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## ABCHomes anniversary

ABCHomes celebrates 125 years of ministry to children and families  
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Super Summer's red school members run to the recreation field. Recreation games included baseball, volleyball, slip-n-slides and dodgeball that students rotated through. Photo by Sarah Davis

# Super Summer 'feels like home' to 3,000 students

Sarah Davis  
Arkansas Baptist News

ARKADELPHIA - The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) hosted more than 3,000 students from Arkansas and surrounding states for Super Summer June 8-15 and June 22-29. More than 70 salvations and 100 recommitments were made over the two weeks of camp held at Ouachita Baptist University (OBU) in Arkadelphia.

"Super Summer is great," said Ford Broderick, a student from Central Baptist Church in North Little Rock. "I like the real connections I've made with other people."

Broderick is just one of the 70 students who decided to

follow Christ during Super Summer at the June event.

"Last year was my first year of Super Summer," said Ashley Ivy, student from First Baptist Church in Little Rock. "I get really homesick, but this is the first camp I've gone to that makes me feel like home."

Ivy stated that last year she rededicated her life to Christ during camp.

"I believe in Super Summer Arkansas because it creates multiple opportunities for teenagers to experience Jesus in a real, life-changing way," said Mark Parsley, student minister at Mount Carmel Baptist

Church in Cabot. "The number of salvations and those that surrender to ministry out of just two weeks each year is



proof that God is at work in the lives of young people."

Super Summer divides students into color schools. The

colors include yellow, green, blue, red and orange. The theme for this year's camp was "Awake." Students who just graduated from high school are grouped into camo school and study apologetics.

"I went to Super Summer for all four years of high school, and my life was forever changed," said Madison Allen, a junior at OBU and Super Summer college staffer.

College staffers lead groups of 10 students. The staffers facilitate small group discussion, relate to the material covered in main teaching sessions and play recreation games with students.

"I have never doubted even for a second that God uses Super Summer in a special way to reach teens," said Allen. "I have seen firsthand the life changes and meaningful relationships that occur year after year. As soon as I was able to become a staffer, I jumped on the opportunity. I wanted to give back and pour into others just how much my staffers poured into me."

"Students come lost and wandering and leave with a heart change and salvation in Christ. Super Summer will always be an important part of my walk with the Lord, and I will forever be grateful for this camp," said Allen.

Contact Sarah Davis at [sarah@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:sarah@arkansasbaptist.org).

## ABN classifieds get results!

Read them on Page 14.

The ABN classifieds are a great way to advertise for your church, ministry or business. You can now submit a classified ad via the ABN website at [arkansasbaptist.org/ads](http://arkansasbaptist.org/ads)

## Classifieds

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We have a large, well-lit, clean, modern building for rent. Call 501-663-1111 for more information.

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## ABN Digest

Stories of interest  
to Arkansas Baptists

### Few churchgoers read the Bible daily

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Christians say the Bible is God's Word, but even among Protestant churchgoers only a third spend time reading it every day.

The 2019 Discipleship Pathway Assessment study released July 2 from LifeWay Research found those who regularly attend Protestant churches are inconsistent in their reading and thinking about Scripture.

The study identifies Bible engagement as one of eight signposts that consistently show up in the lives of growing Christians.

"This research asked churchgoers about many biblical characteristics to see which actions, beliefs and desires are present in the lives of followers of Christ," said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research. "Among them, Bible reading was one of the most predictive of spiritual maturity."

The more regular the Bible reading habit, the more likely churchgoers are to say they miss that time with God.

Among Protestant churchgoers who read the Bible every day, 65 percent strongly agree. That number is cut in half among those who read Scripture a few times a week (32 percent). It continues to decline among those who read it once a week or a few times a month (13 percent) and among those who read it once a month or less (6 percent).

"One indication that reading God's Word is beneficial is how much readers miss it after not reading for a few days," said McConnell. "This fits with the Bible's own description of itself as being 'living and effective.'"

For more ABN Digest, go to  
[arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest](http://arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest)

# Mandrell elected LifeWay president

ATLANTA – Ben Mandrell, unanimously elected as LifeWay Christian Resources' 10th president June 28, says he is ready "to lead in such an important season for LifeWay."

"I am grateful for the opportunity," Mandrell told LifeWay trustees meeting in Atlanta. "My first priority is to get our family to Nashville and begin loving the people at LifeWay. There is already an amazing team in place, and I can't wait to roll up my sleeves and work alongside them."

Mandrell, 42, has served as lead pastor at Storyline Fellowship in Arvada, Colo., since its founding in 2014.

Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, began partnering with Storyline Fellowship in 2015 and is currently partnering with Journey Point, a church plant of Storyline. Since 2015, Central Baptist has supported Storyline monetarily as well as by sending volunteers to help with the church's vacation Bible school programs in 2015-17. Central Baptist also sent a team of college students to Colorado to help Journey Point prepare for their launch in February.

Two days after the June 21 announcement of his nomination to lead LifeWay, Man-



Ben and Lynley Mandrell (center), with their four children (from left): Miles, 12; Max, 13; Ava, 15; and Jack, 11. The Mandrells served at Storyline Fellowship in Arvada, Colo. *Storyline Fellowship photo*

drell delivered a sermon to his congregation explaining his decision to relocate his family to Nashville, Tenn. Mandrell's wife, Lynley, is a native of Jonesboro and graduate of the University of Central Arkansas.

## Nominations being accepted for 2019 Baptist Business Leader of the Year

LITTLE ROCK – Do you know a Southern Baptist business leader who is making an impact for Jesus Christ through his or her marketplace influence?

Nominations for the fourth annual *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) Baptist Business Leader of the Year are now open, and it's up to ABN readers to nominate a business leader they feel is worthy of consideration.

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

Candidates should be a resident of Arkansas, a member of an Arkansas 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 a short essay on 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. Email nominations to [tim@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:tim@arkansasbaptist.org) or mail to Arkansas Baptist Business Leader of the Year, *Arkansas Baptist News*, 10 Remington Dr., Little Rock, AR 72204.

"All through Scripture, we learn that God is a calling God," Mandrell said in his sermon to Storyline Fellowship. "He dials our number, and we have to answer. We have to take His calls." When considering the decision to accept the search committee's nomination, Mandrell said he had "a wrestling match with God like I have never experienced before."

LifeWay announced earlier this year that it is charting a new course and marking a strategic shift of resources to a digital strategy by closing all of its 170 brick-and-mortar stores. The move results in the shuttering of five stores in Arkansas, which are located in Little Rock, Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Jonesboro and Rogers. LifeWay plans to move to all online sales.

Jimmy Scroggins, chairman of the LifeWay board, thanked the search committee for their hard work and commitment to the task.

"Ben is a man of character, integrity, godly strength and humility," said Scroggins, lead pastor of Family Church in West Palm Beach, Fla. "I appreciate his relentless commitment to seeing people come to know Christ and to see churches that preach the gospel have

the resources they need to advance the kingdom."

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President J.D. Greear said, "Ben Mandrell is the kind of visionary, disruptive leader that LifeWay needs just at this moment. ... I am thrilled with this choice."

Ronnie Floyd, president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee said Mandrell is a leader with a "compelling vision to reach all people in our generation. How exciting it is to have a pastor like Ben Mandrell called straight from the church to lead LifeWay to assist and resource churches all around the world for gospel advancement."

A native of Tampico, Ill., Mandrell is a 1998 graduate of Anderson (Ind.) University. He also holds a master of divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and a doctor of ministry degree from Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

Mandrell and his wife, Lynley, have been married 18 years. The couple has four children: Ava, 15; Max, 13; Miles, 12, and Jack, 11.

"I can see the hand of God preparing me for this significant moment at LifeWay," Mandrell said.

## Aderholt not sexual offender, pleads guilty to misdemeanor

FORT WORTH, Texas – Former Southern Baptist international missionary, Arkansas minister and state convention worker Mark Aderholt pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault July 2 related to an interaction he had with Anne Marie Miller more than 20 years ago.

Aderholt began a 30-day jail sentence following the July 2 plea hearing. In addition to jail time, his plea deal included 24 months of probation and a \$4,000 fine.

Aderholt was originally charged July 9, 2018, with four counts of sexual assault of a child under 17, a second-degree felony. However, all four counts were dropped and as a matter of law, Aderholt is not classified as a sexual offender.

Misdemeanor offenses are by nature less serious than felonies, according to *Merriam-Webster's Legal Dictionary*.

No judgment was made in Aderholt's case and following the completion of his jail time, probation and fine payment; his record will not include

the offense.

Miller, who is a speaker and author of "Healing Together: A Guide to Supporting Sexual Abuse Survivors," agreed to the terms of Aderholt's July 2 plea deal.

Miller told the court that she and Aderholt met via the America Online website when Miller was reaching out for help with organizing a See You at the Pole event at her school. At the time Miller alleges that she and Aderholt met, she was a 16-year-old junior in high school, and Aderholt was a

25-year-old student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

In a victim impact statement she made to the Tarrant County Court July 2, Miller wrote, "When I turned 25 and was mentoring a 16 year old girl, I had a revelation just how inappropriate it was for you to pursue a romantic relationship with a girl who had only recently earned her driver's license. I realized you intentionally and dishonorably harmed me and

violated me in the most intimate way. This wasn't a bad break up: You manipulated me. ... You sexually abused me."

While Miller accused Aderholt of sexually abusing her in her statement, Aderholt's guilty plea was for assault causing bodily injury, which legally includes no sexual component.

*This article was compiled from reporting by the Arkansas Baptist News, Baptist Press and other media and legal sources.*

## Kentucky pastor serves at same church 69 years

RADCLIFF, Ky. (BP) – Pastoring for 69 years is rare today – but very few have the distinction of pastoring the same church for that length of time.

That is a distinction held by James Royalty, who will complete his 69th year at Red Hill Baptist Church, Radcliff, Ky., in July.

He began working as a printer since his father had a small print shop. At one time he inquired about a position with the Kentucky *Western Recorder* Baptist newspaper in the days of "hot metal" printing. He and his family started a newspaper in Radcliff, *The Sentinel*, which is still in family hands today.

It was at a Kentucky Baptist Convention (KBC) Annual Meeting that he decided to accept a call to preach the gospel – a call he had struggled with for five years. "I thought that I couldn't do it, but I went to Georgetown College and worked my way through there – it took me seven years because I worked while I went to college," the 90-year-old pastor recalled.

"In my calling, I said I was not a preacher, but where God wants me, I'll go, and I'll stay as long as He wants me to stay," he noted. "I had four opportunities to leave Red Hill, but I turned them all down. After all, the Lord put me there to start with. I was needed there." He said he has no plans to retire, but to continue "until the Lord calls me home."

He has remained as pastor in spite of some health challenges. In 2010 he had a heart

attack; then in 2015 he suffered a fall, which was followed by a stroke a month later. He was in and out of the hospital for about two weeks.

"I felt like I was needed, and I stayed with it. I remember thinking – if it's 10 years or 20 years or 50 years, that's left up to the Lord."

He preached one of the first messages at Red Hill, which was a mission of Vine Grove Baptist. He was called as its first pastor in July 1950. Not only was he the church's first pastor, but it was his desire to hold a series of revival services in the Red Hill community that spawned the mission work.

The services in those early days were held in an old, borrowed Army field tent. Vine Grove supplied homemade slat benches, and an old Army pump organ was brought in to provide the music. Royalty, still in school at Georgetown, traveled to Red Hill each Sunday to preach. The planting church paid for his weekly trips to Georgetown, and the mission was instructed to incur no debt.

The mission was given a one-acre lot, and construction on a basement building measuring 19 x 30-feet began.

While that work was underway, services continued in the tent. But on a snowy December day in 1950, when Royalty drove in from Georgetown, he found the tent had been blown down. The members had to repair the borrowed tent in order to turn it back in, and that provided the impetus to move to the basement building, which



James Royalty stands by the Red Hill Baptist Church sign. Royalty has served at Red Hill Baptist for nearly seven decades.

only had a mud floor, walls and a center support girder on posts. A pot-bellied stove that had been used in the tent was brought in. Construction on the basement was completed in the next few months, then work on the upstairs began and was completed in 1951. The mission was organized into a church in 1952 as part of the Severns Valley Association.

Because so many people needed transportation, Red Hill became one of the early churches to start a bus ministry, resulting in more than

40 people being served, in addition to a few who were given transportation to other churches.

More land was purchased, and the church moved to its present location, dedicating a full-service basement facility Nov. 12, 1961. Ten years later, construction of an auditorium began. It was dedicated July 9, 1972.

Red Hill has a strong legacy in missions giving. It has been the sponsor of a Laotian ministry and a Spanish ministry, and members have done volunteer mission work

in Kentucky and outside the U.S. It sends 13 percent of all undesignated gifts to the Cooperative Program and 4 percent to the Severns Valley Association.

The pastor offers advice to younger pastors.

"Find the Lord's work and stay with it," he said. "A problem today is that churches won't support them so they can take care of their family. For some, it's not that they particularly want to move, but the churches don't support them to make a living."

# 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)

## ABCHomes keeps caring, sharing for 125 years

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world" (James 1:27, ESV).

Scripture says much about caring for widows and orphans, beginning in the account in Genesis when Tamar was left a widow after her husband, Er, was struck down by God.

In Deuteronomy 24:19 (ESV), God clearly makes a provision for widows and orphans, "When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands."

For 125 years Baptists in Arkansas have honored God through the ministry of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries.

What began as an orphan-

age on land donated by a Baptist woman in Monticello in 1894 has grown into an expansive statewide ministry that has touched tens of thousands of lives. Be sure to read more about the history in a special pullout center section beginning on page 7 that includes a historical timeline (pages 8-9).

To mark the 125th anniversary of the work of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries in 2019,

I am reprinting the editorial from the Nov. 3, 1994, edition of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. The editorial was written in commemoration of the Children's Homes centennial.

"Celebrating a Century of Caring' is a worthy milestone for any institution. The celebration is especially significant when one considers the rich history of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries.

"Established in Monticello in 1894 as the Arkansas Bap-

tist Home for Orphans, the ministry has grown to include 22 sites throughout the state. The spectrum of ABCHFM ministries now includes a boys' ranch in Harrison for young men who have completed an intensive drug and alcohol abuse program; Promise House in El Dorado, a residence for unwed pregnant teenagers; six emergency receiving homes, which provide temporary shelter for abused, abandoned and neglected children, as well as battered women and their children; five area offices which provide a full range of counseling and intake services; and seven satellite offices where counselors are available one day each week.

"Much of the growth of the Children's Homes ministries has come during the 23-year tenure of Johnny Biggs as ABCHFM executive director. His vision and commitment, along with that of the staff, trustees, donors and Arkansas Baptists in general, has helped ensure that the selfless service of the Children's Homes continues uninterrupted as long as there are needy children and families in Arkansas.

"In addition to celebrating a century of service, the centennial theme also emphasizes that the ABCHFM is 'Dedicated to a Future of Sharing.' Arkansas Baptists can be both proud and thankful for this vital ministry that not only celebrates the past but looks

with anticipation and enthusiasm toward the future.

"The ministry of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries echoes the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:14, 'Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me: for such is the kingdom of God.' Thank you, Johnny and staff, for personalizing Christ's call to compassion on behalf of all Arkansas Baptists."

May God continue to bless efforts of Arkansas Baptists to care for the "least of these" for another 125 years and well into the future until Jesus returns.

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



### Pressing On

Tim Yarbrough  
Phil. 3:14

## The purpose and mission of the Arkansas Baptist News

The *Arkansas Baptist News (ABN)* exists to assist Kingdom work by informing, inspiring and involving Arkansas Baptists through meeting needs of people, spreading the gospel, making disciples and growing God's work in Arkansas and beyond.

As the largest religious publication in the state, the *ABN* strives for journalistic integrity, fairness and balance in its reporting of Baptist and evangelical news.

We advocate for the cause of Jesus Christ.  
We report the news based on our Christian worldview.  
We uphold high standards of journalism and Christian ethics.

MEANWHILE, AT THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE...



ONE FINAL QUESTION... NO PRESSURE, BUT IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERTED ISLAND ALONE, WHAT BIBLE VERSION WOULD YOU CHOOSE: KJV, NIV OR CSB?



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## The historical Jesus - Part 6

Would you die for a lie? By that I mean, would you give up your life for something you knew was false? I think most folks would say, "No!" Few people would not knowingly and willingly surrender their lives for a lie. So if the apostles of Jesus – the 11 men who were closest to Him – knew that Jesus never actually resurrected from the dead, why would they surrender their lives for such a story (as Christian tradition and ancient Church fathers claim



### Deep Waters

Chad Meeks

they did)? If the disciples knew that Jesus was still dead in the grave, why would they uproot their lives and travel thousands of miles to declare

He was alive? That would be insane!

In this column, my last piece on the resurrection, I will focus on the witness and testimony of the disciples.

Given the historical and biblical record, most scholars admit that the apostles firmly believed in the resurrection of Christ. It seems to have had a dramatic impact on their character and attitudes. In fact, the response by the apostles to the resurrection of Christ was world-changing. These 11 Jewish men, with little education and resources, uprooted their lives and turned the world upside down because of the resurrection.

Gary Habermas writes, "[T]he change in the disciples from normal men concerned only with their own welfare into bold preachers who were even willing to die for their faith effectively demonstrates that they believed that they had seen Jesus."

Critics have used instances like the founding of the Mormon church to counter this claim. If Joseph Smith can fool 12 men into thinking he was a prophet of God, so the counter goes, then it doesn't seem too outrageous to think Jesus could fool 11 men. But that is just the issue: The people who followed Smith's false teachings thought that he was



telling the truth. Granted, Smith was a false teacher, but his followers didn't think that. Thus, his followers were willing to uproot their lives for their beliefs.

Jesus' disciples were in an even better position than Smith's followers. Jesus' disciples either did or did not see the resurrected Jesus. They claimed they did – and were willing to die for this claim. If the 11 men were lying, why would they undergo such horrific difficulties for a false story? That is just silly. J.P. Moreland writes, "The disciples were not predisposed to inventing the appearance stories or having expectations of a resurrection ... It is hard to overestimate how crushed they were at the crucifixion. They were not interested in starting a new religion." The biblical record indicates that these men were totally baffled by the resurrection. In fact, it appears that such an event was totally unexpected by the disciples – or anyone else.

It seems very unlikely that 11 dedicated first century Palestinian Jews would invent such an outlandish story like the resurrection, and then die for such a lie. It seems far more probable that the disciples were willing to sacrifice their lives because they knew that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead.

Let's survey all the data we have interacted with in my past six columns. Most scholars agree that Jesus existed, that He was crucified and buried, that the tomb was empty a few days later, that there were postmortem appearances of Jesus, and that the disciples acted as if Jesus truly rose from the dead. Given all of these accepted pieces of information, what is more likely – that Jesus rose from the dead or that the resurrection is a fabled myth?

Chad Meeks is associate pastor of youth and discipleship at Cedar Heights Baptist Church in North Little Rock.

## A picture of community

In this age of blogging and carefully crafted websites, there is high demand for beautiful images. Fortunately, there are good photographers willing to allow their images to be utilized on stock photo websites. Since I'm not a good photographer, I am thankful to get to use those stock photos now and then when the need arises.

Sometimes the search can be interesting, like the time I was searching for an image depicting a sense of community. Using "community" as my search term, I found



### Uncovered Dish

Ann Hibbard

image after image of people using social media and other forms of web connectivity. I thought I'd try using the word "neighborhood" instead. I discovered pictures of beautiful homes and streets – without people. The images that did have people depicted individuals sitting alone on their front porches. It was little better when I searched for "fellowship." I found a single page of images showing a sense of connectivity. Just one page – and the photos

were more of animals than of people.

The sadness of what I was seeing hit me as I realized that this is what neighborhood and community have become in our culture.

When I search Scripture, however, there is a very different picture. Not too long ago, I ran across an unexpected picture of the beauty of community. In Exodus 18, Moses and the Israelites were hanging out in the desert

when Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, came to visit. The two men greeted each other and sat down to catch up a bit.

Moses caught Jethro up on all of the recent happenings with Pharaoh and the grand escape across the Red Sea. My favorite part is Jethro's response:

"Blessed be the Lord," Jethro exclaimed, 'who rescued you from the power of Egypt and from the power of Pharaoh. He has rescued the people from under the power of Egypt! Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods, because he did wonders when the Egyptians acted arrogantly

against Israel'" (Exodus 18:10-11, CSB).

"Now I know..." Is that not a beautiful phrase? It expresses the epitome of community, fellowship and encouragement. It is one person sharing what God has done in such a way that causes others to suddenly recognize more of Who God is. More of His character. More of His greatness. More of His goodness.

We often buy into our culture's view of community, living alongside each other but not in true connection to one another. But what if we were to be like Moses and Jethro? What if you and I were to more intentionally greet one another with stories of what God's done since we last saw one another, even if it had only been a day or two? Oh, what community we'd share!

Our culture has an individualized and lonely image of community. Oh, Church, may we turn that around and show this world a picture of what community really should be!

Ann Hibbard is a member of East End Baptist Church in East End. Read her blog at [annhibbard.com](http://annhibbard.com).

## Generation Z demands different kinds of answers

Every generation has a set of questions that sets it apart from other generations. This past month, I repeatedly came face to face with a line of questioning which I had never experienced – at least not to this degree from such a diverse crowd. I was absolutely thrilled when Matt, our next generation pastor, asked me to take part in both vacation Bible school and kids camp this summer. I love spending time with children, having conversations with them and swapping fun stories. I love to learn; and when I am around kids, I learn a lot.

Every generation has had its philosophy-identifying questions. My parents' generation asked, "What can we know?" and pursued diving deeper into the unexplored world of space, the oceans, molecular and atomic structure and archeology. My

generation asked, "Who can be trusted?" and "What is truth?" The segment of individuals now in elementary school – a part of Generation Z – are asking me questions like, "Where did you get that information?" and "How can we know this information is true?"



### Answering the Call

Eric Ramsey

This generation of children is growing up in the most saturated information quagmire the world has ever seen.

Therefore, even at an early age, they are very aware that just because it is published, or just because a teacher says it, does not mean that it is true. They are skeptical and often suspicious. They are very well aware of "fake news." They are much more inclined to not believe than to believe what they read, watch or hear.

So, what does this mean for the Church? Here is a short list for starters:

1) Pastor, when preaching, it has never been more important to cite references and sources for supplemental Scriptures quoted, statistics stated and theological positions held.

2) Statements like, "It has been said..." or "Some have said..." or "According to popular opinion..." are perceived by this generation to mean, "I really have no clue. I am just throwing this out here." If you don't have an identified source, it is best to not say it at all.

3) This generation is demanding to know where the Bible came from. They want (and need) to know the history and methodology behind the canonization of the Scriptures. The Church must teach this.

4) Pastors and Bible teachers must guard against feeling offended when asked, "How do you know that's true?" or "Are you sure about that?"

See **GENERATION Z** page 6

# Southern Baptist Media Day July 28

*Editor's Note: July 28 is Southern Baptist Media Day in the Southern Baptist Convention.*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – Longtime trusted sources for information and inspiration, Southern Baptist media are now being celebrated and recognized with a day to call their own: Southern Baptist Media Day. Recently added to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) calendar, Southern Baptist Media Day, on July 28, is set aside to celebrate how God has used and continues to use Southern Baptist media in His mission.

“In the 30 years I have served in Southern Baptist communications, first as a curriculum editor and now as leader of a state Baptist news service, I have witnessed how God uses media – in all its forms – to inform, inspire and involve Baptists in the mission of Jesus Christ,” said Tim Yarbrough, editor of *Arkansas Baptist News*, and immediate past president of Association of State Baptist Publications (ASBP).

“The lives impacted by Southern Baptist media are without a doubt immeasur-

## GENERATION Z

*continued from page 5*

or “Can you really verify that information?” These questions should not be perceived as disrespectful, but rather, healthy and encouraging. 5) This generation wants to know the stories behind the songs we sing. Where did they come from? What was the motivation and life circumstance of the one writing the song? 6) Pastors and teachers, you must make sure you accurately communicate even the smallest of details. Remember, while you are talking, they are checking your information via Google. Church leaders will not get by with sidestepping questions nor failing to be well-prepared. I am personally grateful for a rising generation that will help sharpen and deepen the Church as we journey further into the 21st century.

*Eric W. Ramsey is associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Smith.*

able,” he said.

Southern Baptist media were birthed by missions nearly 200 years ago. Georgia's *The Christian Index* was established as the first Baptist state paper in 1822, after the 1814 formation of the Triennial Convention, forerunner of the SBC, which was founded in 1845.

Known for its first 44 years as *The Columbian Chronicle*, the weekly Baptist newspaper, the outgrowth of the work of legendary missions leader Luther Rice, was “a national effort to encourage support for the early missions endeavors of Rice's friends like Adoniram and Ann Judson (missionaries to Burma, now Myanmar),” according to christianindex.org. Ten other Baptist state papers, still being published today, were founded in the 1800s, according to the 2018 SBC Annual.

In the almost two centuries since the launch of *The Index*, Southern Baptist media have grown exponentially and

adapted dramatically to opportunities offered by the ever-expanding world of technology. The 2018 SBC Annual reports a total of 37 state Baptist papers, with a total circulation of 621,521.

Many of those state papers offer a combination of print and digital versions. Some state papers, including *The Index*, have moved to a digital-only format, tapping the benefits of technology to reach their audiences while at the same time alleviating the escalating costs of printing and mailing. Some state papers offer editions of their publications in languages other than English.

The Baptist Press (BP), Southern Baptists' international daily news service, was birthed in 1946, and its website was launched in 1996. Originally formed at the suggestion of Baptist state paper editors, BP has grown into one of the largest religious news services in the Unit-



ed States. BP also provides news and opinion for the Hispanic Baptist community through a weekly webpage in Spanish.

Beyond state papers and BP, today's Southern Baptist media include many SBC entity publications, websites, curriculum, campaigns for special mission offerings, podcasts,

photography and videography, and more.

“Media and communications have continued to change and evolve in the 174 years the Southern Baptist Convention has existed,” Yarbrough said. “Southern Baptists are embracing new and innovative ways of communicating the gospel through new media.”

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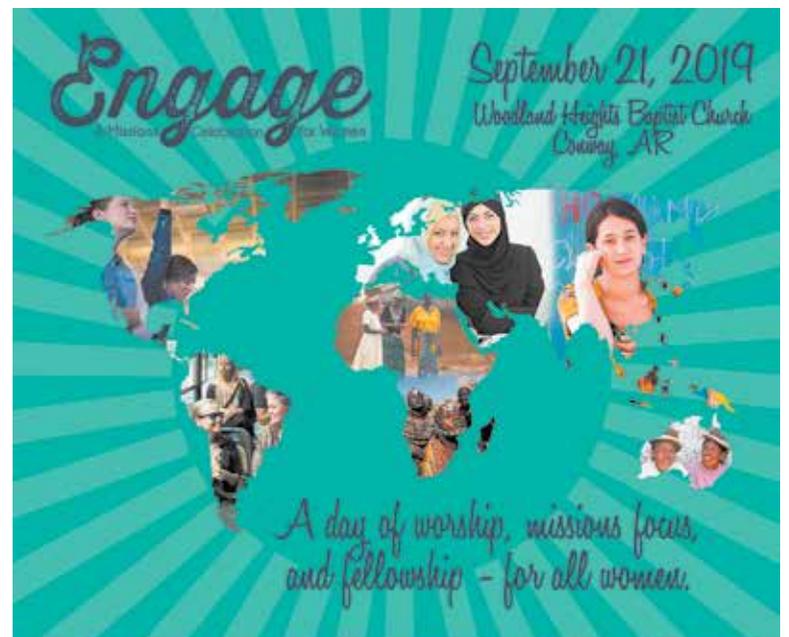
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# ABCHomes celebrates 125 years of caring

Stella Prather  
ABCHomes

MONTICELLO – She strolled slowly along the familiar sidewalk with a sweet smile on her face. Her eyes were focused on the sprawling front porch and dozens of chitchatting adults and teens near the large white, double front doors. Momentarily, she would be among family.

She moved gracefully for an 83-year-old, her graying hair fixed just right for the event, her lavender outfit perfectly pressed and her husband so close by her side, that the couple nearly looked as one.

Henrietta Finch-Caseltine was home sweet home.

Finch-Caseltine was among the more than 200 Arkansas Baptist Home alumni, current and former staff and residents, and friends that took part in the Baptist Home Alumni Day. Held at the Monticello Baptist Home for Children June 8, alumni from as far away as California attended the biannual event.

“My husband and I have been coming to the reunion for many years, driving down from Ohio,” shared Finch-Caseltine, who arrived with her brothers at the Bottoms Baptist Orphanage (now Baptist Home for Children) in 1948.

The Home reunion is one of several events taking place this year in celebration of the 125th anniversary of Arkansas Baptist Children’s Homes and Family Ministries (ABCHomes), which began as a dream of Hannah Hyatt in 1894.

The youngest of 10 children, Hyatt was born in 1857 to the Rev. Benjamin and Agnes Hyatt of Drew County, Ark. Throughout her life, she was active in church and community interests, but her greatest desire was to establish a home for the orphan children of Arkansas.

Following the death of her mother in 1886 and her father in 1887, Hyatt began opening the doors of her home to orphan children. Within a year

she cared for 15 children. In 1894, she offered her inherited home and 80 acres of land to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) for the establishment of an Arkansas Baptist home for orphans. She married S.E. Gardiner in 1897, and they managed the home together until 1907.

By 1902, 55 children were living at the home. Two horses were purchased, as well as 160 acres of adjoining land. In 1923, following a fire that burned the boys’ dormitory and a schoolroom, Mr. and Mrs. George Bottoms of Texarkana provided major funding for two new dormitories. In honor of her generosity, the home was renamed the Bottoms Baptist Orphanage the following year.

Two years later, in 1926, the ABSC approved an annual offering to be taken around Thanksgiving to support the ministry to orphans. This offering has long been a means of financial support for the agency.

In 1938, fire destroyed the original Hyatt home, which served as the administration building. In its place, a new administration office was completed and dedicated in 1939. It still stands today.

Since the 1930s, most of the children in care were not orphans but dependent and neglected children.

To better reflect this shift, the name was changed in 1961 from the Bottoms Orphanage to the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children.

Instead of large dormitories, children lived in single homes, which created a more family-like setting.

“Our emphasis is to preserve the family unit,” Baptist Home Supervisor Maurice Caldwell told a *Pine Bluff Commercial* reporter in 1967, adding that the New Testament challenges Christians to “help people in need ... to help children, help families.”

A new era of growth began in 1968 when a Little Rock area office opened to assist with families and childcare needs in Central Arkansas. A

year later, Jonesboro became home to an area office. Later, area offices opened statewide.

A Group Home for Boys opened in 1970 in Jonesboro, and Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch was established in Harrison in 1989. Five years later, in 1994, the Jonesboro home was closed and relocated to the Ranch, which was opened to girls and siblings in 2019.

In 1977, the first of several emergency receiving homes opened for children who were in crisis, as the result of abuse, neglect, abandonment or family conflict. All have since closed or transitioned into long-term homes. “As we saw the needs for children change, we wanted to provide services that were appropriate for their needs,” shared Johnny Biggs, ABCHomes executive director from 1971-1995.

Continuing its ministry to children and families, the agency opened Promise House, a home for unwed teen mothers, in El Dorado in 1991. It was relocated to Little Rock in 1999 and closed in 2014.

“Times change; circumstances change, and we worked along with that and followed that,” said David Perry, ABCHomes executive director from 1995-2018.

Today, the needs of children and teens are still being met on land donated by Hyatt. The agency also operates the Ranch in Harrison and three family care homes for single mothers and their children in Jonesboro, Little Rock and Springdale. Counseling services are provided in seven locations around the state.

Connected foster homes provided care for more than 100 children in 2018. Twenty-eight of these children were reunified with biological families, and three have been adopted.

Recently, a sibling group of seven were welcomed to the Baptist Ranch in Harrison. To make the transition as comfortable as possible, Ranch staff traveled to pick up the siblings and their belongings. All seven siblings were able to

ride together in one van to the Ranch, and now all seven live together with houseparents under one roof. They joined 13 sibling groups already in agency care.

“As we look around our world today, we can complain about a lot of things, but the

involvement in the life of a child, in the life of a family that is struggling.”

Visitors to the Home reunion June 8 praised the Baptist Home and its longtime ministry to orphans and families.

“The ministry is 125 years old ..., and it’s an amazing story, but the best part is it’s part of our story,” said Tricia Goyer of Bryant. She and her husband adopted four Baptist Home alumni a few years ago. “This was our girls’ home for over three years. I’m grateful for those who cared for them until God brought them to us.

“It was wonderful to hug the necks of those who tucked them in, braided their hair and took them school shopping ... before I even knew them,” she added. “I’m thankful for those who had a vision for a home for children in 1894 – who saw their need.”

Many alumni milled around the crowd in the Baptist Home’s administration building, hugging, looking at old photos and reminiscing of days gone by. Others enjoyed campus tours and the unearthing of a time capsule buried 25 years ago.

Unfortunately, the time capsule experienced water damage, but many of the contributed items were still able to be enjoyed by all.

Finch-Caseltine and her husband made their way to the white rocking chairs on the front porch and reception area.

“I learned to play the piano here many years ago, and I learned to tithe to the church,” she recalled.

Since my time here, “God has been faithful to me,” she said. “I’m thankful for ... this Home” for families.

“I’m so glad God placed me in the Baptist Home, just at the right time, so I could be saved at that time, learn all the Scripture verses I learned, and be prepared to face life’s trials with the ‘sword of the Lord.’”

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



A time capsule, buried 25 years ago at the Baptist Home for Children in Monticello, was unearthed during the Home’s bi-annual Alumni Day June 8. An issue of the *Arkansas Baptist* from 1994 was in the capsule.

main thing we have concern about is the breakdown of the family,” said Derek Brown, ABCHomes executive director. “Our children today are growing up without any picture of what a healthy family looks like.

“And if we can simply provide that picture of what a healthy family looks like to children, we can give them something to hold onto, something to live by.”

Brown’s glance brightens as he acknowledges the long-standing ministry to children and families in Arkansas. “In 1925, the state convention compelled us to move forward with a family focus and put children in intelligent Christian homes. When I think about what we are doing 125 years later, it is exactly that,” said Brown.

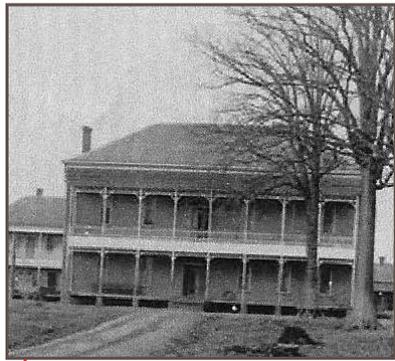
Furthermore, Brown said, “As I think about the services we provide, our goal in everything we do is to build, strengthen and restore families. From prevention to permanency, we want to have in-

# Building, strengthening, restoring families for

# 125 years TIMELINE



1894-2019  
ARKANSAS BAPTIST  
CHILDREN'S HOMES &  
FAMILY MINISTRIES



**1896**  
The Home admitted its first four children in 1896.

**1923-24**  
In 1923, following a fire that burned the boys' dormitory and the schoolroom, Mr. & Mrs. George Bottoms of Texarkana provided major funding for two new dormitories. As a result of their generosity, the Home was renamed the Bottoms Baptist Orphanage in 1924.



**1960s**  
The name was changed from Bottom's Orphanage to the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children. The children were no longer housed in large dormitories but in cottages, which reflected a more home-like setting.

**1902**  
Fifty-five children were living at the Home. Two horses were purchased as well as 160 acres of adjoining land.



**1894**  
Friends of Miss Hannah Hyatt cautioned her about giving her home and 80-acre farm in 1894 to the "Baptists" who were seeking to open an orphans' home in Arkansas. But she unwaveringly replied, "I have made a covenant with the Lord and I will not break my vow." Following God's direction, Hyatt handed over her Monticello home and farm to the Arkansas Baptist Orphan's Home, now called the Baptist Home for Children.



**1938**  
Fire destroyed the original Hyatt home, which served as the Home's administration building. In its place, a new administration office was completed and dedicated in 1939. It still stands today.



**1970**  
A Group Home for Boys opened in Jonesboro and remained open until 1994.



**1950s**  
Four new cottages were built at the Baptist Home in Monticello.





**1991**

The agency opened Promise House, a home for unwed teen mothers, in El Dorado in 1991. It was relocated to Little Rock in 1999 and closed in 2014.



**2014**

The first Family Care Home for single mothers and children opened in Jonesboro in 2014, followed by two others in 2015 and 2017, respectively. The Family Care Homes provide safe and stable environments to protect, nurture and restore struggling mothers and their children as they navigate through difficult life circumstances.

**2017**

Connected Foster Care was launched in 2017. The ministry recruits foster homes, trains foster parents, supports foster and biological families, and allows churches to take an active role in ministry to foster care children. In the past 18 months, more than 100 foster children have been placed in Christian homes with Christian caseworkers. An unbelievable 28 of these children have been reunified with biological families, and we are celebrating three adoptions.



**1977**

In 1977, the agency opened its first emergency receiving home in Little Rock. In 2013, 143 children in need of emergency care found a safe and loving home in three emergency receiving homes. The last emergency home was closed early this year.



**1989**

The Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch was opened in Harrison in 1989. Jan.1, 2019, the Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch was renamed the Arkansas Baptist Ranch to include ministry services to girls and sibling groups. The 400-acre Ranch serves children and teens who simply need a place to live, children and teens with family conflict issues and children in need of guidance.

**2016**

More than 2,000 counseling sessions provided in seven statewide locations.



**2019**

In its 125th year of ministry, Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries is expanding to meet the counseling needs in the Little Rock area.

The Little Rock Family Ministry Center in southwest Little Rock provides space for growth and expansion of the agency's counseling ministry, including the addition of a state-of-the-art play therapy suite.

**2008**

The agency opened the Pruet/Eads Family Home in Monticello. Last year, 83 children called the Monticello campus home.





# Back to School

**Brent, 8, is very proud of his school grades. He should be.**

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**1894-2019**  
ARKANSAS BAPTIST  
CHILDREN'S HOMES &  
FAMILY MINISTRIES

**Arkansas Baptists thank  
ABCHomes for 125 years of  
ministry to children and families!**




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and thank you**

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service to our state.



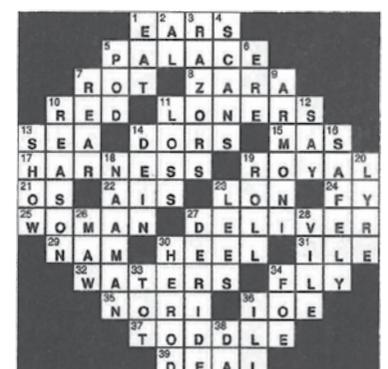
The *Arkansas Baptist News* congratulates  
ABCHomes for 125 years of ministry and service.  
*May God continue to bless their ministry!*



**ABN**  
ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWS

**Inform  
Inspire  
Involve**

See the  
ABN crossword,  
page 13



# New Hope to mark 175 years

BLACK ROCK – New Hope Baptist Church in Black Rock will celebrate 175 years of ministry with Heritage Week July 21-28.

Organized July 20, 1844, New Hope is the oldest continually existing church in Black River Association.

Brent Powell is pastor of New Hope Baptist.

“A church doesn’t arrive at its 175th anniversary by happenstance,” said Gerald Nash, former pastor of the church. “New Hope Baptist Church has stood as a lighthouse strong and true. This accomplishment comes from a Christ-centered vision of desiring to see the lost saved and believers grow in Christlikeness.”

The celebration will begin at 9:45 a.m., Sunday, July 21. Harold Russell, a former pastor of New Hope, will be the guest speaker during the church’s morning service. The church will host a movie night

with refreshments at 6:30 p.m. that evening.

The church will host a ladies night out at the church starting at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 23.

A hayride and watermelon feast will begin at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 24.

New Hope will host a block party, starting at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 27. The block party will have bounce houses, snocones, popcorn, games, water balloons, sprinklers and train rides. A barbeque lunch will be served at noon. At 3 p.m., a service of sharing and singing will begin, followed by an ice cream social at 4:30 p.m.

The celebration will wrap up with Nash speaking during the morning service at 9:45 Sunday, July 28. A potluck will follow worship. An afternoon of sharing and singing will begin at 2 p.m., with Jerry Clements, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in An-

nieville, speaking.

“New Hope made an impact on my family, and I know many others who have benefited from ministries over the years,” said Nash. “May God continue to have His hand upon the church and keep her light shining bright as she leads others to Jesus.”

The public is invited to all events and is encouraged to wear fashions from a past decade.



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## CONGRATULATIONS

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& Family Ministries

ON 125 YEARS OF MINISTRY



-Executive Board Staff of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# Gospel Games

*"An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."*

2 Timothy 2:5 (CSB)

## Caring FIRST AID

When something goes wrong in a friend's life, you may be able to help.



Draw a line from the hurt to the action plaster that would help your friend feel better.



Luke 10:33

Bible activity courtesy of truthforkids.com

### Hurt

Discouraged

Sad

Lonely

In need



### Plaster

helpfulness

friendship

comfort

encouragement

#### Across

1. I'm all \_\_\_\_
5. "Ahasuerus sat on the throne...in Shushan the \_\_\_\_" (Esther 1:2)
7. "the name of the wicked shall \_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 10:7)
8. "And Judas begat Phares and \_\_\_\_ of Tamar" (Matthew 1:3)
10. "And the first came out \_\_\_\_ all over" (Genesis 25:25)
11. Hermits
13. The Great \_\_\_\_
14. Of a city of David, near Mt. Carmel
15. Festival (comb. form)
17. "\_\_\_\_ the horses; and get up" (Jeremiah 46:4)
19. "If ye fulfill the \_\_\_\_ law according to the scripture" (James 2:8)
21. A bone (abbr.)

22. Of a town that encountered Joshua's men, slaying 36 (Joshua 7)
23. Actor Chaney
24. Cause to become (suffix)
25. "a \_\_\_\_ shall compass a man" (Jeremiah 31:22)
27. "To \_\_\_\_ such an one unto Satan" (1 Corinthians 5:5)
29. U.S. troops were here (colloq.)
30. "thou shalt bruise his \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 3:15)
31. \_\_\_\_ de la Cite (Paris site)
32. The healing \_\_\_\_ of Bethesda
34. "they \_\_\_\_ away as an eagle toward heaven" (Proverbs 23:5)
35. Purple seaweed
36. Vowel trio
37. Take baby steps
39. New \_\_\_\_

#### Down

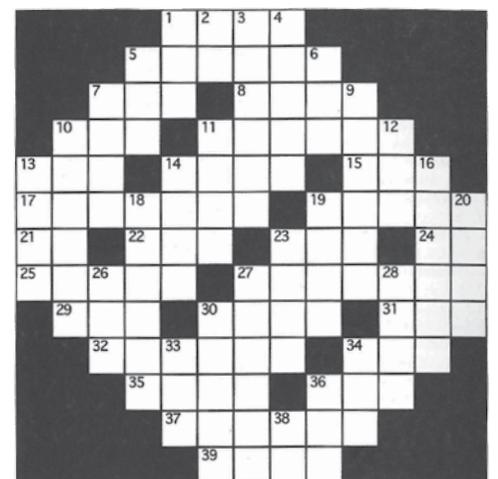
1. Greasy spoon sign, maybe
2. Southern state (abbr.)
3. Straight and safety are two
4. Looks over quickly
5. Seed vessel
6. Before (poet.)
7. "Go up, \_\_\_\_ an altar unto the Lord" (2 Samuel 24:18)
9. Son of Saul and Rizpah (2 Samuel 21)
10. "Come now, let us \_\_\_\_ together" (Isaiah 1:18)
11. "for now there shall be no \_\_\_\_ of any man's life" (Acts 27:22)
12. Allege
13. "With the pure thou wilt \_\_\_\_ thyself pure" (2 Samuel 22:27)
14. Your (Ger.)
16. "Then shalt thou walk in thy

way \_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 3:23)

18. "none of them [lepers] was cleansed, saying \_\_\_\_ the Syrian" (Luke 4:27)
19. "And Joshua said, \_\_\_\_ great stones upon...the cave" (Joshua 10:18)
20. Ancient instrument
23. Sheltered places
26. One stomach of a cow, e.g.
27. "they shall \_\_\_\_ every strong hold" (Habakkuk 1:10)
28. "For the \_\_\_\_ person will speak villainy" (Isaiah 32:6)
30. \_\_\_\_ the Great, king of Judea
33. Small child
34. Enemy
36. Under the weather
38. yes (Russ.)

Crossword by Barbour Publishing, Inc.

## ABN Crossword puzzle



Crossword answer, page 11



**FORD HONORED FOR 32 YEARS** — Gary Carter (left), pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Monticello, honors Sheila Ford for service at Calvary Baptist on Sunday, June 30. Ford stepped down after 32 years of teaching children at the church.

*Editor's Note: The Arkansas Baptist News would love to share your church news with the state. Send your information to sarah@arkansasbaptist.org or call 1-800-838-2272, ext. 5153. Please submit information three weeks prior to the event.*

## Obituaries

Iva Nell "Nellie" Miller, 104, died June 15.



Originally from Texas, Miller spent a majority of her life ministering to people in Arkansas. She was married to Dillard Miller, president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in the 1980s and Arkansas pastor for more than 60 years.

Miller taught junior high and high school students English, speech and drama, and she continued to teach Sunday school until she was 102 years old.

Miller was preceded in death by her husband, her

parents and six siblings.

She is survived by two children, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## Ordinations

Jose Figuerro and Jose Lopez were ordained as ministers June 30 at First Baptist Church, Malvern.

## Milestones

Garrick Conner celebrated 10 years at Park Hill

Baptist Church, North Little Rock. Conner serves as the education minister at the church. He is a licensed marriage and family therapist, and professional counselor.

**Pine Grove Baptist Church, Little Rock**, will celebrate its 150th anniversary at 10:45 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 18. A potluck will follow the service.

## On the move

Robert Berry is serving as pastor at First Baptist Church, Ratcliff.

Joe Garner is serving as associational missionary for Calvary Baptist Association.

Johnny Parrack is serving as pastor at Elliott Baptist Church, Camden.

Chris Rhea is serving as pastor of communications and media at Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock.

Kenny Talbot is serving as associate pastor of Kibler Baptist Church, Alma.

## Baptist life

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) will host

a block party training seminar 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, July 20, at Cornerstone Baptist Church, Texarkana. To register, email cbctexarkana@aol.com.

Harmony Baptist Association will host a women's conference at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 6. The conference will be held at Watson Chapel Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, and will feature Connie McDougald as the guest speaker.

[arkansasbaptist.org/across-arkansas](http://arkansasbaptist.org/across-arkansas)

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES & FAMILY MINISTRIES

# Classifieds

## PASTOR

Dorsett Village Church, St. Louis, MO, seeking **pastor**. Send resumes: [dvcpastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:dvcpastorsearch@gmail.com).

FBC, Camden, is seeking **full-time senior pastor**. Send resume to [FBCcamdenPSC@gmail.com](mailto:FBCcamdenPSC@gmail.com).

Calvary Baptist Church in Dardanelle, AR, is seeking a **pastor**. Mail resumes to Calvary Baptist Church, PO Box 532, Dardanelle, AR 72834, Attention: Pastor Search Committee, or e-mail [robert1960love@gmail.com](mailto:robert1960love@gmail.com), or call 479-477-0137. Deadline is Aug. 31, 2019.

Archview Baptist Church is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Mail resume to 12610 Arch St., Little Rock, AR 72206.

First Baptist Church of Gillham is seeking a **pastor**. Please send resume to First Baptist Church of Gillham, PO Box 150, Gillham, AR 71841.

Witt's Chapel Baptist Church, Maynard, AR, is seeking a **bi-vocational or full-time pastor**. Send resumes and references to: David Byers, 1340 Legate Road, Maynard, AR 72444.

## OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Mineral Area Baptist Association is searching for a **bi-vocational director of missions**. Must be a Spirit-filled man to fulfill our vision, upholding the unity of our churches. A strong supporter of MBC & SBC, must affirm the 2000 BF&M, be a strong administrator, a pastor to

pastors, a ministry/missions strategist, and able to strongly support our camp ministry. Send resumes by July 31, 2019, to MABA Attn: Search Committee, 5169 Flat River Rd., Farmington, MO 63640 or email: [mabasearchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:mabasearchcommittee@gmail.com).

Leadership Team Opening: First Baptist Church Wagoner is accepting resumes for **F/T children's minister**. Please send resume to [mark@fbcwagoner.com](mailto:mark@fbcwagoner.com) or mail to First Baptist Church Search Team, 401 NE 2nd Street, Wagoner, OK 74467.

Elliott Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a **part-time music and/or youth leader**. Email resumes to: [elliottbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:elliottbaptist@gmail.com), or mail to 4189 Hwy. 376 S., Camden, AR 71701, Please note Attention: Music/Youth

Search Committee.

Central Baptist Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas, is accepting resumes for the position of **full-time student minister**. The deadline to submit a resume is August 8. Please email your resume to [cbstudentresume@gmail.com](mailto:cbstudentresume@gmail.com).

FBC of Grove, Oklahoma, is accepting resumes for **full-time youth/children's minister**. Send resumes to [grovefbc@gmail.com](mailto:grovefbc@gmail.com).

Trinity Baptist Church, Benton, AR is seeking a **part-time worship minister** to lead our 30-voice Celebration Choir and worship services. Also, to guide the overall music ministry of the church. Send resume to [trinitybenton@gmail.com](mailto:trinitybenton@gmail.com) or contact the church

at 501-778-9146.

First Baptist Church, Perryville, is seeking a **bi-vocational music director**. Send resumes to [pvfb.church@gmail.com](mailto:pvfb.church@gmail.com).

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Affordable, beach side condos.** Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Alabama. Rent direct from Christian family owners. Lowest prices on the beach. [www.gulfshorescondos.com](http://www.gulfshorescondos.com). Call 251-656-4935, 251-752-2366 or 205-556-0368.

Submit your classified here, [arkansasbaptist.org/classified-ads](http://arkansasbaptist.org/classified-ads)

JULY 21, 2019

Two of my granddaughters often spend the night. We set up a couple of telescopes to view stars, planets and nebulas. I use principles from stargazing to teach them some important life principles. Our first lesson was foundational to the rest. There must be proper alignment of the scope to true north, focus on the objective, and the maintaining of focus by continually making adjustments. I teach the girls they must stay focused if they are to complete a task.

This letter is Paul's swan song, his last will and testament. He was in prison facing death, and the transmission of the gospel to the next generation was foremost on his mind. Paul wanted to pass the torch to Timothy, but he had concerns about Timothy's spirituality. Timothy was young and timid. The culture was imploding around him, and false teachers had infiltrated the Church. Timothy would have to stay focused. He would have to "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:1). This would give him the strength to stay focused on his calling and the task of leading

**EXPLORE THE BIBLE****Focused**

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13 (HCSB)

the church.

Paul's plan for the transmission of the gospel to future generations included Timothy taking what he had learned from Paul and teaching it to faithful men who would be committed to teaching others (2 Tim. 2:2). Timothy was to make disciples who make disciples. It was paramount that the message of salvation be passed on to qualified teachers.

Timothy would have to have the dedication of a soldier, the discipline of an athlete, and the diligence of a farmer (2 Tim. 2:3-6). He would have to focus on Christ and the gospel and not give credence to false teaching. The best antidote for false teaching is to teach the truth. For the elect's sake, Timothy would also have to be willing to suffer for the gospel.

We must continually recruit, equip and train teachers. We must align ourselves with true north, Christ and the gospel. We must stay focused on our calling and the task God has given us to do. We must pass the gospel to others who can teach others.

Writer and philosopher George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Winston Churchill changed the quote slightly, "Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it." King Asa didn't have to look very far back in history to learn what happens when you take your focus off of God. Both Asa's father and grandfather took their focus off of God. As a result, Israel had no lasting peace in the land.

King Asa could have chosen to follow in the steps of his father and grandfather, but he chose to focus on God (2 Chron. 14:2). Not only did he focus on God, he wanted the people to be able to focus on God. He immediately made sweeping reforms and removed the things that would distract the people.

King Asa removed the pagan altars. These were places of worship to false gods. He removed the places of worship to false gods on the mountaintops. King Asa also destroyed the sacred pillars or memorials to false gods.

He chopped down the Asherah poles. These were wooden poles with symbols representing fertility gods. He also removed all the places of false worship from the cities. King Asa instructed the people to seek God and to follow His commands.

Under the reign of King Asa, the land experienced peace. No one came to make war with them, and they were able to build and succeed. King Asa built fortified cities with guard towers. He contributed the ability to lead and protect the people because, "We sought the Lord our God. We sought Him and He gave us rest on every side" (2 Chron. 14:7).

The Christian life is a life focused solely on Christ. He is to have the preeminent place in our lives. We should seek Christ and follow His commands. We should remove any distractions that keep us from godly living. We should also guard against temptations and spiritual attacks. We do this by focusing on Christ and Him alone.

**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE****Pursue godliness**

2 CHRONICLES 14:1-8 (HCSB)

JULY 28, 2019

A woman told me about her daughter who fled the state with a man accused of being a sex offender. She had asked the church to pray for her daughter. She was told to turn her daughter over to the Lord and never pray for her again. With tears in her eyes, she asked, "Is it OK for me to pray for my daughter?" I told her she should reject any counsel or teaching that is inconsistent with the teachings of God's Word. We spent time in prayer for her daughter and the man she fled with.

Timothy must "remind them of these things" (2 Tim. 2:14). It is the idea of teaching truth over and over. The opposite of teaching truth is "to fight about words" (2 Tim. 2:14). This is not profitable and will lead to ruin (2 Tim. 2:14). Paul gave three images or metaphors to describe the importance of teaching truth: the approved worker, the clean vessel and the Lord's servant.

The approved worker is not ashamed of the gospel and teaches it correctly (2 Tim. 2:15-19). We must correctly align our beliefs with Scripture. Hymenae-

us and Philetus are examples of false teachers whose teaching spread like gangrene, causing some to lose their faith.

The second image is that of vessels. The large house is the visible Church or God's household. The two types of vessels in the house represent two types of teachers: honorable and dishonorable. Paul was not saying some are ordinary and some are special. He was saying that God's servants need to strive to be honorable or highly useful in the Church.

The third image is the Lord's servant. This is the teacher who does not quarrel but approaches opponents with gentleness (2 Tim. 2:24). Through this approach, it is hoped that God will grant them repentance to know the truth and not fall into the "Devil's trap" (2 Tim. 2:25).

Teachers in the Church today must diligently study the Scriptures, confront false teachers, teach the Word of Truth, build up the congregation in their faith, and provide servant leadership.

I have read the biographies of many great Christians who had to face some very difficult challenges. The challenges I face seem small in comparison. The one thing I have learned is that no matter how small or great the challenge, "God is greater than any challenge we face."

Under King Asa's reign, Judah had experienced a time of peace. King Asa followed the Lord God and removed all paganism from his kingdom. He built fortified cities and organized his military. This time of peace was broken as a new enemy brought war to Judah.

Kings Asa's military was 580,000 strong. This would have struck fear into most armies. But it wasn't any match for the invading army of one million men and 300 chariots. The odds were definitely not in King Asa's favor.

As King Asa's army lined up to face their enemy, he cried out to the Lord, "Lord, there is no one besides You to help the mighty and those without strength. Help us, Lord our God, for

we depend on You, and in Your name we have come against this multitude. Lord, you are our God. Do not let a mere mortal hinder you" (2 Chron. 14:11). This was a great prayer. The Lord answered King Asa's prayer and gave him the victory. It was an insurmountable challenge, but with the Lord's help King Asa and his army were successful against the enemy.

Often we are faced with difficult challenges. It seems, at times, that the odds are stacked against us. We need to remember that He is

always faithful. Nothing is impossible for God. There are truths from King Asa's prayer we need to remember. There are no other gods. King Asa acknowledged the one true God. Our help must come from the Lord. He does intervene on behalf of His people. King Asa also recognized God as a personal God, "The Lord is our God."

As we face challenges, we must trust in the Lord. We, like King Asa, may not know the outcome, but we must march on.

**EXPLORE THE BIBLE****Diligent**

2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26 (HCSB)

**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE****Depend on God**

2 CHRONICLES 14:9-15 (HCSB)

## Featured commentary writer



Gerald Nash

**Gerald Nash** is a registered respiratory therapist and EEG technician at Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center in Russellville. Nash is involved in medical research and is a preaching pastor at Soul Food Cafe Mission. He is involved in missions and also leads a small group and the decision room ministry at Second Baptist Church, Conway. Nash has attended several universities and seminaries, including Williams Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He holds multiple educational degrees, including a bachelor of arts in Christian ministries, a master of arts and doctor of ministry in pastoral studies and a master of arts in theological studies. Nash volunteers on the Cairo Geniza Project deciphering and transcribing ancient Greek and Arabic documents. He loves to read, bass fish, and spend time with his family. He and his wife, Mary Ann, love to travel, explore ancient ruins and go on wild animal safaris.



### Inside:

- Baptist Business Leader nominations due
- Arkansas native says Crossover 'phenomenal'
- When praying for the president is ridiculed
- Riley retires, 'redirecting' to Tennessee
- SBC leaders speak to resolutions, business

### 'Committed to true ministry'

World Changers volunteers return to do three projects in state

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## Baptists affirm stances on sexual abuse, racism

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - With the theme, "Gospel above all," Southern Baptists strengthened their stances against sexual abuse and racism during the opening and closing days of the June 11-12 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Ala.

On the annual meeting's opening day, messengers cast their votes - raising booklets that contained their printed ballots - for amendments to the SBC constitution to specifically state that sexual abuse and discrimination based on

thousand congregations, just under 52,000 churches and congregations - has given a clear signal not only about what we believe about sexual abuse, but we also stand against all ethnic discrimination in the United States and around the world."

Prior to the kickoff of the annual meeting, the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) hosted a panel discussion for a crowd of about 1,200 people on Monday, June 10, in which abuse survivors addressed how churches and



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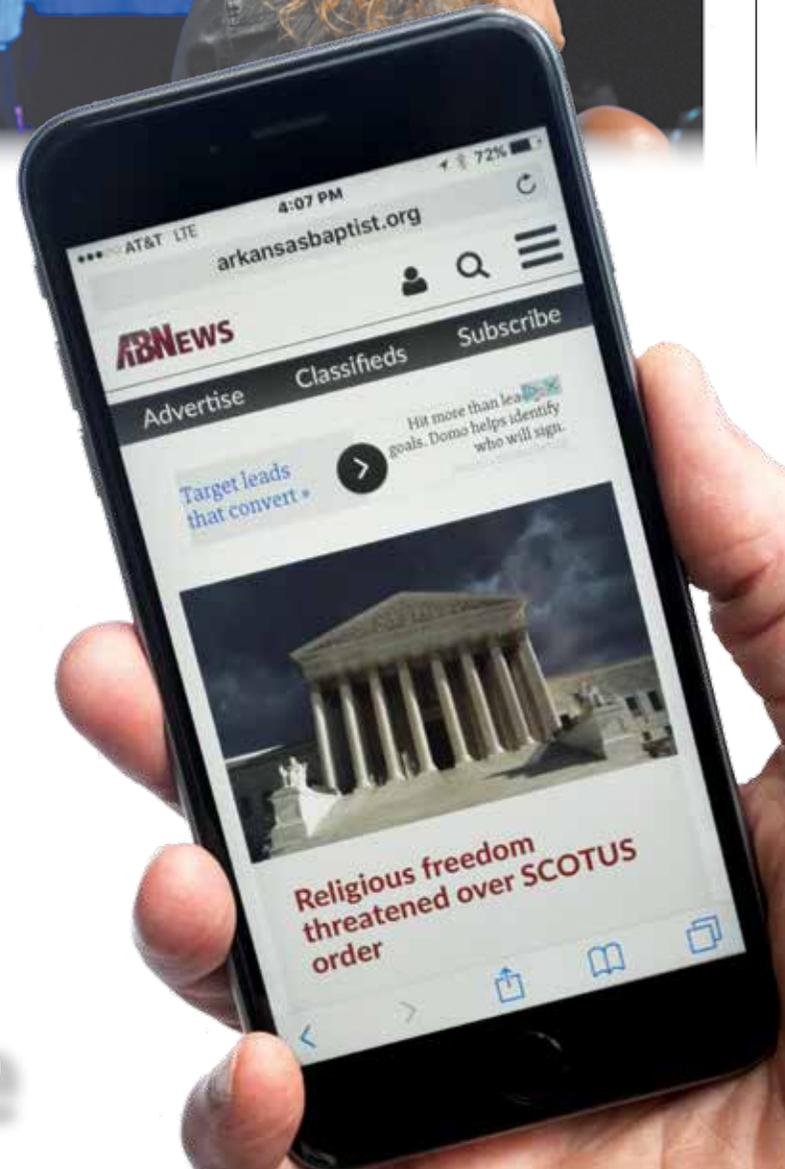
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