

Homeless to helping

Brenda Gray, recent CWJC graduate, volunteers with homeless

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Children help Kan. students

Ark. children help provide for students' basic needs

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Don Moore looks out over the backyard of his Little Rock home. Moore marked 60 years of ministry on April 26. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

Profiles in Faith

Don Moore, 60 years of gospel ministry

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK - In 1953, Dwight D. Eisenhower was sworn in as the 34th president of the United States, the Korean War was coming to a close, the Cold War was raging and the Arkansas Razorbacks football team had a down season, finishing 3-7.

And 1953 was the year Don Moore - Arkansas native, long-time minister and former executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) - began his gospel ministry.

Over the past 60 years, God has used Moore in nearly every conceivable role within Southern

Baptist life. He has served as pastor, interim pastor and intentional interim pastor of churches in Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Moore, 79, has served the denomination both nationally and on the state level, including serving more than 13 years as ABSC executive director (then called executive secretary-treasurer). He has done mission work in the United States and across five continents and 14 countries, has been a popular speaker at events and conferences across the country and has taught on both the undergraduate and graduate level at several institutions, including Ouachita Baptist University.

Moore said he recognizes the immense blessings God has placed on

his life and points to his parents, his siblings and his upbringing as his first blessing and the firm foundation in which God began to build his life, and later his ministry.

"I can't think about my life and long years of ministry without thinking about my roots. I am one of six children and out of the six children, four of us have ended up in ministry. I think it's to be credited to a large extent to the attitude my mom and dad had toward the Lord and His Church and the servants of the Lord," he said.

Moore's father was a poor

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GuideStone challenges mandate

DALLAS (BP) - The Southern Baptist Convention's health and financial benefits entity has filed its first-ever lawsuit against the federal government in a legal challenge to the Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate.

GuideStone Financial Resources and two of the organizations that take part in the entity's health plans filed the federal suit Oct. 11 in Oklahoma City. Joining GuideStone in the suit were Oklahoma City-based Reaching Souls International and Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga.

The suit contends the religious liberty of the entities and other

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Fall/winter 2013
Arkansas Christian
Parent out now!



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Children's Homes

Baptists help children in need through annual offering

Stella Prather
ABCHomes

Cheerfully jumping into the car, 6-year-old Ethan*, like most youngsters, is excited about missing a few hours of school, even if it is for a doctor's appointment. Fidgeting in the backseat, he asks his case manager in a bubbly voice, "Why do you do this for me?"

"I do things for you because I love you and God loves you," replies Jennifer Long, as she attempts to hold back tears and offers a big smile and wink through the rearview mirror at the youngster.

"I knew that!" exclaims Ethan. "I love you!"

At first glance, most could not imagine that the cheerful schoolboy once lived in a world of hurts, disappointments and anger. He was terrified of noises. Anxiety was a part of his life. True love was unknown to him.

But since arriving at the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children earlier this year, Ethan has been experiencing love and care from staff and houseparents who are providing him with a stable, homelike environment. Now the once shy, scared little boy is outgoing and excelling in

school. He has learned to write his name and learned to count for the first time in his life.

Providing a loving and safe home for hurting and needy children is the goal of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries (ABCHomes), which raises much of its support through an annual Thanksgiving Offering, traditionally observed by Arkansas Baptist churches since 1908. The theme of the 2013 offering is Somebody Loves Me.

"As we minister to the many children entrusted into our care, there occurs those special times when it

seems 'the light comes on' in their mind and, more importantly, in their hearts," said David Perry, ABCHomes executive director. "These moments may happen when they realize that they'll be safe, have enough to eat or that discipline will be consistent. A really critical time in their healing from the hurts, disappointments and conflicts in their lives is when they realize 'somebody loves me.'"

Through gifts to the annual offering, ABCHomes continually shares love with countless children and

See **OFFERING** page 6

CWJC graduate goes from homeless to helping others

Lisa Falknor
Arkansas Baptist News

FORT SMITH – Most of us take necessities of life for granted – like having a meal on the table, a coat in the closet or a roof over our heads. One person in Fort Smith takes none of these things for granted – especially the roof over her head.

Brenda Gray lived for 15 years in a homeless camp by a sewer plant and snake-infested swamp. Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC), an affiliate of the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), helped change all that. She gave permission for Valerie Fitch, Fort Smith Christian Women's Job Corps (FSCWJC) executive director, and Joni Heffron, her mentor for over a year, to tell her story.

Gray said she became homeless after losing her job as a carnival worker. Years ago, she lost touch with her three children and abusive, alcoholic husband. Yet, she found a new kind of family with other homeless people by the Arkansas River.

"Brenda was already a Christian attending the Church by the River when she came to us on Feb. 10, 2012," said Fitch, who laughed when asked Gray's age. "She says she's over 40 and less than 60."

"We told her this is not a job placement agency, but rather a ministry that equips women to find jobs, as well as achieve other goals," Fitch said.

She explained how the nonprofit

ministry worked. After signing a covenant, Gray would meet weekly with mentor Heffron to pray, study the Bible and move forward in small action steps.

"Valerie told me my role was to help Brenda learn I was a person she could trust, so she could (eventually) learn to trust God with her needs," said Heffron. Philippians 4:19 encouraged Gray. The verse says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

Each week, the two women met either in Heffron's car or at a McDonald's restaurant to assess the needs in Gray's life. In her chart, she listed one of her first short-term goals as getting firewood to stay warm.

"Brenda had very clear goals," she said. "If I had a suggestion for her or felt like she needed to take a certain step, she had already taken it. One word I would say to describe her is 'perseverance.' It's amazing she didn't lose sight of her dreams."

When asked what Gray wanted to be different about her life, she said, "I want a home. What I've always wanted is a home."

Then, she added, "I want to help others."

Now Gray has an amazing God testimony, Fitch said, because she did all of the requirements faithfully every week with successful results. After just a year, she had dentures, glasses, a truck and a rental home.



From left: Joni Heffron, mentor; Brenda Gray, recent Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) graduate, and Valerie Fitch, executive director of the CWJC in Fort Smith. Photo courtesy of Valerie Fitch

"She outachieved all her goals," said Fitch.

It was Christ-centered volunteers at the FSCWJC walking alongside Gray that eventually helped her obtain a disability check and widow's pension, said Fitch.

In March 2013, Gray graduated from the program. After that, she wanted to give back.

Heffron said she "volunteers for anything."

"We have an annual job fair," Fitch said. "She brought seeds to teach children how to garden and plant. Part of that was from the skills she learned on the river to survive."

"I am always warmed by how she wants to help others and by how far she is willing to go to help others," said Heffron. "She's willing to put

herself out there for people more so than I am."

Today, Gray assists the homeless whenever she can, particularly a man Heffron described as "high-maintenance."

Gray stood by the man until he found and set up an apartment. She stays available any time he needs a ride or advice.

"There's such solidness to the fact that if you mentor and you are consistent with mentoring – you do it week after week and you do it in a Christian context – that God quickly does the impossible," said Fitch.

"Brenda is a success story," she said. "She went from homeless to equipping others. What a change!"

Lisa Falknor is northwest regional correspondent for the ABN.

Pastor helps meet long-term needs of storm victims

CLINTON – A desire to help others has led an Arkansas Baptist pastor to help provide long-term recovery assistance for numerous families following storm crisis.

David Holcomb, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Clinton, said it began in 2008 when he felt God urging him to stop and help a family whose life had been devastated by a tornado in Clinton. He had no idea what would transpire over the next several years would lead to a God-sized undertaking and a calling he said is his "mission field."

Now Holcomb is making an impact through the Van Buren County Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC).

It started that day in 2008 when he met Shirley Dobbins.

"I was driving south on Highway 65 a few days after the Feb. 5 tornado, and I saw a woman picking up debris and clothing out of her yard," he said. "As I drove past her house that lay in ruin, the conviction to turn around and offer help was so overwhelming it was as if someone was sitting in my truck telling me to turn around. I immediately turned around, parked in her yard, got out of the vehicle and asked her, 'Would you like some help?'"

What started out as an offer to help clean up her property soon

became a mission project for other churches around the state. A church from Nashville brought their youth group and cleaned up the property and a youth group from Conway also came and helped clear the property of damage. The project became a rebuild for Jim and Shirley Dobbins. Holcomb asked North Central Baptist Association to help frame the house, and he asked Friendship Baptist Church to finish the house. As a result, the Dobbins received a new house debt free.

In addition, Holcomb said he witnessed to the family, and a few months later, both were baptized at Friendship Baptist.

Because of the assistance the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) gave in 2008, he and eight others formed the Van Buren County Long Term Recovery Committee with the purpose of helping Van Buren County residents recover their living conditions as they were prior to the storm.

"Our goal as a 'recovery committee' is what it says," he said, explaining that disaster relief teams help with the more immediate needs, and then the recovery committee helps with the long-term aspect.

The committee is registered with

FEMA and eligible to receive needed resources when disasters strike. Holcomb said had the storm damage not been so great in 2008, they would not have known about the option of establishing a committee because FEMA would not have been on the scene providing assistance.

Holcomb; Kyle Blanton, pastor of Pee Dee Baptist Church, Clinton; two Church of Christ pastors; a Methodist pastor, and four lay people in the community constitute the committee.

When this year's tornado struck Van Buren County April 10, leaving many with damaged property, so the LTRC set to work helping restore living

conditions for 10 families. Most of the projects were completed recently, including roofing a house, paying for the transportation of a mobile home from Benton to Clinton, purchasing four used mobile homes, remodeling a mobile home, converting a storage shed into a cabin and rebuilding a home. Additionally, a house was torn down and the group is in the process of building a new house for an elderly woman in partnership with the woman's church – Plant Baptist Church, Clinton.

FEMA resources were not avail-

able to the LTRC following the April tornado due to larger storm damage in surrounding states, said Holcomb, resulting in the LTRC being assisted by monetary donations and volunteers from across Arkansas. A Missouri church even came to help.

Holcomb said they have tried to "incorporate the ideology of the Cooperative Program in our county."

"The whole mantra of Cooperative Program is that we can do more together than we can alone," he explained, adding, "And that's exactly what we're trying to accomplish in our county: We can do more together – whether it's Church of Christ, Methodist, Baptist, Assembly of God – than if it was just Friendship."

He said Friendship Baptist alone could never have accomplished what they did.

"Instead of joining hands with other Southern Baptist churches exclusively, we have reached across denomination lines and joined hands with other denominations so we can insure a kingdom focus and not an institution focus," Holcomb said.

He said he is willing to assist others interested in forming a committee in their county or association "to insure the gospel is not only shared, but shown." For more information, contact 501-592-1380.



Holcomb

Children meet needs of Kansas students

Matt Ramsey

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

LAWRENCE, Kan. – Every year, college students prepare to move into campus housing for another semester. And while living on campus has its perks, campus housing doesn't provide all the personal items one might need. This year, one odd item will be added to the list of things students at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., will need to provide for themselves: toilet paper.

As a federally funded four-year higher education institution for Native Americans, Haskell was affected by the recent sequester cuts announced by the U.S. government, resulting in less campus maintenance for dormitories and therefore a lack of supplies like toilet paper.

"It was a big shock this year when students came back and found out that they would have to provide their own toilet paper because the dorm has provided it for them in the past," said John Gaskin, director of Haskell Baptist Ministries and pastor of Indian Avenue Baptist Church, located across from the school.

Gaskin has been at Haskell for 16 years and said these are the biggest cuts he has seen in that time.

"There is just a big spirit of discouragement on campus due to the budget cuts," he said.

Gaskin saw the great need and

turned to Arkansas Baptists for help, and it wasn't the first time he has done so. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) has a partnership with the Kansas Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists and connects Arkansas churches to mission opportunities in the area. Over the past five years, Gaskin has worked with David Mitchell, associational missionary for the Bartholomew Baptist Association, and has had six churches from that association and one church from Central Baptist Association help with needs at Haskell.

This summer with the recent cuts to campus maintenance, the administration at Haskell was counting on teams from Arkansas to help get the school ready for students to move into the dorms. Teams helped with several projects from cleaning the campus to rebuilding broken concrete steps.

As a member of one of the teams, Travis McCormick, ABSC missions support team member, identified the need for toilet paper for campus housing – a need that could be met by children.

McCormick and Charity Gardner, fellow ABSC missions support team member, lead an annual chil-

dren's missions discipleship weekend – Camp-O-Rama for boys and Girls' Missions Get-Away for girls.

"We were needing a missions focus for the weekend, and after spending time at Haskell in the summer, collecting toilet paper was an obvious need that we could meet," McCormick said.

Children were asked to donate toilet paper. With the help of other Arkansas churches and the efforts of the missions support team, more than 2,500 rolls of toilet paper were collected, and McCormick made the delivery Oct. 17.

Gaskin said it is a small step that will help meet a larger goal.

"Haskell is the Harvard of the American Indian schools," he said. "It's where

the leaders of the Indian culture go to school. Our hope is that we share the love of Jesus with them and they go back to their tribes and plant churches."

Gaskin said he is grateful for Arkansas Baptists and sees many more opportunities to work with them in the future.

Matt Ramsey is the director of communications for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Haskell Indian Nations University student receives toilet paper.

GUIDESTONE

continued from page one

non-church-related organizations covered by GuideStone's health plan is violated by a rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement the 2010 health care law. The HHS regulation requires employers to pay for coverage of workers' contraceptives, including drugs that can cause abortions, but does not provide an exemption for entities like those that filed suit.

"GuideStone plans do not cover drugs or devices that can or do cause abortions," GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said in a written release from the entity Oct. 14.

GuideStone has protested a series of "final" rules issued during the last two years by HHS on contraceptive coverage, joining the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) and Southern Baptist leaders – as well as evangelical and Roman Catholic organizations – in opposing the mandate and its lack of adequate conscience protections for religious employers.

After GuideStone failed to achieve satisfactory results through legislative and regulatory processes, Hawkins signaled to the Southern

Baptist Executive Committee in September the entity would file suit.

ERLC President Russell D. Moore said in a statement to Baptist Press, "GuideStone is absolutely right to stand against this incursion on conscience and the free exercise of religion. Southern Baptists stand with GuideStone. We at the ERLC will continue to work to repeal this obnoxious mandate and to restore religious liberty in this vital area."

The lawsuit cites 16 counts against HHS and its mandate, including violations of the First Amendment's free exercise and establishment clauses and the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Foes of the abortion/contraception mandate say HHS has provided adequate conscience protections for churches and affiliated auxiliaries, but not for other religious institutions.

The suit seeks a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the mandate until the judicial process is complete. GuideStone and its fellow plaintiffs face heavy financial penalties for noncompliance. The mandate will take effect Jan. 1 for GuideStone.

The GuideStone suit is the 74th filed against the mandate, according to the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which is representing GuideStone and the other plaintiffs.

"The government's refusal to

treat these ministries as 'religious employers' is senseless," said Mark Rienzi, senior counsel for the Becket Fund, in a written release. "These people spend their lives teaching and preaching their religious faith – if they do not qualify as 'religious employers,' the government needs to get a new definition."

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to announce soon if it will review lower court decisions regarding the abortion/contraception mandate. Both the Department of Justice and Conestoga Wood Specialties, a Pennsylvania business owned by pro-life Christians, asked the high court Sept. 19 to review separate decisions that clashed at the appeals court level. The Department of Justice petition came in an appeal won by Hobby Lobby, an Oklahoma City-based retail chain owned by pro-life evangelicals.

GuideStone, which is based in Dallas, serves churches, missions organizations, schools, hospitals and other ministries. In addition to health and other insurance coverage, GuideStone also offers retirement, investment management, property and casualty coverage and other services.

The Dallas law firm Locke Lord LLP filed the lawsuit in conjunction with the Becket Fund. The case is GuideStone v. Sebelius. Kathleen Sebelius is the HHS secretary.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest to Arkansas Baptists

GuideStone assists Colorado churches

DALLAS (BP) – GuideStone Financial Resources has announced it is providing assistance to churches and participants who have suffered losses in parts of Colorado devastated by severe storms and flooding. GuideStone has put a plan in place to assist the individual participants, churches and ministry organizations it serves in the Colorado counties declared a Federal Emergency Management Agency Designated Individual Assistance Area: Boulder, Adams, Larimer, Weld, Clear Creek, El Paso, Jefferson, Arapahoe and Logan. The initiative is in keeping with GuideStone's practice of responding to disasters and tragedies involving participants in its plans and programs for Southern Baptist and other organizations.

SBC's Russell Moore profiled in WSJ article

WASHINGTON (BP) – The *Wall Street Journal* profiled Russell D. Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, in a front-page article Oct. 22. The article discusses Moore's approach since taking office in June – maintaining strong biblical stands on such issues as abortion and same-sex marriage while communicating kindness and grace to those who disagree – in the context of the change it represents from the tone often used by conservative Christian leaders.

Phone pornography worldwide problem

NASHVILLE (BP) – By 2017, access to pornography on smartphones and tablets will be available to 250 million people worldwide, according to a new study from Juniper Research, a London-area analyst of the wireless sector. Higher-resolution screens, faster networks and personal security offered by password-protected phones and tablets will make the devices the fastest-growing distribution channels for adult content since the Internet was created, according to the study released Sept. 25. The increasing use of digital adult content and other forms of pornography prompted the launch of the Join One Million Men in the War Against Pornography campaign at the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

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

Millennials and your church

It is a brave new world out there for churches that truly seek to reach younger generations and get them actively involved in the work of the Church.

All one must do is look to our pews to see that – by and large – those who attend our churches are aging. A readership survey by the *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) revealed most of our readers are age 60 and older.

It is time the Church made a place for the Millennials.

Sociologists say the values of people who make up Generation Y, also called Millennials (born 1981 to 2000), are as follows: They are more social and want more flexible social groups, they are somewhat more optimistic and accepting of others, they are willing to share and they reject traditional structures and borders.

That appears to be a pretty good starting point for the Church.

The problem is that many churches today are being led by those who don't share these same

values – at least in the same ways.

Many of the Millennial generation are now in their late 20s. They are the first adults for whom computers, the Internet and various digital communication technologies have been a persistent cultural presence.

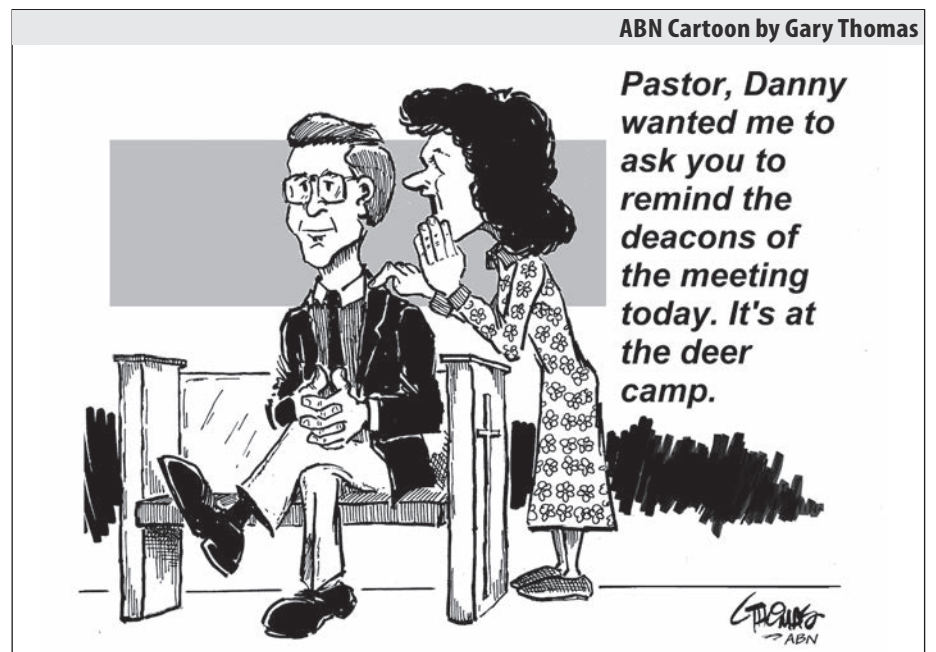
Consider the average “media day” of a Millennial and how that affects a ministry like the ABN, historically a printed newspaper.

Millennials have little to do with broadcast radio or TV, printed newspapers and/or magazines and talking on cellphones.

Conversely, they access music and/or podcasts online, they text from their cellphones and access information such as websites and TV programs from their cellphones.

Millennials are transforming the workplace, as a recent *USA Today* article pointed out.

At Quicken Loans' large headquarters in Detroit, young employees play table tennis on breaks, ride scooters and bend management's



ear whenever they want. Quicken management embraces Millennials, which make up 55 percent of their 10,000 employees. As a result, Quicken taps into their creativity, energy and understanding of technology and how to use it effectively.

Change is coming to all of our churches as our existing constituency passes away. It is up to the Church to embrace Millennials

who want the church to stand for something and to be passionate about it, to help others less fortunate, to be less political more authentic and, essentially, to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ on a daily basis.

I think we can handle that, don't you think?

Tim Yarbrough is editor of the *Arkansas Baptist News*.

'Level fields of play' - the Bobby Shows story

By James O. Preston, Jr., JOP Publishing, 2013

In “Level fields of play: Bobby Shows' life and ministry through sports,” James O. Preston Jr. tells the story of Bobby Shows, Mississippi native, basketball star, devoted sports evangelist and former Arkansas Baptist minister.

The book takes the reader through Shows' early years growing up in rural Mississippi in the 1940s and 1950s, up to his time as a member of the Mississippi State University varsity basketball team and finally through his distinguished career as a minister of the gospel.

The book focuses on Shows' lifelong love of sports and how he used that love as a tool with which to reach people with the

message of Jesus Christ both at home and around the world.

One major topic of “Level fields of play” is Shows' involvement in the 1963 NCAA men's basketball tournament. The highlight was

Mississippi State's historic matchup with Loyola University of Chicago. In the midst of the American

Civil Rights Movement, Loyola started four black players against an all-white Mississippi State team from the Deep South. The game became known as “Game of Change,” because of its impact on the desegregation of American sports.

While he did not play in that game, which Mississippi State went

on to lose, Shows said it was an experience he would never forget.

“We simply wanted to go and play basketball and do as well as we could and hopefully win the game. But as you look back and you see the things and the comments and people involved and how they felt about it, it becomes pretty obvious that it was a lot more than a game,” Shows told Preston.

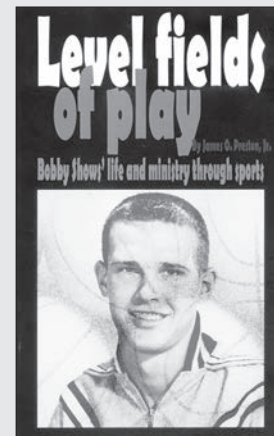
At the beginning of Chapter 10 Preston writes, “Little did Bobby realize when he dedicated himself to the Lord that he would serve God,

not as a basketball star, but as a sports missionary.”

The author goes on to cover Shows' life after college, how he met his wife, Jane, and how God blessed him with the ability to minister to the lost with his passion for sports, including by serving as recreation pastor of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, for 14 years.

“Level fields of play” is a well-written book that tells the story of a gentle giant who used the gifts and passions God gave him in order to grow the kingdom of Christ. Whether you are a sports fan or not, it is well worth a read!

The book is available directly from the publisher.



BOOK REVIEW

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News



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Family Matters

Men: lead@home

I led a group of parents in spring 2011 through a series of parenting equipping seminars as the culmination of my Doctor of Ministry degree. Half the parents participating submitted an intentional written plan for engaging in faith interactions with their children and half did not. The parents who turned in a written plan had twice as many faith interactions as those who did not. A written plan produces better results than no plan at all.

It has been exciting since that time to see how God has continued to work in many of those families. One father eagerly embraced his role as the spiritual leader at home. He studied his Bible more fervently. He discovered insights about family worship through reading. He initiated changes in his family. He practiced family worship at home. He later equipped other parents on how to lead their families spiritually through a study at church. He said their family would not be where they are currently if he had not been led by God's Spirit to take the initiative in his own home. Fathers play a key role in leading their families to grow spiritually.

Start with Scripture. I frequently encourage parents, especially fathers, to memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and ask God the question, "How do You want me to put this into practice in my home?" There are a variety of other key Scriptures that will encourage, convict and motivate men to disciple their families. Some that have helped me are Psalm 78:1-8, Proverbs 4:1-4, Ephesians 6:1-4 and 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

Adjust your schedule. A neighborhood boy commented while I played a board game with him and my son, "All my dad does is work, sleep and watch TV." Most families are busy, but subtle adjustments to one's schedules can provide some meaningful opportunities to spend more time together and engage in faith interactions with one's family.

Implement a specific written goal (some examples might include: pray with wife, memorize Scripture, read Scripture). Lead and be the spiritual champion in your marriage and family.



Phillips

Ben Phillips leads the Arkansas Baptist State Convention family ministry team.

Necessary. Target. Aspirational.

Are you focused on wishes, wants or needs? One of the financial planning software products I have utilized has an interesting way of presenting conclusions. After putting in various assets, expected income streams (like Social Security) and other such items, then "goals" are established. Goals can be as simple or as complex as you wish to make them.

For each goal, however, the program requests three numbers: one for the essential minimum amount to meet that goal, which is termed "Necessary"; one for the "Target" or expected amount for the goal, and one for the dream goal, which they call "Aspirational." On the final report, these columns are presented as Necessary (What I need), Target (What I want) and Aspirational (What I wish for).

The client could simply say he or she needs \$3,000 per month to survive (Necessary), would like to have \$5,000 per month in retirement (Target) and could really enjoy a lot of extra things if they had \$7,000 per month in retirement (Aspirational). To plan for the purchase of a car, the Necessary might be \$15,000, the Target \$25,000 and the Aspirational \$35,000.

In the analysis, the planner can help the client under-



FINANCIAL TIMES

David Moore

stand whether they are currently on track to meet one or more of these goals. Often, clients may satisfy one or two of these levels, but not all of them. That simply means the client will have to save or earn more and/or spend less. If, in the above example, the couple reaches retirement with a potential \$4,000 per month in income, then they can live with more than is absolutely necessary, but they cannot afford to spend what they had hoped to spend. The car they purchase may need to be a \$20,000 car and obviously not a \$35,000 one. In other words, some self-discipline will be required.

Jesus referred to the wise man who, before he starts constructing a tower, considers whether he has enough money to finish it.

Luke 14:28 (NASB) says, "For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?"

Good stewardship may demand that we understand what we can afford to spend so we can live accordingly, both now and in retirement. Do you know the difference between a "need" and a "want"?

David Moore is president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.

The problem with alcohol

It's still the No. 1 drug problem in the United States. It's not marijuana, and neither is it methamphetamine or cocaine. It's alcohol. And it's not just the No. 1 drug problem in America - it creates a bigger problem than all the other drugs combined can cause.

The *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* published an article highlighting findings regarding the economic and social costs associated with excessive alcohol consumption for the year 2006, the last year for which complete computations could be made. The following are a few of their findings:

- Economic cost: The estimated economic cost of excessive drinking was \$223.5 billion for the year 2006.
- Costs of crime: The cost of alcohol-attributable crime was \$73.3 billion in 2006.
- Health care costs: Health care expenditures totaled some \$24.6 billion in 2006.
- Cost per capita: The economic impact of excessive alcohol consumption in the U.S. was approximately \$746 for each person in the country for 2006.
- Death toll: In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta has determined that excessive alcohol consumption is responsible for an average of 79,000 deaths and 2.3 million years of potential life lost in the U.S. each year.

The following statistics reveal just how damaging alcohol consumption is to one segment of the U.S. population, young people 18-24 years of age on our college campuses. The source of this data is the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (2013) www.CollegeDrinkingPrevention.gov.

The consequences of excessive and underage drinking affect virtually all college campuses, college communities and college students - whether they choose to drink or not.

- Death: 1,825 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes.
- Injury: 599,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are unintentionally injured under the influence of alcohol.
- Assault: 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who

has been drinking.

- Sexual abuse: 97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape.
- Unsafe sex: 400,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 had unprotected sex and more than 100,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 report having been too intoxicated to know if they consented to having sex.
- Academic problems: About 25 percent of college students report academic consequences of their drinking including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers and receiving lower grades overall.
- Health problems/suicide attempts: More than 150,000 students

develop an alcohol-related health problem, and between 1.2 and 1.5 percent of students indicate that they tried to commit suicide within the past year due to drinking or drug use.

- Drunk driving: 3,360,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 drive under the influence of alcohol.
- Vandalism: About 11 percent of college student drinkers report that they have damaged property while under the influence of alcohol.
- Property damage: More than 25 percent of administrators from schools with relatively low drinking levels and more than 50 percent from schools with high drinking levels say their campuses have a "moderate" or "major" problem with alcohol-related property damage.

- Police involvement: About 5 percent of four-year college students are involved with the police or campus security as a result of their drinking and 110,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are arrested for an alcohol-related violation.

The arguments used to support the legalization of other recreational drugs are that if we legitimize them, we can regulate, tax and control the use of those drugs. How well can we think that would work when we consider the gargantuan problems we face with alcohol, a legal drug? That question answers itself, doesn't it?

Larry Page is executive director of the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council.



FAITH & ETHICS

Larry Page

OFFERING

continued from page one

teens at six statewide locations.

Ashley* is one of these children. The West Fork Emergency Receiving Home resident, who admitted she is homesick at times, said she did not desire to leave.

"It is peaceful here, ... and people love me when they don't have to," she said.

Another ABCHomes emergency home resident, Tucker*, is also experiencing true love from his houseparents and staff. The once troubled and defiant 12-year-old now "throws his arms around me, gives me bear hugs and tells me he loves me," said his housemother, adding she initially feared the teen was unreachable.

Tucker, in making a profession of

faith in Christ, has discovered the everlasting and eternal love of God.

"I feel like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders," he told his pastor following his decision to follow Christ.

In addition to the residents at the Monticello campus and emergency homes, ABCHomes staff has provided love and care this year to many boys, ages 6 through 17, at the Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch in Harrison.

Among these is Jared*, who arrived at the ranch earlier this year.

Noting Jared's initial "I don't



care" attitude, his housemother has continually loved on him in playful yet demanding ways. Not long ago, she poured her heart out to Jared, telling him of her love and care for him.

In response, Jared, for the first time, admitted of his care for her too.

"I believe she (housemother) is loving him to the point of healing and ultimate restoration," said Jared's case manager, Rachel Mendez.

In Little Rock, Avery*, a Promise House Maternity Home resident, is "seeing God's love in a new light," said Jennifer Cloyde, Promise House director.

After delivering her baby at 25

weeks, the teenage mother said, "God had a plan for me. If I had not been at Promise House, my baby would not have lived to make the air flight to get her to Little Rock.

"At first, I didn't see the plan, but now I do."

Countless other ABCHomes residents will be "loved on," thanks to the many Arkansas Baptist churches that will give generously to the 2013 Thanksgiving Offering.

Thanksgiving Offering promotional packets were mailed to pastors in late October to help churches promote the offering. These resources include posters, bookmarks, a promotional video, offering envelopes and speaker request forms. Downloadable resources can be found at www.abchomes.org.

For more information, email sprather@abchomes.org or call 501-376-4791, ext. 5168.

Stella Prather is the director of communications for ABCHomes. *Names withheld for privacy.

New ACP for fall/winter 2013

LITTLE ROCK - The fall/winter edition of *Arkansas Christian Parent* magazine is now available.

The new edition debuted at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting in Rogers, where churches were encouraged to pick up copies for their church and community distribution. Additional copies are available through local associations or directly from the *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN).

"*Arkansas Christian Parent* is a wonderful resource for parents and a strategic outreach tool for churches," said Tim Yarbrough, ABN editor. "More than 55,000 copies of the magazine have been distributed across Arkansas since its debut in October 2012. It has been a phenomenal success and continues to

be in high demand."

Articles included in the fall/winter edition are "College doesn't have to be scary," "What next? Guiding a child along the faith journey," "How to talk to your children about sex" and "The Disconnect: Raising children and protecting family in the digital age."

Writers include Joel Owen, leader of the family ministries team at Crossgate Church in Hot Springs; Katerina Foley, elementary dean at Shiloh Christian School in Springdale, and Shari Edwards, a member of Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock, among others.

For more information about *Arkansas Christian Parent* or to reserve copies, email abn@arkansasbaptist.org or call 501-376-4791, ext. 5153.

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SCAN FOR INFO



Plum Bayou Baptist Church marks 75 years

WRIGHT – It was a full house as Plum Bayou Baptist Church, Wright, near England, held its 75th anniversary celebration Oct. 13.

More than 150 people attended, and among them were five former pastors – Bill Hillburn, John Hagan, John Watt Jr., Garry Alverson and Arnold Chavers – most of whom shared during the service.

Lynn Riley, Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church growth team member, presented the church with a certificate for its 75 years of ministry during the service.

The event included testimonies from church members about the history of the church and community and music from the choir and congregation, as well as from current Pastor Seth Givens, a former pastor and others.

Dewayne Tanton, associational missionary for Harmony Baptist Association, led the choir and congregational hymns.



Lynn Riley (right) of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention presents Seth Givens, pastor of Plum Bayou Baptist Church, Wright, near England, with a certificate for the church's 75 years of ministry.

In addition, certificates of appreciation were given to several families for their service to the church.

Tanton said churches' homecomings are special to him because they bring to mind a flood of memories of his own home church.

"I think that's what happens at a homecoming, and that's what spoke to me at Plum Bayou," he said. "They had standing room only – people coming back and telling stories and visiting members."

He said on an average Sunday morning, one can't see the whole

history of a church and all the lives changed through the years. But at Plum Bayou's homecoming, multiple generations were present, and it showed "the godly seed that is reproduced through the generations through the efforts of one church."

"And those anniversaries make us pause and think about those things," he said.

During the event, those in attendance took time to reflect on their past with a reading of the church's history.

Originally, area residents met for worship in a tent and eventually at a school building. Then they were organized on Oct. 14, 1938, as Plum Bayou Baptist Church, with 56 charter members and Taylor Daniels as pastor. By the end of the year, the church had grown to 160 members despite the fact that they did not have their own building.

Their first building was completed in 1947, but it burned down in 1961 when the stove exploded. The church rebuilt and has continued to build and update its facilities and serve its community. Throughout the years, a number of pastors have served the church, including Givens, who began serving in August.

"It was really a high spiritual event," Givens said of the anniversary celebration. "The community has an unusually rich history, and it's amazing to see the Lord's blessing on the church and the community."

He explained that "the community was established as a government project to rehabilitate people displaced by the Depression" and that many of the families moved to that area for that reason.

"These families came there at a time when they had nothing, and whom did they seek? The Lord!" said Givens. "Seventy-five years later, His church is still standing in that community, and with all of the problems we face as a nation economically, and that the community of Wright still faces today, whom do the people still seek? The Lord!"

"That is why there is still a church in that community – because God's people continue to seek Him and His blessings upon the community of Wright."

Givens shared his hope for the future, saying he hopes the church "would continue to see the Holy Spirit poured out on that community and that the Lord would use the church to do that."

Prison ministry

Laura Macfarlan of First Baptist Church, Siloam Springs, speaks at a retreat held for inmates in the McPherson Unit of the Arkansas Department of Correction in Newport. Thirty-five Arkansas Baptist women from multiple churches went to the unit Oct. 11 to visit with the inmates, share Christ with them, pray for them and hold the retreat. Two inmates accepted Christ. *Photo used with permission of Prison to Purpose*



Friendship noteburning

Friendship Baptist Church, Springdale, held a noteburning ceremony Oct. 6 in honor of paying off the mortgage for the church's multipurpose building. From left: Mike Taylor of First Security Bank, Rick Sturdivant, Chris Medenwald, Tim Hargis of First Security Bank, Arthur Thurman, Harold Higgins, Joe Bond and Pastor Mike Sypult. Burning the note is senior church member Pat Thompson. The church has now paid for their multipurpose building in full.

Classifieds

PASTOR

First Baptist Church, Walnut Ridge, seeks **full-time senior pastor**. Send resumes to pastorsearchfbcwr@gmail.com by Dec. 1, 2013.

Emmet First Baptist is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Send resume to First Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 186, Emmet, AR 71835-0186.

Kern Heights Baptist Church is seeking **full-time pastor**. Send resume to 822 N. 9th, De Queen, AR 71832, Attn: Pastor Search Committee or khbc@windstream.net.

First Baptist Church of Manila is seeking a **full-time pastor**. We are a two-service, mission-minded church. Please send resumes to calebfinley@hotmail.com or they may also be sent to

Manila First Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 1304, Manila, AR 72442.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of Rogers is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Please send resume to PGBC, Attn: Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 517, Lowell, AR 72745 or email to pgbchurchrogers@yahoo.com.

Dermott Baptist Church, Dermott, is seeking a **full-time or bi-vocational pastor**. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 334, Dermott, AR 71638 or email to dbc5744@att.net.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

First Baptist Church in Atkins is looking for a **part-time or full-time student pastor**.

Please send your resume to Ferrel Duffel, 201 N. Church Street, Atkins, AR 72823 or email at duffelbag55@gmail.com.

Bi-vocational youth: Immanuel (Fort Smith) needs one who envisions and dedicates to our potential. We have youth to start, but location lends to explosive growth. For adventure details, contact immanuelbaptists@gmail.com or 479-782-1009.

Union Avenue Baptist Church in Wynne is seeking a **bi-vocational associate pastor with responsibilities in music and young adults**. Contact Pastor Gary Henson at ghenson_49@hotmail.com or call 870-208-5990.

First Baptist Church of Judsonia is seeking a **part-time minister of music**. Email resumes to fbcjud@gmail.com or call 501-279-6748.

Formosa Baptist in Clinton is prayerfully searching for a **part-time worship leader** who can lead a blended service. Please send resumes or questions to billytreece@hotmail.com or Formosa Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1530, Clinton, AR 72031.

Preschool and children's ministry associate at First Baptist Church, Benton. Details available at www.fbc Benton.org.

FBC, Muskogee, is accepting resumes for the position of a **full-time associate pastor**. Send resumes and inquiries to pastor@fbc Muskogee.org or Pastor Lance Sawyer, 111 S. 7th St., Muskogee, OK 74401; 918-682-3496.

To place a classified, email Nelle O'Bryan at nelle@arkansasbaptist.org or call 501-376-4791, ext. 5153.

Johnny Jackson, former ABSC pres., dies

LITTLE ROCK – Johnny Jackson Sr., 85, of Little Rock, died Oct. 15. Jackson served as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) from 1978 to 1979 and was heavily involved in ABSC life, serving on various committees and as pastor and interim pastor for a number of churches.

Jackson was the son of Pat and Ruby Jackson. He grew up in Camden with his parents and siblings – Pat, Jimmy, Billy Ray, Homer and Zada.

He and his wife, Carlene, had four sons: Johnny, Paul, Brent and Timothy; as well as four daughters-

in-law; 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to his family, Jackson loved preaching and being a pastor, serving in the offices and institutions of the Southern Baptist Convention, playing golf and cheering for the Arkansas Razorbacks, New York Yankees and Dallas Cowboys.

During his studies and following graduation from Ouachita Baptist College (now Ouachita Baptist University) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Jackson pastored churches in Texas and Arkansas, including Forest Highlands Baptist Church in Little Rock, where

he served from 1966 to 1986. He served two terms as president of the ABSC and 18 years as a trustee for Ouachita Baptist University. He was elected chairman of the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) in 1991. He also led 21 Holy Land tours. In ministry, nothing exceeded his love of missions and his support for missionaries, according to his family.

Jackson served 17 Arkansas churches as interim pastor after retirement. He celebrated his 65th

year of public ministry while serving as interim pastor at First Baptist Church, Maumelle.

Jackson was buried in a private graveside service following his death. A public celebration of his life will be held at First Baptist, Maumelle, at 10 a.m., Friday, Nov. 1.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to Ouachita Baptist University. An online guestbook can be found

at www.rollerfuneralhomes.com/chenal.



Jackson

Obituaries

Eujeania Kate “Jeannie” Breed-

love, 91, of Little Rock, died Oct. 18. She retired from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in 1987 after 25 years as a bookkeeper. She was a member

of Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock. She is preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Cecil Breedlove; her parents; a sister, and a brother. She is survived by her son, three grandchildren, 10 great-



grandchildren, three nieces and two nephews. Funeral services were held Oct. 23 at Roller-Chenal Funeral Home Chapel in Little Rock. Burial took place at Pinecrest Memorial Park in Alexander.

Delbert Dean Rogers, 87, died

Oct. 17. He taught school for 23 years in Monticello and Hope. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville. An Army veteran, he graduated from Ouachita Baptist University, became an ordained



minister and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Before beginning his teaching career in Monticello, he was an administrator at the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children. He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and two brothers. He is survived by his wife, Juanita; a son; a grandson; three brothers, and a sister. Funeral services were held Oct. 21 at Nelson-Berna Funeral Home in Fayetteville. Burial followed at Bluff Cemetery in Springdale.

minister and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Before beginning his teaching career in Monticello, he was an administrator at the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children. He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and two brothers. He is survived by his wife, Juanita; a son; a grandson; three brothers, and a sister. Funeral services were held Oct. 21 at Nelson-Berna Funeral Home in Fayetteville. Burial followed at Bluff Cemetery in Springdale.

hold revival services at 7 p.m. Nov. 8-9 and at 10:45 a.m. Nov. 10. Ray Jackson will preach.

Pickles Gap Baptist Church, Conway, will celebrate its 135th anniversary and homecoming at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 3. Lunch and a program will follow the morning service. For more information, call the church office at 501-327-4781.

On the move

Clay Crosse, considered one of the top Christian male vocalists of the 1990s and winner of numerous Dove awards, is serving on the staff of First Baptist Church, Bentonville, as worship leader.

Randy Festervand resigned as pastor of Green Meadows Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, to take a pastorate in central Missouri.

Read more at www.arkansasbaptist.org

Church life

Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge will host its annual Homecoming/Parent's Day Saturday Nov. 2.

Life Line Baptist Church, Little Rock, will host Mercy River Boys in concert at 6 p.m. Nov. 10.

Morrison Chapel Baptist Church, North Little Rock, will

Contest deadline approaches

LITTLE ROCK – Only a couple weeks remain for the annual Christmas card design contest of the Arkansas Baptist News (ABN).

The design should depict a religious Christmas scene and be an original artistic design and not a photograph.

The winning design will be featured in an upcoming edition of the ABN and will be used as the official 2013 Christmas card, which is mailed to dozens of Southern Baptist entities.

All entries must be received by Nov. 18 and will be judged by the ABN staff. The person with the winning entry will receive a \$100 gift certificate.

Entries must be submitted electronically and should be emailed to jessica@arkansasbaptist.org. If the art is too large for email, it may be submitted via mail on digital media, such as a CD-ROM, to ABN Christmas Card Contest, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204. Mailed entries must be received on or before Nov. 18. Submissions become the property of the ABN and will not be returned.

For contest rules, visit www.arkansasbaptist.org or call 501-376-4791, ext. 5153.

WANTED

Houseparents

The Arkansas Baptist Promise House Maternity Home, Little Rock, and The Baptist Home for Children, Monticello.

These full-time positions include salary, medical insurance, life insurance and paid leave.

Contact: Promise House: Jennifer Cloyde at 501.350.9766 or jcloyde@abchomes.org.
Baptist Home: Randy Luper: 870.367.5358 or rluper@abchomes.org

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BAPTIST

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1-800-4-BAPTIST

MOORE

continued from page one

farmer, but he always loved and supported his family. He recalled that when he and his siblings were growing up in and around Greenwood, the family attended a small country church that often had preaching only twice a month, but his parents made sure the family was there whenever the doors were open.

"They were always faithful, and they always highly loved and respected their church leaders. I think that made us all pretty open to the call of the Lord when He called us into ministry," said Moore about his parents and siblings.

Moore said much of his inspiration in ministry came from his siblings, two of whom served as missionaries.

It was during his years as a student at Ouachita Baptist University that Moore began his ministry leading music and working with youth at First Baptist Church, Smackover. To this day, Moore notes Dale F. Taylor, pastor of First Baptist at the time, as the major influence on his approach to Christian ministry.

Following his graduation from Ouachita, Moore attended seminary at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. While in seminary, Moore pastored Corum Baptist Church, located in the wheat country of Duncan, Okla.

After finishing seminary, Moore returned to Arkansas, where he pastored Elliott Baptist Church, Camden, for four years before leaving the state to become pastor at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans. Fred Luter, first African-American president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is now pastor of Franklin Avenue.



Moore sits in his Little Rock home with his wife, Nita. Below left, Moore and his first wife, Shirley, grace the cover of the Sept. 30, 1982, edition of the *Arkansas Baptist News* following his being named executive secretary-treasurer (now executive director) of the ABSC. Below right is a photograph of Moore from the 1970 church directory of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Jonesboro, where Moore served as pastor from 1966-1970.

After four years at Franklin Avenue, Moore returned to the Natural State, where in 1966, he became pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Jonesboro. During Moore's time at the church, he baptized Tim Yarbrough, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist News*. Moore served at Walnut Street Baptist for four years before leaving to pastor Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith, where he was pastor 12 years until 1982, when he was called to lead the ABSC on Sept. 23, 1982.

In his 25 years of pastoral service, Moore pastored nearly all types of congregations in nearly every conceivable type of community across the mid-South. He said that he later understood that God used his diverse experiences as a pastor to prepare him to lead the various churches across Arkansas when he became the executive director of the ABSC.

"I had a rural pastorate, an industrial pastorate, an inner city church pastorate in New Orleans, and from there I went to Jonesboro where I had a collegiate or university setting and from there I went to Fort Smith where we grew what would be known then as

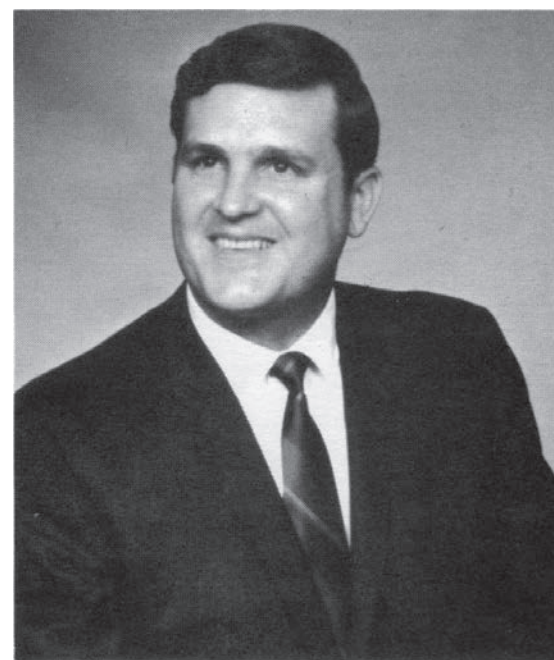
a megachurch," said Moore. "So it was interesting when God called me to be the executive director that He had given me such varied ministries in various places to get me ready to associate with all of our people here in the state."

In addition to his parents and siblings Moore said his spouses, Shirley, who died of cancer in 1993, and Nita, whom Moore married in 1995, have been vital to his ministry over the years, providing help, encouragement and passion for the Lord.

Moore said he has been influenced heavily by his friends in the ministry, his time in seminary, the church members he has had the privilege of serving the past 60 years and his favorite authors of books on Christian spirituality, such as E.M. Bounds, Ian Thomas, Watchman Nee and Bill Bright.

Asked to give examples of keys to healthy ministry for young pastors and ministers, Moore said he has learned that integrity is of the utmost importance.

"Integrity has to be a priority in my life and within all of my relationships. Along with that, I have subscribed that I should trust everybody, as I want them to trust me, until they demonstrate that they are not trustworthy. ... The other thing that has been really important is I have tried to learn that there are things that I am supposed to do in ministry but there are more things that only God is supposed to do," said Moore.



DON MOORE, PASTOR

"A third thing that has been important in my ministry is balance. Balance has to do with balancing work and play, ministry and family and trying to keep your emotional bearings when you are dealing with lots of heartache.

"There is an expression used from time to time. People say, 'I am a satisfied customer,'" said Moore. "I am a satisfied customer of the call of God. I have loved being in ministry. There have been some very hard times, as is true with anybody's line of work, but God has been faithful and has honored my attempts of being obedient to Him.

"If the Lord said, 'If we could do life over, what would you want to do, Don?' I would say, 'Let's do what we did this last time.'"

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.



NOVEMBER 10, 2013

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Doubting Jesus' power?

JOHN 9:1-41

We find a strong example of true salvation in John 9:1-41. "I was blind but now I see" (John 9:25). One thing for certain we need to realize in our life is that they can take away the church, they can take our Bible but they can never take away our personal testimony/story.

Scripture tells of Jesus healing the man who was born blind by placing a mud pie, made from dirt and His spit, on the man's eyes. Then Jesus told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. (This pool was rediscovered in 2004 underneath previous construction dating from the early 1900s.) The man was obedient, and he saw for the first time in his life because he came in contact with Jesus.

The disciples asked a question many people ask today: "Why was he born blind? Who sinned?"

Jesus said his blindness wasn't a result of sin, but rather it existed for God to be glorified by his healing.

The Pharisees also acted accord-

ingly, asking both the man and his parents if he was really born blind. The parents didn't want to be cast out, so they deferred to their son, who was of age. He answered, "I was blind but now I see." That statement was his testimony. He didn't even know who Jesus was; however, he did know that his life was changed forever and was willing to follow the One who changed his life.

Similarly, we need to recognize that what exactly happened to this man in the Bible continues to happen to many people still when they come in contact with Christ. Their eyes are opened; they become an outcast in society for

their personal belief in Christ. Their families and friends separate from them because of their new Christian beliefs. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to embrace them and welcome them into the family of God with open arms.

Continue to ask Jesus to open our eyes so that we can see those who need to see for the very first time.



Joseph E. Burt
associational missionary
Red River Baptist Association
Arkadelphia

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:

Step in

1 SAMUEL 25:14-17, 23-28, 32-35

David's presence in the Paran Desert was beneficial to Nabal. Nabal had lots of livestock, and David was a great protection to Nabal. In return, David sent messengers to ask for a little help and compensation and supplies for his men.

This passage can teach several things.

Step in – and don't be a fool (1 Sam. 25:14-17). As mentioned, David's presence was a protection to Nabal in a time when Philistine raids were common. David was just asking for some compensation. Instead, Nabal ridiculed and berated him. God's people must be teachable, sensible and flexible. There's always something we can learn from somebody. And when we've been blessed, let's bless in return.

Step in – and make lemonade out of lemons (1 Sam. 25:23-28). Abigail's husband, Nabal, had previously "laid a lemon" when he could have done so much more in those circumstances. When confronted with David, Abigail began to explain the situation to him. But it was her

spirit and attitude that won the day for her, her husband and their family. The truth for God's people today is this: In the end, we can't control anyone but ourselves. I can't control you, but God and I can control me. Ask God to lead and guide you and help you do your best in all circumstances.

Step in – and remember what 'goes around comes around' (1 Sam. 25:32-35). Thank goodness David didn't treat Abigail according to Nabal's actions. David treated Abigail according to Abigail's actions. And she was blessed. The way we treat others will often determine how they treat us.

Step in – and understand who you're marrying (1 Sam. 25:3, 25). It's sad Nabal lived just what his name meant – "fool"! And it's sad Abigail was not thrilled with the man to whom she was yoked. It matters to God whom we marry. Christians should marry Christians. Ask God to lead and guide you in the most important decision of marriage.



Eric S. Hodge
pastor
Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Crossett

NOVEMBER 17, 2013

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Feeling insecure?

JOHN 10:1-42

This week in our lesson, we take a look at John 10:1-42. Many of us know this as the "Good Shepherd passage."

Traditionally, when a shepherd spends a prolonged time with his sheep, they will only respond to his voice as he calls.

Often the pastor is also described as the shepherd of the church, yet the true Shepherd is Christ.

Earlier in this passage, Jesus stated, "I am the door" (John 10:7, 9).

Jesus continued to use these illustrations in a learning situation so that the crowds of people could look around and observe in everyday life settings.

The door was a place into which the sheep would be called. Being able to hear the Shepherd's voice is very important as we follow Him.

Jesus also shared in the passage the signs of a good shepherd: He will lay down his life, his action shows his true identity and the sheep follow him.

The crowd thought He was crazy. It is not unusual for the truth to be misunderstood by those who do not believe.

Jesus took it one step further. In John 10:27-30, He said those who are His sheep will never perish. They are in His hands for protection, and doubly, they are in the Father's hands, a very secure place for those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Jesus again claimed His Messiahship, and the scales are tipped in John 10:30 with the phrase, "the Father and I are one."

The crowd reacted by picking up stones to stone Him.

In today's society, there are many with stones in their hands reacting to the followers of the Good Shepherd. Followers have a responsibility to hear His voice and follow Him.

As His sheep, we need to bring other sheep into the fold of the Shepherd.

Who are you trying to reach today?



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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:

The big picture

GENESIS 37:5-8, 26-28; 50:15-21

The latter part of Genesis tells the story of Joseph.

Though he did nothing but follow God and be faithful to Him, Joseph faced some of the most challenging circumstances a Christian can face. In the end, Joseph saw the big picture.

The big picture – of how a parent should behave (Gen. 37:3-9). Joseph's brothers didn't care for Joseph very much at all. Our focal passage shows us that Joseph tells his brothers of his dreams. He tells them of how their grain bowed down to his grain and how the sun, moon and stars bowed down to him. This was probably not the smartest move on Joseph's part. But the biggest problem wasn't Joseph, but his father and how he handled his children. Israel showed favoritism between his sons – a terrible choice by a parent. All children are special, unique and have special gifts to love and should be treated that way.

The big picture – of hatred

(Gen. 37:26-28). These brothers hated Joseph. But they simply sold Joseph into slavery. Hatred is never OK in the life of a child of God. Regardless of the reason we hate someone, hate will always dishonor God.

Hate is never from God – but is always from the devil. In the power of the Holy Spirit, let us always choose love and respect, rather than hatred.

The big picture – of revenge (Gen. 50:15-21). Revenge is a terrible thing. Toward the end of this account, which is years later, Joseph's brothers are still carrying their guilt over what they did to Joseph.

I guess selling Joseph into slavery made Joseph's brothers feel better. Revenge affects people differently. But it does affect them. When God is given complete control of our lives, we just can't take revenge. If anyone had reasons to seek revenge, it was Joseph; yet, he didn't. He took the godly road and loved instead. In the end, hatred only harms the one doing the hating.



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Don Moore

Ark. minister celebrates
60 years of ministry

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GuideStone

GuideStone challenges
federal health care law

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Photo by Jessica Vanderpool



Harmony Association

Danny McKissic (left), pastor of New Fellowship Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, speaks with Gene Murdock (center), pastor of Matthews Memorial Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, and Dewayne Tanton, associational missionary for Harmony Baptist Association, at Harmony Association's annual meeting. McKissic was installed as moderator of Harmony Baptist Association at the meeting, which was held at Matthews Memorial Baptist Church Oct. 21. He is the association's first African-American moderator in its 96-year history.

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