



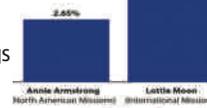
Inside:

- Self, moderate SBC nominee, dies
- Man finds Christ after shooting
- Activist group targets colleges
- DR vols share Christ during cleanup
- Sam Roberts new ABSC president

Ark. mission giving increases

Arkansas Baptist churches increase giving to all major offerings

page 2



Thousands showed their opposition to abortion by taking part in the Arkansas Right to Life March for Life, which took place Jan. 17 at the Arkansas Capitol. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

Thousands 'March for Life' in LR

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK – Thousands flooded the Arkansas Capitol grounds to show opposition to abortion Jan. 17 during the 38th annual Arkansas Right to Life March for Life.

Arkansas Right to Life called the event “a peaceful and prayerful witness to remember the 60 million unborn children whose lives have been forever lost as a result of legalized abortion.”

Abortion was legalized in the United States in 1973 as a result of the, now infamous, decision by the Supreme Court in the case of Roe v. Wade.

Numerous churches, advocacy organizations, private schools and fraternal organizations were represented during the 1-hour service, which began with a march, led by Arkansas Right to Life President Andy Mayberry, from the

corner of West Capitol Street and Wolfe Street to the steps of the Capitol.

Following the march and an opening prayer by Bishop Anthony Taylor of the Diocese of Little Rock, Mayberry introduced the event’s guest speakers, which included Ar-

kansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, U.S. Sens. John Boozman and Tom Cotton, U.S. Reps. Bruce Westerman and French Hill, Arkansas Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin, Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, Arkansas

See MARCH page 14

Hollingsworth to lead South Carolina Baptists

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Gary Hollingsworth, 58, senior pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock and current president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), was elected executive director-treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC) Jan. 14.

Hollingsworth received the unanimous support of more than 330 SCBC messengers who

convened for a special called meeting of the state convention at Shandon Baptist Church in Columbia.

The Alabama native has served at Immanuel Baptist since 2007. He previously served as senior director of cultural evangelism at the North American Mission Board (NAMB) from 2005 to 2007.



Hollingsworth

“I think this convention has selected a man of God to lead

them into the next chapter of evangelism, ministry and missions for the coming years,” said Richard Harris, a retired vice president with NAMB who led the state convention for 14 months after interim director-treasurer Jim Austin retired in October 2014.

Harris said South Carolina Baptists have selected “God’s appointed leader for this hour.”

“He is a statesman, a visionary leader, a people-person with tremendous relational

skills, godly, an outstanding team player and a wonderful family man,” he said.

In remarks following his selection, Hollingsworth said he embraces the state denomination’s pillars of evangelism, missions, church planting and church revitalization, and he plans to sharpen the SCBC’s focus on serving churches.

“Denominations only exist to serve churches, especially on the state level,” he said. “A

See HOLLINGSWORTH page 8

The ABN classifieds have a new, more readable design!

Read them on Page 12.

The ABN classifieds are a great way to advertise for your church or business. You can now submit a classified ad via the ABN website at

arkansasbaptist.org/ad

Classifieds

PASTOR
...
OTHER STAFF POSITIONS
...
MISCELLANEOUS
...
ABN
...
arkansasbaptist.org/ad

ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Washington, NYC put bathrooms in spotlight

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) – At the end of 2015, two human rights commissions – in New York City and Washington state – enacted new rules that could be precedent-setting for the gender battle across the nation, including giving people the right to use whichever locker rooms and bathrooms they choose. The New York City Commission on Human Rights issued guidelines Dec. 21 to clarify what “constitutes gender identity and gender-expression discrimination” under the city’s 2002 Human Rights Law. The new policy addresses discrimination in the areas of employment, public accommodation and housing. The guidelines offer several definitions that categorize people according to their self-defined sexual identity, including transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex. Instead of male or female, the identity of “cisgender” is offered as “an adjective denoting or relating to a person whose self-identity conforms with the gender that corresponds to their biological sex.”

GuideStone tax guide to be released in 2 phases

DALLAS (BP) – GuideStone Financial Resources’ tax guide for churches and ministers is being released in two phases for 2016, the Southern Baptist entity announced Jan. 19. The Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches section is available now at GuideStone.org/TaxGuide. This section details filing requirements for forms W-2 and 1099 as well as a brief section on filing requirements many churches will face as part of the Affordable Care Act.

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

Ark. Baptist mission giving increases

GIVING BY Arkansas Baptist churches in 2015 has increased for the two major Southern Baptist offerings, as well as for Cooperative Program giving and Arkansas Baptists’ state offering, all while the number of churches that give has decreased, according to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC).

Cooperative Program giving increased by 1.57 percent – from about \$20.5 million in 2014 to about \$20.8 million in 2015. The number of ABSC churches giving to the Cooperative Program, however, dropped from 1,346 to 1,320, a decrease of 1.93 percent.

Giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions was up by about \$53,500 – an increase of 2.65 percent – reaching almost \$2.1 million in 2015, compared to a little more than \$2 million in 2014. Meanwhile, the number of churches giving to the offering dropped from

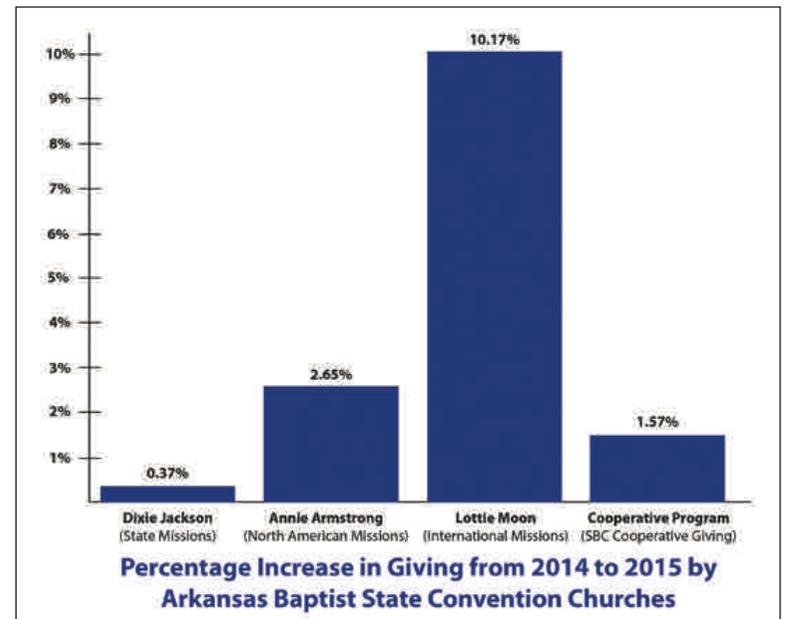
988 in 2014 to 964 in 2015, a decrease of 2.43 percent.

The Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering increased by 0.37 percent this year – rising by about \$5,700 to a total of just over \$1,527,000. The number of giving churches for the state missions offering declined by 3.32 percent – from 935 in 2014 to 904 in 2015.

The largest increase from 2014 was in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. The missions offering reached about \$5.8 million in 2015, up by 10.17 percent from the previous year when it reached about \$5.3 million.

The increase was despite an overall drop in the number of participating churches – 1,021 churches in 2014 to 991 churches in 2015, a decrease of 2.94 percent.

ABSC Executive Director J.D. “Sonny” Tucker posted on his Facebook page that the increase in the amount given



to missions offerings is “yet another example of why this is an incredible state.”

“I am incredibly excited about the response from Arkansas Baptists regarding their gifts to missions,” Tucker told the *Arkansas Baptist News*. “The spiritual depth that exists in

our leaders and churches leads them to have a deep commitment to reach the unreached, unengaged and underserved locally, statewide, nationwide and globally.”

“I could not be more proud of our state and am very optimistic about the future.”

Man finds Christ after church lot shooting

NORTH LITTLE ROCK – When John Eric Schmidt was charged with second-degree murder, no one could have known that less than a year later, not only would the charge have been dropped, but Schmidt would be celebrating a newfound eternal freedom through salvation in Christ.

Schmidt, 53, of North Little Rock, was charged with second-degree murder after shooting 32-year-old Chad Johnson during what Pulaski County sheriff’s deputies said was a property dispute, according to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. The incident took place at Graves Memorial Baptist Church in North Little Rock. Schmidt, who has emergency medical training, then tried to administer first aid to Johnson, but Johnson died en route to the hospital. Schmidt required medical attention for his injuries.

Authorities recently dropped the murder charge against Schmidt, according to the *Democrat-Gazette*.

Schmidt’s lawyer, David Cannon, said the charge was dropped after it was determined Schmidt acted in self-

defense, the *Democrat-Gazette* reported. Cannon said Chad Johnson had choked Schmidt, which had forced Schmidt to act.

In an interview with the *Arkansas Baptist News* shortly after the July 7 shooting, Graves Memorial Pastor Travis Matthews explained that although the event occurred on church property, it did not involve the church. He also confirmed that Schmidt and his wife had been attending Graves Memorial, though they were not members at the time – a fact that has changed over the course of the past six months.

The July tragedy turned into a ministry opportunity for Graves Memorial Baptist. Matthews explained Schmidt’s daughter had been baptized and was involved in the student ministry and praise team at the time of the shooting, so Schmidt and his wife had visited a handful of times to support her. Because of this, the groundwork had been laid for the church to minister to the family following the shooting.

Matthews said he met regularly with Schmidt, who had

become very depressed in the months after the incident.

“The shooting really became an opportunity to really build a deep relationship with the family,” Matthews said. “(It was) a painful journey but a way God used to bring healing in their lives overall.”

Eventually, both Schmidt and his wife accepted Christ as Savior, and they were baptized at the church in September and are now active in ministry.

“I believe God takes the hard

things in life, and when we surrender to God and let God do a work, you can see the fruit of God doing great things in those circumstances,” Matthews said. “You don’t want to make light of a horrible situation, but it definitely brings joy to see God bring beauty from ashes.”

“God’s definitely done some great things through it (the shooting), and I think our church has learned to love in a different way and have a compassionate spirit,” he added.

Self, moderate SBC nominee, dies

JOHNS CREEK, Ga. (BP) – Bill Self, one of several nominees when the late Adrian Rogers was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), died Jan. 9 of complications from ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

At the 1979 SBC Annual Meeting in Houston, Rogers garnered a first-ballot victory for SBC president with a majority of the votes cast by messengers, followed by Robert Naylor, retired president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas, and

Self. Three others, including then-Baylor University President Abner McCall, also were nominated.

Self, then-pastor of Atlanta’s Wieuca Road Baptist Church, had been president of the Georgia Baptist Convention from 1976 to 1977 and president (now called chairman) of the trustees of the SBC’s Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) from 1977 to 1979.

He was 83 when he died Jan. 9, one day short of his 84th birthday.

Gay activist group targets Williams, others

WILLIAMS BAPTIST College is among 23 institutions of higher learning with Southern Baptist ties and 35 other colleges and universities with distinct Christian identities being targeted by the homosexual activist group Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a report said.

Released just before the 2015 Christmas season, the report, "Hidden Discrimination: Title IX Religious Exemptions Putting LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) Students at Risk," asks Obama Administration education officials to increase reporting requirements for these 58 schools because each was granted "exemptions of interest" relating to either "gender identity" or "sexual orientation" or both.

Unlike President Obama's 2014 executive order on LGBT rights, affecting federal em-

ployees as well as contractors, which did not allow exemptions for religious organizations, the Title IX law does not apply to an educational institution "controlled by a religious organization" that has "contrary religious tenets." However, individual schools must apply for specific exemptions and confirm they are either a divinity school or department, or an educational institution that requires faculty, students and employees to be members of a specific religion, or a college or university that essentially is an extension of a religious organization.

Christian schools have been forced into a position of requesting such exemptions because Title IX provisions – which were drafted in 1972, in general, to shield women from sexual harassment and give them equal access to education

and athletic programs – have been expanded under President Obama beyond providing protections on the basis of biological sex (male and female) to include behavior such as homosexuality and the mental self-concept of gender identity.

Now, any school receiving federal money must comply with these expanded rights, or in the case of faith-based organizations, request specific waivers with regard to admissions, housing, facilities, athletics, codes of conduct, employment, counseling, financial assistance and health insurance.

The Southern Baptist Executive Committee lists 49 colleges and universities affiliated with, or otherwise partners of, Southern Baptists, not including seminaries, on SBC.net, but only 23 have requested Title IX exemptions, according to the HRC report.

In addition to Williams Baptist in Arkansas, they are Judson College and the University of Mobile in Alabama; the Baptist College of Florida; University of the Cumberlands in Kentucky; Louisiana College; Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College and William Carey University in Mississippi; Hannibal-LaGrange University and Southwest Baptist University in Missouri; Oklahoma Baptist University; Anderson University, Charleston Southern University and North Greenville University in South Carolina; Carson-Newman University and Union University in Tennessee; Criswell College, East Texas Baptist University, Hardin-Simmons University, Howard Payne University and the University of Mary Hardin Baylor in Texas, and Liberty University in Virginia.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Relocation of Golden Gate moving forward

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) – Construction is progressing rapidly at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's two new campuses, and more than 40 new jobs have been posted on the seminary's website, President Jeff Iorg reported in mid-January. Iorg, speaking to the seminary's staff and students, said the new campus in Ontario, Calif., is still on target for the June 2016 move from Mill Valley even though there have been minor setbacks. "We have faced the inevitable challenges associated with any major building project," Iorg said of the Ontario site in Southern California. "However, we still don't anticipate any delays for our move this coming summer."

For 14th year N. Korea tops persecution list

WASHINGTON (BP) – As North Korea once again held its spot for the 14th consecutive year as the most dangerous country for Christians, religious persecution on every continent has appeared to increase, according to a new report. Open Doors released its annual World Watch List of the top 50 countries where it is most dangerous and difficult to be a Christian on Jan. 13. According to the list, Islamic extremism "continued to be the primary driving force behind the expansion of persecution, with its rise being the lead generator of persecution for 35 out of the 50 nations on the list." This year's top 10 were: (1) North Korea, (2) Iraq, (3) Eritrea, (4) Afghanistan, (5) Syria, (6) Pakistan, (7) Somalia, (8) Sudan, (9) Iran and (10) Libya.

DR volunteers share Christ during cleanup

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

PINE BLUFF – Although the Arkansas River – along with other lakes and rivers across the state – hit record levels earlier this month, Southern Baptist disaster relief (DR) did not receive as many work orders as were previously expected.

According to Randy Garrett, Arkansas Baptist State Convention disaster relief director, recent deployments to Jefferson, Perry and Faulkner counties ended Jan. 20. In total 56 DR volunteers from Arkansas and Texas provided 170 volunteer workdays and completed 46 jobs. The volunteers also served 319 meals during the deployment.

Arkansas disaster relief volunteers from Cross Church in northwest Arkansas; Northwest Baptist Association, Decatur; Faulkner Baptist Association, Conway; Harmony Baptist Association, Pine

Bluff; Tri-County Baptist Association, Wynne, and various churches across the state were involved in the deployment.

Southside Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, was host to Arkansas and Texas disaster relief volunteers during the week of Jan. 11. The volunteers deployed throughout the Pine Bluff area, mostly to areas close to the river and unprotected by floodwalls.

Garrett said Harmony Baptist Association assessed all possible work sites and Jim Sproles served as the deployment's incident commander, coordinating the response.

"We want to praise God for the fantastic volunteer response and the amazing opportunities to share Christ with homeowners," wrote Garrett in an email to Arkansas DR volunteers. "God has really used our chaplains during this deployment – making more chaplaincy contacts than jobs completed."



Garrett



Disaster relief volunteers remove paneling from a flooded house in Wright.

One DR group working on clearing the damaged interior of a home in Wright, located only feet from the Arkansas River, said that during the deployment, some volunteers had the opportunity to serve and share Christ with a man who had recently been released from a local hospital after undergoing cancer treatment.

"There was a gentleman just down the street from a house that we were working on before, and he had had cancer surgery earlier in the week. He was sleeping on the floor on an air mattress. He weighed about 90 pounds, and he was freezing to death," said Michael Auck, member of Trin-

ity Baptist Church, Texarkana.

"They had a hospital bed that was available to him, but there was nobody that had a truck that would open so that they could get it into the truck and bring it over to him. So we got one of the guys from the other crew to bring his truck out there. Then we went and got the bed and carried the bed in, and his face just lit up when we carried that bed in," said Auck.

"Every now and then you get to do something that is out of the ordinary," said Auck. "It's a blessing I get to take home with me."

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.

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)

What riding a Hog reminds me about the mission of God

Recently, I ran across a Twitter post by a motorcyclist reminding fellow bikers to always stop when they see one of their own broken down on the side of the road.

The comment got me to thinking about things that I have learned riding my Harley-Davidson Road King along the highways and byways of our state.

As I consider the believer's calling and mission to further the cause of Jesus Christ and make Him known, there are some parallels that can be drawn.

(1) **Stay alert.** It is imperative for Christians, much like bikers, to stay alert and focused - to not do so can result in severe injury or even death.

(2) **Refer to the road map.** The road map for Christians is clear and found in the

Bible. It is important to refer to the road map often, or like the biker, risk getting off course and becoming disoriented.

(3) **Read the signs.** Signs



along the roadway are important to bikers. Signs alert motorcyclists to things like uneven surfaces and dangerous intersections, but it is important to keep watch for

obstacles that have no warning, such as road debris and other dangerous hazards.

(4) **Share the road.** Hogging the road and having a sense of entitlement to the right of way is something bikers must not do and can even be foolish. As Christians, we know the Truth, but we should share it with love and respect - allowing God to be the judge.

(5) **Anticipate the unexpected.** The old adage is so true: "If it can happen, it probably will." Bikers must ride defensively, always on their guard for motorists around them. Christians must do

likewise, expecting and anticipating that the storms of life will come and that one's faith will be challenged.

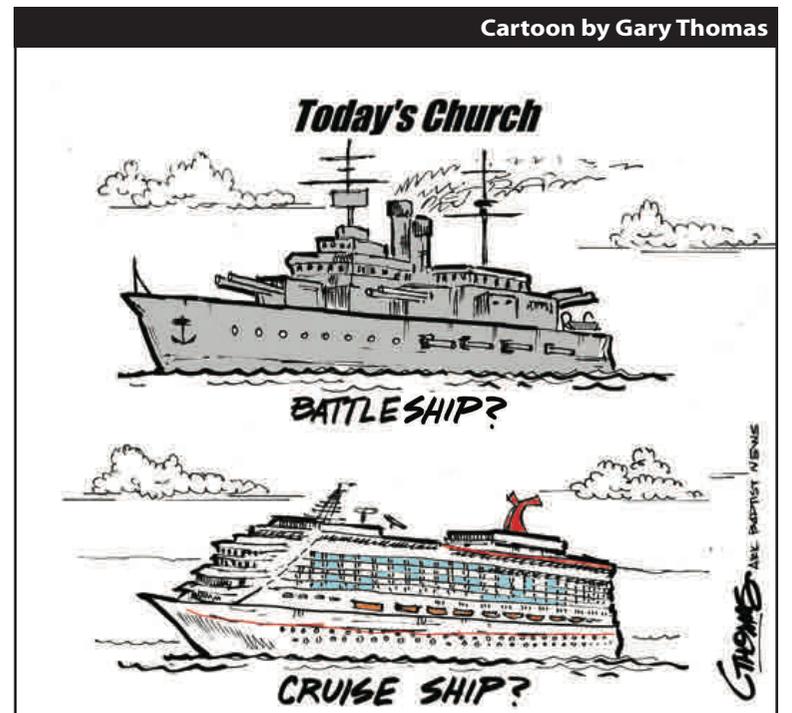
(6) **Enjoy the journey.** For bikers, it is "all about the ride"

and the "fun of getting there." For Christians, we are only on this piece of dirt called Earth for a short period of time. Rather than live our lives disengaged and disconnected, avoiding sharing our faith and doing the work of our heaven-

ly Father, we should work hard at embracing our calling and enjoy the journey of being a light amid darkness and aliens in a foreign land!

Tim Yarbrough is editor/executive director of the Arkansas Baptist News.

Cartoon by Gary Thomas



Prayers of the saints

Throughout my ministry, I have counseled numerous people about prayer. More than once, someone has said, "I don't know what to say," or, "I've never prayed before." If this is you, then take heart. You are not alone. Jesus was a great Teacher, but His disciples never said, "Lord, teach us to teach." Jesus was a great Communicator, but His disciples never said, "Lord, teach us to preach." Jesus was a great Healer, but His disciples never said, "Lord, teach us to



Viewpoint

Kim Reeder

heal." However, in Luke 11, it is clear that when Jesus was in a particular place praying, one of the disciples asked, "Lord, teach us to pray." I have been there.

Prayer is possibly one of the most powerful, yet under-used gifts in the Christian life. Jesus told us to pray; Paul told us to pray; we know we should pray; we talk about praying; we attend prayer meetings; we tell people we are going to pray for them; yet the process of actually praying often escapes us. Why is that?

First of all, it is hard to talk to someone you cannot see. When I talk to my wife or children, I can see them. I can hear their responses. I get immediate feedback from them. When you are praying, you cannot physically see God. I have used all kinds of methods to overcome this obstacle. I have imagined Jesus sitting in a chair, and talked to the chair. I have imagined Him riding in the car with me. I have written a prayer as if I were writing God a letter, read it as a prayer and then erased it from my computer. I have gotten on my knees and imagined myself kneel-

ing before God sitting on His throne. You may have similar methods.

Another difficulty is that we love instant gratification. When I was young, we had to actually send letters to people in the mail and wait for their response. It took a long time. Then came email and now texting. A friend of mine once said I "texted like a 12-year-old girl." I do not think I am that bad, but I do love being able to communicate with someone and get an instant response. That is not always the case when we pray. Jesus told us that we have to ask and keep on asking, seek

and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking. God does not always answer immediately, so we have to learn patience when we pray.

Whether you are an expert or a newcomer to praying, just remember that if you feel inadequate, you are no different from a group of Jewish men who physically walked and talked with the Master 2,000 years ago. Whatever you do, do not stop praying. God honors obedience, and even if you don't do it "right," He still listens.

Kim Reeder is bi-vocational pastor of Barton Chapel Baptist Church in Tyrone.



Volume 115, Number 2
USPS08021

Member of the Association of State Baptist Publications
Arkansas Press Association
Evangelical Press Association

Telling the story of
Arkansas Baptists since 1901
Tim Yarbrough, editor/exec. director
Jessica Vanderpool, senior assist. editor
Caleb Yarbrough, assistant editor
Jeanie Weber, administrative assistant
Becky Hardwick, business manager
Advertising: ads@arkansasbaptist.org
Phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5161
Toll-free 800-838-2272, ext. 5161

Arkansas Baptist News (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly except the last issue of the year (25 issues) by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.

SUBSCRIPTION rates are \$7.75 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$8.75 per year (Group Plan), \$15 per year (Individual). Arkansas Baptist News, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.; phone 501-376-4791; toll-free 800-838-2272; email: abn@arkansas-

baptist.org. Periodical Postage paid at Little Rock, AR. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Send Letters to the Editor to tim@arkansasbaptist.org or to our mailing address. Letters must be typed, doublespaced and 300 words or less (fewer words the better). Letters must be signed and marked "for publication" and may be edited to fit space requirements. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist News, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204..

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

Why go to church when I can worship online?



Baptists Ask

Ken Gore

Online worship services can be of great benefit to people – occasionally. For example, it allows shut-ins an opportunity to associate with a church. It brings encouragement to those living in remote areas. Online services provide the gospel to those living in closed countries.

These examples illustrate circumstances that prevent individuals from attending a local church. However, online services are the equivalent of a televised sporting event: It is very different from being present at it.

There are several reasons why Christians should actively attend a local worship service.

First, Christians need the Church. The ability to actively engage with other believers is second to none. It provides spiritual nourishment, which allows believers to grow in faith in Christ.

Second, the Church needs active believers. Worship should never be consumer-driven, but should always be service-oriented. When worshipping corporately, believers of all ages and spiritual levels interact with each other, allowing them to “encourage each other and build each other up” (1 Thess. 5:11).

Third, believers practice the church ordinances together in local worship. It is virtually impossible to celebrate baptism and the Lord’s Supper alone. Celebrating Jesus’ life, death and resurrection through the ordinances is an important activity to participate in as a community.

Fourth, online services are a poor substitute for regular Christian fellowship. The Bible expresses the need to sing, study the Bible, pray, serve, laugh, grieve and hold each other accountable – together (Acts 2:42; Eph. 5:19; Rom. 12:15). The familial relationship that Christians share through worship will indeed be a blessing for all involved.

Online services can provide a good, supplemental, ministry to a Christian’s life, but it should not become a substitute for the strong relationships found in corporate worship at a local church.

Ken Gore is chairman of the department of Christian studies at Williams Baptist College.

Unity of the Spirit

Over the past couple of years, I’ve seen a trend of people choosing a word for the year. That word becomes a focal point for spiritual growth, opening that person’s eyes to the way God is working in that area.

Although I have never chosen a word or phrase myself, I can look back over 2015 and see one area where God really opened my eyes. He made me focus and showed me how He was working, both in my life and in lives around me. That area? Community.

I can’t count the number of times the Holy Spirit revealed something to me from Scripture, only to then show me that a dear friend was learning the same lessons. Other times, I felt alone in a struggle. But when I finally shared it publicly, someone else would pop up with the same struggle, allowing us to encourage one another in the fight.

But the grandest lesson of all was the discovery of who constituted my community. Sometimes my experiences were shared by fellow believers within my own church. Other times, though, it was a friend across the state – someone I only interacted with occasionally. Or maybe it was a precious soul on the other side of the country



Uncovered Dish

Ann Hibbard

whom I’ve never actually met face to face. Then, there were the times when it was a dear friend serving halfway around the world. Because of technological limitations, we really had no way to communicate with one another for weeks on end – except through prayer based on the Spirit’s leadings. When communication was restored, we would joyfully discover that we had prayed just the right prayers at just the right times, had been learning the same Truths from the same passages of Scripture and had dealt with some of the same struggles and rejoiced over the same treasures.

That, my dear friends, is unity of the Spirit, unbound by geography or this world’s understanding of interpersonal communication. You and I are in community not only with each other, but also with believers in all parts of the globe.

When we open our hearts and minds to growing together in the Word of God, our mouths to sharing what we’re learning and experiencing and our spirits to praying as the Lord leads, we allow the Holy Spirit to bind us together in a way no physical presence could ever accomplish.

Ann Hibbard is a member of East End Baptist Church in Hensley.



‘I didn’t know about that ...’

You can post it on Facebook, put it in the Sunday bulletin, make a PowerPoint slide, announce it from the pulpit, send a postcard, send an email, Tweet about it and hang posters; and even still, somebody will say, “I didn’t know about that.” With the wealth of technology and communication venues available today, one could easily believe that getting the word out about something is easier than ever. But, it is just not so.

Basic communication science teaches us that there are three essential parts of effective communication. There is the message (what we are wanting to say), the sender (the one saying it) and the receiver (the one we want to understand the message). Just because you say it, does not mean people get it. And just because people get it, does not mean that people remember it. In the not-so-distant past, paper newsletters, Sunday bulletins, posters, pulpit announcements and postcards were the primary tools for church communication. Church leaders who are still trying to communicate primarily through paper are missing most of their audience. The “message” is not finding the “receiver.”

There are also those church leaders who believe that

once something is posted on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter that “the word is out.” Again, often, the message never finds the receiver. Here are some basic questions church leaders need to ask, followed by some helpful tips, to improve church communication.

1. What do we want to say?
2. To whom do we want to say it?
3. What communication vehicles (media – i.e., Facebook, posters, church website, PowerPoint slide, Twitter,

postcard, etc.) will best find the receiver?

4. Of those communication vehicles identified in question No. 3, which ones will best carry our message? (For example, a detail-heavy message might not be best communicated on a poster or a PowerPoint slide.)

Here are some basic mass church communication tips:

1. It takes about six exposures to a message before it truly registers in the mind of the receiver. This does not mean that you just have to “say it six times”; the receiver must “experience it six times.” The message must find the receiver six times.
2. Especially today, there is no such thing as a single communication vehicle that will deliver a message to all people. Believe it or not, many people do not have a Facebook account.
3. About the time you get tired of saying it, people are just beginning to get it.
4. Be sure that your visual graphics (website, poster, PowerPoint slide, graphic posted on social media) contain the same color scheme and design elements. Without even reading the words, someone should see a poster or PowerPoint slide and think, “I saw something like that on Facebook.”

5. Have a well-defined response mechanism. For example, “Sign up here,” or, “Text this number.”

The vast array of communication tools actually means that church leaders must work harder to put messages in more places to ensure that the majority of the congregation receives the intended message.

So, post it, say it, wear it, text it, project it, mail it, Tweet it ... and repeat.

Eric W. Ramsey is an evangelism and mission strategist and serves as associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Smith.





ANNIE ON THE WAY – Ashley Sumners, member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions team, helps pack promotional materials for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. Packets have been shipped to churches and should arrive by the end of January. For more information about the offering, visit anniearmstrong.com.

Hallmark resigns FBC, Marion, to pastor Tennessee church

MARION – Clay Hallmark, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Marion, for the past 14-plus years and past president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), has resigned to become the sixth pastor of First Baptist Church in Lexington, Tenn.

“Serving God’s people in Arkansas and through our convention has been a great joy of my life,” Hallmark said in an email Jan. 11. “God has been very clear in my call there (to First Baptist, Lexington). Lexington is my wife’s hometown, and I will live near family for the first time in almost my entire life!”

Lexington, Tenn., is about 30 minutes east of Jackson, Tenn. Hallmark begins his ministry at First Baptist Feb. 7.

Since coming to First Baptist, Marion, in May 2001, the church has seen more than 1,500 additions to the church, with more than 1,000 coming

into the church through believer’s baptism. Hallmark has led the church to establish three mission churches since 2002, including New Hope Baptist Mission and Iglesia Bautista de Luz, both in Marion, and Harvest Baptist Mission in Wilson.

J.D. “Sonny” Tucker, ABSC executive director, said about Hallmark’s service in Arkansas: “Dr. Clay Hallmark has been one of the greatest leaders Arkansas Baptists have had. First Baptist in Marion is one of our strongest Sunday school, evangelistic, mission-minded churches ever. Their numerical growth and impact in the Delta is astounding. This state and I personally will miss Dr. Hallmark’s leadership, but I also cannot help but be excited about this next ministry step that God has outlined for him.”

Hallmark and his wife, Leslie, have two children.



Hallmark

ABSC Agencies

Great days ahead for Ouachita

It is a special privilege for me to serve as interim president of Ouachita Baptist University. I was both humbled and honored at being asked by our board of trustees to serve in this role at this place I love and have loved since I stepped on the campus as a freshman in 1955. I feel blessed that God has given me this opportunity of service at this special place.

One of my greatest joys as interim president was the opportunity to deliver the convocation address at the beginning of the fall semester. Other meaningful experiences include the times I am able to entertain large groups of students in the president’s home, enjoying the privilege of interacting with them on a personal basis. I love our students and love being around them.

My goal since accepting

this position has been to follow the words of Jesus when He said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27).



Ouachita Baptist

Charles Wright

Ouachita always has embraced and demonstrated great love for our students and for each other. One feels the presence of God on this campus and witnesses the demonstration of such love as we work together to make Ouachita the greatest place it can be.

Amid this period of transition, Ouachita’s presidential search committee is meeting regularly to discern who God already has chosen to be our new president.

I am confident He will lead our search committee to that individual who will be presented for the board of trustees to consider in the coming

months. In the meantime, I encourage you to pray for our search committee and trustees as they address this crucial decision.

As always, we are grateful for Arkansas Baptists’ faithful support of Ouachita through your prayers and Cooperative Program gifts. Thanks especially for encouraging your young people to explore the benefits of a Ouachita education.

I have great confidence that God has many great goals for us to accomplish in the days and years ahead. God has protected Ouachita for 129 years. Why would I have any doubts that He intends to protect us in the future? Ouachita has been blessed and, I believe, will continue to be blessed by God.

Charles Wright, professor emeritus of music and retired dean of Ouachita’s school of fine arts, was named interim president of Ouachita by the university’s board of trustees effective Aug. 1, 2015.

A commitment to stewardship

As we begin a new year, I feel it worthwhile to renew our commitment to stewardship as defined in the Baptist Faith and Message and to share with you the guiding principles of your Arkansas Baptist Foundation.

“God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advance-

ment of the Redeemer’s cause on earth.” – Baptist Faith and Message, Section XIII: Stewardship

The Arkansas Baptist Foundation guiding principles are: “We will seek to serve, advise and encourage ministries and individuals



Kingdom Foundation

Bobby Thomas

toward a biblical worldview, especially as it relates to best stewarding the resources that they have been given. We recognize that Jesus will return at some point in the future, but that the timing of that return is unknown to us. As a result, we recognize the tension between the urgency of the disciple-making mission right now and the sustainability of that mission in the future.”

Therefore, “We will encourage individuals, whenever possible, to give freely to ministries during their lifetime. The desired result is that the individuals experience a growing trust and joy in God now

and that disciple-making ministries would be given more short-term resources. We will also encourage individuals, whenever possible, to leave legacy assets to disciple-making ministries at the end of their lives. The desired result is that God would be glorified through those gifts and that those ministries would be given long-term resources to sustain their mission until Jesus’ return.”

Our desired outcome for these principles is stated in the following excerpt from the book “The Choice: The Christ-Centered Pursuit of Kingdom Outcomes”: “Our plea is that we live in such a way as to hear Him say to us, ‘Well done.’ If a return to the Scriptures as our filter for life and leadership moves people to repentance, revival, and another Great Awakening, then God be praised.”

Bobby Thomas is president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.

IMB

continued from page one

IMB prior to retiring in September 2013, expressed dismay.

"I'm struggling with understanding this decision, accepting the leadership and continuing to be supportive of this kind of idiocy. Anyone with two cents of brains knows you don't eliminate your communications team when you

need to raise more money! I'm appalled, incensed and unspeakably sad," Bowden wrote on Facebook, adding, "You are the finest group of communicators around and anyone who needs writers, editors, designers, photographers or video people should rush to grab you up!"

Other current IMB employees being let go said they were concerned for those losing their jobs who were currently being treated for cancer, are

pregnant or who have spouses in the middle of pregnancy.

IMB said that it plans to handle communications moving forward using a combination of overseas communications personnel, Richmond office personnel, and outside vendors.

"The functions of the Richmond Communications Center, including Lottie Moon Christmas Offering promotion, will continue to be performed by IMB's existing global network of communication teams and other trusted partners," states an IMB press release.

'Hand Raising Opportunity'

Called a "Hand Raising Opportunity," the second round of staff reductions will provide an opportunity for personnel to leave the agency with a severance package that is less generous than what was offered in the first round to those who met certain eligibility requirements, but more generous than a traditional resignation or severance package.

Active, long-term and short-term missionaries are eligible for the HRO. Missionaries can transition from the field over the next several months, according to a press statement released after the town hall meeting.

In addition, all full-time and regular part-time IMB staff are eligible for the HRO.

On Aug. 27, 2015, Platt announced a "drawdown" of the agency's missionary force due to expenses that exceeded income by as much as \$21 million in 2014 alone.

Plan to reduce 600-800 staff

To balance the budget, the Atlanta native - who was named to lead IMB in August 2014 - announced the IMB would reduce staff by 600-800 positions in the coming months.

To put the staff reduction in context, approximately 4,800 personnel serve as missionaries and 450 as staff. The "600" number represents the change

IMB leadership has known the organization needs to make to reduce missionaries from 4,800 to 4,200. That number was described as most likely a minimum, with the larger

"800" number representing a more realistic picture of the reduction of missionaries and staff necessary to put the IMB in a responsible and sustainable financial position.

IMB media spokesperson Julie McGowan told Baptist state paper editors that IMB leaders will share final numbers at the end of February. Platt will field questions from the group during their annual meeting in Puerto Rico with state convention executive directors Feb. 15-18.

Offering budget woes

The agency had a standing policy of frequently increasing its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and budgeting the entire amount, even though it regularly failed to reach the goal by at least \$20 million. Over six years, that brought its deficit to \$210 million and severely depleted its cash reserves.

To bring expenses more in line with reality, the agency has taken the unusual step of reducing its 2016 offering goal from \$175 million to \$155 million - the amount of the annual shortfall.

The HRO is being designed to further lower overhead and allow staff to pursue other employment opportunities.

In a statement to trustees Jan. 14, the agency explained the second stage of its "reset" as first introduced by Platt last year.

Use of 'outside vendors'

The document, portions of which were obtained by *The (Ga.) Christian Index* as a public statement, states: "Over the past several months we (a trustee committee overseeing the realignment) have been conducting an evaluation of all positions within the Mobilization Group to ensure that

all the positions that we have within Mobilization are the right positions in light of our operational needs going forward.

The document continues, "After examining the functions, capacity, and workload, we determined that the functions performed by the Richmond Communications center are no longer needed or can be adequately performed by others. The functions of the Center will be performed in the future by overseas IMB missionary communication teams, or through partnerships with churches and outside vendors."

Under the reset, much of the work previously performed in Richmond will be farmed out to communications teams in overseas locations.

"These next two months put a responsibility in each one of our laps to seek the Lord concerning His will for our lives," Platt said.

In the midst of this two-phase process, Platt shared last August that IMB leaders would be re-evaluating systems and structures across the IMB not only because of IMB's financial realities, but also to be the best possible stewards of the resources that churches have entrusted to IMB to get the gospel to the nations.

'Kindest servants'

Platt described the 30 persons whose jobs were being eliminated as being "some of the kindest servants and leaders in the Richmond office."

"The IMB is indebted to them on many levels," he said. "In the days to come, we want to express our honor and appreciation for the countless ways these brothers and sisters have served Christ through the IMB."

The IMB will not be eliminating any other teams, groups or departments during the final reset, which concludes in February.

The majority of this report was written by Joe Westbury of The (Ga.) Christian Index, with additional reporting by the Arkansas Baptist News.

DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



Christ-centered Higher Education

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

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

DBU

DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Learn more about DBU
by visiting www.dbu.edu
or calling 1-800-460-1328.

HUNTERS' FEAST

Saturday, February 20, 2016

GRAND PRAIRIE CENTER

2709 HWY 165 S. / Stuttgart, Arkansas

A Ministry of First Baptist Church, Stuttgart

TICKETS ARE \$15.00

For more info call

(870) 673-6952

info@fbcstuttgart.com



Hosts of



Archie Mason & Bob Snell

Entertainment: Kasey Earl Band

HOLLINGSWORTH

continued from page one

state convention can't do it for the church, but we can work to strengthen the churches."

State denominations must recognize that church planting represents new life and new growth, Hollingsworth said, and helping churches start new ministries is equally important.

"It boils down to leadership," he said. "How do (denominational servants) help churches, pastors and lay leaders all have a healthy approach to ministry?"

J.D. "Sonny" Tucker, ABSC executive director, said, "I first met Dr. Hollingsworth and saw his leadership in action when he served in the evangelism division at the North American Mission Board. He was instrumental in enacting some of the greatest evangelism initiatives that Southern Baptists have had. He did a tremendous job serving as pastor at the great Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, and being one of Arkansas' most popular preachers via their television ministry. I am sad we will lose him from the state, but I am also excited at the potential that South Carolina will have under his leadership. He has been a dear friend to me and this state, and we will always appreciate him."

Hollingsworth, who was elected president of the ABSC in 2015, has led Immanuel Baptist Church in sustained growth since 2007, increasing average attendance from 1,150 to 1,400 and baptizing 350 new believers. The church forwards 5.5 percent of receipts to the Cooperative Program and is consistently in the top 100 Southern Baptist Convention churches in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. The church is a supporter of church plants (with projects in five U.S. cities) and international missions (with partnerships in 13 countries).

In the three churches Hollingsworth served prior to Immanuel Baptist, Cooperative Program support ranged from 11-12 percent, and all three churches had active church-planting and international missions programs.

Hollingsworth graduated from the University of Ala-

bama in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in recreation administration. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1984 and a Doctor of Ministry degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1996.

In addition to Immanuel Baptist, his pastorates have included Shively Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., 1989-1991; First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Va., 1991-1995, and First Baptist Church of Trussville, Ala.

Hollingsworth served as a trustee for the Alabama State Board of Missions from 1999 to 2005 and as board chairman from 2002 to 2004. He was president of the Alabama Pastors' Conference in 2004. He served as a NAMB trustee from 2002 to 2005 and on

the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Committees in both 2004 and 2014. In Arkansas, he has served as a convention trustee since 2009 and was board president from 2012 to 2014. He is a trustee for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hollingsworth and his wife, Gwen, have two adult sons, a daughter-in-law and a newborn granddaughter.

The South Carolina Baptist Convention, organized in 1821, is the oldest state convention in the Southern Baptist Convention, which was organized in 1845. The convention is composed of about 2,100 member churches and has a budget of \$28 million.

This story was compiled from reporting by the South Carolina Baptist Courier and the Arkansas Baptist News.



DECISION AMERICA COMING TO ARKANSAS – Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) hosted a luncheon for Arkansas pastors Jan. 7 at the Embassy Suites hotel in Little Rock to promote BGEA's Decision America 2016 tour. Decision America is a 2016 tour of all 50 states by Franklin Graham. During each stop, Graham is preaching, hosting a prayer rally and challenging believers to vote, live out their faith and become politically active through running for office or supporting candidates who uphold traditional Christian values. *Photo by Caleb Yarbrough*

CISM

Critical Incident Stress Management

April 13-16

Baptist Building,
10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR

Two ICISF-certified courses available

(both are two-day courses; lunch provided)

April 13-14

- Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disaster Operations (offered twice this week - April 13-14 or April 15-16)
- Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support (offered once this week)

April 15-16

- Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disaster Operations

Registration deadline: April 4

Pre-registration and pre-payment required

Register at www.absc.org/2016cismtraining

Events sponsored by the
Arkansas Baptist State Convention
Missions Team

For more information,
call 501-376-4791, ext. 5249, or visit
www.absc.org/2016cismtraining

We are offering Critical Incident Stress Management classes for:

- Chaplains
- Church staff
- First responders
- Anyone in a position to offer emotional first aid to victims of a critical incident
- Disaster relief personnel
- Medical personnel

THE SIXTH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE ON ISSUES
IN CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.OBU.EDU/ICCCONF16

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016
WALKER CONFERENCE CENTER
AT OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Sponsored by Ouachita Baptist University,
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary,
& Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Questions? Email knights@obu.edu

Sam Roberts replaces Hollingsworth as ABSC president

LITTLE ROCK - Sam Roberts, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Stuttgart, since 2002, is the new president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) effective immediately. He replaces Gary Hollingsworth, who was elected convention president in November, but was recently elected executive director-treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention (see related story, Page 1).

Hollingsworth has served as senior pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, since 2007. He and Roberts were elected ABSC president and vice president respectively during the ABSC Annual Meeting in Hot Springs last year.

"Their (messengers') confidence placed in me is something I do not take

lightly," said Roberts about his election as first vice president. "I look forward to working even more closely with our executive director, Dr. (J.D.) 'Sonny' Tucker, and the ABSC staff as we make this transition."

Roberts said that as president he hopes to see the convention continue with the work it has begun under Tucker's leadership in the three areas of "strengthening and revitalizing churches; impacting next generation leaders, and reaching the unengaged, unreached and underserved across our state with the gospel."

"I love Arkansas Baptists, I love what we do and I believe our best days for the kingdom are still ahead of us," Roberts said.

He also said he personally hopes to encourage church leaders - especially those in small or midsize churches - to love and serve their communities and to partner with others for the purpose of reaching out and serving beyond their communities. In addition, he desires to bring attention to the needs of churches in the Delta.

"We have some strong churches and incredible pastors in this area of our state (the Delta), but we also have tremendous needs for churches to be strengthened, pastors encouraged, new churches

planted and families and communities reached and served with the gospel," said Roberts, who is a self-proclaimed "product of the Arkansas Delta."

Tucker said, "When Arkansas Baptists elected Dr. Sam Roberts as first vice president of the ABSC, they chose an incredible leader that God knew would serve as president. Dr. Roberts is a gifted leader with ministry depth and a deep love for Arkansas and is uniquely qualified to lead this state convention. He has led First Baptist Church of Stuttgart to have tremendous impact in that city. He has also led this church to be one of our top Great Commission-minded churches that has an incredible amount of involvement in missions locally, nationally and globally."



Roberts

ADVANCE
GUYS WEEKEND
MARCH 4-6, 2016

7th grade - 12th grade ★ CampSiloam.com

Brent Eldridge
 Carrollton

Place your classified by visiting
arkansasbaptist.org/ad

MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY & COLLEGE
 offers a heartfelt

THANK YOU

to the Southern Baptists of Arkansas.

Because of your faithful giving of more than \$219,000 to Midwestern Seminary through the Cooperative Program this past year, we are able to continue training leaders *for the Church.*

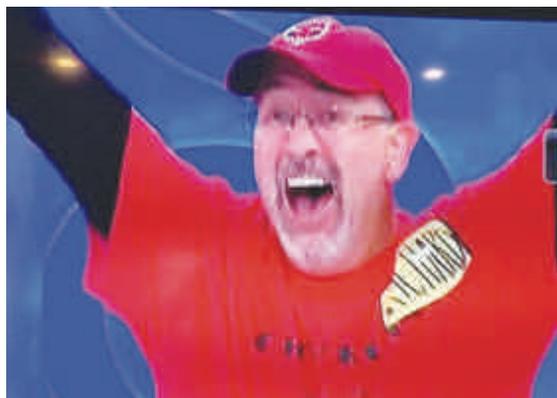
mbts.edu | Kansas City, Missouri | 816.414.3700

Jonesboro pastor wins Rome trip

JONESBORO – Rick McKinney, minister of music and education at Highland Drive Baptist Church, Jonesboro, recently competed on the television show “The Price is Right.”

The church’s congregation had sent McKinney and his wife on a trip to Los Angeles in thanks for his 20 years at the church.

While on vacation, the couple decided to attend “The Price is Right.” McKinney ended up being selected to be on the show, and his performance won him a trip to Rome, according to a report by KAIT-TV.



McKinney called the church “great” and said the gift of the California vacation was “to-

the show, gave him restaurant recommendations for when he goes to Italy.

“It was one of those things you don’t expect to happen,” McKinney told the *Arkansas Baptist News* staff, noting how surreal it is to be in the audience and hear one’s name called. “It was kind of fun. We enjoyed it, and to get up on stage and win something was icing on the cake for me.”

tally unexpected,” according to KAIT’s article. McKinney also said Drew Carey, host of

the show, gave him restaurant recommendations for when he goes to Italy. “It will be great to visit a city with so much Biblical history!!” he wrote in a December Facebook post.



Rick McKinney (above left) minister of music and education at Highland Drive Baptist Church, Jonesboro, recently competed on the TV show “The Price is Right” while on a trip to Los Angeles. Above is McKinney with Drew Carey, the host of the game show, and at left is McKinney when he won the trip. Photos are screenshots from “The Price is Right” game show.

Wife awaits reunion with freed pastor

GERMANY (BP) – The wife of freed pastor Saeed Abedini is expected to meet him in Germany, according to news reports as of press time (Jan. 19), where his health was being assessed after his release from a three-and-a-half-year imprisonment in Iran.

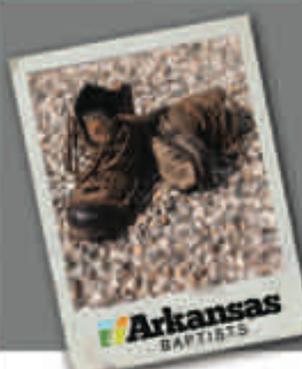
Naghmeh Abedini was preparing to fly to Germany for a reunion before his return to their Boise, Idaho, home, she

said in a Jan. 17 telephone interview on FOX News.

“We are ready to welcome him home. I’m getting ready to fly out to Germany to be able to see him, and the kids are really excited because they are making welcome home signs,” she said. “There’s a lot of readjustment and a lot of healing that needs to happen. It’s time for our family to heal and to move forward.”

Abedini was serving an eight-year prison sentence because of his Christian faith.

U.S. Rep. Robert Pittenger, R-N.C., an evangelical Christian who has worked for Abedini’s release, said in an *Idaho Statesman* report that he expects Naghmeh Abedini to arrive in Germany by Jan. 20. Pittenger arrived in Germany Jan. 18, but had not been able to meet with the pastor.



CHILDREN’S MINISTRY BOOT CAMP

*Defining Purpose • Developing a Plan
Strengthening Core Ministries*

2016

FEBRUARY 27, 2016 • 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
PARKWAY PLACE BAPTIST CHURCH
300 PARKWAY PL DR. • LITTLE ROCK, AR 72211

The training is free and made possible by the Evangelism & Church Health Team of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention through gifts to the Cooperative Program. The Children’s Ministry Boot Camp is designed to assist children’s ministers and directors in defining the purpose of children’s ministry, developing a ministry plan and calendar, and strengthening core ministries (such as Sunday school, worship and Wednesday nights). Training will be facilitated by Allison Kizzia, ABSC Children’s Ministry Consultant.

**TO REGISTER VISIT
WWW.ABSC.ORG/BOOTCAMP**

If you have any questions, please contact the Evangelism & Church Health Team office at 1-800-838-2272, ext. 5193.





*Highly energetic, intensely focused, quickly moving,
and totally devoted to Sunday School leaders!*

FEBRUARY 27

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, CONWAY

\$29 per person (includes on-site lunch)*

NSSDS is designed to:

- Equip Sunday School directors to serve effectively in all areas of Sunday School work
- Deliver practical tools for all aspects of Sunday School work
- Facilitate opportunities to network with other Sunday School directors
- Build team spirit among the Sunday School director, minister of education, pastor, and division and department directors

Through NSSDS training, you will develop skills and plans to:

- Build a growing Sunday School focused on its mission and purpose
- Develop an organization and enlist leadership to build a growing Sunday School
- Lead teachers to teach for spiritual transformation
- Learn with a step-by-step strategy for leading your Sunday School

For more information or registration:
lifeway.com/nssds
800.254.2022

*Even subject to change without notice. Sales tax applied to event cost, if applicable.
* \$10 scholarship provided by Arkansas Baptist State Convention (Regular cost is \$39.)




Lee announces retirement, discusses IMB changes

Julie Walters
Woman's Missionary Union

TALLADEGA, Ala. – Wanda Lee, executive director/treasurer of national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), announced her intentions to retire during her report at national WMU's board meeting in January.

The need to share the gospel by all possible means and the desire to support missionaries were also topics addressed during the board meeting, held Jan. 9-11 at Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, Ala.

Lee announced a search committee will be appointed to seek her successor. No date

is set for her departure. She pledged to continue to lead WMU until a new executive director is named.

"It is my duty to give sufficient notice, and it's my desire to ensure a seamless transition as the committee seeks someone with a fresh vision for our future," Lee said. "May God bless the new leader of national WMU as He's blessed me on my leadership journey."

Lee was elected executive director of national WMU in January 2000. She is the only woman in the history of WMU who also served as national president, an office she held 1996-2000. Lee also served as president of Georgia WMU, 1993-1996. In addition, she

and her husband, Larry, served as missionaries with the International Mission Board (IMB) from 1979 to 1981.

Missionary support

During the three-day meeting, much focus was placed on tangible ways WMU is supporting IMB personnel who have elected to take a voluntary retirement incentive.

"We have grieved these missionaries coming home as a WMU family, with IMB and with our churches," said Lee, adding, "But the world has come to our nation, and God, in His sovereignty, is bringing home one of our greatest resources – experienced missionaries."

"I pray this (reduction of field personnel) will wake us up out of our complacency," Lee said, "that we will truly understand of the depth of lostness in our world and embrace our responsibility to share Christ. This understanding begins through missions discipleship programs like Mission Friends, GA (Girls in Action) and RA (Royal Ambassadors) that cultivate a missions heart. Along with providing these learning opportunities, we pledge our strong commitment to promote and support the Lottie



National WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) Executive Director Wanda S. Lee addresses WMU executive board members, national and state WMU staff and guests during the organization's board meeting Jan. 9-11 at Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, Ala.

Moon Christmas Offering, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Cooperative Program and Global Hunger Relief."

David Platt, IMB president, expressed appreciation to WMU for their support and partnership during his report.

"Thank you for all that you do to advance the gospel and for the ways you (are) taking the initiative and coming alongside us to take care of brothers and sisters in ways we couldn't have dreamed of," he said.

Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, also shared a report

and expressed appreciation for WMU's support and promotion of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

In other business, the executive board of national WMU:

- Awarded nearly \$184,000 in endowments, grants and scholarships in partnership with the WMU Foundation.

- Approved \$155 million as goal for the 2016 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

- Approved \$70 million as goal for the 2017 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Julie Walters is WMU corporate communications team leader.

CYArkansas.com
info and registration

LEAD DEFEND
Conference for High School and College Students

FEBRUARY 27, 2016
LITTLE ROCK \$20

Speakers:
 - **OURR MURPHY**
 - **Ricky Snellette**

Worship BY
WE THE UNION

Extra Breakout Sessions
on Leadership, Coaching, and More for College Students

Location:
Shocco Springs Conference Center, 12601 Shocco Springs Blvd, Talladega, AL 36888

College + Young Leaders

Ministry Safe

Church Safety Training with Gregory Love
On sexual abuse awareness and prevention

Four locations!

<p>February 15</p> <p>Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Little Rock 9:30 am – 2 pm</p> <p>Compass Church, Batesville 6 pm – 8 pm</p>	<p>February 16</p> <p>Highland Drive Baptist Church, Jonesboro 9:30am – 2 pm</p> <p>Ridgewood Baptist Church, Forrest City 6 pm – 8 pm</p>
--	---

Note: Additional locations will be scheduled in other areas of the state at a later date.

Registration Required (training and materials are free):
www.absc.org/ministrysafe • 800-838-2272, ext. 5222

For more information, contact Ben Phillips at 800-838-2272, ext. 5222, or bphillips@absc.org

Arkansas BAPTISTS

Lead/Defend Conf. teaches high school, college students apologetics

LITTLE ROCK – College years should be more than marking up the social calendar, stressing out during finals and trying to secure a six-figure salary after graduation, according to Derek Melleby, executive director of OneLife Institute in Pennsylvania.

Melleby teaches what the college years should really be about – from a biblical worldview. Arkansas students will have the chance to hear from him at the Lead/Defend Conference for high school and college students, which will take place at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 27.

Melleby will serve as conference speaker, along with Ricky

Chelette, executive director of Living Hope Ministries in Arlington, Texas.

Several main sessions and breakout sessions will take place during the course of the day for the purpose of helping students effectively transition from one part of their spiritual journey to the next. Primary topics will be leadership, engaging culture in defense of the gospel and being missional in life transitions.

Breakout sessions will include sessions such as Engaging the Skeptical Culture, taught by Chad Meeks, who will graduate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in May with a doctorate in Christian philosophy. Meeks, who once

served as youth pastor at Cedar Heights Baptist Church, North Little Rock, plans to define three prevalent and opposing views to Christian faith: naturalism (including atheism), scientism and post-modernity. He will highlight practical ways to engage the culture, backing them up by Scripture and easy-

to-follow, proven methods.

“There is no greater need in the lives of our high school and college students than to be able to defend their faith and use their faithful influence in the lives of their peers,” said Lynn Loyd, missions consultant for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) col-

lege and young leaders team.

Worship at the conference will be led by We the Union. The conference is sponsored by the ABSC college and young leaders team.

For more information or to register, visit cylarkansas.com.



CHRISTMAS OUTREACH – Calvary Baptist Church, Timbo, ministered beyond the doors of the church this Christmas by making ornamental globes for the residents of the nursing home and assisted living facility in Mountain View. Members made, put together and delivered more than 120 globes. Key to the process were Wanda Ramsey, who conceived the idea, and Jennifer Jongeling.

Happy Birthday!

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

- ◆ Feb. 3: Nathan Hall, OBU Box 3590, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; South Africa.
- ◆ Feb. 17: Gabriela Fabian, OBU Box 3536, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Dominican Republic.



NOTE BURNING – First Baptist Church, McRae, held a noteburning ceremony Jan. 10. A loan of \$450,000 was paid off in seven years. Pictured from left is the original building committee: Jimmy Rogers, Lindsey Coley (chairman), Bobby Rogers and Doris Powell, who was representing her deceased husband, Robert Wayne Powell. Rodney Rains is pastor. The church has now decided to give 5 percent of general fund offering to the International Mission Board and begin focusing on direct missions.

Houseparents needed: Boys Ranch, Harrison.
 Contact: Bill VonderMehden at (870) 741-5784 or bvondermehden@abchomes.org.

Houseparents needed: Children's Homes, Monticello.
 Contact: Randy Luper at (870) 367-5358 or rluper@abchomes.org.

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

Classifieds

PASTOR

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.

Rock Springs Baptist Church in Jessieville is in search of a **bi-vocational pastor**. Send resume to 1026 Rock Springs Road, Jessieville, AR 71949.

Brush Creek Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Send resumes to 1385 Brush Creek Road, Springdale, AR 72762 or email to grpettus@yahoo.com.

Keo Baptist Church, a small church, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Housing available. Send resumes to Keo Baptist Church, P.O. Box 87, Keo, AR 72083.

Due to resignation, New Hope Baptist Church of Pollard is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, New Hope Baptist Church, P.O. Box 80, Pollard, AR 72456.

Central Baptist Church of Hot Springs is accepting applications for **interim pastor**, deadline Jan. 31. Applications can

be mailed to 1035 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71901 or emailed to central-baptist1035@att.net.

Dermott Baptist Church is petitioning the Lord to send us a **bi-vocational or a full-time pastor**. Please respond to Dermott Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, Kim Ellington, Chairman, P.O. Box 334, Dermott, AR 71638 or email to ellingtonkim@yahoo.com.

Shilo Baptist Church (SBC), Rover, Mo., 17 miles east of West Plains, seeking **bi-vocational pastor**. Worship attendance about 70, median age about 35. Send resumes to Gary Barton, RR 1, Box 1038, Alton, MO 65506.

FBC, Oppelo, is seeking a **full-time senior pastor**. Send resumes to youth-director@fbcoppelo.com

Revised – Sylamore Baptist Church is a small church renewing their search for a **FULL-time bi-vocational pastor**. We are located just outside of Mountain View in a quiet and beautiful area and hope you will want to live here too. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, Sylamore Baptist Church, P.O. Box

1596, Mountain View, AR 72560.

First Baptist Church of Lockesburg is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resumes to Pastor Selection Committee, FBC, P.O. Box 53, Lockesburg, AR 71846 or fbsecretary@outlook.com.

First Baptist Church, El Dorado, is prayerfully seeking to fill the position of **senior pastor**. Email resumes to fbcel-dorado201@gmail.com or mail to Pastor Search Committee, 100 E. Peach St., Suite 350, El Dorado, AR 71730.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

First Baptist Pineville, La., (Alexandria area) seeks a **full-time children's minister**. Submit resumes to sholloway@fbcpineville.net.

White River Baptist Association in north central Arkansas is prayerfully searching for a **full-time associational missionary**. Resumes must be postmarked by Feb. 16, 2016. Please send to Tammy Small, P.O. Box 2413, Mountain Home, AR 72653. Email tammy.small.1308@gmail.com.

Bear Creek Springs Baptist Church is seek-

ing 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.

Full-time worship pastor sought to lead blended worship in conservative, reformed SBC in Bartlesville, Okla. (www.highlandparkbaptist.net). Choir conducting, media skills preferred. Send resume to office@highlandparkbaptist.net.

First Baptist Church, Des Arc, is seeking a **full-time student minister**. College or seminary degree preferred. Send resume to FBC, P.O. Box 578, Des Arc, AR 72040.

Temple Baptist Church in Searcy is looking for a **full-time or part-time youth pastor**. Send resumes to 700 W. Moore, Searcy, AR 72143 or email pastorjeffthomas@gmail.com.

Soaring Wings Ranch (SWR), a non-profit, Christ-centered children's home, is seeking to hire a **social worker for a full-time, salaried position**. The ranch is located 15 minutes northeast of Conway on 195 beautiful acres. Minimum of a bachelor's degree is required. Duties will include but are not limited to: outreach and

communications to all referral sources. Evaluation of referrals and admission of SWR children. Keeping children's files and working with state licensing. Close collaboration with campus director and with house parents. Advisement for house parents on behavioral issues and needed services. Full job description at www.swranch.org/employment. Please send resumes to jessica@soaringwing-ranch.com or P.O. Box 1670, Conway, AR 72033.

Calvary Baptist Church of Camden is looking for a **full-time youth pastor**. Praying for the will of God! 870-574-0591, don@calvaryofcamden.org.

Send resumes for **full-time music pastor** to EHBC, 703 E. Walters, Harrison, AR 72601 or email to ehbadmin@eagle-heightsharrison.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

A/V Projection and Sound. All Audio-Visual Services Inc. for your A/V gear or installations. 25th year anniversary. 479-756-0888. www.allavservices.com.

Milestones

Velma Griffin was recognized on Jan. 10 for 20 years of service as the pastor's secretary/ministry assistant during the morning worship service at Central Baptist Church in Magnolia. She was presented the ChristLife award by Pastor Mike Seabaugh and his wife, Laurie. Following the service, a potluck dinner was held in her honor.

On the move

Bart Baker is serving as pastor of Lone Star Baptist Church, Greers Ferry.

J.R. DeBusk was called as associational missionary for Clear Creek Baptist Associa-

tion on Jan. 12 during a special called meeting following its regularly scheduled executive board meeting. He will begin serving Feb. 15.

Jimmy Meek is serving as senior pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in El Dorado, coming from Belleview Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., where he served as minister of evangelism.

Church life

The Church at Rock Creek, Little Rock, will hold the Fresh Grounded Faith Little Rock conference April 1-2. The area-wide conference, which is co-hosted by multiple local churches, will take place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. April

1 and from 9 a.m. to noon April 2. Speakers are Jennifer Rothschild, Margaret Feinberg and Karen Abercrombie, who starred in "War Room" as Clara Williams. Michael O'Brien will lead worship. Register online at freshgroundedfaith.com.

Immanuel Baptist Church, Carlisle, will celebrate its 50th anniversary at 11 a.m. April 24. Former members, pastors and staff are invited to attend. Lunch will be catered. For reservations, call the church office at 870-552-3100 or email at immanuelbaptist@centurytel.net.

Obituaries

Richard Douglas Cox, 43, of Springdale, died Jan. 16. He served as Cross Church associate minister of missions to northwest Arkansas, Springdale, for six years. He was instrumental in his role with Cross Church missions ministry and was relentless in sharing his personal testimony of redemption and grace. He was preceded in death by a brother. He is survived by his wife of eight years, Becky (Lore) Cox; two daughters; a granddaughter; his parents, and a brother. A memorial service was held Jan. 24 at Cross Church, Springdale.

Jim Ellis Tillman Sr., 83, of North Little Rock, died Jan. 16. He was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He served as pastor and interim pastor in several Arkansas churches, including as pastor of Linwood Baptist Church, Moscow, and First Baptist Church, Walnut Ridge, and as associate pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. He served as director for the Ouachita-Southern Advancement Campaign. He also served as vice president for development for Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College) for more than 13 years. He served with Resource Services Inc., of Dallas, Texas, for more than 15 years, retiring in 2002. He is survived by his wife of more than 41 years, Margaret Bailey-Tillman; a son; two daughters; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren, and a sister. Funeral services were held Jan. 19 at Roller-Owens Funeral Home in North Little Rock. Interment followed at Rest Hills Memorial Park in North Little Rock.

Janelle Hartwick Doyle, 91, died Dec. 24 at Oakdale Nursing Center in Judsonia. She graduated from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and received a Master of Religious Education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth,



and received a Master of Religious Education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth,

Texas. She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Lonnie A. Doyle Jr. Together they served as Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil for 39 years. Before leaving Brazil, the Baptist women honored her by naming the newly established orphanage "Lar Batista Janelle Doyle" - the Janelle Doyle Baptist Home. Doyle is survived by five children, 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Dec. 30 at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas.

Juanita Fern Simpson, 82, of Tumbling Shoals, died Jan. 17. She was an active member of Tumbling Shoals Baptist Church in Tumbling Shoals, where she was a charter member



and had at one time served as church clerk. She was preceded in death by her husband, Birtus Simpson Sr., and a sister. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Jan. 20 at Tumbling Shoals Baptist Church, with interment in Chastain Cemetery in Tumbling Shoals.

CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY

Baptistries/Steeples

Construction Sales Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 1049
Magnolia, AR 71753-1049
800-526-9663 FAX: 870-234-6475
Also laminated wood arches, beams and decking

Church Facility Planner

Sowell Architects
1315 North Street, Suite 100
Conway, AR 72034
501-450-9633 FAX: 501-450-7228
Email: rik@sowellarchitects.com
www.sowellarchitects.com
Master planning, site analysis
and all architectural services

Church Insurance

Michael B. Russell, MA, MBA
Member, Cross Church, Springdale
Mike Russell & Associates
P.O. Box 709, Bentonville, AR 72712
877-715-5336, 479-657-6369 fax
www.protectmychurch.org
AR Ins. Lic. #185726
Non-profit - Church - Commercial - Employee Benefits

James Greene & Associates

800-422-3384
www.jamesgreeneins.com
James Greene & Associates represents Brotherhood Mutual Insurance, a national leader insuring churches in alliance with GuideStone. Call today or go online for property, liability, auto and worker's comp quotes!

Flooring

Floors & More, Inc.
21286 Interstate 30
Benton, AR 72019
501-316-0267 FAX: 501-316-2533
Email: sales@floorsandmore.com
www.floorsandmore.com
Consultation/Statewide Services/Commercial Flooring/Carpet Squares/Gym Floors

Kitchen Equipment & Supplies

Aimco Equipment Co.
10001 Colonel Glenn Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72204
501-228-0808

Lighting & Sound

American AVL
800-352-7222
Little Rock/Jackson/Ruston/New Orleans
Audio, Video, & Lighting Systems & Equipment
Ask about our free site needs AVL review

Playgrounds

Rusty Peoples
rusty@peopleslandscaping.com
479-769-0580, (toll-free) 866-388-1365
Quality park-playground equip, surfacing & shades
Free design consultations
www.heartlandparks.com

To advertise in the Church Services Directory, contact the ABN at 501-376-4791, ext. 5161, or email ads@arkansasbaptist.org



ABN
ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWS

Want to see your church news in the Arkansas Baptist News? Submit information to jeanie@arkansasbaptist.org or call the office at 800-838-2272, ext. 5153.

Read more news at arkansasbaptist.org

"...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." -Isaiah 40:31

Soaring Wings Christian Home and Ranch in Conway is seeking a HOUSEPARENT COUPLE to serve children who have been abused, neglected, orphaned or are otherwise in need of a chance to SOAR.

Learn more at www.swranch.org/employment
Send resumes to jason@soaringwingsranch.com

SOARING WINGS

The Great PASSION PLAY

www.GreatPassionPlay.org

Purchase your tickets by February 1 to get discounts for the 2016 season! **800-882-7529**

Listen to Gospel Music at TheGospelStation.com

MARCH

continued from page one

Treasurer Dennis Milligan and Arkansas Land Commissioner John Thurston. Several Arkansas state representatives and office holders were also in attendance.

"Thirty years ago I participated in my first March for Life right here on these Capitol steps. Since then, we have made progress, but we are still marching," said Hutchinson. "The Scripture says, 'Let us not be weary in well-doing.' Ladies and gentlemen, let us not be weary in marching."

"The way we treat the voiceless and the most powerless among us speaks volumes about our priorities and values as a society. From the child in the womb to the hospitalized senior, we share a moral responsibility to respect the dignity of all human life and all human beings," said Boozman. "I want to commend all of you for being here today. ... I pray that we can shape our country to cherish all lives through conception to death."

Cotton said that the birth of he and his wife's first child has given him a new perspective on the pro-life cause.

"My wife gave birth to little Gabriel nine months ago next week. That little angel ... is the apple of my eye and his mother's eye. We love him today just as much as we loved him the moment he was born ... and just as much as we loved him when we heard his heart beat just a few weeks after he was conceived," said Cotton.

"He, like every other person, every unborn child, every newborn baby, until he draws his last breath on this earth, hopefully many decades from now peacefully, is entitled to the equal dignity and respect of every human being that God granted us and that our Constitution and our declaration recognized at the beginning of this country," he said.

"I'm proud of having served in the Congress for one year, a rookie, to stand with the most pro-life Congress and Senate that I think we have ever had," said Hill.

"We are winning the battle in the minds of men and women across this country who are coming to understand that abortion stops a beating heart, it takes a life," said Westerman.

"We are winning in Washington, D.C., just these past few weeks we passed a bill to stop the funding, using your tax dollars, to fund Planned Parenthood (Federation of America Inc.). ... It went to the president's desk; unfortunately, he vetoed it, but we will work to override that veto. If we don't win this year, we will continue to work until we do win because we can't give up," he said.

Those in attendance also heard personal stories from Lekita Gaynor, volunteer coordinator for Arkansas Right to Life's Black Americans for Life outreach; Carrie Jones, of Jefferson County Right to Life, and Lindsey Overman, who testified in support of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act passed in 2013. The three women each shared how abortion has directly affected their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

Gaynor told the story of a 15-year-old woman from a small Oklahoma town who was raped and became pregnant with twins.

Gaynor said the woman was urged to abort the children by her doctor. She said the doctor told the young woman that the children would be a burden, that they would hold her back, that they would cause her a lifetime of shame and would always be a reminder of the assault she had undergone.

"Thankfully this young girl knew in her heart that murdering her children would not undo the crime committed against her. Although this doctor, and many in society believe the unborn should pay for the crimes of their father, this young lady made the loving decision to have her babies," said Gaynor.

"Now you may say, 'Lekita, that is a very sad story, but what does that have to do with you?'" said Gaynor. "Well, you see, that brave, beautiful

woman was my mother. She was my and my brother's life-saver."

"What I know with all of my heart is that to whom much has been given, much is required. And much has been given to you if you are standing here today, and much has been given to me. So I feel obligated to give my life to save the next beautiful life," said Gaynor. "Lastly, my answer to those who ask me why I fight for the

lives of the unborn children, my answer to them is that my faith, your faith, our faith, requires us to."

"You see, it would be easy to sit and scream about how outraged we are about abortion and to talk about how wrong it is. However, are we outraged enough to do something about it? Are we outraged enough to go stand outside the abortion clinic and pray for the Spirit of God to change the heart of

a young woman who feels that abortion is her only choice?" said Gaynor.

"We have got to realize that our belief has to be coupled with action or it doesn't make a difference what we believe," said Gaynor.

Dedric Jones and Chosen Praise, a gospel singing group, provided musical entertainment during the event.

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.

Strong Faith theme of Inspire event

LITTLE ROCK - Strong Faith will be the theme of the third annual Inspire Women's Conference to be held March 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Little Rock.



Lennon

The focal passage will be Colossians 2:7.

The one-day event, designed for women of all ages and life stages, will include worship, speakers and practical breakout sessions in order to equip attendees for the "everyday" aspects of life. Rachel Lovingood, women's ministry speaker and author, will serve as keynote speaker.

Andrea Lennon, women's ministry specialist for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), encouraged Arkansas women to attend the event.

"God is moving in a special way among the women in our state," she said. "As I travel around Arkansas, I sense an excitement, an openness to God and the move of His Spirit in our lives. I believe that the women who attend Inspire will be encouraged, challenged

and changed. ... I can say with confidence that the women of Arkansas do not want to miss the opportunity to come and be inspired!"

For information or to reg-

ister for the conference, visit absc.org/inspire.

Inspire is a Cooperative Program ministry of the ABSC evangelism and church health team.



This one-day training will teach you the basics of Oral Bible Storying:

- How to lead a Story Fellowship Group
- How to connect YOUR story to a story from Scripture
- How to craft Bible stories for use in local and international ministries

When: Saturday, April 2, 2016
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Limited to the first 30 participants who register!!!
Please bring: Bible, notebook, pen

Trainer info:
Jamie is a member of FBC El Dorado. Since 2010, she has served with Extreme Missionary Adventures, leading short-term mission trip teams to Honduras, Peru, and India. Jamie has been trained in Oral Bible Storying through StoryRunners (Campus Crusade) and through the International Mission Board Storying Team.

To register:
Please mail your check (\$25.00 per person) made payable to MISSIONS TEAM to Ashley Summers at 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204

Questions?
Call 501-376-4791 ext. 5137

A ministry of the Cooperative Program and the Dee Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering

Missions
Arkansas Baptists

References:

Lynn Garmroth, Pastor
Cabin Creek Baptist, Lamar
501-253-6830

Brett Bagwell, Pastor
Mt Bethel Baptist, Arkadelphia
870-260-0723

Bob Hall, Pastor
First Baptist, Beebe
501-882-9239

C.W. Blood, evangelist

Available for revivals, evangelism conferences, camps, retreats, and pulpit supply at churches of all sizes!



"His passion for God's Word and ability to speak to the lost is evident from the moment he steps in front of the people. C.W. is incredible at communicating Jesus to any age." - Kerry White, pastor, FBC, Gore, OK

cdubblood@yahoo.com • 417-527-9962

FEBRUARY 7, 2016

If you've been a Christian and a member of a church for any length of time, your zeal to talk of spiritual things with people you encounter has probably waned a bit. Once we find out about spiritual gifts and realize that mercy and administration are gifts, we might decide that telling others about the saving grace of Jesus is someone else's job, someone with the gift of evangelism, prophecy or teaching perhaps. But surely not everyone is supposed to tell people about Jesus.

In Matthew 9:35-10:8, we read that Jesus tells us a very different truth.

In Matthew 9:37-38, He says, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few," and then He urges His disciples to pray for the Lord to send workers into the harvest. This is a prayer we are still praying and urging other people to pray even today.

Matthew 10:5-6 says, "Jesus sent out these 12 after giving them instructions: 'Don't take the road leading to other nations, and don't enter any Samaritan town. Instead, go to the lost sheep of

the house of Israel."

Reading verse 5, we see that Jesus sent out all of His disciples, not just those who were comfortable speaking, but everyone. He didn't just send the youngest of the disciples, He sent them all. He didn't just choose the unmarried ones. He didn't just choose the healthiest or the smartest. He sent them all. Matthew 10:5 is a convicting

verse - it doesn't let any of us off the hook. We are all to tell others of Jesus, whether you're retired, a mother of preschoolers, a college student or a father that works too many hours. Jesus has called on you to tell others about Him.

Jesus has great compassion on the people in Matthew 9:35-10:8. He

sees them as weary, broken and worn out not just by daily life, but also by having to live under the religious law. He refers to them as lost sheep and He knows He is the Shepherd they need.

If you know Him as the Shepherd, it is your job to tell others.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

In His service

MATTHEW 9:35-10:8



Julie Beavers
Pine Bluff

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Distinct in approaching conflict

MATTHEW 5:21-26



Daniel Johnson
Dover

Two friends end a friendship over a disagreement; a married couple sleeps in separate beds after a fight. Conflict disrupts the harmony of human relationships, and unresolved anger is the cause. Anger is an easy emotion to justify as it rises out of hurt. Hurtful words or unjust treatment cause an upsurge of emotion and cause the offended to feel an equally hurtful or unjust response is warranted. These feelings can quickly lead to a sinful response and a further damaged relationship.

In a fallen world, conflict is a fact of life. Personalities cause conflict; opinions cause conflict; competing needs cause conflict. And ultimately, the root of unhealthy conflict is selfishness. When conflict is caused by selfishness, offenses are ripe to be taken, and they interrupt the love Christians are supposed to have for one another. That love is replaced by anger.

The Lord calls His followers to deal with anger through reconciliation. Often the temptation is to let the conflict simmer and hold out for the other person to make amends, but that is

not the command found in Matthew 5:21-26. In conflict, Christians aren't to posture and pressure. Christians are to pursue peace. Christians are people of love, which is the opposite of selfishness. Where selfishness separates, love reconciles. Reconciling relationships is so important that Christ commands that before a believer makes an offering to the Lord, he is to reconcile

any relationship that is estranged (Matt. 5:23-24). If there is any offense he has caused to another, he is to seek out the offended and do his part to right the wrong. As the giving of offerings is a regular activity for Christians, so too should be the pursuit of peace.

Regrettably, in some conflicts, the other party may refuse to play his role in peacemaking. In such cases, as much as it depends on them, believers are to live at peace with others (Rom. 12:18). The Christian extends the olive branch and rights any wrongs as much as the other person will allow. Christians are to be marked not by anger, but by peacemaking.

FEBRUARY 14, 2016

Matthew 11:20-30 is so full of Jesus - what Jesus does, who Jesus is and what Jesus wants for all of us.

In the first few verses of this passage, Jesus rebukes the people in several cities for not repenting. John the Baptist had proclaimed to these people who Jesus was. Jesus had performed miracles among them, and they were glad He did. They listened to all He said, yet they remained hard-hearted and stubborn and refused to make a change in their lives.

In Matthew 11:25-27, we see Jesus revealed. Jesus addresses God as Father, showing an intimate and personal relationship between them (Matt. 11:25). He also refers to God as a sovereign Lord, as "Lord of heaven and earth" (Matt. 11:25). And then, in Matthew 11:27, Jesus tells us who He is. If there had been any question among the people before, it was now answered.

Jesus tells us that only He truly knows God (the Father) and only the Father knows Him (the Son). Jesus

came down to earth to reveal the Father. All the miracles, the teaching, the conversations were to reveal God to us.

In part of chapter 11, Jesus had told the people of the judgment that would come to them then they didn't repent.

Here in Matthew 11:27-30, we see Him tell them how to accept His offer of forgiveness and not be judged, but rather find

spiritual rest with Him. Verse 28 looks different to us now. The people of Jesus' day were burdened with having to live by the law. Everything they did was held to that scrutiny.

In Matthew 11:28, Jesus says, "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Jesus is saying, "Come to Me. I can take that burden from you. You don't have to live by the law any longer!"

So many people turned from Him and didn't accept His free gift, but oh, those that did - they found themselves with a lighter burden and spiritual rest!

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

An open invitation

MATTHEW 11:20-30



Julie Beavers
Pine Bluff

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Distinct in my relationships

MATTHEW 5:27-32



Daniel Johnson
Dover

"I do." Two of the most powerful words spoken in someone's lifetime. With them, a person is bonded to a spouse in a covenant relationship. Better or worse - from then on, the circumstances don't matter. The couple has vowed to love, honor and cherish each another.

One of the greatest gifts God has given to man is the companionship found in the marriage relationship.

"It is not good for the man to be alone" (Gen. 2:18) so God created woman, and out of the union of a married couple, a family is formed.

The security and nurture provided in this covenant relationship allow for the healthy development of another of God's blessings: children.

Sadly, today's culture denies the essence of marriage. By not understanding the God-designed dynamics of marriage, families do not flourish. The differences between husband and wife are not valued, and the picture of Christ and the Church found in the marriage relationship is lost. We treat the permanent as disposable, missing

the grace and faithfulness of marriage. Modern culture ignores the clearly defined marital roles, and even the union of man and woman is "redefined." Monogamy becomes optional as society abuses the sacred origin of marriage in the name of false freedom and love.

It is not to be so for believers. Christians know the marital commands of God, such as those found in Matthew 5:27-32.

Christians know what love is. They have the Holy Spirit at work in them. Believers face the same challenges as unbelievers in marriage; but they are to deal with these challenges differently. When there is disagreement, Christian men love their wives as Christ loved the church and Christian women submit to their husbands as

to the Lord (Eph. 5:22-33). When there is conflict, Christian spouses reconcile. When difficult times come, Christian spouses support each other.

Marriage is a beautiful, God-given gift created to be a blessing, but for this gift to be all God intends, His commands must be honored.

Good news about the Good News.



Arkansas Baptists. Sharing. Missions.

The Cooperative Program is all about sharing. Sharing the Gospel. Sharing the cost. Sharing the vision.

Arkansas Baptists have always done their share. But there's so much more we can do. That's where **CP Share** comes in.

CP Share is all about sharing, too. It's an all-new network of news and information dedicated to sharing stories—

life-changing stories about how Arkansas Baptists are making a world of difference in missions through the Cooperative Program.

It's designed to inspire you and your church to be more engaged in giving to missions through the CP.

It's FREE! And it's priceless. To see how you can get plugged in, go to absc.org/CPShare.



WEB



VIDEO



ARKANSAS
BAPTIST
NEWS



EMAIL



FACEBOOK



TWITTER



INSTAGRAM



SHARE
WITH YOUR
NETWORK