



Garrick Conner (left), discipleship pastor of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, and Lyla Bailey, outreach ministry assistant, pack boxes of Bibles as part of the Arkansas Bible Project.

Bible project underway

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

NORTH LITTLE ROCK – In honor of the church’s 65th year of ministry, the staff of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, is challenging

members to be involved in 65 mission projects in 2012, one of which is the Arkansas Bible Project.

“The purpose of the project is to get those Bibles off bookshelves and

See **BIBLES** page 12

New work states hurt most

NAMB impact in Ark. minimal, says Turner

LITTLE ROCK – While new work areas in the United States are experiencing a dramatic impact on their ministries as a result of a strategic shift in emphasis at the North American Mission Board (NAMB), changes at the domestic mission entity so far have had little to no effect in Arkansas.

Emil Turner, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), said NAMB spends about \$425,000 in Arkansas to help support various ministries – but the work of Arkansas Baptists isn’t dependent on it.

“NAMB funds do not figure into our budget,” said Turner, adding the funding process at NAMB is “incredibly complicated.”

“In order to receive the \$425,000 from NAMB, the ABSC is obligated to commit about \$777,000 in funds to fulfill our cooperative agreement,” said Robby Tingle, ABSC missions ministries team leader.

NAMB has nine missionaries

in Arkansas but does not pay but a fraction of their salaries, Turner explained.

“NAMB pays only 35 percent of the costs of their projects in Arkansas, while the ABSC pays 65 percent of those projects,” Turner continued. “NAMB has been paying for

See **NAMB** page 3

Ala. evaluates partnership

Jennifer Davis Rash
The Alabama Baptist

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Alabama Baptists and the North American Mission Board (NAMB) are entering a new phase of ministry, Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Mis-

See **ALABAMA** page 3

YEC features Fireflight

LITTLE ROCK – More than 1,000 students and adults are expected to converge for the Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) March 30-31 at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock.

The conference features nationally known youth communicator

Clayton King and Christian illusionist Drew Worsham.

Christian rock band Fireflight will perform at the conference. Kristian Stanfill, an emerging singer/songwriter who has performed at Passion Conferences and on

See **YEC** page 7

Calvary serves in LR Heights area 75 years

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK – For some, it might seem logical that if a growing, landlocked church was in need of a new building, the solution would be to change locations. But that was not the way Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, chose to solve its problem.

Twice when the church needed a larger sanctuary, it chose to tear down the old building and con-

struct the new one on the same site, rather than to relocate.

As a result, Calvary, which recently celebrated its 75th anniversary, has been located on the same corner in the Heights area of Little Rock for 73 of those 75 years. And even prior to the time it was constituted as a church, the mission that became Calvary met in the Heights – resulting in 80 years ministering in the same area of the city.

Ed Simpson, who has served as Calvary pastor for more than 14

years, explained the church’s philosophy on remaining in the area.

“In the late ’90s, Calvary made a strategic decision to remain in the Heights, choosing to minister from the northern area of the city, rather than move west as Little Rock expands,” Simpson said. “Calvary is landlocked but decided that the size of the campus doesn’t dictate the scope of its ministry.”

“Not every church is meant to be

See **CALVARY** page 2



Ed Simpson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, talks with anniversary service attendees.

Ark. DOM among Baptists meeting at White House

NORTH LITTLE ROCK – Jerry Gay, director of missions (DOM) for the North Pulaski Baptist Association, was one of 60 Baptist leaders who met at the White House Wednesday, March 7, to discuss how the faith community in the United States can “intersect” with government to “promote the common good.”

Gay, the only Southern Baptist DOM to be represented at the meeting, was invited to be a part of the Baptist delegation by Ricky Creech, executive director/minister of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. Paul Monterio, associate director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, led the meeting, which was called a “White House Briefing with Baptist Clergy Leaders.”

The 4-hour meeting included Baptists from about 20 states and covered a broad range of topics from the environment to immigration to teen violence, according to reports posted at EthicsDaily.com.

No media was invited to cover the briefing, but participants were allowed to tweet and use other social media.

Gay said the invitation was sent

out to “goodwill Baptists” by the White House. The invitation said the purpose of the meeting was to dialogue with members of President Obama’s executive administration officials “concerning the joys, struggles, issues and concerns that we deal with on a day-to-day basis.”

“One important thing here is to remember that these issues affect religious and nonreligious people,” said Gay, adding he saw it as an opportunity for Baptists to “come together on important, common-good issues.”

Gay added, “We were encouraged to come with hard questions to have a heart-to-heart dialogue for solution-seeking partnerships.

“It was an honor to be invited to the White House, no matter who is president,” Gay added.

“There was a lot of good that came out of the meeting, and I was very skeptical before I went. I went expecting ‘this is what we want you to know,’ but that wasn’t what it was all,” said Gay, explaining that the dialogue between Baptists and White House officials was very informative.

Gay said there was one topic that he wished had been addressed at the



Jerry Gay (right), North Pulaski Baptist Association director of missions, listens as Tim Lovett (center), pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., shares during the White House briefing Wednesday, March 7, in Washington, D.C. Left is Bob Coons, pastor of Journey Fellowship Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky. Photo used by permission from EthicsDaily.com.

White House meeting.

“One of the parts lacking was my concern about Israel’s security and support of Israel,” he explained. “The topic wasn’t addressed at all.”

The briefing started at 9 a.m. and went straight through the lunch hour until 1 p.m., said Gay.

“In that time we only had one

bathroom break,” he laughed.

Gay said it was understood at the close of the meeting “there would probably be a smaller group invited back to dialogue how government policy affects Baptists.”

“This is a ‘hello’ and not a ‘good-bye,’” Monterio told the group, said Gay.

CALVARY

continued from page one

a megachurch, but each church can do ‘megaministry’ where they are,” he said.

Throughout the years, Calvary has partnered to do ministry with multiple entities in Little Rock, including the Union Rescue Mission and Jefferson Elementary School.

“Remaining in this area of the city has focused our attention on the needs about us,” Simpson explained.

Along with these ministry partnerships, Calvary ministers through the Upward Sports basketball program. Over the course of 14 years the church has averaged more than 350 children in the program each year, bringing more than 1,000 people through the church’s doors each weekend.

The church ministers outside their immediate community as well. Calvary has planted two churches



Members and guests attend Calvary Baptist Church’s anniversary service.

and is currently involved in a deaf ministry in Honduras and a youth project in New York. Calvary also assists a church plant in Turkey.

Elaine Wooten, Calvary church member, shared how, throughout the years, Calvary has responded to the current events of the eras. For instance, as the Vietnam War ended,

Arkansas became a destination for refugees, and in response, Calvary opened its doors to provide the Hmong people group with a church home where they could worship in their native language and receive assistance for various needs.

Wooten said the ministry still exists and is thriving today.

And as baby boomers began waiting longer to marry, Calvary began a singles ministry.

Wooten further explained families became more active in the 1980s, and Calvary responded by opening a Family Life Center, which includes basketball and racquetball courts, aerobics classes and more.

In the 1990s, with church members retiring, Calvary began a handyman ministry to assist with rebuilding efforts after disasters and to help those with disabilities with home modifications.

Yet, while the church has responded to the times, they have not been bound by the difficulties of the times. In fact, Wooten shared how the church began as a mission of Pulaski Heights Baptist Church, Little Rock, just as the country was rebounding from the Great Depression. And their new worship center, which was dedicated in 2011, was built as the country suffered another economic decline that has been likened to the Great Depression.

To celebrate 75 years of ministry and life as a church, Calvary held a weekend of celebration, which included a reunion dinner March 3 and a Sunday morning service March 4.

Simpson said people came from across Arkansas and surrounding states for the celebration. During the March 3 dinner, attendees heard the history of the church, saw historical photographs and sang hymns from various eras. Rex Nelson, president of Arkansas’ Independent Colleges and Universities, was speaker.

Fitz Hill, president of Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock, shared a message during the March 4 worship service, which was followed by a luncheon.

“The 75th anniversary at Calvary was everything and more than we anticipated,” Simpson said.

“Recounting the history of Calvary accentuates how God fulfills His purposes over time and how He uses each life, each unique church, to help His kingdom grow,” Simpson concluded.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.

Jacobs to join ABSC staff

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Operating Committee hired Willie Jacobs Jr. March 15 to serve as urban church planting strategist for the ABSC missions ministries team.

Jacobs, who lives in Memphis, previously served with the

North American Mission Board.



Jacobs

As urban church planting strategist, Jacobs will have an “intentional emphasis on the urban areas and the Delta region,” according to ABSC material.

He will begin serving with the ABSC effective April 1.

Payne found guilty of sexual abuse

TEXARKANA – An Arkansas Baptist pastor has been found guilty of sexual misconduct with a 3-year-old girl. Travis Payne, who served as pastor of South Texarkana Baptist Church,



Payne

Texarkana, prior to his conviction, has been sentenced to five years in prison.

Miriam Spiros, a member of Macedonia Baptist Church, Fouke, presented eyewitness testimony during Payne's trial, according to an article in the *Texarkana Gazette*.

Spiros, who was attending a re-

vival at the Texarkana church April 25, along with her husband, Philip, who serves as music minister at Macedonia Baptist Church, said she inadvertently walked in on Payne and the girl as the abuse occurred.

Payne is a former member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest to Arkansas Baptists

Luter says his election improves SBC image

NEW ORLEANS – Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, said March 11 on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" that if he was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the June annual meeting it would help to improve Southern Baptists' image on race.

Ga. Baptists to consider offers for GBC building

DULUTH, Ga. – The Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC) Executive Committee voted March 13 to entertain any valid offers that would lead to the potential sale of the Baptist Missions and Ministry Center in Duluth, Ga. The six-year-old building and its 43 acres of prime real estate has garnered steady interest from realtors and other interested parties in recent years, said J. Robert White, GBC executive director. The building's prime location across from Gwinnett Arena and the Chamber of Commerce has been the primary drawing card for the interest.

Don Kirkland to retire after 38 years at Courier

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP) – Don Kirkland, editor and president of *The Baptist Courier* for the last 16 years, has announced he will retire from the South Carolina Baptist newspaper at the end of 2012. Kirkland, addressing the *Courier* board of trustees' meeting March 2, said when he was asked in 1974 to join the newspaper's staff he knew "God was leading me to the *Courier*, and I've never doubted that." Kirkland will be 69 when he retires after 42 years of denominational service – 38 of them at the *Courier*.

SBC Crossover 2012 set for New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (BP) – In addition to jazz, beignets and the French Quarter, there's an added reason Southern Baptists may enjoy visiting New Orleans for Crossover 2012 – the love they may sense from Crescent City residents. Hundreds of volunteers – from Louisiana and across the nation – will join together for the June 15-16 outreach prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

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

NAMB

continued from page one

health insurance for missionaries but has plans to eliminate this benefit."

Turner said Arkansas receives less money from NAMB "than almost every other state convention, (so) the financial impact on Arkansas is minimal."

"For every dollar NAMB spends in Arkansas, we're required to spend two on those same projects," he said. "So the impact is going to be minimal."

That could change somewhat as NAMB continues to alter its funding priorities – particularly in relation to missionaries serving in the state.

"There are some financial decisions that the North American Mission Board is making that will hurt us in the future," said Turner, "such as we're going to have to

pay the health insurance for North American Mission Board missionaries that function in Arkansas. They're going to stop insuring their own missionaries."

Due to long-term strategic planning that began many years ago at the ABSC, changes in the way NAMB finances mission causes are not going to result in a budget crisis in Arkansas, said Turner. What concerns Turner most is the way the national missions entity is now relating to its partners.

"They've changed radically," he explained. "Not only do they hurt their partners severely, but they change the way we work in Arkansas. One example of that is the loss of an evangelism component at the North American Mission Board. We feel like a serious evangelism strategy is missing from their work."

Referring to the entity's recent

announcement of a plan to distribute cases of Bibles to every Southern Baptist church as a part of its Send North America strategy, Turner added, "The North

American Mission Board has mistaken a Bible distribution plan for a national evangelism strategy."

NAMB's intensive focus on church planting could adversely affect churches in the long term, said Turner.

"Of greater concern to me than the impact on

Arkansas is the impact on our partners that have to reach the pioneer areas. I am very much concerned that the North American Mission Board strategy for planting churches does not guarantee that churches that are planted will be marked by Baptist distinctives," said Turner. "Their strategy undermines the strength of the churches they plant as they defund associational work and church support."



ALABAMA

continued from page one

sions (SBOM), told the state mission board Feb. 27.

Lance said that NAMB's emphasis on church planting – while letting go of other "important" ministries – inhibits Alabama Baptists from being in full partnership as they have been in the past.

"We are involved in church planting, but to say it is the only way to do missions would be beside the point," he said. "To say it is a comprehensive way to do missions would not be a healthy, broad view; to say it is equivalent to and the only way to do evangelism is, at best, shortsighted."

"We do have to plant churches, but if we don't revitalize existing churches, we are going to miss North America," he added.

Another concern is that NAMB has not defined "church planting or church planter," Lance said.

"What happens ... if NAMB decides to come to Alabama and start a church?" Lance asked. "What happens when our definitions (for 'church planting') are in conflict?"

"What about someone who is doing ministry evangelism? Is that

individual going to have a relationship with NAMB?"

NAMB helped fund ministry evangelism positions in the past, but the funding for these positions is "sort of fuzzy now," Lance said. "My concern is that's missing an element that needs to be a full missions strategy."

The partnership process also is a concern, he said. It is no longer worked out together.

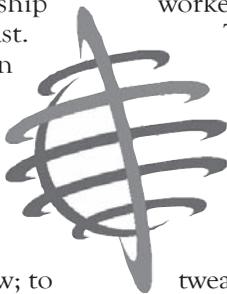
The cooperative agreement system between NAMB and the state conventions was established in 1958, and they would sit down as equal partners customizing ministries for the states, he said.

"Yes, some needed to be tweaked, but it worked pretty effectively here in Alabama," he said.

Alabama Baptists provide 52 percent of the funding to NAMB's 48 percent for personnel and ministries for jointly sponsored projects in Alabama. NAMB is adjusting that formula to 65 percent Alabama and 35 percent NAMB by 2018.

So the SBOM and associations have been working to decrease the amount of NAMB dollars – a little less than \$750,000 – coming in for the 22 church planters and 18 associational and SBOM personnel impacted by this change.

"The real incentive was that we didn't have the 52 percent to match



'It's so crazy, it just might work!'

One of my children's favorite movies when they were younger was "The Master of Disguise," which was released in 2002. Actually, my daughter, Hannah, who is now 19 and a freshman at the University of Arkansas, still watches the movie from time to time.

There are a lot of funny moments in the film, but there's this one scene where the central character, Pistachio Disguise, says something that sums up the entire silly movie.

With big eyes and a broad grin, he states, "It's so crazy, it just might work!"

Sometimes crazy ideas do work, but sometimes it's the simple approach that works best.

Volumes of books have been written about how to reach people for Jesus Christ. Southern Baptists, from our very beginnings in 1845, have emphasized evangelism as a core value and strategy for reaching people for Christ.

But at the end of the day, many times it's personal evangelism that results in people attending church and getting saved.



PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough

That's the focus of Statewide Friend Day set to be held in Arkansas Oct. 14.

"It's simple; it works," says Kim Bridges of First Baptist Church, Marmaduke, who participated along with other churches from the Greene County Baptist Association and North Arkansas Baptist Association in 2011.

National surveys point to a simple invitation as a key to the unchurched attending church. Did you read that? National surveys point to a simple invitation as a key to the unchurched attending church.

I don't think it gets much simpler than that.

And the odds increase more dramatically if the person being invited to church knows the person doing the inviting – a neighbor or co-worker, perhaps?

While we live in dramatically changing times, people today still have a need for belonging.

Everyone wants to be a part of something. The world and the devil want to point people to destructive relationships like gangs or other

When I said I wanted you to bring your friends to church, I meant your *human* friends!



types of social clubs or environments – anywhere but the church!

Christians on mission for the Lord can capitalize on this need for belonging by extending an invitation to friends and acquaintances to attend church and give Jesus an opportunity to penetrate their hearts.

So the next time you find yourself out in the front of your home visiting with a neighbor,

or perhaps when you are sharing a conversation with a co-worker, consider doing something kind of crazy, yet so simple: Invite someone to church.

According to statistics, there's more than an 80 percent chance they'll take you up on your offer, and what's more, their lives possibly will be changed for all eternity.

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

Why did Jesus weep?

Many have marveled that the Scripture records Jesus weeping in John 11:35. I do not marvel over Jesus experiencing emotion. Isaiah 53 tells us that Jesus was "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." The first chapter of John tells us that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." We are created in the image of God.

There is no reason for us to be surprised that Jesus would have at least some of the same emotions as us.

I believe there are several possible reasons why Jesus wept in John 11:35. Surely Jesus loved Mary and Martha; certainly, we can find reason to weep with grief-stricken friends. Romans 12:15

tells us to "weep with those who weep." Perhaps Jesus wept because of the lack of understanding and faith in the bystanders. Maybe Jesus wept because what He was about to do to Lazarus would be the most marvelous of all miracles, giving men a clear picture of what being saved really is. I suppose He may have wept because

He knew that it would be such a long time before anyone would understand what He was about to do. Some claim that Jesus was weeping over the consequences for Lazarus. Lazarus would be missing out on heaven, and he would be thrust back into a sin-infested world. John 12:10 tells us that Lazarus would

live under the threat of death ordered by the chief priests.

Emotions are often accompanied by sin. When I get emotional, sometimes I do not glorify God. This is a convicting thought for me. I believe

I need to make a study of the places in the gospels where Jesus was shown expressing emotion, looking to see how He glorified the Father in each of those experiences. We are called to direct glory to God and to witness of His love to other people. Handling

emotion without sinning would be a great aid to those efforts.

John 11:33 connects Jesus being moved in spirit and troubled with His seeing Mary weeping. John 11:38 connects Jesus being deeply moved again with some of the Jews questioning either His motive or His ability or His timing. Their lack of trust in Him certainly played a part in His weeping. I wonder how often my lack of trust in Him has caused Him to weep.

Steve Ellison is camp administrator at Ouachita Baptist Assembly in Mena.



VIEWPOINT

Steve Ellison
Ouachita Baptist Assembly



Volume 111, Number 6 USPS08021

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

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

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

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Baptists Ask

Should my church have fundraisers?

Churches regularly raise funds. It is perfectly normal for a church to collect offerings to fund locally budgeted items, such as ministries, utilities and salaries. These funds should be disbursed in accordance to the church's mission statement, and the income and expenditures should be printed in the church's financial statement.



Gore

In addition to local ministry, Arkansas Baptist churches traditionally have three yearly offerings. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goes to North American missions, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is for international missions. The Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering goes to state mission needs. Whether local, state, national or international, all of these church offerings are "fundraisers."

Periodically, a church may take up special offerings for church events, mission projects or emergencies. While these can be beneficial for the overall health of the church, leaders should carefully consider the timing and purpose. Special offerings should not circumvent the church's mission statement. Churches should also be careful how these special offerings are taken and how often they occur.

Too many special offerings can become burdensome to a church's budget. Because these funds do not funnel into the church's central plan of giving, they bypass the budget. The church's fundraising becomes more segmented, and there may be little oversight as to how the money is spent. Often, the groups who are more passionate about their plea end up getting more money, irrespective of the need. Perpetual fundraisers for unbudgeted and unplanned causes can become wearisome.

Some churches have succumbed to the world's standard of fundraising: raffles, bake sales and bazaars. While there is nothing wrong with them per se, these fundraisers may lose sight of the purpose of giving. Because "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7), church members should give, but not to receive something in return. They already possess God's greatest gift.

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

'Lowball' church commitment

Recently, there was a piece of property that went up for auction. The owner was unable to make the payments due to the effects of the struggling economy. The owners simply could not make a go of it. But one man's misery is another man's opportunity – or so some will say. A group of enterprising folks saw this as an opportunity "to get the land and business for a song."

They made a "lowball" bid for the property. You see, in human terms, that is what makes it an opportunity. We get something for far less than its value. They guessed that in this economy anyone with a little cash was rare. They could get it "for a steal." They made their bid and indeed won the property. Unfortunately, there was more to it than that. The bank that held the mortgage rejected the bid as too low. The owners had not put in enough to warrant the bank selling the property: insufficient investment of capital.

Unfortunately, for today's church, there are too many people coming to the church with a lowball type of bid for membership in the family. They want to reap benefits and blessings for as little of an invest-

ment as possible. As pastors and church leaders, we adopt a very unwise position – we will take what we can get. We fail to challenge them to more. The result is an insufficiency of human capital in the church. We

have weak Christians barely serving and investing themselves so we have weak churches. This cycle has reached epidemic proportions.

Jesus made it very clear that there is a minimum standard investment – your life.

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23,

ASV).

Jesus has the right to establish whatever minimum standard He so chooses. He gave His life for us. It is well within His prerogative, both as God and as the One who died for us, to demand the same investment. You cannot lowball Jesus. You cannot get the Christian life for a steal. Do not accept a lowball bid from yourself as an investment in the ministry of your church. Invest your life – it's what Jesus invested.

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



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Greg Addison

A shining light or a black hole?

As a pastor's son growing up in the 1970s, I remember when the "energy crisis," outrageous inflation, skyrocketing interest rates and the residual effect of the Jesus movement all worked together, creating a perfect environment for booming bus ministries. Then a few years later the economy improved, transportation safety laws changed and public scandals involving high-profile evangelical personalities created a new social skepticism toward the church. As a result, bus ministries in most contexts were no longer as effective. While many churches discovered new ways to reach out to children and their families, other churches continued to work harder and harder to keep the dying ministry on life support until exhausted workers finally burned out and quit.

There comes a time in the life of every church when things just do not work like they once did. People change, communities change, economics change and needs change. Yet, too often a church continues with a set of once-successful methods, programs and strategies long past the point that they become obsolete.

Today most churches are not trying to hold on to failing bus ministries.

But there is a myriad of other once-successful methods, programs and events to which churches cling. As a result, the church is no longer "a shining light," but a "black hole," diverting and draining God's resour-

ces away from opportunities to meet the lost at their point of need and point them to Jesus.

After deciding not to relocate, the once-declining Bluff Avenue Baptist Church of Fort Smith has rediscovered their neighborhood, reaffirmed God's call to grow where they are planted, and tapped into

the God-given talents, passions and spiritual gifts of the congregation to impact their community like never before. With a whole new slate of outreach ministries and a renewed excitement about reaching people, they have seen significant increases in attendance, baptisms and mobilization of their people into the community.

"Our church will never be the same, and we're not looking back," said Robert Berry, Bluff Avenue Baptist's pastor.

Growing into the future should be a never-ending process of assessing community needs and developing practical, simple ways to meet those needs, all the while intentionally communicating the gospel. The church must also quit doing that which is no longer effective and redirect time, energy and budget toward the new worthwhile efforts (in most churches, this is the hard part). Otherwise the church becomes sluggish, tired, overworked and ineffective; and it is not just the church that suffers, but also God's kingdom.

Eric W. Ramsey is an evangelist, author and cross-cultural communication strategist serving as president of TCWM, based in Mountainburg.



ANSWERING THE CALL

Eric Ramsey

Reached by California Southern Baptists

I was raised in California by Southern parents. What a strange combination, I know!

My parents, Victor and Fluella Koone, were from Arkansas and went to California in the 1950s with plans to "make a for-

tune" and return to Arkansas. My mother was a Christian, a Southern Baptist, but my father didn't find the Lord until a Southern Baptist missionary in northern California

invited him to a revival. He let the fact that my mother was Southern Baptist slip out, and Bro. Kendall was at their house that evening.

On the third day of the revival, my father accepted Jesus as his Savior!

Within two years, my father felt the call to the ministry. He spent the next 30 years spreading the gospel in northern

California, planting churches and pastoring until the church could afford to hire a pastor, while making his living in the timber industry. I say all this to tell you that the name

"Southern" in the Baptist is less of a problem than many people try to make it. I think that this subject is just one more way that Satan is using to get us away from the focus of winning souls to the Lord. By the way, my parents did finally get to retire to Arkansas, where he was active in many small churches around the Conway and Clinton areas.

Vicki Koone Coons
Brookland

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor

Send letters to the editor to
tim@arkansasbaptist.org



ABSC calendar

- **March 24:** Disaster Relief Training – Fair Park Baptist Church, Russellville
 - **March 27:** Local VBS event – First Baptist Church, Cabot
 - **March 30-31:** Galatians 6:6 Marriage Retreat for pastors – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Little Rock
 - **March 30-31:** Youth Evangelism Conference – Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock
 - **March 31:** Disaster Relief Training – Bear Creek Springs Baptist Church, Harrison
 - **April 10:** State VBS workshop – Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock
 - **April 12:** State VBS workshop – Walnut Street Baptist Church, Jonesboro
 - **April 12:** Local VBS event – Rye Hill Baptist Church, Fort Smith
 - **April 13-14:** Beautiful: A Young Women's Retreat – Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs
 - **April 13-15:** CONNECT – Black River Baptist Association
 - **April 14:** Disaster Relief Training – First Baptist Church, Arkadelphia
 - **April 17:** Fellowship of Retired Baptist Workers – Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock
- For more information on events, go to www.absc.org, or call 800-838-2272.

Mark your calendar

**Understanding
and Reaching People
in Poverty**
Aug. 18
ABSC Building

**Acts 1:8 One Day
Mission Trip**
Oct. 6
Tri-County
Association



Aug. 4
Statehouse
Convention Center,
Little Rock

IFest set for May 4-5 at OBU

ARKADELPHIA – IFest, a conference for Arkansas Baptist student instrumentalists, has been scheduled for May 4-5 on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia.

The two-day event, which is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in conjunction with Ouachita Baptist University, will include a large ensemble instrumental experience and will conclude with a concert performance May 5

in Ouachita's Jones Performing Arts Center Auditorium.

Craig Hamilton, chairman of the music education department at Ouachita, will serve as conductor.

Students must be recommended by church leaders or band directors to attend iFest. Selection will be based on the individual student's musical experience, as well as comments provided by the recommending official.

ifest

Students are responsible for providing their instruments, sticks and mallets. Percussion equipment will be provided.

Nominations must be postmarked by Friday, April 13. Participants will receive notification through their sponsors by email April 20.

For more information, including costs, nomination forms, brochures, audition material, directions and area hotels and restaurants, go to www.absc.org/music or contact Nancy Rose at 800-838-2272, ext. 5121, or nrose@absc.org.

Ministry training sessions set

CHAPLAINCY and ministry training events will be held in April. Sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions ministries team, the events are designed to help prepare Arkansas Baptists to minister in crisis situations.

Critical Incident Stress Management ICISF-certified training will take place April 25-26 at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Building and April 27-28 at Second Baptist Church, Jacksonville. The April 25-26 session will offer

training in Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disaster Operations, as well as in Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support. The April 27-28 session will offer training in Group Crisis Intervention.

Police and Fire Chaplain Basic Training will be held April 27-28 at Second Baptist Church, Jacksonville. The 12-hour course will equip both current and future police and fire chaplains with basic skills, including death notification and responding to a crisis situation.

Ministry Training Day is set for April 28 at Second Baptist Church, Jacksonville. This training – meant for pastors, deacons, Sunday school teachers, care group leaders and church members – will focus on health care ministry, prison and jail ministry, re-entry and aftercare ministry and how to begin nontraditional chaplaincy outreaches.

For more information on all events, visit www.absc.org/chaplaincyevents or call Pam Rosinbaum at 800-838-2272, ext. 5249.

Bi-vo. ministers retreat April 20-22

LITTLE ROCK – A bi-vocational ministers retreat, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) leadership and worship team, is set for April 20-22 at the ABSC building.

The retreat will begin with registration at 5 p.m. April 20 and will end at 10:30 a.m. April 22 after a morning worship service.

Motivational speakers for the

weekend will include Charles Lowery, president and chief executive officer of Lowery Institute for Excellence Inc.; Rex Horne, president of Ouachita Baptist University; and Emil Turner, ABSC executive director.

Ministers will choose three of five sessions to attend. The sessions are "Comeback Churches – Revitalizing Your Church," "Discipleship Any

Church Can Do," "How to Involve More Church Members in Outreach Evangelism," "Pastoring the Bi-vocational Church" and "How to Increase Giving in Your Church."

Ministers' wives will attend "How to Live in a Glass House Without Cracking Up," led by Judy Shaddox, wife of Ken Shaddox, who serves as pastor of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock; and "The Quest for Perfect," led by Marabeth Jaques, wife of William Jaques, who serves on the ABSC leadership and worship team.

Friday dinner and Saturday lunch will be provided. Ministers are responsible for their own accommodations. A list of nearby hotels is available at www.absc.org/bi-vo. The list indicates special rates available.

For more information or to register, go to www.absc.org/bi-vo or call 501-376-4791, ext. 5160.

Leadercast scheduled

ARKANSAS BAPTIST pastors and staff are invited to attend the Chick-fil-A Leadercast, a one-day leadership event featuring Tim Tebow, John Maxwell, Urban Myer, Andy Stanley and more.

The simulcast event will be held

at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention building, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, May 4.

Seating is limited and preregistration is required. For more information, including cost, go to www.absc.org/pastors.

Date set for Collision

COLLISION, a week long missions experience for students, has been scheduled for July 9-13. Through the event, students in grades 7-12 will be able to reach out to share the love of Christ with people in Batesville and surrounding areas. Space is limited to the first 150 students.

For more information, includ-

ing costs and registration deadlines, contact Ronnie Toon at rtoon@sb-cglobal.net, 870-793-7162 or go to www.absc.org/collision.

Collision is a partnership with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering and the Independence Baptist Association.

Literacy Training set

SHERWOOD – A Literacy Missions Training Workshop has been scheduled for Aug. 3-4 at Baring Cross Baptist Church, Sherwood. Training will begin at 2 p.m. Aug. 3 and conclude the next day at 5 p.m. For more information, call 501-376-4791, ext. 5150.

JoyWorks
June 26-29

PraiseWorks
July 16-20

YEC

Youth Evangelism

YEC

continued from page one

the Passion World Tour, will also perform.

Last year's YEC boasted 1,000-plus in attendance from 109 churches across Arkansas. More than 40 students made professions of faith in Christ, and 16 were called to the gospel ministry.



Clayton King



Kristian Stanfill



Drew Worsham



Fireflight

Super Summer camp set for June 16-23

ARKADELPHIA - Super Summer, a camp for students, is just around the corner. The event is held each summer on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia. Super Summer JV, for junior high students (6-8 grades), is June 16-19, and Super Summer, for high school students (9-12 grades), is June 19-23.

Super Summer is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church growth team.

Ed Newton, a youth evangelist, is camp speaker. Newton serves as staff evangelist at Faith Baptist Church in Bartlett, Tenn.

Contemporary Christian band The Museum will lead worship for the week. Based in Atlanta, the band is best known for the hit song "My Help Comes from the Lord" from the album "Let Love Win."

Nearly 2,200 students from 93 churches across Arkansas attended Super Summer in 2011. Of those in attendance, 86 made professions of faith in Christ and another 78 students were called to the ministry, according to Sean Mills, Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church growth team member and Super Summer coordinator.

The buzz for Super Summer is already building on social networks

like Twitter. Students and staffers alike are tweeting posts like, "It's exactly 100 days until @SuperSummerAR!!! who's excited!!!! this girl is!" and "Just thinking about how great @SuperSummerAR is going to be," as well as, "I just signed up for @SuperSummerAR, Can't wait to praise God, meet new people, and have a BLAST."

Students and staffers aren't the only ones excited about the camp.

Chris Roller, an Arkansas Baptist youth pastor, has high praise for Super Summer.

"It's the best camp out there," he said, noting he hasn't found a "single thing" that compares to the camp.

Roller, a staff member at First Baptist Church, Stuttgart, serves on the Super Summer steering committee.

For his youth group, Roller said Super Summer brings an "excitement level" that the students look forward to each year. And from a spiritual aspect, he notes it's great to watch so many students "get saved."

Roller likes that the camp is local to Arkansas, noting students "get to see the same people every year" and often keep in touch.

Warren Gasaway, minister to students at Immanuel Baptist Church,

FESTIVAL 12

SUPER SUMMER ARKANSAS

SUPER SUMMER 2012

June 16-19 JV (completed grades 6th-8th)

June 19-23 SS (completed grades 9th-12th)

JOHN 7:37



Band | The Museum



Speaker | Ed Newton

Registration NOW OPEN

www.supersummerarkansas.com

March 1 - May 10 Registration JV \$168 SS \$188

May 11 - May 31 Late Registration JV \$188 SS \$208

June 1 - 8 Substitutions/Cancellations only

For more information contact the Evangelism & Church Growth Team at 800.838.2272 | Imoon@absc.org

Youth Children's Speakers



Adam Cupples
Hughes
901-634-6478, adambigc@hotmail.com
AC Ministries serves Christ through D-Now weekends, revivals, youth rallies and conferences. Adam is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and has a Master of Divinity in Evangelism and Church Planting from Liberty Seminary. Currently, he works as an evangelist and lead pastor of Horseshoe Lake Baptist Church.
www.acministries.org

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

Creative Ministries



Doug Mickan
Conway
501-658-9975
DougM365@gmail.com

Doug is an accomplished ventriloquist with the ability to capture the heart and imagination of all ages. Performances feature humorous sketches that point audiences to Christ.



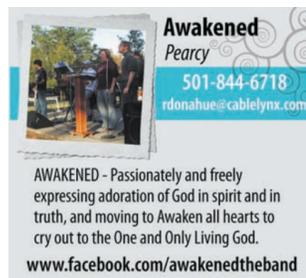
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Rogers
479-619-9921, smythterri@msn.com

The goal of In His Hands puppet ministry is to add souls to God's kingdom. We use a variety of music - golden oldies to current pop music - but with Christian lyrics and a great message. We are members of Piney Point Baptist Church in Rogers, Ark. Find us on Facebook.



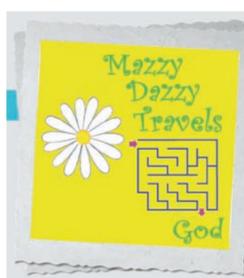
Travis Young
Fort Smith
479-459-6066, travis@eastsidebc.org
Travis is sold out for Jesus, kids and sharing the gospel. For over 10 years, he has ministered to thousands of children through VBS, lock-ins, AWANA, Upwards programs, summer camps, international missions, school assemblies and specialized pre-teen purity retreats. He is the pastor to children at Eastside Baptist Church in Fort Smith. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and is working on a D.Ed. Min. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Musicians Bands



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jarrettdavisband.com

Children's Programs



Mailbox Club
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501-753-7347
The Mailbox Club is an exciting hand-to-hand Bible correspondence course ministry for children ages 4-12 offered by Levy Baptist Church in North Little Rock. Mailbox Club lessons are Christ-centered and full of hope. Best of all, Mail Box Club is FREE! To enroll your child, call the church office or visit our website.
www.levybaptist.com



Cross Culture
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501-984-2696, jfish133@suddenlink.net
Cross Culture is a multi-generational contemporary worship band that has been leading worship for over 12 years. Whether it be a youth event or a contemporary worship service, we are able to assist in many ways. Worship Leader/Youth Director Joe Fischer is also available to speak at any event.



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479-381-5108, jerichodown@gmail.com
Contemporary praise and worship band. Available for youth/college events: D-Nows, rallies, revivals, conferences, mission and outreach, youth praise band clinics and speaking/preaching. Visit our website to watch YouTube videos.
www.jerichodown.com/listen-to-our-music



W.A.S.P.
Flippin
870-453-2611
artmanjackg@gmail.com
Wednesday After School Program (W.A.S.P.), is a Bible-based, research for truth about life questions program involving Bible memorization, games and food. It is a youth/children's outreach program.



Know Mercy
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501-882-6189,
www.unionvalleybaptist.com
A ministry of Union Valley Baptist Church, Beebe - we are a 7th - 12th grade student choir who love to sing for glory of God!



NEHI
Camden
870-818-9446
brjruston@yahoo.com
NEHI - "As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God." Romans 14:10 - Youth Worship Band, Calvary Baptist Church, Camden, Ark. - NEHI is also available for children's events. For more information, contact Brett James.

Drama Improv

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.
1 Timothy 4:12



Off The Top
Conway
offthetop@2bc.tv
Off The Top is the drama and improv team from the Second Baptist Church, Conway, student ministry. They perform scripted scenes, audience interactive improv games and human videos. This ministry will enhance worship and incite laughter. To book them, contact J.D. Cariker, 501-269-1206, or Dustin Sams, 501-327-6565.
www.offthetop.2bc.tv

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Isaiah 40:31

Saturday, August 25, 2012
Gates Open at 10am

For More Information contact the Evangelism & Church Growth
800.838.2272 | 501.376.4791 ext 5222 | lmoon@absc.org

CAMP

continued from page 7

El Dorado, has been taking students to Super Summer for 13 years.

He said it's because Super Summer "does a great job" helping students network with each other.

"Students become friends and stay friends," he said, noting connections often continue into college years with former students who serve as Super Summer staffers.

Gasaway said he appreciates the

structure of the camp, which allows for some fun time but also gives students the opportunity to be in a "large, dynamic worship setting," as well as small groups where they are able to "apply what they've been learning."

He also said the camp is a very affordable option. "You don't have to go searching all over the map to have a high quality, energetic, very well done camp," said Gasaway.

For more information about Super Summer, go to www.super-summerarkansas.com.

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Baring Cross kids 'whip up' treats for students

Lisa Watson
Arkansas Baptist News

YOU MIGHT THINK “whipping up” a dessert and sharing the love of Christ with international students wouldn’t have anything in common? But recently, for some children at Baring Cross Baptist Church, Sherwood, these two things were one and the same.

The youngsters created some tasty treats as part of a larger project to provide a meal for the Conversation Club, a ministry of the Metro Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM), which is located on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

The children’s contribution was part of their participation in Children’s Ministry Day (CMD), a yearly event sponsored by the Woman’s Missionary Union and designed to encourage children to be involved in missions. This year’s CMD theme was Operation Education.

For this reason, children’s leaders at Baring Cross wanted to give the boys and girls a chance to participate in an educational ministry with a great outreach.

Windy Campbell, a member of Baring Cross and children’s ministry worker, contacted the Arkansas Baptist State Convention children’s ministry representative for ideas on how to be involved in CMD.

She discovered that Cheryl Riley, also a member of Baring Cross, was

already planning for a women’s group to provide a meal for the Conversation Club Feb. 27.

So, Campbell asked if the children could provide the desserts.

Baring Cross’s children met together Feb. 26 to make a variety of desserts for the event.

Riley also told the children about the Conversation Club ministry, which is open to international students in the metro Little Rock area.

Campbell said the children enjoyed hearing about the countries the international students were from, but they also were excited that their project might help share the gospel of Christ with others.

“They thought it was fun to be able to ‘cook’ and tell about God,” she said.

Campbell said the church is already making plans for CMD next year. But that’s not all.

“We are already looking at another opportunity for our children to be involved with the mission programs at our church,” she said.

International ministry

Metro BCM has been home to the Conversation Club for about 10 years. The BCM partners with International Friendship Outreach (IFO), a Christian ministry to international students, to host the Conversation Club.

Teresa “Bit” Stephens, who serves as Metro BCM campus minister, said the Conversation Club is part



Max Percifull helps make a treat.

of a larger strategy the ministry has developed to connect international students with Arkansas Baptist church members.

“We want to connect the students with church members who have a heart for internationals,” said Stephens. “We want to get them as involved as possible so they can get to know an international student face to face. We also want to provide an atmosphere where Americans who may be sensing a call to become a missionary can get hands-on experience locally.”

And through that connection, Stephens’ prayer is that the international students will see Christ in the lives of the church members and make decisions to follow Him.

Stephens said she believes God is at work, bringing students into the metro Little Rock area from countries that are closed to the gospel.

The Conversation Club is just

one way Arkansas Baptists can become involved with the ministry. The BCM also assists in pairing international students with “friendship partners” – people who want to invest in the lives of the students.

“It means everything to (international students), and it could mean the difference in eternity,” she said.

Metro BCM also provides donated furniture to international students.

“My dream is to let the church people who donate the furniture actually deliver the items to the students,” said Stephens, noting a newly married Chinese couple recently accepted Christ because the BCM gave them a bed and other household items.

BCM leaders have also held Bible storying classes and cooking classes for the international students.

Stephens said she is excited about what God is doing through the ministry to internationals.

“It’s the Body of Christ coming together and loving them,” she said.

Stephens is also available to speak to church groups about how to get involved in Metro BCM’s ministry to internationals. In addition, she said the BCM can help church members connect with a particular people group.

To learn more about Metro BCM, go to www.metrobcm.org.

Contact Lisa Watson at lisa@arkansasbaptist.org.

Classifieds

PASTOR

Southside Baptist Church of Hamburg, Ark., is accepting resumes for **full-time pastor**. We have a new beautiful sanctuary with Christian family-oriented congregation. Please send resumes to Kirby Brooks, 180 Ashley Rd., Hamburg, AR 71646.

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

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

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

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

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

First Baptist Church of Marceline, Mo., a rural Southern Baptist church is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please submit resumes with references to

First Baptist Church, Attn: Bill Toops, P.O. Box 281, Marceline, MO 64658.

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

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Harlan Park Baptist Church in Conway is prayerfully seeking a **full-time minister of worship and family life**. Send resumes by mail or email to Gary Mitchell, 1895 Dave Ward Drive, Conway, AR 72034 or garynmitchell@hotmail.com. For more information, call 501-327-6015.

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

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

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

London’s First Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time worship leader**. Ours is a “blended service” with Sunday morning attendance in the 130-150

range. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 17 Southern Baptist Road, London, AR 72847.

FBC, Festus-Crystal City, Mo., is seeking **full-time worship leader**. Please email resume to firstbaptist@fbcfcc.org or mail to 107 N. Truman Blvd., Crystal City, MO 63019.

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.

Nettleton Baptist Church, a missions-minded, Acts 1:8 church, is seeking two like-minded ministers. We need a **full-time minister to youth** and a **full-time minister to young adults and university students**. The successful candidates will be energetic, Spirit-filled and spiritually mature Christians who are sound in doctrine and have at least three years or equivalent experience in ministry. They must also be dedicated to growing God’s kingdom through retention of our own children and reaching out to prospects. A bachelor’s degree and seminary education are preferred. We live in one of the fastest growing college towns in Arkansas so the opportunity for success is great. Please email resumes to sballard@nettletonbaptistchurch.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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Oaks Manor Conference and Retreat Center is seeking a couple to serve as Ministry Helpers at this beautiful adult facility, near Van Buren, AR. Compensation includes living quarters, utilities, gas allowance and salary. Ministry includes food service, office work, outside maintenance and general hospitality for guests.
Call Pete Ramsey, 479.414.4831.

Magic Springs announces 'Celebrate The Word'

HOT SPRINGS - Magic Springs Water and Theme Park has plans to expand its Christian entertainment offerings in the 2012 season with a new special event, Celebrate The Word, a multiweekend festival to be held throughout the summer.

"Our Christian music weekends are very popular," said Steve Honeycutt, general manager. "We want to build upon that to bring our families more of the entertainment they desire in the kind of environment they want."

BIBLES

continued from page one

back into circulation for the kingdom's sake," said Garrick Conner, discipleship pastor at Park Hill. "I like to think of it as putting God's Word to work. We want to provide a simple way for people to make an eternal difference."

Both new and used Bibles are accepted.

The idea for the project came to Conner as he was sitting in his office.

"I turned in my chair and glanced at my bookshelves, and something just jumped out at me," said Conner. "I could see 10 or 12 Bibles just sitting on my shelf. I began to think about the fact that there are many Christians who have multiple copies of God's Word, but we rarely - if ever - actually use the majority of them. After all, we have our favorite one or two.

"And the truth is that the only one happy about those unused Bibles is Satan himself."

Conner's first thought was for the initiative to be a church project to help members connect with the Secret Church Simulcast, a 6-hour Bible study the church hosts twice a year that helps attendees identify with persecuted Christians. However, the church staff decided to invite other churches and ministries to take part in the Bible collection.

"When God impresses on a per-

son's heart to do something, there's no need to argue or stall," Conner said. "I just got in gear and started making some contacts."

He said more than 25 churches and ministries are now taking part in the project.

Park Hill is partnering with Book-Link International Inc., which Conner says is "a volunteer-only ministry organization that provides Bibles and resources to our IMB (International Mission Board) missionaries and some of their pastors and contacts overseas."

"In fact, 99 percent of the Bibles received will go to overseas mission efforts," Conner explained. "Right now Book-Link needs 100,000 Bibles just to fulfill the requests received so far in 2012."

How to get the Bibles to Book-Link's Kentucky warehouse is a matter of faith. Conner said he asked Olin Williams, Book-Link's executive director, about transportation, and in reply, Williams told a story of how God had provided transportation for a large shipment in the past.

Williams told Conner, "Brother, God owns the Bibles and the trucks. Just ask Him. He will supply the transportation."

"It's that kind of faith that ministries like this depend upon," Conner said.

He said it is not too late to donate Bibles. The deadline is Easter Sunday, April 8.

For more information, visit www.ArkansasBibleProject.org.



Churches across the state are donating Bibles for the Arkansas Bible Project.

Celebrate The Word kicks off Saturday, June 9, with the Christian band Third Day. On June 10, Kevin Downes, co-star of the 2011 Sherwood Pictures film "Courageous" and producer of the 2010 film "Like Dandelion Dust," will share a message, followed by a concert by the Tenth Avenue North band.

Celebrate The Word continues July 14 with the band Switchfoot. Switchfoot will be followed Sunday, July 15, by Brock Gill, evangelist entertainer and illusionist. Brock will be followed by a concert featuring Brandon Heath, 2012 Grammy nominee for best contemporary Christian album.

The Celebrate The Word summer event will wrap up Saturday, Aug. 11, with the Newsboys, followed Sunday, Aug. 12, by Marian Jordan, founder of Redeemed Girl Ministries, and a musical performance from Point of

Grace, a group originally formed at Ouachita Baptist University.

Additionally, area Arkansas Christian bands will be given the opportunity to get involved with Celebrate The Word through a Battle of the Bands competition. Details on the Battle of the Bands competition will be announced by the park in coming weeks via MagicSprings.com and on the event's Facebook page "Magic Springs Celebrate The Word."

"All three weekends of Celebrate The Word, as well as 13 other shows in the Pepsi Concert Series, are included with a 2012 Season Pass," said Honeycutt.

Honeycutt added the park plans to open the 10th season of the Pepsi Concert Series May 6 with three Sunday gospel music performances in its new Praize Sundays event.

See **PARK** page 15

Bloomer concert helps injured church pianist

BLOOMER - Bloomer Baptist Church, Bloomer, hosted a benefit concert March 3 for church pianist Susie Shaw, who along with her two grandchildren, was injured in an automobile accident.

Proceeds from the concert went to offset Shaw's medical bills, said Rick LaMie, music director at the church. He said that during the accident Shaw suffered a broken ankle, which required extensive surgery.

The concert featured Common Thread, a local bluegrass band, and Jerry and Vickey Walker. Jerry Walker is former music director of

Bloomer Baptist Church.

"We had a great evening of bluegrass gospel music, ... refreshments and fellowship, raising nearly \$1,000," said LaMie.

LaMie said Shaw, along with various family members, attended the concert. Also among those in attendance was Pastor Emeritus Richard Goodrum, who had returned from a mission trip to India less than 24 hours before the concert.

LaMie said Shaw is now able to walk with a walker and has returned to playing piano at the church.

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

Fellowship Hall
Park Hill Baptist Church,
North Little Rock

Deadline to register:

Friday, April 6, 2012

Theme: *Amazing Grace*

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Happy Birthday!

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

- ◆ April 17: Jody Persson, OBU Box 3193, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Turkey.
- ◆ April 24: Kimberly Carlton, OBU Box 3182, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Kenya.
- ◆ April 30: Bry Goss, OBU Box 3582, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; Indonesia.

Milestones

Carla Killough McClafferty, Arkansas author and member of Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, is scheduled to be featured on C-SPAN 2 Book TV during "Little Rock Weekend" March 31-April 1 as she gives a presentation on her book "The Many Faces of George Washington: Remaking a Presidential Icon."

Obituaries

Clarence Franklin "Bill" Sisson, 55, of Conway, died March 8. Sisson was employed as a contractor and served in multiple Arkansas Baptist churches, including as pastor of Brumley Baptist Church, Conway, and Gold Creek



Baptist Church, Conway. In addition, he served in prison, jail and recovery ministries. Survivors include his mother, sister and three children. Services were held March 13 at Roller-McNutt Funeral Home in Conway.

Charles Henry Vaughn, 68, of Amagon, died Feb. 20. Vaughn served as pastor of Amagon Baptist Church, Amagon, for more than 30 years, and was mayor of Amagon. He previously was with the



Jackson County Sheriff's Department and was an inspector for the City of Newport. Survivors include his wife, Louise; one sister; four brothers; three daughters; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and multiple nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Feb. 23 at Jackson's Newport Funeral Home Chapel in Newport. Burial took place at Memory Garden Cemetery at Johnstown.

LaVerne Benton Eaker, 83, of White Hall, died Feb. 15. Born in Beebe, she was married to Lex H. Eaker, who served in multiple Arkansas Baptist churches, including as pastor of Hardin



Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, and associate pastor of First Baptist Church, White Hall. She worked as a social worker and child care director. She also taught classes at church and was assistant librarian at First Baptist Church, White Hall. Survivors include one daughter, six grandchildren and multiple great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Feb. 18 at First Baptist Church, White Hall.

ABN Blind Tape Ministry

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

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

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North Main Baptist Church mission fair

Teresa Stephens (left), campus minister at Metro Baptist Collegiate Ministry, located on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, talks with Joe Bratton, minister of education at North Main Baptist Church, Sheridan. North Main held a ministry fair March 4 in conjunction with the intentional interim program. Former Arkansas Baptist State Convention staffer Bill Bullington is serving as intentional interim pastor at the church.



Woman's Missionary Union

The Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, presented a portrait of former WMU leader Joy Ledbetter to the church in memory and appreciation of her dedication to missions and her help with the education of young people. Ledbetter donated a home to the Mt. Zion Baptist Association for missionaries to use when home on leave. Presenting the portrait is Marie Leonard (left) and Shirley Foust, members of WMU.



Spiritual Leadership Conference

Kim Blackaby, wife of Tom Blackaby, teaches the breakout session "Balm for the Wounded and Rest for the Weary" at the Spiritual Leadership Conference, which was presented by Blackaby Ministries International and hosted by Walnut Street Baptist Church, Jonesboro, March 5-6. About 150 people attended the conference. "The conference gave insightful wisdom on the need for us to know and follow God before we try to lead people," said Glen Putman, Walnut Street pastor.

Christianity 102: Live to benefit others

In the beatitudes, the Lord Jesus lays out the standards for believers. We are instructed to “love your enemies” (Luke 6:27). We are able to accomplish this only by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Craig was two years older than the other ninth graders in our youth group. He was born with fetal alcohol syndrome, but this special young man was unmistakably a born-again Christian. I brought him home from church one afternoon after some of the other boys had spitefully used him.

“Craig, what are you thinking about?” I asked my silent passenger.

“Jesus doesn’t like that,” came the concerned reply. This young Christian was more concerned for the spiritual welfare of the offenders than his own injury.

It is not easy to love our enemies or to live in a way that benefits those who despise us. But they will know we are Christians by our love (John 13:35). It would have been easy to criticize those having fun at Craig’s expense, but the Lord goes on to teach us about the dangers of hypocrisy (Luke 6:42). We must be willing to partake of the fruit of self-examination in order to prevent it.

So what prompted Craig’s con-

cern for the boys? It is the same godly concern that pastors everywhere have for their flocks.

“And why call me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Being in church on Sunday no more makes you a Christian than sleeping in the garage makes you a Cadillac. When a man puts his trust in modern medicine or wealth,

when he tries in vain to find hope in the promises of this world, then he is like “a man that without a foundation built a house upon the earth ... and the ruin of that house was great” (Luke 6:49).

Craig died of leukemia, and we held his hand when he found victory in Jesus at age 20. Some would have characterized him as that sweet mentally disabled boy, but his heart’s attitude was to live to benefit others.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE APRIL 1, 2012

Lee Turner
Sunday school teacher
Watson Chapel Baptist, Pine Bluff

Scripture passages:
Luke 6:27-38, 41-42, 46-48

Not every church member understands the true meaning of the Lord’s Supper. Though I attended Southern Baptist churches all my life, I didn’t grasp the significance of this observance until early adulthood.

Shortly before His betrayal, Jesus met with His disciples and shared His last Passover meal. Jesus used the symbolism of the meal to reveal the meaning of His impending death.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE APRIL 1, 2012

Karen Jordan
member
Crossgate Church, Hot Springs

Scripture passages:
Matthew 26:26-29, 36-39;
27:45-46, 50-54

The Jewish nation observed the Passover celebration as a reminder of their deliverance from four centuries of slavery. The unleavened bread of the Passover meal symbolized God’s provision – His promised Deliverer.

Jesus referred to Himself as the Bread of Life (John 6:48-51). And as He celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples, “Jesus took some bread and

blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take this and eat it, for this is my body” (Matt. 26:26, NLT).

When God led His people out of Egypt, He made a covenant of His love and faithfulness, which required their obedience. But Israel broke the covenant with Him, so God required a sacrifice to restore the covenant relationship. And before Israel’s deliverance, God required the sacrificial blood of a flawless Passover lamb to cover the doorpost of their homes to protect them from the Angel of Death.

During the Passover meal, Jesus revealed Himself as the Lamb of

God, the perfect sacrifice who would purchase spiritual freedom and redemption for mankind.

“And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, ‘Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many’” (Matt. 26:27-28).

Christ knew that His disciples did not fully comprehend what He meant by all the symbolism in the last Passover supper. But afterward, even those who crucified Him proclaimed, “This man truly was the Son of God!” (Matt. 27:54).

Jesus died for our sins

Be confident of the Resurrection

The road from Emmaus to Jerusalem was about a seven-mile walk. As Cleophas and his companion walked and talked about reports of the resurrection of Jesus, a Stranger overtook them (Luke 24:15). The lives of these two men would be forever changed as the Resurrection and the Life became personal Truth to them.

The Stranger listened in silence and then asked what turned out to be a rhetorical question: What things are you talking about (Luke 24:17)?

They responded by going back over their experience. They had hoped that Jesus of Nazareth would

turn out to be the Redeemer, but instead, He had been condemned to death and crucified. And not only that, but that day was the third day since the Crucifixion, and there had been reports of His resurrection and an empty tomb remained with no clues to where the body could have been taken.

The facts of the Resurrection seem totally illogical to the world; the unbelieving man hears the words and knows their meaning, but they are of no consequence to him.

When a man is drawn by God and considers as fact the events of the Resurrection, he comes face to face with his own mortality. For a

moment, he peers over the edge of eternity and is presented with the hope that a man can live even if he dies. In an evangelistic encounter, the Holy Spirit whispers to the heart of man of the sufferings of Christ, and he suddenly sees his sin as God sees it.

At the end of a long journey, the Savior broke the Bread of Life with two travelers, and their eyes were opened (Luke 24:30-35).

Where is Jesus today? He is at the right hand of God in a physical resurrection body in a physical location, which we call “heaven.” The Holy Spirit is the very personality of Jesus Christ, and He still opens the eyes of believers today. Do not

our hearts burn within us when we recognize His voice in the preaching or the teaching when He opens the Scriptures to us?

EXPLORE THE BIBLE APRIL 8, 2012

Lee Turner
Sunday school teacher
Watson Chapel Baptist, Pine Bluff

Scripture passages:
Luke 24:15, 18-27, 30-35

Do you ever struggle with doubt and fear while seeking a spiritual answer?

It’s normal to have questions about our beliefs and faith. We need to be certain about some things, like placing our trust in someone.

Though Jesus told His followers that He would rise again on the third day after His death (Matt. 16:21), they experienced mixed responses.

Two women who had followed

Jesus and observed His crucifixion and His burial later visited the tomb. There they encountered an angel.

“Don’t be afraid! ... I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen” (Matt. 28:5-6, NLT).

Jesus appeared to two of His followers after His resurrection, but they didn’t recognize Him. After He revealed Himself to them, Jesus said,

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE APRIL 8, 2012

Karen Jordan
member
Crossgate Church, Hot Springs

Scripture passages:
Matthew 27:62-66; 28:5-8;
Luke 24:13-16, 32-33, 35

Jesus rose from the dead

“You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures” (Luke 24:25).

A priest and several Pharisees who stood against Jesus as He was tried, convicted and crucified had their doubts. They didn’t believe Jesus was the Messiah, but they took steps to secure His tomb after His burial, just in case (Matt. 27:62-65).

As a young adult, I had doubts about my faith, especially when I read Romans 8:16, which says, “For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children.”

I did not sense God’s Spirit within me. So, I questioned my childhood salvation experience, even

though I believed that “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NLT).

Now I have no doubts about my faith in Christ because God’s Word says, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10:9).

Our doubts and fears will often lead us to seek the truth.

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. ... So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free” (John 8:32, 36).

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ing views from the bluff of Arkansas's high point, 2,753-foot Mount Magazine near Paris.

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Lodge near Mena is closed until summer 2013 undergoing renovation.

Article courtesy of Arkansas State Parks.

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Queen Wilhelmina State Park Lodge [closed until summer 2013 undergoing renovation]



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PARK

continued from page 12

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWS

Ark. response

Emil Turner responds to NAMB changes in Arkansas.

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Bible project

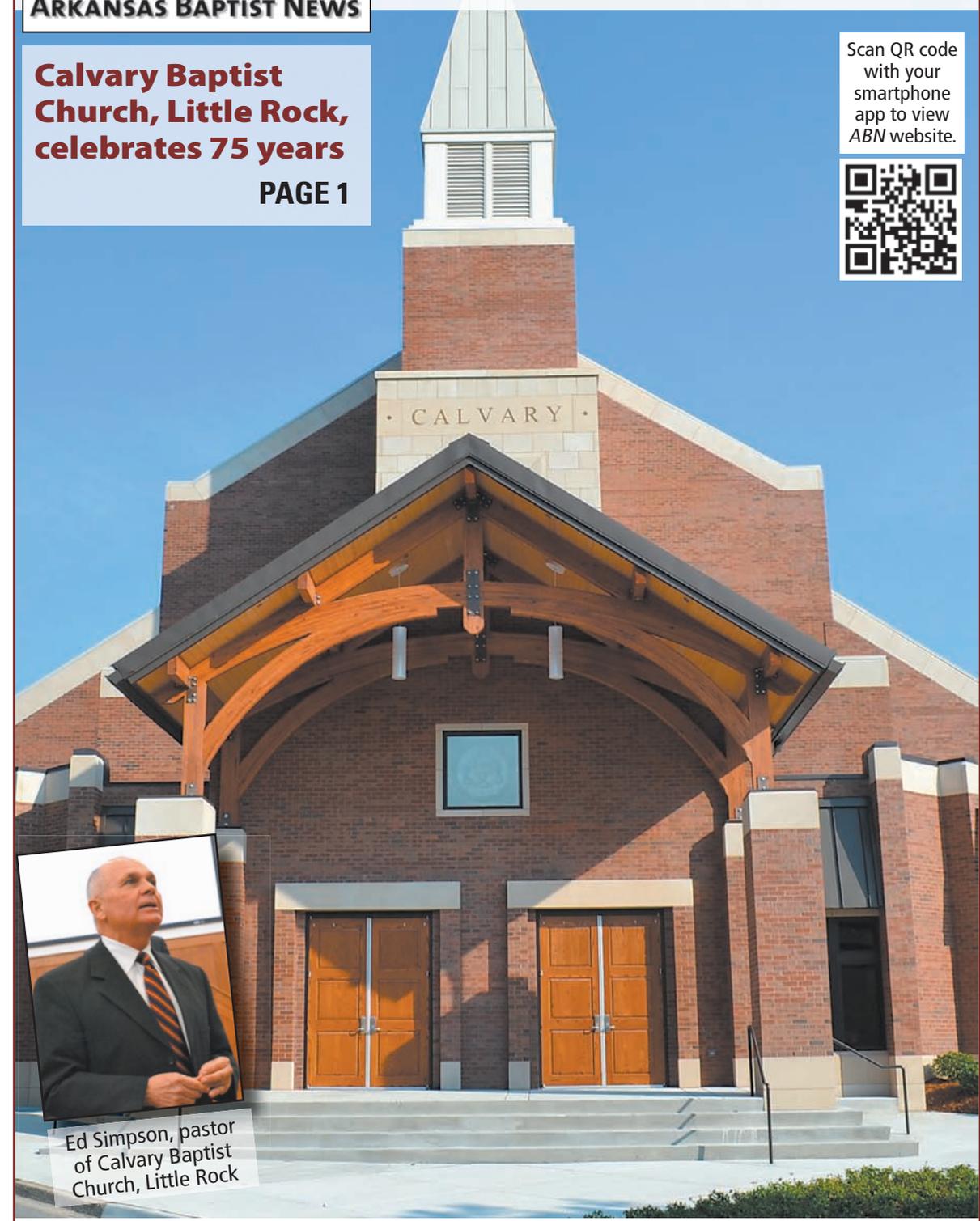
Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, hosts Bible collection.

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Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, celebrates 75 years

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Ed Simpson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock

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