



ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWS

New AMs in Arkansas

Three new associational missionaries
begin serving throughout state

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Telling the story of Arkansas Baptists since 1901

September 4, 2014

ABSC AM Oct. 28-29 in Texarkana

TEXARKANA – The 161st annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) is set for Oct. 28-29 at Trinity Baptist Church, 3115 Trinity Blvd., Texarkana.

Every One Matters is the theme of the annual meeting. Throughout the meeting, ABSC ministry teams will share stories of how they have seen lives impacted through their work. In addition, new church plants will be highlighted in each session.

Business of the convention will be conducted, including receiving entity reports, election of convention officers and a vote on the 2015 ABSC Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$22 million.

Additionally, the ABSC Nominating Committee will bring recommendations of people to serve on ABSC boards, committees and agencies. Miscellaneous business sessions are set for 2:20 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 28 and 9:05 a.m.,



Trinity Baptist Church, Texarkana, will be the host church for the 2014 Arkansas Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting Oct. 28-29.

Wednesday, Oct. 29.

As reported Aug. 21 in the *Arkansas Baptist News*, the ABSC Executive Board unanimously approved a \$22 million CP budget proposal for 2015 at its Aug. 12 meeting. The budget reflects the third year of the ABSC's 2013-17 budget formula approved by messengers at the 2011 annual meeting.

The formula increases the per-

centage of funds (total receipts) forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), with budget surpluses being divided with the SBC. The percentage increase for SBC causes is two-tenths of 1 percent each year during the five-year budget formula period. Additionally, the formula directs the convention to

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David Platt to lead SBC's IMB

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP) – Alabama pastor and author David Platt was elected president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) Aug. 27 by board trustees meeting at the IMB's International Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

Platt, 36, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills, a Southern Baptist congregation in Birmingham, Ala., will take office effective immediately as president of the 169-year-old organization, the largest denominational missionary-sending body among American evangelicals. More than 4,800 Southern Baptist international missionaries serve worldwide.

Platt succeeds former missionary, pastor and Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Tom Elliff, 70, who has served as IMB president since March 2011. Elliff asked the agency's trustees earlier this year to begin an active search for his successor. Elliff and his wife, Jeannie, plan to return to their home state, Oklahoma.

The author of the bestselling books "Radical" and "Follow Me," among others, Platt has been pastor of The Church at Brook Hills, which counts about 4,500 members, since 2006. He also founded and leads Radical, a ministry that exists



Platt

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Fayetteville council votes 6-2 on controversial law

Lisa Falknor
Arkansas Baptist News

FAYETTEVILLE – By a vote of 6-2, Fayetteville became the first Arkansas city to approve a controversial ordinance protecting gender identity and sexual orientation Tuesday, Aug. 19.

As a part of the decision, the council will create a new position to enforce the rules of the ordinance.

The position, called the civil rights administrator, will investigate discriminatory claims, serve as mediator between parties and recommend prosecution, if necessary.

Fayetteville fire Chief Kyle Curry said 350 people – the maximum number allowed in the building – crowded City Hall for the council meeting. Additionally, dozens more people formed lines circling the block around the building. Propo-

nents of the ordinance wore red, while those opposed wore purple.

An ordinance protecting the rights of homosexuals, transgender persons and other minorities is long overdue, said some during an extended period of debate; others countered that the legislation forces churches and religious organizations to change their beliefs about

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ABSC

ABSC previews Church Revitalization strategy

LITTLE ROCK – Revitalizing the work of the local church to maximize its mission to reach a lost world for Jesus Christ is the focus of the new Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Church Revitalization emphasis, which officially launches Sept. 18.

ABSC staff are previewing the emphasis to pastors across the state and conducted one of the



James

previews Aug. 26 at the Baptist building in Little Rock. "Church Revitalization is an attempt to really help us bring life to a world that is full of darkness," said David James, ABSC collegiate and young leaders team leader.

James told the pastors in attendance that the spiritual health of their churches depends on their own spiritual health and the spiritual health of their churches' staff and lay leaders.

"I think spiritual health for us is, first of all, a key understanding that what we are involved in is not simply for our church to be alive, but for pastors to be alive – and for the people that lead to be alive, for the staff to understand what it means to pray together and love God together," James said.

James referenced the ABSC's Prayer, Revival and Spiritual Awakening Task Force and said Arkansas



Bostick

Baptist churches need to focus on prayer, revival and spiritual awakening in order to have a spiritually healthy congregation with a Great Commission focus. "The reason we are doing this is because we want God to show up," said Terry Bostick, team leader of the ABSC evangelism

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New faces join ranks of Ark. associational missionaries

THREE NEW FACES have joined the ranks of the associational missionaries serving in Arkansas.

They are Larry Plyler, Carey Baptist Association in Fordyce; Bob Johnson, North Arkansas Baptist Association in Harrison, and J. Fulton Amonette, Arkansas Valley Baptist Association in West Helena.

Larry Plyler

Plyler started his new duties for Carey Baptist Association in Fordyce April 1. He and his wife, Sarah, recently retired from the International Mission Board, having served as missionaries in Guatemala for 15 years.

A native of Prescott, Plyler grew up in Gurdon, where he and his wife and three sons attended Beech Street Baptist Church. The couple has three grown sons and six grandchildren.

Plyler recounted at the recent midyear meeting of associational missionaries at Camp Paron that God called him to the mission field from a hardware sporting goods store business, where he was a partner with his brother. His wife worked as a schoolteacher at the time.

"As Larry taught in RAs (Royal Ambassadors), God began speaking to his heart about missions," reads a biographical sketch about Plyler's

call. "God said, 'Larry, I want you to step out of your comfort zone and share My Son Jesus!'"

Following language school in Costa Rica, the Plylers served in El Salvador for six months doing disaster relief after earthquakes in 2001. The remainder of their service was with Operation GO Guatemala, working with volunteer teams from the states doing gospel outreach, vacation Bible school, medical work and planting churches.



Plyler

Bob Johnson

Johnson was elected associational missionary for the North Arkansas Baptist Association in Har-

rison July 16, replacing the retiring Royce Sweatman. He most recently served as minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church in Harrison since 2001. Previously, Johnson was worship and education leader at the church from 2001 to 2005.

He and his wife, Kim, both grew up in Conway. Johnson was born in Orlando, Fla., where he resided with his family until they relocated when he was 8 years old to Memphis, where his father attended Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Following graduation from Con-



Johnson

way High School in 1985, Johnson served as music and youth director at First Baptist Church, Wooster, where he was licensed and ordained. He has a bachelor's degree in church music from Central Baptist College in Conway, and a master's degree in Christian studies from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Johnson also served at Harlan Park Baptist Church in Conway, as worship leader at Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church, Wake Forest, N.C., as minister of music and education at Grand Avenue Baptist Church in Hot Springs and most recently

served at First Baptist Church in Harrison.

Johnson has done mission work in 15 states, as well as in the countries of Nicaragua, Canada, Haiti and Indonesia. He has served as a trainer both for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and in North Carolina.

The Johnsons have two children.

J. Fulton Amonette

A native of Nashville, J. Fulton Amonette started his duties as associational missionary for the Arkansas Valley Baptist Association in West Helena Aug. 1, replacing Joe Garner.



Amonette

He previously served 19 churches in Lee, Monroe and Phillips counties of east Arkansas.

Amonette was saved in 1970 at Springlake Baptist Assembly in Lonsdale. He surrendered to the ministry in August 1975 at Southside Missionary Baptist Church, Nashville.

He recounted that he "preached for three years and then ran from God's call on my life."

"(I) recommitted my life to Christ and rededicated myself to the ministry of the gospel at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in November of 1982," he said.

Amonette has served as pastor of East Fork Baptist Church, McKinney, Texas (1984-88); Shiloh Memorial Baptist Church, Texarkana, (1988-91); First Baptist Church, Horatio, (1991-95); First Baptist Church, Clarendon, (1995-2001), and Northwest Baptist Church, Miami, Okla. (2001-14).

He has a bachelor's degree in pastoral ministries from Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and a doctorate in educational ministries from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

He and his wife, Glynda, have three daughters and three grandchildren.

VOTE

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homosexuality and violate individual conscience.

Following 10 hours of debate, Ordinance 119 passed 6-2 at 3:20 a.m. Wednesday morning.

"I see a day when we don't put tags and labels on people," said Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan following the vote.

"Are we prepared to watch the mother of a 5-year-old child be prosecuted for trying to protect the values that she holds for her child? Are we ready to watch a pastor in his church be prosecuted just because he believes differently than others?" asked Rex Griffin, pastor of First Baptist Church in Elkins, at an earlier council meeting. "These reports we're discussing tonight are not issues of lawlessness but of morality, and we should tread very lightly."

Larry Page, executive director of the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council, wrote following the decision that he feels the "real purpose" of the ordinance is to "advance the homosexual agenda."

"In its initial form, the ordinance would have required churches to allow their facilities (other than sanctuaries) to be used to host same-sex weddings and other ceremonies and events that violated their closely held religious values and faith principles (if the church in question al-

lowed use of its facilities by any outside group, such as Scouts or garden clubs)," said Page. "Also, officials at private schools could not prohibit a male student from using the girls' restroom or dressing room, if that male said he feels like he's really a female. The ordinance presented many more dilemmas for nonprofits and businesses."

Page added, "The proposed ordinance was amended prior to its passage; supporters of the ordinance claimed that the amendments addressed all the objections from faith groups and cured all the cited shortcomings. Well, that seems a bit of a stretch. Even if the ordinance was improved by the amendments to the extent its supporters claim, it still represents a very flawed law."

Andy Wilson, executive leader of ministry and operations at Cross Church in Fayetteville, told the council, "This is against our First Amendment rights."

"This particular ordinance is actually one that did not originate here in Fayetteville," said Ron Lomax, director of missions for the Washington Madison Baptist Association, who urged pastors to oppose the legislation. "It's from a (Human Rights Campaign) committee that promotes the gay and lesbian agenda."

Lomax said the national group spent millions of dollars targeting three southern states - Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas - targeting Fayetteville as their first entry point.

"It's pushing things on us that affect our belief system and our faith," said Lomax. "It's saying we can't believe the way we want to believe and we have to fall in line with everybody else. That's just not possible."

According to the ordinance, to comply, churches cannot refuse to hire qualified homosexuals and transgender persons who apply for employment (exempting "nonsec-

ular" ones such as the pastor/music minister); landlords will be forced to rent to same-sex partners, and all organized entities that serve the

public must accommodate transgender persons, allowing them access to bathrooms, locker rooms and showers. The ordinance exempts public schools, but not private schools.

Page said he continues to examine the new ordinance carefully, but already finds it problematic.

"The ordinance, in its enforcement, will inevitably pit groups against each other and force officials to take sides. That will undoubtedly result in some losing their legitimate liberties as the 'nanny' city government pursues its heavy-handed ways in favoring the classes it has chosen for special treatment," he said, add-

ing, "Perhaps most problematic, the ordinance establishes a precedent. Other cities, no matter how well-intentioned, may be prompted to implement like ordinances."

Supporters said opponents promote intolerance and fear.

"This (concern) about safety in the restrooms for the children is silly," said Fayetteville resident Lisa Whitaker. "The ordinance wouldn't change anything. Parents should watch their children in the bathrooms and protect them. That's what good parents do."

"I am ashamed that there's so much darkness in the hearts of this community," said Alderman Sarah Marsh, referring to the self-professed Christians and pastors who spoke against the discussion of the ordinance held Aug. 5. "I had no idea that there were so many people eager to discriminate or to protect their right to discriminate. We need to speak out for tolerance, for compassion."

In an interview, Lomax addressed the ordinance and Marsh's criticism.

"People around the world have been persecuted for their faith much more than we have here in America," he said. "Now it has come to our doorstep, too."

The ordinance goes into effect Sept. 20 unless voters sign a counterpetition requesting a citywide vote.

Lisa Falknor is northwest region correspondent for the Arkansas Baptist News. Additional reporting by ABN staff.



Listen to an interview about the ordinance at www.arkansasbaptist.org/podcast.

Foundation raises spending plan rate

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees voted to increase the formula rate on its Spending Plan Fund from 4.25 to 4.5 percent at its recent August meeting.

“The formula determines the distribution payout on most endowments based upon the rate over a 16-quarter rolling average,” said David Moore, Foundation president. “The board enjoyed very positive reports of earnings and performance over the past year.”

In the investment committee report, committee Chairwoman Cathy Brandt, along with Bobby Thomas, Foundation president-elect and institutional consultant at Merrill Lynch, reported strong investment results for the period ending June 30.

“Stocks earned over 22 percent, alternatives earned 11.5 percent and the main bond portfolio earned over 6 percent,” said Moore, who added bond performance was the most surprising result.

“If you had told me a year ago that we would have these performance numbers, I would not have believed you,” Moore said. “With rates trying to move higher and stocks at previous all-time highs, these results would not have been suspected.”

“The Spending Plan Fund, which is the Foundation’s main fund for endowments, earned 15.57 percent. The benchmark for that fund would have earned 13.23 percent, and thus the board was very pleased with the results.”

Brandt and Thomas reported that for the past three quarters the market value of the Spending Plan Fund finally, after the 2008 downturn, had returned to and exceeded the original contributions plus inflation.

Thomas explained the Foundation’s mission is to maintain the purchasing power of the contributions while generating as much

income as possible for ministries. Therefore, the Foundation board approved the recommendation to increase the payout formula rate to 4.5 percent. Additionally, while most spending rate adjustments are set for the calendar year, the board agreed to begin the new rate in October. Thomas noted the Foundation “wants to be slow to lower the rate but quick to raise it.”



TUCKER HONORED – J.D. “Sonny” Tucker (left), executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was honored Aug. 18 as Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary (MABTS)’s 2014 Alumnus of the Year at its Founders’ Day celebration. Tucker holds Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the seminary. Pictured with Tucker are his wife, Nicki, and Michael Spradlin, MABTS president.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest to Arkansas Baptists

Moore: ‘Awakening’ to racial legal issues

WASHINGTON (BP) – The funeral for Michael Brown, 18, was held Aug. 25 at St. Louis’ Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church. Speaking on a Public Broadcasting System program, Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said he thinks “there’s an awakening across evangelicalism to see that we have a legal problem, we have a systemic problem, we have a cultural problem and then behind that, we have a spiritual problem.” Brown was unarmed when he was shot six times and killed by police Officer Darren Wilson Aug. 9.

Boko Haram sets up Islamic Caliphate

BORNO, Nigeria (BP) – Boko Haram has established its own government in Gwoza, a Nigerian city it captured three weeks ago by killing perhaps 1,000 residents and overcoming the Nigerian military, a legislator displaced from his home there has confirmed.

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

PLATT

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to serve the church in accomplishing the mission of Christ. Radical provides resources that support disciple-making in local churches worldwide, organizing events and facilitating opportunities through multiple avenues, all aimed at encouraging followers of Christ in God’s global purposes.

Platt has traveled extensively to teach the Bible alongside church leaders and missionaries throughout the United States and around the world. He and his wife, Heather, have four children: Caleb, Joshua, Mara Ruth and Isaiah.

“We talk all the time at Brook Hills about laying down a blank check with our lives before God, with no strings attached, willing to go wherever He leads, give whatever He asks and do whatever He commands in order to make His glory known among the nations,” Platt said in a letter to his church, released Aug. 27.

“Over these past months, God has made it abundantly clear to both Heather and me that He is filling in that blank check in our lives and family with a different assignment. Along the way, God has used the el-

ders of our church to affirm His call, and today He used the leadership of the IMB to confirm it.”

During a February trip to Nepal, Platt recounted, his team trekked for five days before they encountered a single follower of Christ. He also witnessed Hindu families burning the bodies of newly deceased loved ones and scattering their ashes over a sacred river in hopes that they would be reincarnated. Most if not all of them presumably had died without ever hearing of Christ.

Platt’s passion for people lost without Christ – and his calling to reach them – inspired members of the IMB trustee search committee, according to trustee and search committee chairman David Uth, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla.

“When we realized his sense of call, whether that meant serving as IMB president or going himself, ... we realized how passionate, how deeply committed and called he was to the nations,” Uth said.

The ongoing crisis in financial support for missionaries is a major issue for Southern Baptists and IMB leadership, Uth acknowledged, and will challenge Platt as it has challenged Elliff during his tenure.

Platt particularly hopes to use his influence to multiply the involve-



International Mission Board President David Platt and his wife, Heather, are seen with their four children (from left) Joshua, Isaiah, Mara Ruth and Caleb.

ment of local Southern Baptist churches for missions in a way that glorifies God and His Word.

“I want to see the IMB, first and foremost, exalting Christ as the center of the church and mission,” Platt said.

The Church at Brook Hills has an active current membership of 4,582, according to church administrative staff. Weekly worship attendance averages 5,500. Annual baptisms for the past several years have averaged about 100.

In 2013, The Church at Brook Hills gave \$100,000 to the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget through the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee; \$25,000 to the Cooperative

Program; \$12,500 to the Alabama Baptist Children’s Home; \$15,000 to the Birmingham Baptist Association; \$300,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, and \$325,000 to the International Mission Board in special designated gifts, for a total of \$777,500, or 8.9 percent of the church’s total giving for the year, to Alabama Baptist and Southern Baptist causes.

The Platts are natives of Atlanta. He received Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Arts in Journalism degrees from the University of Georgia in Athens and Master of Divinity, Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Baptists have always been catalysts for change

I wish all Arkansas Baptists could have been present for a presentation recently made by Mike Rainwater, an attorney in Little Rock, at an associational missionaries gathering at Camp Paron.

Rainwater spoke on the topic The Bible, Baptists and the Bill of Rights.

If you are a tried-and-true Southern Baptist, what Rainwater said in his presentation would get you really fired up!

Basically, Rainwater traced our Baptist heritage to the founding of our nation – including Baptists' impact on our Bill of Rights and the First Amendment, which includes the phrase: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Rainwater's presentation was too detailed and extensive to recount

in this column, but something occurred to me afterward.

Our Baptist forefathers – at critical junctures of our history – stood up boldly for our God-given rights and were catalysts for change.

They seized their moment in history and guided the Continental Congress to adopt language we find in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and our Bill of Rights.

Today, some 200-plus years following the founding of our nation, the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, we find those same rights coming under attack by the same government our forefathers helped to found.

Rainwater said several times that so many Baptists today – including Southern Baptists – have forgotten their rich heritage.

I say it's time that we find our

way and rekindle the spirit of our Baptist forefathers and once again stand up for biblical values against relentless attacks on the family and Christianity.

While our voices in the political arena are important, only by

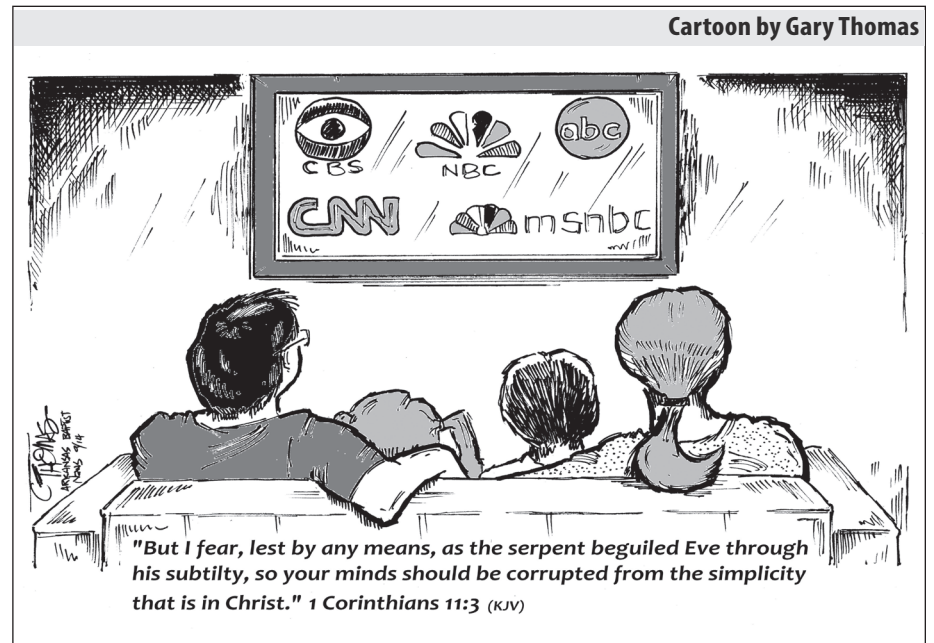
appealing to God can our country be saved. Let's all commit to pray fervently for God to heal our land and bring the next great spiritual awakening to our great nation.

May God continue to bless the United States of America!



PRESSING On

Tim Yarbrough
Phil. 3:14



In the aftermath, God is still here

There is a sign hanging over a cove in my neighborhood. It's been there since 2001 and is spray-painted on old board. It isn't eye-catching, and it has pretty much blended into the scenery.

Three years ago our community was hit by a tornado, coming up from Interstate 40, destroying homes in Rogers subdivision in its wake and ripping across the lake a mile or two to the left of my home – before heading to do even more destruction in a neighboring town. Debris, along with a few tree limbs, dotted my yard.

I thanked God for sparing us, and then went on with life, never thinking of what was to come.

A year or so later a flood swept through our city, taking a life. Homeowners stood in several feet of water as they surveyed the damage. The lake covered the roads, and we detoured around by boat or jeep

several miles out of the way. Again I was thankful, especially weeks later when we could see land and cross the bridge after the water went down. Water never reached the sign, but it was close.

Then the unthinkable happened. On Good Friday, a little more than a year ago, a Pegasus pipeline burst

in our city, spilling hundreds of gallons of oil into Northwoods subdivision and into drainage ditches flowing through the town and the cove.

Everyone in our town was affected, and news media from across the country swarmed into our little town. ExxonMobile trucks, water trucks, scientists and biochemists, pipeline protesters, activists, celebrities, senators, the governor and many others were visible along our streets for many days. Churches were full of those coming to pray, seeking answers about what to do. Our church prayed over our mayor and

his family. I glanced at the sign as I passed by once, but with so much happening, the words didn't register.

Later, with our town quieted for the most part, we felt we had recovered. An activist might show up now and then, with people returning to check long-range effects, but traffic had died down. A sweet peace had settled over us once again.

Then, on April 27 of this year, a Sunday evening, a huge storm roared across the freeway and up the center of our town. The tornado, clocked at near 200 mph, was classified as an EF4 and left nothing in its path except destruction.

It came across the lake, destroying the entire area near the dam, uprooting the big trees by the cove. This tornado went to the right of my home and was just yards away. It didn't stop there, but went on to other communities, still powerful and relentless.

After it passed, I opened a door and realized my home was still standing. It was an answer to prayer, but seeing the debris down the road was overwhelming. A fit description was

a "war zone."

This time it wasn't water, but trees and power lines blocking the highway. Again, everyone in our city was affected. It was a week or more before power, water and gas were all restored. There was heartbreak among our people. Three members in my Sunday school class lost their entire homes. This storm wasn't forgiving – it took lives too.

There was mumbling among people, asking, "Where was God in all this?"

It takes a while for some to realize God is in the aftermath. He is there to pick us up and carry us to safety. He brings the calm after the storm. He provides the help we need to rebuild. He is there to comfort, dry our tears and make us stronger. He whispers words of encouragement in our ears. He places Christian leaders in positions to serve.

Again, trucks filled the streets, or what was left of roads. News media set up cameras anywhere they could find a place and interviewed resi-

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Baptists Ask

If it's sinful to be jealous, how can God be jealous (Ex. 20:5)?

The English word “jealous” is normally defined as the envy that someone has for another’s possessions or status. Such jealousy is petty and self-centered, and it often leads to further negative emotions and actions. Exodus 20:5, however, is not a “holy jealousy”; instead, it is God’s reaction to Israel’s spiritual failure.

The Hebrew word translated “jealous” in Exodus 20:5 (“qana”) is found four other times in the Bible (Ex. 34:14; Deut. 4:24, 5:9 and 6:15) and is only used of God. In each instance, the word is used to describe God’s response to idolatry.

Exodus 20:5 is part of the Ten Commandments given at Mount Sinai. Because the Lord God brought them out of Egypt (Ex. 20:2), He wanted them to have no other gods or idols (Ex. 20:3-4). This was to be an exclusive relationship between God and Israel, which required complete devotion.

This relationship was often compared to the marriage covenant between a husband and wife (cf. Hosea 1-3). As a husband would be disturbed if his wife had an affair (cf. Num. 5:14), so God would also be upset if the Israelites worshiped another deity.

This loving and faithful relationship required full fidelity. If the covenant was compromised, God had every right to punish them. It is through this punishment that the people of Israel would learn that God demanded complete loyalty to Him.

The term in Exodus 20:5 is not some petty human emotion. God is neither jealous of a person’s possessions nor his status. God is, however, deeply hurt and upset when His followers try to substitute their worship of Him with a worthless, powerless idol.

There is only one way to salvation: through the love of God in Christ. Anything less is a worthless substitute.

Ken Gore is chairman of the department of Christian studies at Williams Baptist College. “Baptists Ask” is reader-driven. Questions about religion, biblical interpretation and theology are always welcome. To submit a question, email it to tim@arkansasbaptist.org.



Gore

We all have those little sins in our lives that we like to brush off as “personality.” Have you ever noticed? Let me be honest with you and admit one of mine.

I am a perfectionist and rather nitpicky. If I cannot be in control, I want tangible proof that the person who is in control has every little detail worked out. People who do not plan ahead make me nervous. I want to know what to expect, and not knowing is a recipe for worry.

It is all about my personality. God made me that way. So, that means I have every excuse to worry, right?

There is just one little problem. The Bible calls worry a sin. Ouch.

God does not always let me see the details of His plan. He does not always show me how the schedule is going to line up or how the provision will come through. But He does understand my personality. So, He gives me a way out – tangible reminders that help me specifically and intentionally set aside my worries and choose to trust God.

My husband and I have moved many times in our lives, both growing up and as a married couple. As a result, we formed a habit of keeping good boxes. We clung to them like treasure, breaking them down for easy storage. Why throw those boxes away when we



UNCOVERED DISH

Ann Hibbard

knew we would need them again soon?

When we moved to our current church, though, we made a change. We decided to start throwing our boxes away. It was hard. It killed me to see good, solid boxes piled on the curb instead of in the attic. I felt like every ounce of control and provision was being ripped from me. What if we moved again in the next few years? What if we needed them?

At first, I thought throwing away boxes was only

about trusting God with our current living situation. But God has used them to help me deal with more than just permanence. Every time I am tempted to worry, He reminds me of those silly boxes. In my mind, I assign the name of my worry to a box. Then I picture myself walking to the curb to put it in the trash pile. If it’s an exceptionally tough worry, I imagine myself

setting fire to it!

Do you have any boxes in your life that need to be disposed of? Yours might not be worry. It could be fear. Perhaps it is a lack of faith or the inability to forgive.

I encourage you to join me in tossing out those boxes that weigh you down. I guarantee that it will be hard. But it will also be wonderful. Will you take that step?

Ann Hibbard is a pastor’s wife and member of First Baptist Church, Almyra. Read her blog at www.annhibbard.com.

Healthy and God-centered

Today, there is much talk about “church health.” Traveling across North America at least 35 weeks a year gives me the opportunity to have conversations with church leaders and church members regarding this issue. Rather than publishing statistics or graphs, I thought it better to just write this short poem to summarize my findings.

It’s called “**Healthy, Happy Church**”:

*A healthy, happy church are we!
A sour face you’ll never see.
We don’t fuss and we don’t fight;
We have good crowds on Sunday night.*

*We have money in the bank.
Our bus barn has its own gas tank.
We love to fellowship and sing.
We like to give our offering.*

*Our average age is sixty-three.
We seldom need a nursery.
But, we’re still fun – we’re not in a rut.
We do oversees missions and sleep in a hut.*

*We want to baptize; we want to grow.
But, change our ways? I don’t think so!
We don’t mean to be ugly or make a big fuss,
But, if you come to our church, you should be more like us.*

In contrast, according to the writings of Luke in Acts 2:41-47, here are some characteristics of a truly healthy church:

- (1) It regularly baptizes new believers (Acts 2:41).
- (2) It is devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer (Acts 2:42).
- (3) It has a reverence and “awe” of God (Acts 2:43).
- (4) It finds unity in Christ (Acts 2:44).
- (5) It selflessly meets the needs of others (Acts 2:45).
- (6) It is full of praise to God and in good relationship with all people (Acts 2:46).

(7) It grows in number (Acts 2:46).

There really is only one subtle difference that creates the stark contrast between the church in the poem and the one described by Luke.

One is self-centered; the other is God-centered. The starting point for renewed church health is first acknowledging that God is the Boss and we are not, and remembering that church exists for God – God does not exist for the church.

That’s a healthy church that is also God-centered!

Eric Ramsey is a mission strategist, author and president of TCWM in Mountainburg.



ANSWERING HIS CALL

Eric Ramsey

AFTER

continued from page 4

dents. Volunteers by the hundreds camped out in our town. The Samaritan’s Purse organization operated out of our church for many weeks.

It still pains me to see gaps in the tree-lined landscape along the lake or to see a house, that as long as I remember sat atop the hill at the bridge, turned into a pile of sticks with exposed walls.

The hardware store is gone forever. Homes my grandfather owned

were wiped off their foundations. Some families are displaced and may not ever return.

That old sign still hangs over the water. Put there after 9/11, it stayed strong through the first tornado, the flood, the oil spill and now the big storm. It is a reminder and a promise, and now I look at it every time I pass.

Painted are the words: “One Nation Under God.”

Yes, God is still here.

Sandy Hamblen is communications team leader at First Baptist Church, Mayflower, where she teaches a ladies Sunday school class.

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AM

continued from page one

conduct a statewide emphasis every five years, encouraging churches to increase their Cooperative Program percentage.

Archie Mason, senior pastor of Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, will preside over the meeting in his first year as convention president. Mason is eligible to be elected for a second year.

No other candidates for the office of president or other convention offices had been announced as of press time.

Speakers during the meeting will be Mason; Ben Mandrell, a church planter for the North American Mission Board in Denver; Frank Page, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee; Ronnie Floyd, SBC president and senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas; Dale Thompson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Smith, and J.D. "Sonny" Tucker, ABSC executive director.

Prior to the annual meeting, a number of meetings will take place. On Sunday, Oct. 26, a Hispanic worship service will be held at Trinity Baptist. On Monday, Oct. 27, the Pastors' Conference, Credentials Committee Orientation, Ministers' Wives Network, Hispanic Baptist Fellowship, International Parents Fellowship, Asso-



Mason



Mandrell



Page



Floyd



Thompson



Tucker

ciational Missionaries Fellowship, Innovative Church Planters and Delta Connection will meet at various times of the day. A chaplains breakfast will be held at 7 a.m. at the church on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

For a complete listing of related meetings and other annual meeting information, see additional stories in this edition.

Pastors' Conference Oct. 28

Be Encouraged! based on Isaiah 52:7 is the theme of the 2014 Arkansas Pastors' Conference set for 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 27 at Trinity Baptist.

2014 Pastors' Conference speakers are David Wilson, senior pastor of Southcrest Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas; Ed Newton, staff evangelist at First Baptist Church of Central Florida; Mandrell; Junior Hill, Southern Baptist evangelist, and Jerry Vines, retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Additionally, Josh Wilson, a contemporary Christian musician will perform, along with Clay Crosse, Christian artist and music pastor

at First Baptist Church, Bentonville, and Kari Jobe, contemporary Christian singer and associate worship pastor at Gateway Church, Southlake, Texas.

Officers of the Pastors' Conference are Phillip Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bentonville, president; Michael Franklin, pastor of Rye Hill Baptist Church, Fort Smith, vice president, and Marty Sikes, pastor of Bono Baptist Church, Greenbrier, treasurer.

For extensive coverage of the annual meeting, related events and stories, visit arkansasbaptist.org/absc2014.

Meeting alerts and updates will be posted during the meeting on the *Arkansas Baptist News* Twitter account at twitter.com/arkbaptnews and Facebook page at facebook.com/arkbaptnews. More information is available at www.absc.org.

Committee requests resolutions

CONVENTION Resolutions Committee Chairman, Larry Page, Executive Director of the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council, has invited Arkansas Baptist messengers with proposed resolutions to send them to the committee for early review.

Anyone desiring to present a resolution to the committee should mail a copy of the proposed resolution to the address below by Tuesday, Oct. 14.

Proposed resolutions may also be submitted at the convention until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Mail to: Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Attention: Mrs. Vera Clancy
10 Remington Drive
Little Rock, AR 72204

The published convention schedule calls for resolutions to be considered during the morning session Wednesday, Oct. 29.

2014 ABSC Annual Meeting Schedule

TUESDAY MORNING, October 28

Presiding: Archie Mason, Convention President

8:30 a.m.	Pre-Session Music	Worship Team, Central, Jonesboro
8:45 a.m.	Welcome	Bill Saxby
8:50 a.m.	Worship	Worship Team, Central, Jonesboro
8:55 a.m.	Focused Prayer	Manley Beasley
9:05 a.m.	Urban Church Planting Story	Melvin Johnson
9:10 a.m.	CELEBRATE ARKANSAS	J.D. "Sonny" Tucker
9:20 a.m.	President's Welcome and Call to Order	Archie Mason
9:25 a.m.	Appointment of Committees	Archie Mason
	Credentials Committee	Ricky Lee
	Resolutions Committee	Larry Page
	Tellers Committee	Stacy Reed
	Order of Business Committee	Scott Miller
9:30 a.m.	Worship	Worship Team, Central, Jonesboro
9:35 a.m.	Dixie Jackson State Missions Impact Stories	Greg Addison
9:55 a.m.	Worship	Worship Team, Central, Jonesboro
10:00 a.m.	MESSAGE	Ben Mandrell
10:30 a.m.	Williams Baptist College	Tom Jones
10:45 a.m.	Camp Siloam	Jason Wilkie
11:00 a.m.	EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT	Gary Hollingsworth
11:10 a.m.	Worship	Worship Team, Central, Jonesboro
11:15 a.m.	PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	Archie Mason
11:45 a.m.	Closing Prayer	Matt Pearson

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, October 28

Presiding: Doug Falknor, First Vice President

1:30 p.m.	Instrumental Ensemble	Master'Singers
1:45 p.m.	Worship	Worship Team, Central, Magnolia
1:50 p.m.	Focused Prayer	Bill Elliff
2:00 p.m.	Cowboy Church Planting Story	Mike Launius
2:05 p.m.	CELEBRATE ARK. Evangelism and Church Health Team	
2:15 p.m.	Worship	Worship Team, Central, Magnolia
2:20 p.m.	Miscellaneous Business	Archie Mason
2:30 p.m.	Convention Nominating Committee Report	Butch Riddle
2:35 p.m.	Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council	Larry Page
2:50 p.m.	Worship	Worship Team, Central, Magnolia
2:55 p.m.	Panel Discussion	Archie Mason

3:25 p.m.	Worship	Worship Team, Central, Magnolia
3:30 p.m.	MESSAGE	Frank Page
4:00 p.m.	Closing Prayer	Sam Roberts

TUESDAY EVENING, October 28

Presiding: Gary Thomas, Second Vice President

6:00 p.m.	Concert of Praise	Master'Singers
6:40 p.m.	Worship	Larry Grayson
6:45 p.m.	Focused Prayer	Don Moore
6:55 p.m.	"Outdoors" Church Planting Story	Scottie Johnson
7:00 p.m.	CELEBRATE ARKANSAS	Missions Team
7:10 p.m.	Cooperative Program	J. D. "Sonny" Tucker
7:20 p.m.	Ouachita Baptist University	Rex Horne
7:35 p.m.	Ouachita Baptist University Choir	Gary Gerber
7:50 p.m.	MESSAGE	J. D. "Sonny" Tucker
8:20 p.m.	Closing Prayer	Richard Piles

WEDNESDAY MORNING, October 29

Presiding: Archie Mason, Convention President

8:30 a.m.	Pre-Session Music	Worship Team, Trinity, Texarkana
8:45 a.m.	Worship	Worship Team, Trinity, Texarkana
8:50 a.m.	Innovative Church Planting Story	Matt Rothacher
8:55 a.m.	CELEBRATE ARKANSAS	Church Planting Team
9:05 a.m.	Miscellaneous Business	Archie Mason
9:15 a.m.	ELECTION OF OFFICERS (President)	
9:25 a.m.	Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes	David Perry
9:40 a.m.	Worship	Worship Team, Trinity, Texarkana
9:45 a.m.	MESSAGE	Ronnie Floyd
10:25 a.m.	<i>Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine</i>	Tim Yarbrough
10:30 a.m.	ELECTION OF OFFICERS (First Vice President)	
10:40 a.m.	Resolutions	Larry Page
10:55 a.m.	Arkansas Baptist Foundation	David Moore
11:10 a.m.	ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Second Vice President)	
11:20 a.m.	Prayer for Newly Elected Officers	J. D. "Sonny" Tucker
11:25 a.m.	Worship	Worship Team, Trinity, Texarkana
11:30 a.m.	CONVENTION SERMON	Dale Thompson
12:00 p.m.	Closing Prayer	Melvin York

PREVIEW

continued from page one

and church health team. "Seventy-one percent of the churches in Revelation needed revitalization. Well we haven't moved too far from that number have we?"

Bostick added, "Our goal in introducing this (Church Revitalization emphasis) and promoting this is to help you as a pastor in your church engage in a process for how you can move from where you are currently to where God wants you to be in the three areas of spiritual help, relevant strategies and effective leadership. We are trying to sew the seeds for revival."

He said many churches and church pastors attempt to analyze their churches' health by the standard of large ministries or megachurches. He compared doing so to an average swimmer measuring his performance against that of Michael Phelps.

The ABSC's new Church Revitalization strategy recognizes each church, large or small, is different, has different strengths and weaknesses and must go about revitalization with special considerations to their specific needs in order to be successful, Bostick explained.

"The ABSC's Church Revitalization emphasis is meant to give local church pastors the tools

and resources they need to create, implement and lead a strategic movement of revitalization within their church," Bostick told pastors.

See **PREVIEW** page 10

Baptist schools plan events

Ouachita Baptist University

Reception, 4 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 28: Chapel Sections B, D and F.

Mid-America Seminary

Luncheon, noon, Tuesday, Oct. 28: Chapel Sections A and C.

Reservations required by Oct. 17. Contact Tanner Hickman at 901-751-3015 or tannerh@mabts.edu.

New Orleans Seminary

Luncheon, noon, Tuesday, Oct. 28: Chapel.

Reservations required by Oct. 1. Contact Marc Reeves at 870-236-7195 or marc@mywestview.com.

Southwestern Seminary

Luncheon, noon, Tuesday, Oct. 28: Chapel Sections B, D and F.

Reservations are required by Oct. 20. Contact J.R. Debusk at 501-362-8131 or fbcdebusk@gmail.com.

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To advertise in the ABN, contact Steve McPherson at steve@arkansasbaptist.org.

Kim: A Dying Child's Spiritual Legacy



Retired SBC pastor, Fred G. Womack, tells of his six-year-old daughter's battle with cancer, his personal grief and how God deployed unexpected and astonishing assistance through it all, such as the child's vision of heaven before her death. The book highlights that nothing short of God's supernatural comfort could produce solace and hope powerful enough to offset the unrelenting anguish that came in those days. On several occasions, unspeakable emotional pain was completely banished by varied and merciful God-sent events, some intimating the proximity and activities of the deceased in Christ.

Book may be ordered from www.westbowpress.com or Amazon.com or from most local book stores.



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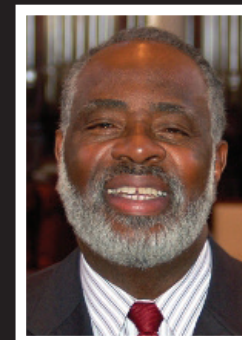
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President of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.



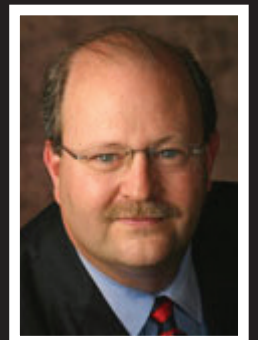
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Central Baptist Church, Conway – 501.329.9283
Faulkner Baptist Association, Conway – 501.327.4456

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Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering

Ark. Baptists give time, talent, treasure

EACH YEAR in September, Arkansas Baptist churches focus on Arkansas missions by giving to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering, which the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) oversees and uses to fund Arkansas missions efforts.

The Dixie Jackson offering funds many ministries in Arkansas, including community missions, disaster relief and church planting, among many others.

But along with making monetary donations,

Arkansas Baptists can give both their time and their talents to the cause of Christ. This year's theme – *Whatever I Have, Whatever He Wants: My Time, My Treasure, My Talents* – is indicative of this fact.

Community missions

Every year, Arkansas youth join together for a weekend, in-state mission trip.

Travis McCormick, ABSC missions team member, explained that many come from small churches and may not be able to afford to travel for a week or two across the country or around the world. But they still have something to give. For one weekend, they can offer just what this year's theme suggests – whatever they have, whatever God wants: their time, their treasure, their talents.

While those receiving the ministry are blessed, participants doing the ministry are impacted as well.

One participant was Savannah Breyfogle. As a teenager, Breyfogle moved with her family from San Diego to Springdale. Thrown out of her comfort zone, she was slow to settle in to her new home.

A little more than a year after moving to Arkansas, Breyfogle began to feel the nudge toward missions. She joined her youth group a few months later for a Connect weekend in Camden. There, she learned about Kaleo, which in turn presented an opportunity for her to serve as a summer missions intern in Fort Smith.

"I now realized that if I hadn't had to give up my home, my family and everyone who had been so close to me, I don't believe I would be able to fully serve my Lord as I do today. I am uprooted, and not held back, and am ready to go wherever God wants me to," said Breyfogle.

Another community missions event is the Acts 1:8 One Day Mis-

sion Trip – and it's through this event that 90-year-old Lucille Curnutte, of Morse Mill Baptist Church in Dittmer, Mo., was able to serve despite her age, physical disabilities and fixed income.

When Curnutte's church decided

to participate in the event, which was taking place in Harrison, she stepped out in obedience and chose to go along. God used for His glory Curnutte's obedience, photography skills and ability to pray.

Curnutte said God used her willingness to go to open her eyes to a world of ministry possibilities.

"Dixie Jackson is not just about Arkansas opening their wallets once a year to financially support state missions," said Breck Freeman, ABSC missions team member. "It's about crossing cultural boundaries to spread the gospel. It's about hearts being drawn to missions. And it's about God using His people, regardless of age, to accomplish his purposes."

Disaster relief

In a time of crisis, the sight of yellow shirts and hats can bring immediate comfort. Arkansas Baptist disaster relief (DR) teams work around the state and across the country to assist other Southern Baptist disaster relief teams and the American Red Cross. Because of their faithfulness, the Salvation Army is now also asking for their assistance.

Disaster relief crews are made up of trained volunteers equipped to handle a variety of needs during times of crisis. Disaster relief offers feeding, recovery, communications, shower and mud out units, sending teams into areas where typically only law enforcement or the Red Cross can enter.

Freeman explained that the need is greater than just monetary gifts – though those are also needed.

"The DR volunteer force has long been made up of retirees," he said. "Unfortunately, as retirement age increases, the number of volunteers available to join the program decreases. In an effort to meet those changes, the disaster relief program is changing as well, seeking out ways to involve a younger generation who can't always take a week off at a moment's notice to help in a crisis."

"Some can give their time and talents, volunteering to join a unit

and offer their services to minister to hurting people. Others can give financially. But everyone can offer their greatest treasure, the treasure of Jesus Christ."

Church Planting

"The Great Commission calls us to go to all peoples with the gospel, regardless of who they are, what they look like and where they might live," said Tim Wicker, interim team leader for the ABSC church planting team. "Arkansas is incredibly diverse, with a great variety of cultures all across the state."

He said Arkansas Baptists are seeking ways to meet these people where they are, within their own culture.

"Church planting is crucial to Arkansas missions efforts," said Wicker. "As Arkansas Baptists work with the International Mission Board to map out the cultural structure of our state, evidence of diversity abounds. Forty languages are spoken in Little Rock alone, and language is only one marker of cultural division."

He said that while not everyone is called to be a church planter,

there are still many ways for people to reach out to the diverse people groups living in Arkansas. Not only can Arkansas Baptists give to the Dixie Jackson offering and pray for church planters, but also they can use their time, energy and talents to minister to those around them.

Wicker said established Arkansas Baptist churches can partner with church planters to offer resources and man power to aid in their ministry, and individual Baptists can willingly surrender their time to contribute to missions projects both around the state and just down the street.

"Whatever I have, whatever He wants: my time, my treasure, my talents – What does that mean for you, today?" Wicker asked.

The suggested dates for churches to participate in the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer this year are Sept. 14-21. Churches should have received Dixie Jackson offering materials in the mail by Aug. 22. For more information or to download materials, visit absc.org/dixiejackson.

Information provided by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Disaster relief workers minister to those in crisis.

The Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering

Whatever I have,
Whatever He wants.

My Time • My Treasure • My Talents John 6:9

Impacting Lostness Across Arkansas

2014 Week of Prayer

For Arkansas Missions & Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering

All ABSC churches should have received their material by Friday, August 22.

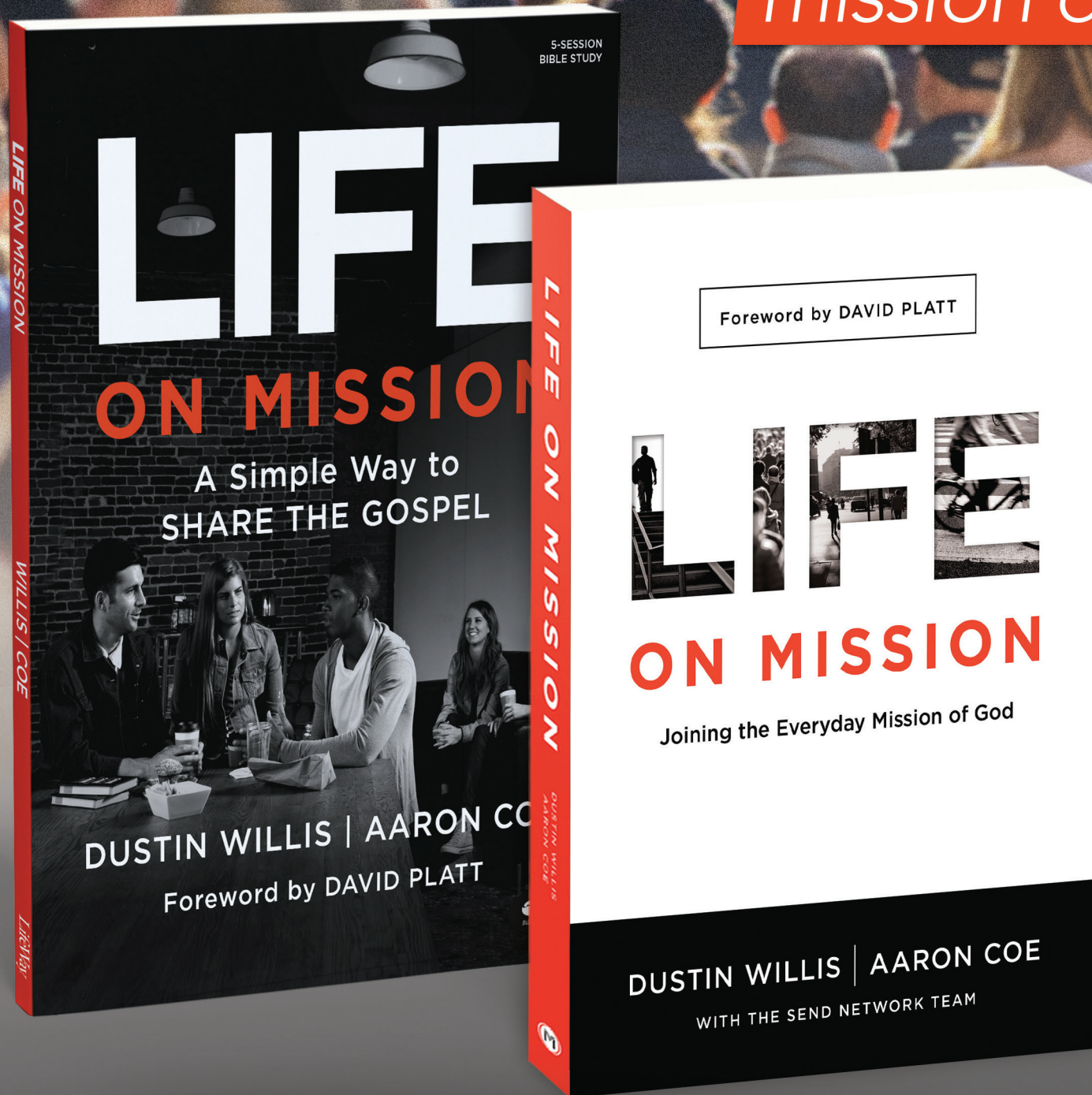
For more information or to download materials, go to www.absc.org/dixiejackson

Dixie Jackson

ARKANSAS MISSIONS OFFERING

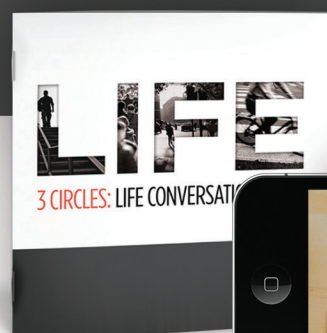
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ABSC auxiliary meetings set

Ministers' wives

The **Ministers' Wives Network** conference will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27, in the chapel of Trinity Baptist Church, Texarkana. The theme is "Joyfully Ever After ..." and will focus on the balance of marriage and ministry.

Speakers will be Kathy Coleman, co-founder of Real Marriages ... Real Lives, and Suzanne Grigsby with Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries.

Those interested can register by emailing arminwives@gmail.com with their name and church name. Free child care is available, but parents must preregister. For a child care preregistration form, visit absc.org/annualmeeting.

Hispanic fellowship

The annual celebration of the **Arkansas Hispanic Baptist Fellowship** will take place Monday, Oct. 27 at Trinity Baptist Church. Registration will begin at 1 p.m., and the conference will take place from 1 to 5:15 p.m. in the JV Room.

Rolando López, of Mighty Fortress Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas, will serve as guest speaker.

For more information, contact Francisco Gómez, Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church health team member, at 800-838-2272, ext. 5128.

Other events

The **International Parents Fellowship** will be held at 5 p.m. Oct. 27 at Bryce's Cafeteria in Texarkana.

The **Associational Missionaries Fellowship** will be held at 5 p.m. Oct. 27 in Chapel Sections A, B, C, D, E and F at Trinity Baptist Church.

The **Delta Connection Dinner** will be held at 5 p.m. Oct. 27 in Room 180 at Trinity Baptist.

Innovative Church Planters will be held at 5 p.m. Oct. 27 in the chapel of Trinity Baptist.

The **Chaplains Breakfast** will be held at 7 a.m. Oct. 28 in Chapel Sections A and C at Trinity Baptist.

The **Cooperative Program Breakfast** will be held at 7:15 a.m. Oct. 29 in Chapel Sections A, B, C, D, E and F of Trinity Baptist.

A meal will be served by the disaster relief volunteers during the annual meeting's lunch break Oct. 28 on the west side of the church building.

To register a church and receive ABSC Church Revitalization support and resources, contact the ABSC, local associational missionary or visit revitalizearkansas.com.

Visit arkansasbaptist.org to stay up-to-date with all Arkansas Baptist news

Convention committees filled by Arkansans

Credentials Committee

Ricky Lee (chairman), pastor, First Baptist Church, Sherwood

Carl Fair, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dardanelle

Johnny Harp, pastor, Lakeview Baptist Church, Cave Springs

Marty Black, associational missionary, Clear Creek Baptist Association, Ozark

Tommy Miller, pastor, Union Valley Baptist Church, Beebe

Resolutions Committee

Larry Page (chairman), Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council executive director, Little Rock

John McCallum, pastor, First Baptist Church, Hot Springs

Jeff Paxton, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dover

Mike Seabaugh, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Magnolia

Greg Sykes, pastor, First Baptist Church, Russellville

Mark Williams, layperson, member, First Baptist Church, Lavaca

Order of Business Committee

Scott Miller (chairman), pastor, Lonoke Baptist Church, Lonoke

Dick Avey, associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Cabot

Andy Wilson, executive leader of ministry and operations, Cross Church, Springdale

Parliamentarians

Dan Raines (lead parliamentarian), layperson, member, First Baptist Church, Russellville

Jamie Staley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Crossett

Mike Pounders, administrative

pastor, First Baptist Church, Hot Springs

Tellers Committee

Stacy Reed (chairman), pastor, First Baptist Church, Batesville

Jay Gordon, executive pastor, Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock

Terry Fortner, pastor, Zion Hill Baptist Church, Cabot

David Mitchell, pastor, Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Cabot

John Nauman, pastor, Charity Southern Baptist Church, Rogers

Kevin Sartin, pastor, First Baptist Church, Nashville

Michael Turner, pastor, First Baptist Church, Stamps

Tim Noel, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Searcy

Dale Sykes, education minister, First Baptist Church, Mountain Home

Dennis Smith, associate pastor of administration and education, First Baptist Church, Sherwood

PREVIEW

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"This is pastor-led. ... We want to have training. We want to offer resources for you guys. But ultimately it's not about us coming to your church; it's about us equipping a pastor to be the agent of change. You are the catalyst for this process," he said.

The ABSC's new Church Revitalization resources are fully customizable to each church and meant to be utilized over multiple years, according to Bostick.

The seven components of the ABSC's Church Revitalization emphasis are: (1) commit, (2) identify, (3) design, (4) cast vision, (5) implement, (6) adjust and (7) celebrate.

Bostick said the five factors that will set a church up for a successful church revitalization are: (1) long-term commitment to church revitalization, (2) a focused revitalization team, (3) conduction of a thorough assessment, (4) willingness to change on the part of the pastor, leaders and church and (5) prayerful dependence on God.

The ABSC's Church Revitalization emphasis officially launches Sept. 18 at the Church Growth and Revitalization Conference at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock. Johnny Hunt, pastor of Woodstock Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is the featured speaker for the event.

EVERY 1 MATTERS

For extensive coverage of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting, related events and stories, visit arkansasbaptist.org/absc2014.

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ABSC Executive Board offers budget, ministry recommendations for 2014

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1: 2015 BUDGET

I. ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

1. Executive Board Programs.....	\$6,390,700
2. Pastoral Scholarship Fund.....	\$170,572
3. Convention.....	\$172,109
4. Church Protection Plan – GuideStone.....	\$147,938
5. Camp Siloam.....	\$252,634
6. Children's Homes and Family Ministries.....	\$581,659
7. Arkansas Baptist Foundation.....	\$340,510
8. <i>Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine</i>	\$290,736
9. Ouachita Baptist University.....	\$3,159,994
10. Williams Baptist College.....	\$951,748
Total Arkansas Baptist State Convention.....	\$12,336,214

II. SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

11. International Mission Board.....	\$4,721,893
12. North American Mission Board.....	\$2,152,239
13. Theological Education Ministries.....	\$2,092,743
14. Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Ministries.....	\$155,821
15. Facilitating Ministries.....	\$302,201
Total Southern Baptist Convention.....	\$9,443,786

III. SHARED MINISTRIES OF THE CONVENTIONS

16. Arkansas Baptist State Convention.....	\$122,386
17. Southern Baptist Convention.....	\$97,614
Total Budget	\$22,000,000

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2: 2015 GOALS

Executive Board goals for 2015 have been planned by the teams. Ministry goals will be distributed during the annual meeting.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3: AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 1 OF THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR ARKANSAS BAPTIST ASSEMBLY (CAMP SILOAM)

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention recommends the proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation for the Arkansas Baptist Assembly (Camp Siloam).

Current:

Article IV. – Officers

Section 1. The officers of this corporation shall be President, who shall also serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Executive Director-Treasurer. Each officer shall be elected annually, except the Executive Director-Treasurer and the Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall be the same person serving as the Executive Director-Treasurer. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall be elected by the Trustees of the corporation and shall continue in office until his successor in office shall have been elected and qualified, or until his employment relationship with the corporation ends.

Proposed Amendment:

Article IV. – Officers

Section 1. The officers of this corporation shall be President, who shall also serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Executive Director-Treasurer. Each officer shall be elected annually, except the Executive Director-Treasurer. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall be elected by the Trustees of the corporation, shall serve on the board in an Ex-Officio capacity, shall be a non-voting member of the board and shall continue in office until his successor in office shall have been elected and qualified, or until his employment relationship with the corporation ends.

HBA event encourages women in their faith

PINE BLUFF – Woman Up! This was the theme of The Walk of a Woman, a women's event sponsored by Harmony Baptist Association for churches in the association. About 225 people, representing 21 churches, attended the event.

Stephanie Howard, wife of Todd Howard, who is pastor of Watson Chapel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, co-coordinates the event each year with Julie Beavers, wife of Stephen Beavers, who is church planter/pastor at Delta Baptist Church, a church plant in Pine Bluff.

Howard said it was the sixth year for the event and the purpose was "to encourage women in their faith."

"We really want to provide the women of our association a time to get together, visit, have an evening out and, most importantly, hear a message that is just for them, as women," said Beavers.

This year's event was held the evening of Aug. 22 at Watson Chapel Baptist Church. It included dinner and a drama performed by the youth of Watson Chapel. In addition, Barbara Mosley, member and Sunday school teacher at Watson Chapel,

shared her testimony; Kady Donham, high school student and member of Watson Chapel, sang "Not for a Moment," and local ministries set up tables where women could get information on how to serve Christ in their area.

Laura Macfarlan served as keynote speaker for the event, speaking on Proverbs 2:20, which says, "So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous." Macfarlan is a speaker, writer, teacher and director of Heart Life Women's Ministry at First Baptist Church, Siloam Springs.

"Woman Up! was her theme," said Beavers. "We don't need to just sit around; we need to woman up – you know, get busy doing God's work!"

"Laura challenged us to walk daily as women of God," said Howard. "We must wake up, look up, step out, own up and trade up. The woman of God is awake in Christ, looks to Christ, steps out in serving Christ, owns up to her sin (and trades up (gives struggles to God))."

For more information about Macfarlan and her ministry, visit crossmyheartministry.com.



More than 200 people attended The Walk of a Woman, a women's event sponsored by Harmony Baptist Association.



DISASTER RELIEF – Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Region 3 disaster relief directors and associates recently met at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) building to share ideas, discuss policy and procedures and become better informed of current emergency management trends and issues that affect SBC disaster relief. The goal of the meeting was to become better able to reach out to those in crisis situations, sharing Christ's help, healing and hope. Pictured from left: Randy Garrett, Arkansas transitional disaster relief director; Terry Henderson, Texas Baptist Men disaster relief director; Fritz Wilson, Southern Baptist Convention disaster relief executive director, and Joe Garner, disaster relief consultant for the ABSC. Also among those attending were Dwaine Carter, Missouri disaster relief director; Don Gann, Mississippi disaster relief director; Mike Jansen, appointed representative for Jim Richardson, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention disaster relief director; Gibbie McMillan, Louisiana disaster relief coordinator, and Sam Porter, Oklahoma disaster relief director. Directors also brought in their right-hand associates for the meeting. In addition, disaster relief child care leaders met at the same time.

Pastor Appreciation Month

WITH OCTOBER fast approaching as Pastor Appreciation Month, now is the time for churches to begin making plans to honor, recognize and encourage their pastors.

A church can honor its pastor in a variety of ways, including by planning a surprise recognition for him, presenting him with a certificate, holding a time of prayer for him or presenting him with a monetary gift or other gift.

For the past several years, the *Arkansas Baptist News* has offered special ad rates for churches that want

to place a special recognition in the newspaper that will be seen by thousands of fellow Baptists across the state. For additional information and example ads, visit arkansasbaptist.org/pastor-appreciation or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5161.

The North American Mission Board and LifeWay Christian Resources also have Pastor Appreciation Month resources available on their websites – namb.net/honoring_pastors and lifeway.com/Article/pastor-Ideas-for-Pastor-Appreciation-Month-in-October.

Church life

Immanuel Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, will celebrate its 100th anniversary during the 10:30 a.m. service Oct. 5. Lunch will follow in the fellowship hall. All former members and friends are invited.

Christian singers Steve Green and Twila Paris will perform at 6 p.m. Oct. 19 at **Hot Springs Baptist Church in Hot Springs**. The concert will highlight some of the best-known contemporary Christian hits of the '80s and '90s and will also feature the Hot Springs Baptist choir. Tickets for the concert are available at the church or online at ccmforever.com. The church is located at 144 Weston Road, Hot Springs. The concert is sponsored by the charity organization Mission: Pre-Born.

A worship night called Hymns+: Cherishing the Old and Embracing the New will be led by the worship team of **Fianna Hills Baptist Church in Fort Smith** at 6 p.m. Sept. 7 at the church. The event will include "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Throughout the evening, Psalms and other Scriptures will be read and both old and new hymns will be sung, along with some modern worship songs. Participants will explore the history of church music, as well as experience more modern music.

Third Baptist Church, Malvern, will celebrate its 100th anniversary Sept. 20-21. The church was founded Sept. 3, 1914. Activities for Saturday include a Let's Get Reacquainted brunch from 9 to 11 a.m. in the family life center and a Birthday Bash from 3 to 6 p.m. in the parking lot. The Sunday anniversary service will include a concert at 9:30 a.m., followed by an anniversary worship

service at 10:45 a.m. Pastors who were raised in and ordained from the church will speak, with current Pastor Tom Strike bringing the message with a look toward the church's next 100 years. A potluck meal will follow. Everyone is invited to attend.



Submit your church news!

Email jeanie@arkansasbaptist.org
or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5153

Staff Wanted

Arkansas Baptist Children's
Homes and Family Ministries

■ **Houseparent couple** for the Baptist Home for Children in Monticello This **full-time** position includes salary, medical insurance, life insurance and paid leave. For information, contact Randy Luper at 870.367.5358 or rluper@abchomes.org.

■ **Housemother** for the Judsonia Emergency Home. This **part-time** position includes salary, medical insurance, life insurance and paid leave. For information, contact Derek Brown at 501.455.8554 or dbrown@abchomes.org.



Golden Age Conf. at WBC

WALNUT RIDGE – The northeast Arkansas Southern Baptist associations and Williams Baptist College will sponsor the Golden Age Senior Adult Conference, with the theme It's a New Day, Sept. 25 at Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge.

The event will feature Archie Mason, pastor of Central Baptist

Church, Jonesboro, and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), and J.D. "Sonny" Tucker, ABSC executive director. The Lindsey Family will provide music.

Preregistration is required by Sept. 11. To register, visit greenecountyba.com or call the Greene County Baptist Association at 870-236-3213.

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Classifieds

PASTOR

Twin Lakes Baptist Church in Hot Springs is seeking a **full-time (preferred), or will consider bi-vocational, pastor** who embraces the tenets of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. Some seminary training desired. Send resumes to TLBC, 3899 Highway 290, Hot Springs, AR 71913 or cwaldrop22@gmail.com.

Witt's Chapel Baptist Church of Maynard seeking **full-time pastor**. Please send resume including references to Dennis Barber, 486 Thompson Road, Maynard, AR 72444.

Emmanuel Baptist Church of Batesville is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resumes to Search Committee, 1915 Batesville Blvd., Batesville, AR 72501.

Immanuel Baptist Church, Marion, is prayerfully seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Call 501-213-6822. Send resume to afamilyunit@yahoo.com.

Wooster First Baptist is seeking a **full-time pastor**. We will accept resumes through Oct. 15. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 218, Wooster, AR 72181 or email to woosterfb@windstream.net.

First Baptist Church (SBC) of Evening Shade is seeking a **full-time or bi-vocational pastor**. Please send resume to FBCEC Pastor Search Committee, 290 AR 230, Cave City, AR 72521.

First Baptist Church of Floyd is seeking a **bi-**

vocational or full-time pastor. As the Lord leads, please send your resume to FBC of Floyd, Pastor Search Committee, 1198 Highway 31, Romance, AR 72136.

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

Trinity Baptist Church, Fort Smith, is seeking a **bi-vocational or full-time pastor**. Please send resume to Trinity Baptist Pastor Search Committee, 3619 N. 6, Fort Smith, AR 72904 or email trinitybc2@juno.com.

Star Hope Baptist Church, Elsberry, Mo., an affiliated SBC congregation, is looking for a **pastor** who (a) supports the Cooperative Program and (b) embraces the tenets of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. Some seminary training desired. Interested applicants should send their resume to shbc@starhope.org.

White River Baptist Church is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Please send resumes to Search Committee, P.O. Box 138, Oil Trough, AR 72564.

Leachville Second Baptist is seeking **bi-vocational pastor**. Please send resume to Leachville Second Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 565, Leachville, AR 72438.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

FBC, Wake Village, near Texarkana, Texas, seek-

ing **full-time worship pastor** for church growing in young adult membership. Send resumes to sneathery@fbcwakevillage.org. Visit www.fbcwakevillage.org.

Full-time or bi-vocational worship/youth position. Church on adventure about to relaunch after 109-year history needs daring visionary for future. Contact Pastor George at 2201 S. Dallas St., Fort Smith, AR 72901 or visit www.immanuelbaptistfs.org.

Grace Baptist, a growing church of 200 in attendance, in Rogers seeking a **part-time music minister**. For more information and to submit your resume, go to www.gbcrogers.com.

First Baptist Church of Mena is seeking a **full-time minister of music/education**. Send resume by email to menafbc@sbcglobal.net or mail to First Baptist Church, 811 Port Arthur Ave., Mena, AR 71953, Attn: Music/Education Search Committee.

FBC, Harrisburg, is seeking a **minister of worship and family ministries**. A job description is available at www.harrisburgfbc.com. If interested, email your resume to kellyjones@harrisburgfbc.com or mail to P.O. Box 88, Harrisburg, AR 72432.

Hindsville 1st Baptist Church in northwest Arkansas is seeking a **bi-vocational paid position for a youth pastor**. Send resume to scottsprmkr@aol.com or P.O. Box 113, Hindsville, AR 72738.

Organists needed at Calvary Baptist Church in Benton. Contact Jerry Williams: 501-658-5593.

First Baptist Church of Hamburg is seeking a **full-time youth minister**. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 352, Hamburg, AR 71646 or email us at fbchbg_office@sbcglobal.net.

First Baptist Church, Batesville, is seeking a **full-time minister of preschool/children**. Send resume to First Baptist Church, Attn: Stacy Reed, P.O. Box 2455, Batesville, AR 72503 or email to stacy@fbcbbatesville.org.

Rose Bud First Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time youth pastor**. Send resume to Rose Bud First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 167, Rose Bud, AR 72137 or email resume to rbfbc@windstream.net.

Congo Road Baptist Church of Benton is seeking a **part-time youth minister**. Please send resume to Congo Road Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor, P.O. 1218, Benton, AR 72018-1218 or email jeff@cogoroadbaptistchurch.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Wanted: **Copyright 1991 Baptist Hymnals**. Color: crimson dark. Contact info: Haw Creek Baptist Church, phone number – 479-637-2978.

Advertise: steve@arkansasbaptist.org

SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Pay attention

HEBREWS 2:1-4

As a parent, I wish I had a nickel for every time I told my children to “pay attention.”

Being told to pay attention means you need to really watch and listen so you don’t miss important details, which can sometimes be the difference in life or death.

In Hebrews 2:1, the author tells us to “pay the most careful attention ... to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.”

He wanted readers to not drift away into false teachings because they didn’t hear something or heard something wrong. After studying Hebrews 1 and understanding the superiority of Christ, we can be encouraged about the New Covenant and find it easier to not drift into false teachings because we don’t have to worry about meeting certain religious requirements.

We need to remember the central theme of Hebrews is that Christ’s superiority is greater than all other ways of hearing and knowing about God.

The author explains in Hebrews 2:2-3 that the faith of the Jewish Christians was good, but faith must point to Christ. Christ’s message is much more important than the message of the angels, and it has been confirmed by “signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit” (Heb. 2:4).

Spiritual gifts are mentioned multiple times in the Bible (Rom. 12, 1 Cor. 12-14 and Eph. 4). Their purpose is to build up the Church by maturing and strengthening it. If a congregation is using their individual gifts, that church will function properly and flourish. A church whose members are not focused on God’s will and using their gifts

will be stagnant or even wither away. The church needs each member doing his or her part.

So pay attention to all Christ tells and shows you so you can be strong and flourish. Use the spiritual gifts He has given you to become more Christ-like and help your church become the light on top of the hill.



Jennifer Bryant
member
First Baptist
Fordyce

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:

Connected in unity

EPHESIANS 4:1-6

The subway (not the sandwich) is the best way that we have found to get around. We have mastered how to get from here to there as long as we do not have to change lines.

Recently, we were standing side by side waiting for the train. It came, and I got on the car to my right. Jan got on the one to her left. I was sure she was right beside me, but she wasn’t.

We have decided to make sure that doesn’t happen again. It means that we hold hands, and even though we are not looking at one another, the physical act of touching means we are connected.

Paul continues his theme of connection in Ephesians 4:1-6. His concern here is that the different members of the church be connected. Paul must have known what it meant to be disconnected. He was a prisoner for the Lord. Being in a dungeon must have made connection with others in the Church difficult or impossible.

He gave three commands that lead to connection. He encourages the readers to be humble and gentle, patient and loving and to keep the unity of the Spirit and be peaceable to all.

He then provides in rapid succession a list of nine elements of unity. I divide them into three sections of three thoughts. When I was a boy, my dad would give me something to do. When I would question why, all he would do was say, “Cause I said so.” Paul says there is one body, one Spirit and one hope (Eph. 4:4). This is the first in his “cause he said so” list.

The second part of the list is ‘cause there is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Eph. 4:5).

The third part of the list is that there is “one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (Eph. 4:6).

We cannot touch God, but we can know if and when He is there. It works for us. It can work for you.



Charles A. Collins
missionary
Spain

SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Why one of us?

HEBREWS 2:14-18

When you are struggling through a difficult time in your life, would you rather be encouraged and helped by a friend who has also struggled and suffered or a friend who has no idea what you are going through?

This is the reason Jesus had to become one of us! He went through the ridicule and suffering on the cross so that we would be more accepting of Him.

In Hebrews 2:18, the author of Hebrews explains that Jesus was able to help those who suffered through temptation because He suffered through temptation.

“Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted” (Heb. 2:18).

This makes it easier for us to trust that Christ can and will guide us through our difficult times. We know that we will survive temptation because He survived temptation, and He understands our trials because He also faced trials while

He was human.

Jesus also had to become human so that He could die and rise again in order to “destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,” (Heb. 2:14).

By doing this, Christ could “free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death” (Heb. 2:15).

If we know we are going to heaven after death, there is no reason to fear it. Death has been defeated!

This passage is a huge comfort and exciting to read as a Christian.

To know that Jesus understands the feelings and emotions we have as

we suffer during life’s trials is a big encouragement. He was one of us, and He is ready and willing to help us through these difficult times in our lives.

Even more encouraging is knowing that because Jesus beat death, this time we spend on earth is just a brief moment – and that heaven is waiting for Christians after death.

That is truly amazing.



Jennifer Bryant
member
First Baptist
Fordyce

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:

Connected in growth

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

It was years ago, but I still remember. He was the chairman of the deacons of a small rural church I was pastoring. I had asked the members to come for a work day at the church. There were things that needed to be done.

His words were, “I give my money. If there is something to be done, we will hire someone to do it.”

This is often the attitude of many who believe that church growth is the responsibility of someone else, like the pastor. Paul disagrees with that. He teaches in Ephesians 4:11-16 that the members are connected in growth.

Where there is no connection, there can be no growth.

He begins by listing God’s gifts to the Church. They are the apostles (sent out ones), the prophets (those who speak God’s messages), the evangelists (proclaimers of the gospel) and the pastors and teachers (Eph. 4:11).

The gifts to the Church prepare members for the goals of growth. First, they are to prepare God’s peo-

ple so that the Body of Christ is built up and unity is achieved (Eph. 4:12-13). Everyone has a part in growth.

Paul then lists in verse 14 those things that would hinder connection, thus hindering growth. They are that people no longer be like children or “blown here and there by every wind of teaching.” There are, unfortunately, many who would believe something because it sounds good.

The goals of connection are simple, that the truth might be spoken in love and that Christ might be the Head of the Church (Eph. 4:15). The reason for this is simple. From Him, the whole

Body is joined together and “grows and builds itself up” (Eph. 4:16).

The simple truth is that we are connected in growth. Imagine what could happen if all of us were able to contact only one person and help that individual come to Christ. We talk about it a lot but seldom really do it. It is important to give our resources, but it is also important to cooperate in other ways if the Church is to really grow.



Charles A. Collins
missionary
Spain

College staffers impact Camp Siloam

SILOAM SPRINGS – Caleb Reynolds, a sophomore at Arkansas Tech University, could jump rope sitting down. Drew Young, a freshman at Crowder College, had gloves that made his fingers glow with LEDs and created patterns in the dark as his hands moved. Brett Vail, a junior at Arkansas State University, taught men to do the “haka” – a Pacific tribal warrior dance – from a YouTube video. Emily Johnson, a sophomore at the University of Arkansas, and Nicole Currie, a senior at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, could twirl fire. Individually, they might be a sideshow carnival act, but put these performances all together in a summer camp opener, set it to an island theme and it’s something fantastic.

On the first day of orientation, staff at Camp Siloam had no idea how the opener to the summer play would go. It was left that way intentionally so summer staff could participate in shaping the summer program. The summer college staff at Camp Siloam came through with an incredible program and spirit of ministry.

“There have been many improvements at Siloam,” said Jason Wilkie,

executive director. “But two things have made us distinctive: our summer drama and the quality of our college staff.”

Jedidiah Mason, an adult counselor with Hilltop Baptist Church in Sunnyvale, Texas, agreed that the camp staff were exceptional.

“I’ve personally worked on staff at a church camp in previous years, and Camp Siloam’s staff has super-duper impressed me with how involved they are and their passion for campers,” he said.

Hope Wall, a high school senior from South Main Baptist Church in Crossett, said, “Out of the four years I’ve got to experience Camp Siloam, this one has been

the most influential on my walk with Jesus. Not only has this been the best week of my summer, but

also my life! The summer staff are so incredible! I know the Lord is pulling me in a good direction, and I wouldn’t know that without them.”

“I don’t think there was a day during the summer we weren’t told how great the college staff were and how they were serving people,” said Robert Coppedge, Camp Siloam program director. “Even toward the end

of the summer, when people assumed staff were getting tired, the staff were going beyond themselves to serve, meet campers and build relationships.”



Hannah Poor, a sophomore at John Brown University, high-fives a Camp Siloam camper after winning the Great Race.

The biblical teaching point for this summer was Ephesians 2:10: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

“Our planning team decided the story of Joseph perfectly illustrated the concepts in Ephesians 2:10,” said Wilkie. “Campers today need to know they are made to share the gospel in a unique way; they just have to be activated for His service by Jesus.”

The impact of the summer staff implementing the program was a total of 761 life-changing commitments. Of those, 333 campers made professions of faith, 33 were called to mission, 18 were interested in baptism and 165 requested prayer.

This was the first summer since the death of former summer staff member Shelby Seabaugh, who died March 27. She had planned to serve at the camp this year. Her father, Mike Seabaugh, senior pastor at Central Baptist Church, Magnolia, has pastored the last week of camp for more than 20 years. He shared his reflections on returning to the camp after his daughter’s death (read more at arkansasbaptist.org/siloam2014).

Charitable Giving Tip

MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE?

Charitable Lead Trusts are very powerful giving tools when rates are low. While rates are still very low historically, it might be time to consider one. A lead trust pays a charity (or charities) an income for a term of years or over lifetimes, and then the remainder goes back to the donor, or more often to his or her family. Because of the gift tax deduction, it is fairly easy to transfer major assets to family at no transfer (gift) tax while benefitting the charity that you love. Before rates go up, you might want to consider a charitable lead trust.

If you want assistance in knowing how to use a charitable lead trust to accomplish your goals, contact the Foundation or visit their website.



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Volume 113 Number 18 September 4, 2014

ABN

ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWS

AM preview

ABSC Annual Meeting
Oct. 28-29 in Texarkana

PAGE 1

Platt to lead IMB

Alabama Pastor David
Platt new IMB president

PAGE 1



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Camp Siloam

Ryan Johnson, a Camp Siloam counselor with First Baptist Church, Quitman, avoids getting his flag pulled during a game called "Natives vs. Islanders." See story, Page 15.

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