



## Prayer garden dedicated

Lisa Watson  
Arkansas Baptist News

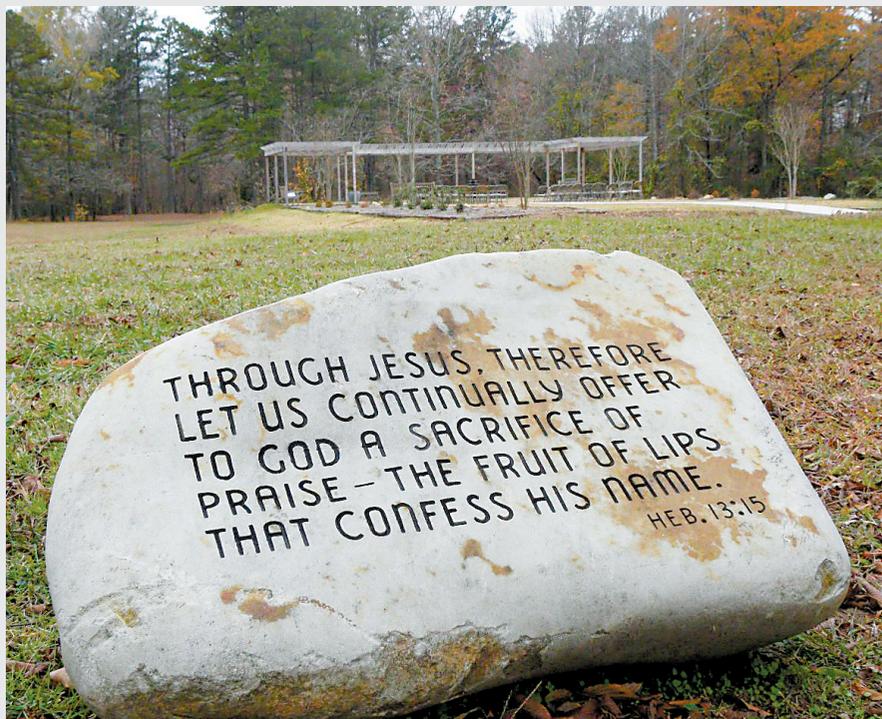
PARON - Located less than an hour from Little Rock, Camp Paron has served for the last 49 years as a place where Arkansas Baptist churches and other groups can retreat.

The camp, which is surrounded by acres of rolling forested land, boasts a chapel, conference rooms, a guesthouse, a swimming pool and even a hotel.

But it has lacked one thing - a special place set aside for people to sit quietly and listen to God.

That need has now been filled.

The camp dedicated a new prayer garden Nov. 12. Located away from the camp's buildings, the garden includes a pergola structure, wooden benches, a foun-



Camp Paron dedicated its new prayer garden Nov. 12. Photo by Karen Jordan

See **GARDEN** page 7

## NLR church committed to Joplin

Jessica Vanderpool  
Arkansas Baptist News

NORTH LITTLE ROCK - Everything but the peanuts and crackerjacks - that's what Highway Baptist Church, North Little Rock, donated for the children in Joplin, Mo., this summer.

The church literally took a load of baseball equipment - including balls, batting helmets, bats and gloves - to Joplin, the site of horrific tornado damage earlier this year, so the children could continue to enjoy "America's favorite pastime."

Pastor Mark Overman said the idea came to him when he heard on the radio that Joplin's summer collegiate baseball club, the Outlaws, were in need of equipment for the clinics and camps they would be holding during the summer.

"(I) thought since one community complex in southwest Joplin had been completely destroyed, we could collect equipment for the kids in that area," Overman said. "(I) thought it would be one way of helping kids who would be playing ball this autumn in fall leagues and for kids who just wanted to play catch or have some fun with friends and family."

He said Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, where he previously served, and First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, also donated equipment to the cause. In addition, Park Hill donated money for

See **JOPLIN** page 7

## Foundation approves 2012 budget

LITTLE ROCK - The Arkansas Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees approved a 2012 operating budget of \$875,000 during a meeting Nov. 10.

The budget represents an increase of \$70,000 over the 2011 budget, which is primarily due to the growth in assets and endowment income, said David Moore, Foundation president.

In other action, the board updated its investment policy statement and incorporated its dis-

closure statement and asset allocation policy into one policy.

Officers elected for 2012 include Phil Cox, a Little Rock CPA, chairman; Tom Staley, a Little Rock attorney, vice chairman; and Jay Shell, a Batesville attorney, secretary.

Moore reported on a spending plan rate study that was recently completed. For most endowments,

the Foundation is currently paying 4.5 percent based on a rolling

16-quarter average. In light of the economy, a study was made to consider reducing that percentage to 4 or 4.25 percent.

Moore said, "There is no compelling reason to lower the rate, especially when ministries are in need of so much financial support."

The Foundation reviews the rate annually.

Dick Gladden, a Hot Springs financial advisor and the current Foundation chairman, and Harold

See **BUDGET** page 3



Moore

For Fair Oaks pastor

## Prayer ministry emerges from Facebook

FAIR OAKS - While it seems every week there is a new spam or "phishing" attack on social networking sites, a rural Arkansas pastor is using Facebook as a platform for effective prayer ministry.

"About a year ago, I was spending a lot of time reading gossip, garbage and solicitation on Facebook," said Al Brodbent, pastor of Fair Oaks Baptist Church near Wynne. "I was ready to quit using



Brodent

it, and then the next day (I) saw where two people had requested prayer about a matter. I decided to pray every day for their request and let them know I was praying. It had a positive influence on me as to, 'Maybe I am onto something,' ... as well as influencing that person on the value of prayer."

Perhaps most significant was a word Brodbent received from a pastor for whom he had been

praying. It confirmed for him that God had given him a significant new ministry assignment as a sort of "cyber prayer warrior."

"That week a pastor asked for prayer, and after two weeks of, everyday, praying and sending a message, he sent me a message stating, 'In my 30-plus years of ministry, I have had many people commit to pray for

me but never have had someone that did.'"

About that same time, Brodbent explained, Kentucky pastor Kevin Ezell was announced as the new president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and was talking about the need to downsize ministry assignments and staff at

See **PRAYER** page 3

# Shiloh Christian: 'grace, even in defeat'

SPRINGDALE (BP) – When the Shiloh Christian Saints went down in defeat 48-35 to Heber Springs Nov. 11 in a first-round game of the Arkansas high school playoffs, it was the end of a different kind of season – but one that players and coaches know God used to teach them how to rely on Him.

Entering the playoffs this year was familiar territory for the Saints – having won three straight state titles and four titles in the last five years. What was not familiar was losing.

Stumbling to a 5-5 record in 2011, the Saints were a young, inexperienced team, and they suffered a barrage of injuries. Whereas in recent years, Shiloh Head Coach Josh Floyd consistently had to encourage his players to be humble, that lesson has come a lot easier in a season like this one.

"This year we've taken some blows, and we've had some distractions," Floyd said. "We've tried to learn those things, even when you're having a tough season.

"The truth is, a lot of times you learn more when things aren't going well, and you've got to rely on God and rely on your teammates a little bit more. It's not necessarily the fun way to do it, but that's usually the truth."

Shiloh Christian School was started in 1976 by Cross Church, Springdale (formerly First Baptist Church, Springdale). A fledgling football program for years, Shiloh grew into one of the nation's elite football schools beginning in the mid-1990s under the leadership of Gus Malzahn – now the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Auburn University.

Malzahn led the Saints to consec-

utive state titles in 1998 and 1999. Floyd was the 1998 team's quarterback, passing for an astonishing 5,878 yards that year before moving on to a collegiate career at Ouachita Baptist University.

"About the mid-1990s, we decided that we really wanted to try to become a national football program," Ronnie Floyd, pastor of Cross Church and Josh's father, said on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) Frontline documentary "Football High" that featured the Saints. "And with that, everything began to advance.

"How do you explain what's happened?" he continued. "You've got this little football program that has emerged to the national stage. The only way I can explain it is the favor of God. That's it."

After graduating from Ouachita Baptist University, Josh Floyd spent a year as a student assistant at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville under Houston Nutt, then a year as an offensive coordinator at another high school before returning to Shiloh, where he is in his eighth year as coach.

Floyd's job became more challenging this year after the graduation of Kiehl Frazier, one of the nation's top high school quarterbacks, who was recruited by almost every big-time NCAA school. Frazier chose Auburn and is in his freshman season there.

While the Saints have grown accustomed to winning in recent years, and while the PBS documentary featured Shiloh in a segment titled "Winning is Everything," Floyd said his program is about much more than victories on the field.

"Obviously, we want to win, and we want to be champions," Floyd



Josh Floyd (right), Shiloh Christian School football coach, speaks to his players.

said. "Champions' is a word we use a lot at Shiloh. Our philosophy is to develop champions, and we say it in this order: 'spiritually, academically and athletically.' That's why I feel like Shiloh's a great place – because I think we're able to really do all three of those things."

Floyd certainly wants his team to win championships, saying that such opportunities are valuable experiences for his players.

"But I think the key is, we want to be able to use that influence in a positive way," he added, "and hopefully lead people to the Lord."

This year has given Floyd and the Saints that opportunity. The loss on Nov. 11 to an undefeated Heber Springs squad (which beat Shiloh 36-17 in the first week of the

season) gave the Saints a losing record to finish the year – something they haven't experienced since 2002 (Shiloh finished 3-7 that year).

"I think people have wanted to see how we're going to react during a tough situation," Floyd said. "And I think our kids and our school have reacted in a positive way. We've had grace, even in defeat."

In spite of the lackluster year, Floyd said the Saints will continue their efforts to build champions – both on the football field and for the Lord.

"The things you remember the most are when you've had times to lead people to Christ," Floyd said. "At the end of the day, you hope they come to the Lord and leave here wanting to make a difference."

## Evangelism Conference slated for Jan. 23-24



Mason

SHERWOOD – Speakers for the 2012 State Conference on Evangelism and Church Growth plan to "stir up a passion for evangelism."

The two-day event, which will be held at First Baptist Church, Sherwood, Jan. 23-24, will feature speakers from Arkansas and across the country.

Keynote speakers include Roy



Smith

fish, retired distinguished professor of evangelism, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Robert Smith, professor of Christian preaching, Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Ala.; Michael Catt, pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church, Albany, Ga.; John Meador, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas; Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Or-

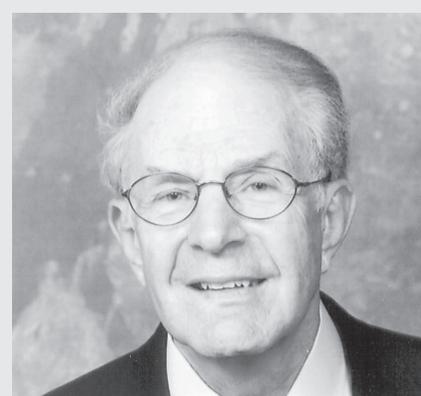


Catt

leans, La.; and Archie Mason, senior pastor of Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro.

Worship will be lead by Charles Billingsley, worship leader at Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va. The Skit Guys, Christian comedian sketch artists, will also perform.

A prayer conference will be held prior to the conference Jan. 23.



Fish

### Evangelism section

The *Arkansas Baptist News* is planning to publish a special evangelism section during the State Conference on Evangelism and Church Growth in January. If you would like to submit the name of an evangelist you would like to see featured in the section, email [abn@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:abn@arkansasbaptist.org).

## Hope Place holds banquet

MONTICELLO – Kristen Glover, Miss Arkansas 2011, was the featured speaker Nov. 15 at a banquet held for Hope Place, a crisis pregnancy center in Monticello.

The event, held at First Baptist Church, Monticello, was the second annual banquet for Hope Place, which is sponsored by Bartholomew Baptist Association, according to Tammy Albrecht, ministry assistant with the association.

“Most of those involved with this ministry are members of our association’s churches, but there are fine Christian people from all over the Southeast Arkansas area who volunteer their time and make generous donations to the center,” said Albrecht.

In 2011, Hope Place gained 32 new clients, held weekly Bible studies with clients, gave 15 ultrasounds and supplied 450 packs of diapers to clients who “earned” them, said Albrecht.

There were 13 client births through Hope Place this year.

“Three moms chose life, saving the lives of four babies because of



Kristen Glover, Miss Arkansas 2011, speaks at a banquet for Hope Place, a crisis pregnancy center in Monticello. Photo by Tammy Albrecht

the ministry of Hope Place,” she said.

Glover is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia and worked during the summer at the Promise House Maternity Home, which is a ministry of Arkansas Baptist Children’s Homes

and Family Ministries.

Robin Caldwell is the executive director of Hope Place.

“Robin spends countless hours in this ministry, always giving glory to the Lord for the amazing things He continues to do through Hope Place,” said Albrecht.

## Cowboy Church Clinic set for Dec. 3

WARREN – A Cowboy Church Clinic will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Macedonia Baptist Church, Warren.

Everyone interested in cowboy church missions is invited, and lunch is provided, said David Williams, pastor of Grace Cowboy Church in Lacey near Monticello.

Lance Hames, pastor of Foothills Cowboy Church, Batesville, who is assisting with arrangements, said the clinic is designed to “help new starts or people desiring to start a cowboy church.”

Among the speakers featured is Tim Wallace, pastor of Cross Brand Cowboy Church, Springdale area.

“We will be talking about the mission of the cowboy church,” said Hames.

“Topics included during the clinic are music, outreach ministries, preaching, leadership, discipleship, location, administration and overall logistics of the cowboy church.”

For more information about the clinic, email [gracecowboychurch@yahoo.com](mailto:gracecowboychurch@yahoo.com) or call Williams at 870-226-5972.



## PRAYER

*continued from page one*

the domestic mission entity.

“This touched my heart. Being a counselor, I knew there would be many employees with frustration and anxiety during the process of determination (of) who would and who wouldn’t be cut,” said Brodbent, who is a certified professional pastoral counselor with the American Association of Christian Counselors.

“I immediately started contacting NAMB personnel to add to my daily prayer list, committing to pray for them every day,” he said. “Approximately 50 responded, and I would get up at 5 a.m. and pray for them and their families and every couple of days send them a word of encouragement.”

Brodbent made a decision to dedicate his Facebook page to people in ministry.

In the ensuing months, the pastor’s prayer list has ballooned to

more than 600, and now, in addition to NAMB staff, includes a number of state executive directors, other denominational employees, college presidents, seminary professors, pastors and church staff.

Brodbent’s prayer effort takes a great deal of commitment and perseverance.

“I get up at 2:30, and it normally takes till 5:30 to finish the prayer and send a message once a week to each person,” he explained. “Some get messages twice a week, as they serve in a position and then preach on Sunday morning. It appears like I will have to back up Sunday morning to 2 o’clock, as I have 237 pastors and about 75 others. I need to focus on preparing for church at 7 o’clock.”

Brodbent believes his efforts are paying off and are having an eternal impact.

“Since the beginning, I have had many comments (from ministers) about the fact they have never had anyone before continuously pray for

them and receive some kind of verification,” he said.

“God has really used this ministry in my life to bring me to a realization that prayer is at the foundation of everything we do or attempt to do. Most plans fail because of a lack of foundation of prayer.”

Brodbent may be found on Facebook by typing in, “Pastor Al.” To listen to an audio interview with Brodbent about his Facebook prayer ministry visit [www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org) and click on Audio/Video.

## BUDGET

*continued from page one*

Clark, a Jonesboro financial advisor, were recognized for service as outgoing board members.

John Russell, a development officer for the International Mission Board, shared the inspiring story of how Muslims are responding positively to the new Bible on a video flash drive, Moore added.

## ABN Digest

Stories of interest to Arkansas Baptists

### Embryonic stem cell research work to cease

LOS ANGELES – In a surprising move, Geron, the company that launched the nation’s first government-approved embryonic stem cell trial, is halting further research due to funding – a shift that pro-life leaders say confirms long-held doubts about the value of embryonic stem cells.

### Tom Elliff inaugurated as 11th IMB president

RICHMOND, Va. – Tom Elliff was inaugurated as the 11th president of the International Mission Board (IMB) during a ceremony held Nov. 14 at Grove Avenue Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

The event was during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, which gave their missions night to the inauguration. Representatives of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, the other convention in the state, also were present and represented on the program.

### EvangeCube makers issue gospel challenge

FRANKLIN, Tenn. – e3, the makers of EvangeCube, are challenging 1 million Christians to use the evangelism tool to share the gospel with one new person each month for 12 months – with the ultimate goal of 12 million gospel presentations in 2012.

### British Baptist news to cease publication

DIDCOT, England – The *Baptist Times*, an award-winning newspaper published weekly for British Baptists for 156 years, will cease both print and digital editions at the end of the year.

The reason for the closure was said to be due to declining circulation and advertising sales.

### Pastors: Porn affects church members’ lives

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Most pastors believe pornography has adversely impacted the lives of their church members, but almost half cannot estimate what percentage of their congregation views porn, a survey by LifeWay Research reports.

For more ABN Digest, go to [www.arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest)

## Deer season and Christmastime

I once heard a funny story about a pastor and his deer hunting members. It went something like this:

The Sunday morning service at the church just happened to coincide with the last day of hunting season.

So the pastor of the church got the idea that the congregation should pray for the members absent who were deer hunters and for their deer.

The following Wednesday night during prayer meeting the pastor was anxious to ask all the hunters present if they had bagged a deer ... but no one raised a hand.

Puzzled, the pastor said, "I don't get it. Last Sunday many of you said you were missing because of hunting season. I had the whole congregation pray for your deer."

One hunter groaned, "Well, it worked pastor. We're all safe, and so are the deer."

I know of at least one pastor who wants deer hunters to bag their bucks. He is Charlie Winters, pastor of Cedar Heights Baptist Church in North Little Rock (see ABN story, 11/17).

Pastor Winters is fortunate to be alive following a head-on collision with a deer on State Highway 89. The mishap occurred when a deer ran headlong into his motorcycle while Winters was traveling at an estimated speed of 60 miles per hour.

Bro. Charlie says the accident reminded him of the importance of listening carefully to God's "still, small voice."



### PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough

I couldn't agree more. It is easy amid the hustle and bustle of the Christmas holiday season to get caught up in decorations, food and presents and miss the real reason why we gather to celebrate Christ and His entry into our fallen world.

It is an amazing story, indeed, how God sent His only Son as a baby to show mankind the true and only pathway to Him. What's more, I have friends who have told me one of the few times in their lives they are able to get away and contemplate Christ's Gift is on a deer stand.

I understand because, for many men, getting away during deer season is one of the few times in their lives when they can truly "unplug" from the rigors of daily life, performing ministry responsibilities, raising a family, making a living and paying the bills.

Of course, getting away and drawing closer to God doesn't require a hunting trip, but depending on the man and his interests, it just may do the trick.

I decided a few years ago to read the Bible through every year until I exit this life. So far, after about three years, I have been able to do just that.

But in order to do so, I have to be intentional about getting up early every day and honoring my commitment.

I'm amazed how God speaks to me through His still, small voice as I read through the Bible. While

church is to pattern its programs and methods after the methods of the world.

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (1 Cor. 3:19a).

The change the church needs is a return to her first love and repentance toward God for being more desirous of pleasing the world than of pleasing Him.

Another need is to once again put emphasis on studying and



I may have read over a section of Scripture numerous times, He uses a fresh reading to bring to light a new truth or get me to thinking about something new about His nature and majesty.

A number of years ago I read the book "The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative" by Christopher J.H. Wright.

Wright's premise is that the Bible is not only a basis for missions, but that its entire contents - from Genesis to Revelation - is all about God's mission. He argues

that we see the "big picture" of God's mission and how the familiar bits and pieces fit into the grand narrative of Scripture.

As I read the book, I came to better understand my role in God's mission and in the importance of pausing during the hectic pace of life to acknowledge and seek Him.

My prayer during this holiday season is that we all will pause and contemplate the Christ of the manger ... as well as the Christ of the cross.

Tim Yarbrough is editor of the Arkansas Baptist News.

### Return to God's plan

The emphasis in churches today seems to be on change.

We are told, "The world has changed. The church must change too, but the message never changes."

Actually, when the church sets out to please the world, the message does change. For instance, the church used to teach the depravity of man. Today, it teaches the value and worth of man.

Nowhere in the Bible that I know of does it teach that the

teaching His Word; in other words, emphasizing Sunday school. Teaching is part of the Great Commission just as making disciples is.

"... the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land"

(Hosea 4:1).

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge ... seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I

will also reject thy children" (Hosea 4:6).

My prayer for the church is that she will return to the plan of God, which is making disciples through preaching and teaching them to observe all things He has commanded.

Rosemary Looney  
Charleston

### Letters welcome

Email letters for publication to [tim@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:tim@arkansasbaptist.org).

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR



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## Family Matters

### Celebrating Christmas

Full is in full swing, and Christmas is around the corner. How are you planning on celebrating Christmas this year? Reflecting on how others celebrated the first Christmas provides some memorable ideas. Luke 2:16-17 (NIV) indicates that the shepherds "spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child." They spread what they had heard in Luke 2:10-14, namely the good news of a Savior. Have you shared with family and friends your testimony about how God saved you? Why not take time this Christmas season to write out your testimony and share it with family and friends? One of the ways our family spreads the word is through neighborhood caroling. We invite young families to our home one evening, practice caroling and then walk around the neighborhood spreading the good news. We return to our home for some Christmas goodies and a time to share the Christmas story with neighborhood children.



Phillips

Christmas is also a time to marvel at Christ the Savior, as seen in Luke 2:18.

Christmas is an extremely hectic time for many families. Take some time to slow down and read and reflect on the Christmas story, not just on Christmas day, but multiple times between now and Dec. 25. Reread the Christmas story in a different translation, or work on reading the story chronologically. One of the ways we have marveled at Christ is by reading different Old Testament prophecies of Christ and how He fulfilled those in the New Testament.

Learn from Mary in Luke 2:19 and treasure Christ in your heart. Sometimes it's challenging to treasure Christ when wrapped treasures lay under the Christmas tree. One of the ways we strive to treasure Christ is to begin each Christmas morning with a scavenger hunt with clues to find different pieces of the nativity scene. We take turns reading different parts of the Christmas story and treasure Christ together before we unwrap other less significant treasures under the tree.

One cannot help but worship God for the Gift of His Son. Luke 2:20 illustrates the overflow of worship from an encounter with Christ. Christmas falls on Sunday this year, so plan to be with your church family and worship together. Don't forget to invite neighbors and friends to join you.

*Ben Phillips is team leader of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention family ministry team.*

## Your church and its telephone

The billboard made me wish I were a member of the church. Smiling, diverse, pleasant-looking young people – a message that said something to the effect: "People who go to our church are happier and prettier than people who go to your church."

Nice. It only lacked one thing – a phone number. "How do I find the church?" "What time are its services?" "Does it have a nursery?" "Can I drop off my children and come back after church to pick them up?"

I know all this information will not work on a billboard, but a phone number would have helped.

On the church sign, a phone number is an access point for people who want to know about the church and who don't want to risk attendance yet. By listing a phone number, it makes it easier to attend or to get information about the church. A phone number should always have a prominent place on the church bulletin, and it should be easy to find on the website.

Now that we have a phone number that is prominent and visible, let's move to the next step, which is answering the telephone.

Automated answering systems are part of daily life. We don't like them, but we expect them. An automated answer should be short, sweet and simple. If people want a detailed, frustrating phone tree, they can call Comcast, but for a church, they want to speak with a human. After all, churches care about people, right? The sooner callers speak with a caring person,

the more likely they are to conclude that the church will live up to its purpose as a place that reflects God's love for people.

Now that we have made it easy to call and easy to speak to a human, there's a third step, which is the person who answers the phone.

"This is Betty. What do you want?" is not what you want a caller to hear. Instead, the caller should make contact with a person who is polite, calm and focused on the call. He or she shouldn't be distracted by a cell phone ringing or by the minister of youth's failure to turn in announcements for the bulletin. The person who answers the phone should be able to give clear directions to the church, should be able to answer basic questions about programming, should have a plan for handling benevolence requests and should be willing to "go the extra mile" to help. Protecting a staff member's privacy and time are secondary to serving the community. Help the person who answers to understand the priorities and to graciously minister accordingly.

Finally, on Sunday morning, when people are making up their minds about attending church, have a real, live person answer the phone. A phone tree can never sound as good as, "We are at the corner of Ninth and Main. Park in our visitors' spaces, and I'll meet you at the door. Looking forward to seeing you in a few minutes."

*Emil Turner is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.*



### A PASTOR'S HEART

Emil Turner



## Where your time and riches are

Although it has been 30 years, I still remember one particular moment clearly. It's a flashback that always begins with Jim's rather harsh and stern words: "Why should I give to Lottie Moon to support missionaries? I know a missionary who drives a four-wheel drive vehicle. I can't even afford that."

First of all, we could question this man's presumption that he should be driving a nicer vehicle than a missionary. Even more disturbing is his apparent unawareness of why the missionary needed a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Then Jim went with us on a church mission trip to northern Guatemala. There we built a conference center and worshipped with the K'etchi Indians. Since their churches were built in the jungles, Jim and I traveled to one in the back of a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Between one of the many bounces on the hilly dirt roads, he remarked, "Now I know why they need a four-wheel drive vehicle!"

When the road ended short of our destination, our group had to trek an additional two miles on foot. It was then – only then – that Jim's attitude toward the missionaries changed for the better.

Later the same year Jim became a powerhouse for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. He told others about the great needs on the mission field and the

unswerving dedication and resolve of our missionaries. His life had been permanently changed because of what he had experienced firsthand.

\$2,593.

This figure represents the average donation to charity by Americans who volunteered their time to charities in the last 12 months, compared to the \$230 donated by Americans who had never volunteered during the same period, according to Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund VolunteerMatch.

When individuals put their time and effort into a ministry, they commit both their resources and hearts toward that end.

Jesus reminded us, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:21, NIV).

I might add, "Where your time is, there your treasure will also be!"

Before you consider what to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, you might spend some time seeing the needs of the world, either by going directly to the mission field or learning vicariously through pictures or literature. In any case, you will discover that the needs are great if you take the time to look.

*David Moore is president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.*

### FINANCIAL TIMES

*David Moore  
Arkansas Baptist Foundation*

## 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](mailto:tim@arkansasbaptist.org), or call 800-838-2272 (toll-free in state) or 501-376-4791, ext. 5151.



'Slip Disc' used as evangelism tool

## Tossing to share the gospel

**Lisa Watson**  
Arkansas Baptist News

BEEBE - Looking for a new and innovative way to share the gospel? Consider getting in the game by using a 'Slip Disc.'

From beach outreach to vacation Bible school, The Slip Disc offers a great way to tell others about Christ in a nonthreatening way, said Jackie Gibbs, founder of Slip Disc Ministries along with his wife, Geri. The Gibbss reside in Beebe and are members of First Baptist Church, Cabot.

Whatever the activity, the discs provide a connection point, allowing people to "earn the right to be heard," said Gibbs.

The idea for The Slip Disc came from Gibbs' struggle to share his faith in Christ as a youth pastor just out of seminary.

"I was good at throwing a Frisbee, but not so good at sharing my faith," he said.

So, he hit upon the concept of combining his love for the sport and the need to share Christ, and The Slip Disc was born.

This year marks the 21st anniversary for Slip Disc Ministries.



A boy receives The Slip Disc in El Salvador.

In that time, more than 500,000 flying discs have been distributed literally all over the world, in at least 73 countries.

Four different evangelistic messages are available for placement on the discs, including one for children. Some messages have been translated into 10 languages, including English, Spanish, Russian, Romanian, Portuguese, French, Welsh, Swahili, Czech, Haitian Creole and Turkish.

Gibbs said currently there is a need for someone to translate the message of the children's disc into the Haitian Creole language.

Tough economic times have had an impact on the ministry.

"This past year has been the hardest," said Geri Gibbs, who manages the ministry's bookkeeping and helps with making and distributing the discs. "For the first time, we haven't been able to pay for our product."

Thankfully, the company that makes the discs is lenient, allowing the Gibbss an entire year to pay for the products they order.

Through the struggle, the couple says one thing is certain - God will continue to provide.

"The Lord just keeps us going," said Gibbs.

The Gibbss have had a variety of part-time jobs to help support the ministry, including teaching guitar lessons, substitute teaching, supply preaching, delivering phone books and even collecting garbage.

They both currently work part-time at Fort Thompson, a sporting goods store in Sherwood.

Additionally, Gibbs installs disc golf courses at camps and parks across the United States.

Over the years, Gibbs has considered going back to work in a full-time church staff position, but he said God has made it clear He wants the couple right where they are. Gibbs noted that every time God has provided for them, often in a "dramatic" fashion.

The last five years have taught the couple to trust God, even when it looks bleak financially.



"We have truly seen God do unbelievable things financially," said Geri Gibbs, noting being a part of the ministry has allowed them the opportunity to witness God at work.

What keeps them going are the stories they hear from people all over the world who have used their discs to share the gospel with others. Even the Duggars, stars of the reality TV show, "19 Kids and Counting," who live in Northwest Arkansas, used Slip Discs on a mission trip to El Salvador.

Through the reach of Slip Disc Ministries, the Gibbss feel they are "partners in ministry" with those who use their discs to share the love of Christ.

Slip Discs are available in a variety of colors. Customized discs are available for churches and ministries looking for a creative way to share the gospel and promote activities to their target audiences.

Day camp materials utilizing the children's message on The Slip Disc are available.

For more information, contact Slip Disc Ministries at [www.slipdiscministries.com](http://www.slipdiscministries.com).

Contact Lisa Watson at [lisa@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:lisa@arkansasbaptist.org).

## The Slip Disc assembly

Geri Gibbs (left) applies an evangelistic message to the back of a Slip Disc, while Jackie Gibbs imprints the front of the disc with the ministry's logo. The Gibbss assemble Slip Discs at their home in Beebe.



## JOPLIN

continued from page one

the delivery team's travel expenses.

So, once the equipment was collected, three members of Highway Baptist - Gary Hamilton, Robert M. Berryman and his wife, Lynn M. Berryman - hit the road to Joplin. Overman said their efforts were coordinated through Forest Park Baptist Church, Joplin. Along with donating equipment, the church presented Forest Park with a love offering.

Robert M. Berryman shared his impression as part of the delivery team. He mentioned the devastation he witnessed and concluded, "These people truly have nothing and appear to be demoralized in every way. This could have been you or I. I know that I would want all the support I could get. So I ask all of you to pray for Joplin and our future trips, and let us all help Joplin."

The church's goal for the trip was not just to donate equipment and money, explained Overman.



Lynn Berryman (right), member of Highway Baptist Church, North Little Rock, prays with a woman shopping at the distribution center of Forest Park Baptist Church, Joplin.

He said they wanted to meet, pray with and encourage those in Joplin. Then, they wanted to take photos and give a report to their own church members, sharing how they felt God leading them to continue being involved in Joplin ministry.

"Since the extent of damage is so severe, we plan to help over an extended period of time in connection with Forest Park Baptist Church," said Overman.

And they are doing just that.

Overman said they have made multiple trips throughout the fall.

He said they made a trip at the end of September to serve at a distribution center located on Forest Park's campus. They helped stock shelves, clear debris and aid shoppers while there. They also presented the church with another love offering, and they donated clothing, as well as toiletry items from the North Pulaski Baptist Association office, to the distribution center.

Then, they returned in November to help at the distribution center again.

Following the November trip, Overman spoke of the progress being made in the city.

"In just five weeks since our last time there to work, homes are being constructed all over the areas damaged and destroyed," he said. "Instead of seeing the barren destruction with remains of a few damaged trees, framed houses are now seen dotting the landscape. God is at work in Joplin through so many people. Their stories are incredible to hear."

He also noted, "What is amazing is the presence of God's power in the lives of the people. They are so appreciative of the outpouring of God's grace and love."

Overman said the church plans to continue ministering to the people of Joplin through prayer, trips and financial gifts. After Thanksgiving, they will be selling gift cards for \$10 each, hoping to raise \$1,500 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Joplin relief.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at [jessica@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:jessica@arkansasbaptist.org).

## GARDEN

continued from page one

tain and landscaped plants, with the backdrop of the forest behind. Rocks in the flower beds are engraved with Scripture verses and invitations to pray for missionaries and other ministries.

"We've created a place that's away from the main camp and activities," said Jeff Corley, who serves on the staff of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) business affairs team and helps oversee the camp.

### Ketner honored

The prayer garden was dedicated to Julia Ketner, who served as executive director for the Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and on the staff of the convention as missions support team leader for 36 years.

When Ketner retired in 2007, the WMU executive board decided to honor her in some way. After considering various options, the board settled on building the garden.

Camp Paron was a fitting place for Ketner to be honored.

Ketner served on committees to build the dining hall, chapel and guesthouse at the camp, said Corley. She also hosted Girls in Action and other conferences there.

Emil Turner, ABSC executive director, said he was "delighted" the ABSC was part of the dedication.

"Julia Ketner is one of the finest people I know," he said. "I don't know anyone who loves the Lord more or who has a greater commitment to missions than Julia. She has made an eternal difference in Arkansas and in the kingdom."

Judy Shaddox, former WMU executive board president, called Ketner a "prayer warrior."



Camp Paron's new prayer garden is dedicated to Julia Ketner, former ABSC staffer.

"She loves Camp Paron and has held countless meetings and camps there particularly for the purpose of involving believers in missions," Shaddox said.

"During the 36 years that Julia served the churches of Arkansas through Arkansas WMU and the missions support team, she spent countless hours at Camp Paron and touched literally thousands of lives there," added Diane Parker, ABSC missions support team leader and WMU executive director. "It is fitting that the prayer garden be named in her honor."

Ketner, who learned the garden was to be dedicated in her honor on the day of the presentation, was overwhelmed by the gesture.

"I can't think of a better thing to add to the ministry of Paron than to have a prayer garden," said Ketner.

### 'Holy moments'

Ketner, who became a Christian at a camp, said she "loved" working at Camp Paron. "We had so many special times at women's retreats and MK (missionary kid) retreats that blessed my life tremendously."

She said she keeps thinking of the "holy moments" that may happen in the garden in the years to come.

"It will make an eternal difference, not because of me, but because of that place," she said.

Ketner expressed gratitude for all the time and effort that went into the garden.

"All the people that were involved - it's amazing. It's a day I won't ever forget," she said.

Though the WMU executive board provided the "seed money," other donors also contributed to the project, said Corley.

In honor of the 125th anniversary of First Baptist Church, Heber Springs, church volunteers built the bridge leading to the prayer garden. The youth group from First Baptist Church, Oppelo, planted flower beds during Spring Break of this year.

Sue Sinyard, who served on the WMU executive board, donated many of the flowers and plants for

the garden from her home.

Curtis Blankenship, Camp Paron manager, was responsible for the construction of the garden, said Corley. He hired contractors to build the structures for the garden. In addition, he and his crew spent countless hours digging the flower beds, pouring concrete and hauling rock at the site.

"It's been a long process, but at the end of the day, a great one," said Corley. "I've been amazed at how many people came out of the woodwork to be a part of making it what it is."

Corley would eventually like to extend the prayer garden into a nearby wooded area and creek bank.

"It's just the beginning," said Corley. "Eventually, we will have a good corner of the camp that will be ... a place for people to be quiet and hear God."

"That's what camp is all about."

Contact Lisa Watson at [lisa@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:lisa@arkansasbaptist.org).

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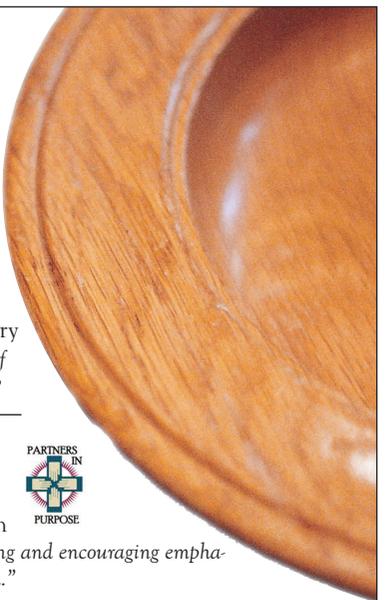
### Mt. Zion Trinity Baptist Church, Clarksville

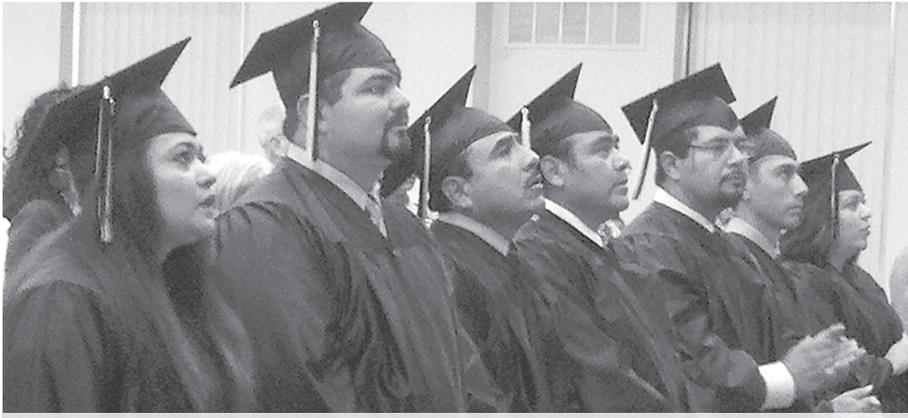
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Robby Jackson, pastor, said he was "... surprised by the level of commitment. Yes! We would recommend it to other churches."

### Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Bismarck

Committed 1.5 times last year's receipts  
Last year's budget receipts: \$181,000  
Committed \$269,000 over three years to debt reduction  
Jim Agee, pastor, said Partners in Purpose was a "very uplifting and encouraging emphasis" and a "blessing to see others commit and step out on faith."

To request a free info packet or a free presentation to church leaders, contact Denny Wright, ABSC Leadership and Worship Team, [dwright@absc.org](mailto:dwright@absc.org) or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5114.





### Graduation

Centro de Capacitación Bíblica, a Hispanic Bible institute established by the Northwest Baptist Association in partnership with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, recently held its first graduation, which took place at Primera Iglesia Bautista in Fort Smith.



### Griffin retires

Judy Griffin (right), ministry assistant at Trinity Baptist Association, was recently presented a plaque and honorarium by Larry Loggins, association moderator and pastor of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Trumann, in recognition of her 12 years of service at the association. During Griffin's tenure, she served with Larry White, former Trinity Baptist Association missionary, and Glenn Bien, current Trinity Baptist Association missionary. Griffin retired from the association Oct. 28.

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#### The Thanksgiving Offering—'because we care'

AN EDUCATOR of another day was speaking at the dedication of a building. In the course of his remarks he stated



DR. WHITLOW

"If this building is instrumental in saving just one boy it would be worth every dime invested in it."

At the close of the service a gentleman from the congregation said to the speaker, "In your enthusiasm did you not overstate the truth a bit when you said if this building is instrumental in saving just one boy it would be worth every dime put into it?"

not had to be committed to a home for child care.

Second, we thank God for our denomination which has a compassion and a concern for those who have met with some misfortune which made it necessary to be placed in a home. The children are not responsible for the conditions which made it necessary for them to be in the home. And then, grateful to God that He has made it possible for us to share in this ministry, we give because we care.

Let no real or imaginary cause keep your church from sharing in this worthy endeavor this Thanksgiving. — S. A. Whitlow, Executive Secretary.

#### Correction

In the article "Equipping students Sandusky's calling" in the Nov. 3 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News*, it was inadvertently reported that Mike Sandusky served on the

campus of Southern Arkansas University Tech as campus minister. He actually serves on the campus of Southern Arkansas University. We regret the error.



#### Veterans Day celebration

Jeff Dial, pastor of Life Line Baptist Church, Little Rock, looks on as members of the Junior ROTC from Cloverdale Aerospace Technology Conversion Charter Middle School in Little Rock participate in the Veterans Day celebration recently held by Life Line Baptist.

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#### Church life

First Baptist Church, Mountain Home, recently celebrated its 25th anniversary at its current location. The event included music, a message, testimonies, prayer and a video presentation of the 1986 walk from the church's old location downtown to the new building on Club Boulevard.

Hagler Baptist Church, five miles south of Lodge Corner, will host "The Shepherd's Dialogue," a Christmas drama by Jesse Looney of DeWitt, at 6 p.m. Dec. 17.

#### On the move

Lance Read is serving on the staff of First Baptist Church, Green Forest, as minister of music, coming there from Old River Baptist Church, Dayton, Texas, where he served as minister of music.

Evan Smith is serving on the staff of First Baptist Church, Bismarck, as youth pastor. He is a recent graduate of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

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# DR volunteers provide manpower, leadership

CONWAY – The disaster relief ministry of Faulkner Baptist Association may not have all the equipment necessary to be considered an official disaster relief unit, but what they have – manpower and leadership – is being used to assist state-wide disaster relief efforts.

Gerald Nash, member of Second Baptist Church, Conway, is coordinator for both the Faulkner Baptist Association's disaster relief ministry and the Second Baptist Church's disaster relief ministry.

Regarding the Faulkner Baptist Association disaster relief ministry, Nash said the lack of equipment has not kept them "from performing some significant disaster relief work."

The ministry's disaster relief volunteers have become an important part of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention No. 1 Recovery Unit.

Not only did they help prepare the No. 1 Recovery Unit trailer, but they have been deployed to various disaster sites, including to Vilonia following the storms in April.

The ministry provides services such as chain saw recovery, debris removal, feeding, tarping (covering damaged roofs with tarp) and light construction. Though they have both trained and untrained volunteers, only those with official training are able to deploy with the No. 1 Recovery Unit.

"We are also developing a church-wide disaster plan to implement in the event of a major disaster in Conway," Nash explained. "This plan will help us to locate and meet the needs of our church family and their families during a city-wide disaster, as well as reaching out to our community. Some of these things we are doing now, and some are in

the planning stage."

Nash said future plans are to have a tarp unit, recovery unit and feeding unit. They would also like to recruit more retired volunteers so they can work out of state more.

"We know the storm is on the horizon, and we want to be ready to assist," Nash said.

For more information on how to get involved in disaster relief work, call 800-838-2272, ext. 5249.



Mary Ann Nash, a disaster relief volunteer, operates a chain saw.



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## Classifieds

### PASTOR

**Bi-vocational pastor** needed at Immanuel Baptist Church. Pastor is retiring due to health. Send resumes to Immanuel Baptist Church, 939 Barkada Road, Monticello, AR 71655-9275, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, or call 870-367-3342.

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

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

Armored Baptist Church, near Blytheville, Ark., is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please prayerfully send resume to paulross72@yahoo.com or mail to Armored Baptist Church, Attention: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 68, Armored, AR 72310.

New Hope Baptist Church, Jay, Okla., is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resume to NHBC, P.O. Box 1846, Jay, OK 74346, or email to info@newhopejay.com. Phone: 918-253-3985. Web: www.newhopejay.com.

First Baptist Church, Paragould, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Present pastor is retiring. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, Attn. George Spence, P.O. Box 816, Paragould, AR 72450.

### OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Seminole First Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a **full-time music minister**. Send resumes to Music Minister Search Team at 420 Reid St., Seminole, OK 74868, or email office@seminolefbc.com. For more information, call 405-382-0734.

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

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

72132. Call 501-397-2576 or 870-536-4109.

Sugarloaf Baptist Church of Heber Springs, Ark., is currently accepting resumes for a **full-time minister of youth**. Please mail resumes and photo to 699 Wilburn Road, Heber Springs, AR 72543, or email to sugarloafbaptistchurch@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church of Paris, Ark., is seeking a **full-or part-time youth minister**. Send resumes to First Baptist Church Personnel Committee at P.O. Box 567, Paris, AR 72855 or to jshearhart@parisfbc.com by Nov. 18. Please indicate on resume the desire for the full- or part-time position.

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

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

First Baptist Church, Forrest City, is seeking a **full-time minister of music**. If interested, send

resume to 507 N. Rosser St., Forrest City, AR 72335.

West Rock Baptist Church in Little Rock is seeking a **bi-vocational minister of music**. Send resume to West Rock Baptist Church, 14601 Cantrell Road, Little Rock, AR 72223, or call 501-680-2760.

### MISCELLANEOUS

College students – Do you have summer plans? Consider spending **eight weeks on mission in the Philippines**, working with the student ministries of the University Baptist Church of Manila. This exciting opportunity will be a life-changing event for you and for the Filipino students that you will work with. For more information, contact Ralph Baker, Atkins FBC music minister, at 501-757-0978 or rmbaker58@yahoo.com.

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## Stay on track with God's GPS

A few years ago there was a lot of interest in what was called a "personal aura." This is supposed to be a colored envelope that surrounds the body. The aura indicates well-being, health and spirituality to those who can detect it.

Numbers 9 tells how God provided a visible cloud that covered the Tabernacle while the Israelites traveled in the wilderness. By day, the cloud guided the people; by night, it glowed as fire, providing protection and reassurance. When the cloud moved, the Israelites followed; when it stayed in place, they remained encamped. This light was known as

the Shekinah, or glory of God.

Numbers 10 tells how God instructed Moses to have two silver trumpets made to call people together - one blast for the leaders only, two for the entire group of people. Long blasts meant to gather together; short blasts meant to move forward.

Today we see the evidence of God's presence in His people, not always as a cloud, but in their conduct and expressions. Sometimes there is a physical glow about someone who is walking very closely to the Lord. There is a very real need for us to stick with our commitments to

At times, distance and schedules have made it impossible for my family to celebrate Christmas Day with our relatives.

While we waited for the first opportunity, gifts that had been purchased for me remained unopened and of no benefit. A gift has not truly become a gift until the intended person has received it. While God had

given Mary and Joseph the gift of receiving the Messiah into the world,

each of them had to overcome certain challenges to receive Him.

First, Joseph needed to reject a false idea of what was right. Joseph was "a righteous man" and wanted to do what seemed right to him, which was to send Mary away quietly (Matt. 1:19). While the idea seemed right to Joseph and was even more

gracious than the law required, it was actually opposite of God's plan.

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE DECEMBER 11, 2011

David Bond  
team member  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Scripture passages:  
Matthew 1:18-20, 24-25; Luke  
1:28-31, 34-38

## Stay fearless in your obedience

Our family is widely scattered over the country. Our reunions are few, but precious. On one occasion, we had gathered at a Holiday Inn to celebrate. While the children played in the indoor pool, the adults watched and visited from the nearby tables.

Victoria, our youngest, was only 3 years old. She was absolutely fearless, jumping into the arms of the older teens standing in the chest-deep water to catch her. There was much laughter and shouting. Sitting nearby were my older brother and his wife, both trained in the medical field; my son, a trained lifeguard; and my daughter, husband and I,

who were all excellent swimmers.

Suddenly, the silence was overwhelming. We looked to see Victoria sinking alone in the deep end of the pool, eyes looking up imploringly and water far over her head. Every adult reacted immediately, but with two unbelievable strides, the child's mother reached the water and jumped in to save Victoria.

As long as Victoria had followed instructions, she was safe in the arms of love. When she disobeyed and jumped into the pool where there was no one to catch her, it became a life-and-death struggle.

This passage recounts several miraculous ways God provided for

Walking through the store with my wife, I noticed an item that caught her eye. I watched her briefly examine it and made a mental note of her comments. Later, I returned to purchase the item as a gift. On Christmas Day, her response proved that the gift and the gesture were personally meaningful. Having been given the incredible Gift of Jesus, our response to Him proves whether the Gift has truly had an impact in our lives. Matthew 2 re-

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE DECEMBER 18, 2011

David Bond  
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Scripture passage:  
Matthew 2:1-15

cords two responses to Christ that also serve as pictures for today. The wise men embody those who receive the gospel and embrace Jesus as Savior and Lord. Their responses demonstrate the authentic impact Christ had on their lives. First, they responded by aligning their lives with His light, leaving everything behind in pursuit of the star (Matt. 2:1-2, 9-10). Upon finding the Child, they gave Him adoration by falling to

the Lord and to do so with such joy that those around us can tell that "God is in the camp." In this age of skepticism, people need to see Jesus actively guiding and working in the lives of His people. Even our fellow Christians need to hear us telling how Jesus has moved in us. I am blessed to work with some great Christian ladies. Everyone struggles to work out faith in his or her life.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE DECEMBER 11, 2011

Mary Kisor  
member  
First Baptist, Dardanelle

Scripture passage:  
Numbers 9:1-10:10

It means so much to us when one of us shares some way that God has shown Himself active in our lives.

Although my seminary professors might raise eyebrows at such an expression, this is "verbal shekinah" - God's presence shown to those around us.

We should be focused and faithful in our commitment to Jesus so that others are able to see Jesus is leading us.

## Receive God's Gift

Many ideas seem like right ways to receive salvation. These include striving to be a good person and participating in religious activities. While these seem right to many, their end result is still death (Prov. 14:12). Joseph turned away from his understanding of what was righteous and obeyed the Lord (Matt. 1:24-25).

A second challenge was dealing with fear. Both Joseph (Matt. 1:20) and Mary (Luke 1:30) were told by the angel to not be afraid. Some may hesitate to receive the Gift of Jesus because of fear of what others may think or what lifestyle changes will follow. Yet Scripture teaches fears

are driven aside when we experience the love of Christ (1 John 4:18).

A final challenge was to embrace the pure favor of God. Though Mary was told twice that the favor of God was upon her, her natural response was to believe that something more was required (Luke 1:34). The angel reminded her that receiving the Gift of Christ was entirely a work of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). Many people have difficulty embracing the Gift of Jesus on the basis of His grace and favor. Salvation is a gift of God's grace alone (Eph. 2:8-9).

In humility, we receive His gift and respond with obedience (Luke 1:38).

His children in the wilderness. Any one of these could be the subject of lengthy studies. The bottom line for

the entire passage is this: As long as the Israelites observed the directions God provided, they were safe from the perils that surrounded them; when they became ungrateful, refused the provisions or rejected God's leadership, the results were deadly.

Whether it is the decay of leftover manna, a plague following the quail

or defeat in the hill country, the people are no different than we are. We have to accept the responsibility

for our disobedience and the resulting suffering we experience.

God has prepared a way of forgiveness and escape. Just as God provided manna, healed Miriam and stayed with

the Israelites as the years of punishment passed, so He provides for us, heals us and stays with us throughout our lives.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE DECEMBER 18, 2011

Mary Kisor  
member  
First Baptist, Dardanelle

Scripture passage:  
Numbers 10:11-15:41

## Respond to God's Gift

their knees in worship and giving Him their very best (Matt. 2:11). Finally, they showed a willingness to make adjustments by changing their plans in favor of God's new direction (Matt. 2:12).

King Herod depicts those who reject the gospel and deny Christ. His response demonstrates that the Gift of Jesus had no impact on his life. The news of Christ's birth was a disturbance that threatened Herod's own position, comforts and control (Matt. 2:3). He also responded with deception, giving the outward impression of a desire to worship but with no authenticity in his heart (Matt. 2:7-8). Finally, God revealed that Herod's ultimate intent was to

respond with destruction in hopes that the Messiah would be eliminated (Matt. 2:13).

Two thousand years later a person's response to the Gift of Jesus still authenticates the real impact He has had on his life. Authentic Christ followers give sacrificial, humble worship and make necessary adjustments to obey the Lord's direction. While others may say they are worshippers of Jesus, their efforts to protect their own interests, preserve their own position and prevent the advance of the gospel prove differently. This Christmas let us examine our own response to the Gift of Jesus and give clear proof of His impact on our lives.



**Disaster relief**

North Little Rock church committed to ministry in Joplin.

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**Football & faith**

Shiloh Christian football team exhibits 'grace, even in defeat.'

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# 1 gift ... 25 times



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## Camp Paron dedicates prayer garden

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Photo by Karen Jordan



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