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400 attend Golden Age

400 seniors attend Golden Age Conference Sept. 24 at WBC
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Several hundred people gathered at the Bradley County Fairgrounds Sept. 20-26 for a tent crusade sponsored by about 25 churches from multiple denominations in the Warren area. Reuel Cruce, pastor of Ladelle Baptist Church, Monticello, addressed the crowd, speaking on "God's Amazing Grace." Photo by Jennifer Bryant

Old-style tent revivals touch Arkansas towns

Jennifer Bryant
Arkansas Baptist News

WARREN - "Lord, send a revival, and let it begin in me" is on the hearts of people in south Arkansas.

During the week of Sept. 20, two tent crusades took place, during which the gospel was presented to the communities. One crusade was spearheaded by Chris Barnes, pastor of Grace Cowboy Church of Warren, along with about 25 other churches; the other was spearheaded by First Baptist Church of Thornton.

Barnes, who only surrendered to the ministry two years

ago, said, "God put a burden on my heart to have a revival."

In May of this year, he felt the burden even heavier.

"I was taking a preaching class. (The teacher) said he felt I should do a revival," he said. "Then, a friend called me and said he felt that I was supposed to do a revival. That was the confirmation I needed."

However, June to July is Barnes' busy season at work so, "I let that consume me and let revival go to the side," he said.

While Barnes was working, he jumped out of his boat, and

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Planned new dining hall key to Siloam's growth

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

SILOAM SPRINGS - Five years ago Arkansas Baptist Assembly (ABA) was struggling. It was a once-bustling camp with declining attendance and a lack of vision. Fast-forward to today and the camp - now known as Camp Siloam - has a new name and a renewed sense of calling.

Jason Wilkie became executive director of ABA in 2010 with only two months to plan for the camp's busy summer season. Subsequently, Wilkie focused on studying the camp's history and asked Arkansas Baptists to explain what



Wilkie

they loved about the camp.

"I got a chance to hear what made Camp Siloam what it is," said Wilkie.

Time and time again, Wilkie heard the same things from those involved in the nearly century-old institution: (1) The Lord is strong at the camp, (2) lost children are saved at the camp, (3) children are called to the ministry at the camp, (4) churches grow together through the camp and (5) the camp is affordable.

"We were looking for a camp that had strong roots but needed a fresh vision and fresh program to it. Based upon the

See **GROWTH** page 7

Baptists reach bikers at BBB

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

FAYETTEVILLE - Hundreds of thousands of motorcycle riders converged on northwest Arkansas Sept. 23-26 to take part in Bikes, Blues and BBQ (BBB), one of the largest motorcycle rallies in the country. Southern Baptists from across Arkansas and beyond used the event as an opportunity to share the gospel of Christ.

Now in its 16th year, BBB is held each fall. The rally bills itself as "the largest motorcycle rally in the United States benefitting local charities." It was estimated that 2014's rally saw more than 400,000 visitors to Fayetteville and surrounding communities.

Due to BBB, for four days each year, Fayetteville becomes Arkansas' largest city, and arguably, its largest mission field. As in years past, Arkansas Baptists partnered with Baptists from multiple other states in ministering to the mass of bikers and on-lookers.

Faith Riders is a national



Larry King, a member of South Main Baptist Church, Crossett, witnesses to a biker at First Baptist Church, Fayetteville. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

motorcycle club organization started in Florida and made up of mostly Southern Baptist bikers from across the country. Jeff Hairston is the director of the northwest Arkansas chapter of Faith Riders based at Cross Church, which operates a booth at the heart of BBB each year.

"On Saturday night, God showed up and showed out," said Hairston. "In the last 90 minutes, 20 people came

under the tent and were saved. We had people that needed prayer for marriages, for addictions, for jobs."

"We were so busy at 10 o'clock that we couldn't even close the tent," he added.

Hairston said the Faith Riders volunteers working in and around the tent gave personal 3-minute

See **BBB** page 10

ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

1% CP Challenge met by 4,422 churches

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee President Frank S. Page has personally signed letters to more than 4,400 Southern Baptist churches that have met or exceeded the 1% Cooperative Program Challenge. Recognized for their contributions are 3,846 congregations that met the challenge for the first time during the 2013-14 fiscal year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30) and 576 that met the challenge for two consecutive years, said Ashley Clayton, SBC Executive Committee vice president for Cooperative Program and stewardship development. The 1% CP Challenge calls on churches to increase their Cooperative Program giving by at least 1 percentage point of their budgets from undesignated gifts by their members and visitors.

Pro-lifers: PPFA head fails to satisfy concerns

WASHINGTON (BP) – Congressional testimony by Planned Parenthood's president failed to satisfy the concerns of lawmakers and pro-life advocates. The hearing before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee followed the release of 10 secretly recorded videos that show various Planned Parenthood officials discussing the sale of organs from aborted children. The videos recorded and released by the Center for Medical Progress (CMP) also display PPFA employees acknowledging their willingness to manipulate the abortion procedure to preserve body parts for sale and use. In addition, the videos include evidence of the dissection of live babies outside the womb to remove organs.

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

Mohler: 'Reasonable faith' important today

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

ROGERS – R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., emphasized the importance of growing and proclaiming a reasonable faith during the Reason for Church Leaders Conference held at First Baptist Church, Rogers, Sept. 25-26.

Mohler, who is widely considered one of America's most influential evangelical thinkers, addressed current cultural shifts happening in America during the two-day event.

Some topics Mohler specifically addressed included the authority and infallibility of Scripture, Christian morality in evangelism, the sanctity of human life, same-sex marriage, recreational drug use, the definition of the Church, religious liberty and the necessity of good theology.

Establishment of the Church

Speaking from Matthew 16, Mohler opened the conference by addressing what he called the "Magna Carta of the Church," the passage in which Jesus establishes the Church.

"One of the most stunning realizations of the synoptic Gospels is that the disciples were not particularly insightful. That should encourage us," said Mohler. "The Christian life is not dependent on our insight, but rather God's revelation."

Mohler said that a differing interpretation of Matthew 16 is the reason that the papacy (pope of the Roman Catholic Church) exists.

"The very fact that the world is focused ... on a man



R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., speaks to church leaders during the Reason for Church Leaders Conference Sept. 25-26 at First Baptist Church, Rogers. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

dressed in white being driven around New York City right now has everything to do with what this means in Matthew 16," said Mohler. "If the Church is established on Peter, then we need to recognize Francis as Pope. ... I don't believe for a minute that is what Jesus is doing here."

"The Church exists because Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God. ... It is the confession that Peter made that is the confession of every true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church is made up of those that share that confession," explained Mohler.

Strange times

"We're living in very strange times, and the times are becoming more and more

strange headline to headline. We used to say that, 'We are talking about things that our grandparents wouldn't have been able to talk about.' Now we are talking about things that we didn't know we were going to need to talk about," said Mohler.

"The moral revolution that is taking place around us is so comprehensive that it is difficult for most of us to try and put it into some kind of scale," he said.

Mohler said that there are obvious shifts happening in the intellectual views of today's society and that a "moral rebellion is being set loose."

"There is no place where this is not now a thing," said Mohler.

He cited the recent Obergefell v. Hodges Supreme Court

decision, which legalized so-called same-sex marriage in all 50 states as an example of the moral revolution that is at hand.

"Because of the way that our society works, once the elites begin to coalesce on an issue like this (same-sex marriage), it gets pushed through every available influential means in a society. By the time this moral revolution is over, they will have comprehensively reformed the moral messaging of every dimension of the culture. Right now you can't turn on 'Sesame Street' without hearing this message."

Mohler said that the cultural shift and moral revolution that is currently happening is, more than anything, based

See **REASON** page 3

Baptist Businessperson of Year nominations being accepted

LITTLE ROCK – Do you know a Southern Baptist businessman or businesswoman who is making a huge impact for Jesus Christ through his or her marketplace influence?

The *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) is planning to hold its first-ever Arkansas Baptist Businessperson of the Year contest, and ABN readers are invited to nominate a businessman

or businesswoman for consideration.

"The ABN wants to bring attention to Arkansas Baptists who are making a difference for Christ in lives of others and through their businesses and in the marketplace," said Tim Yarbrough, ABN editor/executive director.

Candidates should be a resident of Arkansas and a member of an Arkansas Baptist church. They should be active-

ly involved in ministry in their church and in other areas.

To nominate someone, please include the following: (1) name, phone number, email and church membership of the submitter; (2) name, phone number, email and church membership of the candidate, and (3) a 200-300 word essay explaining why the candidate should be considered for Arkansas Baptist Businessperson of the Year (in-

cluding the impact he or she makes in the business world, as well as his or her involvement in church/ministries/missions).

The businessperson chosen will be featured in an upcoming edition of the ABN.

Submissions must be received on or before Nov. 9.

Email nominations to tim@arkansasbaptist.org or mail to 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.

Barrett Baber wows judges on 'The Voice'

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

FORMER Ouachita Baptist University student Barrett Baber won over the hearts and ears of all four coaches on the Sept. 21 episode of "The Voice." Baber chose country music superstar Blake Shelton as his coach.

The vocal competition, in its ninth season, is hosted by Carson Daly and consists of five stages of competition. During the first stage - the "blind auditions" - coaches face away from the stage and only swivel their chairs to face a performer if they like what they hear. If more than one coach does so, the musician then chooses which coach's "team" he or she would like to be on.

While some contestants only earned minimal favor from the coaches, Baber had all four coaches spinning their chairs to face him within the first 30 seconds of his performance of "Angel Eyes."

Baber, a high school teacher from Fayetteville, chose Shelton as his coach, leaving Gwen Stefani, Adam Levine and Pharrell Williams heartbroken not to have Baber on their teams.

"If it's country soul, country pop, country rap - whatever you're thinking - the word I'm interested in is 'country.' That's what I do with my life," Shelton told Baber. "I'm not

kidding when I say it's like watching Garth (Brooks) up there."

Baber said he was "incredibly humbled" by the coaches' comments and would continue to be regardless of the outcome of his stint on "The Voice."

According to Baber's website, "His inspiration for singing and creating music happened from frequent visits to Memphis TN, only a few miles from his hometown in Marion, Arkansas."

During the Sept. 21 episode, a video clip aired depicting Baber's roots. During the clip, Baber explained his "family was always involved in missionary work." One of his earliest moments of realizing the power of music occurred when his family moved to South Africa when he was 9 years old and he heard African music. His family returned to the U.S. when he was 13.

The video clip also showed footage of the 1999 crash of American Airlines Flight 1420 in Little Rock, which Baber experienced firsthand. He and fellow musicians from Ouachita were returning from a performance trip when their plane skidded off the runway and killed eleven people, including a Ouachita choir member as well as the 14-year-old daughter of two Ouachita faculty members.

Baber survived and hopes his story brings encouragement to others.



Barrett Baber performs during "The Voice."

"I remember asking myself the question why I made it. When I met my wife and when I held my kids for the first time, I looked at my son and daughter and said, 'This is why.' ... I want people to

see that you can overcome immense tragedy in your life and still do something great," Baber said in the clip.

After being paired up with Shelton, Baber left the stage to the roar of the crowd, but not before he took a moment to call the Hogs from stage.

"I hope that people will have watched this audition and gained a little bit of encouragement from my story," Baber said.

Baber's father, Mark Baber, previously served as a member of the *Arkansas Baptist News* board of directors.

View Baber's performance at nbc.com/the-voice/artists/season-9/barrett-baber.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.

REASON

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"in a massive shift in the way people think."

He cites a speech given by Soviet dissonant and Nobel Prize winner Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn in 1978, in which Solzhenitsyn told Harvard that they were part of the problem with intellectualism, not the solution.

"You ask me what has happened," Mohler quoted Solzhenitsyn as saying, "And I answer. Men have forgotten God."

Mohler said that if a theistic worldview were pervasive in today's culture then the moral revolution would not be happening. However, in lieu of such a standard worldview, he said, "You can't hold on to the morality that is dependent on that worldview."

Mohler cited Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor's major work "The Secular Age," in which he argues that throughout most of the history of Western civilization, it was impossible for people not to believe, and then with Darwinism and the development of modernity, it became possible for people to not believe and then finally in today's age, it is becoming impossible for many people to believe.

"We are the new outlaws," said Mohler.

Mohler argued that confess-

ing Christians have taken the place of atheists, agnostics, secularists, humanists and nonbelievers as the outliers in society.

SBC and cultural shifts

"The Southern Baptist Convention is, by its convictions, the best-placed, best-doctrinally-equipped denomination I can imagine to handle this," said Mohler. "The bad news is, culturally speaking, we are one of the worst-equipped to handle this."

"We are going to be driven into theology and Bible because that is going to be all we've got," he said. "Here's the really good news: We are about to put the 'B' back in 'Baptist' because we're going to have to go back to what Baptists have historically believed about the Church and regenerate church membership."

"We have got to recognize that a time is coming when 'outlaw' is going to be written on the front of our churches," said Mohler.

"Even in the Bible Belt, insofar as there continues to be a Bible Belt, people are going to lose their jobs for being a member of our church, they are going to pay social capital rather than gain social capital and the only reason to belong to one of our churches is going to come down to that we believe Jesus Christ is Lord," he said.

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ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Reformation addressed by seminary scholars

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) - While Pope Francis visited the United States for the first time, leading evangelical scholars defended the "Five Solas," central themes of the Reformation, at the 2015 Theology Conference at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. With the approaching 500th anniversary in 2017 of Martin Luther's nailing of the "95 Theses" to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany, speakers at the conference emphasized the distinctiveness of the Reformed tradition from the Roman Catholic tradition. "It's the Word of God - not the sacraments, as in medieval Catholicism - which was the primary means of God dealing graciously with His people," said Carl Trueman, professor of historical theology and church history at Westminster Theological Seminary in Glenside, Pa.

WMU trains Christian job corps leaders

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - National Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., hosted 2015 training for more than 160 coordinators and leaders of its Christian job corps ministry sites. The Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) and Christian Men's Job Corps (CMJC) national training offered sessions on topics including leadership styles, workforce development, conflict resolution and working with those in poverty. Seminars and round-table discussion focused on fund-raising basics, nonprofit issues, participant recruitment, volunteer training, curriculum evaluation, effective mentoring, leadership essentials and other job corps issues.

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

WBC thoroughfare repaired

WALNUT RIDGE - A long-neglected main artery through Williams Baptist College is finally getting a face-lift.

Fullbright Avenue, a road that dates back some 70 years to when the campus was the home of the Walnut Ridge Army Flying School, has been in a state of disrepair for years. Through Williams and local government efforts, a \$250,000 grant was acquired that will be used to pay for the project.

Brett Cooper, Williams' vice president for institutional advancement, told KAIT-TV, Jonesboro's ABC affiliate, that students at Williams came up with a clever

nickname for the road.

"Well, it's become sort of a running joke; our students have come to call it 'Kathump Boulevard' because those concrete joints have become uneven over the last 70 or so years," Cooper told KAIT-TV.

"They have been gracious about it, but sure, the road's gotten uneven and rough and it's just been in need of repair," he said.

Williams students and visitors have been asked to use specified alternate routes through campus until the repairs are completed. The project is expected to last approximately two weeks.

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)

Bikes, Blues, BBQ ... and Jesus too!

Over the years, I have been amazed at the diversity of ministry performed by Southern Baptists in the name of Jesus Christ.

Whether it be by calming the storm in peoples' lives through disaster relief following a devastating EF5 tornado, by simply "being there" during a time of anguish as a chaplain or witnessing by putting a new roof on the home of a disabled woman who otherwise couldn't afford it, Baptists are a giving and sacrificial lot.

Recently, I witnessed yet another area of evangelistic outreach that can literally be described as engaging people "where the rubber meets the road."

It was at the Bikes, Blues and BBQ (BBB) motorcycle rally in northwest Arkansas,

where literally hundreds of thousands of bikers of all stripes – gangs, solo riders and weekend warriors – gathered for what has become one of the largest rallies in the U.S.

At BBB, Baptists were out in force, along with many other evangelicals, giving out bottled water,

washing motorcycles, providing free parking and an assortment of other evangelistic outreach activities – all with one goal in mind – sharing the Truth of the cross.

For the past five years the northwest Arkansas chapter of Faith Riders based at Cross Church has been allowed to set up a booth in the heart of the rally off Dixon Street in Fayetteville where they share 3-minute testimonies with

bikers who will listen – all for the chance to win an iPad or gift card.

While the methodology may sound simplistic, Jeff Hairston, director of the northwest Arkansas chapter of Faith Riders, said resulting professions of faith are always strong.

During the rally held Sept. 23-26, Faith Riders volunteers made more than 1,000 gospel presentations with 90 people making professions of faith.

At a motorcycle wash held at First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, another five people made professions of faith. South Main Baptist Church, Crossett, members joined in assisting First Baptist with the bike wash.

Greg McDowell of Gum Springs Baptist Church, Siloam Springs, has served at the Faith Riders booth since the beginning of the BBB ministry.

"If you look at the average demographic of the motorcycle owner, they're 48-plus and have capital they can spend on motorcycles and goodies.

"Most of them are trying to re-engage themselves in a

younger life, seeking some kind of purpose."

Who would have thought that Jesus could be found among a biker crowd at Bikes, Blues and BBQ?

To God be the glory!



Pressing On

Tim Yarbrough

Phil. 3:14



The marathon of ministry

We live in a fast-paced society. Houses and roads are built quickly; decisions are made immediately; our food is cooked, packed and handed through windows in seconds. In many ways, we live among sprinters; that is, we get from point "A" to point "B" in the shortest amount of time possible. If we wait on the phone for 1 minute, we feel that we've waited 15.

When we watch television, we change channels during commercials to see something else that is interesting. If we have a digital video recorder, we speed through the com-

mercials. We skip the ads on YouTube.

There's one problem. God did not make us to live in the fast lane all the time.

Scripture tells us, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isa. 40:31), and, "Be still, and

know that I am God" (Psa. 46:10).

Wait a minute – we're supposed to wait! Yes. Sometimes God tells us to wait. God does not always give us the answer we ask for immediately. Often, if we do not get what we want when we want it, we tend to give

up or quit. "I don't like how long God is taking to answer, so I'll quit waiting and move on." "I don't like my job – so I'll quit and move on." "I don't like my marriage – so I'll quit and move on." "I don't like my ministry – so I'll quit and move on."

Ministers are guilty of quitting and "moving on" too many times. Oh, we may not quit the ministry altogether, but we may quit a particular ministry. How long is the average pastorate? Two years? Three years? Seven years? It isn't very long. A bi-vocational pastor told me once that it takes a lifetime to build an effective ministry. Pastors often encounter difficulty and

assume that "God is leading them somewhere else." I've seen pastors in a particular county move to as many as four or five different churches because "God was leading them." Does God really do that? Or do we take matters into our own hands because we get impatient? The gospel ministry is not a sprint; it is a marathon.

When I went to Boston in 1999, I met two Ethiopian runners who were training for the Boston Marathon. Every day they ran for hours at a time. They were not sprinters. They would not break any records for speed, but they ran for miles without stopping. Oh boy, were they skinny! I

wondered where their bodies were finding the energy to run, but run they did – every day. They knew the marathon demanded physical conditioning, and that would not happen overnight.

I have often told my congregation that I intend to stay until the Lord moves me, and I mean it. I am willing to live, bloom and die where I'm planted if He chooses. At the end of my life, I hope to look back and see that while I may not have run fast, I have finished the course, and kept the faith.

Kim Reeder is pastor of Barton Chapel Baptist Church in Tyrone and a frequent contributor to the Arkansas Baptist News.



Viewpoint

Kim Reeder



Telling the story of

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Bless them



Family Matters

Ben Phillips

Recently, I shared an article with my family: “Twenty-five Really Weird Things Said to Pastors and Other Church Leaders” by Thom Rainer.

Here is a sampling of quotes: “We need to start attracting more normal people at church.”

“The toilet paper is on the wrong way in the ladies’ restroom. It’s rolled under.”

“Why don’t you ever preach on Tim Tebow?”

“We are leaving the church because you have a red cross on the building. That’s the color of the devil.”

There were many perplexed looks and laughs as I read. Many pastors and staff receive personal comments, texts, emails and letters that are discouraging and disheartening. Instead of blasting your pastor and staff, what if you and your church blessed them instead?

October is Pastor and Staff Appreciation Month and a time to encourage and affirm. Here are a few ways to bless your pastor and staff during this month.

Pray. Start by consistently praying for your pastor. Our family consistently prays for the pastor and the staff every Sunday on the way to church. Ask your pastor if he has some special prayer requests for him and his family and then pray. Encourage each Sunday school class to pray specifically for the pastor and staff every Sunday during the month of October.

Write. Write an affirming letter, email or text at least once during the month of October to your pastor and staff. This can also be done as a part of a Sunday school class. By the way, this is a good exercise to practice throughout the year.

Recognize. Dedicate a time during a Sunday morning service to recognize your pastor and staff for the faithful service in your church. Present them with a gift and invite people to pray for them and their families.

Give. Show your appreciation to your pastor and staff by giving some tangible gift, such as a love offering or gift cards that they can use in a variety of ways.

Blessing your pastor will bless you, your church and the kingdom.

Ben Phillips serves on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church health team.

Take every thought captive

I have been a believer for 25 years. I always say, “I’m glad I am not the person I used to be,” and, “I never want to be the person I used to be.” My sins have been forgiven. I have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ, ... but sometimes thoughts from the BC days (before Christ) roll through my mind. What is that? It’s the flesh.

Our greatest enemy is ourselves. Even though we are redeemed on the inside, we still live in these fleshly bodies, and Galatians 5:17 (NASB) says, “For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.” There is a war that rages within all of us, and Paul said in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NASB), “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

The battle begins in the mind, and the way to win it is to take every thought captive. That includes the thoughts of the past and present that flesh wields against us, but also includes the thoughts/lies the enemy (Satan) has sown into our minds as believers and has also sown into the minds of unbelievers. For example, abortion is legal in the U.S., and each year 1 million babies are murdered. The lie that a woman has the right to choose has been sown by the enemy into the minds of people. This lie (speculation/opinion) has become a fortress in the minds of people, and

the Word of God (Truth) is the only weapon that will tear the wall down and set people free.

Another lie sown by the enemy is homosexuality and same-sex marriage. This speculation that has been raised up against the knowledge of God (means in direct opposition to God’s Word) has become a wall/fortress/castle in the minds of people, and the enemy has enslaved them in the lie. The result is that many Christians are buying into these lies in the culture and are compromising by giving their approval and calling what is evil, “good” (Isaiah 5:20).

So what do we do? We have to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. We have to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and call for repentance from the sins of the flesh. We have to speak the truth in love. Satan does not want the fortresses in the minds of people torn down, but the Truth of God’s Word will set people free. We have to teach our people that when their thoughts or opinions are in opposition to God’s Word – then their thoughts are wrong and they must submit those thoughts, opinions, etc. to the obedience of Christ.

I want to encourage all of the preachers who are reading this article with 2 Timothy 4:2 (NASB): “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.”

May the Lord Jesus bless you and use you for His glory!

Archie Mason is senior pastor of Central Baptist Church in Jonesboro and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



President’s Perspective

Archie Mason

The Choice: Rule of Life

The Foundation staff is so thankful to now be serving from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention building. As we prepare for this year’s annual meeting in Hot Springs, the staff wants to encourage each of you to attend. We will be offering a copy of “The Choice: The Christ-Centered Pursuit of Kingdom Outcomes” at our exhibit. In fact, our prayer is that each person there will make the choice to follow the kingdom path, focusing on obedience to the teachings of Jesus as the only path to fruitfulness and kingdom outcomes.

After studying the content of the book as a staff and as a board, we not only looked for application to our work at the Foundation, but also accepted the invitation in the back of the book to adopt the following Rule of Life.

It is titled “The Choice: Rule of Life” and reads as follows:

“As a follower of Jesus Christ, I commit:

- (1) To define success as obedience to the teachings of Jesus Christ in God’s Word;
- (2) To resist the temptation of control by instead placing my confidence in God’s promises;
- (3) To resist the temptation of idolatry and trusting in

money or possessions rather than God;

(4) To resist the temptation of pride by finding my identity and affirmation in Christ alone;

(5) To submit to the Father and be filled, led, and empowered by the Holy Spirit;

(6) To employ faithfulness-focused strategies related to prayerful strategic planning and raising kingdom resources;

(7) To utilize eternity-oriented metrics for ministry accountability and transparent financial administration;

(8) To manage relationships rather than results from a posture of humility and doing everything with love;

(9) To mobilize spiritually gifted people and exhort them to demonstrate radical Christian generosity;

(10) To model steward leadership that glorifies God and points the way so that others may follow.

“I adopt this rule of life in the presence of this witness with one goal, that I might run with perseverance the race marked out for me, and someday hear two words from our Lord Jesus Christ: ‘Well done!’”

Bobby Thomas is the president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.



Kingdom Foundation

Bobby Thomas



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

400 attend Golden Age Conference at Williams

Brett Cooper
Williams Baptist College

WALNUT RIDGE – A crowd of about 400 clapped along with bluegrass gospel music and were encouraged by two messages Thursday, Sept. 24, at the second annual Golden Age Conference at Williams Baptist College.

“I thought the day was absolutely wonderful with great attendance and a great spirit,” said Dave White, associational missionary for the Greene County Baptist Association. “I’ve heard nothing but positive comments from everybody.”

The Lindsey Family, a bluegrass band from Kentucky, entertained the crowd for the second year in a row with their gospel performance.

J.D. “Sonny” Tucker, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, challenged the crowd with Scriptural passages about Jesus. Citing Philippians 2, Tucker noted that Jesus set a standard by always holding the needs of others as more important than His own needs.

“If we all had that attitude in our churches, that would put an end to most fights,” Tucker noted.

Don Pucik, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wynne, spoke of the need for Christians to overcome fear in their lives. He issued three main points, stating that Christians can

overcome fear through a daily relationship with God, a daily reflection on God’s Word and a daily reliance on God’s direction.

Williams sophomore Collin Whitney of Searcy also spoke at the event, telling the crowd about his Williams experience and the ways it has helped him grow as a Christian. Other Williams students assisted with the event and had the chance to interact with the senior adults through the course of the day.

“I thought it was wonderful,” said Sherry Moore, of Hoxie. “I thought it was very topical to hear about conquering fear, and I thought Dr. Tucker’s message was great, too. And of course, I liked the music. I loved seeing the kids perform and the whole family aspect.”

Churches across northeast and north central Arkansas were represented at the conference. The event was held in Williams’ Manley Chapel.

Baptist associations organizing the event were Black River Baptist Association, Current-Gaines Baptist Association, Greene County Baptist Association, Mississippi County Baptist Association, Mt. Zion Baptist Association, Rocky Bayou Baptist Association and Trinity Baptist Association.

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



The Lindsey Family performs for a crowd of about 400 at the Golden Age Conference, held Sept. 24 in Williams Baptist College’s Manley Chapel. The event is organized by Baptist associations in the region. Photo by Brett Cooper

Pastor appreciation: stocks and bonds

Rick Porter
Pleasant Hill Baptist, Bauxite

THERE IS A certain amount of awkwardness contained within the request for a pastor to write an article on the need for the pastor to be appreciated. But let’s enjoy the thought processes that hopefully result in relationships further endeared to one another.

Let’s consider just for a moment the reversal of the norm. Instead of the church searching for the right pastor, let’s imagine that the pastor had the privilege of searching for the right church. Would he want that church to be a Scripturally hungry church that came to services like a famished child sitting on the edge of his seat enjoying even the smell of the heavenly manna about to be dispersed? Would he want a praying church that kept him anticipating victory through the hard-fought wars? Would he want an evangelistic church that kept him busy in baptisms and discipleship? Would he want a loving church that covered a multitude of sins and expressed sincere

compassion for all?

Those are important to any pastor and certainly appreciated. But, the one thing that was not considered is the importance of the pastor’s present and future benefit package. The church needs a way to provide every day of the year a growing accumulation of stocks and bonds in the most secure areas of the market. This is not just for his future retirement, but also that which can be realized in present dividends. This stock and bond does not come from Wall Street, but willing saints. It is the stock that appreciates. It is the bond of love.

Rick Porter is pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Bauxite.

Letter to the Editor

Word of God, not pragmatism

This May, International Mission Board (IMB) President David Platt championed a set of new “qualifications that will characterize every missionary” at the IMB.

These changes included removing divorce and the practice of tongues as disqualifying factors for long-term missions. To my great concern, the rationale given at the time was not argued from Scripture, but instead pragmatism – i.e., alignment to the Baptist Faith and Message and the goal to commission “limitless missionary teams.” The implication? Southern Baptists’ overly strict policy for qualifying missionaries

was the limiting factor in the number of missionaries we could send.

Fast-forward four months, and we learn that in truth, the limiting factor is not lack of a qualified candidate pool, but a severe budget shortfall. This is not new information. Over the past six years, the IMB is upside-down to the tune of \$210 million. Now we are being told the plan to fix the budget is an offer of early retirement to missionaries over 50 with five or more years of service, effectively removing 600-800 of the most experienced, faithful and doctrinally sound mission resources at our disposal. Interesting aside: This same group of faithful servants has also been

one of the most concerned about and opposed to the new pragmatic changes in missionary qualifications.

Pastor Appreciation Month is upon us, and as a pastor, I know what I would appreciate from our Southern Baptist leadership. First, to argue for solutions and implement changes based in the Word of God and not the pragmatism of our day, for the wisdom of men is foolishness to God. Second, the honest and clear communication expected of a Christian (Matthew 5:37) by which what we say is consistent with reality, with that which is true.

Brian C. Williams
Hackett

Correction

THE Arkansas Baptist News (ABN) would like to correct an error that appeared in its Sept. 24 edition. The ABN inadvertently attributed a quote to the wrong person in the story titled “80 saved, 1,500 participate in Acts 1:8 One Day mission” on page 7.

The quote was identified as being from Jennifer Bry-

ant, a member of First Baptist Church, Fordyce, when it was actually from Jennifer Allbritton, a member of Southside Community Church, Paragould. Also, the man identified as Keith was Allbritton’s husband. Bryant’s husband’s name is Daniel.

The ABN regrets the error.

GROWTH

continued from page one

five things that we heard from the adults and children that came to camp that first summer, we began to develop a new program plan and vision. That process took about four years for us to work through what Arkansas Baptist Assembly, (as it was known) at the time, could be,” said Wilkie.

New name

These sentiments became the “five pillars” which Wilkie and the camp’s staff used to cast a new vision for the camp. One of the first changes made was to officially change the organization’s name in 2011 to “Camp Siloam,” the name by which the camp had long been called by campers and volunteers.

Wilkie said that his first priority when coming to Camp Siloam was addressing basic issues in order to allow the organization to become financially sound and ensure the future of its ministry. He and the camp’s staff recognized that they needed to improve the camp’s programs, increase the number of campers that came each year and improve the camp’s facilities.

After developing a strategy to develop new, exciting and holistically gospel-centered programs for each camp season, Camp Siloam raised its camp’s fees, which allowed the camp fees to sustain the camp’s operating costs. This freed up other revenue to be allotted to building projects and other long-needed improvements to



Artist’s renderings (above and below right) depict the new dining hall planned at Camp Siloam, formerly known as Arkansas Baptist Assembly.

the camp’s facilities.

Wilkie said he struggled with raising the camp’s fees because he knew that affordability was a key component to the camp’s appeal and heritage. However, he said, he also knew the increase was necessary to provide Arkansas Baptists with a growing and vibrant camp ministry that would be sustainable for years to come.

Major changes always come with their challenges, yet in the case of Camp Siloam, they have been overshadowed by God’s blessings. Revenue from camp fees has more than doubled, and revenue from guest groups, groups that use the camp’s facilities during its off-season, has grown by more than eight times since 2010. The number of campers coming to the camp has also grown each summer.

This year Camp Siloam’s

board of directors approved a 20-year master plan, which includes a continued focus on improving all aspects of the camp. Wilkie said the camp’s goal is not to simply survive at a time when many Christian camps are floundering, but to achieve major goals over the next two decades.

Growth plan

The plan aims for the camp to host 15,000 campers per year, see 1,500 professions of faith and 150 commitments to missions or vocational ministry per year, to become a regionally recognized conference center, to host guests at least 255 nights per year and to use its experience to help other Christian camps experience a similar revival by 2035.

The plan also addresses the camp’s aging dining hall,

which was on the property when the Arkansas Baptist State Convention purchased it in 1923. Part of the master plan includes plans to build a new \$3.4 million dining facility, which will not only provide necessary updates like on-site bathrooms and a modern kitchen, but aesthetic updates, which will make it a more comfortable meeting place for campers and guests alike.

Future of Christian camps

While some people question the future of Christian camps, Wilkie said he believes they are more relevant today than ever.

“We are seeing and hearing that kids still want to come to camp. I think the more suburban and urban we become, the more important camp becomes for people to set apart a week in the summertime to connect with God and use His creation to do that,” said Wilkie.

“This is God’s place, and I

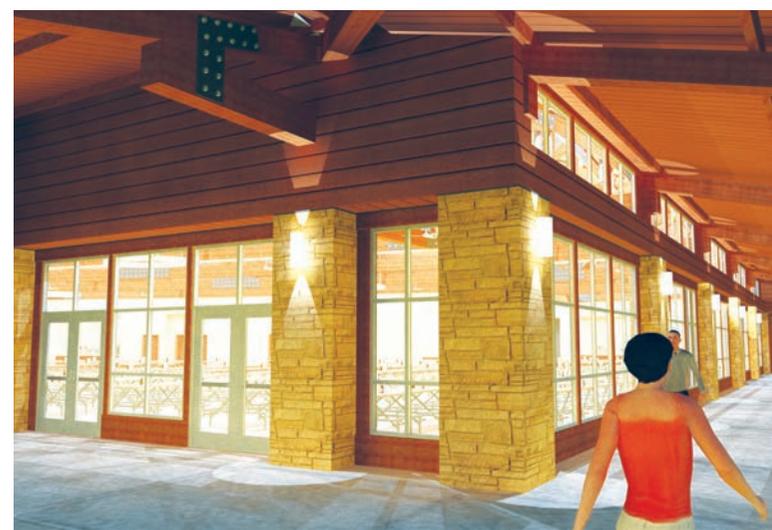
really believe with all my heart that God is honoring the fact that Arkansas Baptists have lifted up the name of Jesus for 92 years there, and He wants to preserve that place,” he said.

Camp testimonies

“I talk to several pastors each year, and I love to hear stories like Bill Elliff (pastor of The Summit Church in North Little Rock), who says, ‘I remember sitting outside in the pavilion at 9 years old. And I remember very distinctly God’s call on my life,’” said Wilkie.

“Or a pastor like Stuart Bell at First Baptist Centerton, who told me he felt the call to be pastor so strongly that he was outside on a stump crying over that call and a man walked by and said, ‘Son, what’s wrong with you?’ And he said, ‘I feel called to preach.’ And the man sat down with him and walked him through what that meant,” he said.

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.



Camp Siloam’s current dining facility is shown at left. It is nearly 100 years old and in need of replacement. The building does not have restroom facilities.



Children work as greeters for a tent crusade at the Bradley County Fairgrounds Sept. 20-26. The revival was sponsored by about 25 churches from multiple denominations in the Warren area. Photo by Jennifer Bryant

REVIVAL

continued from page one

a stick went straight through his foot. He said he spent the next week in the hospital where he had plenty of “soul-searching” time. When he was released from the hospital, he started calling churches.

Barnes admits as a new pastor, he didn’t know how to go about preparing and planning a tent crusade. He started by calling other Southern Baptist churches. He said he wasn’t sure how to go about calling other denominations.

One day, he received a call from a Free Will Baptist church that was interested in helping with the revival.

“I wasn’t scared anymore,” Barnes shared. “I went and talked to the churches. The Lord had been preparing these churches (for this crusade). Not even one minor detail has gone unnoticed.”

He noted that even when they needed ant poison, it was provided.

So about 25 churches of all different denominations and ethnicities within a 40-mile radius of Warren began planning a crusade. From securing the Bradley County Fairgrounds for the crusade to

having parking attendants prepared to help park cars to free bottles of water for anyone, the churches came together and worked together for the good of the kingdom.

The teacher of Barnes’ preaching class who told him he should hold a revival was Reuel Cruce, pastor of Ladelle Baptist Church, Monticello. Cruce preached all the revival services during the week where at least three people accepted Christ and there was an average attendance of about 320.

Thursday night’s sermon centered on “God’s Amazing Grace” based on Luke 23, where Jesus was being crucified between the two criminals.

Jesus promised the thief he would be with Him in paradise.

Cruce stated, “The thief didn’t get baptized. He didn’t take the Lord’s Supper. He never walked the aisle.

“The only thing he had to do was trust and believe. We make it too complicated! It’s easy! Trust Jesus!”

While the Warren tent crusade was going strong, First Baptist Church of Thornton was also holding their sixth annual tent crusade. Bringing People to Jesus was the theme of the crusade as the church realized that “God gave us a

very important mission to do the past six years,” said pastor Bobby George.

The church realized they needed to get out of their comfort zones known as church pews and rediscover the “go” in the gospel.

“This type of outreach is very challenging,” said George. “You can’t just throw up a tent and say, ‘We are having a crusade.’ There are some things that need to be done, ... prayer being first and foremost.”

The church starts in prayer months before the crusade. They have prayer all over their town every day the week before the event, hold prayer walks on the Saturday before it starts and then have 12 hours of continuous prayer.

“This is the key. Pray, pray, pray!” stressed George, adding, “Also, this is not the time for revival in the church. The church must be in revival before the crusade.”

George said there were 10 public professions of faith, and they had an average attendance of 90 each night.

“A big part of our success is a God-called evangelist,” said George. “I can’t say enough good things about Sam Moore. He is a man of God with a passion for lost people that preaches a true gospel and does not water it down.”

“The key to a successful evangelistic meeting is preparation,” said Moore, adding that “95 percent of the harvest is a result of the preparation.”

“Bro. Bobby did a good job at leading his people to prepare through prayer meetings and praying for lost people specifically by name,” Moore said.

Mary Cathey, a member of the Thornton church, shared why she loves tent crusades.

“There is just something about being outside, in an open-air setting, that makes

people more at ease. It is always a privilege to be involved in our crusade and to see how God works.”

The Warren revival also collected about \$1,300 for Hope Place in Warren and Monticello, crisis pregnancy centers, and the Arkansas Baptist Children’s Homes and Family Ministries. Hope Place has been instrumental in saving 30 babies from abortion since it opened six years ago.

Jennifer Bryant is the southeast correspondent for the ABN.

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The sample documents and information offered are provided for general information purposes and do not serve as substitutes for legal counsel and representation particular to your specific circumstances. It is recommended that recipients of the information should not act or refrain from acting solely on the basis of the information without seeking professional legal counsel.



For extensive coverage of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting Nov. 3-4, as well as related events and stories, visit arkansasbaptist.org/absc2015.



Car hits Markham St. church

LITTLE ROCK – Markham Street Baptist Church, Little Rock, sustained damage to its property when a car crashed into a retaining wall at the church the afternoon of Sunday, Aug. 16.

The accident occurred at 4:30 p.m. when a teenager “lost control of his automobile and crashed into a 2-foot-tall (retaining) wall that is adjacent to the sidewalk in front of our church along West Markham Street,” said Pastor James McClintock.

“Fortunately, no one was present at the time of the accident, and no one was injured in the accident,” he said.

The accident destroyed about 15 feet of the retaining wall, as well as the doors to the church. Slight damage occurred to the church itself.

Repairs are expected to cost about \$4,000, said McClintock. He added the church will bear the full weight of the cost because their insurance deductible increased to \$5,000 following a tornado several years ago.

McClintock said the driver and two passengers were apprehended after they fled the scene. The driver and a passenger were released to their parents and the other passenger was detained because he had a firearm.

“The driver was cited for ‘careless or prohibited driving, no driver’s license, hit-and-run with property damage.’” McClintock said.

“The automobile had an incorrect license number, and the driver had no license or insurance,” he added.



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BBB

continued from page one

testimonies to 1,069 people and saw 90 people accept Christ during the rally.

The Faith Riders booth had 85 volunteers from across Arkansas and other states including Alabama, Missouri, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Tennessee. Over the four-day event, the volunteers put in about 880 man-hours witnessing, prayer walking and maintaining the recycling for the entire BBB event, a service that allows the group to use a tent free of charge.

Hairston said after this year's event, one of the riders from Alabama told him, "I just wanted you to know. We have prayed about it as a group as we were coming home, and we want you to know that whatever you need next year, we will be back, God-willing, and we are going to bring more people with us."

In 2016, Hairston plans to have a Harley-Davidson motorcycle as a giveaway at the Faith Riders tent. According to the success of such a giveaway at other rallies, Hairston hopes it will increase the number of individuals that come by the tent by three to six times, meaning 3,000-6,000 people hearing a personal presentation of the gospel.

"As far as the number of people that usually accept Christ, it is usually between 8 and 10 percent of the people that you share with," said Hairston. "We could be looking at 600 people accepting Christ in this three-and-a-half days that we are there sharing testimonies."

Hairston said each individual who accepted Christ at the Faith Riders booth will receive a follow-up phone call from the volunteer who led

him or her to the Lord. These individuals' contact information will also be passed along to churches and ministries in and around their residences in order to help them find local churches to get plugged in to.

First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, which is located on Dickson Street, the main drag of the city where most of the BBB festivities take place, holds a bike wash each year during the rally. Rick McCoy is a member of First Baptist and one of the organizers of the event.

McCoy said this year is the 13th year that First Baptist has hosted its bike wash outreach. He said that this year five people accepted Christ as a result of the bike wash outreach.

"We have a breakfast on Saturday morning, and we had over 200 people. We probably had close to 50-plus volunteers. The GAs (Girls in Action) helped us with the breakfast for about the last six years or so. They take it on as a project," said McCoy.

"We give out patches, John 3:16 patches, and pins that go on their jackets. We have the church open, and we let them use our bathrooms and we wash their bikes. We don't take any donations or anything for any of it. It is all free," he said.

"We see how God is working," said McCoy. "I have been riding motorcycles since I was 8 years old, and if you get on one of those, it's kind of dangerous. I tell a lot of kids on those fast (bikes), 'crotch rockets' that I call them, that you need to know the Lord pretty close."

The South Main Baptist Church, Crossett, chapter of Faith Riders was among the volunteers involved in First Baptist's bike wash. It was the fourth year that volunteers from South Main Baptist had come up from south Arkansas

to share Christ and minister during BBB.

Stephanie Copes, member of South Main Baptist and board member of the *Arkansas Baptist News*, was among the 10 volunteers from the church who participated in the bike wash.

"I got to take my teenage daughter with us this year, and she got to help wash bikes. Myself and her, my husband and two of the gentlemen there from First Baptist actually got to pray with a woman who was about to have surgery," said Copes. "It was really humbling to see her come to us and just say, 'Hey, can you lay hands on us and pray for me?'"

Copes said that in addition to working with First Baptist's bike wash, South Main's Faith Riders chapter had a tent set up in which they gave away "Man of God" tire gauges and motorcycle-themed Christian literature.

Larry King, a member of South Main Baptist and its Faith Riders chapter, was one of the first volunteers to get involved with First Baptist's bike wash ministry when it began more than a decade ago.

"So many people are against motorcycle rallies because they think the people are just so bad. But we tell them that everybody needs Jesus," said



Fayetteville's Dixon Street is the main drag during the annual Bikes, Blues and BBQ motorcycle rally. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

King. "I tell them, What do you think Jesus would do if He walked up here? ... He said, 'It's not the healthy that need help; it's the sick.'"

"We try to tell the people in the churches that God is sending them to you and you ought to get out there and witness to them. We need more people to witness to the lost," said King. "So many of the church members will run - 'Let's get away from here, leave

town; I don't want to mess with them.'"

"The first two bikers that rolled in here, from Omaha, Neb., they came to get their bikes washed. ... We were washing their bikes, and Rick (McCoy) witnessed to them and led both of them to the Lord. And that is the whole purpose of the bike wash," said King.

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.

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Miller

Schedule

Morning session

Greg Addison, associate executive director of the ABSC

Sam Rainer, president of Rainer Research and co-founder and co-owner of Rainer Publishing

Afternoon session

Kevin Hamm, pastor of Gardendale First Baptist Church in Gardendale, Ala.

Kevin Cosby, pastor of St. Stephen Church in Louisville, Ky.

Ed Litton, pastor of The Redemption Church in Saraland, Ala.

Evening session

H.B. Charles, pastor of Shiloh Church in Jacksonville, Fla.

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas and president of the Southern Baptist Convention

Worship in music will be led by **Julio Arriola**, global worship pastor at Cross Church in northwest Arkansas. The theme of the event will be: **Transforming our walk, work and world as men of God**

For more information contact Tommy Miller, 2015 Pastors' Conference president, at pastor@unionvalleybaptist.com

Hunter honored for 45 years at FBC, Batesville

BATESVILLE – First Baptist Church, Batesville, honored Elma Raye Hunter for 45 years of service on Sunday, Sept. 6.

Hunter began working as church secretary on Sept. 7, 1970, and has served with many pastors and staff through the years.

“Elma Raye is a treasure not only to our staff and church, but also to the kingdom of God as she has touched so many lives through her service to our church,” said current Pastor Stacy Reed. “She has seen many of our members born, raised and then leave to go make their mark on the



Hunter

world. She will never completely know the love that our church family has for her and the difference she has made in so many lives.”

Hunter was recognized in the morning church service, and then a reception/luncheon in her honor followed.

Guests came from far and near for the service and reception, said Reed.

Rex Horne is former president of Ouachita Baptist University who served as youth minister at First Baptist during the 1970s, was guest preacher. Special music and ensembles also added to the worship service.

During the service, Hunter was presented with special recognition from the Association of Arkansas Baptist Secretaries, Independence Baptist Association and First Baptist. She was also presented with gifts from the staff and church at a reception following the morning service.

During the luncheon, many guests and members took the opportunity to share stories and memories of Hunter's time at First Baptist.

Hunter said she “will forever treasure and remember the sweet words that were shared, the special music, the outstanding sermon and the gifts from the church and the staff.”

“It was all simply overwhelming!” she said.

ABN announces Christmas card design contest

LITTLE ROCK – Have you ever thought it would be cool to see your art on a greeting card? Here's your chance! The *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) is conducting its fourth annual Christmas card design contest.

“We are excited to invite *Arkansas Baptist News* subscribers to submit their artwork for consideration,” said Tim Yarbrough, ABN editor/executive director. “We look forward to receiving each entry.”

The design should depict a religious Christmas scene and be an original artistic design and not a photograph.

The winning design will be published in an upcoming edition of the ABN and

will be used as the newspaper's official 2015 Christmas card, which is mailed to Southern Baptist entities and colleagues.

All entries must be received by Nov. 9 and will be judged by the ABN staff. The person with the winning entry will receive a \$100 gift certificate.

Entries must be emailed in high quality to jessica@arkansasbaptist.org. If the art is too large for email, it may be submitted via mail on digital media, such as a CD-ROM, to ABN Christmas Card Contest, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204. Submissions become the property of the ABN and will not be returned.

Contest submissions will be accepted from all ages. Each entry should be accompanied by a brief biography (100-200 words) and photo of the designer/artist.

Art or graphics submitted must be the artist's own original work or creation and becomes the property of the ABN for reproduction and distribution.

Artists must currently be a member of an Arkansas Baptist church and must be an ABN subscriber (or the child of a current subscriber if the artist is under age 18) either through church or individual plans.

For all rules, visit arkansasbaptist.org/christmas-card-contest.

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■ **Recreation Director** Baptist Home for Children, Monticello. Horse/farm management experience and a bachelor's degree are required. This full-time position includes salary, medical and life insurance and paid leave. Contact Randy Luper at (870) 367-5358 or rluper@abchomes.org.

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PASTOR

Cherry Street Baptist Church of Clarksville is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resumes to P.O. Box 378, Clarksville, AR 72830, Attn: Sylvia Ritchie. 479-705-2707.

Bethel Baptist Church, Norman, Okla., is seeking a **full-time senior pastor**. Located approximately 1 mile from the University of Oklahoma, we are a conservative Southern Baptist church that supports the Cooperative Program. Please email resumes to bbcnormanpsc@gmail.com or send to Pastor Search Committee, Bethel Baptist Church, 1717 W. Lindsey St., Norman, OK 73069.

Pastor: Lequire Baptist Church, located 12 miles south of Stigler, Okla., seeking pastor. Send resume: Lequire Baptist Church, 30079 W. Highway 31, McCurtain, OK 74944 or lequirebaptistchurch@yahoo.com.

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, Gillett, is seeking a **bi-vocational or retired pastor**. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, Attn. Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 117,

Gillett, AR 72055. For more information, phone Tricia Hayes: 870-548-2547.

Leonard Street Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time bi-vocational pastor**. Please mail resumes to Search Committee, Leonard Street Baptist Church, 625 Leonard St., Hot Springs, AR 71913. (No phone calls please.)

Trinity Baptist Church, Fort Smith, is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Please send resume to Trinity Baptist Pastor Search Committee, 3619 N. 6th, Fort Smith, AR 72904 or email mackjoretta@gmail.com.

Cedar Glades Baptist Church in Mountain Pine is seeking a conservative **full-time pastor**. Please send resume to Cedar Glades Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, 303 Gum Springs Road, Mountain Pine, AR 71956.

Armored Baptist Church is renewing search for **full-time pastor**. Please submit resumes, CDs or websites for review. Pastor Search Committee, linda@armoredbc.com.

First Baptist Church, El Dorado, is prayerfully seeking to fill the position of **senior pastor**. Email resumes to fbceldorado201@gmail.com or mail to Pastor Search Committee, 100 E. Peach St., Suite 350, El Dorado, AR 71730.

Reynolds Memorial Baptist Church, Little Rock, is a small church in search of a **bi-vocational pastor**. Mail inquiries to Reynolds Baptist Church, 7111 Fourche Dam Pike, Little Rock, AR 72206, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Bi-vocational music minister sought for mid-sized church in East End, Arkansas. Choir and praise team looking for a leader to help us lead our church in worship. Please direct questions or resumes to Doug Hlbard, Pastor. Church is located at 4701 East End Rd, Hensley, AR 72065. Email to: musicsearch@eebcar.com.

Danville FBC is seeking a full-time passionate **worship leader**. Send resume to P.O. Box 877, Danville, AR 72833 or fbcdan@arkwest.com.

First Baptist, Sherwood, is accepting resumes for a **part-time preschool ministry director** (26 hours per week). The director will coordinate programming for birth – kindergarten. Submit resumes to response@fbcsherwood.org.

Trinity Baptist Church, Searcy, is prayerfully seeking a **full-time associate pastor of students and discipleship**.

Email resumes to donnajohnson127@yahoo.com or mail to Trinity Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, 1601 E. Moore, Searcy, AR 72143.

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

First Baptist Church of Newport is looking for a **full-time youth pastor**. Please send resume to Pastor Greg Dills at the following email: pray4raingwd@gmail.com.

Monte Ne Baptist Church, Rogers, seeking **bi-vocational minister of music** to lead blended worship service. Email resume to mnbrogers@att.net.

Southern Heights Baptist Church is currently seeking a **full-time worship leader**. Resumes may be sent to shbc@shbc.arcoxmail.com or to 279 Highway 221 S., Berryville, AR 72616.

Union Valley Baptist Church of Beebe is seeking a **full-time minister of music** to lead our blended worship services. Located in central Arkansas, Union Valley has an average worship attendance of 500. This individual will be responsible for directing adult and youth choirs, as well as the praise band. Send resume to timsparks@century-tel.net.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

1999 Chevy 15-passenger van, 115,000+ miles, new tires, A/C good, \$4,000/obo; **2004 Chevy 12-passenger van**, 91,000+ miles, two new tires, A/C good, \$9,500/obo; **1992 International Bus** (37-passenger), 40,000+ miles, good tires, good condition, \$78,000/obo. Call Crow Mountain Baptist Church, 479-967-6352, or email cmbcoffice@centurytel.net.

Disabled retired pastor's library to be given away free. One book or hundreds. Call 501-607-1282 for more information.

Two buses, 25-passenger. Call George Foshee: 501-767-6020. American Bus Sales.

Davis Church Pew Upholstery, 30-plus years experience. Melton and Sandra Davis, Quitman, Miss., 601-776-6617.



75TH ANNIVERSARY – About 300 people attended Piney Baptist Church, Hot Springs' 75th anniversary celebration Sept. 27. As part of the service, Debbie Moore, from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, presented Pastor Larry Catcher with a plaque in honor of the church's 75 years.

On the move

Britt Currie is serving on the staff of Southside Baptist Church, Heber Springs, as worship leader/youth minister. **Josh Jordan** is serving on the staff of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, as student pastor.

Church life

Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, will host its annual car show at their north lot from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 10. The event will include a catfish lunch, snow cones, a playground and appearances by

characters Batman, Elsa and Cinderella provided by Cakes and Crowns. For more information, call 501-396-3303.

Jarvis Chapel Baptist Church, Crossett, will celebrate its 100th anniversary at 10 a.m. Oct. 18. Emil Turner, former executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will serve as speaker. Music will be provided by Greg Oden and family and local group Three For One. A fellowship meal will follow. For more information, call the church office at 870-364-4236.

Shepherd Hill Baptist

Church, Pine Bluff, will hold revival services Oct. 11-14. Guest speaker will be Johnny McAnally, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amity. Services will take place at 6 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 11, with The Hawkins Family in concert. Services will take place at 7 p.m. Oct. 12-14.

First Baptist Church, DeWitt, will hold revival services Oct. 25-28, led by David McCord, associational missionary at Calvary Baptist Association, and Jeremy Prine, minister of music and a youth minister at Southside Baptist Church, Stuttgart.



MORRISON CHAPEL CELEBRATES – Members of Morrison Chapel Baptist Church, Jacksonville, celebrated its 50th anniversary Sept. 27. North Pulaski Baptist Association and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention presented certificates to Pastor Mike Smith.

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A ministry of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries*

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PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

Ouachita's fall Tiger Serve Day attracts 850 volunteers

ARKADELPHIA – A total of 850 students, faculty and staff gathered Saturday, Sept. 26, at the new home of Ouachita Baptist University's Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community to kick off the university's fall 2015 Tiger Serve Day.

The student-led initiative, which is hosted each semester by the Elrod Center, has produced more than 70,000 volunteer service hours since the first Tiger Serve Day was launched in 1997. This semester's volunteers sported T-shirts featuring the Tiger Serve Day theme Serve Your Socks Off.

The 850 volunteers divided into 100 teams and completed 105 projects for the semiannual community service effort. Projects ranged from raking leaves, trimming bushes and

cleaning out flowerbeds to painting, window washing, cleaning gutters and washing cars. The projects benefit families, schools and nonprofit organizations throughout the Arkadelphia community.

The Tiger Serve Day leadership team includes student leaders who manage publicity, teams, projects and logistics. Their service sets the stage for volunteers to make a difference during the community service blitz.

"The Tiger Serve Day leadership team is the backbone of this day," said Judy Duvall, assistant director of the Elrod Center. "They are servant leaders with a heart for God and people."

"Being on the Tiger Serve Day leadership team has shown me how much preparation goes into the day," said

Reagan Parsons, a senior biology major from Arkadelphia. "It's such a neat experience to go into the community and serve practical needs like Jesus commands us to."

"Tiger Serve Day is a great stepping-stone that leads to further involvement in the community," Parsons added. "It is by far my favorite day of each semester."

"The element that makes Tiger Serve Day successful is the people who have a heart for service and community," said Tiger Serve Day logistics team member Jacob Jenkins, a junior Christian studies major from Benton. "If it weren't for the teams that sacrifice their time and energy to serve, Tiger Serve Day would not be possible."

"This day each semester is something I look forward to



More than 800 volunteers served around the Arkadelphia area as part of Ouachita Baptist University's semiannual Tiger Serve Day Sept. 26

most," said Lainey Weatherford, a junior biology major from Hot Springs. "It's such a cool experience seeing the

entire campus come together to provide an act of service to those who live in the community around us."

Emergency home celebrates 30 years

JUDSONIA – Baptist supporters of children and families in crisis looked back on three decades of ministry Aug. 30 as the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries (ABCHomes) celebrated its 30th year in Judsonia.

More than 120 people gathered at the Judsonia Emergency Receiving Home for a 30th anniversary open house and retirement reception for longtime staff member Juanita Gay.

Some in attendance reminisced of the home's long-term ministry to children, while others toured the home and thanked Gay for her service.

Supporters also had the opportunity to visit and mingle with current residents and houseparents. A few visitors even joined residents in a game of basketball.

David Perry, ABCHomes executive director, recognized Gay for 22 years of ministry to ABCHomes.

The emergency receiving home offers immediate sanctuary, day or night, and residential care until plans in the best interest of the child and family can be made. Residents often have suffered physical or sexual abuse, neglect, abandon-



Audrey McEuen (left) and Jamie Marter (right) and other members of Trinity Baptist Church, Searcy, hosted the open house for the Judsonia Emergency Receiving Home and retirement reception for Juanita Gay.

ment or destitution.

The 3,000-square-foot brick home can house up to eight residents, ages birth through 17. It includes four children's bedrooms, a large living and dining area, a counseling room and resident quarters for houseparents.

Opening its doors in 1985, the home was built and furnished by Calvary Baptist Association, with some funding by Little Red River and Black River associations. ABCHomes budgets, staffs and supervises the ministry. Derek

Brown serves as the home supervisor.

Over the years, the home has ministered to more than 1,500 children and youth, said Perry.

"The Judsonia home has provided care for many, many children, some that arrive with only the clothes they are wearing or bring with them a garbage bag of hurriedly packed personal items," he said. "These kids have been provided a safe place to live with plenty of love to go around."

Persecuted church conf. Nov. 13-15 in Hot Springs

HOT SPRINGS – First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, will host a conference on the persecuted church Nov. 13-15.

The Servants in the Crucible conference will be led by Nik Ripken, author of "The Insanity of God" and "The Insanity of Obedience," and will run from 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 13 to 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 15.

The event's purpose is to "assist believers globally, and the church locally, to develop a Biblical missiology of suffering," according to Ripken's website.

"Its aim is to equip participants to be bold witnesses and to plant reproducing churches in environments where there is persecution," the website states.

Ripken and his wife, Ruth, have spent more than 30 years on the mission field, according to promotional material. They have visited 72 countries and talked with more than 600 believers in areas of persecution.

"What they (attendees) will hear from Nik will be inspiring and challenging and give personal insight to the perse-

cuted world and how brave Christians are witnessing and making decisions knowing that they may face death," said Bill Bullington, a former missionary and a member of First Baptist who has known the Ripkens for years.

"We wanted to offer the workshop because in the world today where missions is becoming more dangerous and life for believers is becoming more dangerous, we as Christians can't shrink from the danger," said First Baptist Pastor John McCallum. "So we want to hear from a man who has engaged persecuted Christians in many countries around the world to hear the stories so we can be more effective in reaching the world for Christ."

For more information, contact First Baptist's missions director, Ken Wheatley, at 501-655-1144 or kwheatleyiii@sbcglobal.net.

To register, visit firshotsprings.com/conference or call the church at 501-624-3345.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention is partnering to make the event possible.

Submit your church news to jessica@arkansasbaptist.org

OCTOBER 18, 2015

Genesis 11 depicts how God mixed up the languages of the people at the Tower of Babel so they would scatter and fill the earth, fulfilling their God-given purpose. So the people began to spread, establishing settlements and cities. One of these settlements, not far from where Babel probably was, was called Ur of the Chaldeans. Terah and his family decided to migrate from Ur to Canaan; the reason is not clear. They got about half-way there and stopped in Haran, where Terah died. Some time later, God called Abram to complete the journey, and He established one of the most significant Covenants in all of Scripture (Gen. 12).

The Covenant includes just one requirement of Abram: "Go" (Gen. 12:1). The rest was God's action on Abram's behalf. God's promise was in six parts (Gen. 12:2-3):

- **Great nation.** Abram's family would grow to the point of world power status, even though he had no children at the time the promise was made.

- **"I will bless you."** Abram's obedience would lead to material and spiri-

tual blessings. He would be taken care of and live a generally happy life.

- **A great name.** Everyone would know his name.

- **"You shall be a blessing."** Abram's family would make great contributions to society and be held in high esteem.

- **Curses and blessings.** God would take care of Abram, fighting His battles for him and showing kindness to his friends.

- **"In you all the families of the earth will be blessed."** God was establishing Abram for a purpose. The covenant was not just for Abram, but for the good of the whole earth.

We look back and see that ultimately the blessing of the nations came through the person of

Christ. One person was called out of the nations to make a family to become a nation through whom the plan of redemption would be fulfilled. But as we look through the Old Testament, we see how the Israelites were to bring the nations around them in on the blessing of worshipping the one true God.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

When God calls

GENESIS 12:1-9

Matt Parker
Arkadelphia

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Develop conviction

DANIEL 1:3-5, 8-13, 17-19

Rick Melick
Cotter

about Taco Bell, it certainly keeps me from being a healthy and fit person. In fact, Taco Bell is my nemesis.

I resolved that I would avoid Taco Bell. Some days it is easy. Some days it is tough. I don't sit in the parking lot and tell myself that I should really avoid the burrito supreme. I do not "drive through" and argue with the speaker about why "I really shouldn't be doing this."

Taco Bell is not a part of who I want to be. In fact, it will keep me from reaching my goals. I must develop conviction.

Daniel developed convictions and lived by them (Daniel 1). He viewed life in terms of obstacles or opportunities. He chose to live like who he wanted to become, and God blessed him for his

conviction. God is not in the "taking" business. He is in the "giving" business. He does not take our sin "from" us; He takes it "for" us. He allows us to truly know what it is like to be free. Living our convictions puts us in a place where God can transform us and make us the person He created us to be.

OCTOBER 25, 2015

Years had passed since God had made His Promise; still there was no child. Abram had been to Egypt, had split ways with his nephew, had become very rich and had won the battle of five armies. God was fulfilling His Word, except that Abram still had no son. All the Promises would fall flat if there was no one on whom to build the nation. After these things, God spoke (Gen. 15:1).

In Genesis 15, God reminded Abram of His Promises, and Abram reminded God there was still no son. Since there was no son, the inheritance would pass to the oldest male born in Abram's camp. God acknowledged Abram's doubt, and strengthened His Promise by the metaphor of the stars (Gen. 15:5).

Then comes what may be the most significant idea in all the Scriptures: "Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness" (Gen. 15:6).

Abram wasn't righteous because of his obedience or because he followed

the Law. Abram wasn't righteous because of anything but his faith in God's Promise. And his righteousness wasn't earned at all; it was added to his account. As Abram believed, God proceeded to initiate a one-way treaty with Abram, God as the Actor and Guarantor to accomplish everything He had promised.

Genesis 15:6 is quoted three times in the New Testament (Rom. 4:3; Gal. 3:6; Jam. 2:23) to communicate that our eternal salvation is dependent on faith alone in Christ alone. As Abram believed and had righteousness added to his account, so our righteousness is dependent only on our belief in the promises of God.

Our Scripture today concludes in Genesis 15:13-16 with God's prediction of

the Egyptian captivity, through which Abram's great-grandchildren would become a nation to be used to bring God's justice upon the Canaanites. Through all of these events, the family chosen from among the nations would themselves become a nation to bring the blessing of eternal life to the world.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Waiting for the Promise

GENESIS 15:1-7, 13-16

Matt Parker
Arkadelphia

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Pray fervently

DANIEL 2:13-21, 26-28A

Rick Melick
Cotter

Communicating with God through prayer is a privilege for the believer in Jesus. The Apostle Paul encouraged us to pray without stopping (1 Thess. 5:17). Constant communication with God brings life-changing spiritual insight and power that puts us directly in the path of kingdom events.

We all have goals in life. I believe that no one wants to get to the end of life and look back, realizing they wasted life instead of invested it. In Daniel 2, Daniel found himself supernaturally placed in a situation where he had an opportunity to change the course of history. For Daniel to accomplish his mission, God had to intervene. When God spoke, Daniel had to listen!

Recently, during a Wednesday night Bible study, I asked members of our congregation what prayer added to their lives. In short, I asked the question, "Why pray?" Among the responses were a few surprises. One member explained that prayer provided a rhythm for her life. She found that when she prayed, she was being moved along by

an unseen Hand, finding herself at the right place and time for life-altering divine appointments. She explained that prayer was like a connection with God that kept her from the temptation to try to control her life.

Another member responded by saying that prayer provided peace. He described peace as the sense that all was right between him and God so all was right with the world. Even though life is not always pleasant and bad things happen, connecting with the divine Being who controls the billions of contingencies in life, brought a spiritual sense of security and well-being.

God-focused living always involves prayer. Many believe that prayer is complicated and requires specific spiritual words or sayings. Prayer is simply thinking thoughts toward God. If we are careful and take time to listen, we will hear the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit guiding and directing us through life. He allows us to make a difference in His kingdom long after we are gone.

Your church newsletter could be here!

SAVE MONEY SAVE TIME



Find out about the Local Church Edition of the Arkansas Baptist News

For more information, contact Becky Hardwick, business manager,
at 501-376-4791, ext. 5156, or becky@arkansasbaptist.org