



*IMB missionaries relocated*

## Japan crisis grows

TOKYO - As Southern Baptist relief efforts get underway in Japan following a historic earthquake, tsunami and the world's worst nuclear emergency in 25 years, International Mission Board (IMB) missionary families living in the country have been relocated to safer regions.

Southern Baptist relief efforts are moving forward, in spite of uncertainties about the ongoing nuclear crisis in the northeastern part of the country, said Jeff Palmer, executive director of Baptist Global Response (BGR).

Two disaster relief specialists are

joining the additional two assessment experts, said Palmer, giving the new, four-member team an opportunity to launch the initial Southern Baptist disaster response.

"This initial response team includes members of the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Network from South Carolina and Alabama," Palmer said. "They are heading into Tokyo to set up a command center for a unified Southern Baptist disaster relief base."

The United States has offered to

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### Pray for Japan

Asami Ohata, foreground, and Daisuke Ishii, are two Arkansas Tech University students whose families were directly affected by the 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan. Photo by Joshua Mashon, courtesy of the Russellville Courier.

## New student worship service is 'EPIC'

**Lisa Watson**  
*Arkansas Baptist News*

MOST NIGHTS AT The Vienna Theatre in Hot Springs, it is normal

to hear classic Broadway show tunes and nostalgic songs from years gone by.

The theatre, which opened a year ago, normally features the vocal styl-

ings of Ken Goodman, a classically trained baritone.

But on the night of March 13, the music was a little different as about 50 people lifted their voices to praise God.

The crowd, comprised of mostly college students and young adults, were there for the launch of a brand new worship service - EPIC.

Sponsored by Crossgate Church, Hot Springs, and the National Park Community College Baptist Campus Ministry, EPIC is designed to reach college students and young adults in the Hot Springs area.

Kyle Thurman, a student at National Park Community College who recently signed with Faceless Media Group, serves as worship leader for the service, leading students to praise God through contemporary Christian worship songs.

Bible teacher Michael Clayton, the Baptist campus minister at National Park Community College, serves as Bible teacher. During the March 13 service, he told those gathered about the "epic" story of

See **EPIC** page 2

## ABN youth video contest

LITTLE ROCK - The *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) has announced its first "Youth Group Video Contest."

"Our Arkansas churches have a lot of awesome students and youth

ministries," said ABN editor Tim Yarbrough. "Youth and creativity go together.

"This is one way the ABN can

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### *Conversations with Arkansas' executive director*

## Turner reflects on ministry at ABSC

**Tim Yarbrough**  
*Arkansas Baptist News*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director Emil Turner celebrated 15 years as the state's leader in January. The ABN recently sat down with Turner for a candid interview to discuss his thoughts on life, ministry and challenges as Arkansas Baptists seek to fulfill the Great Commission in the 21st century. This is the first article in a series.*

LITTLE ROCK - While leadership instability has been all-too-common among some Southern Baptist entities in the years following the 1980s Conservative Resurgence, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) has enjoyed



just the opposite for more than three decades.

A big factor in bringing that stability to the state's work appears to be found in the capable leaders Arkansas Baptists have chosen to lead their convention.

Since January 1996, Louisiana native Emil Turner has led Southern Baptists in Arkansas. Turner was

elected following the retirement of longtime state executive director and popular Arkansas pastor Don Moore.

It might seem a bit odd for Arkansas Baptists to turn to a Louisiana pastor and fan of the Louisiana State University Tigers to lead them into the future, but it is evident to those who know and work with Turner that God's divine hand guided him to the Natural State.

Ministry leaders agree Arkansas Baptists have always been big on relationships. It's a focus on relationships with pastors and church members Turner credits as a key element in maintaining a strong and growing ministry in the state.

"I've honestly never considered

myself a good leader, but I think I have good relationship skills," said Turner. "Establishing relationships is something I enjoy. Ministry is a matter of biblical understanding and ability - that's critical for ministry - but if you don't have relational understanding and ability, you can't do ministry.

"The ability to listen, to ask questions you need to ask, to help when you can help, (to) pray with people ... you have to be able to do that before you do anything else."

Building relationships is a high priority for the ABSC staff, said Turner.

"If you surveyed the churches

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## JAPAN

*continued from page one*

evacuate American citizens living in Japan. The U.S. embassy in Tokyo urged Americans to stay at least 50 miles from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant – one of two plants damaged in the disaster.

Based on an early assessment, initial relief effort will focus on life-essential items: basic food items, water, blankets, hygiene supplies and kitchen utensils, said Pat Melancon, BGR's disaster management specialist.

The first round of relief supplies will include radiation detectors, Melancon added.

"We are taking the possibility of radiation exposure very seriously," he said. "We're going to be real careful with that part."

A Japan Baptist Convention worker said, due to train delays and modified bus routes, it took her so long to get to work that it was easier and faster for her to walk two hours to the office.

Most residents, however, are staying indoors and leaving only to buy groceries on the thin chance that there might be rice or milk at the local store.

The catastrophe Japan has experienced has been so overwhelming – a 9.0-magnitude earthquake, a crushing tsunami and the evolving nuclear crisis – that a 6.4-magnitude earthquake that struck 55 miles south of Tokyo late March 15 was assumed by many to be an aftershock. That quake, however, was a separate event in its own right, shaking buildings, interrupting train service and briefly closing highways, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Along the coast, where the March 11 earthquake and tsunami hit, the damage is more acute. At press time, the official police tally confirmed 5,178 people dead and 8,606 missing. But officials in Miyagi prefecture estimate that at least 10,000 of its 2.3 million citizens were killed by the quake and tsunami. The number of dead is expected to go up as rescuers reach more hard-hit areas.

The senior pastor of Tokyo Baptist Church said he has been amazed at the outpouring of concern from around the world.

"I have been overwhelmed with emails from people and churches from all over the world who want to help, people we know and people we don't know, said Dennis Folds. "These are difficult times, but it is (in) a time like this that we can make an impact for the greater good, for the kingdom."

Arkansas Baptists are encouraged to pray for those affected by the crisis in Japan.

On March 14, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) announced it has established a Japan Relief Fund to assist IMB personnel and Japanese Baptists as ministry needs arise. All funds received by the ABSC will be given to assist in direct relief of victims.

Arkansas Baptist may give online by visiting the ABSC Web site at [www.absc.org](http://www.absc.org) or mail a check to ABSC Japan Relief Fund, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.

For more information about Japan relief efforts, contact Bob Fielding, ABSC missions ministries team, at (800) 838-2272, ext. 5149, or email [bfielding@absc.org](mailto:bfielding@absc.org)

*Compiled from Baptist Press and staff sources.*

## EPIC

*continued from page one*

God's love for them.

The need to reach college students in Hot Springs is great, with about 4,000 students attending National Park Community College, said Clayton.

Reaching those students with the gospel can be a difficult task. "Being a commuter college, getting [students] to come back to campus for a worship service is difficult," said Clayton.

Starting a worship service for those students and other young people in the area had long been Clayton's desire, but he was waiting for the "right time and the right place," he said.

Clayton said Crossgate Church pastor Shawn Barnard's desire to reach college students and Goodman's offer to host the service at The Vienna Theatre were crucial to the service's beginning.

"God just put it all together," he said.

For now, Clayton hopes to hold the service at least once or twice a month on Sunday evenings. But if Sunday isn't the best night, they will move it.

He said the goal is to reach stu-



Kyle Thurman (left) leads worship and Michael Clayton (above) preaches at the EPIC service.

dents who aren't active in church or don't have Sunday night church services. "Our long-term vision is to have it weekly or every other week – not to pull them away from church, but to get them back in church," he said.

They would also like to see more churches get involved in the ministry.

Goodman, who is also a member of Crossgate Church and has served in Christian ministry for the past 18

years, will teach the Bible during the service. He is "thrilled" to be a part of the ministry. "How awesome is it that our theatre can be used for this ministry," he said.

National Park Community College president Dr. Sally Carder says the EPIC service fits with the kind of students who attend the school. A member of First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, she said students who attend the community college come from varied backgrounds and some-

times don't fit the traditional collegiate stereotype.

"I think worship is a very important and individual thing," said Carder. "Traditional worship doesn't always fit the needs of our students today."

Susan Smethers, a member of Crossgate Church and EPIC team member, is excited about the potential for the service in Hot Springs.

As a long-time children and youth volunteer, Smethers said she has seen more than her share of students who dropped out of church when they left home because they worked odd hours or didn't have parents encouraging them to attend regularly.

"I've just seen too many of our young people who have said the only place they can go when they get off work at 2 a.m. is to a bar," she said.

She is hopeful the EPIC service will draw some of those young people who have strayed away from church.

The next three dates for EPIC are April 17, May 1 and May 15 at 6:30 p.m. at The Vienna Theatre.

For more information, contact Smethers at [smethers@cablelynx.com](mailto:smethers@cablelynx.com) or 501-627-4552, or contact Crossgate Church at [epic@crossgate.org](mailto:epic@crossgate.org) or 501-262-9779.

Contact Lisa Watson at [lisa@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:lisa@arkansasbaptist.org).

## CONTEST

*continued from page one*

help highlight their student ministry activities and share it with thousands of Arkansas Baptists."

The rules of the contest are simple. Youth group leaders are required to submit entries for their youth groups, with each video meeting the following guidelines:

- The video must be about a ministry of the church in which youth are involved during 2010-11 (mission trip promo or report, evangelism outreach, etc.).

- The video must be produced by students in the youth group.

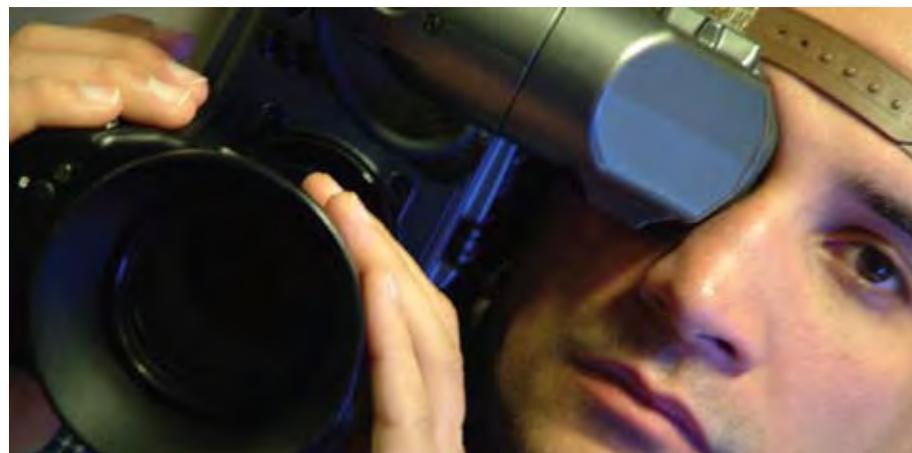
- The video must be no more than 3 minutes in length.

- The video must not use any copyrighted material, such as music, art or logos.

- The video must be posted for online access via YouTube, Vimeo, GodTube or another video sharing service, and a link must be submitted to the ABN via email to [abn@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:abn@arkansasbaptist.org).

Entries must be submitted by midnight on June 1, 2011. Winners will be notified by email, and their videos will be highlighted in an ABN digital edition and online at [www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org).

Videos will be judged by ABN and Arkansas Baptist State Convention



staff for the following: creativity, original music performed by students, original concept for video, significance of the ministry, techni-

cal quality of the video, youth's role in the ministry, etc.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place winners.

# TURNER

*continued from page one*

and pastors in Arkansas, almost all of them know at least one of my staff members. Almost all of them will tell you we're the first or second place they go for help. First place will be the association; the second place will be us."

Having served on church staff and as a pastor of churches in Kentucky, Louisiana and Arkansas, Turner has a deep admiration for pastors and the difficulties they face.

However, the role as the state's lead missionary and state executive wasn't a goal Turner sought. Turner said he and his wife, Mary, were "very happy" serving in Lake Charles, La. - where he was pastor of a growing ministry at First Baptist Church - when he was called to Arkansas.

"I knew Dr. Moore when I was pastor here (at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Crossett from 1986 to 1990). I always held him in highest esteem, and he was like a hero to me. But when someone called and asked for my resume for this job, I had no idea that Dr. Moore had even retired. So, it was not something I had ever thought about doing," said Turner.

"It's not something you can seek (the state executive director position). I think if you seek that kind of job you may not be qualified. It's much better that this job seek you out than you seek it out."

Turner has steadily grown the work of Arkansas Baptists at a time when mainline denominations, as a whole, have experienced decline.

## Arkansas church planting

For example, while church planting has a renewed focus by the North American Mission Board of late, new church starts in Arkansas have been steady for years, according to Turner.

Arkansas Baptists average planting about 30 new churches a year.

"Dr. Moore had a healthy emphasis on church planting. The missions ministry leaders in the (Arkansas Baptist State) Convention have always thought it was important," said Turner. "I think there are more people willing to start churches now and more established churches willing to be involved as mother churches. Our survival rate is extremely high. That's a good, healthy thing."

Turner said his ministry as campus director for Campus Crusade for Christ in the 1970s helped prepare

him as an administrator and has served him well as state executive. He said he is proud of the way the ABSC staff evaluates its ministry goals and objectives, such as in church planting.

"We evaluate very rigorously," said Turner.

Serving Arkansas Baptists is high on Turner's list of objectives for the ABSC staff, including how the staff receives and responds to inquiries from the field.

"We know, for instance, that we get, on average, 100 phone calls a day from people and churches wanting us to do things. And we know roughly how long it takes to turn around a call."

## Staff, technology changes

Turner has witnessed a dramatic change in staffing and technology over the past 15 years.

"We have about 20 percent less staff now. We were approximately 100 employees the day I came. We're at 75 now. So, we're doing ministry with less staff," he said.

As a result, the ABSC staff uses technology today in ways only dreamed of just a few years ago.

"There's been a tremendous increase in the amount of technology used by ABSC staff, such as laptops, Blackberries and cellphones, which allows them to stay in touch with pastors and ministry leaders even when they are traveling," explained Turner.

"The day I came to work here, if most of our staff went to Northwest Arkansas to do something, it was 3 hours they were gone (and unavailable). Now, they go to Northwest Arkansas, (and) they're not gone 3 hours, they're gone 5 minutes at the most. They're still at work (and available)."

## ABSC Growth

In Turner's tenure, the ABSC has grown from 1,378 congregations in 1996 to 1,510 churches and missions today. That's an increase of 132 churches, or 9.6 percent. Baptisms in Arkansas Baptist churches average about 13,000 annually.

Additionally, giving through the Cooperative Program (CP) has grown \$5 million, increasing the convention budget from \$15.5 to \$20.5 million - a healthy 32 percent.



## Through the years

Arkansas Baptist News story (right) reporting Emil Turner elected as new executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Turner today (above), at his desk with photos of his family.

Ministry leaders in Arkansas appreciate Turner's passion for Christ and commitment to evangelism, missions and church planting.

"Dr. Turner's leadership has put the work of our convention on the forefront of the SBC for our commitment to evangelism and missions as we continue to lead the convention in increased baptisms each year," said Clay Hallmark, current ABSC president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Marion.

"Emil Turner is a Baptist statesman who leads his life and our convention with impeccable character and integrity. Make no mistake about it, his leadership is the platform from which the ABSC is launching new ministries, starting new churches and creating new partnerships, while still ministering to churches of every size in our state with complete effectiveness and passion."

Rex Horne, president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, was state convention president when Turner was brought to Arkansas and was his pastor for five years at Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock.

"Throughout the years, I have found Emil to be exemplary in his love of Christ, his commitment to the churches of our convention and his desire to reach the lost," said Horne. "Emil has been steady in his leadership of our convention, enabling all of us to perform our ministries well."

His current pastor at Immanuel Baptist, Gary Hollingsworth, who understands all too well the demands of a high profile leader, said Turner strongly supports the ministry of his own local church.

"As his pastor I can state with confidence that he leads with integrity, by example and with a servant's heart," said Hollingsworth. "When he is not out ministering somewhere



## New executive director 3

Emil Turner, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lake Charles, La., was elected this week as the new executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He will begin his ministry in Arkansas Jan. 15.

around our great state, he is faithful to his local church, and I am always blessed to know he is present and praying for our worship services."

## Cooperation is key

Turner makes no apologies for being Southern Baptist and feels God has blessed SBC churches over the years because of their commitment to cooperation.

"The thing that I appreciate about Southern Baptists is that the Cooperative Program gave us the only viable way that an individual church, however large or small, can have a hand in fulfilling the entire Great Commission," said Turner. "A small Southern Baptist church, in support of all our missionaries, all of our efforts around the world, has a larger buy-in to the Great Commission than one that does not cooperate."

It's Southern Baptists - cooperating together - that Turner embraced as a pastor of small, medium and large churches and what he emphasizes now as the leader of Arkansas Baptists.

"(To be) serious about the Great Commission ... I knew we had to be cooperative to fulfill it. There's just no other way to do it," Turner said.

Contact Tim Yarbrough at [tim@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:tim@arkansasbaptist.org).

## ABSC staff announcements

LITTLE ROCK - Chad Logan has been named campus minister at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. Logan, who currently serves as assistant campus minister, will assume the position of Arliss Dickerson, who is retiring.

Sean Mills, who serves as education pastor at Beech Street First Baptist Church, Texarkana, has joined the evangelism and church growth team. His primary role will be working with youth ministers in the state.

## Pray for Japan

Natural disasters show no favorites and are not confined by borders. The latest victim of nature's fury – the country of Japan – is an industrial nation better prepared than most, but one that is reeling following a near cataclysmic event.

The world won't know for some time how the disaster in Japan will affect economies and other nations long-term.

However, one thing is certain, in the economy of God, Japan's suffering and heartache provides an opportunity for His followers to bring glory to His name.

Already, world relief organizations are doing assessments and are staging for deployment. In the upcoming months and possibly years, a flood of volunteers will pour onto Japan's shores to provide



### PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough

aid, comfort and assistance with rebuilding.

And Southern Baptists will be there, carrying the charge of Jesus Christ, as they always do.

I have been privileged to have worked in disaster relief and have seen firsthand how Southern Baptists provide comfort to shattered lives by providing "a cup of cold water in Jesus' name."

While employed at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, I served as off-site communications coordinator during Hurricane Hugo. I'll have to admit, until that time I had no idea of the size and scope of Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts. Boy, did I get an education.

Southern Baptists' efforts in disaster relief have grown over the years, I believe, by the hand

of God. Since Hugo, Southern Baptists have responded to earthquakes in California, hurricanes in Florida, "500-year" floods in the Midwest, a tsunami in Asia and Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf, among others. With each disaster God has increased our denomination's capabilities.

At the time of Hurricane Hugo in 1989, I had the responsibility of calling out (deploying) every available state unit Southern Baptists had at the time, which I recall was about 33. Today, state conventions, associations and churches have 1,500-plus disaster response units that provide a variety of relief services such as food, recovery tools, childcare, chaplaincy, water purification, communications and showers to the suffering and homeless. Arkansas Baptists alone now have 10 feeding units, 28 recovery units, two command and communication units and two shower units.

Pause now and pray for the people of Japan and for God to open



Photo by Joshua Mashon. Courtesy of the Russellville Courier.

a door to the gospel there. Also, thank God for faithful Southern Baptists who are willing to spend weeks and months in disaster areas away from their families to be Jesus' hands and feet and bring hope to hurting people. Finally, ask God how He would have you support Southern Baptist efforts through giving and going.

### Immigration reform?

Dr. Richard Land's position on immigration reform as printed in the ABN 3/10/2011, should trouble every freedom-loving, born again, Christian American. Immigration reform is the buzz word for open door, borderless immigration policy. It's most obvious that Dr. Land is ecumenical, which has been rejected by Southern Baptists for almost a century.

Mr. Land is president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the SBC. In a symposium at Georgetown University, Land said, "I

think the American public in general is well ahead of its elected representatives on the issue of comprehensive immigration reform. They are ready for their elected representatives to behave like statesmen rather than politicians."

The article implies that it's been three-and-a-half years since Congress unsuccessfully voted on immigration reform.

Excuse me, but where was Dr. Land and his Catholic and Jewish

advocates for immigration reform last fall during the lame duck session of Congress when President Obama

and the alien amnesty crowd pressed hard for passage of the "Dream Act," a sly effort to grant citizenship to illegal

American college students?

America grants citizenship to more people each year than all other countries combined. Yet, there are an estimated 11 to 20 million illegal immigrants in our country. The Bor-

der Patrol flies 4,000 aliens back to their home country every week at a cost to tax payers of \$1,000 each.

America has an estimated unemployment of 20 million citizens, the highest since the Great Depression.

Can we not learn from England, Ireland, France and other European neighbors what multiculturalism has produced in their countries?

Those who agree with Dr. Land and his ecumenical friends are ready to accept Muslim-Hispanic domination of this country.

Jim Glover  
Heber Springs

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## A Tribute to Godly Mothers ABN Mother of the Year Contest

Arkansas Baptists, write a brief tribute (300 words or less) about your mother or another worthy mother. The ABN will recognize the winner in her local church and present her with a gift as well as highlight her tribute in the May 6 issue.

**Send your tribute by April 21, along with your phone number and/or email address, your mother's name and what church she attends to:  
Mother of the Year Contest, Arkansas Baptist News,  
10 Remington Dr., Little Rock, AR 72204 or email to  
tim@arkansasbaptist.org.**



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Member of the Association  
of State Baptist Papers

Tim Yarbrough, editor

Lisa Watson, associate editor

Jessica Vanderpool, assistant editor/office manager

Becky Hardwick, business manager

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## Family Matters

### *Celebrating Easter with family*

Easter is Sunday, April 24, this year, and most churches will have a bulging sanctuary. Even those who don't regularly attend church tend to mingle in that Sunday. Easter is the holiday for believers to magnify Jesus Christ, who was crucified to satisfy the wrath of God for our sins on a Friday, was placed in a tomb and victoriously arose from the grave three days later.

Many churches have already been planning to make Easter Sunday memorable. Sunday School teachers look forward to teaching about the resurrection. Members enjoy celebrating the resurrection of Christ with others.

I think it's also meaningful to commemorate the resurrection of Christ with my family, preparing them for Easter Sunday at church. What will your family do to share the truths of the Easter story in your home? Prayerfully think through how you will involve your family the days leading up to, and including, Easter weekend. Here are some ideas.

- Read the story about the death and resurrection from one of the gospels. Read from a different gospel story each weekend leading up to Easter. Read through the death and resurrection in chronological order from the different gospel accounts.

- Our family regularly uses "Resurrection Eggs" to tell the different elements of the trial, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. We've checked out a variety of videos from the church library and shown different videos every night the week leading up to Easter.

- Many churches have special Easter plays or musicals. These are great opportunities to involve your entire family in emphasizing this pivotal moment in history.

- It's a great time to share the gospel with your children. Utilize the Evangucube, the Romans Road (Rom. 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9-10) or your personal testimony.

One of the questions I frequently ask when I lead a parenting seminar is how many have heard their parents verbally share their salvation testimony. Less than 15 percent have heard their parents tell their story. Many in church regularly celebrate Easter, but they often struggle to share the story about how the Christ of Easter has changed their lives. Utilize this special season of the year to not only tell the story of the risen Christ, but to tell the story of how the risen Christ has transformed your life.

*Ben Phillips is team leader of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention family ministry team.*

# Church building...

Recently, archeologists in Israel uncovered a very old church building. Approximately 1,500 years old (the oldest known church building is 250 years older), it was built on the site of a synagogue. This discovery calls to mind some important issues.

**You can have a church without a building.** No one disputes this, but for more than 1,500 years, believers have had dedicated places of worship. While not having a building has advantages, having one has greater advantages. I can just imagine the business meeting when this congregation decided to buy the synagogue to make it a church.

Do you think there may have been motions, amendments, questions, raised voices and confusion? Maybe, but those brothers and sisters decided it was better to have a building than to continue without one.

**Symbols are important.** The brief report of this building indicates there were several examples of our symbols, including crosses and fish, on the site. Perhaps this is how the unbelievers identified the building as a church. Or perhaps it reminded the congregants of the sacrifice and provision of the Savior, thus enhancing worship. Your building should call people to worship. It is part of our history.

**The building and grounds committee.** No one knows if there was one at this church, but we may be sure these believers were as good of Bible scholars as we are, and they would have understood biblical stewardship. Take care of the facility God has given you. It honors Him and proclaims that your congregation is serious about its commitment to Christ and its interac-

tion with its community.

**The Cemetery Association.** There were burial vaults associated with this church. Did it have a cemetery association? Funerals were of great significance in the early church, and the burial vaults in churches testified to the expectation of resurrection. This element of the church proclaimed the gospel; it did not hinder the church's ministries, but enhanced them.

Our brothers and sisters who met in this ancient church building may have intended it to be used for worship only, **but we need not limit our facilities to a single use.** I have found that the easier we make it for a community to use a church building during the week, the more likely the community will worship in it on Sunday. Boy Scout troops, polling sites, meeting places for various organizations – all of these give the unchurched and lost community a level of comfort with your facility. For those who have been trained in CPR in your fellowship hall, it is much easier to attend Sunday worship in your sanctuary. Your building should be an outreach tool to help you reach your community. It should not be a place where church members insulate themselves from the lost world around them.

This ancient building was a place where Christ was honored and proclaimed. Children 1,500 years ago would hear the gospel. Adults would make new commitments to Christ there. Lost people would come in, sit down and sense His presence. **The building was not worshipped, but a place of worship. It was not a shrine, but a launching pad to take the gospel to the world.**



## A PASTOR'S HEART

*Emil Turner*

## Saving by Giving

As "Tax Day" (April 18 this year) nears, it is appropriate to focus on a tax concern for Christians.

The charitable income tax deduction is currently under attack – i.e., some suggest limitations or eliminating it entirely. Richard Thaler in the *New York Times* writes, "It's time to rethink the charity deduction." Since many donors are encouraged by tax savings – even if it is not the primary motivation – this potential change could affect churches and other charities.

Deductions can reduce tax liability. Since 1917, generosity to non-profits has been rewarded in our tax code. If you itemize, you can reduce tax liability by making charitable gifts. Appreciated assets (held for more than a year) can be even more beneficial as gifts than cash. Our government has recognized the value that charities have provided to our society. If you "release" a highly appreciated asset into the hands of a charity that can use it for good, then our tax laws "forgive" the capital gains tax liability.

There are also ways to generate a charitable deduction by making gifts to charities whereby you receive income back for your lifetime or a term of years. These gifts are limited to tools such as charita-

ble gift annuities, pooled income funds and charitable remainder trusts. These are powerful techniques to save on taxes now for gifts that are made at your death or after a period of years.

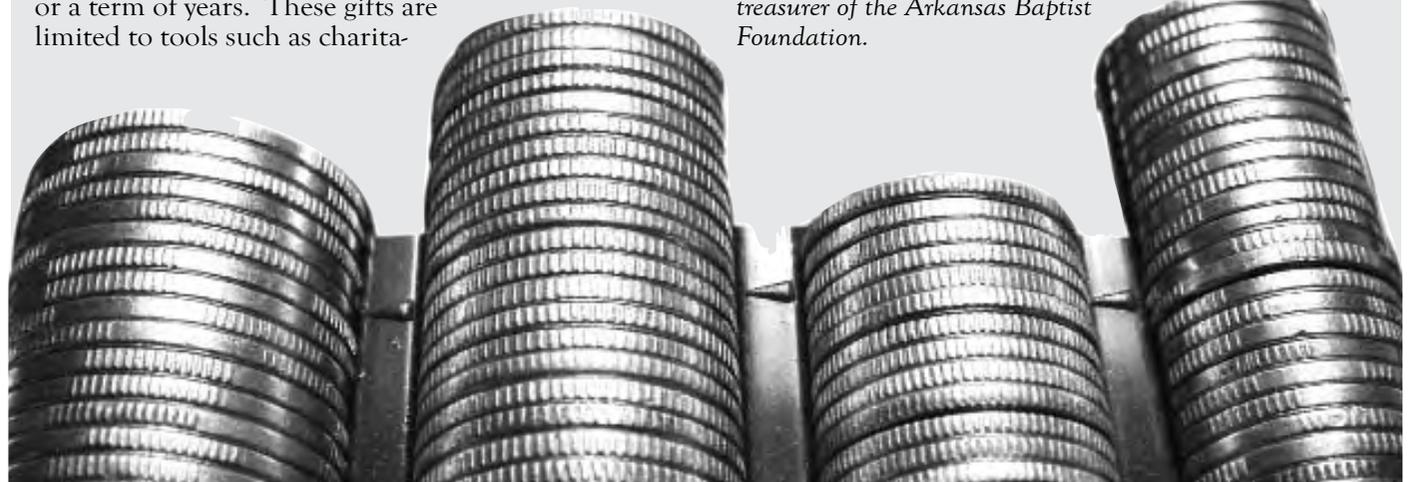
Another special opportunity exists in 2011 for those who are 70 years, 6 months old, or older. From an IRA, a taxpayer can make a gift of up to \$100,000 directly to a church or other charity (outright or to an endowment) without any tax implications. The amount is not considered as taxable income, and there is no charitable deduction. One nice feature is that these transfers qualify for the annual required minimum distribution.

We encourage you to consult the Arkansas Baptist Foundation or your tax professional for a further explanation of these charitable giving strategies. A wise man once said in Proverbs 21:5a (NIV), "The plans of the diligent lead to profit." Good stewardship involves tax planning. Thankfully, we still have a charitable deduction to use in planning. We believe that it is good for our government to encourage charitable donations.

*David Moore is the president/ treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.*

### FINANCIAL TIMES

*David Moore,  
Arkansas Baptist Foundation*





## ABSC calendar

- **March 31:** Master'Singers Festival of Song – *Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge*
- **April 1-2:** Youth Evangelism Conference – *Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock*
- **April 2:** Spring Tiger Serve Day – *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia*
- **April 7:** Collegiate Ministers Matrix – *ABSC, Little Rock*
- **April 8-10:** Connect! – *Arkansas River Valley Association*
- **April 9:** Mission Fair – *Mississippi County Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Blytheville*
- **April 10:** Cooperative Program Sunday
- **April 12:** Fellowship of Retired Baptist Workers – *Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock*
- **April 16:** Hispanic Family Conference – *Second Baptist Church, Russellville*
- **April 16:** Impact – *Woodland Heights Baptist Church, Conway*
- **April 25:** Intentional Interim Ministers' Training – *Camp Paron*
- **April 28:** Master'Singers Festival of Song – *First Baptist Church, Searcy*
- **April 30:** Arkansas Baptist Chaplains' Retreat – *Lake DeGray Lodge, Bismarck*
- **April 30:** State Youth/Children Bible Drill and Youth Speakers Tournament – *Second Baptist Church, Conway*

For more information on events, go to [www.absc.org](http://www.absc.org).

# Handbell Festival 'rings bells'

*GOOD CHRISTIAN men rejoice, with heart and soul and voice ...*

Though it is still 10 months until Christmas, the sounds of the season were evident as more than 200 handbell ringers from 15 churches met together for the 2011 Handbell Festival.

Held at Hot Springs Baptist Church, Hot Springs, the festival featured handbell clinician Glen Ennes of Republic, Mo. Ennes is retired from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) leadership and worship team.

Ennes taught handbell techniques in several large group sessions.

Choirs played individually during adjudication, receiving constructive criticism on their performances, said Larry Grayson, ABSC leadership and worship team member.

Grayson said holding the yearly handbell festival serves as an encouragement for churches to continue handbell choirs. He noted changes in worship styles have contributed to a decrease in the number of church-



es that have handbell choirs.

"Handbell ringing is kind of a lost art," said Grayson. "People are finding it more difficult to work handbell music into today's worship flow. "But people love to ring

handbells."

To address this, Grayson said some churches have begun using handbell choirs as an outreach, allowing choirs to perform at nursing homes and other venues.

## BCM ministry impacts 25 campuses

**David James**

*Arkansas Baptist State Convention*

AN INTERNATIONAL student studying on an Arkansas campus had grown up in the Islamic faith. He began going to the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) to practice his English. Today, several students and leaders are in his life sharing God's love and truth on a regular basis. We are praying that he will place his faith in Christ soon.

Because Arkansas Baptists care about college students, this past year Arkansas collegians were challenged to live lives that exalted God through BCM on 35 campuses in our state. Thirty-seven campus ministers and staff and more than 300 student leaders have guided the ministry as they worked alongside church collegiate ministers.

As collegians have grown in Christ and served His world through evangelism and missions in campus outreach events and personal witnessing, 414 persons came to faith in Christ through BCM ministries. More than 2,600 collegians have served in missions and ministries on six continents. BCM students

contributed more than \$250,000 to mission causes.

The lives of college students and others have been connected to His church as they have participated in, and led, worship experiences, Bible study groups and leadership retreats, and they have assisted local churches in revivals and Disciple Now weekends.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention collegiate ministry team ex-

ists to challenge collegians to exalt God through growing in Christ, connecting to His church and serving His world.

Churches, associations and BCMs continue to partner together to fulfill the purpose of the collegiate ministry team. Thank you for praying with us as we minister to these leaders of the future.

*David James is team leader of the ABSC collegiate ministry team.*

## YEC date set for April 1-2

LITTLE ROCK – Christian recording artists, The Afters, will headline the 2011 Arkansas Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference.

Set for April 1-2 at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock, the conference includes nationally-known youth evangelist Wade Morris of Birmingham, Ala., and Wes Hamilton, pastor of Hulen Street Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

The Afters will perform at the

conference Friday night. The title track of The Afters' latest album, "Light Up the Sky," reached No. 1 on the Christian music Billboard charts.

Brenton Brown will lead worship and Far From Ordinary, a Christian sketch team, will also perform at the event.

For more information about the Youth Evangelism Conference, go to [www.absc.org/yec](http://www.absc.org/yec), or call David Bond at 800-838-2272, ext. 5222.

## ABCHomes Families on Mission Day May 14

MAKE PLANS to attend Families on Mission Day at the Little Rock Zoo May 14. Attendees will spend the day learning about missions and other cultures in a fun atmosphere, according to organizers. Families will be given the opportunity to support the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes (ABCHomes) by bringing

animal character snacks, such as animal crackers, gummy bears or other "animal" candies or cookies. An area will be set up to drop off the snacks for ABCHomes.

"Families on Mission Day was developed out of a brainstorming meeting about how children can learn more about missions and the

Cooperative Program," said Charity Gardner, Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions support team member and Families on Mission Day event planner. "Through this day, we hope to introduce families to missions in Arkansas, North America and around the world."

The one-day missions awareness

event will begin at 9 a.m. It is open to families with preschoolers and children.

Families may bring a picnic lunch, or they can buy lunch at the zoo. For registration information and costs, contact Charity Gardner at 800-838-2272, ext. 5137, or [cgardner@absc.org](mailto:cgardner@absc.org).

# Mission trips provide 'life-changing' impact

Andy Morris  
Mission Serve

A MISSION TRIP for students can be a life-changing experience, but for this to take place, there has to be a great amount of planning and preparation by the youth leader. Unless this work is done ahead of time, the trip may not fulfill expectations.

Following are some tips that can assist youth leaders in planning a mission trip:

## Don't go it alone.

If there are lots of details in planning and the logistics of it all are overwhelming, then enlist organized leaders who can assist in areas such as lodging, meals, devotions, worship and ministry opportunities. Keep parents informed along the way with periodic meetings. This approach broadens the trip and ministry to the entire church. Make sure students know the mission trip is an extension of the entire church body. Plan a commissioning service for your group before they leave on their trip.

## Flexibility is a must.

This goes for students and leaders. Planning is very important. However, somewhere along the way, things may not go as planned. When this happens, the way the youth leaders and group members respond and handle the situation may be the best witness your group has during the trip. Prepare your group for the unexpected.

## Mission trips are not for everyone in your group.

The worst thing a youth leader can do is bring students or adults on mission trips not ready or prepared for the experience.

Mission trips are not like youth camps, where students bring their non-Christian friends.

It is a trip for responsible students who have a desire to share Christ and are given an opportunity to do so. It is for students willing to become the hands and feet of Christ during the week.

Students on a mission trip should know what is expected of them. Their responsibilities and assignments should be clear. They should be well-trained in the customs and culture of the people they are trying to reach. They should know how to share their faith with others.

**When God uses us to change the lives of others, He does something in our lives as well. He changes us.**

## Watch God at work during the week.

If proper planning has been done, just watch what God does in the lives of your students during the trip. When God uses us to change the lives of others, He does something in our lives as well. He changes us. Talk about what God is doing during the week with students. Help them realize and understand how God is at work. Give them the opportunity to share what God is doing. Make sure they know how important their service is, how they are part of something bigger than themselves - they are part of what God is doing in the world.

## A mission trip is not over when you come home.

As follow-up, plan a sharing service with the entire church. This will reinforce God's work in the participants' lives. Try to bring along those in the youth group who were unable to attend so they will not feel left out. While the week is fresh, evaluate the trip. Make notes of what went well and what needs work. This will help you in planning your next missions experience.

## A mission trip is not just a one-week experience.

God is at work in students' lives all the time. Their mission field is all around them - in their school, on their sports team or club, maybe even in their home. Challenge them to be on mission all the time, not just when they are away on a mission trip.

Planning a mission trip is a lot of work, but when you see lives changed and how God uses students to accomplish His work, it is worth every ounce of energy and time that is put into planning and preparation.

For more information about planning a mission experience visit [www.mission-serve.com](http://www.mission-serve.com).

Andy Morris is executive director of Mission Serve based in Cumming, Ga.

STUDENT MINISTRY



# Ouachita students serve in U.S., abroad

**Trennis Henderson**  
Ouachita Baptist University

ARKADELPHIA – Reflecting a commitment to “involve students in God’s mission to the world,” Ouachita Baptist University’s Campus Ministries program is providing opportunities for more than 40 students and staff members to participate in spring and summer mission projects.

Ouachita is coordinating a spring break trip to New York City this week and will sponsor summer missions teams serving in Chile and East Asia, according to James Taylor, Campus Ministries director.

“For spring break, a team of 19 students and two staff are traveling to New York City to work with Urban Impact, a ministry that reaches out to South Asian and African immigrants,” said Taylor. “Through English as a second language, children’s ministry and construction, we will help this local ministry and churches reach out to international communities in Queens.”

Taylor said he is excited about the March 19-26 trip to New York

City because “it offers a cross-cultural experience in the U.S. So many of the people we will serve come from countries where the gospel cannot be proclaimed openly and where it is illegal to convert to Christianity. It’s a wonderful ministry and a great opportunity for our students to support the local churches of New York.”

“I’m looking forward to serving with other students in such a diverse city,” said Brad Stark, a senior psychology major from Heber Springs.

During the summer, students serving in Santiago, Chile, will work with area missionaries to lead sports camps and survey college

students about their religious beliefs. The East Asia team will use sports, cultural exchange and social interaction to build relationships with students there.

“Our two international teams have been meeting together, praying together and training all semester for these trips,” Taylor said. “Our hope is that, through the training and the trip, each participant will understand more clearly how they can play a role in God’s mission in the world.



“I’m particularly excited about the long-term workers we will be serving alongside this summer,” he added.

“We have such great partnerships across the world that help make these trips fruitful for everyone involved.”

Taylor noted that Campus Ministries provides a variety of mission opportunities “to allow students

to serve internationally, but also to challenge them, train them in cross-cultural awareness and inspire them to be involved in global missions for the rest of their lives.”

He invited Arkansas Baptists to support Campus Ministries in prayer.

Trennis Henderson is Ouachita Baptist University’s vice president for communications.

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**“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU...” JEREMIAH 29:11 (NIV)**

# Williams students take missions seriously

**Brett Cooper**  
Williams Baptist College

WALNUT RIDGE - About two dozen Williams Baptist College students are heading to Nashville, Tenn., for their spring break. But they won't have much time for recreation.

"We will do cross cultural ministry to the enormous immigrant population that lives in Nashville," said Josh Goza, WBC's campus ministries director. "We will be attending a Kurdish Mosque and dialoguing with Muslim college students, attending an ESL (English as a Second Language) class and handing out socks and gloves to the homeless, just to name a few of the things we will be doing."

Such trips are the norm at Williams, where student missions have long been a point of emphasis. Just last summer, some 115 WBC students spent all or part of their vacation in ministry-related positions.

"The call to go and serve is contagious at Williams. We are always being given opportunity after opportunity to serve others, whether at school, in the community or (in) summer work," said Will Ward, a junior from Clinton, who spent the summer working at a CentriKid camp.

Whitney Fowler spent her summer as recreation director at Siloam Springs Camp and then went to Indonesia for the fall semester where, while still enrolled at Williams, she served as a "Hands On" missionary with the SBC's International Mission Board. While overseas, she taught English to college students and school children, as well as took part in other ministries.

"I believe Williams does a fantastic job of promoting, facilitating and involving students in missions," said the junior from Perryville. "I believe students learn to discover God and experience Him like never before, developing a Christian worldview.

Students learn to pray, support and participate in missions through opportunities given by the college."

Although the Williams student body is relatively small in number, the college has traditionally been a leader in the state for the number of its students who serve in some ministry capacity.

So why do Williams students involve themselves to such a degree in missions?

"God's prompting," Goza said. "I think they are also encouraged by their peers and some of their professors. Most of them also see things outside of themselves and want to be a part of what God is doing in the world."

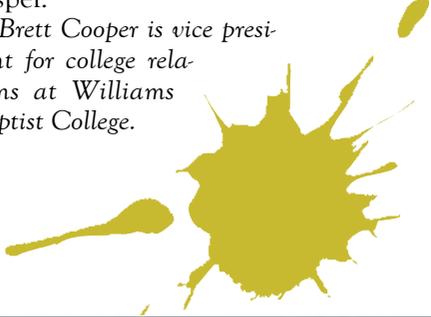
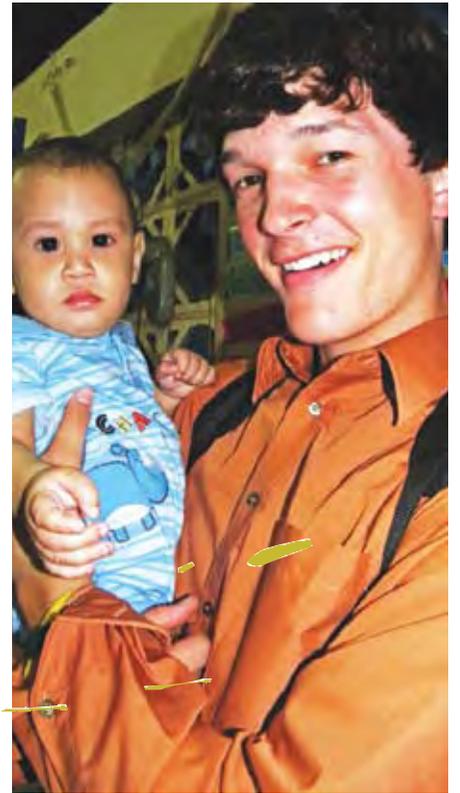
And, in the end, students usually find that their time spent in missions is a big part of their college education.

"Working at CentriKid changed

my life," said Ward. "I will never be the same after a summer that completely stretched me physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. I never would have had the opportunity if it weren't for the encouragement and support from Williams."

The goal of it all, from Williams' perspective, is a college education that prepares students to seek a higher calling. As Fowler observes, "I think change takes place in one's heart at Williams. Then they realize the importance of God and His Great Commission, and that is going to the ends of the earth to spread the gospel."

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



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# 'Hot topics' engage high school peers

**Lisa Watson**  
Arkansas Baptist News

DOES GOD EXIST? Why do bad things happen to good people?

These may not be the kind of questions you'd expect high school students to talk about.

But students from Cross Church, Pinnacle Hills, are doing just that – talking with other students they know about “hot topics” in an effort share the gospel of Christ.

Last fall, Cross Church piloted the Campus Missionaries program with 10 students in the church's youth ministry, said Chuck Butler, student minister at Cross Church, Pinnacle Hills.

Each week, students attend classes where they learn how to defend their faith and receive instruction on appropriate ways to share the gospel with others using hot topics. They also commit to invite fellow students to attend 30-minute “campus ministry groups” where they initiate spiritual conversations.

The ministry provides a way for students, not church staff members, to reach their peers for Christ, said Butler.

He said the students know it's not going to be easy. But they have had some success.

“We are at one private school and two public schools,” said Butler.

Only those students who are serious about making a commitment – who feel called to this ministry – can participate in the program.

Bentonville High School student Maddie Delphon got involved in the Campus Missionaries program because she thought it would be a “creative way” to share the gospel with unchurched teenagers who attend her school.

Through the weekly meetings at Cross Church, Delphon said she

has learned it's important to share Christ with “love, care and gentleness.”

“It's not about trying to win an argument with a non-believer,” said Delphon. “It's just simply sharing what you believe and taking the time to listen to them as well.”

She meets on Thursday nights with seven Bentonville High School students. “We all just engage in conversations of what we believe and why and what we think about different topics,” said Delphon. “We get into some awesome conversations, and it's really cool to see non-believers listening to what we as Christians believe, as well as to hear what they think.”

Delphon said she is thankful for opportunities God has given her to share her faith. “He is the whole reason we do this.”

Olivia Seal had been praying for “the longest time” for God to use her in a “radical” way to reach her peers at Bentonville

High School for Christ. She believes the Campus Missionaries program was His answer to her prayers.

She said being involved in the program pushed her out of her comfort zone, noting it's often difficult to approach strangers to ask if they would like to learn more about spiritual matters. “God has taught me that we, as Christians, are not supposed to be comfortable with our faith. We are supposed to be doing more and reaching more people.”

Seal said the setbacks she has encountered along the way have helped her become more patient and “trust God.”

“Our campuses are huge mission fields. Our students are being equipped and trained to target them,” said Butler.

“Our students are urgently and

passionately on fire to win their campuses for Jesus,” said Butler. “That's what God called us to do.”

Right now, Butler is waiting for God's leadership in the Campus Missionaries program. “I'd love to see 100 teenagers actively involved in the program.”

Most importantly, Butler wants his students to share their faith in Christ with others.

“We're just encouraging our students to go tell people about Jesus.”

Contact Lisa Watson at [lisa@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:lisa@arkansasbaptist.org).

## NEW CENTRIFUGE LOCATION FOR 2011




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# 2011 VBS CLINICS

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Little Rock

**Event Times: 6:00-8:30**  
\$3 in advance, \$5 at the door




Visit [www.abpc.org/childhood](http://www.abpc.org/childhood)  
for registration forms or call  
**1.800.838.2272 ext. 5132**

# COLLISION 2011 pilot set for July 4-8

COLLISION 2011, a weeklong missions experience for middle and high school students who have completed the sixth grade, will be piloted July 4-8 in the Batesville area.

Dubbed by organizers as, "When the love of Christ meets a broken world," COLLISION 2011 is the result of a partnership between Independence Baptist Association and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), said Robby Tingle, team leader of the ABSC missions ministries team.

Students participating in COLLISION 2011 will work in numerous

ministry projects in Batesville and surrounding communities, which are a part of Independence Baptist Association.

"We are excited about partnering with the Independence Baptist Association," said Tingle. "We believe this week will provide a quality mission experience for students at a very reasonable price. The ultimate goal is to provide opportunities for students to live out the Great Commission that will result in impacting lostness in the Independence Baptist Association."

"The ultimate goal is to provide opportunities for students to live out the Great Commission that will result in impacting lostness in the Independence Baptist Association."

— Robby Tingle

Registration includes lodging, meals, ministry project supplies and program personnel. The registration

deadline for a lower rate is May 3.

Tingle said he believes COLLISION 2011 has the potential to become something very special for students in Arkansas.

"Who knows," said Tingle. "God may just use this week to call some students into ministry leadership. Wouldn't that be incredible?"

More information about COLLISION 2011, including registration costs, is available by contacting Ronnie Toon, associational missionary, at rtoon@sbcglobal.net or by calling (870) 793-7162.

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Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Park Hill Baptist Church,  
North Little Rock

9 - 10 a.m. Refreshments  
and Registration

10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Program

Theme: "Joyful Living"

# Classifieds

## PASTOR

South Main Baptist, Crossett, Ark., is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Send resume to South Main Baptist, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 430, Crossett, AR 71635. Resume deadline: April 30, 2011.

Southern Baptist Church seeking **bi-vocational pastor**. Parsonage available if needed. Please send resume to Cocklebur Baptist Church, 4138 Cocklebur Road, Ward, AR 72176.

Formosa Baptist Church, located in north central Arkansas, is now accepting resumes for **pastor**. Send resumes to Formosa Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1530, Clinton, AR 72031.

Third Baptist Church of Malvern, Ark., is accepting resumes for **pastor**. Please send resume to Third Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 817 W. Young St., Malvern, AR 72104.

Cherry Street Baptist Church is currently seeking a **pastor**. CSBC is located in Clarksville, Ark., a city of 9,600 residents in Johnson County, where more than 19,000 people reside. We have a loving, Christ-centered congregation and a beautiful sanctuary with a Sunday morning attendance of more than 40. Our sanctuary will accommodate approx. 250. We also have many classrooms to accommodate growth. The pastor's salary is \$40,000, plus a two-bedroom parsonage, which is located next to CSBC. The University of Ozarks and downtown Clarksville are three blocks from CSBC. Staff includes a part time

secretary, nursery worker and custodian. We are praying for a God-called pastor who is willing to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in a variety of possible ministries. Send resumes to P.O. Box 378, Clarksville, AR 72830 or dstandri@suddenlink.net, or call Dennis at 479-754-8299.

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

## OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

FBC Farmington, Ark., is seeking a **full-time worship/arts and media pastor** to serve in a contemporary style of praise and worship. Email resumes and videos to Brian Hester, Chairman, Personnel Committee, at brian@hesterappraisals.net.

Bayou Meto Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Ark., is accepting resumes for **part-time music director**. Resumes may be sent to bayoumeto@centurytel.net or Bayou Meto Baptist Church, Attn: Music Search Team, 26200 Hwy. 107, Jacksonville, AR 72076.

Calvary Baptist Church, Benton, Ark., is seeking a **full-time minister of youth**. Complete job description on our Web site, [www.cbcbenton.com](http://www.cbcbenton.com). Send resumes to CBC Search Committee, 612 Valley View, Benton, AR 72019 or cbcbenton@sbcglobal.net. Resumes accepted until April

15.

**F/T WORSHIP PASTOR** — Calvary Baptist Church, Neosho, Mo., is seeking a full-time worship pastor. Calvary is a mission-minded, contemporary, blended church, focusing on God's kingdom work. Please email resume to calvaryofneosho@yahoo.com, or send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2650 Oakridge Extension, Neosho, MO 64850.

Trinity Baptist Church, Searcy, is seeking a **full-time student minister**. If interested, send resume to 1601 East Moore, Searcy, AR 72143.

Second Baptist Church, Monticello, Ark., is seeking a **bi-vocational minister of worship and praise**. Send resumes to 1032 Old Warren Road, Monticello, AR 71655, or email brojimmyalbrecht@yahoo.com. Resumes will be accepted until March 31, 2011.

Traditional, conservative, growing Southern Baptist church in Memphis, Tenn., metropolitan area seeks **minister of youth and recreation**. Send resume by April 15 to Personnel, Covenant Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1165, Collierville, TN 38027-1165.

Coronado Baptist Church in Hot Springs Village is taking resumes for **part-time minister of music**. Contact the office at 501-922-3218 from 1-5 p.m., or email to coronadobap@sbcglobal.net.

East Side Baptist Church is looking for a **full-time assistant youth minister**. This position will primarily be working with the junior high department of the church by assisting the youth minister in various capacities. Ex-

perience in youth ministry and/or degree preferred. Please send resumes to East Side Baptist Church, 718 East 9th Street, Mountain Home, AR 72653.

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

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

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## FBC, Harrisburg, hosts Children's Ministry Day

TWELVE CHILDREN, three youth and five adults from First Baptist Church, Harrisburg, participated in the church's first Children's Ministry Day (CMD) Feb. 19. There was no cost to participate, but children were asked to bring food items to be given to the local food pantry.

Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) created the event with the goal of helping children get out into their community and do missions.

At First Baptist's event, children ate breakfast and leaders introduced them to the event's theme – "Neighbor to Neighbor" – and what Leviticus 19:18 says about loving one's neighbor, said Joan Jones, children's ministry leader at First Baptist.

Children also drew head-and-shoulder self-portraits to be displayed in the children's area of the church with a sign above them that says, "WE LOVE." They also acted

out the story of the Good Samaritan, found in Luke 10.

Children decorated sugar cookies with icing and sparkles, which would be used to make "goody plates" and delivered to houses around the church. After a break, children were divided into groups to take part in service activities, such as picking up trash, doing yard work, sweeping a pavilion and putting together the goody plates. At the end of the day, the groups divided up the goody plates and delivered them to 23 houses.

In all, Jones counts CMD a success and plans to take part in next year's event.

"The theme was so appropriate for what God has been showing our church in the last months," Jones said, concluding, "CMD definitely gave our children the opportunity to love, learn and live."



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### Milestones

Brooke Zimny, assistant director of communications for Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, recently was named one of "20 to Watch in 2011" by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* Tri-Lakes edition. The 20 individuals honored for the recognition were cited for making a difference in their communities and careers. According to the *Democrat-Gazette*, recipients share "a passion to give of themselves to leave the world a better place." Zimny is a 2008 summa cum laude graduate of Ouachita.

### Church life

Marshall Road Baptist Church, Jacksonville, will hold a Ladies Prayer Retreat at Camp Paron April 1-2. For more information, contact

Margie Edwards at 501-257-0126.

First Baptist Church, Benton, will hold a 175th anniversary celebration at 10:15 a.m. April 3. To RSVP, call 501-315-2270 or email frances.raley@fbc Benton.org.

Elmdale Baptist Church, Springdale, will celebrate its 50th anniversary at 9 a.m. April 3. Fellowship and a meal will follow the program. RSVP by March 25 to Fern Hobbs at (479) 751-5657 or nfhobbs@cox.net.

To submit church news, email [jessica@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:jessica@arkansasbaptist.org) or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5153.

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## Happy Birthday!

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

- ◆ April 6: Renee Getsee, OBU Box 3824, Arkadelphia, AR, 71998-0001; Thailand.
- ◆ April 17: Jody Persson, OBU Box 3193, Arkadelphia, AR, 71998-0001; Turkey.
- ◆ April 24: Kimberly Carlton, OBU Box 3182, Arkadelphia, AR, 71998-0001; Kenya.



First Baptist Church, Hamburg, members held a "note burning" celebration and luncheon March 6 in honor of retiring the debt on their Family Life Center, which cost a little more than \$1 million.

## 'Underground' simulates persecution

NORTH ARKANSAS Baptist Association, Harrison, recently held Underground 2011, an event that Luke Stockeland, youth pastor of First Baptist Church, Green Forest, helped organize. Stockeland described Underground 2011 as "an action-packed adventure game that simulates Christians being persecuted for their faith."

First Baptist Church, Harrison, hosted the event. Stockeland said, during the game, students walked throughout the church's campus, looking for the underground church. They underwent mock arrests, imprisonments and interrogations as part of the game.

"Every person was affected on a level not reached before," Stockeland said.

The goal of Underground 2011 was to "pull the very faith out from under the students, causing them to question everything they believe in and even causing some to emotionally and spiritually fall flat on their backs," said Stockeland.

"It's then that they realize that our foundation is Jesus Christ the Lord, and that foundation can never be shaken."

More than 275 students participated, along with about 100 adults. Toby Talley, Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church growth team member, spoke at the event and the band Jericho Down, of First Baptist Church, Garfield, performed.

Regarding Talley's message, Stockeland said, "He didn't pry on the emotions of the event, but built on the event, calling for genuine decisions for Christ, both for salvation and commitment."

Stockeland said 25 decisions were made during the event, seven of which were professions of faith.

To view a video of the event, visit [www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org).

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## Keep your focus heavenward

The lead runner was almost 100 yards in front of his nearest opponent, but every few yards he would look over his shoulder to see how far ahead he was. The last time he looked, he lost his balance and fell. He raised his head off the track to see all his opponents pass him and cross the finish line.

The runner was so worried about what was behind him that he could not concentrate on what was ahead

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE APRIL 3, 2011

Gerald Nash, member  
Second Baptist Church, Conway

Scripture passage:  
Philippians 3:13-14

– the finish line. The Apostle Paul tells us “...one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13-14 NKV).

Paul was not going to allow what was behind to trip him up from crossing the finish line a victor. He didn’t concentrate on past failures or what could

have been if he had made different choices. We know from his writings that he concentrated on things like the privileges and responsibilities of the Christian life, witnessing, worship, Scripture, service and spiritual character development.

The Apostle Paul not only focused on what was ahead, but he also focused on the goal and the prize. The goal is the finish line. The prize is awarded to the winner. “The prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (v. 14) would include all the purposes God had in mind in saving us – salvation, Christlike-ness, joint-heirs with Christ, a home in heaven, being light and salt in

the world and innumerable spiritual blessings.

From start to finish, Paul kept his focus upward. C. S. Lewis observed that Christians who have ceased to think of heaven have become ineffective on earth. I think the Apostle Paul would agree with that assessment. He exhorted others, “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:2).

To be the most effective for Christ, we must keep our focus heavenward. Our Christ-like lives will glorify God, verify our salvation, provide us with assurance and enhance our witness. Forget what’s behind; reach forward; press on!

Martha and Mary lost a brother, and everyone was in tears, including Jesus. The Jews suggested Jesus was weeping because he loved Lazarus. That was true.

This is number seven of the seven signs of John. “Sign” is another word for “miracle. This concept of “miracle” points to something greater than itself. Each of these signs suggests there was grief or loss and Jesus brought them hope. Jesus was there to help the situation by balancing their grief with His hope.

I want to suggest another possible reason for Jesus’ tears. My suggestion is based on what Martha and

Mary said to Jesus. Each of them essentially said the same thing – that Lazarus would not have died if Jesus had been there.

After all, Jesus healed many others of tremendous health problems, so surely He could have healed Lazarus. However, Jesus had something else in mind. This sickness was for “God’s glory,” according to John 11:4. Lazarus had to die.

Therefore, knowing that Lazarus would soon be resurrected, why did Jesus weep over him? Was it simply out of simple sorrow, or was there another reason? I believe there was. Jesus wept because Martha and

Mary did not believe He could do anything to help.

Jesus not only could have kept Lazarus from dying, He could bring him back to life. All they could see was a corpse; Jesus saw God’s glory. This is the real balance between grief and hope.

All too often, we see what is and not what could be. My grief has made it difficult or even impossible for me to see any-

thing but my pain. Jesus had heard it before, but now He heard it from friends and it probably got the best

of Him. I suggest that He wept over the lack of belief of the sisters, rather than over the death of His friend.

The conclusion is simple. If the sisters’ unbelief caused Jesus grief and tears, then would not our unbelief do the same today? I suspect it would and does.

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE APRIL 3, 2011

Charles A. Collins, chaplain  
associate, Baptist Hospital  
Little Rock

Scripture passages:  
John 11:20-27, 32-36, 43-44

## Never let up

The Apostle Paul said, “I know both how to have a little, and I know how to have a lot. In any and all circumstances

I have learned the secret of being content whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need” (Phil. 4:12, HCSB).

It is my experience that my ability to be content varies with the

situation. Paul said he was content in “all circumstances.” This is what makes Paul’s statement so phenom-

enal. Consider his situation. Paul is in a cold, dark prison in Rome. Bible scholars tell us that he was prob-

ably chained with a guard on either side. His accommodations were probably a miserable, stinking dungeon cell.

Paul had suffered many other hardships, like being beaten, stoned and shipwrecked. He also had many emotional disappoint-

ments, spiritual disappointments and setbacks. He was content to do the Lord’s work no matter what the

circumstances. He never gave up.

These circumstances would test the character of the strongest of individuals. What was Paul’s secret? He tells us in verse 13, “For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength” (NLT). Paul didn’t dwell on possessions. He didn’t look at his circumstances, whether good or bad. He didn’t concentrate on his weaknesses. He didn’t rely on his strengths. He looked to Christ. The result: Christ gave him strength and provided for his needs. Paul told the Philippians in verse 19, “And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus” (NLT).

Our materially-oriented culture is programmed to create discontent. We are encouraged to want more, bigger and better. Getting more possessions can cause some spiritual problems. There is temptation to forget God when things are prosperous (Luke 12:16-21). Jesus gave us a warning about possessions, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own” (Luke 12:15, NLT).

Discontentment hinders our service to God. When we are discontented, we spend more time on getting things and trying to get in the right situations. Contentment frees us up to focus on the things of God and to do what He leads us to do.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE APRIL 10, 2011

Gerald Nash, member  
Second Baptist Church, Conway

Scripture passage:  
Philippians 4:1-23

a testimony of the past, as well as a present trust in God. It is based on the fact that God can be trusted. It is a prayer that I, too, can pray as I trust God to help me with the pressures and stresses of my life.

David shows his desire for a quick and speedy answer to his prayer, for deliverance from the issues of life. This is much like many of my prayers. The prayer is for guidance and leadership. He acknowledges that God is his refuge.

David’s confidence is in God’s certainty, and he is confident that God can and will do what He has promised. God will not abandon

him in his time of need. He prays

that God will be gracious and do something for him even though he, perhaps, does not feel worthy. After all, this is what grace is all about – receiving God’s blessings despite the fact that I do not deserve any of them.

David was no stranger to tears. His enemies tried to discredit him and make light of his dependence

upon God. He knows that he can-

not change anything but with God’s help all things are possible. The situation is not even difficult for God although it is impossible for David. Only God can do what God can do.

This was a good prayer for David, and now I can model my own prayers upon this one. After all, it is hard to argue with success.

Psalms 31 is part of the tradition of praise of the psalmist. It is an individual and personal prayer. It is quite different from the prayer of “God bless all the missionaries,” although that prayer is perhaps better than no prayer for the missionaries at all. It is a prayer of “bless me” in particular and others in general, including personal petitions.

The psalmist prays because of life’s pressures and stresses. He is responding to his needs and asking God to help him overcome these problems. It is a prayer that could have been prayed in the privacy of his home or in a public place. It is

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE APRIL 10, 2011

Charles A. Collins, chaplain  
associate, Baptist Hospital  
Little Rock

Scripture passages:  
Psalm 31:7-10,14-16,21-24

# Teenager's rebellion leads to ministry call

**Lisa Watson**  
Arkansas Baptist News

THREE YEARS can make a big difference in the life of a teenager.

Just ask Andrew Ramsey.

About three years ago, when he was just 15 years old, Andrew's family made a huge decision – to move from Atlanta, Ga., and the comforts of living in a major city, to Mountainburg, where his dad, Eric, transitioned from the North American Mission Board to a job as president of Tom Cox World Ministries (TCWM).

But that wasn't the only change the family made. While living in Atlanta, Andrew and his sister, Alisha, 14, attended a large public school. But in Mountainburg, the family opted to homeschool.

The transition for Andrew was not an easy one. "The first year I absolutely hated it," he said.

The young man became very rebellious, sneaking out with friends and getting into trouble.

"I became very angry with God," he said.

Eventually, he got caught and his parents grounded him ... for 10 months.

But that time was just what God needed to show Andrew some changes he needed to make in his life.

"It was when I got caught sneaking out that God really kind of ripped my life away and I really realized through all this, the stupid things, the dumb choices I'd made, God had protected me," said Andrew. "He watched over me. He had His



Andrew (right) shares the gospel in India.

hands on me and kept me safe."

As he grew closer to the Lord, Andrew began playing guitar, eventually leading worship services around the United States.

He also traveled with his family on short-term mission trips to places like Peru, India, Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Mexico.

Just a few weeks ago, Andrew served in India alongside his dad, staying at one of five boarding schools operated by TCWM. During the day, he served with a medical missions team, providing basic dental care. Team members also shared the gospel with each patient.

Andrew related the following story of how God provided him the chance to share the love of Christ with a group of Indian teenagers.

On a break, Andrew was playing with some

local children. On his return, Andrew found the entrance to the clinic completely blocked by patients waiting to receive care.

While he was waiting for the line to clear, he met a group of teenagers who wanted to practice English.

Andrew was happy to oblige. "I started talking to them about my family and about what I believe," he said.

"God took care of everything," he said, noting all seven teenagers made professions of faith in Christ.

Through experiences like that one, Andrew said God was leading him "baby step, by baby step" to a calling to serve in vocational ministry.

"Every trip I've gone on, I've learned something new," he said. "I know I'm called to ministry. I just don't know where yet."

Andrew plans to spend the summer as a youth director at Bluff Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith, ministering to underprivileged teens. A portion of his salary will be paid through a program sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Concord Baptist Association.

In the fall, Andrew plans to attend Williams Baptist College, studying to be a youth pastor.

Eric said TCWM has redefined its focus, helping churches to develop an Acts 1:8 mission strategy, allowing him the opportunity to do ministry and missions with his family. He said it has been great to pass on that legacy of ministry to his family.

Contact Lisa Watson at [lisa@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:lisa@arkansasbaptist.org).

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## Experience the 'Tabernacle'

**Karen Jordan**

Crossgate Church, Hot Springs

IMAGINE YOURSELF in Israel, sitting on a barren field in Shiloh and listening to stories about the children of Israel and their wilderness journey. You learn that God chose this place, Shiloh (the "Rest Giver"), as a permanent home in His Promised Land for His Tabernacle—the place where Samuel heard God call his name.

You pray, "Give me ears like Samuel. I desire to hear from YOU!"

Then, deep within you, you sense God speaking "your" name – not once, but three times.

Two years pass, and your "quiet times" with the Lord seem silent. As you plan a women's retreat, someone jokes that you should plan a trip for everyone to Israel. Then, you hear a whisper, "Bring Israel to them; build My Tabernacle."

This time, you resist what you hear. But once again the message speaks to your heart, "Build My Tabernacle."

Jeanne Whittaker, founder of "The Tabernacle Experience," recently told this story in an interview with Shawn Barnard, pastor of Crossgate Church, Hot Springs, where a life-sized replica of the Tabernacle will be on display to the public April 2-10.

Whittaker built the display for her women's retreat, and later sensed the Lord directing her "to take the tabernacle on the road."

Barnard asked Whittaker, "What can we expect as a church in going through 'The Tabernacle Experience'?"

"The Lord has been faithful to show up. If He doesn't, ('The Tabernacle Experience' is) not worth bringing ... And He comes every time," Whittaker explained.

From personal experience, it changed my life – our family's life," said Barnard. "And I'm excited about Crossgate getting to see that as well."

For information about "The Tabernacle Experience" at Crossgate, visit their Web site at [www.crossgate.org/tabx](http://www.crossgate.org/tabx).

## Prophecy Conference featuring Dr. Jimmy DeYoung



You are invited to attend a four-day PROPHECY CONFERENCE at Hot Springs Baptist Church with prophecy teacher and mid-east journalist Dr. Jimmy DeYoung.

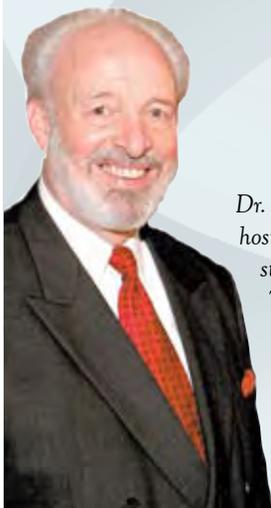
Sunday, April 3 - 10:30 AM

Sunday, April 3 - 5 PM

Monday, April 4 - 6 PM

Tuesday, April 5 - 6 PM

Wednesday, April 6 - 6 PM



Dr. DeYoung is regularly on the Day of Discovery television program, hosts his own Prophecy Today radio program that airs to over 800 stations, and is the author of the best selling book, "Sound the Trumpet." He is a noted conference speaker throughout the U.S., Europe, and South America.

HSBC is located at the intersection of Highway 270 West and Weston Road in Hot Springs. For more information, contact the HSBC office at (501) 760-4744 or [www.HotSpringsBaptist.org](http://www.HotSpringsBaptist.org).

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## NEWS DIGEST

### Elliff elected to lead IMB

DALLAS (BP) – By a unanimous vote, Thomas (Tom) D. Elliff was elected International Mission Board president March 16 by IMB trustees meeting in Dallas.

Elliff, 67, a longtime pastor, Southern Baptist Convention leader and former missionary, will lead one of the largest evangelical missions agencies in an era of rapid change at home and around the globe.

The greatest mission challenges, he said, are the world's overwhelming spiritual lostness and the urgency of mobilizing churches to take the gospel of Christ to all peoples.

Addressing questions about his age, Elliff said: "I'm not coming as an 'interim.' I'm coming with a vision – and I will serve as long as God gives me grace and energy."

Elliff succeeds Jerry Rankin as president of the mission board, which serves Southern Baptists and the 5,000 missionaries they send worldwide.

### SBC leaders oppose 'gender identity' law

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – Three prominent Southern Baptist leaders are publicly opposing a proposed Nashville law that would require city contractors to add non-discrimination policies based on "sexual orientation" and "gender identity."

The policy could: 1) allow men access to women's restrooms, 2) drive up costs due to litigation, and 3) imperil religious liberty, the leaders say.

The three leaders – Richard Land, Frank Page and Thom Rainer – co-wrote a column published March 14 in *The Tennessean*. Land is president

of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Page is president of the SBC Executive Committee and Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

The Southern Baptist leaders say the proposed ordinance, which already passed the metro council once (21-16) and could receive a final vote March 16, is "ill-advised and should be rejected." The law would place homosexuality alongside "such immutable characteristics" as race, gender and disability.

### Gay activists target Exodus iPhone app

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) – Three months after Apple made the much-criticized decision to pull the Manhattan Declaration Christian iPhone app, another controversy could be brewing as the nation's leading Christian ex-gay ministry has launched its own app – and homosexual activists want it removed, too.

The new app by Exodus International was launched in Apple's app store on March 8, but there already are 2,500 signatures on a Change.org petition urging Apple to pull the app on the grounds that it is "hateful and bigoted."

Homosexual activists also are targeting the Exodus app's ratings, which sometimes are critical in helping an iPhone owner determine whether to download an app. As of March 11, the Exodus app was rated two out of five stars based on 77 ratings – most of them negative.

"We saw the app as another opportunity to reach the world – to reach a larger demographic with our message," Jeff Buchanan, senior director of church equipping and student ministries for Exodus, told Baptist Press.

### Subscriber services

The *Arkansas Baptist News* offers subscription plans at three rates for the printed edition and three rates for the *ABN Now*, the digital edition:

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

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### Japan relief

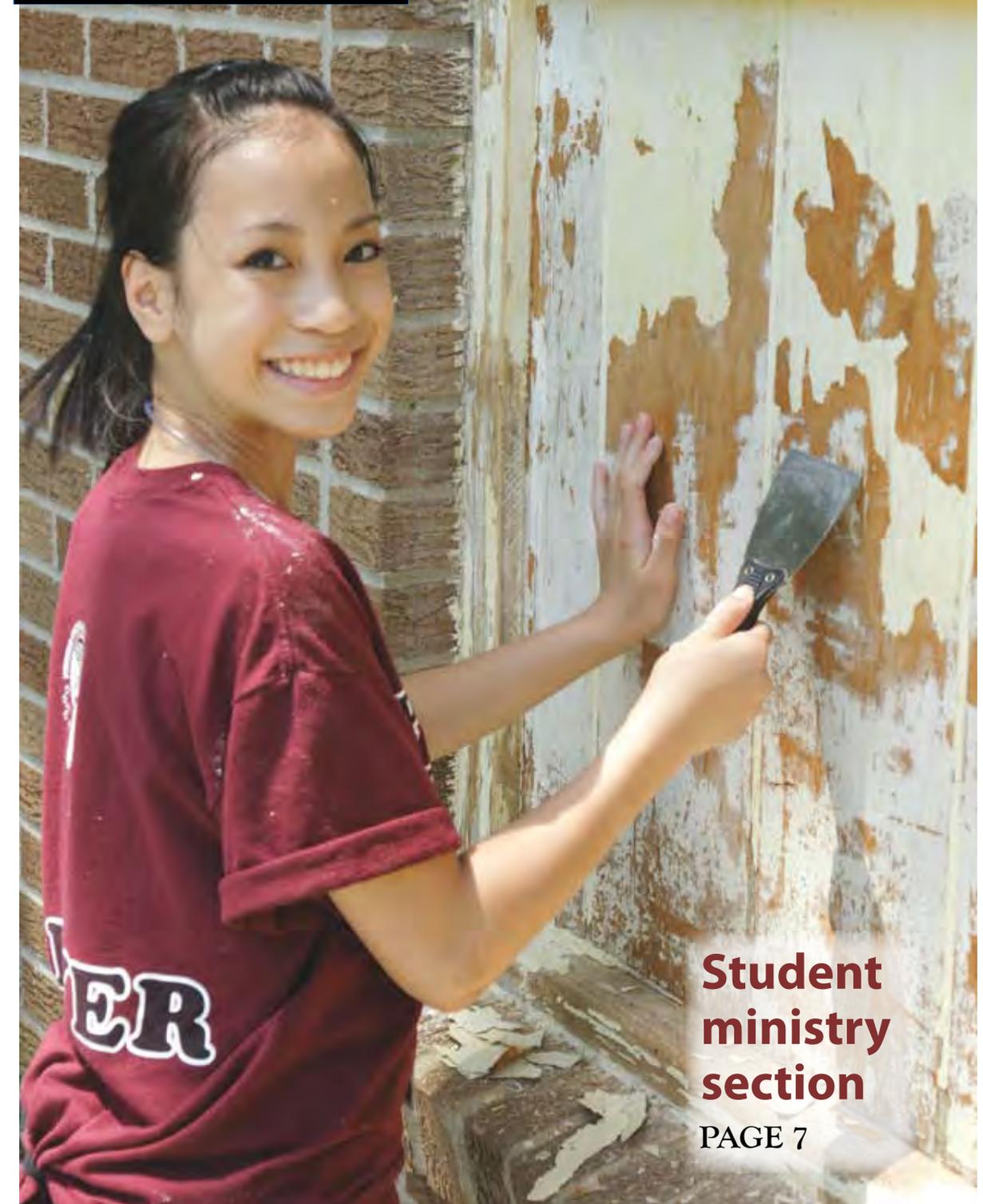
The ABSC establishes Japan relief fund to assist earthquake victims.

PAGE 1

### Turner profiled

Emil Turner, ABSC executive director, reflects on ministry.

PAGE 1



### Student ministry section

PAGE 7