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'Handyman missionaries' serve at Paron

Micah Overstreet
Arkansas Baptist News

PARON - Clothed in the muggy breath of Arkansan humidity, five South Carolina couples sweated their way through two weeks of service at Camp Paron in partnership with Campers on Mission (COM).

COM, a Southern Baptist ministry with numerous state chapters, is an organization comprised mostly of retirees who volunteer in service projects across the nation year-round.

These "handyman missionaries" typically range in age from 50 to 70 years old and volunteer in physically demanding service projects throughout the country whenever and wherever they are called.

"I am a servant," said 70-year-old Anne Mobley. "I like being able to serve other people and know that, because of what I've done, maybe somebody else can be reached. I may never meet that person, but because we have done some of the work that we have done, maybe somebody else will have a chance to hear the gospel."

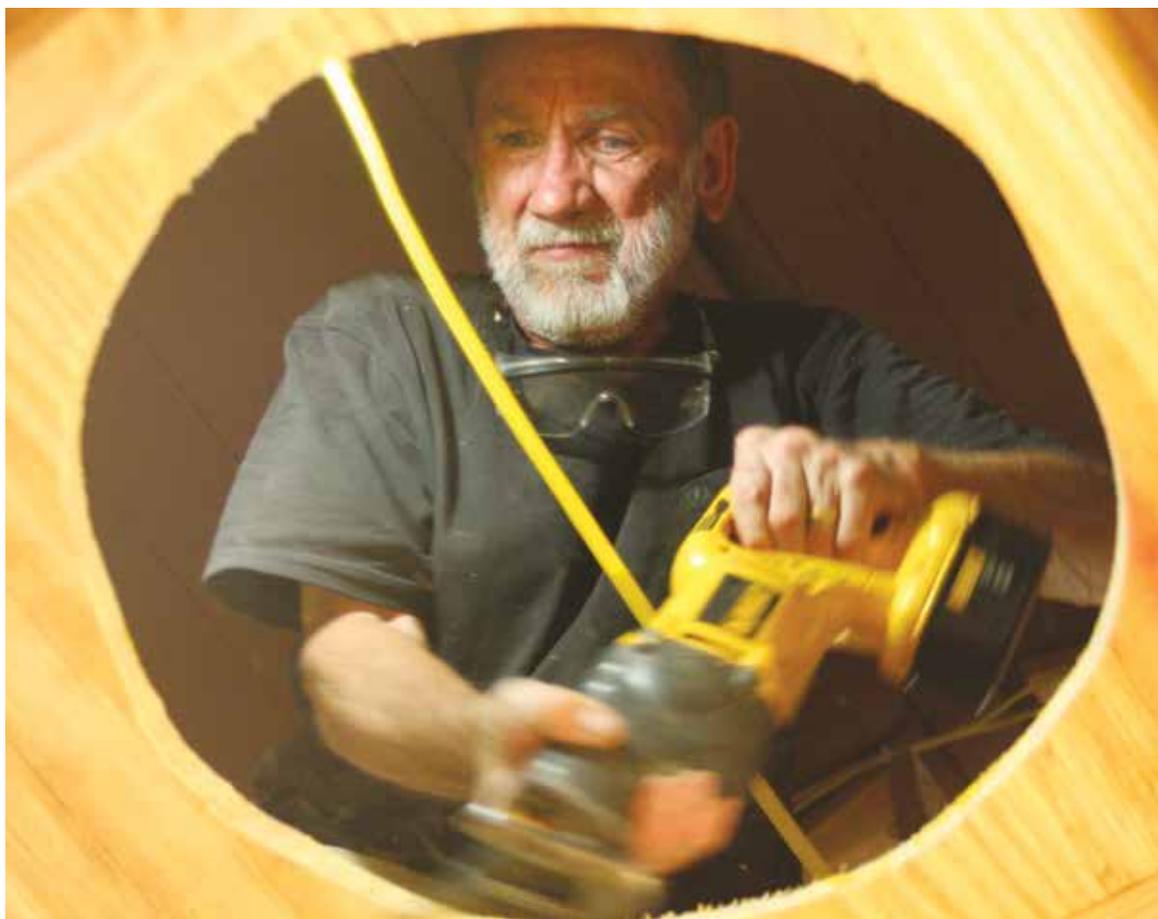
Housed in personal RVs during their travels, COM volunteers are trained to be fully self-sufficient in case their hosts are unable to provide food or housing for them. Because of the personal time and

financial investments required by COM projects, retired individuals are essential to the work of COM.

"We'd love to have young people, but when you're younger, you're working. That's why we end up with more retired people, because they have the time. We do have people from their late 50s to their early 60s, but I'd say the average in our labor group is 65 to 70-plus years old," said Joyce Flowers, 70.

During June 13-24, the

See **PARON** page 2



John Flowers, 72, former owner of Flowers Heating and Air, works a blade through the floor of the incomplete Life Center attic at Camp Paron to install air conditioning. Photo by Micah Overstreet.

Court's order 'great concern' for religious liberty

WASHINGTON (BP) - The U.S. Supreme Court has dealt a setback to religious freedom and prompted a warning from three of its members.

The high court announced June 28 it would not consider an appeal by pro-life pharmacists of a lower court decision they argued violates their First Amendment, free-exercise-of-religion rights. The justices' refusal to review the federal appeals court opinion apparently will force the closure of the pharmacy involved and the departure from the profession or state of the pharmacists in the case.

Three of the justices dissented from the order, describing it as "an ominous sign."

"If this is a sign of how re-

ligious liberty claims will be treated in the years ahead, those who value religious freedom have cause for great concern," Associate Justice Samuel Alito wrote on behalf of the dissenters.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco overturned last year a federal judge's decision and upheld a Washington state rule that prohibits conscience-based pharmacy referrals.

The appeals court - in affirming a regulation that permits pharmacists to make referrals for drugs they do not stock or dispense based on secular reasons but not based

on religious conscience - ruled it does not violate the free-exercise clause.

Defenders of religious freedom strongly disagreed.

Southern Baptist ethicist

Russell Moore called the order "a disappointing and senseless decision by the court, one that signals

that pro-life pharmacists must check their convictions at the door."

"This coercion of the conscience is a disaster for every American, though, not just pharmacists," said Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), in written comments

for Baptist Press. "Everyone has a stake in religious liberty and soul freedom, and this inaction by the Supreme Court shows how urgently we must advocate for the conscience rights of all."

Kristen Waggoner, senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), said, "All Americans should be free to peacefully live and work consistent with their faith without fear of unjust punishment, and no one should be forced to participate in the taking of human life. We had hoped that the U.S. Supreme Court would take this opportunity to reaffirm these long-held principles."

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ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Trump 'born-again,' according to Dobson

PRESUMPTIVE Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has become a born-again Christian, according to James Dobson, one of the country's most prominent evangelical leaders, various media outlets reported.

Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, stated that Trump has made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ, referring to the billionaire real estate developer as a "baby Christian."

"Trump did accept a relationship with Christ," Dobson said in a radio interview. "I know the person who led him to Christ, and that's fairly recent."

Dobson continued, "I don't know when it was, but it has not been long. And I believe he really made a commitment. He's a baby Christian ... (Christians) need to be praying for him."

As Dobson's statements on Trump's faith made the rounds of numerous media outlets, he seemed to step back a bit from his comments a few days later, according to the Charisma News website.

"Only the Lord knows the condition of a person's heart. I can only tell you what I've heard," Dobson was quoted as saying. "First, Trump appears to be tender to things of the Spirit. I also hear that Paula White (of Paula White Ministries in Florida) has known Trump for years and that she personally led him to Christ."

"Do I know that for sure? No," Dobson added. "Do I know the details of that alleged conversion? I can't say that I do."

Trump's campaign has not confirmed Dobson's statements, which came less than a week after Trump met with a group of prominent evangelical leaders in New York City.

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

Camp Siloam campaign reaches \$1 million

SILOAM SPRINGS - Camp Siloam's dining hall was the Masonic Lodge for Siloam Springs in 1923. The building needs to be replaced, and Camp Siloam has raised \$1 million through the Feed My Sheep capital campaign in an effort to do just that.

"We could not be more excited to announce that we have reached \$1 million in pledges and gifts," said Jason Wilkie, Camp Siloam executive director.

"Our overall campaign goal to replace the 100-year-old dining hall is \$3.4 million. We still have a long way to go, but we are further than we have ever been. Included in the \$1 million are funds raised through the church campaign."



Wilkie

This past January, campaign packets were mailed to every Arkansas Baptist church. Camp Siloam's board, volunteers and staff followed up with phone calls to every pastor who received a packet, asking for their support. Currently, 37 churches have given to the campaign, totaling \$62,244, said Wilkie.

"We have a lot of pending pledges and a foundation that has said we are an eligible project," he said. In order to apply for the grant, however, the campaign must first raise 40 percent of its goal.

The dining hall project is key to the camp's ability to continue to conduct camp ministry, emphasized Wilkie.

Without a dining hall Camp Siloam cannot continue to share the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ as effectively in the future, he believes.

"In Ephesians 5:8, Paul writes, 'You were once darkness, now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.' This summer, the camp is exploring what Jesus says about who we are as children of light. I can't think of a more timely Scripture for a generation that is being enveloped in darkness," said Wilkie. "Kids are growing up in such darkness today. Home should be a safe place, but turmoil is all around so many of them. For those who live in fear and darkness, camp is a slice of heaven."

"What I love about Camp Siloam is that our campers re-

turn home with people who love them. I rest in the fact that we serve a sovereign God who knows each situation, and I know Him to be a God of rescue," he added. "I pray for these lives that break my heart. I know that many will become children of light. Some will carry the gospel of light to the ends of the earth."

Camp Siloam has been "sending light into the world" for the past 93 years, said Wilkie.

"Through the many contributions received for the Feed My Sheep campaign, donors are helping keep Siloam a source of light in a darkening world," he said. "We continue to ask for prayers that God would move in ways we couldn't even fathom, just as He has already done."

Former McPherson chaplain pleads guilty

NEWPORT - Kenneth DeWitt, former McPherson Unit chaplain and Arkansas Baptist pastor, pleaded guilty to three counts of sexual assault July 5 in a Jackson County Circuit Court.

While formal sentencing in the case is set for Aug. 3, prosecuting attorney Henry Boyce said DeWitt has agreed to serve three concurrent 10-year sentences with five years suspended from each count, the Associated Press reported.

According to *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reports, DeWitt's charges came following a yearlong investigation by the Arkansas Department of Corrections' (ADC) internal affairs office and Arkansas State Police.

As reported in the Jan. 14, 2016, issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News*, DeWitt resigned in September of 2014 after Stacey Smith, a former McPherson Unit inmate and Southern Baptist, wrote a letter to the ADC's assistant director Mark Wheeler highlighting a "moral failure" which took place between her and DeWitt beginning in 2010, six years after she was paroled, when she was volunteering at the unit.

The relationship continued after Smith became employed as a full-time chaplain within the unit's Principals and Applications for Life (PAL) program, according to reports obtained by *Democrat-Gazette*.

In a 2010 *Democrat-Gazette* interview with Smith in which

she discussed her journey from being an inmate at the McPherson Unit to becoming a chaplain, she "was endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board" as a chaplain. In the same article the unit's PAL program was described as "a privately funded faith-based program that seeks to instill moral and spiritual skills to help inmates find success in the 'free world.'"

The relationship between DeWitt and Smith was in violation of ADC's directives, which prohibit managers engaging in sexual relationships with subordinates.

It is illegal for a member of the clergy to use his or her authority or position "to engage

in sexual intercourse or deviant sexual activity." It is also illegal for prisoners to give "consent" to have sexual relationships. Following the recognition of DeWitt's misconduct with Smith, multiple inmates from the McPherson Unit came forward claiming that they were assaulted by DeWitt.

Before serving as a chaplain for the ADC, DeWitt served as pastor of Tilton Baptist Church, Tilton, from 1988 to 1989, and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, McCrory, beginning in 2001. According to Arkansas Baptist State Convention records, Pleasant Grove Baptist has disbanded.

This story was compiled from *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and *Associated Press* reports.

PARON

continued from page one

South Carolina COMs worked throughout Camp Paron in various service and construction projects.

When they arrived at the camp, their main goal was to complete an entire building for camp use from just the wooden frame and foundation. With past expertise as electricians, heating and air workers, and simple servants, the volunteers knocked out

the project quickly and efficiently.

"We have to work hard to stay young," Flowers smiled.

Without the involvement of COM at Camp Paron, camp manager John Hoogendoorn said that the building process would not only have been much more expensive, but also that it would have taken an entire hired crew and a greater amount of time to complete.

"They helped out quite a bit with all of the work that they

did," he said. "It's an excellent program, a very helpful program, and it should definitely be continued."

COM volunteers are dispatched on the basis of need and availability, hearing of potential projects from either friends made throughout their travels or state and national rallies hosted yearly for such a purpose.

Campers have traveled as far as 1,500 miles to Alaska by RV or as near as their neighboring town.



Hoogendoorn

"I go on mission to help camps and organizations because I feel like I can't reach 700 kids on my own. But if I help a ministry prepare their facilities for the camp and use my gift to allow camp staff to use theirs, I can," explained 67-year-old Sibyl Barnwell.

"Colossians 3:23-24 says to do whatever you do to the utmost, using the gifts God has given you, to make an impact for His name," said Eugenia Grant, 68.

"And that is our mission." Micah Overstreet is an intern with the *Arkansas Baptist News*.

Ark. Baptists share gospel in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS – Young and old – male and female – minister and layperson – Arkansas Baptists took to the streets of St. Louis in early June to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Working through two focused evangelistic/mission events held prior to the 2016 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting in St. Louis – Crossover St. Louis and For St. Louis – Arkansas Baptists were evangelistic partners in seeing almost 600 people make Christian salvation decisions.

Crossover St. Louis

They went to a trailer park on a summer-hot Saturday morning, sweating it out for several hours as they repaired or replaced decks and steps for the long-neglected homes and picked up trash thrown carelessly throughout the community. Then, that evening, when the work was complete, they hosted a party.

The carpentry work, trash pick-up and party were a part of Crossover St. Louis, an evangelistic outreach event designed each year to saturate the host city for Southern Baptists' annual meeting with the gospel.

Southern Baptists began Crossover evangelism events before the annual pastors' conference and Southern Baptist Convention's meeting in 1989 in Las Vegas. A few years later, leaders branded the initiative as Crossover and have been conducting Crossover events ever since.

Pastor David Dodson, from Old Missouri Road Baptist Church, Springdale, teamed up with volunteers from Canaan Baptist Church, St. Louis, along with numerous other volunteers in the trailer park outreach.

One of the goals for the team of volunteers was to help a new Hispanic church plant in Fairmont City, Ill., Bridge of Hope Church, establish its presence in the community. As the volunteers did carpentry

work, picked up trash or played games at the party, they looked for opportunities to share the gospel message.

"It is something all of us as believers are called to do – to 'go and make disciples.' I believe that is anywhere I go, and I am thankful for the opportunity to meet other believers and help share the gospel with those I meet," said the pastor, a retired police officer who began pastoring the Springdale congregation in January 2014.

Because his congregation averages 35 to 40 on Sunday mornings, Dodson said, "I can only encourage those churches in Arkansas who run less than 50."

His church, he said, is currently "planning outreach events, which were not done in the recent past. We constantly remind ourselves that the Lord has a plan to give us a hope and a future."

Old Missouri Road Baptist Church was one of several Arkansas Baptist churches participating in Crossover St. Louis evangelistic activities.

First Baptist Church, Morrilton, took a team of 16 volunteers, ranging in age from a 10-year-old youngster to adults in their eighties.

The Morrilton team worked with members of Florissant Valley Baptist Church, Florissant, Mo., to promote and then conduct a family festival/block party. On Friday, June 10, volunteers went to area shopping centers, pools and other community-gathering places to distribute flyers about the festival, and then on Saturday, June 11, they pitched in to help as the bounce houses came to life, food was served and faces were painted.

By day's end, 35 families had been introduced to the church and its ministries, with several indicating that they wanted to talk about their spiritual needs, said J.D. Cariker, next generation pastor for First Baptist Church, Morrilton.



A Florissant community resident (center) is all smiles after having her face painted at a family festival hosted by Florissant Valley Baptist Church, Florissant, Mo., during Crossover St. Louis 2016. The resident is flanked by her daughter (left) and a Crossover volunteer from Orlando, Fla. Sixteen volunteers from First Baptist Church, Morrilton, including church member Joy Estes, who painted the resident's face, helped promote and conduct the block party which resulted in numerous families seeking spiritual direction. Below left, Arkansas college student Katie Nichols promotes a block party for a Hispanic church plant in Fairmont City, St. Louis, June 11 alongside Junior Theolus and Sarah Schuman, church plant workers.

Such first-hand missions involvement takes many Christians "out of their comfort zones," he said. "To live as Christians, that's what we're called to do."

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of Cross Church northwest Arkansas and immediate past president of the SBC, said he hopes that through Crossover Southern Baptists would "leave a good testimony and a good experience for those people who don't know the Lord." He also believes that the work done during Crossover will help local churches have a better testimony in their communities in the coming days.

Through Crossover outreach activities, many local Southern Baptist laypeople will get involved in missions and begin to see their communities as mission fields, said Floyd.

"The most important thing is that we see people come to faith in Christ," Floyd said.

As a result of Crossover St. Louis, 556 St. Louis residents placed their faith in Christ for salvation.

The registered number of Crossover St. Louis volunteers was 3,984. Those volunteers participated in 8,379 gospel conversations where an invitation for a decision was extended. Crossover events were sponsored by more than 85 host churches and events.

For St. Louis

He took off his shoes, put them in a cubby and entered

through the door labeled "For Men Only" at the Grand Masjid (mosque) in St. Louis.

"I was nervous," said Daniel Black, a University of Arkansas junior. "I had never talked to a Muslim before."

That day, he and his campus minister Cole Penick discussed religion with an imam for close to three hours. The experience changed Black.

"Now, whenever I come across another Muslim on campus, I won't be afraid to talk about the differences in our beliefs," he said.

Black was one of 21 Arkansas college students and 143 students nationwide participating in the For St. Louis mission project June 9-13.

"We wanted to expose students to other cultures and let them see what it's like to live missionally for a day," said Courtney Vernon, freshman ministry catalyst for the University of Arkansas Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

Sophomore Jacob Muasau, from the College of Ouachitas in Malvern, stood quietly as his friends shared the gospel in a Hispanic neighborhood. Although he could not speak or understand the language, Muasau said the people seemed willing to talk about faith, which surprised him. "I'm used to people who have a take it or leave it perspective," he said, "and seeing these other people who were so eager and excited about

ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Ark replica opens to large crowds in Kentucky

WILLIAMSTOWN, Ky. (BP) – Thousands of supporters and media descended on the rural town of Williamstown, Ky., for the ribbon cutting of a life-sized replica of Noah's Ark. The Ark Encounter theme park opened to the public July 7. "If it floods again, will it float?" a reporter shouted out during a July 5 press conference as dark clouds rolled across the sky over the property off I-75. "I've had many people in the media ask me if it will float, and my answer is this: read the Bible," responded Ken Ham, president of Answers in Genesis, the ministry that built the ark. His response brought cheers from the crowd. "After the flood, God said that there was a covenant between Him and man and the animals as sealed by the rainbow and that there would never be another flood like that one," Ham noted. "So, will the ark float? No, we didn't build it to float because there's never going to be another global flood."

Iowa churches counter gender identity law

DES MOINES, Iowa (BP) – Two Iowa churches say the Iowa Civil Rights Commission's interpretation of a state civil rights law could force them to open restrooms to members of the opposite sex and inhibit their ability to teach biblical truth about gender. One of the churches, Fort Des Moines Church of Christ in Des Moines, filed a lawsuit in federal court July 4. The other, Cornerstone World Outreach in Sioux City, sent a letter to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission July 5 asking the Commission to amend its policy regarding churches and gender identity.

For more ABN Digest, go to
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)

'Two Kinds Of Justice'

The year was 1974. By all appearances, the United States of America seemed to be a very different place than it is today. However, there are dramatic similarities that are evident 42 years later.

The country had just concluded its involvement in the Vietnam War – one of its most protracted wars in its history – and without victory.

Following a tumultuous decade of cultural and societal upheaval of the 1960s, the U.S. was a country seeking identity.

Nearly a year had passed since President Richard M. Nixon – the only president in U.S. history ever to do so – had resigned from his office in disgrace.

Then on September 8,

1974, President Gerald Ford, who had assumed office following Nixon's resignation, pardoned his predecessor for his involvement in the Watergate scandal, which involved burglars arrested inside the

Democratic National Committee (DNC), located in the Watergate building in

Washington, D.C. When it was learned the burglars were connected to President Nixon's reelection campaign and were apparently attempting to wiretap phones and steal secret documents, a scandal ensued in Nixon's presidency related to his knowledge and apparent cover-up of the event. Rather than face impeachment and removal from office following a Senate committee investigation of the in-

cident, Nixon chose to resign on August 8, 1974.

While historians debate whether Nixon knew about the Watergate espionage operation before it happened, it was evident that he took steps to cover it up afterwards, raising "hush money" for the burglars, trying to stop the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from investigating the crime, destroying evidence and firing uncooperative staff members, according to history.com.

My grandfather, Russell A. Yarbrough, one of the greatest men I have ever known, wrote a letter to the editor of *The (Memphis) Commercial Appeal*. The letter was published shortly before his death. It was titled, "Two Kinds Of Justice," and read:

"One stroke of a pen, a pardon signed and wiped out

are (sic) all the principles and traditions that I was raised by: That in the eyes of God and in our Constitution, under the laws of our land, each

man – whatever his color, rich or poor – must abide by those laws or pay the penalty.

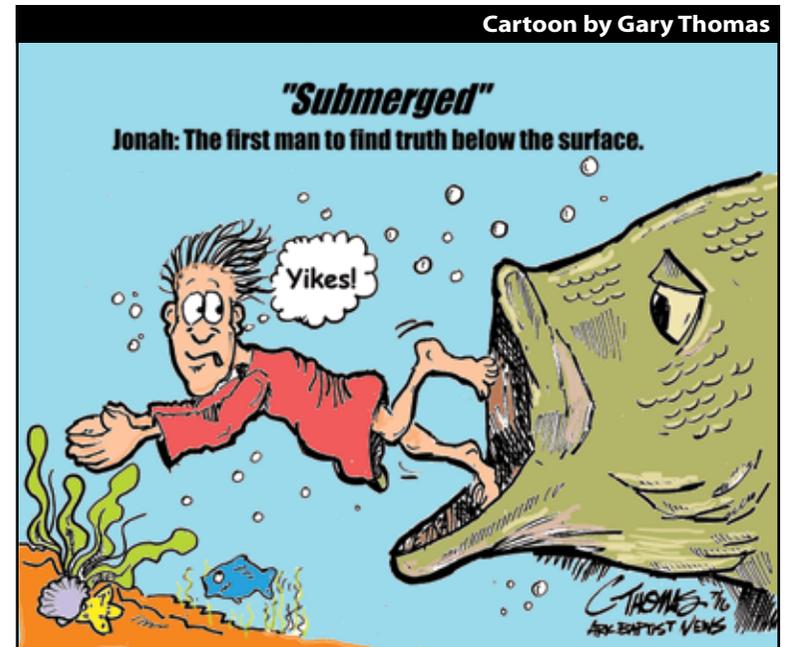
See **PRESSING ON** page 6



Pressing On

Tim Yarbrough

Phil. 3:14



'This is just evil'

On June 27, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision striking down a Texas law intended to ensure the health of women undergoing abortion procedures. By now, I'm sure you must be familiar with the particulars of that case, so I will not rehash them here. Suffice it to say, the Texas statute was a measured attempt

to require that the same kind of common-sense standards and procedures be applied to abortion procedures that are routinely imposed on other kinds of outpatient surgeries (see related article page 13).

The courts today are gener-

ally loathe to do anything that will interfere in the slightest with one of secular humanists' two major objectives: abortion and same-sex marriage. Most jurists are largely concerned with towing the politically-correct line; virtu-

ally unfettered abortion for any reason and at any stage of pregnancy is a major tenet of

that ideology.

I want to bring in something said in the wake of the court's reckless decision in the Texas case. This statement shows the kind of depravity and demonic mental state that now raises its ugly

head much too often in our culture, particularly in the mainstream and entertainment media.

Shortly after the court issued its opinion in the Texas abortion case, "The Daily Show," a program on the Comedy Central TV channel, issued the following on its Twitter account: "Celebrate the #SCOTUS [U.S. Supreme Court] ruling! Go knock someone up in Texas!" That's right. Hail the court's "wise" ruling by making light about getting someone pregnant in order for the child to be offered on the altar of a godless, mean and sick ideology.

Some will attempt to dismiss this as just a tasteless joke. That would be a mistake. This statement reveals a mindset



– one that shouldn't just be shrugged off and ignored.

This is dark, ugly stuff. And it is where we believers find ourselves. Folks, we don't live in Jerusalem anymore; we live

in Corinth, and things are big-time different in Corinth. We have two choices. First, we can huddle-up in the fellowship hall waiting for the bus to heaven.

Or, we can engage the culture with humility, love, righteous living and the truth. This culture is not lost, but it may be hanging in the balance. We, and we alone, can save it. I think I read that somewhere – oh yes, now I remember – it started with "If my people ..."

Larry Page is executive director of the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council. For more information about the work of the Council email Page at llp@arfaith.org.



Faith & Ethics

Larry Page



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Are Southern Baptists Protestant?



Baptists Ask

Ken Gore

It all depends on how one defines the term. In a very broad sense, Baptists are Protestant in their beliefs, because they are non-Catholic Christians. During the Reformation, early Baptist leaders (the Anabaptists) had numerous convictions that were similar to Martin Luther, John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli. They rejected the leadership of the Pope and the Catholic Church in Rome. They denounced the sacraments as a means to salvation and the priesthood as the providers of it. Instead, they believed that the Bible alone was the Word of God and was sufficient for learning of God's grace through Jesus Christ.

Baptists, however, often clarified and defined their beliefs further, thereby distinguishing themselves from other Protestants. For example, the two ordinances of the church, baptism and the Lord's Supper, were strictly symbolic and were only for those who professed their faith in Christ. They advocated religious liberty, strongly supporting the separation of church and state. Calling for religious tolerance, they declared that the state had no authority to determine the religion of its citizens. These radical beliefs created so much contention that many Anabaptists were put to death for them – by other Protestants!

In the 20th century, many Baptists avoided the term, "Protestant," as they feared being linked to those groups who held a more liberal theology. Consequently, the term became more divisive. The term, "Mainline Protestants," defined those churches that were more ecumenical and cooperative. They include the Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran and Presbyterian churches. Most of these denominations would later join the National Council of Churches. More conservative churches would either call themselves "evangelical Protestants," or they would not use the term at all.

Most Southern Baptists, therefore, can call themselves Protestant in the broad sense of the term, but they hold on to particular beliefs that are often outside of a Protestant understanding.

Ken Gore is chairman of the department of Christian studies at Williams Baptist College.

Bugs, bump-ups and reality

We are all familiar with the phrase, "When it rains, it pours." But, sometimes, it's not the downpour that weighs us down. Sometimes, it's just the accumulation of little rain showers.

That's the way it's been for us this summer. It all started with the anticipation of a busy summer. We were determined to dive in with joy, but we still knew times of rest would have to be creatively managed.

Unfortunately, little things started chipping away at the remnant of our energy. First, we discovered fleas in the house. It wasn't a major infestation, but it still forced us to invest some of our precious energy into taking extra precautions to keep it from becoming a problem.

The flies, on the other hand, were a different story. Hoards of the annoying insects somehow made their way into our home along with the fleas. We'd kill dozens, only to find dozens more taking their place.

In the middle of the Great Fly War of 2016, I had a minor bump-up while trying to get to church one evening. The next morning, we sent our oldest off to camp for the summer, adding the oddness of a separated family to our already stretched summer. Meanwhile, we received news from several directions about friends dealing with struggles, illnesses, challenges and just the overwhelming nature of life. One after another, these little things threat-

ened to wear us down.

During my quiet time one morning, a single thought overpowered my tired brain. These things are not reality.

Yes, the fleas and flies and bump-up and camp and struggles were all very real. But, they were not reality. As the Holy Spirit nourished my heart, He reminded me that these things were nothing more than circumstances, emotional stresses and bumps in the road. Reality, on the other hand, could be found in the myriad of spiritual truths I'd encountered in recent weeks, such as the Sermon on the Mount nuggets we'd covered in vacation Bible school the week before, verses we'd explored in Sunday school as we pondered the facets of godly friendships

and little treasures I'd discovered in my personal Scripture and devotional readings. These were reality, and they were not affected by exhaustion, bugs, bump-ups or the abnormalities of life.

We will not know the fullness of true reality until we escape the weights of this earthly life. Even so, the Lord miraculously allows us to be surrounded by a beautiful glimmer of it even in the here and now. When those bugs, bump-ups and discouragements hit, may we always hear the Spirit's reminder that they

are only temporary. Christ alone is reality.

Ann Hibbard is a member of East End Baptist Church in East End. Read her blog at annhibbard.com.



Uncovered Dish

Ann Hibbard



'If you want to know, just ask'

In church life, it seems the majority of expressed opinions are speculations regarding church-wide opinion. You know, statements like, "Oh, we can't do that; our senior adults would never approve," or "This has always been the menu for these dinners; that's what people like."

Sometimes such a statement is actually the opinion of the one making the comment but not having the courage to "own it," so words such as, "People are saying ..." are used. But, often certain church members and church leaders really believe they know what church-wide opinion is on a matter, when really they are mistaken. That's why it is important to ask.

At times it is good to conduct a survey. When doing this, it is important to keep it short. Often, I try to narrow my focus to one single question. If the matter really requires more than one question, I have found that I get more feedback by asking just one question per week for four weeks rather than distributing a survey with four questions. It is also important to ask questions with quantifiable answers. This is best accomplished by asking multiple-choice questions rather than open-ended questions where people have to write out their answers.



Answering the Call

Eric Ramsey

Other times, it is best to just "bounce an idea" to those whom you think might be the biggest naysayers. It can be very productive to meet with a few men at the local diner for an early morning cup of coffee and just "think out loud" or perhaps drop by a particular Sunday morning Bible study class and casually ask for input. Now remember, if you don't want to know the opinion of others, don't ask. And when they answer, even if you disagree, receive the answer with gratitude. This is not the time for debate. If you ask, expect an opinion to be expressed.

Often, however, people really don't care that much about the final outcome as much as they just want to be heard and need their opinions to be understood and respected. So, no matter what opinion is expressed, take time to listen, understand and respect their perspective. The Apostle Paul reminded us to be "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3, ESV).

Most importantly, never assume you know church-wide opinion on any matter. Take time to ask. You are likely to be surprised.

Eric W. Ramsey is an evangelism and mission strategist and serves as associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Smith.



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PRESSING ON

continued from page 4

“Now I find this isn’t true. I am an old man (79), uneducated, but I am learning that we have two systems of justice in our land today. One for the big people, one for the little people. Are we all – white, black, yellow, red, rich, poor – equal in our land today?”

“I wonder what our young people think of justice and equality. The kind they read about in school and the kind read about and hear in our newspapers and on television are different. What will our country become when they realize we have two kinds of justice?” – R.A. Yarbrough, Lilbourn, Mo.

For me, the words of my grandfather reverberate loudly 42 years after they were written.

Russell Yarbrough was a simple and patriotic man who loved his country. What would he think of what has become of the United States today?

I am writing this a few days following the pronouncement by the FBI and the U.S. Justice Department that no charges would be brought against presidential candidate Hillary Clinton related to what appears to be a blatant disregard for the rule of law regarding her use (or should I say, misuse) of a private email server while serving as U.S. secretary of state.

In a few months the United States will elect a new president to lead our nation. While it is becoming more evident to me that it will take supernatural intervention of God to rescue our nation from what we have wrought during our lifetimes, I must ask: “Why would He?”

Our laws deny and attack God. Our schools teach children they came from monkeys. Our women are provided abortion on demand. We are told we can be whatever gender we want to be at any given time. Our laws protect the criminals and attack the innocent.

“What will our country become when they realize we have two kinds of justice?”

It appears to me that question has been answered resoundingly.

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

ABSC Agencies

OBU to launch new music business degree

Ouachita Baptist University’s School of Fine Arts is excited to announce a new Bachelor of Arts in music business degree. This degree will provide students with a broad range of foundational collegiate-level studies in music and the music industry within the framework of a liberal arts degree. The new program is designed to equip students with a core knowledge of the music business industry while offering special emphases in key areas of the music business field.

The degree program is intended for students who are interested in gaining comprehensive knowledge and a foundation for work and growth in the music industry, including graduating from Ouachita with an un-

dergraduate degree in music business.

In the past, students at Ouachita who were interested in music business would pursue a Bachelor of Arts in music degree with a minor or double major in business.

There were no specific music business courses in our curriculum for these students.

Yet, many of our recent graduates are working in the music industry field. Therefore, we have developed a degree designed to attract students who are interested in the music industry and who want a quality Christian liberal arts education. We believe Ouachita Baptist University can be that place for them.

Ouachita’s division of

music collaborated with the Hickingbotham School of Business to help develop the business core for this degree. The new degree program will feature three major academic components: musicianship, busi-

ness and the music industry. Each student will choose a specific area of emphasis,

including the options of performance, songwriting, film scoring, recording or entrepreneurship.

One exciting component of this degree program is the practical internship during each student’s senior year. Students will gain real-world, hands-on experience as they work alongside professionals in the music

industry field. This internship opportunity will give our students an advantage as they seek employment in this field.

The program has enrolled ten freshmen for the fall 2016 semester. These ten students will be part of a new era in the progression of new and innovative curriculum at Ouachita. With the debut of the program this fall, Ouachita will be the only university between Dallas and Nashville offering a Bachelor of Arts in music business degree. This will give students in our region an opportunity to earn a great Ouachita education while pursuing their dreams and goals in the music industry field.

Gary Gerber is dean of Ouachita Baptist University’s School of Fine Arts.



Ouachita Baptist

Gary Gerber

You might be surprised at what you own

Do you know every type of asset that you own? Do you know the total value of your estate? You might be surprised, but most people do not know where their assets are located, what their fair market value is, how to access certain assets or who they have listed as their beneficiaries. This can be for a variety of reasons – marriage, company mergers or just the passage of time. Whatever the reason, it is important as stewards to keep a current inventory of what you own and update that inventory at least every five years. Just remember that if you, as the owner of the asset, do not know where it is located, your beneficiaries will

undoubtedly not know where to begin.

Create an inventory. To get started, make a list or spreadsheet of the assets you own and reconcile that list with the statements you receive from those institutions. Remember to individually list out every:

- Bank account (checking, savings, certificates of deposit, etc.)
- Brokerage account (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.)
- Real estate (residential, commercial, rental, farm, vacation, etc.)
- Life insurance policies
- Personal property (art,

coins, collections, household items, boats, vehicles, etc.)

- Retirement accounts (IRA, 401(k), 403(b), etc.)

Ask the right questions.

After you have a good grasp on everything you own, you should consider if the assets you own reflect the goals in your estate plan and ask the

following questions:

- Who do I want to receive the asset?
- Is there a way to make the asset more productive?
- Would it be more efficient for a charity or an individual to receive the asset?
- Have I informed my personal representative(s) and

agent(s) where my assets are located?

At the very least, your loved ones and beneficiaries will appreciate the amount of time and effort you saved them by completing the tasks above. Of course, this article assumes that you have an estate plan in place. When we remember that estate planning is not just for us, but for the ones we love, it becomes easier to take the necessary steps to efficiently steward your estate. For assistance in creating an asset inventory or getting started on your estate plan, visit the Arkansas Baptist Foundation online at info@abf.org.

Dillon S. McClain is vice president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.



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Dillon McClain

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Super Summer still a favorite of Ark. students

Micah Overstreet
Arkansas Baptist News

ARKADELPHIA - A quiet college town in southern Arkansas gains new life each summer as hundreds of students file in to participate in one of the most popular church camps in the state.

Super Summer, hosted by Ouachita Baptist University (OBU) and sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), has become a summertime favorite of Arkansas youth.

For two separate weeks each summer, Super Summer is conducted primarily by college students who give up a week of their summer to serve in leading small groups and recreational games, while "school deans" facilitate the actual preaching portion of the camp. Usually youth pastors of their own churches, deans serve as pastors to the different color schools throughout the duration of the camp. In total this year Super Summer facilitated 136 staffers and 35 teaching staff members.

"There have been a lot of great staffers here and a lot of great students. The curriculum really lets us go deep and really dive into Scripture," said

Brady Canright, who served as a dean this summer.

"We've been studying a lot of Old Testament stories that are just awesome for the students. Some of them are familiar stories; some of them are stories with a twist, and some of them are new that they've never heard before."

Hosting 2,721 campers from 115 different churches this year, Super Summer resulted in 120 salvation decisions and 80 calls to mission and ministry.

"I'm so honored that I could be used for God's glory. It's such a small but huge thing - small in the aspect that people of the world would think it's small, but huge in the fact that heaven is rejoicing," said staffer Alec Edmonds.

This year, camp staff decided to mix up the usual Super Summer schedule of holding a concert on the last day of camp and decided instead to do a mission project.

Inviting a non-profit hunger relief organization known as The Pack Shack to OBU, campers packed 101,650 non-perishable meals to be distributed in the Acts 1:8 One Day Missions event scheduled to be held in Fort Smith this October. This feat was accom-



Students and leaders load boxes of non-perishable meals onto a truck during Super Summer. Photo by Micah Overstreet

plished in a little more than an hour through what Jarod Ring, co-founder of The Pack Shack, calls a "feed the funnel party."

In the events, each team of volunteers is assigned an ingredient to pour through a funnel that feeds into a meal bag to complete each meal. After several bags are filled, a runner takes a tub of the bags from each team to heat-sealing stations where each meal is sealed, packed into a box and loaded onto a food truck. Throughout the packing event, an upbeat playlist shuffles through the speakers as workers dance their way past each milestone of completion marked by the sounding of a gong.

"It's hard to facilitate 1,500 people and find a service project for them to all do in an afternoon, so this is a very tangible way that they can get their hands in it and do it. The Pack Shack does a really great job of consolidating the information and putting it all into a package that they can deploy and everybody understands easily.

They run an amazing show," said Tim Harrell, director of student life at OBU. "It's a lot of fun, and the students are having a great time seeing how many meals they are preparing. It's cool to them that everything that they are doing is staying in Arkansas."

The Pack Shack began in 2014 as part of a mission-oriented goal to resolve local hunger by first educating people of the need and then engaging them to address the need. They have since packed more than 7 million meals with the help of 35,000 volunteers.

To host a feed the funnel party, participants must give 25 cents per bag created to pay for the bag's ingredients. In this year's Super Summer, this amount totaled out to be \$25,000 for the entire event. Through four offerings, students and staffers raised \$12,500 more than that amount.

"This generation is all about movement; it's all about serving others and missions. They have been told since they

were very little that they would change the world, and now they have grown up expecting to change it, so we have got to give them platforms to do that. We are hoping that this is one of those," said Warren Gasaway, executive director of Super Summer and a member of the ABSC evangelism and church health team.

"I hope through this mission that the students understand that we are better together and that - when you bring folks together who are of one accord, one mind, one heart - exponentially more can be accomplished. We're hoping that they get a tangible experience of making these boxes of food, praying over them, feeding the hungry and understanding that the gospel goes when we give a cup of cold water in His name," said Gasaway.

According to Gasaway, Super Summer already has a waiting list of 47 for junior high and 72 for senior high events in 2017.

Micah Overstreet is an intern for the Arkansas Baptist News.

College: adjustment for students, parents

Brett Cooper
Williams Baptist College

WALNUT RIDGE - A new class of college freshmen is about to leave home for the first time and try their wings. It's a daunting time for these young adults and, truth be told, it can be pretty tough on their parents too. The way parents deal with this time can have a significant impact on their students' success and enjoyment of their college experience.

These days, it is common for parents to be more involved in the daily lives of their college students than in times past, according to Mary Norvell, parent liaison and freshman advisor at Williams Baptist College.

"These parents have been more involved in all levels and all aspects of their students' lives," Norvell said. "They have personally known their students' teachers. They have had access to their students' school grades. They have helped with homework and athletic, cheerleading or other practices."

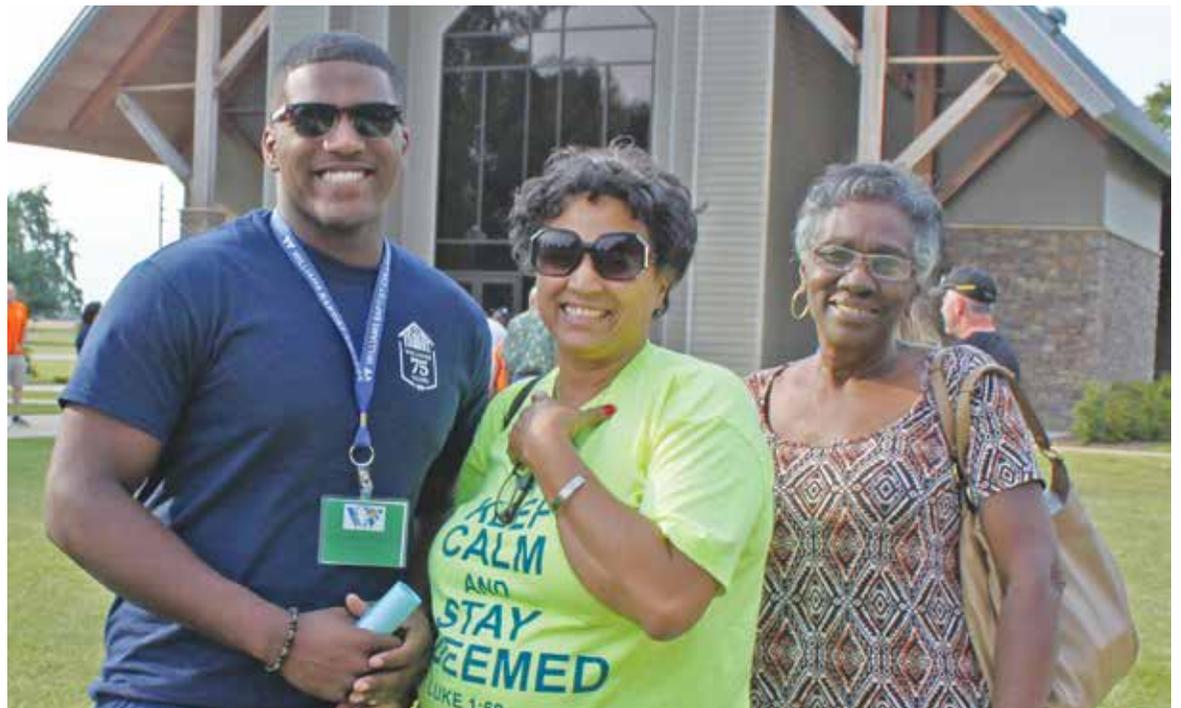
With college, however, parents are apt to notice some drastic changes.

"Some parents and students may not see each other for weeks at a time, depending on the distance from home to college. Instead of parents, the students are encouraged in college to discuss homework or class issues with their professors. Parents can feel a loss of control," Norvell said.

The more involved style of college parents these days has even led to new lingo, with terms like "helicopter parents," for those who hover over their students, and "snowplow parents," for those who clear every obstacle for their children.

Norvell says the issue is not with parents being involved, but rather with being overly involved.

"Parents need to stay involved but in a different way," she said. "They need to see this transition as a change in the way they interact with their students. Parents are moving from one who fixes to one who advises. They need to move



Demetrius Thomas (left) of Ferguson, Mo., an upcoming sophomore at Williams Baptist College, is joined by his mother, Aneita Thomas, and aunt (name not available) during move-in day on campus.

from management to being advisors. This can build confidence in students."

Norvell recommends that parents select times to call their students when it doesn't interfere with classes, practices or other important college activities. She said parents should encourage students to become involved in campus life and stay busy, which is the best cure for homesickness.

See **ADJUST** page 10

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Campus mentors share Christ with students

James Taylor
Ouachita Baptist University

ARKADELPHIA – As I’ve had the privilege over the past few years to meet a number of missionary families, one aspect of their lives has struck me more than others: the loving title of “aunt” and “uncle” that they give to their overseas team members. As they serve far away from homes and families, they create new families. I can only imagine the need for these extended support systems as they adjust to life and work in new cultures. Their sit-

uations and their needs create family-level bonds. And if you are around MKs (missionary kids) much, you know “aunt” and “uncle” are not merely honorary titles.

When students graduate from high school and move to college, they often are in similar situations. They need extended families. It’s not that they need to jettison their parents or siblings, but they do need local support systems for their faith. Family is a crucial part of discipleship, and we can’t ignore that during an individual’s college years.



A Veritas women’s discipleship group gathers for a small group Bible study on the steps of Berry Chapel on the Ouachita campus.

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In his book, “You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit,” author James K.A. Smith wrote about the importance of family and home to our faith: “Gathered, congregational worship is the heart of discipleship, but this doesn’t mean that communal worship is the entirety of discipleship. ... Our day-to-day practices need to extend and amplify the formative power of our weekly worship practices.”

For most people, those day-

to-day practices happen in a home and around family. But when students move to college, most of that changes. Often our first thought is that students need to get “plugged into a church” to grow in their faith during college. That’s certainly the first step, but it’s not the last. They need “aunts” and “uncles.” They need people of faith to sit down at the dinner table with, to help them when they’re sick, to discuss the good and the bad days, to serve as spiritual men-

tors. They need brothers and sisters to pray with them and to learn and grow alongside them. Like Smith wrote, they need people who will amplify their weekly worship into their day-to-day.

Students need to make these connections in their churches and also on campus with Christian faculty, residence hall staff and campus ministers. At Christian colleges like Ouachita Baptist Uni-

See **MENTORS** page 10

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DIFFERENCE

ADJUST

continued from page 8

“Parents can see the entrance into college as a loss or a successful launch. If they choose to see this time as a

launch, they are encouraging their students with their words and actions that they have confidence in them as young adults who can make good decisions,” said Norvell.

Brett Cooper is vice president for institutional advancement at Williams Baptist College.

WC returns to LR

LITTLE ROCK - Returning to Arkansas for the second time this summer, World Changers brought a group of 238 students to Little Rock the week of June 27-July 2 to serve needy residents.

During the second week in the city, 13 different churches from North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Arkansas were represented as 238 World Changers student volunteers worked on 20 different work sites throughout Little Rock, making house repairs for needy homeowners and seeking opportunities to share the gospel with the homeowners as they performed their labors.

Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola said that World Changers continues to be a blessing to the city of Little Rock.

This was the last of two Arkansas mission projects by World Changers this summer. During the first trip, June 12-17, students and leaders from 10 different churches in Alabama, Texas and Mississippi worked in a variety of projects throughout the community.

World Changers is scheduled to come to West Memphis in 2017.

More information on World Changers can be found at www.lifeway.com/world-changers/.



Terry Carter, professor of Christian ministries in Ouachita's Pruet School of Christian Studies, visits with a student.

MENTORS

continued from page 9

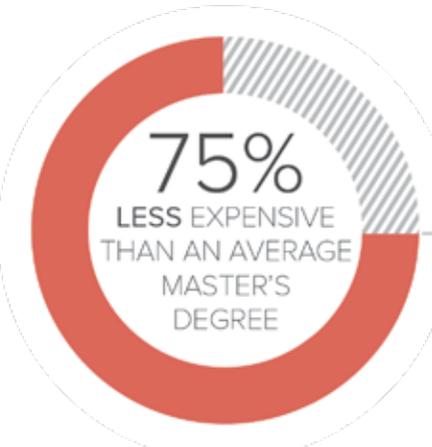
versity and Williams Baptist College, they can find these people woven into the fabric

of the school. At state schools, campus ministries such as Baptist Collegiate Ministry are uniquely poised to be that family right where the students live, eat and sleep.

As the class of 2020 enters what may feel like a new coun-

try to them, pray that they will find aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters who will help them to daily direct their hearts to Christ.

James Taylor is director of campus ministries at Ouachita Baptist University.



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Volunteers greet community residents at a block party hosted by Florissant Valley Baptist Church, Florissant, Mo., during Crossover St. Louis 2016, an evangelistic event held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in June. Volunteers from First Baptist Church, Morrilton, helped promote and conduct the party.

GOSPEL

continued from page 3

God was so good to see.”

The experience was a first mission trip for Katie Nichols, a student at Rich Mountain

Community College in Mena. “I’ve learned when God says, “Go,” you go,” she said. “It was definitely worth it. I’m glad I went for so many reasons. It was amazing to see God work.”

By the end of the five-day mission trip, 20 ministry projects had been completed in

the city and approximately 30 people had accepted Christ, said Darren Casper, associate director of St. Louis Metro Association.

This article was written by Margaret Colson and Lisa Falknor, along with information from Baptist Press.

COURT

continued from page one

ADF represented the pharmacists in their legal challenge, and the ERLC supported them in a friend-of-the-court brief.

“Singling out people of faith and denying them the same freedom to refer is a violation of federal law,” Waggoner said in a written release. “Not one customer in Washington has been denied timely access to any drug due to a religious objection. As the [federal court] found, the government designed its law for the ‘primary – if not sole – purpose’ of targeting religious health care providers.”

Alito echoed that finding in his dissent, writing, “There are strong reasons to doubt whether the regulations were adopted for – or that they actually serve – any legitimate purpose. And there is much evidence that the impetus for the adop-

tion of the regulations was hostility to pharmacists whose religious beliefs regarding abortion and contraception are out of step with prevailing opinion in the State.

“The bottom line is clear: Washington would rather have no pharmacy than one that doesn’t toe the line on abortifacient emergency contraceptives,” he said.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justice Clarence Thomas joined Alito in dissenting. The majority offered no explanation for its decision, which is typical in orders declining review.

The Stormans family, which owns a pharmacy in Olympia, Wash., and Margo Thelen and Rhonda Mesler, pharmacists who work at other stores, challenged the 2007 Washington rule that requires them to provide such drugs as Plan B and “ella”.

The Stormans, who own Ralph’s Thriftway grocery store and its pharmacy, and the two pharmacists were willing to

refer patients who seek potentially abortion-causing drugs to other pharmacists. More than 30 pharmacies within five miles of Ralph’s Thriftway stock the drugs, according to ADF.

Plan B, also known as the “morning-after” pill, possesses a post-fertilization mechanism that potentially can cause abortions by preventing implantation of tiny embryos. In a fashion similar to the abortion drug RU 486, “ella” can act even after implantation to end the life of a child.

The ERLC and 10 other religious groups filed a friend-of-the-court brief in February that asked the high court to review the Ninth Circuit’s opinion.

The American Pharmacists Association and 37 other national and state pharmacy associations were among others who filed briefs in support of the pharmacy and pharmacists.

The case was Stormans v. Wiesman.



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Obituaries

Joseph W. "Joe" Higginbotham, 67, of Mabelvale, died June 21.



He graduated from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La., with a degree in mathematics. He later earned two masters degrees, one from Brigham Young University in computer-aided manufacturing and the other from the University of Utah in artificial intelligence.

Higginbotham served in the Air Force at the Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville as a deputy missile crew commander.

He served on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention disaster relief team.

Higginbotham is survived by his wife of almost 45 years, Debbie; his mother, a son and a grandson. He was preceded in death by his father.

Funeral services were held

June 27 at Forest Hills Cemetery in Alexander.



Michael Todd Brian, 48, of Camden died June 21 at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Center in Little Rock.

Brian was a graduate of Southern Arkansas University-Tech. He attended Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La., and was employed for 25 years as an agent with Ouachita County Farm Bureau. Brian was a member of Cullendale First Baptist Church in Camden.

He is survived by his wife, Crystal Loomis Brian; a daughter and two sons, his mother and a brother. He was preceded in death by his father.

Funeral services were held June 24 at Cullendale First Baptist Church in Camden. Internment followed at Bethesda Cemetery in Camden.



YOUTH GIVE BACK – Seventeen youth and leaders (some not pictured) from Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Jessieville served the homeless June 15 at the Eleanor Klugh Jackson House for Crisis Intervention Services, Inc., commonly known as Jackson House, in Hot Springs. Jackson House is an interfaith community crisis center, which provides short-term emergency assistance for basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. The group prepared food and served meals to dozens of people at the center. The older youth made and sacked the lunches, while the younger youth made rice bags and noodle bags. They made more than five 10-pound bags of rice to give to the center, then took turns handing out soup and bags to the more than 80 people who came. Sandy Harper is youth director at Mt. Tabor Baptist.

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Classifieds

PASTOR

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Emmanuel Baptist Church is seeking God's man for **F/T pastor** position. Must have a heart for rural America and international missions. Resumes and information can be sent to team@ebcjane.org or EBC Search Committee 5684 East State Hwy 90, Jane, MO 64856.

FBC Lowell, AR, average attendance of 400-500, is seeking candidates for **senior pastor**. We are seeking an experienced leader with a heart and passion for discipleship and the desire to minister and love as Christ loves us in our growing community and beyond in northwest Arkansas. Candidates are responsible for the functioning, leadership and vision of the church. He is also responsible for the spiritual instruction and strategic leadership of the congregation, staff and ministries of the church. He must proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, be doctrinally sound, engage in pastoral care and community outreach, and provide leadership in all other areas of the church. Send Resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, AR 72745 or email them to fbclowell.com.

Grace Baptist Church in Belleville, Arkansas, is currently seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Generous salary, 3 bedroom, updated parsonage available. Growing church with an average attendance of 70-85. Resumes can be mailed to P.O. Box 27, Belleville, Arkansas 72824.

First Baptist Church of Marion, Arkansas, is prayerfully seeking God's man for the position of **senior pastor**. Applicant must have substantial leadership/ministry experience in a mid-size to large Southern Baptist Church. Qualified applicants should send resumes to: firstmarionsearch@yahoo.com.

Shiloh Baptist Church (SBC), Rover, Mo., 17 miles east of West Plains, seeking **bi-vocational pastor**. Worship attendance about 70, median age about 35. Send resumes to: Lyndell Huddleston, HC 61, West Plains, MO 65775.

First Baptist Church, London, AR seeks **full-time Southern Baptist pastor** after former pastor served 23 years. Accepting resumes now through August 1 by e-mail fbclondon.com or mail 17 Southern Baptist Rd., London, AR 72847 Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

First Baptist Church, Gillham, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, c/o Vona McKinley, 332 Pendergrass Road, Horatio, AR 71842.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Small church needs **music director**. Sundays only. Contact sulliglenda@yahoo.com if interested.

Seeking **bi-vocational worship leader/associate pastor** committed to a blended worship service. Send resume by 8/4/2016 to Trinity Baptist Church, 20707 Chicot Road, Mabelvale, AR 72103 or to kxleonard@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church of Bay, Arkansas (just outside of Jonesboro) is seeking a **part-time associate pastor of music and worship** to lead our growing congregation. Resumes can be mailed to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 190, Bay, AR. 72411 or emailed to fbcbay@suddenlink.net. You can also visit our website at www.bayfbc.org for more info about our church.

LR area – Col. Glenn – 5 mi. w of I-430: Small country church seeking **part time music leader**. Send resume to Martindale Bapt Ch, 18900 Col. Glenn, LR, AR 72210 or email harrisw12@yahoo.com.

First Baptist Church, Pea Ridge is looking for a **part-time children's ministry director** to lead children's ministry, birth – 6th grade. Please submit resumes to cody@prfbc.org.

Sugarloaf Baptist Church in Heber Springs is currently accepting resumes for position of **full-time student min-**

ister. Person will be responsible for students 7th-12th grade. Send resumes to: sugarloafbapt@gmail.com or mail: Attn: Youth Search Sugarloaf Baptist Church, 699 Wilburn Road, Heber Springs, Arkansas, 72543. Call Tony Criswell at 501-362-2448.

Praying for a **part-time youth minister!** Send Resumes to South Main Baptist Church, PO Box 430, Crossett, AR 71635; or email at SMBCSecretary@windstream.net Visit our website at southmainbaptist.net.

Westside Baptist Church, Natchitoches, Louisiana, is seeking a **full-time student pastor** to lead and disciple middle school and senior high students. Submit resume to Steve McAlister, pastor at steve@westside.life.

Mountain Top Cowboy Church, Heber Springs, is looking for a **bi-vocational worship leader** to play the acoustic guitar and lead our congregation in singing country flavored old hymns. Interested candidates may contact church office, call 501-365-3960.

FBC McRae seeking **bi-vocational minister of youth**. Interested parties please submit your resumes via email to kfowler2123@yahoo.com or by mail to FBC McRae, 703 E Second St., McRae, AR 72102. Person applying needs to be available Sundays (morning and evening), Wednesday evenings and other times for various youth activities, including camps in

the summer.

Soaring Wings Christian Home and Ranch seeks a Christian couple as **full-time house parents** to provide long-term care for seven to 10 children, including own, in a Christ-centered home. For more information, email jason@soaringwing-ranch.com or visit www.swranch.org.

Southern Heights Baptist Church, Berryville, is seeking a **full-time worship leader**. Please send resumes to Personnel Committee, 279 Highway 221 S., Berryville, AR 72616 or shbc@shbc.arcoxmail.com. Website: <http://www.myshbc.net>.

Bear Creek Springs Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time student pastor**. Those interested should send a resume to Bear Creek Springs Baptist Church, Attn: Senior Pastor, 179 Devito Loop, Harrison, AR 72601.

MISCELLANEOUS

For sale: 1995 Chevrolet Bus, 30-passenger, 66,000 miles, well maintained, \$12,000 or best offer. Calvary Baptist Church, Benton. Contact Aubrey @ 501-529-5029.

Check out the new and improved ABN website at arkansasbaptist.org

Looking to fill a staff position at your church?

Visit arkansasbaptist.org/ad to submit your classified!

Deadline Nov. 4

Baptist Businessperson of Year nominations being accepted

LITTLE ROCK – Do you know a Southern Baptist businessman or businesswoman who is making a huge impact for Jesus Christ through his or her marketplace influence?

The *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) is planning to hold its Arkansas Baptist Businessperson of the Year recognition, and ABN readers are invited to nominate a businessman or businesswoman for consideration.

"The ABN wants to bring attention to Arkansas Baptists who are making a difference for Christ in the lives of others and through their businesses and in the marketplace," said Tim Yarbrough, ABN editor/executive director.

Candidates should be a resident of Arkansas and a member of an Arkansas Baptist church. They should be actively involved in ministry in their

church and in other areas.

To nominate someone, please include the following: (1) name, phone number, email and church membership of the submitter; (2) name, phone number, email and church membership of the candidate, and (3) a 200-300 word essay explaining why the candidate should be considered for Arkansas Baptist Businessperson of the Year, including the impact he or she makes in the business world, as well as his or her involvement in church/ministries/missions.

Submissions for the contest must be received on or before Nov. 4.

Email nominations to tim@arkansasbaptist.org or mail to Arkansas Baptist Businessperson of the Year, *Arkansas Baptist News*, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.

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Abortion provider regulations struck down

WASHINGTON (BP) – The U.S. Supreme Court struck down June 27 a state legislature's effort to hold abortion providers responsible for the protection of women who use their services.

In a 5-3 opinion, the high court ruled portions of a Texas law that regulate abortion doctors and clinics constitute an "undue burden" on a woman's right to abort her child and are therefore unconstitutional. The high court's reversal of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans invalidated a requirement an abortion clinic must meet the health and safety standards of other walk-in surgical centers.

The decision also nullified a section mandating an abortion doctor must have admitting privileges

at a nearby hospital in case a woman needs emergency admission.

The decision leaves uncertain the future of similar abortion provider regulations in nearly half of the states.

Pro-life advocates expressed deep disappointment with the opinion.

The ruling "stands on the wrong side of justice, the wrong side of human dignity, and the wrong side of the Gospel," said Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

The opinion "essentially leaves the abortion industry unregulated in a kind of Wild West, laissez faire sort of situation ... that we wouldn't allow for any other industry," Moore said. "Keeping abortion providers accountable should not

be a political wedge issue."

Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life, said, "Being pro-life means wanting what is best for women and babies. Because of the decision today, beauty parlors, veterinarian clinics and public pools will be held to higher sanitary and health standards than abortion clinics.

"This is not pro-woman," she said in a written statement. "Women and babies are the real losers of today's decision."

Twenty-two states – including Arkansas – have enacted laws that require abortion doctors to have admitting privileges and/or transfer agreements with hospitals, according to the National Right to Life Committee.



The **generation revitalization** event will provide basic youth and children/preschool ministry training.

Dates & Locations

August 8

FBC Lowell
FBC Mountain Home
FBC Manila
FBC Dover
FBC Beebe
Salem BC Mena
FBC Nashville
Cullendale FBC Camden
FBC Hamburg
Ridgewood BC Forrest City

August 9

FBC Lavaca
FBC Pochahontas
FBC Batesville
Southside BC Stuttgart
Crossgate Hot Springs
FBC White Hall
Highland Drive BC Jonesboro
FBC Maumelle
Eagle Heights BC Harrison

Conference Schedule

6:30 p.m.
Opening Worship & Prayer
7:15 p.m.
Conference Part 1
8 p.m.
Break
8:15 p.m.
Conference Part 2
9 p.m.
Dismiss

For more information and locations, go to

www.absc.org/genrev

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

Faith & Culture

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

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

'I was born this way' countered by MBTS prof.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) – Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Alan Branch has a friend whose brother explained his decision to embrace a homosexual lifestyle by stating, "I have a male body, but I have a female brain. That's why I'm attracted to men."

Branch, professor of Christian ethics, classifies that pronouncement as a version of the increasingly common argument that homosexual acts are morally legitimate because homosexuality is "hard-wired into who (some people) are from birth." As Branch sees it, the argument has been articulated in settings as diverse as the halls of academia, the lyrics of pop singer Lady Gaga and casual family conversations.

The need to equip Christians for countering that spurious notion is why Branch wrote his latest book "Born This Way? Homosexuality, Science, and the Scriptures," published by Weaver Book Company, basing the title on a Lady Gaga song.

The book, which has drawn an endorsement from Midwestern President Jason Allen, seeks to help pastors and churches understand contemporary scientific research on

homosexuality from a Christian worldview perspective while standing firm on the biblical teaching that homosexual behavior is a sin.

"The prevalent claim 'I was born this way' is over-simplified and does not fit the evidence to date," Branch said.

"Biological and genetic factors have a contributing factor towards the development of a homosexual identity, but they are not completely determinative," he noted. "The big point is that homosexuality is not a trait like hair, skin or eye color. Establishing this basic fact will help in the articulation of a clear Christian ethical stance regarding the morality of homosexual behavior."

Three key contributors to the misguided "I was born this way" argument, Branch writes, are: Psychiatrist Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), who helped pioneer the idea

some forms of homosexuality are innate; 20th-century sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, who popularized the falsehood that 10 percent of males are homosexual; and the American Psychiatric Association, which succumbed to political pressure in 1974 by removing homosexuality from its catalog of mental disorders in the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual."

An important tool for countering the argument that homosexuality is innate and therefore morally acceptable is the concept of "brain plasticity," Branch writes, the notion that brain structures and functions change in response to choices and activities.

An example being that pornography use has been demonstrated to alter a male's response to women, repeatedly acting on homosexual desires may ingrain such desires in a person's brain, developing new neural pathways and making them feel

"natural," he argues.

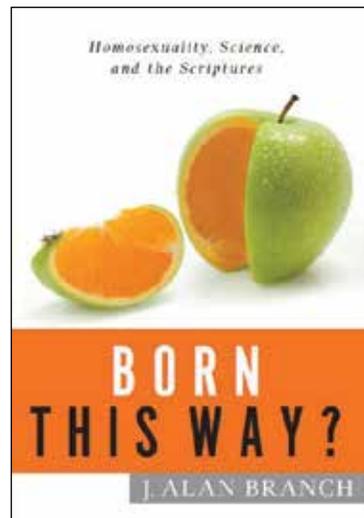
Biological and genetic factors contribute to same-sex attraction, Branch writes, but do not predetermine how a person will respond to such attraction.

No definite link between brain structure and homosexuality has been demonstrated, but there have been "intriguing findings" regarding the differences between the brains of homosexuals and heterosexuals. Studies of identical twins suggest "a genetic contributing factor to homosexuality may be at work."

"We must face the current data with honesty, but also with discernment. ... The majority of research clearly indicates an attempt to change sexual orientation is a daunting task and a rare occurrence," he writes.

For some with same-sex attraction, following Christ will entail singleness and godly celibacy, he writes. For others, it will entail heterosexual marriage and combatting occasional same-sex temptations while yet others will marry a person of the opposite gender and be freed altogether from same-sex temptations.

"Each of these options is consistent with Christian sexual ethics."



The Watercooler

"The notion that the Roman Empire was ripe for a monopoly religion to take it over at around the time of Christ is probably an inevitable one. ... There were a huge number of different religions in the Empire and the chances were that one of them would 'do a Starbucks,' become ubiquitous, monopolistic and eventually intolerant and kick the other ones out."

– Matt Ridley, science writer

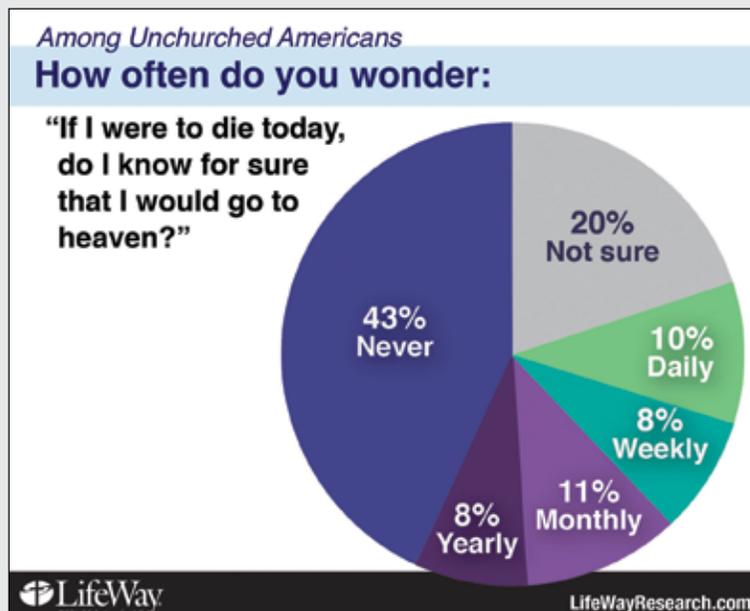
While speaking about his book – "The Evolution of Everything: How Ideas Emerge" – recently during the Chalke Valley History Festival in the United Kingdom, science writer Matt Ridley compared the rise and eventual global prominence of Christianity within the Roman Empire to the rise of Starbucks as the world's leading coffee shop chain. According to Marcus Jones, writer for premier.org.uk, "He (Ridley) claims in the first century A.D., other figures were better known and followed than Jesus but their philosophies fell by the wayside for Christianity."

"It's no different than the KKK or those who attack abortion clinics. We wouldn't say there is a problem with radical Christianity or radical Christian terrorism. We call the threat what it is. It's the KKK, those who are attacking women's health clinics."

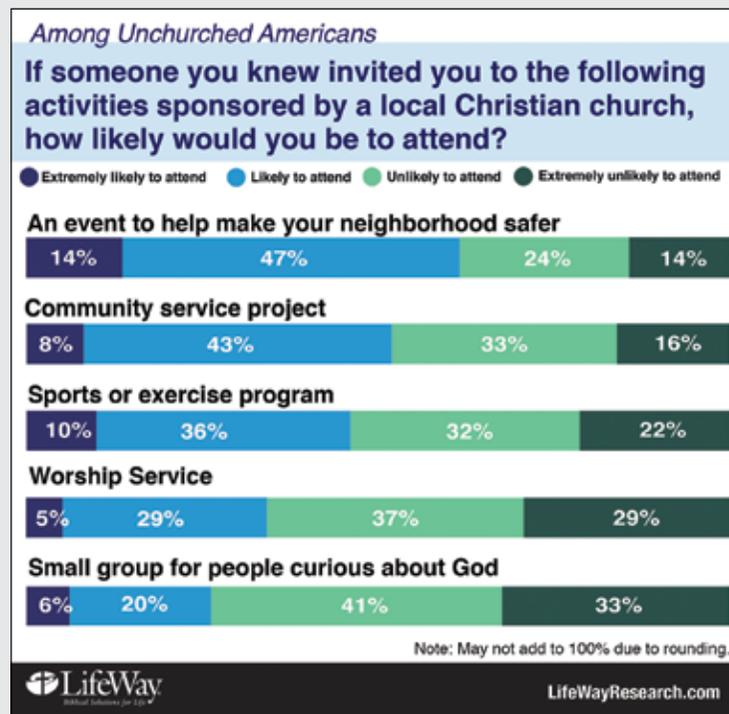
– Farhana Khera, Muslim lawyer

In a recent Senate hearing U.S. senators and a group of expert witnesses discussed the usage of terms such as "Islam," "Jihad" and "Muslim" in regards to national security, according to a recent pmedia.com article. Illinois Senator Dick Durbin agreed with Farhana Khera, president of the National Association of Muslim Lawyers, that referring to recent terrorist attacks in religious terms is inaccurate and offensive. "It is a mistake for us to then call the Ku Klux Klan ... or Westboro Baptists radical Christians. They are extreme, violent, unacceptable," said Durbin.

LIFEWAY RESEARCH



A recent survey of 2,000 unchurched Americans from LifeWay Research and Wheaton College's Billy Graham Center for Evangelism found more than half of Americans who don't go to church identify as Christians.



JULY 24, 2016

The story of David and Goliath is one of the best known Bible stories. Little children can tell it; sportscasters reference it routinely, and Hollywood loves alluding to it in every underdog story. And what isn't there to like? The young shepherd defeated the evil giant. We love to slip into David's sandals every time we face difficulty.

As believers, when we remember the story of David and Goliath, our minds should run quickly to Christ and the cross. The parallels between David and the Son of David, Jesus, are much stronger than they are between David and us. If we are going to find ourselves in this story, it is probably in the faithless Israelites. We are defeated by sin and in desperate need of a Savior. Christ is that Savior who stands in the gap for His people, defeating sin and death on the cross.

The Israelites had shown this pattern of faithlessness before. Among many examples, think of how the spies and the people of Israel responded to the report of the Promised Land in Numbers 13 and 14. Everything the spies

said was true, except for their recommended response (Num. 13:31). The land was flowing with milk and honey but occupied by fierce warriors. The faithless among them saw this truth as insurmountable. The faithful, like Joshua and Caleb, saw it is an incredible opportunity for God to show Himself.

Centuries later, when Goliath arrived on the scene, the Israelites responded to difficult truths with the same faithlessness. Instead of standing strong to see God work, they cowered in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Even King Saul, who should have been out leading his people, was nowhere near the battlefield. In stepped David, a shadow of the Savior to

come and our model for faithfulness. David reminded the Israelites, King Saul and Goliath that the battle was the Lord's and that he trusted Him to deliver (1 Sam. 17:37,47).

This faith was not in ignorance to the challenge standing before him but in direct response to its sneering taunts.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Delivered

1 SAMUEL 17:32-37, 42-50 (ESV)

Cole Penick
Fayetteville

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Make agreements cautiously

PROVERBS 6:1-5; 22:7 (NIV)

Jennifer Bryant
Fordyce

"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender" (Prov. 22:7, NIV). The times in my life when I have had to borrow money have been some of the most stressful times. When I know I have to pay someone back, it is constantly on my mind. I worry about what will happen if I can't pay back the debt on time or, what if something catastrophic happens, and I can't pay back the debt at all. It becomes a sin because I let it rule my life and thoughts. I don't feel like any of my money is my own anymore until I pay back my debt. I have become a servant to the lender.

Is it wrong to borrow money? No, not really. However, you must take your agreements very seriously. Think before you borrow. Do I really need this money right now? Could I possibly wait and save my money? Borrowing money is a serious endeavor. If not careful, borrowing money can lead you into situations that cause you to sin.

The problem with borrowing money is when you allow the agreements to take over your life. Your focus is off what you can be doing for God's king-

dom while you are worrying and stressing about how you are going to pay the money back.

Also, if you go into agreements carelessly, you may not be a proper steward of what God has given you.

Think about how much money you may be spending in interest over the course of your agreement. Maybe you could save the money first, so you wouldn't have

to pay interest, or maybe you don't even really need whatever it is you are wanting.

Pray and ask God to help you see if there are other options before you enter into an agreement. He will guide you. He cares about you and your finances.

So what do you do if you are already involved in binding agreements over money? Proverbs 6:3-5 (NIV) says, "Go - to the point of exhaustion - and give your neighbor no rest! Allow no sleep to your eyes ... Free yourself." I believe this is telling us to not drag out our debt. We should talk to our lender and find ways to pay it off as quickly as possible. Do what you need to do to free yourself from debt, and then to stay out of debt.

JULY 31, 2016

Whether you classify yourself as an introvert or an extrovert, all of us need to be a part of community. It is where we find encouragement and strength to run the race with perseverance. Even when being in community is difficult, it is still necessary.

This need for community is part of God's design. He never intended His children to walk through life alone. We were built to live in community as the holy Trinity lives in eternal community (Gen. 1:26). Ecclesiastes tells us, "Two are better than one," and "Woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!" (Eccl. 4:9-10, ESV).

When David was under attack, he had Jonathan to lift him up. What a gracious gift of God to David. But this friendship was only possible through Jonathan's selflessness. Jonathan was the heir-apparent to the throne before David arrived. He probably would have made a great king. He was a valiant warrior and a great leader, and he was

not prone to rashness or jealousy like his father (1 Sam. 14). But Jonathan selflessly chose to follow the Lord's anointed, David, instead of attempting to secure his own kingdom.

Jonathan's actions mirrored the attitude Paul commanded of the Philippian church. "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in

humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3-4, ESV). Jonathan acted in this selfless manner and, more importantly, Christ lived in this manner (Phil. 2:5-11).

Selfless abandon to the needs of brothers and sisters in Christ promotes the uniqueness of the gospel. "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35, ESV). The early church bore these sacrifices gladly (Acts 4:32-37), and so should the modern church.

Does this kind of love mark you, your Sunday school class and your church?

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Faithful

1 SAMUEL 18:1-5; 20:35-42 (ESV)

Cole Penick
Fayetteville

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Earn money productively

PROVERBS 6:6-11; 30:5-9 (NIV)

Jennifer Bryant
Fordyce

God designed insects and animals to know how to be productive and care for their needs. If you think about squirrels, they gather nuts and store them for the winter months so they will have food. If they were lazy in the summer and did not store any nuts, then we know what would happen in the winter. Ants do the same thing. They know what to do to survive, and they have "no commander, no overseer or ruler" (Prov. 6:7, NIV).

Christians can learn a lot from these examples when it comes to earning money. The Bible states, "Consider (the ant's) ways and be wise" (Prov. 6:6, NIV). Don't be lazy. Ants and squirrels cannot sit around and enjoy their free time being lazy. They must "save up" for the winter so they won't starve.

Christians need to not be lazy. We should not expect something for nothing. It is important not only to earn your own money productively but also

to save for hard times. "How long will you lie there, you sluggard? ... A little folding of the hands to rest - and poverty will come on you like a thief" (Prov. 6:9-11, NIV). You can't get much clearer than that.

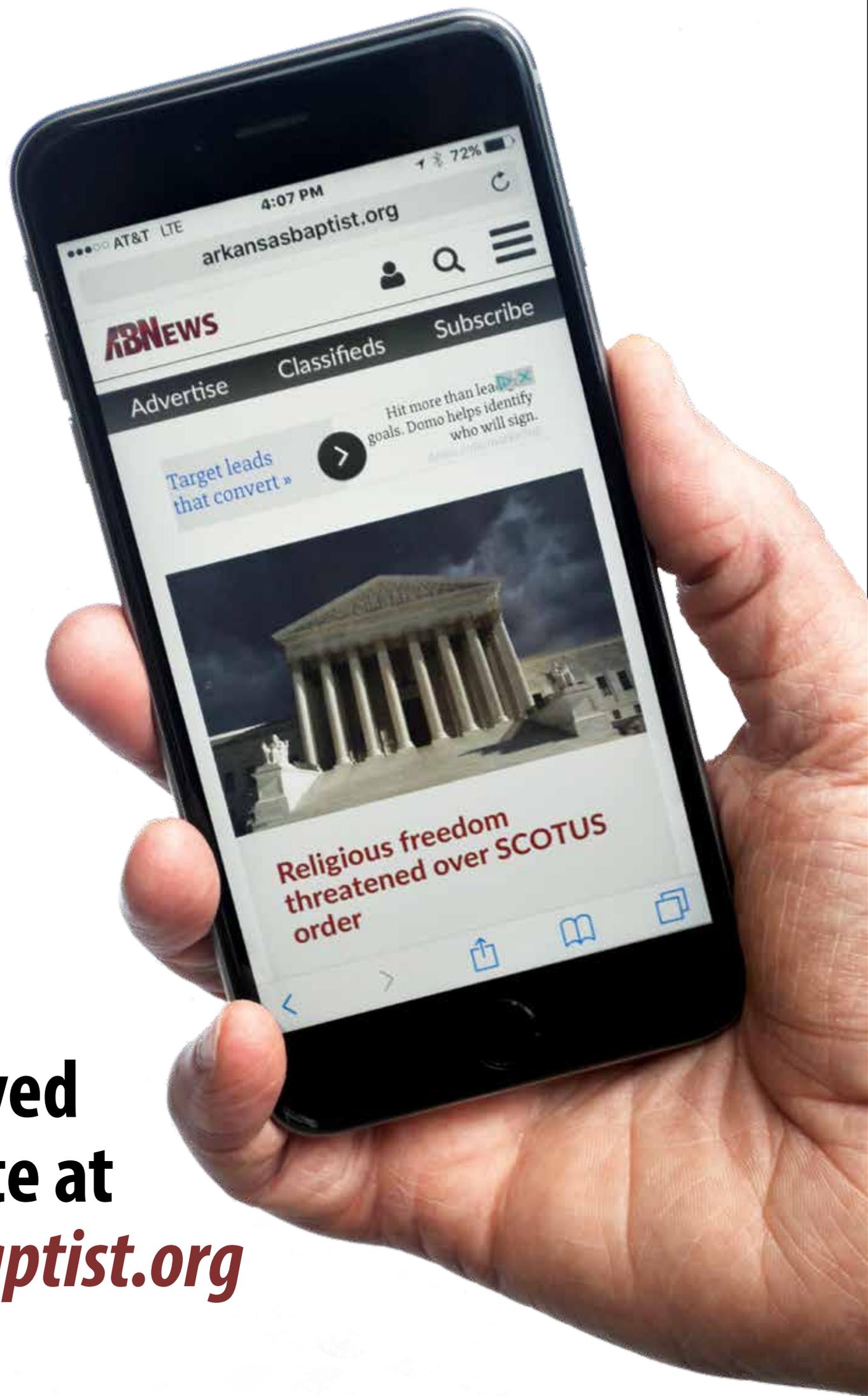
In today's time, some people think they are owed things even though they haven't done anything to earn them. As Christians, we have to realize working hard and not being lazy are ways to help us grow closer in our relationship with the Lord.

Proverbs 30:5-9 explains that we need to be content with having "enough" money, neither too little nor too

much.

If we are concerned about having more or less money, our focus will shift from God to our worldly issues.

Work hard, earn money productively and save some for hard times, but always keep your eyes on God.



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