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The opioid crisis hits home for Baptist family

Garrick Conner
Special to the ABN

GREENWOOD, Miss. – “Do y’all want something to eat or drink? I’ve got sandwiches and Rice Krispies Treats.” That’s the kind of trademark Southern hospitality I’ve come to recognize and appreciate as a native Mississippian. In some ways it was like Linda and I had traded places. She grew up in Arkansas and was baptized at Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock, but she now lives in Greenwood, Miss.

I grew up in Greenwood and now serve at Park Hill.

Those are fascinating tidbits, but food, drink and life tracks weren’t the intended topics of conversation on that muggy, late-summer day. We settled in and got comfortable discussing that which is most uncomfortable.

“Independent. Impulsive. Fiercely competitive.”

These are just a few of the words that Linda and Lacy Lary, members of North Greenwood Baptist Church in Greenwood, Miss., use to

describe their son, Michael, who died in December 2016 of a heroin overdose at the tender age of 27. The oversized center island in their home was covered in photos, awards, ribbons and trophies that seemed frozen in time. They were there to tell a story, but in some strange way, those items pointed as much to the future that wouldn’t be as they did to the past they so clearly depicted.

Linda laughs to herself when she thinks about the early appearance of Michael’s

quest for self-determination. “When he was just in the fourth grade, he boldly announced that he didn’t want my help with his homework anymore.” Perhaps he really didn’t need help. The fair-skinned lad would mature into a handsome and brilliant young man who was exceptionally well rounded. His parents think back to better days, describing Michael as gregarious, fun-loving, a voracious reader and “a real kid magnet.”

He loved hunting, fishing and all kinds of sports. He was

an All-State lineman in high school. Several photos of Michael in his green and gold full football gear catch my eye, as I peruse the robust collection of memorabilia strewn about the tabletop. And regardless of the picture, two things they all seemed to have in common: a wide, natural smile, and warm, kind eyes that seemed to befriend instantly.

There were photos from Boy Scouts, water sports, and just snapshots with friends and

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Brown to lead Ark. Baptist Children's Homes

LITTLE ROCK - Derek Brown, 36, clinical director of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries (ABCHomes), has been named the agency's next executive director.

The agency's board of trustees search committee made the announcement during a board meeting Sept. 27 at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) building. The vote of the committee was unanimous.

Brown succeeds David Perry, who has served at ABCHomes since 1979. Perry officially retires on Dec. 1, but he will continue to serve as part-time executive director emeritus from Dec. 1 to April 1, 2019, to assist Brown's transition into his new leadership role.

"The ABCHomes' executive director search committee unanimously and excitedly recommends our very own Dr. Derek Brown as our next executive leader," said Joe Statton, search committee chairman and executive pastor of Geyer Springs First Baptist Church in Little Rock.

The selection of Brown ended a nationwide search by a five-member search committee of board trustees, according to an ABCHomes news release.

"After interviews and vetting all candidates, it was very

obvious that Dr. Derek Brown was a perfect match for the challenges and goals for this life-changing and diverse ministry in our state," said Statton. "He comes to us with a very high level of educational, personal, experiential and spiritual qualifications that were unmatched in other candidates who were considered for this position."

Brown said he believes the ABCHomes' mission to minister to children and families is "close to the heart of God."

"I am humbled by the opportunity to serve an organization whose mission, I believe, is so close to the heart of God and whose immeasurable impact has spanned the generations of children and families in Arkansas," Brown said.

"The rise of secular culture has led to a breakdown of the family, and I am certain the influence of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries is needed now more than ever before, to strengthen and restore families, or to stand in the gap when family is absent. I am honored to lead the way for Arkansas Baptists as we rise together to face this challenge," he said.

Brown joined ABCHomes in 2012 as Little Rock area director. In 2017 he was named clinical director where he has supervised counseling operations and provided oversight



Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries board members, staff and guests pray for Derek and Ariel Brown (center), following Brown's election as the next executive director of the agency Sept. 27. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

of regional ministries. Additionally, Brown has served as an adjunct instructor at John Brown University since 2013. He is a member of the Arkansas Association of Homes for Children, serving as president in 2015; Arkansas Mental Health Counselors Association, and Association of Christian Childcare Administrators.

Previously, Brown was an adjunct instructor and teaching assistant at New Orleans

Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, as well as a site manager and coordinator of adolescent and family counseling for Celebration Hope Center, Metairie, La.

Brown, a native of Mullins, S.C., previously served on the staff of Clifton Baptist Church, Franklin, La., and First Baptist Church, Manning, S.C.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in youth ministry and psychology from

Charleston Southern University, Charleston, S.C., and Master of Divinity, Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He was licensed as a professional counselor in 2010.

Brown and wife, Ariel, have a daughter, Lelia, 9, and two sons, Gavin, 7, and Jonas, 4. Ariel serves as a counselor with ABCHomes. They are active members of Epoch Church, Little Rock.

WMU women Engage in 'Unshakeable Pursuit'

Sarah Davis
Arkansas Baptist News

BENTON - More than 160 women - along with a few men - attended the Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) 2018 Engage conference and annual meeting Sept. 22 at First Baptist Church of Benton.

"Engage is a missions celebration for women," said Debbie Moore, executive director for Arkansas WMU and member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions team. "It's a day to hear from our missionary partners, pray together and spend time learning about what God is doing in the world."

The theme for Engage was Unshakeable Pursuit based on

the 30-day devotional by Grace Thornton.

"God has been chasing us before we took our first breath," said Linda Moore, president of national WMU. Moore led a breakout session around the conference theme where she shared stories about how she and others are pursuing God.

"There may be loss or pain if you follow Jesus. The path of your life may not look like what you thought it was supposed to look like. You may be asked to give up things you wanted or walk through times you never wanted to walk through," said Moore. "The bottom line is this: When we lose our life for the sake of Christ, we will find it."

Other breakout sessions

were led by International Mission Board missionaries.

"There is a classic proverb that says, 'Cars run on gasoline, and women run on cups of tea,'" said Candis, a missionary in Central Asia. "In Central Asia, that is true. We drink a lot of tea."

Candis shared how she has used a cup of tea to start conversations that lead to sharing the gospel.

Kellie, a missionary in Southeast Asia, talked about how the Philippines have a strong Filipino Baptist Convention after years of missions work.

"The Filipino Muslims want to be autonomous. They don't want to be under a Christian government. Also, there are 13 different Muslim tribes,



Members of the Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) listen during a plenary session at Engage Sept. 22. Photo by Sarah Davis

and none of them like one another. So, they are not only fighting the Christians and the government, but they are also fighting one another," said

Kellie. "There's a lot of war in their area. We can't go there with our American passports."

OPIOID

continued from page one

family. One Polaroid photo seemed to demand notice. It was the one of Michael on the day he was baptized as a young boy at North Greenwood Baptist Church. It was the beginning of a faith journey that was deeply personal, but also complicated.

Perhaps two of Michael's most endearing personality traits would combine to become a fatal flaw: rugged independence and blind impulsivity. Michael's parents describe him as a guy who wanted to do things his way – and always in high style. Linda recalls, "He always had the best clothes, shoes, hunting gear, everything. He had a way of getting money for the things he wanted."

Those were no doubt factors that helped pave the way for a seamless transition from high school to college at Ole Miss. While in Oxford, Michael had the opportunity to do what many other college students do. He tested the limits of his newfound freedom, first beginning with marijuana. His parents had heard rumblings of that but didn't become too alarmed.

But Michael was keeping another secret too. He had joined a fraternity, which energized his social life and el-

evated his status. One thing led to another, as often is the case. It wasn't until Michael contracted meningitis that his parents learned of his foray into Greek life.

Linda interjects, "Can you imagine the pressure he must've felt, keeping that secret from us?" After all, she had encouraged a more gradual approach to the trappings of adulthood, beginning with a motherly nudge to attend a community college first. But Michael wouldn't hear of it.

He had dreams, big dreams. He had plans, big plans.

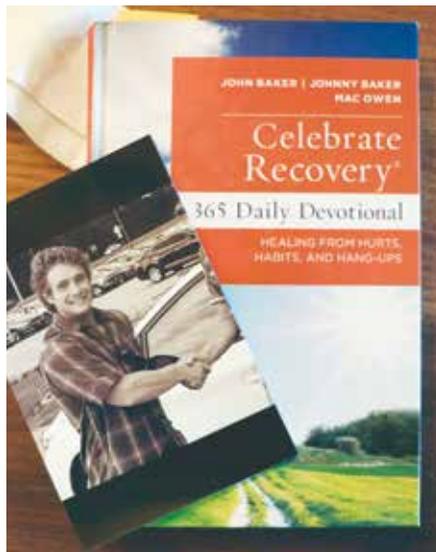
When Michael was treated for meningitis, the doctor sent him home with 60 Percocet tablets. That's a brand name pain pill. It's in a class of medication called opioids, because they are derived of opium poppy plants, one of the most addictive organic substances on the planet.

According to the National Safety Council, one in three people who are prescribed opioids do not realize their medication is potentially addictive. The Council also cites studies that indicate a sobering fact: It only takes five days of use for some people to become dependent on prescription opioids.

The increased use of opioids began in the 1980s when doctors were presented with research-based pain studies. Medical professionals were encouraged to demonstrate

more sympathy for patients in pain. Doctors made an intentional effort to have patients describe their pain level. The problem is that pain is a highly subjective thing to articulate. What ranks a 10 for one patient might rank only a four for another.

Regardless of how it hap-



pened, the reality was that Michael was hooked, and he would eventually stop at nothing in order to get the feeling he so desperately craved. His downward spiral included lying, stealing and obsessing over how he could get his next fix. When prescription meds became too expensive and inconvenient, Michael followed the course of many in his predicament. He turned to the streets and shifted to another opioid called heroin. It is es-

timated that some three-quarters of heroin users got their start with prescription opioids.

Linda acknowledges that while she and Lacy had observed and experienced Michael's volatile mood swings and erratic behavior, they failed early on to connect them to the real culprit. "How could we not know our child was doing heroin?" she wonders. It's an all-too-common question that haunts far too many parents.

Through several expensive stints in drug rehab, and despite repeated promises to get clean and stay clean, Michael ultimately lost his battle with addiction. After five months of good choices – including breaking up with his girlfriend and meeting regularly with his sponsor – Michael accidentally overdosed on heroin and died two days shy of his 28th birthday, and six days before Christmas on Dec. 19, 2016.

The family found themselves feeling absolutely devastated during what is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year. The loss was like a kick to the stomach. The grief process would prove complicated and unpredictable.

Michael's last conversations and text messages led his family to understand that he was in the middle of trying to help someone else find his way out of addiction. But Michael was not yet strong enough in his

recovery, and he gave in to that voice in his head whispering, "Just one more time."

Growing up as the daughter of a church planter in North Little Rock, Linda confesses that she never could have foreseen the direction her own sense of ministry and calling would take. Nothing can bring Michael back, but Linda is determined to shine a light on the issues related to the opioid crisis gripping our nation. Its ripple effect reaches into every community, every family, every school and every church. A key piece of her spiel is that it takes time for someone who is addicted to actually be able to help others in their recovery journey.

It has been said that there's no pain greater than the death of a child. And there's certainly no pill for that. Linda is finding much personal value in being part of a Celebrate Recovery ministry near her home. Through her platform of education and advocacy with the Stand Up, Mississippi opioid awareness campaign, Linda hopes to not waste her own grief. She has become a reluctant warrior in a battle she didn't choose – but one that we all must work together to win.

Garrick D. Conner is a licensed professional counselor and licensed marriage and family therapist. He serves as discipleship pastor at Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock.

Opioid abuse: What's your church to do?

WITH A PROBLEM as pervasive as the issue of opioid abuse, it can seem a daunting task to take on. But Christ has called the Church to share His light and love at every opportunity. The current opioid crisis poses an incredible opportunity for ministry.

Pastors are often the first "outside-the-family" person that individuals will talk to when they are struggling with emotional and relational problems. Substance abuse invariably impacts both emotional regulation and relationships.

In that sense, pastors really are on the front line when it comes to this battle, and as such, they need to be prepared as much as possible to respond with confidence

and Christlikeness.

1) First and foremost, don't make the mistake of demonizing those who struggle with substance abuse. They too are people created in the image of God, and they are dearly loved. Many factors influence one's capacity to become addicted. A growing body of research shows that these factors are from both nature and nurture. Those with a biological predisposition toward addiction are particularly susceptible when social and family support is not strong.

2) Get to know the counselors in your local area. They can be some of your best resources for helping determine next steps for someone in need.

3) Get to know the recovery ministries – especially Christ-

centered ones – in your local area. These ministries provide a safe place where confidentiality is highly regarded. In these communities of trust, those with scarce emotional support can find a "family" to encourage, support and have tough conversations when necessary.

If your area does not have any Christ-centered recovery ministries, then maybe that is something your church should consider starting. Few ministries in today's culture allow for as much interaction with people outside the church as recovery ministries do.

4) Go to great lengths to know the individuals and families in your church. It is estimated that one out of three people will take some sort of opioid medication in a given year. While it is true that many

people reap the benefits of these medications when taken as directed by a physician, it is also true that a number of them will struggle with developing dependence on them. If those numbers are true in the community at large, there's no reason to think they would not be true in our congregations too.

When you know your people, you can better notice any changes in their mood and behavior. And when you notice those changes, be willing to have the tough conversations and ask the hard questions to help people get help sooner rather than later.

5) Renew your commitment to be a lifelong learner. Read and learn as much as you can about issues related to opioid abuse.

There's a special community forum on this topic at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 15, at Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock. You'll have the opportunity to learn from a panel of distinguished guests representing many different facets of our society, including mental health and recovery, health-care and insurance, law enforcement and statewide initiatives.

You can submit questions in advance for consideration by the planning team. Two key components of this forum are an emphasis on the lives of those affected by this crisis and a focus on how the faith community can be part of the solution. Tickets are free at opioidsar-kansas.eventbrite.com.

Editorial & Opinion

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

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Laypeople: the hands and feet of SBC disaster relief

When I entered vocational ministry nearly 30 years ago, I wasn't sure what I was getting myself into.

Up until becoming a program editor at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, I had worked as a reporter, photographer and news editor of weekly and daily non-religious newspapers.



Pressing On

Tim Yarbrough

Phil. 3:14

a number of other projects through the year.

But the Brotherhood was so much more, I was soon to learn.

The Brotherhood Commission was essentially a publishing house that produced

materials and programs to support men and boys mission education in the Southern Baptist

church, with a focus on equipping laypeople.

Brotherhood work began as a national organization among Southern Baptists in 1907 in Richmond, Va., as the Layman's Missionary Movement. The name was changed in 1926 to the Baptist Brotherhood of the South. In 1938 its headquarters were moved to Memphis, Tenn., and in 1950 it assumed its final name, the Brotherhood Commission.

Within a few months of my arrival at the Brotherhood, I was "baptized by fire" so to speak when I was asked to serve as off site communications coordinator for Southern Baptist disaster relief (DR) response to the devastation of Hurricane Hugo.

After ravaging Guadeloupe and St. Croix as a Category 4 hurricane, Hugo slammed Puerto Rico as a Category 3 hurricane before making landfall just north of Charleston, S.C., on Isle of Palms on

Sept. 22, 1989.

In South Carolina, 27 died as a result of Hugo and 100,000 were left homeless, making it the most damaging hurricane ever recorded in the U.S. at the time.

It was also the largest Southern Baptist DR response ever at the time, and I was assigned with coordinating where and when units were deployed.

After all was said and done, every available Southern Baptist DR unit across the country was deployed following Hugo, which was a first for the denomination.

It was an intense and exhausting time, but what I witnessed firsthand of DR leaders and volunteers left a

lasting impression on my life. They were people who cared deeply about helping others in dire circumstances, asking nothing in return. In addition to providing a "cup of cold water in Jesus' name," DR volunteers offered to share the saving knowledge of their Lord and Savior with every meal provided, blanket given out, tree cleared or house cleared of mud and debris from floodwater.

Most volunteers serving in Southern Baptist DR aren't ministers, but simply laymen and women willing to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a broken world.

I'll have to admit that, after Hugo and after what I participated in and what I

witnessed, it was hard not to stand a bit taller and be a bit more proud to be a Southern Baptist.

I made lifelong friends as a result of Hugo, and I can't help but wonder all these many years later how eternity was impacted because of the extraordinary work that took place in Hugo's aftermath – just like what is happening now in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, which also hit South Carolina.

Consider pausing and saying a prayer for volunteers as they continue the legacy of faith of our great denomination to those who so desperately need to hear.

Tim Yarbrough is editor/executive director of the ABN.

Cartoon by Gary Thomas



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The *Arkansas Baptist News (ABN)* welcomes Letters to the Editor regarding issues of concern to Southern Baptists in Arkansas. Send Letters to the Editor to tim@arkansasbaptist.org or to our mailing address. Letters must be typed, double-spaced and 300 words or less (fewer words, the better). Letters must be signed and marked "for publication" and may be edited to fit space requirements.



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Is there a way to resolve the conflict between Genesis and science?

Over the past 400 years, Genesis and science have had a strange relationship. Attempting to understand the creation account, while working through scientific analysis, is not easy. While the issue is highly complex, the conflict between the two can be summarized into three basic philosophical beliefs, all of which exist in the Church in some form today.

The first belief is Genesis is right, and science is unnecessary. In the 17th century, Galileo questioned the assumption that all heavenly bodies encircled the earth. Using his telescope, he noted that the earth and planets



Baptists Ask

Ken Gore

orbited the sun. The Church, infuriated by his views, challenged his beliefs in an inquisition. After Church leaders quoted Bible verses to contradict him, Galileo replied, "The Bible tells us how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go." In its anger, the Church excommunicated him.

The Church continued to neglect science until the 19th century. When archaeologists discovered items not described in the Bible, the Church could no longer remain silent. Instead, it created a second belief: Individuals can affirm both Genesis and science when they use one to interpret the other. For example, the "gap," "flood" and "ideal-time" theories attempt to understand these archaeological discoveries while holding to the supremacy of the Bible. Others, however, devised theories that interpret Genesis in light of science. The "age-day" and "pictorial day" theories describe Genesis 1 more poetically than literally. Oddly enough, in their attempt to affirm both Genesis and science, these theories diminish both of them in the process.

The Church continued to neglect science until the 19th century. When archaeologists discovered items not described in the Bible, the Church could no longer remain silent. Instead, it created a second belief: Individuals can affirm both Genesis and science when they use one to interpret the other. For example, the "gap," "flood" and "ideal-time" theories attempt to understand these archaeological discoveries while holding to the supremacy of the Bible. Others, however, devised theories that interpret Genesis in light of science. The "age-day" and "pictorial day" theories describe Genesis 1 more poetically than literally. Oddly enough, in their attempt to affirm both Genesis and science, these theories diminish both of them in the process.

Because these theories created more problems than they solved, some Christians formulated a third belief: Individuals can affirm both Genesis and science, yet use them in a parallel and complementary fashion. Genesis is mainly a theological book, and it is very old; science is a modern, natural system. Genesis appeals to the senses; science appeals to the mind. Genesis is a book steeped in Israelite history; science is based on Greek philosophy. Chapter one of Genesis explains the "Who," the "what" and the "why" of creation; science attempts to understand the "how" and the "when" of creation.

Devout Christians stand on every side of the "Genesis and science" issue, and it is important for Christians to respect each other. However, because this is an important discussion that the Church should have, Christians should not avoid it. Instead, they should read the text of Genesis 1:1-2:3 and ask three questions of the passage. What is the central theme of the passage? What is the length of a day? What is the last item that God created? Answering these questions will help resolve the issue as Christians learn what the text is trying to say.

Ken Gore is professor of biblical studies at Dallas Baptist University. Send your questions to tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

Letter to the Editor

Issue 1 is a pro life issue

In the Aug. 23 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News*, Larry Page of the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council states that Issue 1 on the November ballot, referred to as tort reform, is not a pro-life issue. While technically pro-life with the hyphen usually refers to opposi-

tion to abortion, my opinion is the tort reform amendment is decidedly a pro-life issue and sanctity of life issue.

Jerry Cox of the conservative Christian Family Council and Rose Mimms of the anti-abortion Arkansas Right to Life organization refer to op-

See **LETTER** page 6

Launch a year. Launch a life.

The start of the fall semester is the most exciting time of year around the Williams Baptist University (WBU) campus. Yes, it marks the end of a summer that always seems too short, but it also reminds us all why we do what we do.

Colleagues come together to launch a new year. Incredibly talented faculty members across all disciplines prepare to do that which God has called them to do, working alongside fellow professors and staff who share that calling.

But it's when the new students arrive that we fully realize the weight of our responsibility.

They roll onto campus, parents in tow, with enough stuff to fill a warehouse. Somehow, they always make it fit in a dorm room. Then we talk with the students and their parents about what the univer-

sity experience will mean for them.

Stan Norman, our new president at WBU, spoke movingly to a roomful of parents this fall about the experience of leaving his own children at a Christian college. It hit home, and across the room, the tears started flowing.

At those moments, we understand fully what God and these parents have entrusted to us. These bright young women and men are leaving the nest and entering a crucial period that will set the trajectory for their adult lives.

The college years are about so much more than just completing a degree. College is a life-shaping experience, and these students will emerge from it in a few years with their minds and hearts transformed. That's why it matters greatly where students choose to embark on this pivotal journey.



Williams Baptist University

Brett Cooper

A place at the table

I can't wait ... it's just around the corner." If you are in my house around mid-August, that is a repeated, if not overused, statement. What is around the corner? Fall! Every year at this time, the heat, humidity and discombobulation that come with the summer schedule

has my family (at least my wife and I) eagerly looking forward to the fall season. It is not simply

the weather that I love, but the activities and holidays associated with that time a year, which for me, reach their zenith on Thanksgiving day.

Traditionally, we gather at my in-laws' house every Thanksgiving. At last year's gathering I was struck by something that I saw as strangely familiar - my name on a place card designating my seat. If you knew my mother-in-law, you would know that this is not an occasion of pomp and circumstance; rather it is a family-style, relaxed environment.

The tradition of having our names on place cards in front of our seats has been around so long that I had come to no longer see it as unique. That is, because of familiarity and the simplicity of the act, I had failed to recognize the significance of the gesture. But the significance of having my



ABCHomes

Josh Townsend

name at the table is what gives the entire holiday meaning.

My name on a place card means that there has been forethought about my arrival. It means that my presence has been anticipated and that menu items were considered based upon my personal tastes. My seat has been reserved so there is no need to hurry or be anxious because there is a place set aside for me. This reminds me of what Jesus said in John 14 when He told His disciples that in His Father's house there are many rooms and that He is going to prepare a place for them. Here we see Jesus going ahead of His fam-

ily in order to anticipate their arrival, and there's no need to be anxious or worried because forethought has been given to their appearance. Such preparation, forethought and anticipation communicate value, security and love to the invited guest.

At Williams, we will invest our lives for the next four years into shaping these students. We will equip them to be leaders in medicine, education, psychology, business and many other fields (including career ministry!).

More importantly, we will prepare them to use those careers, and their very lives, as ministry platforms to make a difference for Christ. At Williams, we like to say, "Launch a life with purpose." We believe a college education should enrich students both academically and spiritually, transforming them into women and men who are prepared to shape the world around them in a meaningful way.

And that's why we get excited about the start of a new year, because the Lord has called us not only to launch a year, but also to launch lives of eternal purpose.

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

This Thanksgiving, and every day this year, at Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, we will welcome many children and families to our tables. We will welcome those who have not been called to the table, and we will prepare a place for them and call them by name. We will invite them to the table so they will feel loved, valued and cherished. We do this because our Father has invited us into His home and prepared a place for us. It is a simple thing to set a table or to call a child by name, but the deep and meaningful significance is not lost on the simplicity of the act.

As this holiday season approaches, my prayer is that we will see significance in simple

See **PLACE** page 6

Ark. students take faith to school through SYATP

THOUSANDS of students across Arkansas and the nation gathered around their schools' flagpoles to pray as part of the 28th annual See You at the Pole (SYATP) Sept. 26.

SYATP encourages students to gather at their school flagpoles for prayer at 7 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of September each year. Many churches typically host a SYATP-related event in the evening for students to share testimonies from the events. Other prayer events were also held throughout the Global Week of Student Prayer Sept. 23-29.

The *Arkansas Baptist News* received reports and photos from SYATP events held across the state, including Alma, Alpena, Ashdown, Batesville, Bigelow, Cabot, Camden, Centeron, Conway, Dollarway, Garfield, Harrison, Marianna, Mammoth Spring, Manila, Mena, Monticello, Palestine, Pine Bluff, Pea Ridge, Pottsville, Rison, Sheridan, Siloam Springs, Trumann, Van Buren, Warren, White Hall, and Woodlawn, among others.

According to Stan Dutton, student pastor at First Baptist Church, Gosnell, 200 students attended SYATP at Gosnell High School.

"This was the best turnout that we have had in my six

years of being a student pastor at Gosnell," Dutton said. "This generation is rising up to lead their peers into a relationship with Jesus Christ. I have been in the ministry for 28 years, and I have not experienced the excitement that I have seen for sharing Jesus. I see a revival coming."

Cameron Ross, interim pastor at First Baptist Church, Cotter, reported 50 students, faculty and community leaders gathered for prayer at Cotter High School.

"This event was totally student-led," said Ross. "Our nation and the world can be turned to Christ through relatively small prayer gatherings that allow young students to stand in solidarity through prayer. It's very exciting to see God working in our schools and towns."

SYATP events were not limited to elementary through high school students. This year Lyon College's Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) hosted a special midnight event.

"Elliott Andrews of First Baptist Church, Batesville, led our group in praise and worship, and we gathered around the pole to pray for the nations," said Dawn Reed, BCM minister at Lyon College. "We also enjoyed a donut or two. We wanted to be the first group in America to be at



Students gather to pray around the school flagpole at Mena High School during the national See You at the Pole (SYATP) event Sept. 26. See additional photos from SYATP gatherings across Arkansas on page 15 and at arkansasbaptist.org/syatp2018.

the pole today."

SYATP began in 1990 as a grassroots movement with ten students praying at their school. By 2010, elementary to high school students from numerous denominations were praying on their schools' campuses at the end of September.

"Recently, the school cam-

pus has resurfaced as the focus of conversation and debate in our society," said Doug Clark, SYATP national coordinator. "We all want a better future for our students - one that is safe, positive and fair for all. Prayer is the first and best thing we can do to make this happen."

SYATP does not violate U.S. laws against prayer in schools, as all prayer is student-led, before school hours and outside of any school building, according to the SYATP website. But the site encourages students to pray off campus if school administrators object to the event.

Bless those who 'bring good news'

October is designated as pastor appreciation month. During this month, as I pass by the card racks of any store, I am reminded to take time to thank my pastor for all that he does for our church family each week. The Bible verse that comes to my mind when thinking about the role of any pastor is Isaiah 52:7 (NIV), which says, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'"

This verse in Isaiah reminds me that my pastor brings good news and good tidings each week to our small

congregation of believers. To accomplish this, he must study the Scriptures, fervently pray and seek the way to share God's Word with us according to what we need to hear and learn. The daily news is filled with the consequences of sin, disease, destruction and deceit, but through God's Word, our pastors bring us encouragement and hope found in salvation through Jesus Christ. He shows us God's promises to bolster our faith and keep us strong along our journeys in life.

My pastor proclaims peace in our congregation by binding us together as a loving unit to minister together in the communities where we live and work. As we learn to get along with each other, we

spread out along the pathways of life and become shining examples to the lost among us. He leads the way as a personal example of a faithful husband, godly father and good citizen.

This October I'd like to encourage you to thank your pastor, music minister, youth minister or other church staff member. Consider all the ways they serve the Lord and your church family. Ponder the ways they minister in your community and lead others to serve as well. Your pastor is not a perfect man; only Jesus could fill that role, but he is the hands and feet of Jesus here on earth, and so are you. Encourage him, thank him and join him in the work of God's kingdom throughout the year.

Yvonne Bond is a member of First Baptist Church, Ashdown.



Bond

LETTER

continued from page 5

position to this amendment as a pro-life issue. This has infuriated those pro-big business legislatures backing this amendment. Cox correctly states this issue sets a monetary value on life that demeans the worth of life.

The amendment is designed to make it difficult for a person injured or wronged by the actions of a large corporation or business to receive compensation equal to the amount of suffering and harm done. Corporations with plenty of money and lawyers will have an overwhelming advantage over a family or an elderly person with few resources. This amendment also takes important decision-making on legal issues and rules of court procedures traditionally given

to citizens and puts it in the hands of legislators heavily influenced by lobbyists and dark money providers.

The values and beliefs that cause many of us to be pro-life are the same values and beliefs that influence us to oppose Issue 1 on tort reform.

Ron West
Little Rock

PLACE

continued from page 5

acts of obedience to God as we reach out to children and families who need to be received, restored and reunified at the table of blessing and thanksgiving.

Josh Townsend is director of development for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries in Little Rock.

Pastors' Conference to highlight high call of ministry

JONESBORO - High Call is the theme of the 2018 Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Pastors' Conference to be held beginning at 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 22, at Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro.

The Pastors' Conference theme echoes the theme of the ABSC Annual Meeting - Fulfill Your Calling. The annual meeting will be held Oct. 23-24.

"My prayer is that the conference will be a deep source of encouragement to pastors and their wives, enlarging their circle of relationships and equipping them for more joyful, fruitful ministry," said John McCallum, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, and president of the ABSC Pastors' Conference.

"We will spend the day thinking together about the life of a pastor. Sermons will address the pastor as shepherd, the pastor's first love, the pastor's character, the pastor's friends, the broken pastor, and



Elliff



Kirksey



McCallum



Richardson



Smith



Smith

the pastor's family life."

Pastors' Conference speakers are McCallum, W y m a n Richardson, pastor, Central Baptist C h u r c h , North Little Rock; Steven Smith, senior pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock;

Jarvis Smith, pastor, Second Baptist Church, West Helena; Greg Kirksey, teaching pastor,

The Church at Rock Creek, Little Rock; and Bill Elliff, senior teaching and lead pastor, The Summit Church, North

Little Rock. Worship will be led by Lee Barnett, music and worship pastor, First Baptist Church, Hot Springs.

"O n e thing we're doing differently this year is featuring only Arkansas Baptist pastors. We're making this a family affair in the hope that pastors will be encouraged to make new

connections and new friends in the Arkansas Baptist family," said McCallum. "We will feature 33 different Arkansas Baptist pastors in various venues and four pastors' wives from churches all over the state and from churches large and small."

Additionally, six panel discussions will occur. Panel discussion topics include: "How do you maintain your devotional life in a busy pastorate?" "How do you guard your character?" "What's it like to be an African-American pastor in Arkansas?" "The pastor and brokenness" and "A word from the wives."

2018 ABSC Pastors' Conference officers are McCallum; Chanson Newborn, pastor, Fellowship Community Church, Forrest City, vice president, and Aaron Matthews, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lowell, secretary-treasurer.

For more information contact McCallum at john@firsthotsprings.com.



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ENGAGE

continued from page 2

The Filipino Baptist Convention is now sending Filipino missionaries to the unreached Muslims.

Two other breakout sessions talked about new mission opportunities in America.

Lorna Bius, a missionary for the North American Mission Board (NAMB), spoke about her work among her neighbors in Clarkston, Ga. Home to numerous refugees, Clarkston is known as the most diverse square mile in America.

"God is working in the refugees," Bius said. "Half of all refugees are actually persecuted Christians. So, how can we love and bless our brothers and sisters who have escaped tragedy? How can we use the church to support them?"

Teresa "Bit" Stephens, international student ministry consultant for the ABSC, and Veronika Salazar, assistant vice president for student engagement at Henderson State University, led a session on international students

in Arkansas.

With the increase of international students in the state, Stephens sees an exciting opportunity for the Church.

"The mission field is coming to us," Stephens said.

Tim Yarbrough, editor/executive director of the *Arkansas Baptist News*, led a breakout session about how to share Christ in an "era of fake news." During the session, he spoke about the differences between baby boomers and millennials and ways to engage the younger generations in the work of the Church.

"As millennials are reaching adulthood, the American values are changing. With that, consumer behavior is changing," Yarbrough said. "People want active participation rather than passive consumption. They want to access media at anytime through their cell phone."

The conference featured a time of worship led by Lee and Elizabeth Barnett of First Baptist Church of Hot Springs and prayer for missionaries celebrating birthdays on Sept. 22.

Conference attendees par-



Lee and Elizabeth Barnett of First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, lead worship during Engage. Photo by Sarah Davis

ticipated in a ministry project by bringing soap, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese and toilet paper to donate to CJCOHN, a non-profit association of 15 Saline County churches which provides clothes, food and other ser-

vices to low-income residents.

WorldCrafts had an exhibit where participants could shop and, at the same time, make a difference in the world. Known for developing sustainable products through fair-trade business

among impoverished people around the world, WorldCrafts has a vision to offer a dignified income and to share the gospel with everyone on earth.

Contact Sarah Davis at sarah@arkansasbapists.org.

Pull for ABCHomes

Trap Shoot

Friday, Oct. 26

Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation Shooting Sports Complex
2800 Graham Road, Jacksonville, AR 72076

Shotgun start: 8 a.m., 1 p.m.

Registration: \$1,000, 5-member team
(includes clays, lunch, gift, shooting stations)

For information: Call John Ross at 501.658.5293.

■ **Trap shooting exhibition:**
Tommy and Kayle Browning,
national trapshooting champions

ARKANSAS BAPTIST
CHILDREN'S HOMES &
FAMILY MINISTRIES



Arkansas Baptist disaster relief volunteers were deployed to Bayboro, N.C., in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

Ark. DR deployed to Carolinas, Texas

LITTLE ROCK - Arkansas Baptist disaster relief (DR) units have deployed, and more are set to deploy in coming days in the wake of Hurricane Florence and related storms, which resulted in flooding and damage across large parts of the Carolinas in mid-September.

The Mississippi County Baptist Association, Batesville/Corners Chapel Baptist Church, Trumann, Flood Recovery Team and the Faulkner Baptist Association, Conway, Chainsaw Team deployed Sept. 24 to Bayboro, N.C. The Arkansas Baptist units joined Oklahoma Baptist DR units and Texas Baptist Men teams serving in the area.

As is common in cases of widespread flooding, more needs are being identified as initial floodwaters recede.

On Sept. 28 the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) told the *Arkansas Baptist News* that the Balboa Baptist Church, Hot Springs Village, chainsaw unit would be deploying to Wilmington, N.C., and Arkansas Baptist DR teams were requested to deploy to Senora, Texas, which experienced flooding over the weekend of Sept. 21.

According to the ABSC, the Tri-County Baptist Association flood recovery team deployed to Senora, Texas, Sept. 28. Arkansas Baptist DR also deployed to serve as personnel for the Incident Management Team located in Senora. Faulkner Baptist Association also redeployed new volunteers to Bayboro, N.C. Sept. 30.

For more DR updates visit absc.org/drresponse#updates.

October 14, 2018

GLOBAL HUNGER SUNDAY

Arkansas BAPTISTS

www.absc.org/globalhunger

Meador named interim president of IMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) – After receiving the resignation of David Platt as president of the International Mission Board (IMB), effective at the Sept. 27 trustee meeting, the trustees' executive committee voted in a special meeting Sept. 13 to name Clyde Meador as interim president. Meador received full board approval in the Sept. 27 trustee meeting.



Meador

Platt served as IMB president since Aug. 27, 2014. Since September of last year, he also has served as pastor/teacher of McLean Bible Church in metro Washington, D.C. On Feb. 12 of this year, Platt asked IMB trustees to begin searching for his successor. While requesting that the search for the mission board's next president begin immedi-

ately, Platt stated his intention to continue serving as president during the search process.

In that commitment, board chairman Rick Dunbar reported in a statement issued Sept.

14 that Platt has continued to serve "with resolute steadfastness, and has not wavered in his commitment to the Lord, to the IMB, staff, field personnel, and Southern Baptists as a whole."

"Trustee officers recently discussed with David the possibility of the need for an organizational transition to an interim time as the presidential search continues," Dunbar, a member of First Baptist Church in Madison, Miss., continued.

"The board's executive committee met and, after prayer and discussion, decided to re-

lease David from his commitment to the IMB in order to allow him to focus full time on his new role in gospel ministry at McLean Bible Church, and for the IMB to move forward into a transition period."

Lisa Lovell, recording secretary of IMB's board of trustees and a member of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, affirmed Platt's leadership at IMB.

"I'm especially grateful for how David Platt's gracious leadership has directly impacted my life, the lives of my family members and the lives of many in my church, in addition to powerfully influencing the IMB, SBC, and the cause of global missions. I know God will continue to use him in powerful ways as he transitions to a full-time pastor, teacher and author," Lovell said.

In his tenure as president,

Platt "has led in the global mission task with impeccable integrity, great wisdom and a deep passion for God, the Church and the lost," Dunbar said. "He is one of the most gifted preachers of this generation."

"Because of his leadership, the IMB has been streamlined as an organization for greater effectiveness in the 21st century," Dunbar added. "He has led the IMB to solid financial ground, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering has been as strong as ever."

In a statement released Sept. 14, Platt referenced his intention to serve as president during the search for his successor but also noted, "I want to honor the authority God has placed over me in every way I can, and I want to do whatever is best for the IMB."

"As I give myself to global mission as pastor of a local church, I am praying continually for God's grace in leading trustees to a good, godly leader for the future of the IMB," Platt said. "Moreover, I am praying continually for God's blessing on the incredible staff and missionaries of the IMB who comprise a passionate, potent force for the spread of His gospel and His glory among the nations. I am grateful to

God, to these brothers and sisters, and to the churches of the SBC for the humbling privilege, pure joy and undeserved honor of serving in this role over these years."

After a year and a half in retirement, Meador returned to his current role as executive adviser to the president in January 2018. In his 42 years of service with the IMB, Meador has worked closely with three presidents as an adviser and executive vice president, and he previously served as IMB's interim president from August 2010 to March 2011. He and his wife, Elaine, were appointed as missionaries to Indonesia in 1974. Their service also included leadership in South Asia, Southeast Asia and Central Asia before joining the IMB's leadership team in Richmond in 2001.

"Clyde's walk with the Lord, humility, wisdom, broad experience and steady leadership will prove valuable during the time of transition," Dunbar said.

IMB trustees met Sept. 26-27 in Richmond, Va. A Sending Celebration to honor the newest Southern Baptist international missionaries was held Sept. 26 at Grove Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond.

Free nonpartisan voter guide available from Family Council

LITTLE ROCK – The Family Council of Arkansas is making available thousands of printed copies of the Arkansas Voter's Guide to supporters statewide ahead of the election in November, Jerry Cox, founder and president of Family Council, said in an email Sept. 19.

Additional free copies are available by visiting ArkansasVotersGuide.com.

The Family Council has produced the nonpartisan

voter's guide since 1990, according to Cox. The guide is designed to inform the voter of who the candidates are, how to contact them and where they stand on a number of important issues, he said.

"We survey the candidates on issues like school choice, marriage, abortion, illegal immigration, and other topics, and we publish their responses in print and online," Cox said.

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Exec. Comm. hears concerns about Baptist work

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – Concerns over Baptist work in Utah and Idaho, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) were voiced during an Executive Committee (EC) open forum Sept. 18.

The forum was initiated by the EC's interim president, D. August Boto, in consultation with EC officers as part of the closing day's agenda during the Sept. 17-18 meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

Boto, who also serves as the EC executive vice president and general counsel, called the forum an "experiment" apart from regular business "to voice the views from your home territories," whether questions, complaints, suggestions or praises regarding Southern Baptist ministry at the national level.

Among other topics during the forum, Boto and the EC staff were commended for their work during the transition period after the resignation of Frank Page as EC president in March.

Concerns voiced about work in Utah and Idaho

Jim Gregory, senior pastor of First Southern Baptist

Church in Mountain Home, Idaho, asked where Baptists in the two states "fit in with the greater vision of the SBC."

Gregory said the adoption of the Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in 2010 had weakened Baptists in Utah and Idaho by eliminating funding for the work of directors of missions who assist local churches. (GCR entailed a shift toward funding for church planting in underserved cities.)

Baptist associations are "falling apart," Gregory said, prompting the question of why Baptists in Utah and Idaho should give to Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program channel of mission support.

Boto, in addressing Gregory's concern, stated, "You do fit in" because Southern Baptists need "every component" to be effective, from churches and associations to state conventions and the SBC.

He acknowledged that the GCR has been "very difficult for many" and that SBC leaders are aware of "the need of areas such as yours."

The national and state conventions, he stated, are "attuning or are already attuned to have a robust ministry at

the local level."

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Joe Knott, a layman from Raleigh, N.C., asked about the action of the trustee executive committee at Southwestern Seminary to terminate the then-president emeritus, Paige Patterson, after the full trustee board had accorded him that status a week earlier.

The seminary should be governed "according to the trustee system" and not by a subset of "super trustees," Knott stated. He also questioned whether concerns that arose after the full board meeting had been properly vetted by the trustee executive committee.

Boto responded that the convention, at its June 2018 annual meeting in Dallas, had voted to request that Southwestern trustees provide a report about "what happened and why it happened," as he put it, to the SBC Annual Meeting in June 2019 in Birmingham, Ala.

Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and Russell Moore

Paul Hicks, pastor of Good Shepherd Community Church in Hayden, Ala., said he has

heard from individuals in the state and beyond expressing dissatisfaction "almost unanimously" with the ERLC and its president, Russell Moore.

EC chairman Mike Stone, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Blackshear, Ga., intervened to note that the open forum was a time for expressing concern about issues and not personalities.

Boto then responded to Hicks' concern, noting that it should be expressed to the ERLC and that its contact information is readily accessible. Saying he has "every confidence" that the ERLC will respond, he cited Jesus' instruction in Matthew 18 for resolving allegations of wrongdoing among Christians.

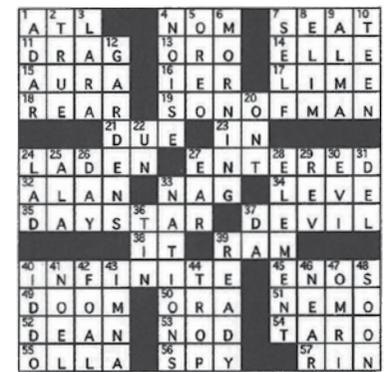
Other comments

Guy Frederick, bi-vocation-

al pastor of Mapledale Baptist Church in Sheboygan, Wis., asked that an SBC Annual Meeting be scheduled "in the northern tier" of the U.S., perhaps in the Twin Cities. Bill Townes, EC vice president for convention finance, stated that the suggestion would be investigated.

Mike Lawson, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Sherman, Texas, asked if there is a way to help younger Southern Baptists see the value of the SBC's entities and processes. Boto said he would work with SBC President J.D. Greear's office to receive ideas for consideration.

Crossword key, see crossword page 15



\$15 = 1 movie and (maybe) a small popcorn

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Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (PS Form 3526)

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Utah Colorado Wyoming Michigan Nebraska/Kansas East Asia Southeast Asia

Ready to prayer partner with a church planter? Perhaps send teams in the future? Meet church planters and missionaries from these locations around North America and the world during our fall 2018 Mission Connection emphasis. There are two opportunities to connect:

Mission Connection Meet and Greet Dinner
Sunday, October 21, 6:00pm-7:30pm
Journey Church in Jonesboro
Please register at absc.org/missionconnection

Pastors Conference & ABSC Annual Meeting
Monday - Wednesday, October 22-24
Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro
Planters will be at the Missions Team booth

Visit absc.org/missionconnection for more information

Missions
ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

Williams Baptist ranks highly in new report

WALNUT RIDGE - The latest college survey from *U.S. News & World Report* shows that Williams Baptist University (WBU) ranks well among institutions in Arkansas. Of the 22 colleges and universities ranked in the state, WBU comes in at number 2 in the best value category and number 4 overall.

Colleges and universities across the nation are ranked in several different categories based on their size and specialties, according to the report. The publication then compiles a list of institutions in each of

the states, listing them in order of their respective rankings on the *U.S. News* website.

"With so many fine schools in this state, we are truly honored to be ranked this highly by *U.S. News*," said WBU President Stan Norman. "Williams wants to be known around Arkansas and beyond as a pre-eminent Christian university, so this is a gratifying position in the rankings."

Williams climbed overall in the *U.S. News* rankings this year, rising from 35th to 27th among liberal arts colleges and universities in the South.



The Branson bluegrass band Southern Raised performs at the fifth annual Golden Age Conference Sept. 21 at Williams Baptist University. The conference was attended by nearly 500 and also featured Christian comedian Dennis Swanberg.

Golden Age Conf. fills WBU's Manley Chapel

WALNUT RIDGE - Nearly 500 senior adults packed Williams Baptist University's Manley Chapel at the fifth annual Golden Age Conference held Sept. 21.

The conference featured Christian comedian Dennis Swanberg, Branson bluegrass band Southern Raised, and pianist Ken Wadley.

Baptist associations across northeast Arkansas sponsor the event each year. Associations involved were: Big Creek, Black River, Current-Gaines, Greene County, Mt. Zion, Mississippi County, Rocky Bayou, Tri-County and Trinity.

Williams is a private, Christian university in Walnut Ridge.



Swanberg

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Obituaries



Betty Lou Elrod, 87, of Sherwood, died on Sept. 12.

She was the wife of Dr. Ben Elrod, recently deceased former president and longtime chancellor of Ouachita Baptist University.

A graduate of Ouachita, she was awarded the distinguished alumna award in 1998 for service to the university.

In 2009, the university honored the Elrods with the dedication of the Ben and Betty Elrod Boulevard. In 2015, they were given further recognition for their commitment to servant leadership and community service with the dedication of the Elrod Center.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ben Elrod; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Warren; and her brother, Bill Warren.

She is survived by her daughter, Cindy Elrod Stroud; son, Bill Elrod; brother, Earl Warren; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life was held on Sept. 15 at First Baptist Church, Arkadelphia, followed by burial at Greenwood Cemetery in Rison.

Harold Wesley Chandler, 67, of North Little Rock, died on Sept. 13.

Called to the ministry at 18 years old, Chandler was the current pastor of First Baptist Church in Gould.

Chandler is survived by his wife, Betty Chandler; daughter, Windy Campbell; granddaughter, Jessica Crow; and brother, Jessie Franklin Chandler.

A funeral was held on Sept. 17 at Roller-Owens Funeral Home in North Little Rock, followed by burial at Orion Cemetery near Redfield.

Lonnie G. Tidwell, 91, of McRae died on Sept. 24.

A Korean War veteran, Tidwell previously served as the pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church in McCrory, and minister and deacon at McRae First Baptist Church. He was active in the community and was a member of the school board.

He is survived by his wife, Lela Tidwell; two children, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, two sisters and one brother.

Tidwell was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter, two sisters and a brother.

The funeral was Sept. 28 at McRae First Baptist Church, McRae.

Church life

First Baptist Church in Thornton is hosting a revival Sunday, Oct. 7, through Wednesday, Oct. 10. The revival times are 10:55 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday and 6:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday.

Milestones

First Baptist Church in Pine Bluff will celebrate its 165th anniversary and homecoming on Sunday, Oct. 7.

Rocky Point Baptist Church in Judsonia will celebrate its 76th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 7.

On the move

Ken Jerome has completed an interim at First Baptist Church in Mayflower.

Chris Satterwhite is serving as pastor at First Baptist Church in Mayflower.

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Contact: Russell Draper at 870.741.5784 or rdraper@abchomes.org.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Classifieds

PASTOR

Otter Creek Community Church is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Accepting resumes through October 21st. Send resume to: info@theocchurch.com or 13000 Quail Run Dr., LR, AR 72210.

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Weatherford, is prayerfully seeking an experienced **F/T senior pastor**. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Emmanuel Baptist Church, 719 North Kansas, Weatherford, OK 73096 or email to ebc-wfwd@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Atkins, Arkansas, is prayerfully seeking a **full-time senior pastor**. For job description and salary information, see www.atkinsfbc.com. Resumes may be sent to Pastor Search Committee, 201 N. Church Street, Atkins, Arkansas 72823 or emailed to atkinsfbc@gmail.com.

Victory Baptist Church, Back Gate, AR, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resumes to: pastorsearch@vbcbckgate.com.

Millcreek Baptist seeking **full-time pastor**. Send resumes to MBC Search Committee, 5837 Millcreek Road, Hot Springs, AR 71901, or email to corbet@cablelynx.com.

First Baptist Church of Maumelle is seeking **full-time pastor**. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, ATTN: Pastor Search Committee, 100 Valencia Drive, Maumelle, AR 72113,

or email to: searchcommitteeefbcm@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Horatio, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, FBC Horatio, P.O. Box 296, Horatio, AR 71842, or email resumes to: fbcoratio@windstream.net.

North Main Baptist Church (SBC) seeking **bi-vocational pastor**. Send resumes to jvance1@windstream.net or 707 North Main, Sheridan, AR 72150.

First Baptist Church, Centerville, is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Send resume to 801 East 16th Street, Russellville, AR 72801, or email: arvba@suddenlink.net.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Second Baptist Church of Monticello is seeking a **part-time youth pastor**. Please send resume to 1032 Old Warren Rd., Monticello, AR 71655 or email to secondbaptist2015@yahoo.com.

Baring Cross Baptist in Sherwood, AR, is seeking a **cook** for our Wednesday evening meals. If interested, please contact bcbsderek@sbglobal.net.

Ebenezer Baptist Church, El Dorado, AR, is seeking a **full-time minister of students** with some associate pastor responsibilities. Please send resumes to: Search Committee, Ebenezer Baptist Church, 1942 N. Wyatt Drive,

El Dorado, AR 71730.

Vine Prairie Baptist Church near Mulberry, AR, is looking for a **Sunday-only minister of worship and pianist**. If interested, please contact Tom Smith, pastor, at 318-918-9669.

Judsonia FBC is in search of a **full-time pastor of youth/education director**; salary set at \$50,000. Please send resumes to fbjud@gmail.com or call (501)729-3336.

First Baptist Church of Sherwood, Arkansas is seeking a **full-time student minister**. Resumes received through October 21. Send to First Baptist Church, Student Minister Search Committee, 701 Country Club Rd., Sherwood, AR 72120 or email response@fbcsherwood.org.

Graves Memorial Baptist Church, North Little Rock, is seeking a **full-time or part-time youth pastor**. Please send resumes to nick@gmbclife.com.

FBC, Walnut Ridge, is searching for a **full-time student minister** to oversee ministry to youth and families 7th-12th grade. Must provide vision for reaching the community and teaching the church. Now accepting resumes at stumin@fbcwalnutridge.org.

Ruddell Hill Baptist Church, Batesville, is seeking a **part-time youth minister**. Interested candidates send resume to 805 Bethesda Rd., Batesville, AR 72501 or ruddellhillpastor@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Arkansas, is seeking a **full-time student pastor**. Send

resume to 500 S. Washington, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or firstbaptistmurfreesboro@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Arkansas is seeking a **part-time music minister**. Send resume to 500 S. Washington, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or firstbaptistmurfreesboro@gmail.com.

South Main Baptist Church, Crossett, is seeking a **bi-vocational youth pastor**. Send resume to: smbcsecretary@windstream.net or PO Box 430, Crossett, AR 71635.

First Baptist Church, Hardy, looking for **full-time associate minister to young families**. Need someone who has the heart to work with young adults and give guidance to ministry of children and youth. Send resume to P.O. Box 27, Hardy, AR 72542-0027.

Farmington First is seeking a **full-time student minister** for established youth ministry. Looking for someone to take students deeper in the faith and equip them to reach others. Experience and a theology degree preferred but not required. Send resume to personnel@farmingtonfirst.com.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time youth pastor**. Please send resume to: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 24310 N. Sardis Rd., Bauxite, AR 72011 Att: David Littleton.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Bauxite, AR, is seeking a **worship leader**. Please send resume to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 24310 N. Sardis Rd., Bauxite, AR 72011 Att: Steve Barnes.

FBC, Prescott, is seeking an energetic part-time **music/choir director**. Please send resume to: FBC Prescott Personnel Committee, PO Box 447, Prescott, AR 71857.

First Baptist Church, Henderson, Texas, **full-time position for children's minister**, to minister to children and young families. Send resumes to David Higgs, 207 W. Main St., Henderson, Texas, 75652, or email dhiggs@thefbc.org.

Bi-vocational worship pastor for blended service. FBC, Pea Ridge. 479-451-8192. To submit resume or request more info - al@prfbc.org.

Perryville FBC is seeking a **bi-vocational music director**. Send resumes to pvfbc.church@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church of El Dorado, AR, is seeking to hire an **associate pastor of worship**. This full-time position is responsible for developing and leading a church-wide worship ministry, which promotes the development of fully devoted followers of Jesus. Interested candidates can submit a resume with cover letter by mail (200W. Main, El Dorado, AR) or email jonathan.kelley@fbceldorado.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Free organ available to a church in need. Located in Ashdown, AR. Call 870-898-3935 for details.

OCTOBER 14, 2018

A church member said to her pastor, "Pastor, we need to see more signs and wonders in the church." The pastor responded, "Ma'am, there sits a young lady with three children who has been evicted from her apartment. I would consider it a sign and wonder if you would take them in for awhile."

In Galatians 5, Paul described walking in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit and living in the Spirit. It's reasonable for a believer to expect to see signs and wonders, but this was not Paul's emphasis. In Galatians 6, Paul provided a mosaic of Spirit-led believers living practically in the community of faith.

The first picture in this mosaic described "restoration" (Gal. 6:1). If a person is caught in wrongdoing, the spiritually mature believers should restore that person. The next picture described bearing one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2-5). This requires laying aside self-sufficiency. Sooner or later we all need help from others. Paul then provided a picture of

carrying our own load (Gal. 6:5). Believers need to be responsible and take care of their own responsibilities. This idea flows right into the next picture, which described the responsibility of the teacher and the student (Gal. 6:6).

A Spirit-led church is still in need of being taught the Scriptures. Paul required the students to support the teacher or pastor. The major concern here was

not about material things but the furtherance of the gospel. The next picture in the mosaic was about sowing and reaping in the household of faith (Gal. 6:7-

10). If we sow in the Spirit, we will reap spiritual and eternal things for God's glory. The last picture completes our mosaic, boasting only in "the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal. 6:14). It is a reminder to boast only in Christ, in contrast to the self-boasting of the Judaizers.

This mosaic pictured "true compassion." True compassion enables believers to care for others out of a pure motive for the glory of God.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

True compassion

GALATIANS 6:1-10, 14-15 (HCSB)

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The object of our prayer

MATT. 6:9A; PSA. 103:1-5, 11-13, 19-22 (HCSB)

The disciples must have been fascinated, even intrigued, with Jesus' prayer. He didn't pray like the Pharisees who stood in the synagogue and on the street corners to be seen and heard (Matt. 6:1-5). The Pharisees' way of praying was mechanical, impersonal and self-centered. Jesus' praying was personal, relational and God-centered.

I was raised in a church where the Lord's Prayer was part of the worship liturgy and was printed in our worship guides. We would recite it in unison every time we met for worship. It was recited in a mechanical and impersonal way. Jesus' model prayer should not be recited in this way. Jesus wanted to move His disciples beyond prayer that was mechanical, impersonal and self-centered to prayer that was personal, relational and God-centered.

Prayer is a personal conversation with our heavenly Father. The model prayer begins with "Our Father in heaven." This implies a father/child relationship. As our heavenly Father, God has

the resources we need and the things we desire. Hebrews 11:6 says, "For the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him." And, when the Lord does reward or provide for us, it should elicit an anthem of praise from our lips (Heb. 13:15).

This same father/child relationship is seen in Psalm 103:13. David said, "As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him." The word "compassion" comes from a Hebrew word that describes the tender love parents have for their children. It is from this context that led David to give this anthem of praise. David praised God for forgiveness, healing, redemption, love, satisfaction and renewal (Psa. 103:1-5).

Our view of God will affect our attitude about prayer and the nature of our prayers. Our view of God will also determine if we think God will or will not answer our prayers.

OCTOBER 21, 2018

James began his letter with one of the dominant themes of the book - trials. For the early Christians, this would have been the trials that flowed from being scattered by persecution. The book of James is a kind of "in-your-face" letter. James Wilder, my New Testament professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said, "James thunders forth with an Old Testament like prophetic voice, pricking the conscience, convicting the soul and demanding that we change the way we live." Trials are literally designed by God to change our lives.

James wrote, "Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials" (James 1:2). This statement seems contradictory or even impossible. His statement was in the imperative, which made it a command. James was not suggesting that we put on our happy face because everything is going to be OK. James was not talking about happiness; he was talking about pure joy. So, how can we rejoice in our trials?

Trials are under the sovereign authority of God. We don't have to rejoice in tri-

als because of what they are, but for what the Lord is accomplishing with them in our lives. James gave four reasons to rejoice in trials.

First, we endure to maturity. God uses trials to conform us to His image. An erroneous theology teaches that God wants to fix all our problems and make us prosperous. We should trust in His sovereignty regardless of the outcome of our trials. Second, trials teach us to ask God for wisdom. Since God designed it, we need His perspective. Third, we need to rely on His resources. I have

learned money cannot solve all our problems. We will all stand before God some day with empty pockets. Last, we must take ownership of our temptations. Trials naturally come with temptations. One of the greatest temptations in trials is to lean on our own sufficiency. I don't know how many times I have said to myself, "I can fix this." Ultimately, I could not.

Believers should persevere in trials because God is sufficient and sovereign in all things.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

With perseverance

JAMES 1:2-15 (HCSB)

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

A prayer of praise

MATTHEW 6:9B; PSALM 96:1-9 (HCSB)

Matthew 6:9b says, "Your name be honored as holy." God's name was sacred to the Jews, to the point that they would not speak it. They sensed that any casual use of God's holy name could inadvertently lead to breaking the commandment against using God's name in a vain way. To avoid this problem, the Jews substituted the words Adoni or Elohim for the divine name of God, Yahweh, when they read Scripture. God's name signifies more than His title. In the Bible, a person's name represented a person's character. God's name is holy, and it reflects His holy character.

Psalm 96 is a hymn of praise in which David connected God's name with God's holiness. Psalm 96:1-9 ascribes praise to God's name for His "salvation ... glory ... wonderful works" and the splendor of creation. This Scripture passage also describes that our response should be "worship" (Psalm 96:9). The Psalmist said we should sing, praise, fear,

ascribe, bring an offering, and approach Him.

We need to make the connection of God's name and His holiness to honor. We know God's name is holy. How do we honor it as holy? Martin Luther said, "How is God's name hallowed among us? When both our doctrine and living are truly Christian." It should be the prayer of all believers that God be honored in what we believe and how we live out that belief in our lives.

First Peter 1:15 says, "But as the One who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct, for it is written 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" We are living in a culture that embraces relativism, subjectivism and the privatization of religion. Sadly, many in the church have embraced this as well. Holiness is not looked at as a virtue but a vice. If we really want to honor God's holy name, we should live out our doctrine in the culture around us.

Featured commentary writer



Gerald Nash

Gerald Nash is a registered respiratory therapist at Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center in Russellville. He is a member of Second Baptist Church, Conway, where he serves as a Bible teacher, small group leader and member of the men's ministry. He also serves as a clergy-chaplain at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Conway. He has attended several universities and seminaries, including Williams Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has earned a bachelor's degree in Christian ministries, master's degrees in pastoral studies and theological studies and a doctorate in pastoral studies. He volunteers on the Cairo Geniza Princeton project analyzing and sorting undeciphered Hebrew, Greek and Arabic manuscript fragments (10th-13th centuries) of the Jewish diaspora in Egypt. His goal is to be an adjunct professor and return to the university to work on a master's degree in archaeology with an emphasis in paleography.

Baptist business leader nominations sought

LITTLE ROCK – Nominations for the third annual *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) Business Leader of the Year are due Nov. 1, and it's up to ABN readers to nominate a businessman or businesswoman they feel is worthy of consideration.

Candidates should be a resident of Arkansas, a member of an Arkansas Southern Baptist church and actively involved in

ministry in his or her church and in other areas.

To nominate someone, please include the following: 1) name, phone number, email and church membership of the submitter; 2) name, phone number, email and church membership of the candidate, and 3) a 200-400 word essay explaining why the candidate should be considered for Arkansas Baptist Business Leader

of the Year, including the impact he or she makes in the business world, as well as his or her involvement in church/ministries/missions.

Submissions must be received on or before Nov. 1, and may be emailed to tim@arkansasbaptist.org or mailed to Arkansas Baptist Business

Leader of the Year, *Arkansas Baptist News*, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.

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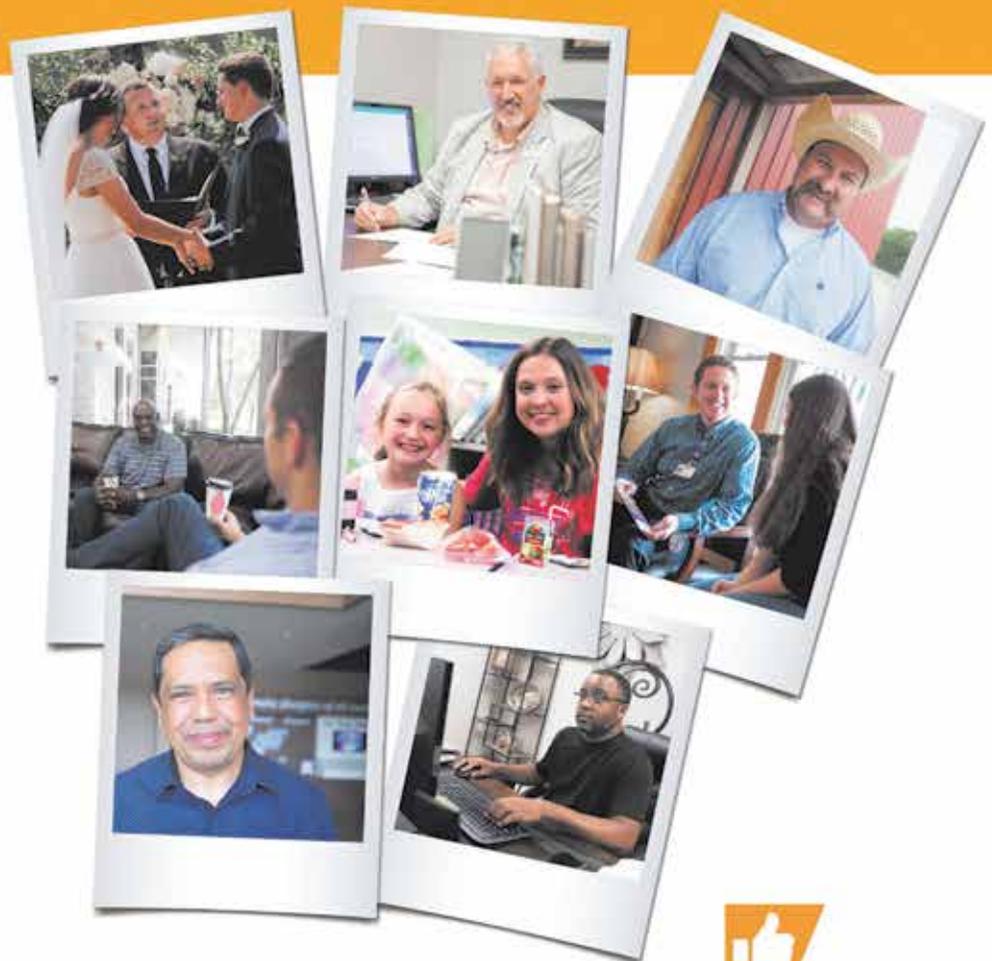
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Scenes from See You at the Pole events across Arkansas Sept. 26



Pottsville High School. Photo submitted by Jim Huffman



Alpena High School. Photo submitted by Sherry Smith



Camden Fairview Middle School. Photo submitted by Michael McDaniel



Crossett Senior High School. Photo submitted by Stephanie Copes



Pea Ridge Middle School and High School. Photo submitted by Jonathan Waters



Little Rock Central High School. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

Across

1. QEII milieu
4. Noun case (abbr.)
7. Hot ____
11. Pull behind
13. Gold (Sp.)
14. Feminine pronoun (Fr.)
15. Emanation
16. Comparative suffix
17. "he burned the bones of the king of Edom into ____" (Amos 2:1)
18. "Go, ____ an altar unto the Lord" (2 Samuel 24:18)
19. Another name for Jesus
21. "we receive the ____ reward of our deeds" (Luke 23:41)
23. Preposition
24. "ye that labor and are heavy ____" (Matthew 11:28)
27. Registered
32. ____-a-dale (var.)
33. Scold
34. Raised (Fr., masc.)
35. The sun

37. "Then the ____ taketh him up into the holy city" (Matthew 4:5)
38. Pronoun
39. "a ____ for a burnt offering" (Leviticus 9:2)
40. "his understanding is ____" (Psalm 147:5)
45. Son of Seth
49. Inescapable ruin
50. Pray (prefix)
51. Captain of the Nautilus
52. ____ of students
53. "Cain...dwelt in the land of ____" (Genesis 4:16)
54. Edible root
55. Cooking pot
56. Caleb was one
57. ____-Tin-Tin

Down

1. Sixth month of Jewish calendar
2. "we know that thou art" (Matthew 22:16)
3. Heroine of Dr. Zhivago
4. "Let us make a joyful ____"

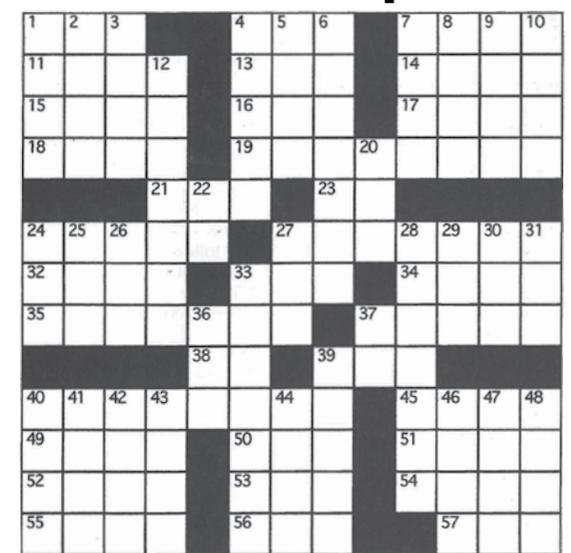
- (Psalm 95:1)
5. Classic cookie
6. "Joy cometh in the ____" (Psalm 30:5)
7. "I can of mine own ____ do nothing" (John 5:30)
8. "And they came to ____, where there were twelve wells" (Exodus 15:27)
9. Feminine name
10. High school student
12. "I made me ____ and orchards" (Ecclesiastes 2:5)
20. Can. prov.
22. Not (prefix)
24. Boy
25. In the manner of
26. "so that ____ come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34)
27. "incline thine ____ unto me" (Psalm 17:6)
28. Constituent
29. The apocalypse (abbr.)
30. A prince of Midian (Joshua 13)
31. "The First State" (abbr.)

33. "by these were the ____ divided in the earth after the flood" (Genesis 10:32)
36. Jack Haley portrayed this man
37. Lawyer for the state (abbr.)
39. "be ____ always to give an answer" (1 Peter 3:15)
40. The seer against Jeroboam (2 Chronicles 9)
41. Christmas (Fr.)
42. Young horse
43. A son of Helem (1 Chronicles 7)
44. Cancer is one (abbr.)
46. "my salvation is ____ to come" (Isaiah 56:1)
47. He defeated Zimri (1 Kings 16)
48. Not later

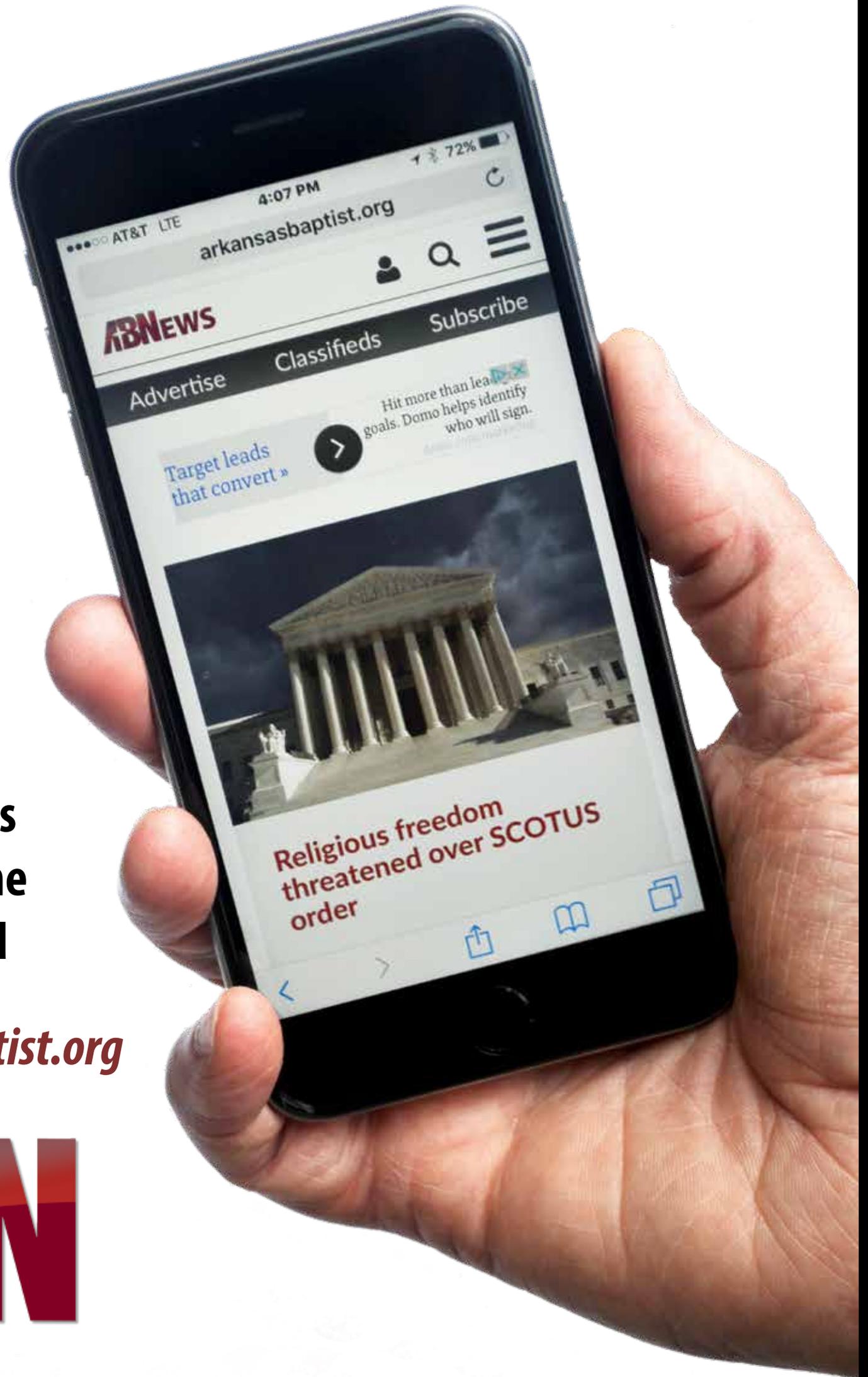
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ABN Crossword puzzle



Crossword answer key on page 10



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SCOTUS affirms Ark. judgment; rules for baker

Caleb Yarbrough and Margaret Colson
Arkansas Baptist News

IN RECENT days, America's highest court handed down wins for the pro-life movement in Arkansas and for religious liberty nationwide, in the form of a denied appeal and a ruling.

PP appeal denied

The U.S. Supreme Court refused May 29 to hear Planned Parenthood's appeal of an Arkansas law requiring doctors who provide medication abortions to contract with a medical specialist with hospital admitting privileges to handle complications.

This action could open the door for Arkansas to become the first state to effectively outlaw medication-induced abortions. The Supreme Court's denial of the appeal means the law will take effect in mid-July if no other legal challenges are filed.

"I am thankful for the dissent used by the U.S. Supreme Court to not address this issue," J.D. "Sonny" Tucker, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), said.

access to abortion at will, without the normal medical protocol in which other medical professions must abide.

The Arkansas law was enacted in 2015 but temporarily blocked by a federal judge in 2016. A three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the ruling in 2017, leading to Planned Parenthood's appeal.

Planned Parenthood in Little Rock and Fayetteville are the primary providers of medication abortion in Arkansas, according to a press release from Arkansas Right to Life.

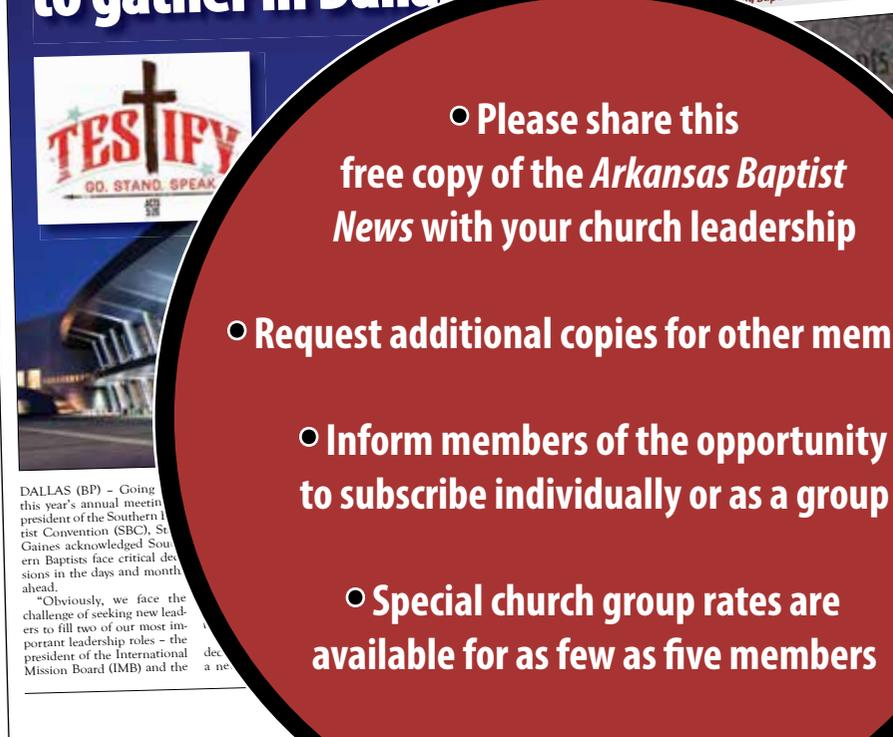
This law "does not stop Planned Parenthood or other abortion providers from performing chemical abortion in Arkansas, what it does do is ensure that women who have complications from the procedure get help from a physician in a hospital if necessary, something everyone should agree on," the ARTL press release reads.

Planned Parenthood argues that it cannot find any Arkansas obstetricians willing to



Good food, community focus of Dumas restaurant

Page 2



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DALLAS (BP) — Going this year's annual meeting president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), St. Gaines acknowledged Southern Baptists face critical decisions in the days and months ahead.

"Obviously, we face the challenge of seeking new leaders to fill two of our most important leadership roles — the president of the International Mission Board (IMB) and the

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas state Sen. Jason Rapert (center) speaks during the dedication of the American History and Heritage Foundation's Ten Commandments monument on the grounds of the Arkansas Capitol in Little Rock April 26 amid applause and protest.

The monument, protected by four cement pillars (left), is the second of its kind. The original was destroyed June 28, 2017, less than 24 hours after it was installed. Michael Lee Reed of Van Buren was charged with first-degree criminal mischief for allegedly using his car to ram the original monument. Reed was committed to the Arkansas State Hospital after being found unfit to stand trial, according to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

Daniel Bramlett, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hope, tells about the new Banner Hope Center while Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson (left) looks on.

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