

ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Boto to retire from SBC Executive Committee

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) - D. August "Augie" Boto announced he will retire from the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee (EC) effective Sept. 30.

Boto, the EC's executive vice president and general counsel, notified EC President and CEO Ronnie Floyd of his retirement July 18.

His retirement brings his service "full circle," Boto said, having joined the EC as a member in 1995, the same year Floyd began his 1995-1997 service as EC chairman.

Boto, 68, joined the EC in 1998 as vice president for convention policy, moving to executive vice president and general counsel in 2007.

He served as EC interim president and CEO from April 2018 until Floyd assumed office May 20 after his April 2 election at a special EC meeting in Dallas, coming to the office after nearly 33 years as senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas.

Boto was honored for his 13-month interim role amid his 21 years on the EC staff by a resolution of appreciation adopted during the EC's June 10 meeting prior to the SBC Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Ala.

Nominate the 2019 Baptist Business Leader of the Year

LITTLE ROCK - Do you know a Southern Baptist businessman or businesswoman who is making a huge impact for Jesus Christ through his or her marketplace influence?

Nominations for the fourth annual *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) Baptist Business Leader of the Year are now open and due Nov. 1.

For more information visit, arkansasbaptist.org/BBLOY2019.

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

Marshall Road's Mission Jacksonville Aug. 11

JACKSONVILLE - Marshall Road Baptist Church, Jacksonville, will host its annual Mission Jacksonville event 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 11.

"We started Mission Jacksonville about four years ago," said Tsinina Burgan, Mission Jacksonville event coordinator. "Our goal was to reach the community around us while modeling a community outreach event."

The ministry and outreach event started with volunteers from the church doing small construction projects on homes, painting, mowing lawns and visiting nursing homes.

"While we counted each year as a success as our members got to do hands-on missions, it wasn't until we changed the look of the event in 2018 that I would say we truly created a greater impact," said Burgan. "Last year we gave

away school supplies, free haircuts, clothing and lunches on site at our church. We were intentional in speaking to and reaching out spiritually to those in attendance."

This year, the event will feature games for children, door prizes, a clothes closet, free haircuts to people under 18 years old, free food and free school supplies.

"We will have a large revival tent on site to house various booths from the church and community in an effort to bridge that relationship," said Burgan.

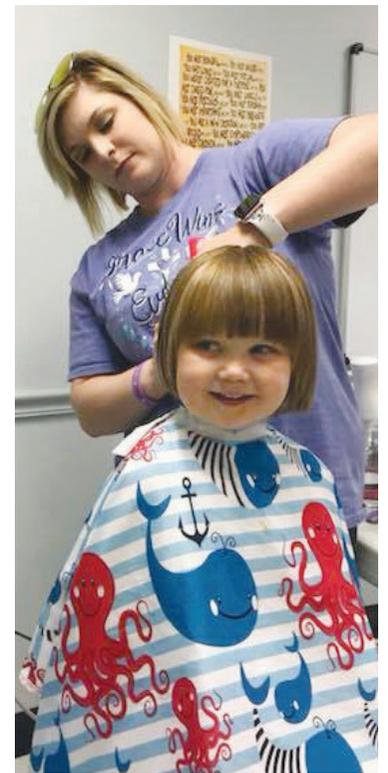
Jacksonville Medical Clinic will have a booth set up for blood pressure checks and health education. Lonoke County Safe Haven ministry will provide domestic violence awareness, and Options Pregnancy Center will provide pregnancy education. The Jacksonville Fire Department

will provide firetruck tours.

Door prizes will include a car wash at Gwatzilla, photo sessions with a professional photographer, \$100 Walmart gift card and more.

Marshall Road will also be giving away an all-expense-paid vacation to Branson for active duty military. The special door prize will include tickets to Silver Dollar City, Sight and Sound Theater, lodging and food.

"Our goal is simply to display to our community by loving and serving people in a practical way. We truly want to help meet the needs of people and serve them well," said Lance Montalbano, pastor of Marshall Road. "Not only is it about meeting needs of those around us, but - being as close as we are to the Air Force Base - it gives us an opportunity to connect with and bless those families as well."



A free haircut is provided during a previous Mission Jacksonville event.

NEWS

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time with the news paper before helping start the *Nashville Leader*. In 2016, he bought Graves Publishing Company, which owns and publishes the *Nashville News*, *Murfreesboro Diamond*, *Glenwood Herald*, *Montgomery County News* and *Arkadelphia Dispatch*. Schirmer closed the *Nashville News* and changed the name of the *Nashville Leader* to *Nashville News-Leader*.

Sutley, who grew up in Arkadelphia, began working in the newspaper business at 17 years old with the *Siftings Herald*. He continued to work there part-time during college and served full-time as sports editor and general assignment reporter after graduation. He has served on staff at newspa-

pers in El Dorado, Little Rock, Columbia, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Monroe, La.; Hattiesburg, Miss.; Jackson, Miss; Columbus, Ga., and Anniston, Ala.

In addition to his newspaper career, Sutley has taught journalism at OBU, Henderson State University (HSU) in Arkadelphia and Auburn University in Auburn, Ala. He has also worked in public relations at Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga., and University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Miss.

"Newspapers serve several roles in a community," said Sutley. "Weekly newspapers do a lot to highlight what is best about a community, with stories and photos about achievement often ending up on refrigerators or in scrapbooks."

"That said, I'm still a firm

believer in the watchdog role of the newspaper. We present facts in an objective manner that don't always portray the community in a positive light, but that's part of the truth-seeking role of journalism," continued Sutley.

Sutley is currently the only full-time employee, but he has received occasional student help from both HSU and OBU.

The *Dispatch* had a trial run in November 2018 before publishing its first official issue Dec. 6, 2018. While the paper has had several hundred people subscribe over the past months, the main challenge is acquiring a mailing permit.

"We are working through postal regulations to obtain a periodicals class mailing permit so that we will be able to mail the paper to subscribers,"

said Schirmer. "We're making progress there. For now, we appreciate the businesses that allow us to leave copies of the *Dispatch* each week so that readers can pick them up."

Schirmer has been pleased by the response to the new newspaper. According to Schirmer, the two colleges and school district have been cooperative in providing pictures and stories about events and sports.

"Newspapers are an important part of the community," said Schirmer. "The only place that folks in Arkadelphia can keep up with local events, the public school district, Ouachita Baptist, Henderson State, local sports and other activities in one spot each week is the *Dispatch*. The same is true in other communities."

Contact Sarah Davis at sarah@arkansasbaptist.org.

SBC

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3,428 of 47,456 congregations, sent messengers to the meeting, statistics show. Among the available statistics on church representation, a high of 13.8 percent of churches sent messengers in 1996, and a low of 4.7 percent of churches sent messengers in 2017. Attendance by church representation was not tabulated before

1993, including the year of the highest messenger attendance of 45,519 in Dallas in 1985.

Most messengers, 5,453, were male (66.64 percent); compared to 2,730 women, (33.36 percent).

Only 860 messengers completed the survey tracking messengers' age groups. Of those 860, a total of 280 were ages 60 and above, 111 were ages 55-59, messengers between ages 50 and 54 numbered 75, messengers in the 45-49 age group totaled 78, those ages

40-44 totaled 100, messengers from 35-39 totaled 84, the 30-34 age group included 59 messengers, and messengers ages 18-29 totaled 73.

Other highlights:

- In 2019, just over one of every four messengers of those completing the survey (27 percent) were attending the annual meeting for the first time. The average since 2003 has been one out of five messengers attending for the first time.

- The average travel cost per attendee in Birmingham was \$776, the lowest since 2006, while the average travel cost per attendee over the past 17 years is \$969.

- 80 percent of attendees this year traveled to Birmingham by personal vehicle, significantly higher than the 57 percent average over the past 17 years.

- 25 percent of Birmingham attendees were under age 39. Over the past 17 years, that average has been 20 percent.

CWJC Little Rock gives women a path to a 'fresh start'

LITTLE ROCK - A new Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) initiative in Little Rock, called Fresh Start, will begin classes Sept. 3.

"CWJC equips women, in a Christian context, for life and employment," said Debbie Moore, Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive director for Arkansas. "Through Fresh Start CWJC, women in the central Arkansas area will gain hope for their future."

A ministry of WMU, there are more than 200 CWJCs in the United States; five are located in Arkansas - Paragould, Fort Smith, Charleston, Rogers and Little Rock.

"Fresh Start is CWJC, but we are using Fresh Start to

simplify the ministry to those who would resist or reject coming to a church setting," said Charlotte Ertelt, executive site coordinator for Fresh Start. "It is totally a ministry that could give women a fresh start."

A retired International Mission Board missionary in East Africa and the Middle East, Ertelt has helped start CWJC sites in Burleson, Texas; Cleburne, Texas; and Paris, Texas.

Fresh Start is a free 10-week course for women 18 years of age or older. Women meet three days a week from 9

a.m.-2 p.m. to learn job skills, computer skills, life skills, self-defense and the Bible. They create resumes, go through mock interviews and have a

graduation to celebrate completing the course. Fresh Start will also give women mentors, lunch and clothes.

"This is a hand up, not a hand out," said Ertelt. "We are providing

job and life skills to women that need to be able to provide for themselves and their children in a Christian context."

CWJC does not cater specifically to women in poverty, but to those who have made

poor life choices.

"Anyone can participate," said Ertelt. "They just have to be willing to learn and change."

Fresh Start is looking for volunteers to help with the ministry. They need teachers for the math course, boundaries course and family course.

"We have the curriculum for all of the courses," said Ertelt. "Teachers would just need to give lessons perhaps twice a week for an hour."

The ministry is also looking for people to be trained as mentors and matched with participants.

Individuals interested in volunteering may contact Ertelt at cert@pobox.com.



Ministerial housing allowance challenge ends for now

DALLAS - The legal challenge to the constitutionality of the ministerial housing allowance is over - for now.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) announced June 14 it would not appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court judicial loss from March, thus concluding its latest effort to gain nullification of the allowance that is part of a 65-year-old federal law. The FFRF was not confident of its chances of winning its appeal given the current make-up of the high court, according to a news release.

A 1954 federal law permits churches to designate part of eligible ministers' income as a housing allowance, enabling "ministers of the Gospel" to exclude for federal income tax purposes a portion or all of their gross income. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has interpreted "ministers of the Gospel" to include leaders of other religious faiths.

In March, a three-judge panel of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled unanimously the clergy allowance does not violate the First Amendment clause that prohibits government establishment of religion. The decision - the second by the Seventh Circuit against FFRF - reversed a federal judge's 2017 opinion that invalidated the allowance as a violation of the Establishment Clause.

GuideStone Financial Resources - the Southern Baptist Convention's health and

financial benefits entity - expressed gratitude for the decision.

"We are thankful for so many, including the U.S. Justice Department, that so ably argued on behalf of the constitutionality of the minister's housing allowance," GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said in a news release. "It is our belief that had the case made it to the Supreme Court that the housing allowance would have been upheld as constitutional. Regardless, pastors and churches needn't worry in the near-term about the housing allowance."

Hawkins said GuideStone would continue "to monitor alongside our Southern Baptist family, and as part of a coalition of large and historic pension boards, both litigation and legislation related to the housing allowance to advocate on behalf of the pastors we are privileged to serve."

GuideStone and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) signed onto a friend-of-the-court brief filed by the Church Alliance in 2018 that asked the Seventh Circuit to reverse the lower court opinion. The brief contended the housing allowance acknowledges the reality that a minister's residence is often an extension of a church's ministry and passes the Supreme Court's Establishment Clause tests.

In its March opinion, the Seventh Circuit panel agreed the housing allowance is con-

stitutional under the Supreme Court's church-state precedents, including the three-part Lemon test. That standard, named after the 1971 Lemon v. Kurtzman opinion, says a law must have a secular purpose, not primarily promote or restrict religion and "not foster an excessive entanglement with religion" in order to be considered constitutional.

In considering an appeal, the FFRF, a Wisconsin-based atheist organization, said it decided the Supreme Court's present composition - which consists of five apparent conservatives - would not be favorable to its case. "After 'counting heads,' we concluded that any decision from the current court would put the kibosh on challenging the housing allowance for several generations," the FFRF said in its news release.

Harold R. Loftin Jr., GuideStone's chief legal officer, said of FFRF's reason for not appealing to the high court, "We believe that their case had no merit, regardless of the ideological makeup of the court, but, regardless, are thankful that this matter has been put to rest for the time being."

Federal law also permits housing allowances for certain employees, including members of the U.S. military, workers living overseas and employees of educational institutions.

The Justice Department argued before the Seventh Circuit panel last year the allow-

ance is constitutional under the Establishment Clause. Becket, a religious freedom organization, also argued on behalf of the allowance.

"The [Seventh Circuit Court] rightly recognized that providing this kind of equal treatment to churches is perfectly constitutional, and churches should be allowed to serve the neediest members of their communities without the tax man breathing down their necks," said Luke Goodrich, Becket's vice president and senior counsel, in a written release.

Federal Judge Barbara Crabb of Wisconsin twice ruled the housing allowance is unconstitutional. The Seventh Circuit overturned Crabb's 2013 ruling, finding the FFRF lacked the legal right, known as "standing," to challenge the allowance. In the latest suit, the appeals court agreed with Crabb that FFRF had "standing" because the IRS rejected its leaders' efforts to claim the ministerial allowance.

The lawsuit did not threaten the part of federal law that enables tax-free use of a parsonage or other home owned by a church or another religious body.

In December 2017, Crabb issued a stay postponing enforcement of her opinion until after the appeals process is concluded.

This article was written by Baptist Press, along with information provided by GuideStone Christian Resources.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

PPFA removes leader over 'philosophical differences'

WASHINGTON (BP) - Planned Parenthood removed its president July 16 in part because of "philosophical differences," a day after the Trump administration acted to begin cutting about 10 percent of the abortion giant's government funding.

The boards of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, PPFA's advocacy arm, announced the departure of Leana Wen as president of both organizations only 10 months after she was named to the positions.

On Twitter, Wen said July 16 she had just learned the PPFA board "ended my employment at a secret meeting." She also tweeted, "We were engaged in good faith negotiations about my departure based on philosophical differences over the direction and future of Planned Parenthood."

The differences reportedly were over Wen's view that abortion is a health-care issue. Planned Parenthood's boards wanted a more political approach, according to *The New York Times*.

Only the day before, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it would immediately start enforcing a new regulation - labeled the Protect Life Rule - that would eliminate a reported \$50 to \$60 million in federal family planning funds for Planned Parenthood. PPFA and its affiliates collected \$563.8 million in government grants and reimbursements and performed more than 332,757 abortions in the most recent year statistics were available.

Planned Parenthood confirmed July 15 it would not participate in the Title X program under the new regulation, according to news reports.

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

Editorial & Opinion

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have..."

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

The triumph and tragedy of the past 50 years

There is a time in all of our lives in which we gain a conscious awareness of our existence.

It comes at different ages for different people. One of my most vivid memories from the early years of my life took place on July 20, 1969 – the occasion of my ninth birthday.

It was the middle of summer break when most of my days were filled with

friends, G.I. Joes and a fascination with space travel.

In fact, I had a G.I. Joe – complete with space suit – that fit inside a space capsule. My friends and I would go on many dangerous adventures into the outermost regions of the universe that summer.

But in July 1969, space travel took on a whole new realism when two NASA astronauts landed and walked on the moon. I witnessed the historic event – along with millions of Americans and others around the globe – on a black and white TV. It's hard to believe it has been more than 50 years ago!

Many technologies we depend on today were born through the space program. They include things like satellite TV and navigation, laptop computers and smartphones, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and the joystick used in computer gaming.

So what was it like in 1969?

– The average cost of a new house was \$15,550; the average annual household income was \$8,550; the average monthly rent was \$135; the average cost of a new car was \$3,270, and the average

cost of a gallon of gas was 35 cents, according to thepeople-history.com.

– 1969 saw the last public performance by the Beatles, the first test of the Concorde supersonic jet in France, the debut of the Boeing 747 jet, the introduction of the iconic Pontiac Firebird Trans Am American muscle car, the original Woodstock music festival

and was also the year Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) debuted.

– In Baptist life, the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was held June 13-16, 1969, in New Orleans. Wallie Amos Criswell, better known as W.A. Criswell, was president of the convention that year. Attendance at the meeting in New Orleans broke all previous records with 16,678 registered messengers. Arkansas sent 447 messengers to the SBC Annual Meeting that year.

– Arkansas members of the SBC Executive Committee in 1969 were Rheubin L. South, pastor of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, and Carleton Harris, associate justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

– In other news, Grady Nutt, director of college relations at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, resigned to pursue a career in professional entertainment as a comedian and humorist.

As I reflect on this period of American history, and watch documentaries about the historic moon landing,

I can't help but think about how dramatically our country has changed in the span of 50 years. Life in our country is different in endless ways.

The information revolution transformed our society and culture. Items unimaginable in 1969 are now commonplace and hold prominent places in our daily lives, such as personal computers, smartphones, the Internet and social media. While technology has improved our lives in many ways, the devil has also managed to make it a powerful tool in his arsenal through easy access to pornography, gambling and other sins enabled and encouraged by digital platforms.

Things that once were considered taboo are now accepted behavior by many



Americans – including homosexuality, recreational drug use, cohabitation and abortion on demand.

Fifty years may seem like a long time ago for us, but to God it is a wink of an eye. While the first moon landing and technological "miracles" it birthed seem awe-inspiring to man, to the One who cre-

ated all things and all matter, it is nothing more than dust.

May we not be in awe of what we (man) can do or accomplish, but what God can accomplish in and through us when we are faithful to Him and His will for our lives.

Tim Yarbrough is editor/executive director of the Arkansas Baptist News.

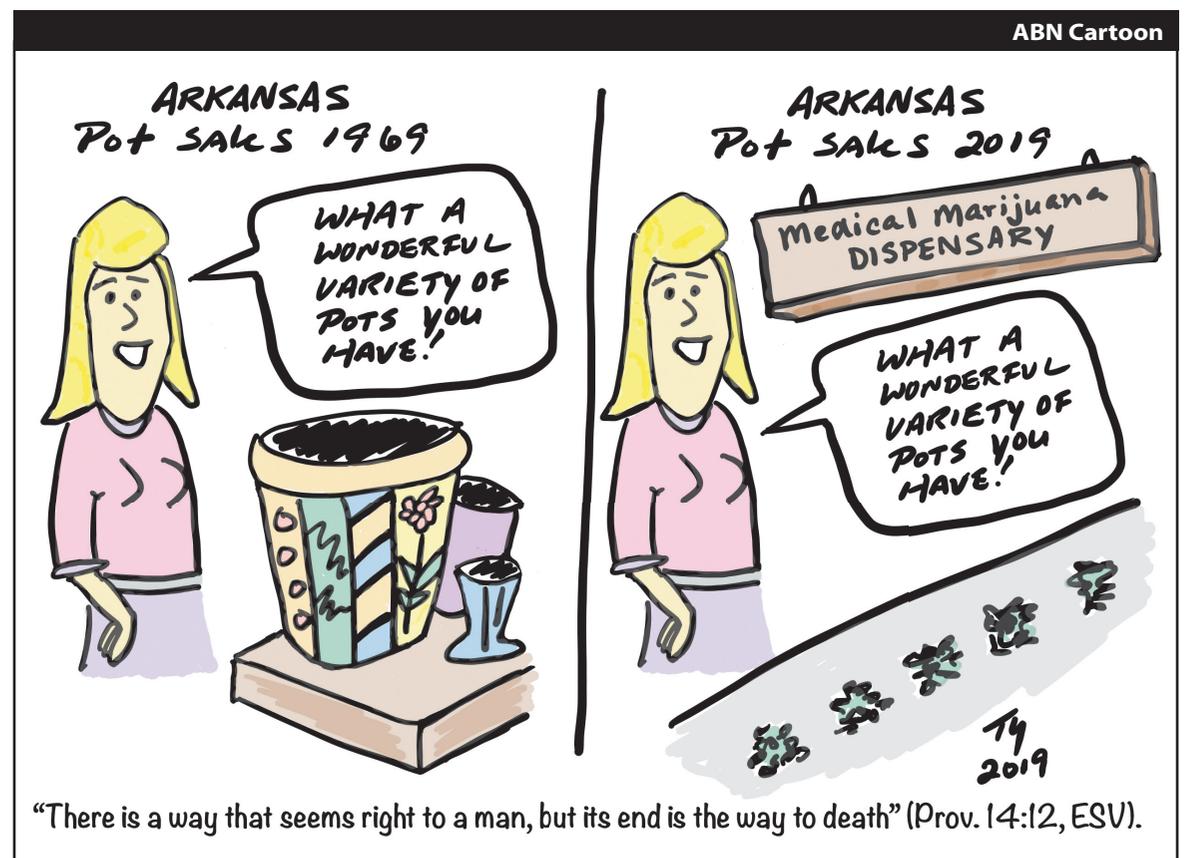


Pressing On

Tim Yarbrough

Phil. 3:14

ABN Cartoon



ABN
ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWS

Volume 118, Number 15
USPS08021

Member of the Association
of State Baptist Publications
Arkansas Press Association
Baptist Communicators Association

Inform. Inspire. Involve.

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Arkansas Baptist News (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly except the last issue of the year (25 issues) by the Arkansas Baptist News magazine, Inc., 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.

SUBSCRIPTION rates are \$9.75 per year (Every Resident Family Plan or Group), \$17 per year (Individual). Arkansas Baptist News, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204; phone 501-376-4791; toll-free 800-838-2272;

email: abn@arkansasbaptist.org. Periodical Postage paid at Little Rock, AR.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Send Letters to the Editor to tim@arkansasbaptist.org or to our mailing address. Letters must be typed, doublespaced and 300 words or less (fewer words the better). Letters must be signed and marked "for publication" and may be edited to fit space requirements.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist News, 10 Remington Drive,

Little Rock, AR 72204.

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How does the Bible describe a good parent?

Proverbs 31:10-31 portrays a “wife of noble character” (v. 10). Totalling 22 verses, it’s constructed as an acrostic, in which each verse uses a subsequent letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Poets used acrostics for three reasons: 1) memorization, 2) aesthetics and 3) completion (the “A to Z” of a subject). Although this acrostic in this article is about the ideal woman and mother, it can also serve as a



Baptists Ask

Ken Gore

standard for any parent or caregiver.

Because Hebrew acrostics translate poorly, perhaps the acrostic “M-O-T-H-E-R” can serve as an

English equivalent. Taking the word letter-by-letter, Proverbs 31 can display the mark of a good parent.

“M” can mean “manager.” The ideal parent manages many items. Money (vv. 16, 24), time (vv. 15a, 18b), household duties (v. 27a) and family (vv. 15b, 21) are but a few of them.

“O” is for “others-minded.” An ideal parent doesn’t wait for an opportunity to help; instead, the ideal parent simply sees where help is needed (v. 20). Not one for the spotlight, such a person does these things out of a sincere love for others.

“T” stands for “trustworthy.” Trust is a foundational part of marriage and the home (v. 11-12). The ideal parent is entrusted to family matters, and those who surround the household (v. 15c). This person is often an effective counselor within the church and the community.

“H” can mean “honorable.” The term “integrity” nicely sums up this quality (vv. 25-26). In leadership, an honorable person brings calm, not chaos, into a situation. The most honorable of individuals can bring calm simply by walking into a room.

“E” is for “energetic.” An ideal parent sees idleness as the “devil’s workshop” and will attempt to do anything to avoid slothfulness (v. 27b). This person’s day is filled with enough things to do that keep the home running smoothly (ex., vv. 16-19).

“R,” most importantly, stands for “reverent.” The focal point of the ideal parent’s life is reverence for the Lord (v. 30). The ideal parent’s faithfulness is greater than personal charm and beauty. In fact, all the other attributes – home management, mindfulness of others, trustworthiness, honor and energetic – come out of a reverence for the Lord.

While these attributes are worthy to attain, they are impossible to achieve completely. However, such a list is not meant to cause parents either grief or guilt; rather, they are goals for which to aim. Like the ideal worshipper in Psalm 15, and the ideal pastor and deacon in 1 Timothy 3, Proverbs 31 speaks of the ideal parent. Because the “fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Prov. 1:7), reverence for the Lord is the best place to start. Once reverence begins, the rest of the attributes often follows. Parents, then, can use Proverbs 31 throughout their lives as the standard for what a godly parent and person should be.

Ken Gore is professor of biblical studies at Dallas Baptist University. Send your questions to tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

When Satan tested Camp Siloam

On June 22, Satan entered heaven and asked God if he could test the summer staff at Camp Siloam. God granted permission for Satan to test the staff, but He told Satan that there were two conditions: 1) He couldn’t harm anyone, and 2) He couldn’t damage any buildings that would hinder Jesus’ ministry at Camp Siloam.

Well ... at least that’s what it felt like for our staff, and me, as we dealt with very real spiritual warfare spurred by natural disaster.

On June 23 at 9:45 a.m., a straight-line wind blew through Camp Siloam, dropping 30 trees in the valley. Hundreds of limbs littered the grounds, and dangerous, large hanging limbs were left in several trees. Immediately, some of Camp Siloam’s collegiate summer staff volunteered to help with the cleanup. Judy Gray, a longtime Camp Siloam volunteer and Arkansas Baptist disaster relief (DR) volunteer said, “Jason, you need to call

Randy Garrett.” Garrett, Arkansas Baptist’s DR director, answered the phone immediately, and within three hours, three DR teams from Cross Church, Clarksville and Siloam Springs were on-site with 20 men and a dozen chainsaws.

Local individuals showed up with “skid-steers” and dump trucks to help with the cleanup.

Our summer staff hauled away limbs and trees cut up by the teams. Many DR workers and summer staff worked all day Sunday and Monday to get camp ready for 850 campers. Our kitchen crew came in early to feed all the volunteers dinner that night and breakfast on Monday morning. Six trees landed on Diamond Inn (one of Camp Siloam’s hotel units), puncturing holes in the roof of three newly renovated rooms. One large poplar tree fell on the back of the maintenance shop, damaging the back quarter of the building. One pavilion was crushed. However, because of the timing of the

event, no one was injured. No buildings that were needed to host campers were damaged. By the time campers arrived, there were just a few signs of the event. Camp Siloam staff is so thankful for our DR teams and all who worked to make camp possible. The teams worked through the rain, sometimes in difficult and precarious situations.

None of our staff was required to work, but most pitched in. Everyone worked well together; no one grumbled or complained. It was truly amazing to watch people come together to make Jesus’ ministry possible for the last week of June. The summer collegiate staff said the event brought new meaning to the branches in John 15:5-6 (NIV): “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.”

Jason Wilkie is executive director of Camp Siloam in Siloam Springs.



Camp Siloam

Jason Wilkie

Retirement withdrawal changes

Generally, if you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or retirement plan account (collectively referred to hereafter as “retirement account”) under the current law, you must begin taking withdrawals from those

accounts when you attain the age of 70-1/2.

Additionally, children and other non-spouse beneficiaries must immediately begin taking withdrawals based on their individual life expectancies (hereafter required “minimum distributions”) once they inherit a retirement account.

However, Congress is working on legislation that would alter the withdrawal rules for retirement accounts. Following are two potential changes proposed by the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act:



Baptist Foundation

Dillon McClain

1) Raise the required minimum distribution age from 70-1/2 to 72. This will give retirement accounts longer to grow tax-deferred and take out some of the confusion of when a required minimum distribution is required.

2) Require children and other non-spouse beneficiaries to withdraw all funds from the retirement account within 10 years. This would simultaneously accelerate the distribution and taxation of retirement accounts.

At this time, the SECURE Act has not been passed by the Senate, and it’s unclear if it ever will be. However, Congress continues to introduce legislation including provisions that would eliminate a beneficiary’s ability to spread withdrawals (and the tax burden) over his or her life expectancy.

If the SECURE Act or similar legislation is ever passed,

certain strategies, such as a charitable remainder trust (CRT), will need to be implemented to ensure a lifetime income stream for non-spouse beneficiaries. A CRT is an irrevocable trust established by an individual(s) that provides lifetime income for one or more recipients and will eventually leave a gift to your favorite ministry. Generally, you would make a CRT the secondary beneficiary of your retirement account. By doing this, you:

1) Ensure beneficiaries only receive a stream of income for their lifetime rather than a lump sum that may result in more taxable income for your beneficiaries.

2) Avoid the complications of withdrawals of required minimum distributions.

3) Ensure your beneficiaries and favorite ministries benefit more from your retirement accounts than the IRS.

For more information about Foundation services or CRTs, email info@abf.org.

Letters to the Editor welcomed

The *Arkansas Baptist News (ABN)* welcomes Letters to the Editor regarding issues of concern to Southern Baptists in Arkansas. Send Letters to the Editor to tim@arkansasbaptist.org or to our mailing address. Letters must be typed, double-spaced and 300 words or less (fewer words, the better). Letters must be signed



and marked “for publication” and may be edited to fit space requirements.

Seminary leaders decry film trailer critical of 'social justice' agenda

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – A Southern Baptist seminary president has asked that his interview be removed from a forthcoming documentary decrying the issue of “social justice” currently being debated in evangelicalism.

Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina, recounted via Twitter July 23 that he had a brief interview for a documentary, titled “By What Standard,” being produced by the Founders Ministries, an organization founded in 1983 with a Calvinistic view of Baptist life and led by Florida

pastor Tom Ascol.

Akin and three other Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) seminary professors took issue with the documentary’s trailer, or preview, of nearly four minutes now online.

Voicing his disappointment, Akin wrote, “What I saw was edited footage that I believe to be misleading, which misrepresents important issues and what leaders in the SBC actually affirm.”

Akin voiced concern “about what the tone, tenor, and content of the full documentary will be, and I have requested that my association with and contribution to this film

be removed.”

“I hope my brothers will reconsider their strategy for communicating our deeply held Southern Baptist conviction that the Bible is our sole foundation and authority for all of life and faith.”

The Founders Ministries website does not list a release date for the documentary.

Akin was briefly shown in the trailer and it included a 12-second clip with R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; a five-second clip of Russell Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission; and five clips ranging from one to 10 seconds of Georgia pastor James Merritt, a former SBC president.

Mohler, in three tweets on July 23, wrote that he is “alarmed at how some respected SBC leaders are represented.” He has “long known and enjoyed the company of the folks who made the video and the folks offended by the video and I am hopeful that @FoundersMin will respond appropriately and in a way that affirms their intention to be a



Tom Ascol (left), pastor and president of Founders Ministries, speaks with Albert Mohler, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in the Founders Ministries’ documentary, “By What Standard.” *Founders.org screenshot*

responsible voice in the SBC.”

The trailer, Mohler wrote, is a reminder “that HOW we engage and represent one another is as important as what we argue and who we engage. Let’s encourage one another to good works, good theology, and a good mood.”

The documentary, according to the Founders Ministries website, addresses “many unbiblical agendas...being advanced under the guise of honoring and protecting women, promoting racial reconciliation, and showing love and compassion to people experiencing sexual dysphoria.”

Twenty-five years after the conservative resurgence re-

turned the SBC to “its historic commitments on the inerrancy and infallibility of Scripture,” the website states that “it seems like evangelicals, including Southern Baptists, are in danger of loosening their commitments to those basic, Christian commitments.”

“If we care about true justice – what God has revealed to be just – then we must stand against what is being promoted under social justice,” the website states. “If we care about the true gospel – the gospel revealed in the faith once-for-all-delivered to the saints – we must reject the agendas being promoted by godless ideologies.”

Gray named KBC executive director

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) – Todd Gray has been named the new executive director-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention (KBC).

Gray, a Kentucky native, was confirmed by the Mission Board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention to the position in a special called meeting on July 25 in Louisville.

Gray called the appointment a great honor. “While I did not aspire to the position, I couldn’t be more grateful for the opportunity to serve.”

A 14-member search team had been working to fill the post since November 2018. Gray becomes the 29th person to lead the 2,400 Kentucky Baptist churches.

Search Committee Chair Wes Fowler described Gray as “no stranger to Kentucky Baptists.”

“He has served as a pastor, a regional consultant and evangelism team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention,” Fowler said. “He has a passion for evangelism and a work ethic that is greatly needed now.”

Gray, 54, served churches in Kentucky and Indiana for 20 years before joining the KBC staff in 2012 as a regional consultant for western Kentucky. Since 2016 he’s served as the team leader for the Evangelism, Church Planting and Campus Ministry team.

Gray holds degrees from Murray State University and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife Connie have two adult daughters.

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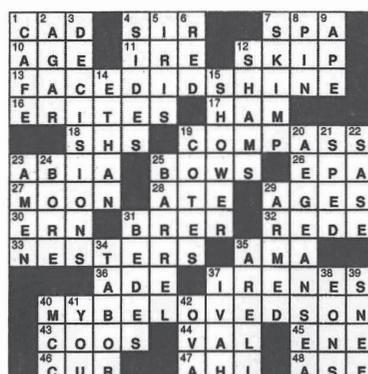


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See the
ABN crossword,
page 9



ABN Pages from the Past - July 24, 1969

arkansasbaptist.org/archives



ROYAL AMBASSADOR WEEK—North Little Rock Mayor William F. ‘Casey’ Laman has proclaimed July 20-26 as Royal Ambassador Week in North Little Rock and Soap Box Derby Day as Saturday, July 26.

Shown at the wheel of one of the soap box derby entries is Mike Glaze of Park Hill Church. Looking on (standing, left to right) are: Ozzie Berryhill, North Pulaski RA Association leader, Henry Boerner, Association secretary, Steve Glaze, RA youth president, C. H. Seaton, State RA leader, and RA members Richard Wiseman and Terry Spears.

The cost and value of Christian higher education

Brett Cooper
Williams Baptist University

THE COST of a college edu-

cation has become a topic of much discussion, and appropriately so. But many inside Christian higher education

are quick to point out that beyond cost, students and their families need to consider value.

In other words, what are students getting back for their investment in higher education? And more importantly, how will it impact their lives?

“The college years truly are the most formative period for a person’s life,” said Stan Norman, president of Williams Baptist University (WBU). “The worldviews formed in these years establish crucial priorities for a student’s life, setting the spiritual and moral course for years to come. For these reasons and many others, the choice of a college or university has a tremendous impact on a student’s future.”

Norman and others encourage families to consider factors beyond cost, and to understand the importance of making the right decision on a college or university. As with most other investments, they argue that making a decision based strictly upon expense may well overlook more important considerations.

And, considering the enduring influence of higher education on the adult years, a wrong decision can lead to a detrimental outcome.

“In the face of a world and of a culture that seem each day to turn away from godly wisdom, the Christian university continues unashamedly to radiate God’s truth into the darkness of rampant secularism,” Norman noted.

“It is the job of such in-

stitutions not only to stand firm against these worldly, dark influences, but even more, to prepare men and women academically and, above all, spiritually to shine God’s light in the darkness of this world.”

Norman encourages students and families to prayerfully consider all of their options for higher education, and to weigh the impact each institution will have on that student’s life.

Above all, the WBU president said it is important to realize that a university education is not merely a commodity. It is far too impactful to be viewed as a simple business transaction – a payment of tuition in exchange for a diploma.

Rather, it should be considered a transformative life experience that will largely shape the direction of those students’ adult years.

“Higher education is an investment, an investment in the future lives of our sons and daughters,” Norman said. “Christian higher education prepares our students to be men and women of Christian purpose, prepared vocationally and spiritually to make a gospel difference in our world for the glory of our Lord.”

Brett Cooper is vice president for creative services and technology at Williams Baptist University.

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Christian music to be featured during Beatles at the Ridge Sept. 20-21

WALNUT RIDGE – Christian music will once again be a featured attraction during the Beatles at the Ridge Music Festival and Symposium Sept. 20-21 in downtown Walnut Ridge.

Two outdoor stages will feature music, including a return appearance of the Grammy-nominated Liverpool Legends, contemporary Christian performances and a Friday night concert that will trace the roots and branches of rock 'n' roll music.

This year's festival will feature eight bands, including Louise Harrison's Branson-based Liverpool Legends, who will close out the festival on Saturday night on the Cavanaugh Chevrolet's Rock n' Roll Hwy Stage.

Friday night, Lockhouse Orchestra will perform from 6-9 p.m. on the First National Bank's Beatles Park Stage, starting with rockabilly and country tunes from the '50s and '60s, then covering rock songs from the '60s

and '70s and finishing up with Beatles favorites.

A contemporary Christian lineup is slated on the First National Bank's Beatles Park Stage on Saturday with the Williams Baptist University Worship Team at 1 p.m. and Justin Warren at 4 p.m. Pursuit of Light is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. as well.

Bodagus will kick off Saturday's performances on the Cavanaugh Chevrolet's Rock

n' Roll Hwy Stage at 1:30 p.m., followed by Cory Jackson at 3:30 p.m. and Gary Hardy & Memphis 2 at 5:30 p.m. The Legends are scheduled to take the stage at 7:30 p.m.

Having received many honors from the Arkansas Festival and Events Association, including being named 2017 Festival of the Year, Beatles at the Ridge also includes a two-day Artists and Authors Symposium that brings in renowned

Beatles experts.

The symposium kicks off at noon, Friday, Sept. 20. This year's featured author is Jim Berkenstadt, and the featured artist is Ken Orth. The theme for this year's symposium is Beatles memorabilia. Not only will different memorabilia be discussed, there will also be rare Beatles memorabilia on display.

For more information, visit beatlesattheridge.com.

Sam Moore Evangelistic Ministries



479-381-1170,
samm@fcbentonville.org

Sam Moore is a vocational evangelist and a native of Arkansas. He has the gift of an evangelist and the heart of a pastor. He is available for Revivals, Crusades, Harvest Days and Witness Training. Now scheduling for 2020-21.

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Gospel Games

"An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."

2 Timothy 2:5 (CSB)

God **created** man and put him in a beautiful **garden** called Eden.

The first man's name was **Adam**. God then created a **wife** for Adam, and Adam called her **Eve**.

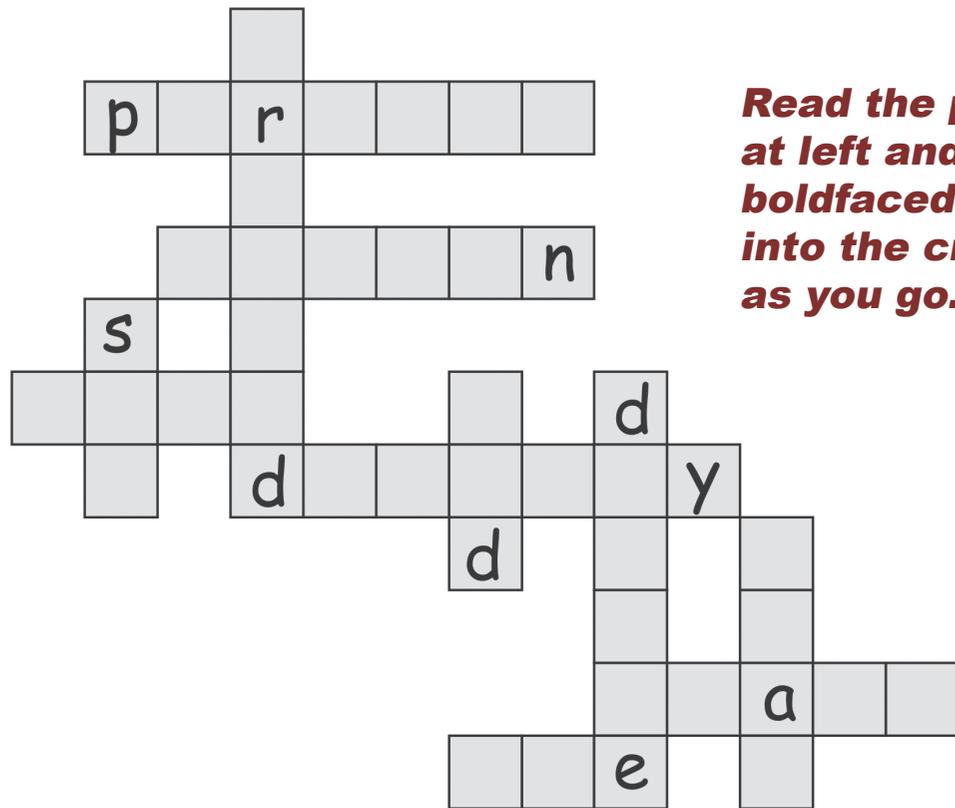
Adam and Eve were created **perfect**, without **sin**. God gave Adam and Eve the ability to make choices; they could think about things and **decide** what they wanted to do.

Sadly, Adam and Eve chose to **disobey** God. They did something that **God** had told them not to do. Because they disobeyed God, sin and **death** came into the world.

But because God loves us, He sent His Son Jesus to earth to show us His love and to save us from sin.

The first sin

Read Genesis 2:15-17, Genesis 3:1-7



Read the passage at left and fit the boldfaced words into the crossword as you go.

Bible activity courtesy of truthforkids.com

Across

- 1. Not a gentleman
- 4. Title
- 7. A luxury hotel may have one
- 10. Mature
- 11. Anger
- 12. "He maketh them also to ___ like a calf" (Psalm 29:6)
- 13. "his ___ as the sun" (Matthew 17:2)
- 16. "of Eri, the family of the ___" (Numbers 26:16)
- 17. Brother of Shem (Genesis 5)
- 18. Sounds at a library (var.)
- 19. "And ye shall ___ the city" (Joshua 6:3)
- 23. Asa's father (Matthew 1)
- 25. "The ___ of the mighty men are broken" (1 Samuel 2:4)
- 26. Environmental gp.
- 27. "the ___ shall not give her light" (Matthew 24:29)

Down

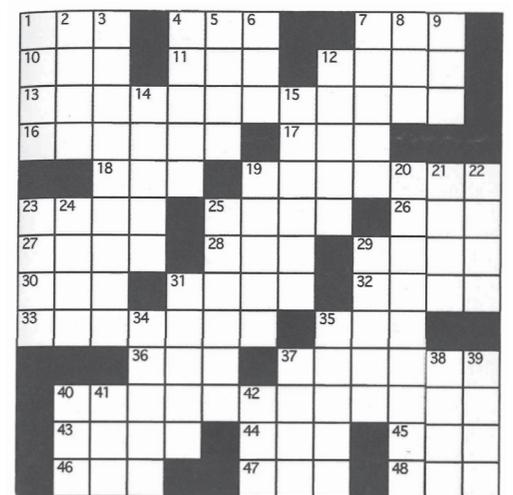
- 1. ___ au lait
- 28. Dined
- 29. Which in other ___ was not made known" (Ephesians 3:5)
- 30. Sea eagle
- 31. ___ Rabbit
- 32. To counsel
- 33. Farmers of the Old West
- 35. Doves of docs belong (abbr.)
- 36. Summer cooler
- 37. Belonging to Miss Dunne
- 40. "This is ___ in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 17:5)
- 43. Pigeon peeps
- 44. Worth (abbr.)
- 45. Direction
- 46. Coward
- 47. A head of the family of Gad (1 Chronicles 5)
- 48. Chemical (suffix)

- 2. Product made from seaweed
- 3. Judgements
- 4. Take ___
- 5. Spring flower
- 6. "Feed me...with that same ___ pottage" (Genesis 25:30)
- 7. Be sparing
- 8. "And she [Delilah] fastened it with the ___" (Judges 16:14)
- 9. Mimic
- 12. Pillow covers
- 14. "For he was wiser than all the men; than ___ the Ezrahite" (1 Kings 4:31)
- 15. "there shall be an overflowing ___" (Ezekiel 13:11)
- 19. Sheds for fowl
- 20. Arm of the Mediterranean between Greece and Turkey
- 21. Tore
- 22. Publisher's request (abbr.)
- 23. So be it

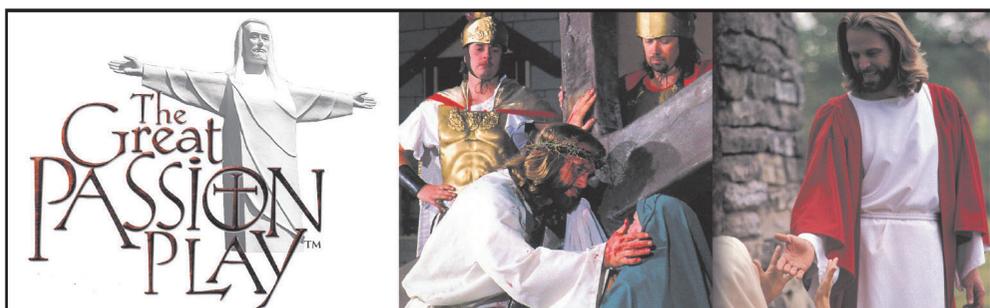
- 24. Drilled
- 25. "but a handful of meal in a ___" (1 Kings 17:12)
- 29. Prepared for a struggle
- 31. Belonging to an English theologian
- 34. Barak's destination: Mt. ___ (Judges 4)
- 35. One of the seven sons of Gad (Genesis 46)
- 37. "Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and ___?" (2 Kings 18:34)
- 38. Ages and ages
- 39. Large knife
- 40. 1200 in Rome
- 41. Pronoun
- 42. Egg (pl.)

Crossword by Barbour Publishing, Inc.

ABN Crossword puzzle



Crossword answer, page 6



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Editor's Note: The Arkansas Baptist News would love to share your church news with the state. Send your information to sarah@arkansasbaptist.org or call 1-800-838-2272, ext. 5153. Please submit information three weeks prior to the event.

Obituaries

Mary June Garner, 92, of Little Rock, died June 20.



A retired nurse, Garner advised the nursing program at Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India through a ministry of Tyler Baptist Church, Little Rock.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and three brothers.

Garner is survived by her sister, two daughters and two grandchildren.

A funeral was held July 12 at Griffin Leggett Healy and Roth in Little Rock.

Jules Martin, 101, of Trumann, died July 12.



A World War II veteran, Martin became a church pianist in 1932 and later the organist for First Baptist Church, Trumann, in 1948, where he would play for weekly church services, weddings, funerals, school ceremonies and other special events. He continued to play the organ for the rest of his life.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and five grandchildren.

A funeral was held July 19 at Memorial Park Cemetery in Jonesboro.

Verna Lois Roberts South, 95, of North Little Rock, died July 14.



South was the wife of Rheubin South, pastor of Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock for 25 years and previous executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

While at Park Hill, South was a choir member, wedding coordinator, Sunday school greeter and hostess for neighborhood outreach teams.

She was preceded in death by her husband.

South is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

A funeral was held July 17 at Park Hill.

Dorothy Ann Taylor, 88, of Blevins, died July 17.

A member of Marlbrook Baptist Church, Taylor served

as the pianist.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Taylor is survived by her husband, two sons and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held July 17 at Herndon-Fuqua Funeral Home in Hope, followed by burial in Macedonia Cemetery in Blevins.

Baptist life

Clear Creek Baptist Association will host a youth rally Saturday, Aug. 17. The block party starts at 4 p.m., and the rally will begin at 6 p.m. C.W. Blood will be the guest speaker, and Breaking Chains will lead worship.

Church life

Concord Baptist Church, Van Buren, will host Don Moore, former executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 18.

Mountain Top Cowboy Church, Heber Springs, will

conduct a one-day women's conference Saturday, Sept. 28. The conference will begin at 9 a.m. and feature guest speaker Lora Jones, author of "Song of a Wounded Heart." For more information or to register, email rlthomas@tcworks.net.

Milestones

First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, will celebrate 165 years of ministry Sunday, Aug. 11. The celebration will begin at 10:30 a.m. with Jere Mitchell, a former pastor of the church, speaking. Dinner on the grounds will follow morning worship. At 2 p.m., Jonathan Story, a musician and former member, will present a piano and organ concert.

Mason Valley Baptist Church, Bentonville, will celebrate its 140th anniversary Sunday, Aug. 18. Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds at noon. There will be an afternoon program featuring Sunshine Quartet of Gravette and will recognize former pastors and members.

On the move

Laramie LeQuieu is serving on the evangelism and church health team at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

John Parsley is now serving as pastor at Eastside Baptist Church, Osceola.

Johnny Thomas is serving as pastor at Bethany Baptist Church, Manila.

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Classifieds

PASTOR

FBC, Pangburn, is seeking a **pastor**. Please email resumes to Pangburnfbcpastorsearch@gmail.com or mail to First Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Team, PO Box 250, Pangburn, AR, 72121.

Seeking **bi-vocational pastor** for a small, rural Southern Baptist church in Union, Arkansas. Please send resume or information to Mt. Zion Baptist Church, c/o Janet Yancey, PO Box 258, Oxford, AR 72565 or email to janet.yancey@melbourneschools.org.

New Antioch Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time senior pastor** with experience. We are involved in missions, locally and internationally. We are debt free with a long history in Northeast Arkansas. Please send resumes to: Pastor Search Team, New Antioch Baptist

Church, 429 CR 960, Brookland, AR 72417, or email to newantiochbc@gmail.com.

FBC, Camden, is seeking **full-time senior pastor**. Send resume to FBCCamdenPSC@gmail.com.

Archview Baptist Church is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Mail resume to 12610 Arch St., Little Rock, AR 72206.

First Baptist Church of Gillham is seeking a **pastor**. Please send resume to First Baptist Church of Gillham, PO Box 150, Gillham, AR 71841.

Witt's Chapel Baptist Church, Maynard, AR, is seeking a **bi-vocational or full-time pastor**. Send resumes and references to: David Byers, 1340 Legate Road, Maynard, AR 72444.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

First Baptist Church, Big Spring, Texas, is

seeking a **full-time student minister**. Resumes will be accepted through September 8, 2019. A full job description may be viewed at www.fbcbigspring.org. Please submit resumes to fbcstudentminister@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Lowell, AR, seeking **full-time youth pastor**: experienced, relational, called to youth ministry with a passionate heart for students. Send resume to RonHenderson@fbclypsc@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church Newport, AR, is seeking God's will about a **full-time worship leader**. Duties include coordinating and planning the worship services with the pastor and leading musical worship in the services. Some technology skills are also necessary. We are open to shaping the position to best match the skill set of the person God calls here. FBC Newport has a solid leadership body and a unified church

family. Interested candidates email your resume to pray4raingwd@gmail.com.

Leadership Team Opening: First Baptist Church Wagoner is accepting resumes for **F/T children's minister**. Please send resume to mark@fbcwagoner.com or mail to First Baptist Church Search Team, 401 NE 2nd Street, Wagoner, OK 74467.

Elliott Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time music and/or youth leader**. Resumes: elliottbaptist@gmail.com, or 4189 Hwy. 376 S., Camden, AR 71701, Attn: Music/Youth Search Committee.

Central Baptist Church, North Little Rock, AR, is seeking a **full-time student minister**. Submit resumes by Aug. 8 to: cbstudentresume@gmail.com.

Trinity Baptist Church, Benton, AR is seeking a **part-time worship minister** to

lead our 30-voice Celebration Choir and worship services. Also, to guide the overall music ministry of the church. Send resume to trinitybenton@gmail.com or contact the church at 501-778-9146.

First Baptist Church, Perryville, is seeking a **bi-vocational music director**. Send resumes to pvfb.church@gmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

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AUGUST 4, 2019

The Apostle Paul made a sobering statement, “Those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Tim. 3:12). Paul was uniquely qualified to make this statement. He was in prison awaiting execution for preaching the gospel. Before his conversion, Paul was the persecutor. He arrested and imprisoned Christians for being associated with Jesus Christ. He was also present at and gave consent to Stephen’s stoning (Acts 7:58). In his own words, “I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women in jail” (Acts 22:4).

There is no widespread persecution of Christians in America. While we enjoy religious freedom, we most likely will experience some form of hostility and ridicule if we live godly lives for Christ. Liberalism, socialism and radical political ideologies often collide with conservative Christian theology. Paul labeled some of the persecutors Timothy would face as false teachers who “will become worse, deceiving and being deceived” (2 Tim. 3:13).

Paul’s life was coming to an end. Timothy could endure by continuing in

the Scriptures that he had been taught and firmly believed (2 Tim. 3:14). These Scriptures are Christ-centered Scriptures. They are “sacred” and “are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:15). These sacred Christ-centered Scriptures are inspired or “God-breathed” (2 Tim. 3:16).

When Paul said all Scripture is profitable, he was basically saying it is sufficient. It is “profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16). It also equips us for “every good work” (2 Tim. 3:17). It has such incredible transforming power, it must be taught and preached (2 Tim. 4:1-2).

While many will turn from sound doctrine and fall prey to false teaching, Timothy must “keep a clear head about everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill [his] ministry” (2 Tim. 4:5).

If we are to endure hostility, persecution and/or opposition, we must continue in the Word, keep learning the Word, keep believing the Word, keep preaching the Word and keep practicing the Word.

Second Chronicles 15:1-9 is a prophetic message of commendation and challenge for King Asa. It takes the form of a Levitical sermon. It has a text, a historical illustration and an application. The main text was taken from Jeremiah 29:13-14. “The LORD is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you” (2 Chron. 15:2). Asa had encouraged the people to seek God and follow His commands (2 Chron. 14:4, 7). God responded to their seeking and faithfulness by giving them victory over Zerah, the Cushite’s one-million-man army with their 300 chariots (2 Chron. 14:12-14). Asa had only 580,000 brave warriors with spears, shields and bows. This act of foolishness was turned into an act of courage because Asa sought God.

That was the positive side of the sermon, but there was a negative side, “If you abandon Him, He will abandon you” (2 Chron. 15:2). This had negative results. “In those times” refers to times of conflicts, troubles and distress God

allowed because the people had abandoned Him and His commands. Israel’s history proves the principle of 2 Chronicles 15:2. Israel’s history is characterized by a cycle of declension, invasion, repentance, deliverance and peace.

This sermon ended with this application, “Keep up the good work.” God told Asa, “Be strong, don’t be discouraged, for your work has a reward” (2 Chron. 15:7). It could be restated like this, “Be

courageous, do the work, and you will have your reward.” Immediately Asa took courage and began to finish what

he started, to remove every semblance of idolatry from the kingdom. He also renovated the Lord’s altar. Great numbers defected from other tribes to Asa because “the LORD his God was with him” (2 Chron. 15:9).

Our courage to complete the task comes from the Lord. We should seek Him in all that we do. When we do, we will encourage others to follow the Lord, to stay focused on Him and complete the tasks He gives them.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Enduring

2 TIMOTHY 3:12-17; 4:1-8 (HCSB)

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Act with courage

2 CHRONICLES 15:1-9 (HCSB)

AUGUST 11, 2019

When I sensed a call about entering the ministry, my pastor took me aside and gave me some advice. When he finished with me, I was disillusioned. It took five more years before I committed myself to ministry. My pastor told me that one of the most difficult conflicts I would have to confront in ministry was doctrinal error and false teaching. Now, as a pastor, I have found this to be true. Titus found this to be true as well.

Paul instructed Titus to silence the many false teachers in Crete (Titus 1:11). They were rebellious, idle talkers and deceivers, especially the Judaizers (Titus 1:10). The theology of the Judaizers was a “Jesus-plus theology.” These false teachers were overthrowing “whole households.” (Titus 1:11). Since they had infiltrated these house churches, whole households were affected by their teaching. The effect of their teaching is understood by how one of their own prophets, Epimenides, described them, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons” (Titus 1:12). They’re liars – you can’t believe anything they say. They’re

evil beasts – they live to satisfy their appetites and passions. They’re lazy gluttons, self-indulgent, overfed and without self-control. Paul said Epimenides was correct (Titus 1:13). Paul was not labeling all Cretans, only the false teachers.

Titus was to “rebuke them sharply” so they might be sound in the faith, might not pay attention to Jewish myths and not pay attention to the commandments of men who had rejected truth (Titus 1:13-14). These false teachers lack purity (Titus 1:15). John MacArthur notes, “When a person is pure in heart and mind, his perspectives on all things are pure, and that inner purity produces outer purity.” The opposite is also true. A corrupt heart and mind will produce an outer corruption. They will profess to know God, but they are defiled, detestable, disobedient, and disqualified for any good work (Titus 1:15-16).

Believers are accountable for confronting false teachers and false teachings. We must be armed with truth, motivated by love and clothed with purity.

Because of scheduled services and church structures, we tend to view worship as an event. These times of worship are extremely helpful and needed, but worship should not be limited to a scheduled event. Worship should be a lifestyle that infuses every aspect of our lives. One can worship on a hike through the woods, on top of a mountain after a challenging climb, in a coffee shop while meditating on God’s Word, or at the side of someone in a hospital bed. The point is that worship is something believers do continually as they live out God’s Word in their lives.

Second Chronicles 15:8-15 shows King Asa and the country as a model congregation that heard the message and then lived it out. King Asa had removed idols from the whole land and repaired the altar of worship (2 Chron. 15:8, 16-18). The people gathered in Jerusalem during the Feast of Weeks for a special commitment service. Second Chronicles 11 details the worship of sacrifice. This sacrifice was made with

the plunder the Lord provided through victory in their battle with Zerah the Cushite.

After the sacrifice, the people “entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their ancestors with all their mind and all their heart” (2 Chron. 15:12). Those who would not seek the Lord would be put to death despite age or gender (2 Chron. 15:13). It sounds harsh, but history records that there were those

who clung to pagan gods and would not acknowledge the Lord God (Deut. 13:1-10; 17:2-7). The people took an oath of allegiance

with loud voices, shouting, trumpets and the blowing of the ram’s horn (2 Chron. 15:14). They did exactly what the Lord told them to do; they sought Him and were found by Him (2 Chron. 15:2, 15). Because of their continual worship, the Lord protected them from war for 35 years (2 Chron. 15:19).

This text shows that when we seek the Lord and His Word richly indwells our hearts, we will find Him, and He will lead us to reformation and worship.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Living with opposition

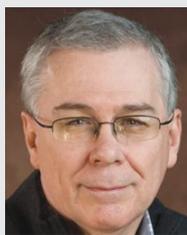
TITUS 1:1-5, 10-16 (HCSB)

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Worship continually

2 CHRONICLES 15:10-19 (HCSB)

Featured commentary writer



Gerald Nash

Gerald Nash is a registered respiratory therapist and EEG technician at Saint Mary’s Regional Medical Center in Russellville. Nash is involved in medical research and is a preaching pastor at Soul Food Cafe Mission. He is involved in missions and also leads a small group and the decision room ministry at Second Baptist Church, Conway. Nash has attended several universities and seminaries, including Williams Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He holds multiple educational degrees, including a bachelor of arts in Christian ministries, a master of arts and doctor of ministry in pastoral studies and a master of arts in theological studies. Nash volunteers on the Cairo Geniza Project deciphering and transcribing ancient Greek and Arabic documents. He loves to read, bass fish, and spend time with his family. He and his wife, Mary Ann, love to travel, explore ancient ruins and go on wild animal safaris.



Inside:

- Few churchgoers read the Bible daily
- Mandrell elected LifeWay president
- Southern Baptist Media Day July 28
- Aderholt pleads guilty to misdemeanor
- Ky. pastor serves 69 years at same church

ABC Homes anniversary

ABC Homes celebrates 125 years of ministry to children and families

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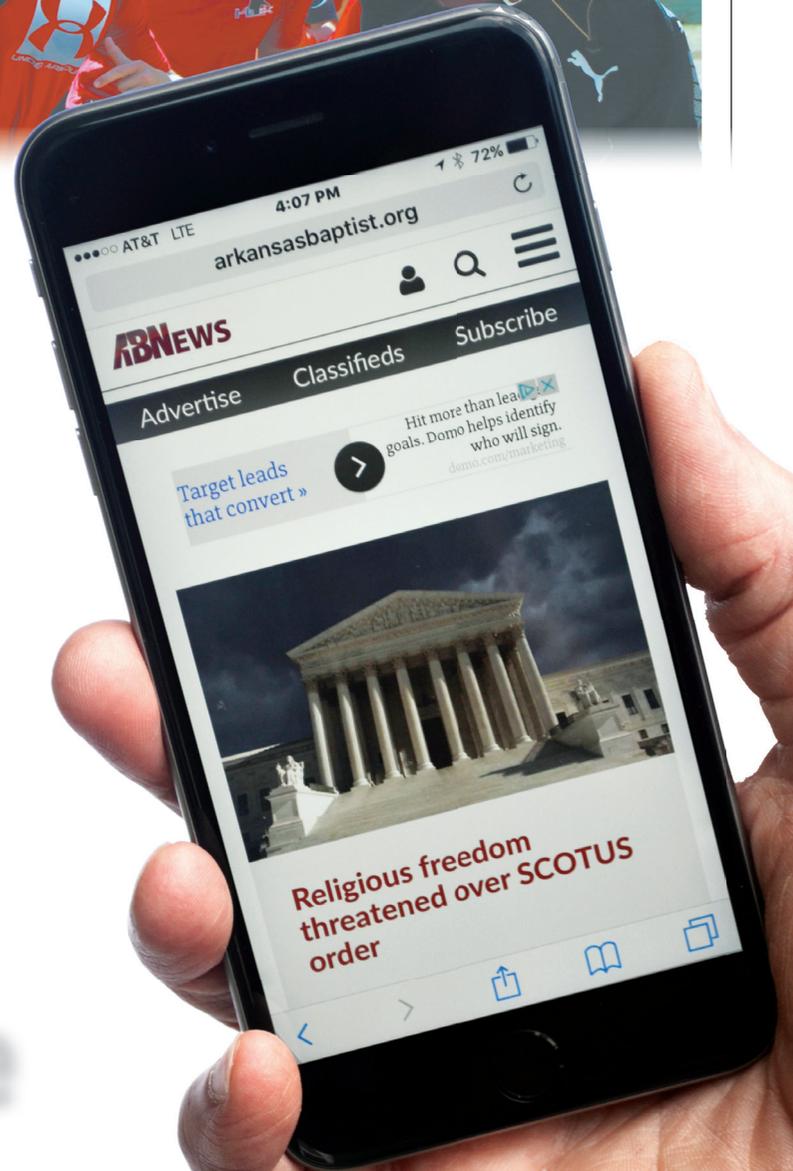
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