



CSBC report contends

Changes at NAMB impact Calif. mission

Tim Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

FRESNO, Calif. – The California Southern Baptist Convention (CSBC) has released a report on what it calls a breakdown in its partnership with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and how new strategic initiatives by the

Southern Baptist entity impact mission work in the state.

Titled “North American Mission Board’s Strategic Shifts and the Impact on California Southern Baptist Convention,” the report lists seven actions taken by NAMB that the convention believes will adversely

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‘Great Commission Baptists’ suggested moniker for SBC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – A task force studying a possible name change for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has proposed that “Great Commission Baptists” be the new designation for Southern Baptist churches that so desire to re-brand their ministry.

A special Name Change Task Force appointed by SBC President Bryant Wright presented its report Feb. 20 at the Southern Baptist Executive Committee meeting in Nashville. Executive Committee members approved the report, which will now be voted on by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in New Orleans June 19-20.

The report states the task force “declines to study or develop a plan and implementation strategy for the adoption of a new name for the Southern Baptist Convention.”

Additionally, it will be recommended to SBC messengers that “churches, entities and organizations in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention

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“Titles nor name changes reach people for Christ. People reach people.”

Ark. Baptists respond to ‘Great Commission Baptists’

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Gary Glasgow (center) is congratulated by Becky Horne (left), wife of Rex Horne, president of Ouachita Baptist University, and Becky Glasgow, Gary's wife, after being named Arkansas Associational Missionary of the Year.

Glasgow AM of Year

ARKADELPHIA – Gary Glasgow has been named Arkansas Associational Missionary of the Year.

Glasgow, associational missionary for the Liberty Baptist Association in El Dorado since June 2000, was recognized at a banquet held at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia Feb. 22.

Rex Horne, president of Ouachita, presented the award.

“The man we honor tonight possesses the qualities that are typical of all those who have been called to the important tasks of associational

leadership,” said Horne.

The award has been given annually for the past 40 years by Ouachita as a way to recognize the “outstanding work” done by associational missionaries in Arkansas, said Horne.

The award is the highlight of the Associational Missionaries Retreat, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) and held at DeGray Lake State Park.

Daniel R. Grant, president emeritus at Ouachita, gave a welcome

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Kaleo Arkansas conference set for April

Bill Bumpas
Arkansas Baptist News

KALEO ARKANSAS '12, a conference for students interested in becoming Christian leaders, has been set for April 21 at Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock.

The one-day conference will feature Jeff Iorg, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, as keynote speaker. Christian band Jupiter Wind will also perform.

Susie Thompson, who serves as coordinator for Kaleo Arkansas, said the event will give students

“some more tools in their toolbox on how to look at this call to ministry and then (serves) to connect them with those relationships and those resources and those opportunities that can help them on that journey.”

Kaleo Arkansas was born out of a movement from the book written by Iorg called “Is God Calling Me?” said Thompson. Kaleo Arkansas partners with local churches, associations and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in cooperation with the North American Mission Board and the National Kaleo Network.



Kaleo is a Greek word that means “to call aloud; to invite; to be called.”

“What Kaleo Arkansas does is to take what we all know needs to happen in the lives of students when they’re called to ministry, and it helps us focus on being intentional and having a plan for accomplish-

ing it,” said Thompson.

Through Kaleo Arkansas, Thompson, along with her husband, Jeff, who serves as Concord Baptist Association missionary, is working across the state to help young people put their calling into practice the moment God calls them into vocational ministry.

“It is exciting to see what God’s doing,” said Susie Thompson.

Jeff Thompson said he has

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which may desire to utilize a descriptor other than the term 'Southern Baptists' to indicate their relationship with each other and their involvement in the Southern Baptist Convention and its ministries, use the descriptor 'Great Commission Baptists,' a phrase commended as one fully in keeping with our Southern Baptist Convention identity.

"(The Convention) stud(ied) ways in which the use of the phrase 'Great Commission Baptists' might be protected and preserved for use by those churches and institutions which find its use beneficial and will assess how using the phrase in various ways in its communications and publications might be helpful to those groups."

Jimmy Draper, chairman of the task force who presented the report to Executive Committee members, added, "We deeply believe that if the phrase 'Great Commission Baptists' is regularly used in publications and promotions of the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as in state conventions, associations and churches, that it would provide an identification that not only tells who we are, but what our mission as Southern Baptists is – the fulfillment of the Great Commission."

New name voluntary

The description is totally voluntary and is not binding on any congregation, state or national entity, Draper stressed on several occasions in his address and later in the press conference.

Executive Committee members were given a historical overview of the four previous attempts to study a name change, beginning with the first attempt in 1903. Draper said an overriding concern of the committee was to come to a consensus on a name – or descriptor – that would end the need to appoint another task force every few years.

During the evening presentation, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson and Pastor Ken Fentress of Rockville, Md., both endorsed the descriptor from their cultural perspective. Patterson spoke from the view of a longtime Southern Baptist while Fentress, pastor of Montrose Baptist Church, spoke from his perspective of being an African-American.

Fentress told about the negative connotations the word "Southern" carries in the North and how many of his friends still equate it with slavery – and are not pleased with him identifying with the denomination. He believed the descriptor would go far in overcoming the denomination's name and give fresh life to congregations wanting to associate with the evangelical group.

Draper and Wright, leading a press conference after the descriptor was unveiled, said 586 names were considered and another 300



Bryant Wright, Southern Baptist Convention president, speaks to Executive Committee members.

'Global Baptist' favorite

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – A task force studying changing the name of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) received 586 distinct name suggestions with "Global Baptist Convention" leading the way and "Great Commission Baptist Convention" – similar to the informal name that was chosen – ranking in the top five.

The task force received 1,151 name change suggestions (that is, not counting duplicates). In all, 71 percent of the 586 distinct name suggestions included "Baptist."

The most frequent suggestion involved various forms of "Global

Baptist," used in such suggested names as "Global Baptist Convention," "Global Fellowship" and "Global Baptist Network."

The top 10 suggested names were: (1) Global Baptist Convention, 85 suggestions; (2) International Baptist Convention, 58; (3) United Baptist Convention, 30; (4) Evangelical Baptist Convention, 25; (5) Great Commission Baptist Convention, 23; (6) North American Baptist Convention, 23; (7) The Baptist Convention, 23; (8) American Baptist Convention, 22; (9) World Baptist Convention, 19; (10) Worldwide Baptist Convention, 19.

were discarded because of their lack of ease of use or because they were obviously submitted by individuals infuriated with any proposed name change (see related story above).

Disasters change perception

Draper said two important events occurred in recent years that thrust Southern Baptists into the national spotlight – the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the disaster fueled by Hurricane Katrina. Both called heavily on the resources of the denomination's disaster relief teams, which showed that Southern Baptists were a caring, loving people who helped families and individuals pull their lives together after horrendous calamities.

He affirmed that the Southern Baptist name is recognized globally and that it has "enormous equity," adding it still lacked acceptance among a growing number of Baptists outside the South where it was founded. Draper said a serious problem with suggesting an entirely new name is that it could become a legal quagmire and changing signage would be cost-prohibitive.

"When the Sunday School Board changed its name, the cost was huge – between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to change signage and stationary per store. That would be astronomical for tens of thousands of churches of

all sizes to undertake."

The addition of "Great Commission Baptists" to describe the SBC was determined to be a good compromise, said Draper. Churches may use "Great Commission Baptists" any way they choose – from calling themselves "Great Commission Baptist Church" to just using it in smaller typeface under their name like, "A Great Commission congregation," he added.

Draper said there is no right or wrong way to use the new wording, and that, in itself, will be freeing to a generation of younger pastors and churches who have been criticized for dropping "Baptist" from their name or branching out with other unconventional ways of reaching lost people in their communities.

Again deferring to the autonomy of each local church, Draper reiterated that there would be no timeline or phase-in for use of the new moniker.

"They could use it the day of the vote if it is referred to and approved by messengers, or could be phased in months later," he said. "But the more it would begin to be used, the greater the possibility that it could change SBC culture and how we view ourselves."

"It will eventually weave its way into our lives as it reminds us of who we are and what we should be about doing. It explains who we are and what we do."

During a press conference following the report, Wright called on John Herring, teaching pastor at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., to discuss the different permutations that had been used to secure domain names on the Internet. Herring said there were 15 permutations and that two other names – Continental Baptist Convention and Evangelical Baptist Convention – had also been considered.

John Guenther, SBC legal counsel, said changing the name could result in some legal challenges or demand changes to the new charter that would have to be issued.

For example, the State of Georgia – where the convention was chartered in 1845 – now requires nonprofit entities to have a board of directors. But the Southern Baptist Convention, which only exists two days a year during its annual meeting, uses messengers to transact its business and adding directors would not fit within its polity.

This story was compiled from various Baptist Press reports and from a story reported by The Christian Index in Georgia.

KALEO

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noticed that quite often there is a gap of a few years between when a young man or woman senses God's call and when they go off to seminary for training.

"Kaleo Arkansas says, 'We're not going to waste that time,'" said Jeff Thompson. "'We're going to give them appropriate – to their maturity and to their call – opportunities to lead in the church right now.'"

Jeff Thompson points to Ronnie Deal, who serves as pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenwood, as a perfect example of how a mentor can equip the next generation of ministry leaders in Arkansas. For a

few weeks, Deal relinquished 5 minutes of his Sunday morning sermon time for his summer Kaleo intern to actually preach to the congregation.

"He would work with him in the week and say, 'This is the sermon when I get to this point; you're going to stand up and preach,'" said Thompson. "And he said, 'If I'm really going to teach him what (preaching) is like, I've got to walk him through.'"

More information about Kaleo Arkansas and Kaleo Arkansas '12 can be found at www.kaleoarkansas.org.

Bill Bumpas is a freelance production engineer, news reporter and host of the new Arkansas Baptist News Podcast. Listen to a podcast about Kaleo at www.arkansasbaptist.org/podcast.

Keathley, former ABSC staffer, dies

NORTH LITTLE ROCK – Monica Sue Keathley, 64, of North Little Rock, died Friday, Feb. 24. She was a former member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions support team, where she served as a missions consultant. She was a member at Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock.

Keathley was a graduate of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Prior to her role at the ABSC, Keathley served with the International Mission Board (IMB) from 1978 to 1984, working in Burkina Faso, West Africa. She also served as an IMB Journeyman to Ghana, West Africa.

She served on the staff of Glendale Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Miss., and as a state consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

Keathley founded the Christian women's quartet One Accord. She

was one of a core group of women who began a women's prayer group called "FreshSpirit."

In 2006, Keathley was diagnosed with transverse myelitis. The illness left her paralyzed from the shoulders down and ventilator-dependent. She spent several months in a rehabilitation center in Colorado. When Keathley returned to Arkansas, her sister and brother-in-law, Leslie and Bob Marsden, moved into her home to care for her.

"From my first meeting with Monica, it was obvious that she cared about the lost people in Arkansas and around the world," said Emil Turner, ABSC executive director. "She had a heart for evangelism and was the embodiment of the term 'Great Commission Christian.'"

"It was a privilege to work with her, and it was an inspiration to watch how she trusted God in her struggles with her health," he continued. "She will be greatly missed."

Upon learning of her death, Judy

Shaddox, former Arkansas WMU president, said she was thankful for the privilege of knowing Keathley.

"I asked God to help us treasure what we gained from watching her life and recalling her love for God's mission here on earth," she said.

"A woman of quiet wisdom and great faith, tonight she gets to see Jesus – on her feet," Shaddox said.

Survivors include a sister, Leslie Keathley Marsden; brother-in-law, Everett Robert Marsden; nephew, Peter Marsden, and his wife, Kara; and great-nieces, Ella and Ava Marsden.

Funeral services were held Feb. 27 at Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, with burial at the Van Buren City Cemetery in Van Buren, Mo.

Memorials may be made to Arkansas WMU, c/o ABSC missions support team; ABSC (for mission trip scholarships); Every Nation Ministry (for mission trip scholarships), c/o Eric Guthrie, P.O. Box 94564, North Little Rock, AR 72190; or the International Mission Board World Hunger Fund.



Keathley

GLASGOW

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to associational missionaries, their guests, students and faculty gathered for the event.

Glasgow, a native of Nashville, is a graduate of Southern Arkansas University (SAU) in Magnolia with a bachelor's degree in music education. He has a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and has done doctoral coursework at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

From 1976 to 1989, Glasgow was associate pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, El Dorado. He was minister of education and outreach at Central Baptist Church, Magnolia, from 1989 to 1991, and administrative associate pastor and minister of education at First Baptist Church, Collierville, Tenn., from 1992 to 2000.

Since joining Liberty Baptist Association, Glasgow has given "outstanding leadership" in various ministries of the association, said Horne.

Glasgow's accomplishments include directing a strategic planning process that "led to the strengthening of existing ministries and the addition of new ones," said Horne.

Hispanic, African-American and "western heritage" cowboy churches have been started in Glasgow's tenure.

Additionally, under Glasgow's leadership, the association established a disaster relief feeding unit capable of preparing 7,500 meals a day, said Horne. Glasgow is a certified disaster relief "blue cap."

Mission teams from the association have traveled to Armenia, Guatemala, Hungary and Mexico



New officers for 2012-13 were elected at the meeting. They are Larry White (left), Faulkner Baptist Association, Conway, president; Royce Sweatman (right), North Arkansas Baptist Association, Harrison, president-elect; and Ray Dean Davis, Tri-County Baptist Association, Wynne, secretary/treasurer.

the past 11 years, and a number of "innovative ministry opportunities have been created through Glasgow's leadership," said Horne. They include an annual camp for children of poverty, a ministry to military personnel, the annual Project Jerusalem emphasis and a new Easter outreach emphasis designed to reach 18-to-28-year-old residents in the association.

"When Gary Glasgow felt God's call on his life while a college student at SAU, he probably didn't dream what a rich and varied life of ministry lay before him," Horne told guests at the banquet.

"But he responded in faith, praying that he would be used in helping God's people to be the church," Horne continued. "He has accepted the opportunities and challenges that have come through the years and (has) provided an outstanding

model of leadership for us all."

Glasgow and his wife, Becky, have two children and four grandchildren.

The Associational Missionaries Retreat included training events and brainstorming sessions for associational missionaries and their wives.

Retreat speakers included ABSC staff members and associational missionaries, as well as Walter Norvell, assistant professor of Christian ministries at Williams Baptist College, and Bert Ross, founder and president of 5E Coaching.

New officers for 2012-13 were elected at the meeting. They are Larry White, Faulkner Baptist Association, Conway, president; Royce Sweatman, North Arkansas Baptist Association, Harrison, president-elect; and Ray Dean Davis, Tri-County Baptist Association, Wynne, secretary/treasurer.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest to Arkansas Baptists

Church may use city schools, judge rules

NEW YORK (BP) – A federal judge has handed New York City churches a major victory, issuing a preliminary injunction that will allow congregations to meet in schools while the lawsuit proceeds – that is, unless the city wins on appeal. Seven Southern Baptist congregations have been affected by the ongoing legal battle in the city.

GuideStone, BMI form insurance alliance

DALLAS (BP) – GuideStone Financial Resources and Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company have announced the formation of an alliance to provide property and liability insurance services to Southern Baptist churches and affiliated ministries. GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said the alliance with Brotherhood Mutual brings together two ministry-focused organizations that share common values as well as a heritage of serving churches.

Kazakhstan heightens religious crackdown

OSLO, Norway (BP) – The Central Asian country of Kazakhstan has toughened its crackdown on religious freedom, stripping previously recognized religious groups, including Baptists, of their registrations. Religious freedom monitor Forum 18 is reporting that authorities have rescinded the legal registrations of 579 "small religious groups" (groups with fewer than 50 adult members) as part of a new religion law passed last October.

GuideStone tax guide for 2012 now available

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The 2012 edition of GuideStone's annual Tax Return Preparation and Federal Reporting Guide is now available. The guide provides active and retired ministers step-by-step help in understanding the latest tax laws, along with sample tax forms to assist them in preparing their 2011 federal tax returns. The guide is free and may be downloaded at www.GuideStone.org/TaxGuide or ordered by calling 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. CST Monday-Friday.

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

Our mission and 'Great Commission Baptists'

I can sleep better at night now knowing the world will know soon that Southern Baptists are "Great Commission Baptists."

That's right. A task force evaluating the name of the Southern Baptist Convention has spoken, and it will recommend this June at the annual meeting that all churches and Baptists displeased with the name of their convention will now be able to call themselves "Great Commission Baptists."

All kidding aside, I'm not sure the world cares today what Southern Baptists call themselves or – in a lot of cases I suspect – whether we even exist as a denomination.

In 2012, the world is too preoccupied with war, famine, dealing with the aftermath of natural disasters, political upheaval, financial crisis, same-sex marriage, terrorism, ... well, you get the picture.

Fortunately, Southern Baptists – uh, Great Commissions Baptists I mean – are there ministering amid human pain and tragedy sharing the love of Jesus with those who have an ear to hear.

When I was a young journalist

working for a small daily newspaper in Missouri, I can vividly recall my editor's response after we "put to bed" an issue of the newspaper.

While I was thinking, and sometimes saying verbally, "Wasn't that a great story I wrote on _____ (insert topic)?" he would say, "What are you working on for tomorrow's paper?" I believe most people are

like that. For good or for bad, the world forgets ever so quickly. When people read about Southern Baptists and their activities, I don't think they

PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough

say, "Oh, those are the people who supported slavery! I hate them!"

Rather, they look at the good Southern Baptists do and say, "Thanks! You actually care."

Now, with all that said, I'll add that in some parts of the United States, it might make sense to brand a church a bit differently than in the South.

But aren't churches already doing that?

Even in Arkansas I read and hear about the ministry of Southern Baptist churches that have dropped "Baptist" from their name for one reason or another. Most of the time



it has to do with efforts to broaden their appeal.

For me, I'll always be a Southern Baptist and proud of the name. There may come a day when you are a member of a Southern Baptist church without "Baptist" in the name, but as long as it holds true to timeless biblical values, seeks to bring fame to the name of Jesus Christ and seeks to save the lost – the church is fulfilling its Great Commission charge.

After all, our mission is to be Jesus' hands and feet in a world that desperately needs to hear the Good News of the gospel.

If that makes me a "Great Commission Baptist," so be it. For me, I'll just stick with knowing I'm a sinner saved by grace ... doing the best I can to share Christ's love with all who will hear by any and every means possible.

Tim Yarbrough is editor of the *Arkansas Baptist News*.

How 'Southerners' do it

May I add my two mites worth to the discussion about removing "Southern" from the name of our denomination? Supposedly, the term is regional and creates difficulty when planting churches outside the South. However, what is more positive than Southern hospitality, a Southern belle or a warm Southern afternoon?

Imagine a long table under a brush arbor laden with garden vegetables, fried chicken and home-made bread all done Southern style. Imagine another table with sweating glasses of sweet iced tea and another with home-baked cakes and pies. A slab of Southern pecan pie is good anywhere!

A preacher once spent a sum-

mer traveling the South preaching in Southern Baptist churches. In Southern Baptist fashion, he ate with the folks where he was preaching. By summer's end, he had eaten so much Southern fried chicken that on his first night back home he just rolled up his mattress and roosted on the slats.

The word "Southern" is synonymous with hospitality, kindness and warm friendship. It is the lifestyle Jesus advocated. If the sign

over the door says "hen house," you expect to find eggs inside. If the sign says "Southern Baptist," you expect to find hospitality, kindness and warm friendship. No other word says it so well.

I suggest that each church, association, state convention and our national convention calculate the

costs of removing "Southern" from our name. There will be new signs, logos, letterheads, business cards and an advertising campaign to promote the change. Then, give that amount to our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering or our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Finally, calculate the man hours needed to determine the new name and its implementation and apply those hours to doing the things that our name "Southern" implies – showing the hospitality, kindness and warm friendship of Jesus to a hurting world.

Bob Loyd
Dardanelle

'Great Omission Baptists'

Recently, a task force recommended no legal name change for the Southern Baptist Convention, saying "Great Commission Baptists" could be used informally.

Perhaps "Great Omission Baptists" would be more appropriate in light of the latest reports: Of the \$11.7 billion Southern Baptists gave to churches in 2010, only 0.8 percent made it to the International Mission Board through the Cooperative Program.

Our theologians and mission leaders are recommending a radical change in course, not a simple name change. To correct our budgets, we must forge historically different relationships between churches, associations, state conventions, agencies and entities.

We need a new Cooperative Program.

Perhaps the best illustration of our current uncooperative program is the refusal of our executives to disclose their compensation figures. While the International Mission Board has said it pays its president

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Volume 111, Number 5 USPS08021
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The *Arkansas Baptist News* (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly by the *Arkansas Baptist News-magazine, Inc.*, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204. Subscription rates are \$7.75 per year (Every

Resident Family Plan), \$8.75 per year (Group Plan), \$11 per year (Individual). *Arkansas Baptist News*, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 501-376-4791; toll-free 800-838-2272; email: abn@arkansasbaptist.org.

Periodical Postage paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Arkansas Baptist News*, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

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Family Matters

Courageous

Olympic wrestlers coached and trained other teenagers and me when we attended a three-week intensive wrestling camp at Oklahoma State University in 1984. The training made me a better wrestler and a better person as I also learned character traits, one of them being courage. Courage is defined as “mental or moral strength to venture, persevere and withstand danger, fear or difficulty.”



Phillips

Participants received their camp T-shirt on the last day, only after they completed a 10-mile run. The shirt simply said, “Only the strong survive.”

Marriages and families are floundering today, and many struggle to survive, let alone flourish. If you haven’t seen the movie “Courageous,” then you need to rent the DVD, or buy it and watch it. It is an extremely motivating movie for men, providing encouragement and direction. Men are challenged as husbands and fathers to be courageous men of character who don’t just survive, but who lead in their home, church and work.

One of the key elements of the movie transpires through a tragedy when one man is driven to the Scriptures to discover what the Bible says about his roles as a husband and father. Discovering, understanding and applying Scripture related to his roles is how God motivates him toward change in his marriage, family and other relationships.

Paul encouraged young Timothy to be courageous in the midst of his roles.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV) admonishes, “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Being a courageous man is more than completing a 10-mile run. It’s a lifelong journey through many challenges that requires courage. If you want to be a courageous man, then invest time to discover, understand and apply Scripture related to your roles as a husband and father. By doing that, you can become a man of courage who finishes well.

Ben Phillips leads the Arkansas Baptist State Convention family ministry team.

The inevitable storms

Though it is early in the new year and refreshingly cool outside, you and I both know that the calendar and forces of meteorology will combine soon to produce stormy weather. As sure as God made springtime, Arkansans can expect storms as the weather warms.

Scripture says, “The prudent man sees evil and hides himself.”

Is your church prepared for the springtime storms? A partial checklist may help.

Be sure the church buildings and contents are adequately insured. Church staff possessions and libraries need to be included in the insurance.

If your records are not duplicated in an off-site computer protection service, this can be done at minor expense. And if your records are hard copies, they should be stored where they will not be flooded or blown away. It would be embarrassing for some church members if the financial records were blown into the next county and folks learned how little some of them gave.

Create a contact list of nurses, doctors, EMTs, equipment operators and others who can help. Make a list of volunteers and keep it handy. Also, keep a handy contact list for the elderly and shut-ins. Someone should be preassigned to check on these

folks in the event of a storm.

Remind your church families to prepare for disasters. Each family should discuss plans for such an event. Escape routes, meeting places and emergency phone numbers should be reviewed.

Your local association and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) can help train disaster relief volunteers. Dates and locations of the disaster relief training are listed on the ABSC website at www.absc.org/vols-and-missions/disaster-relief.html.

Whenever a tornado, flood or other disaster impacts our convention, churches and individuals give special gifts to help others. This is a wonderful and godly response.

Unlike even the best parachurch organizations and secular groups, the ABSC does not withhold a penny of the contributions for overhead or administration. The Cooperative Program makes it possible to use 100 percent of donated funds the way the donor specifies. I am grateful to Bill Cantrell and the disaster relief leaders across Arkansas for Arkansas Baptists who are always willing to help and for the Cooperative Program that insures our efficiency in serving others.

Emil Turner is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



A PASTOR'S HEART

Emil Turner

What's your legacy?

Last month the Arkansas Baptist Foundation had the privilege of sending out dozens of letters to students who are headed to Ouachita Baptist University or Williams Baptist College this fall. Each of these students is an active member of a Southern Baptist church in eastern Arkansas or western Tennessee. Each student will pay at least a fourth of the educational costs, but will still need extra help to attend college. God provided us with a donor who wanted to give students a chance to receive an education at a Baptist college.

Ed Hammons was a man of vision. He believed that if you could just give students a chance to get started, they would make something of themselves. In the mid-1990s, he and his mother, Evalyn, created a plan that would help provide a Christian college education for students near their home in Forrest City. Hammons started awarding these scholarships during his lifetime and really enjoyed helping the students that had applied. He also created an estate plan that would allow the scholarships to continue if something happened to

him. In 1998, shortly after Thanksgiving, Hammons died very unexpectedly at the age of 57.

Letters the students received included a statement like, “Congratulations, you have received the Hammons Scholarship. We know that you have agreed to accept these funds as a gift from God and will agree to try to help others as you have been helped.”

The intent of the Hammons family was to be a blessing to a student who needed help in getting an education so that sometime later that student could be a blessing to others.

It has been over a decade since Hammons passed away, and deserving

Christian students have been receiving letters every year since. To date, more than 1,000 students have had their lives impacted by the Hammons Scholarship. Because of his vision, deserving Baptist students will be “given a chance” to obtain a Christian college education for decades to come. What’s your legacy?

Tim Dockery is general legal counsel for the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.

FINANCIAL TIMES

*Tim Dockery
Arkansas Baptist Foundation*

LETTERS

continued from page 4

\$190,000 a year and the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio has revealed their salary schedules, all others asked, including the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, have declined to disclose.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention leaders have declined to supply this information, saying, “You are welcome to learn any salary of any employee if you agree not to publish or distribute the salaries.”

What a grievous assault this is to our freedom of spiritual speech, when our employees dictate to us the form or content of our conversations, sermons, newsletters or

emails.

Let us pray for a reformation that will see submission and sacrifice replace our worldliness and self-centeredness, see our “dunk-em-and-junk-em” style of pseudo-evangelism replaced by a return to making true disciples and see pastors preaching prophetically even at the cost of their careers.

**Warren Watkins
Clinton**

Editor's Note: The Arkansas Baptist News requested information from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention regarding the publishing of Executive Board staff salaries. An Executive Board policy on the matter was approved in November 1983 and updated in August 2002. It states, “Salaries of Executive Board employees are to be made available, by the Executive

Director, to any Arkansas Baptist upon request. The Executive Director is to exercise caution to see that the salaries of the Executive Board employees are neither written, published or distributed.”

Book reviews welcome

The *Arkansas Baptist News* invites pastors, other church staff and members of Arkansas Baptist churches to submit reviews of religion-related books they have read.

Preferably, the book review should be no more than 350 words and should be about a book released in the past six months.

Reviews submitted for publication may be edited for content and style.

If interested, email tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

Ark. Baptists respond to task force's decision

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

THE ARKANSAS Baptist News (ABN) asked Arkansas Baptists their opinions regarding the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) task force's recommendation to retain the name "Southern Baptist Convention" while offering "Great Commission Baptists" as an informal, nonlegal name for churches to adopt if so desired.

More than 100 responses poured in from around the state, revealing a variety of opinions, ranging from, "I will probably change denominations," to, "I like the decision."

While space does not allow all responses to be listed, the ABN wanted to share just a few of the opinions and concerns of its readers.

A mission, not a name

Many of those who responded expressed the opinion that the name of the SBC was not as important as the heart and mission of the people in its churches.

James K. Ross, senior pastor and church planter at Life House Ministries, Texarkana, pointed out that it is actions, not a name, that are important.

"It's one thing to call yourself or your church 'Great Commission Baptist' and entirely another thing to be a Great Commission church," said Ross. "The label is unimportant. The heart of the matter is the heart. Why aren't we being His hands and His feet? Talk is cheap!"

"Be doers of the Word, not hearers only," he added, referencing James 1:22.

Daniel Haigwood, pastor of Hermitage Baptist Church, Hermitage, agreed with Ross, saying the mission of the convention should be obvious.

"It's embarrassing to think we have come to the point of identifying our mission in our name," Haigwood said. "The world around us should know who we are and what we are about without any type of label. The early church just 'did,' and that is why they were given the name 'Christian' by a lost world. We must repent of past sins and move forward from there."

Stephen Harrison, associate pastor of Family Church, Pine Bluff, does not think the new name will affect non-Christian's views of the SBC.

"Titles nor name changes reach people for Christ," Harrison said.

"People reach people. ... The words 'Southern' nor 'Great Commission' are magical words and cannot produce results in and of themselves."



Bell

Hardy Bell, associate pastor of Sylvan Hills First Baptist Church, Sherwood, is of a similar mind that people – not a name – reach people.

"Fill up a church with excited, born-again believers and you can reach your community regardless of what your name is," Bell said.

Mitch Odom, pastor of Hickory Street Baptist Church, Texarkana, remembers back to when he planted a church in Reno, N.V. The church's name did not include the word "Baptist."

"We determined not to allow our church or denominational name to define us; but rather, our message and our ministry communicated who we were, what we believed and what we did," Odom said. "As for the current discussion over the name of the SBC, my personal position remains the same now that I am back in the South: Our name does not define us; rather, we are defined by who we are, what we believe and by what we do. Unfortunately, some people seem to be more concerned by our name than our belief and practice."

"In short, a name does not make us who we are, but becoming divisive over a name can certainly take away from who we are."

History and heritage

For some, the issue comes down to history and heritage.

"After being known as 'Southern Baptists' for more than 150 years, why create confusion with a sudden name change?" asked Greg Stanley, pastor at First Baptist Church, Warren. "I feel blessed to be a Southern Baptist and am proud to bear that designation."

That being said, he said he has no problem with churches choosing to use the alternative name if it enhances their evangelistic efforts.

Travis Young, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ogden, sees the SBC's name and history as a testimony of what God can do.



Harrison

"The history of the Southern Baptist (Convention) has its highlights and its dark moments," Young explained. "However, that is who we are, and God has chosen to use us. ... I am not always proud of the things we have done or some of the decisions we have made, but I am always proud of what God has and is doing with us."

"To call ourselves by another name would not change past decisions or actions, nor would it change others' persona of who we are. However, it seems to me that

the change would be an attempt to hide from the history that reminds us what a perfect God can do with imperfect man – or even an imperfect convention."

Not broken

Others simply question why there is a need to change something that seems to be working.

"I believe that we should leave well enough alone," said Cliff Hutchins, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville. "'Southern Baptist' is a great name, so why change?" He expressed how many churches exclude the word "Baptist" from their name, which he said "should work fine inside and/or outside the South."

For Sherry Baker, who attends First Baptist Church, Mena, and serves as office technology instructor at Rich Mountain Community College in Mena, change is nothing new. But that does not mean she desires a name change.



Baker

"I am not one who automatically opposes change," she said. "I teach office technology classes in a community college and have had to embrace a lot of change in the 35 years that I have taught. But when things aren't broken, they don't need to be fixed. It saddens me when churches remove 'Baptist' from their name, as well, so as to not offend those who might attend. ... My belief is that undertaking a name change will weaken our convention as we now know it."

Perspective of the lost

Some Arkansas Baptists expressed their concern regarding the suggested name "Great Commission Baptists" and how the name would relate to non-Christians.

"The words 'Great Commission Church' have absolutely no meaning to lost, unchurched people. That leads me to wonder – Who does this task force think we are trying to reach?" asked Tammy Albrecht, Second Baptist Church, Monticello, member.

Hutchins added to his previous comment about leaving "well enough alone" by saying, "The name 'Great Commission Baptist,' I believe, would be just as confusing. Most Baptist groups would consider themselves to be a Great Commission church. And lost people don't know what 'Great Commission' stands for. At least the name 'Southern Baptist' is associated with missions, ministry, evangelism."

Jay Edmonson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Barling, also thinks the lost will lack an understanding of the new name. His suggested solution is to simply avoid the words "Southern" and "Baptist" if necessary.

"Churches are not required to have 'Southern Baptist' or even

'Baptist' in their name or on any of their materials," Edmonson said. "If a church or church plant feels it hampers their outreach, don't reference the name."

A waste of resources

Then there is the issue of the use of resources like time and money.

"Will the next issue be that we need to change the location of our mission boards so that we won't be associated with one particular part of the country?" asked Gary Henson, pastor of Union Avenue Baptist Church, Wynne. "It is all silly and a waste of time, energy and money. Let's get back to the main business of sharing Jesus."



Henson

Similarly, Martha Drennan, a deacon's wife who serves as church secretary, organist and Sunday school teacher at Temple Baptist Church, Benton, asked, "How much money and how much effort has gone into this that could have gone into reaching souls, teaching new converts and growing stronger in the Lord?"

Bert Thomas, pastor of St. Charles Baptist Church, St. Charles, expressed his concern about how the use of funds to discuss a name change might affect Baptists' willingness to give to the Cooperative Program (CP).

"We spent \$20 million of funds that could have been used for missions," Thomas said. "I can imagine the reaction of local Baptists when we are challenged to increase our gifts to the CP or the other special offerings we receive. It will be hard for me to put a positive spin on this action."

Regional aspect

As far as the regional nature of the word "Southern," which is one of the concerns that led to the name change debate, Arkansas Baptists are on both sides of the issue.

John Rech, pastor of New Hope Baptist Mission, Marion, a mission of First Baptist Church, Marion, expressed an opinion based on personal experience.

"Where I'm from, if someone said 'Baptist,' it was assumed American Baptist," he explained. "And when Southern Baptist is broached, people either had no information or assumed legalistic churches or maybe even folk still stuck on abolition. So 'Great Commission Baptists' may serve to skirt some initial resistance in establishing churches in nontraditional SBC regions."

Personal experience also comes into play for Mark Fischer, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hope, but his conclusion differs from Rech's.

NAMB

continued from page one

affect its ability “to carry out strategic initiatives given to it by the churches.” CSBC Executive Director Fermín Whittaker, along with assistance from his administrative staff, compiled the report.

A cover letter attached to the report says, “This document is not intended to be adversarial, but seeks to inform California Southern Baptists about the current state of the relationship which exists between the two entities.”

Details of the report were shared with the CSBC Executive Board during its winter meeting Jan. 26-27. In a story published March 1 by the *California Southern Baptist* newspaper, Terry Barone, CSBC’s director of communications, wrote that following the release of the report, Whittaker emailed it to Kevin Ezell, NAMB president, and to Steve Bass, NAMB west region vice president.

Concerns surrounding the implementation of NAMB’s new Send North America strategy and its impact on new work areas resulted in the appointment of a special committee of state Baptist convention executive directors during their annual fellowship meeting Feb. 13-16 in Scottsdale, Ariz. The task of the committee is to evaluate relations with NAMB in order to “maximize cooperation.”

David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and chairman of the committee, said the first action of the committee is to invite state executive directors to submit an evaluation of the impact of new NAMB initiatives on their work.

“We anticipate using these reports to compile a comprehensive picture of the state of the NAMB/state convention partnerships,” said Hankins. “I have conversed with Dr. Ezell and anticipate that the committee will have substantive conversations with him and others from the (NAMB) board. The goal, of course, is to look for ways to develop mutually agreed upon strategies that will result in the maximum impact by Southern Baptists in reaching the lost in North America with the gospel.”

Among other actions, the CSBC report says NAMB “unilaterally decided to break the Cooperative Agreement” it has had with the California convention for decades.

“CSBC was not notified by NAMB of this decision (the document requires one year notice by either party to cancel the Cooperative Agreement). NAMB simply began taking actions outside the historic Cooperative Agreement.”

The report states, “CSBC is now functioning in an unknown relationship with NAMB that, in many ways, has abandoned cooperation. The current relationship with NAMB is now a top-down decision-making relationship where NAMB dictates its mandates, strategy and financial sup-

port outside a formal, cooperative understanding of relationship.”

Other actions by NAMB listed in the report are eliminating the jointly-funded budget for missionary positions, altering the ratio for matching dollars in the jointly-funded budget, ceasing to fund three church-starting positions and two evangelism positions, deciding to stop funding jointly-funded CSBC ministry evangelism field positions (13 full-time, part-time and contract workers), transferring funds from eliminated positions to CSBC’s church starting portion of the jointly-funded budget and, lastly, announcing that it would only fund one NAMB missionary position in California for every 1 million unchurched in the state.

Barone said it is estimated that 33 million of California’s 37 million residents are lost without Jesus Christ.

“California’s unsaved population is greater than the population of 85 percent of the world’s 242 independent countries and inhabited dependent territories,” he said. The largest groups California Baptists work among are Hispanics, at more than 13 million, as well as Chinese and Koreans, which have populations of more than 1 million each.

“However, we have lots of ministry among Southeast Asians, Africans and European language groups – especially former Eastern Bloc/Soviet Union groups,” said Barone.

The report says the impact of NAMB changes eliminates important “ministries in CSBC’s strategy to reach California for Christ” by – among other things – increasing the matching funds required of Cooperative Program gifts received from California Southern Baptists from 23.4 to 37.3 percent.

Additionally, changes in NAMB funding means the state will lose three church starting specialists “deemed vital in addressing the unique church starting needs in California,” the report says. Areas to be eliminated are English-speaking church starting, African-American church starting and language/ethnic church starting.

“The losses of the African-American and language church starting positions are especially harmful, since those two groups represent 66 percent of CSBC churches and more than 60 percent of California’s population,” said the report.

Also, staff positions specializing in youth evangelism and multiethnic evangelism will be lost in the jointly-funded budget, according to the report. In all, 13 full-time, part-time and contract worker field ministry evangelism positions are marked for

elimination from California’s jointly-funded budget by 2018.

Moreover, the report states that because NAMB “unilaterally decided to transfer all funds from eliminated positions to the church-starting portion of the jointly-funded budget,” it requires the California convention to transfer matching dollars into church starting.

“When NAMB’s decision to eliminate state staff church starting positions for English-speaking, language and African-American church starting comes to fruition, CSBC will have to decide if any of the eliminated positions are strategically important enough to keep through self-funding,” states the report.

Lastly, the report details how NAMB’s decision to fund only 32 missionary positions in the state “will damage CSBC and associational missions.” California has 30 associations and 25 associational missionaries, according to Barone.

“Earlier in 2011, NAMB informed associational directors of missions (DOM) they would be given a new title (church planter catalyst) with church starting quotas to be met in order to remain NAMB missionaries. Currently, 18 DOMs

are in the jointly-funded budget. None receive sufficient funding to represent more than half of their remuneration,” the report states.

The report says, “CSBC believes that our current partnership/relationship with local associations is a vital link in our efforts to reach the lost in California. However, with just 32 positions approved by NAMB, deciding where to place priority for these positions will place great strain on CSBC/association relationships.”

In a point-by-point response to the California report provided by Mike Ebert, NAMB’s vice president of communications, NAMB says state convention executive directors were informed of the work that would begin on new cooperative agreements and that a process to address changes was agreed upon by the executive directors. NAMB added that it “clearly communicated” that old cooperative agreements would remain in place until a “new template” was presented.

“NAMB’s only decision in 2011 was to freeze funding,” the response says in regard to CSBC’s elimination of “vital missionary positions.”

NAMB added that it does not control the California convention’s missionary positions.

“That is a decision the state convention leadership makes in Califor-

nia,” the response states.

Pertaining to changes in funding ratios in the state, NAMB said it believes there is a need to “systematize the current funding ratios” it has with state conventions. It says all state conventions have been placed together within a region and evaluated based on a criteria, including age of the state convention, number of churches in the convention, Cooperative Program receipts and current NAMB-state ratio.

Regarding church planting, NAMB said it plans by January 2018 to place funding up to \$1.2 million in church plants in California, which is an increase from \$686,000 currently allocated in the state.

Ebert said it is important to note “that in 2012 budget NAMB is still sending \$3.2 million to (the) California convention and another \$600,000 to them for personnel benefits. That’s a significant amount of money.”

In response to unilaterally deciding “to stop jointly funding all ministry evangelism field positions” in California, NAMB responded that was precisely its intent.

“Our goal is to move a greater percentage of our funding to the church plant. ... The focus will be on field money for local churches to impact their community, and not on state staff,” NAMB said in the response.

The transfer of all funds from eliminated positions also follows NAMB’s stated strategy to expand church planting, according to NAMB’s response to the CSBC report.

“We are simply following our priority of ‘penetrating lostness through evangelistic church planting’ in North America,” the response said. “If we have 37 CPC’s (church planting catalysts) catalyzing 148 new works per year, we must have more funds in order to support the church plants/church planters. Remember, that is our new priority.”

Regarding the elimination of funding for NAMB missionaries in California, which includes those serving as associational missionaries, NAMB said the actual number of positions it said it would support is 37, not 32 as stated.

NAMB said having 37 church planting catalysts allows California to retain all 21 current jointly-funded directors of missions positions, then add an additional 15 church planting catalysts from the CSBC staff.

“We believe this to be a great solution that will assist both local associations in church planting as well as provide many of the current CSBC state staff who are doing a wonderful job in catalyzing new work,” the report says.

To read the California Southern Baptist Convention report in its entirety and NAMB’s responses, visit www.arkansasbaptist.org/nambimpact.

Contact Tim Yarbrough at tim@arkansasbaptist.org.



'October Baby' gets audiences thinking

AT ITS CORE, "October Baby" is a poignant drama celebrating love, forgiveness and, literally, life itself.

Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material, "October Baby" tells the story of Hannah Lawson, a college student who discovers her past is not what she thought it was. When she finds out she is adopted and the survivor of a failed abortion, she sets out on a road trip with her best friend, Jason, to find answers. But it is not until she finds forgiveness that she is truly set free.

The movie addresses the topic of abortion, which continues to be prevalent in American society, with 22 percent of pregnancies in the

U.S., excluding miscarriages, ending in abortion, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

"October Baby" shows the pain and consequences those abortions bring to all involved, – the nurses in the clinic, the birth mother, the adoptive parents and, most of all, the child who survives.

However, the movie also shows that while the pain is great, forgiveness is greater.

Jon Erwin, director, writer,

producer and executive producer of "October Baby," said perhaps presenting the issue of abortion

through the unique lens of the victim/survivor will encourage people to think.

He said the goal was not to tell people what to think, "but

just make them stop and think for themselves, 'What's my view on life, and how should that change my behavior?'"

While the movie is basically lack-

ing in sex and vulgar language, it does include family drama and descriptions of abortion.

It is a beautifully rendered story that is sure to tug the heartstrings of the audience.

The movie opens in theaters March 23. Erwin emphasized the importance of Christians supporting the film on opening weekend.

"If it performs opening weekend it will stay. If it doesn't, it'll be gone," he explained.

To find out if "October Baby" is playing in a particular area – and to find out how to bring it to a particular area if it is not – visit www.octoberbabymovie.net.



MOVIE REVIEW

Jessica Vanderpool

Abortion and the power of forgiveness

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – There have been more than 52 million abortions performed in the United States since the Roe v. Wade court decision in 1973. And for every abortion there is a woman who, to some degree, is complicit in the taking of her baby's life.

While those around her may have tried to convince her that it was in the baby's "best interest" not to live and that it was good for her well-being that she abort her unborn child, the reality is that no one walks out of an abortion clinic totally whole.

Abortion doesn't just impact the unborn child. The emotional and sometimes physical damage to the baby's mother is severe and long-lasting – even if the mother denies it. The damage extends to the baby's extended family, particularly if they advocated for the abortion.

Nearly half of the 6 million pregnancies in the United States are unplanned, and about 1.3 million end in abortion. At this pace, nearly a third of U.S. women will have had an abortion by age 45.

Those who push a so-called pro-

choice perspective disavow reality when they say that women can have an abortion and be unchanged. Apart from Christ, they have been inalterably changed. Often abortive women deal with the emotional trauma and distress on their own.

Yet, there is healing and forgiveness in Christ. Jesus knows the pain; He feels their hurt. And He wishes each person, no matter his or her background or baggage, to come to Him in faith.

The scourge of abortion is the sour fruit of a culture that denies all

human life is beautiful and valuable. The reality of abortion is evidence the church has failed to teach truth and to be salt and light.

The soon-to-be-released film "October Baby" centers on the redemptive power of forgiveness. The film follows a college freshman, an abortion survivor, as she searches for answers to a growing list of questions. It is a powerful tool for encouraging churchgoers to re-engage in the "life" issue.

As Christians, it is our responsibility to support women in difficult pregnancies, particularly when

they lack a support network. It is the church's duty to teach the biblical precept of the sanctity of every human life. The burden rests on people of faith to care for children who are unwanted – either to take part in foster care, adopt or support those who are called to do so.

And Christians are obligated to reach out in love and in forgiveness to those who are still struggling with a decision they made years earlier to

abort their child.

The reality is that the current state of the culture in the area of "life" can be laid at the feet of Bible-believing Americans who are neither speaking out nor stepping out for the innocent and defenseless. When God's people go silent, children are at risk and people suffer.

Dwayne Hastings serves as the vice president of communications for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

PERSPECTIVE

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"You saw me before I was born." Psalm 139:16 (NLT)

EVERY LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

"October Baby may be the best and most effective pro-life movie ever made. Its message of forgiveness and redemption will inspire everyone who sees it. See this movie!"
Dr. Richard Land, President, Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

"A great film with a great message!"
Alex Kendrick, Director, COURAGEOUS

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The producers of **OCTOBER BABY** have assigned 10% of the profits of the movie to the Every Life is Beautiful Fund, which will distribute funds to frontline organizations helping women facing crisis pregnancies, life-affirming adoption agencies, and those caring for orphans.

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Boys play a game at the 2011 Huntfest event.

Huntfest scheduled

LITTLE ROCK – Huntfest, a fellowship for men and boys, has been scheduled for Aug. 4. The one-day event, which will be held at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock, is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) evangelism and church growth team.

Professional fisherman Jimmy Houston, the host of “Jimmy Houston Outdoors,” is the keynote speaker.

Huntfest activities include hunt-

ing and fishing seminars, outdoor displays and fun activities for boys.

“(Huntfest provides) a great opportunity for churches to bring unchurched men from their community to an entertaining event where they will hear a clear presentation of the gospel from respected outdoorsmen,” said Sonny Tucker, ABSC evangelism and church growth team leader.

For more information, go to www.huntfest.com or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5128.

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17,000-plus baptized in NW Arkansas

Floyd marks 25 years at Cross Church

Lisa Falknor
Arkansas Baptist News

SPRINGDALE – Jim Hunt remembers 25 years ago when Cliff Palmer, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Springdale, placed a slip of paper into his hand on which were printed two names. One of the names has been forgotten. The other name was Ronnie Floyd.

“I urge you as part of the pastor search committee to go see Ronnie,” said Palmer. “I feel very strongly about this young man. You need to check him out.”

In Floyd’s 25 years of service in Northwest Arkansas as pastor of First Baptist, Springdale – renamed Cross Church in 2010 – the church has baptized more than 17,000 people and has grown to a multisite megachurch, reaching thousands weekly across three regions: Springdale, Pinnacle Hills in Rogers and Fayetteville.

First Baptist, Springdale, dates back to 1870 when six women and seven men met in a home in Springdale. After the celebration of the church’s 100th anniversary, revival broke out – a revival that continued into 1986, the year Floyd became pastor, said Hunt.

In the 1970s, a kindergarten was launched, which eventually became Shiloh Christian School.

Today, Shiloh is a nationally recognized college prep school known for excellence in academics and athletics. It serves 1,000 students pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

Last year, 98 percent of Shiloh’s scholars went to college, according to the school’s website. More than 33 percent of the class will graduate this May with a more than 4.0 grade-point average and an average ACT score of nearly 29.

Readers of *CitiScape Metro Monthly* magazine voted Shiloh the No. 1 private school in the region.

The school has won 30 state championships in various sports over the years. The 2011 ESPN high



Ronnie Floyd has pastored First Baptist Church, Springdale, for more than 25 years. The church was renamed Cross Church in 2010. At right is the Rogers campus.

school football rankings recognized the Shiloh Christian Saints as a team to watch this season.

Floyd launched the Global Mission Experience (GME) 10 years ago at Shiloh. The GME gives every high school student the opportunity to engage in international missions for credit at no cost to the student.

“The GME links right in with the church’s mission of reaching Northwest Arkansas, North America and the world for Christ,” said Melanie Michaelis, a GME coordinator who recently returned from China.

“Personally, for our kids, these are life-changing experiences,” she said, adding that the Shiloh baseball team plans to go to the Dominican Republic March 19-23.



Volunteers Nancy Mozingo (left) and Margo Mason serve at the Compassion Center in Springdale.



Andy Wilson, Cross Church executive director of ministry and operations, said he visited First Baptist 25 years ago, and the second Sunday he was there Floyd became pastor.

“We joined the next week,” he said. “I told my wife, ‘I like this young man.’”

“Ten years ago, I was a lay leader, and Pastor Floyd called a group of (us) together and shared a vision that he wanted

to launch a second site in Pinnacle Hills in Rogers,” Wilson said.

At that time, not a lot of churches had multiple sites, he said. They launched that site in a smaller building and stayed for five years with phenomenal growth. Five years later, they launched the existing new building.

The town built up around them with office complexes, restaurants and shopping.

In 2011, Cross Church expanded to a third site in Fayetteville, which now conducts four services each Sunday.

Floyd asked Wilson to begin a nonprofit organization, the Compassion Center, which opened in 2011 in Springdale. The center averages 60 volunteers and accepts 100 donations weekly.

Seventy percent of the center is retail while the other part is ministry – life skills training, food and rent

assistance, courses in English, Bible studies and job placement training.

Net revenue from sales goes back into Cross Church missions, helping provide outreach like the 3,000 food baskets distributed at Thanksgiving.

“It’s self-sustaining,” Wilson explained. “That was the pastor’s dream. Its purpose is to not only help provide the physical needs of people in our community, but more importantly, the spiritual.”

Today, Floyd leads Cross Church in a Greater Things mission challenge.

“Pastor Floyd has challenged our staff and congregations to be so intentional about the Great Commission that we would see 10,000 professions of faith this year,” said Andy Goode, associate minister of missions at Cross Church.

An accomplished goal like that might satisfy some, but not Floyd.

“How can I sit back and be satisfied?” he said. “How can my church sit back and pride ourselves on our accomplishments?”

“We cannot and will not,” he said.

“My vision is bigger than ever,” he said. “My passion is greater than ever. My urgency to see the world won to Christ has never been more existent. My opportunities to partner with others to be used by God are ever-increasing.”

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” he said, quoting Philippians 4:13.

Floyd’s recent book, “Our Last Great Hope,” communicates his passion to fulfill the Great Commission and win the world to Christ.

Lisa Falknor is Northwest region correspondent for the Arkansas Baptist News.



Cross Church, Fayetteville, opened near the campus of the University of Arkansas in January 2011.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering campaign sparks Arkansas Baptist's call to ministry

Lisa Watson
Arkansas Baptist News

LAMAR – In Southern Baptist churches across the country, the month of March is set aside to promote North American missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

During this emphasis, which includes a week of prayer for North American missions, church members hear stories about North American Mission Board (NAMB) initiatives and missionaries who are on the front lines of ministry across the country. This year's week of prayer is March 4-11.

Church members are encouraged to give sacrificially to North American missions.

For Denton Lewis, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering promotion at his church, Vilonia Baptist Fellowship, Vilonia, led to something more – a call to ministry.

Lewis said the 2009 Annie Armstrong emphasis featured several missionaries who were serving in the Western United States. On a Sunday morning, while he watched a video about a NAMB missionary serving in Idaho, Lewis said he sensed a still, small voice of the Lord calling him.

He said his wife, Cathy, sensed the same calling.

"My wife and I said, 'We've got to do more,'" explained Lewis.

"I thought, 'I can't resist the call to surrender to God's ministry,'" he continued, noting just prior to his church's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, his father, a pastor for more than 50 years, died. Lewis said preaching his father's funeral also helped he and his wife to be "ready to listen to God."

That night Lewis told his pastor,



Denton Lewis (second from left), during his ordination service, along with his wife, Cathy, and family. Wayne Kocourek, former pastor of Vilonia Baptist Fellowship, Vilonia, is on the left.

A Gift to Annie

- \$1 Pack of door hangers promoting a new church start.
- \$5 Hot meal for a resident at a homeless shelter.
- \$10 Jesus Storybook Bible for teaching grade-school children.
- \$15 Bible for a new believer.
- \$20 Discipleship materials for a small group.
- \$50 Witnessing tools and training for a mission team to share Christ with unbelievers.
- \$100 Supplies for a neighborhood evangelistic outreach event announcing a new church start.
- \$200 Scholarship for an inner-city child to attend a Christian summer camp.
- \$500 Wireless lapel microphone for a new church plant.

Wayne Kocourek, about his calling, expressing the sense that they might want to serve in the West.

Kocourek had just heard about a small church in Sandpoint, Idaho, looking for a pastor. So, Lewis and his wife committed to spend the summer serving at that church.

Lewis and his family spent four weeks at the church and one week

serving in Clarkston, Wash., before returning to Arkansas so Lewis could fulfill his contract as a teacher in Vilonia.

That summer was just the beginning for Lewis, who said that first ministry experience in Idaho served as a "springboard" to even more opportunities to serve the Lord.

Throughout the next year, Lewis

continued to have opportunities to preach at churches in Arkansas.

And in November 2010, he began preaching on an interim basis at Cabin Creek Baptist Church in Lamar. By the third Sunday, Lewis said the church decided to call him as bi-vocational pastor, officially extending the calling January 2011. He was ordained to the ministry the next month.

Lewis said he feels a special attachment to the Annie Armstrong emphasis because it helped to "spur" him to ministry.

"It was that campaign that helped us to surrender ... to decide what the Lord was calling us to do," he said.

"We were willing to do whatever the Lord wanted us to do," he added.

Easter offering facts

Arkansas' goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions is \$2 million. The national goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$70 million.

One hundred percent of gifts given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are used to support Southern Baptist missionaries serving in the United States and Canada. The offering represents 47 percent of NAMB's total income.

Missionaries supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering start new churches, engage in student evangelism on college campuses, serve the physical and spiritual needs of people through inner-city Baptist centers, serve in local Baptist associations as church planting catalysts, provide training and ministry in evangelism and minister in resort settings such as campgrounds and ski areas.

Contact Lisa Watson at lisa@arkansasbaptist.org

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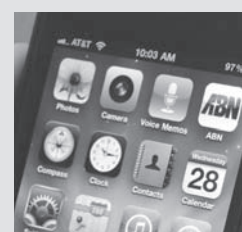
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On iPhone: Type www.arkansasbaptist.org in your Web browser. Click on "add to home screen."

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Telling the story of Arkansas Baptists since 1901



Children's Ministry Day

Windy Campbell (right), a member of Baring Cross Baptist Church, Sherwood, serves drinks to international students at the Metro Baptist Collegiate Ministry's Conversation Club Feb. 27. Children from the Sherwood church helped prepare the food for the event as part of Children's Ministry Day. Read about the event in an upcoming issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News*.

Fellowship of Retired Baptist Workers



Tuesday, April 17, 2012

9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall
Park Hill Baptist Church,
North Little Rock

Deadline to register:
Friday, April 6, 2012

Theme: Amazing Grace

\$10 per person, reservation required. For more information contact Marty Davis at mdavis@absc.org or 800-838-2272 or 501-376-4791 ext. 5101.

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Church life

First Baptist Church, Paragould, will hold the For the Love of Annie Auction 12-2 p.m. April 1. The auction will benefit the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions and will include vintage and brand new items, collectibles, gift certificates, baked goods and themed gift baskets prepared by Sunday school classes of all ages.

First Baptist Church, Stephens, will hold a five-kilometer run or walk March 31 to benefit their mission trip to an Alaskan village. For more information, call the church at 870-786-5468 or visit www.fbcstephens.blogspot.com.

Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, will hold the Secret Church Simulcast on Good Friday, April 6. The simulcast is a six-hour Bible study modeled after the underground churches in hostile nations. In conjunction with the simulcast, the church is coordinating The Arkansas Bible Project to collect both new and used Bibles that will then be distributed to those who need them. All churches are invited to take part in the Bible project. For more information, visit www.arkansasbibleproject.org.

Bellaire Baptist Church, Dermott, will hold a homecoming celebration March 11 with guest speaker Eddie Simpson, former church pastor, and musical group Long Way to Go of Mississippi. Sunday school will begin at 9:45 a.m., followed by a worship service at 11 a.m. and a potluck lunch.

Milestones

Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, celebrated its 75th anniversary March 3-4 with a Saturday dinner and a Sunday service.

On the move

Kevin White is serving as pastor of First Baptist Church, Mulberry.

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■ ABCHomes is seeking a **case manager** for the **Baptist Home** in Monticello. For more information, contact Randy Luper, 870.367.5358 or rluper@abchomes.org.



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Statewide Friend Day set for Oct. 14

"IT'S SIMPLE; it works."

That's Kim Bridges' opinion of Statewide Friend Day, a one-day "attractational" harvest event designed to reach non-Christians with the gospel of Christ.

Bridges' church, First Baptist Church, Marmaduke, was part of a group of churches from Greene County Baptist Association and North Arkansas Baptist Association holding Friend Day events last year.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) is encouraging churches all across Arkansas to participate in a Statewide Friend Day. The suggested date for the event is Oct. 14.

Statewide Friend Day is part of the Reaching Across Arkansas initiative, the next phase of a 10-year strategy to saturate Arkansas and the nation with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"Friend Day is simple and easy to do. In one national survey, 82 percent of the unchurched responded they were at least somewhat likely to attend church if they were invited," said Sonny Tucker, ABSC evangelism and church growth team leader.

Bridges said his church adapted the Friend Day strategy to be part of a month-long emphasis. He said Friend Day works because it can be "adapted" so that every person in the church, from the youngest to the oldest, can be a part of it.

"It gives people an avenue to in-

vite people that is out of the norm," he continued.

The church's attendance numbers dramatically increased on that day from the norm of 275 to 450 people in worship.

During Across Arkansas in 2010-11, the gospel message was sown in more than 400,000 homes in the state, said Tucker.

Unity Baptist Church, Paragould, has held Friend Day outreach events for the past three years. Each year attendance has increased. However,

Tracy Archibald, Unity Baptist pastor, said the church holds Friend Day for only one purpose – building the kingdom of God.

"We do it to share the gospel," he said. "Friend Day is about building the kingdom."

Dennis Zmek, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Valley Springs, said his church was so pleased with the success of Friend Day that they have already made plans for next year's event. Zmek said Friend Day "primes the pump" for what his

church should be doing.

"It puts people in the frame of mind of inviting people," he said.

Tucker encourages churches to plan harvest events for spring, such as an evangelistic Easter service, a wild game dinner, a revival meeting or a block party.

"All four of these examples of attractational harvest events typically are highly successful in Arkansas," said Tucker. "However, a church can take an event they are already doing and turn it into a harvest event."

More information about Friend Day and planning other attractational harvest events is available at www.absc.org/gps or by contacting the evangelism and church growth team at 800-838-2272, ext. 5128.

Mother of the year contest

ABN honors mothers

THE ARKANSAS Baptist News (ABN) is announcing its eighth annual A Tribute to Godly Mothers essay contest.

In an effort to honor all mothers, each year the ABN selects a mother of the year based on entries.

The issue prior to Mother's Day announces the winner and includes the winning tribute, which will be chosen based on the quality of motherhood, godliness of the woman being honored and the readability of the essay submitted.

The winning mother will receive a special gift and will be honored in her church April 29. To honor your mother or another mother

you feel deserves recognition, send the ABN a tribute about the mother you wish to nominate.

Tributes should be no more than 300 words and should include the mother's full name and church home. Also include your phone number and an email address.

The mother you nominate must be a current member of an Arkansas Baptist church.

All tributes should be received in the ABN office no later than April 20.

Send your tribute to *Arkansas Baptist News*, 10 Remington Dr., Little Rock, AR 72204, or email it to lisa@arkansasbaptist.org.

ABN Blind Tape Ministry

provides a free taped recording of the *Arkansas Baptist News* for people who are legally blind.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Becky at 800-838-2272 (in state) or in Little Rock at 501-376-4791, ext. 5156.

Classifieds

PASTOR

Mt. Zion Baptist Church seeks **bi-vocational pastor**. MZBC, P.O. Box 258, Oxford, AR 72517, or pastor@write.com.

Marshall Road Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Ark., is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resume to Marshall Road Baptist Church, P.O. Box 726, Jacksonville, AR 72078 or to email mrbcpastorsearchteam@gmail.com. Phone: 501-982-4564.

Hazen First Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resumes to Hazen FBC – Pastor Search Team, P.O. Box 489, Hazen, AR 72064, or email hazenpastorsearch@hotmail.com.

Bi-vocational pastor needed at Grace Country Church, Sidney, Ark. A small nontraditional church with a mission for local community outreach. Send resume to Pastor Search Team, P.O. Box 114, Sidney, AR 72577, or call 870-346-5822.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Arkadelphia, Ark., is seeking a **full-time pastor** to fulfill that office in a godly manner, upholding God's Word, as it is written, and can minister to the needs of the church. Contact Fred Goshen at frednbea@suddenlink.net.

First Baptist Church, El Dorado, Ark., is prayerfully seeking a **pastor** following the retirement of its pastor after 15 years of service. Please email resumes to searchfbc11@yahoo.com or mail to Pastor Search Committee, 100 East Peach Street, Room 350, El Dorado, AR 71730.

First Baptist Church, Alton, Mo., is seeking **full-time pastor**. Location in rural south Missouri county seat town. Send resume to First Baptist Church, Box 187, Alton, MO 65606, or wjwynn44@yahoo.com.

Bee Branch Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time pastor**. If interested, send resume to Search Committee: Eddie Dunham, 6880 Hwy. 9 West, Clinton, AR 72031, or email wjdunham822@yahoo.com.

First Baptist Church of Marceline, Mo., a rural Southern Baptist church, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please submit resumes with references to First Baptist Church, Attn: Bill Toops, P.O. Box 281, Marceline, MO 64658.

As our **pastor** is retiring, Trinity Baptist seeks a Titus 1:1-9 man to lead our debtless congregation with an annual budget of \$450,000. M.Div. and five years experience preferred. Salary, medical and housing/car allowances. Visit www.tbclongview.org for information. Send resume, written statement of faith and doctrinal beliefs to Search Committee, P.O. Box 8286, Longview, TX 75607 or trinity8286@aol.com.

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

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Nettleton Baptist Church, a missions-minded, Acts 1:8 church, is seeking two like-minded ministers. We need a **full-time minister to youth** and a **full-time minister to young adults and university students**. The successful candidates will be energetic, Spirit-filled and spiritually mature Christians who are sound in doctrine and have at

least three years or equivalent experience in ministry. They must also be dedicated to growing God's kingdom through retention of our own children and reaching out to prospects. A bachelor's degree and seminary education are preferred. We live in one of the fastest-growing college towns in Arkansas so the opportunity for success is great. Please email resumes to sballard@nettletonbaptistchurch.org.

First Baptist Church of Rogers, hiring a **ministry assistant**, 30-40 hours per week. Experience with a church data management program system (ACS) preferred. Strong skills in Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher are desired. Will relate to multiple areas of ministry; therefore team player/people skills are needed. Interested applicants should contact the church office at 479-636-3451 to request an online application.

FBC, Lepanto, Ark., is seeking a **full-time minister of music and youth**. Website: FBClepanto.com. Send resumes to Search Committee, P.O. Box 400, Lepanto, AR 72354 or by email to Anthony@fbclepanto.com.

Growing congregation seeking **worship leader**. Part-time now, hopefully full-time in near future. Walnut Valley Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Ark., 501-282-2887 or tforrest@cablelynx.com.

Seeking a **part-time youth minister** and/or **children's minister**. Open Door Baptist Church Personnel Committee, 2400 W. Oak St., Rogers, AR 72756, or kkroten@cox.net.

London's First Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time worship leader**. Ours is a "blended service" with Sunday morning attendance in the 130-150 range. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 17 Southern Baptist Road, London, AR 72847.

First Baptist Trumann, Ark., is seeking a **part-time youth minister**. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 575, Trumann, AR 72472.

Bi-vocational youth director needed. Contact River Road Baptist, P.O. Box 161, Redfield, AR 72132; 501-397-2576; 870-536-4109; or river013@centurytel.net.

First Baptist Church in Carlisle is seeking a **part-time or full-time music minister**. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 25, Carlisle, AR 72024.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Custodian needed weekdays for general maintenance and cleaning. Full-time position includes benefits. Applicant must have HS diploma or equivalent and be physically able to perform duties. Send resume to Mark Hall, Calvary Baptist Church, 5700 Cantrell Road, Little Rock, AR 72207 or mark@cbcl.org.



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NAME

continued from page 6

Fischer, who grew up in New Jersey, was raised in a different denomination and chose later to join the SBC. As a "Yankee," he said his fellow Yankees have no problem with the name of the convention.

"In fact, most could care less," Fischer said. "What the problem is deals more with attitudes, leadership and relationships."

For Jason Leake, music minister at First Baptist Church, Crawfordsville, it comes down to the gospel.

"Are we seriously expecting the gospel to be more attractive to a lost and dying world by removing the word 'Southern' from our literature and letterhead?" Leake asked. "The gospel can stand on its own. ... This re-branding seems arrogant and out of touch with what the Great Commission actually commands us to do."

Pleased with decision

Some Arkansas Baptists are pleased with the decision.

"I think the name 'SBC' comes with certain stigmas with Northern states, so I think it's a good move to have the option of the 'Great Commission Baptists,'" said David McFerron, youth pastor at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.

Because she is located in the South, Maribeth Gambill, pastor's wife and member of Second Baptist Church, Perryville, does not see her church using a different name.



Crawford

"But if I were serving in a church in some other region, I probably would take advantage of changing the label to a less regional name to make the gospel more marketable to the people of that area," she said. "I am glad that Southern Baptist churches that are not in the South will have this option. I would be less likely to be attracted to the Southern Baptist denomination if I were not Southern. It gives the church an impression of being nonlocal, even if it was planted by people from that area."

Jeff Crawford, lead pastor at Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith, also sees the decision favorably.

"This will be a good test to see how many churches embrace the term 'Great Commission Baptists' and whether or not it helps or hurts the mission of our churches that use it," Crawford said.

He added, "This decision speaks to the wisdom of the task force. It gives churches who feel that the 'Southern Baptist' term hurts their church-planting/growth efforts an-

other way to express their affiliation with our denomination, and at the same time it preserves the historical roots of our convention for those who find this important."

To see more of what Arkansas Baptists are saying about the name "Great Commission Baptists," visit www.arkansasbaptist.org.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.

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Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disaster Operations

13 Contact Hours - Instructor: Greg Young

Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support

13 Contact Hours - Instructor: Sterling Claypoole

Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Thursday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (lunch provided)

April 27-28 - Jacksonville

Second Baptist Church

Group Crisis Intervention

14 Contact Hours - Instructor: Greg Young

Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (lunch provided)

Registration Deadline: March 30

Payment due in advance: \$50, ABSC church members; \$95, all others

For registration information, go to www.absc.org/chaplaincyevents or contact Pam at 800-838-2272 ext. 5249, or email prosinbaum@absc.org.

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for Pastors, Deacons, Sunday School Teachers, Care Group Leaders, Church Members

Saturday, April 28

Second Baptist Church, Jacksonville

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



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All classes free of charge with lunch provided.

Pre-registration is required.

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Police and Fire Chaplain Basic Training

April 27-28

Second Baptist Church, Jacksonville

Friday, 10 a.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, 8 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.

For current and future police or fire chaplains who would like Basic Training, a 12-hour course that equips the chaplain with basic skills including: Police and Fire Families, Death Notification, Responding to A Crisis Situation, Suicide and much more.

A complete listing is online at www.absc.org/chaplaincyevents

All classes free of charge with lunch provided.

Pre-registration is required.

For registration information, go to www.absc.org/chaplaincyevents or contact Pam at 800-838-2272 ext. 5249, or email prosinbaum@absc.org.

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

An unexpected Messiah: Honor Him

Because so many things are culturally acceptable, Christians are often forced to take a stand and make choices that are biblically consistent with their faith. The world today is hostile to biblical Christianity. It's not easy to be a Christian in a non-Christian world. When we look at Scripture, we see that Jesus had a hard time being the Christ in a non-Christian world.

After having success in His ministry, He returned home as a very popular Person (Luke 4:14-15). Everyone wanted to hear Him teach, and all eyes were "fastened on Him" (Luke 4:20). After reading from Isaiah 61, Jesus proclaimed, "Today

this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21).

By saying this, Jesus was indicating publicly that He was the Messiah, God's Son. While it was true, it was a bold statement to make. Though Jesus knew His testimony would be rejected, He did not back down. His intention was not to be inflammatory, but He took a stand on truth with love. In our culture today, there is great opposition to Christian principles and truths. Follow the example of Christ and proclaim truth with love in every setting, not just convenient ones.

Jesus knew that disbelief would cause skeptics to ask for miraculous

proof of His heavenly identity (Luke 4:22-23). We have to learn that God does not come to us on our terms. He will meet us where we are, but only after we have surrendered to Him.

Though God in the flesh was speaking directly to them, the people would not surrender themselves to Him. They rejected Him (Luke 4:28-30). Jesus did not fit the culturally popular idea of who the Messiah should be. In doing so, the

people missed out on fulfilling humanity's life-purpose of glorifying God and missed out on salvation.

They refused to surrender to Him because they let their culture define their standards. We should be careful not to reject God the same way. We often find ourselves out of God's will because we listen

to everything else except Him.

Don't let culture define your faith; let God define it. Represent Him even when it's not easy.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE MARCH 18, 2012

Jason Campbell
college ministry associate
Geyer Springs FBC, Little Rock

Scripture passage:
Luke 4:16-30

How many times have you heard the expression, "If you know what's good for you, ..."?

Oftentimes the advice is good, like, "If you know what's good for you, you will wear your seat belt," or, "If you know what's good for you, you won't talk back to your parents," or, "If you know what's good for you, you'll remember what happened the last time you forgot to finish that honey do list."

There are many things that are good for you, and one of the most important is giving thanks to the

Lord. Right there in the Scriptures we are told, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord" (Psalm 92:1, NASB).

Oftentimes we don't think of worship as being good for us. It's just something we are trained to do. We show up in the pew, open our mouths and follow along with the song leader.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE MARCH 18, 2012

Daniel Haigwood
pastor
Hermitage Baptist, Hermitage

Scripture passage:
Psalm 92:1-15

Christianity 101: Accept others

The Bible teaches that where there is Christ, there is a way – the only Way. Our world tells us that believing Christ is the only Way is narrow-minded and ignorant. However, God's Word makes it clear that the love and power of Christ is greater than any other. In the following verses, we can easily see three characteristics of the love and power of Christ.

They are limitless (Luke 4:31-37). Imagine what the people in Capernaum must have thought when they saw the demon-possessed man. Many may have been frightened by the way the man was acting. Jesus was not confused, shocked or afraid.

He called that man out of evil and sin and into redemption. The Lord's outreach in this man's life should remind us that the power and love of Christ are limitless. Remember, nothing is impossible with God.

They touch lives (Luke 5:12-13). People suffering from leprosy were social outcasts. Jesus broke every social standard by even allowing the outcast to be in His presence. Notice Jesus' response to the man's request for healing. He did not merely pronounce healing, which He had authority to do. He physically touched the diseased man and brought healing. As Christians, we need to be willing to touch lives. We need to

demonstrate the love of Christ to others. How can you be hands-on with those you are trying to reach?

How can you touch a life in the name of Christ?

They multiply (Luke 5:14-16). When people heard about the power of Christ, they wanted to meet Him personally. The ministry of Christ in the life of one man multiplied and had an eternal impact on many. Is your personal ministry multiplying? Are you telling others about how God

has worked in your life? How can your life have an eternal impact?

As Christians, we are called to

follow the example of our Lord. Pray about how God can display His limitless power and love through your life. Ask Him to provide you with opportunities to touch lives for

His name's sake. If you are willing, God will begin to multiply your personal ministry, and He will have an eternal impact through you.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE MARCH 25, 2012

Jason Campbell
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Scripture passages:
Luke 4:31-37; 5:12-16

I have a prosthetic left leg. I also have a love/hate relationship with my prosthesis. I am so thankful for the knowledge God has given man to build these things. Without it, I would be limited in my abilities to minister. With it, I am able to do 99.8 percent of what I want to do. One of my favorite stories to tell of my love/hate relationship happened several months after I was fitted with my leg.

It was early one morning, still dark in the bedroom; I decided it was time to get up. I didn't want to

wake my wife, so I sat up in bed and put my prosthesis on in the dark. When I stood up, I noticed I couldn't get my balance. I grabbed hold of the wall and braced against it until I could get to the bathroom.

When I got in the bathroom, I turned on the light to see what was going on, and it was

then that I noticed that I had put my leg on backward. I started to grumble to myself about having to put on this leg and all the "problems" I was having. I was headed toward a full-fledged pity party. Then it struck me. Here I was, standing in my bathroom with my left foot facing backward and my right foot facing forward. It was quite funny looking.

I began to laugh. Here I was, complaining about having this problem when I should have been thankful for what the Lord had brought me through. Just a few months prior I was not doing well at all. But the Lord had healed me and provided

me with what I needed to return to doing what He had called me to do.

The author of this Psalm says, "Who is wise? Let him give heed to these things, and the loving-kindness of the Lord" (Psalm 107:43, NASB).

He had spent the majority of the Psalm reminding the people of all the Lord had brought them through.

Sometimes we need to be reminded of what the Lord has done, so that we do not forget that His loving-kindness is forever.

And in those moments, I say, "Thank You."

I thank You

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE MARCH 25, 2012

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Scripture passages:
Psalm 107:1-9, 33-38, 43



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ABN contest

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'Great Commission Baptists' suggested for SBC

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