



Impacts 2013-17 budget

Funding of missions topic of ABSC board

Tim Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK – Messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Annual Meeting Nov. 1-2 will be asked to approve a number of changes in the way missions are funded in the state.

Meeting Aug. 9, the ABSC Executive Board approved recommendations of the convention's Budget Formula Study Committee. The recommendations were to continue to increase the percentage of funds (total receipts) forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), to divide state budget surpluses with the SBC and to conduct a statewide emphasis every five years en-

couraging churches to increase their Cooperative Program percentage.

The revised budget formula would go into effect for the 2013-17 budget years.

Emil Turner, ABSC executive director, said the work of the Budget Formula Study Committee is particularly important as the SBC grapples with how to interpret and implement recommendations of the Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) report approved by SBC messengers in 2010.

"The Budget Formula Study Committee is a committee appointed by the president of the executive board every five years," said Turner. "Its task

See **ABSC** page 2



'Shining Light' in Missouri

Students from Indian Springs Baptist Church, Bryant, minister at Shining Light center in Missouri. See story on page 8.

Since 1925, Southern Baptists have given more than \$14 billion (through 2009) to the Cooperative Program (CP) united giving plan – resulting in millions of lost souls professing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Learn more about the work of the CP in a special section appearing on pages 9-12 of this issue of the *ABN*.



Snapp wins video contest

TAYLOR SNAPP, 16, a member of the youth group at Indian Springs Baptist Church, Bryant, submitted the winning entry in the *Arkansas Baptist News* first Youth Group Video Contest. Snapp and the church will receive a \$200 gift card for use in ministry.



Snapp

Second place went to Faith Journey Fellowship, Bentonville, and third place was awarded to First

Baptist Church, White Hall. Faith Journey will receive a \$100 gift card and White Hall will receive a \$50 gift card.

The winning video – shot and edited by Snapp – features Indian Springs' mission trip to Macedonia over spring break. The video included an excerpt from the song "Revival" by the group As Hell

See **CONTEST** page 3



Taylor Sherman, a member of Stuttgart Harvest Church, helps a young boy swim at a recent day camp outreach event. The church uses a non-traditional approach to reach people in the community.

Stuttgart Harvest Church

Big screen, popcorn ... church?

Jenny Redfern
Arkansas Baptist News

STUTTGART – Grab some popcorn, take a seat in front of the big screen and get ready for ... church?

At Stuttgart Harvest Church, which meets at the Stuttgart Twin Cinema every Sunday morning, the only rules are "no perfect people allowed, no one stands alone and no making out on the back row," according to the church Web site, stuttgartharvestchurch.com.

The church, a year old this past February, was the product of a house Bible study. A group of about 20 members of the community were meeting regularly and felt the call to form a different kind of church.

"We felt that God was using us to break out of that traditional mold a little bit and be able

to reach out to people in a different way," said Cindy Sherman, a member of the launch team.

It was not long before the group was directed toward the church planting team at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC). Dave McClung, ABSC missions ministries team member, was able to set up a meeting between them and Harley Petty and his family, who have been a part of four church launches since 2005.

"Honestly, we did our best to kind of scare them off of church planting because we feared they would be interested in what they had grown up with, as far as methods to start a church and to reach people," said Petty. "But absolutely nothing worked. They were really ready to do whatever it took to get a start."

The church's nontraditional approach does

See **HARVEST** page 3

Girl's idea provides toys for sick children

Whitney Crews
Arkansas Baptist News

PARAGOULD - "Every sick kid should have a teddy bear."

This was the philosophy that led 5-year-old Cali Weaver to raise funds to provide 21 dozen teddy bears with hand-colored hearts for children at the Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock Aug. 12.

As a preschooler last year, Cali's class participated in Pennies for Patients, raising money to send to a hospital for patient care. After that experience, Cali, now a kindergartener, would play school with her dolls and tell them it was time to collect money - until one day when she decided it was time to give something more.

"I didn't take it seriously at first because she's five," said Cali's mother, Leah Weaver. "But she wanted everyone to have the same teddy bear and to color a red heart with the message, 'Get well soon.'"

After persistently asking her mom if they could

send teddy bears to the "sick kids," Cali and her family began raising funds through donations from friends and Leah's Ladies Circle at Unity Baptist Church, Paragould. Cali received the offering, which included enough money for 21 dozen bears, in front of her church.

"I was very proud," said Lisa. "Every time she asked someone for money she was very excited to tell them about why. There are a lot of kids who do things like this, but to know that it's my daughter makes me very proud."

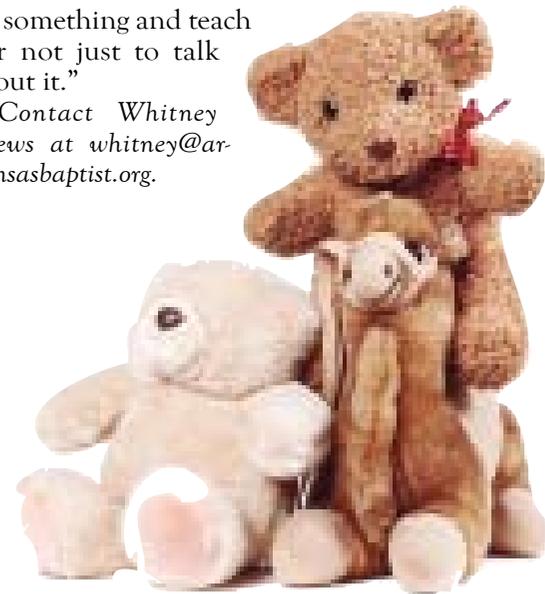
The Weaver family ordered the bears on the Internet, so each child would have the same bear. Then Cali set out hand-coloring her heart messages.

"Cali has always been a very nurturing child," Lisa said. "She colored almost every heart herself."

After the bears were ready with handmade hearts, the Weavers went to the Arkansas Children's Hospital to make their delivery. Because of hospital guidelines, Cali did not get to personally hand out the bears; but she was not deterred.

"She was okay as long as she just got to take them," Leah said. "She has already asked to take more bears again, and I am not going to tell her she can't. It's better to let her do something and teach her not just to talk about it."

Contact Whitney Crews at whitney@arkansasbaptist.org.



ABSC

continued from page one

is to study the entities that receive Cooperative Program funds and to recommend the division of those funds for the next five years."

Turner noted the Budget Formula Study Committee existed in Arkansas prior to the adoption of the GCR report.

"A lot of state conventions have appointed Great Commission Resurgence study committees," said Turner. "This Budget Formula Study Committee does what a Great Commission Study Committee did in other state conventions. The difference is that ours is automatic every five years. What the committee is recommending is that we continue to increase the percentage which we share with the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for the next five years by the same two-tenths percent a year."

Turner, who was elected president of the Fellowship of State Executive Directors for 2011-12 in February, said if the recommendation is approved, Arkansas Baptists would have accomplished something no other state convention has accomplished.

"If adopted by the convention, it will mean, for 10 years in a row, the Arkansas state convention will have gone up on the percentage sent out of state. No other state convention has done that for 10 years in a row," he said.

The recommendation regarding how the state convention distributes budget overage is significant.

"If we go over our budget in any year, the surplus is immediately divided with the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee on a 50/50 basis," he said. "In the past, we simply retained that overage and used it in a subsequent year

when we did not receive 100 percent of the Cooperative Program budget. So, it takes away the ability that we have to protect ourselves from going under budget."

Turner said some Arkansas pastors and other church leaders question why a larger percentage of funds are being distributed outside the state. SBC leadership has encouraged state conventions for years to split state funds on a 50/50 allocation. In February, executive directors of state conventions agreed to affirm a portion of the GCR reporting that requested a 50/50 division of Cooperative Program funds - after consideration for "shared ministry" items.

Another significant change in the funding formula recommended by the ABSC Budget Formula Study Committee is to address shared ministry items, said Turner.

"What we did was to examine our budget to determine what percentage of it assisted the SBC at large, rather than simply assist Arkansas churches. And we found that almost 11 percent of our budget serves, in some way, the Southern Baptist Convention at large," he explained.

"We're going to limit it to no more than 1 percent, and our goal for the first five years - this budget formula - would be \$135,000 each year for shared ministries. (It) will be absorbed by the (ABSC) Executive Board.

"With over \$2 million in shared ministries, we think \$135,000 is a very modest place to start."

In light of the GCR, Turner said shared ministry funds could play a significant role in helping fund mission efforts outside Arkansas. The idea of shared ministry was endorsed in the GCR report.

"One of the things the shared ministries item will do is enable us to help new work, pioneer state conventions that have been cut by the North American Mission Board. And in the future, this is going to

have to become a larger portion of our budget in order to help these state conventions that have received tremendous cuts in their funding," said Turner.

"We'll just have more funds we can send to ministries in those states."

Turner emphasized the concept of shared ministries was in the original Cooperative Program vision and that, "Georgia has been using this model for many, many years. Other state conventions have used it from time to time, but more state conventions will begin to use it.

"We're joining Florida, for instance, that has started to use it. Other state conventions will all begin to use it."

Additionally, the board:

■ Approved a recommendation that Diane Parker, an 18-year ABSC employee, be promoted to team leader of the missions support team.

■ Heard testimonies from new ABSC staff, Chad Logan and Sean Mills. Logan is the new Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) director at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, and Mills is the new youth evangelism specialist for the evangelism and church growth team.

■ Approved a \$21.4 million operating budget for 2012. The budget includes no increases over the previous year's budget. Turner noted, "While it is flat, we're actually going

to (have) less money to use in Arkansas, because we continue to go up on a percentage on what we send to the SBC."

■ Agreed with a recommendation of the program committee to approve 2012 goals for all ABSC teams.

■ Approved the annual audit of the convention. "We received an unqualified audit with no problems," said Turner. "It's a clean audit, affirming the way we use our funds." He reminded board members that every messenger to the ABSC Annual Meeting receives a copy of the audits of all the institutions and agencies of the ABSC in the Book of Reports.

■ Recognized the following outgoing board members: Modena Ramsey, Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association; Eric Hodge, Ashley County Baptist Association; Ronny Allen, Centennial Baptist Association; Joe Walden, Clear Creek Baptist Association; Dewey Hickey, Concord Baptist Association; Mike Bell, Delta Baptist Association; Vaughn Blue, Liberty Baptist Association; Mike Wilkinson, North Pulaski Baptist Association; Mike Turner and Bob Ward, both Southwest Arkansas Baptist Association; Loren Strickland, Tri-County Baptist Association; Gary Wise, White River Baptist Association; Angie Elrod, District 5; and Eleanor Stephenson, District 8.

Slaughter named UAM campus minister

MONTICELLO - Phillip Slaughter has been named campus minister of Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) at the University of Arkansas-Monticello.

Slaughter, 30, is a 2004 graduate of the university



Slaughter

with a bachelor's degree in English. He most recently served as pastor of Jennie Baptist Church, Lake Village.

Slaughter and his wife, Rose Anne, have a son, John Michael.

ABN announces first-ever photo contest

LITTLE ROCK - The *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) announces today its first "ABN Photo Contest."

"We had such tremendous success with our Youth Group Video Contest, the ABN staff decided it would be great to launch another contest for our adult 'photo bugs' out there," said Tim Yarbrough, editor.

The deadline for entries is midnight Tuesday, Nov. 1.

Photo contest rules are:

■ Photos submitted are limited to current ABN subscribers - either through a church or individual plan. Entrants may submit up to three separate photos for consideration.

■ Photos submitted should depict an Arkansas Baptist religious scene or activity, such as a mission trip, ministry event, an activity occurring in a church service, church building or other church activity, etc.

■ Each individual photo must be accompanied by a short narrative essay (200 words or less) describing the photo.

■ Photos will be judged based on the following: image composition, inspiration, image quality and depiction of missions or ministry event.

■ Photos should be emailed to photocontest@arkansasbaptist.org,

along with contact information, including name, address, phone number, email and church membership. No prints will be accepted.

■ Entrants must be age 18 or older.

Winners will be notified by email, and their photos will be highlighted in an ABN digital edition and online at www.arkansasbaptist.org.

Contest entries will be judged by ABN staff.

Prizes include gift cards for first place (\$100), second place (\$50) and third place (\$25).

For additional information, visit www.arkansasbaptist.org, or call 800-838-2272 ext. 5151.



CONTEST

continued from page one

Retreats. Snapp is a student at Bryant High School.

Entries were judged based on overall creativity, quality of video, subject matter (showing ministry and missions activities), graphical treatment (use of titles, maps and effective use of transitions), use of music and time (3 minutes or under).

Links to winning entries in the contest have been posted at www.arkansasbaptist.org and also will be included in the *ABN Now* digital edition. See screen captures below.

Find us on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) as **ArkBaptNews**



Arkansas Baptists minister in Minot, N.D.

Royce Sweatman (left) North Arkansas Baptist Association missionary, works alongside fellow team member Dale Garner to prepare meals in flood-ravaged Minot, N.D. A team of 13 people from North Arkansas Association, plus two people from White River Baptist Association, spent Aug. 13-19 assisting area flood victims. Other Arkansas Baptist feeding units have been or will be ministering in the area in the weeks to come. These include units from First Baptist Church, Forrest City; Red River Baptist Association; Current Gaines Baptist Association; Arkansas Baptist State Convention Unit 1; Washington Madison Baptist Association; Calvary Baptist Association; Independence Baptist Association; and Carey Baptist Association.

ABN youth video contest winners

Watch videos at www.arkansasbaptist.org.



First place: Indian Springs Baptist Church, Bryant



Second place: Faith Journey Fellowship, Bentonville



Third place: First Baptist Church, White Hall

HARVEST

continued from page one

not stop at its unique location. Petty said the church is definitely a "shorts and T-shirt kind of group." On Sunday mornings, the concession stand counter holds the church's personal café. The message is highly visual, with pictures to illustrate each point. The worship band rocks to an eclectic mix of blues, country and southern rock.

Petty said at the end of the day, all of its efforts are targeted toward

the cross and helping people understand how they can connect to God through Jesus.

"We just kind of meet them where they are and let them know we are the perfect place for imperfect people," he said.

After a year and a half, the church has poured most of its resources into community missions, said Petty. For Stuttgart Harvest Church, this takes the form of day camps for children.

So far, the church has held day camps for basketball, dancing, pitching and swimming. The camps are free and usually include a meal for

the parents at the end.

"We decided we were going to try to go everywhere and try to do something in the community," said member Chris Isbell. "People generally see churches as takers. They show up at the front door selling cookies or try to get you to come to some fundraiser. ... We just try to give instead of take."

Sherman added, "We are just trying to love our community the way that God loves us."

In February 2010, the church started with 30 members. It is now averaging about 100 on Sunday

morning, said Isbell.

"People are inviting visitors," he said. "Visitors are inviting visitors."

Surveys from first-time guests have provided positive feedback, said member Dale Shook. Most have been impressed with the friendliness of the church.

Shook said they do not feel judged or out-of-place.

"We just want people to know no matter who you are or what you do, you are welcome at Stuttgart Harvest Church," he said.

Contact Jenny Redfern at jenny@arkansasbaptist.org.

The allure of tech

When I left for the start of classes at Murray (Ky.) State University in August 1978, the most advanced piece of technology I owned was a Smith Corona portable electric typewriter. It was a gift from my parents.

Technology touches practically every aspect of our lives today. I began this column in the car using the Dragon Dictation app on my iPhone. As I spoke into the app, it transcribed my words into text. Pretty amazing!

A recent survey suggested people would rather give up their toothbrush than their smartphone. Other things smartphone users are willing to give up include exercise for a week, caffeine, chocolate and even shoes. Thirty-four percent of iPhone users said they use their phone at the dinner table, versus 21 percent of Android users and 15 percent of BlackBerry users.

Technology is greatly impacting

newspapers, as we no longer can print only news stories on a “static” page. The staff at the ABN works hard to use video and audio in our digital edition and on our Web site to help tell stories.

The ABN staff uses iPhones for a variety of purposes, including recording interviews, taking photos, shooting videos, researching stories and taking notes. Recently, we emailed a pastor, asking for a photo of his renovated sanctuary. The only camera he had available was an iPhone. The photo he took with the iPhone was good enough to publish.

In the church, the use of technology continues to grow as members have come to expect better sound, lighting and use of audiovi-

suals. It was not too many years ago that projecting words to hymns or praise choruses in front of the auditorium was considered by some to be sacrilegious. Today, it is becoming commonplace in both large and small churches.

While technology can help simplify our lives, sometimes the result is just the opposite.

It is easy to allow technology to overwhelm and distract us from things like

having a daily time with the Lord.

Our lives seem to be busier than ever. Where we at one time only had to deal with our home phone or office phone ringing, now we carry a cell phone practically everywhere we go – essentially making ourselves available 24/7. And that’s not to mention email. Pastors – particularly in smaller churches

– can sometimes feel they have no “down time” with a cell phone and email seemingly always at their side.

There is, of course, a tremendous upside to the use of technology by pastors in sermon preparation, calendaring, planning and a host of other uses.

I use my iPad and iPhone every day for Bible study. I keep my daily prayer list updated on my iPad. Every morning I get an alert reminding me that it is time for my quiet time. I feel these devices really help me stay focused and on track in my walk with the Lord.

If you are a technology nut like me, make sure you are making it work for you – rather than letting it be a distraction. Technology is wonderful, but if it becomes an idol or steps in between us and our walk with the Lord, it could be just what the devil ordered.

Tim Yarbrough is editor of the Arkansas Baptist News.



PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough

God has made me forget

Scripture tells us that Joseph was 30 years old when he became governor of Egypt. He was 17 when sold into slavery by his “loving” brothers.

If you do the math, for 13 years, Joseph dealt with a great deal of pain, confusion and questions. Yet we see him

maintain his character and his commitment to God – allowing his trials and tribulations to make him victorious for his God. Do you remember that scriptural account?

Joseph could have made certain decisions, and odds are no one would have ever known or found out. He refused to disappoint his boss, but more than that, he refused to disappoint or dishonor his God. God sees our lives at all times, even when we can’t see ourselves or when others can’t see our actions.

Having seen that in this Scripture, what we learn is we can’t just throw in the towel, have a pity party or sit around doing nothing.

Joseph never forgot what happened during that time in his life.

Anytime someone tells you, “Just forget it,” they aren’t living in the real world. It happened, but God can use it to strengthen your life. God gave Joseph two sons. He

named them Manasseh, which means “God has made me forget,” and Ephraim, which means “God made me fruitful in the land of my afflictions.”

It is said that God gave Joseph new relationships to replace the old ones. One reason why many old relationships bring problems

and frustrations to many of God’s people is that they haven’t replaced them with new ones. You’re hanging out with the wrong influences and reminders. God helped Joseph forget the pain of what happened in his life.

He still had the memory, but he prospered in spite of it. When we walk with God, the promises before us are greater than the pain behind us. Following are some “Joseph principles” we can live by:

1. Don’t try to ignore or pretend the problem never happened. God will give you the grace to handle it, not deny it.

2. Believe that God can “make

as his personal Lord and Savior. The review said the author does not give concrete facts about Dylan’s faith but instead gives evidence and allows those who

read the book [to] decide who Dylan really is. Can’t Mr. Dylan give us concrete facts about his faith, or is it

just another celebrity thing?

I am weary of our Sunday school material and Southern Baptist

relationships and the opportunities you may have lost (see Joel 2:25).

3. Be honest with yourself concerning those who have wronged you. Forgive them, and release them to God in prayer (see Colossians 3:13).

4. Tell God that you are ready to begin again. Trust Him in that choice, and start today.

Let’s not forget that many of our struggles are from our choices, but many of our struggles, disappointments and heartaches are from the actions and decisions of others.

We can trust God in both of those. That’s a promise.

literature parading secular people in front of us like they were some kind of god.

Tell us about the heroes of the Bible and godly men and woman who are dedicated, committed Christians, not afraid to speak up about their faith.

Psalms 107:2 says, “Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.”

Franklin Piercey

First Baptist, Scranton

GUEST VIEWPOINT

Eric Hodge
pastor

Mt. Olive Baptist, Crossett

Dylan book review

After reading “The Gospel According to Bob Dylan” review, 8/11/11, I wondered what is next, “The Gospel According to Michael Jackson?”

Do we not have any truly born again, sold-out to Jesus people to write about anymore?

I hope Mr. Dylan made a real profession of faith in Jesus Christ

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Volume 110, Number 17 USPS08021
Member of the Association
of State Baptist Papers

Tim Yarbrough, editor
Lisa Watson, associate editor
Jessica Vanderpool, assistant editor/
office manager
Becky Hardwick, business manager
Nelle O’ Bryan, advertising representative

www.arkansasbaptist.org

Subscribe to *Arkansas Baptist News*. Individuals send a \$11 check to the address below for a year’s subscription. Churches take advantage of special rates: \$7.75 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$8.75 per year (Group Plan) by calling 800-838-2272, ext. 5153, or in the Little Rock area, call 376-4791, ext. 5153.

Submit news, features, photos or story ideas by phone, email, fax or regular mail. Call 800-838-2272, ext. 5153, or in the Little Rock area call 376-4791, ext. 5153. Email stories or suggestions to abn@arkansasbaptist.org or fax 501-372-4683. Mail stories or suggestions to the address below. The *Arkansas Baptist News* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, articles or pictures and does not guarantee their use or return. Photos will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Send letters to the editor to tim@arkansasbaptist.org or to the fax number above or the mailing address below. We prefer letters typed doublespaced, and they must be 300 words or less. Letters must be signed and marked “for publication.”

Letters may be edited for style. A letters policy statement is available on request. Opinions expressed in letters are those of the writer alone, and publication should not be considered an endorsement.

Advertise in the *Arkansas Baptist News* by calling 800-838-2272, ext. 5155, or in the Little Rock area, call 376-4791, ext. 5155.

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.

Board of Directors: Erby Burgess, Arkadelphia, president; David McCord, Mena, vice president; Jimmy Albrecht, Monticello; Dan Brawner, Harrisburg; Brett Cooper, Walnut Ridge; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Carol Foster, Paragould; Carl Garvin, Omaha; Shaun Hair, Crawfordville; Kay Hardin, North Little Rock; Ricky Keen, Little Rock; Troy Sharp, Desha; and Jeff Thompson, Fort Smith.

Baptists Ask

How should ministers use their "pastoral authority"?

Pastoral authority" is the minister's ability to influence decisions in a church. It originates from three sources: 1) externally, as part of the pastor's job title, 2) internally, as part of the minister's personality and leadership style and 3) spiritually, as part of God's calling for the minister. Spiritually mature pastors can better discern how to balance the internal and external sources of their authority.



Gore

At times, ministers infer that they are the sole church authorities. They believe that churches should hear their opinions and follow their wishes. This pastoral version of "the buck stops here" often evolves into "my way or the highway." Often when this happens, tensions flare and forced terminations occur.

The "priesthood of all believers," a core Baptist doctrine, prohibits the pastor from being the church's sole authority. Because all Christians possess the Holy Spirit, all church members should discern God's will for the congregation. The congregational type of church government, based on this equality, affirms that each member, including the pastor, has only one vote. Such equality should promote unity and harmony within the church.

Although the pastor is the "prophet of God" to the church, this does not mean that the pastor is above reproach. A pastor's ideas and exhortations should be checked through Scripture and prayer, and the congregation can challenge and question him.

A minister's best use of pastoral authority is to shepherd and to serve the church. 1 Timothy 3 speaks of a minister's integrity and service, not a minister's power. Because Christians lead by service, instead of coercion, the pastor is the chief servant of the church. Even when pastors have to make tough decisions, they should always do so in a humble manner. When a pastor humbly serves, the congregation will humbly serve, as well.

Editor's note: Send questions regarding theology and Baptist beliefs to Editor, Arkansas Baptist News, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204, or email tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

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

When we give ... we gain!

A man was in front of me in line at a local store. He does not go to my church, but he engaged me in conversation, turning to me and saying, "Pastor, times are hard. I have to work almost all week just to buy the gas to get me to my job and buy a little food. I do not feel like I have much I can give to my family, much less to the Lord. What should I do?"

As the man stood there in line after saying these words, a lady who overheard the conversation said, "Amen to that!"

The sentiment across our nation and even across our convention is times are hard economically for many families and churches. Trust me, in the Mississippi Delta

we know this to be a reality. What does this mean for our giving or stewardship? Do the principles of Scripture change or re-adjust to the American economy? Do the truths of Scripture need to be reevaluated in light of the ever-changing stock market?

I do not know many Baptists who would say that God's Word should be altered to match our society in any way. However, there are many churches this time of year making some really difficult decisions about how to budget and spend God's money. Oftentimes, finance committees go into panic mode, and the first thing on the budget chopping block is the Cooperative Program (CP).

Let me encourage you to take a clear and defined stand for Cooperative Program giving in your church's budget this year. Perhaps decide to do a better job of promoting stewardship in your church, help people

get out of debt, work harder at creating a viable week-to-week budget and spend some time seeking the will of God in your church's finances – but by all means, do not allow the CP to get cut in your church. The Cooperative Program is the means of Southern Baptists to carry out the mission of our Lord. How can we expect God to bless our churches if we are not allowing for the continuation of the Lord's mission?

The Cooperative Program gives Arkansas Baptist churches focus. The CP allows us to keep our priorities in order as Southern Baptists. Through the CP, we focus on reaching the lost, planting churches and ministering to the real needs of people on your street, in Arkansas and around the world.

The Cooperative Program also gives us fellowship. The only way we can successfully take the gospel into all the world is by working together. The CP allows us to join together and do God's work.

The Cooperative Program also gives us a future. Without strong support for the many ministries, mission projects and missionaries provided through our CP giving, as Southern Baptists and Arkansas Baptists, we will face decline and become ineffective for the Lord.

Through the Cooperative Program, lives are being forever changed by the gospel across the streets of your town and across the scope of this world. By faith, why not give just one half of one percent more this year and see what God does in your church?

Clay Hallmark is pastor of First Baptist Church, Marion, and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Clay Hallmark

10 Things Jesus Never Said

by Will Davis Jr., Revell, 2011

The world is quick to attribute to Jesus quotes and phrases it believes our Savior to have said, rather than to simply open and read His Word.

In "10 Things Jesus Never Said ... and why you should STOP believing them," author Will Davis Jr. explores common myths about our relationship with God and seeks to lead the reader to replace them with words of truth straight from Jesus.

Davis attacks the subject of "10 Things Jesus Never Said" and related topics with simplicity that anyone can understand.

In the book's introduction, the author poses the question, "What would happen if you were invited to a face-to-face meeting with Jesus?" While it is a meeting most Christians would want with their risen Lord, for others, such a meeting wouldn't be so inviting. Davis surmises it would be because so many who profess Christ as Savior have a sense of guilt because they know they don't meet His standards and don't walk with Him daily.

In Part 1, Davis opens the book with, "The most important thing Jesus ever said," and then proceeds to demonstrate through Scripture how Jesus wants us to

personally know Him.

Drawing from Matthew 11:28, "Come to Me,

all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (ESV), Davis explains, "Jesus is in the business of burden lifting. Part of his mission is to remove the load from the shoulders of religious seekers and weary spiritual travelers. It doesn't matter what the load is, how long you've carried it, or how ugly it might be. If it's weighing you down and sapping your spiritual strength, Jesus wants it."

In the remainder of the book, starting in Part 2, Davis begins a serious exploration around the original topic, "Things Jesus never said." Included in the discussion are 11 phrases, such as, "You're too far gone to be saved," "I'm so disappointed in you," "It's okay not to love certain people" and "This is a cross you must bear."

Discussion questions are included at the end of each chapter, making the book a possible source for group study.

"10 Things Jesus Never Said" is an interesting read for anyone searching for a straightforward discussion of the most perplexing questions of faith.

BOOK REVIEW

Tim Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News



Read any good books lately?

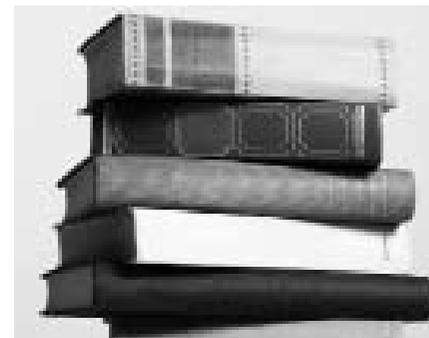
The Arkansas Baptist News (ABN) invites pastors, other church staff and members of Arkansas Baptist churches to submit reviews of religion-related books they have read.

Preferably, the book review should be no more than 350 words and should be about a book released

in the past six months.

Reviews submitted for publication may be edited for content and style.

If interested, please contact Tim Yarbrough, editor, at tim@arkansasbaptist.org, or call 800-838-2272 (toll-free in-state) or 501-376-4791, ext. 5151.



2,000 make decisions for Christ

God continues 'bold work' in Haiti

MORE THAN a year and a half following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, Arkansas Baptist volunteers continue to respond by providing assistance in a variety of ways.

"The Holy Spirit is at work boldly in Haiti," said Bob Fielding, a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions ministries team and Haiti project coordinator.

Fielding said following the catastrophic earthquake in January 2010, Arkansas Baptists responded to immediate needs of people through methods such as providing shelter and food. To date, some 2,000 professions of faith have been made, and new ministries are starting. Most recently, ABSC churches have been helping with a new ministry that the locals call "kids clubs."

The first club began after Southside Baptist Church, Stuttgart, and Faith Baptist Church, DeWitt, sent a joint team to Haiti.

During their trip, they donated supplies to several schools, and while doing so, they were allowed to visit the classes at the schools. In the classes, they not only had the chance to share information about the American culture, but they also

had the chance to share the gospel. They even held an open-air service under a mango tree across from a school one day.

Following this trip, a team from Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, went to Haiti to build permanent homes. One day, they stopped to talk to a group of children gathered under a tarp at what turned out to be the gathering place for the church at Bas Miton.

The local pastor told them that the Stuttgart/DeWitt team had inspired him as he observed their children's ministry in the schools, and the Holy Spirit then led him to start "a kids club." This news, in turn, inspired the Park Hill team to build an open-air building for the club, the church and the community.

With Arkansas Baptist teams' help, several other Haitian churches have now begun holding kids clubs, as well.

Along with this development, teams of Arkansas Baptists have also been serving in other types of ministry. An optometry team from Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, saw 38 professions of faith and fitted 500 pairs of glasses. Several weeks before, the same church had sent



A Haitian Voodoo priest was saved inside this temple. He has since left the temple.

an evangelism team that led an astonishing 1,000 people to Christ. Six of those new believers had been Voodoo priests (see first-person account below).

"Now what I would want to say is that this can only be explained by the Holy Spirit's sovereign work, because other teams that are just as

faithful win 20 to the Lord in a week or 100 to the Lord in a week," said Fielding.

"And so we see this as just an extraordinary outpouring of the Spirit, and we believe evidence that God is sending revival to Haiti, or at least some evidence that He's sending revival to Haiti."

The truth will set you free – Haiti 2011

Lowery Beck, M.D.

Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro

JONESBORO – An evangelistic team from Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, consisting of Cindi Brown, Rachel Homard, Meredith Benton, Wil Allen and I set out for Haiti on June 24 without any preconceived expectations. Our team was an eclectic group that was united around the central purpose of spreading the gospel to a seeking group of people.

Every mission trip seems to have its share of obstacles. The first such hurdle for our team was a flight delay before we even got out of the United States. We may never know the reason for the delay, but we arrived in Haiti almost 24 hours later than planned. This hurdle did not really put us too behind schedule and gave our team some extra rest before plunging ahead.

Our team was high-energy so we hit the ground running upon our arrival. The first afternoon we visited a neighborhood closest to the Baptist camp. Immediately after those visits were completed, I met with Roody, the missionary in residence at the Baptist camp. Roody shared with me his thoughts and strategies. Roody had been praying over an area we came to call "Voodoo land" for about three years. He discerned the time was appropriate – with the help of our team – to



Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, mission team, front row from left: Rachel Brown-Homard, Cindi Brown, Meredith Benton and Lowery Beck. Back row: Wil Allen.

enter the Voodoo village and proclaim the gospel.

Roody dropped off a translator, Wil and me into the heart of the Voodoo village. Being in the center of an area so seduced by Satan was, indeed, a humbling experience, as well as a little disconcerting. The visit with the residing witch doctor (Voodoo priest) and his witch went really well. They were very hospitable and receptive, although they were not ready to give everything up and follow Christ.

As a side note, Voodoo is not only the witch doctor's religion; it is his

method of making money and supporting his family. The witch doctor is accustomed to receiving payment or valuables for the rites and rituals he performs. The concept of a free gift of salvation had to be communicated. Our team was not going to give up – we told them that we would be back.

The second witch doctor that we visited turned out to be one of my favorites. A stereotypical image Americans have of a backwards, face-painted and nose-pierced savage was completely destroyed. Instead, we found a friendly, humble and well-

educated man, dressed much like you or me. He gave his life to Jesus after a long struggle because of the things he knew he would have to give up – mainly his means of support and his temple.

That night at the camp we were able to share with the whole team how God was working in the Voodoo village. God was going before us and pulling down barriers, and the Holy Spirit was in the business of "destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God" (2 Cor. 10:5). The way had been prepared for our team. The next day we took our whole team back to the Voodoo village to share Jesus.

In Leogane, Haiti, there was one more center of Voodoo, and God had prepared hearts in this village, as well. God saved more than 1,000-plus souls during the week, including six witch doctors and many of their followers.

Prior to any of our visits, our mission's pastor and a layperson prayed for us, that the people in Haiti would have dreams and visions of us coming to them to share the news of Jesus. During our week there, we would see this come to pass, as several folks shared that they knew we were coming because they had seen us in their dreams. It was truly an amazing week that has left an indelible imprint of the Master's hand upon our team.



ABSC calendar

- **Aug. 26-27:** Ouachita Baptist University Campus Ministries Retreat – *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia*
- **Aug. 26:** Partners in Ministry – *Arkansas Baptist State Convention building, Little Rock*
- **Aug. 27:** Baptist Youth Day – *Magic Springs, Hot Springs*
- **Aug. 29:** Regional Training for Church and Association Missions Leaders – *First Baptist Church, Van Buren*
- **Aug. 30:** Williams Baptist College Fall Semester Registration – *Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge*
- **Aug. 30:** Your Church & Money Seminar – *Waldron and Fayetteville*
- **Aug. 30:** Regional Training for Church and Association Missions Leaders – *First Baptist Church, Mountain Home*
- **Aug. 31:** Williams Baptist College Fall Classes Begin – *Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge*
- **Sept. 1:** Prepare/Enrich Training for Ministerial Staff – *Arkansas Baptist State Convention building, Little Rock*
- **Sept. 3:** Autism Spectrum Disorder Workshop – *Arkansas Baptist State Convention building, Little Rock*
- **Sept. 6:** Your Church & Money Seminar – *Little Rock and Pine Bluff*
- **Sept. 10:** A.D.H.D Conference – *Arkansas Baptist State Convention building, Little Rock*
- **Sept. 12:** Regional Training for Church and Association Missions Leaders – *First Baptist Church, Marion*
- **Sept. 13:** Regional Training for Church and Association Missions Leaders – *Parkview Baptist Church, El Dorado*
- **Sept. 18-25:** Week of Prayer for State Missions/Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering – *State-wide*
- **Oct. 1:** Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip – *Ouachita Baptist Association (Mena and DeQueen area)*

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

Mark your calendar

YEC
Youth Evangelism
Conference
March 30-31, 2012
Statehouse Convention
Center, Little Rock

Shonlock to perform at Baptist Youth Day

HOT SPRINGS – Uprising, Baptist Youth Day at Magic Springs, has been scheduled for Aug. 27. The event will feature Christian bands performing throughout the day and will conclude with a performance by Christian artist, Shonlock.

Preston (formerly Two Empty Chairs) will lead worship, and Doug Compton, a Christian youth evangelist, will speak at the event.

Sean Mills, Arkansas Baptist State

Convention evangelism and church growth team member, encouraged churches to support Uprising.

“Make this your back-to-school event. Uprising will be a thrilling day of enjoying theme park rides and a water park all in one.”

The park opens at 10 a.m. Season passes are accepted. For more information, including cost, contact Lindsey Moon at 800-838-2272 or 501-376-4791, ext. 5222.



Shonlock

Master'Singers retreat set for Sept. 22-23

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Master'Singers Annual Retreat will be held Sept. 22-23 at Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock.

Master'Singers includes ministers of music/worship leaders, directors, accompanists, choir leaders, pastors and other staff members and staff spouses from Arkansas Baptist churches in every corner of the state. Choir and orches-



tra members from local churches are also invited to participate with the group with the endorsement of their ministers of music/worship leaders.

Master'Singers sing in a variety of venues, including the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Annual Meeting, local churches and prisons.

“These men and women find

incredible joy in singing and worshipping, in leading others to worship, in sharing fellowship and in praying and supporting each other as they serve weekly in churches all over our state,” said Larry Grayson, Master'Singers director and ABSC leadership and worship team member.

For more information or for enrollment brochures, email lgrayson@absc.org or nrose@absc.org, or go to www.absc.org/music or www.arkansasmastersingers.com.



One Day Mission Trip set

THE ACTS 1:8 One Day Mission Trip, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions ministries team, will be held Oct. 1 in Ouachita Baptist Association.

Ministry opportunities include prayer walking, children's activities, senior adult ministry, home repairs/

painting, health clinics, youth sports camps, evangelism, yard work, a fishing derby, block parties and cowboy ministries.

For more information, go to www.absc.org/communityministries, or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5150, or email bfreeman@absc.org.

MosQuest experience coming in October

LITTLE ROCK – MosQuest, a one-day event to connect Christian women from Arkansas Baptist churches with Muslim women, is set for Saturday, Oct. 15.

At MosQuest, Arkansas Baptist women will visit a mosque in Little Rock and then participate in a women's prayer tea.

The purpose of MosQuest is to help Arkansas Baptist women better understand a Muslim perspective and learn how to take steps to establish friendships that will point to Christ.

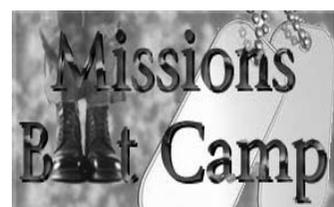
For more information, contact Debbie Moore at dmoore@absc.org, or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5138.



Regional missions education training

Training Dates:

- Aug. 29:** First Baptist, Van Buren
- Aug. 30:** First Baptist, Mountain Home
- Sept. 12:** First Baptist, Marion
- Sept. 13:** Parkview Baptist, El Dorado



Schedule:

- 6-6:15 p.m. Opening
- 6:15-7 p.m. Session 1
- 7-7:15 p.m. Break
- 7:15-8 p.m. Session 2

Session 1:

- Women's Missions/Ministry
- How to Teach Student Missions
- Men's Missions/Ministry
- How to Teach Children Missions
- How to Teach Preschool Missions

Session 2:

- Associational Women's Missions/Ministry
- Project HELP: Human Exploitation
- Royal Ambassadors
- Girls in Action/Children in Action
- Mission Friends

No pre-registration required. For more information, contact the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions support team at 800-838-2272, ext. 5138.



Children and teenagers wait to bungee jump (above). Shining Light director Dean Wallace (right) baptizes Mike Kellum, 16, of Charleston, Mo. Kellum returned to Bryant with members of the recreation team to spend the week. Photos by Hannah Kanai.



Indian Springs serves 'Shining Light'

Tim Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

CHARLESTON, Mo. – For children in the surrounding low-income community, it was like the carnival had come to town.

But it wasn't a carnival. It was the recreation ministry of Indian Springs Baptist Church, Bryant, and equipment it uses ultimately for one purpose: evangelism.

Watching Indian Springs and members of its mission team set up at the Shining Light Outreach Center in the Southeast Missouri town of Charleston is a wonder in itself. After trucks and trailers pull up, a team of volunteers quickly start assembling what could be some of the most elaborate equipment used by any Arkansas Baptist church or association.

Included is a huge four-station bungee jump that rises 25 feet in the air and takes volunteers nearly two hours to assemble. There is also a 26-foot climbing wall, usually seen at large malls and outdoor events, a "twin spin" and an inflatable slide.

"We try to come up several times during the year and help (Shining Light) out," said Lisa Kanai, Indian Springs children's minister who coordinates missions for the church. Nineteen members of the church made this trip, including 10 youth.

Indian Springs Pastor Tom Williams said the church models its missions ministry around Acts 1:8.

"We try to keep (missions) in the forefront," said Williams. "We strongly believe in our convention and what we try to do as a convention. We stand with NAMB (North American Mission Board). We stand

with the IMB (International Mission Board), strongly. We want to be genuine. We want to be involved in God's mission."

In addition to various Arkansas and Samaria outreach projects like Missouri, Williams said the church does work in Macedonia, where his son is a missionary.

Kanai said children and teens love the equipment used by the church.

"Our main objective was to evangelize the community. A tool we used to accomplish that was equipment that we knew the kids would find appealing," she said, adding they mainly brought outreach tools for children. This particular week they did not anticipate the number of teenage boys that showed up, so adjustments had to be made.

"The first day we went pray(er) walking and talking to kids that we saw as we walked," said Kanai. "After seeing all the teenage boys on Sunday, we made the decision that we would do a Bible study environment for the teens and then continue our music/puppet-driven presentation for the elementary age and below."

Indian Springs provided a meal each day, along with popcorn and snow cones. Nearly 200 children and teens attended each night.

"The last night we took all the teens and had a cookout in a local park and a Bible study," said Kanai. "Over the last several years, we have met a few teens that our teenagers have developed a relationship with, and they spent their time being a part of our team. Four of the teens came home with us (to Bryant) and spent the week."

Dean Wallace, Shining Light director, said the area in Charleston



Sherri Richards, preschool director at Indian Springs, assists a young boy on the climbing wall.



Young girls from a Charleston, Mo., neighborhood with Hailey Kanai, 18, of Bryant (second from left), Alexis Hamilton, 15, of Charleston (center) and Haven Kanai, 15, of Bryant. The group met Hamilton three years ago, and she now works with their team when they visit.

where the outreach center is located is particularly challenging due to the economic condition of its residents. The center, which includes an extensive clothes closet and food pantry, recently provided food for more than 150 people and clothing for several hundred others. He said support of churches like Indian Springs is crucial.

"It's amazing how God just seems to continue to bless and to provide for our greatest needs," said Wallace.

"We praise God for Indian Springs Baptist Church and all they have done to make this ministry a success and to see lives transformed and changed."

Kanai said two 12-year-old boys made professions of faith.

"One of them was a young man who had been disruptive all week," she explained, adding the boy was particularly upset the night before the group was set to leave.

As the boy walked away from the center, Kanai said something made her go after him.

"I called after him and asked him to stop, but he just kept walking," she said. "He was an angry young man. I told him why I had been ask-

ing him to stop doing some of the things he had been doing, ... and then I said, 'Come on, and I'll put you on the bungee.'"

The next morning Kanai said she got the opportunity to share Christ with the boy.

"I asked him if he know what it meant to be loved, and he said, 'No.' So, I shared with him about the unconditional love of Christ. He accepted Christ. He spent the remainder of our time hanging out and helping us. When I left, the young man came and said, 'Next time I'm going home with you!'"

Contact Tim Yarbrough at tim@arkansasbaptist.org.



For more information about Shining Light Outreach Center, go to www.shininglightoutreach.org. Watch a video at www.arkansasbaptist.org.

Cooperative Program in Arkansas



Graphic by David Oglesby

National/International Missions

International Missions	21.28%
N. American Missions	9.7%
Theological Education	9.34%
Christian Ethnics & Religious Liberty	.70%
Facilitation Ministries	1.55%
Total National:	42.57%

Arkansas Missions

Arkansas Baptist Assembly	1.15%
Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes	2.64%
Arkansas Baptist Foundation	1.55%
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	1.32%
Christian Education	19.47%
Ouachita Baptist University	
Williams Baptist College	
State Missions/Ministry Efforts	25.2%
General Ministries (Church Annuity Plan, etc.)	6.1%
Total State:	57.43%

The Cooperative Program plan

'A new day for Southern Baptist work'

"SOUTHERN BAPTISTS in World Service" – a booklet written by E.P. Alldredge for the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) in 1936 – aptly captured the essence of the Cooperative Program (CP), started in 1925.

It stated simply, "(It's) the beginning of a new day in Southern Baptist life and work."

The foresight and wisdom of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leaders to establish a coordinated and united giving plan for all churches has resulted in literally millions of lost souls around the world professing Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior since 1925 – and its impact continues to resonate greatly in the Natural State.

In 2004, revivalist Henry Blackaby captured the sentiments of many when he expressed that the Cooperative Program was much more than just a great idea, saying, "The Cooperative Program is not something men designed, but something God put together."

When a church gives a portion of its receipts through the CP, its gospel reach expands exponentially across its community, state, nation

and world.

M.E. Dodd, considered the father of the Cooperative Program, wrote about it in a tract, "Why I Like the Baptist Cooperative Program." He listed seven "special advantages" of the united giving plan that are still true today:

- It enables me to carry out my part of Christ's program of service.

- The Cooperative Program enables me to have a part in all that is being done.

- The Cooperative Program enables me to have some part in the whole work of Christ each and every week of the year.

- This Cooperative Program enables me to do all that needs to be done, because it includes every sort of service to every sort of somebody that any sort of anybody may wish to render (it is the only program in the world that is all-inclusive to every human need).

- This Cooperative Program en-

ables me to carry out God's financial program for His kingdom.

- This Baptist Cooperative Program fixes the support of Christ's causes as a permanent principle in life and does not leave them to temporary emotional appeal.

- The Cooperative Program does not leave the causes of Christ to become the victims of temporary weather conditions, depressions in business or other hindered causes.

The Cooperative Program has shaped for all eternity generations of Southern Baptists who have been called into service with the charge to carry the good news of Jesus Christ to their communities, state and country and throughout the entire world. Pastors and other leaders attending Southern Baptist seminaries are assisted in receiving a theological education through the CP.

"The Cooperative Program is in-

tensely personal for me," said Don Pucik, associate executive director at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC). "I was saved in a storefront mission planted by the CP, educated in schools funded by the CP, served as a home missionary sent by the CP and now I'm working in a ministry to Arkansas churches supported by the CP."

Pucik added, "Through the CP, every Southern Baptist church was a vital part of those ministries God used to save me, train me and send me. The same can be said for every other CP-supported endeavor on the planet."

Former SBC foreign missionary Rusty Hart, who now serves on the ABSC executive support team, said he witnessed the impact of CP on the field every day.

"I saw with my own eyes how our Cooperative Program money changes lives," said Hart. "I knew that with every dollar we invested in seeing people come to Christ, I was representing all Southern Baptists who had sacrificed to make sure that the gospel message came to the



Eternal impact of the Cooperative Program

The road less traveled

Brittany Breedlove has chosen to walk a road that few 23-year-old Arkansans travel as she spends three years as a Journeyman in Niger. Recently, Brittany was approached by a couple of men looking for help building a road to their village, Kalgo.

Though she couldn't help them with the road, she was invited to come and visit them. Once in Kalgo, Brittany was asked by the chief to meet with all the women. She felt that before she could speak with individuals, the leaders needed to understand exactly why she was in their country. She left a cassette that included the Gospel of John for the village leaders to examine.

When she returned to the village to find out if she would be allowed to meet with the women, the chief told her that they agreed partly with the message but could not accept Jesus as the Son of God.

As Brittany began to share about Jesus and answer questions, one man spoke up and told her that Kalgo was fine the way it was. One man, however, opposed him and invited Brittany to share with his fam-

ily. The chief quickly agreed that it would be fine for Brittany to share with the family and any others, which she is in the process of doing right now.

From death to life

Monty and Janis Thompson, Arkansans now serving as international missionaries in one of the most unreached cities in Brazil, were leading a volunteer team from America to make evangelistic visits in 500 homes in their area.



Brittany Breedlove (left)

One of the visits had to be postponed because the teenage son in the family had just attempted suicide for the third time. The parents were overcome by their son's desire to die. Several days later, Monty and Janis were able to share with this young man and his parents about the healing power of Jesus Christ. The entire family accepted Christ.

Overwhelmed by the life-changing power of Jesus, the family opened their home for the Thompsons to lead a seven-week Bible study so they could share with their friends and neighbors. Once at



The Thompsons

death's door, this young man and his family have found the beauty of living with God.

Extraordinary vs. ordinary

It seemed very ordinary to stop on the side of the road and help a young man and his fiancé who were trying to change a flat tire. It was there on the side of the road that Tracy Clayton, a Cooperative Program chaplain in Arkansas, first met Tim and Anna.

Later that day, Tracy was sitting at an Arkansas Baptist Biker Association booth (the group that Tracy ministers to as a chaplain) in Jonesboro when Tim stopped by to say thanks for the help earlier that morning. He was beginning to walk away when Tracy asked if Tim had a few minutes to get better acquainted.

As they sat and talked more in depth, Tracy was able to share God's plan of salvation. Through his tears, Tim accepted Christ as his Savior and Lord of his life. Tracy and Tim remind us that God uses ordinary people and ordinary circumstances to change lives in an extraordinary way.



The Christians

Confidence in God

The painful effects of divorce left their mark on Curtis Christian, who had trouble being confident in many of his decisions, even doubting his salvation.

Curtis' struggles led him to get involved in the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. As Curtis grew in the Lord, he also grew as a leader and decided to say, "Yes," to whatever God might have in store for his future.

His decision led him to work with International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries in Bangkok on a summer mission trip. Soon afterward, he began dating one of his fellow team members, and before long, they were married.

Curtis is very intentional about building a healthy and happy marriage. He and Kate are now students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, S.C., and are awaiting God's direction for their next step.

The Cooperative Program changed Curtis' college experience and is providing his seminary education. It is helping him move into the future with confidence, knowing that God has big plans for him!



Emil Turner
Executive Director

Dear Arkansas Baptists,

Thank you for supporting the work done through the Cooperative Program during a difficult economic recession. Because your church gave sacrificially, a number of important things happened.

For instance:

- People in groups that have never had a convert have been reached for Christ.
- New churches have been started across Arkansas and North America.
- Widows and ministers in crisis have received assistance.
- Young men and women have been trained in ministry skills.
- Victims of natural disasters have received assistance and the gospel.

Churches that work through the Cooperative Program accomplish more because they partner with others to reach the world.

May God bless each ABSC church, and enable us to reach a lost state, nation and world.

In Him,
Emil Turner
Executive Director, ABSC

10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204
Phone: 501-378-4791, Ext. 5182, 1-800-838-2272 Toll Free in Arkansas, Fax: 501-374-2754
Email: emturn@absc.org
www.absc.org



'Empty Hands' video online

Check out additional CP resources, such as the 'Empty Hands' video, at www.arkansasbaptist.org or www.vimeo.com/24977894.

CP materials available

"A TIME TO CELEBRATE" is the theme of the Cooperative Program (CP) Emphasis Month set for October.

"Cooperative Program brochures and posters are available at no cost to churches," said Rusty Hart, CP specialist on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive support team.

Hart said CP Month packets contain sermon outlines, CP sto-

ries, children's activities and other resources.

"Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to help your church understand how it is being used to change the world through the SBC (Southern Baptist Convention) Cooperative Program," said Hart.

To order CP Month materials, contact Trinka Newman at 800-838-2272, ext. 5158, or email tnewman@absc.org.

NEW DAY

continued from page 9

people of Russia.

"It was a great honor to share with people that Southern Baptists all over the world gave so that I could be there at that moment to introduce them to Jesus. Through

the Cooperative Program, you were there with us in Russia every time someone came to Christ. That is the miracle of the Cooperative Program."

Pucik said one of the beauties of the Cooperative Program is it allows "every church (to) become a part of everything that Baptists are doing everywhere every day."



HELPING:

- Individuals Financially Impact Ministries
- Ministries Establish and Maintain Endowments
- Churches Teach Estate and Charitable Planning
- Ministries Maximize their Financial Assets
- Others in the Name of Christ

“The Cooperative Program allows us to help individuals and ministries become better stewards of their resources.”
David Moore, ABF president



An essential partner in Christian higher education

A Christian college education is made possible for many students when churches give to the Cooperative Program.

At Williams Baptist College, all Cooperative Program dollars received go toward scholarships. That means students benefit directly from CP support.

Those students prepare for their careers, and their lives, in a distinctly Christian environment. They encounter opportunities to minister close to home and around the world. And they chart the course of their adult lives with the guidance of a Christian world view.

Thank you, Cooperative Program, for all that you make possible at WBC!

WILLIAMS
Baptist College

Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
www.williamsbaptistcollege.com

BAPTIST HOME BOYS RANCH PROMISE HOUSE COUNSELING EMERGENCY CARE



Visit www.abchomes.org

Call 501-376-4791, ext. 5168.
Find us on



**because you care
we can care for kids!!**



CP gifts help Ouachita equip future leaders

Trennis Henderson
Ouachita Baptist University

ARKADELPHIA - Both Ouachita Baptist University and the Cooperative Program (CP) have strong roots in Arkansas Baptist State Convention life.

Ouachita, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, continues its role as a leading liberal arts university in a Christ-centered learning community. The CP, a significant ministry tool since 1925, remains an effective channel for Arkansas Baptists to faithfully support Christian higher education, as well as numerous other ministry efforts throughout the state and beyond.

Ouachita President Rex Horne frequently emphasizes the importance of students, faculty and staff being difference makers for the cause of Christ in all areas of life.

In a recent letter of appreciation to Arkansas Baptist leaders, Dr. Horne wrote, "The Cooperative Program remains a vital resource in helping us produce new generations of difference makers as Ouachita remains true to the twin pillars of a love of God and a love of learning."

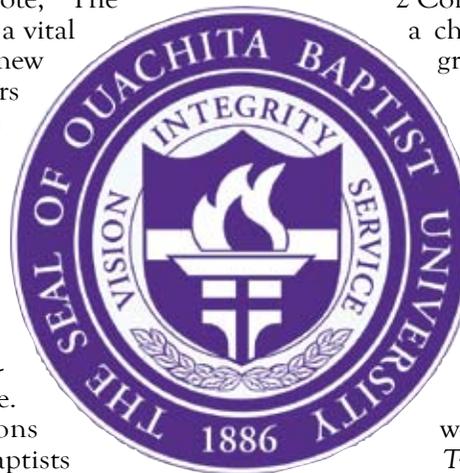
Annual gifts through the CP help provide needed resources for Ouachita Baptist University to train and equip current and future generations of ministers, teachers, physicians, business leaders and more. Those generous contributions from individual Arkansas Baptists and local congregations equal approximately 20 percent of the financial aid that the

university awards to students each year.

2 Corinthians 9:7 declares, "God loves a cheerful giver." Through the CP, grassroots Arkansas Baptists can cheerfully and consistently support the life-shaping ministry of Christian higher education.

As Ouachita educates students from more than 30 states and 40 nations, Arkansas Baptists are key partners in preparing those young people to make a difference for the sake of God's kingdom both here at home and around the world.

Trennis Henderson is vice president for communications at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia.



CP funds help WBC students

Brett Cooper
Williams Baptist College

WALNUT RIDGE - The Cooperative Program (CP) touches lives all over the world, including those of college students here in Arkansas. At Williams Baptist College (WBC), CP funds go directly toward scholarships, making Christian higher education possible for many students.

"Cooperative Program gifts provide approximately 60 percent of our academic and leadership scholarships at WBC. That is a direct benefit to students, many of whom would not be able to go to a Christian college otherwise," said Williams President Jerol Swaim.

The Williams president noted that 82 percent of Williams students are from Arkansas, meaning scholarship money directed to the college has a big impact in the state.

"These are students who are specifically seeking a Christian college and who want that influence in their lives. About 25 percent of our resident students serve in some type of ministry during a typical summer, which tells you they have a heart for God," Swaim noted.

The impact also extends well beyond the present. Swaim said that the whole objective of Christian higher education is to provide a lasting, positive influence on students.

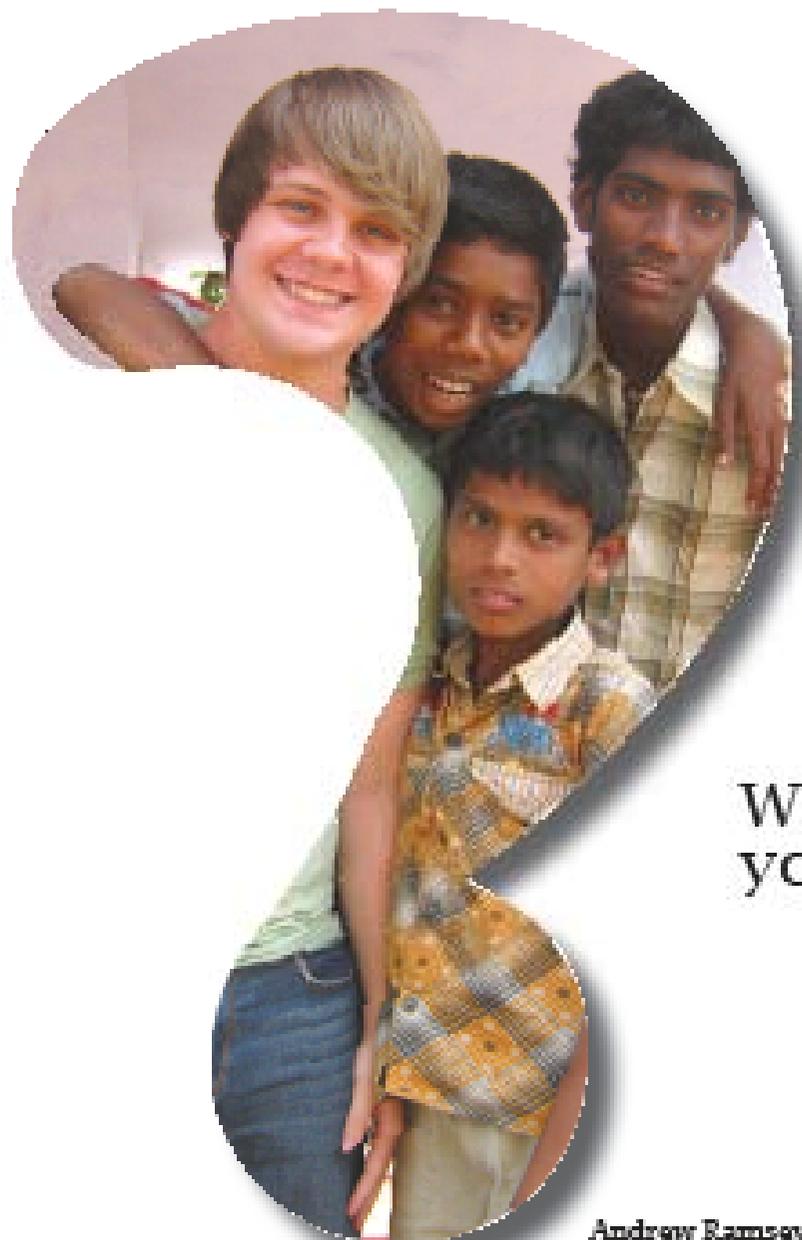
"We have many graduates in career ministry positions, and some 40 percent of our graduates are in various fields of education, influencing countless lives in the classroom. Other alumni are having an impact in a wide array of other occupations. The Cooperative Program money that helped make their education possible is having an influence many times over," he said.

The president noted that the CP funds account for more than 9 percent of the college's budget.

"I really cannot imagine what we would do without the Cooperative Program," Swaim said. "It is an incredibly effective way for Arkansas Baptists to join together and do the Lord's work both close to home and around the world."

Brett Cooper is vice president for college relations at Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge.

Every church has a story ...



What's yours?

Andrew Ramsey, a member of First Baptist Church, Van Horn, on mission in India.



Subscribe today to the
Arkansas Baptist News
at www.arkansasbaptist.org
or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5153.



Breaking ground

Friendship Baptist Church, Conway, breaks ground for their new worship center. From left: Ray Nabholz, president of NBMC, Inc.; Rik Sowell, president of Sowell Architects, Inc.; Joe Stockton of Arvest Bank; Ken Jordan, church pastor; Don Wells, chairman of deacons; and John Cheek, chairman of the building task force.



Sports camps

Fellowship Baptist Church, Witcherville, recently sent a team of 27 people to Nebraska to hold evangelistic sports camps in towns where no Southern Baptist churches exist. During their stay, they held three sports camps, in which a total of 211 children and teenagers were enrolled, and 63 of the children and teens made professions of faith in Christ.

ABN Archives

1901-2011

ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWS

86 years ago - August 1925

FREE FORD Offered to Agents

Will you accept a straightforward business proposition that will pay you \$9 to \$14 a day from the start and give you a Ford car FREE to help you in your work? I mean just that. I don't want you to invest any money or risk anything. I'll take all your time, or just your spare time if you prefer. Even without giving up your present work, I can show you how to

Make \$50 to \$100 a Week

I want men and women agents now to take orders for the famous Zanol Line of Pure Food Products, Flavors, Toilet Preparations, Perfumes, Soaps, etc. 350 Different articles. Sure-fire sellers in every home. Best money-making offer you ever read. Remember

—FREE Ford Car.

Write for details.

ALBERT MILLS
1412 American Bldg.
Cincinnati Ohio

Write Quick

Carpenter BUS SALES

going the extra mile since 1953



Visit www.carpenterbus.com to see over 100 New & Used Buses In Stock. We buy buses and welcome Trade-Ins.

CALL TOLL FREE: 800.370.6180

Clearance Sale!
Call for a complete list of our Best Priced Buses!



Biblical Solutions for Life
A Service of LifeWay Christian Stores

Happy Birthday!

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

- ◆ Sept. 20: Joshua Stewart, OBU Box 3291, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; United Arab Emirates.
- ◆ Sept. 28: Ben Schleiff, OBU Box 4602, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; China.

Advertisement

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

The Board of Trustees at Blue Mountain College, a coeducational liberal arts Christian college affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, announces the search for its next president and invites nominations and applications for the position.

Dr. Bettye Rogers Coward, the seventh and first female president, will retire from Blue Mountain College on June 30, 2012, when she will have completed 11 years as president.

Dr. Coward led the College in a functioning planning process, extensive refurbishing of campus facilities, increasing enrollment, growing the endowment significantly, establishing the college's first graduate program, and developing a campus-wide wireless internet and course management system while maintaining a debt free situation.

These accomplishments position a new president to take this Christian institution of higher education to new heights of excellence.

Blue Mountain College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate and masters degrees.

Desired Qualifications: The successful candidate will be a member of a Baptist church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, hold an earned doctorate and/or a successful tenure related to the nature of leading an institution of higher learning, and be an effective

communicator. The college is seeking a president who has a passion for students and their development and a capacity for shaping and communicating an institutional vision in ways that are compelling to donors, the media, and the community and to other college constituents. He/she will be expected to be an effective manager of resources.

Challenges: The next president of Blue Mountain College will build upon the foundation developed by the current Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, and staff and take the institution to new heights of excellence.

The new president, through hers/his leadership, will work with all of the college's constituent groups to expand the influence and educational opportunities of the college in the region and beyond.

To Apply: Go to www.bmc.edu and follow the application process as found on the Presidential Search section. The Presidential Search Committee is committed to the highest standards of professionalism in working with candidates, sources, and references, respecting the need for confidentiality.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Advertise with the ABN. Call 800-838-2272, ext. 5155, or email nelle@arkansasbaptist.org.

Rider named 'Athletic Director of the Year'



Jeff Rider (left) receives award from AMC Commissioner Lowell Pitzer.

ST. LOUIS - Jeff Rider of Williams Baptist College has been named the 2010-11 American Midwest Conference (AMC) Athletic Director of the Year, the organization announced.

Rider, athletic director at Williams since 2006, was recognized at the conference meeting on Aug. 1 at Harris-Stowe State



University in St. Louis.

Prior to becoming athletic director, Rider was men's basketball coach at Williams. He is a Williams alumnus.

During the 2010-11 school year, Rider was instrumental in renovations to lighting, scoreboards and fencing for the Eagles and has added a sports

information director position and three assistant coaching positions, according to AMC.

"I am excited about this award for Jeff," said Williams President Jerol Swaim. "Not only is it significant for him personally, it is very significant for Williams. Also, I believe it demonstrates how seriously we take athletics and how seriously we take employing outstanding individuals, such as Jeff."

On the move

Joel Owen is serving on the staff of Crossgate Church, Hot Springs, as student pastor.

Sonja McKinney has resigned from the staff of Crossgate Church, Hot Springs, as student director.

Ricky Donahue is serving as assistant pastor of Caledonia Baptist Church, El Dorado.

Ardell W. Polk is retiring, effective Sept. 25, as pastor of First Baptist Church, Rector, where he has served for more than 20 years. Starting in December he will be available for supply and interim pastorates. He can be reached at ardell.polk@gmail.com.

Milestones

Bill and Maifred Donahue were honored by Caledonia Baptist Church, El Dorado, and Liberty Baptist Association for 20 years of service to the church. Bill Donahue serves as minister of music, and his wife serves as the church pianist.

Church life

Magnolia Baptist Church, Crossett, will hold a 100th anniversary celebration at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 11. Greg Pierce, associational missionary for Ashley County Baptist Association, is the featured speaker. All former church staff and members are invited to attend.

CHERYL E. TURNER



*Women's Motivational Speaker
Humorist and Storyteller*

For information
337-457-8872
2569 Richard School Road
Eunice, LA 70535
cherylrutht@aol.com
sparrowsnestministries.com

Ministry doesn't stop
for you to figure out your health insurance needs.



GuideStone Insurance. *Our ministry serving your ministry.*

- ✦ Plan choices that meet your healthcare and budget needs.
- ✦ Easy online application.
- ✦ Service you can count on.

Apply online at www.GuideStone.org/FreeQuote or call 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) to speak to a customer relations specialist.



Ministers, church staff and denominational employees are eligible to apply for coverage through GuideStone. Underwriting is required.

© 2011 GuideStone Financial Resources 17934 07/11

Our Churches: First Baptist, Bellefonte

Whitney Crews
Arkansas Baptist News

BELLEFONTE – Last year, First Baptist Church, Bellefonte, celebrated its 150th anniversary, but the church has something even more amazing to celebrate this year – its first mission trip.

About 30-40 people attend Sunday school weekly at First Baptist. Vacation Bible school (VBS) is always part of their outreach. However, after George Box, the church's pastor for the past six years, went on a mission trip to Mexico and his wife, Raechel, visited Indonesia, the congregation began to think about getting involved in missions themselves.

"Our association had already been partnered with Nebraska, but no one had been to Falls City," said the pastor. "I told them we were a very small church and we wanted to serve a very small church."

After speaking with the pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Falls City, Neb., Box said they "hit it off" and things went from there. A group of 11 went to Falls City July 15-22; that is 30 percent of the congregation. Most were over 60 years old, with four teenagers also making the trip.

"Others were willing but unable to go," said Raechel Box. "The entire church was involved through providing food, prayer and funding for the trip."

While in Nebraska, First Baptist, Bellefonte, members encouraged the pastor and congregation, handed out flyers for the upcoming VBS they would hold and prayer walked at a neighboring church that had closed its doors.

"The pastor and his wife were doing all the work," George Box said. "They were having an after school club where they were doing all the work for 30 kids. Others have now stepped up to help, and other kids have started coming to the church services, where before only one was coming. I also saw six kids make commitments to the Lord."



First Baptist Church, Bellefonte, members (pictured with members of Faith Baptist Church, Falls City, Neb.) recently went on the church's first mission trip to serve Faith Baptist, a small church like their own.

The church of Falls City, smaller than First Bellefonte, was a great encouragement in return.

"I've seen how our people understand the importance of stepping outside the doors," George Box said. "I hope they see the importance of reaching out locally now. Little churches can do anything large churches can; we just might have to find a different way to do it."

While the church just returned from its first mission trip at the end of July, the Boxes have faith in their congregation's willingness and are

being encouraged by their giving attitudes.

"I'm so very proud of our little congregation because they have big hearts for the Lord," Raechel Box said. "We have been encouraged by Falls City because they are already seeing fruit from our labor."

"I guess small isn't so small in God's eyes; it's all about being willing to be used for kingdom purposes."

Contact Whitney Crews at whitney@arkansasbaptist.org

Classifieds

PASTOR

East Heights Baptist Church, Tupelo, Miss., is seeking a **senior pastor** who can operate in a team approach with pastoral staff. Our total Sunday morning attendance is 200-225 with great potential in the community for growth. Send resume to randymccoy@bellsouth.net or Randy McCoy, 290 Tyler Willis Lane, Tupelo, MS 38804.

Small town church is seeking a **full-time pastor**, age 35-45. He must adhere to the BF&M 2000 and have quality preaching and leadership skills. Send resumes to Rector First Baptist Church, 200 S. Stewart, Rector, AR 72461, Attn: Pulpit Committee.

Sidney Baptist Church in rural Sharp County, Ark., is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Worship attendance 80-100. Send resumes to Pat Smith, 611 Sidney Road, Sidney, AR 72577.

England, Ark., First Baptist Church needs a **full-time pastor**. Contact Joey Adams, 870-543-0790, for information.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Arkadelphia, Ark., is seeking a **full-time pastor** or an **interim 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.

Cherry Street Baptist Church is currently seeking a **pastor**. CSBC is located in Clarksville, Ark., a city of 9,600 residents in Johnson County, where over 19,000 people reside. We have a loving, Christ-

centered congregation and a beautiful sanctuary with a Sunday morning attendance of over 40. Our sanctuary accommodates approximately 250. We also have many classrooms to accommodate growth. The pastor's salary is \$40,000, plus a two-bedroom parsonage located next to CSBC. The University of Ozarks and downtown Clarksville are three blocks from CSBC. Staff includes a part-time secretary, nursery worker and custodian. We are praying for a God-called pastor who is willing to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in a variety of possible ministries. Send resumes to P.O. Box 378, Clarksville, AR 72830 or dstandri@suddenlink.net.

Seeking **pastor**. Campbellsville Baptist Church has long been and is a leading church in the heart of central Kentucky. CBC is widely known for its love of mission work and mission support, its music ministry, youth ministry and its historic relationship with Campbellsville University. For more information or to submit a resume, please contact Committee Chair Ed Pavy at pavyed@yahoo.com, call 270-789-0604 or mail to 102 Wellington Park, Campbellsville, KY 42718.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Full-time youth minister – We are seeking God's man to lead a large and growing youth department. Potosi Church is healthy, vibrant and growing. We are a SBC/MBC church and affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. Music is a lively and important part of our worship. The ability to lead our worship

service is a plus, but not a requirement. Send resume to Search Committee, Potosi Southern Baptist Church, 10165 W. State Highway 8, Potosi, MO 63664; 573-438-2276.

Formosa Baptist Church in Clinton, Ark., is seeking **bi-vocational worship leader** or **bi-vocational worship leader/youth leader** for blended service. Contact Pastor Billy Reece, 501-253-1204, or email resume to billytreece@hotmail.com.

Full-time youth and music position. Salary, paid insurance and housing. Send resume to bro.james@cadronridge.org.

Looking for **full-time worship minister** to lead a more contemporary blended service, including directing a praise team and choir, at Calvary Baptist Church, Neosho, Mo. Send resume to Attn: Worship Recognition Team, calvaryofneosho@yahoo.com by Aug. 31, 2011.

First Baptist Church, Siloam Springs, is seeking a **full-time communications ministry assistant**. This person is responsible for communicating the ministry information of the church to members and the community through print and electronic methods. Computer skills and graphic design experience and/or training needed. Contact office@fbcsi-loam.com, or call 479-524-3106.

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.

Marshall Road Baptist Church is interviewing for

the position of **bi-vocational youth director**. Call 501-982-4564, ext. 22, or email sammons2@comcast.net.

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.

Growing church with exciting potential seeking **bi-vocational youth pastor**. Please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, Attention: Pastor George Spears, 2201 S. Dallas Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901. You can see our Web page at www.immanuelbaptistfs.org.

Bakers Creek Baptist Church, Russellville, wants a **piano player**. Contact dougwhite@centurytel.net, 479-880-0033 or 479-970-4207.

Graphics coordinator – full-time print/video/Web person needed at Second Baptist Church, Conway. For full job description, contact Rich Nelson, worship pastor: 501.327.6565, RichN@2bc.tv.

MISCELLANEOUS

Piano: Valley View Baptist Church in Eureka Springs, Ark., is seeking a 5'10" baby grand piano, or larger, in excellent condition. 479-253-5714, vvbc@cox.net.

For rent – Gulf-front condominium near Destin, Fla. Fall is a great time at the beach. With low owner rates. Call Lucy, 770-831-3651. Email Lucyclark9@aol.com.

Kimball organ entertainer for sale. Like new; \$1500. Call 479-783-0743.

Good news to tell

Rueben (name changed) was a patient in an intensive care unit in a hospital in his early 30s. He was recuperating from a gunshot wound in the back that left him paralyzed from his waist down. He was a barber and had been working alone in his shop when a person entered, drew a pistol and demanded money.

Rueben told him the day had been slow and there was not much money in the drawer but he could have everything. As he turned to open the cash register, the man shot him in the back. That one bullet changed his life forever. He would

never walk again.

This act was so wrong. It should not have happened. I expressed my sorrow to Rueben. He then said something amazing.

"No, I am not sorry. You see, chaplain, when I came to the hospital, I had a one-way ticket to hell. Now I know Jesus as my Lord and Savior. If that's what it took for God to get my attention, well, so be it. Don't feel sorry for me."

Paul, the great apostle, writing under the direction, guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, identifies himself as the author of I Corinthians. He called his message "the

gospel" which literally means "good news." In I Corinthians 15:1-4, he shares that this gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Paul minces no words in his message. He declares that the gospel is the power of God (Rom. 1:16). That word "power" is the word "dunamis." It means "to have a special ability to do something, to give strength," and at times is translated as "miracle." It is the

promise of Jesus in Acts 1:8.

The gospel produces a personal relationship between the person and God. It changed Paul's life, and it changed my life, too. Like Paul says of himself in Romans 1:16, I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it has changed my life. It can and will do the same for you. Please don't wait for someone to have to shoot you in the back for you to believe.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

Charles A. Collins
chaplain
Baptist Hospital, Little Rock
Scripture passage:
Romans 1:1-17

For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body - so also is Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. So the body is not one part but many" (1 Cor. 12:12-18 (HCSB).

The expression of harmony within the Christian

family is a blessing as we are able to live and worship in Christ without schisms existing. The lack of harmony within the body of faith is what

Paul addresses in his first letter to the Corinthians. Harmony is not always easy to accomplish in difficult environments. However, in Christ, we must remember that all things are possible (Phil. 4:13).

Across the Southern Baptist

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

Bob Williford
director
Hope Migrant Mission Center

Scripture passages:
Psalm 133:1-3; 1 Corinthians
12:12-18, 21-26

Good news to hear

Our family moved to Oaxaca, Mexico, in 1998. Word came that the neighboring state of Chiapas had been hard hit by serious flooding. Many people had lost their lives. Thousands were homeless. Food and water and the basic elements of life were scarce. Another missionary and I went to Chiapas to see what we could do to help.

A river flows through town. We had to reach the other side. There was a small Baptist church there, and the members needed help. The bridge had been washed away, and the only way across the river was by a railroad bridge. It was literally hang-

ing by the rails. The cross-ties were all there was on which to walk.

There was no problem at first because the cross-ties were relatively close together, only a couple of inches apart. The farther out we got, the farther apart the cross-ties became. I suddenly became aware of the river far beneath where I was standing. Now I had to be careful where I placed my foot because there was space between the ties, open space where I could fall. I wanted to turn back, but I did not want others to think badly of me so I kept going and finally made it across.

The gospel provides the means

whereby a sinful man or woman can find access to God. It is God's grace that makes it possible to cross the raging river below.

Romans 3:25 speaks of Christ as being our propitiation. A simple word study reveals the depth of the meaning behind this word. It literally means "mercy seat." This was the top part that covered the Ark of the Covenant. It was made of gold.

The high priest went into the

Holy of Holies once a year and sprinkled the blood of the sacrifices. This was called the Day of Atonement.

Christ receives the sin of the sinner, and the sinner receives the righteousness of Christ.

There is no space between the cross-ties; there is no way to fall. You can come today, cross the bridge, be on the other side and not have to think (as I did) of walking back across.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

Charles A. Collins
chaplain
Baptist Hospital, Little Rock

Scripture passage:
Romans 1:18-3:26

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing those from whom you learned, and that from childhood you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:14-15).

In verse 16, Paul directs Timothy's attention to the Old Testament Scriptures because the New Testament had yet to

be written. However, his comments in verse 17 are about all Scripture, including the New Testament.

Timothy advises that God's Word instructs us that salvation comes through faith in Christ. Salvation comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul says that the Bible is God-breathed, which means that the Scriptures are the very words of God. When Scripture is speaking, God is speaking. The

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

Bob Williford
director
Hope Migrant Mission Center

Scripture passage:
2 Timothy 3:1-17

Spiritual maturity connects believers

Holy Spirit guided the human authors to disclose God's revelation in written form.

Why is it important to notice that all Scripture is God-breathed? Because this is true, we must learn from all of Scripture.

There are some aspects from Scripture that some tend to ignore or perhaps dismiss because of fear and discomfort. These two facts must change and only do so if the biblical steps to spiritual maturity are taken.

Scripture is useful for instructing every believer to believe for training in God's righteousness. God's Word is completely sufficient to

provide everything to live in Christ. We must not seek information from other sources to find steps toward spiritual maturity.

However, we are to continue daily in reading God's Word, studying God's Word, applying God's Word and walking in faith in Christ.

Paul encourages his friend that, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

With this statement of faith, our steps toward spiritual maturity are increased.

DeQueen youth plan three-day revival

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

DEQUEEN – Have you ever felt “an inch tall compared to the Empire State Building?”

Katherine Clay says she has. Clay helped plan a three-day revival for the youth in the DeQueen area – and the task was daunting. There were busses to schedule, speakers to call, housing to find and musicians to book. There were T-shirts to design and meals to plan. And it all had to come together to form a youth revival Aug. 11-13.

So you say, “Revivals are planned every day. ... What’s the big deal?” You see, Clay is just a youth herself. She will be sophomore in high school this fall.

And the rest of those organizing the event were students too – all members of the First Baptist Church, DeQueen, youth group.

Justin Risley, First Baptist youth leader, explained the idea was sparked during a study the youth were doing on a book called “Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations,” by Alex and Brett Harris.

“The book is about challenging teenagers to get out of (their) comfort zones and to do bigger and harder things because teenagers don’t really have a good reputation, and it was encouraging to step away from that and go further,” explained Lucee Lugo, a ninth grader who helped plan the revival.

Some of the youth approached Risley in February, telling him they wanted to hold a youth revival – and they wanted to do it all.

Risley said he “was pleasantly surprised at what they decided to do.”

“My goal was that, by the end of the book, they would want to do something. ... I didn’t know that they wanted to do something this big, but that was awesome,” he said.

So, Risley began leading the youth through the process. They formed teams for areas such as booking and housing. He gave them a list of speak-



DeQueen youth revival logo (left). A member of After Edmund performs at the DeQueen revival.

ers and musicians to choose from, and the youth prayed through the list, eventually choosing evangelist Jon Harper of The Word Ministries in Texas, as speaker; Elliott Andrews, a worship leader originally from Crossett as worship leader; and After Edmund as the band for the Thursday night concert. They also chose a purity-based theme to use during the revival, and they decided to call the event For Students By Students.

Risley said four girls, including Clay and Lugo, formed the core group who initiated the project, and three of the four were in junior high at the time. About a dozen other youth helped.

“We’ve learned a lot,” Lugo said. “We’ve learned when we go to big events, how much planning it really does take.”

Clay added, “I know that I’ve realized that it’s a lot more than just walking up and saying, ‘Well, we have the speaker, a van, a worship leader and we’re done.’ You have so many things that you have to worry about, like so many little details that you just have to remember, and if that’s not there, it can throw the whole thing off.”

They’ve learned more than just

the logistics, though.

“It’s really showed me that I’m a lot more capable of things than I ever thought I was and that I can do so much more,” Clay said. “There’s been lots of prayer going into this, and (God) has just showed us that we can do so much more through Him than we could ever do without Him – because it so would not have worked.”

Lugo said, “It’s really cool to see kids your age working with you to plan something so big. And it’s all for God. ... When you look from where we had come, and then you look to where we are now, ... it’s amazing the things you can do with prayer and planning no matter what age you are. I mean, it’s been awesome.”

Lugo said they had fun, but it was also stressful at times.

Clay described what it was like when Risley showed them everything they had to do for the event.

“I felt an inch tall compared to the Empire State Building,” she said. “I’m thinking, ‘How are we going to do this? How are we going

to provide food for people? How are we supposed to find lodging? How is this supposed to work?’”

She said that with all the work came lots of prayer. “It’s gotten so much easier,” she said. “And now ... that we’re actually starting, it’s just surreal. It doesn’t even feel like it’s actually happening yet.”

Now, her advice for teenagers is to “just remember that it’ll seem really hard at first, but if you just remember that God can get you through anything that you do, just pray and remember that, and you can do anything.”

Risley said the revival “went very, very well,” with 50 students from four churches attending, including their own. At least one student accepted Christ. He said the youth are at work planning next year’s revival.

“I’m extremely proud of our students,” Risley said. “And we hope that more people will join and make it an even better event for the next school year.”

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.

*Smilemakers...
In the Kitchen*
More and More

Edited by
Linda Adams

To order your cookbook for \$22 (plus s/h) today,
email Siella Prather at sprather@abchomes.org,
or call 501-376-4791, ext. 5168.

Living Proof Live Simulcast
Saturday September 10th, 2011 9:30am - 4:00pm

Park Hill Baptist Church
201 East "C" Ave. NLR, AR
Tel: 501.753.3413 www.parkhillbaptist.org
Cost \$10 (Includes boxed lunch)

LIEW Women

Teen girls challenged to missional living

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - Stacey Smith, an Arkansas Baptist prison chaplain, recently spoke to about 2,350 girls in grades 7-12 and their leaders at Blume, a three-day missions event for teenage girls, sponsored by national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). The event was held July 13-16 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.



Smith

Smith, who serves as a North American Mission Board (NAMB) Mission Service Corps missionary and prison chaplain at the Arkansas Department of Correction McPherson Women's Unit in Newport, told girls at Blume about how God changed her life.

The NAMB missionary was convicted of transporting drugs and sentenced to 60 years in prison.

Smith, who was granted early parole after serving 12 years, said bad choices led to her conviction.

In reflection, she said, "I wish I had listened to my mom and dad when I was your age. I never grew up thinking I wanted to go to prison. But it was one bad choice after another that got me there."

"I was saved in prison," Smith continued, "and I know God for-

gave my sins the moment I confessed them, but He didn't remove the circumstances. Though I got out early, I'm still on parole and can't leave my county without permission. But God is taking the consequences of my life and using them for good. He can take every part of our lives and use it for His glory."

Blume participants were encouraged to appreciate their spiritual and missions heritage and consider ways they could share Christ with others and live a legacy of faith - even now in their junior high, high school and college years.

General sessions featured music by Christian recording artist Cindy Johnson of Winston-Salem, N.C.; discussion with national Acteens panelists; a message from author and keynote speaker Chandra Peele of Houston, Texas; messages from a host of international and North American missionaries, including Smith; and theme interpretation through painting by artist Rianna Freeman of Lafayette, La.

Giving opportunities

Prior to their arrival, Acteens were encouraged to bring hygiene items, wash cloths, clothes, sneakers

and other items with them to Blume to sort and give to local ministries.

With more than 24,000 donated items, the girls were able to assemble in excess of 3,000 hygiene kits that were given to the Greater Orlando Baptist Association. Additional clothing and household items the girls brought, along with nearly \$1,500 in Walmart gift cards they donated, went to the Osceola

Christian Ministry Center, a local center operated by First Baptist Church of Kissimmee that ministers to the homeless and underemployed through a variety of free services.

Participants gave more than \$20,700 to the Beginning of Life Foundation in Moldova, a ministry that helps prevent children, teens and young adults from becoming victims of human trafficking.



ARKANSAS BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

SUPPORT YOUR ARKANSAS BAPTIST EAGLES

SEPTEMBER 2	CONWAY CHRISTIAN	HOME	7:00 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 9	BIGELOW	AWAY	7:00 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 16	BISMARCK	AWAY	7:00 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 23	BARTON	AWAY	7:00 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 30	HARDING ACADEMY	HOME	7:00 P.M.
OCTOBER 7	EPISCOPAL	HOME	7:00 HC
OCTOBER 14	BRINKLEY	AWAY	7:00 P.M.
OCTOBER 21	ROSEBUD	HOME	7:00 P.M.
OCTOBER 28	MAYFLOWER	AWAY	7:00 P.M.
NOVEMBER 3	RIVERVIEW (THURS.)	HOME	7:00 P.M.

Arkansas Baptist High School
8400 Ranch Blvd. Little Rock, AR 72223 (Turn North off Cantrell)
ArkansasBaptistFootball.com



Cross Church is here for your student.




CROSSCHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE

Learn more online at crosschurch.com





FOUR SUNDAY SERVICES at 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Ronnie Floyd Senior Pastor
Dr. Nick Floyd Campus Pastor
David McKinney College Pastor