



Students play games and show "school" spirit during Super Summer, held at Ouachita Baptist University June 19-23. Super Summer JV was held June 16-19.



Super Summer 2012

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

ARKADELPHIA – Hundreds of colorfully dressed students swarm the field at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia as they take part in recreation – some fish for items with their toes, some verbally guide a blindfolded camper around obstacles, others shoot balls into the air for a fellow camp-

er to catch. It is all part of Super Summer Arkansas, a Christian camp for junior high and high school students sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) evangelism and church growth team.

In all, 1,350 campers attended the junior high camp, held June 16-19, and 1,290 campers attend-

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Baptists respond after fires, storms

SOUTHERN BAPTIST Disaster Relief units are in action in 15 states in response to recent storms in the mid-Atlantic, flooding in Florida and wildfires in Colorado.

"It's a busy time," said Mickey Caison, disaster relief team leader for the North American Mission Board (NAMB). "The majority of the states have been able to handle it on their own. We have a few that we are assisting with water and some other resources – like Colorado and the two Virginia conventions," Caison said in reference to Baptist conventions in the respective states.

Disaster relief units in Arkansas had not been requested to join relief efforts as of July 5, said Bill Cantrell, disaster relief director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC). Cantrell said Arkansas is part of Region 3, a new designation of NAMB that includes the states of Missouri, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. States in Region 2 have been asked to respond.

Howard Kisor, associational missionary with the Arkansas River Val-

ley Baptist Association, offered assistance in a fire in Pope County to local and state officials, but it was not needed at the time, said Cantrell.

Four times as many wildfires were reported in Arkansas in June compared to a year earlier, the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* reported. With much of the state under a burn ban – especially during the Fourth of July holiday – blazes were reported in 15 of the state's 75 counties, the newspaper said. The Arkansas Forestry Commission reported 300-plus fires burned nearly 5,000 acres in June, which is higher than the 157 wildfires that burned nearly 1,300 acres in June 2011.

New disaster relief rigs

Nationally, two of NAMB's new 53-foot, 18-wheel tractor-trailers were deployed for the first time to deliver much-needed water to Virginia July 2.

The new tractor-trailers, driven by Tennessee Baptist disaster relief

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The story lives on ...

Legacy of Woman's Missionary Union in Arkansas

Leah Fender
Arkansas Baptist News

BEHIND EVERY organization, there's a fascinating backstory, and the Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) is no exception.

WMU's history is made up of thousands of women who paved the way for how mission work is carried out in Baptist life, explained Jana McKnight, Women on Mission director at Immanuel Baptist Church,

Little Rock.

"Before Arkansas WMU came along, women, predominately single women, would write back to the various churches in the states to get people to pray and give," said Debbie Moore, Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) women's missions and ministry con-

sultant.

"They finally realized that they would be more effective by organizing their efforts into a clear network of people for the purpose of obtaining even more prayer and giving. ... That's how I believe WMU got its start," said Moore.

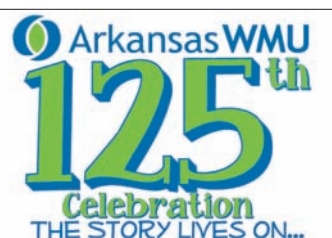
National WMU and Arkansas WMU were both established in May 1888 during the Southern Baptist

Convention Annual Meeting held in Richmond, Va. At the meeting, a group of women delegates – which included Arkansans – gathered and organized the Executive Committee for the Women's Mission Societies according to "History of WMU" by Cindy Johnson.

WMU meets needs

However, the history of WMU

See **WMU** page 6



Ark. Baptists serve with 300-plus in Fort Smith

Carma Rowlett
World Changers

FORT SMITH – A number of Arkansas Baptists served alongside more than 300 middle and high school students at the World Changers project held June 25-30 in Fort Smith.

Students and leaders participate in World Changers, a program of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, with the purpose of sharing the love of Jesus Christ by repairing houses and serving homeowners in 85 cities across North America.

Concord Baptist Association was sponsor of the Fort Smith project, which was held at Grand Avenue Baptist Church.

Despite the heat index of more than 100 degrees, the vigor of the 314 students roofing and painting houses was not diminished.

“I am here to share the Word of God,” explained Gabby Luna of Springdale and a member of Brush

Creek Baptist Church, adding she was happy to serve and believed that she was fulfilling the biblical calling to serve those who need assistance.

Margaret Marquez, a member of First Baptist Church, Leachville, said, “I am here to help bring people closer to God. I have fun while working, but I am here to share the love of Jesus Christ.”

Marquez, a former participant in World Changers, said she looks forward to participating in the program annually.

Other Arkansas Baptist churches participating in the project were Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith, and members of churches that make up the Arkansas Valley Baptist Association.

In all, 27 houses received some type of repair or renovation work during the week – which included paint jobs and new roofs – impacting the lives of many homeowners.

Norman Baldwin said she has waited more than five years for her

roof to be repaired. Gage Smith, member of Brush Creek Baptist, shared that it was an “amazing feeling” to be reshingling Baldwin’s roof.

With 300-plus students and leaders in Fort Smith, members of the community took notice of the work being done and often asked about who was behind it.

A World Changers work crew serving in one of the communities seized on an opportunity to evangelize – resulting in four salvations.

In all, 10 decisions for salvation were reported among people in the community, along with five students participating in the project.

Two more World Changers projects are scheduled to be held in Arkansas in West Memphis, July 9-14, and in Little Rock, July 16-21.

More information about World Changers is available by visiting www.lifeway.com/worldchangers.

Carma Rowlett is missions and communications specialist for World Changers and PowerPlant.



Jacob Sanders of First Baptist Church, Leachville, paints a house during the Fort Smith World Changers project June 25-30.

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volunteers, arrived at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., on Tuesday morning, July 3, with 39 pallets of water – about 120,000 bottles. Thomas Road and the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV) set up a “cooling station” at the church after powerful storms battered the eastern United States on June 29, leaving at least 22 dead and more than 2 million people without power.

The cooling station provides area residents with a place to cool down, get water and rest as temperatures have reached triple digits over the past few days. The church also is providing snacks to residents. The bottles came at just the right time as the SBCV and Thomas Road had been providing water since Saturday and were beginning to run low.

“The neat thing about this event is that it’s definitely a local church event,” SBCV disaster relief director Jack Noble said. “Every one of our churches has the opportunity to get involved. ... They don’t need any training; they just have to go be Christ.”

Colorado, Florida response

In fire-ravaged areas of Colorado, disaster relief work also is continuing. Caison said the Fort Collins area is moving into the recovery stage.

“We set up a receiving center for folks to make applications for support and work up in the mountains,” Caison said. “We did some preliminary assessment and identified areas where we can help.”

We’re working on the details of



Two of the North American Mission Board’s new 53-foot, 18-wheel tractor-trailers have been deployed for the first time to deliver water to Virginia.

that today (July 3).”

Additionally, Oklahoma and Colorado units have set up a feeding unit at Vanguard Baptist Church in Colorado Springs. With 70 percent of the fire contained now, Caison said the unit will be closed either Tuesday or Wednesday as some area residents return to their homes in that fire-affected region.

Florida Baptist disaster relief units, meanwhile, are working in three locations in the state in the aftermath of historic flooding following Hurricane Debby’s onset in late June. The storm deluged several parts of the state, although its gusts never got above 45 miles per hour.

Fritz Wilson, the Florida Baptist Convention’s disaster relief and recovery team strategist, said the state’s Baptists are gearing up for a heavy response in Live Oak, one of the state’s hardest-hit towns.

“They received 20 inches of rain, and the town just filled up like a bowl,” Wilson said. “There are all kinds of sink holes. There was 8 to 10 feet of standing water in houses. The water is just now receding because it had to soak through the water table to go down.”

On July 8, Wilson said, Florida Baptists started a large flood recovery response based at First Baptist Church in Live Oak. Wilson anticipates that Florida Baptist disaster relief will have three to four weeks of work in the Live Oak area.

Florida Baptists also are working in the town of Starke, where the flooding of the New River impacted about 50 homes. In addition, Georgia Baptists are helping to assess disaster relief needs around Lake City, Fla.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention also has been active

in flood relief near Duluth, Minn. The northeast part of the state was hit with floods nearly two weeks ago, with Southern Baptist volunteers subsequently participating in clean-up work and feeding in the area.

The convention reports many positive responses to their work, including a father and son who were “very skeptical” of accepting help at first. By the end of three days of Southern Baptist work on their home, they commented on how the volunteers were “living the Christian faith” in front of them.

“Pray for volunteers in all these areas that are working and for those who are affected,” Caison said. “Pray that we’ll have an opportunity to represent Jesus Christ and His love and grace in a very positive way during this time.”

Compiled from Arkansas Baptists News and Baptist Press reports.

Association established in 1852

Mt. Zion breaks ground for new facility

JONESBORO – The Mt. Zion Baptist Association held a groundbreaking and prayer ceremony Monday, June 25, at the construction site for their new facility at 2500 Sunny Meadow in Jonesboro. Construction of the new building is expected to begin this month.

“Our former facility was built in 1968 at 2100 Stadium Blvd. and contained 674 square feet of office space,” said Ed Gillham, associational missionary. “That building has served us well. This new building will contain 2,800 square feet of space, and allow us to have staff offices, a conference room, private counseling section, work area and storage. It was designed to meet the needs of the association.

“Proceeds from the sale of our old building have allowed us to construct this \$350,000 facility and still have money left over for repairs at the Mt. Zion Baptist Camp at Walcott,” Gillham added. “These physical structures are dedicated for use as tools for the sincere ministry of reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The true headquarters for our association is not in this new building but in the local churches.



Mt. Zion Baptist Association recently held a groundbreaking and prayer ceremony for its new facility.

The church members have been very supportive, and we make every effort to be good stewards of their investment.”

Completion of the new building is expected to be between October and December of this year. A temporary association office has been established at 1707 Christian Valley Drive.

The Mt. Zion Baptist Association

is comprised of 41 churches, and two missions in Craighead County. The association also includes Mt. Zion Baptist Church, in Greene County and Cornerstone Baptist Church in Poinsett County. The association was established in 1852 to form a partnership of local Southern Baptist churches and enable them to fellowship and work collectively in evangelism, education and benevolence.

SUMMER

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ed the high school camp, held June 19-23.

“Our goal is to challenge students with the Word of God, calling them to be followers of Jesus in all areas of their lives,” said Sean Mills, ABSC evangelism and church growth team member. “Some are called to salvation, others refocus their walk with God and some are called to serve in ministry leadership. We want all to leave with a deeper understanding of God through His Word and to go live it out daily.”

The camp “is planned, organized and carried out jointly by the evangelism and church growth team and our Super Summer Leadership Team of youth pastors/leaders from across our state,” said Mills.

But along with fun and games, the camps included times of worship and teaching. The Museum served as the worship band, and evangelist Ed Newton served as speaker.

Mills explained that the theme, Festival, was chosen by the leadership team chairman, Warren Gasaway, who serves as minister to stu-

dents and families at Immanuel Baptist Church, El Dorado. Mills said Gasaway chose the theme based on John 7:37 (ISV), which says, “On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink!’”

Bill Newton, youth minister at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, served on the leadership team as teaching coordinator. As such, he was in charge of curriculum. He said this is the first year the leadership team has chosen to write its own curriculum, which was based on the topic of purpose.

Newton, who wrote the curriculum, said as he worked with the curriculum and topic of purpose, his hope was for the students to “see that they’re not an accident, that God wants to use them for His kingdom and that through ... (the) areas that we talked about that they would be challenged to live that out and not think because they’re 12 or because they’re 16 that they’re too small or too young to be used.”

Haley Wesson, one of the students in Newton’s youth group, shared her view of the camp as a second-time camper.

“It’s a good place where you kind of get away and you just focus on

God for a solid week, and you just worship Him, and it’s just great fellowship time and you meet new people, so it’s a really great week,” Wesson said.

Mills said one of the unique aspects of Super Summer Arkansas is “camo school.” He explained that students are divided into groups called “schools,” each of which is given a theme color. Camo school is for seniors only, and their curriculum is “specifically designed to prepare students for life after high school.”

“We teach worldview, Bible apologetics, creation/evolution, how to be responsible with finances and other preparations for college life,” Mills said.

A number of decisions were made during the camps, including 96 salvations, 111 recommitments, 18 calls to ministry and multiple other decisions.

“Personally, one of the most rewarding parts of Super Summer is hearing the stories of God working in and through students as they have returned home,” Mills said.

He said he heard that one student shared with his parents about what he learned at camp and about God’s work in his life. His parents then rededicated their lives to Christ.

“Super Summer is not just a week-long experience; it is a camp that challenges students to live for God every day of their lives and to impact the world around them for Christ,” Mills said.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.



Students verbally guide a blindfolded camper during Super Summer recreation.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest to Arkansas Baptists

Gay marriage issue appealed to high court

WASHINGTON (BP) – The issue of gay marriage has officially been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court in a move that could lead to a landmark ruling. On June 29, lawyers for the House of Representatives filed an appeal with the Supreme Court, asking it to take up a case concerning the constitutionality of a major section of the Defense of Marriage Act, a 1996 federal law which defines marriage as being between one man and one woman. Because the court is in its summer recess, attorneys may not know for weeks or months whether the Supreme Court will hear it.

Cooperative Program giving up 4.27% YTD

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – Year-to-date contributions to Southern Baptist national and international missions and ministries received by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee are \$5,959,045.57, or 4.27 percent, above the year-to-date budgeted goal, and are .32 percent above contributions received during the same time frame last year, according to the SBC Executive Committee. The total includes receipts from state conventions and fellowships, churches and individuals for distribution according to the 2011-12 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget. The Cooperative Program is a channel of giving, begun in 1925, through which a local church is able to contribute to the various ministries of its state convention and to the various missions and ministries of the SBC with a single contribution.

18 dead in Kenya after church attacks

SANTA ANA, Calif. (BP) – At least 18 people died while 66 were wounded in Kenya’s north-eastern town of Garissa July 1 when assailants burst into the Africa Inland Church (AIC) and Catholic Church, shooting at worshipers with firearms and detonating grenades. Two policemen guarding the AIC churches were among those killed. As the churchgoers realized what was going on, they tried to flee. Many were shot dead as they attempted to escape. The attackers threw at least four grenades into the church. Two detonated while two were found intact.

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

Cooperation a distinctive trait of Southern Baptists

Most folks would agree that life in the Southern Baptist Convention has been a bit rowdy the past several decades.

It seems that once we got all of that business about the Bible settled, then came a succession of change in the denomination that is still with us today.

No longer do churches look to the Baptist Sunday School Board for curriculum, but rather to Life-Way Christian Resources.

Missionaries are no longer deployed from “home” and “foreign” mission boards, but rather Southern Baptists have the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board.

Even the convention’s retirement and annuity agency was renamed from the Annuity Board to Guidestone Financial Resources.

I have often said that if my dear grandfather and lifelong Southern Baptist, Russell Yarbrough, were

alive today, he would not be able to find much evidence of the Southern Baptist Convention (in name, at least, and oh, there is an alternative for that I hear as well).

I understand the need for change, and some name changes actually make sense – particularly as we confront the diverse ethnic and cultural landscape of the 21st century – but it seems enough is enough.

Thankfully,

there’s one Southern Baptist distinctive that has survived the sea of change and what’s more – continues to define Southern Baptists’ passion for Christ’s mission. It’s the Cooperative Program.

During the intense debate around the Great Commission Resurgence, the Cooperative Program emerged as a point around which Southern Baptists (at least most it seems), could unite.

While a new designation, Great



PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough

Cartoon by Gary Thomas



Commission giving, was introduced, the Cooperative Program was lifted up as a stalwart of the denomination that has been instrumental in allowing Southern Baptists to have a worldwide reach for Jesus Christ.

Much like children who are allowed to focus on themselves while in church, I believe there is a danger that we could become too self-centered as a denomination and

lose sight of what made Southern Baptists great and world-reaching.

Rather than focusing on things that make us feel relevant or significant – renaming, reorganizing and revising – perhaps we should focus our resources on the charge of Jesus Christ and strive to make Him known among all peoples and nations.

Tim Yarbrough is editor of the *Arkansas Baptist News*.

What are we becoming?

What are we becoming? The Southern Baptist Convention has been blessed by God down through the years. ... One of the reasons is because we have been people of the Book (the Bible).

We need to take heed to what Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:3-7 (KJV), “As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightiest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: from which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.”

Does being a Baptist mean any-

thing anymore? Are we heading down the ecumenical highway?

What are we going to become? If we start forgiving the devil, then we are certainly in for ruin. I think it

is time to start preaching what the Bible says and certainly following the Great Commission; just because you change your name does not mean you are going to be faithful.

Mike Griffith
Crossett

Witnessed change in SBC

It is with a sense of melancholy that I seek to add my voice to the opinion page. I have served in the ministry for approximately 23 years in Arkansas. I have, over the course of those years, witnessed the transformation of the SBC. We were (at least in my memory) individuals

whose greatest desire was to share the gospel and ease the suffering of all persons by fulfilling the Great Commission. The SBC that I view today appears to be something that looks and feels a lot like a political

action committee with a moral superiority complex (we seem to forget that a sense of self-righteous pride, not unlike that of a Pharisee, is as much hated by God as those things we protest). It appears from reading the comments in the “Letter and Opinion” pages of the ABN or resolutions from New Orleans that this SBC or at least its most vocal part cares more for a type of forced social reformation than it does witnessing the changing of lives through regeneration. After much thought, I feel that I understand why this is so – it truly is easier to pound our chests, slap on a bumper sticker, pick up a sign that says “God Hates You” and claim to

be the self-appointed mouth piece of God than it is to actually be the heart, hands and feet of Jesus Christ to this lost world. Paul exhorts us to “let your moderation be known unto all men,” Philippians 4:5, or as the HCSB renders it, “Let your graciousness be known to everyone.” I do not find a lot of graciousness in the comments of my fellow Arkansas Baptists these days, nor do I find very much religious freedom for those with a moderate viewpoint.

Robert Loudermilk
Norman

Letters to the editor

The *Arkansas Baptist News* welcomes letters to the editor on topics and concerns of Arkansas Baptists (see policy below for submission guidelines). Email letters to tim@arkansasbaptist.org.



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Baptists Ask

What is the role of the deacon and how does he work with the pastor?

In the New Testament, a deacon (from the Greek word “diakonos,” meaning “servant”) was to serve the needs of the church body. They may have begun in Jerusalem when the apostles chose seven men to deliver food to Greek-speaking widows in the church (Acts 6:1-7).

When Paul wrote to Timothy about the qualifications of deacons (1 Tim. 3:8-13), he spoke more about a deacon’s character than about a deacon’s duties. First, deacons should be men of integrity who live honest lives (1 Tim. 3:8). Second, they should be mature believers who know the “deep truths” of the Christian faith (1 Tim. 3:9). Paul recommended a trial period for candidates, to see if they were ready (1 Tim. 3:9-10). Third, deacons should have a harmonious home life, as their family serves along with them (1 Tim. 3:11-12). Fourth, their good service would strengthen their faith (1 Tim. 3:13). While no person can completely meet these criteria, Paul hoped candidates would aspire to live in this manner.

In Baptist churches, deacons serve alongside the pastor. Not only do they help during the ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, they also participate in church visitation. They care for the elderly and homebound, and they visit those who are in the hospital. In short, they are ministers.

In some churches, deacons may act like the “bosses” of the church, or as “chairmen of the board.” Because Baptist churches have no hierarchy of authority, deacons should not act this way. Deacons may also serve as the communication “bridge” between the pastor and the congregation, but they should never be his bosses.

Deacons are servant leaders, both to the pastor and to the church body. When the pastor and the deacons serve one another with integrity, the congregation will want to do the same.

Ken Gore is chair of the Williams Baptist College department of Christian studies. Baptists Ask is reader-driven. Send your questions to tim@arkansasbaptist.org.



Gore

The importance of time with Jesus

Pulpit committees, church nominating committees and pastoral staff searching for workers of every sort are looking for “qualified” servants. They consider many attributes – education, experience, specific skill sets, personality, etc. Sometimes it can be overwhelming trying to match a position with qualifications. In that struggle, leadership often loses sight of the single most indispensable qualification for ministry.

In Mark 3, we find Jesus overwhelmed with ministry needs. He pulls away from the crowds and retreats into the mountains. There He handpicks 12 followers as ministry partners “that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach” (Mark 3:14, NIV). He qualified them by spending time with them. Preaching followed time alone with Jesus.



PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

Greg Addison

Nothing matters more for a servant of God than spending time alone with Jesus. How can we tell people about Jesus if we are not intimate with Him? The best Sunday school teacher is the one who speaks from time spent alone with Jesus. Quarterlies do not impact people. Instead, it is the person who wields the lesson after discussing it with Jesus.

In the search for a pastor or lay leader, the most important part of the interview is learning the person’s testimony and plan for time alone with Jesus. Jesus does not require an extensive list of degrees or accomplishments for ministry – He does require time with you. Servants, do not neglect your time alone with Jesus – it is your most important task. The blessing for us is that it is also the best part of serving.

Greg Addison is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Cabot.

40 Questions About The End Times

By Eckhard Schnabel, Kregel Publications, 2011

Place?” and “Why Should I Care about the End Times?” Each chapter ends with reflection and review questions for the reader.

Some of his answers may bother those with locked-in assumptions. Whether one agrees with Schnabel or not, a careful reader will be challenged and deepened in understanding the issues by processing what is presented. Schnabel does not introduce any interpretations that are foreign to other well-studied conservative interpreters.

While he attempts to explain some matters for beginning readers, my impression is that it will be most accessible

to those who have some previous exposure to the terminology in biblical scholarship and end times studies. However, even a new student to the topic willing to make the commitment to work through the material will be richly rewarded. This book will serve as an excellent resource for pastors and Bible study leaders.

David H. Rogers is pastor of First Baptist Church, Biscoe.



BOOK REVIEW

David H. Rogers
First Baptist Church, Biscoe

Over the course of years of exposure to preaching and teaching, we absorb many traditions of interpretation, so much so, that we may develop instant subconscious negative reactions to interpretations different from that of familiar acquaintance. The new presentation may flow from intensive analysis of biblical texts, but sometimes we prefer the comfort and consistency of the customary. We assume the tradition we have always heard to be a trump card. Further biblical study that introduces other ways of understanding is often strongly resisted since the answers have been determined.

Eckhard Schnabel’s “40 Questions About the End Times,” Kregel Publications, 2011, is one of a series of volumes that examines Christian issues through a format of answering 40 questions on selected biblical, theological and practical topics. The book is divided into four parts: “General Questions about the Future,” “The Return of Jesus Christ,” “The Millennium and the Last Judgment” and “Interpreting the End Times.” Subsections of these parts address the questions, including: “When Do the End Times Begin?” “Will the Church Disappear in a Rapture to Heaven?” “Does National Israel Have a Special Destiny?” “Who Is the Antichrist?” “Will Jesus Return Soon?” “When Will the Day of Judgment Take

Scouting standards strong

During the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, a number of concerned messengers visited the Association of Baptists for Scouting booth to ask if they had heard correctly that the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) were planning to loosen their standards regarding requirements for adult leaders. I am pleased to say this is NOT the case. The BSA remains committed to the moral and ethical standards, which have been affirmed several times in Southern Baptist Convention reso-

lutions.

Scouting remains one of the finest evangelism, family ministry and religious education tools available for established churches, as well as new church plants. Scouts and their families involved in the religious emblems program are often reached for Christ, and it is not uncommon for youth participants to clarify their calling to vocational ministry.

While I am happy to report scouting’s commitment to the leadership standards, I remind readers that opponents to these policies are relentless and highly vocal. Unfortu-

nately, the “silent majority” remains largely unheard. I believe this is an opportune time to encourage Southern Baptist churches and individual members to send a note of affirmation to BSA for the moral and ethical commitments to which they have remained true for 102 years.

R. Chip Turner

Past president of the Association of Baptists for Scouting

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor

The Arkansas Baptist News welcomes letters. Email letters to tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

Children take the stage during JoyWorks

Leah Fender

Arkansas Baptist News

ARKADELPHIA – For 120 children enthusiastically singing, dancing and acting this summer, JoyWorks means a lot of different things.

“I really enjoy coming to JoyWorks,” said 12-year-old Kaylee Watson, a member of First Baptist Church, Stuttgart. “Not only do we learn some amazing new ways to worship God, but I always enjoy making new friends too.”

For 12-year-old Bobbie Gibbs, a member of First Baptist Church, Marion, it also means “butterflies.” After all, the singing and dancing eventually leads to a big stage with lots of people watching.

“This is my first year having a solo,” Gibbs said. “I am pretty nervous but also excited!”

JoyWorks, held at Ouachita Baptist University, is open to children who have completed grades 4-6. The camp includes four days filled with Christ-centered singing and creative music arts opportunities, along with fun time with friends and worship designed just for kids. This year the camp was held June 26-29.

“Children have such an incredible ability to experience and express pure worship,” said Larry Grayson,

member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention leadership and worship team. “JoyWorks is a place where this happens in a creative and fun environment. What a wonderful gift to offer the children of your church, ... helping them learn to express their love for Jesus in worship.”

Students get to participate in hands-on workshops, such as playing instruments, performing drama, learning sign language, making snapshots, creating strange musical sounds and singing.

“JoyWorks is an exciting opportunity for children to experience music,” said Grayson. “The camp is fun, relevant and hands-on.”

On the final day, children put their best foot forward and displayed skills they learned during the week. They performed musical numbers and drama to entertain their parents, who were invited to watch the performances.

“I love seeing the kids perform,” said Maggie Armstrong, a member of First Baptist Church, Stuttgart, whose daughter attended this year’s JoyWorks. “The kids have such a great experience. They get to be part of a big choir and learn other forms of worship.”

Ouachita is also home to Praise-



Children rehearse for the showcase event during JoyWorks, a music and worship arts camp for children who have completed grades 4-6. JoyWorks was held on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University June 26-29.

Works, which is set for July 16-20. PraiseWorks gives students in grades 7-12 an opportunity to perform in the PraiseWorks choir or orchestra.

“Joyworks and Praiseworks are exciting opportunities for children and students to experience music, but more important, these camps allow and encourage our students and children to deepen their worship, to grow in expressing that wor-

ship and to fall in love with leading others to worship,” said Grayson. “In a day when many churches are no longer providing training for future worshippers and worship leaders, this camp offers that experience.”

For more information, visit www.absc.org/music.

Contact Leah Fender at leah@arkansasbaptist.org.

WMU

continued from page one

began in the hearts of women long before that.

“Women have always been involved in missions and at the forefront of helping others in need. Regardless of what the need was, women have been there to help,” said McKnight.

According to Rosalie Hunt’s book “The Story of WMU,” the earliest record of a formal woman’s missionary society was recorded in 1811 with the name the Wadmalaw and Edisto Female Mite Society and was based in South Carolina. From this group, more than 100 such groups were formed that focused on praying for missions, according to the book.

Today, WMU is the largest missions organization in the world, according to McKnight.

Arkansas WMU is blessed to have such a long, rich history, said Julia Ketner, who served more than 30 years as WMU executive director before retiring.

One of Arkansas WMU’s famous presidents was Dixie Jackson, the namesake of the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. Jackson, the first corresponding secretary for WMU, resided in Dardanelle for 25 years before moving to Little Rock,

where she became the leader of Arkansas WMU in 1914. She served in the position for 15 years.

“At times, Jackson traveled the state by horseback trying to get churches involved in state missions. She was instrumental in getting women in Arkansas involved in state missions. They already had Annie (Armstrong) and Lottie (Moon), but here was a new way to minister directly to our own state,” said Ketner.



Dixie Jackson

WMU established some of the largest and most recognizable offerings in Southern Baptist churches, said Ketner. “Annie (Armstrong) is for North America, Lottie (Moon) is for international and (Dixie) Jackson is for our state,” she said.

The Dixie Jackson offering is solely used for Arkansas missions and helps fund ministries such as starting new churches, disaster relief, community ministries, crisis pregnancy services, chaplaincy, addiction recovery, inclusion ministry, as well as others, according to Moore and Diane Parker, ABSC missions support team leader.

Since its inception, WMU has evolved into more than an offering or women’s mission support group.

WMU is not just about women’s missions.

Kaye Miller, former national and Arkansas WMU president who continues to serve on the WMU national board, described WMU like the umbrella under which other mission efforts operate.



Mary K. Oldham Eagle (far right), the first president of Arkansas WMU, is pictured with other state WMU leaders in this photo taken in 1902.

“Think of WMU as the Pepsi under which lots of other products branch out. WMU is the master brand that provides the structure for other mission groups, such as Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors,” she said.

WMU’s “master brand” embodies several mission organizations, including Women on Mission, Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Children in Action, Acteens, Challengers, Youth on Mission, myMISSION and Adults on Mission.

WMU has strong roots and has remained grounded in its original purpose to “help the church carry out the mission it has been given by God to reach the world. WMU provides training and resources to aid the church in its mission,” according to WMU’s website.

“We are responsible for equipping people to be involved in missions,”

Ketner said. “If you involve people in ministry, you have to equip them with the tools they need to carry out that ministry. Maybe someone needs help with how to share their faith with others. So equipping can mean training or preparing people for mission work.”

Though WMU’s original purpose from nearly 125 years ago remains the same, “new issues have evolved, such as bullying and people trafficking,” explained McKnight.

These issues and others will be discussed at WMU’s annual meeting which is part of the Wellspring – Connecting Arkansas Women conference. Just like the original gathering in 1888, Arkansas WMU gathers each year to discuss new and old business. This year’s meeting will be held at First Baptist Church, Little Rock, July 27-28.

Contact Leah Fender at leah@arkansasbaptist.org.

Back to Campus

Freshmen learn to spread their wings

Brett Cooper

Williams Baptist College

WALNUT RIDGE - Much of what is learned in college is actually learned outside the classroom. Aside from the academic world that is the centerpiece of college, students are learning how to live as adults.

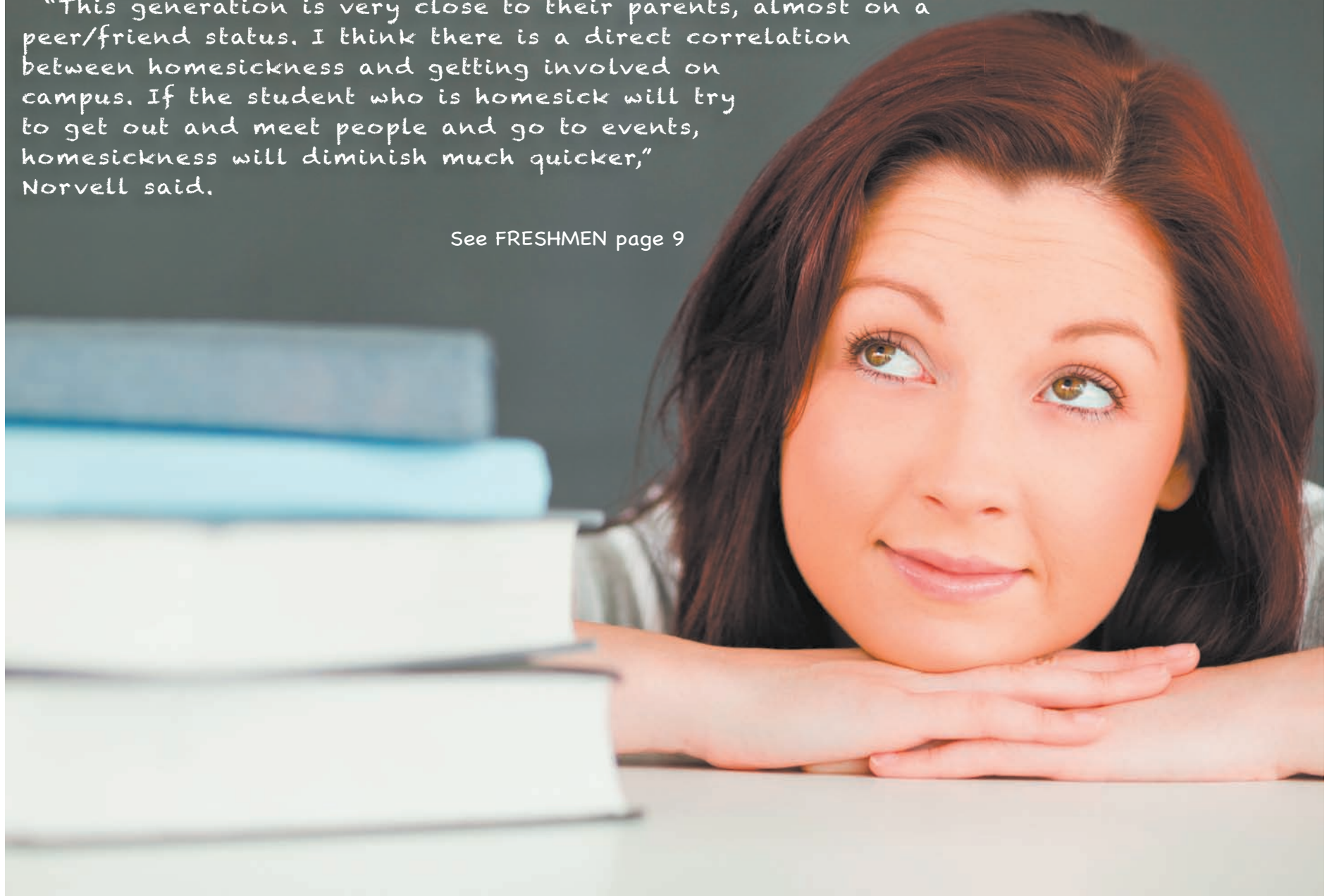
Grace Gilley, assistant director of campus ministries at Williams Baptist College, said new college students are learning to take responsibility for their own lives.

"College is this crazy new world where a student makes those decisions for his/herself," Gilley said. "Students must get themselves up and to class on time, learn how to do laundry and discipline themselves to get homework done and get a good amount of sleep. And that is some of the easy stuff!"

Increasingly, homesickness is another hurdle that keeps freshmen from getting all they can out of their college experience, according to Mary Norvell, freshman counselor at Williams.

"This generation is very close to their parents, almost on a peer/friend status. I think there is a direct correlation between homesickness and getting involved on campus. If the student who is homesick will try to get out and meet people and go to events, homesickness will diminish much quicker," Norvell said.

See FRESHMEN page 9



Online degree programs offer flexibility

T. Patrick Hudson
Midwestern Baptist College

WITH THE ADVENT of more advanced software and higher Internet speeds into homes, online courses have become increasingly popular. This trend is no different in Christian education.

Southern Baptists have been offering online courses for several years, and more recently, some have provided complete degree programs in both bachelor's and master's level work.

People who've never taken an online class may wonder, "What are the primary differences between taking a course on the Internet versus one in the classroom?"

"In the classroom, students receive face-to-face dialogue with the professor, and they also are able to gain insight from the nuances of what the instructor is saying. Some learn significantly better this way," said David Sundeen, an online professor at Midwestern Baptist College. "However, the advantage of learning online is that students interact with the text much more than what most students do in class. While learning directly through textbooks, students can take advantage of the author's, editors' and publisher's expertise,

which is sometimes not thoroughly covered in a classroom setting."

Why do some students choose online study as their means of attaining an education?

In a survey of Midwestern students, flexibility was a key reason for taking an online class. Students also said the convenience of not having to travel to campus allowed them to pursue their education while continuing in their ministry or career.

Chris Rucker, a Tulsa, Okla., native who recently graduated from Midwestern's online program, said online study best fit his needs because it allowed him to remain in Tulsa where he and his wife were settled in their church and work positions. Rucker added, "I liked that I had options on what courses I could take and in the order I felt best served my goals. There were parameters, of course, but overall it was flexible."

Another reason cited for taking online classes was that they were more condensed. Students felt they could complete their degrees more quickly.

Additionally, Rucker noted the ability to immediately apply his knowledge to his ministry environment.

"I was able to directly apply what I was learning each and every week to the local ministry I was involved in," he said. "I was able to take the tools I was gaining and share them with students and adults at my church. This was one of the reasons I wanted to take courses."

Online courses vary in format and differ from school to school. Some programs use commercial platforms such as Blackboard or WebCT, while others develop their own platforms to meet specific course needs.

Some courses are heavily textbook-based, meaning students will read the text, dialogue with classmates through discussion boards, take tests (some with time limits) in multiple choice, true/false, short answer or essay format. There is very little lecturing from the professor.

On the other hand, some courses provide video or audio lectures, combined with textbook assignments

and followed up with assignments.

"There are varying thoughts used in developing online instruction because every student learns differently. Some excel in the lectures while others are better at the text-based studies," Sundeen said. "Many schools offer orientations to learning in their platform, and it's important for students to ask pertinent questions of professors before taking the course."

In the end, the online education experience meets a need for many students who can't or don't desire to take classes on campus. Sundeen warned an online platform isn't "the easy way out" for getting a degree.

"In my opinion, it takes more discipline to finish an online class than it does one in the classroom," he said. "Most on-campus students are dedicated to schooling, whereas those taking online classes are adding another task to everyday life. It takes strong organizational skills, work ethic, self-reliance and discipline to accomplish the work. While one can fully concentrate on one or two classes over a shorter period of time, the condensed format demands a sharp focus."

T. Patrick Hudson is director of communications at Midwestern Baptist College in Kansas City, Mo.



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FRESHMEN

continued from page 7

Leaving the nest can also be a challenging time spiritually.

"It is incredibly easy for students to think, 'Well, I will just get involved with church when I'm older.' But it's important for students to take ownership of their faith now," explained Gilley. "It is so easy to catch up on much-needed sleep on Sunday mornings – especially when Mom and Dad are not there to see that the student makes it to a church service – so students really need to find and fuel their passion for the Lord."

On academics, Norvell offers the standard advice of keeping up with assignments

and knowing dates for exams. And it's also important to pick the right major.

"Decide on a major that fits what you are passionate about. If you are passionate about something, you will work harder to make it happen," she added.

Gilley advises students not to forget to "simply have fun" while at college.

"College goes by so fast. Explore career options, meet new people, go on road trips, save money to go to a concert, make memories with your friends," Gilley said. "Remember that it is perfectly acceptable to dream God-sized, God-given dreams. Don't be afraid of God's purpose for your life and be excited about the journey of learning more about yourself and more about God."

Brett Cooper is vice president for college relations at Williams Baptist College.

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Students learn to balance freedom, responsibility

Trennis Henderson
Ouachita Baptist University

ARKADELPHIA – As recent high school graduates head off to college this fall, eager anticipation likely will be mixed with a bit of trepidation.

While incoming freshmen look forward to newfound freedom, academic exploration and building lifelong friendships, they often harbor concerns about adjusting to new surroundings, balancing academics and extracurricular activities and making new friends.

Successfully navigating the demands and opportunities of college life definitely can be challenging. Students can discover effective ways to blend freedom and responsibility by addressing such questions as: What are some of my fears and anxieties about college life? How can I balance school and a social life? What are my long-term goals and how can my college experience help prepare me to achieve them?

Ouachita Baptist University is among schools that seek to strategically help incoming students make a positive transition to college life. As a Christian university, Ouachita “seeks to foster a love of God and a love of learning” among students, faculty and staff.

“College is a big change for students,” noted Lori Motl, Ouachita’s director of admissions counseling. “I think schools like Ouachita can really help in that transition because of the relationships between the faculty and students. It gives students an opportunity to connect more quickly.”

According to Keldon Henley, Ouachita’s vice president for student services, “The transition to college can be a challenging time for students, even those who are well-prepared. We focus carefully on the experiences that our newest students have in their first days and weeks at Ouachita.

“Our new student orientation events begin with a worship and dedication service for students and their family members,” Henley said. “Afterward, students are hosted in small groups in faculty/staff homes for dinner and dessert, a long-standing tradition at Ouachita that is designed to show students that we want them to become part of the Ouachita family.

“Two years ago, we implemented Thursdays@10, an extended orientation program,” Henley added. With incoming students meeting with a faculty or staff member and student assistants once a week during the first several weeks of school, the small-group seminars are “designed



Ouachita Baptist University helps incoming students make a positive transition to college life.

to help students adjust to the university’s academic expectations, introduce them to campus resources for assistance and encourage them to find ways to connect spiritually and socially with the campus community.”

College graduates often look back

on their college years as one of the most rewarding, fulfilling seasons of life. For incoming students, balancing freedom and responsibility is a great way to ensure future success.

Trennis Henderson is vice president for communications at Ouachita Baptist University.

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New ABCHomes ministry assists single mothers

Stella Prather
ABCHomes

JONESBORO – Arkansas Baptist Children’s Homes and Family Ministries (ABCHomes) is expanding its ministry to meet the needs of single mothers and their children.

Resulting from donations from a donor family, ABCHomes is launching a Family Care Cottage in Jonesboro that will assist single-parent mothers and their children through residential group care, mentoring, financial planning, teaching, counseling and referring to valuable community resources.

The donor family will fund the construction of the cottage while ABCHomes raises gifts and pledges sufficient financial support to operate the ministry for the first 10 years prior to construction.

Central Baptist Church of Jonesboro is donating land to ABCHomes for the ministry.

“We are well on our way in raising the needed operating costs,” shared John Ross, ABCHomes development officer. Ross said he hopes to break ground by summer’s end.

The 7,000-square-foot cottage will house up to seven mothers and

their children and will include live-in case managers. It is being named in memory of the late A.H. “Buck” Rusher, a longtime supporter of ABCHomes.

Agency staff will offer supportive counsel for every mother and child. Assistance will be provided in goal-setting, budgeting, parenting, homemaking, spiritual growth and relationship building.

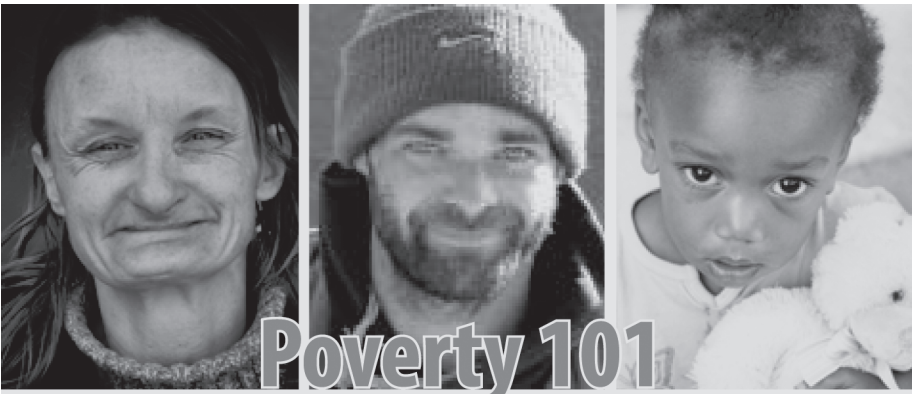
The focus of the ministry is on long-term quality of life improvements, not on temporary solutions, said David Perry, ABCHomes executive director.

“The program will seek to restore families with hope, comfort and shelter while they locate the resources they need to move toward successful independent living,” said Perry.

While some ministries to mothers and children are available in central Arkansas, the ABCHomes cottage will be unique in Arkansas, where the need is great, said Perry.

According to a report by the Single Parent Scholarship Foundation, one in five Arkansas families are led by single parents, 80 percent of which are single mothers.

Stella Prather is director of communications for ABCHomes.



Understanding and Ministering To Those Who Live in Poverty

August 18

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention Building

Registration Deadline: Aug. 10

Conference is FREE but pre-registration is required for a lunch count

Conference Leader: Mindy Jamison, NAMB consultant

This conference will bring understanding to generational poverty, while examining the culture and mindset of those living in poverty. The conference will also explore the most effective ways to minister to the impoverished. Conference material is based on the book *Bridges out of Poverty*, by Dr. Ruby Payne and other sources. Mindy Jamison serves with the North American Mission Board and the Baptist Convention of Iowa in inner city Des Moines Iowa as the state CCM Consultant and the Co-Director of the Friendship Baptist Center for over 12 years.

Please fill out the form below and return to Oleta Raines, Poverty Conference, 10 Remington Dr., Little Rock, AR 72204, fax to 501-376-7463, or email to oraines@absc.org.

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Saturday, Oct. 6

Forrest City Area

A Mississippi River Ministry Project

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch, special dietary needs not provided)

Deadline to register: Sept. 21

(Team assignments for registrations received after Sept. 21 will be made by coordinator and informed by email only)

Mail to: Acts 1:8 Trip, Missions Ministries Team, ABSC, 10 Remington Dr., Little Rock, AR 72204 by Sept. 21. (Copy & complete this form for each person attending.) Make check payable to ABSC or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5150, with credit card information.

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Block party

First Baptist Church, Booneville, sponsored a community block party June 9 in their church parking lot. The party was an evangelistic event used to reach families in the community and register children for vacation Bible school. Activities included bounce houses, water slides, booths for ministry opportunities, games, prizes, giveaways, live entertainment and food. About 200 people attended the event.



Bike blessing

Gary Henson (third from left), pastor of Union Avenue Baptist Church, Wynne, and fellow church members pray over member Jimmie Goatcher Jr. during a "bike blessing" for riders participating in the Faith Run motorcycle ride held by the church to raise money to send their youth to camp. Henson said he was blessed to see the number of church members who came to the event and that they hope to hold another ride in the future.

Church life

Fellowship Bible Church, Star City, will hold a church leadership conference from 7 to 8:30 p.m. July 16-17. The conference will focus on discipleship, including why and how to disciple believers.

First Baptist Church, Kensett, will host The Melody Boys Quartet in concert at 6 p.m. July 15.

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, will host the "His Man on His Mission" men's

conference for men of all ages from 6 to 10 p.m. Aug. 10-11. For more information, contact the church at 501-455-3474.

First Baptist Church, Rogers, will host the Iron Sharpens Iron national men's conference from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 8. For more information or to register, visit www.ironsharpensiron.net.

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, will hold the Run with the Son event Aug. 18. The event, which will feature a 5K

run/walk, a 1-mile fun run and a tot trot, is a fundraiser for Shepherding His Flock, a local ministry designed to help meet the needs of orphans in Arkansas.

Wye Mountain Baptist Church, Wye Mountain, will celebrate its 25th anniversary July 29, with guest speaker Don Pucik, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Victory Ministries, Clarksville, will celebrate Pastor James Bell and his wife's first year of service at 3 p.m. July 22. Barry Macon, senior pastor of Restoration House of Praise Ministries in Conway, will serve as guest speaker, The Restoration House of Praise Choir, as well as the Shaw Boyz of Pine Bluff, will provide the music. For more information, call 501-908-1453.

First Baptist Church, Hazen, will celebrate its 130th anniversary July

15 with an 11 a.m. service, followed by a hamburger and hotdog cook-out. The service will include special music, and the church's pastor, Sam Higgs, will preach. All are invited. For more information, contact the church office at 870-255-4464.

On the move

Amanda Smith is serving on the staff of Levy Baptist Church, North Little Rock, as ministry assistant.

Matthew Weaver is serving as pastor on the staff of South Side Baptist Church, Pine Bluff.

Bill Brown has retired as pastor of First Baptist Church, Morrilton. Stephen Davis is serving as interim pastor.

Casey Winstead is serving on the staff of Glendale Baptist Church, Booneville, as associate pastor and minister to students.

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Ministry day

More than 220 people from 20 churches participated in the second annual Greene County Ministry Day, an associational day of service held by Greene County Baptist Association. Ministry projects included a medical clinic, dental clinic, car wash ministry, laundromat ministry, construction ministry, yard work ministry, evangelism ministry, block party ministry and prayer walking ministry. Six people accepted Christ during the day.

Classifieds

PASTOR

First Baptist, Morrilton, is seeking a **full-time senior pastor**. Resumes may be emailed to fbc-morrilton@suddenlinkmail.com or mailed to Pastor Search Committee, 200 E. Church Street, Morrilton, AR 72110, 501-354-4013.

River Road Baptist Church, Redfield, is seeking a **part-time pastor**. Resumes to P.O. Box 161, Redfield, AR 72132 or river013@centurytel.net. 501-397-2576 or 501-554-6220.

North Main Church, Sheridan, is seeking a **full-time senior pastor**. Resumes may be sent to

firechapln@aol.com or North Main Baptist Church, 707 North Main Street, Sheridan, AR 72150.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

West View Baptist Church, Paragould, is seeking a **part-time administrative assistant** with strong administrative and computer skills. For a complete job description, email request to marc@mywestview.com.

First Baptist Church, Paragould, is seeking a **worship leader**. Additional duties, roles and responsibilities will be added in keeping with this person's

gifts and calling. Submit resumes in confidence to First Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Team, P.O. Box 816, Paragould, AR 72451 or fax to 870 236-8585.

First Baptist Church, Searcy, is looking for a **part-time preschool coordinator**. Please send resumes to Linda Stake at 105 S. Spring St., Searcy, AR 72143 or to fbcclinda50@sbcglobal.net.

Lonoke Baptist Church, Lonoke, is seeking a **full-time youth minister** as part of multistaff. Please send resumes to 406 W. Front St., Lonoke, AR 72086 or email us at lonokebc@sbcglobal.net.

Harlan Park Baptist Church, Conway, is seeking a **bi-vocational minister of music**, pursuing a

blended worship style. Send resume with references to the church at 1895 Dave Ward Drive, Conway, AR 72034 or email to garynmitchell@hotmail.com.

Mississippi County Baptist Association is accepting resumes for **associational missionary position**. Resumes should be sent to MCBA, P.O. Box 1104, Blytheville, AR 72315, ATTN: Search Committee and will be accepted through July 31, 2012.

To list classifieds, contact Nelle at 501-376-4791, ext. 5155, or nelle@arkansasbaptist.org

Deacon Encouragement & Training Seminar

BE IT SEE IT RISK IT DO IT

BE IT:
Character
& Discipleship

SEE IT:
Mission
& Vision

RISK IT:
Courage
& Change

DO IT:
Strategy
& Teamwork

This 2-3 hour Deacon Seminar usually is held on a weeknight. The four sessions explore the basic areas of being a deacon and doing what a deacon does.

What others are saying about this Seminar:

"We started a Deacon widow ministry, ... wrote a Deacon mission statement, ... reorganized the Deacon structure, ... and have a new attitude of being intentional in ministry and molding ministry to our Deacons' skills and abilities." **Bo Renshaw, Deacon chairman**

"We decided to keep the Family Ministry concept but to also begin ministry teams with the goal of needs being discovered through the Family Ministry and fulfilled through the teams." **Clint Richie, Pastor**

Visit www.absc.org/Deacons or contact Denny Wright, Leadership & Worship Team, ABSC to schedule or for more information call 1-800-838-2272, ext. 5114 or email: dwright@absc.org



English as a
Second Language



Adult Reading
and Writing



Tutoring Youth
and Children

Literacy Missions Training Workshop

Aug. 3-4, 2012

Baring Cross Baptist Church

7541 Warden Rd., Sherwood, AR

(Hwy 67/167, next door to Kohl's)

Cost: \$20 per person

(includes books, materials, dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday)

Registration Deadline: July 27

- Intensive training with certified North American Mission Board (NAMB) trainers.
- Must attend entire training to receive NAMB certification.
- Training will begin at 2 p.m., Friday, and conclude at 5 p.m. Saturday.
- More than half of the cost of this workshop is provided by your gifts to the Cooperative Program and the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering.

Complete the registration form below and send with your check, payable to ABSC Literacy Conference. Mail to: Oleta Raines, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, 10 Remington Dr., Little Rock AR 72204.

Your Name _____
Home Phone # _____ Cell phone # _____
Email address _____
Your church _____
Your address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Check your interest: ESL _____ Tutoring _____ Adult Reading & Writing _____
Amount of check: _____



Risk

Risk" is a board game that probably was more popular in the past than it is today. I have never played the game, but it sounds interesting.

Those who have played it would suggest that it involves a lot of willingness to take a chance. Those who do so are either winners or losers based upon their luck and skill at the moment. It sounds quite complicated, and that is probably the reason I never would have been good playing it.

In Judges 6, Gideon was asked to put himself at risk, and it was no game. He had to follow the leader

and put himself at risk when he felt that he was not up to the challenge. He was merely trying to live his life when the Angel of the Lord told him what he must do.

He did not feel like a mighty man of God even though these were the words of this messenger. He admitted that he was the least of his family. After some time of personal doubts, followed by proofs from God that He would deliver Israel through Gideon, Gideon was persuaded to take a chance.

Gideon put himself and others at risk because he knew that victory was possible through God. The

Lord had told him not to fear, for he would not die. Because of his trust in God, he was willing to take the chance to do what he had been asked to do.

Judges 7:9 (KJV) was a simple declaration: "Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand."

Five missionaries were in a vehicle that was attacked in Iraq in March

2004. Four of them died, and a fifth was seriously wounded.

Are we willing to take the chance like they did, to risk ourselves doing what God commands us to do?

Paul declared, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

May God grant us the holy boldness

to share the good news even though it may put us at risk for losing something dear to us.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE JULY 22, 2012

Charles A. Collins
chaplain
Baptist Hospital, Little Rock

Scripture passages:
Judges 6:11-16; 7:9-11, 13-15

I heard about an old preacher who once prayed in church, "Lord, I thank You for my ignorance, and I pray that You will make me more ignorant."

One lady in the church said, "I think that was one prayer that was answered before it was prayed."

Now there are some in the world today who say that believers in Christ are not very intellectual. They look at our faith

through the eyes of man, and they just don't see it. The reason is they can't see it.

Paul states in 1 Corinthians 2:6 that the words we speak are only words of wisdom to those who have come in contact with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul is not talking about a wisdom that men can acquire in a classroom or from

reading some secular book. He is

referring to real wisdom that brings a man into a personal relationship with God. Verse 7 speaks of a wisdom that has been hidden from man throughout the ages, which is God's plan for our salvation.

The lost man doesn't have a clue of what God can and will do for him through Christ. He can only understand when, according to verse 10, God reveals Himself to us. God has to take the initiative in spiritual revelation.

When one of us is born again, verse 12 says we are given the Spirit of God "so that we may know the things freely given to us by God." It is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

that turns the light on for us so that we might see things that we could never see before.

When you ask yourself, "Why doesn't the lost man get it?" the answer is that he can't, as stated in verse 14. It's all foolishness to him until he has been saved.

I once had an elderly man in my church refer to another man in the church as being like an Airedale dog because he was smarter than he looked. I guess that might apply to many of us believers. We are a lot smarter than what the world believes simply because we have been born again and now possess "the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16).

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE JULY 22, 2012

Tommy Miller
pastor
Union Valley Baptist, Beebe

Scripture passage:
1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Family feud

Family Feud" is a popular TV program where two families compete to answer questions that will help them win prizes. They must correctly answer some questions that have been posed to them by the program host. If they can correctly answer these questions, then they are the winner of the "feud."

Some people go away from the program happy because they have won, but others who are not so fortunate are not as content. However, they can boast to their friends that they were on television and had a good time.

The concept of family feuds in real life is quite different. Very few

actually go away the winner. All are generally losers to one degree or another, and very few have bragging rights after all is over with – if it ever really is over. Family feuds have a way of going on and on.

The first family feud was between Cain and Abel. Abel lost his life, and Cain lost his family. Abram and Lot disagreed over who would have the water rights. Sarai mistreated Hagar when Hagar was pregnant with Ishmael. It gets worse.

Abimelech was a determined man who wanted to become king. There was something in his way, namely his family. He had to take them out before the people could put him in

as king. He was willing to do anything to get what he wanted, including murder.

Judges 9:5 indicates that he killed 40 of his own family. Only one person was left, Jotham. According to Judges 9:15, the "bramble" (thorn bush or blackberry bush) had become king.

Things are not always what they seem, nor are they permanent. After all, what one sows is what one reaps. God was not silent

over this matter. Abimelech died as he had killed others.

Family feuds are no laughing matter. Somebody is always going to get hurt. Somebody is going to try to "get back" or "get even." It never happens. Nothing is worth losing one's family. It is the most precious thing you can have. We should be

more concerned about getting right with God and less about getting even with someone else.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE JULY 29, 2012

Charles A. Collins
chaplain
Baptist Hospital, Little Rock

Scripture passages:
Judges 9:1-9, 14-15, 56-57

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE JULY 29, 2012

Tommy Miller
pastor
Union Valley Baptist, Beebe

Scripture passage:
2 Corinthians 5:1-5

John McKay once stated that the legendary football coach Bear Bryant was the most confident man he had ever met.

He said, "We were out shooting ducks, and finally, after three hours, here comes one lonely duck. The Bear fires, and that duck is still flying today. But Bear watched the duck flap away and looked at me and said, 'John, you are witnessing a genuine

miracle. There flies a dead duck!"

In a similar way, when you watch an individual who knows Christ die, you are witnessing a genuine miracle. Though they have died physically, they are more alive than they ever were in this life.

Paul writes words in 2 Corinthians 5 that should give us all confidence when we, or a loved one, faces death. It is the one thing we

have not personally faced – our own death. We gain confidence in many things from repetition, but death is the one thing we face only once. So the only confidence we can acquire has to come from God's Word.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 of how we are given the hope of knowing that when this tent wears out, we will have a new home in heaven – but not a home built by the hands of a man that may contain defects. No, we will have a home in heaven made by God Himself that will be eternal in nature.

I recently sat at the bedside of a church member in the last days of

his life. He had told his wife not long before that he was tired and ready to go. He was confident about that new home waiting for him in heaven. 2 Corinthians 5:2 became real to me as I heard him groan while getting ready to draw his last breath. I believe he, as Paul said, desired to take that last breath of this life and to take the first breath of the life to come. On the day he had given his life to Christ as his Savior, the Father gave him the down payment of the Spirit (2 Cor. 5:5) to give him the confidence he needed that his salvation was guaranteed, to know he didn't need to fear death.

Confident

Camp a blessing for Hispanic children, teenagers

MENA – For more than five years, dozens of children and teenagers have attended the Hispanic Children's Camp and Hispanic Youth Camp held every summer by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions ministries team.

This year was no exception with more than 70 children and youth attending camp in June at Ouachita Baptist Assembly camp in Mena.

The camps allow teens to develop skills and talents, as well as to hear the gospel message and "respond (to) the touch of the Holy Spirit," said Francisco Gomez, ABSC missions ministries team member and Hispanic ministries consultant.

The experience also develops leaders, said Gomez, which he added is evidenced by the fact that about 90 percent of this year's volunteers were once campers.

"The Hispanic children and youth camp has been such a blessing to the Hispanic missions and churches," he

said. "Every year we have wonderful stories about how camp has changed many lives of our young ones."

Johan Machuca, 13, is one example of those changed lives. He attended camp in 2011.

Gomez explained Johan was new to the state and felt alone, so his grandmother encouraged him to attend camp and make friends.

"Her hope was for him to get to know Christ," Gomez said.

Johan did, indeed, get to know Christ and was one of eight who accepted Christ as Savior during the 2011 camps.

He returned this year as a volunteer for the children's camp and a camper at the youth camp. In addition, he shared his testimony during the small group devotional time.

"You could see Johan thirsty for the Word of God and with an open heart for the things of God," Gomez said.

Johan is not the only one who



More than 70 students attended Hispanic camps in June.

has been changed. During the 2012 camps, which took place in June, two children accepted Christ, six rededicated their lives and six were called to various ministries.

"Children and youth sometimes come with broken hearts because they come from broken homes, and

they find, during the Hispanic camp, the peace they need in Christ," said Gomez.

The camp is funded through the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering, said Gomez, who thanked churches who give through the offering.



Charitable Giving **TIP**

REFLECTING YOUR VALUES IN ESTATE PLANS

The Arkansas Baptist Foundation encourages individuals to reflect their lifetime values in their estate plans. An individual's revocable trust or Will is the final statement that he/she makes in this earthly life about what is important. This final act of stewardship for a Christian will likely include family and ministry.

The Foundation helps provide estate planning drafts to individuals based upon their objectives when those objectives include leaving at least ten percent of their estate to God's work. Those individuals then meet with their attorney about the drafts provided by the Foundation. For more information on reflecting your values in estate plans, please call the Arkansas Baptist Foundation at (800) 798-0969 or (501) 376-0732.



10117 Kanis Rd. - Little Rock, AR 72205 • 501.376.0732, 800.798.0969
info@abf.org - www.abf.org

First Baptist Church EL DORADO Welcomes Our New Pastor Dr. Matthew Steven Pearson

Dr. Pearson's first day in the pulpit will be **Sunday, July 8, 2012**

Please join us in welcoming him and his family to El Dorado and First Baptist Church!



Matt, Luke, Katie and Seth Pearson

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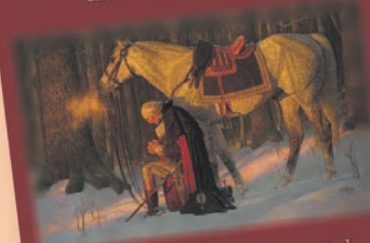
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For book or conference information with Dr. Frizzell, contact our office at: (pjones@bgco.org or 405-942-3000, x4517.)

Dr. Frizzell is also available for church and region-wide **Returning to God Conferences**.

Arkansas Baptist News
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Volume 111 Number 14 July 12, 2012



WMU 125th
Arkansas WMU
celebrates 125 years

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Back to Campus
Experts share tips for
new students

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**2,640 students
attend 2012
Super Summer**

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