



Students work to serve others

## Batesville encounters Collision outreach

Tim Yarbrough  
Arkansas Baptist News

BATESVILLE - "It's the most Christian thing I have ever seen."

This was the response of Batesville resident Madeline Hastings, who was having her house painted as a result of the work of students and leaders serving in the first Collision mission project July 9-13.

In all, 64 youth from Batesville-area churches and a Sherwood church worked on 11 mission outreach projects around the theme Where the Love of Christ Meets a Broken World.

"These kids are super, and these counselors (leaders) are super," said Hastings, smiling as she watched students and leaders work on her house. "I think it is the most Christian thing I have ever seen. ... Christ didn't just sit in an air-conditioned

church. He got out and was with the people. They were where He was working and doing. ... He was a carpenter by trade."

Madeline and her husband, Donald, who have resided in Batesville for nearly 30 years - and in the house at Josephine Street for 10 years - are known simply as "Mimi and Granddaddy" by their neighbors.

Hastings said the experience has rekindled her faith and she now plans to return to church.

Chris Sims, pastor of Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church, Batesville, served as manager of the construction, painting and outreach projects during the week of Collision.

"The idea is organizing projects so our young people go out in groups of six to 10 and work tangi-

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Students and leaders work on a house in Batesville during the first Collision mission outreach project held July 9-13. Collision participants worked on 11 houses in the city to assist needy residents and in an effort to open the door to the gospel. Photo by Tim Yarbrough

**Church Building & Facilities**

Read about Arkansas Baptist churches improving their facilities.

**See pages 7-10**

## Jones takes helm as WBC president

WALNUT RIDGE - Thomas Jones began work July 9 as the new president of Williams Baptist College. He was selected in the spring to lead the four-year, liberal arts college at Walnut Ridge. He is the sixth president of Williams.

"I have been looking forward to this with much anticipation ever since the announcement was made. It's great to get in the office and get to work with all of the good people at Williams," he said.

Jones is no stranger to Williams,

having served as vice president for institutional advancement at the college from 1994 to 2000. He was also active in the community, including

Leadership Lawrence County and the Northeast Arkansas Regional Leaders Program.

He is an Arkansas native. Jones and his wife, Gail, have relocated from northern California, where he served as a vice president at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary for the past 12 years. They have an adult daughter and son, both of whom reside in California.



Jones

ter and son, both of whom reside in California.

"Gail and I are very pleased to be back at Williams and back in this community. Our family has great memories of this area, and it is so good to be a part of it again. We are very excited about meeting the people of the area, as well as seeing old friends in the weeks and months ahead," he said.

Jones succeeds Jerol Swaim, who retired as president at the end of June.

## Magnet Cove Southern Baptist continues to grow

Leah Fender  
Arkansas Baptist News

MAGNET COVE - Just a year ago, no more than 125 people could squeeze into the pews at First Southern Baptist Church of Magnet Cove. But since building its new auditorium, 350 people can worship comfortably together.

The newly completed sanctuary is "everything I hoped for and more," said Harvey Sheppard, building and grounds chairman for First Southern Baptist Church of Magnet Cove.

Charlie Williams, pastor of the



First Southern Baptist Church of Magnet Cove builds its new sanctuary next to the old one.

church, said the old sanctuary just couldn't hold their members and visitors.

"We were constantly having new people visit the church, but we literally had nowhere to put them. So they rarely came back," said Wil-

liams. "We knew a larger sanctuary was needed, but with the current economic times, we were hesitant to borrow any money."

In the end though, Williams said the advantages of having a new worship space outweighed the disadvantages.

"Limited space was killing our growth. We had to build a larger worship space regardless of the cost," Williams said.

They found a way to cut costs by using the skills of people in the church.

"We were lucky to have some church members who were skilled workers (electricians and building

contractors). As a result, we were able to save about \$160,000 in costs," said Williams.

"We were so fortunate to have so many people willing to sacrifice their time for the sake of this building," Sheppard said.

So, with the help of members from the congregation who donated their time and skills to build the new space, the church's new auditorium took shape.

"It took a little over a year to construct the new building that is adjacent to the old one. We constructed the new building very

See **GROWTH** page 2

# ABCHomes visits Brazil orphanage

Stella Prather  
ABC Homes

FLORIANOPOLIS, BRAZIL – Hugs were in abundance recently at the Vinde a Mim Orphanage (Let the Children Come Unto Me Orphanage), a group home for children ages 6-12 in an urban and poor area of Florianopolis.

Eight residents of the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello traveled to the southeastern Brazilian city June 15-25 to take part in a 10-day mission trip. The first-ever overseas mission trip for any group of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries (ABCHomes) residents was funded by several ABCHomes donors. Among those who participated in the trip were Jade and Krissy.\*

"These kids are precious," said Jade, adding that while they "don't really understand" our language, "it's so fun to love on them." Before leaving the home, Jade and her friend Krissy taught their

new 5-year-old friend to sing "Jesus Loves Me" in English. "It was so fun hearing him sing," said Krissy. "The look on his face was awesome."

The Baptist Home residents, along with 11 ABCHomes staff members and representatives, ministered alongside Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries Ron and Alana Greenwich. Ron Greenwich, who grew up at the Baptist Home, has ministered in the South American country for 28 years.

"I am so thankful ... for the group from Arkansas, especially those from the Baptist Home, which is part of

my past, for coming to Brazil to minister with us," said Greenwich. "I feel so very close to this group just because of our connection to the Baptist Home."

It was a "privilege," he said, to host this group and to "watch them interact with little children who have even less than they do."

While in Brazil, the mission team spent two days ministering at a public school in a Florianopolis "favela" – the generally used term for a shantytown in Brazil. It is a very violent community that is plagued with drug problems and domestic violence. Many residents' only means of making a living is collecting trash and sorting through it to find recyclable items to sell.

At the school, several Baptist Home team members were allowed to lead a Bible study and share their testimonies. Others helped the Brazilian children make crafts and balloon animals.

Next door at a community center first started by the Greenwiches, other team members led area teenagers in recreational and sporting events. American football and baseball were a big hit among the Brazilians. Each teen was presented with a Slip Disc, a Frisbee-type disc with the gospel message in Portuguese on the underside decal.

Noting that soccer is by far the favorite sports in Brazil, team member Dave Bostian, activities director, said Brazilian kids nevertheless enjoyed learning about the American games.

"They didn't quite understand the idea of running around the baseball diamond, but they sure liked to slam the ball," he smiled.



**ABN online**  
View a photo slideshow  
of the Brazil mission trip at  
[www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org)



Jade, a resident of the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello, blows bubbles with an orphan at Vinde a Mim Orphanage in Florianopolis, Brazil. Photo by Stella Prather

Lucia Perry, wife of David Perry, ABCHomes executive director, was among the group who traveled to Brazil. Lucia said one thing she noticed during a visit to the homes of two women living in the favela was the hospitality among those who had so little.

"At each home, they wanted to offer us food and coffee," she said. "I was touched by these wonderful ladies."

The team also visited two low-income day care centers where they led backyard Bible-type clubs and recreational activities. Four ABCHomes leaders shared about the history, program and funding of ABCHomes with a group who oversee Brazilian residential group/foster care-type homes.

At another orphanage for infants and toddlers up to 3 years old, team members painted a bedroom and dining area. When team members learned there were three infants on-site, they jumped at the chance to cuddle and rock the little ones.

After holding 18-month-old Alexander, board member Robin Caldwell said, "When he said, 'Mamaaaa,' I felt maternal instincts tak-

ing over."

Caldwell, an ABCHomes executive board member, jokingly said her husband could surely get used to a baby boy around the house.

Each of the ABCHomes residents said they won't soon forget the experiences and opportunities to minister during the mission trip.

"I can't even put into words what it meant for me to come on this trip," said Jake, team member and resident of the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello. "I'll never forget it."

Noting the living conditions of the favela children she observed on the trip, Caitlyn, team member and resident of the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello, said, "We (Americans) get more and more things all the time and all we do is take and take. I was so inspired by the joy on the faces of these kids who really don't have much."

Erica, team member and resident of the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello, called the trip an "incredible blessing."

"I will never forget holding two of

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## GROWTH

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slowly," said Williams. "We could have had it done in six months if we hired contractors to do all of the work, but we chose to take our time and rely on church members who graciously donated their time and skills to make this happen."

In addition to the assistance of Magnet Cove members, a number of area businesses helped out, including Hardman Lumber Company out of Arkadelphia.

"I work directly with the owner (of Hardman Lumber Company), said Mason Barns, Sheppard's nephew and employee of Hardman Lumber Company. "He was monumental in assisting the church with finding affordable materials. (The

owner) would even call other suppliers to find the church cheaper prices than he could provide if needed."

In addition to more room, the church now has a baptistry. For 30 years, the congregation had to use the baptistry of another church, Williams said.

"Every time we had a baptism, we would have our regular church service in the old sanctuary, but then at 2 o'clock, we would go down the street to Third Baptist, Malvern, to hold our baptisms," Williams added. "We are so grateful for their hospitality in allowing us to use their facilities for so long. We can't say thank you enough."

Third Baptist Church, Malvern, actually planted First Southern Bap-

tist in 1978.

"We are so thankful for their support through the years," Williams said.

The congregation moved into this new facility about five weeks ago, but marked the official opening with a special dedication service Sunday, July 15.

"I have been looking forward to this ever since we moved in just a few weeks ago," said church member Julie Kelly. "I love the fact that nearly all of our church members had some part of this new space. From the lights to the picture hanging on the wall, I know exactly each person that had a hand in it, which makes this space that much more special."



**ABN online**  
View a photo slideshow  
of the church being built  
at [www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org)

With the new auditorium complete, visitors are coming back, Williams said, smiling.

"Now that visitors are comfortable, we are seeing a lot of them return," he said. "For such a small community, it's amazing that we have that many visitors to begin with."

Magnet Cove's population is 453, according to the 2010 U.S. Census.

"I am proud of this church and what has happened here," said Sonny Tucker, Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church growth team leader and keynote speaker for the church's building dedication. "Jesus has truly shown up at this place. I am grateful to celebrate with them today and look forward to seeing what God is going to continue to do here."

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For IMB missionary

## London home for sake of immigrants, Olympics

Elaine Gaston

Woman's Missionary Union

LONDON – Doug Shaw points out the wave-shaped roof of the 2012 Olympic aquatics center as he looks across the tracks from Platform 4B at London's Stratford Railway Station. Beyond the center rises the triangulated exterior of the main Olympic stadium.

The Olympic Park has been a rapidly developing scene for the passengers that commute daily through this station to other parts of London and beyond.

They've also watched renovations at the station that have boosted capacity to prepare for the tens of thousands of international spectators, volunteers and athletes that will travel to the Olympic Park each day during the 2012 Olympics. The station will operate around the clock during that time, with a capacity for 250,000 people daily, said Doug Shaw, International Mission Board (IMB) missionary, who has become something of an expert on the logistics of how the Olympic Games operate.

Doug Shaw, who with



David Pile (left) of the London Baptist Association and Doug Shaw of the IMB discuss a diagram of the Olympic Park in London's Stratford area. Pile and Shaw have been working for months on strategy and volunteer coordination for ministry during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

his wife, Marcy, has served in Poland and London, is Olympics volunteer coordinator for Southern Baptists.

The real reason the Shaws moved to London, however, was not this global sporting event, but the internationals themselves – in particular, the Polish population now living in London.

Just standing on this station platform or walking down a nearby road reveals the multicultural reality of London today, with immigrants from nearly every country imag-

inable making this city their home.

On Stratford's High Street – the British equivalent of an American Main Street – Eastern European women push babies in strollers, and covered women draped with head scarves carry shopping bags home.

Faces reflecting a variety of ethnicities and nationalities run to catch buses, read in the public library and work in the restaurants and shops in this east London community.

Doug Shaw knows the

area well. He frequents Stratford to observe various stages of the Olympic grounds development as he plans for the hundreds of volunteers that will come to be a part of a Southern Baptist volunteer force assisting during the Olympics. But that's just part of his job.

The Shaws came to London in 2008 to reach out to the large Polish community here. Before moving to London, they had served nine years in Rzeszów, Poland, as church planters, deep in the language and culture there.

They were set to return to their former country of service after Doug Shaw worked a stint in the state-side offices of the IMB and were praying about what city to return to in Poland.

In the course of the work he was doing for the IMB's Global Research Department, though, Doug Shaw passed through London several times.

"We were getting ready to come back to Poland," Marcy Shaw said. "We were praying over it. But every time Doug traveled

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## COLLISION

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bly – all kinds of projects from roofing ... to surveying the (Marcella) community, trying to find out what the needs are, to see if there needs to be a new church plant there."

Churches with students participating in addition to Pilgrim's Rest were First Baptist Church, Sherwood; Floral Baptist Church, Floral, and Cord Baptist Church, Cord, said Sims.

"Most of the materials we worked on the front end to have donated by local businesses," said Sims. "W.A.R.P. 180 worked to get the shingles donated on this project, and we got local churches and everybody else to donate all the other materials. So the campers had a fee that covered some general things. Other than that, it has been pretty seamless."

Sims added, "What we have run into is a lot of opportunity to share our faith, a lot of opportunity to pray with folks ... broken world is right, lots of opportunity for that. Most of the youth that came to this

camp seemed to come with a relationship with Christ and just ready to serve."

W.A.R.P. 180 is a women's substance recovery ministry based at Parkview Baptist Church in Batesville.

Austin Thompson, 16, of Cord Baptist, said he has enjoyed working to repair a resident's roof.

"We are helping out people who need it the most," said Thompson. "When we got here, the roof was caving in. ... We are pretty much redoing the whole roof.

"We are doing it to show God's love for other people, ... for people who need it," he added.

Ronnie Toon, associational missionary for the Independence Baptist Association, served as Collision camp director and coordinator, along with assistance from the staff of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC). Students and leaders participating in Collision stayed at the association camp during the week.

Toon said the partnership exhibited between the association, state convention and churches was important in bringing the Collision project together.

"It strengthens my relationship with the churches that I serve," said Toon.

She also added that, "A lot of small, rural churches can't do a World Changers event – they don't have the resources or the ability to get there oftentimes. It makes it more personal and allows small churches to participate.

"(Small churches) are a large part of who we are anyway (as a convention). It gives them a seat at the table that they ordinarily might not get," he said.

Bill Cantrell, a member of the ABSC missions ministries team who worked with Toon and area churches to organize Collision, said he was impressed with youth participating in the project.

"Youth worked hard during the day and celebrated in song and worship in the evening. Prayerfully, this mission camp experience for small church youth groups will grow and expand to other associations," Cantrell said.

Collision was made possible in part through gifts to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering.

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## ABN Digest

Stories of interest to Arkansas Baptists

### Attempt to overturn gay history law fails

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (BP) – California's first-in-the-nation gay history law will remain the law for public schools after a signature drive aimed at overturning it fell short for the second time in a year. A pro-family coalition announced July 16 that it would not be able to gather the 505,000 signatures needed to qualify what it had called the CLASS Act, an initiative that would have repealed SB 48, which was signed last year and went into effect Jan. 1. The coalition's email said about 446,000 signatures had been collected.

### Congressman questions end to LifeWay Bibles

WASHINGTON – A Southern Baptist congressman has called on Defense Secretary Leon Panetta to investigate why the Pentagon revoked permission for LifeWay Christian Resources to use military insignias on Bibles it had been publishing, the Associated Baptist Press reported. U.S. Rep. Alan Nunnelee (R-Miss.) wrote a July 10 letter, cosigned by 22 members of Congress, questioning the motive behind asking LifeWay division B&H Publishing to stop publishing Bibles with the official emblems of the five branches of the military.

### Wheaton sues to end abortion drug mandate

WASHINGTON (BP) – Evangelical school Wheaton College has joined the list of religious organizations suing to overturn the Obama administration's abortion/contraceptive mandate, asserting in a new federal suit that the mandate for religious organizations is unconstitutional and "runs roughshod over Wheaton's religious beliefs." The lawsuit was filed July 18, bringing to 24 the number of suits nationally against a mandate that would require religious organizations to offer their employees insurance plans covering contraceptives, including abortion-causing drugs. Those drugs, often called morning-after pills and emergency contraceptives, come under various names, including Plan B and ella. Illinois-based Wheaton is represented by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which said the suit was filed in partnership with Catholic University.

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

## Student mission projects take gospel to lost world

The year was 1990 and not only had I just turned 30, but I had also not served in Southern Baptist denominational life for much more than a year.

Baptist Young Men, the program that originally brought me to the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn., was being curtailed due to shifts in the agency's program structure. An editor was no longer needed, I was told.

However, there was a new area being developed that needed an editor; it was called World Changers.

It was evident at the men and boy's mission agency during the summer of 1990 when World Changers was piloted in Briceville, Tenn., that the emphasis was something very special.

The premise of World Changers was simple: Give high school students the opportunity to do light construction and other projects in needy communities with the

purpose of opening the door to the gospel. God used the pilot project mightily and World Changers was an overnight hit. Plans were made to go nationwide in 1991.

The Brotherhood Commission did not invent the concept of World Changers. Students were

already serving in Group Work Camps and other types of service-related projects throughout the United States. However, the

### PRESSING ON

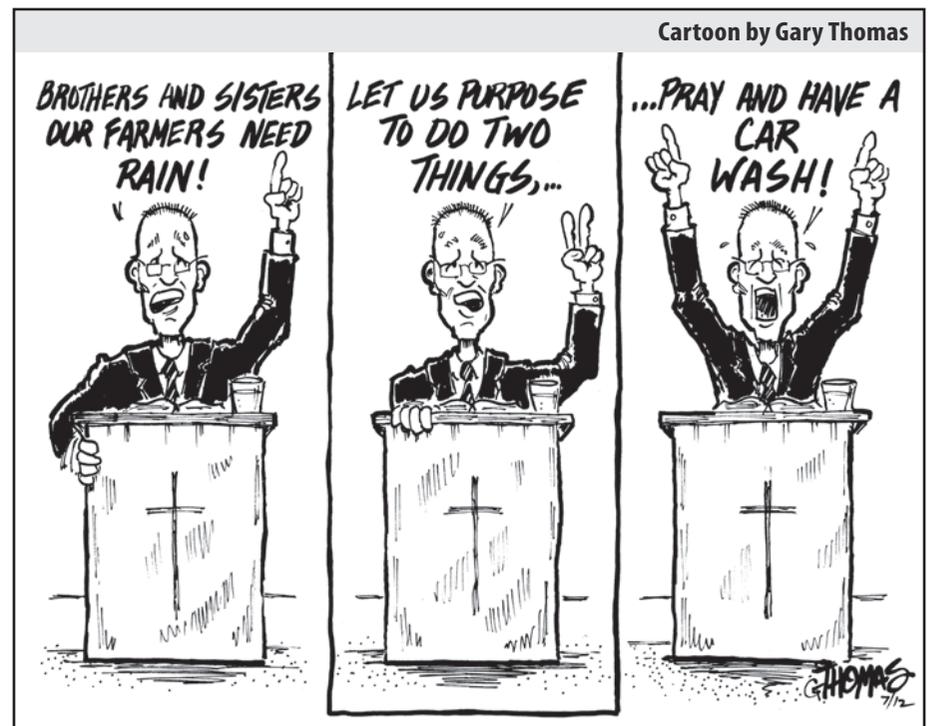
Tim Yarbrough



Brotherhood did sort of what Apple did for the personal computer – it mainstreamed and popularized the concept of student mission projects in Southern Baptist life.

Recently, I was in Batesville reporting on Collision, the student mission outreach project involving a number of Arkansas Baptist churches, the Independence Baptist Association and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

I couldn't help but think back to the days of World Changers – in-



cluding 1991 – when the concept of student mission projects was launched across the United States.

It was such a blessing to see Arkansas Baptists, cooperating together to serve others and their Lord.

The original goal of World Changers wasn't to become a national program. It was designed to model student volunteerism so that Southern Baptists everywhere would do likewise, like Collision.

And just as I witnessed during

my involvement in World Changers so many years ago, the Lord used outreach efforts of 15- and 16-year-olds in Batesville to touch a lost and dying world in ways thought unimaginable through conventional efforts.

Today, it takes creative ways to reach people for Jesus – like kingdom-impacting events such as Collision and World Changers.

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

## Reflections of a Disenchanted Calvinist

By Ronnie W. Rogers, *CrossBooks*, 2012

Calvinism is peaking in popularity among our state convention and denomination. It has helped to provide a renewed commitment to Scripture, but it has also caused much controversy within some churches, conferences and seminaries. These conversations often end in anger and disunity, which necessitates a loving and honest handling of the Calvinist doctrines.

This need has been fulfilled by Arkansas native and former Arkansas Baptist State Convention president Ronnie W. Rogers in his new book "Reflections of a Disenchanted Calvinist: The

Disquieting Realities of Calvinism" (*CrossBooks*, 2012). Rogers writes not only as a pastor who answers such questions almost daily, but also as a disenchanted Calvinist who "wore the label" for 20 years and

### BOOK REVIEW

Jared Park  
Crossgate Church  
Hot Springs

"was continually confronted with the incompatibility of Calvinism and the simple and impartial reading of Scripture."

Prominent scholar R. Alan Streett wrote, "'Reflections' is unlike many other anti-Calvinist treatises, whose authors erect a Calvinist straw man, knock it down, and claim a stunning victory." Streett says this because Rogers knowledgeably portrays Calvinism by quoting

Calvinist scholars such as Piper, MacArthur, Sproul, Pink and even Calvin. Rogers uses the writing style of affirmation and denial in discussion about the relevant issues, which provides the reader with Rogers' precise beliefs.

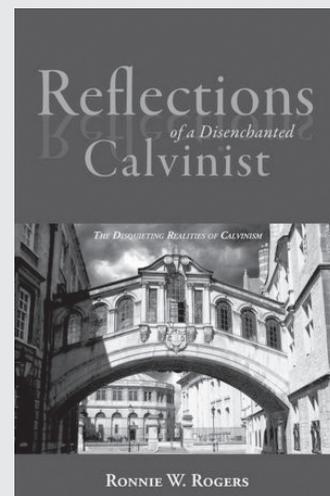
Since "Reflections" is not meant to be a systematic theology of Calvinism, rather an accessible guide to Rogers' beliefs, it does not cover all facets of the issues in intricate detail, such as his brief handling of infant baptism in the chapter concerning the age of accountability. The book is not the ultimate authority of all beliefs and arguments

on both sides of the debate, but it is a very good resource for studying the doctrines of Calvinism.

"Reflections" is a brilliant, concise handling of critical issues, causing it to join "Whosoever Will" (B&H Academic, 2010) and other works as great alternatives to those of Sproul, Pink, Piper and other persistent Calvinistic crusaders.

Jared Park is a student at The College at Southwestern Baptist

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## Family Matters

### Families on mission

Our family has been reading through the New Testament together and we are currently in the Book of Acts. The enthusiasm of the early church to share the gospel with the world is contagious as we see lives transformed. I want my family to have a passion to share the good news of Jesus with a lost world around them and learn to serve others. Participating in short-term mission experiences is one way to cultivate that passion.



Phillips

Recently, our family was a part of a mission trip with our church student group, and it was a memorable time to share Jesus with others. We worked with an associational camp in Oklahoma to lead a camp for Choctaw Indians. It was an opportunity to minister to a different people group in a nearby setting. Our group led early morning devotions; vacation Bible school-type ministry in the mornings; sports, crafts and service projects in the afternoon; worship services in the evenings, and cabin devotions at the end of the evening. Everyone had the opportunity to build relationships with Choctaw Indians in a variety of ways, and several children trusted in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

We are fortunate as Southern Baptists to have relational networks – via associations, state conventions, the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board – through which we can be involved in missions in a variety of settings. Take advantage of these networks and get to serving. Start locally by looking for opportunities to serve in your church and community and then broaden some of your experiences by serving in your association, in state mission opportunities and even beyond our borders.

There are two family mission opportunities in Arkansas this fall. They are the Connect Family Mission Trip Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at Baring Cross Baptist Church in Sherwood, and the Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip Oct. 6 at Ridgewood Baptist Church in Forrest City. Contact the Arkansas Baptist State Convention today so that your family can be on mission to tell others about Jesus.

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

## Unity and its development

Brother Turner, our church is unified except for some folks who won't do right no matter what." The search committee chairman had found a unique way of saying his church was divided and fractured. Unity in a local congregation is valuable, worth seeking and is as elusive as it is important.

Jesus prayed for our unity and expects it of us. A lack of unity limits what a church can accomplish and makes church an unpleasant experience for its members. Three things can help unify your church.

**Unity is the result of common experience and values.** We are saved, we love Jesus and Jesus loves us. This commonness should unify us. The good things about unity based on our commonness in

Christ are that this unity is Christ-centered, it calls us to His imitation and it is attractive to a lost world. The limits to experiencing unity based on Christ's love are that we all experience Christ's love in different ways and at differing rates. This diversity in the way we experience Christ sometimes seems to undermine our unity. Unity based on Christ's love is far more apparent in totally homogenous groups. If everyone is at the same place in life, this type of unity will bind the church together. In a local church with its rich diversity, commonness in Christ does not always unify us.

**Unity is the result of a common enemy.** Now we are talking! The church is opposed to the homosexual lifestyle, liberal theology, pornography, alcohol, drugs ... there is no shortage of common enemies and it is

easy to build unity wherever people perceive a threat. There are some liabilities with this approach – you may defeat the enemy you select, then the basis of your unity evaporates, or you may select the wrong enemy. Jesus identified an enemy, but our temptation is to identify his victims as our enemies. When we do this, we hurt the folks God sent us to help. To the lost people we seek to reach, this type of unity seems harsh and legalistic.

**Unity is the result of common goals.** This is my personal favorite. But it, too, has limitations. Good leadership is required to convince a congregation to set and achieve goals, and the methods you use to achieve them must be both biblical and effective. This is sometimes elusive. But the value of unity based on common goals is that

the church moves forward and is not defensive. In addition, believers are strengthened in ministry skills and lives are touched and improved. By celebrating accomplishments, you give the church a reason to rejoice and you encourage the setting of new goals.

In reality, unity in a church requires all three elements. Two final thoughts on developing unity: (1) Unity never results from emphasizing unity. If you try this, you quickly become critical of people who disagree with you. And (2) unity requires time – common experience in Christ, common opposition to the roaring lion and common goals over time. Unity is built, not announced.

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



### A PASTOR'S HEART

*Emil Turner*

## The problem of debt

Far beyond our ability to comprehend, the magnitude of the American national debt nevertheless remains a very popular topic for discussion. In contrast, few conversations center on personal debt. According to CNBC (Dec. 2011), this equally appalling indebtedness breaks down as the following:

- \$40 billion in payday advances.
- \$68 billion in small business loans.
- \$114.2 billion in farm loans.
- \$313.8 billion in auto loans.
- \$345 billion owed to the Internal Revenue Service in taxes.
- \$556 billion in student loans.
- \$577.8 billion in revolving home equity loans.
- \$953.1 billion in revolving credit card loans.
- \$14.64 trillion in home mortgages.

How much of the above expenditures reflect unnecessary consumption? There are those who would point to the passion of many Americans for new cars, gadgets, trendy clothing, exotic trips and the like. Others, unquestionably, would say their loans were warranted in order for them to start or expand a business, make themselves more employable

or facilitate buying their long-awaited first home. Whatever reason a person may give for accruing personal debt, there still remains a mind-boggling amount that may be unnecessary.

Self-discipline may be required to distinguish between wants and needs. If help is needed to differentiate, then counsel should be sought from others. Also, it is best to keep an old rule of thumb in mind: Spend less than you make. The older generation (coined "The Greatest Generation" by Tom Brokaw), is often credited with doing just that. On the other hand, research indicates that my generation has not done that.

Due to the concerns over the national debt, ought we to begin by putting our own house in order? God has clearly proclaimed: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14, NIV 1984). The answer obviously starts with each one of us.

*David Moore is president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.*

### FINANCIAL TIMES

*David Moore  
Arkansas Baptist Foundation*



## Read any good books lately?

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

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

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# Itinerant ministers connect, fellowship

Jessica Vanderpool  
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK – About 25 ministers gathered July 12 at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) building in Little Rock for the first-ever One-Day Itinerant Ministers Evangelism Fellowship.

The event – designed especially for ministers who travel, serving in areas such as vocational evangelism, music evangelism, youth communicating, women’s ministry, marriage enrichment, drama and creative arts – was sponsored by the ABSC evangelism and church growth team and Vocational Evangelists Fellowship.

Sonny Tucker, ABSC evangelism and church growth team leader, said itinerant ministers are those who feel called to serve multiple congregations with their areas of specialty and calling.

Speakers included Tucker; Doug Compton of Doug Compton Ministries, Paragould, evangelist; Tom Cox, vocational evangelist and founder of Tom Cox World Ministries (TCWM) in Mountainburg; Andrea Lennon of True Vine Ministry, Conway, women’s ministry speaker, and Eric Ramsey, international evangelist, cross-cultural communications and mission strategist and president of TCWM. Ramsey also serves as president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evange-



Evangelist Doug Compton speaks during the One-Day Itinerant Ministers Evangelism Fellowship. Photo by Jessica Vanderpool

lists (see related story below).

Among other topics, speakers addressed a range of subjects from the importance of ministering to women to the need to focus on evangelism.

Worship was led by Rich Nelson, worship pastor, and Tony Weston, both of Second Baptist Church, Conway. Weston currently serves with his wife, Judy, in Two by Two Ministry, a marriage ministry based out of Conway.

Participants took part in group prayer time and discussion during the day.

Lennon shared her thoughts on

the event, saying she does not remember ever being part of an event exactly like it – with people from different areas of ministry coming together.

“The importance of this event for me is to be able to connect with other people who are in similar callings in order to receive encouragement, as well as just practical tools that will help develop my ministry,” she said.

Evangelist Cody Brown, a member of Valley Baptist Church, Searcy, said one of his desires for the day was to “build relationships with

other evangelists.”

Tucker explained that part of what makes the event unique is that it affirms both the ministry of vocational evangelists and those called into other types of itinerant ministries.

“This meeting was a response to those who have asked to be included in a group of itinerant-type ministers, yet who do not sense a call to be a vocational evangelist,” he said. “This was also the vision of Tom Cox, who currently serves as the president of Vocational Evangelists Fellowship.”

Tucker added that he sees God calling more people – often younger people – in Arkansas to itinerant-type ministry, and that the conference was designed to help connect them.

“This was an exciting day of inspiration and fellowship for those in Arkansas that sense a call to an itinerant-type ministry to churches,” Tucker said. “The group really bonded as they shared each others’ stories, calling, successes and practical ways they fulfill their particular ministry.”

Tucker called the worship “inspiring” and the speakers “tremendous.”

“Arkansas Baptists are blessed to have servants of this caliber that attended this event,” Tucker said.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at [jessica@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:jessica@arkansasbaptist.org).

## New president of COSBE

# Ramsey wants to change perception of evangelism

Tim Yarbrough  
Arkansas Baptist News

MOUNTAINBURG – Evangelist and Arkansas Baptist Eric Ramsey wants to change the way people view evangelism and evangelists.

Ramsey, 45, was elected president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists (COSBE) at a meeting held in New Orleans prior to the Southern Baptist Convention. He serves as president, evangelist and mission strategist for Tom Cox World Ministries (TCWM) in Mountainburg, an organization started by his father-in-law and longtime Arkansas evangelist Tom Cox. Ramsey is a member of First Baptist Church, Van Buren.

Evangelism – and for that matter the work of evangelists – is alive and well, said Ramsey, who wants to use his leadership role in the national COSBE organization to further its cause.

Unfortunately, according to Ramsey, “non-Christ-like behavior of a handful of evangelists” has resulted in giving all evangelists a bad name in recent years.

“Sadly, throughout the past 10 years, several so-called itinerant evan-

gelists have conducted themselves in a very non-Christ-like manner. They have misrepresented themselves to churches and pastors, focused on controversial political content from pulpits and left churches with unpaid debts for extra expenses,” said Ramsey.

“Nevertheless, the behavior of a few should not reflect on the majority – though it does,” he added. “God calls evangelists to serve the church and assist the church in proclaiming the gospel. Ephesians 4:11 reminds us that the evangelist is a “gift to the church.”

Ramsey said his goal is to “lead churches to consider the effectiveness of contextualized evangelism events, invite them to enlist a Christ-like evangelist to assist them with a mass evangelism strategy and to call Southern Baptist evangelists to live above reproach and set an example of Christ-like behavior.”

Mass evangelism is still a powerful and viable tool for today’s church, said Ramsey.

“There is the perception among many churches and church leaders that mass evangelism no longer works in America. That is like saying that the power of God is not what it once



Eric Ramsey of Mountainburg is the new president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.

was. ... This is absurd – of course evangelism still works.”

Ramsey said it is essential that mass evangelism methodology relate to today’s culture.

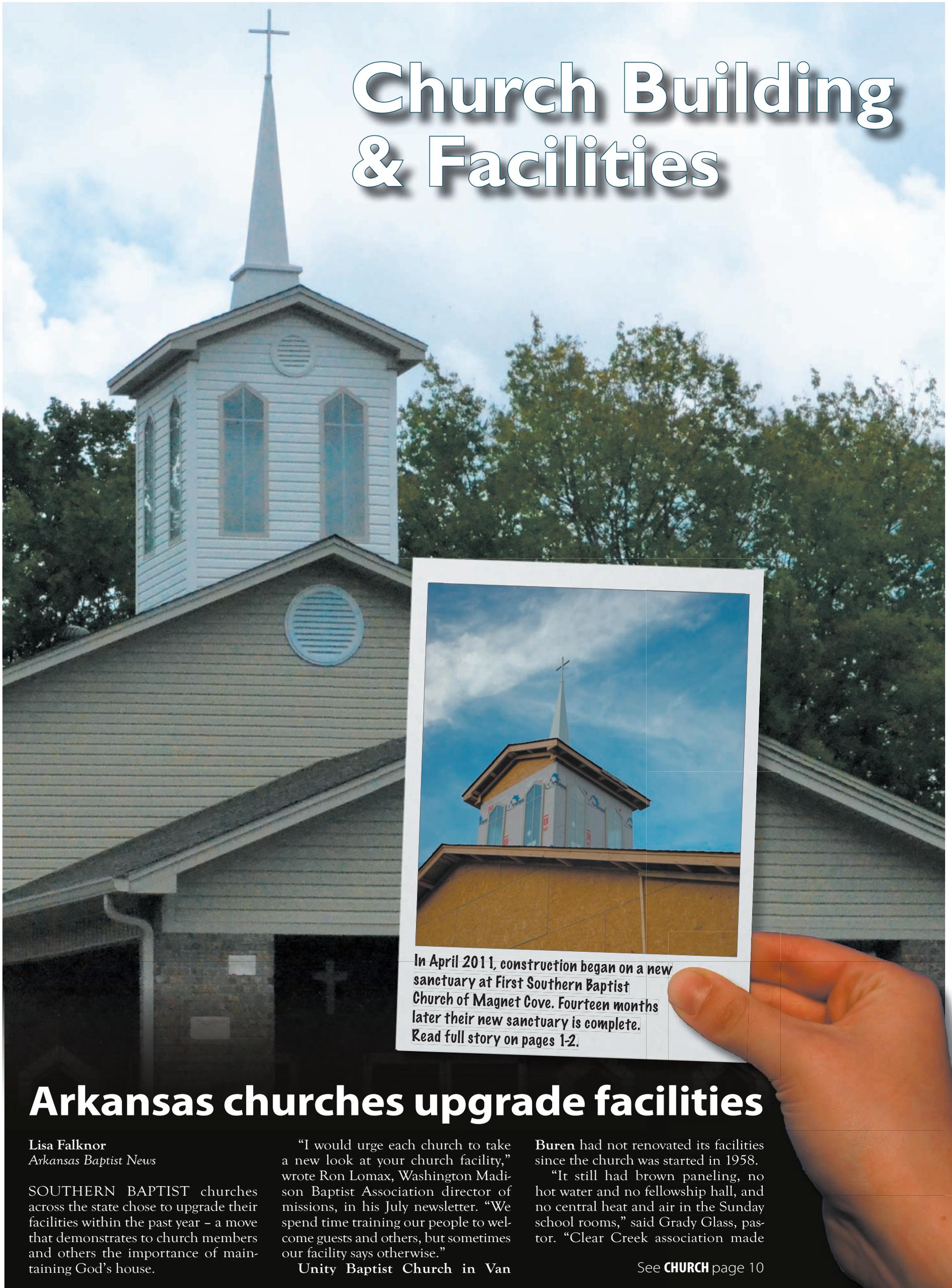
“Publicizing revival meetings does not draw a crowd of nonbelievers most places in America (as it once did),” said Ramsey, adding, “A church hosting a multiday community event – which includes contextually appropriate, family-oriented activities, teaching which addresses real answers to real life issues and warm personal interaction – is very effective.”

Another thing that hurts evangelism, Ramsey believes, is simply the “perpetuation of the myth that mass evangelism is no longer effective.”

“In the mid-1990s, The Barna Group released a statement declaring that mass evangelism is no longer effective and that Charles Finney and Billy Graham are bookends of a short-lived movement,” he said. “This statement was based on a couple of studies which produced anomalous results. Studies since then – includ-

See **RAMSEY** page 15

# Church Building & Facilities



In April 2011, construction began on a new sanctuary at First Southern Baptist Church of Magnet Cove. Fourteen months later their new sanctuary is complete. Read full story on pages 1-2.

## Arkansas churches upgrade facilities

Lisa Falknor  
*Arkansas Baptist News*

SOUTHERN BAPTIST churches across the state chose to upgrade their facilities within the past year – a move that demonstrates to church members and others the importance of maintaining God’s house.

“I would urge each church to take a new look at your church facility,” wrote Ron Lomax, Washington Madison Baptist Association director of missions, in his July newsletter. “We spend time training our people to welcome guests and others, but sometimes our facility says otherwise.”

Unity Baptist Church in Van

Buren had not renovated its facilities since the church was started in 1958.

“It still had brown paneling, no hot water and no fellowship hall, and no central heat and air in the Sunday school rooms,” said Grady Glass, pastor. “Clear Creek association made

See **CHURCH** page 10

After 'long process'

## Smead church completes new sanctuary

Jennifer Bryant  
Arkansas Baptist News

SPARKMAN – Prayer, planning, fundraising and a lot of hard work went into the new sanctuary built by Smead Community Baptist Church in Sparkman.

Pastor Jacob Ricker shared that “after a very long process of deciding to build,” the church moved forward with building a fellowship hall onto the original sanctuary, which was built in the late 1800s. Some rooms had been added onto the back through the years, but “everything was starting to fall apart,” said Ricker, who has served as pastor for the past two years.

The small church took on the task of raising funds for the new building. They raised money for about four years by having bake sales, fish fries, yard sales and other fundraisers.

Through the efforts, the church raised about \$25,000.

To make the funds go further, church members decided to do the majority of work themselves, said Ricker.

With the exception of a few specialized areas done by contractors, the new fellowship hall was mostly

built by church members.

However, as the fellowship hall began to come together, the sanctuary began falling apart.

“I noticed a 2-inch gap between the floor and stage,” said Ricker. “The floor gave way under the piano.”

To correct the problem, church members decided to turn the fellowship hall into a new sanctuary.

During the majority of the planning and fundraising, the church did not have a pastor, said Ricker.

“They just came together and started building. Most everything was done by members,” he said, adding they have “no loan payment.”

“Money was raised, and we also had a few donations,” he said. “We don’t owe a dime on it. There are still a few things we need to do, but they aren’t pressing.”

Though Ricker wasn’t the pastor when the church began the building process, he was there to lead them during the end of the project and led them as they officially moved in.

The church met July 8 during a regular business meeting to discuss adding on a multipurpose room to the building. They currently have the sanctuary, one Sunday school room and a small office for Ricker.



Members of Smead Community Baptist Church in Sparkman built a new sanctuary without the use of loans. In four years, \$25,000 was raised through bake sales, fish fries and yard sales.

“We have the potential for 10-15 children to come,” he said, “and we need room for them.”

During the business meeting, different ideas for the addition were discussed.

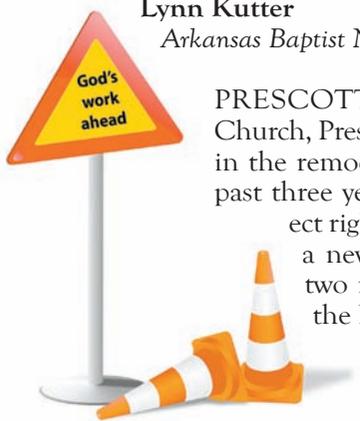
“The church is just exploring its

options right now,” said Ricker, “but they did start a building fund in January for the new addition.”

Jennifer Bryant is southeast regional correspondent for the Arkansas Baptist News. Contact her at danjour78@yahoo.com.

## First Baptist, Prescott, completes remodeling

Lynn Kutter  
Arkansas Baptist News



PRESCOTT – First Baptist Church, Prescott, which has been in the remodeling mode for the past three years, has a new project right now and plans for a new building to house two ministries that serve the local community.

The church, founded around 1872, has been on

its current site for 88 years and is still using the original sanctuary built in 1924. First Baptist is located at 201 E. Main St., in Prescott.

“There’s a lot going on at First Baptist,” said church member Helen Mullins, who has served on the committee for many of the remodeling projects. “We’ve gone from one project to another.”

Pastor Frank Henson is bi-vocational and also works for the Prescott School District. He said most of the work was started with seed money donated by church members or other family members for specific projects.

The church completely remodeled its sanctuary about three years ago. The color scheme for

the sanctuary was designed by Little Rock architect John Greer, whose father served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Prescott, from 1976 to 1979. Tom Greer, now deceased, was a longtime English professor at Ouachita Baptist University. Greer’s widow, Angie Greer, was on hand for the dedication of the newly remodeled sanctuary, along with other members of the Greer family.

The sanctuary work was followed by a project to renovate the church’s education building.

Mullins said workers removed room dividers in the education building to create a larger space

See **PRESCOTT** page 10

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# New fellowship hall constructed after flood

Chad Miller  
Arkansas Baptist News

TRUMANN – An “unusual chain of events” led to the construction of a new fellowship hall for one north-east Arkansas church – and the result has been more people coming to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Glen Hurst, pastor of Corners Chapel Baptist Church near Trumann, said it all started when more than 1,000 volunteers – including a number of church members – worked together to fight back flood waters during last spring’s flood, leading to about 20 new church members.

“The rain ran a lot of folks into the building,” Hurst said. “We’re trying to make space for the new people who have come.”

The flood in 2011 encompassed an area from Crowley’s Ridge to

about 15 miles south of Trumann, said Hurst. Corners Chapel members spent nearly three weeks placing sandbags around several houses in the community to keep the floodwaters back.

“The community was grateful for what we did for them,” Hurst said. “So, we picked up about 20 new (church members). Sunday school (attendance) has gone from the mid-30s to the mid-50s. God was good to us, and He has rewarded us.”

Although labor for the new fellowship hall is being done completely by church volunteers – including several new members – Hurst said they are ahead of schedule.

Construction started in April 2012 with a goal to have it completed by April 2013, said Hurst. However, the 3,000-square-foot facility

See **FLOOD** page 10



Members of Corners Chapel Baptist Church near Trumann, work to rebuild their church after flooding last year.



## FBC, Scranton, builds new family life center

First Baptist Church, Scranton, recently fulfilled a longtime goal to build a family life center, said Howard Kisor, associational missionary with the Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association. After four years of planning, a metal building was constructed by Frontier Steel of Russellville and with the help of the Nailbenders for Jesus of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said Kisor. “The interior is being completed now, and the church hopes to be in the building by August,” he said, adding, “Rev. Franklin Piercey has been the pastor at Scranton for eight years and has been instrumental in encouraging growth and stability for this congregation.”



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## PRESCOTT

continued from page 8

that could be used for many activities, including wedding receptions, funeral dinners, anniversary celebrations and church fellowships.

She said the building now has new window treatments, new floors, new paint and new furniture.

"We just made it a real pretty room with more versatility," Mullins said.

The education project also included putting in sheetrock to create additional classrooms.

Henson said this was done in preparation for enrollment growth. "We know the Lord is going to grow us and we're getting ready for that," he said.

More recently, a church member made a donation for a monument in front of the sanctuary. The Ten Commandments is engraved on the monument, and the stone is anchored by two flagpoles – one flying the U.S. flag and the other flying the Arkansas flag.

The church's newest addition is a memorial garden, which is now under construction. The memorial garden is the result of a \$5,000 donation from a longtime member of the church.

"This is situated where people can

go in to have a prayer time or just get away for a time," Henson said.

Edward Cooper, office manager, said the memorial garden will have a brick-laid cross in the ground and church members and others can buy bricks for \$25 each, inscribed with their names or other information.

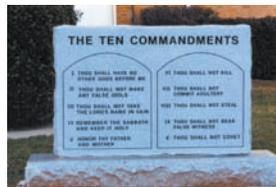
Planned is a new building for two ministries of the church – the Dorcas House, which distributes donated clothing to those in need, and a food

bank. Cooper said the church has an old building on its property and hopes to tear down this old building and replace it with a metal building. Half of the building would be used for the Dorcas House and the other for the food bank.

Henson said the building projects create exciting times for his church, but he is quick to point out that he does not want the building projects to result in the church losing its focus on mission work.

"I'm excited about it, but at the same time, we want to make sure we increase our missions giving, which we have done," Henson said. "We're also interested in a couple missions projects that we hope will reach many people."

Lynn Kutter is southwest regional and at-large correspondent for the *Arkansas Baptist News*. Contact her at [lkutter@cox.net](mailto:lkutter@cox.net).



Ten Commandments monument in front of First Baptist Church, Prescott.



First Baptist Church, Prairie Grove, fellowship hall (above). New stage (left) flanked by two storage areas creates a space that's "inviting" and "makes a good teaching space with technology we did not have before," said Chris Marsh, youth minister.

## CHURCH

continued from page 7

us a mission project – donating \$5,000 to help."

Al Gebauer, pastor of **First Baptist Church, Prairie Grove**, said the fellowship hall and children's area at the church needed to be "spruced up."

"We renovated the fellowship area and part of the children's section to modernize it and adapt it to use for more public meetings, for children's and senior activities and to include a sound system," said Gebauer, adding that modernizing meant tearing up the white tile, adding a stage, increasing storage space and repainting the walls.

Two churches in North Central Arkansas renovated to accommodate growth.

"We built two stories high of Sunday school classrooms and a kitchen with a gym in one end so we can have room enough for AWANA games," said Sam Dun-

ham, pastor of **Burlington Baptist Church, Omaha**. The 90 children enrolled have 90 feet by 70 feet more space now, he said.

"We had to renovate because we added close to 90-100 new members last year," said Mark Enloe, pastor of **Bear Creek Springs Baptist Church, Harrison**. The church added a parking lot, balcony and a new youth center.

**Lone Rock Baptist Church, Norfolk**, a church located in the Ozark National Forest, transformed its old sanctuary into a fellowship hall – connecting it to a new 6,000-square-foot worship center complete with a cathedral wood ceiling.

"There are rock columns on each side of where the balcony goes. We have tree trunks inside like the Bass Pro Shop," said Doug Huskey, pastor of Lone Rock Baptist. "It's real unique to our area. There's a country flare to it."

Lisa Falknor is northwest regional correspondent for the *Arkansas Baptist News*. Contact her at [ldfalknor3@gmail.com](mailto:ldfalknor3@gmail.com).

## FLOOD

continued from page 9

was halfway completed in July and is now expected to be completed by Christmas.

The church raised about half of the nearly \$100,000 needed for construction materials, with the money spent "as it came in." The pastor said the project would have cost the church about \$200,000 had it not been for the efforts of the volunteers doing the work. He said the new facility will include bathrooms, a shower and closet space.

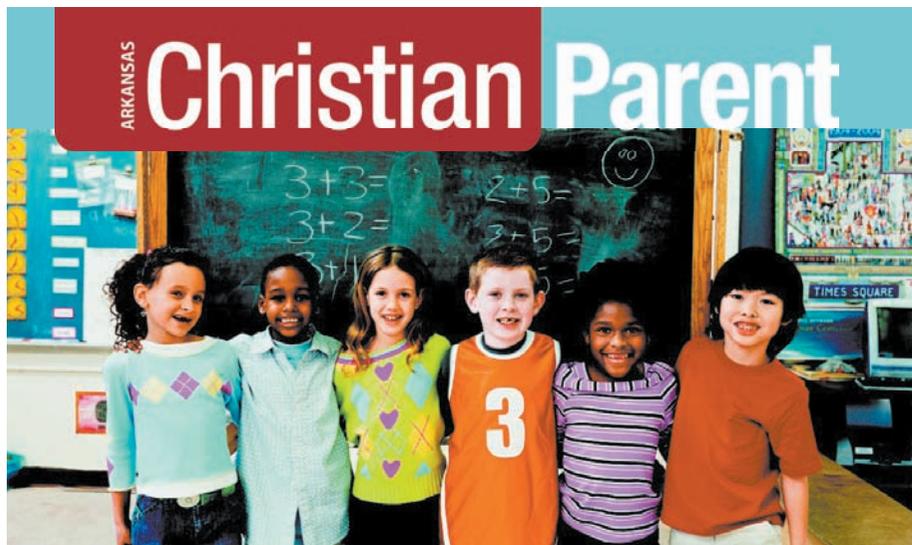
"We ran out of space (in our church)," Hurst said. "Our (old) fellowship hall just didn't have enough space. But now we'll have plenty of

space for our teaching program. It's really a win-win situation for the church and for the community."

Church member Glenn Gillis is a contractor and Hurst said Gillis had been serving as project foreman. Hurst said Gillis had been in charge of obtaining construction materials. He said Gillis was also a church deacon and served as song leader during services. Gillis has been a member of Corners Chapel since 1967.

"It was great when we found out we had grown enough to need a new fellowship hall," Gillis said. "The Lord has blessed us."

Chad Miller is northeast regional correspondent for the *Arkansas Baptist News*. Contact him at [rigman36@yahoo.com](mailto:rigman36@yahoo.com).



Published by *Arkansas Baptist News*, Arkansas Christian Parent will be a full color magazine that will be distributed to as many as 50,000 homes throughout Arkansas. This new publication will give Christian parents throughout the state not only helpful and practical information, but also encouragement in their roles as parents.

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- Praying for Your Child
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## 200-plus serve Little Rock through World Changers

LITTLE ROCK – More than 200 students and leaders, representing 10 churches from seven states, converged on Little Rock July 16-21 as part of World Changers, a Southern Baptist mission project initiative of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Volunteers for the Little Rock World Changers project worked on 15 homes during the week, serving in a variety of areas from painting to roofing. The initiative is in partnership with Pulaski Baptist Association and local businesses.

World Changers participants were not the only ones who served during the week. Life Line Baptist Church in Little Rock provided lodging, breakfast and an evening meal for participants. It is the fourth year for the church to serve in such a capacity, and Pastor Jeff Dial said they have 80-100 church volunteers each year who help serve the participants in a variety of ways.

Life Line held a World Changers Homecoming Sunday, July 15, as part of the church's 100 year anniversary celebration. During the morning service, Dial took time to recognize this year's Life Line volunteers and the ways they served,

which ranged from cooking and serving meals to tidying up the sanctuary. That Sunday evening, the church continued the celebration with a rally and "watermelon feed."

Dial, who has served as associational coordinator for the Little Rock World Changers project, said 15 area Southern Baptist churches, along with Fellowship Bible Church, Little Rock, are providing lunches for World Changers participants.

Little Rock has been a World Changers location since 2006, and in that time, dozens of houses have been renovated, with the homeowners, in turn, seeing the love of Christ, according to organizers.

"It's just amazing to see young people do this kind of work, and I'm thankful to World Changers for the opportunity and I'm proud that you've selected my home to do this work," said 80-year-old Earl Brown, one of the homeowners whose house was renovated during this year's project.

World Changers volunteers also served in Fort Smith in June (see article in the July 12 edition of the *Arkansas Baptist News*).



More than 200 students and leaders (right) from around the country traveled to Little Rock to take part in a World Changers project July 16-21. Volunteers from Life Line Baptist Church, Little Rock (above), lined the front of the church's sanctuary July 15 as they were recognized for their service to World Changers participants. This is the fourth year the church has provided lodging, breakfast and an evening meal for World Changers participants. Photos by Jessica Vanderpool



Doug Shaw is an International Mission Board missionary in London.

## LONDON

*continued from page 3*

through London he'd come back and say, 'You wouldn't believe all the Polish there. Everywhere I go, they're all speaking Polish. My waiters were Polish, the people on the bus were Polish, the people on the underground were Polish, the people in the stores were Polish.'

So the pair began praying that God would send someone to England to work with Poles.

"And God said, 'Yeah, OK, I'll send you,'" Marcy Shaw said.

The fact that the Shaws speak Polish smooths the way for connecting with Poles in London. "We can meet people really easily," she said. "It's unusual for the English or for Americans to speak their

language. When we were studying in Poland, they would say, 'Wow, most Americans expect us to learn English and you're learning Polish.' So it really had an effect on them."

One would think that the Shaws have their hands full with Polish work. So why are they also supporting the logistics for Southern Baptist volunteers for the Olympics?

Doug Shaw laughs about how he came to be in charge. "I asked my supervisor: 'Are we doing something for the Olympics?'"

It was kind of like praying that God would send someone to London to reach out to the Polish community here.

Elaine Gaston, who lived in London with her family in the mid-90s, is a writer for *Woman's Missionary Union*.

## Sign of the Times



Southside Baptist Church, Heber Springs (top) and Emmanuel Baptist Church, Batesville, marquee signs.

Send the *ABN* pictures of Southern Baptist church marquee signs around the state that are funny, witty, humorous or simply touch your heart to [abn@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:abn@arkansasbaptist.org) or 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.



## ABSC calendar

- **July 27-28: Wellspring ... Connecting Arkansas Women** – First Baptist Church, Little Rock
- **Aug. 3-4: Literacy Missions Training Workshop** – Baring Cross Baptist Church, Sherwood
- **Aug. 10-11: Police and Fire Chaplaincy Basic Training** – Central Baptist Church, Magnolia
- **Aug. 10-11: Hispanic Pastors' Retreat** – Camp Paron, Paron
- **Aug. 11: Disaster Relief Training** – First Baptist Church, Pea Ridge
- **Aug. 23-24: MidYear AM Retreat** – Camp Paron, Paron
- **Aug. 25: HuntFest** – Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock

For more information on events, go to [www.absc.org](http://www.absc.org), or call 800-838-2272.

## Chaplaincy event set for August 10-11

A POLICE and Fire Chaplain Basic Training event will be held Aug. 10-11 at Central Baptist Church, Magnolia. The 12-hour course will equip both current and future police and fire chaplains with basic skills, including death notification

and responding to a crisis situation. A complete listing of topics can be found at [www.absc.org/chaplaincyevents](http://www.absc.org/chaplaincyevents).

Friday sessions will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 8:15 p.m. Saturday sessions will begin at 8 a.m. and end

at 2:35 p.m.

Preregistration is required. For registration information, visit [www.absc.org/chaplaincyevents](http://www.absc.org/chaplaincyevents) or contact Carmen Branum at 800-838-2272, ext. 5159, or email [cbranum@absc.org](mailto:cbranum@absc.org).

### Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip Oct. 6

THE ACTS 1:8 One Day Mission Trip, sponsored by the missions ministries team of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, is scheduled for Oct. 6.

The event, to be held in Tri County Baptist Association, will include prayer walking; children's activities; senior adult ministry; home repairs and painting; health clinics; sports camps; evangelism; yard work, and block parties.

For more information, call 800-838-2272, ext. 5150, or email Oleta Raines at [oraines@absc.org](mailto:oraines@absc.org).

## Master'Singers retreat Sept. 20-21

MASTER'SINGERS, a ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) leadership and worship team, will hold a retreat at Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Sept. 20-21. The event will include fellowship, music and worship.

Master'Singers is a musical group for ministers of music and other staff members and their spouses, as well as for choir members with a recommendation from their min-

ister of music. The group sings for the ABSC annual meeting, at two churches during the year and at a prison in the spring.

A participation form for the Master'Singers retreat is available at [www.absc.org/music](http://www.absc.org/music) under "Master'Singers" on the right side of the page.

For more information, contact Nancy Rose at 800-838-2272, ext. 5121.

## Poverty 101 seminar Aug. 18

THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST State Convention (ABSC) missions ministries team will host Poverty 101: Understanding and Ministering to Those Who Live in Poverty from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 18 at the ABSC building.

Mindy Jamison, a North American Mission Board consultant, will serve as conference leader. The con-

ference will bring understanding to generational poverty while examining the culture and mindset of those living in poverty. It will explore the most effective ways to minister to the impoverished.

Lunch will be provided.

To register, email [oraines@absc.org](mailto:oraines@absc.org). Registration deadline is Aug. 10.



### PraiseWorks

Nearly 200 students participated in this year's PraiseWorks, a weeklong music and worship camp for students who have completed grades 7–12. The camp was held July 16–20 at Ouachita Baptist University.

## Literacy training Aug. 3-4

SHERWOOD – A Literacy Missions Training Workshop is scheduled for Aug. 3-4 at Baring Cross Baptist Church, Sherwood. Train-

ing will begin at 2 p.m. Aug. 3 and will conclude the next day at 5 p.m. For more information, call 501-376-4791, ext. 5150.

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Listen to a podcast with Bill Bumpas about PraiseWorks at [www.arkansasbaptist.org/podcast](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org/podcast).

# Classifieds

### PASTOR

River Road Baptist Church, Redfield, is seeking a **part-time pastor**. Resumes to P.O. Box 161, Redfield, AR 72132 or [river013@centurytel.net](mailto:river013@centurytel.net). 501-397-2576 or 501-554-6220.

North Main Church, Sheridan, is seeking a **full-time senior pastor**. Resumes may be sent to [firechapln@aol.com](mailto:firechapln@aol.com) or North Main Baptist Church, 707 North Main Street, Sheridan, AR 72150.

Vimy Ridge Immanuel is looking for a **bi-vocational pastor**. Send resume to 12214 Germania Road, Alexander, AR 72202.

### OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Malvern Third Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time worship leader** for our blended worship service. Send resume to the church at 817 W. Young St., Malvern, AR 72104 or email to [wtstrike@yahoo.com](mailto:wtstrike@yahoo.com).

The New Site Baptist Church, Monett, Missouri, is looking for a **full-time youth pastor**. Duties

include junior high through senior high. Please send resume and references. P.O. Box 731, Monett, MO 65708 or to [jhnewsite@mo-net.com](mailto:jhnewsite@mo-net.com).

**Bi-vocational worship leader** to lead us in worship with the praise team in blended music style. Email [brodave58@yahoo.com](mailto:brodave58@yahoo.com) or call 870-687-1590. Holly Springs Baptist Church. Website: [hollysprings-baptistchurch.net](http://hollysprings-baptistchurch.net).

First Baptist Church, Trumann, seeks a **full-time associate pastor** for youth and family. Please send resume to P.O. Box 575, Trumann, AR 72472.

West View Baptist Church in Paragould seeks a **part-time administrative assistant** with strong administrative and computer skills. For a complete job description, email request to [marc@mywestview.com](mailto:marc@mywestview.com).

First Baptist Church, Searcy, is looking for a **part-time preschool coordinator**. Please send resumes to Linda Stake at 105 S. Spring Street, Searcy, AR 72143 or to [fbclinda50@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fbclinda50@sbcglobal.net).

First Baptist Church of Paragould, is seeking a **worship leader**. Additional duties, roles and responsibilities will be added in keeping with this per-

son's gifts and calling. Submit resumes in confidence to First Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Team, P.O. Box 816, Paragould, AR 72451 or fax to 870 236-8585.

Harlan Park Baptist Church in Conway is seeking a **bi-vocational minister of music**, pursuing a blended worship style. Send resume with references to the church at 1895 Dave Ward Drive, Conway, AR 72034 or email to [garynmitchell@hotmail.com](mailto:garynmitchell@hotmail.com).

Mississippi County Baptist Association is accepting resumes for **associational missionary position**. Resumes should be sent to MCBA, P.O. Box 1104, Blytheville, AR 72315, ATTN: Search Committee and will be accepted through July 31, 2012.

FBC, Muskogee, is accepting resumes for a **full-time Education Minister**. Send resumes and inquiries to [apastor@fbcmskogee.org](mailto:apastor@fbcmskogee.org) or by mail to Associate Pastor, Mark R. Hall, 111 S. 7th St., Muskogee, OK 74401.

### Miscellaneous

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**To list classifieds, contact Nelle at 501-376-4791, ext. 5155.**

## Girls learn art of Christian charm at Beauty Boot Camp

MENA – The Ouachita Baptist Association in Mena and Princess in His Image Ministries sponsored a Beauty Boot Camp July 9-11 for girls ages 9-15.

Sixteen girls attended the camp, which was held at the Ouachita Baptist Assembly Campgrounds, said Candace Riner, Ouachita Baptist Association ministry assistant, camp director and director for Princess in His Image Ministries, a ministry geared toward helping girls develop character, integrity and purpose.

Riner said the girls at the camp learned the art of Christian charm, which reflects Christ-like character, changed hearts, commitment, confidence and social graces. "The New Christian Charm Course" by Emily Hunter, Jody Capehart and Angela Carnathan was used as a resource.

With a focus on proper etiquette and high moral values, the camp

was designed to instruct girls in manners, inner beauty and character development, said Riner. The participants also learned other topics regarding purity, modesty, Bible study and prayer.

Camp teachers were Riner; Pam Godwin, wife of Barry Godwin, pastor of Vandervoort Baptist Church, Vandervoort, and Pamela Peters, a teacher for Princess in His Image Ministries, ministry development team member at the Ouachita association and wife of Marvin Peters, Ouachita Baptist Association missionary. There were also seven counselors and helpers for the camp.

Riner explained the camp began early each morning and ran until midnight as the girls learned how to be princesses in the image of Christ.

At "Spalalooza," the girls were treated to facials and foot scrubs by Mindy Lyle, associate consultant



Pamela Peters of Jacksonville leads the girls in dining etiquette during Beauty Boot Camp.

with Jordan Essentials.

The girls practiced everything they learned at the Beauty Boot Camp Challenge on Tuesday night. They raced to complete each station, applying the beauty tips and skills they learned during the camp.

"I know the camp was a success when the girls did not want to leave. We give all the honor and glory to the Lord, who gave the staff and counselors the strength and wisdom to lead the girls in godliness and Christ-likeness," Riner said.

### Camp Siloam

Children's speaker Tom Toombs (right) invites a camper to participate on stage during Camp Siloam combined week held July 2-6. Through the first five weeks of Camp Siloam, 4,201 campers attended, 172 campers were saved, 224 made commitments and 35 were called to missions. Arkansas Baptist Assembly has been offering summer camps since 1923 in Siloam Springs.



### Kidz Kamp

Seventeen children participated in Kidz Kamp 2012, held by Crossgate Church, Hot Springs, June 25-27. Children learned about how "life is a highway" and how road signs can represent various biblical principles, such as "one way" – to heaven, "stop" – sin, and "construction zone" – building a good foundation. Front from left: Evan Irons, Nicholas Braley, Sarah Silvar and Olivia Conly. Back from left: Josiah Silvar and camp counselor Taylor Wade.

#### "Doing the work of an evangelist." II Tim 4:5

Sam Moore is a vocational evangelist and a native of Arkansas. He has the gift of an evangelist and the heart of a pastor. He is available for Revivals, Crusades, Harvest Days and Witness Training. Call now to schedule for 2012-13.

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### Church life

The **First Baptist Church, Dumas**, youth choir will hold a homecoming concert at 7 p.m. July 29 upon returning from their mission trip to Washington D.C. The concert will feature a combination of music and drama.

**First Baptist Church, Booneville**, will hold a celebration Aug. 26 to rededicate its education building, which was damaged in a fire in 2010. A morning worship service will take place at 9 a.m., followed by Sunday school at 10 a.m. and dinner on the grounds at 11:30 a.m. A rededication service will take place at 1 p.m. with an open house to follow. Don Pucik, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will serve as guest speaker.

**Barcelona Road Baptist Church, Hot Springs Village**, will hold an anniversary celebration at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 5 in honor of Duane Blakely's 10th anniversary as the church's minister of music.

**Crossgate Church, Hot Springs**, will take "GET in the GAME," a Bible school program, to four locations in Hot Springs Monday, July 23, through Thursday, July 26. Crossgate teams will be at Chatta-

nooga Park, Linden Park and Wade Street Park each day from 5:30 to 8 p.m. hosting a free dinner, games, music and fun. A team will also host "GET in the GAME" activities, games and snacks at the Hot Springs Boys & Girls Club from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. those days.

**Cross Church in northwest Arkansas**, will host the Catalyst One Day event from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 23 at its Pinnacle Hills campus in Rogers. The event will feature speakers Craig Groeschel, pastor of LifeChurch.tv, and Andy Stanley, pastor of North Point Ministries. They will address how to create a culture that lives its values, fuels spiritual development and more.

### On the move

**Ben Morris** is serving on the staff of First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, as music and youth leader.

**Bill McCall** is serving as pastor on the staff of South Highland Baptist Church, Little Rock.

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## Trivial pursuit

The book of Hebrews lists Samson as a hero of the faith (Heb. 11:32). Samson could be described as a tragic hero. A tragic hero is a person who becomes a hero once he can see the root of his downfall. Samson had squandered his God-given abilities and potential for the trivial pursuits of worldliness. In the last tragic event of his life, Samson prayed for the return of his supernatural strength. God returned his strength, and Samson pulled the roof down, killing himself and more Philistines in one single blow than he had killed in his entire life (Judges 16:28-30).

The Lord blessed Samson with supernatural strength, and the Spirit of

the Lord began to lead his life (Judges 13:24-25). This proved that the Lord was powerfully working in his life.

The Spirit of God was moving him into position to do what God wanted him to accomplish. As a judge of Israel, he had the potential to defeat the enemies of Israel and lead a disobedient people back to God.

Samson was physically strong but morally weak. A survey of Judges 13-16 will reveal many of his weaknesses. One of his greatest weaknesses was women. Here are a few words that describe his life: disobedient, deceitful, fraternizing, vindictive, mean and cocky. He also consorted with a harlot and flirted with evil. He

gave the secret of his strength to the enemy. He also broke his Nazirite vow (Judges 14:9). He had so much potential, but he wasted it on the pursuit of pleasure. The end product of his life was a tragedy. The trivial pursuits in his life resulted in delusion, captivity, blindness, degradation, bondage and drudgery (Judges 16:20-21).

God blesses us with many talents, abilities and gifts. We are to use these

to their full potential in the work of the kingdom. We must distinguish

between trivial pursuits and God-given goals. In death, Samson sacrificed himself in one final vengeful act. As Christians, the Lord is asking us to be living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to Him (Rom. 12:1). He wants to lead us, and He wants us

to faithfully pursue the path He has determined for us.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AUGUST 5, 2012

Gerald W. Nash Jr.  
chaplain  
Second Baptist, Conway

Scripture passages:  
Judges 13:24-25; 16:4-5,  
15-17, 19-20, 28-30

After reading this powerful message, I want to shout, "Mercy!" This is an intense interchange between Jeremiah and God. Jeremiah offers a timid disclaimer in verse 6 that he doesn't feel he's up to the job of being God's man. God vigorously replies in verses 7, 8 and 17 that Jeremiah is not to be afraid to follow his heart because God will be with him.

In Jeremiah 1:4, God begins the

conversation announcing that Jeremiah is to be a prophet to God's people, as well as to all the gentile

nations, like the Egyptians, Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites and Chaldeans. Jeremiah wasn't being asked to just speak a few lines for God in the Easter play at the church. He was sent to proclaim God's message on the world's stage to all peoples and nations. That made Jeremiah a substantial target for a lot of people who

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE AUGUST 5, 2012

Candace K. Hardin  
chaplain  
Baptist Health, North Little Rock

Scripture passages:  
Jeremiah 1:4-14, 17-19

## The domino effect

I remember as a child setting up dominoes and then toppling them over. It kept me busy for hours, and it was a lot of fun. Years later in a college physics class, I got excited because there was a box of dominoes at each desk. We discussed the physical forces each domino exerted on the next. We talked about gravity and momentum. We measured the dominoes and calculated their mass. We timed the rate of the domino cascade reaction from various distances and positions of each domino. My excitement waned considerably.

Learning the physics of the domino effect wasn't as fun as just toppling them over. However, I learned

a valuable principle for life. Everything you do affects something else. Our actions, whether good or bad, can have a domino effect. This is exactly what we see in our lesson. Micah's act of thievery set into motion a tragic set of events that affected him and the entire nation of Israel.

Micah stole silver from his mother but returned it after hearing her pronounce a curse. She blessed her son and dedicated the silver to the Lord to be made into an idol. Micah erected the idol in his pagan shrine, made one of his sons a priest and then hired a Levite as priest (Judges 17:1-13). Scouts from the tribe of Dan came to Micah's house as they

searched for a land to settle. After a while, they returned with their army, stole Micah's idols and offered the Levite a position as priest of the entire tribe. The Danites set up Micah's idols for themselves, and Jonathan, the grandson of Moses, served as their priest (Judges 18:1-31). A general reading of chapters 19-21 reveals the truth of Judges 17:6 (NKJV), which says, "In those days

there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

Our one act of disobedience

can have a domino effect. James describes it this way: "Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (James 1:15).

We need to be aware of sin in our lives, repent and make a renewed commitment to obey God's holy standards.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AUGUST 12, 2012

Gerald W. Nash Jr.  
chaplain  
Second Baptist, Conway

Scripture passages:  
Judges 17:1-8, 12-13; 18:30-31

As God's spokesman, Jeremiah exposed Israel's lack of remorse and repentance over their lifestyle of "wickedness" (Jer. 8:6, NIV 1984). Instead of pursuing the way of the Lord, everyone chased after his or her own path to serve his or her own purpose.

But Israel didn't see it that way. They protested, saying they were wise because they had "the law of the Lord" (Jer. 8:8).

God objected, saying in Jeremiah

8:8-9 (NIV 1984), "How can you say, 'We are wise, for we have the law of the Lord,' when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely?"

The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and trapped. Since they have rejected God's word, what kind of wisdom do they have?"

God continued His indictment against Israel's scribes, priests and prophets, declaring they were greedy (Jer. 8:10), deceitful (Jer. 8:10), truth-

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE AUGUST 12, 2012

Candace K. Hardin  
chaplain  
Baptist Health, North Little Rock

Scripture passages:  
Jeremiah 8:4-13, 18-9:1

## Let your heart be broken

twisters (Jer. 8:8, 11) and unconcerned (Jer. 8:11). God avowed they would fall among the fallen; they would be brought down.

The Israelite nation was sick with sin, separated from God and filled with selfishness. Jeremiah's response was unusual for a prophet. He did not blame the people or rage at them, calling down fire and brimstone. He did not lament that the nation of God was beyond hope and help. Instead, Jeremiah looked to God and pleaded for the people, saying, "O my Comforter ... my heart is faint within me. Listen to the cry of my people from a land far away" (Jer. 8:18-19a).

Jeremiah identified with the lost

Hebrews as he spoke for them before God: "Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me" (Jer. 8:21).

Since Israel was sick with sin, Jeremiah pleaded in Jeremiah 8:22, "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?"

Jeremiah teaches us to respond with sacrificial love and prayer to those whose lifestyles run counter to the way of God. Followers of Jesus are called to be a balm, spiritual physicians and healing agents in dealing with the sin-festered wounds of others. Like Jeremiah, may our hearts be broken for the world around us.

## RAMSEY

*continued from page 6*

ing one very large study conducted by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2007 – have shown that churches experiencing the most annual conversions and baptisms are conducting mass evangelism events.”

Ramsey said through his ministry he knows mass evangelism still works, recounting the following:

“We were recently in a church in Kentucky where the pastor told me that his church was not accustomed to public altar calls. I told him that I wanted to respect the culture of the church and would not do a public altar call invitation if he did not want me to do so. He was quick to say, ‘No, by all means, go ahead; I just don’t want you to be disappointed if nobody responds.’ I assured him that my feelings would not be hurt and explained that it is not I whom people are accepting or rejecting – it is Jesus Christ,” he said.

“In just one night, there were 42 public professions of faith – 30 of whom were senior adults and six were teenagers.”

Ramsey said properly done, “mass evangelism is really personal evangelism.”

“Every person who makes a public decision hears the gospel again, one-on-one with a church member who is well-equipped to do so,” he said.

However, in many contexts around the world, TCWM has stopped conducting mass evangelism crusades because of cultural dynamics, said Ramsey.

“In some contexts, it causes too much confusion and there are not enough well-equipped individuals to handle sharing the gospel one-on-one. In India, it is easy to get a Hindu man or woman to pray a sinner’s prayer, but that does not mean that they are saved. Hindus will very quickly just add Jesus Christ on to their other gods. So, in those contexts, we limit our evangelism to one-on-one presentations of the gospel – telling the story of the Bible from creation through the resurrection,” said Ramsey, adding the methods have continued to bear fruit.

“This year we have seen more than 3,000 Hindus and more than 1,000 Muslims profess faith in Christ. Over the past 12 months, we have seen more than 14,000 professions of faith.”

COSBE was formed in 1958 as a fraternal organization for the purpose of networking, fellowship and shared learning among itinerant evangelists, as well as to provide a body of accountability for autonomous Southern Baptist evangelists and evangelistic associations. Past presidents include Junior Hill, Bailey Smith and Jay Strack.

Contact Tim Yarbrough at [tim@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:tim@arkansasbaptist.org).

## BRAZIL

*continued from page 2*

the most precious gifts God could create. It was so hard saying bye to these precious babies,” she said.

Krissy called the trip “life changing.” Noting some challenges she has faced, she said, “We have so much, and these kids don’t. I know God is taking care of me. And He sent me here. ... Just to see the changes on a child’s face when I picked him up was worth

it all.”

Recalling her experiences on the trip and her time spent at the Baptist Home, Cynthia, team member and resident of the ABC Home for Children in Monticello, said, “It is crazy how much we take for granted. We don’t appreciate what we have, but being here I can see how much I have. ... It was an amazing trip.”

Stella Prather is communications director of ABC Homes. \*Note: Only first names are used for residents that are under the age of 18.

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For book or conference information with Dr. Frizzell, contact our office at: [pjones@bgco.org](mailto:pjones@bgco.org) or 405-942-3000, x4517.)  
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