



Youth from across Arkansas converged on Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, Aug. 9-10 for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's annual Youth Evangelism Conference.

ABSC board recommends \$22 million 2014 budget

Tim Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK - The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Executive Board unanimously approved a \$22 million Cooperative Program (CP) budget proposal for 2014 at its Aug. 6 meeting. If that amount sounds familiar - it should, as it is the same amount as the 2013 budget.

The 2014 budget recommendation will be voted on by messengers attending the ABSC

Annual Meeting Oct. 29-30 at Cross Church, Rogers.

The budget approved by the board reflects the second year of the ABSC's new 2013-17 budget formula approved by messengers at the 2011 annual meeting.

The formula increases the percentage of funds (total receipts) forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), with budget surpluses being divided with the SBC. The percentage increase for SBC

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1,700-plus worship, learn at YEC

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK - Fellowship and worship, laughter and learning - that's what takes place every year at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC). But while much of the 2013 format was the same as in previous years, YEC featured a number of changes this year, including a new training element for students and youth ministers and a new time and location for the event.

More than 1,700 people, including students, youth ministers and other event personnel, packed the house at Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, for the conference Aug. 9-10. About 120 Arkansas Baptist churches were represented during the event, and about 75 students turned in response cards indicating

they had made decisions for Christ.

Hosting the event in a church is a change of venue for the conference, which has been held at the Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center the last two years. David Bond, ABSC evangelism and church growth team member, explained this is the third YEC event in recent history, having come back in 2011 after an absence.

Bond said the reason for the switch in locations had to do with the fact that access and parking would be easier and the environment would be more comfortable. It also afforded an opportunity to partner with an ABSC church. And he said he has received positive feedback about the change.

Keynote speakers were Alex Himaya, the founding and senior

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Mosaic trains worship leaders

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK - The first ever Mosaic Worship Equipping Conference was held August 9-10 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock. The two-day event brought together music ministers, children's ministers, pastors and laypeople from across Arkansas for "training and enrichment for a variety of components that make up the music

and worship ministry of the local church," said Larry Grayson, member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's (ABSC) leadership and worship team.

Grayson one of the event's key organizers and said the conference sprouted from a call for worship and music ministry training by members of ABSC churches across the state.

"The three years that I have

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CHURCH TECH

Almyra pastor contributes to popular SBC Voices blog

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

ALMYRA - In recent years, as blogs (online Weblogs) have grown in popularity for the discussion of ideas, Arkansas Pastor Doug Hibbard has played a role in one of the more popular and well-read Southern Baptist blog sites - SBC Voices (www.sbcvoices.com).

A major reason for their popularity is the accessibility and lack of pretension that blogging offers. Practically anyone with access to a computer and an Internet connection can contribute their thoughts and have them reviewed and debated by

others around the world.

In fact, Christians were some of the first to embrace the online "blogosphere" - which is not surprising since Christians have been debating and defending their faith for two millennia, the academic discipline known as "apologetics" being derived from the ancient Greek meaning "speaking in defense."

SBC Voices, which was started as a blog aggregator, has become an open forum for the discussion of all aspects of Baptist life, theological and otherwise.

The original concept was to provide a resource people could use in order to keep up with Baptist bloggers across the country, according to Hibbard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Almyra, and assistant editor and contributor to SBC Voices. Eventually, the site became its own blog and recruited volunteers to act as contributors and editors of its content.



Hibbard

Hibbard said the current SBC Voices site acts as an unofficial and unencumbered setting for conversations regarding the Southern Baptist Convention to take place.

"Blogging is usually either self-funded or done on free platforms. Anybody can do it, and anybody can get involved," he said.

While Hibbard admits there are inherent challenges to blogging, he said its lack of restriction and segregation also allows the marketplace of ideas to flow freely and in earnest.

"You have someone that will post their opinion and then somebody else that will write that he believes the previous opinion was wrong. It is not one-sided. It is an opportunity for real conversations to take place," he said.

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Bowman receives ABN Communications Scholarship

LITTLE ROCK – Molly Bowman of Greenbrier is the first recipient of the *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) Communications Scholarship.

Bowman is a senior at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia pursuing a double major in mass communications and Christian theology. She is minoring in graphic design. She attends Fellowship Church in Arkadelphia and is a member of Antioch Baptist Church in Conway.

“Molly exhibits a sweet spirit, a quiet confidence and a passionate heart for the Lord,” said Ray Franklin, associate professor of missions at Ouachita, in recommend-

ing Bowman for the scholarship. “Molly is committed to missions, as evidenced by her time abroad in China, among other things.”

Bowman will receive \$250 from the ABN, which will be matched by Ouachita.

The ABN scholarship is designed to encourage students to pursue a career in Christian communications, said Tim Yarbrough, editor.

“In awarding the scholarship, the ABN board wants to identify a student who has a passion for Jesus

Christ and a desire to pursue a career in communications that furthers the cause of Christ – this is Molly’s calling,” said Yarbrough.

“I was shocked at how closely it (the scholarship) corresponded with my dream, using media as an outlet to reach a lost world,” said Bowman on her application.

Bowman said doing mission work on a college campus in Beijing, in 2011-12 helped her identify her call.

“Being exposed to the differ-

ent cultures and people groups living in Beijing sparked within me a heart for international journalism,” she said.

In addition to being an honors student, Bowman is a member of the Women of Tri Chi, where she serves as philanthropy chair; the Carl Goodson Honors Program; the Ouachita Art Club, where she serves as media strategist; ElderServe; Theta Alpha Kappa Theological Honors Society; Pruett Sisterhood, and the Alpha Tau Honors Society. She has also participated in Tiger Serve Day and on FAITH evangelism teams.



Bowman

ABSC to hold Autism Spectrum Disorder Workshop

LITTLE ROCK – An Autism Spectrum Disorder Workshop will be held Sept. 21 at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) building, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock.

The workshop is sponsored by the ABSC missions ministries team.

Karan Burnett of Partners for Inclusive Communities will serve as conference leader. Burnett has

33 years of expertise with children whose disabilities are in the autism spectrum and exhibit behavioral disorders.

Partners for Inclusive Communities – Arkansas’ University Center on Disabilities – is located within the University of Arkansas College of Education and Health Profes-

sions. The workshop is designed to provide an overview of autism and Asperger’s developmental disorders and explain how the disorders affect behavior, communication and social skills and how to create a successful learning environment for those who have these disorders.

The workshop is for parents, pastors, church leaders, teachers, chap-

lains and others interested in reaching out to individuals and families who are affected by the disorders.

Participants will receive certificates upon completion of the workshop.

Preregistration is required by Sept. 14. Lunch is provided. To register, email ccopeland@absc.com or call 501-376-4791, ext. 5249.

BLOG

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While many people who are not familiar with blogging may consider it a waste of time, Hibbard said the ability for laypeople and ministers to bring up, discuss and work through issues in an open community is incredibly beneficial to both the individuals involved in the conversations and the countless others who are involved in the ministries in which said bloggers lead or serve.

“We have problems within the Southern Baptist Convention. We have questions to wrestle with. ... It (blogging) gives you encounters outside of your scope. I encounter people that, in general, are not going to wander through Almyra, Ark., but I get that opportunity to have those interactions, to learn and to grow (through blogging),” said the pastor.

While the goal of SBC Voices is to provide a place where Baptists anywhere can interact with one another, Hibbard said that due to the importance of the blog’s subject matter, there is often a fine line that must be walked between healthy discussion and hateful disagreement between bloggers, who are in most cases brothers or sisters in Christ.

Hibbard said in order to maintain a positive rapport within the community, the editors of SBC Voices attempt to act as moderators at times when debates become heat-

ed, in order to guide the conversations and keep them from becoming repetitive or unfruitful.

“Sometimes it’s a matter of an issue dividing churches, but usually there are certain issues that you could argue about all day long and never come to a consensus. ... Sometimes it gets to a point when there are no new ideas or perspectives being put forth and the moderator or editor has to step in and say that we’ve been over the same points over and over and it’s time to let it go,” he said.

Hibbard said that while it can be problematic and distracting at times, the “ax grinding” that takes place on SBC Voices is a small price to pay in order to have the open and independent forum for the discussion and continued evolution of Baptist theology and thought that the site allows.

“If you give everybody a voice, you have to accept that some people’s voices will grate on your nerves. ... You have to learn

to take some things with a grain of salt, and you have to keep in mind that blogs are an information and discussion source but that not everything is always fact-checked,” said Hibbard.

“On balance, there is more good than bad. I think it’s good that this goes on,” said Hibbard.

“It’s not without its drawbacks and consequences, but overall, it’s good because it slides the conversation out there and makes it available to more people,” he said.

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.

MOSAIC

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been here there has been an outcry from people that we need training – not just traditional training, even though we have included some of that, but particularly in the area of worship bands,” said Grayson.

He said Mosaic was the first music and worship training event of its kind to be held in Arkansas in nearly 10 years, and the response from Arkansas Baptists was excellent. More than 200 were in attendance, which far exceeded Grayson’s expectations.

“We wanted to try something new, thus ‘Mosaic,’ taking all pieces of the area of worship and giving training, inspiration and encouragement to the folks that are in those areas,” said Grayson. “The people who have been leading the conferences have done a great job, and the people who are attending seem to be having needs met.”

Gaby Flores, a member of First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, and a student at Arkansas State University, said the event gave her useful tips and ideas she planned to take back to her church.

“It’s been really helpful,” she said. “I was in the lead guitar class last night, and the instructor gave us several tips on how to play the guitar. One of the things he talked about was how the lead guitar player sometimes shouldn’t play quite as

much as the rhythm guitar. ... It’s been really great – a lot of great information.”

Billy Davis, pastor of worship at Central Baptist Church, North Little Rock, attended a workshop titled ‘The Life of a Worship Leader’ that was led by Dennis Worley, music and worship minister at Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood, Tenn.

“He (Worley) communicated to us things like how to cast a vision, how to make sure your vision is shared by your people and how to find that group of people that sharpen your vision,” said Davis. “Another thing that he touched on was the importance

of encouragement and recognizing the gifts that people have. The word he used was ‘affirmation.’ He said that if you don’t affirm people that they may not recognize that they have that gift. In my own heart, I remember as a teenager what that meant to me.”

Davis said he brought multiple people from Central Baptist to the conference and that the event’s diversity allowed each of them to learn something useful to their ministry positions.

“We have 10 of us here from Central. ... It is touching every creative area of our church’s ministry – not just music, but those that are facilitators: media, the band and the technical stuff. I jumped on the opportunity to come and bring our folks, and it has been great,” said Davis.

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.



Listen to an interview with Doug Hibbard at www.arkansasbaptist.org/podcast.

Christmas in Aug. aids Ark. missionaries

Matt Ramsey
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

IT'S TIME AGAIN for Christmas in August.

During August, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and national Woman's Missionary Union partner together to provide NAMB missionaries with items needed for ministry and outreach. The event, which is known as "Christmas in August," has taken place each year since 1927 and gives missions groups around the United States a chance to gather supplies to send to a selected number of missionaries.

"This is a great way to get to know more about our missionaries and participate alongside with them in their ministry settings," said Charity Gardner, ministry consultant for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions support team.

"Not only are we able to meet physical needs, we are able to become an extension of their ministry by praying for them," she said.

This year, Stacey Smith, a NAMB Missions Service Corps missionary living in Patterson, has made the list as one of the selected missionaries. Smith is a former inmate of the Arkansas Department of Correction. While in prison, she accepted Christ and her life was transformed. Since her release in 2004, Smith has been commissioned to serve as a chaplain at the McPherson Unit, where she was once incarcerated, and is program coordinator for Prison to Purpose, an organization that shares God's truth with inmates and others.

Smith is also one of the featured stories for the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering.

As one of the selected missionaries for the Christmas in August project, Smith is in need of the following items: white socks (for inmates; no ankle socks), white T-shirts (for inmates; no V-necks or pockets),

gas cards for travel (each month to reach into the prisons in Arkansas, the Prison to Purpose team spends about \$1,500 in gas), letter-size printer paper (medium/heavyweight; two to three reams), printer ink (specifically Canon MX892) and composition notebooks (no spiral).

There are a number of ways to participate in the Christmas in August project, including praying for the NAMB missionaries, promoting the project and gathering materials.

Materials can be delivered during the month of August to the ABSC building located at 10 Remington Drive in Little Rock. Only new, specified items are accepted.

For more information on Christmas in August, visit www.wmu.com/Christmas.

Matt Ramsey is the director of communications for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Hall announces retirement from ABSC

LITTLE ROCK - Phill Hall, 65, church planting coordinator and associational strategist for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions ministries team, has announced his retirement effective the end of August.

Hall joined the ABSC in August 1998 as church planting coordinator and strategist. His role expanded to include associational strategy in 2009.



Hall

Prior to coming to Arkansas, Hall and his wife, Charlotte, served as home missionaries through the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) in 23 southern Iowa counties for 13 years. He was pastor of churches in Missouri and Iowa for 10 years. The couple has two grown daughters.

Robby Tingle, team leader of the ABSC missions ministries team,

called Hall a "family man, faithful, innovative, compassionate, evangelistic, associational, prayerful, a mentor and a real friend to church planters."

Hall has a teaching degree from Missouri State University in Bolivar, Mo., in addition to Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. Prior to seminary, he taught for three years in two Missouri public high schools.

BUDGET

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causes is two-tenths of 1 percent each year during the five-year budget formula period. Additionally, the formula directs the convention to conduct a statewide emphasis every five years, encouraging churches to increase their Cooperative Program percentage.

In other action, the board:

- Heard testimonies from Student Summer Missionaries/Kaleo Arkansas Summer Ministry Associates (SSM/KASMA) Shelby Reams and Mike Dixon. Reams and Dixon were among 24 summer missionaries serving through the SSM/KASMA ministry. Reams served at Greene County Baptist Association and Dixon served at West Baptist Church, Batesville. Reams told the board, "I've been able to lead 10 people to the Lord this summer. I've been able to help two friends be able to figure out their call to missions, ministry and leadership." Dixon said, "It was a great experience, and I'll never forget it."

- Heard a testimony from Kelton Hays, a student and member of the football team at Henderson State

University in Arkadelphia. Hays, who admitted while a freshman he "had no interest in Jesus," said he is now actively involved in Baptist Collegiate Ministries on campus and it has "awakened me to a love for international students" and outreach to them.

- Were introduced to Terry Bostick, the new team leader of the ABSC evangelism and church growth team.

- Agreed with a recommendation of the Program Committee to approve 2014 goals for all ABSC teams.

- Approved the annual audit of the convention. ABSC Executive Director J.D. "Sonny" Tucker told the board the audit is an "unqualified audit." Tucker said financial assets of the convention have increased 1 percent and that the convention endowment has increased 5 percent.

- Were presented a list of churches throughout the state recognized for CP giving by Tucker. The list was broken down by overall per capita giving, overall percentage giving (based on size of Sunday school), as well as the top 75 overall giving churches. Tucker told members of the Executive Board he wanted them to be aware of top CP giving churches, but emphasized, "We will

work with all of our churches. We will serve the churches of this state." Tucker added, "The churches that are on this list know they are on this list. I want our staff to know them."

- Recognized the following outgoing board members: Campbell Wilkerson of Crossett, Mark Harris of Walnut Ridge, Chuck Graham of Cabot, Manley Beasley of Hot Springs, Tom Dicus of Clarksville, Robert Netterville of Booneville, Gary Mitchell of Conway, David Holcomb of Clinton, Roy Thompson of Sherwood, Willard Zeiser of Hot Springs Village, Ron Kirkland of West Memphis, Preston Beeks of Farmington, Martha Hendrix of Fayetteville and Vickie Miller of Beebe.

- Heard a presentation about the upcoming Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering campaign titled "Undaunted." Diane Parker, team leader of the ABSC missions support team, said the 2013 Dixie Jackson goal is \$1.45 million. Dixie Jackson funds state initiatives such as Kaleo Arkansas, the Acts 1:8 One Day mission project and 20 crisis pregnancy centers across the state, in addition to other ministries, the board was told.

Contact Tim Yarbrough at tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest to Arkansas Baptists

Ala. editor's column sparks SBC criticism

NASHVILLE (BP) - The centrality of the doctrine of substitutionary atonement is being emphasized by Southern Baptist leaders after a state newspaper editor wrote that he does not sing certain words of a popular hymn due to its mention of God's wrath. Substitutionary atonement refers to the belief that Jesus died in the place of sinners, taking on Himself the "wrath" of God that they deserved. Bob Terry, editor of *The Alabama Baptist*, in an Aug. 8 editorial, paralleled the angst expressed by a Presbyterian Church USA hymnal committee in rejecting the song "In Christ Alone" because of the line "Till on that cross as Jesus died/The wrath of God was satisfied." Terry's editorial prompted numerous reactions on Twitter from concerned Southern Baptist leaders, including Daniel Akin, Hershael York, Chad Brand and Jason Duesing, as well as an official statement from Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, and a clarification by Terry.

Progressive National Baptists meet in Detroit

DETROIT - About 5,000 gathered recently for the Progressive National Baptist Convention in Detroit - a city going through the pangs of bankruptcy and struggles to reverse decades of economic and social decline. The Progressive Baptists, a group claiming about 1.5 million members nationwide, was formed in 1961 when African-American Baptists sought an organization that would wholeheartedly support the civil rights struggles of Martin Luther King Jr. The convention included speeches by Pastor Jeremiah Wright of Chicago and TV personality Greg Mathis.

Political speech OK in churches, group says

WASHINGTON (BP) - Preachers should be free from IRS scrutiny when speaking about political candidates, a 14-member commission created by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability recommended Aug. 14. The commission proposes a number of tax-related recommendations to Congress and the Treasury Department.

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

Your local school is your mission field

In the 1990s I had the privilege to serve on two Sports Crusader mission teams that served overseas in Belarus and Ecuador.

It was a wonderful experience where we saw hundreds of children and young adults saved – simply by sharing the love of Jesus Christ through sports.

As we toured the Belorussian countryside putting on sports camps, the Sports Crusaders team was asked many times to do a presentation in government-run local schools.

What's more, no restraints were placed on what our team could say. School officials simply wanted to hear from the Christian Americans – no matter what our message.

At each of our stops, the auditorium of the middle school or high school was always packed out – usually standing room only.

On one occasion in Belarus, it was my turn to share my testimony and make a brief gospel presentation.



PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough
Phil. 3:14

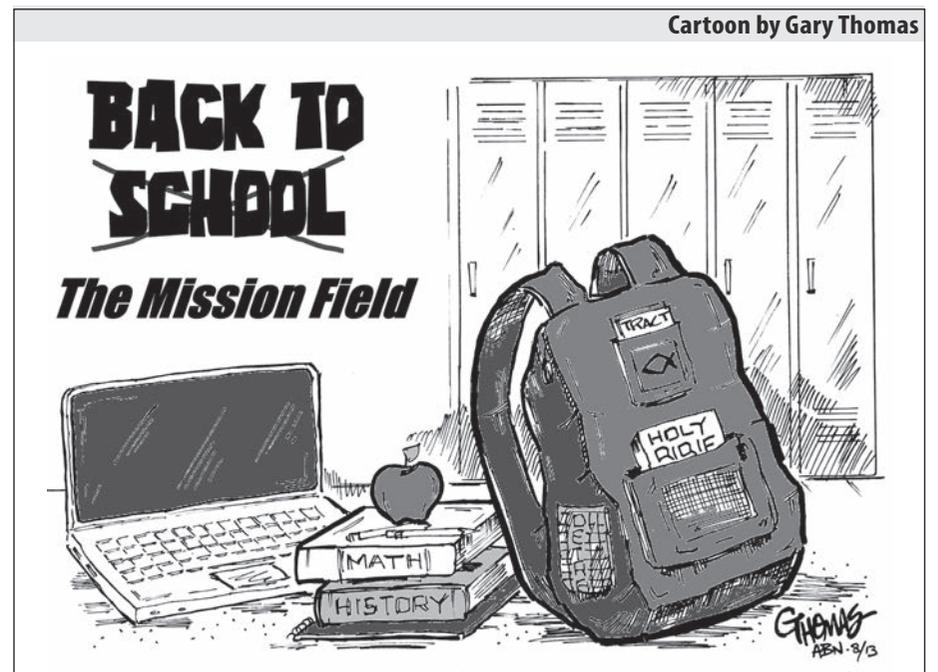
Having preached in a Belorussian church service a number of years earlier using an interpreter, I was careful to prepare my notes in such a way that I could make my points concise, as having to use an interpreter makes your message twice as long.

After sharing for about 15 minutes and inviting the students to respond, more than 60 came forward to profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

It struck me as ironic at the time and still does today that we were allowed to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ in a formerly Communist country's schools, but not in those of the United States.

I encourage you to remember to pray for students and teachers as they return to classes this fall in our nation's public schools, where each year the things of God are derided and dismissed.

Our churches – along with our Christian faith – can make a positive impact in American schools. In



some communities it may be more difficult than in others, but every church should have a plan and proactively carry it out throughout the school year.

It could be a “back-to-school” activity like providing supplies for needy students, a tutoring program or an after-the-game event for youth.

Regardless of what it is, it is our duty to make Jesus Christ known in new and innovative ways to a generation that has been told He doesn't exist.

If nothing else, add your school, teachers and students to your ongoing church prayer list and allow God to direct your path.

'One Year to Better Preaching'

By Daniel Overdorf, Kregel Ministry, 2013

I have never met a pastor who did not want to preach the Word of God better than he does. I have met many, however, who want to preach better, but have no idea where to start. A return to the classroom is not practical, and the many textbooks available require a monstrous time commitment to work through.

Into this niche comes Daniel Overdorf's book “One Year to Better Preaching: 52 Exercises to Hone Your Skills,” published by Kregel Ministry. Packed into these 320 pages are weekly, bite-size suggestions to strengthen one's skills as a preacher.

Overdorf uses the image of

honing an edge.” His presentation is encouraging to the reader: Rather than addressing his audience as if they are bad preachers, he puts forward how to sharpen the strength that is already there.

BOOK REVIEW

Doug Hibbard
First Baptist Church, Almyra

The book speaks to eight major areas in sermon preparation: prayer and preaching, Bible interpretation, understanding listeners, sermon construction, illustration and application, word crafting, the preaching event (presentation/environment) and sermon evaluation. Rather than taking those in clumps, the exercises are spread out across these areas throughout the year. One

week will tackle prayer and the next evaluation, for example, though Overdorf provides a chart to allow readers to focus on one area if that is their need.

The exercises presented in “One Year to Better Preaching” are all useful, though one's mileage will vary depending on his needs. Some will require trust in one's congregation, as many pastors may fear creating a feedback group in their church. Consider, though, that congregations evaluate their pastors' preaching every week anyway. Overdorf's exercise is simply to harness and guide that energy.



“One Year to Better Preaching” also presents additional resources that add value to the text. These are varied. Some are books suggested for deeper study, others are Web resources to view and some are forms that can be utilized. Especially helpful is the link for a congregational feedback form.

While it might not be the best gift for a pastor, many pastors will benefit from Daniel Overdorf's “One Year to Better Preaching: 52 Exercises to Hone Your Skills.”

Doug Hibbard is the pastor of First Baptist Church, Almyra.



Volume 112, Number 17 USPS08021
Member of the Association
of State Baptist Papers
and Arkansas Press Association

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Arkansas Baptist News (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly except the last issue of the year (25 issues) by the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine, Inc., 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204. Subscrip-

tion rates are \$7.75 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$8.75 per year (Group Plan), \$11 per year (Individual). *Arkansas Baptist News*, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 501-376-4791; toll-free 800-838-2272; email: abn@arkansasbaptist.org. Periodical Postage paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Arkansas Baptist News*, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

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Baptists Ask

Does the Bible specifically prohibit body tattoos?

Tattoos serve as a permanent form of self-expression, and many young adults wear them as reminders of significant events. They may be fashionably acceptable in American society, but is it right for Christians to have them?

Only one Bible verse speaks specifically about tattoos: “Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the Lord” (Lev. 19:28). Although it appears to be a total rejection of body art, a closer reading seems to show otherwise.

In the days of Leviticus, tattoos were normally used to show ownership, much like a slave’s pierced ear (Ex. 21:5-6). While tattoos sometimes depicted the owner’s name, at times they bore the names of various gods. The verse also is part of a larger passage that speaks against pagan practices. In Leviticus 19, the Israelites could not: eat bloody meat (Lev. 19:26a), practice sorcery (Lev. 19:26b), cut the sides of their heads or beards (Lev. 19:27) or turn to mediums (Lev. 19:31). God commanded them to live holy lives that countered the pagan lifestyle (Lev. 19:2).

While some modern tattoos are obscene, most are inoffensive. Most would never be understood as pagan symbols; in fact, some are just the opposite. Some Christians use them as opportunities to share their faith.

Although the Bible may not prohibit modern tattoos, Christians still should think carefully and prayerfully before getting one. Because family members may have strong opinions about tattoos, dialogue is very important. Tattoos, like any other part of one’s personal appearance, should never draw attention to themselves. Instead, they should draw attention to the gospel (cf. 1 Cor. 11). Believers should also remember they will have their tattoo for the rest of their lives. Tattoo removal is possible, but it is also costly and painful. Discretion, therefore, is highly recommended.

Ken Gore is chair of the department of Christian studies at Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge. To submit a question, email tim@arkansasbaptist.org.



Gore

The key decisions of life

There are three great decisions nearly everyone makes in life. Of all the countless choices that make a direct impact on our lives, these three can carry both opportunity and disaster. These three choices carry consequences that determine our life’s course.

They are: Will I choose to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior? Who will I choose as my spouse? What will I choose as my career?

When these decisions are made, or at a minimum the direction is set for these decisions, the majority of people are between the ages of 19 and 24. Young adults must decide what they will do with Jesus. Some will choose Christ, while some church kids will walk away. The choice of a spouse has more spiritual significance than any other decision except your salvation.

Why are these three decisions relevant for us as the Church? That should be obvious. If you want to be effective in ministry, then go where the ministry is. If you want to reach the lost, you must go where lost people are. In fact, this truth is at the very heart of Jesus’ ministry as our Redeemer: “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

We must realize that the Church at large is failing to minister in any significant way in this area of ministry. Why? Credit card companies spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year to reach college students, enticing them to get credit cards and use them. We are far outspent in real dollars by credit card companies. Beer advertisers do the same thing. Colleges are awash in alcohol while administrators only pay lip service toward controlling its use and abuse. Why are beer companies and predator lenders more focused on reaching young people in this stage of life than the Church is?

What about your church? Here is an opportunity for your church to fulfill the Great Commission. Arkansas colleges and universities are severely underserved. There are well over 100,000 college students in Arkan-

sas. That is a population equivalent to a major city in Arkansas. There are colleges all over our state. There are two- and four-year institutions, as well as technical programs in every area of the state. This is not limited to metropolitan areas. Many schools are located in or near smaller towns.

There are many ways for your church to get involved in supporting Arkansas Baptists in impacting this generation of young people. There are no barriers or special qualifications. College students are away from home and miss their families. They would do anything for a home-cooked meal. They are grappling with these life decisions and long for mentors and role models. Literally any church can impact college students. All that is required is a Christ-like recognition of where the ministry is. Here some ideas:

- Work to connect high schoolers from your church to the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) at their school. Recently, a BCM director told me he rarely gets calls from youth ministers with contact information for incoming students from churches.

- Give more to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) or directly to college ministry.

- Partner with other churches to create a ministry at a smaller school without a full-time BCM.

- Call David James at the state convention office and ask how you can support reaching college students.

- Call the BCM at the school nearest you and ask how you can minister.

Young adults facing these decisions desperately need Jesus in their lives as they make their life choices. They need to hear more about God’s plan for their lives than beer advertisements and credit card offers. They need the Church to seek them out – their future, and ours, depends on it.

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



PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

Greg Addison

Shape the future ... serve in the nursery

If your church is like most, there is an individual in your congregation who lives in a perpetual state of frustration, trying to enlist volunteers to serve in the nursery and extended session (childcare during worship). They make phone calls, post requests on Facebook, send emails and place announcements in the weekly worship guide. Just when it seems the miracle of miracles has happened – filling a multiweek schedule – someone does not show up to serve “their time,” and the coordinator is “stuck in the nursery” again.

However, the greatest victim in this drama is not the coordinator, but the child. These children are at a critical age for learning values, principles and biblical truths like, “Jesus loves me,” “God made the world,” “God made me special,” “God made my body,” and “Jesus wants us to share.” In just a few short years, these children will make choices that will impact the rest of their lives; and these foundational truths will guide those choices.

These infants, toddlers and preschoolers will soon be leaders in our churches, schools, families and communities. I visited with a lady last week who told me her heart surgeon was a baby whom she rocked in the nursery 40 years ago. Chances are, your life will in some way be directly impacted by the choices made by these children.

Most importantly, each one of these little ones

are uniquely and purposefully created by God. And before the foundation of the world, He chose your church to be the spiritual family to help them become the people He created them to be. Investing one or two hours a week, or even a month, can impact a child forever. I do not remember the name of every member in every church I have served. But I do remember Mrs. Glover and Mrs. Morrie who kept me in extended session when I was 2 and 3 years of age. I remember the songs and Bible verses they taught me, and the Tootsie Pops they gave me as I left each Sunday. Most of all, I remember that they loved me.

This Sunday, find that frustrated individual who works so hard to enlist nursery and extended session volunteers and ask them to place you on the schedule. Your investment will relieve his or her stress, make an eternal difference in the life of a child, add another source of joy to your life and please the Lord as you follow Christ’s example – Jesus always makes time for children.

By the way, God used a song Mrs. Glover taught me to set the course for this writer, pastor, mission leader and evangelism strategist: “Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.”

Eric W. Ramsey is president of TCWM, based in Mountainburg.



ANSWERING THE CALL

Eric Ramsey



For King and Country (above) perform Aug. 9 at the Youth Evangelism Conference. Brian Mills (below) speaks to students from Acts 4 about being bold for Christ. Photos by Jessica Vanderpool

YEC

continued from page one

pastor of the CHURCH.at (sic) in Tulsa, Okla., who previously served as youth pastor at Cross Church Springdale, and Brian Mills, lead student pastor at Long Hollow Baptist Church near Nashville, Tenn., and author of "Checkpoints: A Tactical Guide to Manhood."

Himaya spoke to students Friday night about the death and resurrection of Jesus, painting the picture of what took place before, during and after His crucifixion.

"It made me realize I don't deserve any of this and He's so amazing and I could never thank Him enough and I could never love Him enough," said Makayla Burch, a student from First Baptist Church, Marion.

Himaya's Saturday morning message focused on how God used Peter despite Peter's shortcomings and denial of Christ.

Himaya said in an interview with the *Arkansas Baptist News* that he wants students to "realize that God is pursuing them even in the midst of all their screwups and that He wants to use them."

Mills spoke to students from Acts 4 on Saturday, encouraging students to be bold for the gospel.

"We need bold students, ... students who aren't afraid of anything," he told the audience. "We need students who are going to go and be as bold for the gospel as Jesus was for us on the cross."

The event included worship led by The Museum and a Friday night concert by the band For King and Country. Team Wordplay – a comedy/drama ministry team – were also featured. And the preshow featured Real Encounter Outreach, a ministry that uses elements such as motorcycle stunt riding, flatland BMX, a BMX jump team and more as a platform to share Christ.

Bond explained that one aspect of this year's new training element, was a session led by Mills specifically for youth leaders regarding campus ministry and student evangelism.

Cris and Ami Driver, parent volunteers from First Baptist Church, Newport, attended the session.

"It's good hearing from some-

body who's there doing it day after day," Ami Driver said.

Students involved in the new training aspect of the conference were encouraged to download the Dare2Share application on their phones, which provides easy-to-use evangelism tools. In addition, Bill Newton, minister of students at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, and John Hamby, a recent high school graduate from student ministry at Immanuel Baptist, shared strategies students could use in reaching their peers for Christ.



Mills

Kristen Scarlett, a recent high school graduate and part of the youth group at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Benton, said she enjoyed what Hamby had to say about being a light in one's school and his personal experience with that. She recapped his points for witnessing, which included being visible, prepared, bold, loving and consistent.

"I hope to actually use those and live that out as I go to college now," she said.

Bond added another new aspect of YEC was the inclusion of Real Encounter as an example of an "attractational" evangelism event. In ad-

dition, booths were set up to give students examples of missions opportunities, such as the ABSC's CONNECT events and Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trips. The booth area also highlighted Arkansas-based youth evangelistic speakers and worship bands, as well as Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist College.

Scarlett, who has been to YEC several times, noted how much she has enjoyed the event this year – even more so than in previous years.

"I think this year was cool how they really are focusing on how to be that witness and the mission," she said, adding she sometimes feels like the salvation experience is the focus of youth events. And while she realizes that is important, she also enjoys hearing something she "can use to witness to those who aren't saved."

Sarah King, a recent high school graduate who attends Mount Vernon Baptist Church, said the conference has always had an evangelistic element, but this year it has focused more on what a person should do once saved.

"I think a lot of people, especially people in the Southern Baptist com-

munity, they get the salvation and they get the grace, and they love that and they enjoy that, but then we get comfortable and we don't remember that Christ asks us to do something," King said.

"And it's not because He's guilt-ing us into it, ... but it's just the beauty of being a believer of Christ," she added. "And so many Christians miss out on so many blessings and on being able to bless others by not being everything that God wants them to be."

In addition to other changes, the time of year the conference was held changed – previously, it was held much earlier in the year.

"After consulting with our leadership team, we felt that the YEC would serve as a great back-to-school event for churches," Bond said. "Our hope is that the YEC would equip and inspire students to be bold for Christ as they prepare to start a new school year."

He said the conference concluded as youth groups gathered to pray "for God to use them to make a difference on their campus."

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.



ABN online

View a photo gallery of the Youth Evangelism Conference at www.arkansasbaptist.org/photo-gallery

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Cross Culture

Hot Springs Village

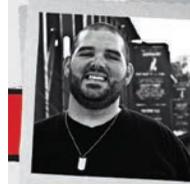
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CREATIVE MINISTRIES

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

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www.codybrown.net



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ROMANS 5:8

BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS: WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.

DRAMA, IMPROV



Off The Top

Conway

offthetop@2bc.tv

Off The Top is the drama and improv team from the Second Baptist Church, Conway, student ministry. They perform scripted scenes, audience interactive improv games and human videos. This ministry will enhance worship and incite laughter. To book them, contact Doug Fender 501-551-1465 or Dustin Sams 501-327-6565.

www.offthetop.2bc.tv



H2O Drama Team

Searcy

501-278-0921, living4him@arkansas.net

H2O is a group of high school students who seek to glorify God through dramatic interpretation of Christian music. Our goal is to never perform but to always worship.

<http://www.valleybaptistchurch.com/student-ministry.html>



Calvary Baptist begins construction

Calvary Baptist Church, Dardanelle, recently began construction on a 3,000-square-foot educational building. Front row from left: Charlie Zimmerman of Nailbenders for Jesus, Steve Williamson, contractor, and Bob Hiegel, architect. Back row from left: building and grounds committee members Jim Bryan, Bill Millard, Montie Sims, Robert Love and Benny Robinson.



FBC, Scranton, celebrates 45th

First Baptist Church, Scranton, recently celebrated its 45th anniversary. The church began as a mission of First Baptist Church, Paris, and was constituted as a Southern Baptist church Aug. 4, 1968. Franklin Piercey (above with wife Diana) has served as pastor of the church for eight years. See story in an upcoming issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News*.

Happy Birthday!

to all the missionary kids attending college who are celebrating birthdays in the month of September.

- ◆ Sept. 28: Ben Schleiff, OBU Box 4602, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; China.

Support the ABN Endowment Fund



An endowment fund for the *Arkansas Baptist News (ABN)* has been established at the Arkansas Baptist Foundation. Consider helping secure the future of the official news journal of the state convention by including the *ABN* in your will or by making a contribution to the *ABN* Endowment Fund. Contact David Moore at the Foundation at 501-376-0732.

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NAMB

TEN



LUKE 10:2

IT'S TIME
TO PRAY

October 2, 2013

namb.net/TenTwo

“He told them: ‘The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.’”

Church life

Woodland Heights Baptist Church, Conway, will hold a celebration Aug. 18 honoring Pastor David Hatfield and his family on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as the church's senior pastor. The celebration will take place at 10:50 a.m., and a fellowship with friends will be held at 3 p.m., followed by a reception with the family from 4 to 6 p.m.

Indian Springs Baptist Church, Bryant, will host the Becoming a Woman of the Word conference from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 5. To register, visit www.prisonpurpose.com/events/bww.

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, will host the Beth Moore Living Proof Live Si-

mulcast from 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Sept. 14.

First Southern Baptist Church, Black Rock, will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a homecoming service beginning at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 8. A potluck will follow the service, and a gospel singing, featuring the Wagon Train Gang, will take place in the afternoon. All are welcome. For more information, call 870-886-2294.

Crow Mountain Baptist Church, Russellville, will hold a revival Aug. 21-25. Sessions will take place at 7 p.m. Aug. 21-24 and at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25. Bill Steeger, retired pastor and former missionary to Africa, Ouachita Baptist University professor and conference leader, will serve as guest speaker. Jeff and Melissa Smith from Ha-

vana Baptist Church, Havana, will lead music.

Plum Bayou Baptist Church, Wright, near England, will celebrate its 75th anniversary during the 10:45 a.m. worship service Oct. 13. Lynn Riley, Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church growth team member, will present the church with a certificate during the service. Former pastors, members and guests are invited.

Central Baptist Association will sponsor the Burning Bush Men's Retreat Sept. 13-14 at the Spring Lake Baptist Assembly in Lonsdale. Sammy Tippit, international evangelist and conference speaker, will serve as speaker.

Crossgate Church, Hot Springs, students in grades four through eight recently attended their annual Obsessed Camp, which focused on the theme Follow the Leader. Students learned what it means to follow Jesus from a biblical perspective and what Jesus said it looks like to be His disciple. Joel Owen, Crossgate student pastor, served as speaker.

Crossgate Church, Hot Springs,

which was constituted in 1903 as Second Baptist Church, will celebrate its 110th anniversary at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 8. A churchwide lunch and reception will follow.

On the move

Jeremy Jones is serving as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Mabelvale. The church will have a community welcoming Sept. 8.

Elwin Ollar is serving as pastor of South Side Baptist Church, Heber Springs.

Seth Givens is serving as pastor of Plum Bayou Baptist Church, Wright, near England.

The staff of the Arkansas Baptist News is available to attend your association's annual meeting. Contact jessica@arkansasbaptist.org to invite a staff member to speak or set up a booth.



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Classifieds

PASTOR

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Small northeast Arkansas church is in search of a **pastor**. Send all resumes to Manila BC, C/O Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 748, Manila, AR 72442.

Forty-Seventh Street Baptist Church is in search of a **pastor**, will consider bi-vocational. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 4700 Pike Ave., North Little Rock, AR 72118 or email 47thstbaptist@yahoo.com. Accepting resumes through Aug. 31, 2013.

First Baptist Church of Manila is seeking a **full-time pastor**. We are a two service, mission-minded church. Please send resumes to calebfinley@hotmail.com or they may also be sent to Manila First Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 1304, Manila, AR 72442.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Youth pastor needed at Crystal Hill Baptist Church in Little Rock. Call 501-455-0669 or email crystalhillbaptist@sbcglobal.net.

Central Baptist Church, Bald Knob, is prayerfully seeking a **minister of youth**. Please send resumes to the church at P.O. Box 226, Bald Knob, AR 72010, Attn: Search Team.

Someone to lead blended music for worship service and to direct a youth program. This can be a full-time position or willing to divide into two bi-vocational positions. Send resumes to Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, 433 N. Mississippi, Nowata, OK 74048.

Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Benton, is seeking a **bi-vocational youth minister**. Send resumes to Youth Minister Search Team, Ridgecrest Baptist Church, 900 Ridge Road, Benton, AR 72015.

First Baptist Church of Atkins is currently seeking a **full-time student pastor**. Please send all correspondence to duffelbag55@gmail.com.

For additional information, please contact Ferrel Duffel at 870-838-3277.

First Baptist Church of Judsonia is seeking a **part-time minister of music**. Email resumes to fbjud@gmail.com or call 501-279-6748.

Formosa Baptist in Clinton is prayerfully searching for a **part-time worship leader** who can lead a blended service. Please send resumes or questions to billytreece@hotmail.com or Formosa Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1530, Clinton, AR 72031.

West Fork FBC is seeking a **full-time minister to students** who is excited and experienced in developing and reaching our young generation and their parents. Send all resumes and correspondence to hclowerhunt@yahoo.com.

Camp Paron is seeking a **married couple** willing to work flexible hours and varied tasks. Housing may be included as part of the pay package. Call 501-837-7362 for more information.

Holly Springs Baptist Church in Holly Springs has two bi-vocational positions open - **youth pastor and worship leader**. Call David Dillard

at 870-687-1590 for information.

New Mexico Baptist Children's Home is seeking a Christian couple to work as **houseparents** for a great group of kids. We offer a competitive salary with benefits, plus room and board. If this is your calling, please contact Bill Marker at 575-359-1254 or email bill.marker@nmbch.com.

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**To place a classified,
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SEPTEMBER 1, 2013

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

God revealed

JOHN 1:1-18

John opens his prologue in John 1 with three clear statements about the different aspects of the incarnate Word. The Word is preexistent – He is present from eternity past. The Word is distinct from the Father – “the Word was with God,” literally “face to face”. The Word is divine. John makes clear that Jesus is God! John repeatedly drives home the truth of Jesus’ divine nature: “Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58), “The Father and I are one” (John 10:30) and “so that they may be one as We are one” (John 17:11). John 1:1c does not equate the Word with the person of God – see John 1:1b which shows the Word is distinct; rather, it affirms that the Word and God are one in essence.

In spite of the many who reject Christ (John 1:11), verse 12 shows there will be some who receive Him. Verse 12 provides us with a key initial definition of “believe” by equating it with “receive.” It is much more than just knowing or reciting facts about Jesus. To receive or accept the

gift of grace Christ offers demonstrates our confidence in its reality and trustworthiness. It is worth noting that John always uses “believe” (“pisteuo”) as a verb and never as a noun (“pistis”), and 36 of the 98 times it is used in John’s Gospel refer to actively believing “in” (“pisteuo” + “eis”) Jesus – like Paul’s use of the term “in Christ” to describe genuine Christian faith. For John, believing in Christ is an ongoing, active trust.

John 1:14 is very probably the single most important verse concerning the incarnation of Christ. This doctrine is one of the most basic theological affirmations of Christianity applying to all who are legitimately called Christian. The best translation of verse 14 would be, “The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us,” reminding us of God’s presence among Israel in the wilderness. Other great passages affirming Christ’s deity and humanity are Colossians 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:1-13 and Philippians 2:5-11.



Jeff Thompson
associational missionary
Concord Baptist Association
Fort Smith

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:

The pressure of trials

JAMES 1:1-4

The Book of James is written by James to the Jewish believers living outside Palestine (James 1:1). These believers may have come to faith during Pentecost (Acts 2:5-12) and are being persecuted for their faith (Acts 8:1). James encouraged these believers as they faced persecution for their faith. It can be hard to go through trials when there is no end in sight. James gives believers then and now a reason to live out their faith. Faith is like a muscle – it needs to be flexed and stretched in order to be strengthened. Similarly, believers can strengthen their faith through trials and temptations.

In today’s culture, an easy life is considered a blessing. This is true for the Jewish culture, as well. Jewish believers thought that an easy life, an absence of trials, was a sign of God’s blessing.

For new Jewish believers, it was hard to understand that persecution came with their faith. God knows everything that happens and

is not taken by surprise. God can use all the events in believers’ lives. Through trials, faith is strengthened, which produces endurance (James 1:3).

The end result of the trials is “endurance” (NASB 1995) or “perseverance” (NIV) (James 1:3-4). These words give the idea of stamina or staying power, which comes through faith in God. Along with stamina, comes spiritual maturity (James 1:4). As a muscle is strengthened, that muscle becomes stronger and endures longer. Through trials,

faith matures and becomes stronger. Spiritual maturity does not mean being sinless, but rather the completion of spiritual traits, which are used for spiritual victory. God is more interested in our character than our comfort.

As a believer, how are different trials in your life used to strengthen your faith in God? How can God use these trials to bring joy into your life? How are these trials bringing about glory of God?



Charity Gardner
member
Compass Church
Little Rock

SEPTEMBER 8, 2013

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Jesus identified

JOHN 1:29-51

Our passage in John 1:29-51 identifies six titles used for Christ.

First, John calls Jesus the “Lamb of God” (John 1:29, 36). Merrill C. Tenney says, “It combines in one descriptive term the concepts of innocence, voluntary sacrifice, substitutionary atonement, effective obedience, and redemptive power like that of the Passover Lamb.” In John’s Gospel, the Lamb of God is a synthesis of two (or more) biblical motifs. The Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53 and the Passover Lamb are the two most prominent. The lamb is first seen in Genesis 22, with Abraham offering Isaac only to discover the Lord provides His own Sacrifice. Leviticus 14 talks about the lamb as a guilt offering.

Second, in John 1:38 and 49, Jesus is called “Rabbi” (“Teacher”). The disciples and others who use this title are acknowledging that Jesus was recognized as a master/teacher of the Law of Moses.

Third, Jesus is called “Messiah”

(“Anointed One”) in John 1:41. It is unlikely that either Andrew or Peter understood just how right they were in calling Jesus the Messiah. They originally looked to Him as a potential political deliverer. Only later, perhaps at Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16:16 or Mark 8:29) did they truly come to understand how Jesus fulfilled His role as Messiah.

Fourth, Jesus is called the “Son of God” (John 1:49). This title primarily affirms Jesus’ deity and is closely related to His royal position as Messiah.

Fifth, Jesus is called the “King of Israel” (John 1:49). This title is equivalent in nature to “Son of God.” But it probably reflects a strong Hebraic nationalism, another example that, early on, the disciples looked to Jesus as a political Messiah.

Finally, Jesus calls Himself “the Son of Man” (John 1:51). This title appears 12 times in John’s Gospel. In its general usage, it is the title of the incarnate Christ who represents humanity to God and God to humanity.



Jeff Thompson
associational missionary
Concord Baptist Association
Fort Smith

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:

The pressure of temptation

JAMES 1:13-18

Every person is tempted because of the sinful nature that began in the Garden of Eden. When people give in to temptation, they look for someone or something to blame other than themselves. Some people look to nature or circumstances while others blame God for causing the temptation. When you get into a tricky situation, what is your response to God?

James was writing to the Jewish believers, whose culture had an expectation for a good life because of their beliefs. However, as a believer in Jesus, their lives were not perfect, and they struggled with temptation. As believers, why would God tempt them? James explains that God cannot tempt nor cause people to sin (James 1:13). However, God uses temptation to mature believers’ faith.

God, in His very nature, is good and has nothing to do with evil. Therefore, people give in to temptation because of their own desires (James 1:14). Once the desire is pres-

ent, sin comes to light, which causes death (James 1:15). When a person has a desire that is not from God, the action the person takes to fulfill that desire is sin. Once the sin has taken place, death is expected based on Romans 3:23.

However, the Jewish believers, had hope in God. God is good and perfect (James 1:17). He is always present and never changing. God chose to give people a second chance through the gospel (James 1:18). Because of the second chance, believers had the opportunity to be “firstfruits” (James 1:18).

The firstfruits were given to God as thanksgiving and became His special possessions. What a picture of God’s grace and love!

Though He does not cause the temptation in our lives, God can use it. As you walk through temptation, are you going to blame God for it or look to God for strength to endure it? Even though we may fail when tempted, God has presented a way, through the gospel, for us to become His special possession or firstfruits.



Charity Gardner
member
Compass Church
Little Rock

Cole Penick named new UA BCM campus minister

FAYETTEVILLE – The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Operating Committee recently approved Cole Penick as the new campus minister at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM).

Penick served as interim campus minister at the BCM beginning in 2012. Prior to his interim role, he

served as the BCM's assistant director from 2006 to 2012 and as associate college minister at University Baptist Church, Fayetteville, from 2008 to 2012. He also has served as a North American Mission Board semester missionary at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, from 2008 to present.



Penick

Penick is completing a Master of Divinity degree with a missions concentration at the northwest Arkansas extension of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

"I am extremely excited about having Cole on staff with us," said David James, ABSC collegiate ministry team

leader. "He and Caroline, with their two children, model the best of what family can be. Cole is transparent, and his passion for sharing the gospel in an educational culture without hesitation is impressive. Serving as a church collegiate minister has deepened his love for the church, and his servant attitude is revealed often by his actions."

Hundreds gather for WEE Workshops in Rogers, Little Rock

THE ANNUAL Arkansas Baptist Weekday Early Education (WEE) Workshops drew hundreds of people as they sought to learn about meeting the needs of young children and providing excellent learning experiences for them.

More than 100 people participated in the workshop held July 29 at First Baptist Church, Rogers, and almost 500 participants gathered for the workshop held Aug. 1-2 at Geyer Springs

First Baptist Church, Little Rock. Ann Parnell, who has directed church weekday training in Texas for 14 years and who is a consultant for church weekday programs across the country, served as keynote speaker for the Rogers workshop. Mark Jones, children's pastor at Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, served as the key-

note speaker in Little Rock. Jones previously served as preschool/children's specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and was on staff at LifeWay Christian Resources.

The workshops include a general session with a keynote speaker and a number of breakout sessions, which cover topics such as safety and security realities, incorporating sign language in praise and worship, becoming a better

director and more. Allison Kizzia, Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) evangelism and church growth team member, said her prayer is for those who work in weekday or other preschool ministry to "leave with an excitement about the upcoming year, a vision for how God can use them and practical ideas they can put to use

immediately."

The workshops are coordinated and funded by the ABSC evangelism

and church growth team through Cooperative Program funds and registration fees.



Acts 1:8 One Day set for Oct. 5

HARRISON – The Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip, a Mississippi River Ministry Project, will take place Oct. 5 with participants ministering in the Harrison area.

The annual event seeks to offer Arkansas Baptist churches an opportunity for ministry that does not require the expense of a full-length mission trip.

First Baptist Church, Harrison, will serve as the base for the day's activities. Participants will spend the day serving in the community in a variety of ways, including via block parties, children's activities, cowboy ministries, evangelism, prayer walking, health and dental clinics, home repairs, sports camps and more. The day will conclude

with a short celebration rally at 4 p.m. at First Baptist.

"The Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip is a missions ministry tool God is using greatly across Arkansas to see communities come to Christ and neighborhoods reached with the gospel," said Breck Freeman, Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions ministries team member.

He encouraged Arkansas Baptists to take part in the mission trip.

"Let's join together where God is working!" he said.

Registration deadline is Sept. 18.

For more information or to register, call 501-376-4791, ext. 5150.

Cruise '13 set for September 26-27

CRUISE '13: Arkansas Mission Road Trip, a motorcycle ride open to pastors and staff members of Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) churches, is set for Sept. 26-27.

The event is sponsored by the ABSC and hosted by ABSC Executive Director J.D. "Sonny" Tucker.

Marcus Brown, ABSC evangelism and church growth team member, said tentative plans are to have lunch in Clarksville before heading to Siloam Springs, where riders will spend

the night at Camp Siloam (Arkansas Baptist Assembly). The next day they will ride to Fort Smith and then to Ozark before ending with lunch.

"The purpose of the ride is twofold – to highlight Cooperative Program ministry points in that part of the state and to provide a great opportunity for fellowship among the riders," said Brown.

For more information, call 501-376-4791, ext. 5128, or email mbrown@absc.org.

Charitable Giving Tip
THE MOST IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP DECISION
 A new Christian is confronted with a major choice: do I continue to think I own my property or does God really own everything? The decision is really a clash between culture and the Bible. The Psalmist said, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." (Psalm 24:1) If God created everything, then He owns everything. We must decide if we are willing to accept the stewardship responsibility of being a manager of His property, not an owner. If so, that will guide our giving, spending, saving, and final distributions – since God is the real owner.
 If you want assistance in understanding what God's ownership means, please give us a call.
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Little Rock
 April 25-27, 2014

 CONNECT 2013 is a ministry of the Cooperative Program and the Missions Support Team of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"Burning Bush" Men's Retreat
 Sponsored by Central Baptist Association

September 13-14, 2013
 Spring Lake Baptist Assembly
 Lonsdale, AR

Cost: \$45.00 per person
 (\$35.00 for the first 100 to register from CBA churches)
 Includes lesson materials, lodging and 2 meals.

This retreat will provide a place for men to come together to share, to encourage one another, to gain strength from one another and to learn how to become a man of God. Men, set aside some time to get away from the everyday distractions of life and spend some time with God.

Schedule:
 Friday, September 13th
 6:00 p.m. - Steak dinner
 7:00 p.m. - Bro. Sammy Tippit
 Saturday, September 14
 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast
 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Bro. Sammy Tippit

Speaker: Sammy Tippit
 Bro. Sammy is an international evangelist and conference speaker. He is currently preaching some of the largest evangelistic meetings in the world. Bro. Sammy has authored and co-authored 15 books including "The Prayer Factor". He has ministered in more than 80 nations. He and his wife "Tex" have two children and five grandchildren.



Deadline to register is Aug. 31, 2013.
To register, contact Central Baptist Association at 501-778-5463.

Arkansas Baptist News
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SBC Voices

Ark. pastor contributes to popular SBC blog

PAGE 1

ABSC CP budget

ABSC Executive Board recommends '14 budget

PAGE 1

YEC 2013

More than 1,700 were in attendance at the 2013 ABSC Youth Evangelism Conference held August 9-10 at Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock. Read story on Page 1.



Photo by Jessica Vanderpool

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