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# Acts 1:8 One Day volunteers share Christ in Ft. Smith

Caleb Yarbrough  
Arkansas Baptist News

FORT SMITH – More than 1,800 Arkansas Baptists, including 400 children and youth, flooded into the Fort Smith area Oct. 1 and they were not in town for the fair.

The large group, representing 140 churches and 26 associations, were volunteers for this year's Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Acts 1:8 One Day event.

The Book of Acts contains Christ's last words on earth before He ascended into heaven: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8, ESV).

Christians often refer to this passage in support of Christ's Great Commission,

His instruction to His disciples to go and share the gospel all around the world. In Acts 1:8 Christ specifically told believers that they will go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to "the end of the earth."

In Southern Baptist life the four locations Christ mentioned are often interpreted to mean one's hometown/city (Jerusalem), state (Judea), country (Samaria) and the rest of the world (end of the earth).

For Baptists across the state, Oct. 1 was all about impacting their "Judea" – the region outside their local community – which meant the Fort Smith area. The goal of the annual ABSC Acts 1:8 One Day events is to allow Arkansas Baptist churches across the state to focus on missions and partner in reaching their Judea together.

See **ACTS 1:8** page 12



More than 1,800 Arkansas Baptist volunteers served throughout the Fort Smith area Oct. 1 during the Acts 1:8 One Day mission event, hosting block parties and other outreach activities. In all, 67 people prayed to receive Christ during the event.

# From Cobras to Christ: 14 ex-gang members make professions of faith

Lisa Falknor  
Arkansas Baptist News

SPRINGDALE – Last year, numerous gang-related shootings rocked the Springdale community.

On March 13, Fabian Rodriguez, 18, was shot and killed at Applegate Apartments. Then, on April 11, Jimmy Rodriguez, 20, was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting. Stunned residents responded with an April 21 peace march to stand against gang violence.

As the crowd paused for a moment of silence, a former gang member had time to thank God for rescuing him – and 14 members of his family – out of that culture.

"If I did not meet Christ, I would be serving life in jail, or I would be dead," said Gilbert

Gonzalez, 28. "When you're in that lifestyle, your role models are people who are drug dealers and killers, like Al Capone or people in the mafia."

From age 16 to 21, Gonzalez lived a life of drug and alcohol addiction, violence and running from police. His mother and uncles, aunts, cousins and siblings belonged to the King Cobra gang, which originated in California. A move to Springdale meant a new home, but the same old lifestyle.

"We became the second-generation gang members,"

said Gonzalez.

Finally, Gonzalez had had enough. After a second knife attack, a drive to the hospital to rescue a close family member from a drug overdose, a weariness in having to fight everywhere he went and his drug and alcohol addiction, he had a desire to do what few do – get out of the gang.

In 2013, he and his then-girlfriend and future wife, Karen, went to church. Two weeks after she got baptized, he got baptized. God then gave

See **EX-GANG** page 8



The Gonzalez family together in Springdale.

# Ark. DR to North Carolina

GREENVILLE, N.C. – Twenty-four Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) disaster relief volunteers hit the road on Oct. 12 for Greenville, N.C., where they set up the ABSC-owned mobile feeding unit that will allow them to provide hot meals to area residents affected by early October flooding from Hurricane Matthew.

Even days after Hurri-

cane Matthew hit the area, portions of North Carolina were still experiencing the aftermaths of the killer hurricane, including massive flooding, road closures and power outages.

At least 22 deaths in North Carolina were blamed on the hurricane, according to North Carolina Gov. Pat

See **DR** page 2

# POSTAGE INFORMATION

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## Classifieds

**PASTOR**  
We seek a pastor to minister to a congregation of approximately 100 members. The position is in a rural area. The pastor will be responsible for preaching, teaching, and providing pastoral care. A B.S. in Theology or a related field is required. Salary is negotiable. Please send resume to: [Contact Info]

**OTHER STAFF POSITIONS**  
We are seeking a full-time church secretary and a part-time church secretary. The church secretary will be responsible for administrative tasks, including answering phones, scheduling, and managing church records. The part-time church secretary will be responsible for similar tasks on a part-time basis. Please send resumes to: [Contact Info]

**Worship Center Rises**  
The First Baptist Church in Russellville is currently under construction for a new worship center. The project, known as the 'Genesis' project, is a multi-phase development that will include a new sanctuary, classrooms, and a community center. The new sanctuary will be a state-of-the-art facility with a seating capacity of 1,000. The project is expected to be completed in late 2017. For more information, contact: [Contact Info]

**Ark. DR to North Carolina**  
The Arkansas Baptist State Convention is currently accepting applications for disaster relief volunteers. The volunteers will be sent to Greenville, N.C., to provide hot meals to area residents affected by early October flooding from Hurricane Matthew. The volunteers will be provided with training, transportation, and accommodations. For more information, contact: [Contact Info]

**From Cobras to Christ**  
A former gang member has shared his story of how he found Christ and turned his life around. He is now a dedicated member of a local church and is actively involved in community service. His story is a testament to the power of God's grace and the transformative power of the gospel. For more information, contact: [Contact Info]

## ABN Digest

Stories of interest  
to Arkansas Baptists

### Annie Armstrong giving reported 2nd highest

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) – The nearly \$59 million given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in 2016 ranks second highest in the offering's history, the North American Mission Board announced Oct. 12. Southern Baptists gave \$58,860,553 in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30 to the offering named for noted missionary Annie Armstrong, second only to the \$59,463,281 given in 2007, NAMB reported. North Carolina and Alabama Baptists gave the largest amounts this year, collecting \$6,058,574 and \$5,878,970, respectively.

### Obama urged to reject Gov't USCCR report

WASHINGTON (BP) – Southern Baptist entity head Russell Moore and other religious representatives have called for President Obama and congressional leaders to repudiate a contention by the country's top civil rights panel that religious liberty is used as a pretense for discrimination.

The letter from a diverse coalition of religious leaders took issue with assertions made by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) and its chairman in an early September report. In the report, the panel said religious groups "use the pretext of religious doctrines to discriminate."

In a statement included in the report, USCCR Chairman Martin Castro said, "The phrases 'religious liberty' and 'religious freedom' will stand for nothing except hypocrisy so long as they remain code words for discrimination, intolerance, racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia, Christian supremacy or any form of intolerance."

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

## One of top 3 churches in SBC

# Cross Church ups CP gifts to \$1.1 million

Margaret Colson  
Arkansas Baptist News

SPRINGDALE – After giving \$1 million through the Cooperative Program (CP) during fiscal year 2015-2016, Cross Church in northwest Arkansas has committed to give \$1.1 million, a full 10 percent increase, during fiscal year 2016-17.

"Giving through the Cooperative Program gives us the opportunity to not just impact our region, but also our state, America and around the world. Determining to raise our generosity was driven by our church's mission, not by money," said Ronnie Floyd, Cross Church senior pastor and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

The CP is Southern Baptists' channel of giving, begun in 1925, through which a local church can contribute to the ministries of its state/regional convention and the missions and ministries of the SBC with a single monthly or weekly contribution.

The \$1 million given by Cross Church in 2015-16 – and its commitment to give \$1.1 million in 2016-17 – positions Cross Church as the top CP-giving Southern Baptist church in Arkansas and one of the top three CP-giving churches in the nation.

According to the 2015 SBC Annual Church Profile, three Southern Baptist churches gave \$1 million to the CP: Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, gave \$1,453,344; First Baptist Church, Houston, gave \$1,397,807; and Cross Church gave \$1,025,000.

"I rejoice and celebrate with Cross Church at their incredible commitment and partnership with Cooperative Program missions. When I am around Ronnie Floyd, Nick Floyd and Cross Church, I am always extremely impressed with their focus and intensity on what really matters – extraordinary prayer, evangelism, discipleship, missions and stewardship," said J.D. "Sonny" Tucker, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), adding that the "step of faith by Cross Church means great-



Ronnie Floyd, Cross Church senior pastor and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, looks on while son, Nick, speaks during the groundbreaking of the new Cross Church, Fayetteville, campus Oct. 9. Nick Floyd is teaching pastor at the Fayetteville campus. See related story on page 11. *Cross Church photo via Facebook*

er kingdom impact."

Cross Church, Pinnacle Hills, member Bob McCaslin, mayor of Bentonville, emphasizes that the CP brings together all Southern Baptist churches, both large and small, in fulfilling the Great Commission. "This isn't about us. It's about priority and commitment. It's about reaching those who don't know Jesus," he said.

While some may think it's easier for a large church, such as Cross Church, to give generously to the CP, longtime Southern Baptist McCaslin said that both large and small churches have to prioritize their CP giving. In doing so, all churches can "enjoy the same blessings," such as sending the same missionaries and reaching the same people groups.

"We (all Southern Baptist churches) make a great team working together," said McCaslin, who serves on the Cross Church board of directors.

Floyd encourages generous giving to the CP in his church by simply "telling the story about what God is doing." Most recently, he said, he could share with church members "what Southern Baptists are doing right now in our own nation through disaster relief in Florida and beyond. This is possible because of our cooperation together in cooperative ministry."

For Floyd, although Cross Church gives inarguably a large amount to the CP – an amount that's not realistic for most churches – it's not about the numbers.

"The amount or percentage is never the issue. The issue is one thing: [Every church's] response to what God wants them to do. I call pastors to do one thing: Give more. As president (of the SBC) last year, I worked very hard calling hundreds of pastors in conference calls, including some of our leading churches, calling upon each of them to give more through the Cooperative Program," he said.

Church member McCaslin puts it this way: "It's not equal giving; it's equal sacrifice."

Floyd's efforts seem to be paying off because 2015-16 was a banner year for CP receipts, as reported in a recent Baptist Press news article. The Southern Baptist Convention ended its fiscal year \$9.23 million over its 2015-2016 budgeted goal and \$6.57 million over the previous year's CP Allocation Budget gifts, according to Frank S. Page, president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee.

The SBC received \$195,730,508.04 in Cooperative Program Allocation gifts for the year. This amount is \$6,570,276.63, or 3.47 percent, more than it received during the last fiscal year, and is \$9,230,508.04, or 4.95 per-

cent, more than its budgeted goal of \$186.5 million.

Along with individual churches giving sacrificially to the CP, state conventions, including the ABSC, are doing the same.

In Arkansas Baptists' 2016 annual meeting, to be held Oct. 25-26 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, messengers will vote on a recommendation to increase the amount of CP dollars sent to SBC causes, joining 23 state conventions in either achieving or moving closer to a historic 50/50 split in the portion of its CP receipts given to SBC missions and ministries versus what it keeps in the state.

Contact Margaret Colson at [margaret@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:margaret@arkansasbaptist.org).

## DR

*continued from page one*

McCrary.

The first meals were served by the DR volunteers in North Carolina on Oct. 14. Arkansas DR volunteers are partnering with Oklahoma Baptist DR volunteers in this relief effort and expect to provide 30,000 meals daily for three weeks.

Arkansas DR volunteers will rotate during the three-week relief effort. The Geyer Springs First Baptist Church shower/laundry unit was also set up there to support the DR volunteers.

# Faith Riders take gospel to biker haven

FAYETTEVILLE - Amid 350,000 rumbling motorcycles descending on the peaceful and scenic Ozark Mountains were a group of men and women seeking to promote something other than T-shirts, leather, knives and jewelry - rather eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Once again northwest Arkansas hosted the 17th annual Bikes, Blues and BBQ Motorcycle Rally Sept. 21-24 with bikers from around the world and hundreds of vendors and businesses opening up shop to sell their goods or services.

Amid literally hundreds of tents erected featuring motorcycle manufacturers' test rides, and food vendors offering anything from cotton candy to turkey legs, was a 20 x 20-foot ministry tent of Faith Riders volunteering to witness to bikers attending the rally.

During the four days of the event, 75 Faith Riders volunteers from Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Missouri and Oklahoma shared their testimonies with those whom they share a common love of motorcycles - seeking an opportunity to also share the gospel.

In all, personal testimonies were shared with 1,274 people during the event, with 169 making professions of faith, according to Jeff Hairston, Arkansas coordinator of Faith Riders.

"As the Bikes, Blues and BBQ Motorcycle Rally was ready to begin, a group of Faith Riders gathered under the ministry tent and prayed together asking for God to bless this evangelistic outreach effort in northwest Arkansas," said Hairston. "As this group prayed, there was a profound sense of God's presence moving in the tent. As our time of prayer ended and we opened the walls of the tent, we immediately had several people who came in, and we began sharing testimonies. Within 10 minutes we had our first person accept Christ as their Lord and Savior."

Hairston said in addition to those accepting Christ, there were many opportunities to pray with people about their marriages, jobs, drug and alcohol addiction.

"While none of the people who attended this nationally recognized motorcycle rally



Faith Rider Keith Johnson from Louisiana shares the gospel with curious bikers during the Bikes, Blues and BBQ Motorcycle Rally Sept. 21-24. Below, volunteers hand out literature at the Faith Riders ministry tent in the heart of the biker rally.

came with any idea that they would be beginning a new life in Christ, it was thrilling to see so many people pray to receive Him," Hairston said.

"Saturday evening (Faith Rider) Ray Wilkins of Alabama was sharing his testimony with several young men who accepted Christ. Immediately after leaving the tent, one of these young men ran through the crowd to find his wife and brought her back to the Faith Rider tent shortly before 10 p.m. Brother Ray was still there and had the opportunity to share with this young lady, and she too accepted Christ shortly before the ministry tent was to close for the year," Hairston said.

"What a joy it was to see a new Christian have such a sense of urgency about making sure his wife would be able to hear the gospel shared and then to accept Christ and begin this new journey together."

Hairston admitted the presence of the Faith Riders tent wasn't without its challenges.

"In this type of setting there are many challenges, from the blare of music from the stage

to the non-stop roar of motorcycles going by on the streets just a stone's throw away. This evangelistic team shared their testimonies with riders who were doctors, teachers, mechanics, gang members, salesmen and many others from

fourth, fifth or sixth year serving at the tent.

"They are already making plans to return next year," he said, adding, "As Faith Rider from Louisiana Joe Gentry stated, 'I plan for this trip all year long to come and share the good news of Jesus Christ!'"

This was the second year for Faith Riders and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to partner for the evangelistic outreach opportunity at the motorcycle rally. The past two years have seen more than 250 people make professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Hairston encouraged other Faith Riders chapters in Arkansas to join the effort in 2017. Currently, there are more than 240 chapters in the U.S., all of which are based out of Southern Baptist churches.

"While each chapter falls under the authority of the local church, there are several events that take place throughout the year where they have the opportunity to work alongside other chapters to spread the gospel," he said.

Churches interested in learning about how to start a Faith Riders chapter may contact Jeff Hairston at [jhairston@openavenues.org](mailto:jhairston@openavenues.org).



every imaginable walk of life," he said.

"While many who heard the testimonies proclaimed to be Christians, it was a great experience to practice sharing our testimonies repeatedly throughout the rally. Each Faith Rider worked at least one, three-hour shift each day that they were there. Many also helped out with a recycling project that the group was doing to raise money for a ministry that takes care of women and children in different forms of distress."

Hairston said for many of the volunteers it was their

## ABN Digest

Stories of interest  
to Arkansas Baptists

### Christian school sues for right to game prayer

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) - When Cambridge Christian and University Christian high schools met for the Florida Class 2A championship football game last December, announcers used the Camping World Stadium public address system to introduce the players, make announcements, advertise sponsors, and play music for the cheerleading squads.

But one form of speech - prayer - was banned from the PA system. To allow a pregame prayer for two Christian schools and their fans would violate the Constitution, argued attorneys for the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA).

Both schools disagreed, and on Sept. 27, one of them sued. First Liberty and local Florida attorneys filed suit on behalf of Cambridge Christian School following a months-long effort to convince the FHSAA, which governs high school athletics in Florida, that its policy and interpretation of the Constitution were in error.

### France seeks to ban country's pro-life sites

FRANCE (BP) - The French government announced in September that it plans to ban pro-life websites - such as the popular [ivg.net](http://ivg.net) website - found guilty of "deliberately deceiving" women with the appearance of neutrality.

Under an amendment to a current "Equality and Citizenship" law, owners of pro-life sites could face a 30,000 euro fine (about \$33,600) and two years in prison, the same penalties that currently apply to "the offense of obstruction to abortion," which has been illegal since 1993.

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[arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest](http://arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest)

# 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)

## Is the 2016 election God's judgment on America?

The 2016 presidential election has been one of the most divisive in our nation's history.

It goes without saying that people of faith are having a hard time voting for what is seemingly two fundamentally flawed candidates to lead our nation and the free world.

However, we didn't get here overnight.

The United States has been in decline for many years, which I personally believe was accelerated during the tumultuous post-war era in our country – culminating in the free-love and God-denying 1960s and capped off by the legalization of abortion in 1973 – among other factors.

With our country turning

its back on God in so many ways, why should He bless us?

There was a time when a presidential candidate like Barack Obama could not have been elected in our country because of his radical agenda and views – and it hasn't been that long ago.

### Pressing On

Tim Yarbrough

Phil. 3:14

In the 1950s politicians labeled communists and socialists were made

outcasts and ousted from office, as were many famous Hollywood actors.

But that's all changed in our "anything goes for freedom" present-day America.

So should we be surprised when both political parties nominate candidates that many Americans find so distasteful and unacceptable –

some say "unfit" for office?

In spite of our many flaws, the United States has been a nation that has in many ways been a beacon of hope for the rest of the world for many years.

God has watched us in delight as we have deployed missionaries across the globe to unreached people groups, and wept as we slaughtered Native American Indians and enslaved thousands upon thousands of African Americans to build our great country.

Yes, like all countries founded and built by human hands, our nation has its flaws, but I believe only by God's supernatural hand were we allowed to grow and flourish into one of the mightiest nations ever seen in human history.

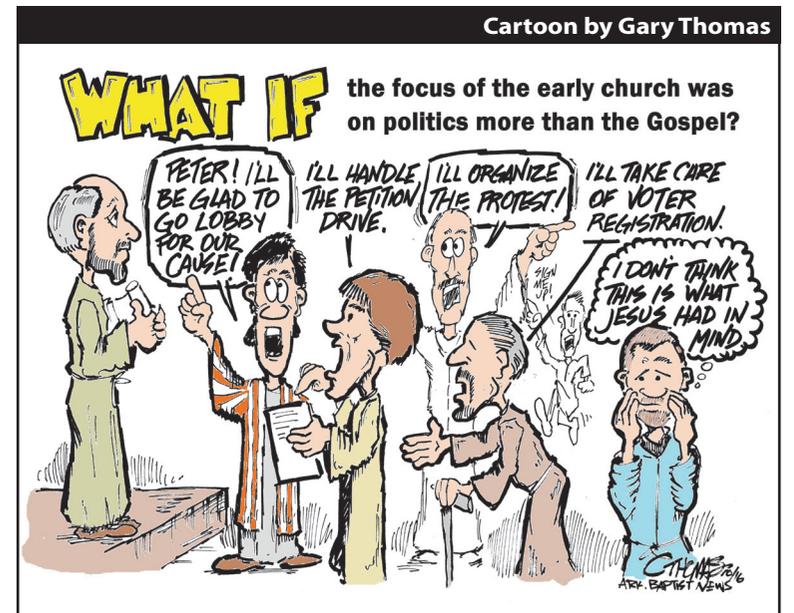
Why? Because God is sovereign and knows all. He knew

our potential for good and impact on all of eternity.

The presidential election isn't God's judgment. It's an outgrowth of our sin, from

which we only can be saved by turning back to the One True God.

Tim Yarbrough is editor/executive director of the ABN.



## Homosexuals aren't 'born that way,' so don't blame God

How many times have we heard it? "Hey, don't be critical of homosexuals who actively live out that lifestyle. They're doing nothing wrong. After all, God made them that way."

Well, the only thing wrong with that is that it is just plain wrong.

Would a loving God make anyone act in a way that He describes as an abomination or as detestable (Lev.18:22)? Or would He cause behavior like Paul described in the first chapter of Romans, "... the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men commit-

ting shameless acts with men ..." (Rom. 1:27, ESV).

The politically correct position has been pushed to the point where many people who should know better have begun to accept the myth that God made homosexuals to

### Faith & Ethics

Larry Page

be what they are. They have caved in to the cultural change agents who insist that

nature rules behavior. Embracing the proposition that God has engineered some people to follow perverse and destructive lifestyles is tantamount to contempt for God and blasphemy regarding His Word.

We all know that eventually

the truth will win out. And that time is now. An influential voice – and not one from our side of this debate – is finally correcting the record.

Lisa Diamond, a top researcher with the American Psychological Association (APA), co-editor-in-chief of the APA "Handbook of Sexuality and Psychology," and a lesbian activist, has clearly dispelled the myth. Her conclusion reached after significant research is simply that gays are not "born that way" and that sexual orientation is fluid and changeable.

Clinical psychologist Laura Haynes supports Diamond's findings when she states, "The battle to disprove 'Born that way and can't change' is now over." In essence,

LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) activists are being told to stop promoting the myth.

Interestingly, the homosexual agenda proponents have invested much in trying to sell the proposition that their "struggles" to achieve equal rights are comparable to the efforts of minorities to secure their civil rights. Obviously, if one's homosexual orientation is hard-wired and not subject to change, the case is easier to make that there is moral equivalency between the respective efforts of homosexuals and racial minorities to achieve equality under the law. That case disintegrates in light of the recent research findings.

Johannes Jacobse, founder

of The American Orthodox Institute, observed, "The idea that what a person feels defines who he is – who God created him to be – is false. If a person feels homosexual desire, it does not mean he is created homosexual."

Diamond's research findings and those of others within her profession are only underscoring what genuine and sincere believers have known all along – God is not to blame for any of man's choices to engage in perverse and destructive behavior. And so, our message to those still peddling that nonsense is, "Stop blaming God."

Larry Page is executive director of the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council. Contact him at llp@arfaith.org.



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## DECIDE to vote



### Family Matters

Ben Phillips

**M**y daughter will be voting in her first presidential election this fall. As a parent, I want to prepare her to make wise decisions as she votes. Below are discussion ideas for families as you DECIDE to vote.

**Dialogue with God.** Scripture commands us to pray for those in authority. Read 1 Tim. 2:1-7 and pray for wisdom as a family, for elected officials and upcoming elections.

**Examine biblical principles.** It's vital to help the next generation examine what Scripture says about government. Read through the following passages – Prov. 14:34; Jer. 29:7; Matt. 22:21; Acts 4:1-31; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17 – and then discuss what you learned from each passage.

**Constitution understanding.** It is good practice to read the U.S. Constitution prior to any election. Read through the Constitution and the 27 different amendments and discuss.

**Investigate party platforms.** Party platforms drive the agendas of candidates. When a candidate aligns with a certain party, the candidate also aligns with that platform. Help your child discern and understand the differences in political party platforms.

**Discuss candidate's character and views.** Help your child understand that a person's actions and words reveal true character. It's valuable to know the views of a candidate, not only what the candidate says but also what the candidate actually practices. Some issues to examine from a biblical worldview are: sanctity of human life, marriage and sexuality, religious liberty and judicial appointees. Read Christian voter guides to help you critically think through the views of candidates in local and federal elections.

**Eternal perspective.** An eternal perspective helps us see we have a dual citizenship (Phil. 3:17-21). Our hope is not in government or a presidential candidate. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the perfect reigning King of all creation and all governments.

There is neither a perfect candidate nor party. We need biblical wisdom as we DECIDE to vote. Jesus Christ is the ultimate hope for our nation.

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

# Many at risk with 'medical marijuana'

**A**s the election approaches, I am certain you are as concerned and focused on praying for revival and spiritual awakening in America as I am. The election of officials is not the only issue of major concern in this election cycle.

There are also efforts by national organizations to legalize marijuana in Arkansas. The efforts are frightening and dangerous to the most vulnerable in our society.

"Speak up for those who have no voice, for the justice of all who are dispossessed. Speak up, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the oppressed and needy" (Prov. 31:8-9, HCSB). This is the instruction of the mother of a king regarding his role as a godly ruler. While most pastors are wisely hesitant to jump into politics, there are certainly times when we must speak up and defend the cause of the oppressed. The proposed legalization of marijuana is just such an issue.

The legalization of marijuana is harmful for children and many "at risk" people in our state. It is being falsely promoted in terms of being a kind, loving measure as a medicine for those in pain.

Marijuana is not a medicine. This sales pitch is dishonest and hides the actual truth of what is at stake. This campaign is a thinly veiled effort to move toward legalizing

recreational use of this prevalent gateway drug.

There are no provisions in these proposed measures to protect children, and the measures would allow marijuana to be given to children without consequence. Every state that has legalized marijuana has seen devastating effects on children and the poor in their state. This is an issue for us as caring believers to address.

Larry Page, executive director of the Arkansas Faith and

Ethics Council, has prepared "Important Facts Regarding 2016 Medical Marijuana Ballot Issues 6 & 7." Please use this link to access these facts and video by the Arkansas Surgeon General expressing the real danger of these proposed measures: [arfaith.org/medical-marijuana-fact-sheet](http://arfaith.org/medical-marijuana-fact-sheet). Additionally, you can

receive regular updates from Page's electronic newsletter. To subscribe email [llp@arfaith.org](mailto:llp@arfaith.org).

Please prayerfully consider his information. Then, prayerfully consider the need to vote against these measures. It is important for caring believers to speak up when the clear dangers of questionable measures would damage the people we are called to protect in such a time as this. Please call us at 501-374-4791, ext. 5103, or Larry Page at 501-837-1688 if we can help in anyway.

*J.D. "Sonny" Tucker is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC).*



### Executive Directions

Sonny Tucker

# Jesus: The answer for our broken nation

**I**n a few days Arkansas Baptists will gather at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock for the 2016 Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Annual Meeting.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve this year as the ABSC president. Arkansas Baptists, we have much to be thankful for, and I look forward to celebrating with you what God has done and is doing in our communities and around the world as our churches Engage the least, the lost and the last in prayer, with the gospel and for the kingdom.

One of the great joys of serving as president has been the opportunity to meet and pray with pastors and church leaders across our state. Though every conversation has been different, every conversation has led to the same conclusion. I have never in my lifetime witnessed so clear an expression of the burning desire for the visible manifestation of God's presence in revival among our churches and spiritual awakening in our communities and nation.

How do we know when revival comes? Let me remind you of the three great characteristics of classic revival according to Welsh theologians: 1) An intense, palpable and extraordinary sense of God's presence, 2) A deep desire to be rid of all sin, and 3) A powerful impact on the wider community.

Let me also remind you that God has given us His requirements for revival. "When I shut up the heavens so there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:13-14, NRSV).

In a message on revival, David Simmons said, "Revival

is the presence of God, and as we seek revival we need to make sure we are seeking in the right place."

Is it possible to begin our pursuit of revival in the wrong place? Could it be that we have not experienced revival, the manifest presence of God, because so often we have prayed for a promise of God prior to heeding the requirements of God?

This was brought to my attention while reading *Why Revival Waits* by Selwyn Hughes, which says:

"Before we get carried away with the need for greater character qualities in the lives of those who lead our nation, let us not miss the point that when it comes to revival that is not where we should start. Our strongest criticism and our deepest concern must be reserved for

ourselves. God is concerned with the state of our nation, but he has an equal if not greater concern for his people, you and me. To start by lamenting the deplorable spiritual

state of our nation is to begin at the wrong end. The initial focus should be on ourselves – what kind of people we are and what kind of people we should be. We are quick to point to the sins of non-Christians, but not so quick to look at our own sins. Revival starts with the people of God."

According to Scripture, the healing of our nation depends on the repentance and revival of God's people. When we humble ourselves, pray, seek His face and turn from our wicked ways, He will forgive our sins and heal our land! Are we willing to

humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways? Are we that thirsty for the presence of God? Are we that desperate for revival in our lives and in our church?

Arkansas Baptists, let's not settle for less than God desires to give!

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



### President's Perspective

Sam Roberts



# Start with something ridiculously fun

Why are two single guys like us sitting home on a Friday night playing Madden Football?" I asked my roommate, Jim Wiseman, 20 years ago as he intently tried to tackle Walter Payton with his controller. Even today, if you're a single professional and decide bars aren't the best place to meet your future spouse, it is difficult to meet people. In 1996, Jim, I and a small circle of friends from Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, created something called Pure Fun.

Pure Fun became an ecumenical network of young professionals that met twice a

month for something fun, social and ... well ... pure. Each month we held two events. One was an activity that participants would pay for, and the other event was a free themed party in one of our homes. We planned an eclectic calendar of events so we could expose our friends to northeast Arkansas and Memphis.

We sold out to being creative and wacky with events. The spirit of social abandonment was magnetic. After a year our network of people who had joined us was

around 60 people. The interpersonal results were striking; social abandonment turned into spiritual abandonment.

Out of the platform of fellowship developed a Bible study, which I recall had some

of the best spiritual discussions, a worship band, prayer groups, deep friendships, increased church attendance and seven marriages. These things didn't happen until four months of dinners, trips, concerts, plays and parties.

The sociological lesson that was most striking for me was

that the social aspect of our lives is a great platform for developing authenticity and depth in relationships. Most people have to experience something together and have entry-level conversations before we have the trust equity to share deeply.

Acts 2:42-47 shows that the meals and fellowship combined with biblical teaching were important for the growth of the early church. "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying

the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:46-47, NIV).

This is why summer camp is such an effective tool for ministry. At first glance, camp seems like just a bunch of fun. But when you take the time to observe the progression of relationships during summer camp or a retreat, you will see that something much deeper and powerful happens. If you seriously desire depth to your ministry, try starting with something ridiculously fun.

*Jason Wilkie is executive director of Camp Siloam.*



## Camp Siloam

Jason Wilkie

# Foster care and ministering to children in crisis

For some time, there has been a lot of discussion about the foster care crisis in Arkansas. Statistics from Sept. 20 indicate that the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services has in care 5,196 foster children and only 1,585 foster homes. Those foster homes provide a total of 3,432 beds. At any time, many of those foster beds are not available for various reasons. That means a lot of foster children are in other locations. Some children reside at places such as the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children (ABHC), the Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch (ABBR) or one of

our three emergency receiving homes (ERH).

There is a lot of chatter and criticism about placing children in residential homes like ABHC, ABBR or ERH.

Ideally, all these children would live with their parents in Christian homes. Given that we do not live in an ideal society, many advocate that these children should live in kinship care or in a family foster home. We support kinship care when relatives are available to provide a good environment for foster chil-

dren. We also appreciate family foster homes. That is why we began Connected Foster Care. This ministry recruits foster families and wrap-around support for these fam-

ilies through local Arkansas Baptist churches. We are working hard to find financial support to expand this ministry.

We also wholeheartedly believe that ABHC, ABBR and our ERHs are wonderful places for Arkansas foster children. At these locations we utilize the houseparent model

in family-like settings. Houseparents do this ministry full-time and receive many hours of training. At our long-term homes every child has his or her own bedroom. Our campuses have professional and other staff who provide additional help to these children. Our eight-bed emergency receiving homes provide a loving, caring environment of safety and compassion.

Some children, with particular needs, move from foster home to foster home. A number of children placed in adoptive homes have a failed experience and return to the system. These things happen

in both poor or good foster and adoptive homes. This is not to say that we do not experience our own disappointments and failed placements. Caring for children who have parents who cannot, or will not, care for them is a difficult task. Some of these children have significant behavioral and emotional issues. However, for many of these precious children we have a significant measure of success. It takes us all working together and lifting one another to a higher level of care for Arkansas' children.

*David Perry is executive director of ABCHomes.*



## ABCHomes

David Perry

# Church planting invests in the future of students

Williams Baptist College (WBC) recently hosted an Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) church planting Connection event providing an opportunity for our students to rub shoulders with a diversity of church planters from across the state. The group sat down and ate dinner together while sharing stories about what God is doing in each other's lives.

The students shared about how God has called them into ministry and service but how they still wondered about the future and the specifics. The church planters shared about being in the exciting life of

church planting: its joys and its struggles. Many of our students want to know what church planting is all about, so this event was a perfect opportunity for them to have their questions answered.

One question that surfaced during the evening was, "How did you know you were called to church planting?" Dave McClung and Tim Wicker, who serve on the ABSC church planting team, were quick to say church planters come in all shapes and sizes. No "church planter" personality exists, and not all church

planters have the same skillset, so God uses all kinds of people to plant churches.

What is common among church planters, however, is compassion for the lost much like Jesus: "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and

helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matt. 9:36, NIV). Pastor Carlos Lozano, Iglesia Bautista Hispana in Jonesboro, expressed his compassion this way: "I saw the great need of the Hispanic people." Another common experience for church planters is a sense

of compulsion: "I have to go." Their compassion led them to set out in faith and go. They didn't pray for God to send someone else. They went!

Other church planters experience a feeling of "holy dissatisfaction" with the way many churches are trying to reach the lost. Large pockets of unchurched, unreached people groups exist in Arkansas, and our churches struggle to reach them. Reaching them will require unconventional approaches. Most of us would say everyone is welcome at our church, but the problem is too many do not feel welcome in our churches. So a church planter works to create

a welcome sanctuary for these groups.

Near the end of the conversation, Michael Stinnett, WBC alumnus and pastor at Verge Church, Jonesboro, challenged our students to consider church planting by saying, "Faith is going to require you to take risk." I hope our students heard him, and I hope when God calls some of them to plant churches they will take the risk!

Thank you church planting team and church planters for investing in our students and in the kingdom.

*Robert Lee Foster is the assistant professor of Christian ministry at Williams Baptist College.*



## Williams Baptist

Robert Foster

# Monette-area churches join to help veteran

Nan Snider  
Special to the ABN

MONETTE - Thirty-seven local volunteers spent part of their summer repairing and painting the home of veteran Mike Smith in Monette.

Smith is well-known in the community as a skilled and versatile handyman. After

finishing high school in Tennessee, he served two tours of duty as a Marine in Vietnam. Upon his return he met his wife, who was from Monette, and they moved there. He purchased tools and began using his skills at carpentry and home repair to make a living. In the past few years Smith's neighbors and friends became

aware of his failing health and knew he was unable to physically make needed repairs to his home. Using Smith's own tools, they joined forces with a local mission group, called "God at work," to repair and paint his home.

"I was so surprised that they wanted to come here and help me," Smith said. "I have awfully good neighbors and friends who come by and visit me often and bring me things. I just never thought so many of them would come and spend the day working on my house. I couldn't believe how much they got done in the seven hours they were here."

Workers began to arrive at the Smith home at 7 a.m. Saturday, July 16, to take advantage of the cooler conditions, as temperatures soared later in the day.

Kenneth Winford originally spearheaded the "God at work" local mission effort under the leadership of New Hope Baptist Church in Black Oak. The church members, along with other area volunteers, have already completed 15 local mission projects in the Black Oak, Caraway and Monette area since they organized less than two years ago.

"There is a growing need for home repair in our area," Winford said. "So many people want to help make life better for those in need, based on the James 1:22 Scripture to be doers of the Word. Before long, our group of volunteers grew, with men, women and children all responding to the needs of people in their communities."

Volunteers Robert and Marsha Chambers of Monette are also members of the Arkansas Baptist disaster relief (DR) team and have worked at disaster sites in several states.

"Helping people is a ministry all in itself," said Rob-



Volunteers from seven different Monette-area churches work on the home of veteran Mike Smith this past summer.

ert Chambers. "It changes people's lives, both the recipient and the worker. Once someone sees the difference it makes in lives, they are quick to catch the vision of God at work through being a volunteer."



Smith

Jimmy Blackford, an Arkansas Baptist DR team member from Marion, donated a trailer for the local mission group to use in collecting and storing supplies and equipment. The trailer was sandblasted in Jonesboro and painted by Bob Blankenship in Monette.

Material supplies for the repairs at the Smith home were purchased by donations from New Hope Baptist Church

and Monette First Baptist Church. The volunteers came from seven different churches: New Hope, Monette Baptist, Monette Church of Christ, Lake City Baptist, Jonesboro Assembly of God, Jonesboro Central Baptist, and Piggott churches.

Dinner on the grounds was provided by the Dorcas and Windsome Sunday school classes from Monette First Baptist Church. Watermelons, donated by Clay Stewart, were served at the close of the work day.

The New Hope roofing team will be returning to the Smith home to install a new roof.

Nan Snider is the clerk for Monette First Baptist Church. This article originally appeared in *The Town Crier*, Manila.

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## EX-GANG

*continued from page one*

him a burden for his family. First, his mother became a Christian and then his father. His older brother, Robert, however, would not give up so easily.

"Growing up, I was influenced by gangs and by drugs (the complete opposite of what we are now)," said Robert, 30. "Then my brother Gilbert – the worst of us – had changed. I saw him being different. He kept talking about Jesus. I said, 'I don't want to hear that.' For a couple of months, we did not even talk." Robert went to church eventually, he said, just to get his brother, his mom and dad off his back. He accepted Christ. "Gilbert kept on me," he said, "And I'm glad he did."

Today, the four Gonzalez brothers and their wives, two of Robert's children, their sister and her boyfriend are members of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville.

For years – except this past summer when three of the

brothers went on an international mission trip – the Gonzalez family has replaced its weekly Saturday night beer parties with Bible study.

On Saturday, Aug. 27, the family studied the Great Commission at Robert's house in Springdale.

Anthony Gonzalez, 27, a rapper who is working on a Christian CD, spoke about being on stage at a Bible camp in Ecuador.

"God gave me the opportunity to rap in front of 200 or more people; God gave me the confidence," he said. "It was an awesome experience to rap about the gospel."

After the Bible study, Anthony's sister-in-law said God worked on the Gonzalez family as far back as 2009 from both inside prison walls – through the prayers of her incarcerated father – as well as outside prison walls – through the example and witness of Gilbert

and Karen.

Sitting to the left of her father, the sister-in-law translated her father's testimony, "The first day I arrived in prison they talked about God," he said. "I kept going to gatherings of believers, and two weeks later I accepted Jesus."

While serving his five-year sentence, he had a mission from God – to pray for the Gonzalez family and to witness to them after he got out of prison. He "worried" about them.

"Before I went to prison, none of the Gonzalez family were Christians." But, by the time he had his physical freedom (two years ago), the Gonzalez family had their spiritual freedom.

Today, the King Cobra gang remains active in California but not in Springdale because, "Now everyone is a believer."

*Lisa Falknor is the northwest Arkansas correspondent for the Arkansas Baptist News.*



The Gonzalez brothers on a mission trip together in Ecuador.

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# First Baptist, Russellville, aims to build for future

Caleb Yarbrough  
Arkansas Baptist News

RUSSELLVILLE - It's not always wise to judge a book by its cover. But we do it anyway.

For First Baptist Church, Russellville, the existing church facility, built in 1962, no longer tells the full story

of what God has been doing in the church. Set to open in March 2017, First Baptist's new multi-use facility will rejuvenate the church's campus and be an important tool in its growing ministry for decades, according to Greg Sykes, the church's pastor.

"It's been the fulfillment

of a long-term vision for our church," he said. "We flirted with moving out of downtown about 20 years ago, as we were kind of landlocked, and the Lord did some things to cause us to realize we needed to stay downtown. I am thankful for that in regards to reaching our community."

Having experienced growth in recent years, First Baptist needs more Sunday school and preschool classrooms, said Sykes. In addition, the church's existing sanctuary had never been substantially updated to meet the requirements for modern worship services, including high-quality audio and video.

"We have all kinds of issues, and it all came to a head about three years ago. We began seriously planning and strategizing and rolling out potential plans to the congregation," said Sykes. "A little over a year ago, we started the fundraising portion of this campaign, launched it in earnest,

and broke ground almost one full year ago from today (Oct. 11). Now we are getting very close, and hopefully by March of next year we will be in the building."

The new facility will become First Baptist's primary sanctuary and will seat around 1,000 people. In addition, the building will feature three senior adult classrooms and four preschool classrooms. The new facility is built to connect directly with the church's current building and was designed to complement it.

The current sanctuary will be repurposed as a smaller

300-seat worship space for youth and college ministry and 16 new classrooms.

Like many churches, First Baptist was built decades ago to best facilitate ministry at that time and use the available land. With the new construction, First Baptist intentionally attempted to design a fresh, welcoming modern church environment that better fits its current ministry, said Sykes. The church also attempted to address issues found in the current facility, including strategically locating classrooms

See **FUTURE** page 10



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## FUTURE

continued from page 9

and creating better flow for members and guests to move throughout the campus.

“Our building was built backwards basically, according to what everyone says you should do. Our preschool space and our sanctuary space were on opposite ends of the building, and they were really separated by a street,” said Sykes. “In our whole layout and floor plan, we’ve just made it really hard to reach people and to attract families. God has been gracious to us, in that we have done it, but nothing has been connected in the way that, if you were starting a campus from scratch, you would want it.”

In addition to placing senior adult classrooms closer to the sanctuary and entrances and moving the preschool and children’s areas closer to the sanctuary, Sykes said one of the most exciting aspects of First Baptist’s new facility is that it will incorporate a large lobby area for fellowship – something the old sanctuary did not have.

“Our campus will finally make sense,” said Sykes. “Our college and our youth who are the most mobile will be on one far end of campus in the old sanctuary that has been revitalized. Our new sanctuary will be on the other end, and it will be positioned to be a front door for senior adults, children and families.

“There will be a continuity of design from a modernization of the way our facility looks,” said Sykes. “Russellville is booming in terms of Arkansas Tech and reaching so many young families, young parents and college students that there is a bit of a disconnect.



First Baptist Church, Russellville, is currently building a new multi-use facility which will feature a new 1,000-seat sanctuary, fellowship space, senior adult classrooms and preschool and children’s ministry areas. The new facility is set to be finished by March of 2017. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

People get a misconception of our church.

“This is a completion of a long-term vision, and the exciting thing is it gives us what we need for maybe the next two decades,” said Sykes. “We could triple in size, and we will have the space to make it work. We think we are doing something that will move us into the next 20 years. We are getting close to having half of it paid for before we get in there, and we think we can have it paid for in the next five years.”

See **FUTURE** page 11

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# Cross Church breaks ground on new Fayetteville campus

FAYETTEVILLE - Hundreds of members and well-wishers of Cross Church, Fayetteville, gathered Oct. 9 to break ground on a new 57,000-square-foot campus facility at the Wedington Drive exit off Interstate 49 in Fayetteville.

Construction on the new campus facility - expected to take about a year - will begin soon at an estimated cost of between \$18-\$19 million. Additionally, a hotel, fitness center and restaurant will be located next to the new Cross Church campus, but will not be owned by the church, KFSM-TV in Fort Smith reported.



Members and well-wishers of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas break ground on a new \$18-19 million, 57,000-square-foot facility which will become the church's Fayetteville campus. Below is an artist's rendering of Cross Church's completed Fayetteville campus facility. *Cross Church photo via Facebook*

The new campus will feature a 900-seat main worship center, as well as 13 additional rooms dedicated to preschool,

elementary and teenage ministry, according to the *Fayetteville Flyer*.

James David, who has been a member of the Fayetteville campus since it began, told KFSM-TV that he is excited for the future of the new campus, led by Cross Church teaching pastor Nick Floyd.

"We are part of this vibrant community, and I really want others to experience that," said David, who said the congregation has been vital to his family which has grown from one to three children since he and his wife first became a part of Cross Church.

Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was present at

the groundbreaking and told KFSM-TV, "We believe God has saved it (this piece of property) for us, and we believe it's His place, His time."

More than 2,000 people attend four services each week at the Cross Church, Fayetteville, campus, currently located in storefront property also on Wedington Drive.

The elder Floyd said the new campus will continue to expand the church's ministry to college students in the university town.

"We have an opportunity to literally touch thousands of college students on a weekly basis as well as thousands and thousands of people who live in the region of northwest Arkansas that will attend our Fayetteville campus," he said.



## FUTURE

*continued from page 10*

Sykes added, "It's going to be a great day in our church's history when we can say, 'We have everything we need.' We have been in a constant state of growth for the past 25-30 years, and we are right at that point that, with one big project, we will have the size, space

and structure to last us for the next 20 years.

"We really do believe we are right on the edge of revival and growth," Sykes said. "I love pastoring a multi-generational church. It is something that I am very grateful for, and God is really using it in our church right now. It's one big exciting family."

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

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# ACTS 1:8

*continued from page one*

“Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip continues to change lives and impact lostness across our state,” said Breck Freeman, ABSC missions team member. “One Day is an outreach tool to reach your Judea and take back home and reach your Jerusalem. One Day brings focus to missional living.”

This year’s event featured numerous outreach activities spread across 107 ministry sites in Fort Smith, Greenwood, Barling, Alma and

Huntington. Outreach events included block parties, children’s sites, fishing derbies, an archery sport camp, medical and dental clinics, prayer walking, door-to-door evangelism, home repairs, yardwork, laundry ministry and senior adult ministries.

Calvary Baptist Church, Fort Smith, was one of the event’s major hubs. The church hosted a block party, medical and dental clinics, laundry ministry and distributed boxed supplies from their food bank to members of the local community.

Edward Ellis, pastor of Calvary Baptist, commented on the busy scene inside the

church during the event.

“We have five events going on here today,” said Ellis. “The gospel is shared with everyone that comes in here today. So if they invite Christ into their lives, we’ll follow up with them by tomorrow afternoon.”

Gary Fulton, former ABSC church planting team member and member of First Baptist Church, Farmington, used skills learned from his service as a missionary to Guatemala to translate for the dental and medical clinics at Calvary Baptist.

Many Arkansas Baptists expressed joy to be part of the Acts 1:8 One Day event as they had the opportunity to reach their state with the gospel alongside other volunteers from across the state.

“Missions work is one of the



Members of Markham Street Baptist Church, Little Rock, do carpentry and construction work as part of the Oct. 1 ABSC Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip in Fort Smith.

most rewarding things that we do. We have done (Acts 1:8 One Day) for several years now, four or five trips. We just meet the nicest people when we do this, and we are able to share (Jesus),” said Penny Neal,

who came on the mission trip with Ruddell Hill Baptist Church in Batesville.

“We do missions because we love it, and we go back to our church and say, ‘Oh, we can’t tell you how wonderful

it is.' Our missions team keeps growing because we get so excited about talking about it," said Neal.

P.J. Weston, a 14-year-old boy who came to Acts 1:8 One Day with First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, served at multiple children's outreaches and

delivered food to other volunteers during the event.

"I've been doing this (Acts 1:8 One Day) for six years. I like to do it. It's fun. I want to do mission trips, but I can't always go out of the country. So to take care of home first is the most important thing,"

said Weston.

Anthony Fible, who came to Acts 1:8 One Day with Breakout Church, Cabot, a new ABSC church plant, said that this year's One Day was the first missions event his church had participated in together since forming.

# 2016 ABSC *Engage* Pastors' Conference

Monday, Oct. 24  
at Immanuel  
Baptist Church,  
Little Rock



Elliff



Jacobs



Page



Dance



Meador



Floyd



Beasley

## Morning Session - 10 a.m.

**Tom Elliff**, founder, Living in the Word Publications (Oklahoma City, OK)

**Willie Jacobs**, Arkansas Baptist State Convention church planting team member (Little Rock, AR)

## Afternoon Session - 1:30 p.m.

**Larry Page**, executive director of the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council (Little Rock, AR)

## Election of Officers

**Mark Dance**, LifeWay Christian Resources (Nashville, TN)

**John Meador**, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church (Eules, TX)

## Evening Session - 6:30 p.m.

**Ronnie Floyd**, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention (Northwest Arkansas)

**Tom Elliff**

For more information contact Manley Beasley Jr., 2016 Pastors' Conference president, at [mbeasley@hotspringsbaptist.org](mailto:mbeasley@hotspringsbaptist.org).

"This is our first One Day as a church, and we had six people come to Fort Smith today," said Fible. "We have been trying to figure out how to get our people to do missions. We may have a bunch of ideas about where to go. I mean, you have people going to Africa and Haiti, but there are lost people right here, too."

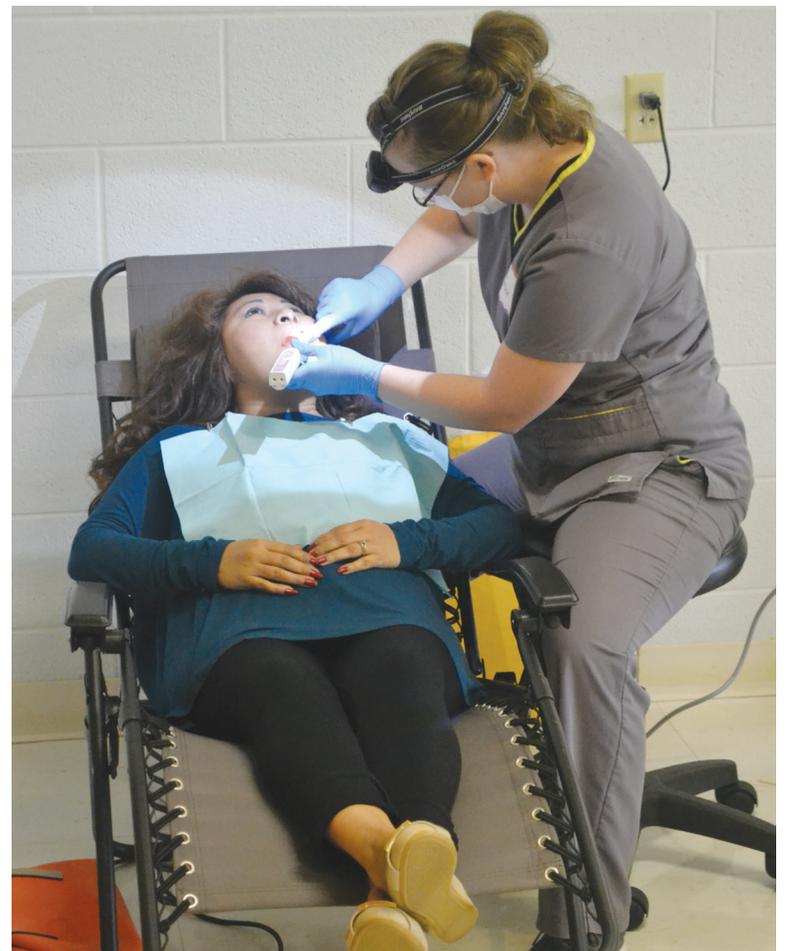
Connie Davis came to One Day with Ruddell Hill Baptist and worked with the children's outreach sites. Davis, who has been on mission trips to Alaska, Colorado and Mon-

tana in the past, said that she loves participating in One Day events and was very proud of the youth who volunteered.

"I have been on several (One Day) trips. I just love doing it and trying to minister to people, plant a seed," said Davis. "The teenage kids that came today - I'm just so proud of them. They have jobs, but they took off to come with us."

According to ABSC reports, 67 people prayed to receive Christ during the event.

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



A dental hygienist cleans teeth at Calvary Baptist Church, Fort Smith, during the Oct. 1 ABSC Acts 1:8 One Day event.

## Treat your pastor to a getaway weekend!

Show your appreciation for your pastor with a getaway at Bean Point near Greers Ferry Lake in a very nice, very new, secluded house three minutes from the lake and close to Heber Springs. For more information visit [beanpointvacationrental.com](http://beanpointvacationrental.com) or contact John and Susan Waldrup at [jswaldrup@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jswaldrup@sbcglobal.net) or (501) 206-6226.

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# Thank you, Arkansas Baptist churches!

The *Arkansas Baptist News (ABN)* staff would like to express their gratitude to all churches and associations that support the ministry of the *ABN* by offering an every resident or group subscription plan to send the print edition to all or some of their families. If your church is not listed, call 800-838-2272, ext. 5156, and we will provide you with information on how to subscribe. If your church is listed and you would like to receive the *ABN*, please contact your church office. And if your church should be listed and is not, please let us know.

Alexander, Vimy Ridge Immanuel	Camden, Camden First	Dolph, Dolph First	Gurdon, Center Point	Jacksonville, Jacksonville First
Alma, Alma First	Camden, Cullendale First	Dover, Dover First	Gurdon, South Fork	Jacksonville, Jacksonville Second
Almyra, Almyra First	Camden, Elliott	Dumas, Anderson Chapel	Hackett, Hackett First	Jacksonville, Maddox Road
Alpena, Alpena First	Camden, Grace	Dumas, Dumas First	Hackett, New Providence	Jacksonville, Marshall Road
Alpena, Osage	Camden, Hillside	Earle, Earle	Hamburg, Hamburg First	Jasper, Jasper First
Arkadelphia, Arkadelphia First	Camden, Sylvan Hills	East End, Hensley	Hamburg, Shiloh	Jessieville, Rock Springs
Arkadelphia, Cedar Grove	Caraway, Caraway First	Egypt, Egypt	Hamburg, Southside	Jonesboro, Jonesboro First
Arkadelphia, Mount Zion	Carlisle, Carlisle First	El Dorado, Caledonia	Hampton, Hampton First	Jonesboro, Needham
Arkadelphia, Red River Association	Carthridge, Tulip Memorial	El Dorado, East Main	Hardy, Hardy First	Jonesboro, Nettleton
Arkadelphia, Unity	Cash, Pitts	El Dorado, Ebenezer	Hardy, New Hope	Jonesboro, Strawfloor
Arkansas City, Arkansas City	Cave City, Eastside	El Dorado, El Dorado First	Hardy, Spring River	Jonesboro, Walnut Street
Ash Flat, Ash Flat First	Centerton, First	El Dorado, Galilee	Harrisburg, Anderson Tulley	Judsonia, Gateway
Ashdown, Ashdown First	Charleston, Charleston First	El Dorado, Midway	Harrisburg, Calvary	Judsonia, Judsonia First
Ashdown, Oak Grove	Cherry Valley, Cherry Valley	El Dorado, Northwest	Harrison, Batavia First	Judsonia, Rocky Point
Augusta, Augusta First	Chidester, Chidester	El Dorado, Southside	Harrison, Bear Creek Springs	Junction City, Galilee
Augusta, Grace	Clarksville, Cherry Street	El Dorado, Union	Harrison, Elmwood	Junction City, Wesson
Austin, Old Austin	Clarksville, Clarksville First	Elaine, Elaine	Harrison, Emmanuel	Kensett, Kensett First
Bald Knob, Central	Clarksville, Clarksville Second	Elkins, Elkins First	Harrison, Hopewell	Keo, Keo
Barton, Barton	Clarksville, East Mount Zion	Emmet, Emmet First	Hatfield, Hatfield First	Kingsland, Kingsland First
Batesville, Calvary	Clarksville, Union Grove	England, England First	Havana, Havana First	Kingston, Kingston First Southern
Batesville, Fellowship	Clarksville, Woodland	Etowah, Etowah	Hazen, Hazen First	Knobel, Knobel First
Batesville, Mount Zion	Clinton, Clinton First	Eureka Springs, Rock Springs	Heber Springs, Grace	Knoxville, Knoxville First
Batesville, Pilgrims Rest	Clinton, Formosa	Evening Shade, Evening Shade First	Heber Springs, Heber Springs First	Lake Village, Bayou Mason
Batesville, Rehobeth	Clinton, Friendship	Everton, Bruno	Heber Springs, Pleasant Ridge	Lake Village, Parkway
Batesville, Ruddell Hill	Clinton, Lexington	Fairfield Bay, Fairfield Bay	Heber Springs, West Side	Lamar, Lamar
Bauxite, Pleasant Hill	Clinton, Plant	Farmington, Farmington	Helena, Helena First	Lambrook, Lambrook First
Bay, Bay First	Concord, Concord First	Fayetteville, Black Oak	Henderson, Henderson First	Lead Hill, Lead Hill First
Bearden, Bearden First	Conway, Brumley	Fayetteville, Fayetteville First	Hensley, East End	Leslie, Leslie First
Bee Branch, Bee Branch	Conway, Cadron Ridge	Fayetteville, Ridgeview	Hermitage, Saline	Lewisville, Canfield
Beebe, Antioch	Conway, Conway Second	Fayetteville, Sang Avenue	Higden, Brownsville	Lexa, Lexa
Beebe, Beebe First	Conway, Oak Bowery	Flippin, Flippin First	Higden, Sugar Loaf First	Lincoln, Liberty
Beebe, Union Valley	Conway, Pickles Gap	Floral, Floral	Higginson, Higginson First	Little Rock, Bingham Road
Beirne, Beirne First	Conway, Pleasant Grove	Fordyce, Fordyce First	Hindsville, Hindsville First	Little Rock, Calvary
Bella Vista, Village	Conway, Sunny Gap	Fordyce, Prosperity	Hope, Calvary	Little Rock, Crystal Hill
Belleville, Grace Memorial	Conway, Woodland Heights	Fordyce, Southside	Horatio, Horatio First	Little Rock, Geyer Springs First
Benton, Benton First	Corning, Calvary	Forrest City, Forrest City First	Horseshoe Bend, Horseshoe Bend First	Little Rock, Immanuel
Benton, Calvary	Corning, Corning First	Fort Smith, Calvary	Hot Springs, Grand Avenue	Little Rock, Lifeline
Benton, Gravel Hill	Corning, Hopewell	Fort Smith, Concord Association	Hot Springs, Harvey's Chapel	Little Rock, Martindale
Benton, Highland Heights	Cotter, Cotter First	Fort Smith, Fort Smith First	Hot Springs, Hot Springs	Little Rock, Parkway Place
Benton, Mount Vernon	Cove, Cove First	Fort Smith, Immanuel	Hot Springs, Hot Springs First	Little Rock, Reynolds Memorial
Benton, Ridgecrest	Crossett, Magnolia	Fort Smith, Spradling	Hot Springs, Lakeshore Heights	Little Rock, South Highland
Benton, Temple	Crossett, Meridian	Fort Smith, Temple	Hot Springs, Lakeside	Little Rock, West Side
Bentonville, Park Street	Danville, Danville First	Fort Smith, Trinity	Hot Springs, Mill Creek	London, London First
Berryville, Freeman Heights	Dardanelle, Calvary	Fort Smith, Zion's Rest	Hot Springs, Piney	Lonsdale, Owensville
Berryville, Grandview	Dardanelle, New Hope	Gassville, Pilgrims Rest	Hot Springs, Vista Heights	Lonoke, Lonoke
Berryville, Southern Heights	De Queen, De Queen First	Gilbert, Zion's Light	Hot Springs Village, Balboa	Lonoke, New Hope
Bigelow, Bigelow	De Queen, Kern Heights	Gillett, Gillett First	Hot Springs Village, Barcelona Road Mission	Lonoke, Steel Bridge
Biscoe, Biscoe First	De Witt, De Witt First	Gillham, Gillham First	Hot Springs Village, Coronado	Lonoke, Wattensaw
Bismarck, Bismarck First	De Witt, Eastside	Glenwood, Glenwood First	Hoxie, Hoxie First	Lowell, Hickory Creek
Blevins, Marlbrook	De Witt, Faith	Goshen, Goshen First	Hughes, Hughes First	Lowell, Lowell First
Blytheville, Bethany	Decatur, Decatur First	Gould, Gould First	Humphrey, Humphrey	Luxora, Luxora First
Blytheville, North Tenth Street	Decatur, Mason Valley	Grannis, Grannis First	Hunter, Hunter First	Magnolia, Central
Blytheville, Yarbrow	Deer, Cassville	Green Forest, Rudd	Huntington, Fellowship	Magnolia, Village
Branch, Branch	Deer, Deer	Greenland, Greenland First	Huntsville, Calvary	Malvern, Magnet Cove, First
Brinkley, Brinkley First	Delaplaine, Delaplaine	Greenway, Greenway First	Huntsville, Huntsville First	Malvern, Malvern Third
Brookland, New Antioch	Delaware, Delaware First	Greenwood, Greenwood First	Huntsville, Living Water	Manila, Blackwater
Bryant, Bryant First Southern	Delight, Antione	Greenwood, Mount Zion	Jacksonville, Bayou Meto	Manila, Manila First
Cabot, Cabot First	Dermott, Bellaire	Greenwood, Palestine	Jacksonville, Gravel Ridge First	Manila, Westside
Cabot, Mount Carmel	Dermott, Halley	Greens Ferry, Lone Star		Mansfield, Dayton
Cabot, Mountain Springs	Dermott, Jerome	Gregory, Gregory		
Cabot, Zion Hill	Des Arc, Des Arc First			
Camden, Calvary	Doddridge, Macedonia			
	Doddridge, Mount Zion			

Mansfield, James Fork	New Edenburg, New Edinburg First	Pine Bluff, Shepherd Hill	Sherwood, Friendship	Tillar, Selma
Mansfield, Pleasant Grove #2	North Little Rock, Central	Pine Bluff, South Pine Wood	Sherwood, Indianhead Lake	Tillar, Tillar First
Marion, Immanuel	North Little Rock, Forty	Pine Bluff, South Side	Sherwood, Runyan First	Timbo, Calvary
Marion, Marion First	North Little Rock, Forty Seventh Street	Plummerville, Plummerville First	Shirley, Pleasant Valley	Trumann, Corners Chapel
Marked Tree, Marked Tree First	North Little Rock, Grace	Pocahontas, Oak Grove	Shirley, Shady Grove	Trumann, Maple Grove
Marked Tree, Red Oak	North Little Rock, Graves Memorial	Portland, Portland	Sidney, Sidney	Trumann, McCormick
Marmaduke, Marmaduke First	North Little Rock, Morrison Chapel	Pottsville, Pottsville	Siloam Springs, Gum Springs	Trumann, Trumann First
Marmaduke, New Friendship	North Little Rock, Park Hill	Prescott, Bethel	Siloam Springs, Highfill First	Tulip, Tulip Memorial
Marvell, Marvell First	North Little Rock, Remount	Quitman, Palestine	Siloam Springs, Robinson	Turner, Turner
Maumelle, Maumelle First	Nashville, Nashville First	Quitman, Pines	Siloam Springs, Siloam Springs First	Tyronza, Barton Chapel
McCrary, McCrary First	Norfolk, Lone Rock	Quitman, Quitman First	Smackover, Joyce	Uniontown, Uniontown
McRae, McRae First	Norfolk, Lone Rock	Ratcliff, Ratcliff First	Smackover, Maple Avenue	Urbana, Urbana First
Melbourne, Midway	Norman, Norman First	Rector, Rector First	Smackover, Smackover First	Van Buren, Oak Grove
Mena, Acorn	Norphlet, Norphlet First	Redfield, River Road	Smithville, Smithville	Vandervoort, Vandervoort First
Mena, Bethel	Oil Trough, White River	Reydell, Reydell	Solgohachia, Solgohachia	Viola, Viola Baptist
Mena, Calvary	Okolona, South Fork	Rison, Rison	Sparkman, Holly Springs	Waldron, Bates
Mena, Cherry Hill	Omaha, Lakeland	Rivervale, Rivervale	Sparkman, Manning	Waldron, Haw Creek
Mena, Dallas Avenue	Omaha, New Hope	Roe, Aberdeen First	Sparkman, New Hope	Waldron, Temple
Mena, Mena First	Osceola, East Side	Rogers, Monte Ne	Sparkman, Sparkman First	Waldron, Unity
Mena, New Hope	Osceola, Osceola First	Rogers, Pleasant Grove	Springdale, Cross Church	Ward, Cocklebur
Mena, Salem	Ozark, Ozark First	Rogers, Rocky Branch	Springdale, Berry Street	Warren, Grace Cowboy
Mena, Yocana	Ozark, Webb City	Rogers, Rogers First	Springdale, Brush Creek	Warren, Immanuel
Midland, Midland First	Ozone, Ozone	Rogers, Trinity	Springdale, Cross Church	Warren, Macedonia
Midway, Midway	Pangburn, McJester	Roland, Natural Steps	Springdale, Oak Grove	Warren, Warren First
Mineral Springs, Central	Pangburn, Pangburn First	Roland, Church at Pinnacle	Springdale, Silent Grove	Warren, Westside
Monette, Monette First	Paragould, Big Creek	Romance, Floyd First	Springdale, Spring Valley	Watson, Watson
Monticello, Florence	Paragould, Browns Chapel	Rose Bud, Rose Bud First	Stamps, Stamps First	Weiner, Weiner First
Monticello, Immanuel	Paragould, East Side	Rosie, Rosie	Star City, Fellowship Bible	West Fork, Southside
Monticello, Northside	Paragould, Pleasant Valley	Rover, Rover	Star City, Hickory Grove	West Helena, West Acres
Monticello, Second	Paragould, Robbs Chapel	Russellville, Bakers Creek	Star City, Star City First	West Helena, West Helena Second
Montrose, Montrose	Paragould, Unity	Russellville, Crow Mountain	Star City, Yorktown First	West Memphis, West Memphis First
Montrose, Mount Pleasant	Parkdale, Parkdale	Russellville, East Point	Stephens, Salem	West Point, West Point
Montrose, Sardis	Parkin, Parkin First	Russellville, Russellville First	Stephens, Stephens First	West Point, West Point
Morrilton, Petit Jean	Parks, Parks	Russellville, Second	Strong, Knowles	Wheatley, Goodwin
Mountain First	Pea Ridge, Pea Ridge First	Saint Charles, Saint Charles	Strong, New London	White Hall, White Hall First
Mount Ida, Lake Ouachita	Pencil Bluff, Pencil Bluff First	Salem, Salem First	Strong, Strong First	Wickes, Hatton
Mount Ida, Mount Ida First	Perryville, Nimrod	Scotland, Scotland	Stuttgart, Hagler	Wilton, Wilton First
Mount Pleasant, Mount Pleasant Southern	Perryville, Perryville First	Scott, Grace	Stuttgart, Southside	Winthrop, Cross Roads First
Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon	Perryville, Perryville Second	Scranton, Scranton First	Stuttgart, Stuttgart First	Wiseman, Wiseman
Mountain Home, East Side	Piggott, Emmanuel	Searcy, Calvary	Sulphur Rock, Sulphur Rock	Woodson, Woodson
Mountain Home, Mountain Home First	Piggott, Piggott First	Searcy, Crosby	Swifton, Swifton	Wooster, Wooster First
Mountainburg, Mountainburg First	Pine Bluff, Central	Searcy, Mount Hebron	Texarkana, Beech Street First	Wright, Plum Bayou
Mulberry, Mulberry First	Pine Bluff, Claud Road	Searcy, Pleasant Ridge	Texarkana, Cornerstone	Wynne, Ridgeview
Murfreesboro, Murfreesboro First	Pine Bluff, Matthews Memorial	Searcy, Searcy First	Texarkana, Mandeville	Wynne, Union Avenue
	Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff First	Searcy, Temple	Texarkana, Shiloh	Wynne, Wynne
	Pine Bluff, Shannon Road	Searcy, Valley	Texarkana, Tennessee	Yellville, Yellville First
		Sheridan, North Main	Texarkana, Trinity	
		Sheridan, Sheridan First	Tichnor, Tichnor	
		Sherwood, Baring Cross		

## Attention Pastor: Keep your church informed, inspired and involved!

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## Obituaries

**Kirk R. Nance, 43**, of Hot Springs, died Oct. 4.



Nance was the principal of Lake Hamilton High School in Lake Hamilton, and an active member of Hot Springs Baptist Church, where he served as a Sunday school teacher and an assistant choir director.

Nance formerly served as music minister and youth minister at First Baptist Church, Fordyce.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Survivors include his wife, Cari Nance, two sons, one daughter, a sister and his mother.

A celebration of Nance's life took place Oct. 7 at the Lake Hamilton Wolf Arena.

A memorial service was held Oct. 7 at First Baptist Church, Fordyce.

A private burial was held at Tolson Cemetery in Fordyce.

**Hunter E. Carpenter, 82**, of Hamburg, died Oct. 10 at the Crossett Rehabilitation and Health Center in Crossett.



Carpenter was a native of Fountain Hill and a resident of Hamburg for 56 years.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served during the Korean conflict.

Carpenter was the parts manager for Higginbotham Motor Company and Linder Motor Company in Hamburg for many years.

He was a minister and pastored several Southern Baptist churches in Arkansas and Louisiana, and a member of First Baptist Church in Hamburg.

He is preceded in death by a brother.

He was survived by his wife of 60 years, Willene Graves Carpenter, a son, Tim Carpenter, a daughter, Gail Carter, a sister, and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Oct. 13 at First Baptist Church, Hamburg.

Burial followed at Prairie Grove Cemetery in Hamburg.

[arkansasbaptist.org](http://arkansasbaptist.org)



**DONATION TO BOYS RANCH** – Members of Calvary Baptist Church in Timbo recently took a love offering to help with back-to-school items for the Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch in Harrison, a ministry of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries (ABCHomes). The love offering was in addition to donating supplies to the elementary school at Timbo. Danny Robbins, pastor of the church, presented the \$550 check to the staff at the Boys Ranch, stating, "We are very proud to be helping out such a good group of people who give so much to serving Christ." Robbins (left) is shown with Jeanie Hunt, campus liaison, and James Byler, case manager at the Boys Ranch.

## STEWARDSHIP TIP

### DON'T GIVE BAD ASSETS TO YOUR LOVED ONES

Receiving an inheritance is a good thing. However, certain assets are better than others to leave to your loved ones and some are better if left to charity. For the sake of brevity, this tip characterizes the opposing types of assets as "good assets" and "bad assets." Good assets are those that do not generate income tax liability to an estate or loved one when transferred at death—assets such as stocks, real estate, and cash. "Bad assets" are those that attribute the untaxed income to the beneficiary that receives them when inherited. These type of assets are referred to as "income with respect to the decedent" or "IRD" assets—such as savings bonds, IRAs and commercial annuities. Generally, IRD assets should be used to make charitable gifts from an estate or at least structured in such a way to limit the amount of income tax liability for the receiving beneficiary.

If you have questions concerning gifts from your estate, contact us using the information below.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST  
**Foundation**



### Houseparents needed:

#### Baptist Home for Children, Monticello.

Contact: Randy Luper at (870) 367-5358 or [rluper@abchomes.org](mailto:rluper@abchomes.org). These full-time positions include salary, housing, medical and life insurance and paid leave.

#### Emergency Receiving Home, Judsonia.

Contact: Derek Brown at (501) 455-8554 or [dbrown@abchomes.org](mailto:dbrown@abchomes.org). This relief houseparent position includes salary, medical and life insurance and paid leave.

**ABN**  
ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWS

Read more news and features on our new website at [arkansasbaptist.org](http://arkansasbaptist.org)

# Classifieds

## PASTOR

Smithville Baptist Church seeking either **bi-vocational or full-time pastor**. Please send resume to P.O. Box 37, Smithville, AR 72466.

Accepting application **bi-vocational pastor**. Resumes to Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. 532 Dardanelle, AR. 72834. Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

FBC, Vandervoort, AR, in Ouachita Baptist Assoc. is accepting resumes for **full-time pastor**. Email resume to [beckie.apple@tyson.com](mailto:beckie.apple@tyson.com).

First Southern Baptist Church, Bearden, AR, is seeking a **full-time/bi-vocational pastor**. Send letter/resume to P.O. Box 449, Bearden, AR 71720, or email [Fsbcbeardean.com](mailto:Fsbcbeardean.com). ATTN: Pastor Search Committee.

Accepting applications for **bi-vocational pastor**. Resume to Emmanuel Baptist, 4315 NCR 535, Blytheville, AR 72315.

FBC Bellefonte is searching for a **bi-vocational pastor**. We are a fundamental, conservative, traditional worship rural church in the Ozarks. Send resume to [jpleslinger@icloud.com](mailto:jpleslinger@icloud.com).

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

BSU Director – Cane Creek Stoddard Baptist

Association is seeking an individual to serve as the **BSU Director** to the students of Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff, MO. Details about the position can be found at [www.ccsba.com](http://www.ccsba.com). Please email your cover letter and resume to [ccsbaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ccsbaoffice@gmail.com).

Church Position: Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jasper, TX, is seeking a **full-time associate pastor/youth minister/missions minister**. Send resumes to: Bro. David Nugent, Hillcrest Baptist Church, 3196 U.S. Hwy. 190W, Jasper, TX 75951, or email [rhondahsm02@yahoo.com](mailto:rhondahsm02@yahoo.com). For questions or information, call Bro. David Nugent at 409-384-3371.

YOUTH: FBC Siloam Springs, AR is seeking God's will for a **f/t salaried youth pastor**, licensed (preferably ordained) and Southern Baptist. Please send your resume to FBC Youth Pastor Search Committee, 2000 Dawn Hill

Road, Siloam Springs, AR 72761 or email to [searchteam@fbc-siloam.com](mailto:searchteam@fbc-siloam.com).

Union Baptist Church, El Dorado, is prayerfully seeking a **bi-vocational music minister**. Please send resume and DVD/link to Jonathan Morris, 144 Crain City Rd, El Dorado, AR 71730, or email [jmorris.ubc@gmail.com](mailto:jmorris.ubc@gmail.com).

Cornerstone Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time youth minister**. Please send resumes to 3900 Union Road, Texarkana, AR 71854 or e-mail to [csbaptist@aol.com](mailto:csbaptist@aol.com).

Beebe First Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a **full-time minister of music and education**. Please send resume to PO Box 67, Beebe, AR 72012 or email [bhall@fb-cteebe.com](mailto:bhall@fb-cteebe.com).

Small church needs **music director**. Sundays only. Contact [sulliglienda@yahoo.com](mailto:sulliglienda@yahoo.com)

if interested.

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.

## MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED: **Bibles and hymnals** Prussian Blue 1991. Emmanuel Baptist, 870-838-5085.

For sale: **1998 Ford, 22 passenger bus** with 7.3 diesel engine. 117K. Interior and exterior in good condition. Contact Richard Lewis, 870-670-5264 or Frank Wise at 870-710-2702.

Looking to fill a staff position at your church?

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

# Nailbenders build fellowship hall for Mo. church

KENNETT, Mo. – A new fellowship hall is going up at Varner River Baptist Church, thanks to the Arkansas mis-

sions group, Nailbenders for Jesus.

The group worked on its portion of the project at the

church, starting in early September, the *Daily Dunklin Democrat* reported.

Nailbenders for Jesus, a

construction mission affiliated with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, sometimes does out-of-state projects and selected Varner River Baptist Church as one of those projects, Charlie Zimmerman, project manager, told the *Dunklin Democrat*.

Albert Carr, a member of Varner River Baptist Church, was impressed by the amount of construction completed in a short period of time.

"They started on Sept. 9 with about 10 workers and

now have up to 18," Carr told the newspaper.

The church provided electricity, and the missionaries set up a campsite with their recreational vehicles on property adjacent to the church building, the *Dunklin Democrat* reported.

The new fellowship hall will house a new kitchen, dining room, classrooms and two restrooms.

"We hope to have Thanksgiving dinner in there," said Carr.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention invites you & your spouse to attend

**LifeWay | PASTOR DATE NIGHT**

This event is free for all pastors and staff members couples, includes a meal, children, a discussion panel with ministry couples, and LifeWay musicians. Choose the date and location most convenient for you.

**Northwest Arkansas**  
Monday, November 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Cross Church, Pinnacle Hills  
2448 Pinnacle Hills Parkway | Rogers, AR 72758  
Register online at [abc.org/events/pastor-date-night-nw](http://abc.org/events/pastor-date-night-nw)



Brooke & Joanne Floyd  
St. Paddy's United Church  
Northwest Arkansas

Terry & Judy Weston  
Westside United Free Baptist Church  
St. Dennis, AR

Hank & Janet Dance  
LifeWay Christian Resources  
Northwest, AR

**Central Arkansas**  
Thursday, November 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
First Baptist Church, Sherwood  
201 Cozzier Club Road | Sherwood, AR 72170  
Register online at [abc.org/events/pastor-date-night-sherwood](http://abc.org/events/pastor-date-night-sherwood)



Jeff & Wendy Williams  
St. Mark's United Baptist Church  
Conway, AR

Terry & Judy Weston  
Westside United Free Baptist Church  
St. Dennis, AR

Hank & Janet Dance  
LifeWay Christian Resources  
Northwest, AR

**Arkansas BAPTISTS**



Nailbenders for Jesus, a construction mission affiliated with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, undertook an out-of-state project at Varner River Baptist Church in Kennett, Mo. The group assisted in the construction of a new fellowship hall at the church, which includes a new kitchen, dining room, classrooms and two restrooms. Photo by Jeff Dorris, *Daily Dunklin Democrat*

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**Woodland Heights Baptist Church**  
Conway, AR

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**FEBRUARY 25, 2017**  
**10am-5pm**

**CYLarkansas.com**  
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**College + Young Leaders**  
ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

## Woodall named campus minister at Univ. of Arkansas-Monticello

MONTICELLO - Jeremy Woodall has been named campus director of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) at the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM), which is his alma mater.

He had previously served as assistant BCM campus minister at UAM.

In addition, Woodall is lead pastor and planter of Delta Outdoor Church in McGehee.

Woodall previously served on staff at First Baptist Church in Monticello and Star City and served alongside International Mission Board

missionaries as a player/coach for an American football team of Polish students in Krakow, Poland.

He also leads the Fellowship of Christian Athletes ministry at the high school and middle school in McGehee, as well as serves as team chaplain for the McGehee Owls football team.



Woodall

Woodall is currently enrolled in the master of divinity program at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

He and his wife, Becca, have a two-year-old daughter.

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or staff member in the ABNews!**

**ABN classifieds work! See Page 16.**

Get a Sneak Peek at Lifeway's  
**2017 Vacation Bible School**

Thursday, November 17  
9:30am-2:30pm

Join us at the ABSC Building,  
10 Remington Drive in Little Rock

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention Will Host  
Jerry Wooley and Mark Jones

This event is **FREE**, but you must register.\*  
Call 501-376-4791, ext. 5193  
or go to [www.absc.org/vbs](http://www.absc.org/vbs)

\*Registration ends Monday, November 14

**GALACTIC STARVEYORS**

OCTOBER 30, 2016

Our middle child is a princess. In fact, for many years, that is the only side of her anyone outside of our family ever really saw. She was always sweet, quiet and rather prissy. Dresses and frills and anything pink made her very, very happy. What most people did not see, though, was the tough layer underneath that sweetness. She's always been a very strong child, and I knew her princess nature was much more warrior than dainty.

I can't help but think of my warrior princess as I read the closing chapter of 1 Peter. Throughout the entire letter, Peter reminded his readers to live lives of submission, brotherly love, obedience and good behavior, always serving one another with humility in submission to almighty God. Essentially, the whole epistle is a detailed description of how his fellow persecuted believers should act as "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession" (1 Pet. 2:9, NASB). Behavior befitting of the children of the King of kings and Lord of lords is outlined here - the be-

havior of princes and princesses interacting with the flesh and blood of this world in which we live.

But, we do not interact with flesh and blood alone. We have an enemy, the devil, who "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Pet. 5:8, NASB). Suddenly, the princes and princesses must also be warriors, constantly alert, on guard and very firm in the faith that has made them children of almighty God.

What I love most about this epistle is the balance between royalty and warrior. Some days, my precious warrior princess struggles to find that balance between the warrior and the princess sides of her nature, and

I believe we struggle the same way in our spiritual walks. But, Peter encourages us by reminding us that we're joined with fellow believers in the fight, that it's just for a little while and that the promise at the end of it all is glorious.

Stand firm!

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE Alert living

1 PETER 5:1-11 (NASB)



Ann Hibbard  
East End

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE Unstoppable love

ACTS 2:41-47



Doug Hibbard  
East End

Breaking bread from house-to-house (Acts 2:46) seems like a great place to start this Sunday. After all, it's an American tradition to go from house-to-house this week asking for candy on October 31. I have fond memories of trick-or-treating in my younger days, and I have finally realized that the "check the candy for poison" admonition was actually Mom's way of swiping the good chocolate. However, this is not the time and place to debate Halloween activities.

Instead, I want us to think about the idea of being house-to-house, sharing in meals with gladness. For too many, we read this and immediately think of the burden and chore that having people over on a regular basis would be. Who has the time for all the cooking and cleaning? The early church, though, did so with gladness and generosity. It was not a burden.

As church members, we need to recover this idea - not just that the pastor or Sunday school teacher should

be visiting house-to-house, but that our lives should be woven together as God's people. Consider how much better we would know each other if we would just make the time to sit down and eat together.

Impractical, you say? Of course it is. Adjusting our lives to bring other people into them is not going to be easy. We must not assume, though,

that life was any easier for believers in those early days. As you study the text, do not romanticize the first century as if it were easier to be Christian in those days.

Admittedly, this passage in Acts is a description of the church and not a command for the church today. We frequently try to shape our behaviors to match stories of other times and places. Some of us try to match decades gone by; others try to match the latest fad. Perhaps we would benefit from trying to match the example of that first generation of believers in the Word of God.

NOVEMBER 6, 2016

Every time I read Peter's epistles, I wonder how many times he had to mentally go back to those moments on the beach with the resurrected Jesus. He wrote as a man with such confidence and solidarity of faith, giving us heart-stirring statements like this one from 2 Peter 1:3 (NASB): "Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence."

It is no surprise that the same man who rashly plowed through his years with Jesus and often blurted out the first words to come to mind would be one to pen bold words. But, these are not just bold words. They are joyful and confident words. They are words of a man who knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that he did, indeed, possess the grace that can only be given by Jesus Christ. Yes, I think he thought back to that lakeside scene frequently.

It doesn't stop there, though. Peter

followed these words with a call to action. I absolutely love verse eight. After detailing the "everything" that Christ has given us, Peter went on to say, "For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 1:8, NASB).

In a few quick statements, Peter stated that if we have received faith in Christ, we have everything we need to live godly lives. Like Peter himself, we have a calling we can look back to, a reception of faith and forgiveness and the righteousness of Christ. And if we have that calling and the tools for godly lives, we have

all we need to be useful and fruitful. I think that means it's time to get to work!

Peter was confident in his calling, and that confidence led to action. He reminds us that our calling is no less certain, so let us be no less active.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE Being useful

2 PETER 1:3-11 (NASB)



Ann Hibbard  
East End

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE Unstoppable opportunities

ACTS 3:1-10



Doug Hibbard  
East End

Our lives intersect daily with people who need Christ. Do you believe that? I would challenge all of us that, if we truly believed that statement, it would not take more than 50 Southern Baptists to lead one person to Jesus every year. If we truly believed that the people we see daily need Jesus, we would act on that belief. Let us look at our passage and take both encouragement and challenge from it.

First, of course, we must note that God healed the lame man's physical problem. That miracle is worth taking a moment and praising God for being the One who heals and remembering that we can and should lift those who need physical healing in prayer.

Notice that Peter and John were going to the Temple to pray. They had an agenda, an appointment to keep. This did not stop them from noticing the man in need. Second, notice that the man did not know what he would get from Peter and John. He was ask-

ing for enough for now, which neither Peter nor John had.

Neither of the apostles had a denarius or lepta, apparently, and so could do nothing about the man's needs. What they did have was faith in Christ and knowledge that Jesus could heal. That's what they offered.

We often get wrapped up in all the needs we cannot meet. Whether it is a family needing food and shelter or a person needing health and healing, we cannot begin to meet all the needs. What can we do?

We can do the same thing Peter and John did: share the gospel. They could use fewer words because the whole of Jerusalem was still well aware of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, but they shared Jesus with this man just the same.

Every day we meet people who need Jesus. Let us not get bogged down in what we cannot do and focus on what we can do: tell people about Jesus.

# Pro-life movement grieves Planned Parenthood anniversary

WASHINGTON (BP) – Planned Parenthood – America’s leading abortion provider – celebrated its 100th anniversary Oct. 16 to praise from the current president, as well as the frontrunner to be the next president, and protest from pro-life advocates.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) observed its centennial with an event at the City Hall of New York and the launch of #100Years Strong, a year-long celebration marked by more than 150 community events around the world.

Inaugurated when eugenicist Margaret Sanger opened a Brooklyn birth control clinic in 1916, Planned Parenthood took the lead in the abortion business in this country when a New York affiliate began performing the procedures in 1970. New York legalized abortion that year, three years before the U.S. Supreme Court struck down all state bans on the procedure.

Now, PPFA’s affiliates perform more than 320,000 abortions a year at the same time the organization and its affiliates receive about \$550 million annually in government grants and reimbursements. Various scandals have plagued Planned Parenthood in the last decade or more, most recently when undercover videos in 2015 provided evidence that it trades in body parts from aborted babies.

While President Obama and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton applauded Planned Parenthood’s anniversary, Southern Baptist ethicist Russell Moore said it “should be an occasion for the church to grieve.”

“For a century, Planned Parenthood has been a force for the culture of death, beginning with its start as a racist, social Darwinist institution,” said Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. “It has been exposed even further in recent years as a trafficker of human bodies for financial gain.

“Though the pro-life movement has made some remarkable gains, this landmark for the abortion lobby’s biggest institution is a reminder of how far we still have to go for human dignity,” he told Baptist Press in written comments.

Obama and Clinton offered congratulations to PPFA online.

“For a century,” Obama tweeted Oct. 16, “Planned Parenthood has made it possible for women to determine their own lives. Here’s to another #100YearsStrong.”

On a video released by her campaign the same day, Clinton said, “Planned Parenthood, congratulations on your first 100 years. And here’s to 100 more.”

Clinton – who supports abortion rights and government funding of the procedures – received PPFA’s Margaret Sanger Award in 2009, when she was secretary of state. Planned Parenthood gives the award for “leadership, excellence and outstanding contributions to the reproductive health and rights movement.”

She also said of the Republican presidential ticket Oct. 16 on Twitter, “When Trump and Pence attack Planned Parenthood, they’re attacking millions of Americans.”

Donald Trump and his running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, have said their administration would seek to prohibit federal funds for PPFA.

A coalition of pro-life organizations has launched its own campaign – #100YearsOfAbuse – to counter Planned Parenthood’s celebration and to publicize the abortion-rights organization’s practices.

Planned Parenthood’s anniversary is “a tragic milestone for our nation and a reminder of the millions of unborn children who will never have a birthday,” the coalition said in a written statement. “We mourn these children, as well as the women who have been hurt and exploited by the nation’s largest abortion chain.”

Among the members of the coalition are Alliance Defending Freedom, Americans United for Life, Family Research Council, March for Life, Students for Life of America and Susan B. Anthony List. The latest campaign by 40 Days for Life – a nationwide, and inter-

national, pro-life outreach – includes a major presence at Planned Parenthood facilities. More than 140 of the 40 Days prayer vigils are being held in



passion, courage, and conviction as our first,” she said in a written release from Planned Parenthood, which has more than 650 centers in the United States.

front of PPFA centers.

Cecile Richards, PPFA’s president, said her organization is “just getting started.”

“We will build on our proud legacy and launch our second century with as much

Congress approved legislation less than a year ago that would have eliminated about 90 percent of Planned Parenthood’s federal funding, but Obama vetoed the bill in January. A House attempt to over-ride the veto fell far

short of the two-thirds majority required.

That congressional effort followed the release of secretly recorded videos that showed Planned Parenthood officials discussing the sale of organs

from aborted children, as well as their willingness to manipulate the abortion procedure to preserve organs for sale and use.

A special panel in the House of Representatives is investigating Planned Parenthood and fetal tissue procurement businesses to determine if a federal law regulating the storage and transportation of such tissue has been violated. The panel is to issue a report by the end of the year.

Other undercover investigations by pro-life organizations in the last several years have produced videos allegedly showing Planned Parenthood employees demonstrating a willingness to aid self-professed sex traffickers whose prostitutes supposedly were in their early teens, seeking to conceal alleged child sex abuse and agreeing to receive donations designated for abortions of African-American babies.

## NOBTS to launch Adrian Rogers center

NEW ORLEANS (BP) – New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) trustees have approved the establishment of an Adrian Rogers Center for Expository Preaching.

A center focusing on expository preaching named for the late Adrian Rogers is being established by New Orleans Seminary.

Additional initiatives also were approved during the trustees’ fall meeting to enhance the training of local church pastors and other church leaders – a Christian leadership major in the doctor of philosophy program and several enhancements to the seminary’s master of divinity program.

“Dr. Adrian Rogers is one of the most significant alumni in the history of NOBTS – well-known for a lifetime of excellent expository preaching,” President Chuck Kelley said following the trustee meeting.

“This center will enhance our ability to train students and prepare them to open God’s Word and teach through great expository preaching over the years of their ministry.”

Rogers, who died in 2005 after 33 years as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., earned the bachelor of divinity (equivalent to today’s master of divinity) at NOBTS in 1958. The Memphis-area pastor and three-time SBC president, launched his radio and television ministry “Love Worth Finding” in 1987. Through Love Worth Finding, millions of people were impacted through Rogers’ preaching.

Building on Rogers’ legacy of expository preaching, the new academic center will promote training and skill development for current students and pastors alike. In addition to providing leadership and promotion for the preaching degrees in the academic program (master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees with expository preaching specializations and the biblical exposition major in the doctor of philosophy program), the Rogers Center will host conferences and lectureships in expository preaching. The center also will develop preaching resources to assist local church pastors.

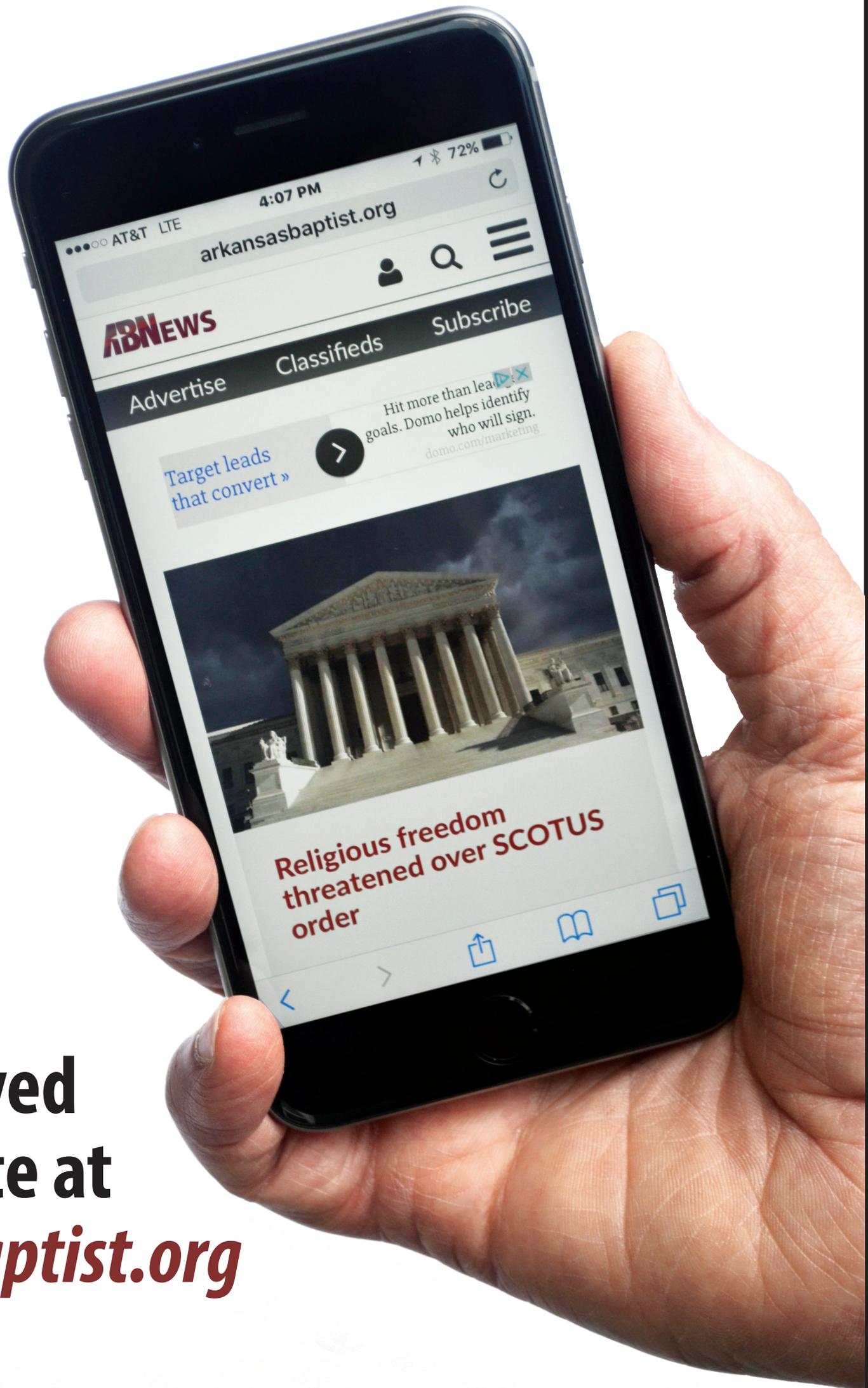
Led by Adam Hughes,

NOBTS professor of expository preaching and dean of the chapel, the Rogers Center will officially launch in January 2017. More information about the new center is available at [www.nobts.edu/rogerscenter](http://www.nobts.edu/rogerscenter).

The new Christian leadership major in the doctor of philosophy program approved by trustees during their Oct. 10 meeting is aimed at providing a Ph.D.-level learning option for the growing number of NOBTS students in master’s programs focusing on leadership, NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke said.

The 64-hour degree plan is designed to prepare students to lead in local congregations as well as teach at colleges, universities and seminaries or serve in administrative or leadership roles with the various boards, entities and commissions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

“The area of leadership has become one of the most popular specializations among students in our doctor of ministry and doctor of educational ministry programs, and we wanted to offer this focused training in our Ph.D. program as well,” Lemke said.



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