



Profiles in faith



Tim Helder stands beside a quilt at the Washington County Sheriff's Office, the quilt was given to him by staff. Created out of old ties, the top reads, "The Ties That Bind." Photo by Lisa Falknor

Sheriff combines faith, work 'by divine appointment'

Lisa Falknor
Arkansas Baptist News

FAYETTEVILLE - At age 5, he witnessed a murder. At age 8, a neighbor set his head on fire. As a police officer, he asked a co-worker to switch schedules so he could watch the Razorbacks. That night, his best friend, West Fork police Chief Paul Mueller, was murdered while on a routine traffic stop.

"That should've been me who died those three times," said the 44th sheriff of Washington County, Tim Helder. "I believe God set me apart for a reason."

For more than 30 years, Hel-

der, 54, believes God has allowed him to be an outspoken Christian public servant, unashamed of the gospel, in an increasingly secular society.

From stating publicly that no inmate can change without Christ, to sharing his testimony with hundreds, to attending Wednesday noon Bible studies at his office, this high official bridges the gap between faith and work.

"Nobody told me, 'You've got to be sheriff,'" said Helder. "I chose to be in a leadership position. I think there's an added responsibility

See **SHERIFF** page 2

Mayflower FBC aids spill victims, workers

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

MAYFLOWER - When an Exxon Mobil crude oil pipeline ruptured in a residential area March 29, members of First Baptist Church, Mayflower, used the man-made disaster as an opportunity to reach out to cleanup workers and those affected by the spill.

On April 3, members fed families forced to evacuate from their homes because of the spill, said David Fox, First Baptist pastor.

The spill hit close to home for the church, said Fox. At least two member families of First Baptist were forced to evacuate their homes; and numerous others suffered health-related issues. The smell of oil was still prevalent in some areas of May-

flower more than a week after the spill and the start of cleanup.

In addition to aiding families displaced by the disaster, First Baptist ministered to the Exxon Mobil employees working to clean up the area. Fox said the church collected baked goods and distributed them to the out-of-state workers as a way of thanking them for their service in light of the spill.

"At this point, the only thing we are trying to do is undergird those that have been displaced with prayer. Exxon Mobil is really doing a good job of taking care of their immediate needs, whether it be housing or food," said Fox.

"It's a lot different than a natural disaster. If a tornado were to come

See **SPILL** page 7

Storms damage church; volunteers, DR respond

DUMAS - A large oak tree damaged the fellowship hall, parsonage and a storage building at Anderson Chapel Baptist Church, Dumas, during strong storms that plowed through a wide area of Arkansas April 10.

David Rosegrant, of the Harmony Baptist Association disaster relief team, said high winds blew over a "huge" oak tree on the Anderson Chapel church property. A team was at the site the day following the storm, working to cover a portion of

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Seminary extension supports Ark. ministers

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK - Each year men and women across Arkansas are called to attend seminary. And while seminary can offer invaluable biblical training, receiving that training often means students must relocate, leave current ministry positions and forfeit full-time employment.

2013 marks the 20th year since Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, based in Fort Worth, Texas, and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) partnered together to start an extension in Little Rock.

In the past 20 years, hundreds of students from all over the state have completed classes toward a Master of Divinity degree - all taught by Southwestern faculty at the ABSC building.



Deahl

"This partnership, which began with the 1992-93 school year, has served Arkansas Baptists well, making it possible for many pastors, church staff persons and laypeople serving in Arkansas Baptist churches to pursue graduate studies in biblical and theological studies without leaving the state,"

said Tim Deahl, ABSC's director of continuing theological education and coordinator of the Little Rock seminary extension since 2002.

Jerry Terrell began attending the extension in 2005. After having to take a leave because of illness, he is currently enrolled in this semester's courses. Terrell said the extension not only allows him to attend seminary, something he never thought possible, but it gives him the opportunity to learn from qualified professors and other students within a classroom setting.

"Having the experience of being with other classmates was very important for me. The encouragement from them and personal contact with the professors have kept me believing in my ability to succeed," he said.

"Not only would I recommend it, I would highly endorse it. What more could you ask than the abil-

ity to get a first-class education right in your own neighborhood. Each class attendance also enhances your knowledge and belief in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for providing this great school," said Terrell.

Deron J. Biles serves as dean of extension education for Southwestern's School of Theology.

"Other than Houston, which is a degree-granting campus of Southwestern, Little Rock is our most consistent extension as far as average number of students and total number of students," Biles said, adding, "I am convinced that the reason for our effectiveness here is because of the strong relationship we have here

See **EXTENSION** page 9

Buryl Red, Arkansas native and composer, dies at 76

NASHVILLE (BP) – Prolific Baptist composer and hymn writer Buryl Red, a native of Little Rock, died April 1 at the age of 76.

Red was the founding musical director and conductor of The CenturyMen, a men's choir composed of Baptist church music directors from around the world. Since their founding in 1969, The CenturyMen have performed across the U.S. and in 11 other countries, according to the-century.com.

When The CenturyMen's recording "Beautiful Star – A Celebration of Christmas" was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2000, Red told Baptist Press, "We see our work as a way to communicate the message of Christ with the secular world. I feel like our music can communicate beyond the musical language of the church."

In addition to his work with The CenturyMen, Red is perhaps best remembered as composer of "Celebrate Life," a musical created with lyricist Ragan Courtney. The musi-

cal is considered by many to be a landmark in church music. Released in 1972, "Celebrate Life" is still in print, sold by LifeWay Worship, the music division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mike Harland, LifeWay worship director, remembered Red in a blog post April 2.



Red

"I'll never forget the first time I saw a set of drums in a church," Harland wrote. "It was there to be part of the groundbreaking youth musical 'Celebrate Life.'"

"And I'll never forget the first time I saw an accompaniment track – it was in my church – Tate Street Baptist Church in Corinth, Miss. It was on a 'reel-to-reel' (tape) deck, and with it we sang Buryl's classic collection 'The Old Songs' – another groundbreaking idea. Imagine modern, rhythmic versions of old hymns for a new generation – just who did that first? Not Chris Tomlin – no, it was Buryl Red."

Harland credits Red with intro-

ducing Baptists to the style of modern worship music that came out of the so-called, "Jesus Movement" of the 1960s and 1970s.

"(Red) loved virtually every style of music," Harland wrote, "As long as the presentations of it reached a level of excellence befitting the glorious Savior we love."

The song "In Remembrance" from "Celebrate Life" has become a standard and is included in the latest edition of the Baptist Hymnal. Red conducted a choral performance of the song at the hymnal's dedication ceremony in 2008, calling it a "highlight of his career," Harland recounted.

Red's output includes more than 2,500 published works; production of more than 4,000 recordings; the musical supervision, composition and arrangements for several hundred shows, documentaries and musical specials for network and cable television, and the writing and editing of more than 50 music textbooks, according to information from a working program for an upcoming concert in Red's honor.

Red graduated from the music

schools of Baylor University and Yale University before making his home in New York City. In the early 1960s, he served as music minister of Manhattan Baptist Church, the first Southern Baptist Church in New York City.

An April 2 email from Diane Cobb, executive secretary of the Church Music Publishers Association, of which Red was a member, described a man who was considered a mentor by many.

"He was funny without trying to be or even knowing that he was," Cobb wrote. "(Red was) unpretentious, championed all instruments in the church before it was popular to do so, was brilliant, listened well, loved God, loved his lovely wife, Virginia, and family, and was kind ... he was the real deal."

Red died in New York City after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; son, Eric, and grandson, Adrian. A private funeral was held April 9 in Manhattan.

A memorial tribute concert is planned for April 29 at Central Presbyterian Church in Manhattan.

SHERIFF

continued from page one

ity incumbent upon me to every day live my life in such a way that people can say, 'He's not insincere. He's really trying to do the right thing.' My basis for that is my relationship with Christ."

Though his father led the high-profile 1960s Charles Manson case as lead investigator, Helder never considered a career in law enforcement.

"When I ran for sheriff, the guy I was running against said, 'Since I was a little kid, I've wanted to be sheriff,'" Helder said. "That was never in my game plan."

But in 1979, a desperate Helder had more bills than money.

Helder said that "by divine appointment," his Sunday school teacher, a captain with the Washington County Sheriff's Office, got him a job as dispatcher.

After half an hour, "I was hooked," he said. "I fell in love with law enforcement."

Not everyone liked his career choice.

"Whenever I was contemplating getting into law enforcement, I still remember the little old ladies in my church (people I respected) saying, 'Please do not get into law enforcement.'"

In their experience, Helder said the ladies knew police officers grew hardened. To them, a career like

that would ruin the fine young man on fire for Christ.

"I don't understand where you are coming from," Helder told them. "What greater mission field to have an impact for Christ than in law enforcement?"

In 1982, Helder climbed the Fayetteville Police Department career ladder, eventually retiring as deputy chief after 21 years. Through prayer, counsel and what he said was a miraculous fundraising campaign ("I never asked for any money"), Helder sensed God's call to be sheriff, a position he's held since 2005.

As chief deputy, Helder said he saw firsthand Chaplain Earl Adams over-burdened trying to care for the detainees and the more than 330 employees in the office. First priority for him, he said, included taking the sheriff's office on "a spiritual level."



Helder

But he needed help. For this, he created a new position, naming longtime spiritual mentor, Delmar Ferrell, enforcement chaplain.

The change yielded immediate results: Officers and their family members accepted Christ.

"(If) you think policemen are great, salt of the earth, ethical, moral people. You are right. But the majority are unchurched and don't know Christ," Helder said.

Major Rick Hoyt, who attends Ferrell's Wednesday Bible study, agrees.

"People in law enforcement deal with cynicism, coarse talk and the hopeless and rebellious of society,"



Tim Helder, with his wife Holly (right), is sworn in as the 44th sheriff of Washington County.

he said. "I wish more were Christ-centered."

Helder's "overt but not forceful, positive" faith makes a difference in the office, said Hoyt. He has known Helder personally and professionally for more than 35 years.

"He lives a godly life," said Hoyt. "Even our creed, designed by employees and influenced by him, says, 'I pledge before God and my community to faithfully perform my duties.' It's written on the wall in the

sheriff's office. That's a big deal."

Helder and his wife of 26 years, Holly, have three children and three grandchildren. For 12-plus years, he has sung in area churches with the southern gospel group "Gospel Echoes." He is a deacon at First Baptist Church, West Fork – the same church where he met Christ at a youth revival 37 years ago.

Lisa Falknor is northwest regional correspondent for the Arkansas Baptist News.

Nat'l Day of prayer May 2

CHURCHES ACROSS the United States are making plans to join with their communities to pray on Thursday, May 2 during the National Day of Prayer.

According to the website of the National Day of Prayer, the first call to prayer was issued in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom as the nation was being formed.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation for a day of prayer. In 1952, Congress established a day of prayer, and President Harry Truman signed it into law. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed an amended law that set the first Thursday of May as an annual day of prayer.

For more information, visit <http://nationaldayofprayer.org>.

Spring revival nets salvations

Vanndale Baptist sees results of prayer

Gayla Parker
Arkansas Baptist News

WYNNE - Vanndale Baptist Church, Wynne, experienced the results of four years of prayer at a revival held recently.

Author Barber, pastor of Vanndale Baptist, said he started a prayer emphasis with the members of Vanndale upon becoming pastor four years ago. Barber said he did not want the church to be like "the Israelites going against the Philistines when they carried

the Ark of the Covenant into battle without the power of God."

"We need to carry our Ark - the Bible - with the power of God - prayer - when we go against the Philistines - the lost world - if we are going to see victory in the battle," said Barber.



Barber

Subsequently, the pastor said the church has been praying fervently for God to send revival to Vanndale.

Barber said God answered those prayers during a spring revival led by John Hodges, pastor of First Baptist Church, Salem.

"On Sunday night, the church was full, but by Wednesday night, it was standing room only with a crowd waiting outside the church to come in," said Barber.

Four people received Christ during the services, two of whom were former meth (methamphetamine) users, said Barber.

"There may have only been four salvations, but the sense of revival was more than I've seen in 30 years of ministry," said Barber. "And I can't wait to see what God will do next."

Contact Gayla Parker at gayla@arkansasbaptist.org.

ABN Father of the Year contest announced

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

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

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

ability of the essay submitted.

The essay contest is limited to fathers who are members of Arkansas Southern Baptist churches.

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

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

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

Send tributes to Father of the Year Contest, Arkansas Baptist News, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204. For more information, contact Gayla Parker at gayla@arkansasbaptist.org or 501-376-4791, ext. 5153.

Seventh CWJC ministry opens in Arkansas

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

PARAGOULD - Résumé writing. Interviewing. Money management. Parenting. These are just a few of the job and life skills that Future&Hope Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) seeks to help women learn.

CWJC is a ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention's Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

Debbie Moore, women's ministry/missions consultant on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions support team, said this is the seventh CWJC site in Arkansas.

"I am thankful that the WMU ministry of Christian Women's Job Corps is growing in Arkansas," she said. "God is working through CWJC - and CMJC (Christian Men's Job Corps) - to point people

to Christ and to equip them with job and life skills."

Carol Foster, site coordinator for Future&Hope Christian Women's Job Corps and member of Mount Zion Baptist Church, Paragould, said she and Kim Lavespere, assistant site coordinator and member of Finch Baptist Church, Paragould, learned about CWJC through Moore and ABSC events.

"God laid it on our hearts separately," Foster said, explaining she took a training course in 2010 and Lavespere took one in 2011. "We prayed together, established a prayer team and told God if He led us to a step, we would take it, and He has continued to do that."

The site opened March 5 with nine participants.

"We are housed in property that belongs to First Baptist Church in Paragould, and they are graciously

allowing us to use it," said Foster.

She said their "mission is to empower women and foster opportunity, help and hope by providing journey partners, job skills and life skills in a faith-based environment."

Working on staff along with Foster and Lavespere are Kathy Mitchell, Bible study coordinator, and Jewel Clark, volunteer coordinator, both of First Baptist Church.

"We want to provide a God-centered program for the women of Greene County that don't have the funds or opportunity to pursue job skills and life skills that will improve the way they see themselves and improve their employment opportunities and family life," said Foster.

"I would love to see a CWJC/CMJC site in every association of the ABSC," said Moore.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.

IMB missionary service at Cross Church

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

The appointment service, set to begin at 6:30 p.m., will include praise and worship and testimonies from missionaries being ap-

pointed, as well as a message from IMB President Tom Elliff. Ronnie Floyd, Cross Church pastor, will also speak. Special music will be provided by Cross Church's worship choir and band.

Those appointed at the service will join the ranks of almost 4,900 missionaries serving worldwide.

"Few things in a Christian's life have the capacity to stir hearts, instill vision and change a life like a missionary appointment service,"

said a letter co-authored by Elliff and Floyd.

"These are never-to-be-forgotten events for anyone, but especially for Southern Baptists," the letter stated.

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

For more information about the IMB appointment service and related meetings, call 800-999-3113 and select option 3.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest to Arkansas Baptists

FCC proposal drops ban on TV nudity

WASHINGTON (BP) - Nudity and expletives normally reserved for cable television would be allowed on broadcast TV under a proposal from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). In an announcement that received little attention but could have a major impact on America's families, the FCC April 1 announced it is considering changes to the current broadcast indecency policies that would permit "isolated expletives" and isolated "nonsexual nudity" on broadcast TV, something that currently could draw a fine. The FCC is asking for public feedback on the proposed policy. The deadline is the end of April.

Richard Land named N.C. seminary leader

NASHVILLE (BP) - Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, confirmed April 11 that he has been selected as president of Southern Evangelical Seminary. The seminary, based in Charlotte, N.C., was co-founded in 1992 by Norman Geisler, longtime seminary professor and apologist, and Ross Rhoads, former evangelist and then-pastor of Calvary Church in Charlotte.

Okla. lawmakers vote traditional marriage

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) - Much of the nation might be embracing gay marriage, but the Oklahoma Legislature isn't going along - and it wants the U.S. Supreme Court to notice. By a vote of 84-0, the Oklahoma House of Representatives passed a resolution April 8 supporting traditional marriage and the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which is before the court. The vote highlights the geographical divide over gay marriage. The South and the nation's heartland tend to have more conservative positions on the issue, while the Northeast and West Coast states have more liberal beliefs. Although there were no votes opposing the resolution, about half of the Democrats - including Minority Leader Scott Inman - walked out prior to the vote, according to the Associated Press. Republicans control the chamber.

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

'Who's the boss?' a simple answer for parents

We live in a time when role clarity is essential.

For example, when God created man and woman, marriage was to be His perfect plan for their union.

And when parents choose to have children, He intended the parents to be in charge and not the other way around.

Society wants us to think otherwise.

For some time now, it's been politically incorrect to use corporal

punishment in the upbringing of children. Parents are supposed to rebuke softly, while encouraging their children to behave properly.

I received encouragement from my dad too. His encouragement to me – and my two brothers – was in the form a good whippin' when we got out of line. And you know what's funny? We didn't hate him, because we knew he was right and we did something wrong.

Living in our home was an attempt to avoid misbehaving – or at least being caught misbehaving – if there was a possibly of Dad finding

out because knew the consequences.

Many of us have witnessed children who call the shots with their parents in tow. Secular society doesn't help matters when decisions are made that usurp parental authority.

Earlier this month a U.S. district judge struck down Food and Drug Administration age restrictions to access emergency contraception.

PRESSING ON

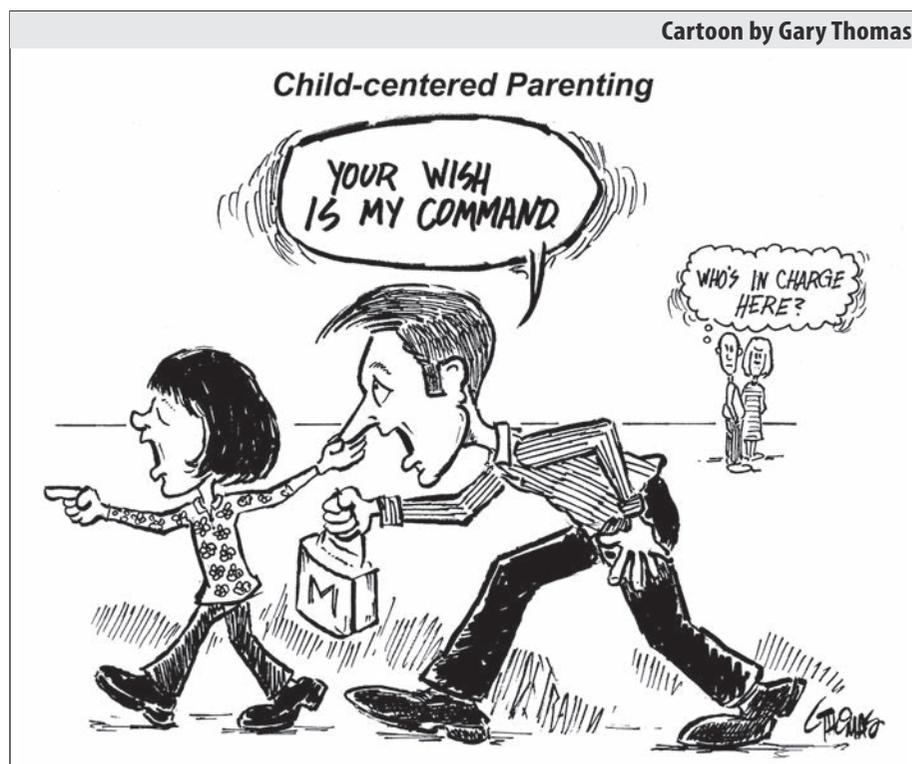
Tim Yarbrough



Judge Edward Korman ruled that contraceptives be available over the counter to all customers within 30 days – including minors.

"There is no serious health risk associated with use of Plan B as prescribed and intended, much less one that would make restrictions on distribution necessary for its safe use," Korman was quoted as saying in the *Los Angeles Times*.

I wonder if the judge, in all his judicial wisdom, took into account the message the judgment sends to parents of minors, as well as to minor children who, in practice,



will suffer emotional scars.

Most troubling is the ruling technically clears the way for girls and boys of any age to purchase the medication without having to notify their parents or a doctor.

'Defining time' in America

I hope everyone is praying for our statesmen and our judges in this defining time of America. We need not confuse morality with religion – many world religions and cultures retain morals, and many atheists and agnostics use common sense and logic in their ethics. Religious freedom is not freedom from morality and ethics in our laws. John Adams said in a speech to the military in 1798 that there is "no government armed with power of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. ... Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." When we do not speak out common sense on morals, we risk not only losing the nation we all love and cherish, but we are a terrible example to the world. For America to embrace sexual perversions is all the excuse a legalistic cult religion, that controls many peoples and nations, needs to reject instantly both American democracy and the prominent faith associated with it, Christianity, as being unfit to survive. America does not have to embrace degeneracy. That will kill us.

Stephan Allsup
Little Rock

The Insanity of God

By Nik Ripken with Gregg Lewis, B&H Publishing, 2013

After six years of serving day after day the people of Somaliland "who had witnessed profound evil, endured horrible living conditions, and suffered so much heartache and loss," Nik Ripken said he found himself desperately wondering if the problems in Somaliland were too big for God. He found it nearly impossible to face a new day knowing he and his team would feed 50,000 people animal food – grains – to keep them alive and also bury 20 children before the day was over.

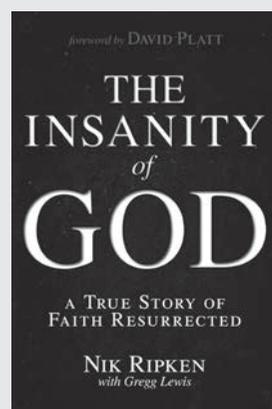
After the death of one of his own children from an asthma attack, he and his family returned to the United States to heal and recover from the physical and emotional trauma they had experienced. He found himself considering questions like, Can God truly overcome evil? Is love really more powerful than hate? How can a person maintain even a small hope in a dark place? In earnestly seeking answers to these and other questions, Ripken and his wife felt that he should go to countries where

the believers were severely persecuted and learn firsthand about the "spiritual survival strategies and faith lessons they had learned through their experiences of suffering, hardships and persecution."

Ripken had countless clandestine and dangerous meetings with people under severe persecution in Russia, Ukraine, Eastern Europe, China, Southeast Asia, Central Asia and in a large, strict Muslim country. He heard countless amazing and miraculous stories and came to realize that God is still doing the things He has always done.

The inspiring stories and eye-opening revelations in "The Insanity of God: A True Story of Faith Resurrected" should move the reader to re-examine their faith and seek to change how they live their lives each day for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Valerie Inman is a member of Diaz Baptist Church, Newport.



BOOK REVIEW

Valerie Inman
Diaz Baptist Church, Newport

LETTER

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Family Matters

Preparing for eternity

Death is a painful reality of living in a sinful world. We can't ignore it, and we must prepare for it. A relative of mine shared how her children attended visitations and funeral services of people they knew to comfort the grieving family. Along the way, they modeled to their children how to comfort grieving people and engaged in conversations about salvation, heaven and eternal life. We practice the same thing with our children.



Phillips

Two weeks ago, a friend of mine watched his father pass from his arms into the arms of the heavenly Father. A few weeks prior to his death, his dad participated in a "manhood" ceremony for his 13-year-old grandson. One generation stepped off the scene into heaven and another generation stepped into the scene of manhood.

Our family is good friends with the family. We spent some time walking with them from the surgery through the complications and then the grief of losing a beloved family member, eventually attending a funeral celebration service.

This was the first time my older children had friends who had lost a loved one. We had some discussions about how to comfort others during their times of grief, how not to say too much, but to be there, to listen and to pray. Fortunately, it was not their first funeral. They were familiar with what happens during funerals and could attend and minister to friends without being overwhelmed by grieving friends.

Involve your family in ministering to grieving people by attending visitations and funerals. Pray, listen, mourn and just be present. Model this for your children, walk with them and talk to them along the way. Discuss your relationship with Jesus and the blessings of heaven and eternal life. Share your salvation story and ask about theirs. Heaven is a delightful reality for those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We can't ignore it, and we must prepare for it. Is your family prepared?

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

Ministering to widows and orphans

James 1:27 (NKJV) reminds us that "pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

The Arkansas Baptist Foundation is often viewed simply as a money manager. Yet, each day we provide a wonderful ministry on behalf of churches. We take care of a number of widows and widowers (and couples) in their times of need.

In fact, having been a pastor for 19 years, I would not enjoy only managing money. It is the personal joy of helping people in need that makes the Foundation an incredible place to work. The fulfillment comes in knowing that we are ministering on behalf of the churches.

A pastor called me a few months ago to ask about a widow in his church. She wanted to leave her estate to the church and wanted the church to be her executor and trustee.

His question was simple: "Should we do this?"

I chuckled to myself but told him, "Sure, if you want to do so, but you may not want to do it. There is a great deal of liability – as well as other issues – involved in caring for a person. You may not want to put that bur-

den on the church."

Actually, that is one of the main reasons we provide this ministry – to keep the churches from entering the fiduciary world. This ministry is labor-intensive and demanding, and churches need to focus on many other ministries. Yet, this is a ministry that Scripture demands, and I am thankful that we can provide this service on behalf of the churches.

While most of the children they serve are from broken or troubled families, and thus not actually "orphans," the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries (ABCHomes) provides an incredible ministry to those children and families. Again, this is something that most churches should not attempt. This ministry is

fraught with issues and regulations. ABCHomes navigates those troubled waters on our behalf.

The next time you think about "pure and undefiled religion," remember that Arkansas Baptists are involved in ministering to widows and orphans, and that is just a small part of what we do, thanks to the support of the Cooperative Program!

David Moore is president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.



FINANCIAL TIMES

David Moore

What happened to 'evangelistic' Sunday school?

Today we are offered a multiplicity of methods to reach people for Christ through the local church. You can examine all the methods and see pretty quickly that one method that is not offered in most conferences is Sunday school. Many church members have never seen a lost adult come to Christ as a result of Sunday school.

I served as pastor of my last full-time church at First Baptist Church, Maumelle. From the beginning, it was obvious that the church was not reaching people.

After several months of trying to reach people my old way – that is trying to win people to Christ one-on-one and getting a couple of other people involved in personal evangelism – I realized that the church was still not growing. I began to study Sunday school work and the claims that people made for it about reaching people.

One crucial night in July, I was preaching a revival at Gold Creek Baptist Church near Conway. On the way home, I was crying out to the Lord and asking God to do in my church in Maumelle what He was doing at Gold Creek. That evening as I drove along the Arkansas River, the Lord put on my heart to use Sunday school to reach people. To ignore this prompting from God would have been sheer disobedience.

I made plans to use Sunday school in an aggressive and evangelistic manner. Our leaders set a goal to have 100 people enrolled in Sunday school by Jan. 1. Mind you, we had 60-something people enrolled at this time in September. This was a huge step for our church. I got busy and started my first pastor's Sunday school class, and three or four other people started enrolling unchurched people. We met our goal in about two weeks – not months. Soon God began to save some of the new people. Three men in their 30s came to Jesus within a few weeks. It was working! Within one-and-a-half years, our attendance went from 30 to almost 200.

Keys to an evangelistic Sunday school. There are several important keys to starting and maintaining an evangelistic Sunday school. The most obvious key is "open enrollment." Open enrollment simply means anyone can enroll in my Sunday school class anywhere at any time if they simply state a willingness to enroll and join the Sunday school (not the church).

Another key to evangelistic Sunday school growth is forming new classes. New classes are essential because they grow faster than old classes.

The third key to evangelistic Sunday school growth is goal-setting. That is, goals of Sunday school enrollment, not attendance.

How to get prospects. Next, many prospects are needed. The best way I know to get plenty of prospects is to do an in-house survey. For the in-house survey, simply pass out a sheet of paper and a pencil to everyone in the service on Sunday evening or Wednesday evening. Ask the people to write down prospects that do not at this time attend church as far as they know. Give the people categories and ask them to write down family, friends, work associates, friends

with whom they reconnect, neighbors, etc. Last year I was interim pastor at Second Baptist Church, West Helena. We received nearly 100 prospects in a Sunday night service.

Pastors, you must set the pace. Enroll more people than anyone else enrolls. One of my former students in an Alabama church had 40-50 enrolled in a pastors class the last time I talked with him. (Each young adult usually brings one young person, too.)

In the late 1990s, I was the part-time pastor of Lakeshore Baptist Church at Horseshoe Lake, about 20 miles south of West Memphis. The church was experiencing a lull during the summer, and it was running about 30-40 in Sunday school. I challenged the people to use an aggressive Sunday school approach, and they bought it. I started a pastors class, and I enrolled people everywhere I could. The class started in August, and in early November the Arkansas Baptist Sunday school department had a High Attendance Day. We participated in this, and I worked hard. In my new class on High Attendance Day, 26 people attended, eight new people enrolled in our class and two men prayed to receive Jesus – during Sunday school! Our church had about 150 people in Sunday school that day.

I honestly don't know a better way to reach people for Christ than through an aggressive Sunday school. The results speak for themselves – it works.

Steve Wilkes is professor of missions at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Cordova, Tenn.



GUEST VIEWPOINT

Steve Wilkes

99-year-old recalls 1925 birth of Cooperative Program

Karen L. Willoughby
Baptist Message

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) - M.O. Owens Jr. was still in knickers on May 13, 1925, the day his parents took him to a pivotal session of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Annual Meeting being held in Memphis, Tenn. It was the day the Cooperative Program (CP) was born.

Now 99, Owens recalls the vote that ushered in the CP as a system of financial support for the missions and ministries of Southern Baptists within state conventions and throughout the nation and world.

"I was there, but I was only 11," Owens told Baptist Press. "I don't have a keen memory of specifics. There wasn't any great opposition, but it was a new idea to the pastors.

"I remember very vividly how excited my dad was, how delighted he was, and I do remember so well he was concerned about enlisting the other pastors," Owens said of his father, the late Milum Oswell Owens Sr., who pastored two churches. "He was the only pastor from that association (Orangeburg County, S.C.) who attended that convention."

His parents must have realized the historical significance of the vote because Owens was allowed to stay with relatives during the other sessions of the five-day event, which took place in a brand-new convention hall in Memphis.

It was hot that day, Owens recalled; other reports say air was "oppressively muggy" in the convention center with about 5,600 people in their Sunday best. Owens recalls his father wore a suit and his mother, her best dress plus hat and gloves.

The SBC had space enough, with an 11,000-seating capacity, in what was known as the Memphis and Shelby County Auditorium and Market House, opened in 1924. For "air conditioning," it had just seven large fans to cool the entire auditorium, along with heat-escaping ceiling vents, according to Eric Elam, director of operations for the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce.

Owens' father had planned for months to attend the SBC Annual Meeting. He even purchased a new 1925 black Plymouth that spring, replacing his 1916 black T-Model Ford.

"Before that day (of the CP vote), there were very few Sundays there wouldn't be someone appealing for an offering," Owens said. "I remember my parents talking about it, Dad saying we needed to figure out a way to lump some of these appeals together - foreign missions, home missions, Indian missions, orphanages and more. And then he heard about (what is known today as the Cooperative Program), and he was tickled



The Memphis and Shelby County Auditorium and Market House, opened in 1924, was the site of the 1925 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting when the Cooperative Program was approved; 5,600 messengers were in attendance.

pink when it happened."

Owens Sr. wasn't alone in his pleasure that the Cooperative Program was approved. An article by Todd Starnes written in 2000 for *SBC LIFE* noted that "the messengers heartily approved the report (by what was known as the Future Program Commission) with the following recommendation: 'That from the adoption of this report by the Convention our co-operative work be known as 'The Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists.'"



Owens

The fundraising strategy was created with a dozen working principles, including that the CP would be an equal partnership between state conventions and the SBC and that "money given by the churches was to be evenly divided between the state convention and SBC," according to the establishing document.

"It was all brand-new to the local pastors, and my dad's job, he felt, was to tell them about it, the reason for it, and ... he was, I think, fairly successful," Owens said of his father, then pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Cordova, S.C., and Two Mile Swamp Baptist Church, some eight miles down a dirt road. "The two churches together, as I remember, said they would pay him \$2,000 a year, but it wasn't guaranteed."

Owens also became a pastor, serving churches in South Carolina, Florida and Georgia before starting Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia, N.C., as a mission in 1963. Beyond his retirement in 1980, Owens has continued to serve Parkwood as pastor emeritus, preaching there weekly in a ministry now spanning 50-plus years.

"Money was scarce (in 1925), actually," Owens said. "There had been a period right after World War

I when there was a sort of a boom and money was sort of plentiful, but then came a recession and that was right at the time the trip was made to Memphis."

The Owens family drove over dirt-packed roads to get from South Carolina to Memphis, staying with relatives when possible to save money.

"It took us four days because the front wheels of the Plymouth were not aligned properly," Owens recalled. "Somewhere between Birmingham and Memphis the tires were worn out and Dad had to buy new ones."

Nothing was going to keep them from that important vote, however, so Owens' father dug into his wallet and paid for two tires and an alignment, about \$100, the equivalent of nearly \$1,000 today. In not having to pay for lodging in Memphis, it was possible for the family to drive 700-plus miles from South Carolina, through Atlanta and Birmingham, to go to the meeting and to pay for the tires and alignment, Owens said.

"The agencies and institutions were not happy with the new plan at first, but in only a few years, they realized how fortunate they were in the benefits of the plan," Owens said. "They no longer had to go begging, and their financial benefits began to increase. ... It was only a few years until it was recognized by the churches as a divinely-oriented concept."

Owens said he has watched for years the strength of the CP his father was so pleased to help pass.

"It is a beautiful arrangement," Owens said. "The churches are not plagued by appeals for money. Each church can choose to participate - or not. Each agency and institution can feel fairly secure in anticipating its designated share."

The CP has enabled the SBC to develop a well-organized worldwide missions thrust that reaches into

more than 160 nations, with missionaries trained by six of the "largest and most effective seminaries in the world," Owens said. "Each state has had the privilege of using its share of CP funds for colleges, children's homes, hospitals, homes for the aging or whatever its apparent needs might be."

The CP method of pooling mission dollars for maximum effectiveness "is not perfect, but its advantages are great," Owens said. "There are biblical reasons why it is good, and there are compelling logistical reasons why it works so well."

"Through the Cooperative Program, we Southern Baptists are supporting thousands of missionaries here in America and all around the world. And these missionaries are specially trained to plant the gospel in whatever area they are working," Owens continued. "In 2011, ... they planted more churches and baptized more people than all the 45,000-plus Southern Baptist churches here in the USA."

Owens received the 2011 Heritage Award from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the North Carolina Baptist Foundation for his exemplary service, philanthropy and leadership in missions and ministries within the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina over the years. At Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, an academic post was named in his honor last year - the Dr. M.O. Owens Jr. Chair of New Testament Studies.

In the years after the vote to establish the CP, Owens Sr. went on to pastor First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., where he was followed some decades later by Frank Page, current president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Karen L. Willoughby is managing editor of the *Baptist Message*, newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

CONNECT: students impact Camden area for Christ

Gayla Parker
Arkansas Baptist News

CAMDEN – Playing video games, attending sports events, shopping at the local mall – these might be the types of things one would expect students to participate in on a normal weekend. But that was not the case for the students taking part in the CONNECT missions event in the Camden area April 5-7. Instead, they were building wheelchair ramps, painting and repairing houses and holding block parties.

More than 200 participants from 16 Arkansas Baptist churches from across the state completed 22 projects during the missions event.

CONNECT is a student missions event designed to give participants the experience of a weeklong mission trip within a single weekend. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions support team partnered with churches and associations to serve area residents through various ministry and service projects. Among other things, projects included painting the outside of the Ruby Snider Center, painting and building an enclosed storage unit at the Charities Thrift Store, visiting nursing homes and doing yard work and other projects.

“Students voluntarily gave up a weekend, paid \$25 and slept on the floor of a local church, just for the chance to show God’s love by serving others and telling them about Jesus,” said Travis McCormick, ABSC missions support team member.

“The ministry projects are my favorite part of CONNECT because I really like helping people,” said Emily Davis, a student participating in the event.

Davis worked in the yard of an elderly resident in the area, raking, mowing and doing general cleanup to make the yard safer for the resident to enjoy.

Another project students partici-

pated in was a complete home makeover for a local single mother and her three children.

Amanda Jennings is a new believer of 18 months and a longtime friend of Joyce Tillery, a Baptist campus minister. In a conversation with Tillery, Jennings said she wanted to see what real Christians looked like. CONNECT demonstrated to her the Christian faith as students worked to paint, clean up and repair an entire house, Jennings said.

“We are being so blessed and loved on today. I’m sure teenagers have something more fun they could be doing today, but they are here helping us,” Jennings said with tears in her eyes.

“You can’t do anything better than serve God. What you can do in 48 hours can im-

act lives for eternity,” said Tillery.

Local churches, including Calvary Baptist Church, East Camden; First Baptist Church, Stephens; Grace Baptist Church, Camden; Cullendale First Baptist Church, Camden; First Baptist Church, Norphlet; Maple Avenue Baptist Church, Smackover; First Baptist Church, Hampton, and Eagle Mills First Baptist Church, Bearden, provided the projects and the lunches on Saturday.

Cullendale First Baptist Church housed the participants and provided them a place to eat, sleep, worship and meet together

in the evenings. Shower units were provided by disaster relief teams from Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, and First Baptist Church, Ozark. The feeding unit from the Liberty Baptist Association disaster relief team provided two meals on Saturday.

Participants concluded the weekend by participating in morning worship services with local churches.

A second CONNECT event will take place April 19-21 in the Mountain Home area.

Contact Gayla Parker at gayla@arkansasbaptist.org.



ABN online

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



Michael Dyar, youth minister of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Bismarck, paints a home during the event. Two students (top) rake leaves during CONNECT.



SPILL

continued from page one

through Mayflower, we would need a lot more resources, but because this has been a man-made disaster, Exxon Mobil is certainly stepping up and trying to help people in a way that would be adequate for their needs,” the pastor said, adding, “We

are sort of on standby. If there is anything that they (those displaced) need, we will certainly be able to assist them.”

Exxon Mobil crews are working long hours to clean up neighborhoods affected by the oil spill, which include the Northwoods neighborhood, North Starlight Road and Shade Tree Lane. Workers using floodlights throughout the night are seen by commuters passing through Mayflower.

“One of the other things that is going on at the same time is they are trying to repair that ruptured pipeline that is also located in that same neighborhood,” said Fox.

Four families affected by the oil spill were cleared by the Arkansas Department of Health to return to their homes April 9, but none did so, according to an *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* report. The families decided to wait until the cleanup was closer to completion and the area

could be more conclusively ruled safe before returning home, the report stated.

“I know the cleanup effort will continue on in earnest here for about a month, and then workers will begin to leave.

“I would say it’s probably going to take a full year or longer to complete everything, maybe even longer than that,” said Fox.

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.



Disaster relief volunteers (above) work to place blue tarp over a damaged portion of the roof of Anderson Chapel Baptist Church in Dumas. Volunteers (left) use a tractor to clear portions of an oak tree that fell during the storm and damaged surrounding buildings.

STORM

continued from page one

the damaged church roof with blue tarp, as well as working to remove the tree and other debris.

Thomas Lantrip, Anderson Chapel pastor, said the community was "pulling together" to help one another in the aftermath of storms in

the area. No injuries were reported, but a man's house was destroyed and there was other damage in the Dumas community, he said.

In Van Buren County, homes were damaged, power lines downed and trees uprooted. Initial reports indicated no Arkansas Baptist churches in the area were damaged, but Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) disaster relief

continued to assess damage after the storms.

As of press time, the North Central Baptist Association recovery unit was working the area and ABSC disaster relief had dispatched additional recovery units to the Clinton area, said Bill Cantrell, ABSC disaster relief director.

Additionally, a shower unit was stationed at Pee Dee Baptist Church

in Clinton.

The storm destroyed Four Square Church in Botkinburg, which is about five miles north of Clinton. Four people were injured and dozens of houses and at least one business were damaged in Van Buren County, Tommy Jackson, a spokesman for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, told the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

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SWBTS launches shortest fully online master's degree

FORT WORTH, Texas – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will launch the shortest fully online master's degree among Southern Baptist seminaries this summer with its brand new Master of Theological Studies (MTS). Trustees approved the 36-hour degree at their spring

meeting on April 3.

“This finally makes it possible for people who are in their churches and preparing for ministry to go ahead and get their degree completely without having to leave the church to which they feel called and to which they're committed,” said

Mark Leeds, registrar at the seminary.

Of the courses in the Master of Theological Studies, 92 percent of the online courses are taught by elected faculty and former full-time faculty members.

Leeds said the degree could also be beneficial for church members looking to strengthen their understanding of the Bible and to maximize their ministry in the local church.

“In Southern Baptist life, we have a strong laity people who are not on staff but are committed to serving in different ways, such as deacons and Sunday school teachers,” Leeds

said. He added that the MTS makes it possible to get “solid, foundational knowledge in the basic disciplines you would want to have to be a better servant in the church.”

Twelve three-hour courses make up the MTS, including classes in hermeneutics, Old Testament, New Testament, church history, Baptist heritage, systematic theology, apologetics and ethics. As an academic degree, the program is not meant to replace the comprehensive Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education degrees, which provide further ministry training and still require a portion of credit hours to be completed on campus.

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EXTENSION

continued from page one

with the state convention.”

Biles said seminary extension allows individuals to remain active in their current ministry.

“I've been able to continue serving my church and work in the ministry that I've invested myself in because of the convenience of the extension,” said Jake Hilburn, assistant campus minister at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and current student at the Little Rock extension.

“I would recommend the Little Rock extension for anybody who wants to be successful in acquiring a degree from a great seminary while doing ministry in Arkansas,” he said.

“What I like about the extension is these guys don't have the mentality of, ‘I'm training for ministry,’ which is a limiting kind of concept. Their idea is, ‘We're in ministry, and

we're further equipping ourselves to do what the Lord has called us to do,” he said.

“Everything we offer in the class is immediately relevant because they are living it tomorrow; we're getting students who already have experience in ministry, which adds different dynamics in the classroom, so you have a blend of an academic and a practical setting, which I think is probably a strength of our extension program,” said Biles. “Online is great for what it is, but it can never replace a traditional classroom setting,” said Biles.

“What we are doing is Southwestern Seminary in Little Rock. So what you're getting is all of the academic excellence and training that you would get on the main campus ... with not only the convenience of location, but with adjunct faculty who are local and experienced.”

For more information about the Little Rock extension, contact Tim Deahl at 501-376-4791, ext. 5103.

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.

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Russellville FBC hosts mission banquet

Gayla Parker
Arkansas Baptist News

RUSSELLVILLE - Jay Hamm, missions pastor of First Baptist Church, Russellville, wants members to know exactly how all the mission monies given are used locally and around the world.

How did he share this information with his church? The staff hosted the church's first missions banquet.

"So often we wait until December to take up the Lottie Moon (Christmas) Offering for international missions. If missions is our priority, we need to talk about it before the end of the year," said Hamm.

Sonny Tucker, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), was the primary speaker for the banquet. Tucker stressed the importance of missions giving, the seasonal offerings as well as Cooperative Program, so that together people can do more for the kingdom of God.

Other ABSC staff involved in the event were Debbie Moore, missions support team member; Chris Copeland, missions and ministries team member, and Rusty Hart of the executive support team member.

"The event was a great experience. It was such a blessing to hear and see how First Baptist is involved with so many people around the world," said Moore. "It was good to visit with people who were interested in knowing more about how

we (Southern Baptists) support missions. I'm grateful for First, Russellville, and their strong missions involvement."

Hart added, "It was great to see such a large portion of the church gather together to support missions. Their level of excitement and passion for the lost of the world was contagious. Being a part of the banquet, you couldn't help but wonder what God could do if more people in our Arkansas Baptist churches were exposed to missions in such a vibrant way and decided to make their missions giving a priority in their lives."

First Baptist has been serving as Strategy Coordinator Church for Kenya for 15 years with the International Mission Board. The church is also involved in partnership with two churches in El Salvador and the El Salvador Baptist Mission in providing seminary extension classes - \$10,000 of the offering taken at the event will fund Bibles for the partnerships in Kenya and El Salvador.

Hamm said the staff was hoping to collect half of the funds needed for their mission endeavors and offerings at the event and the goal was met.

In addition to the international partnerships, the church has partnerships with churches in Arkansas and North America, demonstrating the model set in Acts 1:8.

Contact Gayla Parker at gayla@arkansasbaptist.org.



ABN online

View a photo gallery of the block party at www.arkansasbaptist.org/photo-gallery

Neighborhood fun

Audry Basham (left) and Jbrea Smith play with hula hoops during a block party April 6 at New Covenant Family Ministries in North Little Rock. The event was hosted by New Covenant Family Ministries and 47th Street Baptist Church, North Little Rock. Photo by Jessica Vanderpool

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Seeks to add 'Jesus' to conversation

'Unchurched' and 'dechurched' focus of Compass

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

BATESVILLE – The “Bible Belt,” a term first coined by journalist and social commentator H.L. Mencken in the 1920s, denotes the area of the Southeastern and South-Central United States known for its large number of conservative protestant evangelical churches.

However, according to Chad Grigsby, directional pastor of teaching and shepherding at Compass Church, Batesville, the great number of churches and higher-than-average church attendance of the nation's most “Christian” region are not always synonymous with a large community of believers.

“One of the things about planting a church in the religious South is ... we are very religious down here but there is not a lot of gospel. That's one of the reasons for planting in an overchurched but underreached area,” said Grigsby.

“We deal with people all the time who are very religious but don't know Jesus. Ninety percent of my conversations I have with people are, ‘You seem like you have a very religious background, but there is no Jesus in there,’” he said.

“So many people were coming (to Compass Church) that had been hurt by the Church, dechurched and out of church for years or lost. They had this impression that church was something they had to clean up for before they went or even entered the door. So we tried to make it part of our vision and purpose to love God and love people and that it is the Holy Spirit's job to change them; it's our job just to love on them,” said Mickey Jones, directional pastor of worship and administration for Compass Church.

“We saw a need for a different type of body of believers,” said Grigsby.

In just three short years, Compass Church has grown substantially by focusing on the gospel and not being afraid to be “different,” the goal being to change the identity of “the Church” from a building visited on Sunday mornings to a mindset lived out by fellow believers on a daily basis, said Jones.

“The vision is for people to understand that they are missionaries wherever they are. You may be a plumber, you may be a teacher, you may be an administrator, but that's just the means. You are a missionary. So the Church is not just a Sunday morning kind of thing. It's not a separate domain. It's got to penetrate everything we do,” he said.

In its short life span, Compass Church has lived up to its vision. The church has made missions and church planting a priority, or rather “the” priority, locally, nationally and internationally.

“Missions is not just a program

or an add-on to what they do as a church. It is the very heart of who they are as a people, not just gathered by God, but sent by God. They truly have an Acts 1:8 vision. They have saturated their community and partnered with agencies all over Batesville. They have partnered with church plants both in state and out of state. They also have some strong mission partnerships around the world,” said Dave McClung, innovative church planting strategist for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Where many churches feel the need to start their own independent community ministries, Compass Church decided to partner with pre-existing community outreach organizations, both faith-based and secular, in order to widen their scope of outreach. The church has also done mission trips in Arkansas, Massachusetts, Kansas, South Dakota and Haiti. This year the church is planning trips to Uganda and Indonesia.

Eighty people from Compass Church went on at least one mission trip in 2012, and the church raised \$85,000 for missions in the same year, according to Grigsby. To help give more people the opportunity to go on mission trips, Compass Church pays 50 percent of the cost of a trip every year for each “covenant” member (individuals who complete a membership class and sign the church's covenant).

“It's not if God wants us to do missions – it's when and where. ... The Great Commission is not the great suggestion – it's our DNA,” said Grigsby.

In the past three years, Grigsby and Jones have seen amazing things happen within Compass Church. Both men can tell story after story, full of anecdotes, of Christ's life-changing power. When asked to give an example of how he has seen God work over the past three years, Grigsby joked, “How much time do you have?”

“We have this one couple who started from attenders to covenant members to small group participants to small group leaders to now this summer they will be going on their second trip leading to Haiti,” said Grigsby. “They went, in three years, from dechurched to leading mission trips to Haiti.”

While many Christian traditions are good and helpful, Grigsby and Jones feel there is one popular tradition that needs to be forgotten – the concept of Church being a building.

“We did a series a while back called ‘Don't go to church.’ We've all got to quit going to church and start being the Church,” said Grigsby. “If you think about church being something that happens on Sunday morning, then you've missed the idea of Church. How do you go to something that you are?”

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.



Mickey Jones, directional pastor of worship and administration at Compass Church (left) and Chad Grigsby, directional pastor of teaching and shepherding, stand under a map of the world inside Compass Church's facility in Batesville.

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NPBA golf tourney May 13

SHERWOOD – The North Pulaski Baptist Association (NPBA) Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the association's caring centers will be held Monday, May 13 at The Greens at North Hills, 7400 Highway 107, Sherwood. A free barbecue lunch begins at 11:30 a.m., with tee off set for 1 p.m.

Dennis Wilkins, tournament director who is pastor of 47th Street

Baptist Church, North Little Rock, said prizes include \$5,000 for a hole-in-one, dinners for four at Whole Hog restaurant and a round of golf for two people.

"Every player will receive a free golf club, and we even have a prize for the losing team," Wilkins said.

The tournament is open to everyone. For more information, contact Wilkins at 843-816-2150.

Church life

First Baptist Church, Barling, will host messianic Rabbi Boris Goldin from Chosen People Ministries speaking on Israel and prophecy. Both Christian and Jewish communities are invited to attend.

Crossgate Church, Hot Springs, will host the University of Arkansas Chorale at 6:30 p.m. April 20.

First Baptist Church, Charleston, will host Bluegrass Thoroughbreds and Sweetwater in concert at 6:30 p.m. April 19 for the Bluegrass and BBQ event. The proceeds will help send a mission team to Nicaragua in July. For tickets, call the church office at 479-965-2533.

First Baptist Church, Harrison, will host the IMPACT Men Making a Difference event April 13. The event includes conferences on how to live a life with impact: intimacy, mission, passion, action, courage and training. For more information, contact the church office at 870-741-3415.

Ouachita Baptist University will present the musical "Hello Dolly!" at 7:30 p.m. April 19.

Zion Hill Baptist Church, Cabot, will hold a revival April 28-May 2. Evangelist Mel Hooten, of Texas, and worship leader Milton Lee,

of Arkansas, will lead the revival. For more information, contact the church office at 501-988-4989.

First Baptist Church, Pocahontas, will hold a revival April 21-24 with guest speaker Bruce Stone, pastor of Witt's Chapel Baptist Church, Maynard.

First Baptist Church, Smackover, will host the LifeWay Christian Resources marriage conference simulcast May 3-4. Speakers, entertainers and worship leaders include Gary Chapman, Les and Leslie Parrott, Mark Merrill, Steve and Debbie Wilson, Team Wordplay and Big Daddy Weave. For more information or reservations, contact the church office at 870-726-3941.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Extension Center Ministry will host a lunch May 6 at Cross Church, Springdale, for extension center students. Speakers will include Sonny Tucker, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; Timothy Beougher, director of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism, and H.D. McCarty, president for Ventures for Christ ministry and director of Southern Seminary Northwest Arkansas Extension Center. Interested or potential students can call 479-443-9474 for reservations.



Birthday gifts for missions

Grant Hill, a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church, Cabot, decided he wanted his seventh birthday to make a difference. In lieu of gifts, he asked party attendees to bring money to be donated to the Ecuador mission team being sponsored by the North Pulaski Baptist Association. Grant chose a pirate theme for his party with a treasure chest for donations. He was able to raise \$525 for the mission team. When asked if it was hard to give up that much money, he said, "No, it wasn't mine; it was God's."

Obituaries

Samuel Edward Elrod, 88, of Malvern died April 9. Elrod graduated from Ouachita Baptist College (now Ouachita Baptist University) in 1957. He pastored several churches in Arkansas, including White-



ville Baptist Church, Gassville; Austin Station Baptist Church, Ward; Northside Baptist Church, Monticello; Elaine Baptist Church, Elaine; Plainview Baptist Church, Little Rock; First Baptist Church, Thornton, and Calvary Baptist Church, Malvern. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother and a sister. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Elizabeth Edwards Elrod; two sons; a daughter; seven grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Calvary Baptist Church, Malvern, April 12. Graveside services were held at Cedarcrest Memorial Garden in

DeWitt. Memorials can be made to Calvary Baptist Church, 1267 Ford Drive, Malvern, AR 72104.

Milestones

First Baptist Church, Star City, will celebrate 140 years of service June 30. The service begins at 10:50 a.m. with lunch to follow. Following lunch, the Hackett Family will lead in a fifth Sunday singing. All are invited. For more information, contact Polly McGhee at 870-628-3122.

Tumbling Shoals Baptist Church, Tumbling Shoals, celebrated their 24th anniversary in March. Since its beginning in 1989, 51 members have participated in missions in 21 states and 17 foreign countries.

On the move

Paul Bryant is serving as pastor of First Baptist Church, Garfield. Bryant served for six years as the church's minister of youth and missions.

Classifieds

PASTOR

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

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

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

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Camp Paron is seeking a **married couple** willing to work flexible hours and varied task. Housing may be included as part of the pay pack-

age. Call 501-837-7362 for more information.

First Baptist Church, White Hall, is seeking a **full-time preschool/children minister**. Responsibilities include ministry to children first through fifth grade and preschoolers ages 2-5, supervision of paid nursery staff, and planning committee of 12-14 adults. Send resume to P.O. Box 20307 White Hall, AR 71612, or email to office@fbcwhitehall.com, Attn: Children Search Team.

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

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

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

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in west Little

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

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

First Baptist Church, Big Spring, Texas, is seeking **full-time minister of music**. Please email resumes to fbcbigspringmm@yahoo.com or mail to 705 W. FM 700, Big Spring, TX 79720.

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

73034, or resume@waterlooroad.org.

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Learn candle making for fun and/or profit. Great fun class for ladies/seniors groups/children/special prices for church groups. Call Mary: 501-626-9982.



To place a classified ad,
call Nelle O'Bryan at 501-376-4791, ext. 5153

Adams to head international programs at WBC

WALNUT RIDGE – Adam Adams has been named director of international programs at Williams Baptist College (WBC).

Adams, a native of Troy, Mo., received his Bachelor of Arts in French from Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo., his Master of Arts in intercultural studies from Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and his Master of Divinity from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

He also has professional certification as an adult English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor, which he received through the University of Cambridge.

An avid traveler, Adams has been to 34 countries. He taught English in eastern and southern Africa for two and a half years after he completed college and has also traveled through a considerable amount of south and southeast Asia and western Europe.

“I have learned a lot from travel-

ing,” said Adams. “I am grateful for the opportunities that I have had to travel. I would encourage all WBC students to consider going on an international trip. It has really changed my view of the world.”

Adams believes he is a better person as a result of the experiences he had with people from other cultures.

For him, these experiences began in college, and he is excited to help

increase that same opportunity for Williams students as more internationals come to study on the campus.

“I am excited to see the Williams campus live out Jesus’ command to ‘love thy neighbor’ when their neighbor has jet lag, misses their family, doesn’t recognize any of the food on their plate and

is learning to communicate in a new language,” he said.



Adams

Mother of the Year contest

ABN extends contest deadline

THE ARKANSAS Baptist News (ABN) is extending its deadline for its ninth annual A Tribute to Godly Mothers essay contest until April 22. The original deadline was April 17.

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 28. 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. They should also include the phone number and email address of the submitter.

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

All tributes should be received in the ABN office no later than Monday, April 22.

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

Williams Baptist College graduation set for May 4

WALNUT RIDGE – About 100 graduates are expected to receive diplomas Saturday, May 4, during the Williams Baptist College baccalaureate and commencement exercises. The event starts at 10 a.m. in the Southerland-Mabee Center.

Gary Hollingsworth, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, will speak at the event. Hollingsworth is being honored as the

college’s 2013 Distinguished Baptist Minister. Hollingsworth serves as the president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board.

Additionally, Williams Baptist graduates of 50 or more years will be recognized as Williams’ Golden Eagles during a special ceremony.

Baccalaureate and commencement are combined as one ceremony at Williams.



Hollingsworth

Zimny new ABF comm. specialist

LITTLE ROCK – René Zimny has been named communications specialist for the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.



Zimny

A native of Namibia, southern Africa, Zimny is a 2008 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University with majors in graphic design and mass

communication.

He has worked as a graphic designer for Ouachita Baptist University and as graphic design coordinator and part-time assistant director for graphic services for White County Medical Center.

Zimny is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in graphic design from Savannah (Ga.) College of Art and Design.

Happy Birthday!

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

- ◆ May 7: Nathan Dickard, OBU Box 4212, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; South Africa.
- ◆ May 10: Katie Butts, OBU Box 4634, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Brazil.
- ◆ May 16: Johnny Upchurch, WBC, Box 3051, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476; Eastern Europe.
- ◆ May 31: Zach Fricke, OBU Box 4429, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Guatemala.

This could be your ad.

Call 501-376-4791, ext. 5153

“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.

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APRIL 28, 2013

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Be guided by God's Word

2 TIMOTHY 3: 1-17

The Library of Congress contains 15 million volumes written in 450 languages. All of the books were written by men. Only the Bible was written by God.

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15, KJV).

The purpose of God's Word is to guide every believer. The Bible is like no other book in the entire world, for it makes one "wise unto salvation." The Bible is a treasure. We literally have in our hands, not the words of religious, wise or godly men, but the words of God, written by human hands through the work of the Holy Spirit.

I hope you have an appreciation for the Scripture, which God has revealed Himself in, and when you read the words of your Bible, you're reading the words out of the mouth of God – all for the purpose of guiding/instructing how to be equipped.

"All scripture is given by inspira-

tion of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16, KJV).

– Profitable for doctrine, meaning what is right.

– Profitable for reproof, meaning how to know what's wrong.

– Profitable for correction, meaning how to get what's wrong right.

– Profitable for instruction in righteousness, meaning how to stay right.

"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:17, KJV).

Everything God wants us to be that is really meaningful for eternity is found in His Word, a Book that is proven to guide our lives.

Find a church that is committed to expository preaching/teaching and systematically rightly dividing the Word of God, which gives confidence to everything that is taught and also guides us to obedience and submission to what we believe and why.



Don Bradford
pastor
Cherry Street Baptist Church
Clarksville

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:

Blessings of holiness

LEVITICUS 26:3-13, 40-42, 45

The old Caravan still takes us the places we want to go. It makes a few basic requests. First of all, it needs gas – about a gallon for every 18 miles. Second, it needs oil – about a quart a month. It needs a few other fluids, air in the tires and the occasional wiper blade. However, if I keep all these things going, the van takes me where I need to go.

At times, though, the cost and effort to keep all this together weighs me down. It costs almost three times what it once did to fill it up. Quarts of oil and transmission fluid are not any cheaper. The costs of maintenance and operation are really a challenge. Then there is the time for needed work, like cleanings and brake work and oil changes.

But I know what will happen if I quit on the old Caravan. I will find myself more like the Apostle Paul than I ever desired because, like Paul, I will walk nearly everywhere I go. The costs of time and effort are necessary in order to receive the

benefit of having the van.

Our relationship with God, as we see in Leviticus 26, is much like my relationship with the van. It's not a perfect analogy because I am the owner of my van. I am in charge, and I do what I do because it's my van and it will do what I tell it to do.

Relating to the holy God turns slightly differently. We are commanded to walk in holiness, as He is holy (1 Pet. 1:16). That this comes from the One who died to redeem us from sin and rose again to live forevermore should be enough to secure our obedience.

Yet His grace is greater than that. When we walk in holiness, we see blessings. Relationships are strengthened through honesty; churches are grown through discipleship; souls are saved through sharing the gospel.

The blessings of holiness are found when we walk after God's ways.

Do not quit on Him.



Doug Hibbard
pastor
First Baptist
Almyra

MAY 5, 2013

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Be persistent to the end

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-18

"Go for broke!"

Really? Who wants to go broke? Most of us have been taught to always "hold a little something back" for a rainy day. Financially, that is wise advice, but regarding the way we live life for Christ ... maybe not so wise.

When I was a high school and college student, I taught gymnastics. As an instructor in the advanced classes, I would often say, "Girls, go for broke. If you hold anything back, you will get hurt."

The principles I taught in gymnastics are some of the same principles we learn from Paul in 2 Timothy 4. Paul writes to Timothy about what is required to be persistent in one's faith to the end and go for broke!

Stay focused. On the balance beam, focus is essential to stay on the beam. In our spiritual journey, focus is essential to stay on course.

Paul said, "keep your head in all situations" (2 Tim. 4:5).

Do not be distracted by those around you who may no longer lis-

ten to or practice the truth of Scripture (2 Tim. 4:3). Instead keep your focus on the One who is truth, Jesus.

Practice, practice, practice. Practice tones one's body, grows confidence and builds endurance. An athlete that has practiced is ready "in season and out of season" (2 Tim. 4:2). As believers, our practice comes in the form of Bible study, prayer, worship and sharing God's Word spontaneously. Together those things prepare us to serve at any given moment in any circumstance – "in season and out of season" (2 Tim. 4:2). Practice builds confidence. Confidence

builds endurance. Endurance builds persistence.

Go for broke! Paul went for broke in his spiritual journey. He gave his all for the sake of Christ with no hesitation. He was persistent to the end (2 Tim. 4:7-8).

Today, there are six billion people without Christ. To reach them will require following Paul's advice, persisting to the end – a goal worthy of going for broke!



Gayla Parker
women's ministry leader
Lifeway Baptist
Little Rock

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:

Getting my most important relationship right

PROVERBS 3:5-7

About 20 years ago, I was a successful mainframe computer programmer. I loved my job with outstanding benefits and was quickly climbing the ladder in my chosen field. I was also quite active in a small Southern Baptist church. As deacon chair, Sunday school teacher and volunteer music minister, I kept quite busy. It was during this prime time in my life that I felt God calling me into full-time Christian ministry.

It didn't make sense to me, though. My wife and I were comfortable with the life we created with our second-grade daughter. Through this, I was sensing God wanted me to attend seminary, but I didn't know how I would support my family. I worried about my daughter's well-being and adjusting to a different school. I was also concerned about our church because our absence would leave many leadership holes. I was probably most anxious about my small-town wife driving in Fort Worth!

It was at this critical time in our

lives when we had to decide whether to continue doing what was comfortable or follow God's leadership. Proverbs 3:5-7 tells us to trust in the Lord, not our own wisdom and understanding. To trust someone

completely means to be wholly yielded and obedient to them. We don't often think about this, but trust involves obedience. If you say, "I'll obey later," it's the same as not obeying. Delayed obedience equals disobedience.

Society says, "Follow your heart," but today's passage tells us not to rely on our own wisdom, because "the heart is more deceitful than anything else" (Jer. 17:9). Our complete trust is to be placed only in God. Trusting and following our heart places our wisdom above God's wisdom.

Remember, if God can be trusted with your eternal destiny, He can certainly be trusted with your today. Before working on our relationships with others, we need to make sure our relationship with God is right. Love Him. Trust Him. Obey Him.



Jim Monroe
associate pastor
First Baptist
White Hall



ABSC calendar

- April 20: Disaster Relief Training – First Baptist Church, Hope
- April 20: Heart of the Child Preschool & Children’s Leadership Conference – ABSC building, Little Rock
- April 20: Hispanic Family Conference – Markham Street Baptist Church, Little Rock
- April 22-26: Intentional Interim Ministry Seminar – Camp Paron
- April 27: Disaster Relief Training – Walnut Street Baptist Church, Jonesboro
- April 27: Ministry Mini Courses – One Day Training – ABSC building, Little Rock
- May 15-18: Arkansas Campers on Mission Work Day and Rally – Camp Siloam, Siloam Springs

For more information on events, go to www.absc.org, or call 800-838-2272.

Chick-fil-A Leadercast simulcast May 10

LITTLE ROCK – A Chick-fil-A Leadercast simulcast is set for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 10 at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) building in Little Rock.



The leadercast is a one-day leadership event broadcast live from Atlanta to hun-

dreds of locations worldwide. Those featured will include Condoleezza Rice, former secretary of state; Andy Stanley, pastor, author and communicator; Mike Krzyzewski, Duke University and Team USA;

LCDR Rorke Denver, Navy SEAL and star of the 2012 movie “Act of Valor;” Sanya Richards-Ross, 2012 London Olympic gold medalist, and more.

Preregistration is required. To register, visit www.absc.org/leadership.

For more information, contact Denny Wright, ABSC leadership and worship team leader, at 501-376-4791, ext. 5114, or visit www.chick-fil-a-leadercast.com.

PraiseWorks, JoyWorks

Camps offer online registration

FOR THE FIRST TIME ever, online registration will be available for PraiseWorks and JoyWorks, worship arts camps held by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) each summer.

To register online, visit praiseworksarkansas.com or joyworksarkansas.com. Registration is a two-step process. The first step requires users to create a username and password, and the second step requires users to register for camps.

PraiseWorks, a worship arts camp

for students who have completed grades seven through 12, allows students to choose from tracks focused on a variety of media, including drama, art, graphic design, stomp, video production, guitar, drums and more.

JoyWorks, a worship arts camp for students completing grades four through six, includes classes such as Galaxy Glow, Comet Clang, Meteor Meter and Planet Paint.

For more information, contact 501-376-4791, ext. 5121.

Master’Singers travel to Ukraine in 2014

The Arkansas Master’Singers will travel to Ukraine April 21-May 2, 2014, to minister through music.

They will team with evangelist Michael Gott and will sing nine times in concert halls that seat 700-1,500 people.

Groups from Texas sang to more than 10,000 people and saw 4,000 decisions.

For more information, call 501-376-4791, ext. 5121, or visit www.absc.org/music.

Visit the Arkansas Baptist State Convention website at www.absc.org

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*If 6th grade students are included in your student ministry, those who have completed 6th grade may participate.

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Bass Guitar - Experienced	Morning Celebration Praise Team (auditioned)
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Drums with Experience	Song Writing
NEW - Garage Band	Stomp
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Guitar - Beginner	Video Production
Guitar - Intermediate	Vocal
Guitar - Advanced	NEW - Worship Choir (Director recommendation required)
Interpretive Movement – Beginner	
Interpretive Movement – Advanced	

Cost: \$195

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Larry Grayson at lgrayson@absc.org
(501)376-4791 ext. 5121 or www.PraiseWorksArkansas.com

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P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Masters online

SWBTS launches fully online masters degree

PAGE 9

Results of prayer

Vanndale Baptist spring revival nets salvations

PAGE 3



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■ The **Every Resident Family Plan** offers churches a premium rate when they send the *ABN* to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday school enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$7.75 per year (print) and \$4 (digital) for each subscription.

■ The **Group Plan** allows church members to receive a discount when 10 or more individuals send their subscriptions together through their local church. Subscribers pay

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■ **Individual subscriptions** may be purchased at the rate of \$11 per year (print) and \$6 (digital).

Changes of address by individuals may be made with the address label above.

When inquiring about a subscription by mail, please include the address label. Individuals also may call the *ABN* at 501-376-4791, ext. 5153, or toll-free in state at 800-838-2272. Be prepared to provide code line information printed on the mailing label.

Individual subscriptions for both editions may be purchased at www.arkansasbaptist.org. Please call the *ABN* office to discuss church plans.

Block Party

Celena Sabilla and other children play tug-of-war during a community event April 6 at New Covenant Family Ministries in North Little Rock. The event was hosted by New Covenant Family Ministries and 47th Street Baptist Church, North Little Rock. See additional photo on Page 10.

Photo by Jessica Vanderpool



Scan QR code with your smartphone app to view *ABN* website.



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