



## JoyWorks camp

Children from Arkansas Baptist churches participate in JoyWorks, a worship and arts camp.

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## Missionary book

Former Arkansas Baptist writes book about her experience as a missionary to Brazil.

page 6

Church planting, people groups highlighted

# Missions focus of SBC Annual Meeting

PHOENIX – Southern Baptist Convention messengers meeting in Phoenix June 14-15 heard biblical pleas for Southern Baptists to join a church planting movement in North America and to adopt an unengaged people group around the world. And messengers responded.

More than 1,000 pastors and their wives packed a North American Mission Board (NAMB) pastors' luncheon to learn about the entity's new Send North America church planting strategy.

On the final night of the convention, hundreds of messengers flooded the front of the meeting hall at the end of the International Mission Board (IMB) report, having signed cards pledging to lead their church to embrace an unengaged people group.

Both mission board reports featured a commissioning service, with Southern Baptists meeting their newest missionaries.

The convention's resolutions, which touched on hot-button theological and cultural issues, once again made news.

In a surprising move in the convention's final session, messengers overruled the Resolutions Committee by at least a 2-to-1 margin and voted to consider a resolution, promoted by messenger Tim Overton, that was highly critical of the New

International Version (NIV) 2011 Bible translation.

The resolution passed nearly unanimously. The resolution's text said that because of "inaccurate gender language," messengers "cannot recommend the 2011 NIV to Southern Baptists or the larger Christian community." It "respectfully request(s) that LifeWay" not sell the new NIV in its retail chain.

Messengers also passed the following resolutions:

- supporting the Defense of Marriage Act.
- affirming the historical, biblical concept of hell, in reaction to Rob Bell's "Love Wins" book.

- condemning the actions of those who protest funerals, burn the Koran and pray for the deaths of public officials.

The main focus of the convention was on fulfilling the Great Commission, both in North American and around the world.

"With less than 4 percent of our (Southern Baptist) churches directly engaged in church planting, we've got to do better," NAMB President Kevin Ezell said at the NAMB luncheon.

See **SBC WRAP** page 3



### ABN on the Web

For expanded coverage, including video, go to [www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org).



Messengers enter the Phoenix Convention Center for the 2011 SBC Annual Meeting. For more coverage, see pages 7-10

# Sports Crusaders use basketball to teach the Bible



Children attend Sports Crusaders camp.

Jessica Vanderpool  
*Arkansas Baptist News*

TWO SHRILL WHISTLES pierce the air, echoing off the walls of the gym at the Rose City Boys & Girls Club/Police Athletic League Center in North Little Rock. In response, a chorus of voices shouts out, "De-fense!" and children get in position.

It is a drill the children know well by the fourth day of the Sports Crusaders basketball camp. But they've learned a few other things as well. They know who Adam and Eve are. They know what sin is. And they know why Christ came to earth.

Not bad for a basketball camp.

On the other side of Arkansas, children in Walnut Ridge are experiencing another Sports Crusaders basketball camp at First Baptist Church, Walnut Ridge.

First Baptist Pastor Mark Harris explained, "As a part of the Sports Crusaders ministry, the college students who lead the camps teach the kids more than soccer or basketball – they also teach Jesus. On one day of the camp, they present the gospel plan of salvation, and every year we see kids come to know Christ, including this year."

See **CRUSADERS** page 14

# Centerton FBC serves Phoenix community

Caleb Yarbrough  
*Arkansas Baptist News*

PHOENIX – As thousands of Southern Baptists arrived in the desert for the denomination's annual meeting, a group of 50 students and adults from Arkansas came for an entirely different reason.

First Baptist Church, Centerton, conducted a day camp all week at the Rio Vista Center in one of Phoenix's neediest neighborhoods.

Started in 1974, the Rio Vista Center provides emergency food boxes for low-income Phoenix

families. Ministries based at the center include nutrition assistance, a food pantry, a job search program, a pregnancy center, a sobriety clinic and a clothing bank. Two churches – The Bridge and The Puente – also meet at the facility.

The center's director, Tim Leshner, moved to Phoenix 10 years ago as part of a church plant. It was through that church plant that Leshner first got involved with the Rio Vista Center. After falling in love with the people in the surrounding community and the Rio Vista Center's ministry, Leshner said he and his wife decided to become part of the center's full-time staff.

"Our goal behind it is to create a community center where people can come in and get the services and help they need, a holistic ministry," he said. "We work with a lot of different organizations. We don't aim to recreate the wheel, but just to work with others

See **CENTERTON** page 11



# Immigration resolution hotly debated

PHOENIX – A resolution on immigration and the gospel, coming during a convention partially focused on ethnic issues, had the most floor debate.

By a 4-to-1 margin, Southern Baptist Convention messengers adopted the resolution, which includes key language asking “our governing authorities to implement, with the borders secured, a just and compassionate path to legal status, with appropriate restitution measures, for those undocumented immigrants already living in our country.”

That sentence was nearly struck, but survived on a ballot vote of 51 to 48 percent. The resolution gained more support when the Resolutions Committee proposed adding a sentence that says the resolution “is not to be construed as support for amnesty for any undocumented immigrant.”

Mostly overlooked in the controversy was the

rest of the 22-paragraph resolution, which calls on churches to take the gospel to all people, “regardless of country of origin or immigration status.”

Referred to by some as a “humane path to citizenship” for illegal immigrants, by approving the resolution messengers recognized the importance of keeping the door open to sharing Jesus Christ with immigrants coming to the United States.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Director Emil Turner echoed the messengers’ sentiments, following the vote.

“Arkansas Baptists have a long and rich history of ministering to immigrants, and we will continue to do so,” said Turner.

“Most of us believe that secure borders are fundamental for a sound immigration policy and for national security. Ultimately, sharing the gospel is more important than any other consideration for us.”



SBC messengers participate in a ballot vote.

## SBC immigration resolution clarified

RICHARD D. PILES, pastor of First Baptist Church, Camden, and a trustee of the Ethics and Religious Liberties Commission (ERLC), feels it is important for Arkansas Baptists to understand the immigration resolution approved by messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Phoenix does not advocate amnesty, but rather a desire to reach the lost.

“I know that the reporting on the resolution is being misconstrued, and I want to let as many Arkansas Baptists as possible know that, even though the resolution is vague, it does not advocate amnesty,” Piles said.

Piles shared with the *Arkansas Baptist News* excerpts from a report on illegal immigration by ERLC President Richard Land.

In the report posted on the ERLC Web site, Land states:

“As Christians, we must think through the question of illegal immigration not only as concerned citizens, but also as compassionate Christians. As citizens of the United States we have a right to expect the government to fulfill its divinely ordained mandate to punish those who break the law and to reward those who do not ... (Rom.13:1-7).

“As U.S. citizens, we have a right to expect the federal government to enforce the laws regarding who may cross our borders. Border security is a question of national security, domestic safety and tranquility and the federal government fulfilling its divinely mandated responsibilities to enforce the law.

“I favor a measure that includes controlling the borders and enforcing immigration laws in-



Richard Piles (right) and his wife, Christy, attend the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary alumni luncheon at the 2011 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Phoenix June 15.

side the country first, while offering no amnesty for lawbreakers.

“Proper reform should consist of a program that provides an earned pathway that requires an illegal immigrant who desires to remain legally in the U.S. to undergo a criminal background check, pay a fine, agree to pay back taxes, learn to speak, write, and read English and get in line behind those who are legally migrating into this country in order to apply for permanent residence after a probationary period of years. They must also acknowledge and pledge allegiance to America’s governmental structure, the duties of citizenship and our core values as embodied in the Declaration of Independence. People who fail background checks or who refuse to comply

“I know that the reporting on the resolution is being misconstrued, and I want to let as many Arkansas Baptists as possible know that, even though the resolution is vague, it does not advocate amnesty.”

**Richard Piles, pastor**  
First Baptist Church, Camden

with this generous opportunity to earn legal status, should be deported immediately.

“This is not amnesty. Amnesty is what President Carter gave the draft dodgers who came home from Canada with no penalties, no fines, and no requirements whatsoever.

“There is neither the political nor economic will in the U.S. population for forcibly rounding up 12 million people – many of them who have children who are American citizens – and shipping them back to their country of origin. Politics and public policy are the ‘art of the possible.’ The reality is that it is not feasible for the United States government to attempt to deport 12 million people. There has to be another way to resolve this issue.

“The reality is that we have been, and are, a nation of immigrant settlers, and the descendants of such settlers, who braved oceans and many obstacles to come to this matchless land of opportunity to become Americans. Whether our ancestors came early, or late, we are Americans, whatever nationality may be used to describe our heritage before we arrived. We should, and we will, always have room in this great nation for those who are willing to embrace the American dream and the American ideals that both inspired that dream and define it.”

## Ethnic diversity report; Luter’s election media focus

PHOENIX – A landmark report on ethnic diversity was the focus of national media attention during the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting in Phoenix, as was the election of New Orleans pastor Fred Luter to first vice president. He is the first African American to hold the post.

The SBC Executive Committee’s report encourages the SBC president, when he makes his various appointments, to “give special

attention to appointing individuals who represent the diversity within the Convention, and particularly ethnic diversity.”

It also encourages the committee in charge of the annual meeting to reflect the ethnic diversity of the convention in the meeting program.

A motion that would have struck the ethnic diversity language

was defeated by a margin of 3-to-1.

The Executive Committee report, delivered after a two-year study, cites the “need to be proactive and intentional in the inclusion of individuals from all ethnical and racial identities within Southern Baptist life.”

During a press conference, messenger Paul Kim, who made the 2009 motion that led to the report, urged eth-



Luter

nic Southern Baptists to get more involved in the convention in this “history-making moment,” saying, “This is the time.”

Ethnic diversity, said SBC President Bryant Wright, is “vital to the future of the church in America.”

Wright said, “We have not reflected what is happening in America in both the makeup of our churches, but especially in the leadership in our convention.”

# Frank Page urges unity, support for CP

PHOENIX – Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) messengers meeting in Phoenix June 14-15 witnessed dozens of leaders standing together in support of a historic unity pledge.

SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page introduced an “Affirmation of Unity and Cooperation” pledge that was signed by entity leaders, state executives and ethnic fellowship leaders.

The document had five core points, with the heart of it being a pledge to “walk in unity as brothers and sisters in Christ.” During the Executive Committee report, the leaders stood onstage together with Page.

“Our convention is fracturing into various groups, some theological, most methodological,” Page told messengers. “Sometimes there is an honest difference of opinion, but often there is self-centeredness that frequently mirrors our own culture.

“Christ-like selflessness is our only hope,” he continued.

Page also urged Southern Baptists to take the “1 Percent Challenge” – leading their churches to increase gifts to the Cooperative Program by 1 percent-of-budget point. Doing so would lead to \$100 million more for Southern Baptist ministries and worldwide missions, including funding for 380 more IMB missionaries, Page said.



Page

SBC President Bryant Wright endorsed the unity pledge.

“Coming back to the authority of Scripture was a correcting point that had to take place (in the SBC), but the mission is to fulfill the Great Commission,” Wright said. “I think this was the most unified convention around the Great Commission that I have experienced. People came here with anticipation of that unity.”

Wright practiced unity during

his press conference, inviting Kevin Ezell as NAMB president, Tom Elliff as IMB president and Page as SBC executive committee president to sit on the platform with him and

participate. It was the first convention for each of the four men to serve as a president, and each one had a unique emphasis during his respective report to messengers.

## IMB, NAMB assignment changes approved

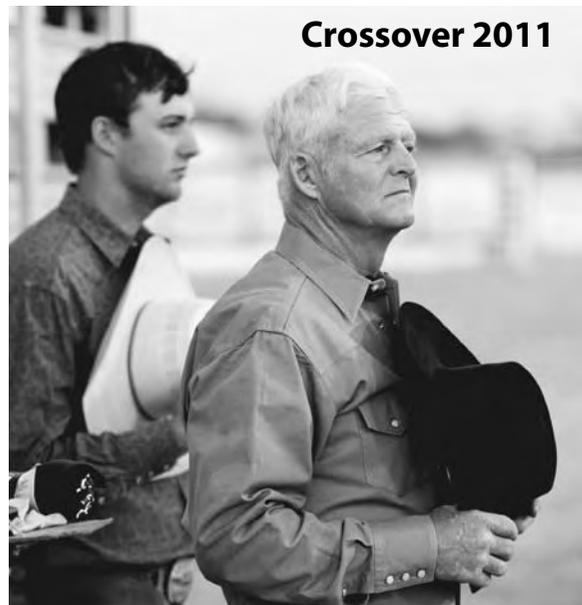
PHOENIX – Recommendations from the SBC Executive Committee to change the International Board (IMB) and North American Mission Board (NAMB) program assignments were approved by messengers during the opening session of the SBC Annual Meeting June 14.

The recommendations related to the “Great Commission Resurgence” report adopted at the 2010 annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.:

■ Amending the IMB ministry assignment to allow the organization to “provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the North American Mission Board in assisting churches to reach

unreached and underserved people groups within the United States and Canada.” The current ministry assignment focuses IMB work outside the U.S. and Canada.

■ Rewriting NAMB’s mission statement and ministry assignment. The new mission statement refocuses NAMB on partnership with churches, associations and state conventions in “mobilizing Southern Baptists as a missional force” in North America. The new ministry assignment consolidates nine points to six and rearranges its priorities. Where appointing missionaries was the first assignment, planting churches now heads the list.



Crossover 2011

Jared McMillan (left), a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Paul Dailey, stand at attention during the presentation of the colors just before the “horse whisperer” (Dailey) enters the rodeo ring. The elder Dailey’s Wild Horse Ministries, based in Trout, La., participated in Crossover 2011, an evangelistic event that is held prior to each Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting.

## Wright re-elected to second term

PHOENIX – Bryant Wright, pastor of the Atlanta-area Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, was re-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention over Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Buena Park, Calif., who nominated himself. The vote was 2,274 (95 percent) to 102 (4 percent).

Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, was elected first vice president over Rick Ong, a member of First Chinese Baptist Church, Phoenix.

Luter received 1,558 (77 percent) votes to Ong’s 441 (22 percent).



Wright

registration secretary.

In three elections without opposition, Eric Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., was elected second vice president; John Yeats, director of communications for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, was re-elected recording secretary; and Jim Wells, director of missions for the Tri-County Baptist Association in Nixa, Mo., was re-elected

## Ark. Baptists named to SBC committee

PHOENIX (BP) – Grant Rackley, First Baptist Church, Van Buren, and Jeff Crawford, Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith, are among 70 Southern Baptists from 35 state Baptist conventions named to serve on the 2011-12 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Committee on Nominations.

The Committee on Nominations nominates

people to serve on the SBC’s boards, commissions and committees. They will present their report to the 2012 SBC Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

The committee, announced during the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix, is made up of two people from each state convention, with at least one layperson.

## SBC WRAP

*continued from page one*

“We must do better. We are going to do better.”

Churches, not NAMB, plant churches, said Ezell, adding that over the next couple of years, NAMB will develop church-planting coalitions in 25 urban areas around North America. He said the coalitions will be made up of local pastors, church planters and representatives of state conventions and associations, along with partnering pastors and state convention leaders from elsewhere. The coalitions will develop local strategies for planting new churches in their area.

“It’s a new day,” Ezell said. “It really is. Pastors, we’re not going to make it harder for you. Associations and states, we’re not (going to make it harder on you either). We’re going to make it easier.”

David Platt, a Birmingham, Ala. pastor, preached the convention sermon, quoting statistics on the world’s unreached peoples and telling messengers, “This is not a problem for the International Mission Board to address. This is a problem for every pastor and every local church to address.” Other convention speakers, including several during the Pastors’ Conference and SBC President Bryant Wright, himself, during his sermon, made a similar point.

IMB President Tom Elliff, in his

report, spotlighted the need to embrace unengaged people groups, but said, “This convention has been one long sermon. ... There is not one thing I could (say that messengers have not already heard).”

A lost world, Elliff said, needs churches who consider it unacceptable that there are people groups “who do not have somebody deliberately” trying to engage them with the gospel.

“Really, all there’s left for me to do is to give the invitation,” Elliff said, moments before hundreds of messengers came forward holding cards that said, “I will lead my church to embrace an unengaged, unreached people group.”

In other matters during the annual meeting:

■ More than 1,100 Arizonans made professions for Christ during the pre-convention Crossover 2011 evangelistic effort.

■ Paul Thompson, one of the 10 Baptists held in a Haiti jail in 2010, appeared before messengers during the Executive Committee report, telling them, “I have never been so proud to be a Southern Baptist as I was in the 19 days in a lonely, yet God-filled, prison cell in Haiti.”

■ Ezell promised that, under his watch, future financial stewardship at NAMB will demand “accuracy, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency, not smoke and mirrors.”

Next year’s meeting will be June 19-20 in New Orleans.

Compiled from ABN staff and Baptist Press reporting.

# 'Kingdom footprints' in the desert

When I read the final attendance numbers for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting in Phoenix, I couldn't help thinking back to one of the last annual meetings I helped manage as public relations director of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

"SBC attendance was 4,800? That can't be right," I thought. "If I remember correctly, we had 4,200 at a meeting held at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri one of the last years I was there."

But the attendance figure for the Phoenix convention was correct. The 2011 SBC Annual Meeting will go into the books as one of the least attended in nearly 70 years.

Some say the numbers were low due to two important reasons: 1) We aren't fighting about anything; and 2) Phoenix is just too far west for Southern Baptists to travel.

I hope they're right because I sure wouldn't want it to be anything related to apathy or perceived irrelevance, because the work of Southern Baptists is more relevant and important today than possibly any other time in history.

I can say that with confidence because we are closer today than we were 70 years ago to the second coming of our Lord and the time

is now to reach a lost and dying world.

The methods Southern Baptists use to do church, start new churches and undertake mission endeavors is changing at a rapid pace due to cultural changes in society. But our message is unchanging: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me'" (John 14:6, NASB).

## PRESSING ON

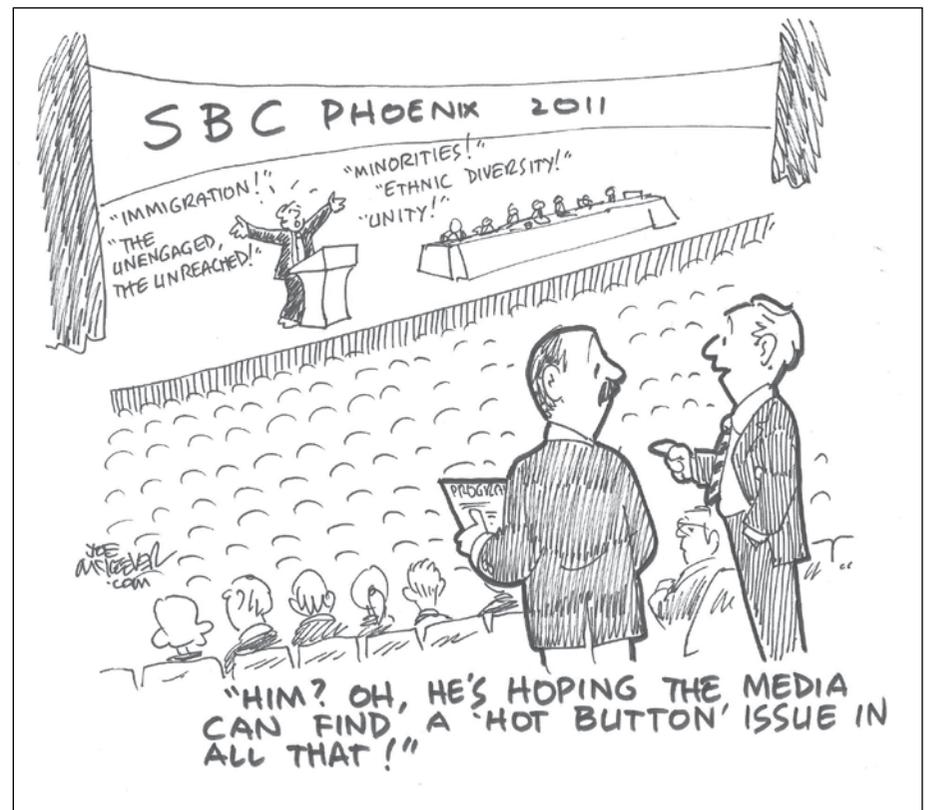
Tim Yarbrough



Southern Baptists tackled some pretty important issues at the convention, such as our stance on illegal immigration. It is good to know that messengers consid-

ered the issue so important as to debate it and clarify the Southern Baptist position. See related story on page 2. A great evangelical denomination like ours should do everything it can to win the lost to Christ. And while Southern Baptists can't condone illegal immigration in our country, we must be compassionate Christians who are commanded to "love our neighbors as ourselves" (Matt. 22:39).

It was good to see Southern Baptists taking seriously the task to reach the unengaged, unreached people of our world - in spite of difficulties and obstacles. Tom Elliff, newly-elected president of the International Mission Board, said in urging Southern Baptists to get serious about the kingdom busi-



ness of reaching these 3,800 people groups, "They are unengaged for a reason. A lot of them are up on a really high mountain in a really closed country. ... Let's get this thing done."

Also during the annual meeting, Southern Baptists affirmed new strategies to plant churches in North America, called for unity and cooperation and affirmed a landmark report on ethnic diversity - demonstrating real change by electing its first African-American

to hold the office of first vice president.

And finally, Southern Baptists left significant "kingdom footprints" in the desert with more than 1,100 Arizonans making professions of faith in Jesus Christ during pre-convention Crossover evangelistic efforts.

I'd say there are at least 1,100 new believers who would believe the Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix was relevant indeed - throughout all eternity.

## Member commitment

I think most of us are concerned about the direction of commitment of most church members. Most churches would prefer not to publicize the percentage of attenders to actual membership. Only new works have a great ratio, but so would centuries old congregations if they started over with only those present. I am curious about the impact of a popular statement concerning "priority." How many times have we heard our leaders say, "God first, family second and church third?" On the surface, this sounds very "holy" and is extremely palatable. Could it be that we have created some of the problem? This

statement may be interpreted by the congregation that there is a disconnect between God and church. If the family is getting together this Sunday, then that is better than church because it has a higher ranking. If the children are involved in sports, then we take the family away from church or can't make it back for Sunday evening, but that is OK because it's ranked second. Notice that "worship" is not a "church" concept. We don't talk about church as being worship because that would connect it to God and that would throw a monkey wrench

into our comfortable priority list. Interestingly, I see little emphasis on the first priority, much on the second, while the third is virtually ignored. The evidence of this

is proven in the commitment of our church membership. The statement, God - family - church, is like many quips

that need to be better defined. I pray that our membership would grow in our concept of corporate, as well as private, worship, that we might see the connection between God and church.

Glen Ennes, Retired, ABSC  
Republic, Mo.

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## Baptists Ask

*Is there anything of which Christians can be certain regarding the last days?*

Because eschatology can be both mysterious and sensational, many Christians completely avoid the subject. It is, however, an important topic to study because much of Christian theology hinges upon it. There are three certainties about the last days, although the details are subject to debate.

**First, everyone dies.**

When sin entered the world, death was its penalty (Rom. 5:12). While death is certain, believers have debated what happens immediately after it. Some believe the person will enter a coma-like state for a period of time, a type of "soul sleep," so to speak. Others believe individuals will go to purgatory to eliminate their sins. Still others accept an instantaneous resurrection, in which the person is immediately in God's presence.

**Second, Christ will return.** Because Jesus proclaimed His imminent return (John 14:1-3), Christians emphatically believe He will come back. Theologian Millard Erickson notes that Jesus' return will be personal, physical, visible, unexpected and triumphant. While no Christian doubts Jesus' return, there is debate on how and when He will return. A spectrum of views exists about the rapture, tribulation, the millennium and the symbolism within the books of Daniel and Revelation.

**Third, God will judge everyone.** Jesus spoke often (e.g., Matt. 25:31-46) of a time when the righteous will receive eternal life (heaven) and the wicked will receive eternal punishment (hell). Though the descriptions of both realms vary among evangelical Christians, the fact is that judgment is certain; in fact, it has already begun (Rom. 6:23).

Because most eschatological arguments focus upon theological uncertainty, individuals find the debate rather confusing. However, these three facts – the certainty of death, the return of Christ and the judgment of humanity – are clear and obvious enough that everyone should carefully consider where they stand in regard to a holy and just God.

*Ken Gore is chair of the Williams Baptist College department of Christian ministries.*



Gore

A man applied for a job as a lumberjack. Unlike the other men, he was small and wiry. The foreman laughed at him and questioned his ability. The man just said, "Give me a chance to show you what I can do."

He walked over to a small tree, and with one swing of the ax, the tree came down. He went to a larger tree, and again, with one swing, the tree came down. He went to a larger tree and a larger tree with the same results. Impressed, the foreman asked, "Where in the world did you learn to cut trees like that?" The little man replied, "Well, sir, do you know the Sahara Forest?"

The foreman looked at him and said, "I don't mean to correct you, son, but don't you mean the Sahara Desert?" The little man said, "Well, sure, it is now!"

Going to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting in Phoenix, I felt a lot like the little lumberjack. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) is certainly not the largest state convention, especially among all the old, mainline conventions, but I left Phoenix knowing the ABSC was being effective and influential in many areas of our denomination. In fact, we really are a lot like this lumberjack in several ways.

**First, his mission was clear – cut trees.** I can tell you that our mission in the ABSC is clear. Our state executive makes sure that our mission of "more people going to heaven and less people going to hell" is clear and is communicated throughout our convention. While the



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Clay Hallmark

SBC declined in total baptisms again as a denomination, the ABSC stood out as the state convention that has increased in baptisms each year for the past several years. Why? Our mission is clear.

**Second, his mission was literally cutting-edge.**

While at the SBC meeting, there was a great challenge to start new churches, to reach out to people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds and to be unified. At the ABSC, we are already doing these things with effectiveness. New church starts and restarts are taking place all over our state as we reach out to Hispanics, cowboys, Millennials and others. While our state is diverse, we are characterized by an overwhelming sense of unity that directly contributes to our effectiveness in evangelism and mission efforts.

**Finally, his mission was confident.** I left the annual meeting in Phoenix more confident than ever that the ABSC is on the right track and that we are leading others who are following our example. Our convention's cooperation with the SBC through Cooperative Program dollars is almost unmatched. Our commitment to international missions, disaster relief efforts and evangelism are setting the standard in the SBC. Our pastors and state convention staff are leaders we look to in guiding the future shape of our denomination. Together, we have many reasons to praise the Lord. Let's continue moving forward and not "grow weary in doing good (Gal. 6:9)."

*Clay Hallmark is pastor of First Baptist Church, Marion, and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.*

## Our greatest need

It surprised me, but it was something I had been looking for and praying about for the last 40 years. Recently, the Lord graciously manifested Himself at our church. A normal service erupted into 4 hours of confession, repentance, brokenness, salvation ... glory. It is hard to describe how precious and powerful this day was as the people didn't "quench the Spirit" nor "despise" what the Lord was saying (1 Thess. 5:19-20), but responded instantly to whatever the Lord told them.

That meeting led to another gathering on Monday night that erupted into the same outpouring for more than 3 hours ... and again the next night – and the next – and the next for five continuous weeks. The Lord has taken us now to a marvelous new place by His mercy, and its effects are continuing among us.

One of the most beautiful things was the number of people who were saved and baptized during this divine activity. Baptismal waters were spontaneously stirred night after night as 65 people – some newly converted, some clearing up their baptism in proper steps of obedience – publicly proclaimed their faith in Christ. In the same season, an identical movement was happening in several other churches. One church spontaneously baptized 18 people in one Sunday morning service.

There are 600 churches in Central Arkansas. I recently calculated that if 500 of these could experience a similar outpouring of God's Spirit, we would see 32,000 people baptized in a little over a month.

You may think this is incredulous ... but it has happened often in our nation's history. In the 1858 Prayer Revival, 10,000 people were being saved every week in New York City alone over a two-year period. Ten thousand one week, 10,000 the next, 10,000 the next and on and on for two glorious years. Over 1 million people came to Christ in a national population of 30

million. If a similar movement happened in our day (and it can), we could see 10 million people come to Christ in the next two years.

The Baptist churches in Virginia, in a similar movement a few years before, had been in continual decline. So, they fasted, and prayed and obeyed. In the next months during the second Great Awakening, they reported a 1,400 percent increase in their churches.

Churches that had seen no baptisms were recording hundreds of new believers. This was no program, nor a scheduled emphasis. It was God visiting His people. Samuel Davies, president of Princeton University and leader in this revival, reported that he watched pastors who had preached for years with little or no results preach the same messages and hundreds of people were saved. He said, "The gospel became almighty and carried everything before it."

The recent reports at our convention indicated that we are in unquestionable decline. This is not unusual as you study the Bible and church history. But in the first 150 years of our nation's history, pastors and people knew what to do at such a moment. They prayed. They fasted. They cooperated aggressively with God. They met the first Monday of every month for prayer. The pastors gathered for prayer. The churches in a community would often come together quarterly for prayer. They cried out to the Lord for His mercy and grace, and they did not stop praying until He came. And He always did in response to the fervent intercession of His children.

I have come out of this recent season of grace with fresh faith to believe Him for national revival. This faith was strengthened recently as I met with 75 revival leaders from around the nation, who gave unusual reports of God's activity in response to desperate prayer, particularly on college campuses.

You would not neglect the cries of your children. Would God?

## GUEST VIEWPOINT

*Bill Elliff  
directional pastor  
The Summit Church, NLR*



# Arkansas Baptist children participate in JoyWorks

Jenny Redfern  
Arkansas Baptist News

ARKADELPHIA – Arkansas Baptist campers with bright orange shirts gathered onstage the morning of June 16 to perform what they had learned after a week at JoyWorks, a worship arts camp for children who have completed grades 4-6. The camp, which is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention leadership and worship team, was held at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia June 13-16.

The performance included sign language with black lights and white gloves, drumming accompanied by kazoos and even some interpretive movement to a country version of Amazing Grace.

Between performances, camp pastors Brian and Vicky Cockerham, from 2 Talk 4 2, displayed their talents as ventriloquists. The couple brought their puppet friends onstage to share a little of what the children had learned during the week.

Camp director Mary Winters said the camp pastor had a huge impact this week and really grabbed the children's attention.

"He (Brian Cockerham) has really made the point over and over that God can use anyone, no matter how small or how young, and if He calls them, they need to be willing to listen and go," she said.

Laura Loewer, 10, of First Baptist Church, Brinkley, eagerly related the camp's theme for the week, "Big, small, little – it really doesn't matter. God can use you."

Winters, a member of Cedar Heights Church, North Little Rock, said after four days of camp, more than half of the children had made some kind of decision.

"Seventy-three percent of our children made significant decisions for Christ," said Winters. Fourteen received Christ as their Savior for the first time, 11 surrendered to the ministry, 33 rededicated their lives and 24 made other decisions.

Austin McAdams, 11, of First Baptist Church, Ashdown, was one of the 14 children who made a profession of faith in Christ. He said his favorite part of camp was learning about God.



JoyWorks campers (above) participate in the final camp performance. Vicky Cockerham (right) performs a ventriloquist act.



"I wish all the states had this camp because it's a whole lot of fun," he added.

Each day the campers attended a different class that highlighted a different aspect of worship arts.

"Our purpose and goal is to teach them how to worship God using different kinds of arts, such as sign language, interpretative movement, drumming, drama or puppets, as well as teach them to be the next generation of worship leaders," Winters said.

Campers used organ pipes and bottles in the "Blowin' and Goin'" class to create their own worship song. Children learned how to use sign language with white gloves and black lights in worship in the "Fivin' and Jivin'" class. The "Drummin' and Hummin'" class allowed the children to practice making rhythms on drums, while

humming along with kazoos. In the "Movin' and Groovin'" class, campers learned steps to Amazing Grace. Though Winters did not recommend it for a worship service, she said it was a fun time for the children.

On Tuesday night, campers showcased their abilities in a talent show. Winters described it as one of the most memorable events of the week and said it was one of the most talented groups she had ever seen.

"What amazing gifts God has given this group of kids, and our prayer and goal is that they will continue, throughout their lives, using their gifts and sharing and encouraging ... others," she said.

JoyWorks dates for 2012 are June 11-14.

Contact Jenny Redfern at [jenny@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:jenny@arkansasbaptist.org).

## Book details couple's service in Brazil

# Arkansas missionaries share 'Misadventures in Travel'

Jenny Redfern  
Arkansas Baptist News

FORMER ARKANSAS BAPTISTS Paula Edwards and her husband, Van, had just finished their missionary work mapping out a small town east of Fortaleza, Brazil, located on the eastern side of the country near the Atlantic Ocean, when they saw a sign for a "balta" or ferry. The balta had often saved them hours of driving before, but there seemed to be no ferry in sight.

When they stopped to question some nationals, the men pointed them in the direction of the sign. They nudged the truck over a little sand dune but still could not see the balta. When they started to

pull out, they found that they were stuck.

With only 50 yards of beach between the sea and the truck and the tide rising, Edwards immediately began to panic. After a few minutes of work recruiting help from the national men, the truck still would not budge.

Panicked, frustrated and of little help, Edwards walked away and began to pray.

At the last minute, with water cresting on the left side of the truck, the men found a board and managed to free the truck. The pair decided to drive an extra hour rather than

find the balta.

This is one of many "misadventures" the couple never expected

to experience in their lifetime. Edwards was 54 when God called her and her husband to leave Eastside Baptist Church, Cave City, to move to a foreign country, learn a new language and experience a different culture.

The couple obeyed the call and found themselves mapping out the coast of Brazil. The job required them to travel to remote fishing villages, research the evangelical activity in those towns and determine whether churches were needed.

Edwards recounts many of the couple's experiences in her book, "Misadventures in Travel." The former schoolteacher decided to write about her experience at the urging of her language teacher, Vera.

"The language was our biggest challenge," Edwards recalled.

"Portuguese is very difficult. ... Vera kept telling me, 'Oh, when you get out of language school you

need to write a book.'"

Edwards kept a journal of her experiences, with writing a book always in the back of her mind.

She said she hopes her book makes two points clear. The first point is that a person is never too old for God to use him.

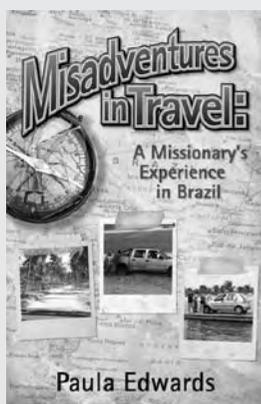
"(Since) I was 54 when I went down there," she said, "so many people say, 'I am too old to go,' but that is absolutely not true. God can use you to your very last breath."

The second point is that they never once got hurt.

"We never, ever even needed a Band-Aid," she said. "The car broke down many, many times, but we were never hurt or sick."

Edwards currently resides in Bossier City, La., where her husband serves as pastor of Parkview Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.

Contact Jenny Redfern at [jenny@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:jenny@arkansasbaptist.org).





*Elliff urges evangelists*

## Take Christ to 'unengaged, unreached' of the world

**Tim Yarbrough**  
*Arkansas Baptist News*

PHOENIX - Tom Elliff, president of the International Mission Board, used homespun humor to share what he feels are important biblical truths at the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists (COSBE).

Reminiscing about times with his grandfathers as a young boy, Elliff pointed to activities of the early church in Acts as an illustration of what God expects as His followers seek to carry out Christ's mission on earth.

"I want to have a little fun with you, but you'll discover when it's over, a surgery of sorts has been taking place," said Elliff, telling the crowd he wanted to talk to them about "Simon Peter, my granddads and us.

"This will be a homiletic nightmare," he added, to a roar of laughter.

Elliff said the "bottom line" to Southern Baptists should be "getting something done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

He shared five truths he feels are key to fulfilling Christ's mission.

"Number 1. What's in the well comes up in the bucket," said Elliff, explaining that what we do with our time on earth will ultimately come to light.

"You may think what you do, what we do, is done in secret, but the things done in secret will be proclaimed from the housetops," he said.



IMB president Tom Elliff (center) talks with (from left) Arkansas Baptists Tom Cox, Eric Ramsey, Gay Ramsey and Kay Cox.

"We're reaping what we have sown," said Elliff. "And we stand a chance of reaping even more if we don't get right about it. The bottom line is that we've got to face reality that in the end only God will help us. And God doesn't help those who help themselves.

"We have to come before Him with total abandonment ... confession and repentance."

Secondly, Elliff said, "Anything worth anything costs somebody something."

Elliff said his grandfather told him never to buy furniture made with pressboard - only real wood - because real wood has character.

"The fact you and I have the privilege of ministry costs somebody something," Elliff told COSBE

members and guests. "But if there's going to be a generation that follows that is effective in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, it's going to cost us something."

Thirdly, "It's the handy tool that gets used the most," said Elliff, reminding those present that it is "your job to stay 'handy' to God. ... Jesus and the disciples got handy to God (in the upper room in Jerusalem)."

The fourth point related to cooperation.

"Working together - along with seven mules that they had - my granddaddy and his sons and those mules could get more done than one of those mules working (alone) in a year or a lifetime could get done," said Elliff. "You see, we can do more

together than we can apart."

Finally, Elliff said we must be prepared for the Lord's return.

"When the wind is blowing, even a turkey can fly," said Elliff, to laughter from the crowd.

"My prayer," he said, "is that we set the table and be ready, should the Lord decide to serve it up."

Elliff shared his personal burden for the unengaged and unreached peoples of the world. He said no one currently has a strategy to reach the unengaged, except God. "There are 3,800 of these groups now," said Elliff.

"They are unengaged for a reason. A lot of them are up on a really high mountain in a really closed country," he said.

"Let's get this thing done. Let's quit talking about the fact there are these unengaged people groups out there. Let's just lead our churches to make a commitment."

Eric Ramsey of First Baptist Church, Van Buren, and president of Tom Cox World Ministries, Mountainburg, was among those elected as new officers during the annual COSBE June 12, held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting June 14-15 in Phoenix. Ramsey will serve as director of communications.



# Plight of childhood friend leads to ministry

**Lisa Watson**  
Arkansas Baptist News

PHOENIX – Kaye Miller was a 10-year-old missionary kid in Thailand when she first learned of the plight of women involved in human trafficking.

Miller, who served as national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) president for five years, led a breakout session on WorldCrafts, a ministry of the WMU, at the 2011 National Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting held June 12-13 in Phoenix, Ariz. See related story below.

The Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, member recalled an experience in which one of her Thai school friends suddenly went missing. When she inquired of the family about where her friend had gone, no one would talk to her.

Years later, she discovered her friend had been sold by her father into prostitution. In time, Miller said the woman found freedom from that life. She is now a Christian and has worked at The Well, an organization in Thailand that seeks to minister to women and children involved in human trafficking.

She said God used a chance encounter at a conference on human trafficking to remind her of her childhood friend.

"I bought a table runner from a Thai girl (at the conference), and she said, 'If you buy this, you will buy my sister out of prostitution,'" said Miller, who quickly bought the runner, giving the woman enough money to purchase her sister's freedom.

At that time, Miller said she was unaware of any protestant women's groups that were talking about human trafficking. "The Lord just



Kaye Miller leads a breakout session at the National Woman's Missionary Union Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

knocked me upside the head," she said, noting God reminded her of the way her heart was broken for her friend those many years ago.

Last year, WMU adopted a four-year emphasis called Project Help to raise awareness about worldwide human exploitation.

Miller said she has always had a heart for women in poverty because of her experience living on the mission field. She said her mother "modeled" ministry to those in need.

Miller's parents, Harlan and Jo Willis, who were medical missionaries to Thailand, were part of a group of missionaries who started an organization that led to Thai Country Trim, a ministry that provides a way for national women to make items to sell to help provide for their families.

This ministry helped pave the way for WorldCrafts, which develops sustainable fair-trade businesses among impoverished people around

the world.

Today, WorldCrafts is "in countries all over the world," said Miller, noting the ministry provides a platform for missionaries to enter countries that might otherwise be closed to ministry.

Miller said people sometimes mistakenly believe the women who make WorldCrafts items work in a factory. But that couldn't be further from the truth.

"The factory is sitting outside on the road ... or in a rice field," she said. "These items are not mass-produced."

Miller said those who purchase WorldCrafts should remember that each craft is representative of a real person, many of whom are "desperate" to find a way to make money for their children as "an alternative" to prostitution and human trafficking.

## WorldCrafts tour

Miller and WMU WorldCrafts

Director Andrea Mullins are leading a 13-day WorldCrafts tour "with a mission" to Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand and Siem Reap and Phnom Penh, Cambodia Oct. 24-Nov. 5.

In addition to visiting local tourist spots, such as a floating market, centuries-old temples and a working elephant camp, tour visitors will also meet WorldCrafts artisans at Thai Country Trim and other ministries.

Miller said the tour is "first-rate" and will allow participants to experience the culture in that part of the world.

But more importantly, participants will meet the women who actually make WorldCrafts items.

"I want them to see the person - and what WorldCrafts brought them out of," said Miller. "I want to show them the bar where the women worked (before they worked with WorldCrafts)."

"I want it to be so real that they come back and want to jump even more into the ministry," she continued.

Miller said WorldCrafts provides "an easy way for a woman in the pew to impact a woman across the world for Jesus."

WorldCrafts "makes a difference in a real person's life," she continued. "Once you see the face (of a woman who works with WorldCrafts), you realize it's not about a purse, it's not about a necklace. It's about a real person."

For Miller, the trip offers her the opportunity for something else - the chance to once again spend time with her childhood friend.

"When I get to Bangkok, she's who I'm headed to see," said Miller.

For more information about the tour or to purchase WorldCrafts items, go to [www.worldcraftsvillage.com](http://www.worldcraftsvillage.com).

## WMU speakers proclaim freedom, good news of Christ

PHOENIX (BP) – Missions leaders from across the nation "proclaimed" the freedom and good news of Jesus Christ during the 2011 National Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting in Phoenix June 12-13 prior to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting.

"Proclaim!" was the theme for this year's celebration based on Luke 4:18-19.

Tom Elliff, the International Mission Board's (IMB) president, and Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, brought greetings during the sessions at the Wyndham Phoenix Hotel.

Ezell presented Wanda Lee, WMU executive director/treasurer, with an oversized Royal Ambassadors (RAs) race car to commemorate the transfer of responsibility for RAs back to WMU. See related story at right.

Other speakers included Louis Spears and Jan Lows, NAMB missionaries; Don and Diane Combs, IMB missionaries; Jean Roberson, WMU adult resources team leader/ministry consultant; and Ginger Smith, executive director of the Mission Centers of Houston.

In her first presidential address, national WMU President Debby Ackerman of Myrtle Beach, S.C., interpreted this year's theme, "Proclaim!" noting that "from Genesis to Revelation one hears the distinct sounds of holy proclamation emanating from God's Word."

In a missions focus segment, Gordon Fort, vice president of the IMB's office of global strategy, facilitated a discussion of current mission issues.

Judith Edwards of Rio Rancho, N.M., received the Dellanna West O'Brien Award for Women's Leadership Development, which was

presented by WMU in partnership with the WMU Foundation.

Laura Morris of Louisville, Ky., received the Dr. Martha Myers GA Alumna of Distinction Award,

which is given annually to recognize a Girls in Action alumna who influences the lives of others for Christ and serves as a positive role model for girls.

## RAs begins move back to WMU

PHOENIX (BP) – In a hand-off complete with a race car pit stop, transition of Royal Ambassadors (RAs) to its 103-year-old parent organization is now under way.

Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Executive Director/Treasurer Wanda Lee accepted the "hand-off" of RAs and Challengers from North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell at the National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting held

June 12-13 in Phoenix.

"We are excited," Lee said. "We are in a new arena of partnership for missions education. We love RAs. They were born from our hearts, and we gave them willingly to the Brotherhood Commission in 1954. We now gladly receive them back. Thank you."

RAs, begun by WMU in 1908, is the Southern Baptist missions organization for boys in grades 1-6. Challengers is for young men in grades 7-12.



## Arkansas Baptist elected to Pastors' Conference post

PHOENIX – An Arkansas Baptist pastor was elected first vice president of the 2012 Pastors' Conference, which will be held in New Orleans prior to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting June 19-20, 2012.

Archie Mason, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, was elected to the post at the 2011

Pastors Conference meeting, held June 12-13 in Phoenix prior to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting. Wes George, pastor of First Baptist Church, Rogers, nominated Mason for the office.

Former Arkansas Baptist pastor Grant Ethridge was elected president of the 2012 Pastors' Conference. Ethridge, pastor of Liberty Baptist

Church, Hampton, Va., is a former Arkansas Baptist State Convention president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Lavaca.

Phillip Burdin, pastor of Morningside Baptist Church, Valdosta, Ga., was elected as Pastors' Conference treasurer.

Pastors attending the conference were challenged by speakers to take the lead in personal holiness, evangelism and service to others.

Speakers in the Sunday evening session included Johnny Hunt, immediate past president of the SBC and pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.; Bob Roberts, pastor/church planter of Northwood Church, Keller, Texas; Bishop Peter Ndhlovu, senior pastor/church planter of Bible Gospel Church, Lusaka, Zambia, Africa; and Bob Pitman, evangelist and seminary professor at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.

Monday morning session speakers included Paul Gotthardt, pastor/church planter of Life Baptist Church, Las Vegas, Nevada; Darin Patrick, pastor/church planter of The Journey Church, St. Louis,

Mo.; Bartholomew Orr, pastor of Brown Missionary Baptist Church, Southaven, Miss.; and Gregg Matte, lead pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas.

John Piper, pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, spoke during the Monday afternoon session. Other speakers included Afshin Ziafat, pastor of Providence Church, Frisco, Texas; and Ken Whitten, pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla.

Louie Giglio, pastor of Passion City Church, Atlanta, and Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, Calif., spoke in the final session of the conference.

At the end of the session, scores of pastors laid response cards on the main stage, committing to be part of planting churches in America and reaching the world's 3,800 unengaged people groups, in sync with initiatives of the North American and International Mission boards. Cards will be shared with the two boards for follow-up and strategic planning.



Mason



Ethridge



### Noel, Akin serve on SBC Credentials Committee

Jason Noel, (left), pastor of East Side Baptist Church, Paragould, and Susan Akin (right), a member of First Baptist Church, Monticello, served with Don Mayberry, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Derby, Kansas, on the Southern Baptist Convention credentials committee at the 2011 SBC Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

## Garretts attend Messianic event



Hal and Esther Garrett

PHOENIX – Arkansas Baptists were among those who attended the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship, which was held June 11 at CrossPoinTempe Church in Tempe, Ariz., prior to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

Hal and Esther Garrett, members of First Baptist Church, Hoxie, attended the conference and also worked at the messianic organization's booth.

The Garretts have worked among Jews in Arkansas for a number of years as Mission Service Corp missionaries. Hal was ordained as a rabbi within the organization in 2007.

"Our job at the Southern Baptist

Messianic Fellowship is to witness to Jewish people," said Hal, noting this can be a difficult task because Jewish people are "scattered" across the United States. More about the couple's ministry will be featured in an upcoming issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News*.

Brent Powell, Black River Baptist Association missionary, said the messianic conference was "uplifting" and "encouraging." He and his family have attended the conference for a number of years. In 2007, he spoke at the conference when Hal Garrett was ordained as a rabbi.

Bruce Stokes, dean of California Baptist University's school of behavioral sciences, was a featured speaker at the event.

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# Arkansas Baptists in Phoenix

**Baptists from across Arkansas made the trek to attend the 2011 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, held June 14-15 in Phoenix.**



**ABN on the Web**  
For expanded coverage, including video, go to [www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org).



Marc Reeves (center), pastor, West View Baptist Church, Paragould, and his wife, Loretta, and Danny Baxter (right), executive pastor of music and senior adults at Hot Springs Baptist Church, Hot Springs



Tony Buchanan (left), lead pastor, First Baptist Church, Lavaca; and Kenny Bailey, executive pastor, First Baptist Church, Lavaca



Estel Griggs, pastor, Clarkridge Baptist Church, Clarkridge, and his wife, Marcia



Doug Falknor (left), pastor, First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, and children, Joel and Sarah; and Wes George (center), pastor, First Baptist Church, Rogers, and his wife, Lisa, and children, Benjamin and Aaron



Tim Noel, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Searcy, at LifeWay Book Store



Scott Hill, pastor, Lakeside Baptist Church, Rogers; and Joe Hewgley, former IMB trustee, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Rogers



Jamar Andrews, Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary booth



Gary Thomas (right), pastor of First Baptist Church, Lowell, and his wife, Rhonda, with Chris Gary, Upward Sports Arkansas representative



Shawn Allred (left), pastor, First Baptist Church, Bruceton, Tenn., and Emil Turner, ABSC executive director, at the Ethics and Religious Liberties booth



David Mitchell (right), Bartholomew Baptist Association missionary, and his wife, Fran; and John Brittain, Arundel Baptist Association, Maryland



Steven Tiner, pastor, Levy Baptist Church, North Little Rock

## CENTERTON

*continued from page one*

we think are doing a good job.”

It was through an unlikely connection that Centerton connected with Lesher and the center.

“We had a lady in our church whose sister is the wife of the pastor of the church that we’re staying at, First Southern Baptist Church, Scottsdale,” said Aaron Chastain, Centerton’s student minister. “Their son is the pastor here at The Bridge.”

It was on a mission trip to Chicago last year that Chastain began planning the trip that would bring the group to Phoenix.

“We knew that we wanted to go West to a big city. We thought about Phoenix, and then we found out that we had the connection. That made the decision easy,” said Chastain. It wasn’t until later that Chastain realized the trip to Phoenix coincided with the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting.

He said the church works hard to make missions a priority and to create a culture of service as commanded by Jesus Christ.

“We have a vision of our student ministry, and it comes from the Great Commission ... making disciples. So that anyone, any age, can understand,” Chastain explained. “That’s our strategy. It’s reproducing disciples to the glory of God. How they’re doing that this week is they’re learning discipleship. When we’re on the bus, it’s constant discipleship. And when they get here, it’s now their turn to go make disciples.”

Throughout the week, Centerton students and adults ministered to the community surrounding the Rio Vista Center by doing a bit of everything.

“This is a combination of a VBS (vacation Bible school) and a backyard Bible club, and our children’s ministry director at our church, she came on the trip with us, she customized this in about 30-minute rotations – Bible stories, Bible verse memory, crafts,” said Chastain.

“We have a worship team. ... They do one of their elements to kind of kick off things in the morning. While most of the teenagers are doing that, we’ve got a group of guys working on either clothes, or they’re doing the food boxes or food bags and carrying them out to the car.”

Lesher said the community surrounding the Rio Vista Center is one defined by “generational poverty.” The area is ethnically diverse, with a population that is predominantly African-American and Hispanic.

He said the Hispanic population of the area has grown substantially in recent years and is what led to the formation of The Puente three years ago, which Lesher described as the Rio Vista Center’s “Spanglish” church – meaning it’s a combination of English and Spanish-speaking people.

Lesher said he has found the best way to show Christ’s love through the center is to meet people’s physical needs. As a result, the center partnered with the City of Phoenix to open its job center. What’s more, he said The Bridge was the first church in Arizona to partner with the Department of Economic Security to help low-income families receive food stamps. The state, in turn, requested the Rio Vista Center’s help in recruiting other churches to do the same.

“Twenty-five percent of the people living in our community are

living in food hardship. They often have to decide between paying bills and buying food. Only 46 percent of the adults in the community have a high school education,” said Lesher.

“Our goal is long-term. We know it isn’t going to change overnight, but as we continue to partner with other organizations and churches, we will begin to make an impact,” he added.

“We just believe that meeting people’s social needs is the easiest way to lead in to giving them the gospel.”

Centerton volunteers also participated in gospel presentation projects at the Phoenix Rescue Mission and the Sunshine Acres Children’s Home in Mesa, Ariz.

On departure from Phoenix, Chastain posted the following on Facebook, “Many families impacted with the gospel. Our team was selfless and effective. The children were hugging our necks as they were leaving. So proud and honored to serve with such gifted and loving teenagers.”

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at [caleb@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:caleb@arkansasbaptist.org).



Mattie Couch (left), a student at Life Way Christian School and Ryan Lawrence, a college student, work at the registration table.



Rachel Morris (above), a student at Gravette High School, teaches two young girls.



360 Day Camp “Got Faith,” student-led curriculum



The Rio Vista Center



Watch a video about the Centerton church’s ministry in Phoenix at [www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org). Photos by Caleb Yarbrough

# Women's health: living up to your age

WOMEN HAVE UNIQUE health care needs and play an important part in making health care decisions for their families. How a woman feels can have a huge impact on her quality of life. Women need to manage their health - and the earlier they start, the better. Diet, exercise, family history, stress and screenings all play a part in women's health.

The choices women make in their 20s, 30s and even 40s can affect them as they age.

Simple things, such as diet and exercise, really make a difference. Eating less dessert and changing the way one selects food can have a huge effect on health. As women

get older, their diets need to include more protein and other nutrients and fewer carbohydrates. Sometimes a multivitamin supplement is a good idea. Ask your doctor for recommendations.

A sensible diet and exercise, coupled with regular visits to a physician and appropriate health screenings, can help prevent diseases and lead to early detection and treatment. Recommended screenings will change with age, but it is important for women to receive screenings for their heart, bone and breast health at various

visits. These screenings can be performed during routine visits.

Something as simple as knowing family history allows women and their children to know their health risks and what to avoid. It is a good idea to take the time to write one's family history down as part of a prevention plan and share it with a physician and one's children.

Stress is another factor that affects women as they age. Relationship stresses, financial stresses and technological stresses all seem to

increase with age and a fast-paced society.

Women get caught in the middle, taking care of their families and children and even, in some cases, their parents. Because stress is an inevitable part of life, especially for women, learning how to deal with it is key. Set goals for how to handle stress.

Maintaining health through diet, exercise, routine doctor visits and screenings, as well as through stress management, can positively affect one's quality of life.

*Valerie Robilio is senior coordinator for public relations at Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation in Memphis.*

## BAPTIST HEALTH

Valerie Robilio  
Baptist Memorial  
Health Care

## ABN Archives 1901-2011

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### Kingdom Progress

Biscoe Enters New Church Building



The Biscoe Church entered its new building on June 10. The new structure is of white brick-size tile, the wood work natural finish, and light oak furnishings. The auditorium will seat approximately 300. The building and equipment are valued at \$50,000. The Biscoe Church was organized in 1926.

Not having a building of its own the church had the community building with the Methodist Church and participated in a union Sunday School. Pastor Tom Dove, Walnut Ridge, started the new building for the Biscoe Church. It was completed under the ministry of the present pastor, Roy G. Adams.



Gail

The B. S. Christian Living Barbara V. Hospital graduate Miss Ve is the past of Nursing Church at with Arks to enter c of full tin Miss Ga ber of S. B. S. U. Nursing.

Leland Crestwood cepted th and begar is a grac the semir

W. A. I accepted Church, June 10. The So year ago.

Associa accented

## Happy Birthday!

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

- ◆ July 14: Clayton Case, OBU Box 3421, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Chile.
- ◆ July 29: Zach Nottingham, OBU Box 4491, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Namibia.



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## Church life

**First Baptist Church, Fayetteville**, will host Singing Men of Arkansas in concert at 3 p.m. July 10.

**First Baptist Church, Fayetteville**, will host the Arkansas Gospel Mass Choir in concert at 3 p.m. Aug. 14.

**First Baptist Church, White**

### CHERYL E. TURNER



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**Hall**, will host the third Harmony Baptist Association Women's Conference Aug. 20. This year's theme is The Walk of a Woman - Pursuing Holiness, and the speaker is Melinda Bunyard of Farmington.

**Hardin Baptist Church, Pine Bluff**, will host a missions awareness meeting at 6:30 p.m. July 11, with Mission Service Corps missionaries Mark and Amanda Burgos as speakers.

**First Baptist Church, Heber Springs**, will host Gene McDonald as guest musician during its 10:30 a.m. worship service July 3.

**Calvary Baptist Association** will hold a shower for Calvary Counseling Center to help with decorations and furnishings at 2 p.m. July 10.

Gifts may include cash or gift cards to home décor stores.

**Crossgate Church, Hot Springs**, will host Camp Obsessed Aug. 8-12, at Spring Lake Camp near Lonsdale. Camp Obsessed is open to the public and targets children entering grades 5-8. The guest speaker will be Ron Tant, and the worship leader is Matt Shull. Registration and fee deadline is July 17. For applications, visit [www.crossgate.org/obsessed](http://www.crossgate.org/obsessed). For further details, call 501-262-9779.

## Milestones

**Lisa Mercer** of Little Rock was among more than 200 graduates at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas,

during spring commencement May 6. Mercer received a Master of Arts in Christian education. Her home church is Cross Road Baptist Church, Little Rock.

**Richard Foster**, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Camden, recently celebrated his 10-year anniversary at the church.

## On the move

**B. K. Harris** retired as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Hermitage, and is available for supply preaching at 870-866-5550 or 870-469-8395.

## Correction

In the June 16 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News*, the article "Our Churches: West Side Baptist Church" listed an incorrect location for a home church which is led by one of West Side's associate pastors. The home church is located in Van Buren County. We apologize for the error.

## Vans needed for Joplin church

Harmony Heights Baptist Church lost vans in the May 22 tornado in Joplin, Mo. The church is looking for two 15-passenger vans in good shape. Contact Charlie Burnett at 417-781-1700 or [cburnett@harmonyheightsbaptist.com](mailto:cburnett@harmonyheightsbaptist.com).

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# Classifieds

## PASTOR

Rural church 12 miles west of El Dorado is seeking a **pastor**. A small membership, but very promising situation. Will consider bi-vocational or full-time. Liberty Association. Send resume to Midway Baptist Church, 129 Lynn Fite Road, El Dorado, AR 71730, by Aug. 1.

First Baptist Church of Charleston has begun the search for a **full-time pastor**. Charleston is located 20 miles east of Fort Smith. A beautiful town looking for a man to lead our loving congregation. A student pastor and secretary are on staff at this time. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 297, Charleston, AR 72933, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, or send email [todamonmckenzie@fbccharleston.com](mailto:todamonmckenzie@fbccharleston.com).

Rural Southern Baptist church is seeking a **full-time pastor** who agrees with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, loves to preach the Word and working with others as we try to minister to the community by showing the love of Christ to them and their children. Send resumes and particulars to Lonnie Waldrop at Twin Lakes Baptist Church, 3899 Hwy. 290, Hot Springs, AR 71913.

Hickory Street Baptist Church seeks a Spirit-led, **bi-vocational pastor** to nurture a congregation of approximately 50 people with a vision of growth. Send resumes to 2923 Hickory St., Texarkana, AR 71854, or submit by email to [rhondasullivan.88@gmail.com](mailto:rhondasullivan.88@gmail.com). Deadline for submission is June 30.

Clarendon First Baptist Church seeks **full-time pastor**. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 324, Clarendon, AR 72029.

Cherry Street Baptist Church is currently seeking a **pastor**. CSBC is located in Clarksville, Ark., a city of 9,600 residents in Johnson County, where over 19,000 people reside. We have a loving, Christ-centered congregation and a beautiful sanctuary with a Sunday morning attendance of over 40. Our sanctuary accommodates approximately 250. We also have many classrooms to accommodate growth. The pastor's salary is \$40,000, plus a two-bedroom parsonage located next to CSBC. The University of

Ozarks and downtown Clarksville are three blocks from CSBC. Staff includes a part-time secretary, nursery worker and custodian. We are praying for a God-called pastor who is willing to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in a variety of possible ministries. Send resumes to P.O. Box 378, Clarksville, AR 72830 or [dstandri@suddenlink.net](mailto:dstandri@suddenlink.net), or call Dennis at 479-754-8299.

Tate Springs Baptist Church, located in Arlington, Texas, is a multi-generational, conservative Southern Baptist church looking for a **senior pastor** who can operate in a team approach with pastoral staff. Our total Sunday morning attendance is 600-650. Please forward resume to Terry Jeffries, pastor of administration, at [terry@tatesprings.com](mailto:terry@tatesprings.com) or directly to the pulpit committee at [pastorsearch@tatesprings.com](mailto:pastorsearch@tatesprings.com).

Calvary Baptist Church of Dardanelle, Ark., is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Sunday school attendance averages 55-60. Will also consider bi-vocational pastor. Will be receiving resumes until July 15, 2011. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 532, Dardanelle, AR 72834, Attn: Bob Loyd, or email to [docbob72834@hotmail.com](mailto:docbob72834@hotmail.com).

First Baptist Church, Unionville, Mo., a dispensational, fundamentally conservative church, is prayerfully seeking an experienced **full-time senior pastor**. Send resume and detailed doctrinal statement to 104 N. 15th, Unionville, MO 63565, or email [fbc-unionville@hotmail.com](mailto:fbc-unionville@hotmail.com).

McClendon Baptist Church of West Monroe, La., is seeking a **pastor**. We desire a man of God who possesses godly character, positive relational skills, solid biblical faith and a passion for preaching God's Word with a heart that loves the Lord and His people. A master's level seminary degree is desirable. Resumes can be sent to McClendon Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 206 Downing Pines Road, West Monroe, LA 71292, or [jrgardner@me.com](mailto:jrgardner@me.com).

## OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Cullendale First Baptist Church, Camden, Ark., is seeking a **full-time youth/student life minister**. Salary based on experience and education. Current youth program averages 45-55 students

weekly. Please send resume and, if possible, audio or video to [bwilliams@cullendalefbc.org](mailto:bwilliams@cullendalefbc.org) or 1850 Cash Road, Camden, AR 71701. Applications accepted until June 30, 2011.

First Baptist Church of Bismarck, Ark., is seeking **someone to lead our ministry to junior high and high school students**. Inquiries and resumes may be submitted to [jgreer@1stbaptistbismarck.com](mailto:jgreer@1stbaptistbismarck.com) or P.O. Box 147, Bismarck, AR 71929. Resumes will be received through July 8.

Central Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark., is seeking a **full-time worship pastor**. We are seeking a man that can lead in a variety of worship styles. We are seeking a man that can lead our people to live a life of worship as we seek to reach our community and beyond. Send resumes to P.O. Box 20336, White Hall, AR 71612, or email to [cbcpastor@cablelynx.com](mailto:cbcpastor@cablelynx.com).

First Baptist Church of Paris, Ark., is seeking a **full- or part-time youth minister**. Send resumes to "Personnel Committee" at P.O. Box 567, Paris, AR 72855 or to [jshearhart@parisfbc.com](mailto:jshearhart@parisfbc.com), by Aug. 1. Please indicate on resume the desire for the full- or part-time position.

**Bi-vocational youth director** needed. Contact River Road Baptist, P.O. Box 161, Redfield, AR 72132. 501-397-2576, or 870-536-4109.

First Baptist Church of Siloam Springs, Ark., is looking for a **full-time children's minister** to lead an exciting and growing children's ministry. Please send resumes and inquiries to Search Committee, 2000 Dawn Hill Road, Siloam Springs, AR 72761, or email to [office@fbc-siloam.com](mailto:office@fbc-siloam.com).

Marshall Road Baptist Church is interviewing for the position of **bi-vocational youth director**. Call 501-982-4564, ext. 22, or email [sammons2@comcast.net](mailto:sammons2@comcast.net).

Danville First Baptist Church, Danville, Ark., is seeking a **full-time minister of students**. Please send resume to Danville FBC, P.O. Box 877, Danville, AR 72833 or [fbcdan@arkwest.com](mailto:fbcdan@arkwest.com).

Gassville Baptist Church is looking for a **full-time youth pastor**. Interested applicants can send

their resumes to P.O. Box 158, Gassville, AR 72635 or email it to [gvbapt@gassville.net](mailto:gvbapt@gassville.net). We are located in North Central Arkansas, close to Mountain Home, Ark.

Ebenezer Baptist Church, El Dorado, is receiving resumes for a **part-time minister of students**. If interested, forward resume to Search Committee at Ebenezer Baptist Church, 3408 N. Wyatt Dr., El Dorado, AR 71730.

First Baptist Church of Fulton, Mo., is seeking the right **person to direct, coordinate, oversee and continue to develop our worship and education ministries**. Please send your resume to [1baptistfulton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1baptistfulton@sbcglobal.net), and visit our Web site at [fbcfultonmo.org](http://fbcfultonmo.org).

Oak Grove Baptist Church, located in Van Buren, Ark., is seeking a **bi-vocational youth minister**. For details, call 479-474-6674, or send resume to OGBC, 4929 Industrial Park Road, Van Buren, AR 72956.

Immanuel Baptist Church is seeking a **bi-vocational minister of music and youth**. Send resume to 2201 S. Dallas, Fort Smith, AR 72901, 479-782-1009 or visit [www.immanuelbaptistfs.org](http://www.immanuelbaptistfs.org).

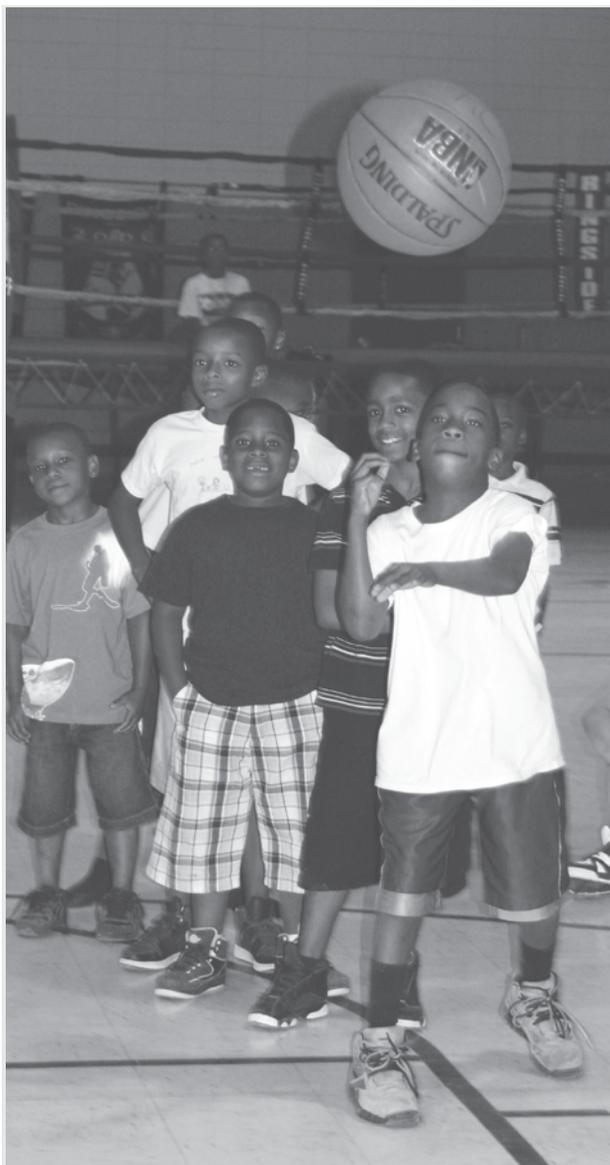
First Baptist Church, Forrest City, is seeking a **full-time minister of music**. If interested, send resume to 507 N. Rosser St., Forrest City, AR 72335.

First Baptist Church in Carlisle is seeking a **part-time or full-time music minister**. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 25, Carlisle, AR 72024.

First Baptist Church of Fordyce, Ark., is seeking a **full-time position for worship leader/education/senior adults**. If interested, please send resume to 501 North Main Street, Fordyce, AR 71742, Attn: Search Committee.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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## CRUSADERS

*continued from page one*

### New facility being used

Harris said they have held Sports Crusaders soccer camps in the past, thinking it would allow them “to reach into our community with the gospel.” This year they chose basketball camp. He said the church has built “a new facility, which includes a full basketball court.”

Will Ward, children’s minister, said, “One of the main reasons we built this new building and this new facility is to bring people from the community in, and this is one of those strategies, (which) is to have a basketball camp.”

In fact, he said a good number of the almost 40 children attending the camp were from the community.

“Numerous kids that attend are from unchurched families, which, of course, provides an opportunity for us to get into their homes,” said Harris.

He added, “We believe the Sports Crusaders camp is a great tool to make a difference in this community for the kingdom. Our hope and prayer continues to be that through such missions and ministries as Sports Crusaders, more people will discover the love of King Jesus and decide to live for Him.”

In North Little Rock, Recco Bennett, unit director for the Rose City center, explained

Arshaad Yancy, 9, (right) and Stephen Gilbert, 9 (back right), both of North Little Rock, participate along with others in a Sports Crusaders event.

that along with the fun and structure the camp brings to the children at the club, it also provides Christian teaching, which many of the children lack.

### Learning about Jesus

“You learn things about basketball and how to play,” said 13-year-old Rodneisha Allen, “but you also learn about Jesus Christ – how He is our Lord and Savior and how we should only serve Him as our only true God.”

R.J. Graham, leader of the Sports Crusaders team in North Little Rock, said the goal is “to get as many kids as we can, to have Jesus come into their lives.”

Graham added, “You know these kids, the inner city kids, deal with real issues and real situations that a simple Bible study won’t do. So we want them to know that there is a hope, and we want to get as many kids as we can to Christ.”

In fact, Graham said about 15 children accepted Christ at the North Little Rock camp.

Though Rodneisha was a Christian prior to attending camp, she said the biggest thing she got from the camp was “learning about God and how He served to save us and He died on the cross for our sins and that we should repent when we are doing things wrong.”

“The Sports Crusaders, they’re awesome teachers,” she said. “They teach kids about how they should do and how they should respect each other and always love one another.”

Not bad for a basketball camp.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at [Jessica@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:Jessica@arkansasbaptist.org).



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## Submit to divine discipline

Throwing in the towel” is a phrase that comes from the boxing world. The blows are relentless, the boxer is dazed and staggering and, physically, he can’t take anymore. The only solution is to throw in the towel.

At times, the blows of life are so relentless they leave us dazed and staggered, but throwing in the towel is not an option. Some time ago, I heard a speaker say that 80 percent of the people on Sunday morning are facing major life issues. Seeing what people go through today, I place that number closer to 90 percent.

Jeremiah faced the same discouragement, heartbreak and grief that we do. Jeremiah even unloaded on God about all he was going through. He was ready to throw in the towel, but he couldn’t. I believe there are two constants from Jeremiah that keep us from throwing in the towel.

One, remember God’s call (Jer. 20:1-9). Jeremiah’s message of destruction and exile was not popular. Pashhur, the chief officer, had Jeremiah placed in stocks because of his message. Jeremiah told Pashhur that his name would become “Magor-missabib,” meaning “fear

round about,” and that he would see the terror of destruction and exile. Upon release, Jeremiah struggled with God’s call on his life. He wanted to stop proclaiming God’s Word, but he couldn’t because God’s Word was like a fire burning in his heart. Being involved in God’s work is not always easy. There are times when all we have to hold onto is God’s call on our life.

Two, remember God’s presence

(Jer. 20:11-13). We have a glimpse into Jeremiah’s humanity. One moment he says, “I want to quit.” The next he says, “The Lord is with me like a mighty champion.” Jeremiah was struggling, but he was aware that God’s presence was ever with him. Major life issues

are real, but they can never separate us from the marvelous presence of God. So please, don’t throw in the towel.

The 1960s radio preacher, Lester Roloff, had a famous sermon titled “Dr. Law and Dr. Grace.” The premise was that a man was sick

and went to Dr. Law for treatment. Dr. Law, a rough, gnarled old physician, diagnosed him with a bad heart. The man asked for a list of things he could do to avoid surgery, but Dr. Law said

nothing short of a new heart would do. When asked when the old doctor would perform the transplant,

Dr. Law said he was only there to identify and diagnose the problem. The actual surgery would be done by Dr. Grace, a young, handsome doctor with a gentle, loving demeanor.

Dr. Grace was the only one with the skills to give a new heart. The doctors were in practice together, one diagnosing the problem, the other providing

the cure.

In Galatians, Paul used another picture of the relationship between

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE JULY 10, 2011

Lynn Riley  
Evangelism and Church  
Growth Team, ASBC

Scripture passage:  
Galatians 3:1-3, 10-14, 19-26

## Keep your behavior in line

He started buying fishing equipment, then he bought a new boat, then a new truck to pull the boat. “One thing leads to another.”

We don’t like hearing how one event leads to another and then another because sometimes the end result is not particularly positive.

Jeremiah 22:1-9 is a prime example of how one thing leads to another. Jeremiah receives a word from the Lord for the king of Judah. In verse 3, numerous abuses were taking place in society.

Jeremiah told the king that, if he would “do justice and righteousness,” they would see restoration in

Judah. If not, “this house will become a desolation” (v. 5). Not only would the king’s house become a desolation, so would Jerusalem.

The abuses of society in verse 3 were the result of a greater problem. The beginning point of their problem was forgetting the covenant they made with God and turning to idolatry (v. 9).

Forgetting God, turning to idolatry, abuse in society; one thing leads to another. Judah’s woes always came back to forgetting God and idolatry. There are two valuable lessons from this passage.

One, stay focused on your com-

mitment to the Lord. The moment Judah “forsook the covenant of the Lord” (v. 9), the door opened for idolatry and abuse in society. Christians are bombarded daily with the messages of secular society.

The moment we neglect our commitment to the Lord, the door opens for secular values to creep in. Stay focused on your commitment to the Lord.

Two, know whom you serve. The second half of Jeremiah’s answer, in verse 9, says the reason why Jerusalem would fall was because of idolatry.

Maybe it is time that Christians took a good, hard, honest look at ourselves and asked, “Who do I really serve and bow down to?” We all know the Sunday school answer, but what is our daily life answer? Know whom you serve.

As a student, I served for two years as a dormitory director at the Baptist college I attended. There were three other dorms on campus, and the other directors were all older women, who were called “dorm mothers.” Naturally, the guys in my dorm dubbed

me “Mom,” complete with an intramural jersey with that title on the back. It was a great atmosphere, and to this day, they are my “boys.” They

knew that they could depend on me to take care of them and also keep them in line.

More than 25 years later, I am still greeted from time to time as “Mom,” usually spoken by a 50-something preacher or businessman and usually in the middle of a crowd. Hearing that nickname brings forth some great memories, but there’s another name that overshadows even those sweet memories. It’s when my two daughters smile and

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE JULY 17, 2011

Lynn Riley  
Evangelism and Church  
Growth Team, ASBC

Scripture passage:  
Galatians 4:1-7; 1 John 1:5-9, 3:1-3

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE JULY 10, 2011

David McCord  
pastor  
First Baptist Church, Mena

Scripture passage:  
Jeremiah 20:1-18

## Personal checklist

the law and grace. In Galatians 3:24-26, the law is a schoolmaster. Its purpose is to point toward the justification found through faith in Christ by providing an understanding of the impossibility of living the law perfectly. Paul states that if a person could live the law to the letter, then salvation could be achieved, but personal sin prevents perfect obedience.

The Galatians had placed their trust in Christ but had fallen back into the legalistic practices of their past. Various translations of verse 1 call them “foolish,” “stupid,” “crazy” and “thoughtless” because of their refusal to claim the freedom provid-

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE JULY 17, 2011

David McCord  
pastor  
First Baptist Church, Mena

Scripture passages:  
Jeremiah 22:1-9

## Personal relationship

call me Daddy. If you’re a parent, you don’t need any further explanation of how that feels.

My “boys” from college could expect certain things of me, but it was built on an institutional set of rules. When college ended, so did the expectations, and I don’t think any of them expect to be included in my will.

My daughters and I have a much different relationship. They can ask for and expect much more because I am their dad. They have to do nothing to earn my love, and nothing can happen that will sever that father/daughter bond.

Paul reminds us, in Galatians 4,

that we have become heirs of God, which includes the privilege of calling God “Abba,” loosely translated “Daddy.” Our relationship with God has nothing to do with us, but with the sacrifice of Christ.

Many of the decisions and lifestyles our daughters embrace reflect the family they were raised in. The values of our family are evident in their activities. The Apostle John reminds us that, as sons of God, we are expected to “walk in the light” because that’s what children of God do. The paradox of faith is that we are free to walk in the light only when we personally yield our lives to a heavenly Father who loves us.



## NEWS DIGEST

### NBC nixes 'Under God' from Pledge

WASHINGTON (BP) – NBC omitted the phrase “under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance during an opening video in its coverage of the U.S. Open golf tournament June 19 and then apologized on-air after receiving criticism.

The patriotic-themed opening to the network's tournament coverage showed elementary school children reciting the Pledge.

The quick-moving segment mixed in video of the children citing the Pledge with video of military personnel raising a U.S. flag. During the controversial portion, the children can be heard saying “one nation,” and after a video of a soldier saluting the flag is seen, the children finish: “with liberty and justice for all.” Seconds later, the children could be heard repeating the same phrase, again with NBC omitting “under God, indivisible.”

Immediately, golf fans began expressing their outrage on Twitter and Facebook.

### Ariz. victims thankful for DR help

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (BP) – As Arizona's Wallow Fire moves past 50 percent containment, Southern Baptists are transitioning from relief to recovery work and preparing to assist victims of the Monument Fire in the southern part of the state.

In response to the fire, Southern Baptist disaster relief workers deployed a shower unit to a shelter in Lakeside, Ariz., but ceased operation of the unit last week when the shelter shut down.

Larry Hyde, Arizona disaster relief state coordinator, told Baptist Press that he left the shower unit in place though, in case it is needed during recovery efforts.

### 'Bivocational pastor movement' urged

PHOENIX (BP) – Small churches and bivocational pastors are a Great Commission powerhouse, a North American Mission Board leader told the Bivocational Small Church Leadership Network during the SBC Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

“Everything that we're doing is to reposition the North American Mission Board to get behind local churches, because you are the pacesetters,” Aaron Coe, NAMB's vice president for mobilization, told several dozen small church and bivocational pastors at the BSCLN luncheon June 14.

“If you add up all the 50 largest mega-churches, add up total attendance and they all moved to New York City, you'd only be reaching 8 percent of the population there,” Coe said. “The only way it's going to get done is through people who will rise up and step out.”

### Baptist associations: 'a biblical model'

PHOENIX (BP) – The future of the Baptist association is on solid footing, a Southern Baptist leader said, because the organization of churches within regional groups is based on a biblical model. “The future of the association is bright,” Ken Hemphill said. “I believe it's a biblical model,” therefore “survival is solved.”

“The question is, will it thrive or survive?” Hemphill asked at the June 12 plenary session of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Director of Missions at North Phoenix Baptist Church, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting June 14-15.

Hemphill, who has served as the Empowering Kingdom Growth strategist for the SBC Executive Committee, addressed about 80 directors of missions.

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### 2011 SBC

Coverage of the 2011 SBC Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

PAGE 1

### Ark. in Phoenix

Arkansas Baptists participate in the SBC Annual Meeting.

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Photo by Caleb Yarbrough



## FBC, Centerton, meets needs, shares Christ in Phoenix

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