



'Special assignment'

Lavaca church ministers in Haiti, builds orphanage for children.

page 2

Pastors' Conference

Meeting set for Oct. 31 at First Baptist, Little Rock.

page 15

Volume 110, Number 21

Telling the story of Arkansas Baptists since 1901

October 20, 2011

'One Day' makes eternal difference

Churches meet for missions

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

ONE DAY. Seventeen hundred mission volunteers. Fifty-one salvations.

That is what occurred at the Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip Oct. 1.

Breck Freeman, Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions ministries team member and Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip coordinator, said more than 125 churches from across the state converged on the Mena/De Queen area with a force of more than 1,700 volunteers for the mission trip.

Together, the volunteers split into groups and went out to serve communities in the Ouachita Baptist Association and share the love of Christ with them. Teams ministered in more than 80 sites in the area.

Some groups did yard work, others held sports clinics or block parties. One even held a fishing derby. Still others distributed food, prayer walked, held medical or dental clinics or

See **MISSIONS** page 3



J. B. Huffmaster helps Lilly Grace Clark, 6, show off her stringer of fish caught at the fishing derby during the Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip.

158th ABSC Annual Meeting November 1-2

LITTLE ROCK – The 158th annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) is set for Nov. 1-2 at First Baptist Church, 62 Pleasant Valley Drive in Little Rock.

Business of the convention will be conducted, including votes on resolutions, entity reports, election of convention officers and votes on the 2012 ABSC Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$21.4 million.

GO! Across the Street, Across Arkansas, Across the World is the annual meeting theme based on Ezekiel 33:6 (NASV).

Greg Addison, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cabot, is the only announced candidate for convention president. Election of officers will be held during the Wednesday morning session.

See **ABSC** page 10



2011 ABCHomes offering

Theme: A Place to Call Home

Stella Prather
ABCHomes

IT'S BEEN SAID that it takes a village to raise a child. But what if you had nine dozen children?

What if you had to provide 84 gallons of milk a week and needed to bring home package after package after package of beef and chicken and pork, hundreds of boxes of cereal and more than a few jars of peanut butter every week. Add to

that needing nearly 500 gallons a gasoline per week, 500 pairs of shoes in a year and enough clothing to fill any average household garage from top to bottom. The list goes on and on.

Get the picture? If so, you've got a glimpse into the expenses of providing a home for residents of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries (ABCHomes).

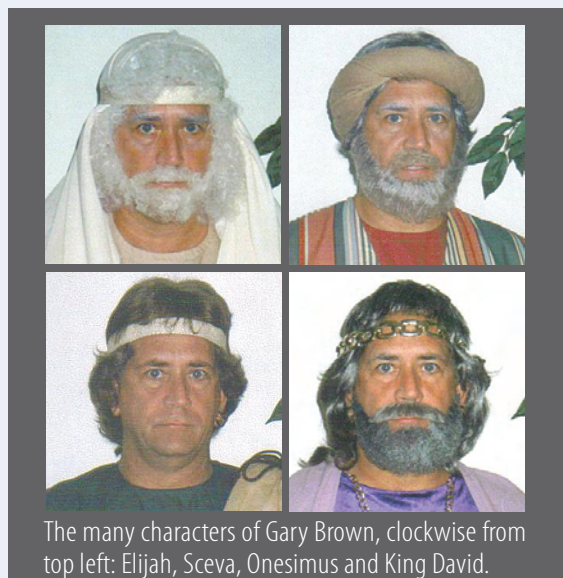
See **ABCHOMES** page 3

ABN to give away tablet computer, Bible software



Arkansas Baptists will get the chance to win a tablet computer and Bible software at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting. See details on page 3.

North Main Baptist pastor a real 'character'



The many characters of Gary Brown, clockwise from top left: Elijah, Sceva, Onesimus and King David.

Whitney Crews
Arkansas Baptist News

JONESBORO – Gary Brown, pastor of North Main Baptist Church, Jonesboro, has been performing character monologues for more than 20 years. More than a hobby, this ministry began spontaneously and has grown to incorporate numerous biblical characters, costumes, scenery and audiences.

In the mid-1980s, Brown was serving as a camp counselor when a pastor came to him and asked him to come up with something different for that night's bonfire service.

What followed was a sermon portrayed from the viewpoint of a biblical character. Many people responded that night, and the small camp service sparked a ministry that has lasted through the years as churches and pastors called to have

Brown perform over and over.

"I really prayed about it and said, 'God, if this is a door You're opening, I don't want it to be a form of entertainment,'" Brown explained. "I call it a 'character monologue,' but it's a sermon in character. I'm presenting a sermon through the character I've studied."

Brown starts with studying the Bible and then begins to look at the context – the time and events surrounding the character's situation. He and his wife, Julie, then prepare costumes and backgrounds, and Brown writes a script that correlates with the biblical text.

"I want the people to be carried into that character so they'll think of the message that's being presented as if that person was speaking to them," Brown said. "I think the monologues help (the

See **BROWN** page 2

Church embraces special mission

'Hope Rising' for orphan children of Haiti

Tim Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

LAVACA – First Baptist Church, Lavaca's work in Haiti started innocently enough – with regular trips every few months – but then God stepped in and gave the church a special assignment.

"We sent this team, and I don't know what happened," said Tony Buchanan, pastor. "I mean something happened in the spirits of those folks who went, and God broke their hearts for these orphans."

During a reporting time for one of the mission teams returning from Haiti, it was evident to Buchanan and the church as a whole that God was just "asking them to be obedient."

"All they talked about were the kids. Our executive pastor, Kenny (Bailey), who is one of my dearest friends, ... said he was sharing the gospel with a lady (in Haiti), and basically the lady asked him, 'Why are you doing this?' She said, 'I'm hungry.'"

Buchanan said church leaders knew then the church couldn't effectively tell people in Haiti about Jesus until they met peoples' physical needs first.

Buchanan recounted, "Kenny said, 'Look, we (have) got to take care of these people. They're hungry. We can't tell them about Jesus until we feed them.'"

It was during the time of year that Lavaca, which was finishing up a "Family Matters" series, was set to take its annual Harvest Day offering.

"In the last few years, we have taken a Harvest Day offering up around Thanksgiving, and we've just used it for different things. I think, basically, we've paid off debt with it," Buchanan explained. "Well, we didn't have any debt this year, and so we pray(ed) and (told) the church we just felt God is leading us to feed the kids. I mean, those kids, they were not getting what they needed, ... and a team down there a month wasn't doing it."



Orphan children enjoy a cold beverage provided by volunteers (left). First Baptist Church, Lavaca, volunteers prepare meals.



Bailey said church members agreed "overwhelmingly" to use \$50,000 of the Harvest Day offering to feed children in Haiti.

Buchanan believes God is doing something really special through the church. "God assigned us to take care of those kids, and if we didn't do it, we were going to have to answer for that."

In addition to the offering, the church has voted to purchase land in the Leogane area of Haiti, where it plans to build an orphanage – aptly named "Hope Rising Children's Home" – to house about 100 abandoned children,

said Bailey. Negotiations for the property are currently underway, and Buchanan is set to travel to the country soon to finalize details.

What's more, Lavaca members Matt and Cara Smithson feel a special call on their lives to staff and lead the orphanage once it is built.

"We see the orphanage as a doorway to take the gospel to the entire nation," said Buchanan.

In recent months, mission teams from the church have been traveling to Haiti. Efforts have resulted in construction of a food storage area and outdoor cooking area, said Bailey. Construction of an orphanage and long-term presence in the country seemed the next logical step.

Buchanan said he was grateful to

leaders at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) for opening the door to ministry in the earthquake-ravaged nation.

"I know teams from Arkansas are going down there regularly and really ministering to those kids," said Buchanan. "I am just very proud of our convention and the opportunity it provided us."

Bob Fielding, a member of the ABSC missions ministries team and Haiti project coordinator, said the participation of churches like Lavaca to assist with ongoing relief and rebuilding efforts in Haiti is essential.

"It has been a blessing for us to provide the church a week per month at the Arkansas compound at

Leogane, which includes transportation, translators, food, lodging and the expertise of our local partner," said Fielding. "First Baptist Church, Lavaca, has a great vision to impact children in Haiti, and our role is to help ABSC churches fulfill God's calling."

Buchanan said the church believes its efforts are to answer Christ's call to take care of widows and orphans.

"We don't deserve any pats on the back. This is just an assignment that God has given us," said Buchanan. "I hope this will become much, much bigger than just our church."

Contact Tim Yarbrough at tim@arkansasbaptist.org.



ABN online
View a photo gallery
of the Lavaca trip at
www.arkansasbaptist.org.

60 Ark. teams to Haiti so far

BY YEAR'S END, about 60 teams from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) will have traveled to Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake that ravaged the nation in January 2010, said Bob Fielding, a member of the ABSC missions ministries team and Haiti project coordinator.

"Our strategy is taking a turn in 2012, as the Lord has led several churches in Arkansas to adopt geographic areas around the Arkansas compound at Leogane," said Fielding.

"Using that base, these ABSC

churches will team up to send in four or five teams a year to their adopted area for the next three years, training believers to start churches and disciple Haitians. It is exciting to see churches in Arkansas take responsibility for a people group, especially in this area that has been so spiritually devastated by Voodoo."

Fielding said 12 weeks are currently open to minister in Haiti and encouraged churches interested to contact him at 800-838-2272, ext. 5149, or by email at bfielding@absc.org.

BROWN

continued from page one

audience) focus on who this character might have been – what he might have looked and sounded like."

Brown has had no training in the dramatic arts, noting, "Practice makes perfect with prayer. The more you do it, the more you develop a sense of what you're trying to get across."

Brown has a large repertoire of characters, including David, Elijah

and Hosea. As he has gotten older, Brown has moved away from the younger characters and embraced older ones, praying each time he performs that God will allow him to feel what the character might have felt during that time.

"I stay close to the text because that's what people need to hear," Brown said. "That's the Word of God, and that's what's going to make a difference in people's lives – not what they see from me, but the message."

"The most dynamic response is

when you see people respond, coming forward for salvation, or God has touched their heart in such a way that they respond in commitment to Him. ... There have been people who have been saved in those services. To me, that's the goal. It's a sermon through the character. Just like any pastor would want people to respond to his message to the sermon he's presenting, that's my ultimate goal."

Word-of-mouth is the fuel for Brown's ministry. Pastors and churches ask him to perform at re-

vivals, special events, meetings and churches of other denominations.

Brown has never had plans to become a professional, but simply wants it to be a ministry that God leads him in, making sure his pastoral work is never second.

"I want people to know I'm not an actor or a dramatist," Brown said. "I'm just presenting the biblical message through the character as best as I can using all of my skills, emotions and abilities to try to help present God's Word. God's Word is primary."

ABN to give away tablet computer, software at ABSC annual meeting

LITTLE ROCK – If there weren't already enough reasons to attend the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) annual meeting and related meetings, here's another one: You can enter the *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) tablet computer and software giveaway.

"The *Arkansas Baptists News* is a significant and relevant part of Arkansas Baptist life. We simply want to say, 'Thanks,' to our loyal supporters and extend an invitation to others to once again take a look at our great state Baptist newspaper," said Tim Yarbrough, editor. "We would love to see everyone drop by our all-new ABN booth during the meeting, pick up a copy of the newspaper and enter for our giveaways."

Yarbrough said to be eligible to win the tablet computer and two software packages, attendees

must visit the ABN booth in the exhibit hall in person. There they will be given an official form, which will ask for their name, address, phone number, church and any leadership capacity they hold in their church, along with a valid email address. In addition, entrants must be 18 years old or older and an active member of an Arkansas Baptist church.

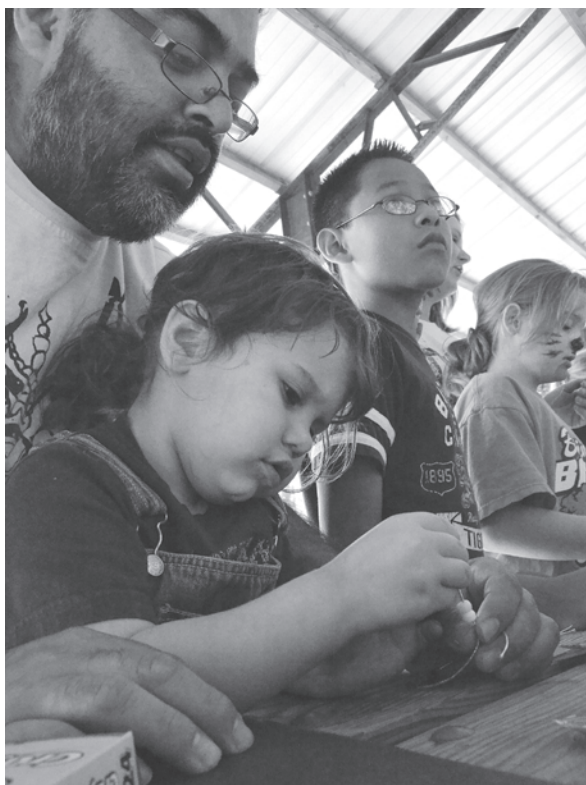
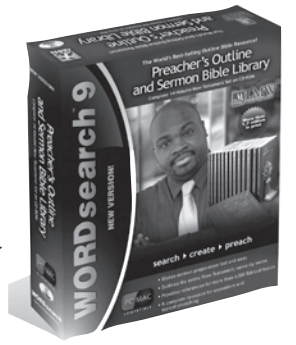
"Additionally, we'll be asking those entering the giveaway to supply the ABN the names and emails of three people whom they feel would like to receive a free three-month subscription to *ABN Now*, our digital edition. They can be family, friends or anyone to whom they would like to gift the ABN," said Yarbrough.

Only forms completed at the annual meeting will be accepted for the drawing.

Included in the giveaway are the following items: an Amazon Kindle Fire tablet computer, valued at \$200; a Scholar's Library: Silver from Logos Bible Software, valued at \$999; and a WORDsearch 9 Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible – New Testament software from WORDsearch, valued at \$179.

"We are excited to be offering these tools pastors and church members can use to read and study Scripture," said Yarbrough. "Make plans now to attend the annual meeting, and drop by for a visit with the staff of your state newspaper."

Staff and family of the ABN, ABSC and related agencies are not eligible for the giveaway.



Callie Jo Miranda, 3, makes a salvation bracelet at a block party during the Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip.

MISSIONS

continued from page one

served in various other ways.

"It's just an opportunity for us to present Christ to Polk County and even down into Sevier County," explained Jerry Taylor, pastor of Concord Baptist Church near Mena, who also served as leader at the fishing derby in Mena. "We have a couple churches down there in our association, and so they're doing the same thing down there."

Meanwhile, as fishermen and women cast their lines and waited for a bite in Mena, children and adults were biting into hotdogs at a block party at Iglesia Bautista Emanuel, De Queen, about 50 miles away.

Rich Lugo, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Emanuel, explained the church was chosen as a block party site due to the large Hispanic population. He said about 200 people came throughout the day.

Lugo explained, "And it's not so much that they heard us preach and tell them about the love of Jesus, but they got to hear other people ... share the love of Christ and there was a very good response from the community in general."



ABN online

View a photo gallery of the One Day trip at www.arkansasbaptist.org.

So ... like they say, our work is now getting ready to start. Today was the easy day."

By the end of the day, he said at least 13 people had accepted Christ at the block party.

"I just hope that as many that have made a decision for Christ and have heard the Word will open their hearts (and) continue with Him because that is the realization that that's what's going to help them in their life, and there really is no other place to go besides that direction," Lugo said. "So that's what we're hoping occurs because we will see lives changed with that."

Another 13 people were saved at the medical and dental clinics.

Other salvations were spread out between sites.

Freeman added that, over the course of the day, not only did 51 people accept Christ, but also "numerous other decisions were made." More than 5,000 people were fed, and 400 boxes of food were given out, as well.

"We have received very positive input from churches that were on the trip on how they are looking forward to upcoming mission projects," Freeman said.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.

ABCHOMES

continued from page one

Providing a safe and secure home for hurting and needy children is the goal of the ABCHomes, which raises much of its support through its annual Thanksgiving Offering, traditionally observed by Arkansas Baptist churches since 1908. The theme of the 2011 offering is A Place to Call Home.

"Many children we serve often are the weakest in our society," said David Perry, ABCHomes executive director. "Their hearts and lives are not full of courage, but of fear. Thanks to the many churches and individual donors that generously give to the Thanksgiving Offering, we can reach out to these hurting children and families and offer them a Christ-like home and seek to direct them to that wonderful hope in the Lord."

"For more than a century, our ministry has depended greatly on the Thanksgiving Offering to help

us provide children 'a place to call home.' It is simply our most important annual fundraising activity."

Through gifts to the annual offering, ABCHomes has provided a place to call home this past year for more than 78 children and teens at the Baptist Home in Monticello.

Caleb* is one of these kids. The youngster, who is in fifth grade, recently thanked God for his "warm, comfy bed" during a meal prayer time.

Noting Caleb's thankful spirit, his housemother said, "He is always thanking the Lord for the food and loving people here at the Baptist Home."

Fellow resident Andy* has called the Monticello campus home for the last three years. The middle schooler recently had a birthday where he received a much-desired

pair of designer tennis shoes and a video game.

Noting Andy's excitement for his gifts, his housemother said, "After he opened them, he paused for a minute and closed his eyes and thanked God for his wonderful sponsors."

"Andy was smiling during the entire party and kept saying, 'This is just what I wanted. This is just what I wanted for my birthday.'"

In addition to the Monticello campus, ABCHomes staff has provided a place to call home this past

year to 43 boys, ages 6-17, at the Boys Ranch in Harrison.

In Little Rock, ABCHomes staff has provided hope for 22 unwed, pregnant preteen and teenage girls at the Promise House Maternity Home. Another 192 children, many



The 2011 Thanksgiving Offering helps provide clothing and other necessities for children who are cared for at ABCHomes facilities.

of them victims of severe abuse and neglect, found a home at emergency receiving homes in Judsonia, Paragould and West Fork.

Of these ABCHomes residents, 42 of them, in making a profession of faith in Christ, will now have an eternal place to call home that is only found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

The 2011 Thanksgiving Offering promotional packets to help churches promote the offering will be sent to pastors during the last week of October. These resources include posters, bookmarks, a promotional video, offering envelopes and speaker request forms.

For additional information on the 2011 Thanksgiving Offering, contact Stella Prather at sprather@abchomes.org, or call the ABCHomes administrative office toll-free in state at 800-838-2272, ext. 5168, or at 501-376-4791, ext. 5168.

Stella Prather is director of communications for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries.

*Names withheld for privacy.

Steve Jobs and faith

From what I have read over the years, Apple co-founder Steve Jobs was a devout Buddhist. But while Jobs apparently embraced a worldview counter to Christianity, he had great faith.

Jobs' faith wasn't the kind of faith that you or I would understand easily. It was faith in his ability to know what people wanted and needed – even before they knew what they wanted or needed.

Following his death on Oct. 5, Jobs has been lauded in media as a “visionary,” “titan of tech” and “tech wizard,” to name a few. Some are even calling Jobs “the Thomas Edison of our time.” While Jobs may not have claimed Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, it is the Lord who blessed him with his insight, drive and ability to see and implement what others could just dream about.

As a working journalist and professional communicator, Jobs and Apple have had an enormous impact on my professional vocation.

Many years ago, I bought the original Macintosh Plus – on an Apple credit card – at a downtown Little Rock computer store. I used it to write my master's thesis. As

I carefully opened the packaging of the computer, I knew there was something very special about Apple and its products.

You see, Jobs considered the end user experience paramount. His attention to detail was legendary – and quite frustrating – among Apple employees.

Jobs just didn't want to slap a bunch of computer chips into an ugly box. He wanted it to be an object of beauty and a device that had a sort of personality all its own.

PRESSING On

Tim Yarbrough



Through the efforts of his company, he wanted people who used Apple products to be “converted” and passionate about their choice.

And to a large extent, Jobs succeeded. People who use Macintosh computers, iPods, iPhones and iPads are some of the most loyal customers around. In fact, there was a time in the history of Apple that the company employed what they called “evangelists” to spread the Apple “gospel.”

I believe Christians can learn from Jobs' passion for tech and apply it to our role as Christ followers to be passionate witnesses on earth.

There's a lost world of billions

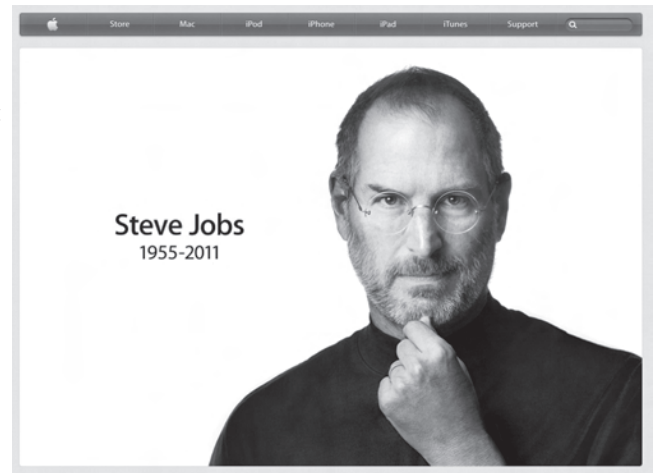
of people who are desperately in need of a Savior – One that, sadly, they don't know they need.

Perhaps it's time for Christians to seriously examine how we “package” our faith as we seek to influence culture and be Jesus' earthly representatives – with the desire to influence others to embrace and follow our Savior.

Maybe it's time for Christians to take a page from the Apple playbook as we seek to be effective witnesses and to pay close attention to detail as we seek to share Christ with the world.

To quote a portion of Apple's “Think Different” commercial commissioned by Jobs following his return to the company in 1997: “Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. While some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.”

I kind of expected to see an image of Jesus in the Apple commercial when it originally aired, but



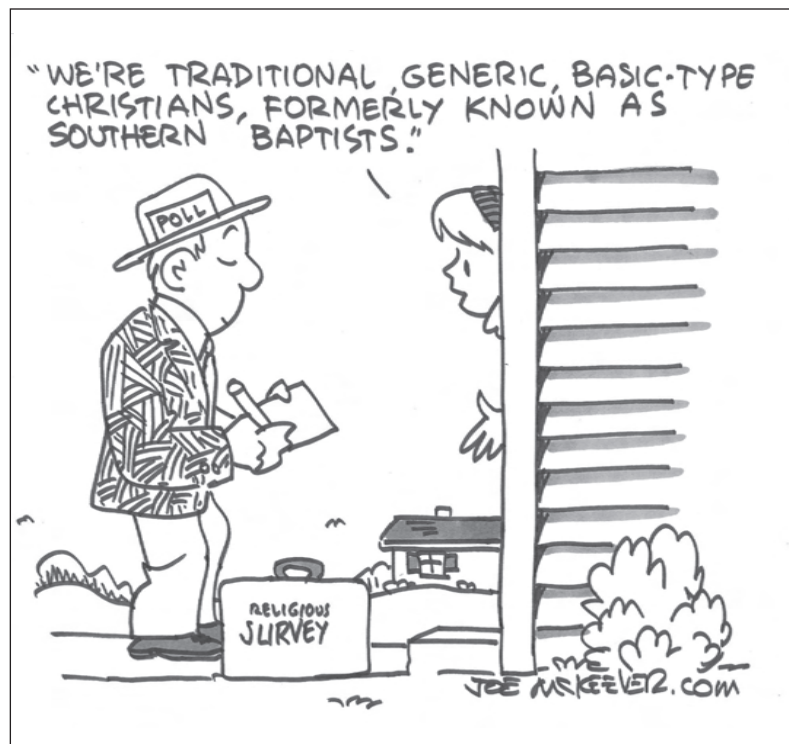
Tribute to Steve Jobs posted Oct. 5 on the Apple website.

that would have been too politically incorrect. Here's a secular company using words to describe people who use their products – words that also can be used to describe our risen Savior.

In 2011, as our world continues to turn its back on the One who shed His precious blood for all sin, I believe being a Christ follower is the true definition of “thinking differently.”

Written on my iPad.

Tim Yarbrough is editor of the Arkansas Baptist News. He is available to come to your church to give a presentation on the ABN, to share a message in one of your services or to speak to any number of groups in your church. Email Tim at tim@arkansasbaptist.org.



Name change perspective

I don't know what would be the best name to rename the Southern Baptist Convention (“What would you change the name of the SBC to?” ABN, Oct. 8). Having served for over 14 years in what began as a church plant in Maryland, let me share a perspective.

For suggestions, why don't we rename the SBC the “New England Baptist Convention” or the “Mid-Atlantic Convention”? If you are from the Northeast, are unchurched and someone comes presenting themselves as a “Southern” Baptist, you may ask the following: “Are we New Englanders so deficient that you are importing your culture here? Did it not work out for you in the South? ... Why are you here?”

What if we started a New England Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala.?

Would that not seem odd to you?

The glaring point that I think you are missing is that “Southern” is a regional term and not an international one. We as “Southern” Baptists say that our mission is to reach the world for Christ. This implies that many of us must go to the world. It

would also imply that we would not seek to import and impose a regional way of thinking represented by a name that is perceived as regional to all except those from that region.

You are an articulate guy not without insight. From my side of the fence, a progressive guy would grow to view the name change of the SBC as more than a “Red Wolves” type of move.

By the way, I am with you on the Red Wolves thing. And the logo is truly hideous to boot.

Darrell Bridges
Clarksville

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



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of State Baptist Papers

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Letters may be edited for style. A letters policy statement is available on request. Opinions expressed in letters are those of the writer alone, and publication should not be considered an endorsement.

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Baptists Ask

How can Christians resist temptation?

Temptations are easy to find but hard to resist. Most temptations derive from three desires: a desire to have, a desire to be self-centered and a desire to be powerful. When believers surrender to these desires, they sin against God.

Jesus was also tempted by these things (Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13), yet He refused to let the devil have a foothold. Instead, He resisted every temptation the devil hurled at Him. Through the Holy Spirit, He stayed fastened to His Father's will. Jesus remembered His spiritual training, and He used it daily. Not only did He memorize the Word of God, He also lived it. He was able to discern spiritual matters and live accordingly.

Because Jesus totally surrendered to the will of God, He calls His disciples to do the same. When Christians submit to the Holy Spirit, they, too, will resist temptation. James wrote, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Paul told the Corinthian believers that God would not allow them to be tempted above what they could bear, but would provide a way to escape so they could endure it (1 Cor. 10:13). Peter reminded his readers to be on constant watch for the devil, for he is on the prowl (1 Pet. 5:8). John told believers not to love the world, for temptations come from the world (1 John 2:16).

Although God commands Christians to resist temptation, at times they will fail. When this happens, believers need to remember that Jesus was tempted in every way that they are, yet He did not sin. Consequently, they can approach His throne of grace with confidence, so they may receive mercy and grace to help them in their times of need (Heb. 4:15-16). God's salvation forgives sin and empowers believers to live for Him.

Editor's note: "Baptists Ask" is reader-driven. We want to hear from you. Send questions regarding theology and Baptist beliefs to Editor, Arkansas Baptist News, 10 Remington Dr., Little Rock, AR 72204, or email tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

Ken Gore is chair of the Williams Baptist College department of Christian ministries.



Gore

I have found it interesting over the past few weeks that so much discussion has been given to the appointment of a task force to study the possibility of changing the name of our denomination as the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) to something, perhaps, that is more appealing to the masses. When it comes to change, I usually consider myself to be a catalyst for change and one who never really fears it. However, when it comes to changing the name of the Southern Baptist Convention, I must admit that I find myself somewhat to the point of confusion and can't help but wonder to myself, "What is the point? What are the real issues behind it? Would such a change really make a difference?"

I am really not sure what the conventional wisdom of our day will become regarding a name change in the SBC in the months and years ahead, but I do know that we, as the Southern Baptist Convention, have a long-established identity not only in America, but around the world. While I would be the first to admit that this identity can sometimes be negative or presented in a negative light, I would also readily stand up to say that our name recognition carries with it many positive aspects, as well. No one disparages the many great institutions that carry the name of the Southern Baptist Convention. When disasters strike in the U.S. and internationally, people begin looking for those yellow shirts and caps that proudly say, "Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief," because our name is a symbol of hope, help and the love of Jesus poured out to people in practical ways. When people hear the name "Southern Baptist," they know our name means doctrinally sound, biblically inerrant and conservative beliefs. More importantly, around the world, our name literally means missions, ministry and evangelism to lost and unreached people.

As you know, many examples could be cited, but at



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Clay Hallmark

the end of the day, people do not really seem to have any real issues with the name "Southern" as much as they do the name "Baptist." For many years, Southern Baptists have sadly been known for the things we are against, more so than the things we stand for as a body of believers. Still, a change in name will not change

such a perception. We will simply be known as the denomination "formerly known as 'Southern Baptists.'" Trying to rebrand ourselves to appease what might really amount to a smaller group of people who are really concerned about the issue might sound politically correct and sensitive, but the reality of such a change will not help us, as Southern Baptists, do a better job at being "salt

and light" in our world. Changing our name will in no way diminish our past either positively or negatively. Additionally, a simple change in name will in no way set the course of our future. Interestingly, everywhere I have gone throughout the United States and overseas, when I encounter people who are in need, are desperate or are looking for hope and I share with them the good news of Jesus, it is the Holy Spirit of God that draws them to salvation. Not one of these many people has yet to say, "I'm sorry but I cannot receive Jesus or take your help or receive your prayers because you are from the Southern Baptist Convention. Change your name, come back and we'll talk then."

As Southern Baptists, it is good for us to have these discussions with one another. I am open to differing opinions, which I am sure will be numerous. However, let's not be so bold as to draw a line in the sand over the issue of a name change that we allow it to break fellowship, disrupt our mission or shift our focus away from evangelism and missions. What is in a name? Only time will tell.

Clay Hallmark is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and pastor at First Baptist Church, Marion.

SBC and change, change, change

I am proud to say that I am a Southern Baptist. Twice within recent weeks, I have read heart-wrenching stories of the demise of our great denomination. First, there was the news that forces within the convention have decided anew that the name "Southern Baptist Convention" is outdated and too regional to be effective in other areas of the country. Today, I learned that LifeWay (which shall always be The Baptist Sunday School Board to me) has decided that Glorieta is going to be shuttered and sold to the highest bidder.

It is a mystery to me why the name "Southern Baptist" is a handicap in reaching all of North America when that name has been synonymous with mission activities all over the world for over 150 years. "Southern Baptist" is not a regional name. It is the identification of a band of like-minded believers who hold high the name of Jesus Christ and are consumed with reaching the whole world with His gospel.

I am growing so tired of the continual mantra to change, change, change. My fellow Southern Baptists, we stand in imminent danger of changing ourselves out of existence! Many of our churches have already dropped not only the "Southern" designation, but the name "Baptist" as well. To me, that indicates being ashamed of being associated with what has been the greatest force for world evangelism

that the world has ever known.

Some modern preachers moan that the name "Southern Baptist" has negative connotations among worldly people. Southern Baptists have been known for condemning sinful lifestyles and encouraging their members to live in an exemplary manner. To the modernists, this is a handicap in reaching the lost. What is salvation if it is not a complete turning from worldly pursuits and embracing a new life in Christ? Are we trying to communicate to the world that we are just another club established for the socialization of

the community?

Being a Christian is not easy. It is not a bed of roses. It is a life-changing commitment to be Christ-like in our living. It does mean sacrifice to be born again. It does mean the possible loss of worldly friends.

It means being joined together with a body of like-minded believers with the express purpose of growing in our own relationship with the Lord and in reaching out to those who are lost and inexorably doomed for an eternity in a most awful place.

I have been a Southern Baptist all my life. My father was a Southern Baptist preacher. I have served in ministerial positions for my entire adult life. Until recently, I was fiercely proud of our denomination and what it stood for. Now, it appears that





ABSC calendar

- Oct. 28-29: Literacy Training Conference – *Baring Cross Baptist Church, Sherwood*
- Oct. 31: Pastors' Conference – *First Baptist Church, Little Rock*
- Oct. 31: Ministers' Wives Conference – *First Baptist Church, Little Rock*
- Oct. 31: Annual Hispanic Fellowship Meeting – *First Baptist Church, Little Rock*
- Oct. 31: Associational Missionaries' Fellowship Meal – *First Baptist Church, Little Rock*
- Nov. 1-30: ABCHomes Thanksgiving Offering – *Statewide*
- Nov. 1-2: ABSC Annual Meeting – *First Baptist Church, Little Rock*
- Dec. 1: Student Missions Roundtable – *ABSC building*
- Dec. 3: Student Missions Roundtable – *ABSC building*
- Dec. 4-11: Week of Prayer/Mission Study for International Missions – *Nationwide*

For more information on events, go to www.absc.org, or call 800-838-2272.

Mark your calendar

PraizFest Feb. 24-25

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock

For students who have completed grades 7-12

For more information and a list of the music students will sing, contact Larry Grayson at lgrayson@absc.org or 800-838-2272, ext. 5121.

PraiseWorks July 16-20

Parker embraces new challenge

DIANE PARKER, longtime Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) collegiate ministry team member, is making a transition to another job. But she's not traveling far for her new position – it's just up the stairs and down the hall. Parker began serving as team leader for the ABSC missions support team Oct. 1.



Parker

Parker has served on the ABSC

collegiate ministry team since 1993. Previous to that, she served in campus ministry for many years. Though she had originally planned to retire this year, she said God had other plans.

"As I was making my plans for early retirement, Dr. (Emil) Turner asked me if I would consider delaying my plans and serving as MST (mission

support team) leader," she said. "I was surprised to find God leading me to accept, and I believe that it is God's path for me at this time." Turner is ABSC executive director.

She said she has had a lifelong involvement in missions and believes strongly in the mission support team's purpose.

Parker is looking forward to working with mission support team members.

Literacy training workshop set

A LITERACY Missions Training Workshop is scheduled for Oct. 28-29 at Baring Cross Baptist Church, Sherwood.

The workshop will include training by North American Mission Board-certified trainers for those who want to teach church-based courses on English as a Second Language, Adult Reading and Writing and Tutoring Youth and Children.

Training will begin at 2 p.m. Oct. 28 and conclude the next day at 5 p.m. More than half the cost of the workshop is provided by your gifts to the Cooperative Program and the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering.

For more information, contact Breck Freeman or Oleta Raines at 800-838-2272 or at 501-376-4791, ext. 5150.



JoyWorks camp moves date in 2012



MARK YOUR CALENDARS now for JoyWorks, a music and worship arts camp for children, which will be held June 26-29 on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia.

In previous years, the camp, which is open to children who have completed grades 4-6, was held earlier in June.

Camp planners made the decision to change the dates to later in the month in order to "enhance participation" in the camp and

to avoid coinciding with vacation Bible schools and summer baseball games, which are often scheduled during those first few weeks of summer, said Larry Grayson, Arkansas Baptist State Convention leadership and worship team member and JoyWorks planner.

Grayson said he was thankful for Ouachita, which "graciously allowed us to move to another date."

For more information about JoyWorks, contact Grayson at lgrayson@absc.org.

Tithing emphasis available

ARKANSAS BAPTIST State Convention churches spend an average of 42 percent of their budget on personnel. Are you wondering if you can afford that new staff member or to move your bi-vocational pastor to full-time? Try this rule of thumb: Ask yourself, "Can we make the staffing change and still spend less than 50 percent of our

budget on total personnel expenditures?"

Arkansas pastors have an opportunity to pre-order a four-week tithing emphasis called Traction: Living in Sync with God. It is provided at no charge to churches willing to use it sometime next year. Order or see more information at www.absc.org/stewardship.



Student Missions Roundtable dates set

WHAT SHOULD I do to lead students to adopt a biblical missions lifestyle? How do I lead my students to take the gospel into their schools? How do I choose where to go on a mission trip? How do I finance mission trips? Is an in-state mission trip really that helpful? When is a student ready for an international

trip? Can my group adopt a church planter or missionary?

Find the answers to these questions and more at the Student Missions Roundtable, a free conference for full-time, part-time or volunteer adult leaders of students in Arkansas Baptist churches.

Participants can choose from

an identical conference on either Thursday, Dec. 1 or Saturday, Dec. 3. The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention building, located at 10 Remington Dr., in Little Rock.

For more information or to register, go to www.absc.org/uttermost.



Church Building & Facilities



Marks 50th anniversary

Calvary holds dedication service, note burning

Fred Martin
Clay County Courier

CORNING – It was just last October that Calvary Baptist Church, Corning, filled its auditorium with worshipers during the celebration of its 50th anniversary.

The church filled the auditorium in another joyous occasion Saturday, Oct. 8, celebrating the open house of a new educational and multi-use facility that has been under construction for nearly two years.

During the event, the 80-foot-by-120-foot metal structure – which houses 10 classrooms, a nursery, a library, bathrooms, a kitchen, a fellowship hall and a multi-purpose room – was the focus of attention when Trustees of the church Clei-

tus Boyd, Jackie Thomas and Jim VanNada led in a note-burning ceremony.

About 100 guests were present for the special dedication service, including singers from Oak Bowery Baptist Church, Conway, said Sunny Williams, Calvary Baptist pastor. The Conway group assisted with vacation Bible school (VBS) years ago, and several of their members have remained in contact with the church. The group related how their own lives were changed during VBS and their desire to be part of the work at Calvary Baptist.

Williams wrote the following, which appeared in the program handout for the dedication service: "As Psalms 127:1 says, 'Unless the



Calvary Baptist Church, Corning, educational and multi-use facility

See **CALVARY** page 8

Pastor Sunny Williams

'We were never over \$50,000 in debt'

SUNNY WILLIAMS, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Corning, said it is "a miracle" that the church's new educational and multi-use facility – worth an estimated \$1.25 million – is completely paid for.

"We never got ourselves over \$50,000 in debt," said Williams, noting church members did a large portion of the work.

"We had people say, 'Oh, you'll

never see that built,'" said Williams. "But God just worked it out."

He said it was amazing that as they needed something for the project, from lumber to electricity, someone would donate it and church members would get to work.

Williams said the building is a "really nice and useful" large facility, with a "gorgeous" kitchen.

"We are a church of about 100

people, and the fellowship hall seats nearly 200," he said. In addition to educational space, the church also provides a meal and discipleship activities in the facility for children on Wednesday nights.

On the Sunday following the dedication service, which was held Oct. 8, Williams said a 90-year-old woman made a profession of faith in Christ.

But that wasn't all.

Earlier during the year, Calvary Baptist was burglarized. The thieves broke open a safe and burned the papers inside, which included deeds. One of the men involved in the break-in returned to the church – this time, to apologize to the members for his actions. And Williams believes the man will return again – to attend worship.



Calvary Baptist Church, Corning, interior construction site of educational and multi-use facility.

CALVARY

continued from page 7

Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.' The Lord has been in charge since the start of Calvary's building project, and He showed that He was in charge all the way to the finish. We started with following the Lord, and if the church is to move forward in His will, we must continue to hear from Him. From what the Word of God says, as long as we honor the Lord, pray, seek His face and follow Him, we will be in the will of the Father.

"We need to express thankfulness to our Lord for all that people gave during the building project, and all that people did during the building project. God put it on peoples' hearts to pray, work or assist with finances; and for all things, we need to praise our Lord for touching peoples' hearts to help in whatever way they were able.

"May the Lord bless His church spiritually and physically. Help us as a church to always be open to allow God's leadership to be first on our hearts and minds as we make decisions and move forward."

Dedication service

Following the open house that began at 2 p.m. Oct. 8, worshipers gathered for the special dedication service at 4 p.m., with Scripture reading by Williams, welcome from

Calvary Baptist Deacon John Herren, testimony of Don "Bo" Hubbard and a prayer of dedication by Don Settles, Current-Gaines Baptist Association missionary.

Special music, which was provided by the Oak Bowery group, was followed by the "burning of the note."

The service closed with prayer by George Baxley.

The church began as Rankin Mission, when a small congregation met in 1960 in a building at the corner of East First and Highway 62. Calvary Baptist Church's path was traced for a large crowd attending last year's 50th anniversary celebration held Oct. 10.

Herren's report on church history took the congregation back to the days of its formation and followed it step-by-step to Second Baptist Church, then to its present identity of Calvary Baptist. He interlaced the move to Fisher Street (later to be called Crafton Street), to the new church building and pointed to the additional building under construction at that time.

Former members Dave and Glenda Parker provided special music, as did Tonya (Boyd) Bolton and Michelle (Herren) Kirby.

Charter member Glenda (Brewer) Sollis shared memories and events, intermingling names of members – past and present – and stories of many working together building the church.

This story was written by Fred Martin and originally printed in the Clay County Courier. Used with permission.

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Buildings do not cause growth, architect says

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) – “A new church building does not cause growth; it merely permits growth,” Davis Byrd told pastors and church staff during the National Conference for Church Leadership.

“The purpose of a church is not a church building, but church building,” said Byrd, director of LifeWay Christian Resources’ Church Architecture Service. “Building church facilities is a problem of purpose long before it is an architectural or financial problem,” he observed.

“Too many churches do property and facility planning as if there were no connection between the kind of space provided and church growth. Others plan a new building with a vague hope that just constructing a building will lead to growth.”

Studies of growing churches, Byrd observed, consistently show that property, buildings and space are major factors in sustaining growth patterns. But, he emphasized, “It takes people and planning to make growth happen.”

“Your future is what you, under God, set out to do,” he continued. “Put a prayer committee to work first before you have a building committee.”

Using prayer, God’s Word and God’s mission for His church are the first steps in a potential church building program, Byrd said. Others include knowing where you are, who you are, who you want to become and what you need to do.

Knowing where you are includes a study of your community, people needs, area economy, climate, demographics, codes and regulations, local infrastructure and property surroundings. Knowing local building requirements and existing services, such as roads and utility services, can help a church avoid purchasing the wrong property.

Knowing who you are includes the perceptions, attitudes and spiri-

tual health of the church members, a profile of the congregation and church organization and physical circumstances.

“How comfortable are your people with being uncomfortable? Consider if the need to park a distance from the church or if emotional ties to specific buildings or rooms will create problems,” Byrd said.

Knowing who you want to become includes knowing the mission, purpose and vision of your church. Byrd said the mission is God’s eternal intention for His church. The purpose is a contemporary restatement of God’s overarching intention that grows out of each church’s unique relationship with God.

Its vision is a clear mental image of a preferred future state and behavior.

“Communicate the vision,” he urged church leaders. “You can’t focus on fog. Know what you need to do. Develop strat-

egies and a schedule, recruit and assign leaders, train leadership and put money behind the process and establish measures to assess your church’s health.

“No church is truly ready to deal with property and building issues until it has developed a comprehensive ministry growth strategy. You don’t have a strategy until you have a plan that involves a particular place, a particular time and a specific way of accomplishing your goals,” he said.

“If you can’t build a paragraph around your ministry growth strategy, don’t build a building around it.”

Byrd cautioned leaders to “go with your strengths. No church can do everything. Do a few things well.

“Develop your strategies around your strengths; develop your ministries, programs, activities and events around your strategies; and develop your property and buildings around

“If you can’t build a paragraph around your ministry growth strategy, don’t build a building around it.”

Davis Byrd
church architect



Recent renovations at First Baptist Church, Monticello, include a revamped youth area, which houses new classrooms, a larger worship area, a full stage with track lighting, a kitchen area and electronics, including gaming equipment and televisions.

your ministries, programs, activities and events.”

Finally, Byrd said, “Do it. Act, pay attention to the results, learn, modify and act again. When you get to groundbreaking wisely, construction is not hard. It’s just coordination of a bunch of tasks that

are well-defined. It is difficult when the proper planning was not done. There is no right way to build the wrong building.”

Assistance is available from the Church Architecture Department of LifeWay Church Resources. Call 615-251-2466 for information.



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ABSC

continued from page one

Resolutions will be introduced and the ABSC Nominating Committee will bring recommendations of people to serve on ABSC boards, committees and agencies.

Miscellaneous business sessions are scheduled for 2:10 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1 and 8:50 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2.

Theme interpretations will be presented by ABSC teams.

The 2012 CP budget includes \$9,194,053 (42.77 percent) for Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)

causes and \$12,302,447 (57.23 percent) for missions and ministries in Arkansas. The SBC portion includes an increase of \$42,993 (0.2 percent) above this year's allocation, the fifth such increase in a five-year plan to increase the SBC portion by 1 percent.

The 2012 budget represents no increase over this year's budget goal.

In addition to approving the 2012 budget, messengers are being asked to approve a number of changes in

the way missions are funded in Arkansas.

The ABSC Executive Board approved Aug. 9 recommendations of the convention's Budget Formula Study Committee. The recommendations were to continue to increase the percentage of funds (total receipts) forwarded to the SBC, to divide state budget surpluses with the SBC and to conduct a statewide emphasis every five years encouraging churches to increase their Cooperative Program percentages. The re-

vised budget formula would go into effect for the 2013-17 budget years.

For extensive coverage of the annual meeting and to access past stories, visit www.arkansasbaptist.org/absc2011.



Be on mission at the Arkansas Baptist News.

Volunteer to serve 10-20 hours a week to do light secretarial work, such as answering the phone and filing. For more information, call 501-376-4791, ext. 5153, or email tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

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- Southwestern Seminary recruits churches to hold revival meetings in the spring and pays for the preacher's roundtrip transportation to these churches.
- The host church provides meals, lodging and local transportation for the preacher while they are on the field.
- Revival meetings generally begin on Sunday morning March 11 and end on Wednesday evening March 14, 2012, providing the preacher with five preaching opportunities. Alternative formats for the revival meeting are available if there are circumstances which prevent this schedule.
- The preacher partners with the pastor to engage lost people from the host community in evangelism during the weekdays.
- The program has been expanded to send revival preachers to all 50 states.

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VIEWPOINT

continued from page 5

leadership wants to dilute the message that we have proclaimed and soften the impact of a treasured name.

As far as Glorieta is concerned, I certainly don't know the financial forces that may impact its continued existence, but I do know what that sacred place has meant to hundreds of thousands of people of every age group for most of the years of my life.

I was first exposed to Glorieta during student week in 1957.

Most of the young men were housed in a large, temporary shed-like building with cracks in the walls that admitted the cold air and showers that emitted nothing but cold water. As I recall, there were no interior walls, with the exception of the bathroom, and cots were arranged in rows within the enclosure. We nearly froze to death and were intensely uncomfortable, but it was a glorious, life-changing experience.

Millions of Southern Baptist dollars have gone into the construction and maintenance of that facility, and it was worth every cent. I have returned to Glorieta as an adult on numerous occasions for various conferences, and I have never been disappointed.

It just seems that one is closer to God in those beautiful New Mexico mountains. It is not likely that I will be able to attend any more conferences at Glorieta because of advancing years, but I shall be heartbroken at the thought of its demise, or worse yet, its falling into worldly hands.

William R. (Bill) Canary is a member of First Baptist Church, Yellville.

www.arkansasbaptist.org

Yeats elected MBC executive director

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – A leader in Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and state convention life has been elected the 20th executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC).

John Yeats, 61, SBC recording secretary and director of communications and public policy for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, was elected during a special called meeting of the MBC Executive Board Oct. 13.

Yeats is expected to begin his new responsibilities soon and is scheduled to address messengers attending MBC's annual meeting.



Yeats

Prior to service in Louisiana, Yeats served as editor of the *Oklahoma Baptist Messenger*. He also served the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana as the director of communications and editor of the *Indiana Baptist*. He also served 20 years as pastor of churches in Texas and Kansas. For more information on Yeats' election, visit www.arkansasbaptist.org/yeatselected.

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Harvey's Chapel Baptist Church is currently seeking a **full-time pastor**. If you feel led to pray about talking to us, please call Dale at 501-282-2949.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Arkadelphia, Ark., is seeking a **full-time pastor** or an **interim pastor** to fulfill that office in a godly manner, upholding God's Word, as it is written, and can minister to the needs of the church. Contact Fred Goshen at fredn-bea@suddenlink.net.

Dallas Avenue Baptist Church, Mena, Ark., is seeking **senior pastor**. Send resume, references and DVD, if available, to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 1790, Mena, AR 71953 or 300dallasavenue@sbcglobal.net.

Plum Bayou Baptist Church needs **bi-vocational pastor**. Send resumes to Attn. Patti Reed, P.O. Box 129, Wright, AR 72182-0129.

First Southern Baptist, Bearden, Ark., seeking a **full-time pastor**. Send resumes to Search Committee, Box 449, Bearden, AR 71720.

New Song Baptist Church, Highway 58, Williford, Ark., is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send inquiries and resumes to Pastor Search Committee, 483 Campbell Road, Williford, AR 72482, or email pswinford@centurylink.net.

Cherry Street Baptist Church is currently seeking a **pastor**. CSBC is located in Clarksville, Ark., a city of 9,600 residents in Johnson County, where over 19,000 people reside. We have a loving, Christ-centered congregation and a beautiful sanctuary with a Sunday morning attendance of over 40. Our sanctuary accommodates approximately 250. We

also have many classrooms to accommodate growth. The pastor's salary is \$40,000, plus a two-bedroom parsonage located next to CSBC. The University of Ozarks and downtown Clarksville are three blocks from CSBC. Staff includes a part-time secretary, nursery worker and custodian. We are praying for a God-called pastor who is willing to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in a variety of possible ministries. Send resumes to P.O. Box 378, Clarksville, AR 72830 or dstandri@suddenlink.net.

South Side Baptist Church of Pine Bluff is seeking a godly man who upholds God's Word and is called to minister to the needs of the church to become our **senior pastor**. Please send resumes to Marvin Turner, 2309 S. Poplar St., Pine Bluff, AR 71601, fax 870-536-5683, phone 870-534-5503 or email nharpersbc@hotmail.com.

Splitlog Baptist Church is currently seeking a **full-time pastor**. Country church setting with approximately 175 active members with a large children's ministry. We are mission-minded with emphasis in local and foreign fields. Accepting resumes through Nov. 30, 2011, at Splitlog Baptist Church, 3666 Splitlog Road, Goodman, MO 64843 or by email at crowfab@joplin.com. Inquires can be made to the church at 417-364-7458. For more information about our church, you can go to www.splitlogbaptist.org.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

First Baptist Church, Blytheville, is seeking **full-time minister of music**. Send resumes to P.O. Box 66, Blytheville, AR 72315.

First Baptist Church of Paris, Ark., is seeking a **full- or part-time youth minister**. Send resumes to First Baptist Church Personnel Committee at P.O. Box 567, Paris, AR 72855 or to jshearhart@parisfbc.com by Nov. 18. Please indicate on resume

the desire for the full- or part-time position.

Gassville Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time minister of youth**. Currently we run between 60-70 youth, grades seventh through 12th. We are located near Mountain Home, Ark. If interested, please send resume with references to Gassville Baptist Church at P.O. Box 158, Gassville, AR 72635, or email it to gvbapt@gassville.net or fax it to 870-435-2205.

First Baptist Church of Siloam Springs, Ark., is looking for a **full-time children's minister** to lead an exciting and growing children's ministry. Please send resumes and inquiries to Search Committee, 2000 Dawn Hill Road, Siloam Springs, AR 72761, or email to office@fbc-siloam.com.

East Side Baptist Church is looking for a **full-time preschool ministry assistant**. This position will primarily be working with the preschool department of the church by assisting with preparation and teaching during Wednesday and Sunday services, be responsible for maintaining the preschool department, working with parents and volunteers and assist with special large children's events throughout the year. Experience in children's ministry and/or degree preferred. Please mail your resume to East Side Baptist Church, 718 East 9th Street, Mountain Home, AR 72653, or email to esbc@suddenlinkmail.com.

FBC, Glenwood, is currently accepting resumes for a **full-time minister of youth/children**. Please send resumes with a current photo to pastorphilipfbc@windstream.net or P.O. Box 373, Glenwood, AR 71943.

Bi-vocational youth director needed. Contact River Road Baptist, P.O. Box 161, Redfield, AR 72132, 501-397-2576 or 870-536-4109.

Three Creeks Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time youth minister**. Three Creeks is a growing church in a rural community. We are looking for God's man that will lead our youth ministry in discipleship,

outreach and fellowship, with the primary task of reaching youth in our community with the gospel. Creativity and computer skills are important. Parsonage provided in addition to salary. Please send email resume to thesparks5@yahoo.com, or mail to Three Creeks Baptist Church, 8772 Haynesville Hwy., Junction City, AR 71749.

Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Bismarck, Ark., is seeking **God's man to lead our large youth ministry**. Minimum requirements: married, college degree completed (seminary degree preferred), at least three years full-time experience in an SBC church. Please forward resume with photo and at least five references to Pastor Jim Agee, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, 13364 Highway 84, Bismarck, AR 71929.

Formosa Baptist Church in Clinton, Ark., is seeking a **bi-vocational worship leader** for blended service. Contact Pastor Billy Reece, 501-253-1204, or email resume to billytreece@hotmail.com.

First Baptist Church in Carlisle is seeking a **part-time or full-time music minister**. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 25, Carlisle, AR 72024.

Seeking a **bi-vocational minister of music**. Send resume to Second Baptist Church, 1032 Old Warren Road, Monticello, AR 71655, or email to brojimmyalbrecht@yahoo.com. Resumes should be submitted by Oct. 31, 2011.

First Baptist Church, Forrest City, is seeking a **full-time minister of music**. If interested, send resume to 507 N. Rosser St., Forrest City, AR 72335.

Submit classified ads to Nelle O'Bryan at nelle@arkansasbaptist.org or call 800-838-2272 ext. 5155.



First Baptist women 'Love Out Loud'

Women from the First Baptist Church (FBC), Siloam Springs, "Thirst" Bible study paint a meeting room in the worship center at Camp Siloam (Arkansas Baptist Assembly) Sept. 29. The FBC Heart Life Women periodically set aside a Bible study meeting day to complete a Love Out Loud service project in the community.

Obituaries



Anna Mae Watkins, 101, of Texarkana, formerly of Caraway, died Oct. 5. She was married to Charlie P. Watkins, a former Arkansas Baptist pastor. She was preceded in death by her husband, nine siblings and one grandchild. She is survived by three children, one sister, seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held Oct. 7 at East Memorial Chapel - Downtown, located in Texarkana. Funeral services were held Oct. 8 at Caraway Baptist Church, Caraway.



Barbara Gale Land, 59, of Montrose, died Oct. 6 in Lake Village. She was a member of Sardis Baptist Church, Montrose. She was married to Sam Land, Jr., pastor of Sardis Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother. She was survived by her husband of 34 years, three children, two siblings, a sister-in-law, 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Oct. 8 at Sardis Baptist Church.



Karen Delaine Clark, 65, of Ozark, died Aug. 13 in Fort Smith. She was a member of Cass Baptist Chapel, Ozark, secretary for 20 years at Clear Creek Baptist Association and a Sunday school teacher. She was married to Ron Clark, a former Arkansas Baptist pastor. She is survived by her husband, two children, four siblings, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Aug. 18 at Cass Baptist Chapel.

Church life

The Women on Mission group from **First Southern Baptist Church, Central City**, will sponsor a WorldCrafts Tea at the Lavaca Senior Citizens Center in Lavaca from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 22. Attendees can purchase handcrafted pieces from various countries while learning about those countries' art, cultures and challenges. All proceeds from sales help provide a better life for artisans and those around them. For more information, contact Relda Williamson at 479-629-6944.

The **Fort Smith Christian Women's Job Corps** will hold a grand opening Oct. 23 for its new office space, located in the Fort Smith Executive Center at 320 North Greenwood in Fort Smith.

Lakeview Baptist Church, Arkadelphia, will hold a homecoming celebration Oct. 14-16. The homecoming weekend will include a revival at 7 p.m. Oct. 14 and 15, as well as a Sunday service, followed by a potluck, beginning at 10 a.m. Oct. 16. Doug Higginbotham will preach and Messengers Of Song will sing throughout the weekend.

First Baptist Church, Benton, will host "Life Week with the Akins" Oct. 23-26. Sessions will take place Oct. 23 at 10:30 a.m. and Oct. 23-26 at 6 p.m. The Akins will sing and speak during each night's service and will present a full-length concert Oct. 26. Visit fbc Benton.org for more information, and visit www.theakinsonline.com for videos and other information.

Milestones

Lynn Worthen is retiring as pastor of First Baptist Church, El Dorado, where he has served for 15 years. A celebration will be held Nov. 13, with a worship service at 10:15 a.m. and a reception from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 870-863-7177.

First Baptist Church, Quitman, recently dedicated their new 18,000-square-foot multipurpose facility.

Happy Birthday!

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

- ◆ Nov. 2: Kurt Bannert, OBU Box 3117, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Serbia.
- ◆ Nov. 23: Mark Dewbre, OBU Box 3601, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; South Africa.

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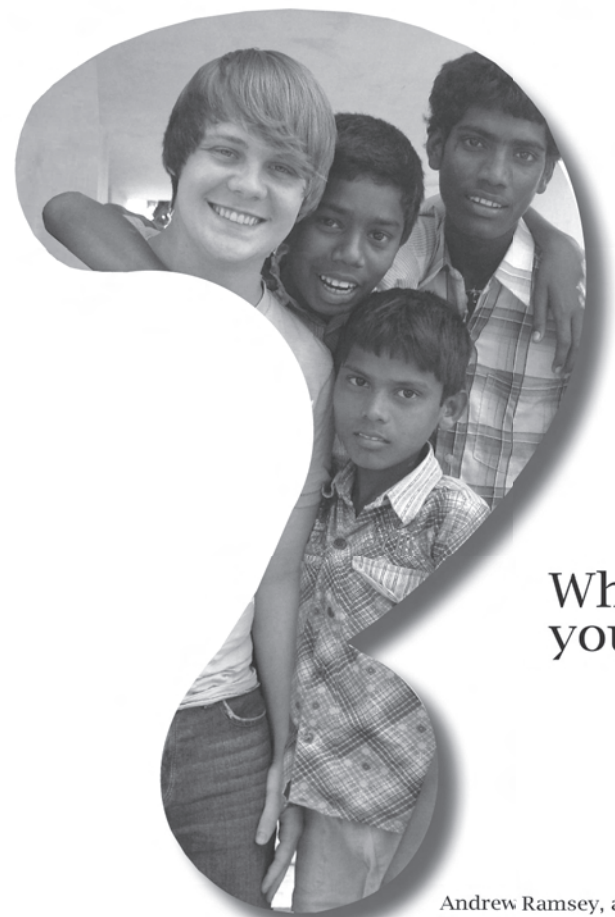
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For more information or to sign up, please contact Becky at 800-838-2272 (in state) or in Little Rock at 501-376-4791, ext. 5156.

Submit church news to Jessica Vanderpool at 501-376-4791, ext. 5153, or email jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.

Every church has a story ...



What's yours?

Andrew Ramsey, a member of First Baptist Church, Van Buren, on mission in India.

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Car giveaway Christian school fundraiser

Lisa Watson

Arkansas Baptist News

TILLAR – Need a new car? Willing to give \$100 for a chance to win it? Sound too good to be true?

Well, it's not.

Cornerstone Christian Academy, located in Tillar, is doing just that – giving away a new car.

And not just any car – the school is giving away a brand-new 2011 Chevrolet Camaro.

Each year the school, which is a ministry of First Baptist Church, Tillar, hosts a number of fundraisers, including holding fall festivals, having Christmas dinners and selling magazine subscriptions, to help offset expenses and keep tuition costs low, said Debra Dardenne, kindergarten-12th grade principal.

In today's tough financial climate, Dardenne said the school's board has also tried to provide some type of scholarship or partial tuition to any

child whose parents desire him or her to "have a Christian education."

"Our whole purpose is having every child know Jesus as their Savior," said Dardenne.

Dardenne said the school has worked hard to keep tuition costs as low as possible, hosting multiple fundraisers to offset rising operating costs.

She said it seemed like "every time you turned around" the school was having another fundraiser.

But this year, they decided to offer only one big fundraiser per semester in order to "ease the burden off the families."

First up is the contest to win the Camaro.

This fundraiser will span several months. Then, at the school's annual Farm and Home Auction, which will be held in February, one fortunate entrant will walk away with a brand-new Camaro.

Dardenne is hopeful that the contest will help the school pay its bills and continue to keep tuition costs low.

But she is clear on one thing: Whatever happens with the contest, ultimately God will provide.

"God has been so good to us," she said. "Just about the time we think we aren't going to make it, (the funds) will come."

Contact Lisa Watson at lisa@arkansasbaptist.org.



Nov. 1 deadline for ABN photo contest

LITTLE ROCK – Less than a month remains for aspiring photographers to enter the *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) first "ABN Photo Contest."

"We had such tremendous success with our Youth Group Video Contest, the ABN staff decided it would be great to launch another contest for our adult 'photo bugs' out there," said Tim Yarbrough, editor.

The deadline for entries is midnight Tuesday, Nov. 1.

Photo contest rules are as follows:

- Photos submitted are limited to current ABN subscribers – either through church or individual plans. Entrants may submit up to three separate photos for consideration.

- Photos submitted should depict an Arkansas Baptist church religious scene or activity, such as a mission trip, ministry event, an activity occurring in a church service, church building or other church activity.

- Each photo must be accompanied by a short narrative essay (200

words or less) describing the photo.

- Photos will be judged based on the following: image composition, inspiration, image quality and depiction of missions or ministry event.

- Photos should be emailed to photocontest@arkansasbaptist.org, along with contact information, in-

cluding name, address, phone number, email and church membership. No prints will be accepted.

- Entrants must be age 18 or older.

Winners will be notified by email, and their photos will be highlighted in an ABN digital edition and online at www.arkansasbaptist.org.

Contest entries will be judged by ABN staff members.

Prizes include gift cards for first place (\$100), second place (\$50) and third place (\$25).

For additional information, go to www.arkansasbaptist.org, email tim@arkansasbaptist.org or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5151.

ABN extends subscription discount

LITTLE ROCK – The *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) is extending its new subscriber discount program through the end of November.

"We have had good response to the subscription campaign we originally announced in our Aug. 25 Cooperative Program issue," said Tim Yarbrough, editor. "The discount is available to individuals and to all churches that add five or more new subscriptions."

The subscriber discount was



originally set to expire the end of September.

"To our non-subscribing church-

es, we prayerfully ask you to consider signing up for a Group Plan or Every Resident Plan. To help make the decision easier, we are offering a one-time 20 percent discount to churches (for five or more subscriptions) and a 10 percent discount to individuals," said Yarbrough.

For more information, see the coupon included in this edition, or visit www.arkansasbaptist.org/abn-print-subscriptions.

Access Arkansas Baptist News on your mobile device

On iPhone: Type www.arkansasbaptist.org in your Web browser. Click on "add to home screen."

On Android: On the desktop, press home screen until a context menu pops up. Select "shortcut" menu item. Select "bookmark" menu item. Bookmarks pop up. Select target bookmark Web page (www.arkansasbaptist.org), and it will display on the home screen.



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Does your life please God?

We had canoed all day in the rain. At least, it seemed like it was all day. There were fun times for the four of us as we enjoyed the beauty of the river and our friendships. Both canoes had overturned at least once. Our gear was safely tied up in trash bags so we only lost our grill for cooking. Because of the rain, we had the river all to ourselves. But also because of the rain, we were wet and gradually began to feel the weariness that comes from being wet and tired. As the day wore on, we wore out. By the time we found a spot to camp for the night,

we were ready for our tents. The only problem was that we had to set them up.

As we pulled our canoes up the bank of the river, we seemed to go on autopilot. For the next half hour, no one spoke. We emptied the canoes, carried all the supplies inland, stashed the canoes and set up camp. As the fire began to blaze, we finally broke the silence.

The first thing we talked about was the lack of conversation while we set up camp. We were all amazed at how quickly we set up camp without talking. We all knew what need-

ed to be done, and we just did it. We each led in the task we did best and followed the leader in every other task. That is the reason the setup went so quickly and smoothly. We sat around the fire with the warm sense of accomplishment that comes with real teamwork.

In Romans 12:4-6 (HCSB), Paul notes that "we have many parts in one body, and all the

parts do not have the same function" and "according to the grace given to us, we have different gifts."

The church is supposed to function as one body in the same way a team works together as one. The church should be even more effective because we have the Holy Spirit giving us the gifts that are needed by the body and guiding us in their uses.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE OCTOBER 30, 2011

Robin H. Cowin
pastor

First Baptist Church, Gentry

Scripture passage:
Romans 12:1-21

Satisfaction found

Of all the foods that I like to eat, fried catfish is my favorite. I don't care if it's fillets, steaks or fried whole, but what I do care about is whether I get enough to satisfy my appetite for it. Around where I live now, I cannot go to a restaurant and find a satisfying catfish meal. It is not that the fish is bad; it just leaves me wanting more.

It is the exact opposite of an all-you-can-eat catfish restaurant in

Ackerman, Miss., near where I was raised. They have an advertisement on TV where one of the waitresses says in her best Southern drawl, "We don't want to rob you, Honey. We just want to fill your belly - praise the Lord." To that, I say, "Amen!"

I believe she had learned a lesson from John 6:5-13

about the satisfying fish meal that Jesus served to the thousands using

only five barley loaves, two small fish and some waiters who were a little more than apprehensive about the whole thing. The disciples looked at all the people with pity because they were hungry and basically told Jesus that they did not have enough to feed them. In Matthew 14, they actually suggested that Jesus send the crowd away so they could buy something to eat for themselves. But while the disciples had pity, Jesus had compassion, which led to action.

And act He did. With just a little, He did a whole lot. Jesus did not just give the people enough to tide them over. In verse 12, the Bible

says "they were filled." They were satisfied. That is the way it is with Jesus. When we come to Him, He will never leave us looking for or wanting more.

I wonder what the disciples were thinking as they gathered up those 12 baskets of leftovers.

Maybe they thought, "He don't want to rob us. He just wants to fill our bellies." Or maybe they didn't know what to think about it until Jesus said in John 10:10 (KJV), "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Can you be counted on?

In preparing for an upcoming presentation, I've had to do some extensive research on the subject of trust. It seems there is a lot of new research and literature describing how crucial trust is to growing a sustainable business or organization.

Do tell.

If you are like me, you know several people who have an intense lack of trust in many of our leaders, elected officials and the government in general. Whenever we disagree with leadership of any kind, the basis for our disagreement is often from strong, deep-seated convictions. Paul reminds us, however,

that regardless of how we feel about the people in authority over us, we are to submit (Rom. 13:1-2). Trust is never mentioned.

Leadership and order in society are gifts from God. In almost every aspect of society and organization, we need people to step up and take the lead. Of course, leaders can abuse their positions of authority, but their power is still a gift designed for our good. To be resistant, disrespectful or disobedient is a direct reflection on God.

I've heard it said that the people who reject Christianity entirely still enjoy working with a man or woman

who embraces a godly lifestyle. Believers should be the best employees, the best friends, the best classmates

EXPLORE THE BIBLE NOVEMBER 6, 2011

Becky Russell
member

Bayou Meto Baptist Church,
Jacksonville

Scripture passages:
Romans 13:1-2, 9

are invisible. Therefore, our behaviors need to be consistently godly.

Romans 13:11-12 uses exciting action words which remind us of the urgency of our calling. Words like "now," "high time," "far spent," "cast off" and "put on" signal a need to focus on being intentional in our daily walk and be

consistently intentional.

Warning: Don't try this on your own (Rom. 13:14).

There are three things we can take from this week's passages. First, we need to see that no matter where we are, God knows we are there. Second, God has a purpose for our lives that is much bigger than we can comprehend. And third, God is God and knows our inadequacies but chooses to use us anyway.

The first passage, Exodus 3:1-6, gives a glimpse of Moses living on the backside of nowhere. Circumstances of life may cause many peo-

ple to relocate, and often they are not in a good place. Moses is there because of what happened in Egypt. You may find yourself in a place that you consider nowhere. You may think you are in a dead-end job or a location that has nothing to offer. Remember, no matter where you are, God knows you are there.

The second passage, Exodus 3:10-15, takes place after Moses has seen the burning bush and encoun-

tered God. Moses' response shows he believes that his past error has disqualified him for usefulness to God and man. Moses is like many people today who have tried it their way and found it did not work. The result is usually the same. Individuals will relegate themselves to the backside of nowhere, living a life without meaning.

God clarifies for Moses and for us that the work He calls us to is important and possible because it is His work. The work is much bigger than we could ever imagine, yet with God, we find that all things truly are possible.

The third passage, Exodus 4:10-12, highlights Moses' reluctance

to accept God's assignment. God has just performed miracles before Moses, yet Moses still looks to his own inadequacies as a reason for God not to use him. God reminds Moses that His creation includes creating him, and that He is Lord and that He will be with Moses. We must remember that, without God, we can do nothing but fail, but with God, we can never fail.

Please do not resist accepting the call of God on your life. He knows where you are, has a purpose for your life and knows you. He who calls you will enable you, so please accept the call and be a Moses so that those in bondage to sin may be delivered.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE NOVEMBER 6, 2011

Marc Reeves
pastor

West View Baptist Church,
Paragould

Scripture passages:
Exodus 3:1-6, 10-15; 4:10-12

Pastors' Conference theme: Because He First Loved Me

LITTLE ROCK – Because He First Loved Me is the theme of the 2011 Arkansas Pastors' Conference set for Monday, Oct. 31 at First Baptist Church, 62 Pleasant Valley Drive in Little Rock.

Greg Addison, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cabot, and Pastors' Conference president, said planners have worked hard to put together a special event this year.

"The Pastors' Conference is all about encouraging falling in love with Jesus all over again," said Addison.

With that in mind, messages and music presented will encourage attendees to "reconnect with the joy of God's love," he said.

Pastors' Conference speakers include Mike Spradlin, president of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Cordova, Tenn., at 9:10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.; Jarrett Stephens, teaching pastor at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Glen Putman,

pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Jonesboro, at 10:50 a.m.; Hollie Miller, pastor of Sevier Heights Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., at 3:30 p.m.; Bryan

Lorrits, pastor of Fellowship Memphis in Memphis, Tenn., at 6:50 p.m.; and Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville,

Tenn., at 8 p.m.

More information on the Pastors' Conference is available at www.facebook.com/abscpastorsconference2011.



Follow coverage of the 2011 Arkansas Pastors' Conference and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting at www.arkansasbaptist.org/absc2011.

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Monday, October 31, 2011 at FBC Little Rock

Everyone can describe that special person God brought into your life whose passion for Jesus was so contagious it changed your life. For pastors and church leaders, we are that person for those we serve. This year's Conference is designed to encourage and excite your heart so your passion for Jesus is contagious.

We have six incredible men of God who I can say from personal experience have a deep passion for Jesus. Each man was prayerfully selected because I have seen God use him to stir the love of Jesus in people around him. Several are well loved in Arkansas and some are fresh new voices. All of them have a contagious love for Jesus and will encourage and excite you. Please join us for a day to refresh your spirit and stir your heart with the incredible truth that Jesus loves you!

Greg Addison
Greg Addison

Pastor, First Baptist Cabot

Hear messages of encouragement from

Michael Spradlin • Jarrett Stephens • Glen Putman • Hollie Miller • Bryan Loritts • Frank S. Page



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Subscriber services

The *Arkansas Baptist News* offers subscription plans at three rates for the printed edition and three rates for the *ABN Now*, the digital edition:

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Individual subscriptions for both editions may be purchased at www.arkansasbaptist.org. Please call the *ABN* office to discuss church plans.



One Day mission

More than 1,700 volunteers share Christ in Mena/De Queen area.

PAGE 1

Special section

Check out our latest Church Building and Facilities Guide.

PAGES 7-9

A Place to Call Home

PAGE 1

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2011 ABC Homes Thanksgiving Offering

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