the Master'Singers Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a student who is preparing for some type of vocational ministry through music. The scholarship is established to memorialize deceased members of the Arkansas Master'Singers. Funds for the \$2000 scholarship are received in the form of memorial gifts and freewill offerings at concerts presented by the Master'Singers. Application forms and additional information may be downloaded from our website: www.absc.org/music or by contacting Donna Couch at the Evangelism & Church Health Team of ABSC, ph. 1-800-838-2272, ext. 5121. All applications and supporting documents must be received by June 8, 2015.

Staff Wanted

Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries

Houseparent couple for the Baptist Home for Children in Monticello. This full-time position includes salary, medical insurance, life insurance and paid leave.

Contact: Randy Luper, 870.367.5358 or rluper@abchomes.org.



For more Arkansas Baptist news visit arkansasbaptist.org

Obituaries

Don Alan Nall, 78, of Little Rock, died March 11. He was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist



University in Arkadelphia and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He pastored churches in Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas for more than 45 years. He served 25 years as pastor of First Baptist Church in Batesville until his retirement in 2001. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Judy Overton Nall, two daughters, four grandchildren and a brother. A memorial service was held March 14 at Roller-Chenal Funeral Home in Little Rock.

Church life

Shepherd Hill Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, will host a youth rally on April 18. A game time will begin at 4 p.m. Hamburgers will be served following the activities. The rally service will start at 6 p.m. with speaker Cody Brown and worship leader Elliott Andrews. Everyone is invited. Churches should call 870-534-1926 by April 12 to give a head count.

The Centennial Baptist Association will hold its annual

Centennial Mission Day April 11. Churches in the association will partner with Second Baptist Church, located on Park Avenue in West Helena, in reaching out to the Delta. In the past two years, the event has been held in Arkansas County.

Woodland Heights Baptist Church, Conway, will host the musical "Celebrate Life" at 6:30 p.m. April 18 and April 19, with special guests Ragan Courtney, author, and Cynthia Clawson, original soloist. For more information, call the church office at 501-329-0001.

River Valley Christian Life Corps (RVCLC) will host a job skills fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 11 at the Adult Education Center. Lunch will be provided. The event is open to the public.

Holly Springs Baptist Church and **Holly Springs United Methodist Church** will sponsor the Terry "Taco"



UFM CONGRESO — Cindy Barker (left), Jennifer Booth (center) and Jerri Younkman, volunteers from Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, lead Girls in Action activities at the Arkansas Unión Femenil Misionera (Hispanic WMU) Annual Congreso, which took place at Life Line Baptist Church in Little Rock March 14. About 200 people of all ages attended the day of worship, missions learning and fellowship. The theme was All for You: Surrender, Sacrifice, Serve.

Howard Memorial Trail Ride and ATV Ride from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 4. A barbecue meal will take place at Holly Springs Baptist Church at 11 a.m., with an auction to follow. All proceeds will go to Arkansas Children's Hospital. A meal will take place April 3 at the Baptist church. For more information, call 870-687-1962.

The **First Baptist Church, Ashdown**, adult choir will present "Salvation's Story," a praise and worship musical for Easter, at 6:30 p.m. March 29.

First Baptist Church, Cabot, will hold the Awakening Women's Conference April 17-18. The conference will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. April 17 and from 9 a.m. to noon April 18. An optional fellowship dinner will take place at 5:30 p.m. April 17. For more information, visit fbccabot.org or call 501-843-5472.

Classifieds

PASTOR

First Baptist Church, El Dorado, is prayerfully seeking to fill the position of **senior pastor**. Email resumes to fbcdorad0201@gmail.com or mail to Pastor Search Committee, 100 East Peach Street, Suite 350, El Dorado, AR 71730.

Pickles Gap Baptist Church in Conway is seeking a **full-time pastor**. If you feel that God may be calling you, please send your resume with internet link/CD/DVD of sample sermons to Pickles Gap Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, #2 Pickles Gap Road, Conway, AR 72032.

Briarwood Baptist Church in Cabot is prayerfully seeking a **full-time or bi-vocational pastor**. Please send resumes to briarwoodbaptistchurch@yahoo.com by April 17, 2015.

Gould First Baptist Church seeking a **full-time pastor**. Send resume to P.O. Box 375, Gould, AR 71643.

Osceola First Baptist is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Send resumes to Pastor

Search Committee, 2900 W. Keiser Ave., Osceola, AR 72370 or email to fbcosc@rittermail.com.

Reynolds Baptist Church, Little Rock, is a small church in search of a **bi-vocational pastor**. Mail inquiries to Reynolds Baptist Church, 7111 Fourche Dam Pike, Little Rock, AR 72206, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

Union Baptist Church, El Dorado (www.ubcdoradonet.net) is prayerfully seeking a **full-time pastor**. If you feel the Lord is leading you to consider ministering to God's congregation at Union, please mail your resume with internet link/CD/DVD or sample sermons to Pastor Search Committee, c/o JoAnne Greer, 649 Armer Road, El Dorado, AR 71730.

First Baptist Church, Camden, is seeking a **full-time senior pastor**. Please send resume to FBC Pastor Search Committee, 348 W. Washington St., Camden, AR 71701, or email to timgunter@fbccamden.org.

Bi-vocational or semi-retired pastor, small church in musical Ozark tourist town. Email kenw@mvtel.net. Re-

sume to Sylamore Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1596, Mountain View, AR 72560.

First Baptist of Tuckerman is seeking a **full-time or bi-vocational pastor**. Please send resume to FBC, P.O. Box 1188, Tuckerman, AR 72473.

Cedar Glades Baptist Church in Mountain Pine is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resume to Cedar Glades Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, 303 Gum Springs Road, Mountain Pine, AR 71956.

New Hope Baptist Church in Jay, Okla., is prayerfully seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resumes to newhopebaptist-jay@gmail.com.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Gregg Baptist Association, Longview, Texas, seeks resumes for **director of missions**. Must have a heart for encouraging and networking churches (both SBTC and BGCT). Send to: Carolyn Anderson, greggba@gmail.com, or

121 Gilmer Road, Longview, TX 75604.

Calvary Baptist Church is accepting resumes for an **interim minister to students**, beginning January 2015. Resumes may be sent to office@calvarymo.com or P.O. Box 421, Republic, MO 65738, Attn: Personnel Team. For more information, call 417-732-1405.

Southside Baptist Church, Paris, Texas, seeks **full-time music minister**. Blended worship service. Help with youth band on Wednesdays. Send resumes to bnorris@suddenlink.net.

Southern Heights Baptist Church is currently seeking both a **full-time youth pastor** and a **full-time worship leader**. Resumes may be sent to shbc@windstream.net or to 279 Highway 221 S., Berryville, AR 72616.

Union Valley Baptist Church of Beebe is seeking a **full-time minister of music** to lead our blended worship services. Located in central Arkansas, Union Valley has an average worship attendance of 500. This individual will be responsible for directing

adult and youth choirs, as well as the praise band. Send resume to timsparks@centurytel.net.

MISCELLANEOUS

Two condos for rent in Destin, Fla. Two bedrooms, two baths. Email: lbramner@charter.net. Phone: 423-309-4422.

Fort Walton Beach **condo**, sleeps eight, 20 percent discount. 501.920.7205.

Small church looking for a reasonably priced **15-passenger van**. Send information to Palestine Baptist Church, 389 Edgemont Road, Quitman, AR 72131.

Grace Baptist Church in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, desires to begin handbell ministry. To donate a **2-3 octave set of bells**, contact Alan Moore at alan@ibcs.org.

Davis Church Pew Upholstery, 30-plus years experience. Melton and Sandra Davis, Quitman, Miss., 601-776-6617.

Submit to arkansasbaptist.org/ad



FAMILIES ON MISSION — Arkansas Baptists and many others braved rain to take part in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Families on Mission event at the Little Rock Zoo March 14. Arkansas Baptist disaster relief volunteers handed out free cookies; International Mission Board missionaries manned booths where they shared with children and adults about the countries in which they serve, including Canada and Mexico, and Bob Fielding (above left), ABSC missions team member, dressed in his police uniform and shared about chaplaincy.

SOUTH MAIN MARKS 25TH — South Main Baptist Church in Crossett celebrated the church's 25th anniversary March 15. Pictured from left: Billy Kite, who planted the church; Jimmy Lewis, who served as the first pastor for 18 years; Lyle Hern, current pastor; Bob Fielding, of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, who presented the church with a certificate honoring the occasion; Ally Donald, youth minister, and Gary Booker, minister of music.



Women's event 'inspires'

NORTH LITTLE ROCK — About 500 women gathered at Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, March 7 for the Inspire Women's Conference, which was put on by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church health team. The day was filled with worship, Bible teaching and break-out sessions. The topic of God's love was explored throughout the conference.

The keynote speaker was Debbie Stuart of Hope for the Heart.

The ministry project was to donate clothing items to Partners Against Trafficking Humans (PATH). Louise Allison, founder and executive director of PATH, shared her personal journey from being involved in witchcraft and sex trafficking to complete freedom in Christ.

"It's uplifting and a learning experience to have so many women praising the Lord," said Melissa Chambers, of Trinity Baptist Church, Mabelvale.

Laurie Ormon, women's ministry director at First Baptist Church, Bentonville, also enjoyed the conference.

"This conference is well-put-together and Christ-centered. There is something for every woman in every stage of life," Ormon said. "I left feeling very equipped to walk out my faith in a very tangible way."

Erica Uzoigwe, of Southside Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, brought eight women from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) to the conference. Tarvoris "Tee" Uzoigwe, her husband, serves as Baptist Collegiate Ministry campus minister at UAPB.



Debbie Stuart of Hope for the Heart spoke at the Inspire Women's Conference March 7.

"I wanted to take this group of women so that they could hear a word from God, so that they may grow in their walk with Christ or come to truly know Christ. I wanted them to see other women truly living for Christ. I wanted to broaden their look on life," Erica Uzoigwe said.

"We are so excited about all the ways that God is at work among the women of Arkansas," said Andrea Lennon, women's ministry specialist for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. "We know that events like Inspire will continue to encourage and equip women to know, love and serve the Lord in their homes, churches, communities, nation and world. God is on the move, and we simply can't wait to see all the things He has in store."

For more information on how churches can get involved in women's ministry, email Lennon at alennon@absc.org.



Young Family Ministries

Cabot - TRAVIS YOUNG

501-259-0704
youngfamilyministries@hotmail.com

Young Family Ministries exists to proclaim the gospel to children and their families in a dynamic and compelling way. Travis Young is a revival pastor and evangelist available for churches and outreach events. He places a strong emphasis on the next generation.

www.youngfamilyministries.com

Happy Birthday!

to all the missionary kids attending college who are celebrating birthdays in the month of April.

- ◆ April 2: Ellie Quick, OBU Box 3923, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Uruguay.
- ◆ April 5: Austin Moore, OBU Box 3019, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Singapore.
- ◆ April 11: Drew Funderburk, OBU Box 4030, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Asia.
- ◆ April 30: Bry Goss, OBU Box 3582, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Indonesia.

Fellowship of Retired Baptist Workers



Tuesday, April 14, 2015
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Fellowship Hall
Park Hill Baptist Church
North Little Rock, AR

Deadline to register:
Friday, April 3, 2015

Theme: Remaining Relevant

\$11 per person (includes lunch and morning refreshments), reservation required. Contact Connie McCall at 501-376-4791, ext. 5101, or cmccall@absc.org.

A Cooperative Program Ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

SPROING!

CAMP SILOAM 2015

PSALM 25:1

Can't wait until summer?
Bring your kids to SPROING!

APRIL 10-12, 2015
For kids in 3rd-6th grade.

www.campsiloam.com

State convention plans events

MARK the calendar for the following Arkansas Baptist State Convention events:

Medical Mission Training
April 11: Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Building, Little Rock
 absc.org/uttermost

Reaching Unengaged Unreached People Groups
April 2: ABSC building, Little Rock
April 16: Washington-Madison Baptist Association office, Fayetteville
 absc.org/uttermost

Connect
April 10-12: West Baptist Church, Batesville
April 24-26: First Baptist Church, Searcy
 absc.org/connect

VBS Training Events
April 14: Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro
April 16: Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock
 absc.org/vbs



More than 100 children, youth and high school students took part in the State Bible Drill March 7. Pictured are winners of the children's drill (top left and bottom right), youth drill (bottom left) and high school drill (top right).

600 attend Ark. State Bible Drill

CONWAY – The State Bible Drill was held at Second Baptist Church, Conway, March 7, with 113 children, youth and high school students participating in the event and about 600 total people in attendance.

In the state Children's Bible Drill, 91 children participated, 82 were winners and 25 received a perfect score.

The Youth Bible Drill winner was Georgia Belle Patterson, of First Baptist Church, Grandview. Mae York, of

First Baptist Church, Clarendon, was the Youth Bible Drill runner-up.

The High School Bible Drill winner was Trenae Newsome, of First Baptist Church, West Memphis. Sue York, of First Baptist Church, Clarendon, was High School Bible Drill runner-up. Sue York is sister to Mae York.

"The State Bible Drill provides a great opportunity for children, students and adults from churches all over Arkansas to gather to celebrate

God and His Word. The participants did an amazing job of demonstrating their knowledge of the Bible, and I appreciate the effort they and their Bible drill leaders put forth," said Marcus Brown, Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church health team member.

The youth and high school first-place winners are eligible to represent Arkansas in the National Bible Drill to be held June 18 in King-land, Ga.



KIDS MATTER CONF. – The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Kids Matter conference for preschool and children's ministry leadership was recently held in Little Rock with participants from 23 churches taking part in training designed to strengthen ministry to children and families. Participants chose from four options for the breakout sessions. LifeWay Christian Resources partnered with the ABSC and the Cooperative Program to make the conference possible.

Submit your church's news to the Arkansas Baptist News:
 800-838-2272, ext. 5153

WorshipWorks offers simultaneous worship arts camps for children and students

W WORSHIP WORKS

REGISTER NOW!

PRAISEWORKS

Monday, July 13 - Friday, July 17

Cost: \$195 (if postmarked on or before June 22)

Students who have completed 7th - 12th grades
 (or 6th grade if church includes these students in youth ministry)

praiseworksarkansas.com

Registration now open for both camps

JOYWORKS

Tuesday, July 14 - Friday, July 17

Cost: \$160 (if postmarked on or before June 22)

Students who have completed 4th - 6th grades

joyworksarkansas.com

For more information, call 501-376-4791, ext. 5121

A ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Evangelism and Church Health Team and the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering



Handbells ring out at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, LR



Fourteen handbell choirs took part in the 41st Annual Arkansas State Handbell Festival, which was held at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, March 6-7.

LITTLE ROCK – The sound of bells drifted through Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, March 6-7. The ringing came from 14 handbell choirs who joined together for the 41st Annual Arkansas State Handbell Festival, which was held this year at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church.

Larry Grayson, Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church health team member, said there were about 150 people from 14 churches involved in the event. One group came from Tennessee because the West Tennessee festival was canceled.

This year's Arkansas event consisted of mass ringing practice, performances from various handbell choirs – which

received helpful comments – and a grand finale worship service, which was led by Grayson.

Silver Woodbury, of Oklahoma City, served as clinician.

Grayson said the festival allows handbell choirs to play some selections in the mass ringing that might be more advanced than those they would normally undertake as individual handbell choirs.

"Any time you play something a little bit more challenging, that's going to sharpen you and make you better," explained Grayson, who said the mass ringing is his favorite part of the event. "There's nothing like hundreds of handbells in a room ringing together. It's just the most unique sound. And I love that. I've heard it for years,

... and I still love it every time I get to hear it."

He said the grand finale worship service allowed participants to see how handbells can be used as a worship experience in today's church.

Rick Couch, music minister at Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, said he enjoys working through the pieces and then making music through which people can worship. While he does not direct his church's handbell choir, he plays in it.

"It's just wonderful being able to take an instrument like that and being able to play and just draw people in to worship," Couch said.

To view a video of the handbell festival, visit arkansasbaptist.org/handbellfest2015.

Law Enforcement and Fire Chaplain Training

BASIC Training: May 15-16, 2015

Where: Second Baptist Church, Jacksonville
1117 North James Street

When: Friday, May 15th, 8:30am - Saturday, May 16th, 5:40pm

Cost: \$20 per person, includes lunch & dinner Fri. & lunch Sat.

Includes Training in: Death Notification, Substance Abuse, Responding to a Crisis Situation, Stress Management, & More!

ADVANCED Training: May 16, 2015

Where: Second Baptist Church, Jacksonville
1117 North James Street

When: Saturday, May 16th, 7:45am - 1:55pm

Cost: \$5 per person, includes lunch

Includes Training in: Building a Chaplain Program, Police & Fire Chaplains in Disaster Operations, Sowing & Reaping, & the Blue Curtain Subculture.

**For more information
& to register, visit**

**absc.org/chaplaincyevents
or call Michelle at
501-376-4791, ext. 5249**



A ministry of the Cooperative
Program & the Dixie Jackson
Arkansas Missions Offering



Record-setting attendance at Williams Baptist College hunger awareness event

WALNUT RIDGE – A record-setting 171 people attended the annual Hunger Awareness Dinner at Williams Baptist College March 2, raising more than \$1,000 for the Little Rock-based charity Heifer International, which has a focus on alleviating world hunger.

The event, which was held in Williams' Mabee Student Center, was sponsored by the Williams business department's Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) chapter. Guests were separated at random into First World, Second World and Third World categories.

Those in the First World group received their full-course meal before the other attendees. The Second World group followed, but received an abbreviated portion of the menu. The Third World group received dinner, but

were given a small fraction of the available food.

The event is modeled in such a way that guests can view the reality of world hunger.

Various Williams students spoke about the different Heifer International projects from around the world. Presenters included Andrei Leal of Sao Paulo, Brazil; Taylor Galloway of Fisk, Mo.; Edwin Irungu of Nairobi, Kenya, and McKenzie Hada of Yellville. Mark Yawson, a 2011 graduate, PBL alum and native of Takoradi, Ghana, also spoke at the event.

The night was organized and led by Megan Weick, of Pocahontas. Weick serves as the vice president of philanthropy for the PBL chapter at Williams.

"Heifer International and their mission to help families around the world overcome poverty is very near to

the heart of PBL. On behalf of PBL, thank you to all who attended the dinner and supported Heifer International. Your generosity is greatly appreciated," said Weick.

"The students set several goals for this year's Hunger Awareness Dinner," added Summer DeProw, chair of the college's department of business and PBL sponsor. "They wanted to increase student participation and attendance, as well as increase donations. They achieved their goals. Megan Weick kept everyone organized and executed a wonderful event."

The PBL group will deliver the received donations to Heifer International's corporate office in Little Rock when the students travel to the capital for the state PBL conference in April.



BARNABAS PROJECT – More than 730 people of all ages volunteered at 25 projects as part of Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock's Barnabas Project March 14. Patrick Henry, the church's community life pastor, said the purpose of the project is to help others. For the past several years, the church has raised and given away money as their way of blessing others, but this year they chose to serve the community through service projects. They served schools, community centers and local ministries.

Faith & Culture

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind..."

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

'A.D.: The Bible Continues' launches April 5

NASHVILLE (BP) – Actress and producer Roma Downey and reality TV show producer Mark Burnett shared with media professionals about the making of "A.D.: The Bible Continues," their follow-up project to the popular TV series "The Bible."

The newest series is a 12-part continuation of "The Bible" that portrays the history of the early church according to the first 10 chapters of Acts. The series will air on NBC beginning Easter, April 5. Filmed in Morocco, "A.D." will delve into the Book of Acts in an effort to show the humanity and true character of the apostles, as well as their devotion to take the gospel to the world no matter the cost. The persecution of the early church and its growth are also highlighted.

"We pulled from history and Acts using scholars from both areas and wove it together into a cool, relatable, true and compelling story so people can see what the early Church was like," said Downey during the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) convention in Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 23-26.

Jerry Johnson, NRB president, commended Downey and Burnett for their research and efforts to capture an accurate portrayal of the historical and political setting. Burnett noted the characters in "A.D." look much like people in today's society. Acknowledging the Roman Empire was a melting pot in its day, Burnett said

NRB conference, endorsed the new TV series in a statement. "A.D. is Biblically based, historically supported, and creatively integrated as an epic story that will captivate generations globally. This drama is powerful, engaging, and INTENSE!" he said.

Burnett said, "Christians need to be noisier in regards to

movies at the box office. So choose those that honor God."

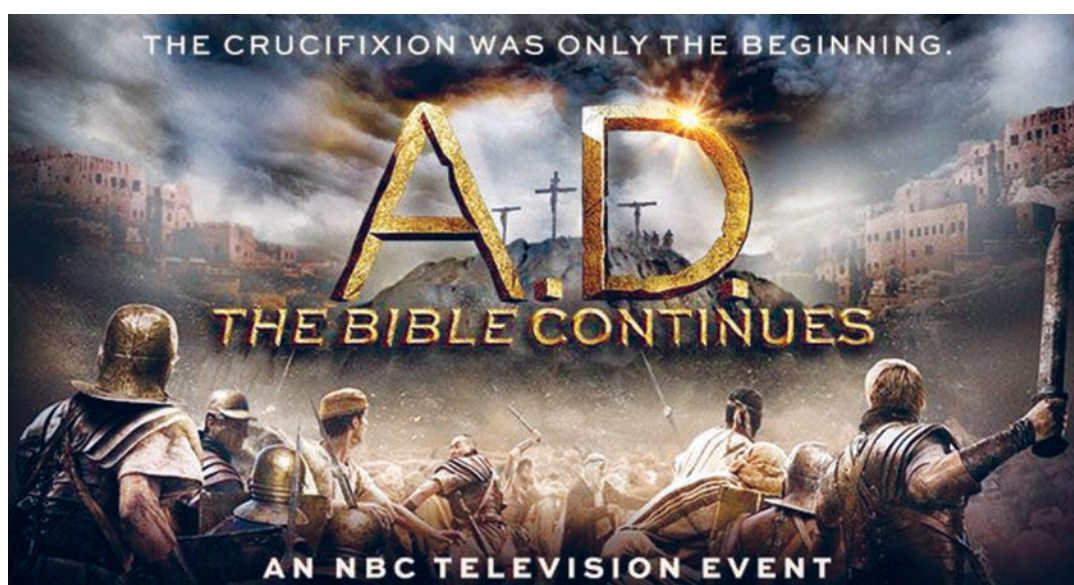
The series begins with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus and then chronicles an intense time in history.

Downey refers to it as "a time filled with enormous faith, persecution, brutal Roman oppression and the desperate Jewish revolt – a time when history would be changed forever."

Downey said she hopes God will use the new series for His glory. She said Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and author of "The Purpose Driven Life," warned her, "The most dangerous prayer you can pray is, 'Lord, use me' – because He might just answer you." Both

Downey and Burnett said they encountered spiritual warfare last year as they worked on the new series. Their son Cameron collapsed while they were filming in Morocco and was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Burnett said the family continues to "covet the prayers of God's people."

For more information on the series, visit nbc.com/ad-the-bible-continues.



this cast is more diverse.

Burnett credited the opportunity for this latest series to the success of "The Bible," which drew 100 million viewers. "In Canada, 'The Bible' series even beat out hockey!" he said, hoping it will continue to open the door for more projects like the "A.D." series.

Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd, who also spoke during the

letting Hollywood know what we want."

Devon Franklin, a Hollywood producer who just formed his own company to make God-honoring films, echoed Burnett's sentiment during the conference.

"The power of our unified voices (as believers) is important," he said. "The biggest way we vote is when you turn on your TV and pay for your

The Watercooler

"The 'marry young' mantra gets complicated as it hits closer to home, but generally Baptist leaders say marriage should be considered a foundation for adult life. And right now, it's often seen as the high point."

– Blake Farmer, *NPR*

IN A RECENT story for National Public Radio (NPR) Blake Farmer writes about the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) challenge to the rising marital age in America. Andrew Walker, SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission director of policy studies, told Farmer that he does not advocate a cutoff age for marriage but does promote the benefits of "youthful matrimony."

"If you don't want the counsel of a Christian chaplain – don't go to a Christian chaplain."

– Todd Starnes, *Fox News*

WRITING in his foxnews.com blog, Todd's American Dispatch, Todd Starnes addressed a recent controversy revolving around Lt. Cmdr. Wes Modder of the United States Navy. Modder was recently accused of "failing to show 'tolerance and respect'" towards homosexuality and faces possible dismissal from his Navy post.

Among Americans:

How often do you consume Christian-based media in the following formats?

Key: ■ Frequently ■ Sometimes ■ Rarely ■ Never ■ Not Sure



Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.
LifeWayResearch.com

SHARIA LAW

Worried that Sharia Law—an Islamic legal and moral code—could be applied in America.

Among Americans:

Overall: ■ 37% Agree

Women: ■ 42% Agree

Men: ■ 33% Agree

Age 45 and older: ■ 47% Agree

Age 18-44: ■ 27% Agree

LifeWayResearch.com

LifeWay
Biblical Solutions for Life

APRIL 5, 2015

A declaration is a formal public statement. It is made in front of an audience. It is considered an authoritative statement issued by one having authority to do so. There have been many such statements made over time. Two of the more famous ones are the Declaration of Independence (July 8, 1776) and the Emancipation Proclamation (Jan. 1, 1863). There are many more.

Each of these statements made by men are important, but they all pale in comparison to Jesus' declaration of victory over death. It can be found in distinct forms in all the Gospels. It says, "From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life" (Matt. 16:21). Jesus' Resurrection Declaration is, "I will live again," and He did.

Jesus declared His ability to conquer death. It is one thing to declare a thing, but it is another to make it happen.

Matthew 9:1-8 demonstrates the fact that Jesus was able to back up His statements with actions. This is a good example of Jesus' ability to declare and defend His declaration. Jesus forgave sin, and He healed the sinner as proof that He could forgive.

Luke 24 tells the story of Christ's resurrection.

The early believers went to the tomb after the Crucifixion looking for a body but found the Anointed One.

The angels were saying in effect, "He told you so. He declared that He would die but then be resurrected."

The disciples had forgotten what Jesus had declared.

Luke 24:1-12 is a reminder of what happens in one's spiritual life when he or she forgets what

Christ has declared. Christ's declaration was meant to inspire and encourage. The early believers were afraid and confused because they forgot. Let us remember His words lest we fall into the same situation. He is alive. His death is our victory. Never forget.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

The declaration

LUKE 24:1-12



Charles A. Collins
missionary
Spain

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Resurrected like no other

MATTHEW 28:1-10



Daniel Johnson
minister to students
First Baptist
Dover

removed. The resurrection of Jesus is different. Through His death, Jesus took on the punishment for sin once for all. Thus, when He came back to life, He rose never to die again.

Jesus' resurrection stands as proof that God's justice has been served and that all of the consequences of the Genesis 3 curse will be removed. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 that Christ is the first fruits of the Resurrection and that, like Jesus, one day all Christians will be resurrected.

When believers face death, it is not with fear. When believers are separated by death, it is not without hope. Paul proclaims in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 that just as Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead, so too believers look forward to again enjoying their lives and friendships with other believers at the Second Coming of the Lord. This Easter, celebrate the salvation made possible through the death of Jesus and enjoy the assurance of that salvation provided by His resurrection.

APRIL 12, 2015

It goes without saying that not all promises become realities.

We have all had occasion to think, "Promises, promises, all I ever get are promises."

Most of us have been discouraged when someone has promised us something and that something never happened. I know I have. And probably you have too. You know how it made you feel – not very good.

The typical excuse is, "I forgot." That sometimes happens, but not all the time.

In this passage, we find that God does not forget, nor does He renege on His promises. He does what He says.

Our Lord never made any unfilled promises. That would be the same as lying, and God does not lie. Hebrews 6:18 says that it is impossible for God to lie. The promise was made for Jesus to die and be raised again from the dead, and that promise was not a lie.

The story picks up in Luke 24:13 with some disciples on their way to

Emmaus. They had reason to be sad because they had seen the One they trusted with their eternal salvation taken away and crucified. They had no reason to doubt that Jesus could and would do what He said. Someone has said, "If it is too good to be true, it is probably too good to be true." The disciples' eyes had seen Jesus die, and their minds said that "once dead, always dead."

They were heading to Emmaus and preparing to pick up the pieces of their lives and start over again. Jesus came unexpected. No one recognized Him at first. Their eyes and ears were closed, but then they were opened. They saw and heard much as Job did (Job 42:5). It was then that they believed.

The promise became a reality before the disciples discovered it. That promise is still fulfilled today.

You are not alone. You are not without hope.

The risen Christ is still alive today and is there to walk with you. Just let Him.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

The promise fulfilled

LUKE 24:13-35



Charles A. Collins
missionary
Spain

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Ascended like no other

ACTS 1:3-11



Daniel Johnson
minister to students
First Baptist
Dover

For people in the workforce, there was a time when they prepared for the vocation they now perform. Perhaps that preparation was college, vo-tech or on-the-job training, but for everyone there came a day when he or she transitioned from learning to doing and from preparing to performing.

For three years, the disciples followed Jesus. He taught them, He mentored them and He equipped them for the transition found in Acts 1:3-11. For 40 days after His resurrection, Jesus proved that He was indeed alive, giving His followers the final preparation for the commission found in Acts 1:8. Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, He instructed them to go throughout the world as witnesses for Him.

Many great leaders have come and gone, but Jesus is different. Jesus didn't exit the world stage in death; He ascended to heaven alive, in victory. Jesus didn't leave His disciples a manmade legacy; He left them with the keys to heaven (Matt. 16:17-19). He didn't leave His followers to carry on without

Him; He continues on with them. As Romans 8:34 says, He is interceding for Christians at the right hand of God. When Jesus transitioned to heaven and the disciples transitioned to witnesses, the Holy Spirit indwelt the disciples and empowered them to fulfill the commission of the Lord.

Christians today also have that same commission. The moment a person moves from hearing the gospel to following the gospel, the Holy Spirit indwells him or her and there is a transition from sinner to saint and from enemy (James 4:4, Col. 1:21) of God to evangelist for God. Christians follow a Leader, greater than any other, who has equipped and enabled His followers to fulfill their calling. When Jesus ascended, He

left instructions: Be My witnesses. For believers, the time of learning the gospel has ended, and the time for sharing the gospel has arrived. Wherever God has planted them, through whatever relational platform – work, kids' activities or hobbies – Christians are to be witnesses for Christ.

PRAY more

GIVE more

GO more

**That's what readers of the
Arkansas Baptist News do.**

Subscribe your church family today at arkansasbaptist.org/subscribe
or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5156



"Telling the story of Arkansas Baptists since 1901"