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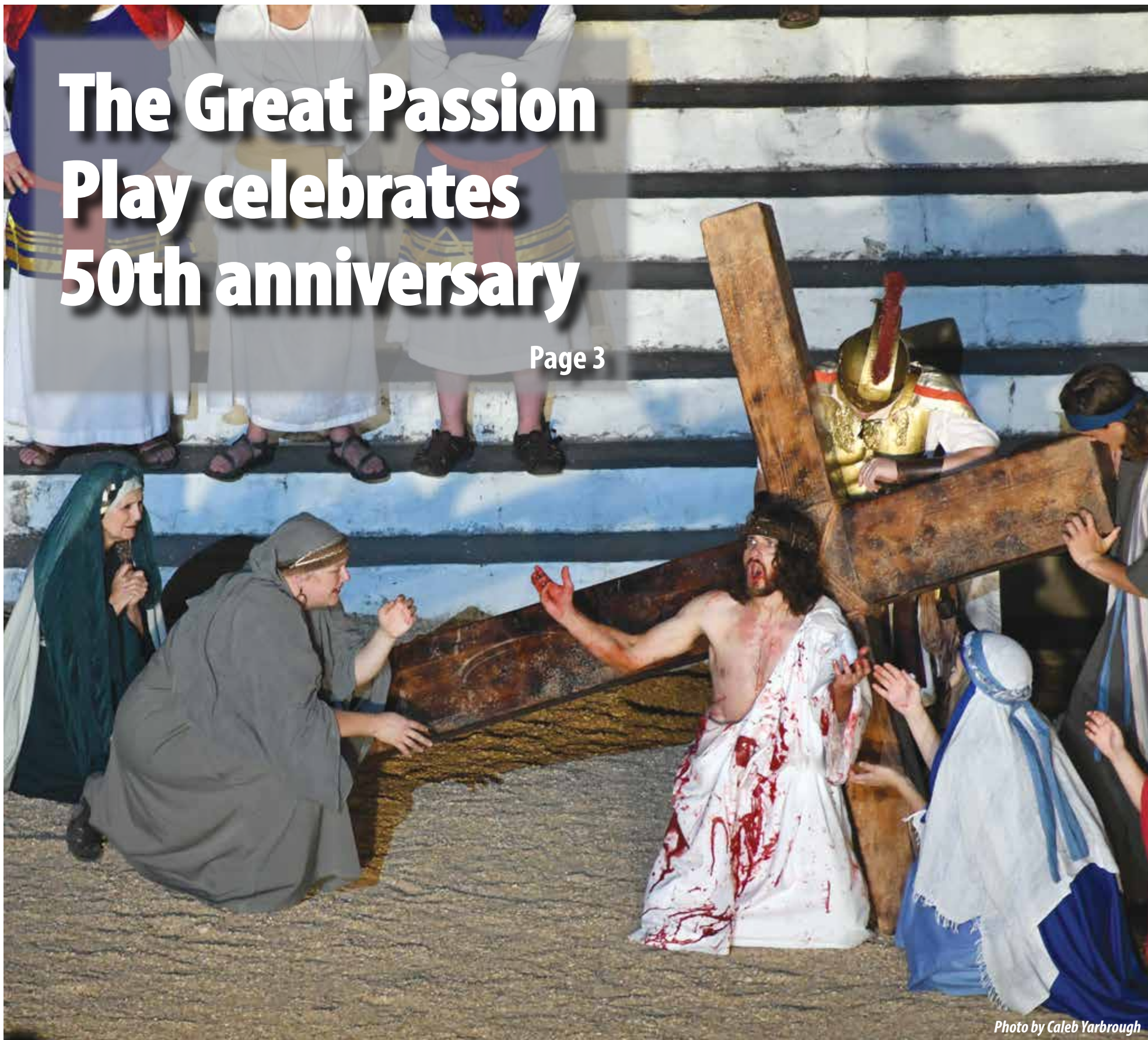


Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

ABN classifieds get results!

Read them on Page 12.

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

Classifieds

<p>FOR RENT - A beautiful home with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and a large kitchen. Call 501-555-1234.</p> <p>JOBS - We are seeking a qualified individual for our growing team. Call 501-555-5678.</p> <p>CLASSES - Join our Sunday School class and learn more about the Bible. Call 501-555-9012.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY - Join our community group and meet new people. Call 501-555-3456.</p> <p>TRAVEL - We are offering a special travel package to the Holy Land. Call 501-555-7890.</p> <p>BOOKS - We have a large selection of books for sale. Call 501-555-2345.</p>	<p>ARTS - We are seeking talented artists for our upcoming exhibition. Call 501-555-6789.</p> <p>FOOD - We are offering a special meal for our members. Call 501-555-0123.</p> <p>MUSIC - We are seeking musicians for our worship team. Call 501-555-4567.</p>
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ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Memorial service for aborted children Sept. 8

LITTLE ROCK – A memorial service for aborted children will be held from 11:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Arkansas Right to Life Center, 1515 South University Avenue in Little Rock.

The event is being held in conjunction with the sixth annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children being observed across the U.S.

MinistrySafe training Oct. 8 at ABSC building

LITTLE ROCK – MinistrySafe will present a Sexual Abuse Awareness and Skillful Screening training event at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) building from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, Oct. 8.

Sponsored by the ABSC evangelism and church health team, the training event will focus on preventing sexual abuse. Participants will learn how to recognize the offender's grooming process, respond to reports of abuse and screen prospective staff members and volunteers for high-risk candidates.

Kimberlee Norris, MinistrySafe attorney and co-founder, will address the common errors and misconceptions about sexual abuse, abuse characteristics, the grooming process and male and female offender characteristics. Norris will also speak about the elements of an effective safety system, effective screening practices, use of criminal background checks and recognizing an applicant's high-risk answers.

Church administrators, staff, pastors, safety and security personnel, screening personnel and human resources representatives are encouraged to attend the training session.

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

Pastors, staff pray for revival

Sarah Davis
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK – “God wants your church to be the single most influential mover in the community, but that only comes through prayer,” Bill Elliff, senior teaching and lead pastor of The Summit Church, North Little Rock, told more than 300 pastors and ministers gathered for the fifth statewide prayer gathering Aug. 27-28, at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock.

Elliff, who served as facilitator of the event, added, “(And) that only comes through connecting with God. Prayer brings God into the equation.”

The annual gathering, hosted by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) and planned by the Task Force on Revival and Spiritual Awakening, included focused prayer on different issues, including church life, the next generation and the nation.

Speakers included Steven

Smith, senior pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock; Gregg Greenway, lead pastor at Southside Baptist Church, Stuttgart; Zac Reno, lead pastor of The Summit Church, Saline County; Todd West, directional pastor of Oasis Church, North Little Rock, and Don Pucik, senior pastor of Wynne Baptist Church, Wynne.

“If we want to do the works Jesus did, it's only possible if we do it the way Jesus did,” said Pucik. “Jesus never took the initiative or depended on Himself, but God supplied Him with what He needed through prayer.”

In a session focused on the next generation, a forum of youth pastors discussed issues students face today, including false narratives and identities, acceptance of sin and use of pornography.

The forum consisted of Kyle Fowler, student pastor of The Summit Church, North Little Rock; Luke Harper, student pastor of Cross Church, Fayetteville; Bill Newton, student



Pastors, ministry staff members and associational missionaries pray during the statewide prayer gathering Aug. 28. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

pastor of First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, and Chris Roller, student pastor of First Baptist Church, Rogers.

“My prayer is for modern day Josiahs to rise up,” said Harper. “Josiah was 16 years old and decided to follow the God of his father, David. He is one of the greatest kings of Judah, and we need students like him.”

Another forum focused on God's work in the Arkansas Delta and the racial tension that still exists today. Forum speakers included

Jarvis Smith, pastor of Second Baptist Church, West Helena; Chanson Newborn, pastor of Fellowship Community Church, Forrest City; and Willie Jacobs, church planting strategist for the ABSC.

“People need to see unity in the body of Christ. They need to see Anglo-Saxon and African American churches working together,” said Newborn.

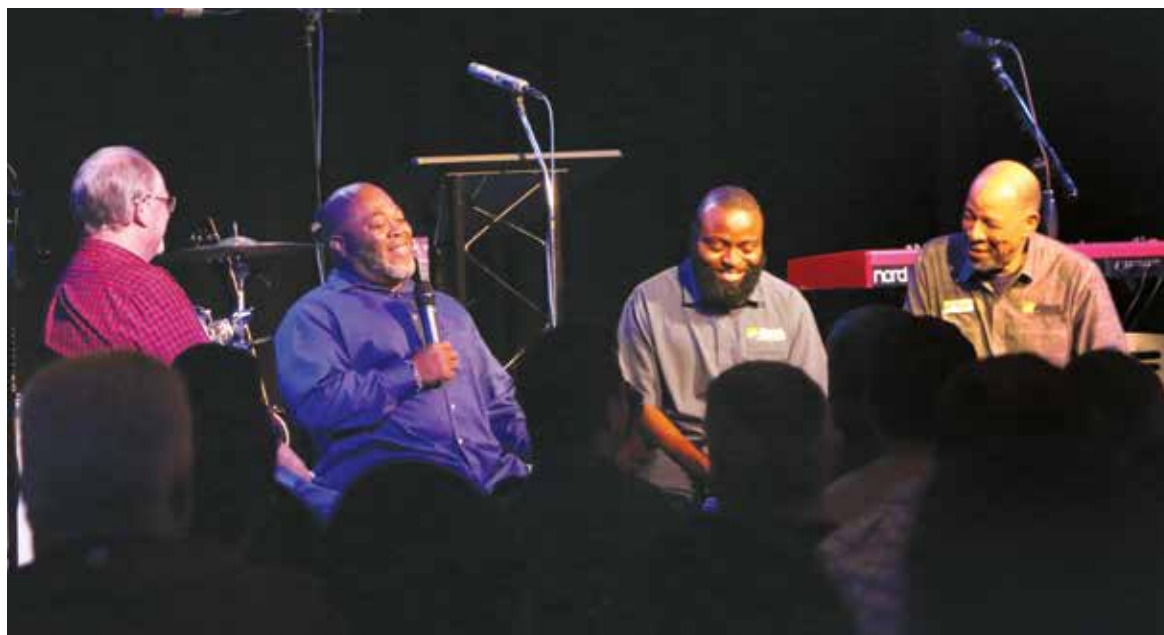
Jacobs noted that understanding and respect are the way to reach people in the Delta and to overcome the racist atmosphere.

“We need to understand that we have different cultures, and we need to respect those cultures,” said Jacobs. “You don't know the struggles that are in a different culture. The culture is not what you see on your TV or in movies. We need cultural training.”

The gathering ended with Elliff giving five tips to build a culture of prayer in churches: 1) Develop a sustainable rhythm of unceasing prayer; 2) Use the church-wide app called PrayerLOFT; 3) Emphasize prayer annually; 4) Develop citywide movements of prayer, and 5) Pray about prayer.

“If you don't prepare to pray, you literally are preparing not to pray,” Elliff said to close the gathering.

Contact Sarah Davis at sarah@arkansasbaptist.org.



Bill Elliff (left), pastor of The Summit Church, North Little Rock (left), facilitates a panel discussion featuring (from second to left): Jarvis Smith, pastor of Second Baptist Church, West Helena; Chanson Newborn, pastor of Fellowship Community Church, Forrest City, and Willie Jacobs, church planting strategist for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Photo by Sarah Davis

Passion Play: Honoring past, pressing forward

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

EUREKA SPRINGS – In the 19th century, people flocked to Eureka Springs from far and wide to experience the healing power of its prized local spring water. Today, The Great Passion Play – in its 50th year – aims to share the “living water” of Jesus Christ through the power of drama and Christian attractions.

Located in the heart of the Ozarks and split down the middle by the historic Pig Trail Scenic Byway (AR 23), consistently named one of the best motorcycle rides in America, Eureka Springs, a small town with a population of slightly more than 2,000, has been a hub for tourism since before its founding in 1879.

The Great Passion Play is a nonprofit organization chiefly known for its play depicting the life, death, burial and resurrection of Christ, which is performed on a life-sized stage which overlooks the Ozark Mountains. The play was first performed in 1968, one year following the debut of the 67-foot “Christ of the Ozarks” statue located on the organization’s nearly 700 acres.

According to The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, The Great Passion Play is the most attended outdoor play in the United States.

While the play remains the heart of the organization’s ministry, visitors today can take part in numerous other exhibits throughout the year. Those exhibits include The Holy Land Tour, featuring archaeological and historically correct depictions of biblical



Nearly eight million people have seen The Great Passion Play since its first performance in 1968. According to The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, The Great Passion Play is the most attended outdoor play in the United States. The play’s set (above) features life-sized buildings and is built overlooking the Ozark Mountains. Photos by Caleb Yarbrough

artifacts and scenes; a Bible Museum with more than 6,000 Bible manuscripts in more than 625 languages and dialects, as well as a Sacred Arts Museum, with Christian art dating back to the ninth century.

Live presentations include Parables from the Potter and David the Shepherd, each lasting 20 minutes and treating guests to pottery and shepherd sling demonstrations. Each evening during the play’s season prior to the start of the performance, a sculptor forms a bust of Christ from clay

while sharing his testimony with the crowd.

“It’s a lot like being in Silver Dollar City, but back in Bible days (and) without the rides,” explains Kent Butler, director of operations for The Great Passion Play, in a video on the organization’s YouTube channel.

Butler, 29, a native of Eureka Springs, grew up around the play. His father, a pastor in Berryville, has been involved with the organization since the early 1990s and Kent has worked for the play since he was 16, originally playing the role of a Roman soldier.

His long, dark hair and robust beard now give away that Butler’s role has changed over the years. For the past 10 years he has been one of the actors to play the role of Christ.

“Since the first time I was in the play, I kind of had a suspicion that it would be part of my life’s call,” said Butler.

In 2012, suffering severe financial problems, The Great Passion Play announced it would be forced to close its doors. For a short period of time, the future of the play was uncertain.

In January 2013 Randall Christy, pastor of Union Val-

ley Church in Ada, Okla., and founder of The Gospel Station Network, partnered with the play and helped save it.

“I really believe that God told me to go there and see what I could do to reopen it,” said Christy, whose radio network includes 20 FM stations and affiliates in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Ohio and Tennessee.

Ten days prior to the foreclosure of The Great Passion Play, Christy began petitioning listeners of the network for donations to pay off the \$73,000 interest that was due on the property.

Listeners, in addition to many local supporters, responded by raising the money to pay off the interest, and Christy agreed to sign his name to the \$2.56 million debt on the property.

Christy, now serving as the organization’s executive director, shifted the focus of the organization.

“We began to totally change the concept of that nonprofit (The Great Passion Play), to

where it became a ministry,” he said.

Since 2013, in addition to updating and expanding its attractions, Christy said The Great Passion Play began welcoming churches and other organizations to volunteer with the play as a mission project.

In 2016, the lower floors of two buildings that were not in use were repurposed as bunkhouses for men and women, which, in addition to fully equipped RV sites on the campus, provide housing for visiting volunteers.

Since 2013, Campers on Mission, in addition to other ministries and local church

volunteers, have completely rebuilt the play’s previously dilapidated sets. According to Christy, this has allowed the play to once again take place on multiple levels of the set simultaneously, allowing actors more freedom and the action of the play to be sped up.

A recent addition to The



Butler



Christy



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)

Religious liberty and free speech go hand in hand

A recent poll says that 61 percent of voters agree that Alex Jones should be banned from social media platforms.

Jones is the Internet conspiracy provocateur who – among other things – claimed that the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting was staged and the 9/11



Pressing On

Tim Yarbrough

Phil. 3:14

attack on the World Trade Center in New York City was an "inside job" by the U.S. government.

While we may not agree with Jones and what he says, most Baptists would agree that he has the right to say it.

After all, there's this little issue of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peacefully to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

But there's a problem on the horizon as we march toward a so-called "utopian" digital future, free of outdated modes of communication like printed newspapers and books. And it's a future that all freedom-loving Baptist Americans should be deeply

concerned about. It's the rise of censorship by social media platforms that are private companies not bound by the principle of free speech beyond the terms of service that each and every account holder agrees to in order to participate.

When everything in the future moves onto social media and

digital platforms, who will be in charge of the information? Answer: It will be those who control the social media and digital media platforms.

That means their decisions could potentially impact your free speech, in the form of your Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, Instagram, YouTube and other social media accounts.

It might sound good that these companies are so concerned about protecting their users from hate speech, bigotry and racism – but there's a problem with this line of thinking.

Many of the companies previously mentioned are led by progressive ideologues.

That's right. Speech that you and I consider biblical truth has the potential to be labeled as hate speech, bigotry and racist by those who disagree.

And if you, your church's social media or your Baptist state newspaper's account is

found to contain this type of non-approved speech – guess what – it could potentially be banned just like Alex Jones.

If you think I'm being an alarmist, consider recent history.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) admitted that under the Obama administration it delayed or denied the tax-exempt status of some conservative groups. This means their ability to exercise their free speech rights was hampered.

The *Arkansas Baptist News* was one of thousands of non-profit organizations that were audited by the IRS during this period. Was it coincidence?

While the Internet is seen as the greatest public forum

in history, it is increasingly becoming a controlled purveyor of politically correct speech held by a few elite social media moguls.

When one controls information and the message, there is tremendous potential for abuse such as swaying elections, which has the potential to change the course of a country.

Likewise, it is important for Southern Baptists to maintain a free flow of information to remain healthy.

Your Baptist newspaper is more than just a periodical containing items of interest about churches, associations, and the state and national conventions. It is a snapshot of a moment in time and

how Southern Baptists across Arkansas are working to reach the lost with the love of Jesus Christ in an increasingly diverse and increasingly caustic anti-Christian culture.

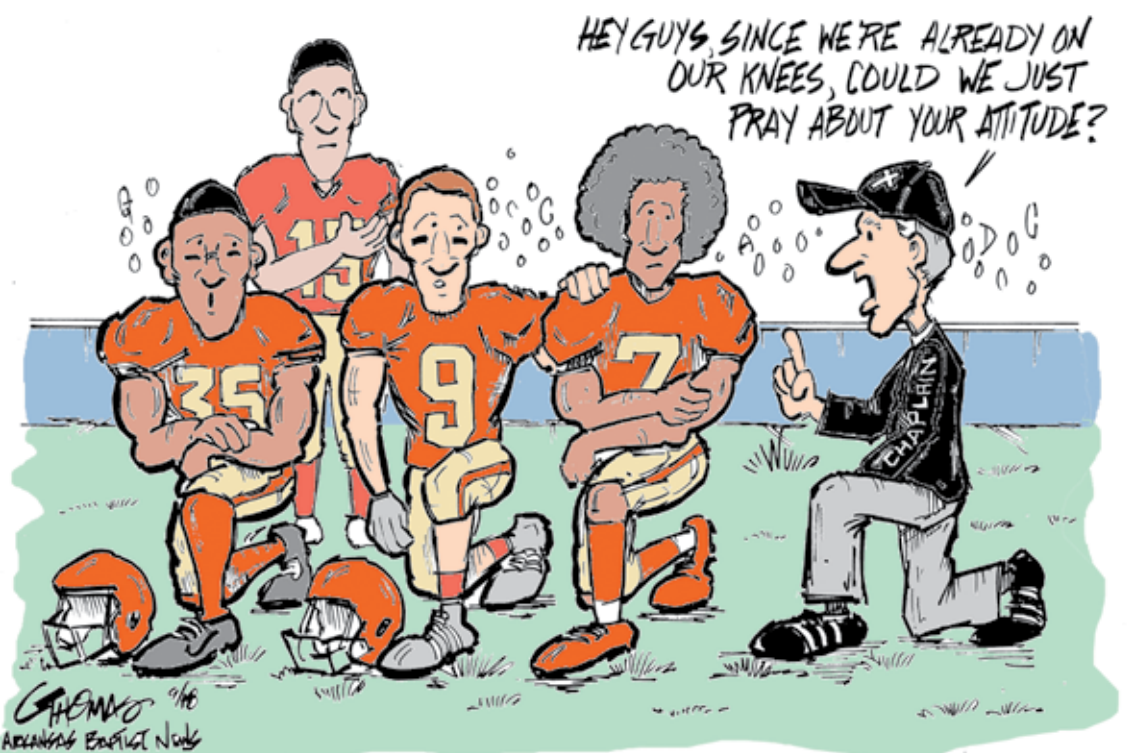
J. Everett Sneed, the longest serving editor of the ABN from 1972-1992, was quoted in 1996 as saying: "Editors past and present maintain that the unrestricted flow of information is essential to the health, vitality and democratic polity of our Southern Baptist Convention."

This editor agrees and plans to keep "the unrestricted flow of information" a core part of what we do as we serve Arkansas Baptists with deference.

Tim Yarbrough is editor/executive director of the ABN.

Cartoon by Gary Thomas

News Item: NFL players continue to kneel in protest during the national anthem.



Letters to the Editor welcomed

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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How can I know God's will for my life?

Knowing the will of God is perhaps a Christian's most important question; it is also among the hardest questions to answer! While it is not easy to discover and discern God's will, there is a simple way to listen to God when He speaks.

The first step in learning God's will is to ask an important question: What prevents a person from being in God's will? Individuals are definitely not in God's will if they don't know God. Only by trusting in God through His Son Jesus can individuals be assured of knowing God and His will. Also, Christians are not in God's will if they're not obeying Him. Obedience means to heed God's



Baptists Ask

Ken Gore

commands and to follow His leadership. Furthermore, believers are not in God's will if they are not communicating with Him. Only by talking — and

listening — to God can Christians discover what He wants them to do.

A second step is to learn an important lesson: What Christians often want from God is not what God gives. Christians want a "road map" of sorts to see what God's will is; God, however, provides direction. While a map may provide a line from point "A" to "B," direction only provides the correct way to go (cf. Gen. 12:1-2; Heb. 11:8). Maps can create a false sense of security and yet also some anxious moments. Direction, instead, implies trust, which can provide both hope and strength. Believers may want a map, but God provides a compass.

The third step is to use a simple yet important plan to determine God's will: Christians must listen. They should listen to God's Word, the Bible, as it will provide comfort, strength and instruction (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Believers should also listen to God in prayer. A daily time with the Lord will provide the direction that only God can give. Christians should listen to God's people, the church, for they will provide insight and guidance in ways that may have been overlooked. They should also listen to themselves, for God wants His children to take pleasure in His work. Frederick Buechner stated, "The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." Lastly, they should listen to their circumstances, for often God speaks through life's events.

It is important that Christians realize that finding God's will is not a game. God wants His children to know what He wants them to do. He wants them to have the best that He can provide. When He begins to show this in their lives, believers must trust His judgment and follow Him.

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

Letter to the Editor

The real meaning of pro-life

On August 23, 2018, *Arkansas Baptist News* published a column by Larry Page, executive director of the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council, titled "Page: Tort reform amendment is not a pro-life issue." Page contended that the tort reform amendment is an economic issue and not a pro-life issue. Page concluded his column with this statement, "Let's keep the focus for pro-life where it belongs — on the babies at risk in the womb."

In John 10:10 Jesus Christ

proclaimed, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." In Matthew 25:34-46, Jesus taught that His followers are to feed the hungry, provide drink to the thirsty, care for the sick, clothe the naked, take in the stranger, and visit those in prison. Inasmuch as we have treated the least of these, we have so treated Jesus Christ himself (Matt. 24:40, 45).

To view pro-life as only about unborn babies is very limited. Jesus Christ cares

See **LETTER** page 6

Americans' moral positions decline at alarming rate

Many of us have serious concerns about the rapid transformation of our culture from one grounded in Judeo-Christian principles to a secular, values-free, amoral society. Surveys conducted recently by the Gallup polling organization confirm that our anxiety over our nation's moral health is well-founded and, if anything, even more profound and alarming than conventional wisdom had assumed.

Over the past few years, Gallup polled Americans' beliefs and attitudes on 19 issues. Of those 19 issues, Americans' attitudes had grown more liberal in 13. In none of those 19 issues did the beliefs trend toward more conservative, traditional values.

Following are some of those survey results. The percentages cited represent the percentage of Americans who find the activity morally

acceptable. Divorce is considered morally acceptable by 73 percent. Sixty-nine percent believe that sex between an unmarried man and woman is morally OK. Americans approve of gambling at a rate of 69 percent. A full 64 percent

believe that homosexual relationships and marriages are acceptable.

Embryo stem cell research is approved by 61 percent of Americans. Fifty-seven percent agree with doctor-assisted suicide. Abortion is acceptable for 43 percent of Americans, while it is opposed by only 49 percent. Sex between teenagers is OK with 42 percent. Seventeen percent approve of polygamy. Nine percent of Americans find extramarital affairs acceptable.

Drinking alcohol is fine with 78 percent of Americans. Sixty-four percent are good with legalizing recreational marijuana. Having a baby

out of wedlock is OK with 62 percent. Forty-three percent of Americans approve of pornography.

How, people ask, has this happened? I believe we can find the answer in the wisdom of Nobel Prize winner Alexander Solzhenitsyn. He was a Russian statesman, philosopher and an eyewitness to the tragedies that occurred in the Soviet Union. As a child, he heard the old people explain Russia's calamities by saying, "Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened."

After spending more than 50 years researching Russia's fall, conducting hundreds of interviews and writing eight books on the subject, Solzhenitsyn said, "If I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous revolution that swallowed up some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accu-

See **DECLINE** page 6

Answering the call to nursing at OBU

As a young girl, I watched my mother, a certified nurses' aide, provide compassionate and loving care to older adults. The nursing profession has allowed me to advocate for patients at the patient bedside, as a healthcare professional, and in the nursing education classroom to ensure that the patient receives the best

evidence-based care. I feel honored to have the opportunity to be a key player in developing a contemporary and unique Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program for Ouachita Baptist University.

The nursing profession is diverse and has many avenues through which a nurse may choose to make a difference. Ouachita's new nursing program launched this fall with 23 students and is distinctive in the region. It grew out of Ouachita's longstanding record of preparing students for health-related professions in its Patterson School of Natu-

ral Sciences while answering nationwide calls for innovation in nursing education.

In a partnership with Baptist Health College Little Rock (BHCLR), our students will earn two degrees in four years and have the opportu-

nity to enter the workforce as RNs a full semester earlier than most tradi-

tional BSN programs. Our dual enrollment RN-to-BSN completion program capitalizes on the strengths of both institutions: the best private university in the state and the largest healthcare system in the state, both of which share a common commitment to faith-based education.

The nursing profession is experiencing a nurse shortage that is expected to extend past 2025. Ouachita has a history of producing graduates who become excellent leaders. My goal is to lead a nursing program that embodies the university's mission and to

produce successful nurse leaders who will not only combat the nursing shortage, but also excel and guide the nursing profession.

Students in our program can expect an excellent education from diverse, highly experienced nurse educators. Being dually enrolled at Ouachita and BHCLR allows for greater networking among some of the most successful nurse leaders in the state, increasing employment opportunities, expanding influence within the community and supporting acceptance into nursing graduate programs.

Nursing is rigorous and challenging — as it should be when people's lives are in your hands. I encourage students considering this calling to let God lead your heart. The rewards of being a nurse are in having the opportunities to care for each person in need as God would have you do.

Brenda Trigg is director of nursing at Ouachita Baptist University.



Ouachita Baptist University

Brenda Trigg

What does religious liberty really mean?

On Aug. 16 members of The Satanic Temple arranged for a large flatbed truck to pull in front of the Arkansas State Capitol in Little Rock. Perched atop the bed of the truck was a nearly 8-foot-tall statue of the pagan idol Baphomet.

The act was part of a protest of a Ten Commandments monument recently installed on Capitol grounds. The Satanic Temple, a multi-chapter group that does not actually champion satanic worship as much as naturalistic inquiry and rebellion against traditional norms, viewed the monument as an affront to the First Amendment.

The group's basic argument was that no religion should receive seemingly preferential treatment within local, state or national governments because all religions are equally protected by the Constitution.

Therefore, the thinking goes: If a Ten Commandments monument is going to be featured on government grounds, there should be no reason a monument memorializing another philosophical

perspective shouldn't be equally welcomed.

While I was appalled by the deep spiritual darkness that radiated throughout the Aug. 16 event and I pray that all members of The Satanic Temple would come to know Christ, I agree with the basic logic of the point they were making.

Some argue that the Founding Fathers' concept of religious liberty only included Christian groups and was never intended to extend protections to followers of other faiths.

However, using similar logic, one could also make the argument that "all men," as mentioned in the Declaration of Independence, only referred to those of northern European descent.

Slavery was not formally abolished in the United States until 1865. Indeed, there was an 89-year period of our nation's history in which some men were treated differently than other men based on their skin color.

Therefore, has our country's common concept of what "all men" means been infinite-

ly improved since 1776? Yes, it absolutely has.

Interpreting the Constitution is no easy task. But I would argue that it must be done in the same way that Christians (should, but often do not) interpret Scripture – exegetically.

We have to read the document, understanding that the men who composed it had a specific meaning they were trying to communicate. We also have to place the writings in the time period in which they were written and understand that, unlike inspired Scripture, they are not infallible.

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was born out of the concept that slavery was acceptable. Today, the SBC is a leader within evangelical Christianity in repudiating racism.

All people, in every generation, sin. Often culture plays a role in defining the areas in which people miss the mark.

This is the reason the Bible instructs us to guard our hearts.

I would argue that America's philosophy of governance and emphasis on the inalienable rights of "life, liberty and

repent and champion their being set right.

I feel strongly that Christians should support the religious liberty of all. I would rather live in a pluralistic society where all people have the right to worship how they please, including Christians, than in a society that silences free thought and expression.

Post-modern secularists and radical leftists have won America's culture war. But public and private proclamation of the gospel and worship of Jesus Christ are still legally protected under the First Amendment – at least for now.

Instead of fighting for Christianity to become more aligned with our government, I believe that Christians should be thankful for their historically unheard of liberties and use them to the glory of God!

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.



Baphomet statue in front of the Arkansas Capitol Aug. 16. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

the pursuit of happiness" are noble and have contributed to the United States being one of the greatest countries to ever exist.

But when true biblically defined injustices become apparent in our culture, we should

Book review: 'God in the Window'

Margaret Colson
Arkansas Baptist News

Turning the pages of Andrea Lennon's new book, "God in the Window," is peering through the window of her life's journey. It's a journey marked with the tension of desiring to live by faith while at the same time wanting to be in control.

The book's opening pages, set in the hospital at her birth, describe how the fact that Lennon was adopted left her, for many years, haunted with a question. That question: Who was standing at the hospital's nursery window, peeking and marveling at her? Lennon, women's ministry specialist for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and founder of True Vine Ministry, now realizes that even then God "was directing the events of my life" (p. 11).

She confesses her ongoing struggles with God's plan for her life, saying, "Everything ties in with how my life began with my adoption, to walking through different hard things in my life" (p. 119).

Years later, as she began her

seminary education, which she described as a "huge, terrifying step of faith" (p. 119), she walked the halls of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention offices, where her seminary classes were being held. Feeling like she didn't belong, she gazed at a picture on the wall. It was a photo of the Little Rock Billy Graham crusade, an event she had attended as a 13-year-old with her mother in 1989. In the photo, she recognized herself, with bows in her hair, and her mother. Immediately, she realized, "Every single moment of the way, He was there, not only in the nursery window, but also in the window of my life. He is God in the Window!" (p. 120). That photo graces the cover of her book.

As a women's ministry leader, Lennon has often encouraged women, "Know your

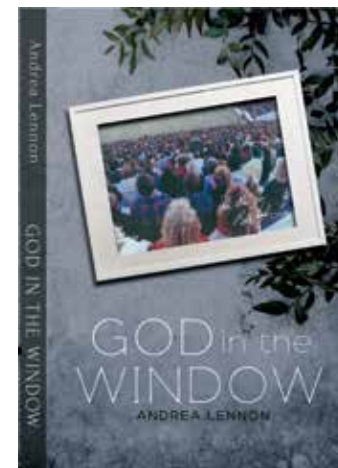
story, own your story, and share your story" (p. 253). She writes, "I encourage women to notice how God has worked in the past, how God is working in the present, and have faith that God will continue to work in the future" (p. 253-254). Through this intensely personal book, she is taking her own advice to heart.

Concluding the book, Lennon writes, "Letting go of control and enjoying the spacious land of faith is slowly becoming my new reality" (p. 317).

Readers who begin to turn page after page in Lennon's book will find themselves challenged to experience that same reality.

"God in the Window" by Andrea Lennon is available at andrealennonministry.org or amazon.com.

Contact Margaret Colson at margaret@arkansasbaptist.org.



LETTER

continued from page 5

deeply about unborn babies, born babies, toddlers, children, pre-teens, teenagers, young adults, adults in the prime of life and older adults. He cares for the hungry and the well-fed, the thirsty and the thirst-quenched, those wearing rags, those wearing designer clothes and everyone in between. Jesus loves the healthy and the sick, the prisoner, the guard and the free man and woman.

Article XV of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message states in pertinent part: "We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death."

This is the real meaning of pro-life.

Steven R. Davis
North Little Rock

DECLINE

continued from page 5

rately than to repeat: 'Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.'

Solzhenitsyn's conclusions find support in Scripture. Hosea 4:6a (KJV) says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." To forget God is to be ignorant of His truth. To try and maintain a righteous nation without the guidance of God's truth is like someone trying to navigate the ocean with a sextant without reference to celestial bodies like the North Star. That person will be lost and will remain lost until finding and using those heavenly bodies as references.

Our culture will be lost and will remain lost unless its people discover the North Star with which to navigate their lives. That North Star is God's truth, His Son, His wisdom and the grace He offers.

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

Acts 1:8 One Day headed to Poinsett County Oct. 6

TRUMANN – Children and adults from across Arkansas will gather in Poinsett County for the annual Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions team from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6.

“I’m extremely excited to see the churches of the Trinity Baptist Association come together along with the Southern Baptist churches of Ar-

kansas to impact lostness in Poinsett County,” said Robin Foster, associational missionary for Trinity Baptist Association. “What we are doing represents cooperation of like-minded churches in accomplishing the Great Commission.”

The One Day Mission Trip in Poinsett County will kick off at Trumann High School’s football field before splitting up into different ministry

teams. Volunteers will minister to individuals of all ages.

“The local community is impacted by various ministry projects serving the community,” said Bob Harper, ABSC missions team leader. “Christ is shared, and Arkansas Baptists love on the people in the community.”

The mission day includes block parties, a fishing derby for kids, health and dental clinics, sports camps, home



Acts 1:8 One Day volunteers clean up the yard of a shut-in in 2016. Thousands of One Day volunteers are expected to serve in Poinsett County Oct. 6.

repairs and painting, prayer walking and senior adult ministry. Evangelism teams serve through washing cars, doing laundry, going door-to-door and distributing food.

“The hope for the One Day Mission Trip each year is for hundreds to be saved, the community to be impacted

for Christ, Arkansas Baptists to see that missions can start at home and that there is a great hope for everyone,” said Harper. “That hope is found in Jesus and Jesus alone.”

Registration for Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip closes Sept. 18. For more information, visit absc.org/oneday.



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Ark. Baptists travel the state to serve neighbors

Rachel Moreno
ABSC

IT WAS BARELY 9 a.m., and more than 2,000 people were beginning to fill the stands of the football stadium at North Little Rock High School. Children, college students and senior adults held colorful signs mounted on paint sticks that read, "Prayer Walking," "Yardwork," "Block Party" and "Medical Clinic."

On this cool October morning, the crowd had not gathered for a football game or track meet. They had not gathered for a political rally. They were there for a mission trip.

"There is a need to share the gospel right in our backyard," said Susie Noe, a member of First Baptist Church, Marked Tree. "How awesome to be able to do this in Arkansas." Noe was one of more than 2,500 Arkansas Baptists who converged on North Little Rock for the annual Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip in October 2017.

"One Day" is a community missions ministry made possible by the annual Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. Each year, the mission trip travels to a different area of the state so that Arkansas Baptists can serve the community through various ministries, with the ultimate goal of sharing the gospel. The 2017 event was the eighth anniversary of the One Day Mission Trip.

This particular One Day Mission Trip was Noe's first, as well as a first for members of her family and church. "About 25 of us went to North Little Rock," she said, "and we didn't quite know what to expect."

The group split up into their ministries of choice, including laundromat evangelism, prayer walking, yardwork and a medical/dental clinic. After leaving the kickoff site at the high school, ministry teams traveled to and served

the local communities of Sherwood, North Little Rock and Jacksonville for the day.

As she worked, Noe watched other Arkansas Baptists who were there to serve.

"I know Scripture says, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.' The laborers that were there were zealous, and they were determined to do His work," she said.

"I think when Jesus says we are to love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, but then also to love our neighbor as ourselves, that's important," Noe said. "It's important and exactly what [One Day] is all about: loving our neighbor."

As a result of more than 100 ministry sites scattered around the county, 35 people made professions of faith, and many more had gospel conversations. The ministry of the Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip impacts lostness in Arkansas, an intentional emphasis agreed upon by Arkansas Baptists and supported through their prayers, gifts and service through Dixie Jackson missions.

"I think a lot of people think, 'I'm not able to go out [and work], to rake leaves and what have you,'" Noe said. "Praying is a beautiful thing. Giving generously of your heart so that others can go and be the doers ... for the same mission of sharing Jesus Christ."

"So many stories came out of [One Day]," she added. "It impacted the community, and it was because of offerings to Dixie Jackson that we were able to go, which is what we're called to do."

This is why every Arkansas Baptist who answers the call to live missionally — through their prayers, gifts and service — is furthering Dixie Jackson Arkansas missions work and, more importantly, following Jesus' command to be His witnesses in our own Jerusalem,

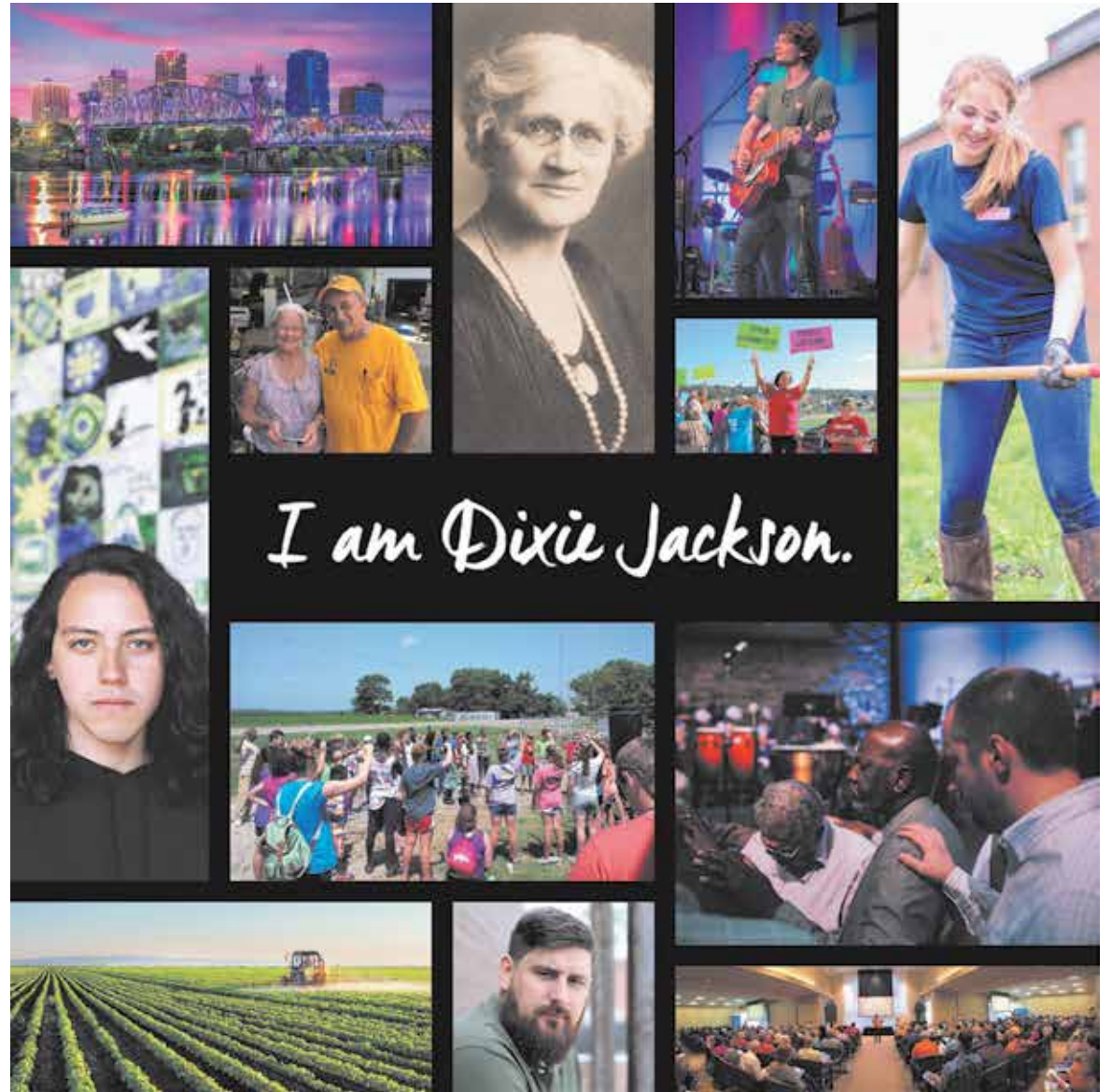
Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

The 2018 Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip to the Trinity Association (Poinsett County)

is Oct. 6; register online by Sept. 18 at absc.org/oneday. To learn more about the 2018 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of

Prayer Sept. 9-16, visit absc.org/dixiejackson.

Rachel Moreno is content manager for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



I am Dixie Jackson.

DIXIE JACKSON WEEK OF PRAYER

September 9-16, 2018

State Missions Goal **\$1.7 MILLION**

- SUNDAY**
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- MONDAY**
Baptist Collegiate Ministries
- TUESDAY**
Church Planting
- WEDNESDAY**
Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip
- THURSDAY**
Disaster Relief
- FRIDAY**
Medical and Dental Clinics
- SATURDAY**
Pray, Give, and Go

Dixie Jackson
ARKANSAS MISSIONS OFFERING

ABSC.ORG/DIXIEJACKSON

PASSION PLAY

continued from page 3

Great Passion Play's grounds are four mountain biking/hiking trails that are being developed through a grant from the Walton Family Foundation, which has donated \$74 million to the construction of cycling infrastructure in northwest Arkansas, according to *Outside* magazine.

The four trails include two beginner trails and an intermediate and expert trail – named Genesis Trail, Exodus Trail, Holy Roller Trail and Atonement Trail respectively.

According to Butler, the concept of developing trails on The Great Passion Play's property had been part of the vision of the play's leadership since 2012.

"When I was 23, after the play had gone through some financial trouble, we sat down and asked ourselves, 'What could we do different?'" said Butler.

"We thought trails could be a neat piece of what we were doing. We got the attention of the Walton Family Foundation, and they invested about \$1 million to build 20 miles of trails here," he said.

Today, eight miles of the eventual 20 miles of trails on the play's grounds are completed.

Northwest Arkansas is known to feature some of the best mountain biking areas in the country, Butler said. His



Charles Robinson (above) gives a tour of a life-size replica of the Old Testament Tabernacle as part of the play's Holy Land Tour. Here, he shares about the compartment known as the "Holy of Holies." Another Passion Play volunteer (below) shares about the empty tomb of Christ during the tour. A first edition printing of the 1611 King James Version of the Bible is on display (bottom right) at The Great Passion Play's Bible Museum. Photos by Caleb Yarbrough

hope is that The Great Passion Play's trails will provide a reason for cyclists and hikers, who might never attend the play, to visit the grounds.

"Right now, with the play, we are focusing on honoring the past and pressing forward to the future," said Butler.

"People have those great memories of the Passion Play. It represents times or seasons in their life that they can go back to and gain strength from. ... Things of this nature (the play) force you to be im-

mersed in the experience. Why wouldn't you want to choose to take that moment to receive inspiration?" he said.

"We are trying to get people to slow down, in the hurriedness and busyness of life ... and reflect on the things of Christ," said Butler.

For more information on The Great Passion Play and events associated with its 50th anniversary, visit greatpassionplay.org.

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.





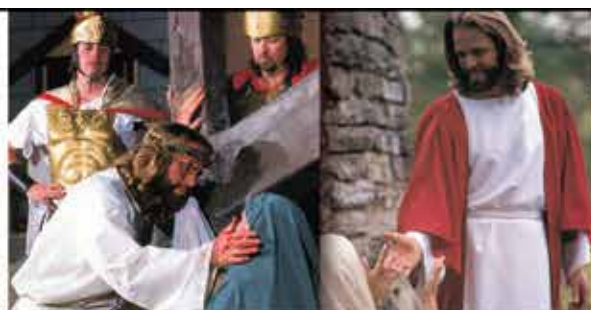
JOHN 12:24

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Students explore their call

Lisa Falknor and Sarah Davis
Arkansas Baptist News

GOD ANSWERED Elizabeth Fish's pre-summer prayer, "Show me how I can be more involved in ministry," by leading the 20 year old to apply for a paid summer internship called Explore Your Call (EYC).

"It was a blast," said Fish, a member of First Baptist Church, Sherwood. She served in children's ministry at North Pulaski Baptist Association in North Little Rock.

EYC (formerly E4Call), supported by the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering, is an opportunity for those ages 25 and younger who feel called to ministry. Students work with church and associational mentors.

Fish worked alongside her ministry mentor, Dennis Wilkins, associational missionary for North Pulaski Baptist Association.

"Dennis really taught me what it looks like to care for others," she said. The close-up look at his life reminded her that "before people begin to listen to what you say, they want to know you care."

Fish, a rising junior at Uni-

versity of Arkansas in Monticello, is an early education major and plans to teach kindergarten while serving as a bivocational children's minister.

It was the second consecutive summer Fish worked at North Pulaski association assisting with vacation Bible school (VBS) events and other needs.

"One of the biggest challenges this summer has been investing in churches by helping with VBS and then having to say goodbye to the children and families within the church," said Fish.

Because today's church is increasingly older and in need of younger pastors, mentoring the younger generation to become church leaders is vital.

According to Barna Research, the median age of pastors in 2017 was 54. In 1992, it was 44. From 1992 to 2017, the number of pastors over 65 years old has increased from 6 to 17 percent, and the number of pastors under 40 years old has decreased from 33 to 15 percent.

Thirty-five EYC student interns like Fish across the state attended a mandatory orientation at Camp Paron to learn key skills such as how to

share the gospel and how to set boundaries.

After orientation, Lizzy Stoddard, a EYC college junior from Southside Community Church in Paragould, stayed at Camp Paron for the summer. Stoddard worked as social media producer, taking photos and making videos for the camp's Instagram and Facebook page.

Stoddard said she confirmed a call to ministry and affirmed God-given gifts while serving at Camp Paron.

"You grow a lot in your faith," she said. "You get to create all these memories and experiences you'll have for the rest of your life." She added that connections made during summer might bear fruit in the future.

That's what happened for Emily Duncan, said Chris Kohlman, assistant team leader for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) college and young leaders team. Duncan signed up for EYC in 2016. For two years, she has been Kohlman's ministry assistant; she starts next month as an International Mission Board (IMB) student

See **CALL** page 14



Julia Cox, member of Shiloh Community Church, Fayetteville, assists a young boy in a camp activity while serving as an Explore Your Call intern for the Washington Madison Baptist Association.







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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



Victory Car Show at Immanuel Baptist Sept. 8

LITTLE ROCK – The sixth annual Victory Car Show presented by the men's ministry of Immanuel Baptist Church,

Little Rock, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8.

"For the past five years, I've

billed this show as our 'One Day Mission Trip Where You Don't Have to Leave the Parking Lot,'" said Dan

Harrington, one of the event's organizers. "It is a great opportunity for us to invite car guys and folks from the surrounding neighborhoods onto our campus, (individuals who) might not attend church."

Harrington added, "It's a 'sowing' event, more than a 'harvest,' but we get folks to register and then can follow up with them about coming to church. We do have opportunities to witness one on one

and from the stage. It also gives us a chance to talk about our plans to use the old Kroger building for mercy ministry and community outreach. We've dubbed it the City Center."

Admission is free. For more information about registering a car or motorcycle, email rick.jaggars@ibclr.org or call 501-831-6111. Immanuel Baptist Church is located at 501 N. Shackleford in Little Rock.



MAKE 'EM PROUD



Back when my mom started college, they were still writing on overhead projectors... Fast forward to 2018—she just completed her last 30 hours of classes online. Ha. The internet never ceases to amaze me. Neither does my mom's hustle and drive. Get it! 💪

—Skylar, son of Staci, Ouachita Online graduate

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Travis McCormick (left), of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions team, presents a certificate of appreciation to Franklin Piercey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Scranton, in recognition of the church's 50th anniversary. First Baptist was established as a mission of First Baptist Church, Paris, and was incorporated as a Southern Baptist church on Aug. 4, 1968.

FBC, Scranton, marks 50 years

SCRANTON – First Baptist Church of Scranton celebrated its 50th anniversary Aug. 5.

Travis McCormick of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions team presented a certificate of appreciation to Pastor Franklin Piercey in recognition of the occasion.

J.D. "Sonny" Tucker, ABSC executive director, made congratulatory remarks to the church via a recorded video. Additionally, Danny Green,

associational missionary with the Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association, presented the church a plaque in recognition of the occasion.


Evangelist William Blackburn preached the message for the service, which was followed by a meal provided by the church in the Family Life Center.

First Baptist was established as a mission of First Baptist Church, Paris, and was incorporated as a Southern Baptist church on Aug. 4, 1968.

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BAPTISTS



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Sept 16-19, 2018

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Shelton was 2012 and 2016 Evangelism Chairman of Olympics Outreach and has preached to crowds of more than 100,000. He is thrilled to return to Arkansas and bless the local church.

Location:
201 W. 7th St.
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FBCSmackover.com
Pastor Carley Davis
(870) 725-3941

Time:

- Sunday, Sept. 16 @ 10:30a.m. and 6p.m.
- Mon.-Wed. @ 7p.m.

FrankShelton.com

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Obituaries

Richard "Jerry" Montgomery, 74, of Ash Flat, died Aug. 18.

A retired sales representative from Conwood Company, Montgomery served in the ministry for 43 years in Memphis, Tenn., and as pastor of First Baptist Church, Ash Flat.

Montgomery was preceded in death by his parents, John and Sarah Montgomery, and Bertha Swindle. He is survived by his wife, Linda Montgomery, two daughters, a son, a sister, three brothers, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral was Aug. 22 at the Memphis Funeral Home followed by military honors from the Tennessee National Guard. Burial followed at Memphis Memory Gardens Cemetery.

Milestones

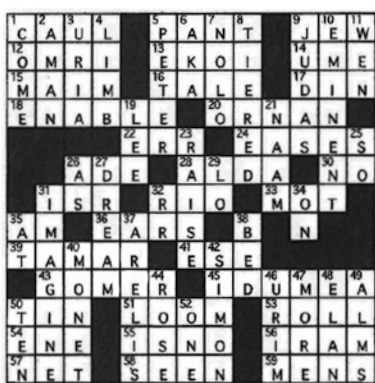
First Baptist Church in Hope will celebrate its 150th anniversary at 10:15 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 21.

First Baptist Church, Booneville, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 16.

Glover's 45 years of service recognized by Hickory Grove

STAR CITY – Eloise Glover was recognized for 45 years of dedicated service as church treasurer on Aug. 5 at Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Star City. Glover also served as Sunday school teacher and continues to serve as church pianist. Bill Hilburn is pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist.

**Crossword key,
see crossword page 15**



Man mauled by bear to speak

LITTLE ROCK – Johnny McCoy will be sharing his testimony at Lifeway Baptist Church, Little Rock, on Saturday, Oct. 6.

McCoy was on staff at First Baptist Church, North Pole, Alaska, for 42 years, serving for 35 years as a senior pastor.

In 2001 McCoy made headlines after he was mauled by a grizzly bear while hunting. McCoy underwent six hours of surgery for his injuries, which included bites to the head, arms and hands. One ear was severed; his eye was dislodged, and his skull

was visible.

Now retired, McCoy and his wife reside in Knoxville, Tenn.

"We are looking forward to people being encouraged and strengthened as we hear Johnny's story of God's provision and protection," said Freddy Parker, pastor of Lifeway Baptist.

The event will begin with brunch starting at 9 a.m. followed by a firearm safety seminar at 9:45 a.m. McCoy will share his story at 10:45 a.m.

For more information call 501-448-9800 or email lifeway-lr@gmail.com.



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

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church-subscriptions**

Classifieds

PASTOR

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.

New Freedom Baptist Church of Malvern is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Please mail resume to PO Box 957, Malvern, AR 72104.

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: searchcommittee@bcm@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: fbchoratio@windstream.net.

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.

Union Baptist Church, a rural church with a big heart, is seeking a **full-time traditional Southern Baptist pastor** with a vision, who supports the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. Resumes with a link to a sermon video or audio may be emailed to unionbaptistchurch1@yahoo.com or mailed with a sermon DVD to Pastor Search Committee, Union Baptist Church, 144 Crain City Road, El Dorado, AR 71730.

Mountain Top Cowboy Church, Heber Springs, is searching for a **full-time senior**

pastor. Mail resume to the Pastor Search Committee, 45 Heber Springs Rd, Heber Springs, AR 72543, or go online to www.mountaintopcowboychurch.com and click on "Pastor Search" for more information.

Marshall Road Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time senior pastor**. Please send resume to 821 Marshall Road, Jacksonville, AR 72076 or marshallroad@comcast.net.

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

First Baptist Church, Harrisburg, is seeking candidates for a **full-time pastor**. The preferred candidate will be an experienced, ordained pastor with a seminary degree consistent with Southern Baptist theology. Send resumes to the Pastor Search Committee, 201 West Jackson St., Harrisburg, AR 72432, or VickieMorris@harrisburgfbc.com.

Tillar Baptist Church in need of **full-time pastor**. Send resume to: Tillar Baptist Church, PO Box 116, Tillar, AR 71670.

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

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.

Tri-County Baptist Association, Wynne, Arkansas, is seeking resumes for **associational missionary**. Send resume to Search Committee, c/o Greg Dewitt, 14503 Hwy 37 S., McCrory, AR 72101 or email to greg44dewitt@icloud.com.

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

FBC Bogata TX, seeking a **full-time youth and music minister**, an adventurous soul to lead youth with great potential and full church support as they direct us to the throne in worship while flexing artistry. ATTN: Ashley Johnson, P.O. Box 8, Bogata, TX 75417 or fbcbogata@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.

Pastoral secretary, Baring Cross Baptist, Sherwood. 30 hours/week. Email resume: bcbcderek@sbcglobal.net.

The Northshore Baptist Association (Southeast Louisiana) is seeking resumes for an **associational mission strategist (DOM)**. Interested persons should visit www.northshorebaptists.net/search.

South Main Baptist Church 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 equipping 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 Attn: 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 Attn: Steve Barnes.

Cullendale First Baptist, Camden, AR, is seeking a **full-time children's minister**. College and/or seminary degree required. Submit resume to wadetotty@cullendalefbc.org or mail to 1850 Cash Rd. SW, Camden, AR 71701.

Monte Ne Baptist Church, Rogers, AR, is seeking a **youth pastor** to build a strong youth group to bring glory to God. If interested please contact Pastor Mack Mills, 479-636-5390 or mnbrogers@att.net.

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

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SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

Galatians 3 is one of the more complicated chapters in all of Paul's writings. Tackling this text is not easy, but it is well worth it. We must remember Paul was in a battle for truth. In the passage the Judaizers, false teachers, were teaching that salvation was a mixture of Law and grace. In this chapter Paul gave several arguments to prove that God saves sinners through faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law. True life doesn't come about by any work we can do but solely through the finished work of Christ on the cross.

First, Paul argued from personal experience. He was firm and direct with the Galatians, "You foolish Galatians! Who has hypnotized you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was vividly portrayed as crucified?" (Gal. 3:1). They had fallen prey to the Judaizers. They had heard Paul preach Jesus and Him crucified with such power that it was almost like seeing Jesus actually on the cross. They placed their faith in Christ and were

saved. But the Judaizers convinced them they needed to obey the Law.

Experience alone isn't enough; it must be balanced with Scripture. Paul used the Old Testament to prove that salvation is by faith in Christ alone and not by the works of the Law. He said Abraham was saved by faith (Gal. 3:6-7). Through Abraham all Gentile nations would be blessed, and the promise of salvation would come (Gal. 3:8-9). The true children of Abraham are not Jews by physical heritage but are the Jews and Gentiles who place their faith

in Christ. Paul went on to say those who live under the Law were living under a curse (Gal. 3:10-12). Christ lifted the curse by becoming a curse for us on the cross so that we can have the promise of the Spirit through faith (Gal. 3:13-14).

Faith and legalism have different consequences; one leads to life and the other to death. True life begins when we trust Christ as our Lord and Savior.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

True life

GALATIANS 3:1-14 (HCSB)

Recently, I saw a comic strip depicting a scene in heaven. A man dressed in a robe and wearing a halo was standing behind a counter. Another man was standing in front of the counter wearing a sandwich board with the slogan, "The End Is Near!" The man with the halo said, "You can take that off now." I am often asked, "Are we living in the end times?" Yes, the church is always living in the end times. Here's why.

Peter wrote to the church of the diaspora saying, "The end of all things is near" (1 Pet. 4:7). Verses like this provide a framework for what theologians call the doctrine of imminence. Christ's return is imminent; it could happen at any time. Peter was not a Gnostic. He claimed no secret knowledge. He gave a commentary on this in 2 Peter 3. The Lord's delay really can't be understood as we normally understand delay. The Lord wishes none to perish but all to repent (2 Pet. 3:9). His imminent return should create urgency in us to share

the gospel more.

The word "therefore" in 1 Peter 4:7 is important. While we are waiting for Christ's return, there are some things we should be doing. We are to have self-control, be disciplined in prayer, have fervent love, minister through our gifts, be good stewards of God's grace and God's Word, serve in the strength of the Lord and always glorify God through Jesus Christ.

I saved one item for last, "Be hospitable." The word "hospitable" is the Greek word *philoxenos*. It is a compound word that means "a lover of hospi-

tal." Christian love is demonstrated in practical ways like hospitality. The subjects of this hospitality are "one another." Peter's readers knew the importance of hospitality. They were scattered by persecution and needed places to stay, be assisted and be encouraged. Christians should entertain strangers, assist those in need, open their homes to God's servants and use hospitality to glorify the Lord.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Gracious hospitality

1 PETER 4:7-11 (HCSB)

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

In Paul's day many Roman and Greek households had child guardians. The educated slaves took the children to school and watched over them during the day. Their task was often to teach the children, protect them and even discipline them. This is what Paul meant by "guardian" in Galatians 3:23-25. We are not to understand it in the sense of a modern teacher. Paul used this word picture to describe what the Law did for the Jews until Christ.

The Law regulated all of Jewish life. It prepared Israel for the coming of Christ (Gal. 3:22). The Law separated Israel from the Gentiles (Eph. 2:12-18). The Law also created a sense of guilt and need in those who were lost (Matt. 19:16-22). Paul said in Galatians 3:25 that the Law had served its purpose and was no longer needed. Why? The Savior had come. Paul told the Galatians they were "no longer under a guardian, for you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:25-26).

Paul wanted them to understand that the Law could not do what the Jewish leaders promised it could do. The Law could not make them heirs of God. "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29). The promise was that all nations would be blessed through Abraham (Gal. 3:8; Gen. 12:1-3). This also involved being justified by faith (Gal. 3:6-9). This promise was spoken to Abraham and his seed (Gal. 3:16). Notice that seed is singular and is referring

to Christ (Gal. 3:16). So if you are in Christ, by faith you are Abraham's seed, spiritually speaking.

Paul was telling the Galatians they needed to grow up and did not need a guardian (Gal. 4:1-7). "Adoption" means "to have an adult standing in the family of God." "So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God" (Gal. 4:7). True heirs of God live by faith and are not slaves to legalism.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

True heirs

GALATIANS 3:23-29; 4:1-7 (HCSB)

This lesson begins with a dialogue between Jesus and a lawyer. Notice that the lawyer stood up to ask a question. In Middle Eastern traditional culture, the teacher sat while the students stood in respect, recited what they had learned or asked a question. This lawyer's motivation was not to be a respectful student. He wanted to trap Jesus. Jesus knew what he was up to.

The lawyer's question was flawed. He asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25). "Inheritance" by its very

nature is not something that is earned; it is a gift. But Jesus turned it around and asked the lawyer what was written in the law and how did he read it. He answered by saying to love God and to love your neighbor. Jesus told him that he was correct and to go and do it. Immediately the lawyer saw he had asked the wrong question. Wanting to justify himself, he asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus didn't answer directly but told a story.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Intentional love

LUKE 10:25-37 (HCSB)

The parable of the good Samaritan is about a man going from Jerusalem to Jericho. He was attacked, robbed, beaten and left for dead. A priest and a Levite passed by without helping him. But a Samaritan stopped, cared for him and took him to an inn where the Samaritan paid for his care.

The Samaritans were enemies of the Jews. Jesus asked the lawyer which of the three was a neighbor to the man. The lawyer answered, "The one who showed mercy to him" (Luke 10:37). The lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbor?" was not answered. Jesus reflected on the larger question, "To whom must I become a neighbor?" The answer was: anyone in need. Both times Jesus answered the lawyer, He said, "Go and do!"

As believers, we must intentionally be a neighbor and show love and compassion to anyone in need, regardless of language, religion, ethnicity or social or economic status.

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.

CALL

continued from page 10

mobilizer. Kohlman said hands-on ministry partnership benefits churches and makes mutually beneficial connections like these.

Duncan mentored another EYC intern this summer, Julia Cox, who served as an intern for the Washington Madison Baptist Association. Cox attends Shiloh Community Church in Fayetteville.

"Emily was always good to send encouraging texts. I knew if I needed anything, I could go to her," said Cox.

Along with assisting in VBS for 10 churches, Cox went to Canada as part of EYC. There, she worked at two children's camps and helped with a block party for Multiply Church in Calgary. She said her time ministering outside the states will assist her in her future

goal to live internationally and work for Doctors Without Borders.

"Explore Your Call seeks to serve those who are experiencing a call to ministry," said Warren Gassaway, student ministry specialist for the ABSC evangelism and church health team.

"We want to walk with those students, their families and their churches to help them as they discern God's calling in their lives," he said.

Jack Buck said his EYC experience will help his future plans to work with children. This is his second summer as an EYC children's ministry intern at his home church, First Southern Baptist Church, Bryant. Buck enjoyed working with 5th and 6th graders studying the Bible weekly by using the YouVersion app, an effective tool because the kids are into social media.

"My big takeaway is the importance of discipleship," he

said. He also liked being part of a church staff. "The whole staff at First Southern in Bryant is willing to serve," he said. "I love it!"

Ernest DeSoto, associational missionary for Liberty Baptist Association, said more than half of the association's

54 churches reported conducting no VBS.

EYC interns provided churches youthful vision and energy, especially for outreach, he said.

"I hope in the future more churches would embrace (EYC) and more associations

too. It's a beautiful partnership between the state convention and local church," DeSoto said.

Lisa Falknor writes for the college and young leaders team of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Contact Sarah Davis at sarah@arkansasbaptist.org.

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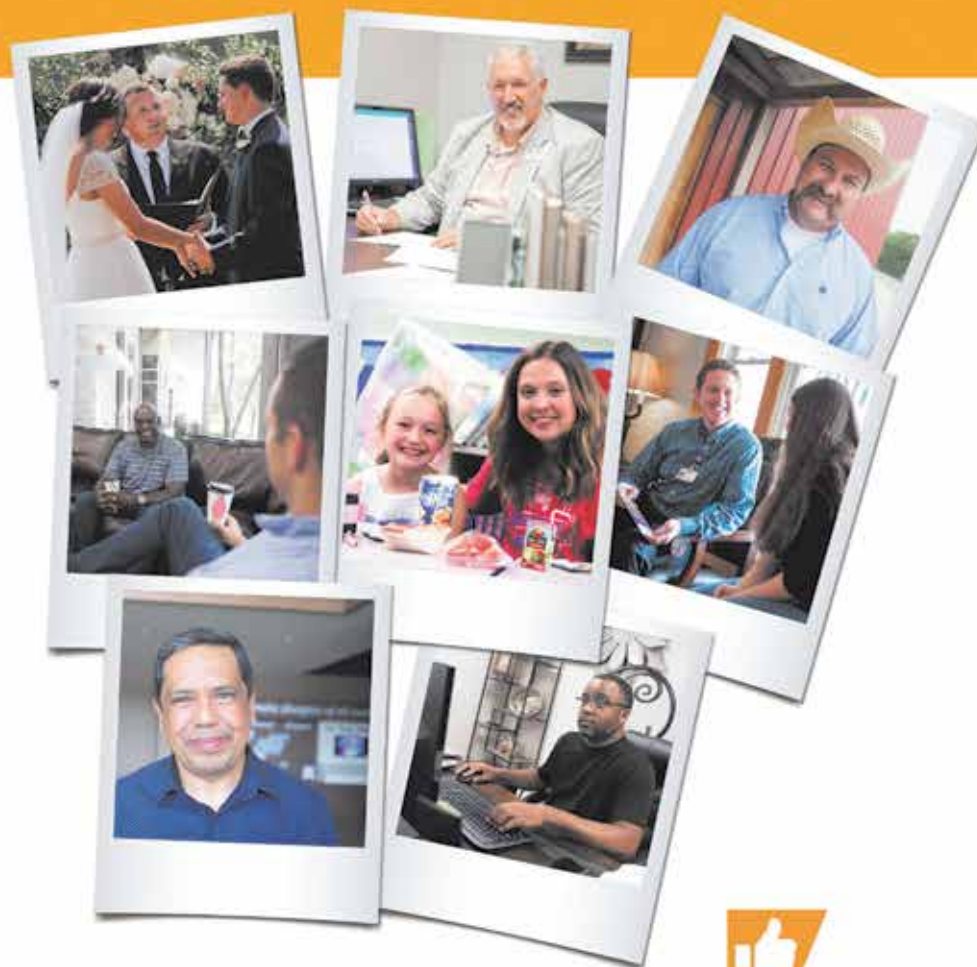
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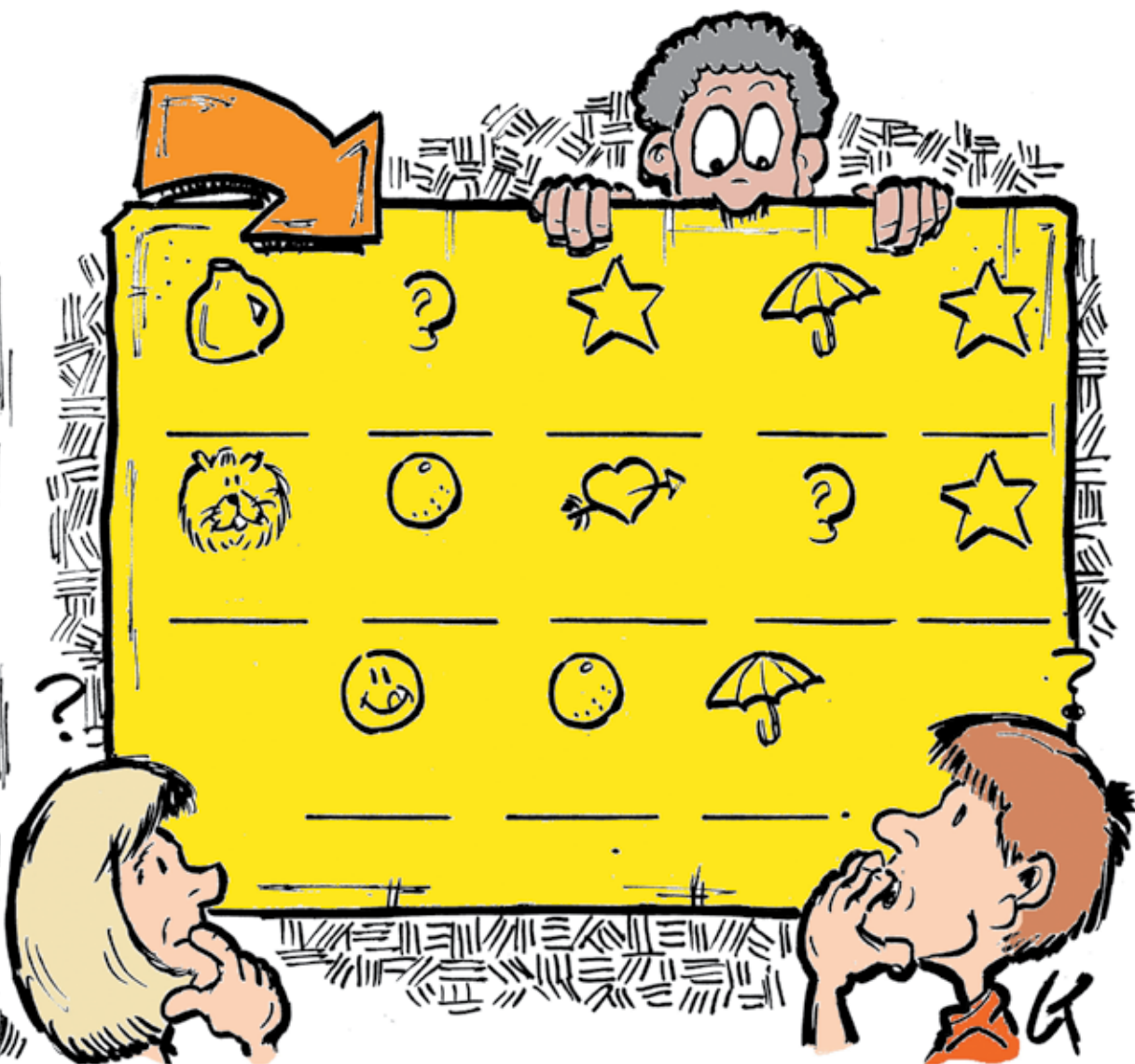
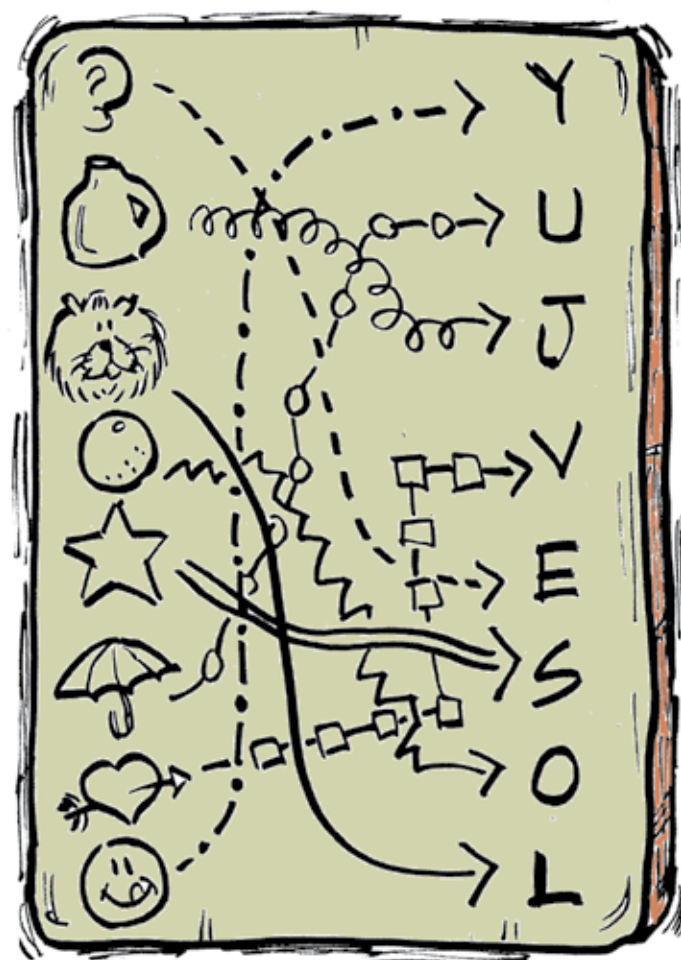
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Gospel Games

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

2 Timothy 2:5 (CSB)

Use the Decoder below to solve the puzzle.



Across

1. "the ____ above the liver, with the kidneys" (stomach part mentioned in Leviticus 3:15 for an offering)
5. Gasp
9. Mordecai the ____
12. A king of Israel (1 Kings 16)
13. West African tribe
14. Japanese apricot
15. Disfigure
16. "We spend our years as a ____ that is told" (Psalm 90:9)
17. Uproar
18. Make possible
20. Aka Araunah the Jebusite
22. "Do not ____ because ye know not the scriptures" (Mark 12:24)
24. Makes less difficult
26. Summer drink
28. Actor Robert
30. Ancient Thebes (Jeremiah 46)
31. Mid. East. country
32. ____ Grande
33. Witty remark

Down

35. I ____ (God)
36. "shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ____" (2 Timothy 4:3)
39. Judah's daughter-in-law (Genesis 38)
41. Compass dir.
43. Hosea's wife
45. Area of Judea that included Beersheba
50. "all they are brass, and ____, and iron" (Ezekiel 22:18)
51. Appear indistinctly
53. Kaiser ____
54. Chemical suffix
55. "God ____ respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34)
56. Duke ____ (Genesis 46)
57. Cruise the ____ (pastime for the 90s)
58. "justified in the Spirit, ____ of angels" (1 Timothy 3:16)
59. ____ room

Down

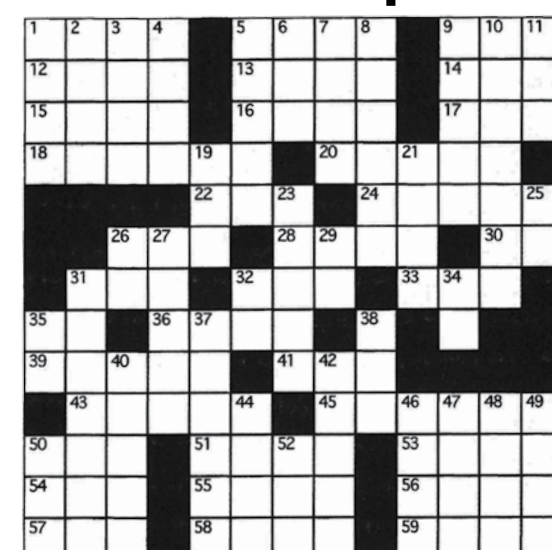
1. "____ unto me" (Matthew 11:28)
2. "Will ____ rob God?" (Malachi 3:8)
3. Auk genus
4. Arm, for example
5. Cephas
6. Alias (abbr.)
7. ____ contendere
8. Layered
9. ____ tree
10. "thou buildest thine ____ place in the head of every way" (Ezekiel 16:31)
11. Benign skin tumor
19. Actress Grant
21. Son of Caleb (1 Chronicles 4)
23. "I will ____ me up a faithful priest" (1 Samuel 2:35)
25. Egyptian king (2 Kings 17)
26. Preposition
27. "Your old men shall ____" (Acts 2:17)
29. Biblical interjection
31. "the people ____ a vain thing"

(Psalm 2:1)

32. B & O, e.g.
34. ____ a roll
35. Preposition
37. Belonging to the son of Gad (Numbers 26)
38. "Take up thy ____, and go unto thine house" (Matthew 9:6)
40. French impressionist
42. "____, called Peter" (Matthew 4:18)
44. ____ of Sharon (Song of Solomon 2)
46. "the breastplate of judgment the ____" (Exodus 28:30)
47. Less is ____ (fashion dictum)
48. Zeal
49. "that thine ____ may be in secret" (Matthew 6:4)
50. Mus. part
52. Chemical (suffix)

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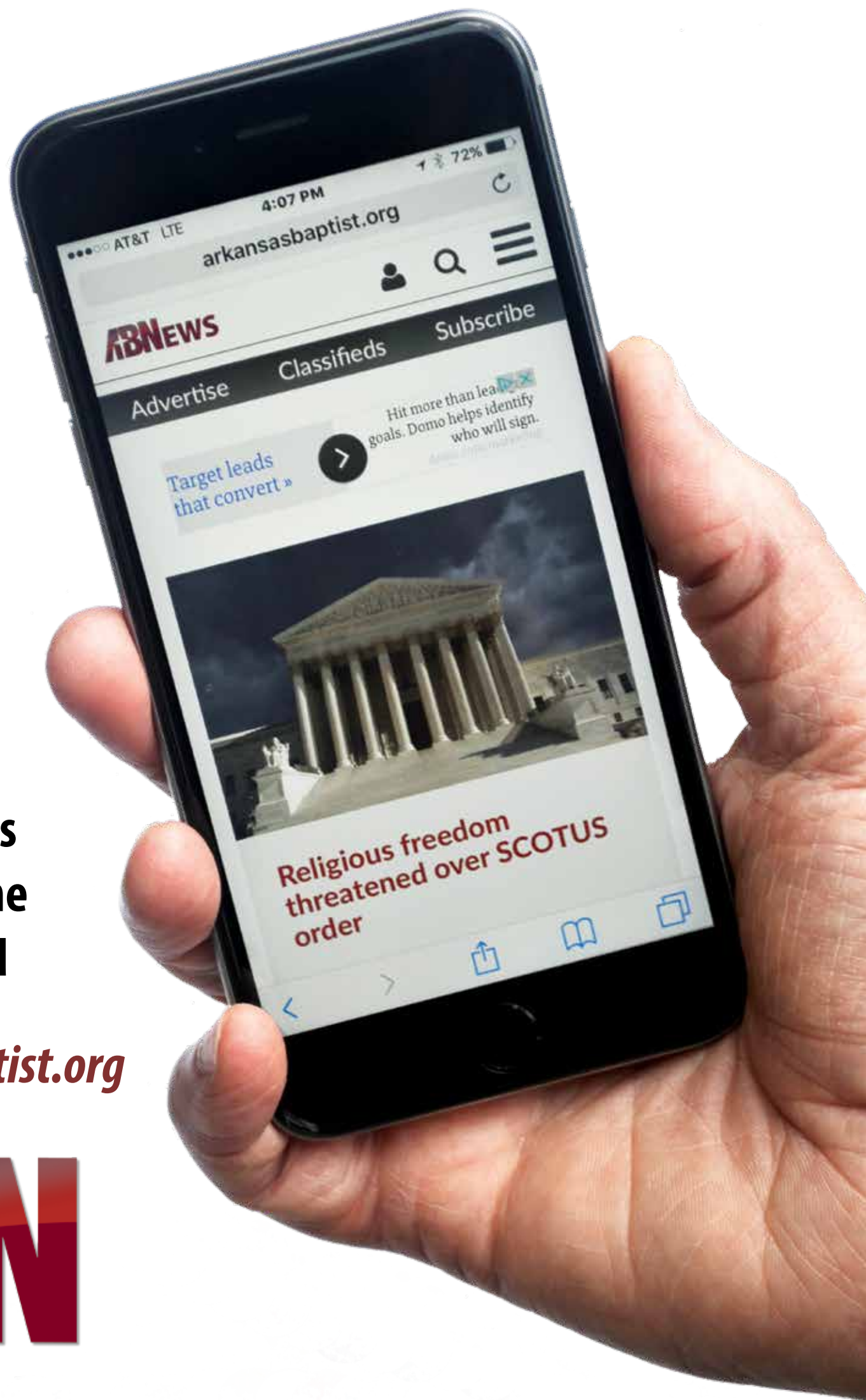
ABN Crossword puzzle



Crossword answer key on page 12

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