



## ABN Digest

Stories of interest  
to Arkansas Baptists

### B21 panelists call for 'gospel intentionality'

ST. LOUIS (BP) – Southern Baptists must sacrifice traditions that hinder biblical unity and intentionally seek new ways to approach missions and evangelism, said panelists at the eighth annual Baptist 21 luncheon June 14, during the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting in St. Louis. J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church of Raleigh-Durham, N.C., told moderator Jon Akin that he attributed the denominational decline in baptisms to a “loss of evangelistic intentionality,” in addition to the lack of reporting churches. “In the churches it can’t just be everybody’s got a rock star pastor with people coming,” said Greear, whose church leads the SBC with more than 120 missionaries serving overseas with the International Mission Board.

### Connect316 defends 'traditionalist' doctrines

ST. LOUIS (BP) – Cooperation among Southern Baptists with diverse theological views, the definition of “gospel” and the extent of the atonement were among the topics addressed at the Connect316 banquet June 14 in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention’s Annual Meeting in St. Louis. Connect316 – a coalition of Southern Baptists who advocate what they call a “traditionalist” understanding of the doctrine of salvation and disagree with some points of so-called “New Calvinism” – also presented Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson with the Jerry Vines Award for the Promotion of Whosoever Will Doctrine in Southern Baptist Life.

For more ABN Digest, go to [arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest](http://arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest)

# World Changers 'dive' into Little Rock service

Micah Overstreet  
*Arkansas Baptist News*

LITTLE ROCK – Rather than splashing into the deep end at their community swimming pools, 220 students and their leaders – ranging in age from middle school to college – chose to dive into Christian service instead.

World Changers, a Southern Baptist ministry program 26 years in the making, gives students hands-on experience in sharing the gospel through service projects.

During the week of June 12-17, 220 students and leaders served in Little Rock this summer, coming from 10 churches in Alabama, Texas and Mississippi. They worked in a variety of projects throughout the community – ranging from teaching soccer camps and vacation Bible school to performing minor construction work on homes whose owners were physically unable to do it themselves.

Participants are not paid to work; instead, they pay \$250 to participate in World Changers. This summer marks World Changers’ 10th consecutive year to bring its ministry to Little Rock.

What began with a pilot project in Tennessee in 1990 has grown to 51 service projects across the nation involving 12,000

students and leaders.

“I love working with the homeowners, and I love working on their houses,” said Brandt Ream, 15, a Texas native and World Changers volunteer. “I love World Changers because we get to work on the houses and share the great message of Jesus with them while helping them. That’s just really fun.”

Blake McCollough, a 21-year-old sponsor from Indianola, Miss., explained why he felt that bringing youth from his home church to a World Changers project would leave a greater impact on them



Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola speaks at a World Changers press conference at the home of Wilma Marks. Photo by Micah Overstreet

than would going to a normal church camp.

“I like that it’s serious. You’ve got other camps and stuff where you have some time at work, but you’re questionable about what you’re doing is really making a difference. Here, you can see that

## Overstreet to serve as ABN intern

LITTLE ROCK – Micah Overstreet, a sophomore attending Ouachita Baptist University (OBU), is serving as a summer intern at the *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN).

A double major in English and Spanish at OBU, Overstreet learned about the internship opportunity through her church, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Bauxite, and is hoping to glean insight into her prospective field.

“Often when I tell people that I am majoring in English, they automatically assume that I want to become a teacher,” said Overstreet. Yet, she is not sure yet what her

career path will be.

“My love is in writing, and this internship will, I hope, help me determine if that love extends to journalism as well,” said Overstreet.

“Our goal at the *Arkansas Baptist News* is to give our interns hands-on real-world vocational ministry experience,” said Tim Yarbrough, ABN editor/executive director. “When the summer ends, Micah will have not only a number of published articles and photographs to include in a portfolio, but also the experience of

working in a fast-paced office environment.”

Overstreet’s duties will include writing, editing, photography, field reporting and assisting with newspaper archives, website and social media updates.



Overstreet

She is the daughter of Steve and Angel Overstreet. Steve Overstreet works as an engineering technician at Central Arkansas Water in Little Rock. Angel Overstreet works in store planning at the Dillard’s corporate office in Little Rock.



Jacob Dye, 17, a senior student from The Woodlands, Texas., laughs at a joke as he scrapes old paint off of the house of Little Rock resident Wilma Marks in preparation for the application of a new coat of paint. Photo by Micah Overstreet

there’s a homeowner and you are making a difference in her life – not only just for 20 years with the added improvements to her home, but also in changing her eternity – and that’s awesome.”

Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola praised World Changers for its service during a press conference June 14.

“Of all of the things that the city of Little Rock does to reach out to this community, World Changers is singularly one of the best and most effective programs we have,” said Stodola.

By week’s end, World Changers had improved the homes and lives of 33 different homeowners – a number 11 times greater than what the city’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program could have accomplished alone, according to the mayor.

“We have a little bit of money available to build two or three homes, but the ability to reach out and improve the lives of homeowners in 33 different houses is truly a phenomenal effort,” said Stodola.

“These are homeowners, usually senior citizens on fixed incomes, who I think believe that the hand of God has come down to help them, because that’s the kind of outreach World Changers represents.”

World Changers volunteers were housed at Lifeline Baptist Church in Little Rock, starting each day promptly at 5:30 a.m. to eat a quick breakfast and head to work sites. One group worked to make repairs on the house of Little Rock resident Wilma Marks.

“I am overwhelmed. It’s so nice to be in a city where people are concerned about you,” said Marks. “I am grateful for the mayor and all you workers putting this program together and helping the elderly all over the city. It all happens to keep our community clean and livable, and that’s why we work so hard to have homes – so that when we get old we have a decent place to live. We want to keep our houses in good condition, and you’ve done that for us.”

“I’ve watched you in different areas across the city through the years and never dreamed that I’d be a recipient, but I’m very thankful to World Changers, and I’m especially thankful to you young people. It is so good to see young people who are willing to give, and I hope that they, and all of us, continue to have this attitude. Thank you, and thank God for you.”

Micah Overstreet is an intern for the *Arkansas Baptist News*.

# NAMB says Md./Del. investigation 'concluded'

ST. LOUIS (BP) – A North American Mission Board (NAMB) trustee recommendation and a messenger motion at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting were among the actions Southern Baptists took in St. Louis last week related to NAMB's dealings with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCMD).

NAMB trustees adopted a recommendation June 13 stating they have conducted a "thorough examination and review" of the entity's relationship with the BCMD and regard as "concluded" an investigation of complaints the convention, which is also known as the Mid-Atlantic Baptist Network, was mistreated.

Still, a messenger's motion the next day at the annual meeting requested an "independent, outside review" of NAMB's dealings with state conventions, including the BCMD. The motion was ruled out of order June 15, with Committee on Order of Business Chairman Andrew Herbert stating, "A motion which seeks to have the convention, this annual meeting, exercise the authority of an entity's board, is not in order."

The NAMB trustee action and messenger motion occurred three months after Will McRaney, who resigned as BCMD executive director last June, and others began post-

ing documents online alleging NAMB exerted inappropriate pressure on the BCMD regarding financial matters and McRaney's continued employment.

The NAMB trustee motion was approved unanimously and without discussion in the board's plenary session. A two-hour closed-door session preceded the vote.

McRaney tweeted an open letter to NAMB trustees June 13 stating, "What is on trial is the trustworthiness of the NAMB Trustees to do your duty to God and Southern Baptists and to extend justice."

The SBC motion, offered by Steve Wolverton of Baltimore's Canton Baptist Church, stated, "I move that the SBC Executive Committee and the NAMB board of trustees call for an independent, outside review of alleged strong-arming of state conventions," including alleged "threats signed by [NAMB president] Dr. [Kevin] Ezell in particular regarding the Mid-Atlantic Baptist Network and the dismissal of Dr. Will McRaney."

Wolverton's motion echoed concerns expressed in a May 16 petition posted on SBC Today, a blog owned and published by Connect316, a coalition of Southern Baptists who advocate what they call a "traditionalist" understanding of the doctrine of salvation.

Wolverton is among the



Kevin Ezell, (left) president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB), visits with David Platt, president of the International Mission Board, after NAMB's Send Relief Luncheon Monday, June 13 in St. Louis. The luncheon marked the launch of Send Relief, NAMB's new compassion ministry. *Photo by Chris Carter*

86 petition signatories calling for an "independent investigation" of allegations NAMB has "leverage[d]" Cooperative Program funds "to force state conventions into compliance with revised cooperative agreement terms or to influence personnel decisions."

Strategic Cooperation Agreements contain "gag orders," the petition stated, "that prevent our trusted and beloved state convention leaders from openly telling the truth about any and all ... negotiations."

Wolverton's motion made apparent reference to McRaney's Feb. 3 allegation in a letter to NAMB trustees and other SBC leaders that Ezell linked "future SBC resources" for the Maryland/Delaware

convention "to my removal" – a charge NAMB's trustee officers attempted to refute two days later by noting, "Our total investment in Maryland and Delaware rose 26.3 percent in 2012 compared to levels before Kevin [Ezell] became president, and NAMB's total funding has remained at that level or higher since that time."

A Feb. 26 letter to McRaney from NAMB's attorneys stated NAMB did not "cause your departure from your employment with the local convention."

Similarly, a March 24 statement from the BCMD categorized as "false" "any suggestion that NAMB or any of its officers "influenced the separation of Dr. McRaney's employment from the Network."

## ABN Digest

Stories of interest  
to Arkansas Baptists

### Renfroe entertains ministers' wives at AM

ST. LOUIS (BP) – Christian humorist Anita Renfroe brought laughter and encouragement to a sold-out crowd of 1,200 ministers' wives at the 2016 Ministers' Wives Luncheon held June 14 during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Known for her "estrogen-flavored" musical comedy, Renfroe began with a performance of her popular song, "Momisms," set to the music of the William Tell Overture, which sums up all the things that a mother says to her children. A former Southern Baptist pastor's wife, Renfroe said she was thankful that Scripture says that "laughter does good like a medicine" (Prov. 17:22) and "the joy of the Lord is our strength" (Neh. 8:10).

### 'Evangelism dilemma' focus of Replicate panel

ST. LOUIS (BP) – The lack of evangelism among Southern Baptists is at its heart a discipleship issue according to panelists at the Replicate Ministries breakfast. "I think the challenge we have in our convention and our churches is that we have seen discipleship and evangelism as pitted against each other," said Robby Gallaty, president of Replicate Ministries, during the June 14 gathering at the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in St. Louis. Gallaty moderated the panel that included David Platt, president of the International Mission Board; Steve Gaines, senior pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church near Memphis; J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church, Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; and Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga.

For more ABN Digest, go to  
[arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest](http://arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest)

# Debbie Moore retires from ABSC after 15 years

LITTLE ROCK – Debbie Moore has retired from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) after 15 years of service as the women's ministry and missions consultant.

"We will greatly miss a valuable member of the ABSC missions department. Debbie Moore's recent retirement from our team leaves a huge hole because of her vast knowledge of International Mission Board (IMB) personnel and missionary life," said Bob Harper, missions team leader.

A 1974 Ouachita Baptist University graduate, Moore recalled, "When I finished Ouachita I didn't know where I was going or when; I just knew I would end up in another country working with

another people group. I taught school two years after college back in my hometown and then went to seminary and then to the state convention."

After serving three years at the ABSC, Moore sensed a call to international missions and went to West Africa as a Foreign Mission Board (now IMB) missionary in 1982. She stayed there for 17 years, working first with women and girls in camp work, missions and discipleship, and later serving in disaster relief during a civil war in Liberia.

"All of our missionaries, except 11 of us, had to leave because they had small children and we were in war ... we did a

lot of disaster relief work and literacy missions," said Moore.

After completing service in Africa, Moore returned to Arkansas to work for three more years with the ABSC before returning to Africa once again with the IMB in 2002. During this term of service, she served as an English teacher in Algeria until 2007, when she returned to the ABSC to serve until her retirement in April 2016.

"To me the favorite part of anywhere I go, whatever I do, is the people. That's what makes the difference. Wherever I've lived I've loved the people."

With a total of 15 years of



Moore

# Editorial & Opinion

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have..."*

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

## A return to St. Louis

Returning to St. Louis for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) June 14-15 was a bittersweet experience for me.

St. Louis – while having one of the highest crime rates per capita of any city in the country – is a wonderful place to visit, with sites such as the Arch, great restaurants



### Pressing On

Tim Yarbrough

Phil. 3:14

to enjoy and, of course, Busch Stadium and the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team for a day out with the family.

For seven years while serving on the staff of the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC) from 1995 to 2002, I assisted in scheduling and planning the annual meeting of the state

convention. For a couple of those years, the MBC held its annual meeting in St. Louis.

It was the years that I served on the MBC Executive Board staff in Jefferson City that the so-called conservative takeover of the state convention was implemented and completed by a large group of pastors and laypeople who felt the convention had drifted from historic Baptist beliefs and principles.

I had friends on both “sides of the fence” so to speak. As the conservative resurgence progressed, I witnessed a lot of bitterness and anger among warring factions. While I was not involved in the SBC dur-

ing the national conservative resurgence during the late 1970s and 1980s, I had heard some of the same stories and wondered how men of God could treat each other in such mean-spirited ways.

Since returning to St. Louis, I have reflected on my experiences in Missouri and have paused to thank God for the harmony and unity that He has brought to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Like all Baptists everywhere, Arkansas Baptists have our differences and get into spats from time to time. But as long as we unify around the message of Jesus Christ and His cause – working diligently to see all who would hear to come to a saving knowledge of Him – we will never falter in our mission.

May God continue to bless Arkansas Baptists as we seek to make Jesus Christ known in the Natural State.

Tim Yarbrough is editor/executive director of the ABN. Contact him by email at [tim@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:tim@arkansasbaptist.org).

Cartoon by Gary Thomas



## It's a 'spiritual issue' – Wofford

*Editor's Note: Below is a response to Russell Moore, President of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, from John Wofford, pastor of Armored Baptist Church in Armored, following a question Wofford posed to Moore during the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis regarding the building of mosques in the United States. Wofford's response is printed in its entirety.*



### Viewpoint

John Wofford

I fully understand the Constitution of the United States of America upholds and protects the freedom of religion for its citizens. I also understand that this freedom applies to all faiths. I thank God for this country in which I live and the freedoms that I and others have been so blessed to enjoy. I am thank-

ful for the many men and women who have given their lives to defend these freedoms and for those who are currently serving to maintain them. Yes, I know the freedom of religion as granted by our civil government applies to all faiths. But, the issue I was addressing with Dr. Moore was not a civil government issue. Rather, it was a spiritual issue.

The question I put before Dr. Moore was: “Do you actually believe that if Jesus Christ were here today that He would support this and that He would stand up and say, ‘Well, let us protect the rights of those Baal worshipers to erect temples to Baal?’ Do you believe that Dr. Moore?”

That was a very simple question, and it is the question that was not answered; therefore, it remains.

Let me interject at this point that I was not given a chance for rebuttal to Dr. Moore’s “non-answer” response to my question because my microphone was immediately turned off. No one approached me for further discussion; neither have I since then been contacted by Dr. Moore nor any other member of leadership within the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). Therefore, I would like to clarify at this point what may have been misunderstood by others,



especially those outside of the SBC, as to the intent of my question.

I understand that the Constitution of the United States of America defends religious freedom for all; yet more importantly, as a Christian I believe that true “soul freedom” is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ. Though I am a Baptist according to doctrinal convictions and practice, first and foremost, I am a Christian. Likewise, while I am an American citizen, more importantly, I am a Christian.

Therefore, as a Christian, my first allegiance is to Jesus Christ and His Word, not a denomination, a convention

or a civil government. Jesus Christ is the One who gave His life for me. He is the One who was crucified, buried and arose from the grave to pay the penalty of my sins and thus provide salvation for my soul. My denomination did not give me this salvation. Neither did my country.

As a Christian, I believe that God has commanded us: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Ex. 20:3, KJV). Jesus said that the first and greatest commandment is to: “Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and with all thy strength” (Matt. 22:37, KJV). He also said: “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve”

See **MOSQUE** page 7



Volume 115, Number 13  
USPS08021  
Member of the Association  
of State Baptist Publications  
Arkansas Press Association  
Evangelical Press Association

Telling the story of  
Arkansas Baptists since 1901  
Tim Yarbrough, editor/exec. director  
Jeanie Weber, administrative assistant  
Caleb Yarbrough, associate editor  
Margaret Colson, writer/copy editor  
Barbara Vick, circulation coordinator  
Dewayne Tanton, field strategist  
Advertising: [ads@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:ads@arkansasbaptist.org)  
Phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5161

Toll-free 800-838-2272, ext. 5161  
Arkansas Baptist News (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly except the last issue of the year (25 issues) by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.  
SUBSCRIPTION rates are \$7.75 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$8.75 per year (Group Plan), \$15 per year (Individual).  
Arkansas Baptist News, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.; phone 501-376-4791;

toll-free 800-838-2272; email: [abn@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:abn@arkansasbaptist.org). Periodical Postage paid at Little Rock, AR. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Send Letters to the Editor to [tim@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:tim@arkansasbaptist.org) or to our mailing address. Letters must be typed, doublespaced and 300 words or less (fewer words the better). Letters must be signed and marked “for publication” and may be edited to fit space requirements. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist News, 10 Remington Drive,

Little Rock, AR 72204. BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Lyndon Finney, Little Rock, president; Bob Beach, vice president; Mary Kisor, Pottsville, secretary; James Bryant, Harrison; Jennifer Bryant, New Edinburg; Stephanie Copes, Crossett; Danny Allen, Rison; Jennifer Booth, Little Rock; Carey Trickey, Judsonia; Troy Sharp, Desha; Doug Hibbard, East End; Mike Sheets, Texarkana; Mike Vinson, Corning; Juel Zeiser, Hot Springs Village; Tommy Jacobs, Lexa.

## The BF&M journey



### Family Matters

Ben Phillips

In July 2015 then-Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Ronnie Floyd challenged pastors to preach sermon series on the Baptist Faith and Message (BF&M). Reflecting on that challenge, I realized that my children (ages 19, 16 and 12) had never heard a sermon series on the BF&M nor read through it. I laid out a plan for our family to read through the BF&M over the next 25 weeks. We read a specific article each day and the foundational Scriptures for the article over the course of a week. I challenged our family to reflect on the Scriptures and how they connected to the article.

Our family reflected on the benefits of reading through the BF&M together. Hayden liked the variety of Bible verses he read. Christian said reading the BF&M and Scriptures enabled him to build a biblical foundation for understanding what he believed. It's been said, "If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything." Megan gained a better understanding of the way she should live her life as a disciple of Christ. The topics and Scriptures that followed each article provided sound doctrine for her walk with God. Karen learned that discussing what we believe at home enables us to outwardly proclaim the gospel with confidence to a lost world. I learned the importance of leading my family to discuss Scripture and theology to prepare them to engage our increasingly secular culture.

In June 2016, we finished reading through the BF&M prior to the 2016 SBC Annual Meeting in St. Louis. My family engaged in the time of prayer for revival and spiritual awakening on Tuesday evening. They saw a denomination unify across racial and other challenges to passionately pray for God to bring revival and spiritual awakening and raise up laborers for the harvest in fulfilling the Great Commission.

My challenge is that fathers and pastors will lead in their homes and churches to equip families to know what they believe and why they believe so that the next generation of laborers can share the gospel with boldness and clarity to fulfill the Great Commission.

Ben Phillips serves on the ABSC evangelism and church health team.

# Camp Paron: 'A treasured jewel'

Nestled in the Ouachita mountains outside of Little Rock lies a beautiful gem that belongs to Arkansas Baptists – Camp Paron. Purchased in 1962 and active with campers in 1964, Camp Paron has a rich tradition of being used by God to impact eternity.

There is a lot of excitement at Camp Paron these days. Last year usage was up 54 percent over the previous year with 5,500 people using the camp. This year, at the end of May, usage was up 15 percent over the same time last year.

Arkansas Baptists are incredibly blessed to have new Camp Director John Hoogendoorn, serving with his wife Sherrie, coming to us from the former Glorieta Baptist Conference Center in New Mexico. We are also blessed to have Samantha Tischer serving as assistant camp director. Samantha comes to us by way of Wyoming, but she has served as an intern at Camp Siloam and has worked at Super Summer. Upon meeting these three, you will be immediately impressed by their kind spirits, gracious hospitality, eagerness to serve and leadership abilities.

These fine leaders at Camp Paron have initiated immediate changes on several levels. Examples of the qual-

ity transitions are: development of a volunteer program with multiple volunteers serving, remodeling of the Snack Shack, multiple landscape/décor and remodel projects and improved A/V system, a redeveloped structure to host groups that need to be separated from the rest of the camp and cook for themselves, and the first-ever programmed camp called Recharge, led by speaker John Schaffner and the worship team from Second Baptist Church in Conway.

Pastoral staff are learning that Camp Paron offers them a free retreat getaway at the beautiful guesthouse.

Camp Paron is funded by user fees and your generous gifts to missions through the Cooperative Program.

I anticipate Camp Paron to continue to grow as a premier camp, camp facility, retreat center and pastoral staff getaway.

Just like everything we have as Arkansas Baptists – it is created by you and for you. I hope you will use this treasured jewel called Camp Paron.

J.D. "Sonny" Tucker is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



### Executive Directions

Sonny Tucker

## Sweet summertime is upon us

Sweet summertime, summertime is upon us. Not only are the temps and humidity rising, (and the number of mosquitos if you live in Stuttgart), but all across Arkansas, churches that make up the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) are taking a deep breath and shifting into "summer mode" high gear. Church calendars are filled with events and activities, many which require lots of volunteers and most which are opportunities to share the good news, including Camp Siloam, Super Summer, vacation Bible school (VBS) and mission trips.

Recently, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart, sent 32 campers for the first week of Camp Siloam. By the end of the week, seven of our campers had trusted Jesus as Savior and Lord. Only two of those were children from our church; the others were friends they invited. All glory to God! I haven't heard the final results for week one, but I know there were several others who made life-changing decisions for Christ.

Each summer, Camp Siloam is blessed with hundreds of children and students coming to faith in Christ. Although there are several reasons for the success of Camp Siloam, two primary reasons come to my mind. First, Arkansas Baptists are praying for children and students to be saved. Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, and keep on interceding for children and students! Also, Jason Wilkie and the Camp Siloam staff have spent several months and an incredible number of hours in planning and preparation.

Whether we are talking about Camp Siloam, Super Summer, VBS or a mission trip, we know that prayer and preparation are key factors to the success of any ministry. I am thankful for the tremendous resources available through our ABSC to help churches plan and prepare for our mission in our community and the world.



### President's Perspective

Sam Roberts

Your ABSC missions team has a new resource designed to help prepare the mission volunteers you are sending across North America and around the world. Travelers' Shield is a traveler safety and emergency response program offered to all ABSC churches and entities. It is important to know that Travelers' Shield is not an insurance program for short-term mission volunteers, but it is a resource to provide security training for mission volunteers prior to their trip and emergency travel support and crisis contact services if needed during their trip.

Here's how it works. The church or entity, as the sending agency, signs up for Travelers' Shield via the ABSC website at [absc.org/ministries/travelers-shield](http://absc.org/ministries/travelers-shield). An annual fee of \$100 is forwarded to the ABSC. Individuals cannot be covered under the Travelers' Shield program without a church or entity serving as the sending agency.

Once the application has been completed and the annual fee paid, for a short-term mission team to be covered, all volunteers are required to register online with Travelers' Shield, complete a volunteer information form, and complete at least the basic A-level security training through Travelers' Shield. The A-level security training is currently offered in two formats: live training at the ABSC (\$50) or online training (\$25). Once the training is complete, the individual is covered under Travelers' Shield for two years.

Check out the link above to learn more about this new resource, and help us promote Travelers' Shield across Arkansas.

We know the world is a dangerous place, but we also know our Lord has commissioned us to go into the world with the gospel. As we go, let's pray and let's prepare!

Sam Roberts is senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Stuttgart and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



## Support the ABN!

A fund for the Arkansas Baptist News (ABN) has been established at the Arkansas Baptist Foundation. Consider helping the official news journal of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for years to come by including the ABN in your will or by making a contribution to the ABN. Contact the Foundation at 501-376-0732 for more information.

# Camp Siloam: Lessons of the light

As you walk, the candle will teach you. Listen for the lessons of the light," I said to the summer staff as they departed on a candle light prayer walk of Camp Siloam. The prayer walk, which we do just before campers arrive, has become one of my favorite traditions. This summer the walk was more impactful because of the Scripture theme, "At one time you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8, ESV).

The summer staff walked the length of the valley

praying in total darkness except for the candles they held. They used the natural beauty of the camp as prayer prompts. Every once in a while, I would sneak a peak. Around me it was black, except for 75 points of light all moving toward the same destination. As I approached the west ball field, I could see the lights had gathered in a bright circle. Then I could hear the faint elevation of praise, and I joined in. It was a perfect metaphor of souls



## Camp Siloam

Jason Wilkie

leaving earth and arriving in heaven.

After a few songs, I said, "Tell me what lessons the light taught you."

"If I walked too fast, my candle would flicker and go out. God wants me to slow down and walk with Him," said one voice. "I was tempted to pull out my phone so I could see better," said another voice. "My desire for my phone was like trading something the Lord had provided for something of the world."

"I couldn't see when I held the light close to me," said another voice. "But when I lifted the light high, then I could see everything I needed. When we lift high the name of Jesus, we have everything we need." "My light went out. I saw Caleb on the road, and he shared the light with me. Then we walked together," said another voice. On and on went the metaphors of walking with a candle to walking with the

spiritual Light of Jesus.

That night the staff taught each other more about what it meant to be a child of Light than any sermon. One of the things that I love about summer camp is we use experiences to teach. A good facilitator draws the parables out of the students' experiences. The kingdom of God is like a candle in the night.

Jason Wilkie is executive director of Camp Siloam.



# ABCHomes: Milestones of life

Milestones. They mark the significant events and progress in one's life. In the life of an adult, these may be getting married, the birth of your first child, retirement and the birth of your first grandchild. Equally important are the milestones in our children's lives. Recently, on the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children Monticello campus, we had three such examples of children reaching milestones in their lives.

First, a 16-year-old young man had been led to Christ by one of the boys in his family home, but he was leaving our program to return home before he could be baptized at our local church. It was

important to this young man to be baptized before he left us. So, we did what any self-respecting Southern Baptist would do - we improvised. In the presence of our staff, his youth minister and his father, we baptized him in our swimming pool, just moments before he left us to go home. A Christian milestone was met.

Second, after two years in our ministry at the children's home, another young man graduated from high school. His parents and grandparents were present to join with



## ABCHomes

Randy Luper

us in the celebration of this milestone in his life. Already 19 years old, he will continue with us as he attends a nearby heavy equipment school. It is important to us that our young adult children are truly independent and self-sufficient before they leave us and launch out on their own.

Finally, after almost six years in our ministry (nearly two years at the children's home and four years in our college program), one of our young women recently graduated from college at Arkansas

Tech University. Staff and family rejoiced with her at reaching another important milestone in her life. At the writing of this article, she has an interview with a Fort Smith TV station. We lift up our prayers as she begins her chosen career in mass communication.

The children of Israel were commanded to take 12 stones from the Jordan River as they crossed over on dry ground and set them up as a milestone to remember what

the Lord had done. We thank you, as Arkansas Baptists, for remembering the ministry God began in 1894 at the children's home and grew it to the ministry it is today, helping children and families in crisis. Thank you for helping our children and families to

reach important milestones on their journeys to the kingdom.

Randy Luper is campus director at the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello.



# Williams Baptist: World Series reflections

As you may have heard, softball season was pretty exciting at Williams Baptist College. Our Lady Eagles made it to the NAIA World Series in Sioux City, Iowa, where they finished sixth in the nation!

Part of the joy for us has been watching these special ladies as they experienced such an achievement.

Before the team left for the World Series, our community held a wonderful pep rally in downtown Walnut Ridge. One of the most touching moments of the event was seeing several young girls, in their local softball league uniforms, coming forward to

wish our team well. Senior catcher Hayley Overbay wrote on Facebook that night:

"This is what makes this game all worth it. Moments like these. Knowing that every 6 a.m. workout, every extra swing, and every time you

step between the chalk lines matter. Little bodies that come up and are completely engrossed with your every word. You're humbled and reminded of the little girl that first fell in love with the game and the red seams that stitched her life together. Thank you City of Walnut



## Williams Baptist

Brett Cooper

Ridge for this send off but more importantly for letting me call you 'home' the past four years! Proud to represent Williams Baptist College! Sioux City Bound!"

And as the World Series started, it was again Overbay who put things in their proper perspective: "As I was reflecting this morning on the fact that this is my last tournament, my last time to suit up in catchers' gear, and my last time to represent the Lady Eagles it was brought to my attention that we've all been going 90 to

nothing with no time for rest. Graduation. Conference tournament. Pod play. And now Top 10. No room to breathe.

"I was reminded by a great friend of Mark 6:31, 'Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' I was reminded of why we play and WHO we play for. I was reminded to take a step back

and see where we've come and to find rest in my Father! Playing today for something higher than ourselves!"

Arkansas Baptists, those are the kinds of students you are reaching through the ministry of Williams Baptist College. Yes, we are delighted with their top-six finish. But we are infinitely more excited to see God at work in their midst.

Brett Cooper is vice president for institutional advancement at Williams Baptist College.



## Letters to the Editor

### Target & the SBC

Target department stores were in the business of selling merchandise and were doing quite well at it until they decided to get involved with social politics. Since their statement of April 19 giving biological men access to women's bathrooms, they have lost \$10 billion dollars, and the bottom has fallen out of their stock.

Likewise, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was gaining support across the board, but now some of our leaders have embraced and defended the Muslims' efforts to build more mosques. Why do Russell Moore of the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and others feel

compelled to take issue with every issue?

The overall tone of Moore's defense of the growth of Islam in America is that if we concede to them, perhaps we can win them to Christ. We read in 1 Samuel 11:2 that the price of a peace treaty with Nahash the Ammonite would be indeed high and that it required a sacrifice of half the vision of God's people.

"And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, 'On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel'" (1 Sam. 11:2).

Read the Book. In every instance in the Bible where God's people conceded to the

enemy, they were defeated.

So some think that by our embracing Muslim causes, they will come into our churches? Oh, they will come in all right, but not for the reason Moore and others had hoped.

**Greg Pierce**

Associational missionary  
Ashley Co. Baptist Assoc.

### Baptists & religious freedom

Pastor John Wofford has asked an important question at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention that deserves a thoughtful answer. He objected to the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), along with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJCPA) and others, opposing a local government's violation of the Religious Land Use Act by denying a mosque's building permit. He asked, "If Jesus Christ were here today, would He support this?"

I cannot say what Jesus would do, but I do know what Jesus has said. In answer to

a question He said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21, KJV). Jesus was teaching us that we are members of two kingdoms, religious and civil. Jesus did not ask the Sanhedrin or the Roman government to fulfill His mission. He did speak in opposition to them when their actions were wrong. I believe that is what the ERLC has done. They opposed an action that violates a principle that Baptists have fought for over the years.

The religious liberty principle the ERLC was upholding is part of our foundational Baptist doctrinal beliefs and practices. It was not long ago that Baptists were denied the right to build houses of worship in America. Baptists were imprisoned and killed because of our beliefs. Baptists led the fight for the First Amendment guaranteeing religious freedom.

I lived in a communist country where the government would not allow churches to

be built and would even destroy churches. I am thankful that we live in a country where all have freedom to worship as they please. If the price we pay is that mosques are allowed to be built, then so be it. Our responsibility is to take the gospel to the people and share with them the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord and salvation only comes through Him.

Because of Southern Baptists' strong stand against homosexuality, abortion and same-sex marriage, there are local governments who would love to deny Baptists the right to build houses of worship. If we do not stop the denial of those rights to others now, in the future we will be the ones being persecuted. The ERLC and the BJCPA are not supporting the building of mosques; they are opposing government's ability to decide who can and cannot build places of worship.

**Ron West**

Retired missionary  
Little Rock

## DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



### Christ-centered Higher Education

At Dallas Baptist University, integrating faith and learning is at the heart of what we do because it is the heart of who we are.

With 71 undergraduate majors, 27 master's degrees, and two doctoral degrees, DBU's Christ-centered education prepares students to be servant leaders with the skills and knowledge necessary to impact the world—all to the glory of God.

**DBU**  
DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Learn more about DBU  
by visiting [www.dbu.edu](http://www.dbu.edu)  
or calling 1-800-460-1328.

## MOSQUE

*continued from page 4*

(Luke 4:8, KJV).

Furthermore, we are instructed by God to "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Eph. 5:11, KJV) and to not be "unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" (2 Cor. 6:14-15, KJV). We are also told that if someone comes to us who does not bring the doctrine of Christ, we are not to bid him "God speed" (2 John 1:10, KJV).

So, the question is: "Would Jesus Christ stand in a court of law, defending the rights of a false religion to erect mosques, temples or other places of worship, which are clearly in violation of the first and second commandments of God?" I think not.

For me, the Bible is very clear that we as Christians are

to have no fellowship with the works of darkness, nor are we to enter into coalitions or allegiances with unbelievers, especially as it pertains to their false worship. If we enter into an interfaith group and begin to lobby for or to assist them in the erecting of their places of worship, we have violated the clear teachings and instructions found in the Word of God,

and we have become partakers with them in their sin. If we thus grieve the Holy Spirit by our transgression,

what power will we have in our witness to them? How can we expect God to bless our ministry if we defy His commands? Dare we tempt the Lord our God so?

As a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ, I desire to see men turn from their idols and serve the living and true God (1 Thess. 1:9, KJV). Why then would I waste my efforts or money in helping them to erect places of false worship, which keeps them under con-

demnation and invalidates my witness of the one true God? I guess you could say that I am in business to save the souls of men; I am not in business of helping them go to hell.

In conclusion, I have been called by some a "bigot" and a "racist." It has been said I am a "fearful hater" who wants to "deny men their religious freedoms." This is simply not

true. I hate no one, nor do I fear any man — only God. I do not care what race, sexual orientation or religion a person

may have. Like my heavenly Father, I desire that "all men would be saved and come to the knowledge of truth" (1 Tim. 2:4, KJV). Grace and truth have come by Christ Jesus, for He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

May God grant that we Christians in the SBC will love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, so that we may then truly love our neighbors as we should.



John Wofford, pastor of Armorel Baptist Church in Armorel, poses a question during the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting.

# BAPTISTS

*continued from page one*

were more than 9,645 messengers in attendance.

## Presidential election

Messengers cast their votes among three candidates for SBC president: David Crosby, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, New Orleans; J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church, Raleigh, N.C.; and Steve Gaines, senior pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

On the first ballot, Greear led with 44.97 percent of the vote, compared to 44.1 percent for Gaines and 10.08 percent for Crosby, leading to a run-off between Greear and Gaines.

On the second ballot, neither Gaines nor Greear obtained a majority, with Gaines receiving 49.96 percent, Greear 47.80 percent and 108 ballots ruled illegal.

Messengers would have had to choose for the second time among the same two presidential candidates for what Chief Parliamentarian Barry McCarty called the first time in SBC history, but Greear withdrew his candidacy and moved that the convention elect Gaines by acclamation. Recording secretary John Yeats said the presidential election has not gone to a third ballot in at least 20 years, the time that Yeats has served as recording secretary.

Prior to Gaines' election by acclamation by messengers, Floyd asked both Greear and Gaines to come to the podium to address messengers.

Greear said he decided to withdraw after praying Tuesday night because Southern Baptists "need to leave St. Louis united."

"There is no way that God is not doing something in all of this," said Gaines. "J.D. is one of the finest men of God I know, and I love him."

"We talked last night," Gaines said. "J.D. felt strongly this is what God wanted him to do, saying, 'All I want is for Jesus to be lifted high.'"

"It is time for all of us to get involved," said Greear. "We can do more together than apart. We stand together because God saved us and we want to see Him save others. I move that we elect Steve Gaines by acclamation as SBC president."

Following the vote, Floyd

told messengers and guests, "We must celebrate the work of God in this pastoral moment."

## Racial reconciliation

The Resolutions Committee originally proposed a resolution calling believers "to consider prayerfully whether to limit, or even more so, discontinue its (the Confederate flag's) display," while also stating that for some the Confederate battle flag is not "a symbol of hatred, bigotry, and racism" (See related story, page 9).

Former SBC President James Merritt moved that the reference to the flag's not being a racist symbol for some be removed and that the convention call believers to "discontinue the display of the Confederate battle flag as a sign of solidarity with the whole Body of Christ, including our African American brothers and sisters."

Messengers adopted Merritt's amendment and the resolution by wide margins after he told the convention support of the flag hinders evangelism among African Americans and said, "Southern Baptists are not a people of any flag. We march under the banner of the cross of Jesus and the grace of God."

During a nationally televised prayer service that night, Young said the wall of racism "is already down." Hours before the resolution's adoption, Young told Southern Baptists that racism in America stems in part from the church's failure to be salt and light. "Somebody needs to pass the salt and turn on the lights," he said.

Young's comments came during a racial unity panel discussion, which also included a multiethnic array of Southern Baptist leaders.

Floyd, outgoing SBC president and pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, called racism "an assault on the gospel of Jesus Christ" during his presidential address. He recognized the great great granddaughter of Dred Scott, the slave who was party to the infamous Supreme Court decision bearing his name. "Any form of racism," Floyd said, "defies the dignity of human life."

## Prayer for awakening

The Tuesday night "national call to prayer" featured two hours of prayer for awakening in America and around

the world. Brief addresses were delivered by a multi-denominational team of leaders, including former SBC President Johnny Hunt, Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma, California pastor and evangelist Greg Laurie and Young.

## Pastors, politics, liberty

A Wednesday afternoon panel discussion considered the role of pastors and churches in American politics. The panel featured five pastors and written comments submitted by Liberty Counsel founder and chairman Mat Staver, who was unable to attend.

During the panel discussion, Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, said the three most important issues in the 2016 U.S. presidential election are the sanctity of life, religious liberty and the appointment of Supreme Court justices. K. Marshall Williams, pastor of Nazarene Baptist Church in Philadelphia, said believers should also consider "systemic racism and injustice" as well as "the pipeline from school to prison" among African American males.

A resolution adopted by messengers "encouraged Southern Baptists and all followers of Jesus Christ in the United States to participate in the democratic process by voting."

On at least three occasions, messengers addressed Muslims' right to build mosques in America.

A motion from the floor asked the convention to remove from their positions Southern Baptist "officers" and "officials" who support Muslims' right to build mosques in America. A separate motion asked the SBC to withdraw its amicus brief in a federal lawsuit involving the Islamic Society of Basking

Ridge (N.J.). Both motions were ruled out of order, with the Committee on Order of Business noting the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) signed onto an amicus brief, not the SBC. The International Mission Board (IMB) also signed the brief.

During the ERLC report, messenger John Wofford, pastor of Armored Baptist Church, Armored, asked ERLC President Russell Moore how any Southern Baptist can defend the right to build mosques because Muslims "threaten our very way of existence as Christians and Americans." Moore responded that part of "what it means to be a Baptist is to support soul freedom for everyone." The gospel, not government coercion, is the answer to Islam, Moore said. (See related commentary, page 4).

## Missions and evangelism

Messengers adopted an Executive Committee resolution of appreciation for Wanda Lee, retiring executive director/treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Union. The resolution noted that during Lee's 16-plus years of service, WMU has helped raise nearly a combined \$3 billion for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter

Offering for North American Missions - "which constitutes more than one-half of the total amount raised through these two offerings since they began being reported."

IMB President David Platt reported that following a "difficult" reduction this year of more than 1,000 missionaries, "for 2017, we will be operating with a balanced budget with the stage set for a healthy financial future." He thanked Southern Baptists for a record Lottie Moon Offering for 2015-16, which exceeded the previous high mark by more than \$11 million.

North American Mission Board (NAMB) President Kevin Ezell said NAMB planted 926 churches last year. Among all NAMB church plants, one person is baptized annually for every 14 church members. In established churches, the ratio is one baptism per 52 members, Ezell said.

Crossover St. Louis, the convention's evangelistic blitz preceding the annual meeting, yielded 556 professions of faith in Christ as Lord and Savior, the first increase in three years.

In other news:

- Messengers granted final approval for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

Trusted by more than  
43,000 churches.

BY SPECIALIZING IN CHURCH INSURANCE FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS, WE HAVE DEVELOPED THE INDUSTRY'S FINEST LINEUP OF COVERAGES AND SERVICES:

- ✓ Property and liability coverage
- ✓ Business Auto
- ✓ Workers' Comp
- ✓ Free risk management resources
- ✓ Umbrella

Call now for a FREE quote!



**Loren Dyson**  
(800) 688-3641 (Office)  
(501) 951-0632 (Cell)  
2200 Hidden Valley Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72212  
ldyson@inscntr.com

**GuideOne**  
Insurance

JOHN 12:24  
**REP•LI•CATE**  
FALL RETREAT

Date: September 23rd - 25th, 2016

Cost: \$85 | 7th - 12th grade

Register Today - 479.524.4565

[www.campsiloam.com](http://www.campsiloam.com)

to change its name to Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

- A scheduled panel discussion in which all entity heads would have fielded messenger questions together was canceled because the Executive Committee did not approve an SBC bylaw change to allow the panel format for entity questions. Instead, each entity president fielded questions following his report.

- Messengers made 22 motions, with 12 ruled out of order and 10 referred to entities or committees. (See related story, page 10).

- Twelve resolutions addressed topics including the June 12 terrorist attack in Orlando, Fla.; "biblical sexuality and the freedom of conscience"; requiring women to register for the military draft; and ministry to refugees. (See related story, page 12).

- Illinois pastor Doug Munton was elected first vice president without opposition. Missouri pastor Malachi O'Brien was elected second vice president from among two other nominees. Yeats was reelected to a 20th term as recording secretary, and Jim Wells was reelected registration secretary for a 15th term.

- A Tuesday morning ceremony honored America and

its veterans, with an appearance by one of the 2,000 remaining survivors of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. A messenger's motion requested that future SBC online registration forms ask messengers whether they have served in the military and that such service be indicated on messenger badges.

- McCarty was honored upon the 30th anniversary of his first service as chief parliamentarian to the convention. A former minister in the Stone-Campbell tradition, McCarty joined a Southern Baptist church by baptism last summer and accepted a position on the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

*This report was compiled with reporting by Baptist Press and the Arkansas Baptist News.*



Ronnie Floyd, outgoing president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), leads the panel discussion "A National Conversation on Racial Unity in America" during the annual meeting of the SBC in St. Louis Tuesday, June 14. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

## SBC repudiates display of Confederate flag

ST. LOUIS (BP) - Messengers to the 2016 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) renounced display of the Confederate battle flag in a historic, overwhelming vote June 14.

SBC Parliamentarian Barry McCarty explained the resolution amendment process after a messenger complained about not being allowed to speak

after time expired during the afternoon session of the annual meeting of the SBC in St. Louis.

The convention adopted late in its afternoon session a resolution that urged "brothers and sisters in Christ to discontinue the display of the Confederate battle flag as a sign of solidarity of the whole body of Christ, including our African American brothers and sisters."

The resolution was one of seven adopted by messengers, but time for the report concluded before five other measures from the Resolutions Committee were allowed to be considered. The convention acted on the remaining resolutions in its June 15 session.

The Confederate battle flag resolution was another step in the convention's effort to address its past actions regarding slavery and racism. The SBC, which began in 1845 in part in support of slaveholding missionaries, approved a resolution in 1995 repenting of racism and asking for forgiveness from African American Christians.

It also has acted in a variety of ways in an attempt to bring about racial reconciliation and involve African Americans and other minorities in leadership roles in the convention.

The SBC Resolutions Committee brought a proposal to the messengers calling for "sensitivity and unity" regard-

ing display of the Confederate battle flag. Its resolution called for Christians who display the flag "to consider prayerfully whether to limit, or even more so, discontinue its display" because of the "undeniably painful impact of the flag's symbolism on others."

After two messengers spoke against the resolution, former SBC President James Merritt offered an amendment that went beyond the committee's proposed language. His two-fold amendment deleted a paragraph that said the flag "serves for some not as a symbol of hatred, bigotry, and racism, but as a memorial to their loved ones who died in the Civil War, and an emblem to honor their loved ones' valor." It also removed language about prayerful consideration and called for a halt to displaying the flag.

Merritt, lead pastor of Cross Pointe Church in Duluth, Ga., said he offered the amendment not just as a pastor but as the great, great grandson of two men who fought in the Confederate Army.

"[N]o one can deny" the Confederate battle flag is "a stumbling block" for many African Americans to the witness of Southern Baptists, Merritt told messengers.

In a comment that produced a partial standing ovation, he said, "[A]ll the Confederate flags in the world are not worth one soul of any

race."

Calling it "a seminal moment in our convention," Merritt said, "This is not a matter of political correctness. It is a matter of spiritual conviction and biblical compassion. We have a golden opportunity to say to every person of every race, ethnicity and nationality that Southern Baptists are not a people of any flag. We march under the banner of the cross of Jesus and the grace of God.

"Today, we can say loudly and clearly to a world filled with racial strife and division that Southern Baptists are not in the business of building barriers and burning bridges," he said. "We're about building bridges and tearing down barriers."

Messengers approved both the amendment and the amended resolution by wide margins.

After the vote, Paul Pressler, a leader in the SBC's conservative resurgence and a messenger from Second Baptist Church in Houston, protested in a point of order he was unfairly prevented from addressing the resolution, apparently in opposition.

McCarty explained that the electronic microphone ordering box for recognizing messengers is a "blind" system and Pressler had not been treated unjustly. He advised SBC President Ronnie Floyd to rule the point of order not well taken, which Floyd did.

Download Our Free  
Church-Bus Buyers Guide.



THEBUSCENTER.com  
Endorsed by LifeWay  
CHRISTIAN STORES

Sam Moore Evangelistic Ministries



479-381-1170,  
sam@evangelistsammoore.com

Sam Moore is a vocational evangelist and a native of Arkansas. He has the gift of an evangelist and the heart of a pastor. He is available for Revivals, Crusades, Harvest Days and Witness Training. Now scheduling for 2016.

www.evangelistsammoore.com

# 10 of 22 messenger motions referred to SBC entities

ST. LOUIS – Motions by three Arkansas Baptist messengers were included among those made and acted upon by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) June 14-15 in St. Louis.

Messengers proposed 22 motions, the most since 2010. Ten motions were referred to convention entities for further study and for a report at the 2017 SBC meeting in Phoenix.

The Committee on Order of Business automatically referred four motions to SBC entities and/or the Executive Committee:

– A motion by Steve Bailey of Calvary Baptist Church, Osceola, for the SBC to amend its bylaws to require all nomination speeches for officers of the SBC to include the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts given by the

nominee's church. The motion was referred to the Executive Committee.

– A motion by Lonnie Wilkey of Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory, Tenn., to ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies, and if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee and committee meetings be open to the public. The motion was referred to the Executive Committee and all SBC entities.

– A motion by Victoria Gurgone of Peace Church, Wilson, N.C., for the Executive Committee to consider adding a "veteran" and/or "active duty" option on the online registration form, as well as adding "veteran" and/or "active duty" to SBC name badges. The mo-

tion was referred to the Executive Committee.

– A motion by Graham Weaver of Lenexa Baptist Church, Lenexa, Kan., to encourage past and present SBC presidents to write their memoirs through LifeWay Christian Resources. The motion was referred to LifeWay Christian Resources.

Messengers approved the referral of five motions to the Executive Committee:

– A motion by Doug Hibbard of East End Baptist Church, East End, for the Executive Committee to consider amending the SBC bylaws to require all amendments to the report of the Committee on Nominations within 45 days of the annual meeting be published no later than seven days before the annual meeting.

– A motion by Richard Spring of First Baptist Church,

Hesperia, Calif., to amend the SBC constitution to add the affirmation, approval or endorsement of racial discrimination as a criteria by which churches would be deemed to be not in cooperation with the convention.

– A motion by Andy Perryman of First Baptist Church, Washington, Ga., to amend the SBC constitution to make intentional cooperation with a state convention and a local association criteria by which a church is deemed to be in friendly cooperation with the SBC.

– A motion by Steve Taylor of Northeast Park Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind., for the Executive Committee to study the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 article on faith, "as the definition of faith given is lacking the idea of belief, but describes faith as 'a personal

commitment of the entire personality."

– A motion by Ed Stetzer of Grace Church, Gallatin, Tenn., for the Executive Committee to study the possibility of the SBC affiliating with the National Association of Evangelicals and to report its findings at the 2017 Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix.

Messengers approved the referral of one motion to the Committee on Order of Business:

– A motion by John Boquist of Cardinal Baptist Church, Ruther Glen, Va., that the Committee on Order of Business, when planning the 2017 Southern Baptist Convention, be advised to allot more than one hour and 14 minutes for the reports and presentations of the North American and International Mission Boards.

Twelve motions were ruled

## ADVISOR

*continued from page one*

board membership are not an endorsement of Trump's U.S. presidential quest, but an "avenue to voice what matters to evangelicals."

"In this critical time in America, knowing the stakes have never been higher in our nation and after seeking the counsel of godly men and praying through this decision, I have agreed to serve on the Evangelical Executive Advisory Board for Donald Trump," Floyd said. "With the evangelical concerns of Supreme Court appointments, the sanctity and dignity of human life from the womb to the tomb, religious liberty at home and abroad, Israel and the Middle East, poverty, crime, violence, lack of opportunity in urban areas, and racial tension, I believe it is incumbent on me to serve in this advisory capacity."

Event visionary, organizer and United in Purpose CEO Bill Dallas said the attendance of major ministry leaders and small-church pastors alike shows the concern and power of faith leaders to transform culture.

"This is not a political rally, but rather an opportunity to unify leaders spiritually in worship and pray together and interact with a candidate in a way that can have a profound

impact on our nation," Dallas said. "Our society often exalts those with the most influence, but the real impact is all of us coming together. As Christian leaders, we must engage ~ not just in politics, but in all areas of culture. Jointly, we can make a difference."

Newly elected SBC President Steve Gaines attended the meeting but chose not to comment about the event, according to communications director Jim Barnwell at Gaines' pastorate Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis.

Executive advisory board member Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, has supported Trump for months.

"He talked about his commitment to appoint conservative Supreme Court justices, his firm belief in the sanctity of life and his real desire to protect the religious freedoms of all Americans, but certainly Christian Americans," Jeffress said.

What Jeffress understands about Trump's Christianity is between the two of them as friends, the pastor said.

"I can say publicly, Mr. Trump's faith is very important to him, but it's also very personal to him," Jeffress said. "And I think what evangelical Christians need to know is that if Donald Trump is elected president, evangelicals will have a true friend in the White House."



The **generation revitalization** event will provide basic youth and children/preschool ministry training.

## Dates & Locations

August 8	August 9	Conference Schedule
FBC Lowell	FBC Lavaca	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
FBC Mountain Home	FBC Pochahontas	Opening Worship & Prayer
FBC Manila	FBC Batesville	<b>7:15 p.m.</b>
FBC Dover	Southside BC Stuttgart	Conference Part 1
FBC Beebe	Crossgate Hot Springs	<b>8 p.m.</b>
Salem BC Mena	FBC White Hall	Break
FBC Nashville	Highland Drive BC Jonesboro	<b>8:15 p.m.</b>
Cullendale FBC Camden	FBC Maumelle	Conference Part 2
FBC Hamburg	Eagle Heights BC Harrison	<b>9 p.m.</b>
Ridgewood BC Forrest City		Dismiss

For more information and locations, go to

[www.absc.org/genrev](http://www.absc.org/genrev)

not in order by the Committee on Order of Business because they sought to direct, rather than request, the work of SBC entities:

- A motion by Benjamin Hedrick of Immanuel Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., for LifeWay Christian Resources to consider developing and deploying material to help churches respond missionally to refugees.

- A motion by David Roberts of Sunrise Baptist Church, Midland, Mich., for the North American Mission Board, International Mission Board and LifeWay Christian Resources to study the possibility of working together or separately to fund campus ministries and/or campus ministers, particularly in areas underserved by Southern Baptists.

- A motion by Benjamin Hedrick of Immanuel Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., for Southern Baptist seminaries to consider and investigate programs, courses and other methods to equip students for mercy ministry and evangelistic outreach to refugees.

- A motion by Steve Wol-

verton of Canton Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md., for the Executive Committee and North American Mission Board trustees to call for an independent outside review of NAMB's actions toward state conventions, in particular, the Mid-Atlantic Baptist Network.

One motion was ruled out of order because it was presented in the form of a resolution:

- A motion by Richard Sandberg of First Baptist Church, Springfield, La., for the Southern Baptist Convention to reaffirm Article 12 of the Baptist Faith and Message, "asserting our belief in and unwavering support for the inalienable right of religious freedom for all."

Seven motions were ruled out of order because they proposed that the convention exercise authority beyond that of the SBC or messengers:

- A motion by John Wofford of Armored Baptist Church, Armored, that all Southern Baptist officials or officers who support the rights of Muslims to build mosques in the U.S. be immediately removed from their position

within the SBC.

- A motion by Joel Breidenbaugh of First Baptist Church Sweetwater, Longwood, Fla., for the Southern Baptist Convention to combine the work of the International and North American Mission Boards to one global mission board, with North America as one region of the world.

- A motion by Jerry Moss of South County Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., that the Southern Baptist Convention withdraw its friend of the court brief in the case of the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge vs. Township of Bernard, New Jersey. (Committee on Order of Business chairman Andrew Hebert clarified during the business session Wednesday morning that the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission filed the brief in question.)

- A motion by Gus Rocha of Bartlett Baptist Church, Bartlett, Tenn., that a committee be appointed to pray and fast for truth and godliness to be preached and modeled by our leaders, and to study how truth and godly living are taught through Southern Bap-



A Crossover volunteer shares the gospel with a man at a block party held prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 14-15 in St. Louis.

tist curriculum provided by LifeWay Christian Resources.

- A motion by Gus Rocha of Bartlett Baptist Church, Bartlett, Tenn., that a committee be appointed to study the effectiveness of the North American Mission Board's Send Relief and other partnerships of SBC entities and government or secular agencies.

- A motion by Paul Fries of Blue River Valley Church, Muscoda, Wis., for the Executive Committee to amend the SBC bylaws to grant representation to areas not currently represented on the Executive

Committee, Committee on Committees, and Committee on Nominations.

- A motion by Michael Elsey of Ontwa Baptist Church, Edwardsburg, Mich., for the Executive Committee to appoint a study group to consider giving existing camps and conference centers affiliated with Baptist state conventions a one-time payout from Cooperative Program funds for the purpose of establishing endowments or developing physical properties.

*This report was compiled with reporting by Baptist Press and the Arkansas Baptist News.*

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

**Monday, August 29 - Tuesday, August 30**  
**6-10 p.m. 8:30 a.m. -12 noon**

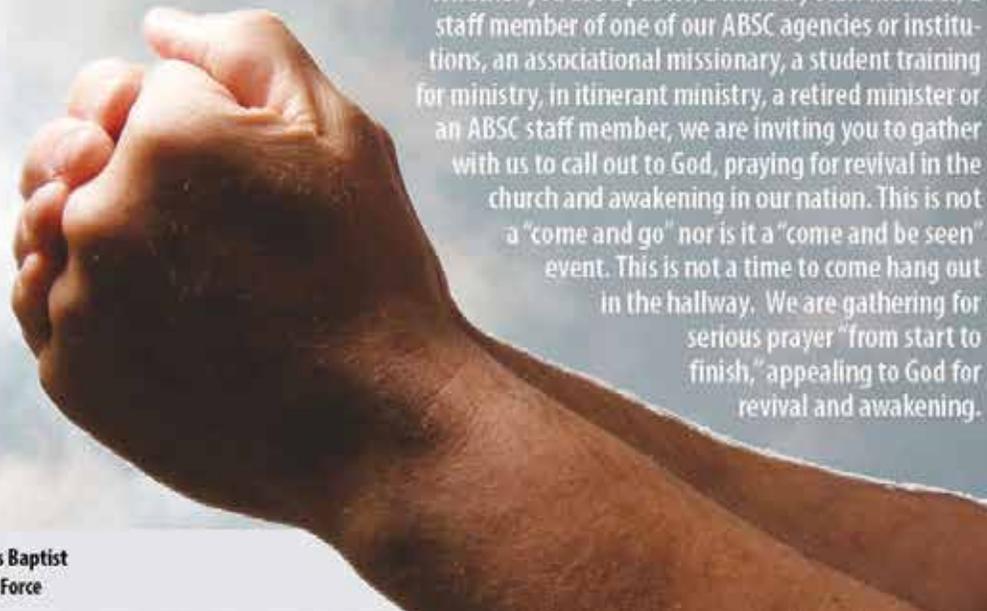
A Two-Day Intensive Prayer Gathering

**Location: Geyer Springs FBC, Little Rock**

**Register at [www.prayarkansas.com](http://www.prayarkansas.com)  
Or call 501-376-4791, Ext. 5103,  
or email [gmccallister@absc.org](mailto:gmccallister@absc.org)**

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

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



# SBC resolutions address culture, ministry concerns

ST. LOUIS (BP) – Messengers to the 2016 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), in addition to repudiating the display of the Confederate battle flag, approved 11 other resolutions on a variety of culture and ministry concerns.

Messengers voted on the proposals over both days of the annual meeting, adopting resolutions that expressed compassion for those devastated by the Orlando mass shooting, urged consistent evangelism of unbelievers and encouraged care for refugees. They also passed measures that included calling for the federal government not to discriminate against people who support only the biblical, traditional view of marriage and opposing an effort to require women to register for the military draft.

For Stephen Rummage, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, the call for Southern Baptists to evangelize was central to the 10-member panel's deliberations in presenting the 12 measures to messengers.

The resolution on evangelism "might just seem like a standard resolution for

an evangelical body such as Southern Baptists to pass," Rummage said at a news conference June 15, "but really that is at the heart of everything that we talked about, including what we had to say about the Confederate flag. Everything that we do should have as its end and as its goal reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Echoing a comment made in support of the measure on the Confederate flag, Rummage said resolutions "build bridges and they tear down walls, but we've got to cross those bridges with the gospel and take Jesus to people because that's what it's all about and that's the only hope for our world, for our nation and indeed for Southern Baptists."

Rummage, senior pastor of Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., and SBC ethics leader Russell Moore both thought it helpful that messengers strengthened the original Confederate flag resolution proposed by the committee.

The committee-presented resolution called for Christians who display the Confederate

flag "to consider prayerfully whether to limit, or even more so, discontinue its display" because of the "undeniably painful impact of the flag's symbolism on others." Acting on an amendment offered by former SBC President James Merritt, messengers overwhelmingly approved language that urged "brothers and sisters in Christ to discontinue the display of the Confederate battle flag as a sign of solidarity of the whole body of Christ, including our African American brothers and sisters."

The committee crafted the resolution with tempered language "to achieve as broad a consensus as possible," Rummage told reporters. When the committee saw the messengers desired to make an even stronger statement, "I think the whole committee was very thankful to be able to vote 'Yes' to the amendment," he said. "I was elated to see us make the type of statement that we did."

Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, told reporters, "I think it lends to an even stronger witness that the process happened the way that it did."

Those outside the denomination saw "a Southern Baptist Convention that came in and affirmed its Resolutions Committee [and] said, 'Thank you for bringing this resolution of unity to us, and we want to make sure that we're as clear as we can be about standing in

solidarity with one another,'" Moore said.

In addition to the Confederate flag measure, the other 11 resolutions:

- affirmed Southern Baptists' commitment to biblical sexuality and urged the protection of religious free exercise. Kelvin Cochran, who was fired as Atlanta's fire chief after writing in a book that homosexual behavior is immoral, presented the resolution to the convention as a member of the committee.

- called for prayer for and pledged support to those affected by the June 12 killings in Orlando.

- encouraged faithful proclamation of the gospel by churches and intentional evangelism by individual Southern Baptists locally, nationally and globally.

- declared "unrelenting opposition" to efforts by military leaders and the Obama administration "to increase the likelihood that women will be placed in harm's way," along with voicing support for service members and their families.

- called on the government to enact strict security in screening refugees and for Southern Baptists to compassionately minister to and share the gospel with them.

- urged participation in voting and prayer for God to provide "spiritual, moral, ethical, and cultural renewal."

- encouraged churches to

consider increasing ministries to Alzheimer's and dementia patients and their family caregivers.

- called for pastors to support freedom of the press and journalists to practice that freedom responsibly.

- affirmed "In God We Trust" as the national motto and encouraged its public display.

- supported Israel's right to exist as a free state and encouraged renewed prayer for peace in and salvation of Israel.

- expressed gratitude to God as well as Southern Baptists in the St. Louis area and all others who helped with the 2016 annual meeting.

The convention passed the first seven resolutions during the Tuesday afternoon session June 14, but was unable to vote on the remainder because time for their consideration expired. Messengers approved the final five resolutions as a package Wednesday morning June 15.

In addition to the amendment on the Confederate flag, three amendments were offered by messengers that the Resolutions Committee welcomed as friendly ones.

The committee chose not to act on resolutions submitted regarding gambling, a million more baptisms by 2034, sexual predatory behavior among Southern Baptists, forced termination of pastors, character development of boys and churches not being lobbyists.

## 7 Arkansas Baptists elected to serve SBC

ST. LOUIS – Five Arkansas Baptists are among those elected to serve on various Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) denominational boards, agencies and seminaries, and two Arkansas Baptists are among those elected to serve on the SBC's 2016-17 Committee on Nominations.

Elections were approved by messengers during the June 14-15 SBC Annual Meeting in St. Louis.

Arkansas Baptists elected to serve on various SBC denominational boards, agencies and seminaries are:

**SBC Executive Committee** – Elected to a term to expire in 2019: Harry C. "Archie" Mason, pastor, Central Baptist Church. Elected to a term to expire in 2018: Stephen L. Goss, layperson and member of First Baptist Church, Bentonville.

**GuideStone** – Elected to a term to expire in 2018: David Rainwater, layperson and

member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock.

**Southwestern Seminary** – Elected to serve for a second term: Danny L. Johnson, Bryant.

**New Orleans Seminary** – Elected to a term to expire in 2017: Larry D. White, director of missions, Faulkner Baptist Association and member of Central Baptist Church, Conway.

Arkansas Baptists elected to serve on the SBC's Committee on Nominations for 2016-17 are:

Caleigh Romine, Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, and layperson Wes Burgess, University Baptist Church, Fayetteville.

Thirty-four states or territories qualify for representation on the Committee on Nominations, according to SBC Bylaw 30. Each state or territory is entitled to two members, including at least one layperson.

## CAMPAIGN

*continued from page one*

the Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community and the renovation and expansion of Moses-Provine Hall to include the Rosemary Adams Department of Visual Arts and Adams Gallery.

Presenting a report on an Emerging Framework for the Future, Sells noted that "the essential Ouachita mission is strong," especially in the context of "our commitment to academic excellence in a Christ-centered learning community." He added that a key priority is "making the mission more economically viable for students and their families, for

faculty and staff and for the generations of people who will come after us."

Specific steps include such efforts as increasing university enrollment over the next few years as well as increasing fundraising and developing a new strategic plan.

Among those goals, the board of trustees affirmed launching a feasibility study for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

The study will include conducting surveys of potential students and employers, developing a list of faculty and support staff needed to establish a quality program and identifying appropriate and available clinical facilities. University officials anticipate presenting a recommendation based on the study for consideration by

trustees in December.

Trustees also approved a proposal to develop a new strategic plan for the university.

Sells told board members the proposal was based on discussion with the university's planning committee, administrative council and deans' council.

He added that it will involve "a deeply collaborative effort, inviting the larger Ouachita family to share their voices in developing a five-year strategic plan."

Following an in-depth evaluation and proposal process, the planning committee will present a final report by December 2017.

*This report was written by Trennis Henderson, vice president for communications at Ouachita Baptist University.*

# Arkansas Baptists at the SBC



Ronnie Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, speaks to media during his final press conference as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Floyd served as SBC president from 2014 to 2016. *Photos by Caleb Yarbrough*



Steven Bailey, associational missionary for the Mississippi County Baptist Association, introduces a motion during the annual meeting.



David Moon, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Fort Smith, and his wife, Mary, explore the exhibit area during the Southern Baptist Convention June 15.



Doug Hibbard, pastor of East End Baptist Church, East End, shakes the hand of Bobby Thomas, president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, at the SBC Annual Meeting. Thomas' wife, Jennifer (center), and Archie Mason, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, and his wife, Angie, are at right.



Mike Manning (left), associational missionary for Harmony Baptist Association in Pine Bluff, and Harvey Hibner, interim pastor of Sulphur Springs Baptist Church in Pine Bluff in the exhibit area during the SBC Annual Meeting June 15.



Bill Elliff, pastor of The Summit Church, North Little Rock, prays during a "National Call to Prayer" event held Tuesday evening, June 14.



Julio Arrilola, global worship pastor at Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, leads worship during the Southern Baptist Convention.

## Obituaries

**Kenneth Lamar Johnson, 68**, of Greenbrier, died May 28 at the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock, after a lengthy battle with cancer.



Johnson retired in 2014, having served 38 years in the pastorate. Prior to that, he and his wife, Deannie, were new church planters with the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

He pastored churches in Michigan, Louisiana, Indiana and Arkansas, including Philadelphia Baptist Church, Jonesboro; Parkview Baptist Church, El Dorado; Bayou Mason Baptist Church, Lake Village, and Temple Baptist Church, Waldron.

Johnson also enjoyed participating in short-term domestic and international missions during the time he was a pastor.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, a son, a daughter, a sister and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held June 1 at Magnolia Baptist Church in Crossett. Burial was at CrossRoads Cemetery in Crossett.

**Peter Michael Kiefhaber, 62**, of Star City, died June 9 at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock.

Kiefhaber attended Andersonville Bible Seminary and studied biblical counseling at Louisiana Baptist College where he earned his doctorate.

Keifhaber was a member of Fellowship Bible Church in Star City, where he served as pastor. He was the owner of Kiefhaber's Heating and Air.

Survivors include his wife of almost 43 years, Rita, three sons, one sister and 10 grandchildren. Funeral services were held June 13 at Griffin Funeral Chapel in Star City. Burial was at Drake Cemetery in Star City.



**VBS HELPS HOPE PLACE WARREN, MISSION TEAM** – Children participating in vacation Bible school (VBS) at First Baptist Church in Fordyce had a competition to see which class could bring the most items for Hope Place in Warren. The children are pictured with all items donated, with the 3rd-4th grade class winning the competition. The VBS at First Baptist had a total enrollment of about 110 participants, with the children also donating more than \$500 during offering time which will benefit the church's Haiti mission team.

## STEWARDSHIP TIP

### PROVIDING FOR BENEFICIARIES THROUGH CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

A Charitable Remainder Trust ("CRT") can be a great way to provide for your loved ones and the ministries you love. A CRT is an irrevocable trust established by an individual(s) that provides lifetime income for one or more recipients and will eventually leave a gift to your favorite ministry. You also receive an income tax deduction and may bypass capital gain taxes. At the termination of the trust, the remainder is used to benefit the ministry of your choosing. CRTs may be established during life or at death through your will or revocable living trust.

If you have questions concerning Charitable Remainder Trusts, contact us using the information below.

10 Remington Drive • Little Rock, AR 72204  
501.376.4791 • 800.838.2272 • info@abf.org • www.abf.org

ARKANSAS BAPTIST  
**Foundation**



■ **Houseparents needed:**  
**Baptist Home for Children,**  
**Monticello.**

Contact: Randy Luper  
at (870) 367-5358 or  
rluper@abchomes.org.

■ **Houseparents needed: Boys**  
**Ranch, Harrison.**

Contact: Bill VonderMehden  
at (870) 741-5784 or  
bvondermehden@abchomes.org.

*These full-time positions include  
salary, housing, medical and life  
insurance and paid leave.*

**For breaking Baptist and  
other religious news visit**  
**arkansasbaptist.org or**  
**@ArkBaptNews on**  
**Facebook or Twitter**

# Classifieds

## PASTOR

Mount Vernon Baptist Church at Mount Vernon, Arkansas, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Letter/resume to: MVBC Pastor Search Team, P.O. Box 71, Romance, AR 72136 email: mtvernonpastorsearch@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church of Marion, Arkansas, is prayerfully seeking God's man for the position of **senior pastor**. Applicant must have substantial leadership/ministry experience in a mid-size to large Southern Baptist Church. Qualified applicants should send resumes to: firstmarionsearch@yahoo.com.

Shiloh Baptist Church (SBC), Rover, Mo., 17 miles east of West Plains, seeking **bi-vocational pastor**. Worship attendance about 70, median age about 35. Send resumes to: Lyndell Huddleston, HC 61, West Plains, MO 65775.

First Baptist Church, London, AR seeks **full-time Southern Baptist pastor** after former pastor served 23 years. Ac-

cepting resumes now through August 1 by e-mail (fbc@fbclondon.com) or mail (17 Southern Baptist Rd., London, AR 72847) Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

FBC accepting applications **full-time pastor**. Letter/resume to First Baptist Church P.O. Box 789, Marshall, AR 72650 email: mfbcoffice@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Gillham, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, c/o Vona McKinley, 332 Pendergrass Road, Horatio, AR 71842.

## OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

First Baptist Church of Bay, Arkansas (just outside of Jonesboro) is seeking a **part-time associate pastor of music and worship** to lead our growing congregation. Resumes can be mailed to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 190, Bay, AR. 72411 or emailed to fbcbay@suddenlink.net. You can also visit our website at www.bayfbc.

org for more info about our church.

LR area – Col. Glenn – 5 mi. w of I-430: Small country church seeking **part time music leader**. Send resume to Martindale Bapt Ch, 18900 Col. Glenn, LR, AR 72210 or email harrisw12@yahoo.com.

First Baptist Church, Pea Ridge is looking for a **part-time children's ministry director** to lead children's ministry, birth – 6th grade. Please submit resumes to cody@prfbc.org.

Sugarloaf Baptist Church in Heber Springs is currently accepting resumes for position of **full-time student minister**. Person will be responsible for students 7th-12th grade. Send resumes to: sugarloafbaptistchurch@gmail.com or mail: Attn: Youth Search Sugarloaf Baptist Church, 699 Wilburn Road, Heber Springs, Arkansas, 72543. Call Tony Criswell at 501-362-2448.

Praying for a **part-time youth minister!** Send Resumes to South Main Baptist Church, PO Box 430, Crossett, AR 71635; or email at SMBCSecretary@windstream.net

Visit our website at southmainbaptist.net.

Westside Baptist Church, Natchitoches, Louisiana, is seeking a **full-time student pastor** to lead and disciple middle school and senior high students. Submit resume to Steve McAlister, Pastor at steve@westside.life.

Mountain Top Cowboy Church, Heber Springs, is looking for a **bi-vocational worship leader** to play the acoustic guitar and lead our congregation in singing country flavored old hymns. Interested candidates may contact church office, call 501-365-3960.

Eagle Heights Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a **full-time student pastor**. Send resumes to EHBC, 703 E. Walters, Harrison, AR 72601 or email to ehbcadmin@eagleheightsharrison.org. Job description is available at ehbc Harrison.org.

FBC McRae seeking **bi-vocational minister of youth**. Interested parties please submit your resumes via email to kflowler2123@yahoo.com or by mail to FBC

McRae, 703 E Second St., McRae, AR 72102. Person applying needs to be available Sundays (morning and evening), Wednesday evenings and other times for various youth activities, including camps in the summer.

Soaring Wings Christian Home and Ranch seeks a Christian couple as **full-time house parents** to provide long-term care for seven to 10 children, including own, in a Christ-centered home. For more information, email jason@soaringwing-ranch.com or visit www.swranch.org.

Southern Heights Baptist Church, Berryville, is seeking a **full-time worship leader**. Please send resumes to Personnel Committee, 279 Highway 221 S., Berryville, AR 72616 or shbc@shbc.arcoxmail.com. Website: http://www.myshbc.net.

Bear Creek Springs Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time student pastor**. Those interested should send a resume to Bear Creek Springs Baptist Church, Attn: Senior Pastor, 179 Devito Loop, Harrison, AR 72601.

**Looking to fill a staff position at your church?**

Visit [arkansasbaptist.org/ad](http://arkansasbaptist.org/ad) to submit your classified!

JULY 10, 2016

Sin is always self-serving and self-protecting. When Adam and Eve were tempted, they chose to serve themselves instead of God by taking the fruit. Then, when confronted with their sin, they wasted no time in shifting the blame from themselves onto others. First, Adam shifted the blame to “the woman whom you gave to be with me” (Gen. 3:12, NIV). Then, Eve shifted the blame to “the serpent” (Gen. 3:13, NIV).

Saul followed this same pattern. After conquering the Amalekites, Saul had two options. He could serve God by following His command to utterly wipe them out. Or, he could serve himself by taking spoils of war. He chose the latter (1 Sam. 15:9).

Saul was then quick to self-protect when confronted with his sin by Samuel. Notice the pronouns in verse 15. Saul blamed the people for not killing everything. “They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen.” But when referring to their

obedient actions, he included himself, saying, “and the rest we have devoted to destruction” (1 Sam 15:15, ESV). Saul did not own up to his own sin but instead tried to portray himself in the best light.

Even Saul’s claim that they kept the livestock “to sacrifice to the Lord” is only pious on its surface. It is unclear whether that was Saul’s original intent or just an attempt to wiggle out of the worst punishment. Either way, the command was to destroy the livestock, not offer it in a grand celebration where Saul might get some adoration as well. Furthermore, Saul was offering a sacrifice that cost him nothing (in contrast to King David in 2 Sam. 24:24). A true sacrifice would have come from his own herds.

How quickly do we follow the same pattern of self-serving and self-protecting? In contrast to sin, faith is always selfless and trusts the Lord to guide and guard. Saul’s rebellion led to rejection, and so might ours.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Judged

1 SAMUEL 15:7-15, 22-23, ESV

Cole Penick  
Fayetteville

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## Transformed by my choices

MATTHEW 7:13-27, NIV

Jennifer Bryant  
Fordyce

If we have decided to follow Christ, then how we live our lives should be transformed. We should desire to follow God’s will, not our own or the world’s. The choices we make each day will be different than the choices we might have made in the past.

Jesus told us the way to heaven is narrow, and only a few will find it (Matt. 7:13-14). The way to destruction is broad, and many enter that way. This doesn’t mean that it is difficult to become a Christian, but that there is only one way to heaven. Living the Christian life is not the popular way, so people find it hard to live this way, but it is true and right. That is why the way is narrow. We have to choose to live the way God wants us to if we are truly transformed.

In Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus warned us to watch out for false prophets. “By their fruit you will recognize them,” He said (Matt. 7:16, NIV). If we are truly transformed, we will be doing our best

to live the Christian life, and people will be able to see our “fruit.” False prophets, which were very common in Old Testament times, are still around today.

As believers, we need to beware of those whose words sound godly, but who are motivated by money, fame or power. False prophets will exalt themselves, not God. These people have not been truly transformed.

To evaluate a teacher’s words, we should examine his or her life. If the teacher is consistently striving to live out the Christian life and make moral decisions, the teacher has probably been truly transformed. You will be able to see the “fruit.”

As children of God, we must build our faith on a firm foundation (Matt. 7:25). We need to be disciples who listen and respond to the Lord’s call on our lives while practicing obedience, so we can weather the storms in our lives and bear “good fruit.”

JULY 17, 2016

Our brains work hard to snap situations into pre-programed scenarios. This incredibly useful part of God’s design means we are not constantly relearning how to handle everyday situations. Our brains write scripts for all sorts of circumstances. Once our minds choose a script, the script is followed, often subconsciously.

While this is extremely helpful the vast majority of the time, it can have humorous negative consequences. Ever drive to work instead of the store because you were on “auto-pilot”? Ever accidentally tell a co-worker you love him or her because that is how you usually end phone calls to your spouse?

The power of habit can also have serious negative consequences, especially when it comes to how we interact with people. Hurtful stereotypes, prejudice and racism are sinful uses of God’s design.

Even if our confession would be different, our responses often betray a wrongful presupposition.

Samuel fell into this trap when God

sent him to anoint the next king. Even though Saul had looked like a king (1 Sam. 10:24), his heart was not inclined to follow the Lord.

Samuel understood this better than anyone; yet when he met Jesse’s oldest son, he assumed that his outward appearance matched his inward qualities. It was only when David arrived that Samuel found someone with a heart like God’s (Acts 13:22; 1 Sam. 13:14).

We have to avoid this same trap when it comes to evangelism and discipleship.

Are you in the habit of only engaging or mentoring those who look like you, act like you or already seem to have it all put together? That is how the world works. The gospel

calls us to look beyond how man sees and to see people as God sees them (1 Sam. 16:7). No matter how they appear to the world, we need to see them as “sheep without a shepherd” and in desperate need of our Savior (Matt 9:36, ESV).

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Anointed

1 SAMUEL 16:4-13, ESV

Cole Penick  
Fayetteville

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## View money properly

PROVERBS 23:4-5, 30:5-9, NIV

Jennifer Bryant  
Fordyce

Do you struggle financially? Do you spend more than you make? Do you think you need what your neighbor has? Do you not have any money and just expect someone to take care of you? We can find all the answers to our financial issues in our Bible. It is full of ancient wisdom for modern money management.

One important lesson to learn is how to view money properly. Proverbs 30:5-9 (NIV) tells us that neither poverty nor riches is healthy, “but give me only my daily bread.” Why would being poor be unhealthy? Why would being rich be unhealthy? “I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ Or I may become poor and steal ...” (Prov. 30:8-9, NIV).

Having too much money can take your focus away from God and lead to pride and dissatisfaction. You may start believing you don’t need God because you have so much money. Having too little money can lead to stealing or focusing on wanting more. You may also begin to be lazy and expect people (church, government) to

take care of you. Your mindset may become, “Why should I work if people are going to take care of me?”

Having just the right amount is best. Does that mean it is a sin to be rich or poor? Of course not, but you will have to be extra careful to keep your relationship with God on the right track.

The Bible also stresses that riches are fleeting. “Do not wear yourself out to get rich” (Prov. 23:4, NIV). Our focus in life should not be on gaining riches. We need to have the wisdom to show restraint. If we have built our lives on riches, what do we have when those riches are gone? Nothing. We may have lost our family and friends, and we need to make sure our relationship with the Lord is

where it needs to be. Money is a necessity to have in this world. We just need to make sure it doesn’t rob us of our focus on the Lord. Be careful, and remember too much or too little can be dangerous. What we do for the kingdom will last forever.



# Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Psalm 33:12

## FOUNDING FATHERS

"An appeal to arms and to the God of hosts is all that is left us! ... Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. ... Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides

over the destinies of nations and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. ... Is life so dear, or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" ★ PATRICK HENRY

"To the kindly influence of Christianity we owe that degree of civil freedom, and political and social happiness, which mankind now enjoys. ... Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government – and all blessings which flow from them – must fall with them." ★ JEDIDIAH MORSE

## PRESIDENTS

"It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor." ★ GEORGE WASHINGTON

"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." ★ JOHN ADAMS

"And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever." ★ THOMAS JEFFERSON

## SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

"The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts."

★ JOHN JAY: FIRST CHIEF JUSTICE

"Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is Divine. ... Far from being rivals or enemies, religion and law are twin sisters, friends, and mutual assistants. Indeed, these two sciences run into each other." ★ JAMES WILSON: ORIGINAL JUSTICE ON THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

"One of the beautiful boasts of our municipal jurisprudence is that Christianity is a part of the Common Law. ... There never has been a period in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as lying at its foundations. ... I verily believe Christianity necessary to the support of civil society." ★ JOSEPH STORY: U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE



## SUPREME COURT RULINGS

"Why may not the Bible, and especially the New Testament, without note or comment, be read and taught as a divine revelation in [schools] – its general precepts expounded, its evidences explained and its glorious principles of morality inculcated? ... Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly or so perfectly as from the New Testament?" ★ VIDAL V. GIRARD'S EXECUTORS, 1844 (UNANIMOUS DECISION COMMENDING AND ENCOURAGING THE USE OF THE BIBLE IN GOVERNMENT-RUN SCHOOLS)

## CONGRESS

"We are a Christian people...not because the law demands it, not to gain exclusive benefits or to avoid legal disabilities, but from choice and education; and in a land thus universally Christian, what is to be expected, what desired, but that we shall pay due regard to Christianity?"

★ SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE REPORT, JANUARY 19, 1853

"At the time of the adoption of the Constitution and the amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged.

... In this age there can be no substitute for Christianity. ... That was the religion of the founders of the republic and they expected it to remain the religion of their descendants."

★ HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE REPORT, MARCH 27, 1854

## EDUCATION

"Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning. And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, let every one seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seek it of Him (Proverbs 2, 3). Every one shall so exercise himself in reading the Scriptures twice a day that he shall be ready to give such an account of his proficiency therein."

★ HARVARD 1636 STUDENT GUIDELINES

## FOREIGN OPINION

"The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other." ★ ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE: FRENCH OBSERVER OF AMERICA IN 1831, AUTHOR OF DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA

"There is no country in which the people are so religious as in the United States. ... The great number of religious societies existing in the United States is truly surprising; there are some of them for everything; for instance, societies to distribute the Bible; to distribute tracts; to encourage religious

journals; to convert, civilize, educate...to take care of their widows and orphans; to preach, extend, purify, preserve, reform the faith; to build chapels, endow congregations, support seminaries...to establish Sunday schools...to prevent drunkenness, etc."

★ ACHILLE MURAT: FRENCH OBSERVER OF AMERICA IN 1832



If you would like to know Jesus as Lord and Savior, visit Need Him Ministry at [www.chataboutjesus.com](http://www.chataboutjesus.com). To download a free Bible for your phone, go to [www.mardel.com/bible](http://www.mardel.com/bible).