



Members of a number of Hughes-area churches – both black and white congregations – greet one another during the Third Annual Common Ground Service held at CROSSroads Baptist Church in Hughes March 23. Photo by Tim Yarbrough

‘Call to prayer’ issued by ABSC

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

A TWO-DAY intensive prayer event titled “A Call to Pray for Revival & Awakening: A Gathering for Pastors and All Ministers” is scheduled for April 21-22 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock. The prayer gathering is set for 6 to 10 p.m. Monday, April 21, and from 8:30 a.m. to noon the following day.

The prayer event is a Cooperative Program ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) and is hosted by the ABSC Task Force for Prayer, Revival and Spiritual Awakening, which is part of the church revitalization process.

Ronnie Floyd, task force member and senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, will facilitate the event, with Julio Arriola, global worship pastor at Cross Church, and his worship team leading worship.

The goal of the event is to have a time for serious prayer for revival in the Church and awakening in the nation.

“I’m convinced that probably the most pressing need we have is for focused and intense prayer,” said J.D. “Sonny” Tucker, ABSC executive director. “And there seems to be a prayer movement that is awakening in the Southern Baptist Convention and in Arkansas,

See **PRAYER** page 3

‘Common Ground’ service helps churches break racial barriers

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

HUGHES – The Arkansas Delta, much like its more famous sister to the east, the Mississippi Delta, is one of the most impoverished and culturally traditional areas in the South.

In an area known for a history of racism and segregation, Christians – both white and black – came together united under Jesus Christ to worship as one during the Third Annual Com-

mon Ground Service at CROSSroads Baptist Church, Hughes, March 23.

Don Abbott, pastor of CROSSroads Baptist, and Chester Witherspoon, pastor of New Home Baptist Church, Crawfordsville, hosted the event, which brought together pastors, pastors’ wives, members and visitors from churches throughout the area. In addition to Abbott and Witherspoon, pastors in attendance included:

See **COMMON** page 6

Last call for Mother of Year

APRIL 16 is the deadline for all entries to the Arkansas Baptist News (ABN) 2014 A Tribute to Godly Mothers essay contest.

In an effort to honor all mothers, each year the ABN selects a Mother of the Year based on entries.

For more information and guidelines, visit www.arkansasbaptist.org/mother-of-the-year.

PROFILES IN FAITH

Young man’s death inspires salvation decisions

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

WARREN – “We’re praying, Lord Jesus, for You to move and work in a mighty way,” prayed David Richey, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Warren, at the annual Wild Game Festival hosted by the church.

Little did Richey know how God would answer his prayer that night – or how God would use the story of a young man dying of cancer 100 miles away to do so.

This was the eighth annual Wild Game Festival, and Richey

said the event has “taken on a life of its own” over the years. He said that while Immanuel Baptist originally started the event – and continues to host and fund it – the Wild Game Festival has really become more of a communitywide event encompassing multiple churches and denominations.

Not only do members of other area churches attend, but they also help with the arrangements.

“It has become a unifying factor in our community between

churches, between other denominations,” he said, adding that the event displays the “unity of the Body of Christ,” which is attractive to the community.

The event reaches out to the whole family, rather than just to men and boys, and the intent is to attract the lost, as well as unchurched families.

Music at the Feb. 22 event was provided by Preservation Theory, a band led by Scott Quimby, worship pastor for First Baptist Church, Stuttgart. Guest speaker was hunter Jeff

Danker, from Chandler, Okla., who has two TV shows – “Buckventures Outdoors” and “Major League Bowhunter.”

Danker shared how he got into the hunting industry and about his transformation from a roofer’s son who wanted to be a roper to a hunter with two TV shows. Danker spoke on letting the Lord control a person’s life and addressed the topic of family and what it means to be a spiritual provider.

As Danker concluded with an encouragement for attendees to



Woodward

See **WOODWARD** page 9

Cooperative Program explained in new 'rant' video

NASHVILLE (BP) – The new Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) “CP Rant” video communicates to younger generations the vitality and necessity of the Cooperative Program (CP), incorporating humor, fact and colloquial terms, said the team of Louisiana Baptists who produced the video.

“This video presents the absurdity of not cooperating and defends the concept of CP through humor and in a way young adults, those who grew up in the ‘Seinfeld era,’ might enjoy and more readily understand,” said Matt Tullos, production manager with the Louisiana Baptists team that produced the video. “Often in SBC life, we tend to soft sell the idea of cooperating and say ‘you should.’ The ‘CP Rant’ provides an entertaining yet compelling argument for churches to give through the Cooperative Program.”

Southern Baptist churches are encouraged to view the 2-and-a-half-minute video, available for free download at www.sbc.net/cp/videos.asp (scroll down to the video, labeled “CP Rant”) in advance of Cooperative Program Sunday,

April 13 on the SBC calendar. The animated video features a fictitious, young antagonist questioning why his church should support CP, and a young protagonist pastor pointing out CP’s far-reaching effectiveness.

“CP Rant” producer John Kyle, director of communications for Louisiana Baptists, said the video is designed to answer questions Southern Baptists voice about the Cooperative Program.

“CP is really the story of every person who gives to the Lord through his local church,” Kyle said. “CP is not simply what the SBC or the state conventions are doing. In fact, it is what the church members are doing, who they are reaching, how they are making a difference, and they need to know. As the primary character states at the end of the video, ‘Somebody had to tell the guy.’”

“We attempted to present the case for cooperation in a manner that captures the attention of the audience and makes the case that missions support doesn’t have to be an either/or proposition,” Kyle said.

“Churches can participate in missions and, at the same time, support missions and ministries in their state and around the world,” he said. “There is more to missions than ‘just feeling it,’ as one of the characters states.”

The title “CP Rant” is used positively, drawing on the pastor’s defense of the CP, Kyle said.

“I guess the idea is you get on a roll and you just can’t stop – thus the definition of ‘rant.’ The main character received a crash course in cooperation, if you will, from his pastor and when the opportunity presented itself, (the pastor) just lets it all out,” Kyle said. “There’s so much about our cooperative efforts that are good and right and needs to be heard by the average church member.”

The Cooperative Program allows churches to support a wide array of ministries and missions by giving one single donation at the state convention level. Donations support evangelism, children’s homes, volunteer missions, missions education,



A team of Louisiana Baptists, including production manager Matt Tullos, produced the recently released “CP Rant” video in order to explain the role and importance of the Cooperative Program to “younger generations” of Southern Baptists.

new churches, colleges and universities, collegiate ministries, camps and more.

Nate Adams, chairman of the SBC Cooperative Program Advisory Council, said the video will answer pertinent questions and inspire educational dialogue.

“I think this light-hearted video gives a voice to questions that some young church leaders have about the Cooperative Program, as well as those to whom the concept of cooperative missions may simply be new or misunderstood,” Adams said. “In 2-and-a-half minutes, it can’t deliver all the answers to those questions, but it can open the door for a larger discussion about how CP works and why it is so effective and trustworthy.”

“There are many well-done print pieces, articles and other short videos that help tell the CP story and show the life-transforming results of missions done in cooperation,” said Adams, who serves as executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Convention.

“I would hope this video would help open a whole new dialogue, even with sincere skeptics, about the proven effectiveness of Cooperative Program missions,” he said.

In St. Bernard Parish, La., Poydras Baptist Church Pastor John Galey used the video to inform and

inspire his congregation of 70 weekly worshippers. He’s shown it on a Wednesday night and said he will likely show it on CP Sunday.

“Even though we’re small, there’s a great benefit for us to be able to participate in kingdom work and to cooperate together and partnership together in an endeavor that’s greater than us,” Galey said.

Ashley Clayton, vice president for Cooperative Program and stewardship development with the SBC Executive Committee, encourages churches to show the “CP Rant” video in April.

“This new video resource, ‘CP Rant,’ along with several other Cooperative Program video resources posted on SBC.net, provide our church members an open window to see the good things we do through Southern Baptist missions and ministries,” he said.

“I hope every church will take the time, during the month of April, to present these video resources. Southern Baptist churches are never more strong, never more effective and never more on point for the kingdom than they are when they join hands together to preach the gospel of Christ at home in North America and around the world.”

CP resources are available under the Cooperative Program tab of www.sbc.net.

2014 Cooperative Program brochures and posters are now available free of charge to churches by calling 501-376-4791, ext. 5158



Spring/summer 2014 Ark. Christian Parent available

LITTLE ROCK – The spring/summer edition of *Arkansas Christian Parent* magazine is now available for churches and individuals to pick up at their local Arkansas Baptist associations. A limited number of the magazines are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) offices.

Churches are encouraged not only to share the magazine with their members, but also to use the resource to reach out to their communities.

“*Arkansas Christian Parent* is a wonderful resource for parents and a strategic outreach tool for

churches,” said Tim Yarbrough, ABN editor. “More than 70,000 copies of the magazine have been distributed across Arkansas since its debut in October 2012. It has been a phenomenal success and continues to be in high demand.”

The new issue includes topics on homeschooling, integrating spiritual truths into a family’s everyday life,

parenting in the midst of loss and heartache, exploring the benefits of a private Christian university and helping children make wise decisions.



Contributing writers include Derek Brown, Little Rock area director for Arkansas Baptist Children’s Homes and Family Ministries; Shari Edwards, women’s ministry speaker; Trennis Henderson, vice president

for communications at Ouachita Baptist University; Doug Hibbard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Almyra, and Ben Phillips, Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church health team member, among others.

“Be sure to contact your association to reserve copies of *Arkansas Christian Parent* today,” said Yarbrough.

“Don’t forget to share the magazine with your neighbors and in local businesses around town. It is an excellent tool for both encouraging believers and reaching out to nonbelievers.”

Seniors called to pray for awakening

AS PART OF the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Task Force for Prayer, Revival and Spiritual Awakening, Don Moore, former executive director of the ABSC, is currently working on behalf of the state convention to recruit and mobilize senior adults from across Arkansas to participate in a Senior Adult Prayer Force.

The goal of the Senior Adult Prayer Force is to undergird the initiatives of the ABSC Task Force for Prayer, Revival and Spiritual Awakening. The most immediate action of the prayer force is to give prayer support to the April 21-22 prayer summit being held for pastors, staff and other ministry people in the state. The ultimate goal, however, is to seek for God to bring Arkansas, the United States and the rest of the world to a place of repentance, awakening and spiritual revival, said Moore.

Young people are often looked to as being the necessary catalysts for great awakenings within God's people. However, Moore believes senior adults may be the key to bringing America, and the rest of the world, to revival.

Moore points to a number of factors, which make senior adults the perfect demographic to spark change and revival within the church and world as a whole. He said seniors often have more free time and more spiritual experience and wisdom than younger Christians, that seniors make up the largest percentage of the United States population and that many seniors understand the desperate need to bring America to a position where its people love, honor and fear God.

"Senior adults have more invested in our churches than any other age group," said Moore.

"It would seem logical that we would want to protect and preserve our investment."

"However, our approach to doing that is too often that of making sure that we 'stay in control' and that we 'keep everything like we have had it.' That, in fact, is the surest way to lose our investment. ... The King and the kingdom, which He said we should pray would come 'on earth as it is in heaven' can never be limited to a locality, a specific congregation or denomination or something over which a few people have control," Moore said.

"'On earth' would indicate that we have a global responsibility which can never be contained or restrained by local and individual preferences. The best way to protect our investment is to let God ignite a spiritual bomb that would blow redemptive dust throughout the land and even the world."

Moore and the state convention are seeking senior adults to be part of the Senior Adult Prayer Force. The prayer force will be made up of seniors who feel called to prayer ministry and who commit to: 1) pray daily for revival and spiritual awakening, 2) pray weekly with someone else, or multiple other people, for revival and spiritual awakening and 3) pray monthly within a prayer group which focuses on praying for revival and spiritual awakening.

Senior adults who are interested in being involved in the work of the

ABSC Senior Adult Prayer Force can start right away and are asked to: 1) pray for themselves to experience personal revival in order to enable widespread revival and awakening, 2) pray for their pastor as God has placed him in a position to be a leader in revival and awakening, 3) pray for the Task Force for Prayer, Revival and Spiritual Awakening as they engage, encourage and inspire pastors to see revival and awakening personally and within their congregations and 4) pray for the April 21-22 statewide prayer summit for pastors and their staffs at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church in Little Rock, that it would be a transformative experience that would prompt pastors to have special prayer events in churches.

"Dr. Moore has a heart for involving senior adults in praying for revival and spiritual awakening in our churches and our country. He is seeking to enlist as many senior adults as possible to be involved in a concerted prayer effort," said Jimmy Sheffield, associate executive director for the ABSC. "He will be providing support and help to those who make a commitment to be part of the Senior Adult Prayer Force by providing materials, speakers and articles in the monthly 'Inspire' newsletter to prayer warriors across the state."

"It is a stretch for senior adults to be enlarging their circles of concern or extending their stakes with Jabez, but this is what will be required if we are to be instruments of revival and awakening," said Moore.



Moore

this going to associations, clusters of churches and to the church level."

Tucker emphasized that the April meeting is a focused time for serious prayer.

"This is not a seminar about prayer - this is a guided 8-hour prayer meeting where we do a lot of intense praying," he said.

During the event, a number of speakers from around the state will speak on certain aspects of prayer for about 10 minutes each, Tucker said. Prayer will follow and the process will be repeated - with worship taking place during the event as well.

"Also we're asking this not be a come-and-go (event). This is 'come and stay,'" Tucker said. "And we've asked people not to plan on lingering in the halls to fellowship. This is for hard-core praying folks. There'll be other events that will be more conducive to fellowship. This is 'come and stay and come and pray.'"

Tucker shared about his heart for seeing revival in the Natural State.

"We've got some of the most unbelievably wonderful folks in the state, and I see pockets of revival happening," he said.

"We've got some churches that

are just in stages of incredible revival, but I would like to see us as a whole state learn to pay the price in prayer, seeking God, and experience His power moving like never before."

Other members of the ABSC Task Force for Prayer, Revival and Spiritual Awakening Task Force include: Manley Beasley Jr., pastor of Hot Springs Baptist Church, Hot Springs; Diane Blackwood, Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union president and senior adult minister at Family Fellowship Baptist Church, Jonesboro; Bill Elliff, pastor of The Summit Church, North Little Rock; Don Moore, retired ABSC executive director; Ron Owens, Arkansas Baptist evangelist; Ken Shaddox, pastor of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock; Lowell Snow, Arkansas Baptist evangelist; Larry W. White, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cherokee Village, and Dennis Wilkins, retired Arkansas Baptist pastor.

To register for the prayer gathering, visit www.prayarkansas.com, call 501-376-4791, ext. 5103, or email gmccallister@absc.org.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest to Arkansas Baptists

Judge in Glorieta case announces new ruling

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - A judge in New Mexico ruled March 20 that a federal court has jurisdiction over a lawsuit challenging last year's sale of Glorieta Conference Center and lifted a stay so that the case can proceed, the *Texas Baptist Standard* reported. U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Hayes Scott determined that the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico is the proper venue for a lawsuit filed by an Arkansas couple - Kirk and Susie Tompkins of Little Rock - who claim LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention lacked legal authority to unload the 2,400-acre retreat center opened in 1952 that officials say had been losing money for years.

World Vision reverses same-sex job policy

FEDERAL WAY, Wash. (BP) - World Vision U.S. announced it is reverting to its long-standing conduct policy of requiring faithfulness within the biblical covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, expressing regret for an earlier decision to hire legally married gay Christians. World Vision U.S. President Richard Stearns and board chairman Jim Bere announced in a letter the reversal March 26, just two days after drawing ire from the Christian community by saying World Vision would begin hiring legally married gays.

Gov't admits mandate in Hobby Lobby case

WASHINGTON (BP) - The Obama administration's acknowledgment that its stance would require businesses to underwrite abortions without the right to a legal challenge may have been a particularly telling moment in a March 25 U.S. Supreme Court case that likely will be a landmark in religious liberty. It seemed that way to some who oppose the government's position, and they expressed an opinion that it seemed that way to some of the justices. Two family-owned businesses - nationwide retail chain Hobby Lobby and Pennsylvania-based Conestoga Wood Specialties - had their opportunity to present their contention that the federal rule violates free exercise of religion rights and a 1993 law protecting religious liberty.

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

PRAYER

continued from page one

and we just want to do all we can to enhance that."

The April prayer event is specifically targeted toward ministers - such as pastors, retired pastors, church staff members, ministry students, associational missionaries, itinerate ministers and the staff of ABSC agencies and institutions.

Floyd played an integral role in similar events that were recently held on a national level in Dallas and Atlanta. Tucker said a couple of ABSC team leaders attended one of the events and returned saying it was one of the most powerful events they had experienced.

Tucker expects the Arkansas event in April - inspired by the Dallas and Atlanta meetings - to serve as a kickoff to similar events throughout the state.

"We do want this to set a pattern, a precedent for the state," said Tucker. "We do want to model this intense prayer meeting. We envision

The sin of affluence

Being reared in a farming community in southeast Missouri, I wasn't around "rich" folks all that much.

Of course, there were the big farmers of the precession 1970s, but for the most part, the "rich" folks my family knew were doctors and lawyers who lived in the nearest "big" town of about 7,000 people.

I grew up hearing stories of how my family members struggled during the early part of the 20th century, but "always had what they needed" because "God always provided."

My grandfather was a humble man and farmer.

I recall vividly him praying for rain during dry spells, then for the rain to stop during wet spells. His faith was strong in "The Good Lord."



PRESSING ON

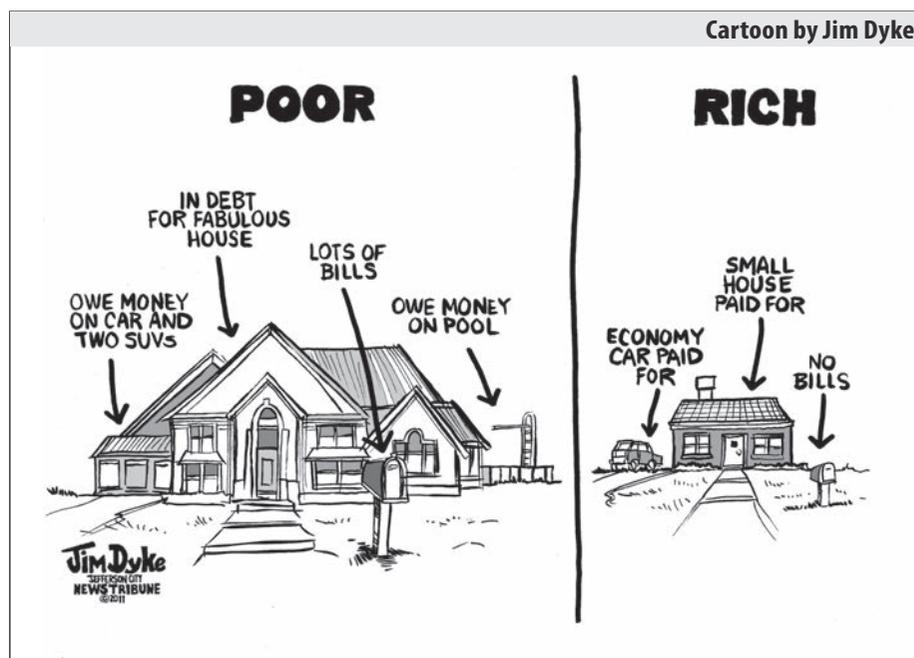
Tim Yarbrough
Phil. 3:14

According to the Population Reference Bureau, my grandfather, who was born in 1895, is a part of the "Hard Timer" generation. Like us, he was shaped by the times in which he was born: historical events, political climate and socio-economic conditions.

My grandfather was frugal with money and possessions. He literally hated owing anyone anything. Until the last years of their lives, my grandparents grew a large garden, canning what was not eaten fresh for the winter months. They also raised chickens for eggs and fryers.

For most Americans, such a lifestyle is so unfamiliar that it only exists in history books. This was the way my grandparents lived until the early 1970s.

Today, most Americans get their



food from the grocery store and spend a great amount of their disposable income on restaurants and takeout.

No wonder many Americans are overweight and suffer from a host

of illnesses related to obesity and a sedentary lifestyle.

However, there's another – perhaps greater – problem that doesn't

See **AFFLUENCE** page 5

'Called to Stay'

By Caleb Breakey, Harvest House, 2013

As I skim over the books in my library, I see that most of those books clearly fall into easy-to-define categories like preaching, reference, Christian living, spiritual disciplines and so on. Even though I use those books often, there is a very small part of my library that challenges me and cannot be easily labeled like the rest of my collection.

"Called to Stay: An Uncompromising Mission to Save Your Church" by

Caleb Breakey is a book that fits into that category. It is written to those who have already or are planning to leave the church, and it calls them to stay and become agents of change. Breakey's book comes from his own personal experience as a believer who was tired of the church not living up to its calling.

"Called to Stay" is easily di-

vided into three sections. In the first, the author lays out clear biblical reasons for not abandoning the church. The first three chapters may be the best part of the book. They consist of some great arguments from Scripture and an introduction to the role of the infiltrator, a

BOOK REVIEW

Rusty Keltner
First Baptist Church
Corning

role that is referred to constantly throughout the book. Breakey encourages those who have been disenchanted with church to begin changing the church instead of leaving. He writes, "Investing in believers – no matter which spiritual stage they're in – is a massive part of the great commission."

The second section of the book is a practical, how-to guide to being an infiltrator. Breakey discusses the need to dig deep and get beyond

the surface with other believers. He gives a number of questions and ways to take average conversations in a deeper spiritual direction. In this section, the author also deals with the role of the Holy Spirit, praying and dealing with emotions. The infiltrator gets to know other believers better by gauging how they respond to four areas of the Christian life: love, obedience, trust and knowledge.

In the concluding chapters, readers are told when they should leave the church and are encouraged to stay if their church does not meet those guidelines. At the end of each

chapter, Breakey leads readers to an online video that discusses the chapter and invites them to have a discussion about the chapter with him and others through social media.

Overall, this book presents a great argument for staying in the church in spite of the flaws we so often see. While it is primarily written to the laity, pastors will also benefit from reading this book. Breakey did a great job of addressing a very current issue in the church from a biblical and practical standpoint.

Rusty Keltner is pastor of First Baptist Church in Corning. The Arkansas Baptist News welcomes book reviews

from Arkansas Baptist pastors and church members on religion-based books, preferably published in the past six months. Reviews should be 350-400 words in length.



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Family Matters

'Ancient paths'

Art lessons, band, baseball, basketball, Boy Scouts, dance, cheer, football, Girl Scouts, gymnastics, karate, music lessons, soccer, wrestling ... there are specialty paths for just about anything you can imagine for children these days.

Many parents see these activities as a rite of passage leading to a path of greater fulfillment for their children. Statistically, only about 5.2 percent of high school athletes walk the path to the collegiate level, and only 3 percent of collegiate athletes walk the path to the professional level.

The choices parents make for their children have the potential to set their children on paths that will ultimately shape their destiny. One must consider God's perspective for the paths that are chosen. The paths mentioned above aren't necessarily wrong paths. Many parents, however, fail to consider the ancient paths for the spiritual development of families modeled by Abraham, Moses, Joshua and others.

Choosing paths to nurture the faith of your children according to God's Word is primary, whereas the other paths should only be secondary. Scripture challenges us to look to the ancient paths. Jeremiah the prophet recognized that God's people had chosen paths in life that did not honor God and would ultimately lead to God's judgment unless they changed. God sent His prophets to speak to the hearts of His people in an effort to turn them from their sins and turn them back to a relationship with Him. Jeremiah 6:16 reveals, "This is what the Lord says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.'" We must take time to stand and look (consider the outcome of the paths we choose), ask (inquire of God and other godly people) and walk (make wise decisions and stick to them), so that we will find rest (enjoy the blessings of God for following the ancient paths).

The eternal benefits of pursuing the ancient paths provide a destiny that is sure 100 percent of the time.

Ben Phillips is a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church health team.



Phillips

Coming to Christ is a prerequisite for forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness of sins is God's greatest gift to meet man's greatest need. The most life-changing words a person can hear from Christ are, "Son or Daughter, your sins are forgiven!" So a person must come to Christ for forgiveness, even if they are brought.

In Matthew 4, the people brought to Christ "all who were ill ... and He healed them." In John 1, Andrew brings Peter to meet Christ. In John 4, the adulterous woman meets Christ at the well, gets saved and then goes back and basically brings the whole village to meet Christ. In John 8, the woman caught in the act of adultery is brought to Jesus; and Jesus says to her, "Go. From now on sin no more."

So, here is my question for all of us as Arkansas Baptists: "Are we willing to do whatever it takes to bring one person to Jesus?"

In Mark 2, we see four men who are willing to do whatever it takes to bring their friend to Jesus. There are always barriers in bringing someone to Christ, but these men were willing to overcome four barriers to bring their friend to Christ.

First, they were willing to see past his present condition. Bringing him to Christ was going to be difficult. Most people believed he was paralyzed due to a sinful act committed by him or his parents; an example is John 9.

Second, they were willing to go around the crowd. Many people had gathered to hear Jesus - some for the

right reasons and some for the wrong reasons; but they all had their backs to the one in need.

Third, they were willing to dig a hole in the roof. They didn't ask permission; they just found an alternative way of bringing their friend to Jesus. Lastly, they were willing to publicly proclaim their faith. Mark 2:5 says, "And Jesus seeing their faith." The faith of the

four men carrying their friend and the faith of the paralytic were evident. It was not a dead faith; it was a living faith. These men believed their friend was a sinner and that Jesus was the only one who could forgive him.

When Jesus looks at us, what does He see? Does He see a faith that believes all people are sinners and that Jesus is Lord and the only one who

can save? Does He see a faith demonstrated by action?

Then Jesus said to the man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Yes, the healing miracle came later in the passage, but the greatest miracle of all was what was needed most - forgiveness of sins. Have you or your church erected barriers that keep people from coming to Jesus? Are you willing to do whatever it takes to overcome those barriers and bring one person to Christ this week? Yes, it will be difficult. Yes, people will talk about you. Yes, you may have to tear a roof off. But it will be worth it when your friend or family member hears from Jesus, "Son/Daughter, your sins are forgiven."

Archie Mason is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and senior pastor of Central Baptist Church in Jonesboro.



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Archie Mason

The danger of self-deception

One of the interesting areas in money management today is behavioral finance. This field of research has helped us understand the decisions and reactions of the public to the various movements in the markets.

For example, biases often guide our thinking and actions. One such bias is self-deception, where we think we are better, smarter and wiser than we really are. For example, as many as 80 percent of drivers believe they are more skilled than the average driver. Of course, it is impossible for 80 percent to be more skilled than the average.

This bias, known as overconfidence, leads investors to (1) believe their judgment is better than it really is, (2) be overly optimistic about the outcomes of their investment choices, and (3) think they have access to better investment information and know-how than others. The worst offenders are experienced investors who typically buy and sell too often (increasing transaction costs and reducing returns) and take excessive levels of risk.

Christians can counteract overconfidence by recognizing some of its chief warning signs:

- **Self-pride** - tending to attribute successful outcomes to one's own skills while blaming poor results on

bad luck or someone else.

- **Hindsight bias** - convincing oneself that, contrary to fact, he or she had predicted poor outcomes, which makes it likely to repeat the same mistake.

- **Illusion of control** - believing that one can exert influence over uncontrollable events.

James reminds us in James 4:13-16 (HCSB), "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit.' You don't even know what tomorrow will bring - what your life will be! For you are like smoke that appears for a little while, then vanishes. Instead, you should say, 'If the Lord wills, we

will live and do this or that.' But as it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil."

And Paul exhorts us in Romans 12:3 (HCSB), "For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one."

Perhaps it is time for us to reread Philippians 2:5-11. The example of Jesus just might be the best antidote to self-deception!

David Moore is president of Arkansas Baptist Foundation.



FINANCIAL TIMES

David Moore

AFFLUENCE

continued from page 4

impact our health, but rather our Christian witness and reach of the Church: It's the sin of affluence.

Most readers of this column have achieved a measure of success in their lives. Southern Baptists are a giving and missional people, but the allures of our culture constantly poke at our pocketbook.

The practice of self-denial and delayed gratification have given way to "have it now and pay it out on time" - which is a contrast to what the Bible teaches.

Many people today - Christians included - take on large amounts of debt, essentially robbing themselves of their freedom and their ability to give and support the work of the Church.

Psalm 37:21 (ESV) says "The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous

and gives." Proverbs 22:7 (ESV) adds, "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender." Scripture instructs believers to be content with what they have. Hebrews 13:5 (ESV) says, "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

How we react to our affluence is key. We can use it to either honor God or rob Him.

COMMON

continued from page one

Edward Hampton of New Lehi Baptist Church, West Memphis; Johnny Boykins of Christ Tabernacle Church, Crawfordsville; G.B. Steele of Beautiful Zion MD Church, West Memphis, and others.

Abbott said the goal of the evening was to bring all people from the surrounding community, of every race, together to worship God as one body.

"Unfortunately, some of the most segregated times are between 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock on Sunday morning," said Abbott.

"But I can tell you this: When you start seeing Christians getting together with Christians regardless, and you do that right here in the South, you are going to start seeing changes being made," he said.

"We make a statement when we say to somebody that, 'He has a black church or a white church.' I can't accept that. I believe that if people want to worship God together,

then this is the place to be," the pastor said to applause.

The service opened with a time of fellowship followed by a prayer that the church would be a place of common ground for all races and denominations. Witherspoon and Abbott introduced the various ministers and pastors in attendance and gave each a time to introduce themselves and speak to the group during the service.



Witherspoon

Pastor Boykins of Christ Tabernacle Church was one of the men that spoke during this time.

"I thank God for what they are doing with this Common Ground service because if we can't get it together here, then how are we going to live in heaven together," said Boykins. "I can't see

what the problem is because we are all descendants of those three sons of Noah. In actuality, we are all family folk.

"The Bible says in Genesis 2:7, 'The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.' Now we are all made of the dust of the ground, brothers, but there is all col-

ors of dust," said Boykins. "What is the problem? We are just made from different dust. ... We all have the love of God; God created all of us!"

Choirs and children's choirs from churches in attendance led the audience in worship, and church members sang requested solos before Witherspoon brought the evening's message, asking those in attendance to turn their Bibles to John 13 as his wife sang a song to open his message.

After reading John 13:34-35, the pastor asked the audience, "How is your love life?"

He said that the love that Christ is referring to in John 13 is not the love had between husband and wife, but "agape love."

"We are here today for common ground, to come together. And the only way we can come together is to start with what? Love," said Witherspoon. "There is something wrong with the way we are loving today. We don't really love one another because love hides a multitude of faults. ... We have got to have the Christ-like love in our heart for one another!"

"He (Jesus) said, 'By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another,'"

said Witherspoon, quoting John 13:35. "If you accepted Christ, you are His disciple, amen? So the only way folks are going to know who we are is by the love that we show for one another. If we don't show love, we don't show Christ!"

In closing, a representative from The Gideons International took an offering in order to facilitate the

distribution of Bibles around the world and Abbott sang a verse of "Where He Leads Me" and gave an invitation, giving everyone in attendance the opportunity to accept Christ if they did not already know Him.

"My dream at CROSSroads is to truly see a church of people that are all mixed - blacks and Mexicans and whites and all of the other kinds," said Abbott. "I pray that one day I will live to see that. I know that it is possible. You keep us in your prayers here at CROSSroads."

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org. Watch a video from the Common Ground service at www.arkansasbaptist.org/commonground.



Abbott



BIBLE STORYING WORKSHOP

A Cooperative Program Ministry of the ABSC Missions Teams

This workshop will benefit those who are:

- * Going on mission trips (international, national or state)
- * Involved as leaders/volunteers in Christian Women's/Christian Men's Job Corps
- * Sunday School teachers and Bible study leaders
- * Working with immigrants
- * Ministering among secondary orals in the community (high school and/or college graduates who do not read and get all their information from the media)
- * Serving among trafficked peoples
- * Ministering among peoples in poverty

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- * Craft and tell Bible stories that are biblically accurate and naturally told
- * Lead an oral Bible study
- * Experience a chronological story set that presents God's plan for salvation
- * Select stories for specific evangelism and discipleship issues
- * Recognize the oral communicators in their communities and minister to them orally
- * Train others in Bible storying methods

Workshop dates: August 13-16, 2014

Workshop place: Arkansas Baptist State Convention
10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204

Workshop capacity: Limited to the first 30 who register

Workshop cost: \$25.00 per person (includes 3 meals and printing of the downloadable books)

To register, contact Debbie Moore:
800-838-2272 ext. 5138 || dmoore@absc.org

A Call to Pray for Revival & Awakening: A Gathering for Pastors and All Ministers

A Two-Day Intensive Prayer Gathering

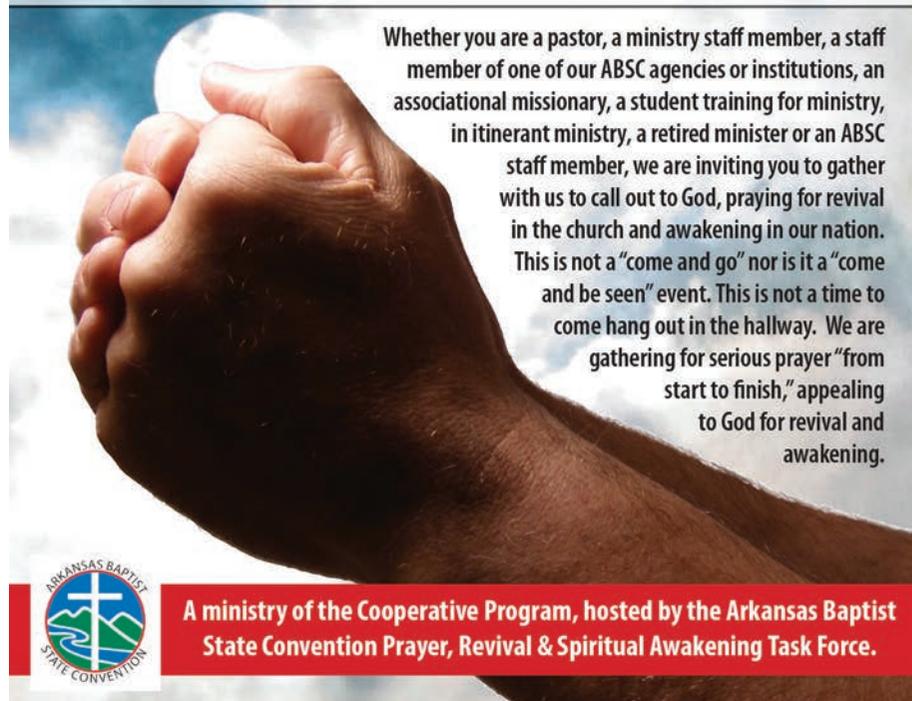
Monday, April 21 • Tuesday, April 22
6-10 p.m. • 8:30 a.m.-Noon
(Breakfast will be served 7:30-8:15 am)

Location: Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock

Register at www.prayarkansas.com

Or call 501-376-4791, Ext. 5103, or email gmccallister@absc.org

There is NO cost for the gathering. You are responsible for your travel and hotel room.



Whether you are a pastor, a ministry staff member, a staff member of one of our ABSC agencies or institutions, an associational missionary, a student training for ministry, in itinerant ministry, a retired minister or an ABSC staff member, we are inviting you to gather with us to call out to God, praying for revival in the church and awakening in our nation. This is not a "come and go" nor is it a "come and be seen" event. This is not a time to come hang out in the hallway. We are gathering for serious prayer "from start to finish," appealing to God for revival and awakening.



A ministry of the Cooperative Program, hosted by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Prayer, Revival & Spiritual Awakening Task Force.

UNLOCK
THE MYSTERY
APRIL 16, 2014

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Tumbling Shoals Bapt. holds Wild Game Supper March 13

HEBER SPRINGS - Tumbling Shoals Baptist Church, Heber Springs, was filled with hunters, venison meat - and Jesus Christ - March 13 during their annual Wild Game Supper.

The event was held in Tumbling Shoals Baptist's auditorium, which was transformed to resemble wilderness, including coyotes howling at the moon, a fox perched on a log, a bobcat hiding in the grass and multiple deer and elk throughout.

More than 240 attendees dined on bacon venison wraps, fried "taters," cornbread and venison chili. The Nelson Family bluegrass band of Mountain View provided entertainment during the supper.

Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, brought the evening's keynote address following the meal.

Patterson, an avid wild game hunter, shared stories about hunting big game in Africa. He specifically

mentioned an instance in which he came face to face with death during a close encounter with a wounded lioness.

Following his stories, Patterson shared the gospel with the group and paralleled his experience with the injured lioness to the fact that every person eventually faces death and eternity.

"The event turned out wonderful. It was exciting, and when the gospel was presented, there was a hush over the room," said Donna Patchin, office assistant at Tumbling Shoals Baptist and member of the church.

Patchin said six men and five boys came forward to make decisions following the gospel presentation by Patterson.

The evening concluded with a drawing for a X220 ThunderHawk MR Crossbow Outfitter package valued at \$600. Gerald Bounds, pastor of Palestine Baptist Church, Quitman, was winner of the package.

NPBA to hold 'Golf for Hungry'

NORTH LITTLE ROCK - The North Pulaski Baptist Association (NPBA) will host its annual Golf for the Hungry golf tournament May 17 at Stonelinks Golf Course in North Little Rock.

Money raised through the event will help the association fight hunger within the north Pulaski County community through their three caring centers.

In a letter promoting the event, Jerry Gay, associational missionary for NPBA, cites statistics from the Arkansas Hunger Alliance, which state that 28 percent of Arkansans "have difficulty affording food" and that Arkansas is "ranked the 6th worst state in providing food for families with children."

The tournament will be a scramble format with a shotgun start and will begin at 8:30 a.m. Barbecue will be provided free of charge by Whole Hog Café in Sherwood, and multiple contests will be held, including

a hole-in-one contest with a \$5,000 prize and a long drive contest. Participants will also receive a free golf club. Door prizes will also be raffled.

The tournament will provide participants two ways to compete: the actual golf tournament and "bring the bucks," where individuals or teams that raise the most money will receive a gift and certificate.

Participants are encouraged to begin raising money before the event through their local churches, Sunday school classes, small groups, friends, business associates and through personal contributions.

Participants can also sponsor holes during the event as a way to raise money.

"Every dollar you raise is three meals for the hungry in your community," said Gay.

For more information on Golf for the Hungry, contact Dennis Wilkins, the tournament's director, at 501-259-8197.

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A volcano.

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Church life

Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, will host TV and movie star Kirk Cameron's national Love Worth Fight For: Marriage Event at 7 p.m. April 3. Cameron will speak and singer/songwriter Warren Barfield will lead music.

Piney Baptist Church, Hot Springs, will hold a revival April 6-9 with Dave McClung, from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, serving as guest speaker. Brent Roach will lead music. Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. April 6 and 6:30 p.m. April 6-9.

Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Star City, will hold a revival meeting featuring the Lisemby Family at 6:30 p.m. April 13-16.

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, will host the Heritage Revival April 6-9, featuring Keith Wiginton, evangelist. Services are at 6 p.m. April 6 and 11:30 a.m. April 7-9, beginning with lunch.

On the move

Gary Blair is serving as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Dardanelle.

Milestones

Winfred Bridges recently completed 15 years as pastor of Windover Baptist Church, Jonesboro.

Email your church news to:

abn@arkansasbaptist.org
or call 501-376-4791, ext. 5153



SECOND BAPTIST CONSTRUCTION - Stan Parris (center), pastor of Second Baptist Church, Arkadelphia, cuts the ribbon for the church's new children's building March 3. He was joined by community leaders, church members and staff to celebrate the opening of the new ministry facility. Church members recently voted to authorize a major construction project that features a new children's ministry building with a nursery and classrooms, a new student ministry facility that includes renovation and expansion of the church's current fellowship hall and a new church office suite including a new media/library center. *Photo by Trennis Henderson*

Vines, Gaines to speak at Allison's 90th birthday celebration May 1

CORDOVA, Tenn. - A 90th birthday celebration will be held at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Cordova, Tenn., Thursday, May 1, for Gray Allison, longtime evangelism professor and former president of the seminary.

The celebration will begin at 11 a.m. with a chapel message by Jerry Vines, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and a pastoral testimony by Steve Gaines,

pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova.

The service will conclude with a presentation by Mid-America President Michael Spradlin, followed by a birthday reception.

"This event will be an exciting time as we honor the seminary's founding president and his global evangelistic legacy," said Tanner Hickman, director of alumni and church relations at the seminary.

Classifieds

PASTOR

Emmet First Baptist Church is seeking **bi-vocational pastor**. Please send resume to Emmet First Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 186, Emmet, AR 71835.

Kingsland First Baptist Church is seeking a **pastor**. Parsonage is provided. Please send resumes to Kingsland First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 97, Kingsland, AR 71652.

Cedar Glades Baptist Church in Mountain Pine is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resume to Cedar Glades Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, 303 Gum Springs Road, Mountain Pine, AR 71956.

Ridgeview Baptist Church in Wynne is looking for a **full-time pastor**. Please mail resume to P.O. Box 555, Wynne, AR 72396 or call Kenneth McDonald, 870-238-2796, or Arnold Cox, 870-238-7410.

All Souls Interdenominational Church in Scott is searching for a **pastor**. Parsonage available. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, c/o Stuart Vess, 11221 Craig Road, Scott, AR 72142 or email to svess@aol.com.

Sylamore Baptist, Mountain View, is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Call 901-351-1040, email to kenw@mvtel.net or mail resume to P.O. Box 1596, Mountain View, AR 72560.

Leachville Second Baptist is seeking **bi-vocational pastor**. Please send resume to Leachville Second Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 565, Leachville, AR 72438.

Leonard Street Baptist Church is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor** for our church. Parsonage is provided. Please send resume to Leonard Street

Baptist Church, 625 Leonard Street, Hot Springs, AR 71913, Attn: Search Committee.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

First Baptist Church of Batesville is seeking a **full-time minister of preschool/children**. Send resume to First Baptist Church, Stacy Reed, P.O. Box 2455, Batesville, AR, 72503 or email to stacy@fbcatesville.org.

Pearcy Baptist Church, west of Hot Springs, is seeking a **part-time worship leader** and a **part-time student minister**. Email resume to pearcybaptist@yahoo.com.

Fairfield Bay Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time minister of music and outreach**. Please send resumes to P.O. Box 1029, Fairfield Bay, AR 72088 or email to worship@ffbaptist.com.

Strip Baptist Association located in Enid, Okla., is seeking resumes for the **full-time position of director of missions**. Accepting resumes until April 15. Send inquires/resumes to cherokee.baptist@sbcglobal.net.

First Baptist Church, Smackover, is looking for a **part-time worship leader** for our Sunday service only - please contact the church, 870-725-3941, or Steve Sharp, 870-725-6027, or mail your resume to 201 W. 7th Street, Smackover, AR 71762.

First Baptist Church, Maumelle, is looking for a **church pianist**. Our services are blended with a 35-voice choir that sings every Sunday. Our next pianist needs to be a dynamic Christian, good at reading music and creative with the instrument. Needed for two services on Sunday, as well as Wednesday nights for choir rehearsal. Contact

Bruce Rodnick at Rodnick@comcast.net for more information.

Barcelona Road Baptist Church, Hot Springs Village, is seeking a permanent **part-time director of children**. Please contact the church office at 501-922-0692 for a position description. Resumes required by April 23, 2014.

Full-time youth leader: First Baptist Church, Crane, Mo., is prayerfully seeking a leader for our youth ministry. Please email resume to fb-clindah@centurytel.net or mail to Search Committee, P.O. Box 414, Crane, MO 65633.

Youth leader needed for Twin Lakes Baptist Church, Hot Springs. Contact John Johnston, pastor: 501-262-0015.

Small rural church seeking **bi-vocational music minister**. Send resumes to Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, 9127 Sulphur Springs Road, Pine Bluff, AR 71603.

Seeking **student pastor** to provide oversight, teaching and ministry to students from K-college. The First Baptist Church of Poteau is seeking a full-time staff member to work alongside a dedicated team of staff and volunteers to minister to the student population of our town. Poteau, located in the hills of southeastern Oklahoma, 25 miles east of Fort Smith, Ark., is a county seat town with an excellent school system and college. Send resume to 300 North Witte, Poteau, OK, 74953 or to poteaufbc@gmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

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MISSISSIPPI WMU SEEKING
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DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

The Executive Director-Treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union is responsible for promoting, planning, conducting and evaluating the missions mobilization, missions awareness, missions education, missions support and missions involvement among women, youth, girls, preschoolers and co-ed groups in Mississippi Baptist churches and associations throughout the state.

SPECIFICATIONS

Education:
College: 4 years
Seminary: 2 to 3 years
Experience:
Church/Denomination: 5 to 10 years

ADDRESS RESUMES TO:

WMU Search Committee,
Marion D. Duncan, Chairman,
277 Cambridge Drive, Starkville, MS
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RESUMES WILL BE RECEIVED UNTIL
APRIL 30, 2014

motor coach tours: Sunday and Thursday, \$99. Lancaster, Pa., post-convention trip. Christian Travelers: 800-972-8952. Christiantravelers.net. Email: charlescooper34@att.net.

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Oaks Manor Conference and Retreat Center is seeking a couple to serve as **ministry helpers** at this beautiful adult facility near Van Buren. Compensation offered includes living quarters, utilities, gas allowance and salary. Ministry includes food service, office work, outside maintenance and general hospitality for guests. Call Pete Ramsey, 479-414-4831, to visit about this ministry opportunity. Pete Ramsey, 3909 Highway 282, Van Buren, AR 72956. 479-414-4831.

To advertise in the ABN classifieds,
call 501-376-4791, ext. 5161

Check out
the new ABSC
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and Ministry
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website:



<https://serve.absc.org>

WOODWARD

continued from page one

accept Christ as Savior, he shared about a phone call he received earlier in the day as he was driving from Oklahoma to Immanuel Baptist. In the course of the phone call, Danker was invited to visit Tyler Woodward – a young man he knew and had been hunting with – on his way to the Wild Game Festival. Woodward was dying of cancer.

Danker called Woodward's family to decline the invitation due to a lack

of time before his speaking engagement, but as he continued to drive, God began working on his heart. He called the family back to say he was coming. He arrived at the family's house in Jacksonville and went in to see 23-year-old Woodward, who had been fairly unresponsive for a couple days. Despite his condition, as Danker took Woodward's hand and began talking, Woodward squeezed his hand and began trying to respond verbally, recognizing Danker's presence. Danker talked and prayed with Woodward before driving to Immanuel Baptist for the dinner.

As he concluded his message at the dinner, he pointed to the hope that believers can have despite hard circumstances.

"This young man (had) come to know the Lord at an early age," Danker shared with the crowd. "And I watched his parents, ... and they were sad, absolutely, but there was so much hope in their eyes. And they were going to be able to deal with it."

"And then ... I got to thinking, 'Death is all around us – all around us! Every one of y'all – there's death all over. What about the families that they're laying there and their kid doesn't know the Lord?'" he said.

He encouraged the crowd to recognize the realities of heaven and hell and make a decision if they had any doubts regarding their salvation.

"So if that heart's bubbling up tonight, take care of it because just like Tyler – he's 23 years old – you never know when your last breath will be," Danker said.

As the event concluded, 41 people accepted Christ as Savior; 56 others rededicated their lives to Christ.

"God just powerfully used that evening to touch people's lives," said

Richey, adding that more people have accepted Christ since the event.

After the dinner, around 10:15 p.m., Danker called Woodward's family to tell them about the numerous salvation decisions. After talking to Danker, Woodward's father rushed into the room to those gathered around his son's bedside. He took his son's hands and shared the news – that 41 people had accepted Christ – and Woodward began to respond in excitement.

Ten minutes later, Woodward died.

"He was just waiting to hear that he had a purpose. And he fulfilled his purpose, and he was ready to go," said Woodward's mother, Jennifer Woodward, who is a member

of The Church at Rock Creek in Little Rock.

Her son was involved with The Church at Rock Creek, as well as First Baptist Church, Jacksonville.

She said it is "amazing" to know her son's testimony had such an impact.

She said she had prayed for God to give him a second chance.

"Let him have one of Your miracles," she prayed. "Let him be a walking testimony."

As time went on, she began to pray that if God's will wasn't to heal her son, that He would use him.

"And that's what He did," she said. "We said that ... because of what Tyler was going through, somebody was going to know God. We didn't know how or what was going to happen, but we knew that somebody was going to."

And they were right.

As the salvation count continues to rise beyond the original 41 saved at the Wild Game Festival, Woodward's family has developed a simple way to remember how God has used the life and death of their loved one for His glory. They've developed a catchphrase: "41 and counting."

Greg Kirksey, teaching pastor at The Church at Rock Creek, shared, "His (Woodward's) story teaches us a couple of things. (A) It's not how long you live, but how well you live that matters. (B) It's not what happens to you, but what happens in you that matters. He responded in an incredible way to the most devastating news a 23-year-old could hear."

Arkansas Master'Singers Memorial Scholarship

Application forms are now available for the Master'Singers Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a student who is preparing for some type of vocational ministry through music. The scholarship is established to memorialize deceased members of the Arkansas Master'Singers. Funds for the \$2000 scholarship are received in the form of memorial gifts and freewill offerings at concerts presented by the Master'Singers. Application forms and additional information may be downloaded from our website: www.absc.org/music or by contacting Donna Couch at the Leadership & Worship Team of ABSC, ph. 1-800-838-2272, ext. 5121. All applications and supporting documents must be received by June 9, 2014.



Jeff Danker speaks at a wild game dinner at Immanuel Baptist Church, Warren.

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Dockery leaves Foundation

LITTLE ROCK – Tim Dockery, who served as general counsel for the Arkansas Baptist Foundation (ABF) for more than six years, resigned effective March 14 to assume a new position as director of planned giving at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

"Dockery, a tax lawyer and an 'Ironman' athlete, has been an indispensable and effective part of our ministry over these years," said David Moore,

Foundation president. "Dockery and his staff completed almost \$19 million in future gifts last year while completing over \$7 million in estate and other maturing gifts."

Dockery is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and the University of Arkansas School of Law. He and his wife, Andrea, and son, Colin, attend Geyer Springs First Baptist Church in Little Rock.



Dockery

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APRIL 13, 2014

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Superheroes get angry too!

PROVERBS 14:17; 16:32; 22:24-25; MATTHEW 21:12

Most men love a good action movie. The hero saves the city, rescues the girl, stops the invasion, etc. Something about that kind of power and courage stirs something in a man's soul. There is another kind of battle that usually is not seen in the same glory. This battle does not happen on the big screen, but it is vital for every man – and woman – to win: the battle with anger.

Continually, in Proverbs, the writer gives instruction to be “slow to anger.” Wisdom recognizes that anger, when it is not controlled or channeled, will destroy what is most important to an individual, such as friendships or even a marriage.

Proverbs 14:17 states, “A man of quick temper acts foolishly, and a man of evil devices is hated.”

Anger will create hatred instead of solving the current issue.

In truth, it takes a hero and a warrior to control anger.

Proverbs 16:32 states, “Whoever is slow to anger is better than the

mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”

It takes real strength and power to control anger. Jesus controlled His anger. He had opportunities for anger, but He held it in check. There are times we see Him demonstrating anger (cf. Matt. 21:12). But He never uses anger to defend Himself; instead, He uses it for the honor of His Father. Even then, it is appropriate and controlled.

If you're quick to anger, you likely find yourself in strained relationships. Even when things are already bad, you tend to make them worse with a quick temper (Prov. 15:18). Take

time to breathe and trust the Father to judge what is evil. Then rest in knowing He's slow to anger with you.

And avoid forming friendships with other angry people, or else “you may learn their ways and entangle yourself in a snare” (Prov. 22:24-25).

To be a hero at home and with friends, be slow to anger. Someone should make a movie about that!



Craig Seals
pastor
Park Hill Baptist
Arkadelphia

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:

Hope needed

2 SAMUEL 9:6-13

His name was Mephibosheth. It meant “no one wants to be me.” He lived in Lo-debar. It meant “no one wants to live here.” Here is a man no one wants to be living in a place no one wants to live. With fond memories of his friend Jonathan on his mind, David remembered the covenant he made many years earlier and asked this question in 2 Samuel 9:1: “Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul to whom I may show kindness for Jonathan's sake?” His eye fell on Mephibosheth. There is much to be learned here in 2 Samuel 9 about hope that arises in the darkest situations.

There is hope in simple kindness. In the Old Testament, a relationship based on covenant love was forged with a people who never really deserved it – but they received it nonetheless. In the New Testament, Jesus makes it an ethical principle: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy” (Matt. 5:7). Here was a helpless man with no hope and no spiritual food. Re-

member it was to just such people Jesus sent us.

Hope rises to meet our deepest need. Mephibosheth was in a dire straight. He saw his own life as like a dead dog. Twice we are told that he was lame in both feet. He was alone, and no one would come to his aid. Perhaps some of us have been in that predicament – if not physically, then surely spiritually. But we are not hopeless. Jesus shows us the better way. He is “the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). And all who come to Him, those who labor and are heavy laden, will find rest (Matt. 11:28).

At the end of this account, David seats the son of Jonathan at the table. He hobbles in on crutches, sits at the table and the tablecloth covers his crippled feet. Who would have thought it? But God is able to do exceedingly above all we hope and dream (Eph. 3:20). Amazing grace – how sweet the sound!

And aren't we glad?



Lee McGlone
pastor
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APRIL 20, 2014

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Be amazed by the Resurrection

MARK 15:16-20, 33-34, 37-39; 16:1-8; GENESIS 2:25; HEBREWS 12:2

Genesis states that God created everything perfect and good. He gave Adam and Eve dominion over the Earth. The couple was naked but unashamed (Gen. 2:25). And along with being physically naked, they were emotionally naked. They shared everything with each other and God. They were vulnerable, but also loved.

The only rule was not to eat of one tree. But they disobeyed, and as a result, they realized their nakedness and vulnerability. Innocence was lost. Shame covered them, and then they covered themselves with fig leaves. Afraid of judgment and rejection, they hid from God. So began the pattern of humanity hiding from God out of shame.

No doubt you know what it means to be ashamed. You know your sin is great. We need a way to remove the shame and reverse the judgment that comes from sin. This is the heart of Jesus' work on the cross.

Mark 15:20 says, “When they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the purple robe, put His clothes on

Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.”

Jesus was made completely naked. He was shamed and mocked. Why? Not because of anything He'd done. He was sinless. It was because of our sin. You see, Adam is representative of all of us. All of us have sinned (Rom. 3:23). Jesus took our shame on Himself – so that we could be vulnerable and loved. Hebrews 12:2 states that Jesus “endured the cross, despising the shame.” He took the shame of the cross so your shame can be done away with.

But shame would remain if Jesus' death was not followed by His resurrection, which is depicted in Mark 16. The Resurrection is the central truth upon which Christians' faith must rest. Paul reminds us in 1 Cor. 15:14 that if Christ did not rise from the dead, our faith would be useless. It confirms His truthfulness and divinity. We created our own shame through our disobedience to God, and Jesus, the incarnation of God, is the only one who can remove it.



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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:

But now ... victory

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-28

The church in Corinth, a church Paul founded, was a source of ongoing problems for him. They faced issues about human pride, immorality, false teaching and abuse of worship. Paul sought to correct these matters when he wrote to the church. In today's text, located in 1 Corinthians 15, Paul corrects those who believed that Jesus did not rise from the dead. The matter is clear for Paul. If Christ was not raised, we have no hope. But because Christ was raised, hope is our guaranteed inheritance.

You have heard that there are two certain things in life: death and taxes. Of the two, only death has an eternal impact. Death is a reality that points to other realities. First, it says that we are sinners: “Death came through a man. ... In Adam all die” (1 Cor. 15:21-22). But secondly, just as death could not keep Jesus down, death cannot destroy us: “In Christ all will be made alive” (1 Cor. 15:22).

Paul now comes to the matter of Christ's reign. The Resurrection

is sure. Our victory in Christ is secure. But Paul's logical approach continues. That which God began in creation and redeemed through the incarnation is finally and forever fulfilled in the consummation of the ages: “Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father” (1 Cor. 15:24). Everything is placed under His feet – including death (1 Cor. 15:26-27).

Later in the chapter – in verse 55 – Paul asks two questions: “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

We know the answer to both.

The sting of death is in each tear that rolls down our cheeks and the void felt in our hearts. Death does have a sting.

But, in truth, death does not have a victory. Instead, death is the victim, and life is the victor. On Easter morning, we declare the heart of our faith. Life is stronger than death. Jesus Christ reigns. He is our hope, the hope of glory.



Lee McGlone
pastor
First Baptist
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Evangelism Response Center Training Date and time to be announced



ERC is a ministry of the North American Mission Board in which Southern Baptist men and women provide spiritual support to individuals calling 1-800 JESUS 20 from across North America.

Unlike other ministries which focus on face-to-face personal evangelism, ERC allows any Christian who is willing and available to be used to reach the world for Christ from the comfort of their own home.

During ERC training trainees will learn how to become "Telephone Encouragers." The only requirement is active membership in a local church and a willingness to share the gospel.



For more information contact
**Calvary Baptist Church at 501-663-8303 or the
Arkansas Baptist State Convention at 501-376-4791**



ABN Day of Prayer May 18

MAY 18 has been designated as the official 2014 *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) Day of Prayer.

Arkansas Baptists are encouraged to pray during the month of May for the work of their state Baptist newspaper, as well as for the work being done across the Natural State through the ministry of Arkansas Baptist churches and institutions.

"While the ABN staff and trustees desire your prayers as we seek to further the gospel through our own work, we also desire to draw attention to the wide range of kingdom work being done by Arkansas Baptists throughout the state," said Tim Yarbrough, ABN editor.

"We hear daily from Arkansas Baptists about how God is at work in their churches and communities, and we are honored to be able to draw attention to and celebrate His deeds through the Day of Prayer on May 18," Yarbrough said.

The focal Scripture passage of this year's Day of Prayer is Galatians 6:9-10 (HCSB): "So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap

at the proper time if we don't give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, we must work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith."

"We feel this verse exemplifies how we, as Arkansas Baptists, should continue to serve the Lord even in the face of the diverse challenges of the 21st century," Yarbrough said.

In recognition of the 2014 ABN Day of Prayer, a special bulletin insert will be mailed to all Arkansas Baptist churches for distribution on May 18 or the following Sunday.

The insert is being produced by the ABN in cooperation with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive and administrative team.

Members of the ABN staff and board of directors are available to speak on May 18 or other times during May to support the emphasis. If you would like to request a speaker for your church for a Sunday morning or evening or a Wednesday night, please contact the ABN at abn@arkansasbaptist.org or 501-376-4791, ext. 5153.



CISM Critical Incident Stress Management

April 23-24 Baptist Building, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR

Two ICISF-certified courses available (both are two-day courses)

- Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disaster Operations
- Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support

Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Thursday - 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
(Lunch provided both days)

Registration deadline: April 14
Pre-registration and pre-payment required
Register at www.absc.org/chaplaincyevents

Events sponsored by the
Arkansas Baptist State Convention
Missions Team
For more information,
call 501-376-4791, ext. 5249, or visit
www.absc.org/chaplaincyevents

Practical Ministry Courses FREE!

WHEN: April 25 & 26 choose one date or both - each course one hour - come and go as desired (Exception: Jail Suicide course is an all-day course)
Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. Sessions end at 2:20 p.m. (Lunch provided)
WHERE: Baptist Building, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR
WHO: Anyone! Sunday school teachers, chaplains, deacons, staff, ANYBODY!

- | | |
|--|---|
| SESSIONS (full details online): | • I Was Sick And You Visited Me |
| • Assisting Domestic Violence Victims | • Jail Suicide Assessment, Prevention and Postvention |
| • Assisting the Sexual Assault Victim | • Praying With The Sick; Talking With The Healer |
| • Develop Your Chaplain's Toolbox | • Recognizing and Helping a Suicidal Officer or Firefighter |
| • Delivering Death Notifications | • Stress Survival: Helping Police and Fire Officers Cope |
| • Identify/Develop Your Signature of Service | • What You Need to Know About Human Trafficking |

Pre-registration required
Register at www.absc.org/chaplaincyevents

PARTNER CONNECT

IMB/ABSC Partner Connect Training

Brought to you by the ABSC Missions Team and the International Mission Board American Peoples Affinity Group

This training is for anyone planning on participating in a short-term mission trip, even if your destination is other than the Americas.
This training is for ALL churches at ALL levels of missions experience and maturity.

One event. Three locations.

Registration: 8:30 a.m. • Classes: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

- **Thurs., May 1:** First Baptist Church, Jacksonville
- **Fri., May 2:** First Baptist Church, Rogers
- **Sat., May 3:** Baptist Building, Little Rock

Topics include:

- Biblical Basis for Missions
- Lostness
- Worldview
- Orality
- Spiritual Warfare
- And more

Registration deadline: April 15.

\$10 per person for Arkansas Baptists (fees are payable in advance).

Covers lunch, snacks and conference materials, including a flash drive with the training PowerPoints/videos plus much more. *The \$20 discount is made possible due to the gifts of Arkansas Baptists to the Cooperative Program.*

Register at www.absc.org/partnerconnect



For more information, call 501-376-4791, ext. 5249, or visit the ABSC website at www.absc.org/partnerconnect

Arkansas Baptist News
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Call to prayer
ABSC plans two-day
intensive prayer event

PAGE 1

Common Ground
Church service helps
break racial barriers

PAGE 1



The *Arkansas Baptist News* is committed to telling the story of God's work among His people in the Natural State. One of the quickest ways to experience the news is through a variety of online resources.

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For more information, call 501-376-4791, ext. 5153, or email abn@arkansasbaptist.org.

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- The **Every Resident Family Plan** offers churches a premium rate when they send the *ABN* to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday school enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$7.75 per year (print) and \$4 (digital) for each subscription.
- The **Group Plan** allows church members to receive a discount when 10 or more individuals send their subscriptions together through their local church. Subscribers pay

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 When inquiring about a subscription by mail, please include the address label. Individuals also may call the *ABN* at 501-376-4791, ext. 5153, or toll-free in state at 800-838-2272. Be prepared to provide code line information printed on the mailing label.
 Individual subscriptions for both editions may be purchased at www.arkansasbaptist.org. Please call the *ABN* office to discuss church plans.



Mission Siloam

Emily McNeer (left) and Victoria Goodwin, both from Sugarloaf Baptist Church, Heber Springs, take part March 25-29 in Mission Siloam, a camp experience that emphasizes missions. During the week, campers served as local missionaries in a variety of ways.

Scan QR code with your smartphone app to view *ABN* website.



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