

ABSC up nearly 2 percent

Conventions face budget challenges

Tim Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK - The economic downturn that slammed the United States in 2008 continues to impact giving across the Southern Baptist Convention - including in Arkansas.

However, while a number of state Baptist conventions face budget cuts and realignment as a result of the decline in missions giving, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) actually saw its undesignated

Cooperative Program receipts rise 1.52 percent in 2011 compared to a year earlier.

"All I can say is that it is due to the faithfulness of our pastors and churches - and their support of missions - that has enabled us to stay the course and further the cause of Christ in Arkansas," said Dan Jordan, team leader of the business affairs team at the ABSC.

Arkansas is entering its third year with a flat budget of \$21.4 million.

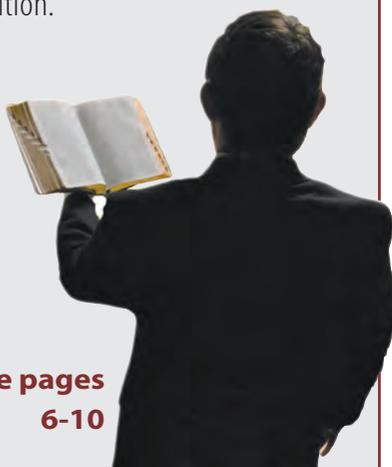
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New Creation Christian ballet troupe forms in Central Arkansas. See story page 3.

Evangelism edition

Check out profiles, a directory and more in the ABN evangelism edition.



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Age 97 and focused on Christ's mission

Cynthia B. Price
Watson Chapel Baptist Church

PINE BLUFF - Youth is not a requirement for ministry, as the life of Dee Shannon proves.

Ninety-seven-year-old Shannon, a member of Watson Chapel Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, recently joined with her church to make "pillowcase dresses" to give to children in Africa. Church members contributed fabric, ribbon, pillowcases and their own time and talent to make the dresses. Then, a group from the church went to Africa to distribute the dresses and other items and to minister with a missionary family (see related story, page 3).

Though she was not able to go

on the trip, Shannon participated by sewing some of the dresses.

She said she wanted to be involved with the dressmaking for a couple of reasons - one being her long association with and love for children. The oldest of 11, Shannon credited her father for her attachment to youngsters.

"He put me in charge of my siblings at a very early age, and that trained me for my future," she said.

After attending college and later marrying in 1940 at the age of 25,

Shannon taught elementary school in Victoria, Texas.

The Shannons served diligently in their church through Sunday school, Sunbeams and other capacities, while raising a son and daughter. But November 1963 brought a series of events that placed this couple on a new path.

Shannon's husband developed a benign tumor, resulting in early retirement. In January 1964, the couple was contemplat-



Shannon

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'We're telling people that Jesus saves'

Monticello's Calvary defined by evangelism

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

MONTICELLO - In the course of about six months, Calvary Baptist Church, Monticello, has baptized about 15 people, added more than 60 people to their membership and practically doubled their Sunday morning attendance.

The church currently averages 150-160 people in attendance on a Sunday morning, while in July they were averaging 70-80 in attendance. But rather than be con-

cerned with where the church was in the past, Pastor Gary Carter, who began serving as pastor in July, is focused on where it is now.

Though he is new as the church's pastor, Carter is not new to the church itself. His father pastored the church for a time. As for Carter, he served as youth pastor there before moving to serve as pastor of



Gary Carter baptizes church member Zach Strickland.

Westside Baptist Church, Warren.

Now back at Calvary as the pastor, Carter has developed an evangelism program with the goal of reaching every home in Drew County. He explained he has split the evangelism team into four groups and the county into four sections. Each group is responsible for reaching every household in their assigned

section of the county.

Carter explained Calvary members make sure to pray about the church's evangelism efforts - trusting the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts.

"We can't do anything without the conviction of the Holy Spirit ... I figure if the Holy Spirit's (been there) before I have, their hearts are ready or it's not," he said. "I can't talk you out of salvation, so therefore I can't talk you into it. So

See **CALVARY** page 3

UA BCM students serve at Cotton Bowl

ARLINGTON, Texas - More than 180 Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) students from the University of Arkansas, and Kansas State University Christian Challenge, joined forces Jan. 5 to help people in need prior to the Cotton Bowl game between the two universities.

The Bowl Service Project was conducted through Mission Arlington and coordinated by Angela Oxford, who serves as director of the Center for Community Engagement at the University of Arkansas. Oxford once served on the Arkansas State University BCM staff.

"Mission Arlington is an amazing place; they have a number of different programs," said Oxford. "They serve 1,000 clients a day."

Mission Arlington was started by Tillie Burgin, former missionary to Korea, as an apartment church ministry to meet the needs of people through Bible studies, medical and dental services, child and adult day care, as well as clothing,



UA BCM students serve at the Cotton Bowl.

food, furniture, transportation and counseling services, according to the organization's website.

Lynn Loyd, director of the University of Arkansas BCM, said it is a blessing to see how college students roll up their sleeves and get involved. During the Bowl Service Project, Arkansas and Kansas State students worked together to move hundreds of toys and dental supplies, which were being given away to local families, he said.

"One of the great characteristics of this generation of college students is their willingness to help those in need," said Loyd. "When a text message, Facebook message or email goes out about a need, most university students are willing to give and to go."

"Mission Arlington provides the perfect opportunity for students to not only serve, but to also share their faith in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex," said Loyd. "The Cotton Bowl provided the right venue and competitive atmosphere for students from the University of Arkansas and Kansas State to serve at Mission Arlington."

He said, "(It was) more than a bowl game. (It was) an opportunity to make a difference."

Representatives of the University of Arkansas and Kansas State were out in force during the event, according to organizers. Pep squads from both schools were present, along with University of Arkansas Chancellor David Gearhart.

McBeth, longtime Ouachita music prof., dies

ARCADELPHIA - W. Francis McBeth, composer, conductor and longtime professor of music at Ouachita Baptist University, died Jan. 6 at age 78.

McBeth, who earned extensive accolades throughout his career, served as Ouachita's composer-in-residence, Lena Goodwin Trimble Professor of Music and chair of the theory/composition department of the Division of Music. He also served as conductor of the Arkansas Symphony and as Arkansas' composer laureate, the first composer laureate named in the United States.

"How blessed we have been to have Dr. McBeth invest his life and work at Ouachita," said Ouachita

President Rex M. Horne. McBeth, who joined the Ouachita faculty in 1957, was named Distinguished University Professor by the Ouachita

board of trustees upon his retirement in 1996. Trustees also named the William Francis McBeth Recital Hall in Mabee Fine Arts Center in

the professor's honor.

McBeth is survived by his wife, Mary; sister; brother; daughter; son; and three grandchildren.



McBeth

Children's home exec. suffers fall

LITTLE ROCK - David Perry, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, has returned to work on a limited basis after suffering a head injury.

Perry, who sustained two subdural hematomas following a fall at his home in December, is recovering remarkably well from the accident. A subdural hematoma is a collection of blood on the surface of the brain.

The accident occurred while Perry was putting up Christmas decorations Dec. 10, but initially Perry had no indication of any serious injuries.

Four weeks later, on Jan. 6, Perry said he didn't feel well. The next day he was admitted to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, where doctors discovered the presence of the hematomas.

Perry spent one night in the in-

tensive care unit for observation and another day in the hospital. Following several CT scans, Perry's physician believes the hematomas will dissolve. No surgery is expected.

The injury has caused weakness in Perry's left leg and left hand, which is his writing hand. He will undergo physical therapy for four weeks, as well as occupational therapy.

Perry expressed his thankfulness for the many prayers and good wishes he has received.



Perry

MISSION

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ing their options when a children's home administrator met with the Shannons' pastor in Mission, Texas. The administrator inquired as to the availability and qualifications of prospective houseparents for a nearby facility. The pastor knew immediately of the husband and wife he could recommend without reservation - the Shannons.

"Friends tried to talk us out of it," recalled Shannon. Others advised them not to sell all they had to move into the house.

She related that her husband said, "No, it wouldn't be a full commitment if we held on to any of our own furniture."

Getting rid of their home and its contents was hard, Shannon admitted.

"One Christmas Eve, we received three children, all with chickenpox," Shannon recounted. "We made pallets away from the others and hurriedly found them gifts. For 12 years, we lived in a cottage designed for 11

children, and it was always full and running over."

Shannon sums up her parenting philosophy simply.

"All they need is love and care," she said.

And love and care was lavished upon those children, evidenced by the fact that some are still in contact

with Shannon. But this long-held connection is not hard to understand considering she has 45-year-old photo albums of smiling children's faces - and she can identify each one.

Shannon's devotion to God has remained strong. At age 85, she began participating in the Bible

Study Fellowship discipleship program and attended for years.

Regarding why she made 15 dresses to send to Africa, Shannon said simply, "It worried me that I wasn't doing anything for the Lord."

Cynthia B. Price is a member of Watson Chapel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff.

'Pillowcase dresses' excite

WHAT KIND of project could ignite the interests and unify the efforts of all ages? At Watson Chapel Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, the answer is "pillowcase dresses."

Watson Chapel members donated materials and their own time and effort to making the dresses, which were recently taken by a team from the church to Africa. While in Africa, the team was able to minister with the Floras, a missionary family, and to hand out the dresses.

"I have never seen little girls get so excited to get a new dress," said Regina Frizzell, a Watson Cha-

pel mission team member. "They would cup their hands over their mouths and just giggle."

She said they delivered T-shirts to the boys, who were also excited.

The team, which was composed of adults, youth and children, did more than just deliver clothes, though. Members of the team taught the women how to knit hats they could sell, and other team members taught games like Duck Duck Goose to the children. Team member Doug

Clinton preached. Everyone shared their testimony or taught Bible stories. Two college-age team

members spoke at youth conferences about purity, which Frizzell said brought up many questions from those attending.

Overall, during the two-week trip, the team spoke to more than 600 people.

"If you are ever called to volunteer in the mission field, don't hold back," Frizzell said. "You will be blessed, and you will bless someone else."



A girl displays her new dress.

Doug

Christian ballet troupe forms in Central Arkansas

Lisa Watson

Arkansas Baptist News

LEAPING, SOARING, lifting hands toward heaven, praising God – through ballet. That’s the aim of New Creation Dance Company’s members – worshipping God.

In a recent interview on Channel 7’s “Good Morning Arkansas,” Greta Smith, who serves as the company’s artistic director and performs with the troupe, said, “We are all Christians, and we love God and it’s something we can do to express our faith and express ourselves back to God in worship.”

“It’s just a neat way to encourage people and touch others through our art,” she continued.

One of two professional faith-based ballet troupes in Arkansas, New Creation features six professionally trained ballerinas.

Glorifying God and ministering to others through “artistic expression is the ultimate goal of the Christian dance troupe,” according to a recent press release.

Curtis Arnold, a member of Summit Church, North Little Rock, serves as the company’s executive director. The Bill and Sharon Arnold Family Foundation is the group’s primary sponsor.

Arnold, a Ouachita Baptist University gradu-

ate, said the troupe hopes to develop a partnership with Ouachita, working with Scott Holsclaw, the university’s dean of the School of Fine Arts. Holsclaw serves on the New Creation board of directors.

The ballet troupe recently performed during a Ouachita chapel service. Arnold said he received many “positive” tweets from students who attended the performance.

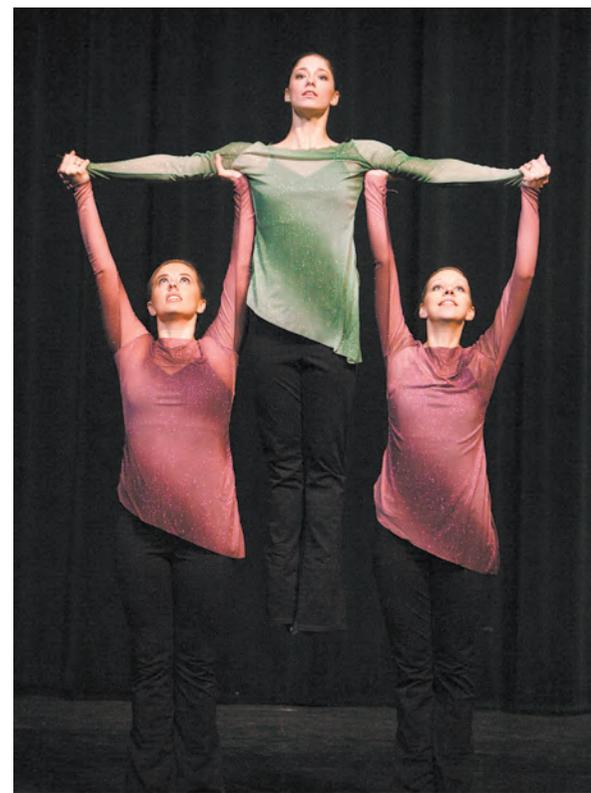
Arnold described the troupe’s style as “very worshipful,” noting people are often touched by the sincerity of the performers.

Though he is aware that many Southern Baptists may not be familiar with this type of interpretive movement and may therefore have some reservations, he encouraged people to be “open-minded,” noting that King David danced before the Lord.

Arnold said the fact that the troupe members are worshipping the Lord through their art only “elevates the level of dance.”

The company has already performed at several Arkansas Baptist churches, including Cedar Heights Baptist Church, North Little Rock, and Crystal Valley Baptist Church, Maumelle.

For more information about New Creation and for performance information, go to www.facebook.com/newcreationdance.



New Creation members perform at Ouachita Baptist University.

Photo by Guy Lyons

BUDGET

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The increase in 2011 Cooperative Program receipts represents the highest in ABSC history with the exception of 2008. That year, Arkansas Baptists gave \$20,896,935 through the Cooperative Program as compared to \$20,463,278 in 2011.

Unemployment in the state of Arkansas fell two-tenths of a percent to 8 percent in November, which indicates more people in the state are working and drawing a paycheck. An improving employment climate results in more giving in churches.

“I am encouraged by the faithfulness of ABSC churches,” said Emil Turner, ABSC executive director. “In spite of a bad economy that has resulted in many lost jobs in our communities, our churches have not abandoned their love for missions and their commitment to cooperate to reach a lost world.”

While the ABSC appears to have weathered the current economic storm, the picture isn’t as rosy for other state conventions.

Cooperative Program giving is down in 33 of 42 state Baptist conventions, according the Southern Baptist Convention website, www.sbc.net.

In addition to a down economy, changing giving patterns of some churches desiring more direct control over where their money goes may be in play, say analysts.

It was reported earlier in January by the SBC Executive Committee that year-to-date contributions to Southern Baptist national and international missions and ministries are down 7 percent from the same time last year.

The Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC) is located in a state with one

of the highest percentages of unemployment in the nation. The convention has been forced to trim staff and reduce its budget to levels not seen since 1999, it was reported by the Baptist Press.

Cooperative Program giving has declined in Georgia 14 percent from \$49,509,056 in 2007 before the recession began, to \$42,064,717 in 2011. Since 2008, the GBC budget has decreased by \$10 million, pulling 2012 funding down to levels not seen since 1999.

Michael Williams, assistant exec-



utive director/vice president for operations for the GBC, said the state convention “has been working to manage the most dramatic decline in Cooperative Program giving we have experienced within the last 20 years.”

The Kentucky Baptist Convention (KBC) announced in December that it is planning a “realignment” in response to financial challenges.

KBC President Paul Chitwood said a plan would be presented in May that will include “some very

strategic decisions to align our work with the current level of funding,” the *Western Recorder*, Kentucky’s Baptist newspaper, reported.

Over the past decade, the percentage of congregations’ undesignated receipts given to the Cooperative Program has dropped about a third, said Chitwood.

In many other state conventions, the story is much the same, including in new work conventions, which are dealing with changes in cooperative agreements resulting from a restructuring of the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Contact Tim Yarbrough at tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

CALVARY

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I just depend upon the Holy Spirit, that He’s already been there. And He knows.”

And they don’t “beat around the bush” when they approach a door, Carter said. An entire encounter may even take less than a minute. They ask to share how Christ has worked in their lives and what He means to them, and they hand out a brochure about the church. The brochure is meant to show they are a Bible-believing church, not to advertise the church, Carter said.

“God’ll tend to that one,” he explained. “If I keep trying to advance the kingdom, God’ll tend to grow in my church. And that’s our focus, and the Lord’s blessed us for it. It’s just really been unreal.”

“The only reason we’ve been blessed in this is because we have committed to God to tell others of Jesus Christ. Period. That’s it,” Carter said. “It’s nothing we’ve done except being obedient to our Lord and

Savior, Jesus Christ. What greater success is there than Jesus Christ?”

Though they have had visitors to the church, Carter said he does not know if any of them are the people they have visited on Tuesday nights. Yet he said the church is still experiencing growth, baptisms and salvations. He said he considers this church growth to be a result of their evangelistic efforts.

“I’m not inviting people to Calvary Baptist Church. I’m just sharing the gospel of Jesus. It’s God’s job, actually, to fill Calvary Baptist Church. That’s not my thing. Mine is to preach the gospel, and then ours is the share the gospel. God (will) attend to our membership. He’ll attend to our Sunday school as long as we’re telling people of Him,” Carter explained.

“And that’s my opinion, and I believe it’s biblical that that’s just what will define Calvary Baptist Church – that we love Jesus enough to tell the community about Him. And that’s just what we will continue to do until Jesus comes back or I die or God moves me somewhere else

and I’ll do the same thing once I get there.”

The pastor said he knows the ministry will not be without Satan’s attacks, but that doesn’t stop him.

“We’re just going to keep telling people that Jesus saves,” he said. “We will be evangelistic as long as I’m pastor there.”

He said Calvary would continue its evangelistic efforts whether or not the church continues to grow.

He considers evangelism to be a way to work toward improving the community.

“But as I’ve told people, we’re going to better our community through Jesus Christ,” he said. “We don’t have to have a government agency to try to do this. That’s not going to change it.”

“Education isn’t going to change our community. It’s going to be Jesus Christ. If we want a better community for our children and we want a better community for our grandchildren, we’ve got to get Jesus in them.”

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.

What would Tim Tebow do?

Like a lot of evangelical Christians, I have been impressed and blessed to see Tim Tebow – with his faith in full view – emerge on the scene this season in the National Football League (NFL). What a wonderful example of lifestyle evangelism!

Tebow isn't the greatest quarterback to ever play professional football, and some detractors say his throwing motion and dependence on the run make him ill suited to play the position.

It is apparent that God had a plan all along to position Tebow strategically in a sports league where players are sometimes known for abusing drugs, sexual indiscretions and other worldly pursuits. Tebow, with his message of abstinence until marriage and his adherence to strict moral values, is a breath of fresh air.

If you know Tebow's story, you know the kingdom impact he has had both in college and now in the pros almost didn't happen because doctors advised his mother to have an abortion. The story goes that his mother was having a difficult pregnancy and Tebow was thought at the time to be abnormally formed in the womb.

Tebow not only was born healthy, but excelled in sports as a child and in a home school envi-

ronment. And he is quick to share his blessings and good fortune with those less fortunate than himself. Tebow uses his money and his influence as a pro football player to help others and to give them hope.

Following the Denver Broncos' recent loss to the New England Patriots in the playoffs, the *Washington Post* quoted Tebow as saying: "It still wasn't a bad day. It still was a good day because I got to spend some time before the game with Zack McLeod (a 20-year-old with a brain injury sustained from playing football) and made him smile, and overall, when you get to do that, it's still a positive day. Sometimes that's hard to see, but it depends what lens you're looking through. I choose to look through those lenses, and I got to make a kid's day. That's more important than winning the game, so I'm proud of that."

There's no denying that Tebow has had an enormous impact on our culture – and not only this past year in the NFL. Tebow's one-knee prayer following a touchdown, dubbed "Tebowing" by the press, has gone viral across the Internet and is being imitated by young and old alike.

Some say the imitation of Tebow is mockery, while others point to Tebowing as the highest form



of flattery. Whether mockery or flattery, the act of public prayer he displays is taking center stage on TV screens and computer screens in a country where public prayer was long ago deemed unlawful. I am certain God has a purpose in all this.

With a looming national debt crisis, a feeble economy, deterioration of the family unit and a general decay of morality in our nation, here is Tim Tebow in the public square, standing for our Lord.

Let's pray for God to use his

voice and the voice of other young people like him to bring revival among God's people and a great awakening across the United States and the world – winning the lost for the glory of the Father – always carefully giving credit to the One who draws all men unto Him.

To quote Tim Tebow following a big game, "First, I would like to thank my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Tim Yarbrough is editor of the Arkansas Baptist News. Contact him at tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

The value of evangelism in the 21st century

Evangelism has a bright future in the 21st century! There are several reasons for this. The first reason is that Jesus Christ still has a deep desire to save people. In Matthew 9:36, it is recorded that Jesus saw the multitudes and was "moved with compassion." What is true in the first century is still true in the 21st century. We know that Jesus still deeply desires to give spiritual birth and life to all who believe in Him. The second reason for evangelistic optimism in the 21st century is that the Holy Spirit is actively involved in the heart of unbelievers – convicting, convinc-

ing and drawing them to the Savior. The third reason for the bright future for evangelism is that churches are catching on to the value of using multiple evangelism strategies throughout the year. The old adage states, "multiple hooks in the water catch more fish than one hook." Some of the highly effective "hooks" or strategies I see churches using today are as follows:

1. Wild game dinners/sportsman's banquets – These are some

of the most effective strategies to reach men. It is common for 20 to 40 percent of the crowd who attend to be unchurched.

2. Block parties – Some churches have had tremendous success using this type of ministry in unreached neighborhoods.

3. Friend Day – The success of Friend Day in many Arkansas Baptist State Convention churches has been so incredible that as a part of Reaching Across Arkansas we have suggested our

churches hold one for fall 2012 and fall 2013.

4. DNow/youth revival weekends – These events are highly effective and popular for reaching youth with the gospel.

5. Harvest revivals/crusades – Many pastors have had great experiences with vocational evangelists and these types of evangelistic events. The large number of professions of faith at harvest revivals/crusades, church camps, Super Summer, the Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) and Uprising:

See **EVANGELISM** page 5

VIEWPOINT

Sonny Tucker
Arkansas Baptist State
Convention



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Baptists Ask

Why doesn't God do something about all the suffering in the world?

There is much catastrophic suffering in the world. Some, like drought, earthquakes and tsunamis, are weather-related. Other catastrophes, like poverty, famine and human trafficking, are man-made. Christians often wonder why God hasn't done anything about these evils. The Bible, however, says that God is at work, and He calls His followers to help Him in the task.



Gore

God commands His followers to take care of four groups of people: the poor, the widows, the orphans and the foreigners.

Moses declared, "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land" (Deut. 15:11).

Believers are often paralyzed by the overwhelming abundance of these tragedies. Most want to do something but wonder what impact they will have. Doing nothing, however, is not the solution. Instead, Christians must do something, no matter how small it seems.

Christians should start locally. Believers can volunteer for local programs like Meals on Wheels, food pantries and homebound ministries. Once Christians act locally, they will want to act globally in a meaningful way.

One man watched another man throw starfish back into the ocean. Realizing he was trying to save their lives, the first man said, "But there are so many, and you are just one man. You can't possibly save them all."

"You're right," the second man said, but picking up another starfish, he added, "But this one will live," as he tossed it back into the ocean.

God has done something to help these atrocities: He has made Christians aware of the need. When Christians pray for the "least of these," God will open their eyes to the world, and He will transform their prayers to actions.

Ken Gore is chair of the Williams Baptist College department of Christian ministries. Baptists Ask is reader-driven. Send your questions for Baptists Ask to tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

How much time do we spend sharing Jesus?

This past Sunday was a rather good one. Everyone was enjoying getting back into the normal routine of life after the holidays. Attendance was strong, and there was a good spirit in the church.

Church is almost always enjoyable. I love most everything about church – the people, attending services, the work of being a pastor. Sundays like this one are especially enjoyable. When it was time to preach, the congregation was focused and ready to learn. They laughed, gave "amens" and were tracking with the sermon. Things seemed to be flowing, and it was fun.

It was at least until I looked up and saw the clock. It shocked me to see that my time was almost gone, but there was still a lot of sermon left. What happened to the time? It so affected me that our worship pastor told me he recognized the very moment when I realized the time had gotten away. Before I realized it, the time to say all I wanted to say had passed. The time to share more truths about Jesus was simply gone. There was no more time in our schedule to teach anything about Jesus' love. It dawned on me as I tried to recover my thoughts that the time I had used already could not be

returned. I could not trade that fun story (and everyone laughed with me) for the time given to tell it. The time had passed.

Afterward, I was struck with this overwhelming idea.

How much time have we lost in our church that we could have used to share Jesus? It is likely in our church, and in yours, that we are losing valuable time in more areas than just the sermon. We could be sharing Jesus but often are doing other things. They may be good things. They may even be spent enjoying church and our church family. But these are

precious – and fleeting – moments. Spend some time this month evaluating – Are you "redeeming the time, because the days are evil?" Paul urged the Corinthians to be diligent because "now is the day of salvation." If this is true, then we should be focused as if "now is the day." We should be diligent in all we do. We should be willing to start something today. We should be willing to invite someone this Sunday. Why wait to do more? Once the moment has passed, it is gone forever. Today is the day we need to share Jesus before the time passes.

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



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Greg Addison

Bloodlines: Race, Cross, and the Christian

By John Piper, Crossway Books, 2011

In "Bloodlines," the latest book from John Piper, pastor of preaching and vision at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Piper discusses exactly what the subtitle says: "Race, Cross and the Christian." Piper has embarked on a pilgrimage to pay his debts from the days of his racist childhood growing up in South Carolina – something every Arkansan can relate to today. He writes

to magnify the cross of Christ through the gospel and present the implications of that cross and gospel in regards to race.

"The bloodline of Christ is deeper than the bloodlines of race," says Piper, which is the heartbeat of this book. As Christians, we have experienced the wonder of the gospel firsthand.

Piper presents the power of the gospel as dynamite that has the potential to change racist mindsets and create ethnic harmony that greater glorifies Jesus Christ. The gospel is not only the power that reconciles man to God, but also the glory that reconciles man to man.

The author points to the only one way the world

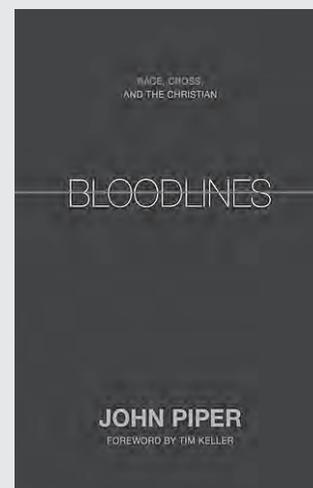
may overcome racism supremely – through the Lord Jesus. Through reconciliation, man overcomes hopelessness, greed, inferiority, self-doubt, fear, pride, guilt, apathy and Satan.

Actually, the Bible tells us our Lord has overcome the world by the way of the cross. Piper examines further how the gospel relates to each facet of racism and even interracial marriage, which is still a sticky subject in the South. The glory of it all, though, is that Jesus, the Sacrifice, is common access for all nations. Through one blood comes one new man in one new body in one Spirit and for one Lord. This is a great exposition of Scripture in defense of the unity of the gospel and the God-glorifying diversity of the church.

Jesse Lobbs is a sophomore at Arkansas Tech University majoring in English and communications and is active in Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

BOOK REVIEW

Jesse Lobbs
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
Bauxite



EVANGELISM

continued from page four

Baptist Youth Day at Magic Springs attest to the effectiveness of harvest events and harvest evangelists.

6. Personal evangelism – This method can never be overstated as one of the most effective means of evangelism. Two factors that make this effective in a church are competent training and a pastor/staff that practice and model evangelism.

7. VBS/sports camps – These methods are highly effective at reaching large numbers of children.

The fourth reason for the bright future of evangelism in the 21st century is that our Arkansas Baptist

churches are prioritizing follow-up. It is much more commonplace for churches to build in follow-up before and during evangelistic events. Churches are better at training follow-up teams, and speakers are better at addressing follow-up during the actual events.

We have every reason to be confident that God is going to change lives through our evangelistic efforts here in Arkansas.

Sonny Tucker is the team leader of the evangelism and church growth team at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to the editor to tim@arkansasbaptist.org

Enjoy the ABN

I really enjoy the Baptist news and pass it on to someone else. Thanks for a great newspaper that has such interesting things other churches are doing.

Only a few in our church, First Baptist, get it, but it is nice to know how God is working in great ways so many places in our state.

I lived in Greenville, Miss., had a great church and a great newspaper like this one. We have been gone from there 29 years, so the news would be much different, as we wouldn't be acquainted with the church. Thanks again.

Wanda Blackman
First Baptist, Clarksville

For ABSC's Tucker:

Evangelism and church growth 'a passion'

LITTLE ROCK – Evangelism has always been a passion for Sonny Tucker. Even in his first pastorate, while still a student at Ouachita Baptist University, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) evangelism and church growth team leader made it a point to be involved in personal and church-wide evangelism.

"I perfected a proficient system of cold call or door-knocking evangelism," said Tucker. "It involved friendship making, praying for spiritual needs and sharing the gospel."

Though Tucker admits that from an early age "winning people to Jesus" was not difficult for him, he found it more challenging to find a way to maintain and sustain numerical growth in churches.

Because of this struggle, especially in his early years of ministry, Tucker

also developed a passion for church growth and health, which became the focus of his Ph.D. studies.

"When I pastored, I always trained folks in evangelism – trained Sunday school teachers in evangelism," he said, noting he started new classes and even youth programs in several of the churches he pastored.

"We reached mass numbers of community kids that were not involved in church," he continued.

This was great training for his current position on the ABSC staff, where he has served since 1997.

"I did in churches exactly what I do for the ABSC," he said.

Tucker said though three of the four churches he pastored were in

"no-growth" settings, the churches continued to grow.

He has applied his passion for evangelism and church growth to his ABSC ministry, helping Arkansas Baptist churches to reach people for Christ in their communities.

"God gave me an extremely strong passion and desire to work in evangelism and church growth at the state convention, and that desire remains as strong today as it did when I first accepted the position," he said.

Tucker believes Arkansas Baptists must develop personal evangelism skills, as well as reach out through event evangelism, to effectively reach people in the 21st century with the gospel of Christ. In addition, he said while it is necessary to affirm

the cultural diversity of today's society, some methods will reach across those boundaries.

"The most effective vehicle (for reaching people today) is through ministry, service, friendship and acts of love and kindness," he said.

Referencing evangelism today versus evangelism in the 1940s and 1950s, Tucker said as a whole, American society's knowledge of the basic tenets of Christianity has declined.

"For this reason, we have to help people understand the gospel," he said. "We can't assume they know what religious words mean."

"Because people don't always know the basics, we have to use apologetics, friendship evangelism, basic Bible storying and relating basic facts about Jesus to evangelize today," he said.



Tucker

Mid-America's Gray Allison:

Soul winning at the heart of evangelism

CORDOVA, Tenn. – Since the age of 11, Gray Allison has sought to be a soul winner. For many years, as president of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, he taught pastors and the next generation of evangelists to do just that.

"I learned a good bit about evangelism from Dr. Roland Q. Level, president and professor of evangelism at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) when I was his student," said Allison, who is president emeritus and professor of church history, evangelism, missions and homiletics at Mid-America. "I served as his teaching fellow and caught something of his spirit. Since that time, I have been trying to teach others how to witness. I have had a burden to train others since that time, which was in the early 1950s."

Mid-America Seminary – long known for educating Southern Baptist pastors – isn't an officially recognized seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention. Few today know that its home the first three years of its existence was in the facilities of Olivet Baptist Church, Little Rock. The seminary moved to Memphis in 1975 and later relocated to Cordova.

Allison, who has taught many Arkansas Baptist ministers over the years, said it is important for vocational evangelists today to completely "dedicate themselves to the task."

"If the pastors become soul-minded, they help their people to also care about others being saved," he explained. "I believe that vocational

evangelists need to give themselves to pure living, to closeness to God, seeking always the leadership of the Holy Spirit and that they in their evangelism in churches try to get pastors really committed to personal evangelism."

After teaching at NOBTS for six years, Allison served as a vocational evangelist for 10 years and also with the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) in the evangelism division.



Allison

Allison sees no other way to reach today's diverse society with the gospel than old-fashioned personal evangelism.

"Every church should have at least one and maybe two special times of emphasis on evangelism," said Allison. "We must train our people to be soul winners. We must lay on them the burden of evangelism, the lostness of people around us and the need of people for Christ."

The challenge of reaching today's world with the message of Jesus Christ is daunting because many Christians and churches "have lost the burden to reach those who are without Christ," said Allison.

"We've tried everything to get people into the church, but I'm not sure that we are really trying to reach them for Christ first," he said. "Evangelism has always been the major task of the church. Jesus said, 'Go make disciples.' They must first be saved before they can be discipled. Those two things are our major tasks, and we've forgot-

ten them. We need to get back to them."

And finally, Allison said, it's really as simple as being soul winners.

"We can call it whatever we want to, but personal evangelism, one-on-one evangelism, I believe is the only way we will ever reach the people of our world," he explained. "I am for evangelistic meetings, I am for evangelistic preaching and for other things that draw people within the influence of the gos-

pel, but it is the one-on-one evangelism that really reaches them. Our churches must get back to that again."



"We can call it whatever we want to, but personal evangelism, one-on-one evangelism, I believe is the only way we will ever reach the people of our world."

Gray Allison
Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary

Evangelist Clarence Shell:

'Lifestyle evangelism' key to reaching people

BRYANT – Lifestyle evangelism is key to reaching lost people for Christ today, according to Clarence Shell, evangelist and retired Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism director.

“We have to teach our people to go where lost people are, to be lifestyle evangelists,” he said, noting most unsaved people do not willingly go to church.



Shell

Shell said this idea was also true when he served in state convention work, noting his work revolved around a twofold emphasis – training people to share Christ and training for revival meetings.

“Our basic theme was the Great Commission – make disciples, mark disciples in baptism and mature disciples,” he said.

Shell said even though in re-

cent years he’s witnessed a decline in mass evangelism events, such as area crusades and weeklong church revivals, the emphasis on personal evangelism or “going day-by-day and sharing the Lord with others” remains most important.

Evangelism must begin with the pastor, said Shell, adding people will be more committed to evangelism when they witness their pastor’s commitment.

“Pastors must not only preach,

but ... go out in the highways and hedges,” he said.

“There must be a strong emphasis from the pulpit and by the pulpit,” he added.

Since his retirement in 1996, Shell has continued to be active in Arkansas Baptist life, preaching revival meetings, leading conferences and serving as interim pastor in local churches.

Shell and his wife, Virginia, live in Bryant.

Evangelist Doug Compton:

'Waiting for God's timing is not always easy'

PARAGOULD – Waiting for God’s timing is not always easy. Doug Compton knows this firsthand. But it wasn’t just a new car or a raise at work Compton was waiting on. He was waiting to go into full-time evangelism.

Compton, who is now a vocational evangelist based in Paragould and founder of Doug Compton Ministries, said he began sharing his faith in college, but he felt he needed to wait for God’s timing before transitioning to full-time evangelism.

“Waiting to go full time was

tough, but God guided me to a deeper knowledge of church workings and how to deal with people before I began full time,” he said. “It took lots and lots of focused prayer to venture into this ministry.”

He said his wife, Amy, really supported him through the process.

Compton, who grew up in Hot Springs, graduated Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia and later received a master’s degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth,



Compton

Texas. He also served at First Baptist Church, White Hall, and First Baptist Church, Van Buren.

Now he travels, presenting the gospel at all types of events, from school assemblies to church revivals. He spoke at more than 60 events last year.

Over the years, Compton has seen evangelism change with the times.

“The largest change is the media,” he explained. “I remember making sure I had my marker and my transparency for the overhead. Now, I need VGA (video) cords, an

iPad, videos, a PowerPoint and an updated Facebook and Twitter account.”

But though times have changed, the need for evangelism has not.

“Evangelism is essential to our society,” Compton explained. “I have heard it said for years, ‘We are one generation away from God being taken out of our culture.’ This has never been more relevant than now. I pray Southern Baptists will not be complacent but will go hard for the King of kings.”

Compton and his wife have two sons.

TCWM's Eric Ramsey:

'Evangelism is not delivering a sales pitch'

MOUNTAINBURG – “Evangelism is not delivering a sales pitch, and the evangelist is not a salesman.”

That’s the response Eric Ramsey gives when asked what he feels is the role of evangelism today in secular society and how the church should seek to impact the diverse ethnic and cultural landscape of the 21st century.

Ramsey, 45, serves as president of Tom Cox World Ministries (TCWM), which is

one of the best-known independent evangelistic ministries in Arkansas. He is married to Gaye Cox Ramsey, daughter of founder, Tom Cox, who also is involved in the TCWM ministry. Ramsey joined TCWM in January 2007 after serving more than eight years at the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Scripture outlines precisely the role of the evangelist today, Ramsey believes.

“Ephesians 3:10 reminds us that God has chosen the church to communicate God’s wisdom. Scripture also tells us that the office of the evangelist is a gift to and is rooted in the church. The church must be about following the example of Jesus Christ – personally connecting with individuals and the masses at their point of need, then presenting the gospel in a contextualized manner,” he explained.

“The Holy Spirit draws people to salvation,” he said. “The role of the evangelist is to be a catalyst, educator, strategist and mobilizer for the church. This makes for lasting results and changed lives. God did not call us to ‘make converts,’ but to ‘make disciples.’”

Ramsey said TCWM follows the biblical approach and has seen literally thousands come to know Christ through its efforts. Along with his father-in-law, Tom Cox, Ramsey helps mobilize pastors and laypeople to serve overseas in a variety of countries. In the past 12 months alone, efforts have resulted in more than 15,000 professions of faith and 167 new churches started, Ramsey said.

“(In all), we have seen more than 50,000 professions of faith over the past four years and hundreds of churches make significant strides in becoming more healthy,” he said.

For today’s church to continue to have a kingdom impact, it must embrace changing times, said Ramsey.

“Each local church must develop a customized plan to utilize their God-given gifts, talents, skills and passions to connect with their communities at specific points of need,” he explained. “Then (the church must) communicate the gospel in terms which are easily understood. More than ever, there is not a ‘one-size-fits-all.’”

Ramsey had “evangelistic” influ-

ences from the time he was a small boy. His father, Cliff Ramsey, was a church planter, and he involved his son in his ministry at an early age.

“My whole life has been about contextual evangelism. When I was only 6 years old, my dad and I began doing judo demonstrations at church events, revivals, retreats – even civic clubs, and on college campuses – and sharing the gospel at each one,” said Ramsey.

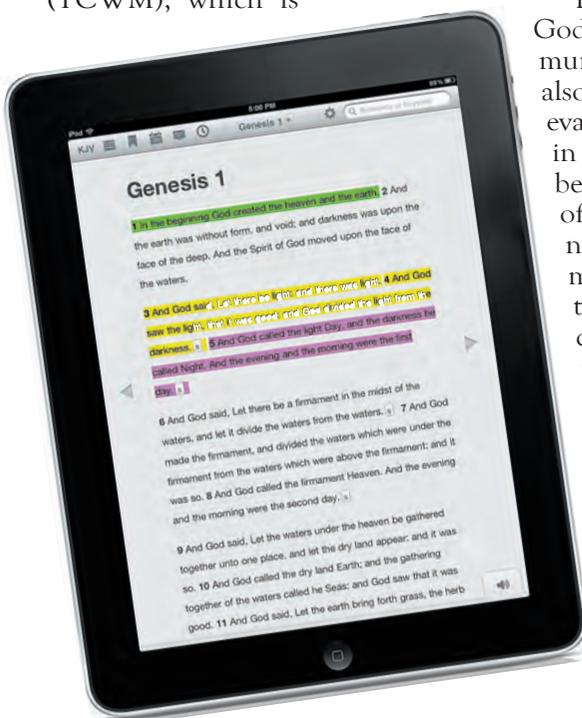
“I remember how people would listen so intently as I explained what someone must do to be saved,” he continued. “By the time I was in college, I was conducting ‘Just Say No’ school assemblies followed by subsequent church youth evangelism events.”

It was after Ramsey’s work in radio and television, marketing, student ministry, as a pastor and as a staff member for more than eight years at NAMB that he said he began to see the need for the church to engage their communities with the gospel in a more relevant and contextualized way.

“Just five years ago, that’s exactly what God led me to do,” Ramsey smiled.



Gaye and Eric Ramsey



Vocational Evangelists



William Blackburn
Fort Smith
479-883-9641, wdb777@gmail.com
Evangelist William Blackburn has spent the past 26 years in full-time evangelism, conducting more than 900 revivals. See videos of William at www.youtube.com/user/williamblackburn/videos.
www.williamblackburn.com



Johnny Parrack
Alma
479-739-6267
johnny@johnnyparrackministries.com
Johnny Parrack is a full-time evangelist. With a song in his heart and a message of grace, he believes every church member needs to examine themselves, to see if they are in the faith. He sang with the Kingsmen Quartet and served as a pastor for 17 years. He is available for revivals or concerts.
www.johnnyparrackministries.com



Tom and Kay Cox
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Ron Malone
Heber Springs
479-597-8012, ron.malone@texol.com
I pastored churches in Arkansas and Texas from 1981-2007. In 2007, I heard God's call to enter full-time evangelism. I have been privileged to preach revivals in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and New York, and I have also preached for various events in North Carolina, Kansas and other areas. It is my hope to help people prepare for the soon return of Jesus Christ.
www.tcmw.org



Sam Moore
Bentonville
479-381-1170, sam@evangelistsammoore.com
Sam Moore is a native of Arkansas. He served as a pastor for 22 years before going into full-time evangelism. As a harvest evangelist he preaches 40-plus meetings a year. He is a friend to pastors and loves the local church. He is available for revivals, crusades and harvest days.
www.evangelistsammoore.com



Eric and Gaye Ramsey
Mountainburg
479-369-4260, eramsey@tcmw.org
Eric, preaching evangelist and mission strategist, and Gaye, conference speaker and gospel singer/recording artist, specialize in reconnecting churches to their communities, maximizing evangelistic impact. Discover the difference just one weekend can make!
www.tcmw.org



Doug Compton
Paragould
479-462-1640
doug@dougcompton.com
I founded Doug Compton Ministries in 2006 out of a desire to be a catalyst for children, youth and adults to grow closer to God. I have spoken to as many as 5,000 people, and to as few as five people. Prayerfully consider allowing me the opportunity to share God's love with your group.
www.dougcompton.com

Marriage Enrichment



Tony and Judy Weston
Conway
501-730-1630, tony@twobytwoministry.com
At Two By Two Ministry, we (Tony and Judy Weston) are passionate about marriage and are involved full time in helping to make marriages the best they can be. Our ministry is designed to help local churches develop and implement ongoing marriage enrichment ministries through marriage retreats/conferences and training.
www.twobytwoministry.com

Children and Youth Ministry



Cody Brown
Searcy
870-219-8550, codybrown53@gmail.com
Cody Brown's purpose is to communicate the Word of God to students in a real, applicable way. Cody seeks to expound the Word and let the power of God's message speak, leading students to eternal changes and radical discipleship. His preaching meets students where they are, taking the message, in the original context, and relating it to modern life.
codybrown.net

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8



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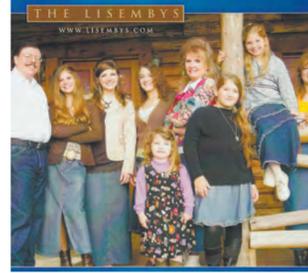
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Acts 3:19

Women's Ministry
continued on pg. 10



Melinda Bunyard
Farmington
479-301-1262, melindabunyard@gmail.com
Melinda Bunyard is a keynote speaker and leadership coach who loves to encourage women of all ages. Contact her for your next women's event, retreat or leadership workshop.
www.melindabunyard.com



Tammy Fletcher
Jacksonville
501-580-9554
tfletcher@suddenlink.net
Tammy Fletcher is an author and speaker who helps everyday women learn to enjoy stability and ability in their lives through wholehearted response to God and His word. Check out her blog at www.moldingmoments.blogspot.com.
www.tammyfletcher.net



Lisa George
Rogers
479-644-9270
lmgeorge4@gmail.com
Lisa George authentically and practically teaches and encourages women of all ages the truths of God's Word. She is available for retreats, conferences and other women's events.



Andrea Lennon
Conway
501-730-0256, andrea@andrealennon.net
True Vine Ministry with Andrea Lennon: When you book Andrea for your next women's event, you can count on a strong biblical message with real life application points. Andrea shares from the everyday aspects of her walk with God and challenges women to know God's Word and apply it in their daily lives.
www.andrealennon.net



Laura Macfarlan
Siloam Springs
479-524-9549
Laura.Macfarlan@cox.net
A keynote speaker for women's events, retreats, leadership training, mentoring, and Bible study, Laura Macfarlan is also the director of women's ministries at First Baptist Church, Siloam Springs, and a writer for *Missions Mosaic*.
www.CrossMyHeartMinistry.com



Cynthia McCutcheon
Greenwood
479-651-1337, themccutcheons@centurytel.net
Cynthia knows what it is like to live in the shadows - the shadows of fear, the past, insecurities and even other people. Her passion is to encourage women to step "Out of the Shadows ... and into the WORD."
www.cynthiamccutcheon.blogspot.com



Lori McDaniel
Bentonville
479-426-2248, lori@gracepointchurch.net
Lori McDaniel is a pastor's wife, a communicator, a church planter, a little bit crazy, and has a heartbeat for the world. She is passionate about God's Word, desiring to teach and story God's Word to others. She craves to live life to its fullest, and to engage others with love - to live a life out loud and equip others to do the same.
iLiveOutLoud.com



Jana McKnight
Little Rock

501-455-3742
janamck@sbcglobal.net

Jana McKnight is a Christian humorist and speaker bringing laughter by taking a look at the lighter side of Christianity! Her character, Miss Bertha Louise Cooper, is an elderly church lady set in her ways about change in churches today. She is most entertaining for senior adults, ladies events and more. She also speaks as herself at conferences.



Pam Sims
Conway

501-327-6565, 501-358-8624
pams@2bc.tv, pamsims1999@att.net

Pam Sims is the founder and speaker for W.O.W., Women of the Word Ministry, a one-day, high impact conference. She is also author of "Making Designing Women Out of Desperate Housewives" and has begun a new ministry for women, Practicing His Presence Ministries.
womenofthewordministries.wordpress.com



Dianne Swaim
North Little Rock

501-425-5539, dianne@freshspirit.com

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Cheryl Carney
Children's Minister
First Baptist Church, Little Rock, AR

The whole audience was moved, I still have goose bumps! You far exceeded my wildest expectations. I thank you for allowing God to work through you.

Stephen Page
Youth Minister
Jacksonville Baptist Church
New Brunswick, Canada

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Sam Moore is a Southern Baptist Evangelist and is available for revivals, crusades and harvest days. He is also available for evangelism/Bible conferences, outdoors/men's hunting events, and witness training. Call now to schedule for 2012.
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Thank you Eric and Gaye! Our church will never be the same!
-- Robert Berry, Pastor, Bluff Ave. Baptist Church, Fort Smith, AR

Any church seeking to be missional should utilize Eric Ramsey..
-- Dr. David Clippard, Associate VP, International Mission Board, SBC

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**Birthday bash**

First Baptist Church, Mountain View, recently hosted a celebration in honor of the 90th birthday of Thurlo Lee, who served as a pastor for more than 60 years at various churches inside and outside Arkansas, including Westside Baptist Church, Manila; Calvary Baptist Church, Timbo; and White River Baptist Church, Oil Trough.

Happy Birthday!

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

- ◆ Feb. 3: Jordan Stewart, OBU Box 3308, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; United Arab Emirates.
- ◆ Feb. 9: Tim Cummins, WBC, Box 3343, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476; Thailand.
- ◆ Feb. 14: Bekah Hall, OBU Box 3588, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; South Africa.
- ◆ Feb. 16: Sean J., OBU Box 4297, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Central Asia.
- ◆ Feb. 27: Allyson Huffman, OBU Box 3878, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Belgium.

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**Hannibal-LaGrange
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Presidential Search

The Board of Trustees of Hannibal-LaGrange University is in search of candidates for the office of President who have the knowledge and experience to lead the University into the future. Dr. Woodrow Burt has announced his retirement effective in the summer of 2012. A candidate must be an active member of a Southern Baptist church with appropriate academic credentials and professional experience to lead this great institution to grow and achieve. Hannibal La-Grange is affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention. More detailed information about the University can be found at www.hlg.edu.

Please send nominations or applications along with a resume to: HLGUPresidentialsearch@gmail.com

Submit a classified ad online at www.arkansasbaptist.org or email nelle@arkansasbaptist.org.

Classifieds**PASTOR**

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

Clarendon FBC seeking **full-time pastor**. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 324, Clarendon, AR 72029, or email melindap@fbc-clarendon.com.

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

First Baptist Church, Nashville, Ark., is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 339, Nashville, AR 71852, Attn. Search Committee.

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

Marshall Road Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Ark., is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resume to Marshall Road Baptist Church, P.O. Box 726, Jacksonville, AR 72078 or to email [\[road@comcast.net\]\(mailto:road@comcast.net\). Phone: 501-982-4564.](mailto:marshall-</p>
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Family Church of Pine Bluff/White Hall is beginning its search for a new **pastor**. Our pastor is retiring in the near future. Family Church is a congregation of over 2,000 people. All resumes and all forms of communication should be sent to the attention of Pastor Bill Fitzhugh, Family Church, 2500 Hwy. 104, White Hall, AR 71602, or email to bfitzhugh@familychurch.ws. Church phone: 870-247-3300.

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

Gravel Hill Baptist Church of Benton, Ark., is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Gravel Hill is a multi-generational congregation located between Benton and Hot Springs. GHBC is located in a rural community with 60-80 attending worship each Sunday. Gravel Hill is ministry-oriented with music, mission, Awana and praise kids ministries. Mail resume and detailed doctrinal statement to Gravel Hill Baptist Church, 6259 Hwy. 9, Benton, AR 72019, or email to gravelhillpastorsearch@gmail.com.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon, Mo., is seeking a **full-time minister of education and music** for blended worship service and choir, as well as overseeing educational programs. Send resumes to Hillcrest Baptist Church, 399 Hoover St., Lebanon, MO

65536, or email dbrown@lebanonhbc.com.

FBC, Bolivar, Mo., is seeking a **discipleship pastor**. The principal function of the discipleship pastor is to ensure a comprehensive, church-wide discipleship ministry. Qualifications include previous experience and a seminary degree. View our profile and discipleship pastor job description at www.fbcbolivar.org. Send cover letter and resume to David Shaffer, dshaffer@fbcbolivar.org, or mail to FBC Bolivar, P.O. Box 358, Bolivar, MO 65613, by Feb. 15, 2012.

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

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

Harlan Park Baptist Church in Conway is seeking a **part-time minister of music**. Send resume to 1895 Dave Ward Drive, Conway, AR 72034, or email to hpbcc_secretary@sbcglobal.net or call 501-327-6015 by Jan. 31.

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

Bi-vocational youth director needed. Contact River Road Baptist, P.O. Box 161, Redfield, AR

72132; 501-397-2576; 870-536-4109; or river013@centurytel.net.

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR RENT — Beautiful Gulf-front two-bedroom condominium in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. Great time of the year for the beach. Low owner rates. Call Lucy: 770-831-3651; email Lucyclark9@aol.com.

A Christian discipleship center ministering to women with life-controlling addictions is seeking a mature couple as **executive and program directors** with Bible knowledge and a passion to help these women. No fundraising required. Send resumes to BTH, P.O. Box 720672, Byram, MS 39272.

For Sale: Clowning makeup, Christian illusions, face painting, juggling supplies and how-to books. Call 501-225-4003.

Liberty Baptist Church is selling a **22-passenger van** — Ford Model 350 V8. It has 45,587 miles. BVSS Body (Terra Transit) by Turtle Top. Contact Kelley at 479-824-5611 or 479-790-6125. Great condition.

Be different

From iPhones to vegetarian meals, many products claim to be “just like the real thing.” In fact, a vegetarian producer was found using an edited picture of meat on one of their advertisements. There is none “just like” God, for He is the real thing. We are to choose to do the right thing as the writer of Deuteronomy 12:1 says.

“Be careful to follow these statutes and ordinances in the land that Yahweh, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess all the days you live on the earth” (Deut. 12:1, HCSB).

As the children of Israel are challenged in Deuteronomy 12:8, we are

to be different in our worship. We must stay with the original, worshipping the Lord God as He laid out the place, the method and the Who of worship. This does not mean we can’t sing a new song or use new melodies, but we must keep God as the center of all worship. We are neither to accept substitutes nor watered-down versions of the object of worship, which is Jehovah God.

We are to be different in our bodies, keeping ourselves pure and not following after the world and its traditions (Rom. 12:1-2). The world desires to lead us into the temptations of conformity to its traditions and the traps that go with it. God desires

that our thoughts learn of Him and His Word.

We are to be different in the dispensing of our money. Deuteronomy 14 is one place in God’s Word where we are taught to tithe (10 percent), which is different from the way the world chooses to live and spend for itself. We are to be different by giving of the first-fruits, rather than giving of the leftovers, which is the way the world

would have us give. Deuteronomy 15-16 continues reminding us to be different in the stewardship of our resources. We are to save our resources and to use that with which we have been blessed to honor God. Also, we are reminded by this challenge: “Everyone must appear with a gift suited to his means, according to the blessing the LORD your God has given you” (Deut. 16:17, HSCB).

Now – isn’t that different?

EXPLORE THE BIBLE FEBRUARY 5, 2012

Bill Scroggs
pastor
First Baptist, Petit Jean
Scripture passage:
Deuteronomy 12:1-16:17

When you read our text for this lesson in Colossians 1, it readily gives the message that Christ is the center of all.

The little word “all” is written in the King James Version of the Bible 11 times here in our text. Each time it refers to what a believer can find in Christ, who is our “all in all.”

In the text, Paul prays for the believers to be filled with “all wisdom and spiritual understanding.” He wants them to be

strengthened with “all might,” which can only come through Christ.

He continues to talk about Christ being the Creator of “all things” and through Him “all things” are held together. Finally, Paul reminds us that in Christ “all fullness” dwells.

It is not easy, but it is doable making Christ our “all in all.” I think most, if not all, of us begin our

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE FEBRUARY 5, 2012

Claud Williams
pastor
Boxley Baptist, Ponca

Scripture passage:
Colossians 1:9-23

Be honest and fair

Do you remember the time when you were able to transact business over the telephone or in person with just a handshake? I bought one of my first houses with a telephone call to the banker who barely knew me, but was willing to take a chance on me and handled all the details – except the final two or three signatures we had to sign.

This is a very timely lesson. As we are entering the season to elect new leaders, we are challenged to seek righteous judges and officials (Deut. 16:18) to lead us in ways of righteousness. This verse is nestled in a group of verses in which God is giving instructions on proper wor-

ship. Apparently, God wants us to elect righteous leaders who cannot be bought, so they will not be tempted to make or accept laws contrary to His laws (Deut. 16:19). Honest, righteous leaders want to protect our interests in a world that wants to destroy all that has been sacred and take away the rights our forefathers fought to obtain for us.

We are not to compromise with the traditions of man by intermingling with the occult practices of the world (Deut. 18:9-14). Not only has our nation placed astrology in our newspapers and on the magazine racks in our stores under the guise of entertainment, but also it

has begun to tolerate even more a live-and-let-live attitude. Sadly, today our freedom of religion allows cults to mingle in our culture, thereby achieving tax-free statuses even as these factions strive to destroy our freedom of speech and freedom to worship.

In the closing chapter of this section (Deut. 26:16-19), the writer sums up our covenant and responsibility, as well as the promises of God. He reminds us that we must be careful to follow

God’s commands with all our hearts and souls, walking in them, keeping His commandments and obeying them. When we do, God confirms we are His special people. Consequently, He will elevate us above all nations in praise, fame and glory, proclaiming we are a holy people to our Lord, as He promised. Oh, that we might return to become that people, holy and acceptable to God again.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE FEBRUARY 12, 2012

By Bill Scroggs
pastor
First Baptist, Petit Jean
Scripture passage:
Deuteronomy. 16:18-26:19

It is not difficult to tell if a church has made Christ the center of its church life. All one needs to do is observe the church’s bulletin. Is Christ mentioned there? When the church prays together, is Christ the One to whom they pray? When the pastor or preacher speaks, does he present Christ and Him crucified, risen from the dead and interceding for believers before the throne of God? Does the church

have a united spirit, or is there division and strife present? Does the church present a plain, direct message of the gospel of Jesus Christ, or is the message a social or psychological one? The church that makes Christ the center of everything it is and does is the greatest organization on earth. In Colossians 1:24-2:7 it was a mystery about the role of the church; today it is a revealed

Christ the center of my church

truth to be shared with the entire world. Since Christ has ascended to the throne of God, He has left His body, the church, to carry on His work on earth.

The church that makes Christ the center of everything will work with a labor of love, dedication and commitment. The foundation of the church will be Christ. The love the church exhibits will be the love of Christ. Our text says this very plainly.

The church that makes Christ the center is a church that is grounded in the Word of God, “rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, ... abounding therein with

thanksgiving” (Col. 2:7, KJV). Sometimes a local church will be so caught up with fitting in with its community and local culture that it gives up its priority of making Christ its center of everything. I thank God that my church still places Christ at its core of everything! How about your church? Take time out to pray for your fellow believers, your pastor and leadership. That will help your church to become Christ centered. Paul said it best in Colossians 2:2 when he said “that their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love.” Amen!

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE FEBRUARY 12, 2012

Claud Williams
pastor
Boxley Baptist, Ponca

Scripture passage:
Colossians 1:24-2:7



ABSC calendar

- **Jan. 29:** Day of Prayer for the SBC - *Nationwide*
 - **Jan. 31:** Compensation Planning Workshop - *First Baptist Church, Fayetteville*
 - **Jan. 31:** Compensation Planning Workshop - *Oak Cliff Baptist Church, Fort Smith*
 - **Feb. 1-29:** ABCHomes Wheels Campaign - *Statewide*
 - **Feb. 1-29:** True Love Waits Emphasis - *Nationwide*
 - **Feb. 2:** Compensation Planning Workshop - *Beech Street Baptist Church, Gurdon*
 - **Feb. 2:** Compensation Planning Workshop - *Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock*
 - **Feb. 9:** Mission Connection - *Second Baptist Church, Jacksonville*
 - **Feb. 9:** Preparing for Retirement Seminar - *ABSC Building, Little Rock*
- For more information on events, go to www.absc.org, or call 800-838-2272.

Mark your calendar

Master'Singers Festival of Song

Feb. 9

Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock

YEC

Youth Evangelism Conference

March 30-31

Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock

Youth choir festival planned in LR

PRAIZFEST, a two-day youth choir festival, has been set for Feb. 24-25 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock.

Arrival time for the event is 6:15 p.m. Feb. 24. Stephen T. Carrell, associate pastor of worship and music at First Baptist Church, San Anto-

nio, Texas, will serve as choral director for the event. A grand finale concert will be held at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 25.

Ministers of music are responsible for ordering music for the event, which may be purchased by contacting Sharkie DeMass, LifeWay Music

Service, at sharkie.demass@lifeway.com or through another music provider.

Registration deadline is Feb. 14.

For more information, contact Nancy Rose at 800-838-2272, ext. 5121, or nrose@absc.org or go to www.absc.org/music.

Literacy Training Workshop set

A LITERACY MISSIONS Training Workshop has been scheduled for Aug. 3-4 at Baring Cross Baptist Church, Sherwood.

The workshop will include training by North American Mission

Board-certified trainers for those who want to teach church-based courses on "English as a Second Language," "Adult Reading and Writing" and "Tutoring Youth and Children."

Training will begin at 2 p.m. Aug. 3 and conclude the next day at 5 p.m.

For more information, including cost, call 800-838-2272 or 501-376-4791, ext. 5150.

2012 ABSC disaster relief training

- March 3: Trinity Baptist Church, Searcy

Units scheduled to attend training: Feeding - Calvary; Recovery - Union Valley, Valley Baptist Church, Caroline.

- March 10: First Baptist Church, Mountain View

Units scheduled to attend training: Feeding - Independence; Recovery - Independence, Rocky Bayou.

- March 17: First Baptist Church, Brinkley

Units scheduled to attend training: Feeding - Forrest City; Recovery - Harmony, Centennial, Arkansas Valley.

- March 24: Fair Park Baptist Church, Russellville

Units scheduled to attend training: Feeding - Washington/Madison; Recovery - Arkansas River Valley, North Central Arkansas; Shower - First Baptist Church, Ozark.

- March 31: Bear Creek Springs Baptist Church, Harrison

Units scheduled to attend training: Feeding - North Arkansas; Recovery - White River, Big Creek.

Regional training agenda for new disaster relief volunteers*

- 8:00-8:30: Picture taking and registration (new volunteers only)
- 8:30-8:45: Introduction/train-

ing agenda

- 8:45-10:15: Involving Southern Baptist in disaster relief
- 10:15-10:30: Break
- 10:30-11:00: Paperwork for new volunteers
- 11:00-12:30: Initial safe food handling (Unit Blue Cap)
- 11:00-12:30: Initial recovery training (Unit Blue Cap)
- 12:30-1:00: Lunch

- 1:00-3:00: Initial hands-on training (feeding, recovery). Blue Caps conduct new volunteer unit training.

*Each Unit Blue Cap is responsible for conducting update training for their unit.

For more information on disaster relief, contact Bill Cantrell or Pam Rosinbaum at 800-838-2272 or 501-376-4791, ext. 5249.

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www.absc.org/music

A Cooperative Program Ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Leadership & Worship Team

Preparing for Retirement seminars planned

DATES AND LOCATIONS for the Preparing for Retirement Seminar, which is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) leadership and worship team, have been set.

The seminar provides those considering retirement with information regarding the decisions they need to make as retirement approaches and reviews the impact those decisions can have on finances and lifestyle in retirement. Dates include: Feb. 9: 9:30 a.m., Baptist building, Little Rock; Feb. 16: 9:30 a.m., First

Baptist Church, Ozark; Feb. 23: 9:30 a.m., First Baptist Church, Prescott; March 1: 9:30 a.m., First Baptist Church, Dumas; March 6: 9:30 a.m., Central Baptist Church,

Jonesboro; and Sept. 20: 9:30 a.m., Baptist building, Little Rock.

Preparing for Retirement seminars will be led by William Jaques, Jr. There is no cost to attend; how-

ever, preregistration is required. For more information, contact Connie McCall at cmccall@absc.org or 800-838-2272, ext. 5160, or go to www.absc.org/guidestone.

Chaplaincy training set

A CHAPLAINCY training event is scheduled for April 27-28 at Second Baptist Church, Jacksonville. The event, which is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions ministries team, will feature training for police and fire chaplains and for chaplains in health care, jail, prison and prisoner re-entry and for community chaplains. For more information, contact Bob Fielding at bfielding@absc.org or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5249. Register online at www.absc.org/chaplain.



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



Evangelism

ABN features evangelism directory, profiles evangelists.

PAGES 6-10

Church outreach

Calvary Baptist, Monticello, defined by evangelism.

PAGE 1

Watson Chapel Baptist delivers clothes for African children

PAGE 1

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