



Churches reach 3,700, share Christ at 'Impact'

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK - "It was the bestest day ever."

The little girls' gap-toothed grin left little to doubt as she held her snow cone in her hand and smiled for the camera.

She was one of more than 3,700 contacts made through the ministry of Arkansas Baptists during the first-ever Impact Little Rock event held April 20. More than 20 area churches spread throughout Little Rock and surrounding communities to minister at 10 sites.

As a result of the day, 41 known professions of faith were made and



five churches saw an increase in visitors the following Sunday morning. In addition, four new community ministries will be started this year at two of the Impact Little Rock sites, which will possibly lead to two new church plants by the end of the year.

The pastor of missions and evangelism at Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, shared how the event got started.

He said he had a desire to commission 1,000 people "to go and impact our city in eternal, significant ways all in one day at the same time." The pastor asked that his name not be used for this article because of the

See **IMPACT** page 2



Argenta Neighborday 4/20 was one of many Impact Little Rock events held throughout Little Rock and North Little Rock April 20. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

Brunson named Mother of Year

MONTICELLO - Amy Brunson, member of Second Baptist Church, Monticello, has been named the Arkansas Baptist News (ABN) 2013



Brunson

See **MOTHER** page 10

Browns Chapel destroyed by fire - again

Tim Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

PARAGOULD - For the second time since 1986, a fire has destroyed the sanctuary of Browns Chapel Baptist Church.

Pastor Royce Boling said he was alerted at 11:30 p.m., April 23 that the church's main building, located at 2494 Greene Road 765, Paragould, was ablaze. He said by the time he arrived, the building was completely engulfed - fanned

by winds from a cold front passing through northeast Arkansas.

"They called me and told me that the fire alarm had gone off and they were trying to get in," said Boling, recounting a call from the South Greene County Fire Department. "I got there at a quarter to 12, and it was just through the roof then."

KAIT-TV, a Jonesboro television station, posted footage of the massive fire on its website shortly after the blaze. The video shows flames from the burning church shooting

high into the midnight sky.

No injuries were reported from the fire, which is under investigation according to the fire department.

Boling, who has served as the church's pastor for 33 years, said it appears the fire started around electrical switch boxes.

Ironically, a fire in 1986 destroyed the original Browns Chapel Baptist Church building.

"It happened in December 1986,"

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Churches join to reach bull riding community

Mary May Larmoyeux
Second Baptist Church, Perryville

PERRYVILLE - Grueling. The most dangerous 8 seconds in sports. Adrenaline-charged. That's what professional bull riding (PBR) means to riders like Arkansas-native Justin Koon. On Friday, April 12, more than 500 people crowded into the Perry County Fairgrounds to experience bull riding for themselves.

The Justin Koon Spring Bull Riding Invitational began with a partnership between Second Baptist Church, Perryville, and First Baptist Church, Russellville. It was the result of two churches coming together to reach Perryville - population 1,458 - with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It all began after Jay Ham, First Baptist Church equipping pastor, told Richard Gambill, Second Baptist Church pastor, that he was looking for a place to do a family mission trip: a nearby location where First Baptist families could do what Ham calls "kingdom work."

"This basically means we are willing to spend the time, money and effort to help a church reach

their community with no strings attached," Ham said.

Knowing they wanted to involve Koon in the weekend, the two pastors tossed around some ideas.

"We came up with a bull ride," Gambill said. "And God ... unfolded all of that and worked it all together."

When Koon heard that the two churches wanted to put on the event, he

jumped on board.

"It was the perfect time since I am sidelined from the PBR due to injuries," he said.

The weekend began on Friday afternoon with Koon speaking to students at the Perryville schools. He told them about the ups and downs of bull riding. Koon, who is still recovering from the severe injuries he received at the 2012 PBR World Finals, had the children's attention as he encouraged them to keep pressing on when troubles come.

Later that afternoon, groups from First Baptist went door-to-door in Perryville, telling people about the rodeo and sharing the gospel. That evening cars were lined up to get

See **PBR** page 7



Lily Johnson, member of Second Baptist Church, Perryville, prays during event.

Arkansas Baptist entities win BCA awards

LITTLE ROCK – A number of Arkansas Baptist entities – including the *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) – were recognized for excellence in communications at the Baptist Communicators Association (BCA) Annual Workshop held April 17-20 at the Capitol Hotel.

It was the first meeting held in Arkansas for the 60-year-old organization. The workshop, which drew Baptist professionals from across the United States, included professional development seminars ranging from photography and marketing to graphic design and social media.

Jessica Vanderpool, ABN assistant editor, won second place in a feature writing category for her “Mission Haiti” series. Vanderpool, 26, was also elected BCA membership vice president at the meeting. Tim Yarbrough, ABN editor, served as president of the organization in 2002-03.

“We are so proud of Jessica for the excellent work she does for the ABN. It is satisfying to see her work recognized by other communications professionals,” said Yarbrough.

Judges in the BCA competition

included editors of major newspapers such as the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, as well as filmmakers, professional photographers, art directors and graphic designers.

In addition to Vanderpool, other Arkansas Baptist communicators recognized included Stella Prather, director of communications for Arkansas Baptist Children’s Homes, who won second place in the Public Relations or Development Campaign category for her work on the 2012 ABCHome’s Thanksgiving Offering materials. Prather also won second place for promotional and advertising copy written for ABCHome’s Impacting Lives promotion. Prather is BCA’s president-elect for 2014-15.



Vanderpool

The Ouachita Baptist University office of communications received second place awards in two categories: the Video Promotion-Music category for “OBU Lipdub: Tunes Unleashed”, and the General Design-logo category for the Dr. Jack’s Coffeehouse logo.

Mary Lynn Burns, a 2006 Ouachita graduate and southwest regional correspondent for the ABN, was awarded a \$500 graduate



Ken Shaddox (top left), pastor of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, shares a devotion during the 2013 BCA Annual Meeting held at the Capitol Hotel in Little Rock April 17-20. Ouachita Baptist University (OBU), Arkadelphia, was among multiple Arkansas Baptist agencies that won awards. OBU’s logo design for Dr. Jack’s Coffeehouse won 2nd place in BCA’s general design category (below).

scholarship by the BCA, which is designed “to encourage the growth and professional development of college, university and seminary students in the field of Baptist communications.”

Trennis Henderson, vice president of communications at Ouachita, served as program vice president for the Little Rock workshop. He was assisted by Prather, Yarbrough and Matt Ramsey of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC).



IMPACT

continued from page one

mission work he does in other countries.

The pastor said in the midst of planning this endeavor, he met with Willie Jacobs, Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions ministries team member and urban strategist for Little Rock and Delta region, who had a similar desire. So they decided to join forces. Along the way, they teamed up with Patrick Henry, community life pastor for Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock. The result was a combination of people and resource that were sent out to impact Little Rock for Christ.

“It is an amazing example of what happens when there’s cooperation and communication among churches,” said Robby Tingle, ABSC missions ministries team leader. “When Immanuel Baptist, Geyer Springs and the state convention came together – they made it greater than it could have been if any single church had done it alone, and it allowed churches from all over the state to come partner together.”

Jacobs explained that Impact Little Rock was a “one-day event that provides an opportunity for churches to engage the city with the gospel through block parties, prayer walk-

ing, evangelism, dental clinic, light yard work, neighborhood cleanup, laundry mat ministry, etc.”

“The idea came about as part of our urban strategy, a pilot for churches to get involved in local urban ministry to reach the underserved and underprivileged with the gospel of Jesus Christ,” Jacobs explained, adding the goal was also “to assist new urban church planters in reaching their communities.”

One of the ministry sites was located in Argenta, a neighborhood within North Little Rock. Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, and Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, ministered by taking part in a block party deemed Argenta Neighborday 4/20.

Barbecue was smoked on site, and live music was provided by Preservation Theory, a band led by Scott Quimby, wor-

ship pastor at First Baptist Church, Stuttgart. Cliff Hutchison, worship pastor at The Church at Argenta, North Little Rock, also provided music during the event.

On the other side of the Arkansas River and some miles south, a similar block party was taking place at an apartment complex off Baseline Road in Little Rock. Children played on the playground and ate cotton candy and snow cones passed out by volunteers.

Henry explained Geyer Springs is beginning a ministry in the area and the block party was the first event



Preservation Theory, a worship band started at FBC, Stuttgart, performed live at Argenta Neighborday 4/20. The event was part of Impact Little Rock held April 20. Photo by Caleb Yarbrough

for them to hold there.

“We were so excited to be a part of Impact Little Rock,” said Jeff Williams, lead pastor at Geyer Springs. “What a great picture of the Body of Christ coming together to serve our community. It was an unbelievable day of seeing our church do missions, right here where we live, and allowing the community around us to see the Love of Christ through the church.”

More than 800 volunteers from churches and associations across Arkansas came to minister through the Impact Little Rock event, and a number of those entities brought block party trailers filled with out-houses, snow cone machines, games and more.

“The events would not have happened without the missions heart of these churches and associations,” Tingle said.

Jacobs requested prayers for Arkansas Baptists as they seek to impact urban communities for Christ.

“We truly do believe Job 24:12a, that ‘the groans of the dying rise from the city, and the souls of the wounded cry out for help,’” he said.

Jacobs explained that the hope for Impact Little Rock “is that the kingdom will be enlarged as a result of Christ being shared, people being disciplined through the new church planter and more churches becoming involved in local urban missions and ministries.”

He said they also want “to raise awareness that as a result of their gifts to Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering, they (Arkansas Baptists) are making an impact in the lives of people for eternity.”

And though they may not be able to know the full eternal impact of April 20 immediately, the teams can know this – for one little girl with a snow cone, “it was the bestest day ever.”

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org. Additional reporting by Caleb Yarbrough.



ABN online

View a photo gallery
of the Impact LR missions event at
www.arkansasbaptist.org/photo-gallery

George Beverly Shea dies at 104

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) – George Beverly Shea, the longtime soloist for Billy Graham Crusades, died April 16 after a brief illness. He was 104.

Shea and Graham were lifelong friends, for decades living only a mile apart from each other in Montreat, N.C.

“I first met Bev Shea while in Chicago when he was on Moody Radio,” Graham said. “As a young man starting my ministry, I asked Bev if he would join me. He said yes, and for over 60 years, we had the privilege of ministering together across the country and around the world.”

Graham added, “Bev was one of the most humble, gracious men I have ever known and one of my closest friends. I loved him as a brother.”

A lengthy *New York Times* obituary said that Graham wasn’t always the more famous of the two. When Graham asked Shea to sing at his preaching events in the 1940s, Shea already was a nationally known voice in Christian music, *The Times* said. Graham, at the time, was a “fledgling minister.”

“As has been widely reported, their early revival meetings were often advertised like this: BEV SHEA SINGS. Billy Graham will preach,” *The Times* said.

By the time old age led to the winding down of their ministry together, Shea had “faithfully carried the gospel in song to every continent and every state in the Union,” the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) said.

Franklin Graham reflected on the character of the man who was by his father’s side in ministry for more than six decades.

“Even though Bev was 10 years older than my father, he never acted his age,” Franklin Graham said. “He

was absolute fun to be with. Bev was one of the most gracious and unassuming men I have known. He was always encouraging and supportive, a man of deep faith and strong commitment to Jesus Christ.”

Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship, said it was hard to articulate the tremendous impact Shea had on church music as a singer, songwriter and musician.

“He was a Christian gentleman whose talent could have placed him on any music stage in the world. But his love for Christ compelled him to serve the kingdom of God,” Harland told Baptist Press.

Born in Canada, where his father was a Wesleyan Methodist minister,



Shea

walked in to express gratitude for Shea’s singing. Four years later, Shea and Graham led the first Billy Graham Crusade, in Charlotte, N.C., *The Times* recounted.

Shea appeared regularly on Graham’s weekly radio broadcast, “The Hour of Decision,” which began in 1950, and throughout his ministry, recorded more than 70 albums. He sang at the prayer breakfasts of U.S. presidents, including Dwight D. Eisenhower, Lyndon B. Johnson and George H.W. Bush, *The Times* said.

Perhaps the most popular hymn Shea sang, *The Times* said, was “How Great Thou Art,” which he sang by popular demand on 108 consecutive nights at a crusade in New York City in 1957.

“Mr. Shea’s vocal style was characterized by a resonant bass-baritone, impeccable diction, sensitive musical phrasing and an unshowmanlike delivery that nonetheless conveyed his own ardent religious conviction,” *The Times* said.

Shea received 10 Grammy nominations, won a Grammy Award in 1965 and was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Grammy organization in 2011, the BGEA said. In 1978, he was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, and in 1996, he became a member of the Religious Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

In 2008, Shea was part of the inaugural class of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists’ “Hall of Faith.”

Shea is survived by his wife, Karlene, and his children from his first marriage, Ronald and Elaine. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Erma, who died in 1976.



Go to www.arkansasbaptist.org/shea to see www.billygraham.org/s tribute to George Beverly Shea.

Shea grew up singing in the church choir and later studied voice with private teachers in New York while he worked as a clerk with the Mutual Life Insurance Company for nearly a decade, *The Times* said.

Shea composed the music to one of his best-known solos, “I’d Rather Have Jesus,” at age 23.

He was working as a staff announcer and singer at WMBI, the radio station of the Moody Bible Institute, in 1943 when Billy Graham, then a student at Wheaton College,

I am thankful for a praying and loving wife and family who prefer His fields ... no matter what, where or when.”

Dustin Clegg, deacon chairman at First Baptist, Wynne, said the church is excited to have Pucik as its new pastor.

“Bro. Don brings a wealth of wisdom, experience and leadership qualities to our church. It doesn’t take much time spent with him to know he walks closely and listens attentively to Jesus,” he said.

The church congregation officially voted to approve Pucik on April 14. He officially begins his duties June 15.

Prior to joining the ABSC, Pucik was editor and Internet producer for pastoral content at LifeWay Chris-

tian Resources in Nashville, Tenn., from 2002-03. Pucik has served as pastor, associate pastor, church administrator and in numerous other staff positions in churches in Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and California. Pucik was a former US2/home missionary with the North American Mission Board, serving at First Baptist Church, Beverly Hills, Calif.

In addition to Wynne Baptist, Pucik has served as interim pastor of a number of churches in Arkansas, including First Baptist Church, Monticello; First Baptist Church, Dumas; Eastside Baptist Church, Paragould; First Baptist Church, Arkadelphia; First Baptist Church, DeQueen, and Second Baptist Church, Arkadelphia.

Pucik and his wife, Gail, have six children.

Pucik leaves ABSC for Wynne pastorate

LITTLE ROCK – Don Pucik, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) since 2003, has resigned effective June 15 to become pastor at Wynne Baptist Church, Wynne.

Pucik, 52, a native of San Antonio, Texas, succeeded Jimmie Sheffield, who served as ABSC associate executive director from 1986 until 2003.

Following the pastor search committee’s selection and recommendation, Pucik posted on his Facebook page April 7 the following: “I am in awe, delighted and humbled by what God is doing and by the gracious reception of His people. My sense of His call at this moment has never been more clear.



Pucik

ABN Digest

Stories of interest to Arkansas Baptists

Pentagon says SBC site blocked for ‘malware’

WASHINGTON – The Pentagon blocked access to the Southern Baptist Convention’s website because it contained “hostile content” that was later determined to be malware, a military spokesman told Fox Radio April 25. Phone lines at the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville lit up following news and social media reports that the site was blocked. Pentagon officials deny the block had anything to do with the religious content of the nation’s largest Protestant denomination.

Bush library dedication takes on spiritual tone

DALLAS (BP) – An event that drew and estimated 10,000 people and all five living American presidents to Dallas on April 25 opened and closed in prayers referencing the prophet Micah’s call “to do justice and love kindness and walk humbly with our God” and success that “yet ultimately rests in Your providential care.” As the crowd of people waited for George W. Bush to speak during the dedication of the George W. Bush Presidential Library on the Southern Methodist University campus, a choir sang the words “as He died to make men holy let us die to make men free” in a rendition of “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” Such spiritual language accented the dedication of the library named for a president who counted himself among the Christian evangelicals who so strongly supported him.

KBC, Campbellsville plan open ‘dialogue’

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) – A group of Kentucky Baptist leaders will meet with representatives of Campbellsville University April 29 for “open and honest dialogue” in response to recent accusations concerning the teaching of its theology and science faculty, said Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Concerns regarding professors who are being attained and who allegedly reject biblical authority and biblical inerrancy have surfaced in emails, tweets and blogs of current and former students. The university recently chose not to grant tenure to a popular New Testament and Greek professor, Jarvis Williams, whom bloggers have identified as a conservative.

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

Make your church a welcoming place

During the years I served as director of communications at the Missouri Baptist Convention, our team hosted numerous communications and media events across the state in partnership with associations.

One of the most popular workshops wherever we went was “Putting Your Best Foot Forward by Practicing Good Public Relations.”

Whether churches realize it or not, they are always communicating – and it is either good communications or not so good communications.

And how a church handles its “external” communications impacts its visitor ratio.

For example, a co-worker shared the story of a man who recently relocated to Little Rock from another state.

He made the decision to visit an

area church – not because of the church’s wonderful website – but in spite of it!

“He looked at the other church websites in the area, but said he came to this particular church because it looked kind of ‘dorky,’” the co-worker smiled.

She went on to say that he was interested in the church because others in the area appeared to be “too

refined” and “elegant,” and he was looking for something in the area where he lived that was “more down to earth.”

Now, I don’t want to appear

to be an advocate of “dorky” church websites, but this is an example that every church should think proactively about its image, not only how an individual is greeted as he walks through the front door, but online, the appearance of its building and grounds and even how the phone



PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough



ing us and expecting the best! Tim Yarbrough is editor of the Arkansas Baptist News. Contact him at tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

Fatherless: A novel

James Dobson and Kurt Bruner, Grand Central, 2013

I first read about this book in a column on the Religion page of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. I was so intrigued by the story line and description that I immediately ordered a copy. It arrived to my home on a Thursday, and other than to eat or sleep, I did not put it down until I finished it – late in the afternoon on a Saturday. Thankfully, I have a very understanding husband and daughter who have realized that once I get engrossed in a book, they are on their own until I finish it.

This is a series of three books, “Fatherless” (available now); “Childless” (available in fall 2013) and “Godless” (available in summer 2014). After finishing “Fatherless,” my copies for the next two books have been pre-ordered, and I cannot wait for them to arrive.

As the book jacket states in its description, “‘Fatherless’ vividly imagines a future in which present-day trends come to sinister fruition. The year is 2042, and the long predicted tipping point has arrived. For the first time in human history, the economic pyramid has flipped.”

I have wished many times to have a crystal ball to be able to see into the future, but this is not

a future I ever hope to see. In the 2042 world, there are too many feeble and old versus vigorous and young. Transition centers are being set up to “help” the old and feeble die, marriage and children are considered a thing of the past, ‘pre-genetic’ testing is required if you do want to have children, Christianity is only for religious extremists and churches are almost nonexistent. It is not a world I would want to live in, but it is one I can easily see com-

ing to fruition.

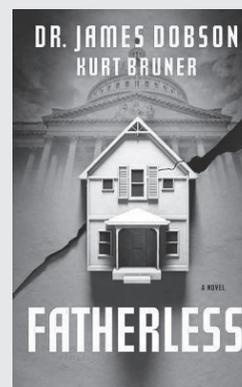
There are many characters and many story lines – Antonio, who chooses to die because of his disability, a burden to his family, considered a detriment in society, and his family’s reactions to that decision; Matthew, who desires to be a college professor but does not have the means to attend college unless his mother transitions and leaves him the money set aside for her care in her senior years; Julia, who is a feminist supporting the idea that women who marry and have children – “breeders” as she calls them – are somehow faulty in society, but at the same time finding herself yearning for that life; Kevin and Angie, who are a set of Christian parents finding it hard to follow their sense of Christian

values and ideals in light of the new world.

The scary part is I see a lot of truth in this book, even though it is supposed to be fiction.

This book is not for the faint hearted. It is an intense book to read. It was frightening and fascinating at the same time. Along with laughter and tears, cold shivers went up and down my spine the more I became engrossed in this book because I could easily see this becoming the future of America – my America – our America, an America we as Christians

must pray and fight to see that it never happens because if it does, may God have mercy on us all.



Correction: “The Insanity of God” book review published April 18 was written by LaVeta Sergeant and not Valarie Inman. The ABN apologizes for the error.



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Baptists Ask

If Old Testament prophets had common traits, what traits did false prophets have?

At least two Old Testament Books directly speak against false prophets: Jeremiah and Ezekiel. In Jeremiah 23, the prophet noted several characteristics. First, they delivered a message that God did not give (Jer. 23:16). Second, they forcefully became prophets whom God did not call (Jer. 23:21). Third, they shared revelations that God did not provide (Jer. 23:25). Fourth, they deceived people with dreams that God did not create (Jer. 23:32).

Ezekiel 13 contains a similar list. These “prophets” assumed themselves to know what was right by their own imagination (Ezek. 13:17). They were “jackals among the ruins” (Ezek. 13:4) who did not stand in the gap for their people (Ezek. 13:5). Though God did not send them (Ezek. 13:6-7) and they whitewashed the truth, they still acted presentable (Ezek. 13:10). They manipulated people by using questionable means to gain a following (Ezek. 13:17-18).

Although it is uncertain whether prophets became false out of desire or corruption, there are at least three reasons why they might have become false. Some simply wanted to sympathize with the king. Any prophet on the king’s payroll would not want to defy the king by declaring a message that opposed him. Others enjoyed their success and popularity so much they did not want to lose it. Since no one enjoyed bad news, they decided to keep it that way. Still others believed that God would preserve Israel regardless of their wickedness. As long as the temple remained in Zion and God was in Israel, they would survive.

Knowing a false prophet’s traits and motivation is not only helpful for understanding Old Testament prophecy, it is also beneficial for modern-day Christians. Learning about these “wolves in sheep’s clothing” will keep believers from much pain and heartache.

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



Gore

How to reach more people for Jesus

Question: How do we reach more people with the gospel and see an increase in baptisms?

Answer: It will only happen when more Christians live and share the gospel.

Unfortunately, a common misconception that is both unbiblical and destructive – permeates the Church. This became evident to me as a young minister when I answered a telephone call from a person concerned about “the heresy” being taught in a particular seminary. He was frustrated because a professor leading a revival at his church taught on Ephesians 4 and challenged the church members to get involved in witnessing. He strongly objected and told me it was the pastor’s role to share Jesus because church members are merely “dumb sheep led astray” and unable to share Jesus.

This idea is completely wrong and yet pervades the pews of every church. While most members would not have the honesty to ask the question in such a frank manner, they live out the same belief in their failure to share Jesus. Simply put, more church members must become soul-winners in order for Arkansas Baptists to reach more people. I do not want to be critical, but instead encourage our church members with the encouraging truth that God has equipped you for the joy of leading folks to Jesus Christ.

This is what the Bible actually teaches. Consider the church at Antioch in Acts 11. Laymen who left Jerusalem under severe persecution started the church by witnessing to people (Acts 11:19). When they left Jerusalem, they carried with them a deep dependence on the gospel. They shared Jesus everywhere they settled, and people were saved.



PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

Greg Addison

What an incredible encouragement for us!

Here is how it works. **First, they lived in complete dependence on the gospel.** They were committed enough to be persecuted in Jerusalem. When they faced terrible difficulties, they still depended on the gospel. Today people wilt in the face of trouble. They did not. They lived out the gospel in the midst of being persecuted and run from their homes. They shared with others the source of their hope – Jesus.

Next, they shared Jesus with everyone. We know this because they began sharing Jesus with Gentiles (Acts 11:20). They clearly believed the good news was for everyone. They viewed everyone, no matter their background, as someone who needed Jesus. Every person you and I meet on a daily basis is a person desperately in need of Jesus.

Finally, they were committed to seeing people saved. Witnessing was not a one-time experience. The Bible states “a great number believed” (Acts 11:21). That is not an accident, but the result of committed, consistent activity. Barnabas saw this as well. He encouraged them to continue with purpose of heart. He recognized their commitment. His message was to continue what they were doing.

Laymen are no less equipped today. The gospel is still the “power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16). God still desires to place His hand on your church (Acts 11:21). That is wonderful news! It means *we* are equipped to share Jesus. It means *we* can share Jesus and see people saved – if *we* learn the lessons from the church members in Antioch.

Greg Addison is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Cabot.

Thinking like missionaries

In a few days, I will be leading another backpacking team into one of the most spiritually dark places in the world. Many times our assignment is to conduct research to pass to missionaries who will have the assignment of evangelizing and planting churches among that particular people group.

This time, however, our job is to introduce an unreached and unengaged people group to Jesus Christ – for the first time ever. For many years, the jungle region we are entering has been “off-limits” even to residents of the country. With a certain amount of fear, two nationals (residents of the country) will be accompanying us in this effort. Our job is to assist the nationals in understanding the people and developing an ongoing mission strategy. Their job is to translate for us (they are also crossing language barriers), serve as “jungle guides,” and lead an ongoing mission strategy for the years to come.

In preparation for this effort, there are several questions we must answer: (1) How do we best articulate the concept of “God?” (2) What word (in their language) for “God” will best convey this concept and be most transferrable from one person to another? (3) How do we convey the concept of substitutionary sacrifice (Jesus died to pay our death penalty) in a way that shows the strength and love of Jesus and does not inadvertently convey Jesus as weak or deranged?

These are only a few of the many questions that must be answered. Missionaries have been praying and wrestling through linguistic and cross-cultural communication challenges for centuries. This is called “contextualization of the gospel.” When Spanish and French missionaries came to North America, these are some of the same questions they had to

consider. Now, hundreds of years later, right here in Arkansas, there are foundational questions we must answer and words we must define if we are going to accurately communicate the gospel in this culture.

Here are the two most critical questions:

(1) Who is “God”? Because of such a vast array of “god concepts” and “spiritual concepts” being conveyed through cartoons, movies, video games, books and cultural memorabilia over the past 30 years, there is a very broad understanding of the concept of “God.” God is thought of as a “force,” a “cosmic entity,” a “bearded man in the clouds,” a “spirit in the sky,” among many others things – all at the same time. Many people believe that God, Allah and the Great White Spirit are all the same god, but just known by different names. The God of the Bible, the god of the Quran (Muslim god), and the god of certain Native American traditions are not the same. They are vastly different.

(2) What is “sin”? In Arkansas, many people under the age of 35 might say that sin is breaking one’s own moral code or going against that which someone knows in their heart is right. This is not a biblical definition of sin. According to the Scriptures, sin is anything falling short of God’s perfection. The Apostle Paul writes, “all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

As we communicate the gospel in Arkansas, we must think like missionaries. You have some young “cultural translators” in your church. Enlist them to help you and your church identify and answer the critical questions and effectively engage your culture with the gospel. Then trust them to be your “cultural jungle guides.”

Eric W. Ramsey is as president of TCWM, based in Mountainburg.



ANSWERING THE CALL

Eric Ramsey

ABSC begins mission work in northern Haiti

LIMBÉ, Haiti – “Morning light” – during spring at the North Haiti Christian University (NHCU), those words are an oxymoron because the morning routine begins long before the sun rises.

“Without electricity at night, it is so dark when one wakes – disoriented, fumbling and fearful of having overslept – that no matter how many times the end cap of the deodorant is pushed – all the while thinking it is a malfunctioning, new, blue pocket flashlight – it will never illuminate,” reminisced Susan Watson, dean of students at Williams Baptist College.

Watson recently traveled to NHCU with a team of students to do mission work.

She recalled how it was still semi-dark at 7 a.m. as NHCU students gathered for English classes.

“It readily became apparent that these packed classrooms of bilingual students – already French and Creole proficient – were very eager to become trilingual,” she said. “They immediately considered us experts, and as a group, we found this very humbling, yet energizing.”

She said they taught in large and small groups, even going back in the evenings to continue unfinished conversations, exchange emails and do things as simple as correctly pronounce the Books of the Bible into a tape recorder that could be replayed after they were gone.

“These diligent students wanted to engage us at all levels, to hear and speak English in hopes of increasing their chances of future employment in their beloved country,” Watson said.

She said the students were eager to learn not only English, but also other subjects, including business and art. Several team members taught university classes as guest lecturers with about 65 business students learning about small- and medium-size enterprises for emerging markets and 15 fine art students embracing the seven elements of art with supplies donated by the members of First Baptist Church, Walnut Ridge.

When not actively teaching in the classroom, the mission team helped with a remodeling project by painting and cleaning an unused office area, as well as grading papers for various classes.

Afternoons were spent traveling to a new church plant, which Watson said was located “in a lush, densely tropical area aptly named ‘Eden.’”

When they went, about 200-300 children would meet the pickup truck full of Americans perched high in the back on wooden pews. As the truck jostled along the dirt roads with the team sliding up and down, the children ran alongside, eager for their arrival.

Once there, the team assisted



Haitian children play with mission team member Drake Smith's hair.

church staff with games, helping them develop relationships with the children.

NHCU and Eden are two areas where the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) is actively beginning work in northern Haiti after sending more than 100 teams during the past several years to the southern area of Haiti so devastated by the 2010 earthquake. Their partner in northern Haiti is Monel Jules, dean of the theology department at NHCU and pastor of Eden Baptist Church where Watson's team visited, and his wife, Joselie, who is a medical doctor.

Bob Fielding, ABSC missions ministries team leader and Haiti project coordinator, explained that students from NHCU will also be traveling on a mission trip to help at the Arkansas Baptist compound in Leogane, Haiti, where ABSC mission teams are housed throughout the year.

Watson reflected on the similar-

ties between NHCU and her own Williams Baptist College.

“The goal of NHCU is to ‘offer an education that is shaped by Christian faith, thought and practice’ and to ‘send out into the marketplace trained and respected individuals who will lead the people of Haiti out of its socioeconomic, political, cultural and spiritual stagnation,’” said Watson, quoting the university's website.

She continued, “These goals mirror Williams Baptist College's new vision statement: ‘To produce exceptional graduates prepared to engage local and global cultures though a Christ-centered worldview.’”

Watson added, “The plan is that these two institutions, by developing meaningful relationships, can help dispel darkness and give future generations illuminating hope by remembering prayerfully Psalms 89:15: ‘Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.’”

FIRE

continued from page one

said Boling. “In three months we had a new building. It was a miracle.”

Members of Browns Chapel held a prayer meeting Wednesday, April 24 on the parking lot amid the rubble of the church building; afterward church leadership gathered at Greene County Baptist Association offices.

Boling said the church's immediate plans are to meet in its Family Life Center, which also received some smoke and water damage.

“So if we can get enough chairs purchased, we're going to try to have service there Sunday morning, if it will accommodate,” he said. “We need to accommodate between 400 and 500 (people).”

Boling said members of the church are responding well to the crisis.

“The church is responding greatly. The love is even greater than it was. I have had nothing but encouraging words from all of our membership, because they are fantastic,” said Boling. “We do have one of the most loving churches that you'll find anywhere.”

David White, associational mis-

sionary with Greene County Baptist Association, along with representatives of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), contacted Boling immediately following the fire to offer assistance.

Sonny Tucker, ABSC executive director, said a team that includes White; Breck Freeman, church and community strategist with the ABSC missions ministries team; Tracy Archibald, pastor of Unity Baptist Church, Paragould, and Kim Bridges, pastor of First Baptist Church, Marmaduke, already has been formed to help “devise a plan of action” as the church considers next steps.

Additionally, Boling said members of the Paragould interfaith community are offering assistance to Browns Chapel.

“We have an outpouring of love from all of our sister churches,” he said, “not just Baptist, but Assembly of God, Lutheran – they have called me today and offered their assistance and help in any way,” said Boling. “That's a blessing.”

Browns Chapel has consistently been one of the top givers to the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries (ABCHomes).

“God blesses us, and we try to help someone else,” Boling said of the church's support of ABCHomes.

Contact Tim Yarbrough at tim@arkansasbaptist.org.



Fellowship of Retired Baptist Workers meets April 16

The Fellowship of Retired Baptist Workers in Arkansas met April 16 at Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock. The organization elected four officers at the meeting. Bob Holley (left) of Little Rock was elected secretary, Duaine Blackmore (right) of Conway was elected president, Jimmie Sheffield (not in attendance) of North Little Rock was elected first vice president and Pete Ramsey (not in attendance) of Van Buren was elected second vice president. A message was shared by Emil Turner, retired executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

'The Witness' revamps production for new season

HOT SPRINGS - "The Witness," a musical passion play that tells the story of Jesus' life through the eyes of the Apostle Peter, has undergone several changes since its last season. Changes include new scenes, reorchestrated music, three new musical numbers, indoor performance capabilities and plans to take the production into churches and communities.

Judy McEarl, executive director and president of the play's board of directors, has been with the play - which she says is "Arkansas' only musical passion play" - since its beginning 33 years ago. She explained that each year they make adaptations to the play, which is located in Hot Springs National Park, but this is the first time in about six years that major new scenes have been added.

These new scenes incorporate Isaiah's prophecies about the Messiah.

"And so the weaving of the Word of God through Isaiah's prophecies and their fulfillment is now underneath the whole presentation, and I believe that strengthens the entire production," McEarl said.

There are also three new musical numbers that "lift the production up" and take it "into a fresh new direction," said McEarl, who composed the new pieces.

Not only does the play have new music and new scenes, but also the cast and crew are set on what McEarl described as a "new pathway."

She said they have always performed for prisons, but this year, they sensed God calling them to



Stephen Bellomy (above right) plays Jesus and Mle Tipton plays Mary Magdalene in "The Witness."

begin taking their production to churches and communities for gospel outreaches. She said partnering with churches to do this is something they feel called to do (see related story).

So now, for the first time, they have the capability to perform indoors. McEarl explained they use a large video screen that adds visual dynamics, such as storm clouds behind Jesus' crucifixion.

The play debuted with its new elements at Woodlands Auditorium in Hot Springs Village, and McEarl said it was "very well received."

Though they will be on the road at times, they will still perform at the amphitheater this summer and fall.

She said church leadership and staff and their families - as well as ministry groups - are not required to pay to see the production.

"Our bottom line is ministry to souls and exalting Jesus," she explained.

When asked how she has done the same thing for 30 years, she said "there is not one time that we've done 'The Witness' that the presence of God has not been there."

"I know that souls are being affected for eternity because of His presence with us," she added. "And where else would I want to be? ... I've had many people say that it's life-changing - that it's changed them for the rest of their life after they've come to 'The Witness.'"

Performances at The Witness Amphitheater at Panther Valley Ranch in Hot Springs will begin at the end of June.

For more information and production dates, visit witnessproductions.com.

'The Witness' hits the road

HOT SPRINGS - Cast and crew from "The Witness," a musical passion play based in Hot Springs National Park, want to take their production into churches and communities this season for the first time ever.

Judy McEarl, executive director and president of the play's board of directors, said one of the things that sparked this new path was the troupe's trip to Singapore to help a megachurch establish their own version of the play. Cast members Stephen Bellomy, worship leader of Lee Chapel Baptist Church in Pearcy, and Dewayne White, who attends Hot Springs Baptist Church in Hot Springs, were part of the small team sent to help the Singapore church get their play off the ground.

Thousands of people attended the church's production, and hundreds accepted Christ, McEarl said.

"And I think that kind of jerked us up and put us on a new page, and we saw that God was wanting to do something different (with 'The Witness')," she said.

The cast and crew were also challenged to regroup and refocus after last season's lower-than-average attendance due to weather.

She said they were willing to go back to doing productions only in prisons. But instead, God "wanted to birth new production and also maintain the prison ministry."

McEarl said, along with performing at their amphitheater in Hot Springs, they feel called to partner with churches and communities to reach those around them.



Pete Gray as Isaiah in "The Witness"

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Celebrate the Word at Magic Springs this summer

HOT SPRINGS – Magic Springs Water and Theme Park is once again hosting Celebrate the Word in 2013.

The multiweekend event starts in June and features a number of contemporary Christian performers at the park.

“This is our second year hosting Celebrate the Word,” said Steve Honeycutt, Magic Springs general manager.

“Guests who come during a Cel-

ebtrate the Word weekend will also have access to exciting rides and attractions located throughout Magic Springs,” said Honeycutt.

Building 429, the Gospel Music Association’s New Artist of the Year in 2005, kicks off the first weekend June 14-15.

Other performers during the weekend include Toby Mac, the Capital Kings and illusionist Harris III.

Splash Island, a new attraction at the park, will be open for the first Celebrate the Word event. Splash Island stands more than four stories tall and features 10 colorful water slides, and a large tipping bucket that dumps 1,000 gallons of water every 10 minutes, said Honeycutt.

“It’s the coolest way to beat the heat,” said Honeycutt. “With the addition of Splash Island, our guests will have another new way to be

active, stay cool and have fun as a family. Plus, in addition to the water play elements, this major water park addition will include new seating, shade and room to relax.”

A cartoon character series has been added to the park in 2013, said Honeycutt. Characters to be featured during the summer include Spider-man, Dora the Explorer, SpongeBob Squarepants, Hello Kitty and Scooby Doo.

‘The Great Passion Play’: 46th season begins May 3-4

EUREKA SPRINGS – The 46th season of “The Great Passion Play” outdoor drama is set to open Friday and Saturday, May 3-4.

Featuring a cast of hundreds, the play is performed amid a 550-foot “historically accurate” stage and brings to life the epic drama surrounding Christ’s last days on earth, including His death, resurrection and ascension.

“The Great Passion Play” runs nearly two hours and features an original musical score composed by Phil Perkins and performed by the National Philharmonic Orchestra of London. The 2013 performance will feature Arabian horses, donkeys and dozens of birds, as well as three camels donated by the Wild Wilder-

ness Drive-through Safari in Gentry.

In November 2012, the nonprofit foundation that runs “The Great Passion Play” announced that it would close its 46-year run. However, with the help of Randall Christy of The Gospel Station Network out of Ada, Okla., Organizers raised \$75,000 in 10 days to secure a 2013 season. Christy, who now serves as the president of “The Great Passion Play’s” nonprofit foundation, said he is grateful to have a part in keeping the attraction open.

“The play has been saved for years to come for future generations,” he said.

Kent Butler, a cast member and assistant executive director, said the play has been improved.

“The pacing of the play is much better, and overall, it is much more dramatic,” said Butler. “After all, Jesus called them miracles; we have to call them special effects. We want people to be awe-inspired and amazed at the miraculous life that Jesus Christ lived.”

“The Great Passion Play’ is the foundation of what we do. At the same time, we recognize that there are many other talented Christian-friendly artists. In that spirit, we will be hosting a concert at the Eureka Springs City Auditorium featuring John Michael Talbot on Thursday, Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m.,” said Butler.

“We look forward to ... having others share their outstanding talents,” Christy added.

Many visitors come to Eureka Springs each year to view the famous seven-story-tall Christ of the Ozarks memorial statue, another attraction on the play’s grounds.

Other attractions include recreations of Jerusalem’s Eastern Gate and of the Holy Land, the Sacred Arts Museum featuring hundreds of pieces of rare works in 64 different forms, the Bible Museum with 6,000 Bibles (including an original 1611 King James Version of the Bible) and artifacts dating back to 2,000 B.C.

The play’s 2013 season runs from the first weekend of May through the last weekend of October. For more information, visit www.GreatPassionPlay.org.

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July 26-27: Family/Youth Weekend	Oct. 18-19: Cancer Survivor Weekend
Sept 6: Hometown Seniors' Night	Oct. 25-26: Closing Weekend Extravaganza
Sept. 13-14: Teachers' Weekend	Call 501-623-9781 for more details.

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MOTHER

continued from page one

Mother of the Year.

Brunson was presented with a gift card during the April 28 worship service at Second Baptist Church, where Jimmy Albrecht serves as pastor.

The annual contest asks readers to nominate mothers by submitting an essay titled, "A Tribute to a Godly Mother."

"Amy is a fine woman of God who constantly demonstrates her faithfulness by service and commitment, and she always does it with a smile on her face," said Albrecht. She is a single mom who raised two fine young men, bringing them up in the ways of the Lord. She has touched the lives of many by being a teacher at Monticello High School, as well as serving in the nursery at Second Baptist. I cannot think of any mother more qualified to be Mother of the Year than Amy Brunson."

The nomination of Brunson was submitted by Shelly Mullins, a member of the church.

"While Amy deserves this honor just based on how exceptionally she raised her own sons, there is another reason that I choose to honor her," wrote Mullins. "Three years ago, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. ... Amy stepped into a world of tap

shoes and tutus and became a second mom to my girls during this time."

She continued on, describing how Brunson ministered to Mullins' family (read tribute below).

Upon learning her nomination of Brunson was selected, Mullins said, "There's just no one more deserving than her. This is just fantastic and in no way can repay everything that she has done for me and my family. ... She deserves every bit of it."

Brunson has two sons, Pete Brunson, a student at Ouachita Baptist University, and Troy Brunson, a student at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

A Tribute to a Godly Mother:

I nominate my dear friend Amy Brunson for the ABN Mother of the Year award.

Amy is a wonderful mother in her own right. As a single mom, she has raised two godly young men. They are respectful, courteous and honorable young men, which is a true reflection of how they were raised. While Amy deserves this honor just based on how exceptionally she raised her own sons, there is another reason that I choose to honor her.

Three years ago, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I underwent four surgeries and chemotherapy. My daughters were 7 and 9 at the

time. My husband was amazing, but the girls' everyday activities and caring for me were a lot for a dad to handle. Amy stepped into a world of tap shoes and tutus and became a second mom to my girls during this time. We didn't ask her to do this. She just did. Her boys were in high school, so her days of running after school taxis were over, but she gladly with a servant's heart carried my girls to dance, soccer, choir or wherever they needed to be. She helped with meals, shopping and she made herself available to my girls for whatever they

needed. Fourteen months after my diagnosis, my oldest daughter had emergency brain surgery, and again, Amy stepped in for my youngest daughter so my husband and I could be with our oldest.

Even today, Amy continues to make herself available to my girls regularly. Our family is so grateful for Amy and the blessing she has been in our lives. She is a wonderful friend, a role model for moms (single and married) and we love her like she is part of our family. She is truly a gift from heaven and deserves this honor.

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Strategic plan heard by Williams Baptist trustees

WALNUT RIDGE – The board of trustees at Williams Baptist College (WBC) heard about the school's new strategic plan at its meeting Friday, April 12. The board also approved a \$10.5 million budget for

the upcoming school year and affirmed promotions for two faculty members.

Most of the meeting was devoted to a detailed explanation of the Diamond Destiny Plan, a three-year

strategic plan that Williams will undertake. The plan's name is drawn from the college's 75th anniversary, which will be celebrated in 2016.

"The Diamond Destiny Plan provides the steps needed to capitalize on our strengths, improve our vulnerable areas and embrace strategic opportunities to expand our mission," said Williams President Tom Jones.

A 15-member panel composed of faculty and staff members, administrators and students has been crafting the strategic plan since last summer. They evaluated various aspects of the four-year, liberal arts college and examined its future needs. The result is a plan consisting of six broad goals and 27 supporting objectives.

"We are confident the Diamond Destiny Plan will guide us in building on a strong foundation, allowing us to expand our mission into areas untouched by Williams to date," Jones said.

Among the objectives is a plan to launch online classes in fall 2013. Williams is also making a concerted effort to recruit international students – in addition to expanding its athletic program – as a way to build enrollment.

The Diamond Destiny Plan also calls for Williams to expand an array

of academic and student services, as well as a fundraising campaign to provide new facilities for academics, athletics and resident students.

In addition, the plan reinforces the spiritual dimensions of the Christian college.

"The Diamond Destiny Plan will help assure that Williams remains grounded in its historic Christian identity," said Kenneth Startup, vice president for academic affairs. "The history of Christian higher education too often reveals the possibility of drift in this matter of Christian identity. This plan helps prevent that from happening at Williams by building in some structural safeguards."

The board also approved Williams' budget for the coming year. The budget includes financial assistance to incoming freshmen affected by the recent legislative reductions of the Arkansas Challenge Grant.

In addition, two Williams faculty members were promoted at the meeting. Brad Baine, chair of the Williams Teacher Education Program, and Melissa Hobbs of the science faculty were both promoted from the rank of assistant professor to associate professor.

Williams is a four-year college owned and operated by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC).

IMB appointment May 15

ROGERS – About 60 International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries, four of whom have Arkansas roots (names withheld for security purposes), will be appointed May 15 at a special service to be held at Cross Church located at 2448 Pinnacle Hills Parkway, Rogers.

The appointment service, set to begin at 6:30 p.m., will include praise and worship and testimonies from missionaries being appointed, as well as a message from IMB President Tom Elliff. Ronnie Floyd, Cross Church pastor, will also speak. Special music will be provided by the Cross Church worship choir and band.

Those appointed at the service will join the ranks of almost 4,900 missionaries serving worldwide – missionaries who come from all types of backgrounds. In 2012 missionaries appointed included a nurse, a deer meat processor, a

nanny and a doctor, according to a Baptist Press article.

"Few things in a Christian's life have the capacity to stir hearts, instill vision and change a life like a missionary appointment service," said a letter co-authored by Elliff and Floyd.

"These are never-to-be-forgotten events for anyone, but especially for Southern Baptists. By giving through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Offering for World Missions, Southern Baptists provide support to the International Mission Board, one of the largest missionary agencies of its type in the world," the letter stated.

The last missionary appointment service held in Arkansas was in 2002.

For more information about the appointment service and related meetings, call 800-999-3113.

Leadership Profile for 2013 ABSC Nominating Committee

Members of the Nominating Committee for the 2013 Arkansas Baptist State Convention invite Arkansas Baptists to submit names of persons to that committee to consider when they bring the convention nominations for state committees and boards. This recommendation will not insure nomination, but the committee will consider each recommendation. The committee will not contact any person recommended until they approve the nominations. The Nominating Committee will hold its first meeting in June and needs all recommendations no later than June 1. Members of the committee are: Eric Moffett, Chairman; Mark Fischer; Gary Hunnicutt; Larry Lloyd; Doug Hibbard; Butch Riddle; Mike Bell; Edwin Hughes; and Gary Wise.

June 1 is the deadline for recommendations.

PLEASE PRINT

Nominee _____
 Minister Layperson Occupation _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Member of what church? _____
 Association _____

Current leadership responsibilities

Professional _____
 Civic _____
 Church _____
 Association _____
 State or SBC Boards _____

Past leadership experience (within last five years)

State or SBC Boards _____
 Association _____
 Local Church _____

Personal

This person's greatest contributions, based on his or her past record, knowledge and experience, should be in the area of: _____
 Is this person currently active in a local church? Yes No
 Is this person able to be away from family and work for at least one or two days, three times a year? Yes No
 Give the name and phone number of at least one person, other than his or her pastor or associational missionary, who knows of the nominee's involvement in Baptist life. _____

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rank this person's understanding of and commitment to the Cooperative Program? (Circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (10 being the highest rating)

Check the board or committee on which you believe this person could best serve.

Board of Trustees	Committees
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Baptist Assembly	<input type="checkbox"/> Constitution and Bylaws Committee
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<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Baptist Foundation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Baptist News	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., Memphis, Tenn.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Board of the ABSC	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ouachita Baptist University	
<input type="checkbox"/> Williams Baptist College	

Print Name _____
(Name of person making recommendation)
 Signature _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

**MAIL THIS FORM TO: Ms. Marty Davis, c/o Executive Director's Office,
 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204
 or fax to 501-410-1603.**



Serving community

A number of Arkansas Baptist churches recently shared the love of Christ by reaching out to their communities through various service projects during City Connections Day of Service April 20. Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, (right) sent 14 volunteers to a shelter for abused women and children for a day of spring cleaning. The same day, members of The Summit Church, Maumelle, (above) invested in the community of North Little Rock by working in various locations.



Trike-a-Thon

First Baptist Church, Blytheville, held a WEE-Care Trike-a-Thon. At the event, 3- and 4-year-old children rode tricycles around a course laid out in the parking lot of the church for an hour. The riders raised \$1,093 for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital through donations made by sponsors.

ABN Advertising Sales Position

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Hispanic family conf. held

LITTLE ROCK - The Hispanic Family Conference held April 20 at Markham Street Baptist Church, Little Rock, had a great impact on Hispanic families, with 230 people attending the conference from Central and Southern networks of Hispanic churches.

Elias Camp Londoño, Hispanic consultant with Union Baptist Association in Houston, served as speaker. Following his message, several attendees went to the altar in a show of commitment to apply the principles taught in their lives and families.

Eli A. Zúñiga and vocalists from Mision Bautista Ebenezer, Russellville, led worship. Zúñiga challenged

youth to live lives that model the life of Joseph in the midst of temptations and trials.

Childcare for the event was provided by Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, as part of the Impact Little Rock event, which took place on the same day. Francisco Gomez, Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions ministries team member, said the event was a picture of teamwork, with Hispanic churches, Anglo churches, the Arkansas Hispanic Baptist Fellowship and the ABSC all working together.

The event was made possible through the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering.

Classifieds

PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Lewisville is seeking a **pastor**. Send resumes to Pastor Search Committee at P.O. Box 97 Lewisville, AR 71845 or email to lwfbc@whiti.net.

Crosby Baptist Church in Searcy is prayerfully seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Please send a resume to darryl_womble@hotmail.com or mail to 390 Panther Creek Road, Searcy, AR 72143.

Elliott Baptist Church, Camden, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Send resume to Elliott Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, 4189 Hwy. 376 South, Camden, AR 71701. Phone: 870-231-6411.

Salem Baptist Church in Stephens is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Please send resume to John Impson, 1190 Columbia 63, Stephens AR 71764 or email at johni@huggshall.com.

Small rural church is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Send resumes to Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, 9127 Sulphur Springs Road, Pine Bluff, AR 71603.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Sardis, is looking for a church **pianist**. If interested, please contact Ray Morris at 501-366-6517.

Walnut Valley Baptist Church is currently seeking **part-time worship pastor**. Contact Tim Forrest, tforrest@cablelynx.com or send to 1698 N. Hwy. 7, Hot Springs, AR 71909.

First Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, is seeking a **part-time youth pastor**. Send resume to 6501 South Hazel Street, Pine Bluff, AR 71603 or email to thorntonwk@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Des Arc, is seeking a **full-time student minister**. Bachelor's degree required. Send resume to P.O. Box 578, Des Arc, AR 72040.

Camp Paron is seeking a **married couple** willing to work flexible hours and varied task. Housing may be included as part of the pay package. Call 501-837-7362 for more information.

Holly Springs Baptist Church, Holly Springs, has two bi-vocational positions open - **youth pastor** and **worship leader**. Call David Dillard at 870-687-1590 for information.

Music/worship director needed at Brookland Baptist Church. Contact Michael at 870-761-2916 for information.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in West Little Rock is looking for a **part-time worship pastor** to join our team as we strive to make a big deal of the BIG God we serve! Send resume to Pastor Chris Kinzler at ckinzler@pleasantgrovel.org.

Star City First Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time associate pastor of students and worship**. Prayerfully send resume to First Baptist Church, Search Committee, P.O. Box 368, Star City, AR 71667 or email detrimcgee@yahoo.com. Fax: 870-628-4184.

First Baptist Church, Big Spring, Texas, is seeking **full-time minister of music**. Please email

resumes to fbcbigspringmm@yahoo.com or mail to 705 W. FM 700, Big Spring, TX 79720.

Youth pastor: A healthy, growing, mixed-generational church focusing on unity, evangelism, small groups and missions is looking for a full-time youth pastor for grades 6-12. Send resumes to Waterloo Road Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 3100 East Waterloo Road, Edmond, OK 73034 or resume@waterlooroad.org.

First Baptist Church, Henderson, Texas, has an opening for **children's minister full-time** with benefits. Send resume to Patsy Morrison, 207 W. Main St., Henderson, TX 75652, or email to pmorrison@thefbc.org.

Life Line Baptist Church of Little Rock is seeking a **minister of worship and music** to lead in all aspects of worship and choirs. We are looking for someone with a vision to build a comprehensive music ministry, for a diverse and intergenerational congregation. We are seeking a highly motivated person of godly character who loves the Lord, loves the church and has a strong record of working well with others to help people grow in their faith through worship. The person will work closely with the pastor, church staff and teams of church members to craft worship services that are Spirit-formed and Christ-centered. Key job functions include: organize/direct choirs, ensembles, instruments, handbells, multimedia, drama, special worship events; lead worship vocally and instrumentally. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in music ministry, music educa-

tion or music performance; established experience in choral conducting and church musical program development; proven worship service leadership. Please email resume and cover letter to office@lifelinebaptist.org. Submittals must be received no later than May 10, 2013.

An American Baptist church in Huntington, W. Va., is seeking a **full-time, seminary-trained minister of music** who is capable of blended worship styles. Fifth Avenue Baptist is a historical church with a comprehensive music program, including children, youth, instrumentalists, handbells, ensembles and a chancel choir. For more information, contact Katherine Pyles at 304-523-0115 or submit a resume with three references to katherinep@fifthavenuebaptist.org.

The Baptist Student Union at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg is seeking a **full-time campus minister**. Request a job description or submit resumes at ucmbsuboardofdirectors@gmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

New Life Children's Home, P.O. Box 248, Oil Trough, AR 72564. Website: newlifechildrenshome.org. **Full-time houseparent** position available. 870-264-3757 or 870-264-9358. After hours: 870-217-9125 or 870-217-1371. Email: newlifechildrenshome10@yahoo.com.

T-211-1 Series, HAMMOND Organ. Contact: Donna Faulkner at 501-993-8391.



Dwain Prosser shares the gospel to mechanics in Manila, Philippines.

Pastor impacts Philippines

MANILA, Philippines - During the month of February while so many were celebrating Valentine's Day, Dwain Prosser, pastor of evangelism at the Church at North Hills, North Little Rock, was showing Christ's love by teaching others how to share the gospel in the Philippines. Prosser, a former military man, taught Evangelism Explosion classes in multiple churches

in the Manila area. There were 175 professions of faith made as teams went out to "practice" sharing the gospel. As surrounding churches saw the impact of this ministry, they requested Prosser to return in July to teach Evangelism Explosion classes in six more churches. Prosser is anticipating this could translate to 500 or more additional professions of faith.

Arkansas Baptists make 'mission connections'

LITTLE ROCK - One hundred Arkansas Baptists from 52 churches made one or more "mission connections" on April 11 and 13 with church planters from Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Alaska, South Dakota, Wichita, Winnipeg, Beverly Hills and Botswana during the Mission Connection event. During the event, each presenter had 10 minutes to share with everyone, and after lunch, presenters had their own rooms where they could visit with attendees during three 40-minute breakout sessions.



Hixson

"Attendees choose which three to meet and get 'the kitchen sink' from," said Bob Fielding, Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions ministries team member who coordinated the endeavor.

Arkansan Doug Hixson, serving as a church planter in Spearfish, S.D.,

said, "This event is a great way for Arkansas churches to connect with God's work all over the nation and the world. This event has become one of our best ways of engaging partnerships with the local church. This summer, 80 percent of our groups will come from Arkansas. This work is what will help us reach out into areas that need new churches and share the love of Christ with them."

Second Baptist Church, Jacksonville, hosted the April 11 event, and North Main Baptist Church, Jonesboro, hosted the April 13 event.

"This was our fourth year to do Mission Connection," Fielding said. "I don't think we have had a presenter that did not leave with or eventually connect with an Arkansas church partner."

The next Mission Connection will be in fall 2014.

Church life

First Baptist Church, Sherwood, is sponsoring a community ministry day May 4 in an effort to love people in Jesus' name. "Home" and "away"

teams will be serving the community in various capacities. The "home" team will focus on outside property repair. The "away" team will focus on an apartment complex near the church.

Lakeview Baptist Church, Arkansas, will hold a community hot dog and chili dinner followed by a Southern Gospel Music Fest May 4. The event begins at 5 p.m. Performers include Pardoned Ministries, Hallelujah Harmony Quartet, New Reason and Mike Franklin Ministries. Everyone is invited. For more information, call 870-260-5918 or 870-540-6827.

Walnut Street Baptist Church, Jonesboro, will host Guy Penrod, lead singer for the Gaither Vocal Band from 1994-2008, in concert May 12. For more information, contact the church office at 870-972-0220.

On the move

Ken Barnard is serving as interim pastor for Coronado Baptist Church, Hot Springs Village. Barnard recently retired after 14 years as the associational missionary for the Central Baptist Association. He is a graduate of Arkansas Tech University and Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and has pastored churches in Arkansas.

Milestones

Ben Early will retire as minister of education and administration of First Baptist Church, El Dorado, May 12. In honor of his service, the church will receive love gifts for Early and his family.

Obituaries

Sara Wisdom, 74, died April 22. Wisdom served as an Arkansas Baptist State Convention employee from 1969 to 1972. After leaving Arkansas, Wisdom served on staff at the Northwest Baptist Convention as Woman's Missionary Union director until her retirement in 2005. Wisdom is survived by her brother and nephew. A memorial service will be held May 10 at First Baptist Church in Beaverton, Ore. Memorial gifts may be made through the Northwest Baptist Foundation designated for the Rhoda D. Hood WMU Memorial Scholarship Fund. The mailing address is 3200 NE 109th Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98682.

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Share your church news!
Call 800-838-2272, ext. 5153

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MAY 12, 2013

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Look for qualified spiritual leaders

TITUS 1:1-16

Recently, we hired a new staff member. Though he has been in ministry as long as I have, he has come to me with questions and to ask for help. Why? Because I've been on staff at our church for 18 years, and I know our folks, as well as how we do things. I've answered questions about people, such as who is related to whom, and we've talked about who does what and where things are located. Hopefully, I've made his transition easier.

We all seek out people in life who can help point us in the right direction. We look for someone to guide us as we are finding our way.

But the questions that must be asked are: "Who is this person I am asking for help?" "Can they be trusted?" "Is their information accurate?"

What if this new staff member had asked these questions of someone who was mad or jealous? Misinformation from an untrustworthy source could have ruined his hope for a good start in his new position.

In this week's lesson, Paul left

Titus on the island of Crete to help the churches put into place qualified and functioning leaders. Paul took this very seriously because he knew that future and spiritual health of the church would be determined by who would be leading the church.

Just like in today's world, people can be easily led astray by false teaching and so it's still important to make sure that leaders are qualified to lead.

In Titus 1:1-16, we find lists of both positive traits a leader should have, as well as negative traits they should not have. If you have been asked to serve in a position of leader-

ship or if you are in a position of enlisting leaders in your church, let me encourage you to use these verses as either a self-inventory or an enlistment guideline. Leadership is a high calling, and Timothy 2:15 (NIV) reminds us, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."



Frances Raley
minister of adult education
First Baptist
Benton

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:

Building the home I need

PROVERBS 31:10-12, 15-20, 25-31

You've probably heard the expression "lipstick on a pig." This means any attempt to change the character of something by merely making outward, cosmetic changes is futile. A pig with lipstick is still a pig.

Similarly, we often attempt to enhance our image with a visible makeover.

Proverbs 31:30 warns us, that "Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord will be praised."

Our attempt at wearing "lipstick" (charm and beauty) does not change our character.

I recently attended the funeral of a senior saint whom I never met; she was the grandmother of one of my fellow staff members. She was a humble Sunday school teacher who saw many things in her 95 years. Her Christian legacy includes four ministers, a Gideon, deacons, Awana workers and worship leaders. I could tell by the testimonies of the grandchildren that this woman truly loved the Lord. Due to her strong Christian character, no one had to stretch

the truth when talking about her. Instead, her Christian life allowed this verse to be fulfilled at her funeral: "Her sons rise up and call her blessed" (Prov. 31:28).

The characteristics of a woman who fears the Lord are given throughout this last chapter of Proverbs. She is trustworthy (Prov. 31:11). Her wise use of money allows her to help provide for her family (Prov. 31:16-19). She is sensitive to the needs of those less fortunate (Prov. 31:20). Hard work does not scare her (Prov. 31:15, 19 and 27). Her wisdom allows her to correct with "loving instruction" (Prov. 31:26).

Male or female, we should all strive to have the characteristics outlined in Proverbs 31.

But remember, the activities listed in this chapter come from a character changed by Christ. We can't change our character by doing good deeds. That would be like putting lipstick on a pig.



Jim Monroe
associate pastor
First Baptist
White Hall

MAY 19, 2013

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Look for spiritual excellence

TITUS 2:1-15

As a child, did you ever challenge your friends to "walk this way," which meant they were to mimic you as you walked in funny, roundabout ways. Basically it was a game of follow-the-leader. It was a fun game to participate in and was also entertaining to observe. Even a baby will intently watch the face of his mother and mimic her. This is how babies learn; they watch and mimic.

In Titus 2, Paul is telling Titus to issue the challenge to "walk this way." Once again, Paul lists traits that are to be reflected in the lives of believers, as

well as traits or habits that should not be a part of a Christian's life. In turn, he instructs that older women are to teach the younger women and the older men to teach the younger men how to live godly lives. In today's vernacular, he would be encouraging them to be mentors.

The dictionary defines a "mentor" as "a trusted counselor or guide." My pastor often reminds us that we only need to be a little fur-

ther down the road than the person we are leading. When Paul speaks of older women and men, I think he means mature and is referring to their mental and spiritual maturity. Age is not as important as what we have learned and what we have to give. Esther Burroughs, in her book "A Garden Path to Mentoring," says, "Mentoring, in many ways, means using the best part of yourself to help another see and become the best that they can be."

Our world needs men and women who will pour into others, encouraging and challenging them to live godly lives.

I often feel inadequate and wonder what I have to offer. We have a young couple that stays with us often. She truly does want to sit or help as I cook, fold clothes or pull weeds. We talk, laugh and talk about the Lord. Let us all be challenged as Paul challenged Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12b, which says, "But set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

Be a mentor to someone.



Frances Raley
minister of adult education
First Baptist
Benton

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:

Becoming a person others need

PROVERBS 6:6-11, 16-19, 23-27; JEREMIAH 17:9; PROVERBS 4:23

Just over a year ago, a 41-year-old teacher left his wife and three children and moved in with his 18-year-old former student.

In a TV interview, the teacher said, "My family is disappointed in me. ... I'm just following my heart."

As we saw in the first lesson this month, our hearts are not to be trusted (Jer. 17:9). Instead, God's children are called to "guard your heart above all else" (Prov. 4:23a).

Following your heart comes naturally. Guarding your heart takes discipline and is not easy. It is discipline

that molds us into people of integrity. Trustworthy and hardworking people of integrity are lacking in the world. Today's lesson from Proverbs 6 instructs us to work diligently, using an ant as an example (Prov. 6:6-11). Christian, are you a diligent worker, or a slacker (Prov. 6:9)? Laziness comes naturally; working diligently takes discipline.

I did a quick Internet search on, "What qualities do you look for in a

friend?" As I glanced through several pages, I noticed four answers that topped the responses: honesty, respect, compassion and loyalty. These qualities help shape us into a person others need. Proverbs 6:16-19 lists negative traits that the Lord hates, including lying (Prov. 6:17, 19a), making trouble (Prov. 6:19b) and scheming to do evil (Prov. 6:18). These behaviors come naturally. Being a person of integrity takes discipline.

The last section deals with exhibiting purity (Prov. 6:23-27). Following our sinful hearts can have catastrophic consequences. In the area of sexual purity, it is most important to guard your heart. When women read novels or men view pictures arousing desire meant to be shared solely with their spouse, they are playing with fire and will get burned (Prov. 6:27).

I encourage you not to "go with the flow" or follow your heart. Be a person of integrity. Guard your heart. Be the person God wants you to be and the person others need.



Jim Monroe
associate pastor
First Baptist
White Hall



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Save the Date!

For more information contact Ashley (asummers@absc.org) or Ava (amccclintock@absc.org) on the Missions Support Team or call 501-376-4791, ext. 5138

ABN Father of the Year contest

THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST News (ABN) is announcing its annual A Tribute to Godly Fathers contest.

In an effort to honor all fathers, each year the ABN selects a Father of the Year based on entries.

The issue prior to Father's Day announces the winner and includes the winning tribute, which will be chosen based on qualities of the father, godliness of the man being honored and inspiration and readability of the essay submitted.

The essay contest is limited to fathers who are members of Arkansas Southern Baptist churches. Writers are asked to submit a brief tribute

(300 words or less) about their father or another worthy father they know. The father's full name and church home, as well as the phone number and email address of the submitter, must be included with the tribute.

The ABN will recognize the winner in his local church and present him with a gift June 9.

All tributes should be received in the ABN office no later than May 31.

Send tributes to Father of the Year Contest, Arkansas Baptist News, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204, or email to gayla@arkansasbaptist.org.



2012 ABN Father of the Year
Eddie Davis

Charitable Giving Tip

NON-CASH GIVING

Most churches focus on cash giving. Yet, most of us hold about 91% of our net worth in non-cash assets like real estate, business interests, investment and retirement accounts, and personal property. If we understand that God is the owner of everything we have, then we need to continually be asking Him, "What do You want me to do with the blessings you have given me?" Significant gifts are most often made from non-cash assets. Have you considered anything other than cash in your giving plan to your church?

For more information on giving non-cash assets, please give us a call.



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ABN Day of Prayer May 19

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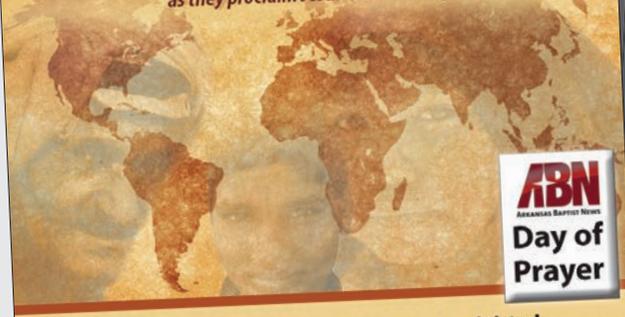
Please insert them into your bulletin May 19 or another Sunday in May.

To request a speaker for your church contact the ABN at abn@arkansasbaptist.org or call 501-376-4791, ext. 5153



"Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples." - Psalm 96:3 (NASB)

Pray for the work of Arkansas Baptists as they proclaim Jesus Christ among the nations



ABN Day of Prayer

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Mission Haiti

Ark. Baptists begin work in northern Haiti

PAGE 6

Church fire

Browns Chapel Baptist destroyed by fire - again

PAGE 1



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Photo courtesy of Diamond J. Action Photos



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Bull riding ministry

Second Baptist Church, Perryville, and First Baptist Church, Russellville, partner to do "kingdom work" through bull riding. See additional photos and story on Pages 1 and 7.

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